



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

SENATE—*Friday, March 21, 2014*

The Senate met at 9:00 and 2 seconds a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 21, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
MARCH 24, 2014, AT 2 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2014.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:00 and 33 seconds a.m., adjourned until Monday, March 24, 2014, at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, March 21, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 21, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUKE MESSER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and with thankful hearts we express our gratitude. As the hope of a delayed spring lifts the spirits of all working at the Capitol, we ask Your blessing upon those in our world facing difficult and uncertain futures, most especially in Crimea and Venezuela, as well as other chronically suffering communities.

In this moment of prayer, please grant to the Members of this people's House, as they meet with their respective constituents, the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 515, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM CONSTITUENT CASEWORKER, THE HONORABLE MATT CARTWRIGHT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Christa Mecadon, Constituent Caseworker, the Honorable MATT CARTWRIGHT, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2014.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, County of Luzerne, for testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

CHRISTA MECADON,
Constituent Caseworker.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 20, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On March 13, 2014, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider resolutions to authorize 14 prospectuses, including three leases, ten alteration projects, and one project design, included in the General Services Administration's FY2013 and FY2014 Capital Investment and Leasing Programs.

Our Committee continues to work to cut waste and the cost of federal property and leases. The lease resolutions approved by the Committee will save the taxpayer \$39 million over the terms of the leases. All alteration and design projects approved are within amounts appropriated in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and three of the projects will consolidate agencies out of leased space and into federally owned space, avoiding \$6 million annually in lease payments. In addition, the Committee has included space utilization requirements in each of the lease resolutions to ensure agencies are held to appropriate utilization rates.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on March 13, 2014.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ALTERATION—FEDERAL BUILDING, LITTLE ROCK, AR

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for repairs and alterations to upgrade and renovate building components and systems and to abate hazardous materials at the Little Rock Federal Building located at 700 West Capital Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas, at a design cost of \$972,000, an estimated construction cost of \$7,383,000, and a management and inspection cost of \$894,000 for a total estimated project cost of \$9,249,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
FEDERAL BUILDING
LITTLE ROCK, AR**

Prospectus Number: PAR-0063-LR14
Congressional District: 02

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project to upgrade and renovate building components and systems and to abate hazardous materials at the Little Rock Federal Building (FB), at 700 West Capital Avenue, Little Rock, AR. The proposed renovations include alterations to the building envelope and fire protection systems. Exterior repairs will mitigate emergency abatement and repairs of asbestos contained materials (ACM).

FY2014 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, ECC and M&I)\$9,249,000

Major Work Items

Fire protection system replacement; exterior construction; demolition and abatement; interior construction; site work

Project Budget

Design	\$972,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)	7,383,000
Management and Inspection (M&I).....	894,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*.....	\$9,249,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

Schedule

	Start	End
Design and Construction	FY2014	FY2016

Building

The 369,741 gross square feet (gsf) FB was built in 1961 and consists of seven stories and a basement and is constructed of limestone and narrow aluminum windows. It is part of a facility complex that includes the Richard Sheppard Arnold U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, a surface parking lot and the recently completed U.S. Courthouse Annex. An underground tunnel connects the Post Office Courthouse to the Little Rock Federal Building and a new ADA ramp was constructed in the primary building entrance located on the south side of the building in FY 2012. All three buildings share a common HVAC plant which was upgraded in 2007 as part of the multi-phase Courthouse Annex and Courthouse Renovation project.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
FEDERAL BUILDING
LITTLE ROCK, AR**

Prospectus Number: PAR-0063-LR14
Congressional District: 02

Tenant Agencies

US Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of the Interior, Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation, Department of the Treasury, Department of Homeland Security, GSA

Proposed Project

The proposed project includes upgrades to the building envelope, fire protection systems, and paving of pedestrian walkways to bring these components into code compliance. Asbestos abatement will be performed to the interior-perimeter walls, to reduce the potential future exposure and to simplify future interior alteration projects.

Major Work Items

Fire Protection System Replacement	\$4,210,000
Exterior Construction	1,855,000
Demolition and Abatement	671,000
Interior Construction	496,000
Site Work	<u>151,000</u>
Total ECC	\$7,383,000

Justification

The existing Fire Alarm system is functionally obsolete and no longer meets Code requirements. The system needs to be replaced with a modern fire alarm system featuring voice notification, speakers and strobes providing protection for all tenants throughout the building.

The current sprinkler piping system was installed in 1996. In all concealed areas, (i.e. above 'finished' ceilings); the sprinkler pipe material is CPVC, a form of plastic. The risk of the CPVC sprinkler piping failures is believed to be increasing due to the increasing deformation/sag of the pipe which is visible and the resultant strain of adjacent pipe connections. The sags between pipe hangers make it impossible to drain the system completely. Challenges with the current sprinkler piping system as further complicated by the increase in the list of products considered chemically incompatible with CPVC over the last five years, adding to the potential for failure.

The building exterior is composed of limestone veneer, glass, spandrel glass, and aluminum panel. The only exterior restoration work on record, (since the original construction in 1959), was a window re-caulking project in the 1990s. The existing window caulking, control joint caulking, and expansion joints appear to be in poor condition. These conditions are likely allowing water migration into the building envelope, resulting in moisture problems at window

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
FEDERAL BUILDING
LITTLE ROCK, AR**

Prospectus Number: PAR-0063-LR14
Congressional District: 02

frames, and possible corrosion damage to concealed structural framing members. The risk of repeated emergency abatement and repairs of asbestos contained material (ACM) on the interior finish coat of the exterior are heightened due to potential for water-infiltration during unusually heavy rain events. During such events, rainwater breaches the exterior envelope and eventually reaches the plaster coat with the ACM. When the ACM is wet, it blisters and becomes friable causing affected areas to be vacated and containment and abatement to be undertaken. In the last heavy rain event, approximately \$90,000 was expended under such an occurrence on the 1st floor.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

None

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)

None

Alternatives Considered (30 year, present value cost analysis)

There are no feasible alternatives to this project. The cost of the proposed limited scope project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
FEDERAL BUILDING
LITTLE ROCK, AR**

Prospectus Number: PAR-0063-LR14
Congressional District: 02

Recommendation

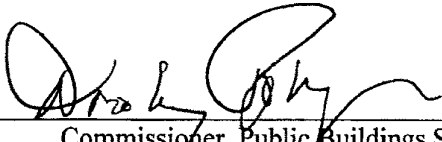
ALTERATION

Certification of Need


The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—BYRON WHITE U.S. COURTHOUSE,
DENVER, CO

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Rep-
resentatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307,*

appropriations are authorized for repairs and alterations to undertake multiple system repairs at the Byron White U.S. Courthouse located at 1823 Stout Street in Denver, Colorado, at a design cost of \$1,000,000, an estimated construction cost of \$13,000,000, and a management and inspection cost of \$1,000,000

for a total estimated project cost of \$15,000,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
BYRON WHITE U.S. COURTHOUSE
DENVER, CO**

Prospectus Number: PCO-0009-DE14
Congressional District: 1

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project to undertake multiple system repairs at the Byron White U.S. Courthouse, at 1823 Stout Street, in Denver, CO. The proposed project will address security, life safety and exterior deficiencies and promote energy savings at the historic courthouse.

FY2014 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, ECC and M&I)\$15,000,000

Major Work Items

Exterior construction; HVAC, electrical, elevator, and fire protection upgrades; roof access repairs/replacement; interior construction

Project Budget

Design	\$1,000,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)	13,000,000
Management and Inspection (M&I)	1,000,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*	\$15,000,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

Schedule

	Start	End
Design and Construction	FY2014	FY2017

Building

The Byron White U.S. Courthouse was built between 1910 and 1916. The 270,103 gross square foot (gsf), building was originally owned by the US Postal Service and was added to the National Register of Historic places in 1973. The GSA purchased the facility in 1987 and it was renamed in honor of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White, a native of Fort Collins, Colorado, in 1994. The stone building contains 4 floors, a penthouse, and a below-grade basement level, and is located in the Federal District of the central business district of downtown Denver.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
BYRON WHITE U.S. COURTHOUSE
DENVER, CO**

Prospectus Number: PCO-0009-DE14
Congressional District: 1

Tenant Agencies

U.S. Court of Appeals, Circuit Executive, Circuit Library, U.S. Court of Appeals Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals Central Legal Staff, U.S. District Court, U.S. Marshals Service.

Proposed Project

This project will address several key components including improved security, life safety, exterior deficiencies, as well as improvements that will promote energy savings. There will be a full restoration of historic windows to include the installation of ballistic glazing on the interior of the building. The original roof accesses and roof access stairs will be replaced and brought up to OSHA code requirements and where disturbed, abatement of asbestos containing roof tiles will be undertaken. The west elevated plaza stair will be restored and pavers will be removed to seal the concrete deck and to prevent leaks.

The project proposes to replace the light fixtures with improved energy efficient LED fixtures and to put the remaining parts of the building's lighting system under control of the building automation system, to replace the existing steam plant as well as the induction heating/cooling elements of the HVAC system and to replace the main electrical switch-gear and generator fuel tank. The elevators will be modernized with new mechanical components, safety features and lighting. The fire system will be upgraded with a new fire pump and fire suppression dry pipe manifold.

Major Work Items

Exterior Construction	\$6,023,000
Roof Access Repairs/Replacement	859,000
Interior Construction	396,000
Elevator Upgrades	426,000
HVAC Upgrades	4,293,000
Fire Protection Upgrades	45,000
Electrical Upgrades	958,000
Total ECC	\$13,000,000

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
BYRON WHITE U.S. COURTHOUSE
DENVER, CO**

Prospectus Number: PCO-0009-DE14
Congressional District: 1

Justification

While the Byron White U.S. Courthouse was fully modernized in 1992, many of the building systems are becoming worn, outdated and unreliable. The fire suppression system, inspected annually, has seen performance decrease with each inspection and while currently sufficient, will likely soon fail to meet acceptable levels and is in need of component improvements. Several component parts of the system have reached the end of their useful life and at this time no longer meet the current code requirements.

The mechanical equipment supporting the two historic elevators is outdated and presents potential safety hazards. A new control and drive system for the elevators will improve the safety and performance of the elevators while also providing substantial energy savings.

The steam plant, induction system, and fuel tank for the generator are also reaching the end of their useful life. The induction system will allow better control through balancing valves for energy savings as well as the steam plant replacement. Light fixtures that were installed in 1992 have begun to experience chronic failure issues, in some cases this increases the risk of fire. This project proposes to replace the failing light fixtures with energy efficient LED fixtures and connect the remaining parts of the building's lighting system to the building automation system will help improve the building's energy usage. Window replacement will also provide the opportunity to address the buildings envelope in terms of energy savings. The windows frames are down to the bare wood in many places and are in dire need of preservation in order to preserve the original materials.

The west elevated plaza leaks water into the parking garage and has flooded into the basement of the building in the past causing extensive damage to flooring and walls.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
BYRON WHITE U.S. COURTHOUSE
DENVER, CO**

Prospectus Number: PCO-0009-DE14
Congressional District: 1

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

None

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)

None

Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)

There are no feasible alternatives to this project. This is a limited scope renovation and the cost of the proposed project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
BYRON WHITE U.S. COURTHOUSE
DENVER, CO**

Prospectus Number: PCO-0009-DE14
Congressional District: 1

Recommendation

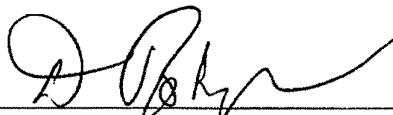
ALTERATION

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

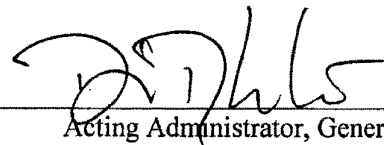
Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended:



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:



Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
ALTERATION—RICHARD C. LEE U.S.
COURTHOUSE, NEW HAVEN, CT

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for repairs and

alterations to resolve severe wear and deterioration of the windows at the Richard C. Lee U.S. Courthouse located at Church and Court streets in New Haven, Connecticut, at a design cost of \$453,000, an estimated construction cost of \$3,975,000, and a management and inspection cost of \$371,000 for a

total estimated project cost of \$4,799,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
RICHARD C. LEE U.S. COURTHOUSE
NEW HAVEN, CT**

Prospectus Number: PCT-0024-NH14
Congressional District: 03

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project to resolve severe wear and deterioration of the windows at the Richard C. Lee U.S. Courthouse (Lee Courthouse). The Lee Courthouse, located at Church and Court streets in downtown New Haven, Connecticut is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

FY2014 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, Construction and M&I)\$4,799,000

Major Work Items

Window repair/replacement; window blast film installation

Project Budget

Design	\$453,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)	3,975,000
Management and Inspection (M&I).....	<u>371,000</u>
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*.....	\$4,799,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

Schedule

	Start	End
Design and Construction	FY2014	FY2016

Building

The Lee Courthouse is a three-story 117,000 gross square foot classically-styled stone and concrete clad U.S. Courthouse building constructed in 1919 as a post office and federal building.

It contains 100,772 rentable and 69,037 useable square feet of rental space on three above-grade floors, a mezzanine level, and a basement floor. The Lee Courthouse is adjacent to the historic New Haven Green opposite Yale University in an area with several other government buildings, including the recently renovated Robert N. Giaimo Federal Building. The courthouse is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Slated for demolition as part of a 1960's urban renewal program, the Lee Courthouse was saved by a coalition of federal judges and local preservationists. After much negotiation, it was restored

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
RICHARD C. LEE U.S. COURTHOUSE
NEW HAVEN, CT**

Prospectus Number:	PCT-0024-NH14
Congressional District:	03

and converted in the early 1980's for use solely as a courthouse. The building was renamed the Richard C. Lee U.S. Courthouse in 1998 after a former Mayor of New Haven.

Tenant Agencies

U.S. Courts, U.S. Marshals Service, GSA

Proposed Project

The proposed project consists of the repair/replacement of the windows, including the installation of tempered exterior glazing and ballistic-laminate interior glazing, and perimeter sealant; refinishing of exterior frames; replacement of the hardware; and remediation of potential hazardous materials.

Major Work Items

Window Repair/Replacement	<u>\$3,975,000</u>
Total ECC	<u>\$3,975,000</u>

Justification

The Courthouse windows are severely deteriorated. They are up to 90 years old and require a high degree of maintenance, as they are plagued by material failures, e.g., shrinking and rotted wood sashes, crumbling sealant, etc., which periodically causes glass panes to dislodge from the units, posing a potential safety threat to pedestrians near the property. New window technology will also greatly enhance building energy efficiency.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

None

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
RICHARD C. LEE U.S. COURTHOUSE
NEW HAVEN, CT**

Prospectus Number: PCT-0024-NH14
Congressional District: 03

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)

None

Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)

There are no feasible alternatives to this project. This is a single system renovation and the cost of the proposed project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building.

Recommendation


ALTERATION

Certification of Need

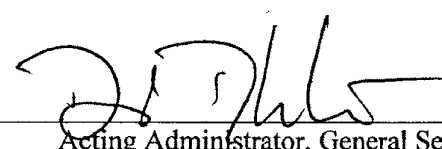
The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—CHICAGO FEDERAL CENTER,
CHICAGO, IL

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for alterations to relocate and install a new boiler plant for

the Chicago Federal Center, comprised of the Everett M. Dirksen Courthouse, the John C. Kluczynski Federal Building, and the U.S. Post Office Loop Station located at 219 S. Dearborn Street, 230 S. Dearborn Street, and 211 S. Clark Street, respectively, in Chicago, Illinois, at a design cost of \$1,228,000, an estimated construction cost of \$12,483,000, and a

management and inspection cost of \$1,289,000 for a total estimated project cost of \$15,000,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
CHICAGO FEDERAL CENTER
CHICAGO, IL**

Prospectus Number: PIL-0205-CH14
Congressional District: 07

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes an alteration project to relocate and install a new boiler plant for the Chicago Federal Center (CFC). The CFC is comprised of three buildings totaling over 3.1 million gross square feet: the Everett M. Dirksen Courthouse (EMD), the John C. Kluczynski Federal Building (JCK), and the U.S. Post Office Loop Station (USPO), located at 219 S. Dearborn Street, 230 S. Dearborn Street, and 211 S. Clark Street, respectively, in Chicago, Illinois. The existing boiler plant is oversized with more capacity than is needed, inefficient and approaching the end of its useful life and the operation and maintenance of the plant requires additional utilities to power it. Execution of the proposed project will reduce energy consumption and operating costs and will extend the useful life of the CFC buildings.

FY2014 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, Construction and M&I) \$15,000,000

Major Work Items

Boiler Plant Replacement and Relocation; Hot Water Distribution Improvements

Project Budget

Design	\$1,228,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)	12,483,000
Management and Inspection (M&I)	1,289,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC).....	\$15,000,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

Schedule

	Start	End
Design and Construction	FY2014	FY2016

Buildings

The CFC consists of three buildings: the Everett M. Dirksen Courthouse (EMD), the John C. Kluczynski Federal Building (JCK), and the U.S. Post Office Loop Station (USPO).

The EMD was built in 1964 and is constructed of structural steel frames, clad with metal and glass facade. The courthouse serves as the headquarters for the Northern District of

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
CHICAGO FEDERAL CENTER
CHICAGO, IL**

Prospectus Number: PIL-0205-CH14
Congressional District: 07

Illinois and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. The high-rise courthouse is 1,465,191 gross square feet with rental space of 1,208,546 and 119 inside parking spaces.

The JCK was built in 1973 and is constructed of structural steel framing encased in concrete with the exterior skin consisting of glass and structural steel plate spandrels. The JCK supports multiple federal agencies, including the Department of Labor, Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Service and General Services Administration. The high-rise Federal Building is 1,428,620 gross square feet with rental space of 1,135,634 and 23 inside parking spaces.

The USPO was built in 1973 and is constructed of structural steel framing with exterior skin consists of glass, steel mullions, and spandrels. The building serves primarily as a postal facility for the U.S. Postal Service in the Chicago Loop area. The one story building is 288,125 gross square feet with rental space of 135,948 and 32 inside parking spaces.

The CFC contributes to the distinguished history of skyscraper construction in Chicago. The EMD was the first of Mies van der Rohe's urban, mixed land-use projects. As a result, the CFC has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Tenant Agencies

EMD – Justice, Judiciary, multiple agencies

JCK - Labor, GSA and Justice, multiple agencies

USPO - Post Office, DHS, multiple agencies

Proposed Project

GSA proposes to replace and relocate the boiler plant serving the CFC. The existing high pressure steam boilers are located in lower level mechanical space adjacent to the footprint of the EMD. The steam generated by the existing boilers is then run to the JCK and LPO buildings where it is converted to hot water. The new hot water boiler plant, proposed to be located in the sub-basement level space within the footprint of the EMD, will eliminate the need to convert the steam to hot water. New hot water piping will be installed to connect the boiler plant to each of the individual buildings in the facility. Existing coils within the JCK and LPO buildings will be reused. Steam coils within the air handling units in the EMD will be replaced with hot water coils.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
CHICAGO FEDERAL CENTER
CHICAGO, IL**

Prospectus Number: PIL-0205-CH14
Congressional District: 07

Major Work Items

Boiler Plant Replacement	\$7,297,000
Hot Water Distribution Improvements	<u>5,186,000</u>
Total ECC	\$12,483,000

Justification

The CFC currently receives heat through a boiler plant located in mechanical space adjacent to the EMD. The boiler plant is oversized, inefficient and is at the end of its useful life. Operating the plant is costly and requires more utilities than an efficient modern plant. Execution of the proposed work will reduce energy consumption and operating costs and will extend the useful life of the buildings within the CFC. Current standards no longer employee steam, using hot water is more efficient and cost effective. Installing the boiler plant in the new location will allow the existing boiler plant to remain operational during the construction, and therefore, minimize heating downtime for the CFC. The new boiler plant will be strategically relocated and have enough capacity to provide service to any future Federal building constructed on the government owned site adjacent to EMD The new location will also allow for the optimal use of lower level spaces within and adjacent to the EMD.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

None

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Buildings (past 10 years)

Prospectus	Description	FY	Amount
PIL-0205/0236-CH04	Curtainwall Repairs (EMD, JCK)	2004	\$ 24,056,000
PIL-0205-CH09	Systems Upgrades and Backfill (EMD)	2004	\$160,977,000

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
CHICAGO FEDERAL CENTER
CHICAGO, IL**

Prospectus Number: PIL-0205-CH14
Congressional District: 07

ARRA	Fire Alarm/Mechanical Upgrades (JCK & USPO)	2009	\$ 99,673,000
ARRA	Plaza Upgrade (CFC)	2009	\$ 28,131,000

Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)

There are no feasible alternatives to this project. This is a single system renovation and the cost of the proposed project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
CHICAGO FEDERAL CENTER
CHICAGO, IL**

Prospectus Number: PIL-0205-CH14
Congressional District: 07

Recommendation

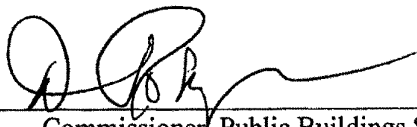
ALTERATION

Certification of Need

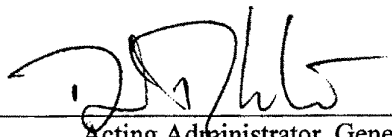
The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—ROBERT A. YOUNG FEDERAL
BUILDING, ST. LOUIS, MO

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Rep-
resentatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307,*

appropriations are authorized for non-struc-
tural and structural seismic renovations to
the Robert A. Young Federal Building lo-
cated at 1222 Spruce in St. Louis, Missouri,
at a design cost of \$6,195,000, an estimated
construction cost of \$58,718,000, and a man-
agement and inspection cost of \$5,359,000 for

a total estimated project cost of \$70,272,000, a
prospectus for which is attached to and in-
cluded in this resolution.

Provided, that the General Services Admin-
istration shall not delegate to any other
agency the authority granted by this resolu-
tion.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
ROBERT A. YOUNG FEDERAL BUILDING
ST. LOUIS, MO**

Prospectus Number: PMO-0106-SL14

Congressional District: 01

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes non-structural and structural seismic renovations to the Robert A. Young Federal Building (RAY FB) in St. Louis, Missouri to improve the seismic performance of the RAY FB to provide shelter in place opportunities and provide a safer exit from the building following a seismic event. GSA has been analyzing the seismic performance of the building over the past decade and due to an upsurge in frequency and intensity of seismic activity in the area it is critical for GSA to fund the seismic renovations at this time.

FY2014 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, ECC and M&I)\$70,272,000

Major Work Items

Interior construction; hazardous materials abatement

Project Budget

Design\$6,195,000
 Estimated Construction Cost (ECC).....\$58,718,000
 Management and Inspection (M&I).....\$5,359,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*.....\$70,272,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

Schedule

	Start	End
Design and Construction	FY2014	FY2017

Building

The RAY FB is located at 1222 Spruce, in the Central Business District of St. Louis, Missouri. Originally constructed in 1933 as the Terminal Mart Building for the railroads, it was acquired by the Army in the 1940s and converted into office space in 1957. GSA became the property manager in the 1960s. The building is a 10-story concrete framed building with a basement and an 11-story tower at the northeast corner on top of the 10 stories. The RAY FB is located on a 3-acre site with 59 surface parking accommodations. The structure is typical of heavy masonry construction of its era - designed for gravity loads with limited ability to withstand forces occurring with seismic

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
ROBERT A. YOUNG FEDERAL BUILDING
ST. LOUIS, MO**

Prospectus Number: PMO-0106-SL14

Congressional District: 01

activity. The building's gross area is 1,131,930 square feet. The RAY FB is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, but currently is not on the register. The building was partially renovated in 1990 and received an investment through ARRA, focusing on energy saving projects such as new windows, upgraded mechanical systems, HVAC modifications, repaired façade, advanced metering and recommissioning.

Tenant Agencies

Treasury Department-Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Agriculture Department; Army; Health and Human Services; Department of Housing and Urban Development; Justice Department; Department of Labor; State Department; Department of Transportation; Veterans Benefits Administration; Department of Homeland Security - Coast Guard/ICE/CIS/FPS; Environmental Protection Agency; Equal Employment Opportunity Council; GSA; Department of Defense; Small Business Administration; Railroad Retirement Board; and National Labor Relation Board

Proposed Project

GSA proposes an interior shear wall strategy encompassing both structural and non-structural components for improving the seismic performance of the RAY FB to provide both shelter in place opportunities during and safe exit from the building following a seismic event. The non-structural component of the project scope includes bracing of demountable partitions and systems along egress paths; bracing of items interstitial above the ceiling such as light fixture support, piping, ducts, gas lines, ceiling tile grids; and bracing selected masonry walls, parapets, and unsupported exterior walls. The structural component is a full structural seismic retrofit renovation utilizing interior shear wall strategy intended to fully address the seismic deficiencies at RAY FB. The project also includes asbestos remediation in the tower floors 11-20.

Major Work Items

Seismic Upgrades/Building Structural Repairs	\$30,253,000
Interior Construction	28,040,000
Asbestos Abatement	<u>\$425,000</u>
Total ECC	\$58,718,000

Justification

The RAY FB is located within 150 miles of two seismic zones, the Wabash Valley and the New Madrid, which is considered among the largest known earthquake centers in

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
ROBERT A. YOUNG FEDERAL BUILDING
ST. LOUIS, MO**

Prospectus Number: PMO-0106-SL14

Congressional District: 01

North America. Built in 1933, the building has limited ability to withstand forces occurring with seismic activity. The building is located in the CBD of St Louis, MO and structural failure would not only cause catastrophic loss of life for those in and around the building, but it would impede the ability of first responders located in the CBD to carry out their mission in the event of a disaster.

GSA has been analyzing the seismic performance of the building over the past decade and due to an upsurge in frequency and intensity of seismic activity in the area it is critical for GSA to fund the seismic renovations at this time to provide shelter in place opportunities and provide a safer exit from the building following a seismic event.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

None

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)

None

Alternatives Considered (30 year, present value cost analysis)

The Ray FB is a long term federal asset and the proposed limited scope alteration is needed to ensure the safety of its occupants. There are no feasible alternatives to the proposed seismic retrofit.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
ROBERT A. YOUNG FEDERAL BUILDING
ST. LOUIS, MO**

Prospectus Number: PMO-0106-SL14

Congressional District: 01

Recommendation

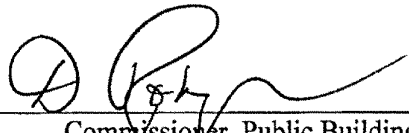
ALTERATION

Certification of Need

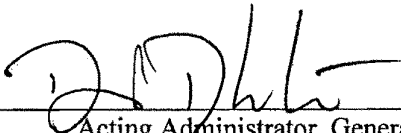
The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—CHARLES F. PREVEDEL FEDERAL
BUILDING, OVERLAND, MO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for repairs and alterations for the reconfiguration and alteration of approximately 208,000 rentable

square feet of currently vacant space to meet the long term housing needs of the Veterans Benefits Administration at the Charles F. Prevedel Federal Building located at 9700 Page Boulevard in Overland, Missouri, at a design cost of \$2,292,000, an estimated construction cost of \$23,035,000, and a management and inspection cost of \$1,834,000 for a total estimated project cost of \$27,161,000, a

prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, the Veterans Benefits Administration is consolidated into the Charles F. Prevedel Federal Building and associated leased space is released.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
CHARLES F. PREVEDEL FEDERAL BUILDING
OVERLAND, MO**

Prospectus Number: PMO-0570-OV14
Congressional District: 01

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project for the reconfiguration and alteration of approximately 208,000 rentable square feet (rsf) of currently vacant space at the Charles F. Prevedel Federal Building (Prevedel FB) in Overland, Missouri to meet the long term housing needs of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). The consolidation of VBA into Prevedel FB will allow the Government to release costly lease space reducing annual lease payments to the private sector by approximately \$3,300,000 annually.

FY2014 Committee Approval and Appropriation Request

(Design, ECC, M&I)\$27,161,000

Major Work Items

Interior construction; HVAC replacement; Energy Management Control System installation.

Project Budget

Design	\$2,292,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)	23,035,000
Management and Inspection (M&I)	<u>1,834,000</u>
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*	\$27,161,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for tenant improvements above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

Schedule

	Start	End
Design and Construction	FY2014	FY2017

Building

The Prevedel FB is located at 9700 Page Boulevard, in Overland, Missouri. Initial building construction was completed in 1990 to house the United States Army Human Resources Command Center. The FB is a five-story above-grade and two-story below-grade protected steel framed office building with cast in place concrete floors. It has a central atrium on floors one through five and is located on a 10.7-acre site with surface parking accommodations of 2,089. The building's gross area is 436,148 square feet.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
CHARLES F. PREVEDEL FEDERAL BUILDING
OVERLAND, MO**

Prospectus Number: PMO-0570-OV14
Congressional District: 01

Tenant Agencies

VBA, U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA NASS), and GSA

Proposed Project

GSA proposes renovations to the Prevedel FB to allow for the recapture of over 208,000 rentable square feet of vacant space at the building. The project would provide interior space alterations and building systems upgrades to allow VBA to consolidate operations at the Prevedel FB, releasing both leased space and space in the Robert A Young federal Building in St Louis, MO.

The project scope includes replacement of an obsolete HVAC system that has reached the end of its useful life and the installation of an energy management control system (EMCS). The EMCS will automate and monitor the FB's mechanical and lighting systems reducing energy consumption. The HVAC upgrades will include the relocation and replacement of outdoor air intakes on the roof to meet current security requirements. Minimal seismic upgrades will also be implemented.

Major Work Items

Interior Construction	\$13,530,000
HVAC Replacement	7,122,000
Electrical (EMCS/Adv Metering)	<u>2,383,000</u>
Total ECC	\$23,035,000

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
CHARLES F. PREVEDEL FEDERAL BUILDING
OVERLAND, MO**

Prospectus Number: PMO-0570-OV14

Congressional District: 01

Justification

The Prevedel FB remains nearly two thirds vacant after the recent relocations of the U.S. Army Personnel Center (Army) and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Structurally, the asset is in very good condition however, interior alterations and systems upgrades are necessary in order to backfill the vacant space. Currently, VBA is largely housed in leased space that is projected to cost over \$3.3 million per year. This proposal affords an opportunity to satisfy a long term housing requirement of the VBA in Federally owned space and to improve the utilization of an asset that is in good condition. Execution of this project will result in vacant space at the Robert A Young Federal Building, with numerous tenant agencies currently in leased space in the St. Louis, MO area that will be available to backfill this space.

The proposed EMS system will provide new utilities metering functionality ultimately reducing energy usage and the building systems upgrades will meet High Performance Green Building standards.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

Charles F. Prevedel Federal Building Prior Committee Approvals			
Committee	Date	Amount	Purpose
Senate EPW	12/8/2011	\$24,386,000	Design, M&I, Construction

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years):

None

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
CHARLES F. PREVEDEL FEDERAL BUILDING
OVERLAND, MO**

Prospectus Number: PMO-0570-OV14
Congressional District: 01

Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)

Alteration:\$ 112,258,000
Lease\$113,937,000
New Construction:\$134,570,000

The 30-year, present value cost of alteration is \$1,678,739 less than the cost of leasing with an equivalent annual cost advantage of \$94,738.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
CHARLES F. PREVEDEL FEDERAL BUILDING
OVERLAND, MO**

Prospectus Number: PMO-0570-OV14
Congressional District: 01

Recommendation


ALTERATION

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

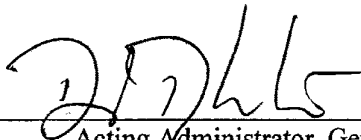
Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended:



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:



Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

April 2013

Housing Plan
Charles F. Prevedel Federal Building
 PMO-0570-OV14
 Overland, MO

Locations	CURRENT						PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
VA Building, St. Louis, MO - Lease												
Veterans Benefits Administration	638	638	100,749	6,754	6,997	114,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal:	638	638	100,749	6,754	6,997	114,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robert A Young FB, St. Louis, MO												
Veterans Benefits Administration	181	181	19,332	-	341	19,673	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	181	181	19,332	-	341	19,673	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charles F Prevedel FB												
Veterans Benefits Administration							950	950	133,033	-	21,967	155,000
USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service	255	255	81,118	-	17,017	98,135	298	298	81,118	-	25,017	106,135
GSA				-	-	-	-	11	750	7,000	-	7,750
Vacant	-	-	140,460	-	37,838	178,298	-	-	4,791	-	-	4,791
Joint Use			372	-	348	720	-	-	372	-	6,097	6,469
Subtotal	255	255	221,950	0	55,203	277,153	1,248	1,259	220,064	7,000	53,081	280,145
Total	1,074	1,074	342,031	6,754	62,541	411,326	1,248	1,259	220,064	7,000	53,081	280,145

Office Utilization Rate (UR)		
Current	Proposed	
Rate	146	137

Special Space		USF
ADP		1,153
Secured Storage		2,835
Conference/Training		23,829
Food Service		9,568
Childcare		186
Restroom		132
Mailroom		15,378
Total		53,081

UR=average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 44,346 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 48,414 usf of office support space

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL OFFICE
BUILDING, NEW YORK, NY

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for repairs and

alterations for the reconfiguration and alteration of approximately 55,000 rentable square feet of space for the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the Jacob K. Javits Federal Office Building located at 26 Federal Plaza in New York, New York, at a design cost of \$593,000, an estimated construction cost of \$5,417,000, and a management and inspection

cost of \$510,000 for a total estimated project cost of \$6,520,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-0282-2-NY14
Congressional District: 08

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alterations project for the reconfiguration and alteration of approximately 55,000 rentable square feet (rsf) of space for the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the Jacob K. Javits Federal Office Building (Javits FOB) at 26 Federal Plaza in downtown New York, New York.

FY2014 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, ECC, and M&I)\$6,520,000

Major Work Items

Interior construction; selective demolition; fire suppression system alterations; electrical and plumbing system upgrades.

Project Budget

Design.....	\$593,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC).....	5,417,000
Management and Inspection (M&I)	<u>510,000</u>
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*.....	\$6,520,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

Schedule

	Start	End
Design and Construction	FY2014	FY2014

Building

The Javits FOB is located at 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY and is named after Jacob Koppel Javits, who served as U.S. Senator for New York from 1957-1981. The Javits FOB consists of 3 interconnected buildings: a 41-story plus basement, Class "A" office building constructed in 1966, a 45-story Annex built in 1977 along the west side of the original building and a 8-story court/office building known as the James L. Watson U.S. Court of International Trade (USCIT) built in 1968. Together the buildings provide 1,713,700 usable, 2,293,000 rentable, 2,858,700 gross square feet of space. It is the third

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-0282-2-NY14
Congressional District: 08

largest federal facility in the nation. The FBI Headquarters currently occupies Floors 22-28 at 26 Federal Plaza, in a total of 466,704 rentable square feet.

The Javits FOB/Annex and USCIT are adjacent to the Ted Weiss Federal Building, the Daniel P. Moynihan U.S. Courthouse, the Thurgood Marshal U.S. Courthouse, the New York County and State Court, and the downtown Manhattan Civic Center.

Tenant Agencies (project specific)

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Proposed Project

The proposed project consists of the renovation of areas around the core of the FBI occupied floors 22 through 28, including upgrades to the restrooms, flooring, walls, ceilings, and lighting fixtures.

Major Work Items

Fire Suppression System Upgrades	\$27,000
Interior Construction	2,209,000
Electrical System Upgrades	1,141,000
Plumbing System Upgrades	948,000
Selective Building Demolition	<u>1,092,00</u>
Total ECC	\$5,417,000

Justification

The space occupied by the FBI has not been improved since it was originally built-out for the agency in the early 1990's. The finishes are dated and the plumbing and lighting fixtures use excessive water and energy due to their obsolete designs. This project will meet water reduction, energy efficiency and performance requirements in effect during design. Improved water usage will result from the restroom upgrades and reductions in energy usage will be yielded from the installation of high efficiency lighting. This project will be done in concert with Smart Building Technology installation in 26 Federal Plaza Complex.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-0282-2-NY14
Congressional District: 08

for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

None

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years):

Prospectus	Description	FY	Amount
PNY-0282-NY03	Lobby/public restroom renovations	2003	\$ 7,568,000
PNY-FBC-NY04	Security pavilion construction	2004	\$12,094,000

Through Public Law 111-5 (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, FY2009) Congress appropriated \$5,550,000,000 of which \$25,520,000 was allocated to the Javits FOB.

Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)

There are no feasible alternatives to this project. This is a targeted, agency specific investment in selective floors of the Javits FOB and the cost of the proposed project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building for the FBI.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-0282-2-NY14

Congressional District: 08

Recommendation

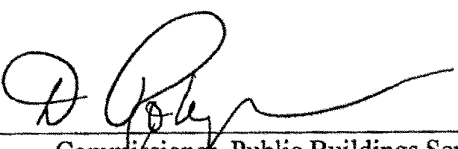
ALTERATION

Certification of Need


The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—FRANK E. MOSS U.S. COURTHOUSE,
SALT LAKE CITY, UT

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for repairs and alterations for the reconfiguration and alter-

ation of existing space of the Frank E. Moss U.S. Courthouse located at 350 South Main Street in Salt Lake City, Utah, to allow for the backfill of space by multiple tenant agencies currently housed in multiple leased locations, at a design cost of \$1,000,000, an estimated construction cost of \$13,000,000, and a management and inspection cost of \$1,000,000 for a total estimated project cost of

\$15,000,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, that the reconfigured space is backfilled and associated leased space is released.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
FRANK E. MOSS U.S. COURTHOUSE
SALT LAKE CITY, UT**

Prospectus Number: PUT-0017-SA14
Congressional District: 1

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project for the reconfiguration and alteration of existing space of the Frank E. Moss U.S. Courthouse, at 350 South Main Street, in Salt Lake City, UT. This project will allow for the backfill of vacant space when the U.S. District Court moves to the new Courthouse Annex. The proposed backfill will include several tenant agencies currently housed in multiple leased locations. The backfill of the vacant space will allow the Government to release costly leased space reducing the Government's rental payment to the private sector by approximately \$2,200,000 annually.

FY2014 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, ECC and M&I)\$15,000,000

Major Work Items

Interior Construction; partial plumbing and roof replacement

Project Budget

Design	\$1,000,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)	13,000,000
Management and Inspection (M&I).....	1,000,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*.....	\$15,000,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

Schedule

	Start	End
Design and Construction	FY2014	FY2017

Building

The Frank E. Moss U.S. Courthouse is 234,288 gross square foot (gsf) and was built in three phases: Phase I in 1903, Phase II in 1913 and Phase III in 1932. The Neoclassical Greek Revival building is a historic landmark and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. The building was named after Frank Edward Moss, an attorney, judge, and U.S. Senator representing Utah. The building is constructed of concrete and granite and is located in the Central Business District of downtown Salt Lake City.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
FRANK E. MOSS U.S. COURTHOUSE
SALT LAKE CITY, UT**

Prospectus Number: PUT-0017-SA14
Congressional District: 1

Tenant Agencies Impacted

Judiciary, U.S. Marshals Service, Department of Agriculture, Department of Justice, Tax Court, Department of Energy, Department of the Interior, Department of the Treasury, Social Security Administration, Health and Human Services, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, GSA.

Proposed Project

The project proposes alterations to the courthouse to replace the domestic water lines as needed. There will be a partial roof replacement including replacement of a section in front of the east penthouse windows and the cornices of the north, east and south edges. Additional patch work for leaks and replacement of portions of the roof drain system will be completed. Interior upgrades including moving walls for reconfiguration of space, and relocating light fixtures.

Major Work Items

Replace Roof	\$ 457,000
Interior Construction	12,095,000
Replace Plumbing	<u>448,000</u>
Total ECC	\$13,000,000

Justification

When the US District Court vacates the Moss Courthouse in the spring of 2014 to relocate to the new Courthouse Annex, the Moss Courthouse will be approximately 2/3 vacant. This project provides for the backfill of the vacant space with agencies located in leased space. As a result, GSA retains a historic asset and eliminates approximately \$2.2 million in annual payments for private sector leases. The reconfiguration of space will provide a more efficient layout of the space. By removing walls a more open floor plan will result in increased capacity. Reconfiguration and re-occupancy of the Moss Courthouse is a lower cost and more secure option than disposal of this historic asset. The existing tunnel between the Moss Courthouse and the New Annex would create a security concern for the courts in the event that it was occupied by a non-Federal entity. Elimination of the tunnel would be a costly undertaking and would limit disposal options for this building.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
FRANK E. MOSS U.S. COURTHOUSE
SALT LAKE CITY, UT**

Prospectus Number: PUT-0017-SA14
Congressional District: 1

The current domestic water lines are over 100 years old and significantly past their anticipated useful life. Main sections that are deteriorating will be replaced. The roof is weather damaged and in poor condition with roof drains that are rusted and clogged. Water is leaking into the building in various locations causing water damage to ceilings and walls.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

None

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)

None

Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)

There are no feasible alternatives to this project. The cost of the proposed limited scope project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
FRANK E. MOSS U.S. COURTHOUSE
SALT LAKE CITY, UT**

Prospectus Number: PUT-0017-SA14
Congressional District: 1

Recommendation

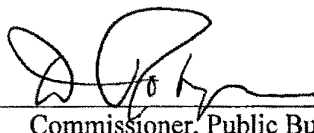
ALTERATION

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

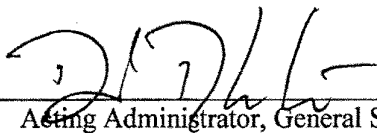
Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended: _____



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

April 2013

Housing Plan
Frank E. Moss U.S. Courthouse

PUT-0017-SAI14
Salt Lake City, UT

United States Trustees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	952	-	1,596	2,548
Bureau of Prisons	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	858	200	500	1,558
Social Security Administration	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	900	300	800	2,000
Internal Revenue Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	523	-	-	523
Western Area Power Administration	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	35	6,938	400	1,250	8,588
Health & Human Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	680	100	550	1,330
Corps of Engineers	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	2,150	-	550	2,700
Tax Court	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,371	200	1,729	3,300
Department of Housing & Urban Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	3,500	-	-	3,500
National Park Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	15	1,850	200	500	2,550
Joint Use	-	-	-	177	738	915	-	-	-	127	6,982	5,723
Vacant/Unassigned ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,313	19,982	-	22,295
Government-Owned Locations Subtotal	201	205	59,972	11,122	76,326	147,420	373	389	84,387	27,878	35,155	147,420
Total	506	510	136,105	15,873	95,462	247,440	373	389	84,387	27,878	35,155	147,420

Office Utilization Rate (UR)			
Rate ³	Current		Proposed
	191	141	

UR=average amount of office space per person

Current UR excludes 16,404 usf of office support space

Proposed UR excludes 11,291 usf of office support space

Special Space		USF
Court Elevator/Stairway/ Vestibule		928
Judicial Chambers		2,550
Food Service		3,662
Vault		112
ADP		3,111
Restrooms		817
Conference		13,514
Courtrooms		8,464
Fitness Center		1,750
Maintenance Shop		247
Total		35,155

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.²Identification of backfill tenants in progress³Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 personnel

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—LEWIS F. POWELL JR. U.S.
COURTHOUSE AND ANNEX, RICHMOND, VA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for repairs and alterations for the reconfiguration and alteration of approximately 18,000 usable square

feet of vacant space in the Lewis F. Powell Jr. U.S. Courthouse and Annex located at 1100 E. Main Street in Richmond, Virginia, to allow for the relocation of the Court of Appeals Office of Staff Council from leased space, at an estimated construction cost of \$3,500,000 and a management and inspection cost of \$407,000 for a total estimated project cost of \$3,907,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, that the reconfigured space is backfilled by the Court of Appeals Office of Staff Council and the associated leased space is released.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
LEWIS F. POWELL JR. U.S. COURTHOUSE AND ANNEX
RICHMOND, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-0062-RI14
Congressional District: 03

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project for the reconfiguration and alteration of approximately 18,000 usable square feet (usf) of vacant space in the Lewis F. Powell Jr. U.S. Courthouse and Annex (USCH Complex) at 1100 E. Main Street in Richmond, VA. The Court of Appeals Office of Staff Council (OSC), currently in leased space in Richmond, will relocate to the USCH Complex when their lease expires. Relocating OSC from leased space will allow the Government to reduce costly lease space reducing the Government's rental payment to the private sector by approximately \$500,000 annually.

FY2014 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(ECC and M&I)\$3,907,000

Major Work Items

Interior construction; mechanical, electrical, fire protection and plumbing upgrades

Project Budget¹

Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)\$3,500,000
Management and Inspection (M&I).....\$407,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*.....\$3,907,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Design	FY2012	FY2013
Construction	FY2014	FY2015

Building

The USCH Complex is comprised of the Lewis F Powell USCH and USCH Annex. The USCH Complex is located in the historic downtown area of Richmond, VA. The Powell USCH was originally constructed in 1858, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the oldest buildings in GSA's inventory. The USCH Annex was built in 1963 directly adjacent to the existing USCH. The Annex is also listed on the

¹ Design funded by region in FY2012.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
LEWIS F. POWELL JR. U.S. COURTHOUSE AND ANNEX
RICHMOND, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-0062-RI14

Congressional District: 03

National Register of Historic Places. The two buildings share systems and infrastructure and are physically connected at the basement level and via a 3rd floor walkway. The USCH Complex primarily serve the needs of the U.S. Court of Appeals and their support agencies. The USCH is home primarily to the courtrooms, chambers and Circuit Library areas, while the Annex houses the Clerks, Circuit Executives office and GSA. The U.S. Marshals Service has a small presence in both buildings. The USCH Complex formerly housed all of the U.S. Courts functions in the city of Richmond including U.S. District Courts, U.S. Bankruptcy Courts and the Court of Appeals. In 2008, a new U.S. District Courthouse opened, which moved the District and Bankruptcy Court functions out of the USCH Complex and into the new facility.

Tenant Agencies

Judiciary, Department of Justice, GSA

Proposed Project

Under the current design, the OSC will relocate from leased space into approximately 18,000 USF within the USCH Complex. There is currently vacant space on the 2nd and 3rd floor of the USCH Annex and the 3rd floor of the USCH that will be used to meet the space needs of OSC.

The OSC fit out is primarily private offices, with conference rooms, training rooms and other support space. Interior renovations, mainly consisting of tenant improvement work, are the primary focus of this project. In addition to the tenant fit out, the project requires demolition, HVAC upgrades and electrical distribution system upgrades.

Major Work Items

Interior Construction	\$2,143,000
Fire Protection	348,000
Mechanical System Upgrades	205,000
Electrical System Upgrades	772,000
Plumbing System Upgrades	<u>32,000</u>
Total ECC	\$3,500,000

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
LEWIS F. POWELL JR. U.S. COURTHOUSE AND ANNEX
RICHMOND, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-0062-RI14
Congressional District: 03

Justification

The OSC is currently housed in leased space located at 600 Main St in Richmond, VA. There is space available at the USCH Complex and the mission of OSC is consistent with and related to the other courts agencies currently located in the complex. Moving OSC into the federal complex will create operational efficiencies for the agencies and will also save money by eliminating leasing costs. Additionally, the government does not have the option to remain at the current location beyond the lease expiration. If this project is not undertaken, OSC will have to move to another leased location resulting in higher long term costs to the taxpayer.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

None

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)

None

Alternatives Considered (30 year, present value cost analysis)

The proposed backfill of space eliminates the cost of leased space and is the most economically feasible alternative.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
LEWIS F. POWELL JR. U.S. COURTHOUSE AND ANNEX
RICHMOND, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-0062-RI14
Congressional District: 03

Recommendation

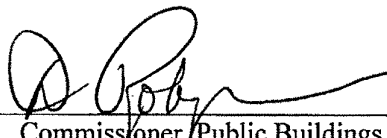
ALTERATION

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

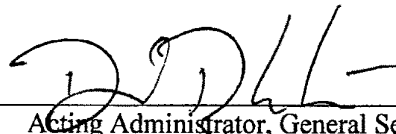
Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended: _____



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

April 2013

Housing Plan
Lewis F. Powell Jr. U.S. Courthouse and Annex

PVA-0062-RI14
 Richmond, VA

Locations	CURRENT					PROPOSED				
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹			Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)		
	Office	Total	Office ²	Storage	Special	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special
600 Main Street Center (lease)										
Office of Staff Council	45	45	9,855	2883	4094					
Powell U.S. Courthouse Annex										
Circuit Executive	16	16	6,700	167	1,649	16	16	6,700	167	1,649
Court of Appeals Clerk	67	67	20,444	4,506	2,100	67	67	19,838	4,506	2,100
GSA	1	1	-	-	1,195	1	1	-	-	1,195
Office of Staff Council			-	-	-	64	64	16,901	2,148	3,225
Joint Use				3,165					3,165	-
Vacant Space			16,411	10	17,319			3,439	-	8,633
Subtotal	84	84	43,555	7,848	22,263	148	148	46,878	9,986	16,802
Powell U.S. Courthouse										
Court of Appeals	108	108	2,529	-	47,428	108	108	2,529	-	47,428
Circuit Executive			376	2,705	967			376	2,705	967
Circuit Library	8	8	14,405	2,227	652	8	8	14,405	2,227	652
COA Clerks			5,400	1,224	778			5,400	1,224	778
GSA	2	2	815	2,631	121	2	2	815	2,631	121
US Marshal	2	2	1,036	-	1,609	2	2	1,036	-	1,609
Vacant Space			10,899	-	3,979			10,899	-	3,979
Subtotal	120	120	35,460	8,787	55,534	120	120	35,460	8,787	55,534
Total	249	249	88,870	19,518	81,891	268	268	82,338	18,773	72,336

Special Space	USF
Restrooms	4,035
Courtrooms	15,576
Chambers	42,488
Conference	6,641
Food Service	1,867
ADP	608
Library	814
Floor Cut	182
Structurally Changed	125
Total	72,336

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
 No office utilization rate calculation due to exclusion of Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 personnel

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. POST
OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE, RICHLAND, WA

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Rep-
resentatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307,
appropriations are authorized for repairs and*

alterations to upgrade the electrical and ele-
vator systems in the Federal Building and
U.S. Post Office and Courthouse located at
825 Jadwin Avenue in Richland, Washington,
at a design cost of \$1,320,000, an estimated
construction cost of \$11,517,000, and a man-
agement and inspection cost of \$1,233,000 for

a total estimated project cost of \$14,070,000, a
prospectus for which is attached to and in-
cluded in this resolution.

*Provided, that the General Services Admin-
istration shall not delegate to any other
agency the authority granted by this resolu-
tion.*

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE
RICHLAND, WA**

Prospectus Number: PWA-0063-RI14
Congressional District: 04

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project to upgrade the electrical and elevator systems in the Federal Building and U.S. Post Office and Courthouse located at 825 Jadwin Avenue in Richland, WA. The electrical and elevator systems are original to the building constructed in 1965 and have reached the end of their useful life. Parts to repair the elevators are no longer manufactured, when needed, they have to be fabricated at great expense to the government and the repairs cause the elevators to be taken out of service for extended periods of time.

FY2014 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, ECC and M&I)\$14,070,000

Major Work Items

Elevator and electrical upgrades

Project Budget

Design	\$1,320,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)	\$11,517,000
Management and Inspection (M&I)	\$1,233,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)	\$14,070,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

Schedule

	Start	End
Design and Construction	FY2014	FY2016

Building

The Federal Building, built in 1965, is 386,561 gross square feet (gsf). It consists of an eight-story office tower with two adjoined wings and has 82 outdoor parking spaces.

Tenant Agencies

Department of Energy, Department of Veteran Affairs, Department of Justice, Judiciary, Homeland Security, Department of Defense, Senate, U.S. Postal Service, GSA and Department of the Treasury

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE
RICHLAND, WA**

Prospectus Number: PWA-0063-RI14
Congressional District: 04

Proposed Project

The proposed project consists of upgrades to the electrical systems and the elevators in the Tower building.

Major Work Items

Upgrade Electrical System	\$8,388,000
Upgrade Elevators	2,508,000
Interior Demolition	<u>621,000</u>
Total ECC	\$11,517,000

Justification

The electrical systems components are original to the 1965 construction of the building and are near the end of their useful life. The components targeted under this project serve the electrical power distribution systems and the emergency power distribution system. This will improve servicing and increase electrical capacity loads to meet current standards.

The Elevator systems cabs, parts, and components are original to the building and need upgrades. Parts have to be custom fabricated whenever elevator repairs are done. These repairs take the cabs out of service for extended time periods. Upgrades to the elevator system will improve serviceability as replacements parts are obsolete and no longer available.

The proposed upgrades will result in building operations, maintenance and energy savings for the Federal Building.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

None

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE
RICHLAND, WA**

Prospectus Number: PWA-0063-RI14
Congressional District: 04

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)

None

Alternatives Considered

There are no feasible alternatives to this project. This is a limited scope renovation and the cost of the proposed project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE
RICHLAND, WA**

Prospectus Number: PWA-0063-RI14
Congressional District: 04

Recommendation

ALTERATION

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.


Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended: _____



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

DESIGN—WILLIAM J. GREEN, JR. FEDERAL
BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA, PA

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Rep-
resentatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307,*

appropriations are authorized for the design
of repairs and alterations for building sys-
tem repairs, security upgrades, and shell
work for floors three through ten at the Wil-
liam J. Green, Jr. Federal Building located
at 600 Arch Street in Philadelphia, Pennsyl-
vania, at a design cost of \$6,500,000, a pro-

spectus for which is attached to and included
in this resolution.

*Provided, that the General Services Admin-
istration shall not delegate to any other
agency the authority granted by this resolu-
tion.*

GSAPBS

PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
Prospectus for Design

Description

The General Services Administration (GSA) is seeking committee approval for one design project during fiscal year 2014 that we will schedule for construction in future years. A project description is attached.

Justification

By seeking approval to start the design for the project prior to construction phase funding, an orderly and timely accomplishment of a planned program is ensured. Under the separate funding approach, we will submit the construction prospectus for the project along with the budget request.

The subject project addresses realignment and consolidation of agency space, and replacing and repairing affected building and safety systems.

Recommendation

Approve design for \$6,500,000 for the project attached. The construction costs indicated at this time are preliminary and will be refined and finalized prior to future requests for funding.

Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested in this Prospectus

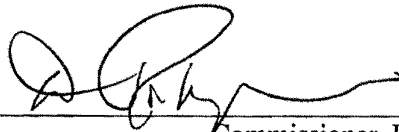
(Design)\$6,500,000

Certification of Need

The proposed projects are the best solutions to meet validated Government needs.

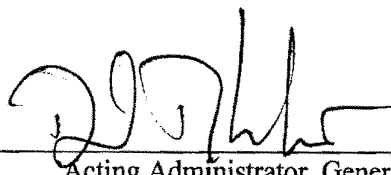
Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended: _____



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

GSA

PBS

PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
Prospectus for Design

FISCAL YEAR 2014 ALTERATION DESIGN PROJECTS
(Alphabetical by State)

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>FY 2014 FUNDING</u>
Philadelphia, PA William J. Green, Jr. Federal Building	\$6,500,000
TOTAL.....	\$6,500,000

GSAPBS

PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
Prospectus for Design

Prospectus Number: PDS-02014
Congressional District: 01

<u>PROJECT:</u>	William J. Green, Jr. Federal Building
<u>LOCATION:</u>	Philadelphia, PA
<u>ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST:</u>	\$ 65,300,000
<u>DESIGN:</u>	\$ 6,500,000
<u>CONSTRUCTION:</u>	\$ 53,400,000
<u>MANAGEMENT & INSPECTION:</u>	\$ 5,400,000
<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED IN FY2014 (Design):</u>	\$ 6,500,000

WORK ITEM SUMMARY

Interior construction, HVAC replacement and upgrades, electrical replacement, seismic repairs and structural reinforcement, demolition and abatement, security upgrades, fire/life safety repairs, exterior repairs

DESCRIPTION

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project for the William J. Green, Jr. Federal Building (Green Building) located at 600 Arch Street in Philadelphia, PA. The proposed project includes building system repairs, security upgrades, and shell work with tenant improvements for floors three through ten..

The proposed alteration project will provide an effective long term housing solution for the Federal Bureau of Investigation Field Office, Drug Enforcement Agency Field Division Office and the Internal Revenue Service. The renovation will significantly improve the building's current utilization to allow local private sector leases to consolidate into the federally owned space. All involved agencies will more efficiently occupy their space through a variety of economical workplace solutions. By maximizing existing federal space through the modernization of the workspace, GSA will be able to terminate several costly leases that have a current annual cost of \$2,900,000.

The Green Building along with the adjoining James A. Byrne Courthouse is part of a 1.7 million gross square foot federal complex in downtown Philadelphia. It is the largest federal complex in the Philadelphia area. The Green Building was designed along with the Byrne Courthouse to share common mechanical systems and exterior brick styling. The first floors are linked by a common circulation area, which includes a Ceremonial Courtroom and plaza. The complex also shares an underground parking garage.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 105,000 rentable square feet of space, including 3 official parking spaces, for the Corporation for National and Community Service, currently located at 1201–1225 New York Avenue, NW in Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$5,250,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 198 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 198 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-03WA14

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 105,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) located at 1201-1225 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC. The current lease expires October 11, 2014.

The replacement lease will provide continued housing for CNCS, and will improve CNCS' office and overall utilization rates from 151 to 129 usable square feet (USF) per person and 226 to 198 USF per person, respectively, while housing current personnel in 6,159 RSF less than the total of its current occupancies at the New York Avenue, NW locations.

Description

Occupant:	CNCS
Lease Type	Replacement
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	111,159 (Current RSF/USF = 1.12)
Proposed Maximum RSF:	105,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF ¹ :	6,159 RSF Reduction
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	226
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	198
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	15 years
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	10/11/2014
Delineated Area:	Washington, DC CEA
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	3
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ² :	\$50.00/RSF
Proposed Total Annual Cost ³ :	\$5,250,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$4,591,391 (Lease effective 10/12/04)

¹ The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.12. However, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.2 is used for the proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

² This estimate is for fiscal year 2015 and may be escalated by 1.9 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

³ Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-03WA14

Background

Headquartered in Washington DC, CNCS is an independent federal agency that is one of the government's largest grant providers to help organizations at the community level to implement projects or ideas that require special funding or assistance.

Justification

The current lease at 1201-1225 New York Ave NW, Washington, DC expires on October 11, 2014, and will leave CNCS without continued housing, unless a replacement lease is obtained.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC**

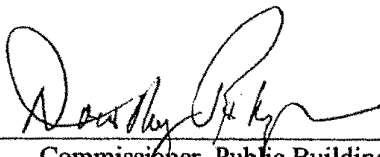
Prospectus Number: PDC-03WA14

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

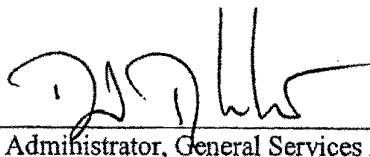
Submitted at Washington, DC, on January 8, 2014

Recommended: _____



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Administrator, General Services Administration

April 2013

Housing Plan
Corporation for National and Community Service
Washington, DC

PDC-03-WA14

Locations	CURRENT						PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
1201-1225 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC	440	440	85,291	1,333	12,771	99,395						
Proposed Lease, Washington, DC							440	440	72,500	2,000	12,771	87,271
Total	440	440	85,291	1,333	12,771	99,395	440	440	72,500	2,000	12,771	87,271

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
Rate		
Current	151	129

UR=average amount of office space per person
 Current UR excludes 18,764 usf of office support space
 Proposed UR excludes 15,950 usf of office support space

Overall UR ³		
Rate		
Current	226	198

R/U Factor ⁴			
Total USF		RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	99,395	1.12	111,159
Proposed	87,271	1.20	105,000

Special Space		USF
Conference		5,701
ADP		1,500
File Room		2,000
Break Room		800
Health Unit		270
Mail		500
Copy Room		2,000
Total		12,771

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people

³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel

⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EXECUTIVE
OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW, NORTHERN
VIRGINIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 176,000 rentable square feet of space for the Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review, currently located at 5107 and 5201 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church, Virginia, at a proposed total annual cost of \$6,864,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 199 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 199 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA14
Congressional District: VA-8, 10, 11

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 176,000 rentable square feet of space for the Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), currently housed at 5107 and 5201 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church, Virginia.

The proposed lease will enable EOIR to provide continued housing for its operations, while improving its office and overall utilization rates from 142 to 127 and 222 to 199 USF per person, respectively, while housing its current personnel in 14,181 RSF less than the total of its current occupancies.

Description

Occupant:	DOJ-EOIR
Lease Type	Replacement
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	190,181 (Current RSF/USF = 1.14)
Proposed Maximum RSF:	176,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	14,181 RSF Reduction
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	222
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	199
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	15 years
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	9/15/2015
Delineated Area:	Northern Virginia
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	None
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ¹ :	\$39.00 / RSF
Proposed Total Annual Cost ² :	\$6,864,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$5,735,485 (Leases effective 9/16/05 and 10/9/07)

¹ This estimate is for fiscal year 2015 and may be escalated by 1.9 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

² Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA14
Congressional District: VA-8, 10, 11

Background

EOIR's mission is to adjudicate immigration cases under delegated authority from the Attorney General. EOIR interprets and administers federal immigration laws by conducting immigration court proceedings, appellate reviews, and administrative hearings.

Justification

The current leases at 5107 Leesburg Pike and 5201 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church, Virginia will expire on September 15, 2015, leaving DOJ-EOIR without continued housing unless a replacement lease is obtained. The total space request under this prospectus reflects a reduced total space requirement that would house all of the functions and personnel currently housed in these two locations.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA14
Congressional District: VA-8, 10, 11

Certification of Need

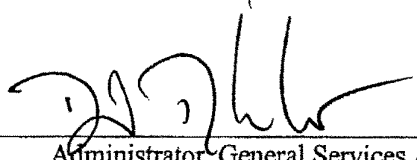
The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on January 8, 2014

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Administrator, General Services Administration

April 2013

**Housing Plan
Department of Justice**

**PVA-01-WA14
Northern Virginia**

Locations	CURRENT				PROPOSED			
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹		Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)	
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Office	Total	Storage	Special
5107 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA	727	727	132,352	5,860		161,561		
5201 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA	6	6	750	-		5,246		
Proposed Lease, Northern VA								
Total	733	733	133,102	5,860	733	166,807	5,193	21,237
								146,189
								146,189

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²			
Rate	Current	Proposed	
	142	127	

UR=average amount of office space per person
 Current UR excludes 29,117 usf of office support space
 Proposed UR excludes 26,347 usf of office support space

Overall UR ³			
Rate	Current	Proposed	
	222	199	

R/U Factor ⁴			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	166,807	1.14	190,181
Proposed	146,189	1.20	176,000

Special Space		USF
Conference		6,533
ADP		2,067
Cas File Room		9,788
Break Room		2,182
Courtroom		667
Total		21,237

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK, NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 125,000 rentable square feet of space, including 4 official parking spaces, for the Department of the Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network currently located at 2070 Chain Bridge Road in Vienna, Virginia, at a proposed total annual cost of \$4,875,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 241 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 241 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-05-WA13

Congressional District: 8, 10, 11

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 125,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Department of the Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN), currently located at 2070 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA. FINCEN has been at their current leased location since 2004. The lease expires on July 8, 2014.

FINCEN will improve its utilization office utilization rate from 181 usable square feet (USF) to 130 USF per person and its overall utilization rate from 322 USF to 241 USF per person. As a result, this prospectus proposes to house FINCEN personnel in 44,682 RSF less space than their current occupancy of 169,682 RSF.

Description

Occupant:	FINCEN
Lease Type	Replacement
Current RSF	169,682 (Current RSF/USF = 1.11)
Proposed Maximum RSF:	125,000 (Proposed RSF/USF=1.20)
Expansion Space RSF ¹ :	Reduction of 44,682 RSF
Current USF/Person:	322
Proposed USF/Person:	241
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 years
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	7/8/14
Delineated Area:	Northern Virginia
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	4
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ² :	\$39.00
Proposed Total Annual Cost ³ :	\$4,875,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$4,085,052 (lease effective 2004)

¹The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.11, however to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.2 is used for the proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

² This estimate is for fiscal year 2014 and may be escalated by 1.75 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government.

³ Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-05-WA13

Congressional District: 8, 10, 11

Background

The U.S. Department of the Treasury established the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network in 1990 to provide a government-wide multisource financial intelligence and analysis network. FINCEN's mission is to enhance U.S. national security, deter and detect criminal activity, and safeguard financial systems from abuse by promoting transparency in the U.S. and international financial systems. It's responsible for administering the Bank Secrecy Act, one of the nation's most potent weapons for preventing corruption of the U.S. financial system. In 2001, the USA PATRIOT Act broadened the scope of the Bank Secrecy Act to focus on terrorist financing as well as money laundering, combating financial crime, and enforcing economic sanctions against rogue nations.

Justification

The current lease at 2070 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA expires on July 8, 2014 and FINCEN requires continued housing to carry out its critical mission.

The maximum proposed rental rate is a projected rate for lease transactions with a future effective (rent start) date consistent with the expiration of the current lease on July 8, 2014. GSA will procure the lease with prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers, and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that the lease award is made in the best interest of the Government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to work with energy service providers to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-05-WA13
Congressional District: 8, 10, 11

Interim Leasing

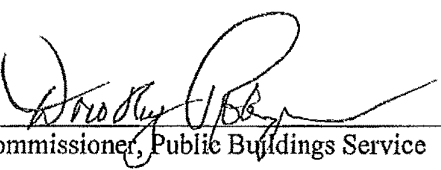
GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

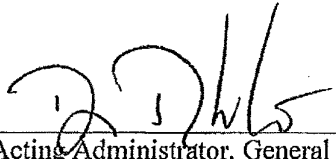
The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on November 21, 2012

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

August 2012

Housing Plan
Department of the Treasury
FINCEN

PVA-05-WA13
Northern Virginia

Locations	Current					Proposed				
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)		
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
2070 Chain Bridge Rd, Vienna, VA	473	473	109,565	4,420	38,312	152,297				
Proposed Lease	473	473	109,565	4,420	38,312	152,297	430	2,444	29,720	103,831
TOTAL	473	473	109,565	4,420	38,312	152,297	430	2,444	29,720	103,831

Office Utilization Rate (UR) *		
Rate	Current	Proposed
	181	130

* UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 24,104 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 15,767 usf of office support space

USF/Person **		
Rate	Current	Proposed
	322	241

** USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel

Special Space			
Conf Training	5,060		USF
Mail Room	366		
Breakroom	1,154		
ADP/Telecom	7,980		
Security	3,962		
Media Rooms	762		
File Rooms	928		
Health Unit	1,204		
X-Ray Room	693		
Copy Room	432		
Operations Ctr	1,293		
Secure Comm Ctr	232		
SCIF	3,374		
Supply Room	776		
Law Library	880		
Graphics Rooms	624		
Total	29,720		

Total USF	RSF/USF	Maximum RSF
Current	152,297	1.11
Proposed	103,831	1.20

Usable square footage means the portion of the building available for use by tenants' personnel and furnishings, and space square footage does not include space devoted to building operations and maintenance (e.g., craft shops, gear rooms, building supply rooms, rest rooms and lobbies).

Usable square footage means the portion of the building available for use by tenants' personnel and furnishings, and space square footage does not include space devoted to building operations and maintenance (e.g., craft shops, gear rooms, building supply rooms, rest rooms and lobbies).

There was no objection.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on March 18, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 3370. To delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2650. To allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land.

H.R. 4076. To address shortages and interruptions in the availability of propane and other home heating fuels in the United States, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(b) of House Resolution 515, the House stands adjourned until noon on Monday, March 24, 2014, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 10 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 24, 2014, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5027. A letter from the Chief, Planning and Regulatory Affairs Office, OPS, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 [FNS-2011-0030] (RIN: 0584-AE19) received February 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5028. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Ninety-Day Waiting Period Limitation and Technical Amendments to Certain Health Coverage Requirements Under the Affordable Care Act (RIN: 1210-AB56) received February 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5029. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Basic Health Program: State Administration of Basic Health Programs; Eligibility and Enrollment in Standard Health Plans; Essential Health Benefits in Standard Health Plans; Performance Standards for Basic Health Programs Premium and Cost Sharing for Basic Health Programs; Federal Funding Process; Trust Fund and Financial Integrity [CMS-2380-F] (RIN: 0938-AR93) received March 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5030. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services,

transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2015 [CMS-0938-F] (RIN: 0938-AR89) received March 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5031. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting an Executive Order further expanding the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, and expanded in Executive Order 13661 of March 14, 2014, with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Ukraine; (H. Doc. No. 113-99); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

5032. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-291, "Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Support Technical Clarification Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5033. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-292, "Vending Regulations Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5034. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Grounds and Safety Zone, Delaware River; Marcus Hook, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2013-1014] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5035. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Regulations: Pacific Ocean at San Nicolas Island, Calif.; Restricted Anchorage Areas [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0967] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received February 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5036. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal-State Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program; Data Exchange Standardization as Required by Section 2104 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (RIN: 1205-AB64) received February 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on the Budget. H.R. 1869. A bill to establish biennial budgets for the United States Government; with amendments (Rept. 113-382, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 2413. A bill to prioritize and redirect NOAA resources to a focused program of investment on near-term, affordable, and attainable advances in observational, computing, and modeling capabilities to deliver substantial improvement in weather forecasting and prediction of high impact weather events, such as tornadoes and hurricanes, and for other

purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-383). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1869 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 1869. Referral to the Committee on Rules extended for a period ending not later than September 12, 2014.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 4278. A bill to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 4279. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Ms. CHU):

H.R. 4280. A bill to preserve knowledge and promote education about jazz in the United States and abroad; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 4281. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. HECK of Nevada):

H.R. 4282. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for graduate medical education partnerships in States with a low ratio of medical residents relative to the general population; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 4283. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to maintain or replace certain facilities and structures for commercial recreation services at Smith Gulch in Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 4278.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H.R. 4279.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1; and Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 4280.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, §8

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 4281.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 4282.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 4283.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States)."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 494: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 596: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 721: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 755: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 1563: Mr. KING of New York and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1652: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1893: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 2315: Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 2477: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2499: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2807: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2852: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 3118: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 3318: Mr. MAFFEI and Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 3530: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

H.R. 3616: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. MATHESON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 3658: Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3663: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 3698: Ms. ESTY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 3708: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. LOEBACK.

H.R. 3732: Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 3747: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 3781: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 3877: Ms. MATSUI and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3929: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 4031: Mr. PERRY, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. RUNYAN.

H.R. 4035: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4075: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4142: Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 4143: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 4227: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 4240: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H. Res. 72: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 417: Mr. CRAMER.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

GRAND JUNCTION AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Grand Junction, CO, November 22, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

Hon. JARED POLIS,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVES TIPTON AND POLIS: As the voice of business on Colorado's western slope, representing over 900 businesses, we want to thank you for introducing H.R. 3189 as a way to ensure that water rights are continually protected in Colorado. It is absurd that the federal government requires ski resorts to relinquish their rights as a condition of granting permits, and this practice must be stopped.

The Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce offers legislative guidelines on water that include the following points: Water rights in Colorado and the West have been considered a vital asset and personal property for many years. Water is an essential component of the economic, social and environmental quality of life that we enjoy. The preservation and protection of private ownership and the right to use water, its conservation, and its wise use are necessary to preserve the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of western Colorado and the entire state. Furthermore, industries in Colorado such as agriculture, small businesses, tourism, and natural resource development require steady reliable and high quality water supplies.

The passage of H.R. 3189 would ensure that tourism operations as well as other businesses' private property rights are protected when it comes to water. It will also help the regulatory uncertainty and remove the concern that if a ski area wants to grow or expand it will not lose its property. This helps create a sure business climate in Colorado. Thank you for sponsoring this bill. We urge the passage of H.R. 3189.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BURKE,
Chairman of the Board.

Garfield County, CO, January 13, 2014.

Re Garfield County Board of County Commissioners' Letter of support for pending legislation H.R. 3189: Water Rights Protection Act

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON: The purpose of this letter is to provide you with unanimous support from Garfield County Board of County Commissioners (the Board) for H.R. 3189, "The Water Rights Protection

Act." Many of the Counties in Colorado are largely comprised of federal lands. For example, 2/3rd of Garfield County (or approximately 2,000 sq. miles) is held and managed by either the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Many private businesses and industries in Garfield County including but not limited to ranching, agriculture, guiding and outfitting, and the ski industry (Ski Sunlight) to name a few, rely on the use of these federal lands to operate and thrive. Land management decisions made on these lands can have a significant socioeconomic impact on the County and, more importantly, to the private businesses and activities that have operated here even prior to statehood.

It is these businesses that make up key portions of the fabric of our local communities and are important contributors to our local economies. Moreover, they have lawfully obtained and privately paid for water rights necessary to the success of their operations. However, because of their use of federal lands for their operations, they also are also dependent on permit approvals from federal agencies to continue operate in Garfield County. Specific to pending H.R. 3189, the Board supports this legislation as it protects existing water rights obtained and held by these private businesses from an arbitrary and uncompensated taking by the federal government through the use of conditions on permits or any other regulatory mechanism. Moreover, it is unconscionable that the federal government shall attempt to hold these businesses hostage in order to 'take' their water rights without legal authority. To do so shall, no doubt, render private businesses as victims and casualties of government overreach and possible failure in the ability to control their future.

We are encouraged to see such wide bipartisan support for this legislation which clearly underscores its value and hopeful passage into law. It is rather unfortunate that it takes legislation such as this to reaffirm what are long standing existing rights, but the Board is pleased to see your efforts be put to such a good cause on behalf of citizens and businesses in Garfield County.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the position of the Board outlined above.

Very truly yours,

JOHN MARTIN,
Chairman, Garfield
County Board of
County Commissioners.

MIKE SAMSON,
Commissioner, Garfield
County Board of
County Commissioners.

TOM JANKOVSKY,
Garfield County Board
of County Commissioners.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,
Washington, DC, October 4, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

Hon. JARED POLIS,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPS. TIPTON AND POLIS: On behalf of more than 6 million Farm Bureau member families across the United States, I commend you for your introduction of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. The American Farm Bureau Federation endorses the Tipton-Polis bill, and will work closely with you to broaden bipartisan support for this measure and to gain its swift consideration and approval by the House of Representatives.

H.R. 3189 grants no new rights to any party, nor does it in any way infringe on existing rights of individuals, states or the federal government. This legislation simply reaffirms what has been existing law for generations and which is expressed in numerous places in federal law, including the Mining Act of 1866; the 1897 Organic Act establishing the U.S. Forest Service; the Taylor Grazing Act; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

There is no provision in federal law authorizing or permitting the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to compel owners of lawfully acquired water rights to surrender those rights or to acquire them in the name of the United States. Thus, H.R. 3189 does nothing more than assure holders of BLM or Forest Service permits that their lawfully acquired rights will not be abridged and that federal agencies may not unlawfully use the permit process to acquire rights they do not currently possess.

We look forward to working with you on this important legislation and again commend you for your leadership in this important area.

Sincerely,

BOB STALLMAN,
President.

FAMILY FARM ALLIANCE,
Klamath Falls, Oregon, October 8, 2013.
Re Support for "Water Rights Protection Act" (H.R. 3189)

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: On behalf of the Family Farm Alliance, this letter expresses our formal support for your "Water Rights Protection Act" (H.R. 3189). This important legislation would prohibit the conditioning of any federal permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer, relinquishment, or other impairment of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

The Alliance is a grassroots organization of family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts and allied industries in 16 Western states. The Alliance is focused on one mission: To ensure the availability of reliable, affordable irrigation water supplies to Western farmers and ranchers. The Alliance has long advocated that solutions to conflicts

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

over the allocation and use of water resources must begin with recognition of the traditional deference to state water allocation systems. Federal agencies must recognize and respect state-based water rights and develop their management decisions according to state law and abide by state decrees defining both federal and non-federal rights. Federal agencies need to work within the framework of existing prior appropriation systems instead of attempting to fashion solutions which circumvent current water rights allocation and administration schemes.

Unfortunately, in recent years, some agencies within the federal government have repeatedly demonstrated they will not abide by this philosophy. These efforts constitute a federal overreach and a violation of private property rights.

For example, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has attempted to implement a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government as a permit condition on National Forest System lands. There is no compensation for the transfer of these privately held rights despite the fact that many stakeholders have invested their own capital in developing the rights. Additionally, federal land management agencies are leveraging Western water users in an effort to acquire additional water supplies for the federal government by requiring water users to apply for their rights under state law in the name of the United States rather than for themselves. USFS continues to take private water rights hostage through their permit conditions, despite objections from elected officials, business owners, private property advocates and a U.S. District Court ruling.

Our farmers and ranchers rely on their vested water rights to secure operating loans, as well as irrigate crops and water livestock. Federal agencies should not be able to leverage those water rights against farming and ranching families who have long depended upon federal permits and leases to support actions like grazing.

The Water Rights Protection Act would protect communities, businesses, recreation opportunities, farmers and ranchers as well as other individuals that rely on privately held water rights for their livelihood from federal takings. It would do so by prohibiting federal agencies from extorting water rights through the use of permits, leases, and other land management arrangements, for which it would otherwise have to pay just compensation under the 5th Amendment of the Constitution. The Water Rights Protection Act protects privately held water rights, prohibits federal takings, and upholds state water law by:

Prohibiting agencies from implementing a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government in order to receive or renew a permit for the use of land;

Prohibiting the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from requiring water users to acquire rights for the United States rather than for the water user themselves;

Upholds longstanding federal deference to state water law;

Has no cost to the American taxpayer.

Some Family Farm Alliance members in Arizona and Colorado have expressed some concerns with language contained in the original bill. We understand that they are working with you and Rep. Gosar to modify the language so that changes can be easily made by the Water and Power Sub-

committee. We support H.R. 3189 with those changes.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide support for your bill, which is very important to the family farmers and ranchers of our membership. If you have any questions about this letter, I encourage you or your staff to contact me at (541) 892-6244.

Sincerely,

DAN KEPPEL,
Executive Director.

DURANGO MOUNTAIN RESORT,
Durango, CO, October 15, 2013.

Re Letter of Support for Water Rights Protection Act (H.R. 3189)

Congressman SCOTT TIPTON,
House of Representatives,
Durango, CO.

Congressman JARED POLIS,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON AND CONGRESSMAN POLIS: Please consider this letter as Durango Mountain Resort's formal expression of support for the Water Rights Protection Act (H.R. 3189). We applaud you for sponsoring this legislation to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer, relinquishment, or other impairment of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. We also hope you will consider our suggested amendment language to prohibit the Secretaries from denying access to or use of a water right.

Durango Mountain Resort (DMR) provides its local community with significant jobs and recreational opportunities that support the economy of Southwestern Colorado. And DMR has consistently shown excellent stewardship of the environment, taking careful measures to eliminate negative impact on its land and resources. In fact, the resort received an "A" grade on its SACC Environmental Report Card this year. The resort is proud of its grading and continuously strives to exceed environmental standards.

Durango Mountain Resort, like many resorts in the southwest region, relies heavily on access to its water supplies for healthy operation of the resort. This is especially true during periods of drought which have plagued southwestern Colorado for several years now. DMR has proven resourceful in its ability to come up with alternative methodologies to produce snow during these dry winter years. Unfortunately, due to recent restrictions imposed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the resort is no longer able to count on water from the Cascade Aqueduct for its snowmaking water. The USFS essentially shut down one of DMR's major water sources by imposing an in-stream flow requirement that reduced DMR's water supply by 95% of its historical amount. When DMR then submitted an application to access and develop its prior water rights in Hermosa Park, the USFS refused to process DMR's application, denying DMR's rights that were reserved through a prior USFS land exchange agreement with the USFS. DMR believes these actions by the USFS are a blatant attempt by the federal government to extort water rights through the violation of existing water appropriation agreements and systems.

DMR has offered countless remedies to the USFS to circumvent the dire consequences these restrictions have imposed. Each time the USFS has shown it is not willing to consider alternative solutions even though it was made clear that their actions could easily put the resort out of business and unilat-

erally eliminate the jobs and recreational offerings it provides to the community.

The Water Rights Protection Act would protect communities, businesses, recreational attractions, farmers and ranchers, as well as other individuals that rely on privately held water rights for their livelihood, from federal takings. It would do so by prohibiting federal agencies from extorting water rights through the use of permits, leases, and other land management arrangements, for which it would otherwise have to pay just compensation under the 5th Amendment of the Constitution. The Water Rights Protection Act protects privately held water rights, prohibits federal takings, and upholds state water law by:

Prohibiting agencies from implementing a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government in order to receive or renew a permit for the use of land;

Prohibiting the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from requiring water users to acquire rights for the United States rather than for the water user themselves;

Prohibiting the Secretaries from denying access to or use of a water right;

Upholding longstanding federal deference to state water law, and it has no cost to the American taxpayer.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for the Water Rights Protection Act (H.R. 3189). This legislation is very important to Durango Mountain Resort, its employees, business partners, guests, and surrounding communities. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at 970-426-7242.

Sincerely,

GARY S. DERCK,
President and CEO.

COLORADO SKI COUNTRY USA,
October 4, 2013.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee,
Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN: I am writing on behalf of Colorado Ski Country USA (CSCUSA), the industry association and global voice of skiing and snowboarding in Colorado, in support of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. CSCUSA represents twenty ski areas in Colorado that operate on National Forest System lands under a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service. These public land resorts hosted over 6.3 million skier visits in Colorado in the 2012/13 ski season alone, and skiing and snowboarding constitute a \$3.0 billion annual economic impact to our state.

CSCUSA supports H.R. 3189 because it would prohibit the U.S. Forest Service from requiring our resorts to transfer valuable water rights to the Forest Service as a condition of receiving a permit, or to apply for water rights in the name of the United States, without compensation.

While the Forest Service insists that such actions would be intended only to maintain the long-run viability of the resorts as ski and snowboard areas, requiring resorts to transfer the water rights they need to operate so as to prevent their sale to a third party is a solution in search of a problem. Moreover, required transfers of water rights that are critical to ski area operations would politicize their use, with each change in administration changing priorities for water use.

Furthermore, requiring transfer of valuable water rights to the NFS as a condition

of receiving a permit raises serious Fifth Amendment concerns. Our member resorts' water rights were acquired and developed at great expense pursuant to Colorado law, and in some cases predate the Forest Service itself. If the NFS wants to secure its own water rights, it should buy them on Colorado's well-regulated water market like everyone else.

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and for your leadership on this issue. It means a great deal to CSCUSA and our member ski resorts operating across Colorado on NFS lands.

Best Regards,

MELANIE MILLS,
President and CEO.

HONORING THE ST. JOHN BOSCO
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the St. John Bosco High School varsity football team on their numerous accomplishments during their 2013–2014 football season. The St. John Bosco Braves are an outstanding football team from Bellflower, CA. The Braves were named the 2013 California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Pac5 Division Champions, CIF Southern Regional Champions, CIF State Champions, and National Champions by Max Preps.

The historic season for the St. John Bosco Braves began with the school's second ever CIF Finals appearance against their longtime rival, Mater Dei High School. After an uncharacteristically slow first half, the Braves came out firing in the second half and ended up beating the Mater Dei Monarchs 34–7, thus crowning the Braves CIF Pac–5 champions, the first football title in the school's seventy-three (73) year history. A week later, St. John Bosco routed the Corona Centennial Huskies 70–49, thus giving the Braves yet another award to add to the season, CIF Southern Regional Champions. The next and last game on the schedule had the entire Bosco community on edge as it was not only the State Championship game, but that it was against the De La Salle High School Spartans who headed into the State Championship game with a 40 game winning streak. After four grueling quarters of football, the Braves came out on top 20–14, ending the Spartans' winning streak and crowning the Braves 2013 CIF State Champions; the first in school history.

The St. John Bosco Braves finished their season 16–0, which propelled them to the top of the national football rankings along with Allen High School from Allen, Texas and Washington High School out of Miami, Florida. On January 27th, the ninth annual MaxPreps Football Tour of Champions arrived in Bellflower, CA to award the Braves with the National Championship trophy. This award came with the nation's number one ranking out of 15,000 schools and is a feat never accomplished by any sport in the school's history.

Due to such a successful season, Head Coach Jason Negro was awarded various ac-

colades, including the MaxPreps High School National Coach of the Year award, the Press-Telegram Dream Team Coach of the Year, the American Football Monthly Magazine National Coach of the Year, and CIF Southern Section Pac–5 Coach of the Year. In addition, earlier in the year Coach Negro was selected to coach the West Team at the 2013 U.S. Army All-American Game and was awarded the Xenith/Bill Yoast National Coach of the Year presented by the Army All-American Bowl.

As a result of the hard work and dedication displayed by the Braves in the 2013–2014 football season, made evident by their list of accomplishments, it was no surprise that several varsity football players received full rides to study and compete at the college level. On February 5th, 2014, the following players committed and signed their National Letters of Intent to their respective universities: Brett Baldwin (Air Force Academy), Malik Dorton (University of Southern California), Shay Fields (University of Colorado), Naijeli Hale (University of Washington), Chandler Hawkins (Naval Academy), Chandler Leniu (University of California, Berkeley), Damien Mama (University of Southern California), Jacob Tuioti-Mariner (University of California, Los Angeles), and Jaleel Wadood (University of California, Los Angeles).

I once again would like to recognize and congratulate the St. John Bosco Braves and Coach Negro on their historic season and numerous accomplishments. I wish all of the players continued success as they pursue their goals in athletics, academics, and their careers.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

MONTEZUMA VALLEY
IRRIGATION COMPANY,
Cortez, CO 81321

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: At their regularly scheduled meeting on October 8, 2013, the Board of Directors of Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company voted unanimously to support the proposed House Resolution 3189 introduced by Representative Scott Tipton and others.

We believe that this Bill is critical to protect water rights held by citizens and entities such as ours from usurpation by Federal agencies. In doing so, it preserves the water rights long held by, and essential to the survival of, agribusinesses, recreational businesses, municipalities, and individuals throughout our state and all states that receive water from rivers and streams originating in the state of Colorado.

Regards,

GERALD KOPPENHAFFER,
MVIC Board President.

MONTEZUMA COUNTY,
October 15, 2013.

Congressman SCOTT TIPTON,
House of Representatives,
Third District, Durango, CO.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON: The Montezuma County Board of County Commis-

sioners would like to strongly express our formal support for the proposed House H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act.

The USFS and BLM are notorious for attempting to subjugate private property rights through coercion and deception. Recently the USFS has attempted to coerce water users to apply for water rights in the name of the United States rather than the name of the purchaser as a condition to be permitted to operate on federal lands.

This action is unethical, constitutes a federal taking of private property without just compensation, and is a violation of the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Moreover this is a blatant attempt to subvert longstanding state water laws in the western United States which under the United States Constitution belongs under state authority.

These actions have already had a negative effect on ski areas which are critical to western states economies. Since many of the municipalities and agricultural operations rely upon similar storage facilities they are equally at risk since most of the absolute and conditional water rights in the arid west originate on high altitude federal lands where annual precipitation accumulates as snow fall.

The Water Rights Protection Act, House H.R. 3189, will protect our western communities, family farms, small business, energy development and other economic activities that rely upon privately held water rights for our livelihood and way of life.

This Bill will assist in establishing clear boundaries for federal jurisdiction and help prevent federal overreaches.

The Montezuma County Board of County Commissioners

STEVE D. CHAPPELL,
KEENAN G. ERTEL,
LARRY DON SUCKLA.

— MESA COUNTY,

Grand Junction, CO, December 19, 2013.
Re House Resolution 3189—Water Rights Protection Act of 2013

Hon. MARK UDALL,
U.S. Senate,
Grand Junction, CO.

DEAR SENATOR UDALL: As you know, Representative Tipton has authored House Resolution 3189, The Water Rights Protection Act of 2013. H.R. 3189 protects privately held water rights, prohibits federal taking of water rights and upholds state water law.

It is within your power to circumvent these future problems through legislative intervention. The bill would prohibit agencies from implementing a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government in order to receive or renew a permit for the use of land. In addition the bill prohibits the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from requiring water users to acquire rights for the United States rather than for the water user themselves. This bill upholds longstanding federal deference to state water law and has no cost to the American taxpayer.

On behalf of the 150,000 constituents of Mesa County, the Board of Commissioners asks for you to support this legislation, not simply through non-binding administrative action but rather by making this action law. The Commissioners fear that without supporting this bill to law, any temporary administrative "patch" will lead to future crisis of water rights in Mesa County.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Board of County Commissioners.

STEVE ACQUAFRESCA,
Chair,
ROSE PUGLIESE,
Commissioner,
JOHN JUSTMAN,
Commissioner.

MESA COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Grand Junction, CO, December 19, 2013.
Re House Resolution 3189—Water Rights Protection Act of 2013

Hon. MICHAEL BENNET,
U.S. Senate,
Grand Junction, CO.

DEAR SENATOR BENNET: As you know, Representative Tipton has authored House Resolution 3189, The Water Rights Protection Act of 2013. HR 3189 protects privately held water rights, prohibits federal taking of water rights and upholds state water law.

It is within your power to circumvent these future problems through legislative intervention. The bill would prohibit agencies from implementing a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government in order to receive or renew a permit for the use of land. In addition the bill prohibits the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from requiring water users to acquire rights for the United States rather than for the water user themselves. This bill upholds longstanding federal deference to state water law and has no cost to the American taxpayer.

On behalf of the 150,000 constituents of Mesa County, the Board of Commissioners asks for you to support this legislation, not simply through non-binding administrative action but rather by making this action law. The Commissioners fear that without supporting this bill to law, any temporary administrative "patch" will lead to future crisis of water rights in Mesa County.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

STEVE ACQUAFRESCA,
Chair,
ROSE PUGLIESE,
Commissioner,
JOHN JUSTMAN,
Commissioner.

MESA COUNTY, COUNTY
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2,

Grand Junction, CO, October 10, 2013.

Re H.R. 3189

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: I sincerely appreciate your leadership in Colorado and Western water matters. H.R. 3189 exemplifies that leadership. I lend my full support to H.R. 3189 with the consensus amendments developed by your staff, the national ski areas and the Colorado River Water Conservation District.

With the clarifying amendments, H.R. 3189 provides responsible side boards to agency actions when permitting allowable activities and uses on federal lands. It prohibits the transfer of ownership of privately held water rights in exchange for required permits. I am also pleased that your staff will prepare a sponsor's statement to confirm that the bill will not change existing law that allows reasonable permit conditions that can protect both the natural environment and present and future downstream water users dependent on the public lands for critical water supplies.

I want to express my genuine appreciation for you and your staff's willingness to de-

velop legislation that accomplishes our mutual goals of protecting private property interests in western water while maintaining the authority to condition permits to ensure responsible exercise of those rights.

Sincerely,

STEVEN ACQUAFRESCA,
Chairman, Board of Commissioners.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, March 10, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports H.R. 3189, the "Water Rights Protection Act." This bipartisan bill would protect water supplies and property rights from federal agency overreach by ensuring that the federal government cannot condition its approval of permits, leases, and other use agreements on the restriction or loss of applicable state water rights.

While eastern states typically apply riparian law to water rights questions, western states generally use the prior appropriation doctrine, which is "first in time, first in right." State laws protecting waters for multiple uses in western states have been in existence for over a century. Water rights are obtained by diverting water for "beneficial use," which can include domestic use, irrigation, manufacturing, mining, hydropower, municipal use, agriculture, and others depending on state law.

Recent federal actions have threatened this longstanding federal-state water rights relationship. Agencies increasingly require unnecessary and restrictive use conditions that must be met before land owners can receive or renew a permit. H.R. 3189 would prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

H.R. 3189 would protect water uses while ensuring that state water laws are upheld by prohibiting federal agencies from imposing permit conditions that requires privately held water rights to be transferred to the federal government in exchange for a new or renewed permit to operate on federal land.

This bill would ensure that the longstanding federal-state water relationship is maintained and not compromised by the placement of unreasonable permit conditions. The Chamber strongly supports H.R. 3189.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN,
Executive vice president,
Government Affairs.

GUNNISON COUNTY, CO,
October 22, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JARED POLIS,
Washington, DC.

HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVES: The Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado commend you for sponsoring "The Water Rights Protection Act." The Board will work closely with you to broaden bipartisan support for this measure and to gain its consideration and approval.

The Water Rights Protection Act would protect privately held water rights, prohibits

federal takings, and upholds state water law by:

Prohibiting agencies from implementing a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government in order to receive or renew a permit for the use of land;

Prohibiting the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from requiring water users to acquire water rights for the United States rather than for the water user themselves;

Upholds longstanding federal deference to state water law;

Has no cost to the American taxpayer.

Note: We are informed that you are diligently working to address the concern that the bill, as introduced, would not provide for the opportunity to condition relevant federal permits regarding transbasin diversion of water to require appropriate "by-pass" flows. We support this clarification and this issue can be addressed—perhaps through a combination of additional language, a well crafted "legislative history", and a "savings clause."

In the main, H.R. 3189 grants no new rights to any party, nor does it in any way infringe on existing rights of individuals, states or the federal government. This legislation simply reaffirms what has been existing law for generations and which is expressed in numerous places in federal law, including the Mining Act of 1872; the 1897 Organic Act establishing the U.S. Forest Service; the Taylor Grazing Act; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

There is no provision in federal law authorizing or permitting the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to compel owners of lawfully acquired water rights to surrender those rights or to acquire them in the name of the United States. Thus, H.R. 3189 does nothing more than assure holders of BLM or Forest Service permits that their lawfully acquired rights will not be abridged and that federal agencies may not unlawfully use the permit process to acquire rights they do not currently possess.

We look forward to working with you on this important legislation and again commend you for your leadership in this important area.

Sincerely,

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado.

PAULA SWENSON,
Chairperson,
PHIL CHAMBERLAND,
Vice-Chairperson,
JONATHAN HOUCK,
Commissioner.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

RIO GRANDE COUNTY,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Del Norte, Colorado, October 16, 2013.

Re Support of the Water Rights Protection Act H.R. 3189

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

Hon. JARED POLIS,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPS. TIPTON AND POLIS: The Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County supports your efforts through H.R. 3189 to protect the privately owned water rights within the State of Colorado.

The control of water within the State of Colorado and any other state in this nation has been controlled and regulated by the State. The Constitution of the United States does not allow the federal government to regulate private water rights.

There is no provision in federal law authorizing or permitting the Forest Services or the Bureau of Land Management to compel owners of lawfully acquired water rights to surrender those rights or to acquire them in the name of the United States. Thus, H.R. 3189 does nothing more than assure holders of BLM or Forest Service permits that their lawfully acquired rights will not be abridged and that federal agencies may not unlawfully use the permit process to acquire rights they do not currently possess.

We thank you for your attention to this crucial issue, and for supporting our rural communities and our public lands.

Sincerely,

KARLA L. SHRIVER,
Chair, Board of County Commissioners.

RIO BLANCO COUNTY,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Meeker, Colorado, January 10, 2014.

Re Rio Blanco County Support for the Water Rights Protection Act

Rep. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON, The Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County is very concerned with recent actions on the part of federal agencies that attempt to circumvent state law in order to acquire private water rights. Even more disconcerting is the coercive manner in which these attempts have been made.

As of now, the components of local economies targeted by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are the ski area industry and ranching. There are also many other essential contributors to our economies that rely on water to exist, and we must be certain that none fall prey. Federal efforts to rearrange the legal structure by which water rights are held threaten Colorado jobs and the economic health of rural communities.

Rio Blanco County applauds you and your colleagues in this effort, and fully supports the Water Rights Protection Act.

Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County

SHAWN BOLTON,
Chairman.

NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF
ASSOCIATION,
October 3, 2013.

Re Support of the Water Rights Protection Act H.R. 3189

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. PETER DEFAZIO,
Ranking Member, 2134 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS AND RANKING MEMBER DEFAZIO: The Public Lands Council (PLC) and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) strongly support the Water Rights Protection Act (WRPA), (H.R. 3189). PLC is the only national organization dedicated solely to representing the roughly 22,000 ranchers who operate on federal lands, some of which are U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands. NCBA is the beef industry's largest and oldest national marketing and trade association, representing American cattlemen and women who provide much of the nation's supply of food and own or manage a large portion of America's private property. Many of our members also hold private water rights on federal lands, which serve as an integral part of their operations; thus, these water rights keep our members in business and rural communities thriving. However, landowners face an unprecedented threat to the future of their water rights on lands managed by the USFS.

The USFS has been notorious for violating private property rights, as they have recently attempted to require the transfer of privately owned water rights to the federal government. The USFS has not provided adequate compensation as required by Article V of the Constitution; instead, they have attempted to acquire these rights in exchange for special use permits, likely in violation of a recent Supreme Court ruling in *Koontz*. Furthermore, the USFS has repeatedly ignored established state water laws in order to perform these takes, which amounts to a vast overreach by the federal government.

H.R. 3189, introduced by Congressmen: Scott Tipton (R-Colo.), Mark Amodei (R-Nev.), Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), and Jared Polis (D-Colo.) comes as a means to combat the recent directive that allows the USFS to execute the seizure of these water rights without just compensation. The language in the directive is applicable to ski areas specifically; however, this issue is a threat to all water users, including ranchers, as they depend on these rights to keep their business viable.

This legislation would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from, requiring the transfer of water rights without adequate compensation. Additionally, the bill supports long-established state water laws, clarifying that the federal government does not have jurisdiction.

We strongly encourage the Natural Resource Committee to support this important legislation. We thank you for your attention to this crucial issue, and for supporting our members as they continue to be an essential part of rural communities and stewards of our public lands.

Sincerely,

SCOTT GEORGE,
NCBA President.
BRICE LEE,
PLC President.

PNSAA,

La Conner, WA, September 26, 2013.

Re H.R. 3189/Water Rights Protection Act

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN: I am writing on behalf of ski areas in the Pacific Northwest operating on National Forest System lands. PNSAA represents 34 ski resorts in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Montana and California. Of the 34 members 30 operate on public land.

PNSAA supports H.R. 3189/Water Rights Protection Act that would prohibit the Forest Service from issuing permit clauses that require ski areas to transfer ownership of valuable water rights to the United States without compensation. Water is crucial to ski area operations. Ski areas collectively hold water rights worth over a hundred million dollars. We developed these rights through our own effort and expense, and we have no intention of surrendering ownership of these water rights to the U.S. without compensation.

We would like to thank you for your leadership on protecting ski area water rights. It means a great deal to PNSAA and all ski areas across the country operating on NFS lands.

Best Regards,

JOHN A. GIFFORD,
President.

NSAA,
October 4, 2013.

Re Support for H.R. 3189

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee,
1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN: I am writing on behalf of the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) in support of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. NSAA represents 121 ski areas in the U.S. that operate on National Forest System lands under a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service. These public land resorts accommodate the majority of skier visits in the U.S. and are located in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming. The ski industry generates \$12.2 billion in economic activity annually and is a major employer in rural economies. NSAA would like to thank the lead sponsors of this bill, Representatives Tipton, Polis, Amodei and McClintock, for their leadership on this critical issue for ski areas.

NSAA supports H.R. 3189 because it would prohibit the Forest Service from issuing permit clauses that require ski areas to transfer ownership of valuable water rights to the United States, or apply for water rights in the name of the United States, without compensation. Water is crucial to ski area operations. Ski areas collectively hold water rights worth over a hundred million dollars. We developed these rights through our own effort and expense, and we have no intention of surrendering ownership of these water rights to the U.S. without compensation.

This bill would prevent the federal government from making an end run around state law by merely taking water rights that it does not own through its permitting authority. It would not only protect ski area water rights—it would protect any water rights owners that operate on federal land.

In closing, we would like to thank you for scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and for

your leadership on this issue. It means a great deal to NSAA and all ski areas across the country operating on NFS lands.

Best Regards,

MICHAEL BERRY,
President.

NSAA,
November 14, 2013.

Re Support for H.R. 3189

Chairman MCCLINTOCK,
Water and Power Subcommittee,
Congressman SCOTT TIPTON.

GENTLEMEN: I am writing from the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) and our ski area members to express the importance of H.R. 3189 to the ski industry. As you know, NSAA represents 90 percent of the ski industry nationally, including 121 member ski areas that operate on National Forest System lands under a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service. These 121 public land resorts accommodate the majority of skier visits in the U.S. and span 13 states. All 121 of NSAA's public land ski area members strongly support H.R. 3189.

The agency's announcement yesterday of a change in its water policy was well received by the ski industry. We were pleased to see this significant change in Forest Service policy and applaud the agency's leadership on this important issue for ski areas. Ski areas have invested a great deal in water rights, and we rely on these water rights to bring our guests an alpine recreation experience unmatched anywhere in the world. This decision will benefit the millions of people who visit ski areas on the National Forests, and it will also benefit the rural communities in which resorts are located.

Despite this announced change in policy, we still need Congress to pass the Water Rights Protection Act. The policy change announced by the agency this week is the fourth change in Forest Service water policy for ski areas in ten years. These changes are disruptive, create uncertainty and adversely impact our operations, planning and future growth. The ski industry can't afford to be subjected to a different water policy with each Administration. Only federal legislation can give us the long term protection we need of an outright statutory prohibition on the taking of our water rights by the federal government.

H.R. 3189 is complementary to the agency's efforts to develop a new policy. The new policy assumes that ski area water will no longer be taken by the U.S. government, but instead can be sold to a successive owner at fair market value. H.R. 3189 would not interfere with the implementation of this new policy, as it prohibits forced transfers of water rights "directly to the United States." The Water Rights Protection Act is essential because it would codify the assumption that water will no longer be taken by the federal government without compensation, and thus provides a permanent foundation for Forest Service water policy going forward.

We urge the Committee to move forward with the mark up and passage of H.R. 3189. We look forward to continued dialogue with all stakeholders as the agency develops a new policy to address water resources for the future.

Best Regards,

MICHAEL BERRY,
President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS,

October 21, 2013.

Re The Water Rights Protection Act—H.R. 3189

Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member
DEFAZIO,

*Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of
Representatives, Longworth House Office
Building, Washington, DC.*

Chairman MCCLINTOCK and Ranking Member
NAPOLITANO,

*Subcommittee on Water and Power, U.S. House
of Representatives, Longworth House Office
Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS, RANKING MEMBER DEFAZIO, CHAIRMAN MCCLINTOCK AND RANKING MEMBER NAPOLITANO: The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) supports the bipartisan H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. NACD represents America's 3,000 locally led conservation districts working with millions of co-operating landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on private and public lands in the United States. Established under state law, conservation districts share a single mission: to work cooperatively with federal, state and other local resource management agencies and private sector interests to provide technical, financial, and other assistance to help landowners and operators apply conservation to the landscape.

NACD understands that water is a vital natural resource that needs to be protected. This bill would prevent federal agencies from requiring public-lands users to turn over water rights as a condition of issuing or renewing permits. Not only is compelling individuals to relinquish water rights for permits unfair to those who have paid to use their water permits, the required waiver of water rights to the federal government overlooks state laws concerning water rights transfer and ownership as well as Constitutional takings issues.

Stakeholders ranging from individual ranchers and farmers to municipalities rely on private water rights to provide drinking water, provide agricultural water, run their operations, and secure loans. The loss of these water rights would take away their ability to address local water concerns and plan ahead to meet their specific long-term water needs. H.R. 3189 would secure water rights for those that have paid for them and provide stakeholders the stability they need to appropriately plan for and manage natural resources at the local level.

Thank you for your consideration of these important water resource issues as they pertain to H.R. 3189.

Sincerely,

EARL J. GARBER.

MONTROSE COUNTY COLORADO,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Montrose, CO, October 10, 2013.

Congressman SCOTT TIPTON,
*N. 5th St., Suite 702,
Grand Junction, CO.*

DEAR MR. TIPTON: On behalf of the people of Montrose County, Colorado, we are hereby expressing our earnest support for H.R. 3189 aka the "Water Rights Protection Act". This is a timely and necessary piece of legislation.

Water is an essential property right for business operators ranging from agriculture to ski areas. No operator or property owner should be coerced into surrendering a privately held water right. The opportunity for beneficial use of public lands is a separate

right. Federal agencies are charged only with administering permitting and other processes related to public lands. These agencies should have no authority to use these processes as a mechanism to strip rights from lawful water users.

It is noteworthy that even in the midst of the ongoing government shutdown, this bill is coming forward with bipartisan support. This underscores the importance and common sense of H.R. 3189. This bill represents no cost to the public and provides needed protection of lawfully held water rights.

We urge Congress to pass H.R. 3189 and we are happy to provide further support for this effort as necessary.

Sincerely,

RON HENDERSON,
Chairman.
DAVID WHITE,
Vice-Chairman.
GARY ELLIS,
Commissioner.

IN HONOR OF MARALIN MANNING
OF QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Maralin Manning of Quincy, Massachusetts, in recognition of her decades of dedicated service to her community.

The daughter of the late Gertrude Mandros and the late Theodore Mandros, Maralin is a graduate of St. Mary's, Notre Dame High School and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Massachusetts College of Art. Maralin is also a graduate of the Executive Training Program at Jordan Marsh, Co.

Mr. Speaker, as a longtime resident of Quincy, Maralin Manning has been involved with countless business associations and community organizations. She was the director of the Quincy Business Association for twenty-two years before it merged with the Quincy Chamber of Commerce serving as the Chamber's business development director. Maralin has actively served a number of community organizations including the Board of Directors for the Maria Droste Services, Quincy After School Program, Kiwanis Club of Quincy, Quincy Salvation Army, Impact Quincy, and the Advisory Board of the Quincy High School Career and Technical Training.

Continuing with her commitment to the Quincy community, Maralin has also served with the American Red Cross, Quincy Historic Commission, Quincy Downtown Development Citizens Advisory, Quincy Medical Center Curry Cancer Walk and the Mayor's Boy Scout Breakfast, and is a past trustee of the Quincy Historical Society and former board member of the Souther Tide Mill and the USS Salem.

Previously, Maralin was an adjunct instructor at Mount Ida College, served as the director of the Chamberlain School of Retailing and fashion director for Jordan Marsh, Co. She is also an independent lecturer in fashion, color and advertising, and corporate branding.

Prior to living in Quincy, Maralin was an active resident of Milton, Massachusetts, serving as a member of a number of town organizations including the Milton Public Schools

PTOs, the Milton Town Republican Committee, and the high school rebuilding committees.

Mr. Speaker, Maralin and her husband Robert are the parents of six children: Patrice Manning Flavin, Moira Manning Shigo, Robert Manning, Gregory Manning, Theodore Manning and Michael Manning. They are also blessed with 17 grandchildren.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take to the floor of the House today to join with Maralin's family, friends, her community and the City of Quincy to thank her for her lifetime commitment of dedicated public service. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Maralin Manning.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT,
Crested Butte, CO, March 21, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON, I am writing on behalf of Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR) in support of H.R. 3189, the "Water Rights Protection Act." CBMR currently operates on U.S. Forest Service Special Use Permit on over 4,300 acres in Gunnison County and generates over \$28 million dollars into the local economy from destination skiers in lodging, dining, entertainment and retail purchases.

CBMR supports H.R. 3189 because it would prohibit the U.S. Forest Service from requiring our resort to transfer valuable water rights to the Forest Service as a condition of receiving a permit, or to apply for water rights in the name of the United States, without compensation. This bill would also prevent the federal government from making an end run around state law by merely taking water rights that it does not own through its permitting authority. It would not only protect ski area water rights—it would protect any water rights owners that operate on federal land.

Furthermore, requiring transfer of valuable water rights to the U.S. Forest Service as a condition of receiving a permit raises serious Fifth Amendment concerns. Most Colorado resorts' water rights were acquired and developed at great expense pursuant to Colorado law, and in some cases pre-date the Forest Service itself. If the U.S. Forest Service wants to secure its own water rights, it should buy them on Colorado's well-regulated water market like everyone else.

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and for your leadership on this issue. It means a great deal to CBMR and other ski resorts operating across Colorado on Forest Service lands.

Sincerely,

ETHAN MUELLER,
General Manager.

CONEJOS COUNTY COLORADO
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Conejos, CO, October 21, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JARED POLIS,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES TIPTON AND POLIS:
We the Conejos County Board of Commis-

sioners would like to endorse and support the introduction of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act, which will prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer relinquishment, or other impairment of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

Conejos County is largely owned by the Federal Government in which 62% of the land is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. If the USFS attempted to implement a permit condition that required the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government as a permit condition on National Forest System lands, this would have a devastating effect on our ranchers and farmers and the already strained water situation in Conejos County. It is imperative to protect our privately held water rights, prohibit federal takings and uphold state water laws clarifying that the federal government does not have jurisdiction.

We again offer our support and will watch as this important legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

STEVE MCCARROLL,
Chairman.

COLORADO WATER CONGRESS,
Denver, CO, October 3, 2013.

Re: Colorado Water Congress Supports H.R. 3189, Water Rights Protection Act

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: The Colorado Water Congress is pleased to see the introduction of and hearing for Water Rights Protection Act (WRPA), H.R. 3189. The bipartisan bill was introduced last week. This legislation, with the consensus amendments developed by your office, the national ski areas and Colorado water users would prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer or surrender of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of Interior or Agriculture.

The issue is of particular importance to Colorado's ski areas that are located in national forests. The U.S. Forest Service, through a 2012 Interim Directive recently attempted to require the transfer of privately owned water rights on federal lands to the federal government as a condition of issuing standard land use permits.

The National Ski Areas Association sued the Forest Service alleging that the directive amounts to a taking of private property rights without due compensation and asked for a declaration that the Forest Service cannot condition a ski area special use permit on the assignment or severance of water rights. In December 2012, the federal district court entered an injunction prohibiting the Forest Service from enforcing the directive. The court found that the Forest Service violated federal procedural laws in adopting the directive.

This matter is of importance to the Colorado legislature that as recently as late August 2013 continues to investigate Forest Service activities in this regard. It is unfortunate that Colorado water users have to had to pursue both litigation and legislation to protect our water rights from takings by our Federal government.

We hope that passage of H.R. 3139 will put us on the right path toward a permanent resolution. We urge the House to pass this legislation without delay.

The Colorado Water Congress supports H.R. 3139. Thank you for sponsoring the bill. Best regards,

Best regards,

DOUGLAS KEMPER,
Executive Director.

CLUB 20,

Grand Junction, CO, October 8, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: CLUB 20 strongly urges Congressional support and passage of H. R. 3189, known as the "Water Rights Protection Act."

CLUB 20 is a 60 year old coalition of businesses, individuals and local governments with members representing 22 counties west of the Continental Divide in Colorado. Our members have been coming together over the past six decades to discuss matters of common concern to Western Colorado communities and citizens. Water has often been a focal point for CLUB 20 members as there are far reaching implications to many of the industries, communities and residents on the West Slope regarding privately held water rights in the region.

Water rights are considered private property under Colorado water law and are managed under a strict system that has served the state over time. For many years, CLUB 20 policy has opposed, "... any Federal requirement that permittees assign water rights to the United States in order to obtain, renew or modify federal permits." CLUB 20 understands that the McCarran Amendment requires the federal government, when requested, to adjudicate any water rights it requires under the substantive and procedural elements of state water law within the state of the desired rights.

Our members have openly opposed and continue to oppose the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to unilaterally require ski areas or agriculture producers to turn over their privately held water rights to the USFS as a condition of obtaining, modifying or renewing a permit to conduct ski area activities or maintain infrastructures to convey water on USFS lands. We further oppose any such provision or ruling that may apply to other private water rights with regard to, natural resource development interests or other domestic water interests.

The explanation offered by the USFS for the "taking" of these privately held water rights, often developed at great expense to the owner, is that they wish to maintain the designated use of the water for the permit. We find that explanation disingenuous for the following reasons:

1. Requiring that the USFS be named the owner of valid, existing water rights is taking a private property right without compensation and appears to be a violation of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

2. It would appear that federal ownership of these water rights could be used to disallow future use of the area as a ski area or other designated enterprise because the agency that holds title to the water rights could deny permits based on their withholding of those same water rights.

3. Once promulgated by the USFS regarding ski area and agriculture water rights, similar decisions could be made regarding grazing rights, mining rights, milling rights, energy rights even municipal water rights.

4. This effort by the federal government seeks to undermine states' rights with regard to water management, which our members find unacceptable.

Ski area and agriculture operators invest significant amounts of capital to develop their operations; in order to attract the investment capital necessary, they must show that they have adequate ability to construct and operate the facility. Without demonstrating that they have adequate water

rights, attracting capital will be difficult if not impossible. Further, it has been shown time after time that federal regulations can be, and are, routinely modified for one reason or another creating uncertainty for developers of all sorts on public lands. Once held in the name of the USFS, there is no guarantee that these water rights won't be redirected, withheld or otherwise made unavailable to those who made significant investments in developing those rights.

We support the protections inherent in H.R. 3186 and urge passage of this or similar legislation which accomplishes the same purpose. Thank you for addressing this critical issue through the legislative process; we look forward to working with you to see this bill through the process.

Best Regards,

BONNIE PETERSEN,
Executive Director.

AGNC RELEASES STATEMENT ON SKI AREA WATER RIGHTS ISSUE

RIFLE.—Scott McInnis, Executive Director of the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC), released a statement today regarding the United States Forest Service's attempt to make the renewal of special-use permits by Colorado ski areas conditional on transference of water rights to the federal government, and efforts in the Colorado State Legislature to prohibit such requirements:

"The AGNC vehemently opposes any attempt by the U.S. Forest Service, or any other federal agency, to make relinquishment of private water rights a condition of permit renewal for users of government lands, as demonstrated against our local ski industry last year. We believe this is in violation of Colorado water law, and represents an egregious intrusion on private property rights.

In addition to the immediate harm done to the property rights of the affected skiing businesses, AGNC is especially concerned with the broader ramifications of this action; what other permit holders on government land will be required to hand over their water rights in order to renew their permits? Energy developers? Farmers and ranchers? Grazing Associations? Local governments maintaining roads or facilities on these lands?

With nearly 70% of northwest Colorado's land being government-owned (over 70% in Mesa and Rio Blanco Counties) it is easy to see how dependent our regional economy is on these lands. Nearly all of our local industries—energy, agriculture, tourism, and transportation, among others—rely on access to government land. It is unconscionable that the agencies charged with managing these lands for multiple uses would use private water rights as bargaining chips in the permit renewal process.

AGNC therefore supports efforts at the state level to prohibit this and similar future actions on the part of the USFS and other federal land management agencies."

CALIFORNIA SKI
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,
Mill Valley, CA, October 4, 2013.

Re Support for H.R. 3189

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: On behalf of the members and directors of the California Ski Industry Association I am writing to add our support to H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act.

This narrowly focused bill is designed to resolve an unfair regulation requiring Forest Service permittees to cede, without compensation, their water rights to the agency. Nineteen of California's twenty-six ski areas operate on Forest Service lands. We have a long history of working with the agency and will continue to do so in the future. However, our winter sports facilities on federal lands are strongly opposed to the clauses that would require California permittees to cede their valuable water rights to the agency without compensation. Such clauses represent a taking and carry far-reaching legal and economic implications, not only for our industry but also for all other permittees operating on Forest Service lands.

A recent study by San Francisco State University reported that California's winter sports resorts generate \$1.3 billion in economic activity and over 16,000 jobs in our mountain communities. Our resorts have millions of dollars invested in their water rights. In many cases the source of these rights are located outside of the permit boundaries.

We appreciate your scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and thank you and the sponsors of this important legislation.

Yours truly,

BOB ROBERTS,
President & CEO.

RECOGNIZING JOHN AND NANCY LOVE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents John Love, and the marriage of over 50 years to his recently departed wife Nancy.

John is a retired Air Force officer who served his country proudly in Vietnam. He and Nancy met first met on January 6, 1962, at a restaurant in Marquette, Michigan. She was sitting with her mother when John approached the striking brunette to ask her to dance. The rest, as they say, is history.

They got engaged 6 weeks later and were married on May 5, 1962, simply following their hearts.

In May of 2012, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by watching their beloved Detroit Tigers after renewing their vows.

Sadly, Nancy's health deteriorated in the months that followed, passing away in her loving husband's arms in December of that same year. She is buried in Section 66 of Arlington National Cemetery, in a spot next to where John will one day be laid to rest.

The Love family had two sons and five grandchildren, shared and continue to share a close personal relationship, cherishing each other deeply.

While she has left this Earth in physical form, Nancy will always live in John's heart until they are reunited once more. John has written a love song to Nancy, entitled "My Love Song Forever," produced with John White and D.B. Rielly of WhiteWater Sound Studios in New York.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the kind of love we can all connect with, and appreciate for its intensity and durability over

many years. May we all be so lucky to find that special someone.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE HEATH BROTHERS CONFECTIONARY IN ROBINSON, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial of the Heath Brothers Confectionary in Robinson, Illinois. Founded one hundred years ago by L.S. Heath and his sons Bayard and Everett, this once small business has expanded to become a global franchise. Over the past 100 years, the Heath Confectionary has produced many successful products, chief among them the Heath Bar, a delicious toffee candy covered in milk chocolate and almonds.

Made by hand until 1942, production of Heath Bars was eventually ramped up to commercial scale to supply American troops during World War II. Throughout the conflict, Heath Bars were a staple of soldiers' rations, providing them with a small taste of home during their long deployments.

Known as "America's Finest," popularity for the candy grew steadily after the war. Recognizing the potential of the Heath Confectionary, the company was eventually acquired by Leif, Inc. in 1989, itself acquired by Hershey in 1996.

Today, Hershey maintains a plant in Robinson, Illinois, producing iconic candies such as Heath Bars, Paydays, Whoppers and Milk Duds. I applaud Hershey for maintaining the plant's roots in Robinson and for their contribution to the community through the creation of jobs and their generous corporate giving.

I invite all members to stop by my office to try a Heath Bar and all of the various other Hershey products produced in our district for themselves.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES
ASSOCIATION,

Washington, DC, March 10, 2014.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: On behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA), I write in support of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. The NWRA is a nonprofit federation made up of agricultural and municipal water providers, state associations, and individuals dedicated to the conservation, enhancement and efficient management of our nation's most important natural resource, water. Our members provide

clean water to millions of individuals, families, agricultural producers and other businesses throughout the western United States.

Collectively, NWRA members have spent billions of dollars investing in the development of state issued water rights and the associated infrastructure in order to provide a safe and reliable water supply to their customers. Their ability to continue meeting the nation's growing demand for clean water is dependent upon access to this vital resource. The Water Rights Protection Act would protect NWRA members' water rights and those who depend on the water they deliver by preventing federal agencies from making a permit, permit renewal or other action conditional upon surrendering a water right. The protection of water rights is of the utmost importance to our members. Water rights constitute a valuable property right and as such are valuable assets that are often irreplaceable.

For more than eighty years NWRA members have helped finance, maintain and manage some of the most valuable and iconic water systems in the world and have turned virtual deserts into some of the most productive agricultural land on the planet. To accomplish this irrigators have worked collaboratively with federal agency partners at the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers. That collaborative partnership, formed through contracts and other agreements, is protected by this bill. Our members are gravely concerned by recent efforts by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that have made agency actions contingent upon the relinquishment or modification of a water right. These efforts go counter to the principle foundations of western water law, fly in the face of state law and set a dangerous precedent. Our members count on federal infrastructure to deliver both project and non-project water. Non-project water is privately owned; it has not been appropriated, acquired by, or apportioned to, the United States. In addition, many of our members deliver water through facilities that cross USFS or BLM land. The creation of a process through which water deliveries could be made contingent on the modification, relinquishment or surrender of a water right is unacceptable. Moreover, allowing such a precedent would cause this assault on state water rights to spread in various forms to other agencies within the Agriculture and Interior Departments. Congress, needs to provide the respective Secretaries with clear guidance on this subject, H.R. 3189 provides this guidance.

The USFS and BLM efforts to curtail water rights have been focused on western states, but the implementation of this kind of policy would have ramifications throughout the nation. According to the United States Geological Survey, nearly seventy five percent of the irrigated agriculture in the U.S. is found in the seventeen western states. These states on average receive less than twenty inches of rain each year, making the reliable delivery of irrigation water vital. In order to protect our members' water rights, assure the continued delivery of clean water to millions of people and protect the integrity of western water law the NWRA supports the Water Rights Protection Act.

On behalf of NWRA's members I thank you for your attention to the critical water supply issues facing our nation, and for supporting our members as they continue to be stewards of our nation's water supply and a critical part of the economy.

Sincerely,

ROBERT W. JOHNSON,

*Executive Vice President,
National
Water Resources Association,
Washington, DC.*

WHITE RIVER AND DOUGLAS CREEK

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS,

Meeker, CO, January 17, 2014.

Re White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts' Support for the Water Rights Protection Act

Representative SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON: The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts have been following the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to acquire private water rights from individuals and businesses by holding them hostage through permit issuance and/or renewals.

Our Executive Director joined Club 20 in meetings with USFS Associate Deputy Chief, Jim Pena, in Washington D.C. last May. He adamantly argued that it was the USFS responsibility and right to acquire the private water rights from the ski industry and grazing permittees in order to protect the industries and the economies they support. This is not a role of our federal government or agencies. The purpose and only role of the USFS and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is to manage the land for multiple uses based on the best available science.

It is our opinion that the federal government has neither right nor role to interfere with the individual states' water rights laws and the federal government's efforts as stated above are absolute takings of private property rights.

We applaud you and your colleagues' efforts to ensure the states' and individual's rights are respected by the federal government. The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts strongly support H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act, which would provide federal legislation to protect Colorado's private water rights holders from any takings by federal land management agencies.

Please let us know if we can be of any assistance in your efforts to protect Colorado's water rights which ensure conservation of our many natural resources, food supply, and thriving economies.

Sincerely,

LEONARD THOMPSON,
President, White River
Conservation District.

SCOTT ROBERTSON,
President, Douglas Creek
Conservation District.

UPPER ARKANSAS WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT,
Salida, CO, November 7, 2013.

Re H.R. 3189 Water Rights Protection Act

Representative SCOTT TIPTON,
N. Main St.,
Pueblo, CO.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: The Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District is a local governmental entity charged through the State of Colorado's Conservancy Statutes to develop water works to optimize the beneficial use of water in Colorado and protect water rights. Charged with this duty, the District owns for the benefit of its constituents within the more than 3000 square miles of the Upper Arkansas River Basin, water rights, storage facilities and other water infrastructure. Many of these facilities are located with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and require special use permits.

The cost of the permits undeniably exceeds the benefits provided by these structures and District owned water rights to the citizens of the United States and the forest. However, the USFS continues to charge excessive fees. Repermitting facilities has been expensive and onerous and often comes with conditions that are confiscatory.

For the above reasons and others this district and board fully supports your legislation H.R. 3189. Further it is vital for Colorado's future that more storage be developed and often the best locations are on public lands. Thus the future of our water resources, the lifeblood of an arid climate, is the construction and maintenance of water storage. We support your legislation that helps achieve the goals of water protection and storage in Colorado and the West.

Sincerely,

ROBERT M. SENDERHAUF,
Chairman.

THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT,

Durango, CO, October 10, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: On behalf of the Southwestern Water Conservation District ("District"), we thank you for sponsoring the Water Rights Protection Act, H.R. 3189. This vital bipartisan bill would prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer, relinquishment, or other impairment of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior or Agriculture.

The Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) was established by the Colorado legislature to conserve and protect the waters of the San Juan and Dolores Rivers and their tributaries. Therefore, we see it as our statutory obligation to safeguard privately held water rights in the region and uphold the primacy of state water law, as H.R. 3189 would do.

The U.S. Forest Service has recently attempted to require the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government as a condition of acquiring a National Forest System lands permit. The District considers such requirements tantamount to a federal taking, and applauds H.R. 3189's prohibition of such conditions.

The District encourages the House of Representatives to pass this legislation without delay.

We thank you for introducing the Water Rights Protection Act and for your leadership on this issue of great consequence.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WHITEHEAD,
Executive Director.

SAN LUIS VALLEY

WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT,

Alamosa, CO, October 28, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JARED POLIS,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES TIPTON AND POLIS: On behalf of the Board of Directors of the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, thank you for your introduction of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. The District endorses this Bill, and will work to broaden bipartisan support for this measure and to gain its swift consideration and approval by the House of Representatives.

H.R. 3189 grants no new rights to any party, nor does it in any way infringe on existing rights of individuals, states or the federal government. This legislation simply reaffirms what has been existing law for generations and which is expressed in numerous places in federal law, including the Mining Act of 1866; the 1897 Organic Act establishing the U.S. Forest Service; the Taylor Grazing Act; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

There is no provision in federal law authorizing or permitting the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to compel owners of lawfully acquired water rights to surrender those rights or to acquire them in the name of the United States. Thus, H.R. 3189 does nothing more than assure holders of BLM or U.S. Forest Service permits that their lawfully acquired rights will not be abridged and that federal agencies may not unlawfully use the permit process to acquire rights they do not currently possess.

We look forward to working with you on this important legislation and again commend you for your leadership in this important area.

Sincerely,

M. DEE GREEMAN,
President.

SAN LUIS VALLEY COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION,
Alamosa, CO, November 4, 2013.

Hon. Representative SCOTT TIPTON,
*Main Street,
Alamosa, CO.*

DEAR HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON: On behalf of the San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association, this letter is being written in support of H.R. 3189.

The San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association fully supports your efforts in the passage of H.R. 3189. Water Rights are very important to the people of the entire San Luis Valley and any effort made to preserve our precious mineral is important because this is an essential part of rural communities.

This proposed legislation would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture from requiring the transfer of water rights without adequate compensation. This bill supports the state water laws that have been established long term and clarifies that the government does not have the jurisdiction.

The San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association strongly urges the Natural Resource Committee to support this essential legislation. Your attention to this matter is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL YOHN,
Chairman.

ROUTT COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Steamboat Springs, CO, March 11, 2014.

Re H.R. 3189

Congressman SCOTT TIPTON,
*Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: On behalf of the people of Routt County, Colorado, we are hereby expressing out earnest support for H.R. 3189 aka the "Water Rights Protection Act". This is a timely and necessary piece of legislation. This bill represents no cost to the public and provides needed protection of lawfully held water rights.

Water is an essential property right for business operators ranging from agriculture to ski areas. No operator or property owner

should be coerced into surrendering a privately held water right. The opportunity for beneficial use of public lands is a separate right. Federal agencies are charged only with administering permitting and other processes related to public lands. These agencies should have no authority to use these processes as a mechanism to strip rights from lawful water users.

We urge Congress to pass H.R. 3189 and we are happy to provide further support for this effort as necessary.

Cordially,

TIMOTHY V. CORRIGAN,
DOUGLAS B. MONGER,
STEPHEN K. IVANCIE.

RIO GRANDE WATERSHED—ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS,
North Center, CO, October 25, 2013.

Re Support of the Water Rights Protection Act H.R. 3189

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
*Chairman, Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. PETER DEFAZIO,
Ranking Member, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS AND RANKING MEMBER DEFAZIO: The Rio Grande Watershed Association of Conservation Districts (RGWACD) strongly support the Water Rights Protection Act (WRPA), (H.R. 3189). RGWACD is dedicated solely to representing the roughly 2,000 ranchers who operate on federal lands, some of which are U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands. Here in the San Luis Valley of Colorado. RGWACD is one of the most active conservation district—watershed groups in Colorado. We represent all faction of agriculture producer and landowner who provide much of the nation's supply of food and own or manage a large portion of America's private property. Many of our members also hold private water rights on federal lands, which serve as an integral part of their operations; thus, these water rights keep our members in business and rural communities thriving. However, landowners face an unprecedented threat to the future of their water rights on lands managed by the USFS.

The USFS has been notorious for violating private property rights, as they have recently attempted to require the transfer of privately owned water rights to the federal government. The USFS has not provided adequate compensation as required by Article V of the Constitution; instead, they have attempted to acquire these rights in exchange for special use permits, likely in violation of a recent Supreme Court ruling in *Koontz*. Furthermore, the USFS has repeatedly ignored established state water laws in order to perform these takes, which amounts to a vast overreach by the federal government.

H.R. 3189, introduced by Congressmen: Scott Tipton (R-Colo.), Mark Amodei (R-Nev.), Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), and Jared Polis (D-Colo.) comes as a means to combat the recent directive that allows the USFS to execute the seizure of these water rights without just compensation. The language in the directive is applicable to ski areas specifically; however, this issue is a threat to all water users, including ranchers, as they depend on these rights to keep their business viable.

This legislation would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from, requiring the transfer of water rights without adequate compensation. Additionally, the bill supports long-established state water laws, clarifying that

the federal government does not have jurisdiction.

We strongly encourage the Natural Resource Committee to support this important legislation. We thank you for your attention to this crucial issue, and for supporting our members as they continue to be an essential part of rural communities and stewards of our public lands.

Sincerely,

HAROLD ANDERSON,
President.

RIO GRANDE WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
Alamosa, CO, October 15, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
*Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON: One of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District's purposes is "for the conservation, use and development of the water of the Rio Grande". We understand that there has been an attempt by certain federal agencies to require federal permittees to assign their private water rights to the federal government as a condition of the permit. If this policy continues it will create a great risk to the water users both in the San Luis Valley and statewide. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District supports H.R. 3189, The Water Rights Protection Act, and will work with you to garner support for this bill to ensure protection of privately owned water rights from claims by federal agencies.

As we understand, H.R. 3189 was introduced as a means to protect water users from the seizure of privately owned water rights without just compensation. We believe that H.R. 3189 grants no new rights to any party, nor does it in any way infringe on existing rights of individuals, states or the federal government. It appears to us that this legislation simply reaffirms what has been existing law for generations and which is expressed in numerous places in federal law, including the Mining Act of 1866; the 1897 Organic Act establishing the U.S. Forest Service; the Taylor Grazing Act; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The bill supports long-established recognition of the primacy of state water law and the title to water rights that are established thereunder.

We are aware of no provision in federal statutory law authorizing or permitting the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to compel owners of lawfully acquired water rights to surrender those rights or to require that they be in the name of the United States. H.R. 3189 does nothing more than assure holders of BLM or Forest Service permits that their lawfully acquired water rights will not be abridged and that federal agencies may not use the permit process to acquire water rights that are owned by non-federal entities.

We thank you for taking a leadership role in addressing this crucial issue and look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

STEVEN VANDIVER,
General Manager.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE CITY'S 60TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Lakewood, CA and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents on the city's 60th Anniversary of Incorporation. I am proud to represent this prospering city—aptly characterized by its motto, "Times Change, Values Don't"—as part of the 38th Congressional District of California.

The City of Lakewood incorporated in 1954, and was the largest planned community in America in the early 1950s. Lakewood was designed to be a livable residential community, with parkways along major roadways to protect children from traffic, a regional shopping center in the middle of the town, and convenient neighborhood shopping places at major intersections.

The City of Lakewood has been known for its careful fiscal management and prudent budgeting. In 1954, the City began to utilize innovative partnerships in contracting for city services. Lakewood's "contract plan" for local government was soon copied in a wave of incorporation movements in Los Angeles County, and later throughout the state. Today, Lakewood is known as a "contract city" and currently contracts for a broad range of services from the County, other agencies, and private firms; including law enforcement, street repairs, fire protections, library services, trash collection and others. This allows the city to provide more efficient and cost-effective services to its residents.

Prioritizing the best interests of its residents, in 2013 Lakewood was able to complete a 12-year street repaving program in which 100% of the city's 143 miles of residential streets were resurfaced with long-lasting rubberized asphalt. The 100 percent completed program—almost unheard of among cities—earned a "Project of the Year" award from the American Public Works Association.

The City of Lakewood thrives on customer service and strives to ensure all resident requests are responded to in a timely manner. In addition, Lakewood takes pride in the fact that city staff has deep roots in the community; many employees were raised here and continue to live in the city. The average employee has worked for the city for many years, maintaining a valuable level of experience and loyalty to the residents of Lakewood.

A top quality recreation service for residents of all ages is a core Lakewood value. In the 1950s, to deal with the surge of young children needing play opportunities after school, the city developed the Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS) program staffed by an army of volunteer coaches. LYS and its volunteer coaches provided the supervised play activities that the new families of Lakewood needed. LYS continues to be a key way that Lakewood residents work with their city government to give

their children great recreational opportunities. In 2013, for the fourth year in a row, Lakewood was named "Playful City USA" by the national recreation advocacy group KaBoom! in recognition of the city's top quality parks, playgrounds, and programs to encourage youth and family play.

The City of Lakewood was recently considered one of the safest communities in the region, and has seen many innovations and notable achievements in public safety over the years. In the 1980s, Lakewood developed one of the largest Neighborhood Watch programs in California. The city continues to have a prospering program with currently over 400 block captains. Lakewood residents have a tradition of volunteering to help their community and their neighbors in need. Lakewood is the home of many charitable efforts that support a caring community and enhance the quality of life. Prominent efforts include Project Shepherd, Volunteer Day, Meals on Wheels, Pathways Volunteer Hospice, Friends of the Lakewood Libraries, Lakewood Education Foundation and many more.

The city will be celebrating their 60th anniversary of Incorporation with an open house that will include galleries of historic photos from city archives, portraits of original 1954 homeowners, and other photographs submitted by residents. As the city celebrates this occasion, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the city and residents of Lakewood as they celebrate the past and focus on a prosperous future.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH IN PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the One Hundredth Anniversary of Macedonia Baptist Church of Pensacola, Florida. Throughout the one hundred years of its presence, the pastoral leadership and congregation of Macedonia Baptist Church has provided uplifting and spiritually fortifying service to the Gulf Coast region, and I am privileged to honor their dedication to the Northwest Florida community.

Macedonia Baptist Church traces its roots back to the inspiration of Mother Lula Farris in 1913. Established as Long Faith Baptist Church in 1914 with Reverend Holmes as its first pastor, the church's name was later changed to Macedonia Baptist Church of Pensacola, Florida.

The strength of the congregation and its leadership throughout the church's history is exemplified through its continued growth and commitment to achieve excellence in providing Biblical guidance and Christian education. An integral part of the Baptist Church community, Macedonia Baptist Church has served in various roles, including its active participation in the Florida General Baptist Convention and the licensing of several pastors.

Today, and remarkably for the last 63 consecutive years, Macedonia Baptist Church has

been led under the devoted guidance of the Reverend A.L. Durant, Sr., and as a true testament to God's work through His people, the church continues to build God's kingdom and foster spiritual and professional growth by providing religious direction and philanthropy to church members and the surrounding community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the centennial anniversary of Macedonia Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating their pastoral leadership and congregation. May the Spirit of the Lord continue to bless the church on this important milestone and the many to come.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

ASPEN SNOWMASS,
ASPEN SKIING COMPANY,
Aspen, CO, October 11, 2013.

Re Support for H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act

HON. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN: I am writing on behalf of Aspen Skiing Company, a four-season resort in Aspen and Snowmass Village, Colorado. We employ 3,600 people in winter and host 1.3 million visitors at our four ski mountains, 18 restaurants and two hotels. Most of our operations take place on National Forest System lands under a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service.

As you are likely aware, the USFS is trying to require the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government as a permit condition on National Forest lands. There is no compensation for the transfer of these privately held rights despite the fact that many stakeholders have invested millions of their own capital in developing the rights.

I'm writing in support of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act, to address this unfair situation. This bill would prevent the federal government from making an end run around state law by taking water rights that it does not own through its permitting authority.

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and for your leadership on this issue. It means a great deal to Aspen Skiing Company and other Colorado ski resorts operating on federal lands.

Best Regards,

DAVID PERRY,
Senior Vice President.

TRUCKEE-CARSON
IRRIGATION DISTRICT,
Fallon, NE, March 13, 2014.

Re Support for "Water Rights Protection Act" (H.R. 3189)

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: On behalf of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (a political subdivision of the State of Nevada),

we here express our formal and strong support for your "Water Rights Protection Act" with amendments thereto proposed by you and the Honorable Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma. This legislation signals important recognition and protection to that very special form of property right which allows the use and control of waters for beneficial uses by water right holders. This legislation will prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer, relinquishment, or other impairment of

any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. We applaud this measure.

Moreover, this Act protects communities, businesses, recreation, farmers and ranchers, and others who rely on privately held water rights for their livelihood from what constitutes a taking without compensation. Our District serves only water users that directly hold their water rights. To all such, these rights are not just important; rather, they are sacred. No justification may be made, no

matter how decorative may appear its veneer, for essentially condemning a private property interest, without compensation, for expanded uses by the federal government.

Thank you for your efforts to protect water rights. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

RUSTY D. JARDINE, ESQ.,

District Manager,

Truckee-Carson Irrigation District.

SENATE—Monday, March 24, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator and sustainer of our destinies, You have loved us through the seasons of our lives. You accept us as we are, infusing us with Your peace, and strengthening us with Your grace.

Bless our lawmakers. Give them the wisdom to follow Your leading, to live with courage, and to release the powers of goodness throughout our land. Lord, empower them to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint, as You keep them always in Your care.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the Ukraine act.

At 5:30 there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to that important piece of legislation.

We have so much to do this work period and we have so much to do this week. I know I have said this on other occasions, and we have been able to work things out so it hasn't been necessary, but everyone should understand we have a lot to do and we may have to be in this weekend. If we are forced to go through all the procedural hoops to be able to complete the important Ukraine legislation, the important unemployment legislation, and the important SGR legislation, and setting it up so we can sometime next week get on minimum wage, we are going to have to be in this weekend. There is just no way around it, and everyone should understand that.

I know I will immediately start hearing from people: I have this event; I

have that event. It is Monday at 2 p.m. in the afternoon. It is only 11 a.m. in the West. There is plenty of time to reschedule stuff or at least put it on hold, because we just have no choice. The only alternative is to take a week away from the break we are expecting to have. So everyone should understand that it is possible the Senate will need to work through the weekend to get all this work done.

UKRAINE

Mr. REID. The first item the Senate will consider, as I have already indicated, is a bipartisan package of aid to Ukraine. It includes sanctions against Russia for their untoward actions against their neighbor, Ukraine. As we prepare to debate this measure, I advise all Senators it is customary to show respect for the President—I am confident everyone will—when he is overseas. He is at a nuclear conference over there in Europe as we speak and it is an important meeting. President Putin is not there, but he has sent his Foreign Minister, as I understand it.

As we begin debate on this aid and sanctions package, I also hope the Republicans who stopped action on this legislation prior to the break have considered how their obstruction affects our great country's national security as well as the people in Ukraine, who are struggling so very much.

Since this was blocked by some Republicans, these important sanctions have not taken place. Russian lawmakers voted to annex Crimea and Russian forces have taken over, in many instances by force, military bases in Crimea. It is impossible to know whether events would have unfolded differently if the United States had responded to Russian aggression with a strong unified voice, which we did not do.

When a few extreme Republicans blocked action on this robust bill, which was reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee with a strong bipartisan vote, and then, when it came to the Senate floor, we sent a very weak message to the Russians by indicating we will work on this later; we won't do it now. In spite of what some Republicans did with their obstruction, President Obama moved forward with additional sanctions, and I am glad he did. The President is working closely with our European allies to impose the most effective sanctions possible. That is, in effect, what he is working on today.

In light of such clear-cut aggression against Ukraine, which continued as

late as yesterday, it is difficult to believe Republicans blocked that package at all, but they did and it is almost unimaginable why they did this. They blocked aid to Ukraine in order to protect the anonymity of their big-time donors. They are saying: We will give the President the tools he needs to help the beleaguered people of Ukraine but only if—only if—the 501(c)4 work being done by the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department is stopped.

That is pretty absurd, but that is the truth. It is all over the news today. So Republicans delayed this aid package for 10 days in order to protect the Koch brothers and billionaires just like them. That is very hard to believe, but it is true. Republicans objected to moving forward with this aid package in order to protect the ability of the Koch brothers and other GOP donors to hide behind shadowy front groups—groups that spend millions on political attack ads. This is the reason for holding up something that is so important to 46 million Ukrainians and important to our country. It is important for our security. But they objected to moving forward with this aid package unless, I repeat, we agreed to allow the Kochs and billionaires just like them to continue anonymously spending millions and millions of dollars trying to buy America's democracy. Hard to believe, but it is true.

I applaud so very much the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, the junior Senator from Tennessee, as well as the senior Senator from Arizona, JOHN MCCAIN, for their impassioned defense of this bill prior to the break. No one spoke more fluently and with more articulation than those two good men. They joined in defending bipartisan sanctions and the role of the International Monetary Fund in stabilizing Ukraine's economy and keeping Ukraine free.

The measure before the body includes vital loan guarantees, sanctions, and IMF funding. That is what they are holding up more than anything else. In the work we did on the omnibus, this was one of the last items we tried to get done—IMF funding. But even back then they would not agree to IMF funding unless Treasury stopped all work on looking at these secret shadowy groups. If the American people knew what they were doing—but they do not because they are hidden—these millions and millions they are spending on ads around the country are hidden behind phony organizations. We couldn't get that IMF funding in the omnibus

because Republicans opposed IMF funding unless they got relief from the Treasury Department.

This legislation provides money for Ukraine—direct money. It is not very much. But if the money we in effect owe the International Monetary Fund was received by the IMF, they would be able to multiply that money many times over, what we put into this. As I recall, it is \$600 million. This would allow the International Monetary Fund to go to other countries that participate in IMF funding and it would generate more than the \$600 million. Ukraine needs this money.

We had Senator DURBIN on a Sunday show, Senator AYOTTE on a Sunday show speaking together about how this country needs our help. And without this money, the help we give will be just a pat on the back, not really much help. So I am very grateful to have the support of Democrats and Republicans—this is bipartisan—to move this aid package forward this evening.

I hope the obstruction will stop. I am hopeful and somewhat confident this legislation will receive the strong bipartisan support it deserves.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Like all Senators, I get lots and lots of letters and emails and phone calls each month. Some write, some call, pleading for additional unemployment benefits because they have been out of work and they can't find a job. The sad part about that is most of them are not kids. I mean that not in the negative sense. They are not young men and women. Many of them trying to find a job are in their fifties and sixties and they can't find work because they have been laid off because of the recession, depression—whatever we want to call it—and they can't find a job. They need this help.

A number of these individuals have been driven into poverty. One thing we have to do this work period is do something about unemployment compensation, and we are going to try to do that. We have a bipartisan bill, and I so much appreciate the Republicans who have stood up and agreed to help us with that.

HEALTH CARE

There are also people who call, and they are calling because they are happy. They have hope. They do that because for the first time in their adult lives they have health insurance or they have health insurance that is cheaper than they had last year. They have family members who are disabled and who can now get health insurance. They couldn't do it before because they were considered to have a preexisting disability. People who are disabled are really happy because they can get insurance for the first time in their lives or if they have had it in the past, it has been so outrageously costly that it was burdensome to them.

Four years ago yesterday, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act

into law, making quality health care available to millions and millions of Americans for the first time in years. I talked to the President's Chief of Staff the day we left for our work period at home. In the 2 days prior to that, 80,000 people each day had signed up. Tens of thousands of people every day are signing up. We are fast approaching 6 million. Some say we will get over that.

The mix of people who are signing up is good. It is a good mix. We have a lot of young people. There was a piece on public radio this morning of a young man 21 years old who never had insurance before but he said: You know, I need insurance, so I am going to buy some insurance. And it is really very inexpensive.

Connecticut has such an unusual experience. They have two stores set up for people to come in and get their health insurance, and they have had thousands of people who have done that. Some people who aren't very computer literate have been able to go in and talk to somebody and sign up. They had the example of one woman who had struggled on the computer. She didn't know how to use it very well. She came in, and she saves \$300 a month for her health care. So that is what Connecticut has done, but there are many messages of hope out there.

Families have college-aged children who have stayed on their parents' health plans. Seniors have saved hundreds of dollars on their prescriptions because we are filling the doughnut hole.

I have heard from entrepreneurs who finally—finally—can do what they want to do, which is go out and start a business of their own. They are entrepreneurs who have been locked into their jobs, but now they can leave. They are not locked into jobs to keep their health insurance; they can have health insurance on their own; they can strike out on their own without the fear of losing their health insurance. Women are benefiting from free preventive care, and people with pre-existing conditions, which I have talked about, have signed up for health insurance for the first time. One life-long Republican called recently to say that he and his son signed up for affordable insurance and saw the doctor for the first time in years. They had been without health insurance because of preexisting conditions they both have. But now that his insurance company can no longer discriminate against him or his son, they are getting the lifesaving care they need and deserve. In the long run, this saves huge amounts of money for us as a society.

Across the country, families such as the one I just mentioned have been freed from the fear of going bankrupt or reaching an arbitrary lifetime cap if they get sick. The Affordable Care Act puts patients in charge of their own

health care decisions. There are many others on the other side of the aisle who don't want this law to work. We are approaching 13 million people, right as we speak, who have insurance now—or are using the benefits of this would be a better way to say it. Six million people have signed up, and 3 million people are on their parents' health insurance because of this law. We have at least 5 million or maybe more who are there because of Medicaid.

This is wonderful. These people have health care. It is good for our country. I can't imagine what the Republicans expect done—just to say, OK, get rid of all insurance we have? They keep talking about repealing this bill. What are they talking about? They have had about 60 votes to repeal it. It doesn't work, and all the polling—which they don't talk about—is now saying: I am glad we have this. There are some who don't like the bill because they don't think it is strong enough.

All the polls are somewhat misleading that the Republicans have been throwing around here, but they are still spending millions of dollars on disingenuous ads distorting the truth about the Affordable Care Act and how it is benefiting millions of Americans. We fought hard 4 years ago to pass this landmark expansion of quality, affordable health care, and we will fight just as hard to make sure the law works for every American family.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2148, H.R. 3474, AND H.R. 3979

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2148) to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes;

A bill (H.R. 3474) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;

A bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these three bills.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, INTEGRITY, DEMOCRACY, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY OF UKRAINE ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2124, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 329, S. 2124, a bill to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOMMENDING GEOFFREY CRAWFORD

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in Vermont we have been fortunate that for almost two decades Judge William Sessions has served with distinction as a Federal judge for the District of Vermont. In January, Judge Sessions announced that he would take senior status later this year. In response to this news, the Vermont Bar Association, Senator SANDERS, and I, each appointed three members to the Judicial Nominating Commission.

The commission, as one can imagine, received many applications for this district court vacancy. It interviewed and vetted seven finalists, and then recommended to us the two candidates who garnered unanimous support.

I spent hours interviewing them last week in Vermont, and today I am recommending that the President nominate Geoffrey Crawford, a recently-appointed justice from Vermont's highest court. I talked to him at great length last week and again at length this morning. I am very comfortable in forwarding his name to President Obama, as I now have.

Justice Crawford is an experienced and well-respected jurist. He is known for his modesty and humanity, notwithstanding his elite educational background and intellectual heft. He was a successful plaintiffs' attorney before he was appointed to the Vermont Superior Court in 2002.

Then-Judge Crawford served on the superior court in our State for more than a decade, earning a reputation for his skill in working with juries and handling a wide variety of litigation. Attorneys who have appeared before him, on either side, have found him to be an engaged and careful jurist who treats everyone in the courtroom with respect. I have talked with a number of those lawyers, and they speak of his respect and abilities.

As a lawyer, I wanted to hear this, and although I did not know Justice Crawford before interviewing him for this vacancy, the Vermont legal com-

munity repeatedly told me of his intelligence, warmth, and unwavering commitment to the highest calling of public service.

When I met Justice Crawford, I found him to be well deserving of these accolades, and I was impressed by his thoughtfulness and pragmatic approach to the law, as was the chief counsel of the Judiciary Committee, Kristine Lucius, and the state director of my Vermont offices, John Tracy.

I am confident that Justice Crawford will make an excellent Federal district court judge and I hope the President will nominate him soon for the vacancy on Vermont's Federal district court.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RICHARD CODY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a fellow native of Montpelier, VT, GEN Richard Cody. General Cody is going to be honored next month—and deservedly so—by his alma mater, Montpelier High School.

Following his graduation from Montpelier High School, General Cody attended and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. This was the launch of an outstanding U.S. Army career which took him all over our country and world and culminated in his service from 2004 to 2008 as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. I am really proud to share a hometown with such a distinguished member of our military. I remember how proud Marcelle and I were of General Cody on the day of his retirement ceremony, with full honors, here in Washington.

The Codys and the Leahys go back decades in Montpelier and have always been friends. General Cody, his siblings, and parents have been among the business and civic leaders in that city for as long as I can remember, and they have always shown the best of true Vermont values. The General brought those values of hard work, patriotism, and especially integrity to his military career, and ended that career as the best example a soldier could have. Even the Secretary of Defense was there for the retirement ceremony to honor him.

I think of this man who would often march from his quarters in Virginia to the Pentagon carrying a military pack just to remind himself of what soldiers on the front line were doing. I have known many in the military—from privates to generals. No one has ranked higher in my esteem than General Dick Cody. He set an example for the whole country.

No salute to a member of the military would be complete without recognizing the family beside the man. Dick's wife, Vicki, and his sons Clint and Tyler, sacrificed much through his service to our country. In fact, Clint and Tyler followed in their father's footsteps, both as members of the Army, and served as helicopter pilots

during several combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am told one flew the same helicopter his father had flown.

In closing, I would like to thank the Montpelier High School Boosters Club, and the citizens of Montpelier, for honoring General Cody. There is no more deserving alumnus, and I am proud to call him a friend.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, when the Senate last met, I introduced, together with Senator DURBIN, a resolution regarding our response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. That resolution, which received unanimous support in the Senate, called for a number of specific steps to punish and isolate Russia for its actions.

Among these steps we called upon President Obama to impose sanctions on officials of the Russian Federation who are most responsible for the invasion of the Crimean region. I am pleased with recent announcements by the White House which demonstrate that the President has begun the process of sanctioning some of these individuals, although I had hoped the numbers sanctioned would be far greater.

I also note that today the President is in the Netherlands discussing with our European allies and partners the need for further steps. I trust and hope he will be successful in reaching a firm consensus with our allies and friends to define a strong united response to Russian aggression.

Further, I also welcome such provisions in the legislation that is now pending in the Senate, the Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014, which I trust and hope the Senate will be acting on beginning this evening and perhaps extending into this week.

I would note time is somewhat of the essence. If we are going to send a message to Russia, certainly we don't want to be bogged down in internal delay over unrelated or only slightly related issues. In fact, that is why Senator DURBIN and I moved our provisions forward before the Senate adjourned for the break, simply to make sure there was a united, bipartisan Senate unanimously approved agreement on 15 measures that would get the message to Vladimir Putin and the Russians that we take this very seriously.

The legislation we will be dealing with also sanctions the Russians responsible for this recent aggression by prohibiting them from coming to the

United States and freezing their assets in America. Our European allies have done likewise, and together we have begun to respond to Russia's outrageous behavior.

However, it is my strong belief that much more needs to be done. We and our European allies must recognize the enormity of Putin's crime as he rejects all modern standards of responsible international behavior and tramples on the sanctity of the territorial borders so vital to the stability of the postwar order.

The international response must be more vigorous if we are to prove that Putin's behavior is unacceptable and cannot be repeated. A strong response now is the best way to reassure our allies and friends who are precariously placed on Russia's borders that this outrage must be stopped, reversed, and ended. Conversely, to do little more than prevent a handful of Russian officials traveling abroad will show Putin and his cronies that in the end we actually do not mean what we say.

Again, the international response needs to be, has to be, much more vigorous if we are to prove that we stand together and united, one voice, claiming that the behavior of President Putin is unacceptable and cannot be repeated.

When Senator DURBIN and I introduced our prior resolution on this subject, we signaled our willingness to work with the administration to craft more punishing sanctions, including economic sanctions possibly targeting key sectors of the Russian economy, and I believe many of us here in the Senate on both sides of the aisle want to do more. I have suggested a range of provisions that would reduce Russia's oil and gas exports—which contribute a very significant amount to their economy and are therefore very dependent—I hope the President is discussing those very measures in Europe with our partners as we speak.

We are all aware that sanctioning key Russian economic activities carries the possibility that our economic interests and those of our European allies could be affected at the same time. While this is reason for us to be thoughtful in terms of how we move forward, it is not a reason for inaction. It should not be the basis for our standing by and watching what is happening and simply saying: Well, this could potentially affect us economically back at home and therefore excuse the actions and probably enable further actions by our Russian adversary in this case.

In the end, unpunished, unconstrained, rampant Russian territorial expansion will threaten us all to a much greater extent. Doing something now could prevent something much worse later. Standing up now could prevent something much more serious in terms of what we might have to do

later. Sound policy decisions must reflect full assessments of all eventual consequences, and that includes a clear picture of what the world will look like if illegal, forceful annexation of a neighbor's territory is ignored or met only with a rap on the knuckles.

I continue to believe we can and must do more to isolate Russia. This includes, for example, explicitly expelling Russia from the G8—not temporarily but explicitly expelling them and ending the NATO-Russia Council.

In addition, I am proposing today a specific economic sanction that will harm Russian interests in a serious way and, hopefully, with minimal or no damage to our own. I am introducing an amendment to Ukraine aid bill and I trust it will find broad bipartisan support. The purpose of this amendment is to sanction Russia's Rosoboronexport, the sole state agency for export of Russian weapon systems and defense-related goods. This is a state corporation exclusively entitled to export the entire range of Russian armaments officially allowed for export. It was set up for that purpose. It was set up by President Putin. It is a state-owned enterprise and its business is sending Russian arms around the world—some to very bad actors.

Many of our colleagues here in the Senate know of this arms export agency because of Russia's continuing supply of arms to Assad's regime in Syria. Many here have repeatedly called on the administration to stop all cooperation with Rosoboronexport for that reason. We now have a new, broader reason for ending all cooperation with this export agency of Russia. To take steps to meaningfully obstruct that agency's work and the income it provides the Russian state will become the most effective ways we have of demonstrating our condemnation of Russian action by force of arms.

Let me briefly explain my amendment. It does three things: First, it prohibits the U.S. Government from doing any business with this Russian agency by prohibiting future contracts and canceling past contracts.

It is true the recent National Defense Authorization Act, which I supported, also includes similar language. But that act includes a waiver authority and another work-around provision the Defense Department has been using in order to buy Russian helicopters for Afghanistan. This practice has met with objection. It was objectionable when it began and it became more objectionable as the Russians continued to supply Assad. Now, based on what they have done in Crimea, it should be entirely unacceptable.

Also, I just learned this morning that President Karzai announced his support for the Russian annexation of Crimea and approval of Russian actions, which makes our purchase of Russian weapons for the Karzai regime even

more outrageous. After all we have done to support President Karzai and the Afghans with U.S. tax dollars and the lives and injuries to U.S. and coalition soldiers—after all we have done over a decade of time—President Karzai reaches out and publicly supports the Russian action, contrary to ours. Russia is the nation which pillaged Afghanistan for a decade. It is beyond belief that President Karzai can support, along with countries such as Syria and Venezuela—haven't heard from Cuba yet, but probably will—the Russian action when we are there trying to save his hide not only with our tax dollars but with our soldiers' lives.

So my amendment takes away this waiver and would put a complete end to Karzai's business dealings with the Russians. Karzai will have to buy his Russian helicopters with his own money, not ours.

Secondly, I propose this amendment will prohibit contracts with any domestic or foreign company that cooperates with Rosoboronexport in the design, manufacture, or military development of military equipment. Other types of business dealings with the corporation for nonmilitary activities would not be affected. We are going after the military exports, many of which go to some of our sworn enemies.

Third, I propose to authorize the President to deduct from our foreign assistance programs any amount that a foreign state recipient spends on Russian weapons through Rosoboronexport. These deductions would be made from the Economic Support Fund and security assistance accounts but would not affect other aid programs. The President would be authorized to reprogram such funds for use elsewhere subject to congressional notification.

If a USAID recipient is tempted to use some of our money to buy Russian weapons, they need to know we would deduct that amount from our assistance programs. They can buy Russian weapons on their own dime, not on our dime.

Taken together, I believe these proposals would be a very useful addition to the Ukraine aid act and give it the additional teeth it needs. This amendment would harm the Russian arms industry, the Russian economy, Russian prestige, and Putin's standing in the world. That ought to be our goal. Whether it is my amendment, any other amendment, or whether it is the act we will be debating, it needs to harm the Russian arms industry, the Russian energy portion of the economy, Russian prestige, and Putin's standing in the world.

This amendment will serve as a concrete and immediate response to the illegal invasion perpetrated by the Russian Federation. I urge the majority leader to permit a full debate, an up-or-down vote on my amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I rise today to support the Ukraine assistance package, which will be on the floor for a vote later this evening. I want to thank the leadership of Senator MENENDEZ and all the great work Senator CORKER has put into this bill. I was proud to help put it together, along with Senators JOHNSON, MCCAIN, and many others who were part of our debate in the Foreign Relations Committee.

I come to the floor, as I am sure others have and will over the course of this afternoon, to talk about the vital importance of a big bipartisan vote in favor of this legislation this evening.

Having just come from Ukraine—I was there this last weekend with a number of my colleagues, and it was my second trip to Kiev in the last 3 months—I can tell you they are awaiting a very strong signal of support from the U.S. Congress that will send a message we are going to stand together with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters as they engage in this epic battle for their independence, for their freedom, and for their sovereignty.

I won't belabor the underlying details of the bill, but the three components of the legislation are all equally important to Ukraine. We heard support for all three of these pieces while we were there over this last weekend.

First and foremost, clearly, we have to deliver on our promise of economic aid. There is \$1 billion of loan guarantees in this bill, and it is contingent upon the signing of a new agreement with the IMF, but it will also leverage about \$15 billion in funds from Europe. This is important because even before this crisis precipitated by the Russian invasion of Crimea, Ukraine's economy was incredibly fragile, and this international crisis has done nothing but to further weaken the country.

Ukrainians have a new government—one they have faith in, one they can believe in—that will finally bring an end to the corruption which has been rife throughout the Ukrainian Government over the past decade. But this new government will be undermined by an economic crisis that will occur, guaranteed, unless the United States steps up and provides this assistance. But we can't do it alone, and so that is why the second component of this bill would allow the United States to agree to a set of IMF reforms that would dramatically increase the amount of funding the IMF has to provide countries in crisis, such as Ukraine.

Every other IMF member has signed on to these reforms except for the United States, and it has been largely due to the intransigence of this body that the United States stands on the sidelines. Some people have cat-

egorized the IMF reform component of this bill as superfluous, as a political add-on. That couldn't be further from the truth. When we were meeting with Ukrainian officials in this new government last weekend, they specifically asked that we pass the IMF reforms, because they know the only way they get an assistance package that is in the neighborhood of \$20 billion or \$30 billion is through the IMF. And the IMF will be much more likely able to provide that if the United States steps up and agrees to these reforms.

Lastly, we need to send a strong, clear message to Russia there are consequences for their actions in Crimea. By giving the President the authorization to move forward on a broad range of sanctions, we will show that Putin was wrong when he calculated that a march into Crimea would come at little to no cost to Russia.

I want to talk for a minute about what this really tells us about the status of Russia in the region and in the world. I am sure my other colleagues will come down to talk about the importance of sanctions and how they may change the calculus being made in Russia and Moscow today.

I have watched the media portray the events of the last couple of weeks as some sign of Russian strength. To me, this isn't a sign of Russian strength, this is a sign of Russian weakness.

Putin has designs for reestablishing some sense of the old Soviet empire by reasserting control over what Putin calls the near abroad, which are the former Soviet republics and Soviet satellite states. His dream of reestablishing the Soviet empire fell apart the day President Yanukovich fled Kiev.

Ukraine is the crown jewel of the near abroad. As Putin tried to recreate that empire under the guise of something called the customs union, he knew he couldn't do it without the second biggest country in Europe bordering on Russia—Ukraine. His invasion of Crimea was a panicked reaction to this new reality—a Ukraine now oriented toward the European Union.

So today, I think it is important to understand the position Putin is in. He has made a mess for the international community to try to clean up through his invasion of Crimea.

Crimea represents 2 million people in a country of 45 million, and 90 percent of Ukraine has a government in Kiev which just signed an association agreement with the European Union. Russia's economy is going to hemorrhage if he continues the occupation of Crimea through a broad-based set of international sanctions. He has become a pariah in the world community.

I agree with my colleague from Indiana: We shouldn't just be talking about removing Russia from the G8; we should take Russia out of the G8 and make it completely clear to them that they don't have a place at the inter-

national table along with countries such as the United States, France, Germany, and England if they behave in this way.

The bill we are debating today will give the President and new government in Kiev tools with which to try to address and perhaps end this crisis. But it is important to remember that this is not about reestablishing the Cold War. The world is oriented along paradigms that have nothing to do with who is with the United States and who is with Russia. This panicked invasion of Crimea, while rightly occupying the headlines on a nightly basis, is a display of Russia's weak position in the region and the world after the failure of their puppet government in Kiev to survive.

Lastly, I will talk about the broader history, both looking in the past but also looking to the future, we may miss when we concentrate on an hour-by-hour basis on the crisis at hand.

Having had the opportunity to visit Kiev a few times in the past several months, I have had the opportunity to learn a little bit about the history of the place and of the people. There is a wonderful cathedral in Kiev called the Church of St. Sophia. It is absolutely stunningly beautiful. It was built by Ukraine's greatest leader, Yaroslav the Wise. He presided over an empire which was at the time called Kievan Rus. Kievan Rus was essentially the hub of trading on the Eurasian continent. It took goods from the east and transported them to the west. It took goods from the Scandinavian countries and transported them down to the Mediterranean. Everything ran through the territory of Kievan Rus. It speaks to Ukraine's past but also to its future.

They have been set up with a false choice within the crisis of the last several months: Join the European Union or stay aligned with Russia. But what we know is that Kiev historically has stood at the crossroads—not just east and west but of east and west and north and south. This is Ukraine's past, but it is also going to be Ukraine's future.

While we try to deal today with a Russia run by a leader whose foreign policy seems dictated by a desire to poke a stick in the eye of the United States, I ultimately think viewing the forest through the trees also means acknowledging that Russia's future ultimately, in a post-Putin era, is about integration with Europe and integration with the West as well. Frankly, this is the direction Russia was heading until Putin took power.

The conversation about how we realize that ultimate paradigm is a conversation for another day. But when Senator MCCAIN and I went to Kiev in December and stood on the stage speaking to a million Ukrainians who had come down to the square to protest the current government, they were there to talk about one concept: dignity. For some it was about Europe, for

some it was about corruption, and for some it was about the brutal violence on the square displayed by Yanukovich. For most people, they wanted to restore dignity to their lives, and what dignity really is about in the end is the ability to choose for yourself what your future is. This is why we are here to support Ukraine.

No country—the United States, the Russian Federation, Germany—should dictate to the Ukrainians what their future should be. That is why, in the wake of the invasion, in the wake of years of economic manipulation from Russia, we are going to extend a firm hand to the Ukrainians with an assistance package and a message of economic consequences to Russia.

The world we envision ultimately is one not only where Ukraine gets to go back to its historical routes and draw from east and west but one in which Russia realizes that their economic salvation lies not in setting up some new Cold War but in fully integrating themselves, their economy, and their political institutions not only with countries such as Ukraine, not only with the nations of the EU, but beyond to American shores as well. This is the future.

But that reality will never exist for the young nation of Ukraine unless it survives this moment. And we can send a strong message this evening that this body stands with that future for this young nation of Ukraine by supporting the package before us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, while I realize Members of this body are very concerned about the situation in the Ukraine today and we are focused on the crisis happening there, I wish to take a few minutes to discuss two bills I have recently introduced that deal with reforms to the Internal Revenue Service.

As the Federal agency tasked with administering the U.S. Tax Code, the IRS has extraordinary influence on the lives of Americans from all walks of life and all points of view. Citizens have the absolute right to expect the IRS to be free from political influence, with taxpayers treated fairly and enforcement carried out in an unbiased manner. Unfortunately, we have learned our expectations sometimes are very different from reality.

In early 2013 the IRS acknowledged a history of targeting politically active groups as some of these groups sought tax-exempt status. This practice first involved flagging groups concerned about government spending and debt. Ironically, the targeting came at a time when poll after poll indicated that the Federal Government's out-of-control spending and our \$17 trillion debt were top concerns for all Americans,

and from my experience, they are the top concerns for Nebraskans as well.

Despite these legitimate concerns and the patriotic desire of Americans to effect change in government, the IRS worked to impede these organizations from full participation in our democratic process. To do so, the IRS dragged its feet and slow-walked applications for tax-exempt status, asking questions that weren't necessary, including questions regarding political beliefs. That is why I recently introduced S. 2043, the Stop IRS Overreach Act. This bill states that the IRS shall not ask any taxpayer any question regarding their religious, political, or social beliefs. This is a pretty straightforward concept, and it is an American concept. It shouldn't matter who you are or what you believe—we should all be treated equally before the law.

Given the recent behavior of the IRS, it appears this legislation is necessary. I believe this measure should enjoy support from both parties. It is worth noting that the legislation passed the House of Representatives on a voice vote.

American taxpayers are also frustrated with the lack of responsiveness from the IRS. Every single year taxpayers and their accountants write the IRS asking for additional information regarding their taxes. Often, the response from the IRS is silence—nothing but silence.

So taxpayers wonder: Did they even get my question? Did they get my letter? Are they going to answer my question?

Silence. No answer.

The IRS currently is not required to respond to taxpayer communication. We all know, though, that the inverse is true—taxpayers are compelled to respond when the IRS requests any information. This is a double standard which is not fair.

My bill, S. 2044, would require the IRS to respond to communication from any taxpayer within 30 days of receiving such communication. This way taxpayers will at least know that the IRS is not asleep at the switch and that they have received their letter.

My bill would also make two other significant changes to the IRS: First, it would require the agency to notify a taxpayer if the agency discloses that person's information to another government entity. Current law doesn't require such disclosure. Next, the legislation would require that when the IRS begins an audit on any individual taxpayer, the audit and any tax assessed with the audit must be completed within 1 year. The window for these painstaking audits can't be open forever. The uncertainty adversely impacts families, as these audits currently can be held up for years, with the taxpayers never quite sure if the tax is going to be assessed and when it is going to be assessed.

The House approved identical legislation by a voice vote.

These two bills are straightforward. They make simple but important changes to the way the IRS operates. Making these changes will help Americans all across our country. I urge my fellow Senators on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Michigan.

NATURAL GAS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, one of the true bright spots in our economy right now has been, and continues to be, manufacturing. Manufacturing jobs have been on the rise. We have over 12 million Americans who are now employed with good-paying jobs in the manufacturing sector. Many of them are in my own great State of Michigan.

This renaissance in the kind of good-paying jobs that built the middle class of this country is being powered in a significant way by American natural gas. More than \$100 billion in investments, in more than 120 different manufacturing projects, is being fueled by abundant, affordable American natural gas. Thanks to American natural gas, the people in our country have a great new opportunity to go to work, have a good-paying job, and support their families.

Our country is truly blessed with this natural resource. It is critical that we continue to put our American natural gas to work so we can create American jobs, which is why I am confused and concerned by those who are rushing to send this American resource overseas without a careful review of the impact this will have on the costs to our manufacturers, our jobs, and our families.

I am not opposed to exporting some of our natural gas as part of a balanced, well-thought-out plan. A rush to approve every export facility request immediately is not wise. It is not wise for our economy or our people when we know that increased natural gas is needed here at home.

People need jobs in America. We have about 10 million people out of work. We have an awful lot of people who need a job. Good-paying jobs in manufacturing can and will be part of their future if we manage our natural gas resources the right way. It is critical for America that we get this right. We need to export our products, not our jobs, and that is the debate I believe we should be having.

Low-cost natural gas is critical to our Nation's ability to create manufacturing jobs. It is critical. If we start exporting too much of our natural gas without monitoring or evaluating the impact over time, we may be giving up a real advantage we have right now for creating jobs and bringing jobs home from other countries.

What do we hear from a lot of businesses that are making decisions to bring jobs home? They talk about low-energy costs. We don't want to give that up as an advantage for America as we compete in a global economy. Also, if increased exports raise prices to the same level as global oil prices—and obviously some folks would like to see that happen for their own interests—American families will be hit with even higher energy costs at home, and that doesn't make any sense either. Exporting more American natural gas simply doesn't add up.

A study last month by Charles River Associates found that using our own low-cost natural gas to increase American manufacturing is twice as valuable to our economy and creates eight times as many jobs as sending this important American resource overseas. Let me say that again: Using our own low-cost natural gas to increase American manufacturing output is twice as valuable to our American economy and creates eight times as many jobs as exporting this important American resource overseas.

I am particularly dismayed that some people are using the very serious crisis in Ukraine as an excuse to rush through new projects to export our natural gas.

Last week I met with members of the Ukrainian community in Detroit. They are deeply concerned about what is happening. This is personal for them. They have family and friends in Ukraine. This crisis should not be used by those in the oil and gas industry to rush through actions that may be good for them in the long run. It certainly will not be good for some people in the short run. Anything that is approved now will take way too long before it has any impact in Ukraine. Raising prices may be good for some in the long run, but it will not be good for American manufacturers. It is not good if the whole idea is to create American jobs here at home, and it is not good for middle-class families.

I want to be very clear: I am extremely concerned about what is happening in Ukraine. We must stand with the people of Ukraine and our allies in Europe against the outrageous actions of Russia and President Putin. This crisis is very serious and requires a serious response by the Senate. I know colleagues on both sides of the aisle care deeply about this issue. I hope and I assume we will pass a package to help Ukraine as soon as possible.

Again, this crisis should not be used as an excuse to shortcut the permit

process or the thoughtful evaluation that I know the Department of Energy is committed to doing to make sure we get this right. This crisis should not be used to rush through new natural gas export facilities that may undercut our effort to create good-paying jobs here at home.

The Department of Energy has already agreed to permit six liquefied natural gas LNG export facilities that will export over 9 billion cubic feet of LNG every day—and that is not counting the other 30 applications that have been approved for export to countries we have free trade agreements with. I am not suggesting that should not have been done; I have not opposed that. But we better be careful on how we move forward and how we evaluate the impact on our economy.

As we all know, LNG export facilities take years to build. We could approve permits for 100 new LNG facilities tomorrow, and unfortunately it would do nothing to address the crisis in Ukraine and potential supply disruptions to our other important allies in Western Europe.

Here is what I am most concerned about: We all know that gas prices are decided by the global marketplace. Prices are high in Asia right now. We don't have the existing infrastructure to get natural gas to Ukraine. The gas in the export facilities that are rushed through are very likely to go to Asia—very likely to go to China.

Should American natural gas be used to lower prices and create jobs in China or in other parts of Asia or should we be using low-cost natural gas to create jobs right here at home? I hope we can all agree on the answer to that question.

Rushing through more natural gas export facilities, unfortunately, would not help Ukraine. However, it could have a negative effect on our own economy in the long run. Increasing exports would reduce our supply here at home and raise consumer prices, and we all know how devastating that would be for our families. Higher prices for natural gas means it will cost more to cook your dinner, heat your home, and power your small business.

The recent propane shortages and dramatic price spikes we saw in States across the country should raise a red flag for everybody. We simply cannot afford to export too much natural gas too fast without truly understanding the impact on our own jobs and families. Plus, sending so much of our natural gas abroad will neutralize the competitive advantage we have right now for cheap and abundant fuel. We have an advantage right now, and we need to keep that advantage.

My concern is that we would be giving the big oil companies a boost because there would be higher prices for natural gas which would keep oil as a viable alternative because there would

not be the advantage of natural gas anymore if we go to the global marketplace and all the prices go up.

In the end, the people of Ukraine and our allies who need our help would not be receiving it. Our own manufacturers, businesses, and families would not be receiving it. Instead, it would be going to the oil companies.

Shame on us if we squander the opportunities that low-cost, abundant natural gas resources offer our country. I believe we need to be smart in how we manage our resources.

Again, I am not opposed to exports. It is a question of a balance. It is a question of thinking it through in a thoughtful way and having an American plan where we are balancing out part exports, part keeping natural gas here at home, and making sure our manufacturers have the edge in a global economy because they have lower cost energy. We need to make sure we are bringing jobs back from overseas because of lower cost energy. We need to make sure our families have low-cost fuel and other energy assistance.

We need to be smart at this point in time about our resources. We have the opportunity, I believe, to find the right balance that allows us to both benefit from some exports and benefit from the resources by creating jobs here at home. Our manufacturers are families, the middle class of this country, the folks trying to hold on, folks trying to get into the middle class who know manufacturing jobs are a part of the way of doing that. They are counting on us. Our economy is counting on the fact that we will be smart about the way we make decisions about our natural resources. Right now with natural gas we have the opportunity not only for the States that have it to do well by exploration and extraction but by leveraging that as we look at the opportunities for manufacturing; leveraging our own resources, which we are told will give us eight times more in benefit in terms of jobs than just having our natural resources in America exported around the globe and the prices floating up to the higher prices of oil.

I thank the Chair. We are going to have a lot of discussion and debate on this issue going forward. I look forward to that. I think this is an opportunity for us to have an American plan on manufacturing, with American low-cost energy, to be able to jump-start our economy moving forward.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I have a parliamentary inquiry: What is the business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is considering the motion to proceed to S. 2124, the Ukraine aid bill.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

I urge my colleagues to not only vote for this particular measure but also to vote to pass as soon as possible the bill before the Senate that was reported out by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, by a vote of 14 to 4, before we went into recess. Obviously, it is intended to be an opening response—a beginning response—to the Russian aggression in Ukraine; specifically now occupying and absorbing Crimea into Russia, an act of aggression the likes of which has not been seen in a long time.

In addition, now additional pressures are being put on the Ukrainian Government as we speak, such as raising the price of gas, canceling Ukraine special price discounts. Also, oil deliveries are slow, border crossings for the delivery of trade have been closed, and the dirty tricks go on from the old KGB colonel Vladimir Putin.

This act is relatively mild. It will provide loan guarantees which are badly needed. Now the Ukrainian economy is under even greater pressure and greater difficulty, given the actions taken by Vladimir Putin, and it would stabilize the Ukrainian economy. It is just a beginning, but it is a strong signal of support by the United States for this fledgling Ukrainian democracy.

The IMF reforms are considered somewhat controversial by some of my colleagues, but the IMF reforms are not the reason this legislation is before us. The reason the legislation is before us is because Vladimir Putin has now absorbed Crimea into Russia. I predicted that when the Ukrainian Government became a government of the people and threw out Yanukovych, Putin would do exactly that because of his view of the need to have Sevastopol, the base on the Black Sea, in order to have access to the Mediterranean, without which his visions and view of the Russian empire would be threatened.

Right now the President of the United States is in Europe. I hope he is leading in Europe rather than just consulting in Europe. By the way, a comment by the President—I still don't quite get it—that there would not be a military excursion in Ukraine—I have never heard that word used in regard to military action. But the most important thing, in my view, is to pass this legislation as soon as possible. We can fight about other less important issues later on. We need to send a strong signal to the people of Ukraine who are watching us as we speak and as we vote today, as to whether we are going to come to their assistance and at least take some small measures to punish Vladimir Putin. If we get hung up for another week or another who knows how many hours because of our failure to act, in my view, it sends exactly the wrong signals.

I also speak again in the strongest terms that we need to send military as-

sistance to this country. We need to help them defend themselves. Russian troops are amassed on the border of Eastern Ukraine as we speak. I don't know whether Vladimir Putin will go into Eastern Ukraine. I did predict he would go into Crimea. Now I believe he is watching carefully for the reaction of the West, led by the United States of America, as to how we are going to assist Ukraine, how we are going to prevent or at least make the cost of further encroachment into Ukrainian territory a very expensive one.

We have military assistance programs with a myriad of nations, and we should be giving them the weapons they need to defend themselves. I am talking about defensive weaponry. It is shameful for us not to do so.

I see my colleague from Illinois with whom I was privileged and proud to travel to Ukraine, a man who understands these issues as well or better than anyone in this body and one who represents thousands and thousands and thousands of Ukrainian Americans whom I know he has met with and who are deeply concerned.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. MCCAIN. I am glad to yield.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I wish to say through the Chair it was an honor to join my colleague Senator MCCAIN in a whirlwind trip to Ukraine; 48 hours, maybe 6 extra to spare; 2 full days of working, meeting every leader at every level of government there and sensing their concern over the pending so-called referendum on Crimea and what Russia will do next. The Senator from Arizona and I stand together in a bipartisan fashion, urging the passage of this resolution as quickly as possible.

I just left the phone—the reason I came to the floor, I say to the Senator from Arizona, I was on the phone with the Ambassador of Ukraine and we were talking about the situation there, and I said: Senator MCCAIN is on the floor and I would like to go down and say a word.

He said the people of Ukraine are watching what we are doing. They are watching what Congress and the United States are going to do.

There are some differences between us. There are some differences between the parties. There comes a moment—and there always has, at least in the past—where we decide we are going to stand together as a nation, particularly when it comes to issues of foreign policy. This resolution doesn't address every issue the Senator from Arizona has raised, but it certainly addresses some key issues on which the Senator and I both agree. We both voted for this in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and we both want to see this move. The sooner the better.

I wish to salute my colleague, the Senator from Arizona, for returning to

the Maidan, that area in Kiev where 103 Ukrainians lost their lives demonstrating against the former government and asking for change. Our experience together, visiting that country with a delegation of eight Senators, I hope sent a strong message: There is bipartisan support for Ukraine and we will not tolerate Putin's aggression at the expense of innocent people.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask my friend: Isn't it true the people of Ukraine are watching in a way that is hard for them to understand—before an empty Chamber. But, more importantly, whether we act and act quickly, that signal to them as they face this additional Russian aggression, maybe not military aggression but already borders have been closed, the price of their energy has been raised—in other words, Putin is putting more and more pressure on them. They look to us. Isn't it a fact they will not quite understand if we go another several days because of some additional issue that does not affect whether we are coming to their assistance, I ask my friend.

Mr. DURBIN. Through the Chair, I couldn't agree more. I think it is significant that when the new Prime Minister of Ukraine was scheduling his first trip outside of the country, where did he come? Here, Washington, DC. With whom did he meet? The President and the leaders. We sat together with him in a room downstairs—the Senate Foreign Relations Committee room. He came here because he wanted to bring the message to us of what he feared would happen if Putin's aggression went forward, and he wanted us to bring the message to the world that the United States stood by him. How can we possibly explain to these people who are worried about the existence and survival of their Nation that we got tied up in some political squabble between the House and the Senate and the two political parties? It is important for us to move and move quickly.

The Senator from Arizona understands this as well or better than most. Many of us have come from countries which were once under the yoke of the Soviets and we remember full well what it took to finally get independence and democracy. Today, Vladimir Putin is fighting to save a failing Soviet franchise, and where he can't win the hearts and minds of neighboring nations, he instead uses masked gunmen, troops, barbed wire, and energy extortion. That is how he works. He is not winning this battle, but he is saying to the world: The only way I can keep my "friends" in line is with pressure. So the United States, and I hope other civilized nations, will join us in saying that is unacceptable.

I thank the Senator and I agree with him. Now is the time to act in the Senate.

Mr. MCCAIN. I note the presence of the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee whom I wish to thank for his rapid leadership in getting this legislation approved by an overwhelming majority of the committee on a bipartisan basis. I know he is waiting to speak.

I have just one more comment for my friend from Illinois. I understand he just met with Ukrainian Americans in Chicago, in his home State of Illinois. Isn't it true they don't quite understand why we have not acted more rapidly in the face of naked aggression—which is incredible acquisition of territory which the Russian Government guaranteed as part of Ukraine when Ukraine gave up its nuclear inventory, which happened to be the third largest in the world. I see the chairman waiting, so I will not ask any more questions, except to urge my colleagues let's have an overwhelming vote to move to this legislation and get it done as quickly as possible.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, first let me thank my two colleagues, both distinguished members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator MCCAIN and Senator DURBIN. Their work and their leadership on this issue has created the type of bipartisan spirit that I think is incredibly important in general but certainly in foreign relations. They both added greatly to the legislation that came out of committee with a strong bipartisan vote that we are considering on the floor.

Last week some of my colleagues in this Chamber were sanctioned by Vladimir Putin for standing up for the Ukrainian people, standing up for freedom, standing up for their democratic aspirations, standing up for the sovereignty of Ukraine. As I said in Brussels at the German Marshall Fund this weekend, if I have been sanctioned for those reasons, then I say, by all means, Mr. Putin, sanction me.

I urge all of my colleagues to be supportive of the legislation. They may be sanctioned at the end of the day, but that is really what standing for Ukraine is all about at this critical moment and what it means beyond.

When we look around the world, we realize that every so often we face a critical juncture at a time of great upheaval and change. With the backsliding of Russian leadership to a pre-1991 posture, we are at such a juncture. Vladimir Putin seems to view the pre-1991 Soviet Union's expansionist authoritarianism as a present-day goal and the last two decades, which saw the formation of new and independent states, as a departure from Peter the Great's expansionist aspirations.

From Ukraine, to Georgia, to the Middle East, we are seeing a new Rus-

sian leadership bent on using its military authority, its economic resources, and diplomacy to serve its parochial interests at any cost—despite violations of its own legal commitments and those it has made to the international community.

Russia's flatout extortion of Ukraine, supported by former corrupt leaders of Ukraine, forced the political explosion which Russia then exploited.

In Syria, President Putin is actively propping up President Bashar al-Assad and perpetuating the world's worst humanitarian disaster.

In Iran, the ink of the Joint Plan of Action signed in Geneva last November was barely dry when reports surfaced that Tehran and Moscow were negotiating an oil-for-goods swap worth \$1.5 billion a month, and that they planned to build a new nuclear plant—all steps that only aid Iran in its pursuit of nuclear weapons, while diminishing the sanctions that forced that country to the negotiating table in the first place.

It is no surprise that Putin and his cronies have already threatened to derail Syria and Iran talks if their countries do not step back from punishing Russia for its annexation of Ukraine.

In Geneva, as the P5+1 talks with Iran continue, we can only hope that the crisis in Ukraine will not have a ripple effect in Russia's position or participation.

But, in my view, Mr. Putin has miscalculated. He has reignited a dangerous pre-1991 Soviet-style game of Russian roulette with the international community, and we cannot blink.

He must understand that we will never accept his violation of international law in Ukraine. That is why we passed this legislation in committee—an aid package for Ukraine that provides loans for economic stabilization, supports planning for upcoming democratic elections, aids in the recovery of stolen assets, and expands security cooperation between the two countries, and it holds Moscow accountable for its aggressive stance against Ukraine.

First, this legislation provides for Ukrainian loan guarantees, consistent with the \$1 billion announced by the administration in recent days. It mirrors the House legislation.

Second, it ensures that the Obama administration can assist the Ukrainian Government to identify, secure, and recover assets linked to the acts of corruption by Viktor Yanukovich, members of his family, or other former or current Ukrainian Government officials.

Third, it authorizes \$50 million for democracy, governance, and civil society assistance and \$100 million for enhanced security cooperation for Ukraine and other states in Central and Eastern Europe.

Fourth, it mandates sanctions, complementing the President's recent Ex-

ecutive order, against Ukrainians and Russians alike responsible for violence and serious human rights abuses against antigovernment protesters—and those responsible for undermining the peace, security, stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine—as well as imposing sanctions on Russian individuals complicit in or responsible for significant corruption in Ukraine.

Fifth, it allows the administration to broadly sanction corrupt Russian officials and go after Putin's allies and cronies who are engaged in massive corruption to the detriment of the Russian people.

Finally, it provides needed reforms to the United States' participation in the International Monetary Fund, which would allow the United States to leverage significant support from the IMF for Ukraine today and for similar unforeseen crises that are going to come in the future.

It is the IMF that is leading the effort to stabilize Ukraine's fragile economy, an essential task if there is to be any chance of reaching a peaceful political solution to the standoff with Russia.

Congressional ratification of the 2010 IMF reforms would increase IMF emergency funding to Ukraine by up to 60 percent, and it would provide an additional \$6 billion for longer-term support, setting an important marker for other donors such as the EU and the World Bank.

Failure to approve the reforms, on the other hand, would undermine both the IMF and the international standing of the United States.

Some countries are happy to see U.S. global influence diminish. Failing to approve the reforms weakens the United States and emboldens our competitors.

The IMF is strengthened at no cost to U.S. finances or influence. The United States retains its Executive Board seat and sole veto power at no net cost, since the \$63 billion increase in U.S. quota is fully offset by an equivalent decrease to a separate emergency facility. Other countries, however, put in new money, increasing IMF lending power.

The fact is, it is a pure win for the United States. We will pay for the \$315 million budget impact of the bill with real cuts and from funds that were underperforming or no longer needed. Given that the IMF helps to stabilize countries, often precluding future need for military action, the relatively minor cost will pay back many times over.

This is not a partisan issue. Presidents Reagan, Clinton, and both Presidents Bush backed legislation to increase IMF resources, and President Reagan called the IMF "the linchpin of the international financial system."

These efforts combined send a message to the world that the annexation of Crimea will not stand.

Let me close by saying we are at a dangerous moment in history, with global consequences, and the world is watching.

If the West does not act, what will China say when it is looking at its territorial desires in the South China Sea? What will Iran say when we are negotiating in Vienna about nuclear weapons? What will others in the world say—North Korea, whose march to nuclear weapons on a greater scale is still in play?

All of them will be looking at what we in the West do or do not do, in making a decision about Russia's brazen move into Ukraine. They will be watching to see how far they can go, how much they can do. They will be asking: What can I get away with?

The fact is, as a matter of principle, Ukrainian sovereignty cannot be violated for simply looking westward and embracing ideals rooted in freedom. These ideals must always remain first and foremost in our strategic response to international events.

When I was in Brussels last week at NATO and the German Marshall Fund, I said: The broader question that faces us is this: Can a united transatlantic vision and our collective commitment to bold actions in this century match the vision and commitment of those who created the international institutions which brought peace and prosperity to millions in the last century?

I believe that—if we live, lead, and govern, guided by shared values and united by our common concerns—we can lead the world through this transformational moment in history and prevent further Russian aggression from taking us back prior to what was that 1991 world.

That is the choice before us. I urge my colleagues to strongly support the cloture motion so that we can work toward a statement that will do exactly that.

Mr. MCCAIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. MENENDEZ. I will be happy to yield to the distinguished Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I think it is very clear that Vladimir Putin has amassed forces on the border of Russia and eastern Ukraine, and right now he is calculating as to whether to move there or even into Moldova, where the Transnistrian region is now occupied and has been by Russian troops. Also, there is pressure on the Baltic countries that is being exerted as we speak, a lot of it in defense of "Russian-speaking people." If we do not send this message now, with this package, in a bipartisan and strong manner, Vladimir Putin will be encouraged to enact further acts of aggression against Crimea and in the region.

I would ask my colleague if he does not agree with that assessment.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I think the Senator is spot-on. Right now, Putin is looking at whether or not he proceeds in Eastern Ukraine. He is looking at Transnistria and Moldova. He is calculating and he is calculating: What are the costs? What will the United States and the European Union do?

From my perspective, President Putin only understands strength, and that strength is either in a military context—which, of course, no one is speaking about at this moment—or an economic one. That is why this package is so incredibly important—because it takes every single dimension that the distinguished Senator helped us in the committee on. It aids Ukraine up front for the loan guarantee. It sanctions—and the Senator was very engaged in several elements of that—elements of the Russian hierarchy for engaging in corrupting the country, Ukraine, and at the same time for invading its territorial integrity. It prepares assistance for that election which is supposed to take place in May that is critical to be fair, open, and transparent and, at the same time, provides for the greater resources through the IMF.

So all of these elements are critical. It also includes a very clear statement about greater defense cooperation, which is also critically important.

So these are all the elements of sending a strong message, as Putin is calculating: What will be the cost? If the cost is not high enough, he may very well proceed into Eastern Ukraine or to those parts of Moldova. That is an action that we can ill-afford and the action that others will look at across the world, as I mentioned, that they will calculate: The West is not willing to take the actions necessary to stop my designs.

If that is the case, then I think we are in a world of hurt across the globe.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the chairman for his eloquent statement.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move

to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 329, S. 2124, a bill to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Carl Levin, Joe Donnelly, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Maria Cantwell, Barbara A. Mikulski, Tom Harkin, Tim Kaine, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 2124, a bill to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 78, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 79 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Alexander	Graham	Murkowski
Ayotte	Grassley	Murphy
Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Pryor
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Brown	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Johanns	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Shaheen
Coats	Kaine	Stabenow
Collins	King	Tester
Coons	Klobuchar	Thune
Corker	Leahy	Toomey
Cornyn	Levin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Markey	Vitter
Feinstein	McCain	Walsh
Fischer	McConnell	Warner
Flake	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—17

Barrasso	Enzi	Roberts
Boozman	Heller	Scott
Coburn	Lee	Sessions
Cochran	Moran	Shelby
Crapo	Paul	Wicker
Cruz	Risch	

NOT VOTING—5

Cantwell	Kirk	McCaskill
Chambliss	Landrieu	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 78, the nays are 17.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Washington.

OSO LANDSLIDE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am sure all our colleagues have seen the news over the past few days from my home State of Washington where we are suffering from a devastating natural disaster.

For those who haven't seen the coverage, on Saturday the town of Oso, WA—a very small, tightly knit community on the Stillaguamish River—was hit by a massive landslide. It has cut off the town of Darrington just a few miles up State Road 530, and houses over a square mile have been swept away.

We know already we have lost eight people. This morning we learned there are more than 100 people still missing, and right now in my home State of Washington there are dozens of families who do not know if their loved ones are still alive. These are moms and dads, they are sons and daughters, they are neighbors and friends who in the blink of an eye saw water and earth wipe away their homes and their entire community, and now many of them don't know if their loved ones survived.

I was in Arlington, WA, yesterday, where the search and rescue operations are being coordinated. It is just down the road from where the slide hit, and I want to talk for a few minutes this evening on the Senate floor about this tragedy.

Oso and Darrington are very small towns like a lot of others in this country. The population of Oso is 180 people. These are the types of places where everyone knows everyone, where they stop to say hello, and where everyone lends a helping hand. It is impossible to describe the scope of this devastation. There isn't a single person who hasn't been impacted in some way by this tragedy. There also isn't a single person anywhere who isn't doing everything they can to help. I saw neighbors who were there providing food, providing shelter, offers of all kinds of hope, help, hugs, and prayers. First responders are risking their lives every minute, braving very dangerous conditions to look for survivors. People across my State are offering help and donations, anything they can to assist these communities that are experiencing the unthinkable. We have grocery stores offering food to the families who need it and to the rescue workers. The Red Cross is there on the ground. Tribal leaders from the local community are coming to offer what they can.

I wanted my colleagues to know that this weekend I saw some of the worst devastation I have ever witnessed in my home State. At the same time I also saw firefighters who hadn't slept. They refused to stop as they searched for survivors. I saw families refusing to

give up hope, and I saw communities that need our entire State and our entire country to stand with them now.

Even though Oso and Darrington are 2,300 miles away from the Nation's Capital, our hearts and prayers are with the families in those communities tonight. In the coming weeks and months—and even years if that is what it takes—all of us need to stand with the people of Oso and Darrington and Arlington and provide the Federal resources they are going to desperately need in this recovery and rebuilding operation. I want them to know they will have the thoughts and prayers of everyone in this country going out to the real Washington as they see this through.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

SMITH AND MCHUGH NOMINATIONS

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this evening to speak in support of two nominees for Federal judgeships from Pennsylvania. I believe my colleague Senator CASEY is going to have a message he will share with us momentarily.

First, I wish to be very clear that I am very enthusiastically in support of both Judge Ed Smith and Mr. Gerald McHugh, the two nominees, both of whom are likely to get a vote this week. If confirmed, they will serve as U.S. district judges for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

I thank Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member GRASSLEY for their work in ushering these candidates through the committee process.

I thank Leader REID and Leader MCCONNELL for their role in ensuring these nominees would have a chance to have a vote on the Senate floor.

Most of all, I thank my colleague Senator CASEY. Senator CASEY and I have been working hard to fill a number of vacancies on the Federal bench in Pennsylvania since I got to the Senate. He predates my arrival here, so he has been at this longer than I have, but since I have arrived we have had a terrific working relationship. We have had eight terrific men and women confirmed to the Federal bench across Pennsylvania. Hopefully, these two gentlemen will join them and we will be up to 10.

We have developed a rigorous process by which the many candidates who apply for these vacancies are thoroughly vetted, and I am very pleased that we have been able to make this ongoing process work. Pennsylvanians expect us to work together across party lines—a Democratic Senator and a Republican Senator—to simply find the best candidates. I have to say that I think we are doing exactly that with respect to our judicial nominees, and there could be no better examples than Judge Smith and Gerald McHugh.

Ed Smith was approved by the Judiciary Committee by a voice vote on

January 16. He is very well respected. I have known Judge Smith for nearly 20 years. There is no question that he has the requisite skills, the knowledge, the background, and the acumen. He will be a great Federal judge. We know this because of what he has already accomplished in his career. He serves as a captain in the U.S. Navy, in the JAG Corps. He has been a commanding officer at the Navy Reserve Naval Justice School. He served as a military trial judge in the Navy Reserve. He was deployed to Iraq in 2007 and 2008 to serve as a rule of law advisor to the Iraqis, and he received a Bronze Star for his service.

Currently, Ed Smith is a judge on the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas. He has been a partner in the law firm of DeRaymond & Smith, and he is a cum laude graduate from Dickinson Law School.

Importantly, Judge Smith has agreed that if he is confirmed, he will sit in the Easton Courthouse in the First District. That is a courthouse which has not had a district court judge since 2004. The people of Northampton County deserve to have that courthouse filled, and Judge Smith is an outstanding candidate to do it.

I am also delighted to support Gerald McHugh. Gerald McHugh is a highly accomplished attorney, of very keen intellect, with a great commitment to public service. He is currently a partner in the Raynes McCarty firm. His work has mostly been in civil litigation, in medical malpractice, in litigation regarding unsafe products, aviation disasters, and in civil rights. He has been a shareholder in the firm of Litvin, Blumberg, Matusow & Young.

He began his career clerking for District Court Judge Luongo in the Eastern District. He is a cum laude graduate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Gerald McHugh is not only a skilled lawyer, but he has been very active in his community. He has been giving back to the greater Philadelphia area for a long time. He is on the boards of many charitable and civic organizations. He is the president of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network and has been since 2004. He cofounded the Hospitality House of Philadelphia to help ex-offenders, and he does pro bono work to improve neighborhoods and prevent crime in West Philadelphia.

Both of these candidates have the crucial qualities necessary to make outstanding judges, and they have manifested that throughout their very distinguished careers. They have the intelligence, they have the integrity, they have the commitment to public service, and they have respect for the limited role the judiciary has under our constitutional system. So I am pleased to rise to speak on behalf of

these two highly accomplished nominees, and I urge my colleagues to support their confirmation later this week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to commend and salute the work done by Senator TOOMEY and his staff, working with ours, as well as the leaders he mentioned, beginning with Majority Leader REID and Chairman LEAHY.

Like Senator TOOMEY, I am grateful to have the opportunity to talk about both of these nominees for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania: Edward George Smith, who serves now as a judge, as well as Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr. I have known Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., a lot longer, and I will speak about him first. I know him as Jerry.

If there is one thing I could say about Jerry McHugh, it is he is a lawyer's lawyer. He is the kind of lawyer other lawyers go to for advice, for guidance, and sometimes for education. He has been a great leader in the bar, but also someone who has been a strong advocate for those who need a voice, often serving as a lawyer for those who wouldn't have an advocate absent his involvement in a case.

Jerry McHugh is a Philadelphia native. He was educated at St. Joe's University in Philadelphia where he received a degree in theology, graduating summa cum laude with the highest honors. He also graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and he graduated from Penn law school with honors as well.

He began his practice at the law firm of Litvin Blumberg Matusow & Young in the early 1980s. Prior to his career as a lawyer, he served two judges as a law clerk: first, Judge Spaeth, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, the second highest court in the State right next to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He then served Judge Alfred L. Luongo, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He then went into practice in the Litvin firm, and later the Raynes McCarty law firm in Philadelphia, PA, starting in 2004.

I will highlight a few memberships which I think bear upon his work as a lawyer and the work he will do as a judge. He has been a member of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers and a board member of the Legal Aid Network in Philadelphia. He served the bar association in a number of capacities, including Volunteers for the Indigent Program, helping those who may not have a voice.

Jerry focused his practice on complex civil litigation, including a variety of matters. I think it is noteworthy that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court three times appointed him to chair the Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Ac-

counts Program, a program which is very important so that when the fund is needed to help resolve a case which involves a lawyer, the fund is there. It has to be administered and overseen by folks who have the highest integrity.

I know Jerry McHugh as someone who has a wide range of experience as a lawyer, an advocate, an active citizen, someone who would bring to the court a passion for justice and a sense of outrage in the face of injustice. I can't say enough about his experience and his preparation for this very important assignment he would have upon confirmation to be a judge in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. I am grateful for his willingness to serve.

In addition, Judge Edward George Smith, as Senator TOOMEY noted, has a great career and a varied set of experiences, serving now as a judge in the Court of Common Pleas in Northampton County since January of 2002. He was elected to that position and then retained, which is the ultimate validation of someone's services on the bench in the Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania.

Prior, as Senator TOOMEY noted, Judge Smith served the United States in the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps as a captain, from 1984 until the present time. He also served in the DeRaymond & Smith law firm for about 11 years. In that time period he served as solicitor for a number of entities in the region.

Edward Smith has also demonstrated his commitment to his community. He is a former president of the Boys and Girls Club of Easton, PA, former president of the Kiwanis Club of Palmer Township, former emergency medical technician in Forks Township.

His 27-year military career is substantial. In addition to serving in the Navy and achieving the rank of captain, he served our country in Iraq. Just a few of his commendations are the Bronze Star medal, Meritorious Service medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal.

Whether by way of life experience as well as legal experience or whether his experience as a judge, Judge Smith is prepared to be a judge again on a different court—in this case, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

When we make decisions about whom to nominate for either the district court or the appellate court, we always want to consider a range of characteristics, experiences, and qualifications. First and foremost, we look to people who have unquestioned integrity. We look to them as people who have a varied experience, whether in the law as a judge or in other life experiences as well. We also look to people who can do the job—not just by way of their integrity and ability but also those who have the judicial temperament, the approach to litigants, to treat them with

fairness and to arrive at a measure of justice.

On those qualifications and characteristics, as well as others, both of these nominees possess them in abundance. I am grateful for Senator TOOMEY's work with us to get this done to have two judges to be confirmed, and we are looking forward to doing that later this week.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

1964 ALASKA EARTHQUAKE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Mr. President.

In Alaska there is a great deal of attention focused this week on the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964. March 27 marked the 50th anniversary of this amazing physical event, the second largest earthquake that has ever been recorded, an episode Alaskans have been talking about for the past 50 years and will be talking about for the next 50. I rise this afternoon not to speak about that anniversary but to speak of a 25-year anniversary that while not caused by Mother Nature had a devastating impact on Alaska and the surrounding waters of our State. I would like to speak very briefly about where we are 25 years after the *Exxon Valdez* ran aground on Bligh Reef.

The *Exxon Valdez* was a 987-foot tanker. It was carrying 53 million gallons of crude oil. It struck Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound at 12:04 a.m., on March 24, 1989, and within literally hours it had released approximately 11 million gallons of crude oil into the water.

As most know, the Alaskan coastline isn't just a nice thin straight beach; it is hundreds and hundreds of coves and islands and miles of shoreline. That oil spread over approximately 1,000 miles of shoreline across our coast. It is absolutely a fact that this environmental disaster is something that has left an impression on Alaskans not unlike what we experienced 25 years prior to that with another one of Mother Nature's devastations, the Great Friday earthquake in 1964.

It is important when we have milestones, when we have anniversaries or times where we pause to think about what has happened before, that we not only think about the tragedy at the time but we think about how we have moved forward from that time, hopefully learning from those incidents that trigger such strong memories.

So many Alaskans have stories of how they worked to help clean up the

oil spill in the aftermath of the *Exxon Valdez*, whether it was fishermen who had been displaced—they were no longer going out and fishing; instead they charged their vessels to be part of the massive cleanup effort that was underway. The stories that are out there throughout our State and from folks around the country are as poignant and touching 25 years later as they were at the time, because as the environment was impacted, the lives of Alaskans were clearly impacted.

I like to think I spend a good amount of time in the small fishing community of Cordova—a community that was dramatically impacted by the *Exxon Valdez* spill—visiting with fishermen and fishing families decades after the fact and hearing their stories not only of the loss they incurred because they were not able to go out and fish, they were not able to meet their boat mortgages, but the other stresses the community experienced because of this disaster, whether it was personal bankruptcies, whether it was divorce, whether it was social issues because people just couldn't deal with the fact that their landscape and their livelihoods had been changed. It was a very trying and traumatic time. I think those scars take decades to heal.

My hope is that, as Alaskans, we come together and learn from these tragedies and events so we can move forward. We are pretty resilient people. The people who have been so dramatically impacted are proof and evidence of that.

What else have we seen as we have tried to learn from that tragedy? I think it is fair to say that at the time—back in 1989 when the *Exxon Valdez* ran aground—there was perhaps, as some would call it, a complacency. Perhaps we were just not monitoring operations as we should have, but we had an industry that had been operating quite safely—absolutely safely—for decades without incident. When you lose that vigilance, things can happen, and things happened with the *Exxon Valdez*.

Since that time, we have learned that you have to have a level of preparedness as you operate in areas such as the Prince William Sound, you have to have a level of preparedness that meets the challenge you face. At the time the tanker ran aground, the spill response equipment that was there and had been planned for was not readily available. We didn't have sufficient boom available in the event of a disaster. We didn't have the fleet that could go out and assist in the disaster.

Now, 25 years later, Alyeska has 189 skimmers, 49 miles of boom and on-water storage capacity of almost 38 million gallons. We have put in place a requirement that North Slope oil must be transported in double-hull tankers. You cannot bring a tanker in to carry North Slope crude unless it is double-

hulled. It doesn't matter what the weather is, we require a level of escort—a two-tug escort—out of the Prince William Sound. It can be a flat, calm summer day or a foul winter day, but every tanker going out is escorted by two tugs. We also have radar monitors that are in place that truly allow for a greater level of oversight and scrutiny.

What we have done in response to the spill is, I think, something that is worthy of note. Clearly, it is something that Other Nations look to as the example of preparedness. We have our Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council in place. They are truly active and engaged, not only with the community, but with the fishing fleets.

We have learned that the company Alyeska—the management company for the transportation of Alaska's North Slope oil—conducts two major oil spill drills every year to make sure that there is a level of preparedness. We have about 400 local fishing boat owners that are trained to deploy and maintain the boom. They come together with drills to make sure we never have anything like we saw with the *Exxon Valdez* again.

I think it is fair to say that 25 years after the spill, we are continuing to monitor not only the land and water but our fisheries. I recognize we still have a herring fishery that has not yet recovered. We still have a bird population—the guillemot—which has not recovered.

Twenty-five years is a long time. When you have a disaster, as we had, it does leave an impact. My goal, mission, and effort as a legislator is to make certain we do not have a level of complacency where we close our eyes and fail in our efforts for preparedness again.

I think what we have demonstrated in Alaska since the spill is, as I say, admirable in recognizing that we had failed in a level of prevention, but we also recognized we could learn from that tragedy and move forward, and we did.

I wanted to take a couple of minutes this afternoon and acknowledge that there are still many Alaskans who woke up this morning not thinking about the weather or getting their kids to school, but with a very strong reminder of where they were 25 years ago and how the events of that day changed people's lives. Again, the goal here is to never have a tragedy of that scale and scope again.

With that, I thank the Chair, yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING RICHARD CLINE

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Richard Francis Cline, a member of "The Greatest Generation." Mr. Cline, who passed away last September at the age of 89, will be honored by interment at Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Cline was a dedicated father and patriot who, like so many of his generation, left friends, family, and the comfort of home to take up arms in defense of his Nation.

A native of Chicago, and North Carolinian later in his life, Mr. Cline and his eight siblings knew hardship early in life, coming of age during the Great Depression. To help support his family he worked at several jobs as a boy and as a young man. He began working by selling popcorn at Wrigley Stadium at the age of 9 and learned, out of necessity, the merit of a strong work ethic that would follow him for the rest of his life.

After graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Army at the age of 18. He served his country in General Patton's famous 3rd Army Corps, where he was a member of the 15th Medical Supply Division that operated in England as well as France and Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. He witnessed the horrors of war and served his country to provide not only for his family, but also for the freedom of all Americans.

While stationed in a small town in Belgium, he met his future wife, Jeanine. She returned with him to America and they continued their lives together following the war. They were married for 64 years, and together they raised 4 children who saw their father not only as their parent, but as their friend.

Once Mr. Cline returned home, he started what would become a 44-year career with the Continental Can Corporation. Those who knew him would tell you that he expected nothing he did not earn, and worked hard to achieve the American dream he fought so hard to protect. He gave earnestly to his community in many ways throughout his life, often making wooden toys for children who might not otherwise have had any presents at Christmas. Richard Francis Cline embodied the spirit of the "greatest generation" and made many who knew him proud to call him both a fellow American and a friend.

I am honored to have been able to call Mr. Cline a constituent. His interment at Arlington National Cemetery is recognition of his loyal service to this great Nation. I offer my condolences to his family and those who knew Mr. Richard Cline, for we have lost a remarkable man and role model.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUAN GONZALEZ AND BRIAN LAW

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of two dedicated public servants, California Highway Patrol officers Juan Gonzalez and Brian Law. Officer Gonzalez and Officer Law were tragically killed in the line of duty while responding to an automobile accident in Kingsburg, CA.

A graduate of Tulare Union High School and California State University, Fresno, Juan Gonzalez joined the California Highway Patrol in 2008, the culmination of years of hard work and the realization of a goal that he had held since he was 5 years old. He worked for 2 years in San Jose before transferring to the Fresno area in 2010.

A Marine and Air Force reservist, Brian Law also graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy in 2008 and worked in Alameda County for the CHP for 5 years before transferring to Fresno last year.

Officer Gonzalez and Officer Law first met as cadets at the California Highway Patrol Academy, where they became good friends. In 2013, they teamed up as partners in the CHP's Fresno office.

Those who knew Officer Gonzalez fondly remember him as a trusted colleague and friend who was committed to his career and family. His determined spirit, unique laugh, and camaraderie will be missed.

Officer Law was an avid sports fan with an engaging personality whose willingness to help others and passion for law enforcement helped him to become a respected member of the California Highway Patrol. Above all else, Brian is remembered as a devoted family man.

Officers Gonzalez and Law dutifully served the people of California with honor and valor. Their service and dedication epitomize the best ideals of law enforcement, and I send my heartfelt sympathies to their families, friends and colleagues—especially Maria, Officer Gonzalez's mother, and his sister Sandra; and Rebecca, Officer Law's wife; his stepdaughter Lauren; son Brandon; daughter Samantha; father Denis Law; mother Judy Doty; and sister Carol Law-Stetson.

They will be sorely missed.●

REMEMBERING SERGEANT TOM SMITH

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Sergeant Tom Smith, a 23-year veteran of the Bay Area Rapid Transit, BART, Police Department, who was an exceptional law enforcement officer, a devoted and loyal friend, and most of all a dedicated family man. Sergeant Smith was tragically struck down on January 21, 2014, becoming the first police officer in BART's 42-year history to be killed in the line of duty.

Tom Smith was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, the youngest of three brothers who all became police officers and the first to pursue a career in law enforcement. Joining the BART police at age 19 as a cadet, he rose through the ranks, serving as a field training officer and a K-9 handler before becoming a detective and eventually reaching the rank of Sergeant, where he led BART's detective unit.

Colleagues remember Sergeant Smith as an experienced and respected leader who was passionate about his work. It was through his job that he met the love of his life, Kellie, a BART police officer with the K-9 unit. Married in 2001, Sergeant Smith and his wife have a beautiful 6-year-old daughter, Summer. His friends remember him as a devoted husband, father, and brother. When he was not on duty he spent as much time as he could with Kellie and Summer, his brothers Patrick, a Newark police officer, and Edward, an Alameda County sheriff's deputy, and his brother-in-law Todd, a Hayward police officer.

Tom Smith dedicated his life to his family, his community, and his country. His dedicated and courageous service will not be forgotten. On behalf of the people of California, whom he served so bravely, I extend my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.●

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COYOTES

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I am proud to congratulate the University of South Dakota, USD, Coyotes Women's basketball team for making the NCAA Division I tournament. In just their second year of eligibility, this is an extraordinary achievement.

On March 11 the Coyotes faced off against the Denver Pioneers. They played remarkably well and defeated their rivals capturing the Summit League Championship title, and ultimately clinching an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament.

Founded in 1862, the University of South Dakota has continually sought and achieved excellence. As my alma mater, I personally can attest to the spirit of this world-class institution.

Qualifying for the NCAA Division I tournament exemplifies the hard work that defines the USD community and showcases its prestige.

I commend the exceptional leadership and vision of president James W. Abbott who, in 2006, announced that USD's athletic programs would transition from NCAA Division II to Division I. That move made this journey to the Big Dance possible. Additionally, director of athletics David Herbstler along with head coach Amy Williams, assistant coaches Brook Atkinson, Josh Hutchinson, and Chuck Love, and graduate assistant Tandem Mays helped lead the team through this remarkable season.

In honor of their dedication and success I would like to congratulate each of the outstanding Coyote team members: Bailey Milne, Tia Hemiller, Madeline White, Kelly Stewart, Taylor Moore, Bridget Arens, Raeshel Contreras, Jaylah Jackson, Margaret McCloud, Emily Smith, Polly Harrington, Nicole Seekamp, Heidi Hoff, and Lisa Loeffler. Their tireless work ethic, determination, and skills are second to none. Congratulations and Go Yotes!●

REMEMBERING MASTER SERGEANT DAVID POIRIER

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life and service of U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant David Poirier, who passed away February 28, 2014, while stationed at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Master Sergeant Poirier was serving his sixth tour overseas as a member of the New Hampshire Air National Guard's 157th Operational Support Squadron. He had also previously completed tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guam, Qatar, and El Salvador, in addition to other Guard missions in New Hampshire.

Dave, as he was known to family and friends, was born in Woonsocket, RI, and grew up in Blackstone, MA, where he graduated from Blackstone-Millville Regional High School. A resident of Salem, NH, Dave was an active and respected member of the New Hampshire community in his role as an airman as well as his position as postmaster for the town of Atkinson. At the time of his passing at age 52, Dave had served over 22 years in the U.S. Air Force and had earned the Air Force Commendation Medal twice, campaign medals for Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the Global War on Terrorism, as well as other awards.

Like many New Englanders, Dave enjoyed the outdoors by taking camping and fishing trips throughout the region. He also took particular pleasure in riding his Harley-Davidson on the back roads of New Hampshire. Most of all, Dave loved spending time with his

family, entertaining them with magic tricks and card games.

I had the honor of meeting Master Sergeant Poirier's family during his dignified transfer ceremony at Pease Air National Guard Base. He was a devoted family man and I know his absence will be felt by many. However, it is my hope that during this extremely difficult time Dave's family and friends will find comfort in knowing that Americans everywhere appreciate deeply his vow to defend our country so that the rest of us may continue to live in peace and freedom.

Along with his wife, Kim, Master Sergeant Poirier is survived by his sons Andrew and Bradley Poirier; his daughter Nicole Poirier; his step sons Kevin and Dillon Forzese; his grandchildren Eliana, Kai, and Olivia; his brothers Kenny, Charlie, John, and Bob Poirier; as well as his step father Charlie Caine.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life and service of this brave American, David Poirier.●

**REPORT RELATIVE TO THE
ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE
ORDER TO TAKE ADDITIONAL
STEPS WITH RESPECT TO THE
NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORIGI-
NALLY DECLARED ON MARCH 6,
2014 IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13660
WITH RESPECT TO UKRAINE, RE-
CEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT
OF THE SENATE ON MARCH 17,
2014—PM 36**

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2014.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,
President of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") expanding the scope of the national emergency I declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Ukraine.

In the order, I find that the actions and policies of the Government of the Russian Federation with respect to Ukraine—including the recent deployment of Russian Federation military forces in the Crimea region of Ukraine—undermine democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine; threaten its peace, security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and contribute to the misappropriation of its assets, and thereby constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. The order blocks the property and interests in property of persons listed in an Annex to the order. The

order also blocks the property and interests in property of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

- to be an official of the Government of the Russian Federation;
 - to operate in the arms and related material sector in the Russian Federation;
 - to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly:
 - a senior official of the Government of the Russian Federation; or
 - a person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order;
 - to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of:
 - a senior official of the Government of the Russian Federation; or
 - a person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.
- In addition, the order suspends entry into the United States of any alien determined to meet one or more of the above criteria.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury the authority, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA.

**MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE
RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT**

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 32. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the joint resolution was subsequently signed on March 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. KING).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2650. An act to allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land.

H.R. 3370. An act to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-

Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4076. An act to address shortages and interruptions in the availability of propane and other home heating fuels in the United States, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the bills were subsequently signed on March 15, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REED).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 18, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3189. An act to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

H.R. 3973. An act to amend section 530D of title 28, United States Code.

H.R. 4015. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and improve Medicare payments for physicians and other professionals, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3189. An act to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3973. An act to amend section 530D of title 28, United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs pursuant to the order of January 13, 2014, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1352. A bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

**MEASURES PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR**

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2148. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3474. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

H.R. 3979. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2149. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on March 14, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 32. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 2149. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2150. A bill to advance the public health by encouraging independent innovators to pursue drug repurposing research and develop new treatments and cures by providing appropriate intellectual property protections for those innovations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 393. A resolution supporting the goals of World Tuberculosis Day to raise awareness about tuberculosis; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 394. A resolution designating April 5, 2014, as "Gold Star Wives Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 132

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of New Columbia into the Union.

S. 170

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to recognize the heritage of recreational fishing, hunting, and recreational shooting on Federal public land and ensure continued opportunities for those activities.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 192, a bill to enhance the energy security of United States allies, and for other purposes.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 204, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, *supra*.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. WALSH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 382, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 392, a bill to support and encourage the health and well-being of elementary school and secondary school students by enhancing school physical education and health education.

S. 398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 728

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 728, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage for employees' spouses and dependent children to coverage provided to other eligible designated beneficiaries of employees.

S. 917

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 917, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 994

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 994, a bill to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

S. 1053

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1053, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen and protect Medicare hospice programs.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 1069

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1069, a bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

S. 1242

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1242, a bill to amend the Fair Housing Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1291

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1291, a bill to strengthen families' engagement in the education of their children.

S. 1306

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1306, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to improve environmental literacy to better prepare students for postsecondary education and careers, and for other purposes.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1468

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1468, a bill to require the Secretary

of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation and for other purposes.

S. 1517

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1517, a bill to amend the Public Health Services Act and the Social Security Act to extend health information technology assistance eligibility to behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse professionals and facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1574

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1574, a bill to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes.

S. 1647

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1647, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal distributions for medicine qualified only if for prescribed drug or insulin.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1659, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers.

S. 1694

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1694, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1738, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 1767

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1767, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require gas pipeline facilities to accelerate the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of high-risk pipelines used in commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1768

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New York

(Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1768, a bill to establish State revolving loan funds to repair or replace natural gas distribution pipelines.

S. 1823

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1823, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 1827

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1827, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1827, *supra*.

S. 1941

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to establish requirements for the adoption of any new or revised requirement providing for the screening, testing, or treatment of an airman or an air traffic controller for a sleep disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 1956

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1956, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to review the discharge characterization of former members of the Armed Forces who were discharged by reason of the sexual orientation of the member, and for other purposes.

S. 1992

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1992, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid.

S. 2008

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2008, a bill to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

S. 2024

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S.

2024, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, with regard to the definition of “marriage” and “spouse” for Federal purposes and to ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2082, a bill to provide for the development of criteria under the Medicare program for medically necessary short inpatient hospital stays, and for other purposes.

S. 2083

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2083, a bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to promote economic growth and job creation in the United States, to strengthen strategic partnerships with allies of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2105

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2105, a bill to prohibit the Federal funding of a State firearms ownership database.

S. 2106

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2106, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the individual health insurance mandate not apply until the employer health insurance mandate is enforced without exceptions.

S. 2115

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2115, a bill to provide for the establishment of a fund to provide for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research.

S. 2122

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2122, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 348

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 348, a resolution expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

S. RES. 372

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 372, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights.

S. RES. 390

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 390, a resolution designating March 11, 2014, as “World Plumbing Day”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 393—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 393

Whereas 1/3 of the population of the world is infected with the tuberculosis bacterium;

Whereas more than 9,500 tuberculosis cases were reported in the United States in 2013;

Whereas more than 1,300,000 individuals die from tuberculosis each year;

Whereas over 95 percent of tuberculosis deaths occur in low- and middle-income developing countries;

Whereas tuberculosis is the second leading global infectious disease killer, behind HIV/AIDS, and claims 1,800,000 lives each year;

Whereas tuberculosis is a leading killer of people living with HIV/AIDS, causing 1/5 of all deaths among people with HIV/AIDS;

Whereas tuberculosis is the third leading killer of adult women, and the stigma associated with tuberculosis disproportionately affects women, causing women to delay seeking care and interfering with treatment adherence;

Whereas the global tuberculosis pandemic and the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis

present a persistent public health threat to the United States;

Whereas according to 2009 data from the World Health Organization, 3.6 percent of all new tuberculosis cases are drug resistant;

Whereas multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (referred to in this preamble as “MDR-TB”) is present in virtually all countries surveyed;

Whereas approximately 450,000 people around the world developed MDR-TB in 2012;

Whereas extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (referred to in this preamble as “XDR-TB”) is a strain of tuberculosis that is very difficult and expensive to treat and has high and rapid fatality rates, especially among HIV/AIDS patients;

Whereas there have been more than 63 cases of XDR-TB in the United States between 2004 and 2014;

Whereas as of September 2013, 92 countries have reported at least 1 case of XDR-TB;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated, in 2009, that the cost of hospitalizing a single patient with XDR-TB is \$483,000;

Whereas, between 2005 and 2007, the 373 XDR-TB cases in the United States collectively cost the health care system an estimated \$53,000,000;

Whereas the death rate of tuberculosis dropped 45 percent between 1990 and 2012;

Whereas the Institute of Medicine found that a decrease in tuberculosis control funding and the spread of HIV/AIDS caused the resurgence of tuberculosis between 1980 and 1992;

Whereas although the number of tuberculosis cases in the United States continues to decline, progress towards eliminating tuberculosis has slowed and the disease does not recognize borders;

Whereas African Americans are 8 times more likely to have tuberculosis than Caucasians, and significant disparities exist among other minorities in the United States, including Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Hispanic Americans;

Whereas over 530,000 children became infected with tuberculosis in 2012;

Whereas tobacco use greatly increases the risk of tuberculosis and death, and more than 20 percent of tuberculosis cases worldwide attribute to smoking;

Whereas diabetes is a major risk factor for tuberculosis, and people with diabetes are more likely to develop the disease and have a higher risk of death due to the disease;

Whereas a new technology, known as Xpert, developed in the United States, is able to diagnose cases of tuberculosis within 2 hours, and such technology can even diagnose cases that are difficult to detect, such as cases involving individuals living with HIV;

Whereas although drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines for tuberculosis exist, these technologies are antiquated and increasingly inadequate for controlling the global epidemic;

Whereas Xpert can quickly detect resistance to 1 of the primary tuberculosis drugs, but other tests to detect drug resistance take at least 1 month to complete and the medical community must develop even faster drug susceptibility tests to stop the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis;

Whereas Bacillus Calmette-Guérin, a tuberculosis vaccine that is known as “BCG”, provides some protection to children but has little or no efficacy in preventing pulmonary tuberculosis in adults;

Whereas there is a critical need for the development of tuberculosis drugs that individuals can safely take concurrently with antiretroviral therapy for HIV;

Whereas the Millennium Development Goal of the World Health Organization is to reverse the spread of tuberculosis by 2015;

Whereas the enactment of the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293; 122 Stat. 2918) and the Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-392; 122 Stat. 4195) provides an historic United States commitment to the global eradication of tuberculosis, including a commitment to successfully treating 4,500,000 tuberculosis patients and 90,000 MDR-TB patients between 2008 and 2013 and to providing additional treatment through coordinated multilateral efforts;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development provides financial and technical assistance to nearly 40 highly burdened tuberculosis countries, supports the development of new diagnostic and treatment tools, and is authorized to support research to develop new vaccines to combat tuberculosis;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, partnering with the other entities of the United States and individual States and territories, directs the national tuberculosis elimination program, directs essential national tuberculosis surveillance, technical assistance, and prevention activities, and supports the development of new diagnostic, treatment, and prevention tools to combat tuberculosis;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health, through its many institutes and centers, plays the leading role in basic and clinical research on the identification, treatment, and prevention of tuberculosis;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria provides 63 percent of all international financing for tuberculosis programs;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria finances—

(1) proposals worth \$3,200,000,000 in 112 countries;

(2) tuberculosis treatment for 6,000,000 people; and

(3) 1,800,000 HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis services;

Whereas the prevalence and mortality rates of tuberculosis are declining in many countries with programs supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and

Whereas March 24, 2014, is World Tuberculosis Day, a day that commemorates the date in 1882 on which Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacteria that causes tuberculosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of World Tuberculosis Day to raise awareness about tuberculosis;

(2) commends the progress of anti-tuberculosis efforts by entities that include the United States Agency for International Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment to global tuberculosis control set forth in section 4 of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7603).

SENATE RESOLUTION 394—DESIGNATING APRIL 5, 2014, AS “GOLD STAR WIVES DAY”

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 394

Whereas the Senate honors the sacrifices made by the spouses and families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. represents the spouses and families of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability;

Whereas the primary mission of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is to provide services, support, and friendship to the spouses of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas in 1945, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was organized with the help of Eleanor Roosevelt to assist the families left behind by the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the first meeting of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was held on April 5, 1945;

Whereas April 5, 2014, marks the 69th anniversary of the first meeting of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 5, 2014, as “Gold Star Wives Day”;

(2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.; and

(B) the dedication of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Wives Day to promote awareness of—

(A) the contributions and dedication of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) the important role that Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. plays in the lives of the spouses and families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2853. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2854. Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2855. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2853. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 28, after line 25, add the following:

SEC. 12. EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS TO UKRAINE AND NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION MEMBER COUNTRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended by inserting “, to Ukraine, or to a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization” after “trade in natural gas”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to applications for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) that are pending on, or filed on or after, the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2854. Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 12 the following new section:

SEC. 13. PROHIBITION ON DIRECT OR INDIRECT USE OF FUNDS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS WITH ROSBORONEXPORT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency may not enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, or make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan agreement to Rosoboronexport, any subsidiary or affiliate of Rosoboronexport, or any domestic or foreign entity that has a business relationship with Rosoboronexport or any subsidiary or affiliate of Rosoboronexport related to the design, manufacture, or sale of military equipment.

(2) TERMINATION OF EXISTING CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—The head of each executive agency shall immediately terminate any contract, memorandum of understanding, cooperative agreement, loan, or loan agreement described in paragraph (1).

(b) REPROGRAMMING AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may reprogram funds appropriated or otherwise made available for Economic Support Fund assistance or security assistance for the government of a country that, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, enters into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, or makes a grant to, or provides a loan or loan agreement to Rosoboronexport, or any subsidiary or affiliate of Rosoboronexport, in an amount up to or equal to the total amount of each such contract, memorandum of understanding, cooperative agreement, loan, or loan agreement.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—The President shall notify Congress not later than 15 days before reprogramming funds under paragraph (1).

(c) EXECUTIVE AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “executive agency” has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

SA 2855. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 13.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The Committee will conduct a hearing entitled "Importing Energy, Exporting Jobs. Can It Be Reversed?"

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to todd_wooten@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Todd Wooten at (202) 224-3907, Abigail Campbell at (202) 224-4905, or John Assini at (202) 224-9313.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on March 25, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Teacher Preparation: Ensuring a Quality Teacher in Every Classroom."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Aissa Canchola of the committee staff on (202) 224-2009.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on March 27, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Strengthening the Federal Student Loan Program for Borrowers."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Aissa Canchola of the committee staff on (202) 224-2009.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland

Security and Governmental Affairs has scheduled a hearing entitled, "Caterpillar's Offshore Tax Strategy." The Subcommittee will continue its examination of the structures and methods employed by multinational corporations to allocate income outside of the United States and how such activities are affected by the Internal Revenue Code and related regulations. Witnesses will include representatives of Caterpillar Inc. and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, as well as tax experts. A witness list will be available Friday, March 28, 2014.

The Subcommittee hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at (202) 224-9505.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 1474, to encourage the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in the State relating to the enforcement of certain State laws by Indian tribes, to improve the quality of life in rural Alaska, to reduce alcohol and drug abuse, and for other purposes; S. 1570, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service by providing 2-fiscal-year budget authority, and for other purposes; S. 1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes; S. 1622, to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes; and S., the Native American Children's Safety Act. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Chris Landberg, a detailee from the State Department to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the consideration of any legislation related to Ukraine, including S. 2124, Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014. The original request comes from my colleague standing here, Chairman BOB MENENDEZ from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2149

Mr. REID. I understand S. 2149 is due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2149) to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to my own request to have a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just alerting everyone, we have a lot to do this week. We have to have some finality on the Ukraine matter, we have SGR—and we are waiting for the House to take some action on that—and we have unemployment compensation. Then we have a number of things we have to do during the next 2 weeks of this work period. We are going to have to finish those I just outlined now, which means that if we can't get some way forward without a lot of procedural roadblocks, we will have to be in this weekend. It is not pleasant for some people, but I have alerted everyone as often as I can. We have been able to avoid the weekends, but this work period is very significant. We have a lot we have to get done. We may either have to start spending a weekend here and there or what we would have to do is just take the week we were supposed to start our Easter break and work that week. It would be a short week, but we would at least be here. So I just alert everyone so people can't come back and say, "Why didn't you tell us?" Because I have been saying this for—at least all day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling

the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the Ukraine act postcloture—again, Mr. President, 30 hours postcloture. We have done it scores of times, and it is totally wasted time, but that is what the Republicans want and that is what

they get under the rules of the Senate—further, that all time during adjournment and morning business count postcloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2124.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, March 24, 2014

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.
March 24, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRED UPTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

THE STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, JOB FAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week it was my pleasure to attend a job fair at Mitchell Community College in Statesville, North Carolina. The job fair was cohosted by the Statesville Chamber of Commerce; and both Mitchell Community College president Dr. Tim Brewer and Chamber president David Bradley and their staffs are to be commended for making this important event happen and making these job opportunities available to jobseekers in the local community.

As a former community college president, I am aware of the important role these institutions play in providing workers with the opportunity to improve their skills in order to meet the demands of employers.

Mitchell Community College and the Statesville Chamber of Commerce both played large roles in ensuring that Statesville remains a dynamic economic center within the Fifth District of North Carolina.

More than 40 companies were represented at last week's job fair. About 500 jobs were available, spanning a broad range of skills, abilities, and compensation levels. The organizers offered a resume workshop to help applicants make a first good impression.

I would like to take a few minutes to recognize just a few of those who helped make this event a success and who spend every day making the economy and community of Statesville run.

Gina Shumaker is a graduate of the Mitchell Community College Back to Work program, and now she is giving back to her work with Workforce Carolina. Gina spends every day matching jobseekers with opportunities. She was at the job fair looking to fill 197 positions, and I commend her efforts to help individuals get back on their feet.

Goodyear; I also had the opportunity to talk with Joe Wegmiller, who is the plant manager for the Goodyear manufacturing plant in Statesville. This facility has been manufacturing tire molds in Statesville since 1995. I have had the opportunity to tour the facility, and it is a key employer in the Fifth District.

Doosan; Doosan Portable Power specializes in making generators, air compressors, and other light construction equipment. This company is headquartered in Statesville and brings more than 100 years of manufacturing experience to bear on the task of providing quality equipment for construction and other industrial uses. We are proud that they call Statesville home and grateful for the opportunities they provide to members of our community.

ASMO in North Carolina employs more than 350 people in Statesville. This company produces blower motors, power seat motors, power window motors, electric power steering motors, and other assemblies for auto manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, at last week's job fair, a common refrain among employers is that they have had a hard time finding individuals with the skills needed to fill available positions. This reminded me of H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act. This bill would reform and reorganize our broken Federal workforce development system.

There is bipartisan agreement that the current Federal workforce development programs are not meeting the needs of America's jobseekers, many of whom were in attendance at the Statesville job fair last week.

In his 2012 State of the Union address, the President asked that these

programs be reformed, and Republicans in the House went to work and passed the SKILLS Act, which would streamline 35 ineffective and duplicative programs, including 26 identified as being ineffective in a 2011 GAO report.

The SKILLS Act empowers job creators, such as Goodyear, Doosan, ASMO, and many others that were looking to hire in Statesville last week. The SKILLS Act would allow local businesses to help steer workforce development resources toward fields that are in demand right now. This bill passed the House over a year ago. I call on our colleagues over in the Senate to act on this vital piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this House will maintain its focus on creating an environment conducive to economic growth and job creation. We have passed more than 30 pieces of legislation designed to decrease the bureaucracy, increase opportunity, and restore vitality to our economy. Unfortunately, the majority of this legislation is languishing in the Senate. The employers, jobseekers, and community members I spoke with last week in Statesville want to move forward with their businesses and lives. There are House-passed bills that will help solve some of the problems they are facing. The Senate and the President need to act to turn these bills into law.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this Chamber, where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live, and for this great Nation which You have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

inspire the American people, that through the difficulties of these days we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

Give to us and all people a vivid sense of Your presence, that we may learn to understand each other, to respect each other, to work with each other, to live with each other, and to do good to each other. So shall we make our Nation great in goodness and good in its greatness.

As the Members of this House return from a week of constituent visits, grant them wisdom and goodwill as they address the issues of days to come.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

FOUR YEARS AFTER OBAMACARE, AMERICANS ARE WORSE OFF

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this is the Affordable Care Act. Yesterday marks the 4-year anniversary of when it was signed into law. We all knew, at least on the Republican side of this House, how this thing was troubled when it was passed 4 years ago, but what no one could have predicted was the aggressive incompetence of the administration and the agencies during the implementation.

It is hurting average Americans. I get comments from people back home on my Facebook page literally every day. People tell me their stories of their health care plans being canceled, their premiums and deductibles going up, and trusted access to family doctors being lost.

Rosie told me her premiums went up 62 percent last year. Heidi's husband lost his job because his company was forced to downsize because of the law. Kim told me her family's premium has gone up, resulting in over \$9,000 a year

now out-of-pocket, in addition to what they paid last year.

One person put it best, saying: This Affordable Care Act is simply not affordable. Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve better.

FOUR YEARS LATER AND OBAMACARE IS STILL FAILING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for the last 4 years, American families have watched as ObamaCare has destroyed jobs, increased insurance premiums, and denied access to trusted medical professionals. You can't keep your doctor.

From day one, the administration has not been honest with the law's effectiveness or its implementation. This unworkable, irresponsible law continues to plague families. We must work together to repeal and replace ObamaCare.

House Republicans know that commonsense solutions exist which will provide relief to those who have fallen victims to the President's countless broken promises. Unfortunately, the administration and Senate Democrats have refused to work with us to make changes and restore health care decisions back to the American people, not to Big Government.

As the open enrollment period deadline approaches leading to more hardship for families, medical professionals, and small businesses, it is our duty to work together to change ObamaCare, which destroys jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

GET THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE WAY OF JOB CREATORS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, tonight the Statesville Chamber of Commerce will host its annual dinner and recognize the individuals, businesses, and nonprofits that help make Statesville, North Carolina, thrive.

Unfortunately, our work here will keep me from joining them. As we recognize the great work local organizations like the Statesville Chamber do to help local businesses compete, we should remain focused on the task of keeping Washington out of their way.

We have passed numerous bills in the House to cut through bureaucracy and get the government out of the way of job creators.

In the last week of February, the House passed one such bill: the Unfunded Mandates Information and

Transparency Act. UMITA would require new Federal rules and regulations to undergo more complete and accurate cost analyses.

With regulations estimated to impose over 87 million hours of paperwork on American businesses, I hope this bill passes the Senate with the same bipartisan support it received in the House.

HONORING JIM SPEARS, DANIEL LETOURNEAU, AND DWAYNE DAVIDSON

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of heroes in society. They include moms and dads, doctors, nurses, and teachers, and those who go above and beyond to help others at great risk to themselves.

I want to recognize three examples of such bravery today: Jim Spears, Daniel Letourneau, and Dwayne Davidson—all UPS employees—who risked their lives to help a stranger whose van had flipped multiple times on an icy highway outside of Indianapolis.

The victim was stuck in her vehicle, and their selfless actions kept her from further harm. The beneficiary of their selfless acts said: "The goodness of people in this world is so great . . . and there are truly great people out there who we should appreciate." Well said.

Last week I had the opportunity to meet Jim, David, and Dwayne. Today, I want to commend them for their bravery and thank them for reminding us what it truly means to be a hero.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CORPORAL JUSTIN D. ROSS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1228) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Packerland Drive in Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1228

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CORPORAL JUSTIN D. ROSS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, shall be known and designated as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may be given 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

H.R. 1228, introduced by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 123 South 9th Street, in DePere, Wisconsin, as the Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building.

Army Specialist Justin Ross was killed in action while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. Assigned to the 863rd Engineer Battalion, Army Reserve, Wausau, Wisconsin, he died on March 26 in Afghanistan. Justin was posthumously honored and promoted to corporal.

Corporal Ross was wounded when his unit came under small arms fire from insurgents while on a route clearance mission. He was the only casualty and the first of the unit. Only 22 at the time of his death, Corporal Ross was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and meritorious service medals.

Corporal Ross was a 2007 graduate of Bay Port High School and joined the

military in October of 2007. Those close to him understood that serving in the Army was a lifelong dream of Justin's. His parents knew that he loved being part of the mission in Afghanistan.

His unit had high praise for their fallen brother. They said he was an outstanding soldier that loved being in the Army and loved working with his fellow soldiers. He will be remembered by his family, friends, church, community, and fellow soldiers as a wonderful man who was proud to serve his country.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to stand before this body today and honor the memory of a true American hero. I am grateful for the service of Corporal Ross and for all those who serve and protect us each and every day. I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 1228, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 300 Packerland Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building.

The measure before us was introduced on March 15, 2013, by my colleague, Representative REID RIBBLE of Wisconsin.

In accordance to committee requirements, the bill before us is cosponsored by all members of the Wisconsin delegation. H.R. 1228 was reported out of House Oversight and Government Reform Committee by unanimous consent on March 12, 2014.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I would like to just thank the Ross family for their son giving the ultimate sacrifice in serving this country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE), my friend and colleague.

Mr. RIBBLE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Texas. I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri for letting me come down here, for recognizing the sacrifice of a family from Green Bay, Wisconsin.

This is always a difficult time. I can hear the emotions of the voices of my colleagues as they speak about Justin and about Corporal Ross and his family and the sacrifice.

I have to tell you, Madam Speaker, there is probably nothing more difficult to do than to try to craft some speech, some words, some language here today that would honor Corporal Ross and his family in a way that is sufficient to the sacrifice that this family had.

You have already heard a little bit about Corporal Justin David Ross. He

was born on September 14, 1988, and served in the Army Reserve. He was a member of the 863rd Engineer Battalion in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Tragically, he was killed on March 26, 2011. The anniversary of his death, Madam Speaker, is just 2 days from now. That will be 3 years since this family lost their son and this country lost its hero.

Corporal Ross was the first servicemember from the 8th Congressional District of Wisconsin killed in the line of duty after I began my first term in Congress in 2011. I was sworn in, in January of 2011, and 90 days later, Justin was killed.

He served his country honorably. He earned numerous awards for his service, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star and nine other meritorious service awards.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform passed this bill by a voice vote without any objection. It is also, as was mentioned by the gentleman from Missouri, supported by virtually every member of the Wisconsin House delegation.

So how do we go about honoring Justin Ross? How do we go about honoring his mom and dad, Ron and Debbie? How do we honor his brothers?

It is almost impossible to do so because we have a tendency to almost falsely believe that Justin was about a chevron on a sleeve, a medal on his chest, or a service ribbon that he wore on his uniform.

Those are the things that Justin did and the accomplishments that Justin had. They weren't really who Justin was. Justin did serve as a soldier in the Army, and he did die in the line of duty on behalf of his country, but he was more than that.

Imagine a family back in 1988 welcoming their son to this Earth and picking him up and cradling him in their arms, not knowing that they were cradling a hero. They couldn't possibly have known 22 years ago what would happen to their son. I thank them for their sacrifice. This means a lot to our country. It means a lot to this family.

I am sorry I get choked up, but this matters to us. It matters to our country. The loss that was there is significant, every single one. I knew Justin. His dad was a pastor. His grandfather was a pastor.

He lived under the teachings of those two men who taught him in the book of Thessalonians to lead a quiet life. He did that. If you listen to the way his friends and his family talked about him, they often mention how quiet, almost shy that Justin was. He did that.

He followed the teachings of the apostle Paul. When the apostle Paul told us that no greater love is this than to lay down a life for a friend, not only did he lay down his life for his friends and his comrades, he was doing a clearance mission.

Madam Speaker, he was going in front of our troops, clearing out IEDs and making the way safe. He gave his life so others didn't have to. He gave his life for people that he loved. There was no greater love than this, as we are taught by the apostle Paul.

Jesus himself said to love your neighbor as yourself, and Justin did just that. All through his life, he lived by the teachings of his faith; but what his grandfather taught him, what his dad taught him, what his mom taught him, he lived those values out every single day.

Now, I know that Justin would want one thing because Justin cared a lot about his comrades. He would be embarrassed to think that we were naming this post office in his name alone. There were four other soldiers that were killed in the 8th District of Wisconsin.

I want to remember them today as well because it is about them, too. Sergeant Paul Atim from Green Bay; Staff Sergeant Matthew Hermanson from Appleton; Staff Sergeant Eppinger from Appleton; and Staff Sergeant Bear from Elton, Wisconsin, all of these soldiers gave their lives on behalf of this country. Their brave and selfless service deserves to be remembered.

So what do we do? We take the time, and we say thank you, and then we blazon Justin's name on a post office, so that when the citizens of De Pere, Wisconsin, go into that post office, they see their hero's name and remember. That is what we should do today.

I thank my colleagues for supporting this bill.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I too am prepared to close.

I want to urge the passage of H.R. 1228, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am moved by Mr. RIBBLE's speech. I am moved by the sacrifices that men and women make every day serving this country. I do think nothing could be more appropriate than honoring the memory of Corporal Justin D. Ross by naming the post office building in De Pere, Wisconsin, after him.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill, H.R. 1228, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1228, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SERGEANT WILLIAM MOODY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3060) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3060

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SERGEANT WILLIAM MOODY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3060, introduced by the gentleman from Texas, Mr. ROGER WILLIAMS, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building.

As a fellow Texan, I am proud to join my colleague, Mr. WILLIAMS, in urging this body to name this postal facility in honor of Sergeant William Moody.

□ 1615

Sergeant Moody went above and beyond the call of duty, serving in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps. He served two tours of duty in Iraq while he was a marine, and he was

finishing his second and last tour of duty in Afghanistan with the Army when a Taliban rocket attack on Bagram Air Force Base took his life on June 18 of 2013. William Moody was a 30-year-old husband and father of three.

Madam Speaker, I was particularly touched to read about the special homecoming surprise that Sergeant Moody had in store for his family. While deployed in Afghanistan, he contacted the fire department in Burleson and asked if he could surprise his children by picking them up from school in a fire truck on the day of his return. Of course, the chief and the firefighters responded with a resounding "yes" to this request, and they exchanged emails with Sergeant Moody, making plans for his return up until the afternoon of the day before his death. Even in the midst of a war zone, Sergeant Moody's thoughts and hopes were back home in Texas, with his wife and children, demonstrating his deep dedication to family. His example and his love of his family should move, touch, and inspire all of us, and it should be an example that we should all follow.

Sergeant Moody was a highly decorated soldier and marine. Among his honors were an Army Commendation Medal, a Combat Action Ribbon, an Army Good Conduct Medal, a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, a Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart, just to name a few.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute before this body to a fellow Texan who gave his life in the defense of our country. I am grateful to Sergeant William Moody for his service, and I urge all Members to join me in the strong support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3060, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue, in Burleson, Texas, as the Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building.

This measure before us was introduced on August 2, 2013, by my colleague, Representative ROGER WILLIAMS of Texas. In accordance with committee requirements, the bill is cosponsored by all members of the Texas delegation. H.R. 3060 was reported out of the committee by unanimous consent on March 12, 2014.

Let me say that Sergeant Moody lived a remarkable life, and he served his country in two capacities: first, as a U.S. marine and, second, as a sergeant in the Army. Madam Speaker, I ask that we pass this bill without reservation in order to recognize the service, valor, and life of Sergeant William Moody.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), my good friend, colleague, and fellow Texan.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you to my colleagues for being here today.

Madam Speaker, on June 17, 2013, decorated Army Sergeant William Moody of Burleson, Texas, while he was serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan, sent an email to the local fire chief in his hometown. He wanted to plan a special "coming home" surprise with the help of the fire department and pull up to his kids' school in a big fire engine. He was set to return sometime in September, but on the following day of June 18, Sergeant Moody and three other American soldiers were killed by indirect enemy fire at Bagram Air Force Base.

Sergeant Moody is truly a hometown hero.

Born and raised in Burleson, Texas, Sergeant Moody joined the Marines after graduating from Burleson High School. He served two tours of duty in Iraq and later joined the Army, where he deployed twice to Afghanistan. Throughout his years of service, Sergeant Moody's commendable service earned him numerous honors and service medals, including the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart.

Thanks to the city of Burleson and with the leadership of Mayor Ken Shetter and the Burleson City Council, today marks a huge victory in our joint efforts to pay tribute to Sergeant Moody's service and sacrifice by dedicating the Burleson Post Office facility in honor of this hometown hero.

Later today, the House will vote on a bill I was proud to introduce, H.R. 3060, to officially name the local post office facility after Sergeant Moody. Along with hundreds of my colleagues in Congress, it will be one of the greatest honors of my life to support this bill. Not only will the Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building serve as a memorial for his wife and three children to cherish, but it will honor all of our Nation's veterans and will stand as a reminder of the true price of our freedom.

The war on terror is far from over. There are countless attempts by hostile groups to do us harm and bring destruction. That is why it is important to recognize the memory of our Nation's heroes. In the words of Ronald Reagan: Freedom is never more than a generation away from extinction; it must be fought for and defended by each new generation.

I hope that future generations will be inspired to live and serve like Sergeant William Moody. He fought with courage, served with integrity, and will be remembered forever. America does not give because it is rich; America is rich

because it gives—and we are all proud that it gave us Sergeant William Moody.

May God bless our troops; may God bless Texas; and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 3060.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I join with all of my Texas colleagues and especially with Mr. WILLIAMS in urging that we do honor Sergeant William Moody by renaming the postal facility in Burleson in his honor. I join in the remarks that Mr. WILLIAMS made about the necessity to pay honor and tribute to those who make the ultimate sacrifice to this country, and I agree that naming the post office will actually serve as a memorial that, perhaps, will ease the pain of the loss of Sergeant William Moody's family. So I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 3060.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3060.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

STAFF SERGEANT NICHOLAS J. REID POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1451) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1451

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STAFF SERGEANT NICHOLAS J. REID POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1451, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building. H.R. 1451 is cosponsored by the entire New York delegation.

Army Staff Sergeant Reid was born in Brockport on April 2, 1986. He graduated from Brockport High School in 2004 and enlisted in the Army thereafter in 2006. He was serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. He tragically succumbed to his wounds in Germany on December 13, 2012. He was only 26 years old. He leaves behind his loving parents, Ken and Dorothy Reid; his sister, Susie; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Madam Speaker, Nicholas, who went by "Nick," enlisted as an explosive ordnance disposal technician. He knew the dangers of IEDs. He knew how many of our troops had been killed by these devices, how many had been wounded. Yet he chose this hazardous duty and excelled at it, and he showed great courage. Nick Reid is a true hero. It is my privilege to urge the strong support for this bill to honor his memory.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, at this point, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from that beautiful district in upstate New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), our ranking member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. It is, indeed, beautiful. It snows all the time, though, and we have had about enough.

Madam Speaker, as the previous speakers have said, on April 2, 1986, the Reid family of Brockport, New York, gave birth to a son named Nicholas. For 26 years, Nicholas lived a life of honor and duty; and though he was taken from this Earth far too soon, his was a life that should be remembered throughout our time.

Just 2 years out of high school, Nicholas signed up for the United States

Army while we were in the midst of two wars. Surely knowing that he would see the dangers of battle but proudly volunteering to serve his country, Nicholas was assigned to the 53rd Ordnance Company of the 3rd Ordnance Battalion based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State.

Nicholas served two tours of duty on the battlefields of Afghanistan and faced some of the most dangerous situations ever encountered by the United States Army as an explosive ordnance disposal specialist, the most dangerous job there was. In his frontline role, Nicholas repeatedly risked his life for the safety of his fellow soldiers and civilians alike.

It was in this role that Nicholas suffered fatal injuries when an improvised explosive device detonated in Sperwan village, Afghanistan, on December 9, 2012. Seventeen days later, the town of Brockport honored Nicholas' heroic life when his body returned home. "We are here to make sure he receives the welcome home that he deserves," said one community member who stood in the cold winter wind and under gray skies to welcome Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid home.

Today, I rise to make permanent the debt of gratitude our Nation owes to Staff Sergeant Reid and to his parents, Ken and Dorothy. With this legislation, the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, will be permanently designated as the Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building.

A recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, among countless other medals of service, we can never fully repay Nicholas or his family for their service to our country; but with this gesture, we can ensure that future generations will know of the incredible life that Staff Sergeant Reid lived, of his honor, his sacrifice, and pride in serving his hometown of Brockport and the country that he defended. It is with immeasurable gratitude that I offer this legislation today and remember Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, we are prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I would just ask that we pass this bill without reservation in order to recognize the sacrifice that Nicholas J. Reid, his family, and loved ones have made for the United States.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid deserves the post office in Brockport to be named after him, so I urge all Members to join me in voting for the passage of this bill to honor Nick.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1451.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1630

JUDGE SHIRLEY A. TOLENTINO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1376) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1376

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JUDGE SHIRLEY A. TOLENTINO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1376, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building.

Judge Tolentino was a remarkable woman, and her life was marked by several accomplishments. Judge Tolentino was born in Jersey City and graduated from Henry Snyder High School as an honor student. She attended the College of St. Elizabeth's

and Seton Hall University School of Law, where she was the only African American in her class when she received her juris doctor degree in 1971. Judge Tolentino also went on to receive a specialized master of laws degree in criminal justice from New York University Graduate School of Law in 1980.

Judge Tolentino was appointed to the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey on January 11, 1984. She was the first female appointed to that position. She had previously been appointed as the first female to the Jersey City Municipal Court in 1976. In 1981, she became the first female presiding judge of the Jersey City Municipal Court.

One of her proudest accomplishments was serving on the Coleman Commission, which later became the New Jersey Supreme Court Task Force on Minorities, as well as chairing the Commission on Criminal Justice and Minority Defendants and serving on the Committee on Criminal Practice.

In addition to her fine public service, Judge Tolentino was a leader in many service-oriented organizations, including the Urban League, Girl Scouts, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She also served on the boards of various academic institutions, including her alma mater, St. Elizabeth's.

Unfortunately, Judge Tolentino passed away at the age of 67 on October 31, 2010. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Ernesto Tolentino, two daughters, and many beloved family members and friends. She was a pillar of her community and a strong role model for women and men of all ages.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1376, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Missouri and the gentleman from Texas for giving me this opportunity to speak on a true hero in our community.

In New Jersey, Ms. Tolentino is someone that is looked to with great esteem. She led the way on many issues moving women and minorities forward and showing that they had a rightful place at the table of power, the ability to serve, and the distinction to lead.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1376, to name the postal facility located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, after the late Honorable Shirley A. Tolentino.

Shirley Tolentino was born in Jersey City, served as a distinguished jurist in Hudson County for over 26 years, and was a trailblazer for women and African Americans as public servants in New Jersey. She was a product of the local public school system in Jersey City, where she was an honor student, graduating from Snyder High School.

She then earned a scholarship to attend the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, New Jersey, graduating with a degree in Latin with honors.

To put herself through law school, Judge Tolentino worked as a high school Latin and English teacher while attending Seton Hall University School of Law, graduating as the only African American female in the class of 1971.

After law school, she became a deputy attorney general in the State of New Jersey, where she remained until she rose to the bench in Jersey City in 1976. She became the second African American woman to be named as a municipal court judge in New Jersey, and the first to be appointed to the Jersey City Municipal Court.

In 1980, Judge Tolentino earned her master of laws degree in criminal justice from NYU Graduate School of Law, while continuing to serve in the municipal court. In 1981, she continued to blaze a trail for others, becoming the first African American presiding judge of Jersey City Municipal Court. Her successes didn't stop there. In 1984, when she was appointed by Governor Thomas Kean, Judge Tolentino became the first African American woman to ascend to the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey.

Later, she was appointed to the original Coleman Commission, which would later be called the New Jersey Supreme Court Task Force on Minorities. During her time on the Commission, she became the chair of the Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice, and also served as a Supreme Court chair of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Minority Defendants. With all her professional achievements, she viewed her appointment and time served on the Commission as her greatest accomplishment.

Over the years, Judge Tolentino's career was highlighted by many firsts, and she accomplished much during her years on and off the bench. As a member of the Jersey City Hudson County Urban League, the Hudson County Girl Scouts board, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Hudson County CYO, the Visiting Homemakers of Hudson County board, and a host of other local organizations, she was an integral part of her community.

Throughout her success, Judge Tolentino always called Jersey City home and actively participated in community service in the city that bore and raised her.

Judge Shirley Tolentino passed away on October 31, 2010, and is survived by her husband, Dr. Ernesto Tolentino, children, and grandchildren.

It is not a coincidence that the post office to bear her name would be located on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. There is no better way to honor the achievements of Judge Tolentino and at the same time provide a permanent monument of possibilities and hope for

young women, African Americans, and the citizens of Jersey City.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill in honor of her legacy.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge the passage of H.R. 1376, to commemorate the life of Judge Tolentino and all of her accomplishments and service to the Jersey City community.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I join with my friends and colleagues across the aisle, Mr. PAYNE and Mr. CLAY, in urging passage of H.R. 1376, designating the postal facility in New Jersey to be named after Judge Tolentino, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1376.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LANCE CORPORAL DANIEL NATHAN DEYARMIN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1813) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1813

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LANCE CORPORAL DANIEL NATHAN DEYARMIN, JR., POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1813 was introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) and would redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building.

Marine Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., who went by "Nathan," was born on July 30, 1983, in Akron, Ohio. His family moved to Tallmadge when he was just a year and a half old, and Nathan grew up there. He was a 2002 graduate of Tallmadge High School.

Nathan joined the Marines in 2003, and served with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. In March of 2005, Nathan was deployed to Iraq. Sadly, just 5 months later, he was killed on August 1 by enemy small arms fire while conducting dismounted operations outside Haditha. Five other marines died at his side.

Madam Speaker, Representative RYAN's staff shared with me that when Nathan was asked why he wanted to join the military, he said that he "wanted a brother" and that he "wanted to become a respectable, responsible, productive American." He certainly achieved all of those goals.

In the eyes of his family, friends, fellow marines, countrymen, and those of us standing here today to honor his tremendous sacrifice, he is one of the most respected Americans this body has had the great privilege of honoring. Those brave men and women who put themselves in harm's way to defend our safety and freedom deserve our honor, respect, and heartfelt gratitude.

I ask my colleagues for their strong support of H.R. 1813, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman from Texas for his kind words as well.

Madam Speaker, from the Book of Isaiah, chapter 6, verse 8:

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send? And I said, Here I am. Send me.

Nate said, Send me, when his country asked and he was looking for a way to serve. He joined the Marine Corps.

Lance Corporal Deyarmin was born on July 30, 1983. He was named after his father, but they started calling him "Nate." They moved to Tallmadge, in our congressional district, when he was 1½ years old. He lived there his whole life. His family said he was a homeboy from Tallmadge. Nate went to school there and played sports there. He lived there and he made friends there.

Nate joined the Marine Corps as his way of serving, but when you read about his life, the interesting thing—is that he said, Send me, from the very early stages of his life here on Earth.

When his great grandfather was 89 years old and bedridden, it was little Nate that jumped into the bed and started playing Legos to engage his great grandfather to make him feel better. They had this little game they would play where his grandfather would move his false teeth in and out of his mouth and little Nate would try and grab the teeth. A few years later, when the great grandfather died, Nate had an opportunity to pick whatever he wanted of his great grandfather's—and he picked the false teeth.

I think that is the kind of spirit that Nate brought to his family, friends, the Marine Corps, and to our country.

While driving down the road on his way to school, if there happened to be someone walking to school who didn't have a driver's license, Nate was the kind of guy that stopped and picked that person up and took them to school.

□ 1645

Nate said: Send me.

If someone was bullying someone at school and Nate was there, Nate was the guy who got in the middle of it and made sure that no one was bullied. He said: Send me.

If a family was having trouble, Nate would stop by the house, make sure everything was going okay. Nate said: Send me.

So now, those of us who drive by this post office in Tallmadge, Ohio, we will look up, we will see Nate's name, and we will not only remember his name or his service, but how his life challenges all of us in some way, shape, or form, in every little interaction, to say and answer the call when we are asked: Send me.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, we are prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Ohio for bringing this bill forward. I ask that we pass the underlying bill, without reservation, to honor Lance Corporal Deyarmin and his steadfast dedication to this country.

I urge the passage of H.R. 1813, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I urge this body to join the gentleman

from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) and me in supporting H.R. 1813, renaming the United States Postal Service facility at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, to honor Nate, naming it as the Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1813, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NATIONAL PARK RANGER MARGARET ANDERSON POST OFFICE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1036) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1036

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NATIONAL PARK RANGER MARGARET ANDERSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, shall be known and designated as the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, once again, it is my honor to be up here speaking about a bill, this one, H.R. 1036, introduced by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) that would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office.

Mount Rainier National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson was fatally shot in the line of duty on January 1 of 2012. On the morning of January 1, at approximately 10:30 in the morning, Ranger Anderson was at Paradise, the park's most popular winter destination, when she responded to a radio call while she was welcoming visitors.

The radio call asked her to set up a traffic block to intercept a vehicle that failed to stop at a chained-up checkpoint in the park. The driver of the vehicle opened fire on Ranger Anderson and then fled on foot into the woods.

Unbeknownst to Ranger Anderson, the suspect was wanted in connection with a shooting the previous day in which four people were wounded.

Ms. Anderson was an exceptional park ranger who served the National Park Service for 12 years and worked at Mount Rainier for 3 years. She is survived by her husband, Eric, who is also a Mount Rainier park ranger, and two children, Annalise and Kathryn.

Margaret was only 34 years old at the time of her death. Ranger Anderson gave her life protecting park visitors and staff from a dangerous criminal. Paradise is a magnet for sledders, skiers, and families with small children, and at least 100 people had already arrived at the park on this day when Ranger Anderson was shot.

Margaret's brave action very possibly saved many lives that day, and she is to be commended and remembered as a hero.

I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 1036, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office.

This measure before us was introduced on March 7, 2013, by my colleague, Representative DAVID REICHERT. In accordance with committee requirements, the bill is cosponsored by all members of the Washington delegation.

H.R. 1036 was reported out of committee by unanimous consent on March 12, 2014.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from the State of Washington (Mr. REICHERT).

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I think most of the Members here know that I had a 33-year career in law enforcement prior to coming to the House of Representatives a little over 9 years ago. During that time, I lost good friends and partners in the line of duty—shot, stabbed—and they left behind families, husbands and wives and children. Those are memories that stick with me—and I know the friends and partners I have in law enforcement—forever, and the families never forget and never recover.

On this day that has been mentioned by my colleague—on New Year's Day, in the year 2012, Park Ranger Margaret Anderson responded to a call. Her job usually is to guide folks through the park and show them the scenery and talk about the trailways and the flowers and the trees that are growing on Mount Rainier, educate the young children.

But all of a sudden, she is called to duty, to switch gears, to put her life on the line. She showed up that day to block the road from this dangerous criminal who had already committed crimes in Seattle and was on the loose. There was a manhunt that was conducted trying to find this person before he hurt or injured or killed anyone else.

Margaret Anderson served Mount Rainier Park for about 4 years. She was a National Park Ranger for 12 years. Her husband was serving with her on that very same day. He heard the call go out—officer down—and then realized it was his wife.

We go about our days here in Congress, and we sometimes forget the men and women who guard this Capitol, who guard our lives each and every day; and when we go home, those men and women in uniform are there protecting our families and our communities.

Sometimes, Madam Speaker, they lose their life. Sometimes, they put their life on the line, and sometimes, they don't come home.

In this case, Margaret Anderson did not come home. She left her husband and her two children to grieve, but she saved lives that day. That is what we do.

It is an honor for me to be here today with this piece of legislation, H.R. 1036, that honors a brave resident of Eatonville, Washington. It is a little town nestled right at the foot of Mount Rainier, with only 3,000 people, so to name a post office after her, I think, would be a great honor, a great memorial.

It is one of the things that we can do, so that we can say we will never forget.

Thank you, Margaret, for your service.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to thank my colleague from Washington State for bringing this bill.

I ask that we pass this bill, without reservation, to recognize Margaret Anderson and her dedication to her family, the United States Park Service, and for paying the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, to ensure the safety and security of her fellow citizens.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I look to my colleagues here in the House of Representatives and say please join Mr. REICHERT, Mr. CLAY, the entire Washington delegation, and me in voting to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, to honor a hero who gave her life protecting park patrons, to name that post office the National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office.

Please join me in voting “yea” on this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1036.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PHILIPPINES CHARITABLE GIVING ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3771) to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3771

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Philippines Charitable Giving Assistance Act”.

SEC. 2. ACCELERATION OF INCOME TAX BENEFITS FOR CHARITABLE CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RELIEF OF VICTIMS OF TYPHOON HAIYAN IN THE PHILIPPINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a taxpayer may treat any contribution described in subsection (b) made after the date of the enactment of this Act, and before April 15, 2014, as if such contribution was made on December 31, 2013, and not in 2014.

(b) CONTRIBUTION DESCRIBED.—A contribution is described in this subsection if such contribution is a cash contribution made for

the relief of victims in areas affected by Typhoon Haiyan, for which a charitable contribution deduction is allowable under section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) RECORDKEEPING.—In the case of a contribution described in subsection (b), a telephone bill showing the name of the donee organization, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution shall be treated as meeting the recordkeeping requirements of section 170(f)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the efforts of my colleagues. This is a common-sense way of doing things, and I don't think that many Americans realize the total devastation that Haiyan caused when it hit the Philippines, when you look at the loss of life, when you look at the number of displaced people, when you look at how many people it totally affected.

Now, when it comes to loss of life, we are talking about 6,200 people killed by this storm, 4.1 million displaced; and it affected over 14.1 million people.

The purpose of this legislation is kind of common sense. It allows people up to April 15 to go ahead and make a contribution to try and stem the effects of those losses. It just makes sense. It is something we have always done as Americans.

When we look at the special relationship we have with the Philippines, I don't think we can really look too far beyond where our history has been together as a people to understand that, when times get tough, when things happen to other folks, and when we can step in and help them, that we always do. It is just who we are. It is unique to America.

So I thank the gentleman for bringing it forward. I think it makes sense to all of us. This is truly bipartisan.

At a time when most people think that this House of Representatives can't do things that are bipartisan and doesn't act in the best for all people concerned, I think this surely does show that, by allowing Americans up until April 15 of this year to be able to make a contribution to help ease the

devastation in the Philippines and still be able to use taxes from 2013. That is unique, and that is something I think we should do.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 3771. This bill allows taxpayers to treat charitable contributions in support of Typhoon Haiyan recovery efforts in the Philippines made between the date of enactment of this bill and April 15, 2014, as if they were made in the 2013 tax year.

□ 1700

More than 4 months ago, on November 8, Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, killing 6,000 people, destroying more than 1 million homes, displacing 4 million people, and affecting 16 million people.

Following this disaster, there was an outpouring of support for the people of the Philippines and from people around our country, including a number of folks in my district, particularly members of the Filipino American community, like Norma Placido, president of the Filipino Community of Solano County, and members of the Filipino American Chamber of Solano County. Many of my constituents have family members in the Philippines that were affected by this typhoon, and they are trying to do everything possible to help them rebuild.

The United Nations-developed Strategic Response Plan, to coordinate and prioritize assistance, estimates that \$788 million will be needed for humanitarian aid through November 2014. Sadly, only \$369 million has been contributed to date. This bipartisan legislation, which I am proud to be part of with my colleague, Mr. SWALWELL, from California, Representative HECK from Nevada, and Representative ISSA from California will allow people to deduct qualifying charitable contributions made after the date of enactment of this bill and before the 15th of April on their 2013 tax returns. This will help incentivize charitable giving to the Philippine rebuilding efforts while the need is so great. Identical legislation has already been introduced and was passed unanimously by the Senate earlier this year.

Our country's relationship with the Philippines runs very deep. In World War II, 57,000 military Philippine servicemembers and 900,000 Philippine civilians gave their lives in support of our Allied Forces. And the Manila American Cemetery holds 17,202 brave American and Filipino troops killed during World War II.

The Philippines sent 7,500 combat troops to the Korean war and 2,000 troops to the Vietnam war. They sent 200 medical personnel to assist in the

gulf war, and 60 medics, engineers, and other troops to assist in the Iraq war. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, they offered to send our country a 25-team member of aid workers, and the Philippines Red Cross donated money. And they are one of our closest allies in the war on terror.

When tragedy strikes around the world, Americans don't sit on the sidelines; we help. Our allies in the Philippines are still working on their long-term rebuilding effort, and this bipartisan legislation will make sure that our committees are able to provide the help our friends need for this important phase of rebuilding.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL), my friend and a great leader on this effort.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for leading the effort on your side of the aisle. Also, I would like to thank Congressman THOMPSON, my colleague from California, for helping move this through the House. I want to thank Chairman CAMP, Ranking Member LEVIN, Majority Leader CANTOR, and Democratic Leader PELOSI for helping me get this important bill to the floor. Also, I thank the lead cosponsors, Congressman HECK, as well as Congressman THOMPSON and me in this effort, as well as Senator HIRONO in the Senate for doing the important work over there.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3771, the Philippines Charitable Giving Assistance Act, which would incentivize Americans to make charitable contributions to Typhoon Haiyan relief now.

Last November, Typhoon Haiyan was a storm of truly destructive power. With sustained winds of almost 200 miles per hour, it was the strongest storm ever to make landfall, resulting in the devastating effects that necessitate our action today.

Sadly, the results were catastrophic to the Philippines. According to that nation, 16 million people were affected, 4.1 million were displaced, and over 6,200 perished. Months after the disaster, help is still desperately needed. This includes a need for health care, food, clean water, and shelter.

The United Nations developed a Strategic Response Plan to coordinate and prioritize assistance from U.N. agencies, nongovernmental organizations, other international entities, and the Philippine Government. The U.N. has said \$788 million will be needed to ac-

complish the goals of the SRP through October 2014. Of that amount, only \$369 million has been provided so far.

Now, while I know Americans can and do help anyone in need, we have a special relationship, as my colleague from California pointed out, with the Philippines. Between 1898 and 1946, the Philippines was a part of the United States before becoming independent. There are today about 3.4 million Filipino Americans, including over 450,000 living in the San Francisco Bay area alone.

My San Francisco Bay area congressional district has a rich and vibrant Filipino community, from groups like Filipino Advocates for Justice to leaders like Father Geoffrey Baraan, my friend and the pastor at St. Anne Catholic Church in Union City, as well as Linda Canlas of the New Haven Unified School District in the East Bay.

Many of the Filipinos in my district, like many across the country, have friends or family still in the Philippines. That is why it is so important we do all we can to help.

The values of our country call for us to care for people across the world. More often than not, that includes people we will never see or ever meet, but no one is invisible. And after Typhoon Haiyan, people in my district are asking what they can do to help. H.R. 3771 empowers them to help.

As amended, it is a bipartisan bill that would provide a temporary incentive for Americans to contribute immediately to typhoon relief efforts. It would allow certain monetary charitable contributions made after the date the bill is signed and before April 15, which is in just a few weeks, to be treated as if they were made in 2013.

Charitable contributions which qualify are monetary ones which are made to help persons in areas affected by Typhoon Haiyan and otherwise qualify as tax deductible donations. Qualifying contributions can thus be deducted on a person's 2013 taxes, which are covered by returns filed this year, as opposed to ones which are filed for the 2014 tax year.

By lowering a person's 2013 tax bill, which is due this year, the bill provides an incentive to act now for typhoon relief. This is important because the sooner that the aid comes and is provided, the sooner our friends in the Philippines can recover.

I should note that this is important in making a qualifying contribution. It doesn't matter if you have already filed your return this year.

I encourage all Members to support this bill. The Senate already cleared legislation with identical text in S. 1821. It also agreed that, if H.R. 3771 passed in the same form, the bill before us automatically would pass the Senate and go right to the President's desk.

When the bill is passed and signed into law, as I hope it will be, I further

want to ask all Members and international aid organizations interested in Philippines relief to let people know about it as soon as possible. Time is of the essence. We will only have a few weeks for people to take advantage of this tax incentive, and we must do so so that we can continue to spread the word.

The people of the Philippines are not alone as they rebuild their lives and their beautiful country. H.R. 3771 allows Americans to play an important role in this effort, an effort that we should all care about.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3771, the Philippines Charitable Giving Assistance Act. As the Democratic co-chair of the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus, I commend all of the sponsors of the bill who came together to support this legislation.

The United States and the Philippines have had a very close relationship for more than 100 years. The gentleman from California has outlined the support of the military, and the United States has been one of the Philippines' top trading partners and one of the largest foreign investors. Furthermore, there are over 3 million Americans of Filipino ancestry in the United States today.

In light of the close friendship that the United States and the Philippines enjoy, it is even more important that we rise to the occasion of supporting our friends in the Philippines as they continue to recover from Typhoon Haiyan.

Last November, the typhoon ravaged the Philippines' coast and was the strongest recorded storm ever to make landfall. Sixteen million people were affected, 4 million were displaced, and tens of thousands of lives were lost during the devastating storm.

While the response of both the United States and the international community has been strong and unified, more can obviously be done. The bill before us allows donations made to relief and recovery efforts directed at the Philippines to be deducted from one's income taxes when filing a 2013 return, rather than having to wait until 2014 to have the tax benefit from the donation. It is a simple measure that provides a small incentive to encourage Americans to continue to show their solidarity with those affected in the Philippines.

This bill is not unprecedented. Congress recently acted to provide a similar incentive after the earthquake in Haiti, which occurred in January 2010. The bill we are considering today, like

the one passed after that earthquake, simply speeds up the process and encourages folks to donate now when the relief is most needed.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill so our friends in the Philippines will have all of the resources they need to continue during the path of recovery.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. So at this time, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) for his help and persistence on this.

As we have already discussed, Typhoon Haiyan has been absolutely devastating. It hurt a tremendous number of people and has hurt communities. We really need to do everything we can to make sure that Americans can do what we do so well, and that is help our allies and our friends. This bill does that.

This bill, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania pointed out, is common sense. It has been done before. There is precedent. And this is a nation of our allies and our friends who are waiting for our help. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank both Mr. THOMPSON and Mr. SWALWELL so much for bringing this bill forward.

Again, I would just like to point out the uniqueness of the exceptional country that we live in. There is never a time that Americans don't always stand up. We are the first responders anytime there is any kind of crisis or tragedy anywhere in the world.

I think it just points out uniquely how we are so exceptional in a world right now that seems to be torn apart and seems to be upside down in almost every measure, so to be able to be here today with you to take a look at our friends in the Philippines and understand the devastation that they have gone through and say we are just doing something, that makes sense. This is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue; it is simply an American issue. Once again, American hearts have always pulled together anytime people really needed us.

I don't know if people realize that the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) just arrived here, and it is a fete for him to be able to do this, to get this piece of legislation through.

So I strongly urge all of our colleagues to push forward on H.R. 3771. I just think it is unique for us at this time, especially, to get this done.

I yield back the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr.

KELLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3771, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION FLEXIBILITY ACT

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4275) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4275

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Congressional findings and declarations of policy.

Sec. 3. Effective date.

TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974 AND OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Definition of cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

Sec. 102. Funding rules applicable to cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

Sec. 103. Elections.

Sec. 104. Transparency.

Sec. 105. Sponsor education and assistance.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986

Sec. 201. Definition of cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

Sec. 202. Funding rules applicable to cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

Sec. 203. Election not to be treated as a CSEC plan.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS OF POLICY.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Defined benefit pension plans are a cost-effective way for cooperative associations and charities to provide their employees with economic security in retirement.

(2) Many cooperative associations and charitable organizations are only able to provide their employees with defined benefit pension plans because those organizations are able to pool their resources using the multiple employer plan structure.

(3) The pension funding rules should encourage cooperative associations and charities to continue to provide their employees with pension benefits.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Unless otherwise specified in this Act, the provisions of this Act shall apply to years beginning after December 31, 2013.

TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974 AND OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. DEFINITION OF COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION PLANS.

Section 210 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1060) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION PLANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title, except as provided in this subsection, a CSEC plan is an employee pension benefit plan (other than a multiemployer plan) that is a defined benefit plan—

“(A) to which section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 applies, without regard to—

“(i) section 104(a)(2) of such Act;

“(ii) the amendments to such section 104 by section 202(b) of the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010; and

“(iii) paragraph (3)(B); or

“(B) that, as of June 25, 2010, was maintained by more than one employer and all of the employers were organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(2) AGGREGATION.—All employers that are treated as a single employer under subsection (b) or (c) of section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be treated as a single employer for purposes of determining if a plan was maintained by more than one employer under paragraph (1)(B).”.

SEC. 102. FUNDING RULES APPLICABLE TO COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part 3 of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1081 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 306. MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS.

“(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 302, the term ‘accumulated funding deficiency’ for a CSEC plan means the excess of the total charges to the funding standard account for all plan years (beginning with the first plan year to which section 302 applies) over the total credits to such account for such years or, if less, the excess of the total charges to the alternative minimum funding standard account for such plan years over the total credits to such account for such years.

“(b) FUNDING STANDARD ACCOUNT.—

“(1) ACCOUNT REQUIRED.—Each plan to which this section applies shall establish and maintain a funding standard account. Such account shall be credited and charged solely as provided in this section.

“(2) CHARGES TO ACCOUNT.—For a plan year, the funding standard account shall be charged with the sum of—

“(A) the normal cost of the plan for the plan year,

“(B) the amounts necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized)—

“(i) in the case of a plan in existence on January 1, 1974, the unfunded past service liability under the plan on the first day of the first plan year to which section 302 applies, over a period of 40 plan years,

“(ii) in the case of a plan which comes into existence after January 1, 1974, but before the first day of the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, the unfunded past service liability under the plan on the first day of the first plan year to which section 302 applies, over a period of 30 plan years,

“(iii) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net increase (if any) in unfunded past service liability under the plan arising from plan amendments adopted in such year, over a period of 15 plan years,

“(iv) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net experience loss (if any) under the plan, over a period of 5 plan years, and

“(v) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net loss (if any) resulting from changes in actuarial assumptions used under the plan, over a period of 10 plan years,

“(C) the amount necessary to amortize each waived funding deficiency (within the meaning of section 302(c)(3)) for each prior plan year in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 5 plan years,

“(D) the amount necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 5 plan years any amount credited to the funding standard account under paragraph (3)(D), and

“(E) the amount necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 20 years the contributions which would be required to be made under the plan but for the provisions of section 302(c)(7)(A)(i)(I) (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006).

“(3) CREDITS TO ACCOUNT.—For a plan year, the funding standard account shall be credited with the sum of—

“(A) the amount considered contributed by the employer to or under the plan for the plan year,

“(B) the amount necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized)—

“(i) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net decrease (if any) in unfunded past service liability under the plan arising from plan amendments adopted in such year, over a period of 15 plan years,

“(ii) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net experience gain (if any) under the plan, over a period of 5 plan years, and

“(iii) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net gain (if any) resulting from changes in actuarial assumptions used under the plan, over a period of 10 plan years,

“(C) the amount of the waived funding deficiency (within the meaning of section 302(c)(3)) for the plan year, and

“(D) in the case of a plan year for which the accumulated funding deficiency is determined under the funding standard account if such plan year follows a plan year for which such deficiency was determined under the alternative minimum funding standard, the excess (if any) of any debit balance in the funding standard account (determined without regard to this subparagraph) over any debit balance in the alternative minimum funding standard account.

“(4) COMBINING AND OFFSETTING AMOUNTS TO BE AMORTIZED.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, amounts required to be amortized under paragraph (2) or paragraph (3), as the case may be—

“(A) may be combined into one amount under such paragraph to be amortized over a period determined on the basis of the remaining amortization period for all items entering into such combined amount, and

“(B) may be offset against amounts required to be amortized under the other such paragraph, with the resulting amount to be amortized over a period determined on the basis of the remaining amortization periods for all items entering into whichever of the two amounts being offset is the greater.

“(5) INTEREST.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the funding standard account (and items therein) shall be charged or credited (as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury) with interest at the appropriate rate consistent with the rate or rates of interest used under the plan to determine costs.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—The interest rate used for purposes of computing the amortization charge described in subsection (b)(2)(C) or for purposes of any arrangement under subsection (d) for any plan year shall be the greater of—

“(i) 150 percent of the Federal mid-term rate (as in effect under section 1274 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the 1st month of such plan year), or

“(ii) the rate of interest determined under subparagraph (A).

“(6) AMORTIZATION SCHEDULES IN EFFECT.—Amortization schedules for amounts described in paragraphs (2) and (3) that are in effect as of the last day of the last plan year beginning before January 1, 2014, by reason of section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 shall remain in effect pursuant to their terms and this section, except that such amounts shall not be amortized again under this section.

“(c) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(1) DETERMINATIONS TO BE MADE UNDER FUNDING METHOD.—For purposes of this section, normal costs, accrued liability, past service liabilities, and experience gains and losses shall be determined under the funding method used to determine costs under the plan.

“(2) VALUATION OF ASSETS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the value of the plan’s assets shall be determined on the basis of any reasonable actuarial method of valuation which takes into account fair market value and which is permitted under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(B) DEDICATED BOND PORTFOLIO.—The Secretary of the Treasury may by regulations provide that the value of any dedicated bond portfolio of a plan shall be determined by using the interest rate under section 302(b)(5) (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006).

“(3) ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS MUST BE REASONABLE.—For purposes of this section, all costs, liabilities, rates of interest, and other factors under the plan shall be determined on the basis of actuarial assumptions and methods—

“(A) each of which is reasonable (taking into account the experience of the plan and reasonable expectations), and

“(B) which, in combination, offer the actuary’s best estimate of anticipated experience under the plan.

“(4) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CHANGES AS EXPERIENCE GAIN OR LOSS.—For purposes of this section, if—

“(A) a change in benefits under the Social Security Act or in other retirement benefits created under Federal or State law, or

“(B) a change in the definition of the term ‘wages’ under section 3121 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or a change in the amount of such wages taken into account under regulations prescribed for purposes of section 401(a)(5) of such Code,

results in an increase or decrease in accrued liability under a plan, such increase or decrease shall be treated as an experience loss or gain.

“(5) FUNDING METHOD AND PLAN YEAR.—

“(A) FUNDING METHODS AVAILABLE.—All funding methods available to CSEC plans

under section 302 (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006) shall continue to be available under this section.

“(B) CHANGES.—If the funding method for a plan is changed, the new funding method shall become the funding method used to determine costs and liabilities under the plan only if the change is approved by the Secretary of the Treasury. If the plan year for a plan is changed, the new plan year shall become the plan year for the plan only if the change is approved by the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(C) APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN CHANGES IN ASSUMPTIONS BY CERTAIN SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—No actuarial assumption (other than the assumptions described in subsection (h)(3)) used to determine the current liability for a plan to which this subparagraph applies may be changed without the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(ii) PLANS TO WHICH SUBPARAGRAPH APPLIES.—This subparagraph shall apply to a plan only if—

“(I) the plan is a CSEC plan,

“(II) the aggregate unfunded vested benefits as of the close of the preceding plan year (as determined under section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)) of such plan and all other plans maintained by the contributing sponsors (as defined in section 4001(a)(13)) and members of such sponsors’ controlled groups (as defined in section 4001(a)(14)) which are covered by title IV (disregarding plans with no unfunded vested benefits) exceed \$50,000,000, and

“(III) the change in assumptions (determined after taking into account any changes in interest rate and mortality table) results in a decrease in the funding shortfall of the plan for the current plan year that exceeds \$50,000,000, or that exceeds \$5,000,000 and that is 5 percent or more of the current liability of the plan before such change.

“(6) FULL FUNDING.—If, as of the close of a plan year, a plan would (without regard to this paragraph) have an accumulated funding deficiency (determined without regard to the alternative minimum funding standard account permitted under subsection (e)) in excess of the full funding limitation—

“(A) the funding standard account shall be credited with the amount of such excess, and

“(B) all amounts described in paragraphs (2)(B), (C), and (D) and (3)(B) of subsection (b) which are required to be amortized shall be considered fully amortized for purposes of such paragraphs.

“(7) FULL-FUNDING LIMITATION.—For purposes of paragraph (6), the term ‘full-funding limitation’ means the excess (if any) of—

“(A) the accrued liability (including normal cost) under the plan (determined under the entry age normal funding method if such accrued liability cannot be directly calculated under the funding method used for the plan), over

“(B) the lesser of—

“(i) the fair market value of the plan’s assets, or

“(ii) the value of such assets determined under paragraph (2).

“(C) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In no event shall the full-funding limitation determined under subparagraph (A) be less than the excess (if any) of—

“(I) 90 percent of the current liability (determined without regard to paragraph (4) of subsection (h)) of the plan (including the ex-

pected increase in such current liability due to benefits accruing during the plan year), over

“(II) the value of the plan’s assets determined under paragraph (2).

“(ii) ASSETS.—For purposes of clause (i), assets shall not be reduced by any credit balance in the funding standard account.

“(8) ANNUAL VALUATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a determination of experience gains and losses and a valuation of the plan’s liability shall be made not less frequently than once every year, except that such determination shall be made more frequently to the extent required in particular cases under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(B) VALUATION DATE.—

“(i) CURRENT YEAR.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the valuation referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be made as of a date within the plan year to which the valuation refers or within one month prior to the beginning of such year.

“(ii) USE OF PRIOR YEAR VALUATION.—The valuation referred to in subparagraph (A) may be made as of a date within the plan year prior to the year to which the valuation refers if, as of such date, the value of the assets of the plan are not less than 100 percent of the plan’s current liability.

“(iii) ADJUSTMENTS.—Information under clause (ii) shall, in accordance with regulations, be actuarially adjusted to reflect significant differences in participants.

“(iv) LIMITATION.—A change in funding method to use a prior year valuation, as provided in clause (ii), may not be made unless as of the valuation date within the prior plan year, the value of the assets of the plan are not less than 125 percent of the plan’s current liability.

“(9) TIME WHEN CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS DEEMED MADE.—For purposes of this section, any contributions for a plan year made by an employer during the period—

“(A) beginning on the day after the last day of such plan year, and

“(B) ending on the day which is 8½ months after the close of the plan year, shall be deemed to have been made on such last day.

“(10) ANTICIPATION OF BENEFIT INCREASES EFFECTIVE IN THE FUTURE.—In determining projected benefits, the funding method of a collectively bargained CSEC plan described in section 413(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall anticipate benefit increases scheduled to take effect during the term of the collective bargaining agreement applicable to the plan.

“(d) EXTENSION OF AMORTIZATION PERIODS.—The period of years required to amortize any unfunded liability (described in any clause of subsection (b)(2)(B)) of any plan may be extended by the Secretary of the Treasury for a period of time (not in excess of 10 years) if such Secretary determines that such extension would carry out the purposes of this Act and provide adequate protection for participants under the plan and their beneficiaries, and if such Secretary determines that the failure to permit such extension would result in—

“(1) a substantial risk to the voluntary continuation of the plan, or

“(2) a substantial curtailment of pension benefit levels or employee compensation.

“(e) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARD.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A CSEC plan which uses a funding method that requires contributions in all years not less than those re-

quired under the entry age normal funding method may maintain an alternative minimum funding standard account for any plan year. Such account shall be credited and charged solely as provided in this subsection.

“(2) CHARGES AND CREDITS TO ACCOUNT.—For a plan year the alternative minimum funding standard account shall be—

“(A) charged with the sum of—

“(i) the lesser of normal cost under the funding method used under the plan or normal cost determined under the unit credit method,

“(ii) the excess, if any, of the present value of accrued benefits under the plan over the fair market value of the assets, and

“(iii) an amount equal to the excess (if any) of credits to the alternative minimum standard account for all prior plan years over charges to such account for all such years, and

“(B) credited with the amount considered contributed by the employer to or under the plan for the plan year.

“(3) INTEREST.—The alternative minimum funding standard account (and items therein) shall be charged or credited with interest in the manner provided under subsection (b)(5) with respect to the funding standard account.

“(f) QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a CSEC plan which has a funded current liability percentage for the preceding plan year of less than 100 percent fails to pay the full amount of a required installment for the plan year, then the rate of interest charged to the funding standard account under subsection (b)(5) with respect to the amount of the underpayment for the period of the underpayment shall be equal to the greater of—

“(A) 175 percent of the Federal mid-term rate (as in effect under section 1274 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the 1st month of such plan year), or

“(B) the rate of interest used under the plan in determining costs.

“(2) AMOUNT OF UNDERPAYMENT, PERIOD OF UNDERPAYMENT.—For purposes of paragraph (1)—

“(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of the underpayment shall be the excess of—

“(i) the required installment, over

“(ii) the amount (if any) of the installment contributed to or under the plan on or before the due date for the installment.

“(B) PERIOD OF UNDERPAYMENT.—The period for which interest is charged under this subsection with regard to any portion of the underpayment shall run from the due date for the installment to the date on which such portion is contributed to or under the plan (determined without regard to subsection (c)(9)).

“(C) ORDER OF CREDITING CONTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), contributions shall be credited against unpaid required installments in the order in which such installments are required to be paid.

“(3) NUMBER OF REQUIRED INSTALLMENTS; DUE DATES.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) PAYABLE IN 4 INSTALLMENTS.—There shall be 4 required installments for each plan year.

“(B) TIME FOR PAYMENT OF INSTALLMENTS.—

“In the case of the following required installments: The due date is:

1st	April 15
2nd	July 15
3rd	October 15

"In the case of the following required installments:**The due date is:**

4th January 15 of the following year.

"(4) AMOUNT OF REQUIRED INSTALLMENT.—For purposes of this subsection—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of any required installment shall be 25 percent of the required annual payment.

"(B) REQUIRED ANNUAL PAYMENT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'required annual payment' means the lesser of—

"(i) 90 percent of the amount required to be contributed to or under the plan by the employer for the plan year under section 302 (without regard to any waiver under subsection (c) thereof), or

"(ii) 100 percent of the amount so required for the preceding plan year.

Clause (ii) shall not apply if the preceding plan year was not a year of 12 months.

"(5) LIQUIDITY REQUIREMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A plan to which this paragraph applies shall be treated as failing to pay the full amount of any required installment to the extent that the value of the liquid assets paid in such installment is less than the liquidity shortfall (whether or not such liquidity shortfall exceeds the amount of such installment required to be paid but for this paragraph).

"(B) PLANS TO WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES.—This paragraph shall apply to a CSEC plan other than a plan described in section 302(d)(6)(A) (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006) which—

"(i) is required to pay installments under this subsection for a plan year, and

"(ii) has a liquidity shortfall for any quarter during such plan year.

"(C) PERIOD OF UNDERPAYMENT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any portion of an installment that is treated as not paid under subparagraph (A) shall continue to be treated as unpaid until the close of the quarter in which the due date for such installment occurs.

"(D) LIMITATION ON INCREASE.—If the amount of any required installment is increased by reason of subparagraph (A), in no event shall such increase exceed the amount which, when added to prior installments for the plan year, is necessary to increase the funded current liability percentage (taking into account the expected increase in current liability due to benefits accruing during the plan year) to 100 percent.

"(E) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

"(i) LIQUIDITY SHORTFALL.—The term 'liquidity shortfall' means, with respect to any required installment, an amount equal to the excess (as of the last day of the quarter for which such installment is made) of the base amount with respect to such quarter over the value (as of such last day) of the plan's liquid assets.

"(ii) BASE AMOUNT.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—The term 'base amount' means, with respect to any quarter, an amount equal to 3 times the sum of the adjusted disbursements from the plan for the 12 months ending on the last day of such quarter.

"(II) SPECIAL RULE.—If the amount determined under subclause (I) exceeds an amount equal to 2 times the sum of the adjusted disbursements from the plan for the 36 months ending on the last day of the quarter and an enrolled actuary certifies to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury that such excess is the result of nonrecurring circumstances, the base amount with respect to

such quarter shall be determined without regard to amounts related to those nonrecurring circumstances.

"(iii) DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE PLAN.—The term 'disbursements from the plan' means all disbursements from the trust, including purchases of annuities, payments of single sums and other benefits, and administrative expenses.

"(iv) ADJUSTED DISBURSEMENTS.—The term 'adjusted disbursements' means disbursements from the plan reduced by the product of—

"(I) the plan's funded current liability percentage for the plan year, and

"(II) the sum of the purchases of annuities, payments of single sums, and such other disbursements as the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide in regulations.

"(v) LIQUID ASSETS.—The term 'liquid assets' means cash, marketable securities and such other assets as specified by the Secretary of the Treasury in regulations.

"(vi) QUARTER.—The term 'quarter' means, with respect to any required installment, the 3-month period preceding the month in which the due date for such installment occurs.

"(F) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe such regulations as are necessary to carry out this paragraph.

"(6) FISCAL YEARS AND SHORT YEARS.—

"(A) FISCAL YEARS.—In applying this subsection to a plan year beginning on any date other than January 1, there shall be substituted for the months specified in this subsection, the months which correspond thereto.

"(B) SHORT PLAN YEAR.—This subsection shall be applied to plan years of less than 12 months in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

"(g) IMPOSITION OF LIEN WHERE FAILURE TO MAKE REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a plan to which this section applies, if—

"(A) any person fails to make a required installment under subsection (f) or any other payment required under this section before the due date for such installment or other payment, and

"(B) the unpaid balance of such installment or other payment (including interest), when added to the aggregate unpaid balance of all preceding such installments or other payments for which payment was not made before the due date (including interest), exceeds \$1,000,000,

then there shall be a lien in favor of the plan in the amount determined under paragraph (3) upon all property and rights to property, whether real or personal, belonging to such person and any other person who is a member of the same controlled group of which such person is a member.

"(2) PLANS TO WHICH SUBSECTION APPLIES.—This subsection shall apply to a CSEC plan for any plan year for which the funded current liability percentage of such plan is less than 100 percent. This subsection shall not apply to any plan to which section 4021 does not apply (as such section is in effect on the date of the enactment of the Retirement Protection Act of 1994).

"(3) AMOUNT OF LIEN.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the amount of the lien shall be equal to the aggregate unpaid balance of required installments and other payments required under this section (including interest)—

"(A) for plan years beginning after 1987, and

"(B) for which payment has not been made before the due date.

"(4) NOTICE OF FAILURE; LIEN.—

"(A) NOTICE OF FAILURE.—A person committing a failure described in paragraph (1) shall notify the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation of such failure within 10 days of the due date for the required installment or other payment.

"(B) PERIOD OF LIEN.—The lien imposed by paragraph (1) shall arise on the due date for the required installment or other payment and shall continue until the last day of the first plan year in which the plan ceases to be described in paragraph (1)(B). Such lien shall continue to run without regard to whether such plan continues to be described in paragraph (2) during the period referred to in the preceding sentence.

"(C) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—Any amount with respect to which a lien is imposed under paragraph (1) shall be treated as taxes due and owing the United States and rules similar to the rules of subsections (c), (d), and (e) of section 4068 shall apply with respect to a lien imposed by subsection (a) and the amount with respect to such lien.

"(5) ENFORCEMENT.—Any lien created under paragraph (1) may be perfected and enforced only by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or at the direction of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, by any contributing employer (or any member of the controlled group of the contributing employer).

"(6) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

"(A) DUE DATE; REQUIRED INSTALLMENT.—The terms 'due date' and 'required installment' have the meanings given such terms by subsection (f), except that in the case of a payment other than a required installment, the due date shall be the date such payment is required to be made under this section.

"(B) CONTROLLED GROUP.—The term 'controlled group' means any group treated as a single employer under subsections (b), (c), (m), and (o) of section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

"(h) CURRENT LIABILITY.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'current liability' means all liabilities to employees and their beneficiaries under the plan.

"(2) TREATMENT OF UNPREDICTABLE CONTINGENT EVENT BENEFITS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any unpredictable contingent event benefit shall not be taken into account until the event on which the benefit is contingent occurs.

"(B) UNPREDICTABLE CONTINGENT EVENT BENEFIT.—The term 'unpredictable contingent event benefit' means any benefit contingent on an event other than—

"(i) age, service, compensation, death, or disability, or

"(ii) an event which is reasonably and reliably predictable (as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury).

"(3) INTEREST RATE AND MORTALITY ASSUMPTIONS USED.—

"(A) INTEREST RATE.—The rate of interest used to determine current liability under this section shall be the third segment rate determined under section 303(h)(2)(C).

"(B) MORTALITY TABLES.—

"(i) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Treasury may by regulation prescribe mortality tables to be used in determining current liability under this subsection. Such tables shall be based upon the actual experience of pension plans and projected trends in such experience. In prescribing such tables, the Secretary of the

Treasury shall take into account results of available independent studies of mortality of individuals covered by pension plans.

“(i) PERIODIC REVIEW.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall periodically (at least every 5 years) review any tables in effect under this subsection and shall, to the extent the Secretary of the Treasury determines necessary, by regulation update the tables to reflect the actual experience of pension plans and projected trends in such experience.

“(C) SEPARATE MORTALITY TABLES FOR THE DISABLED.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (B)—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of plan years beginning after December 31, 1995, the Secretary of the Treasury shall establish mortality tables which may be used (in lieu of the tables under subparagraph (B)) to determine current liability under this subsection for individuals who are entitled to benefits under the plan on account of disability. The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish separate tables for individuals whose disabilities occur in plan years beginning before January 1, 1995, and for individuals whose disabilities occur in plan years beginning on or after such date.

“(ii) SPECIAL RULE FOR DISABILITIES OCCURRING AFTER 1994.—In the case of disabilities occurring in plan years beginning after December 31, 1994, the tables under clause (i) shall apply only with respect to individuals described in such subclause who are disabled within the meaning of title II of the Social Security Act and the regulations thereunder.

“(4) CERTAIN SERVICE DISREGARDED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a participant to whom this paragraph applies, only the applicable percentage of the years of service before such individual became a participant shall be taken into account in computing the current liability of the plan.

“(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the applicable percentage shall be determined as follows:

If the years of participation are:	The applicable percentage is:
1	20
2	40
3	60
4	80
5 or more	100.

“(C) PARTICIPANTS TO WHOM PARAGRAPH APPLIES.—This subparagraph shall apply to any participant who, at the time of becoming a participant—

“(i) has not accrued any other benefit under any defined benefit plan (whether or not terminated) maintained by the employer or a member of the same controlled group of which the employer is a member,

“(ii) who first becomes a participant under the plan in a plan year beginning after December 31, 1987, and

“(iii) has years of service greater than the minimum years of service necessary for eligibility to participate in the plan.

“(D) ELECTION.—An employer may elect not to have this subparagraph apply. Such an election, once made, may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(i) FUNDED CURRENT LIABILITY PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘funded current liability percentage’ means, with respect to any plan year, the percentage which—

“(1) the value of the plan’s assets determined under subsection (c)(2), is of

“(2) the current liability under the plan.

“(j) FUNDING RESTORATION STATUS.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section—

“(1) NORMAL COST PAYMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a CSEC plan that is in funding restoration status for a plan year, for purposes of section 302, the term ‘accumulated funding deficiency’ means, for such plan year, the greater of—

“(i) the amount described in subsection (a), or

“(ii) the excess of the normal cost of the plan for the plan year over the amount actually contributed to or under the plan for the plan year.

“(B) NORMAL COST.—In the case of a CSEC plan that uses a spread gain funding method, for purposes of this subsection, the term ‘normal cost’ means normal cost as determined under the entry age normal funding method.

“(2) PLAN AMENDMENTS.—In the case of a CSEC plan that is in funding restoration status for a plan year, no amendment to such plan may take effect during such plan year if such amendment has the effect of increasing liabilities of the plan by means of increases in benefits, establishment of new benefits, changing the rate of benefit accrual, or changing the rate at which benefits become nonforfeitable. This paragraph shall not apply to any plan amendment that is required to comply with any applicable law. This paragraph shall cease to apply with respect to any plan year, effective as of the first day of the plan year (or if later, the effective date of the amendment) upon payment by the plan sponsor of a contribution to the plan (in addition to any contribution required under this section without regard to this paragraph) in an amount equal to the increase in the funding liability of the plan attributable to the plan amendment.

“(3) FUNDING RESTORATION PLAN.—The sponsor of a CSEC plan shall establish a written funding restoration plan within 180 days of the receipt by the plan sponsor of a certification from the plan actuary that the plan is in funding restoration status for a plan year. Such funding restoration plan shall consist of actions that are calculated, based on reasonably anticipated experience and reasonable actuarial assumptions, to increase the plan’s funded percentage to 100 percent over a period that is not longer than the greater of 7 years or the shortest amount of time practicable. Such funding restoration plan shall take into account contributions required under this section (without regard to this paragraph). If a plan remains in funding restoration status for 2 or more years, such funding restoration plan shall be updated each year after the 1st such year within 180 days of receipt by the plan sponsor of a certification from the plan actuary that the plan remains in funding restoration status for the plan year.

“(4) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION BY PLAN ACTUARY.—Not later than the 90th day of each plan year of a CSEC plan, the plan actuary shall certify to the plan sponsor whether or not the plan is in funding restoration status for the plan year, based on the plan’s funded percentage as of the beginning of the plan year. For this purpose, the actuary may conclusively rely on an estimate of—

“(A) the plan’s funding liability, based on the funding liability of the plan for the preceding plan year and on reasonable actuarial estimates, assumptions, and methods, and

“(B) the amount of any contributions reasonably anticipated to be made for the preceding plan year.

Contributions described in subparagraph (B) shall be taken into account in determining

the plan’s funded percentage as of the beginning of the plan year.

“(5) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) FUNDING RESTORATION STATUS.—A CSEC plan shall be treated as in funding restoration status for a plan year if the plan’s funded percentage as of the beginning of such plan year is less than 80 percent.

“(B) FUNDED PERCENTAGE.—The term ‘funded percentage’ means the ratio (expressed as a percentage) which—

“(i) the value of plan assets (as determined under subsection (c)(2)), bears to

“(ii) the plan’s funding liability.

“(C) FUNDING LIABILITY.—The term ‘funding liability’ for a plan year means the present value of all benefits accrued or earned under the plan as of the beginning of the plan year, based on the assumptions used by the plan pursuant to this section, including the interest rate described in subsection (b)(5)(A) (without regard to subsection (b)(5)(B)).

“(D) SPREAD GAIN FUNDING METHOD.—The term ‘spread gain funding method’ has the meaning given such term under rules and forms issued by the Secretary of the Treasury.”

(b) SEPARATE RULES FOR CSEC PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 302(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1082(a)) is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting “, and”, and by inserting at the end thereof the following new subparagraph:

“(D) in the case of a CSEC plan, the employers make contributions to or under the plan for any plan year which, in the aggregate, are sufficient to ensure that the plan does not have an accumulated funding deficiency under section 306 as of the end of the plan year.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 302 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1082) is amended—

(A) by striking “multiemployer plan” the first place it appears in clause (i) of subsection (c)(1)(A) and the last place it appears in paragraph (2) of subsection (d), and inserting “multiemployer plan or a CSEC plan”,

(B) by striking “303(j)” in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) and inserting “303(j) or under section 306(f)”,

(C)(i) by striking “and” at the end of clause (i) of subsection (c)(1)(B),

(ii) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(B), and inserting “, and”, and

(iii) by inserting the following new clause after clause (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(B):

“(iii) in the case of a CSEC plan, the funding standard account shall be credited under section 306(b)(3)(C) with the amount of the waived funding deficiency and such amount shall be amortized as required under section 306(b)(2)(C).”.

(D) by striking “under paragraph (1)” in clause (i) of subsection (c)(4)(A) and inserting “under paragraph (1) or for granting an extension under section 306(d)”,

(E) by striking “waiver under this subsection” in subparagraph (B) of subsection (c)(4) and inserting “waiver under this subsection or an extension under 306(d)”,

(F) by striking “waiver or modification” in subclause (I) of subsection (c)(4)(B)(i) and inserting “waiver, modification, or extension”,

(G) by striking “waivers” in the heading of subsection (c)(4)(C) and of clause (ii) of subsection (c)(4)(C) and inserting “waivers or extensions”.

(H) by striking “section 304(d)” in subparagraph (A) of subsection (c)(7) and in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) and inserting “section 304(d) or section 306(d)”.

(I) by striking “and” at the end of subclause (I) of subsection (c)(4)(C)(i) and adding “or the accumulated funding deficiency under section 306, whichever is applicable.”.

(J) by striking “303(e)(2),” in subclause (II) of subsection (c)(4)(C)(i) and inserting “303(e)(2) or 306(b)(2)(C), whichever is applicable, and”.

(K) by adding immediately after subclause (II) of subsection (c)(4)(C)(i) the following new subclause:

“(III) the total amounts not paid by reason of an extension in effect under section 306(d).”.

(L) by striking “for waivers of” in clause (ii) of subsection (c)(4)(C) and inserting “for waivers or extensions with respect to”, and

(M) by striking “single-employer plan” in subparagraph (A) of subsection (a)(2) and in clause (i) of subsection (c)(1)(B) and inserting “single-employer plan (other than a CSEC plan)”.

(3) **BENEFIT RESTRICTIONS.**—Subsection (g) of section 206 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1056) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

“(12) **CSEC PLANS.**—This subsection shall not apply to a CSEC plan (as defined in section 210(f)).”.

(4) **BENEFIT INCREASES.**—Paragraph (3) of section 204(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1054(i)) is amended by striking “multiemployer plans” and inserting “multiemployer plans or CSEC plans”.

(5) **SECTION 103.**—Subparagraph (B) of section 103(d)(8) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1023(d)(8)) is amended by striking “303(h) and 304(c)(3)” and inserting “303(h), 304(c)(3), and 306(c)(3)”.

(6) **SECTION 502.**—Subsection (c) of section 502 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended—

(A) by redesignating the last paragraph as paragraph (11), and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(12) The Secretary may assess a civil penalty against any sponsor of a CSEC plan of up to \$100 a day from the date of the plan sponsor’s failure to comply with the requirements of section 306(j)(3) to establish or update a funding restoration plan.”.

(7) **SECTION 4003.**—Subparagraph (B) of section 4003(e)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1303(e)(1)) is amended by striking “303(k)(1)(A) and (B) of this Act or section 430(k)(1)(A) and (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986” and inserting “303(k)(1)(A) and (B) or 306(g)(1)(A) and (B) of this Act or section 430(k)(1)(A) and (B) or 433(g)(1)(A) and (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986”.

(8) **SECTION 4010.**—Paragraph (2) of section 4010(b) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1310(b)) is amended by striking “303(k)(1)(A) and (B) of this Act or section 430(k)(1)(A) and (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986” and inserting “303(k)(1)(A) and (B) or 306(g)(1)(A) and (B) of this Act or section 430(k)(1)(A) and (B) or 433(g)(1)(A) and (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986”.

(9) **SECTION 4071.**—Section 4071 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1371) is amended by striking “section 303(k)(4)” and inserting “section 303(k)(4) or 306(g)(4)”.

SEC. 103. ELECTIONS.

(a) **ELECTION NOT TO BE TREATED AS A CSEC PLAN.**—Subsection (f) of section 210 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as added by section 101, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) **ELECTION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If a plan falls within the definition of a CSEC plan under this subsection (without regard to this paragraph), such plan shall be a CSEC plan unless the plan sponsor elects not later than the close of the first plan year of the plan beginning after December 31, 2013, not to be treated as a CSEC plan. An election under the preceding sentence shall take effect for such plan year and, once made, may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(B) **SPECIAL RULE.**—If a plan described in subparagraph (A) is treated as a CSEC plan, section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, as amended by the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010, shall cease to apply to such plan as of the first date as of which such plan is treated as a CSEC plan.”.

(b) **ELECTION TO CEASE TO BE TREATED AS AN ELIGIBLE CHARITY PLAN.**—Subsection (d) of section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, as added by section 202 of the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010, is amended—

(1) by striking “For purposes of” and inserting “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of”, and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **ELECTION NOT TO BE AN ELIGIBLE CHARITY PLAN.**—A plan sponsor may elect for a plan to cease to be treated as an eligible charity plan for plan years beginning after December 31, 2013. Such election shall be made at such time and in such form and manner as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Any such election may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(3) **ELECTION TO USE FUNDING OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO OTHER PLAN SPONSORS.**—

“(A) A plan sponsor that makes the election described in paragraph (2) may elect for a plan to apply the rules described in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) for plan years beginning after December 31, 2013. Such election shall be made at such time and in such form and manner as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Any such election may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(B) Under the rules described in this subparagraph, for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, a plan has—

“(i) an 11-year shortfall amortization base, and

“(ii) a 12-year shortfall amortization base, and

“(iii) a 7-year shortfall amortization base.

“(C) Under the rules described in this subparagraph, section 303(c)(2)(A) and (B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and section 430(c)(2)(A) and (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied by—

“(i) in the case of an 11-year shortfall amortization base, substituting ‘11-plan-year period’ for ‘7-plan-year period’ wherever such phrase appears, and

“(ii) in the case of a 12-year shortfall amortization base, substituting ‘12-plan-year period’ for ‘7-plan-year period’ wherever such phrase appears.

“(D) Under the rules described in this subparagraph, section 303(c)(7) of the Employee

Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 430(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply to a plan for which an election has been made under subparagraph (A). Such provisions shall apply in the following manner:

“(i) The first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, shall be treated as an election year, and no other plan years shall be so treated.

“(ii) All references in section 303(c)(7) of such Act and section 430(c)(7) of such Code to ‘February 28, 2010’ or ‘March 1, 2010’ shall be treated as references to ‘February 28, 2013’ or ‘March 1, 2013’, respectively.

“(E) For purposes of this paragraph, the 11-year amortization base is an amount, determined for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, equal to the unamortized principal amount of the shortfall amortization base (as defined in section 303(c)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 430(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) that would have applied to the plan for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2009, if—

“(i) the plan had never been an eligible charity plan,

“(ii) the plan sponsor had made the election described in section 303(c)(2)(D)(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and in section 430(c)(2)(D)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to have section 303(c)(2)(D)(i) of such Act and section 430(c)(2)(D)(iii) of such Code apply with respect to the shortfall amortization base for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2009, and

“(iii) no event had occurred under paragraph (6) or (7) of section 303(c) of such Act or paragraph (6) or (7) of section 430(c) of such Code that, as of the first day of the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, would have modified the shortfall amortization base or the shortfall amortization installments with respect to the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2009.

“(F) For purposes of this paragraph, the 12-year amortization base is an amount, determined for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, equal to the unamortized principal amount of the shortfall amortization base (as defined in section 303(c)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 430(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) that would have applied to the plan for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2010, if—

“(i) the plan had never been an eligible charity plan,

“(ii) the plan sponsor had made the election described in section 303(c)(2)(D)(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and in section 430(c)(2)(D)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to have section 303(c)(2)(D)(i) of such Act and section 430(c)(2)(D)(iii) of such Code apply with respect to the shortfall amortization base for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2010, and

“(iii) no event had occurred under paragraph (6) or (7) of section 303(c) of such Act or paragraph (6) or (7) of section 430(c) of such Code that, as of the first day of the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, would have modified the shortfall amortization base or the shortfall amortization installments with respect to the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2010.

“(G) For purposes of this paragraph, the 7-year shortfall amortization base is an amount, determined for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, equal to—

“(i) the shortfall amortization base for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, without regard to this paragraph, minus

“(ii) the sum of the 11-year shortfall amortization base and the 12-year shortfall amortization base.

“(4) **RETROACTIVE ELECTION.**—Not later than December 31, 2014, a plan sponsor may make a one-time, irrevocable, retroactive election to not be treated as an eligible charity plan. Such election shall be effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 2007, and shall be made by providing reasonable notice to the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

(c) **DEEMED ELECTION.**—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, sections 4(b)(2) and 4021(b)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and all other purposes, a plan shall be deemed to have made an irrevocable election under section 410(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 if—

(1) the plan was established before January 1, 2014;

(2) the plan falls within the definition of a CSEC plan;

(3) the plan sponsor does not make an election under section 210(f)(3)(A) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 414(y)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by this Act; and

(4) the plan, plan sponsor, administrator, or fiduciary remits one or more premium payments for the plan to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a plan year beginning after December 31, 2013.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 104. TRANSPARENCY.

(a) **NOTICE TO PARTICIPANTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (2) of section 101(f) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1021(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) **EFFECT OF CSEC PLAN RULES ON PLAN FUNDING.**—In the case of a CSEC plan, each notice under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(i) a statement that different rules apply to CSEC plans than apply to single-employer plans,

“(ii) for the first 2 plan years beginning after December 31, 2013, a statement that, as a result of changes in the law made by the Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act, the contributions to the plan may have changed, and

“(iii) in the case of a CSEC plan that is in funding restoration status for the plan year, a statement that the plan is in funding restoration status for such plan year.

A copy of the statement required under clause (iii) shall be provided to the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.”.

(2) **MODEL NOTICE.**—The Secretary of Labor may modify the model notice required to be published under section 501(c) of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 to include the information described in section 101(f)(2)(E) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as added by this subsection.

(b) **NOTICE OF FAILURE TO MEET MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS.**—

(1) **PENDING WAIVERS.**—Paragraph (2) of section 101(d) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1021(d)) is amended by striking “303” and inserting “303 or 306”.

(2) **DEFINITIONS.**—Paragraph (3) of section 101(d) of the Employee Retirement Income

Security Act of 1974 (21 U.S.C. 1021(d)) is amended by striking “303(j)” and inserting “303(j) or 306(f), whichever is applicable”.

(c) **ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 103 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1023) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO MULTIPLE EMPLOYER PLANS.**—With respect to any multiple employer plan, an annual report under this section for a plan year shall include a list of participating employers and a good faith estimate of the percentage of total contributions made by such participating employers during the plan year.”.

SEC. 105. SPONSOR EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE.

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “CSEC plan” has the meaning given that term in subsection (f)(1) of section 210 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1060(f)(1)) (as added by this Act).

(b) **EDUCATION.**—The Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate established under section 4004 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1304) shall make itself available to assist CSEC plan sponsors and participants as part of the duties it performs under the general supervision of the Board of Directors under section 4004(b) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1304(b)).

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986

SEC. 201. DEFINITION OF COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION PLANS.

Section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(y) **COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION PLANS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of this title, except as provided in this subsection, a CSEC plan is a defined benefit plan (other than a multiemployer plan)—

“(A) to which section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 applies, without regard to—

“(i) section 104(a)(2) of such Act;

“(ii) the amendments to such section 104 by section 202(b) of the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010; and

“(iii) paragraph (3)(B); or

“(B) that, as of June 25, 2010, was maintained by more than one employer and all of the employers were organizations described in section 501(c)(3).

“(2) **AGGREGATION.**—All employers that are treated as a single employer under subsection (b) or (c) shall be treated as a single employer for purposes of determining if a plan was maintained by more than one employer under paragraph (1)(B).”.

SEC. 202. FUNDING RULES APPLICABLE TO COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION PLANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subpart A of part III of subchapter D of chapter 1 of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 433. MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS.

“(a) **GENERAL RULE.**—For purposes of section 412, the term ‘accumulated funding deficiency’ for a CSEC plan means the excess of the total charges to the funding standard account for all plan years (beginning with the first plan year to which section 412 applies) over the total credits to such account for such years or, if less, the excess of the total charges to the alternative minimum funding

standard account for such plan years over the total credits to such account for such years.

“(b) **FUNDING STANDARD ACCOUNT.**—

“(1) **ACCOUNT REQUIRED.**—Each plan to which this section applies shall establish and maintain a funding standard account. Such account shall be credited and charged solely as provided in this section.

“(2) **CHARGES TO ACCOUNT.**—For a plan year, the funding standard account shall be charged with the sum of—

“(A) the normal cost of the plan for the plan year,

“(B) the amounts necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized)—

“(i) in the case of a plan in existence on January 1, 1974, the unfunded past service liability under the plan on the first day of the first plan year to which section 412 applies, over a period of 40 plan years,

“(ii) in the case of a plan which comes into existence after January 1, 1974, but before the first day of the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, the unfunded past service liability under the plan on the first day of the first plan year to which section 412 applies, over a period of 30 plan years,

“(iii) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net increase (if any) in unfunded past service liability under the plan arising from plan amendments adopted in such year, over a period of 15 plan years,

“(iv) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net experience loss (if any) under the plan, over a period of 5 plan years, and

“(v) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net loss (if any) resulting from changes in actuarial assumptions used under the plan, over a period of 10 plan years,

“(C) the amount necessary to amortize each waived funding deficiency (within the meaning of section 412(c)(3)) for each prior plan year in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 5 plan years,

“(D) the amount necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 5 plan years any amount credited to the funding standard account under paragraph (3)(D), and

“(E) the amount necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 20 years the contributions which would be required to be made under the plan but for the provisions of section 412(c)(7)(A)(i)(I) (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006).

“(3) **CREDITS TO ACCOUNT.**—For a plan year, the funding standard account shall be credited with the sum of—

“(A) the amount considered contributed by the employer to or under the plan for the plan year,

“(B) the amount necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized)—

“(i) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net decrease (if any) in unfunded past service liability under the plan arising from plan amendments adopted in such year, over a period of 15 plan years,

“(ii) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net experience gain (if any) under the plan, over a period of 5 plan years, and

“(iii) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net gain (if any) resulting from changes in actuarial assumptions used under the plan, over a period of 10 plan years,

“(C) the amount of the waived funding deficiency (within the meaning of section 412(c)(3)) for the plan year, and

“(D) in the case of a plan year for which the accumulated funding deficiency is determined under the funding standard account if such plan year follows a plan year for which such deficiency was determined under the alternative minimum funding standard, the excess (if any) of any debit balance in the funding standard account (determined without regard to this subparagraph) over any debit balance in the alternative minimum funding standard account.

“(4) COMBINING AND OFFSETTING AMOUNTS TO BE AMORTIZED.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, amounts required to be amortized under paragraph (2) or paragraph (3), as the case may be—

“(A) may be combined into one amount under such paragraph to be amortized over a period determined on the basis of the remaining amortization period for all items entering into such combined amount, and

“(B) may be offset against amounts required to be amortized under the other such paragraph, with the resulting amount to be amortized over a period determined on the basis of the remaining amortization periods for all items entering into whichever of the two amounts being offset is the greater.

“(5) INTEREST.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the funding standard account (and items therein) shall be charged or credited (as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary) with interest at the appropriate rate consistent with the rate or rates of interest used under the plan to determine costs.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—The interest rate used for purposes of computing the amortization charge described in subsection (b)(2)(C) or for purposes of any arrangement under subsection (d) for any plan year shall be the greater of—

“(i) 150 percent of the Federal mid-term rate (as in effect under section 1274 for the 1st month of such plan year), or

“(ii) the rate of interest determined under subparagraph (A).

“(6) AMORTIZATION SCHEDULES IN EFFECT.—Amortization schedules for amounts described in paragraphs (2) and (3) that are in effect as of the last day of the last plan year beginning before January 1, 2014, by reason of section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 shall remain in effect pursuant to their terms and this section, except that such amounts shall not be amortized again under this section.

“(c) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(1) DETERMINATIONS TO BE MADE UNDER FUNDING METHOD.—For purposes of this section, normal costs, accrued liability, past service liabilities, and experience gains and losses shall be determined under the funding method used to determine costs under the plan.

“(2) VALUATION OF ASSETS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the value of the plan's assets shall be determined on the basis of any reasonable actuarial method of valuation which takes into account fair market value and which is permitted under regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

“(B) DEDICATED BOND PORTFOLIO.—The Secretary may by regulations provide that the value of any dedicated bond portfolio of a plan shall be determined by using the interest rate under section 412(b)(5) (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006).

“(3) ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS MUST BE REASONABLE.—For purposes of this section, all costs, liabilities, rates of interest, and other

factors under the plan shall be determined on the basis of actuarial assumptions and methods—

“(A) each of which is reasonable (taking into account the experience of the plan and reasonable expectations), and

“(B) which, in combination, offer the actuary's best estimate of anticipated experience under the plan.

“(4) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CHANGES AS EXPERIENCE GAIN OR LOSS.—For purposes of this section, if—

“(A) a change in benefits under the Social Security Act or in other retirement benefits created under Federal or State law, or

“(B) a change in the definition of the term ‘wages’ under section 3121 or a change in the amount of such wages taken into account under regulations prescribed for purposes of section 401(a)(5),

results in an increase or decrease in accrued liability under a plan, such increase or decrease shall be treated as an experience loss or gain.

“(5) FUNDING METHOD AND PLAN YEAR.—

“(A) FUNDING METHODS AVAILABLE.—All funding methods available to CSEC plans under section 412 (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006) shall continue to be available under this section.

“(B) CHANGES.—If the funding method for a plan is changed, the new funding method shall become the funding method used to determine costs and liabilities under the plan only if the change is approved by the Secretary. If the plan year for a plan is changed, the new plan year shall become the plan year for the plan only if the change is approved by the Secretary.

“(C) APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN CHANGES IN ASSUMPTIONS BY CERTAIN SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—No actuarial assumption (other than the assumptions described in subsection (h)(3)) used to determine the current liability for a plan to which this subparagraph applies may be changed without the approval of the Secretary.

“(ii) PLANS TO WHICH SUBPARAGRAPH APPLIES.—This subparagraph shall apply to a plan only if—

“(I) the plan is a CSEC plan,

“(II) the aggregate unfunded vested benefits as of the close of the preceding plan year (as determined under section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974) of such plan and all other plans maintained by the contributing sponsors (as defined in section 4001(a)(13) of such Act) and members of such sponsors' controlled groups (as defined in section 4001(a)(14) of such Act) which are covered by title IV (disregarding plans with no unfunded vested benefits) exceed \$50,000,000, and

“(III) the change in assumptions (determined after taking into account any changes in interest rate and mortality table) results in a decrease in the funding shortfall of the plan for the current plan year that exceeds \$50,000,000, or that exceeds \$5,000,000 and that is 5 percent or more of the current liability of the plan before such change.

“(6) FULL FUNDING.—If, as of the close of a plan year, a plan would (without regard to this paragraph) have an accumulated funding deficiency (determined without regard to the alternative minimum funding standard account permitted under subsection (e)) in excess of the full funding limitation—

“(A) the funding standard account shall be credited with the amount of such excess, and

“(B) all amounts described in paragraphs (2)(B), (C), and (D) and (3)(B) of subsection (b)

which are required to be amortized shall be considered fully amortized for purposes of such paragraphs.

“(7) FULL-FUNDING LIMITATION.—For purposes of paragraph (6), the term ‘full-funding limitation’ means the excess (if any) of—

“(A) the accrued liability (including normal cost) under the plan (determined under the entry age normal funding method if such accrued liability cannot be directly calculated under the funding method used for the plan), over

“(B) the lesser of—

“(i) the fair market value of the plan's assets, or

“(ii) the value of such assets determined under paragraph (2).

“(C) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In no event shall the full-funding limitation determined under subparagraph (A) be less than the excess (if any) of—

“(I) 90 percent of the current liability (determined without regard to paragraph (4) of subsection (h)) of the plan (including the expected increase in such current liability due to benefits accruing during the plan year), over

“(II) the value of the plan's assets determined under paragraph (2).

“(ii) ASSETS.—For purposes of clause (i), assets shall not be reduced by any credit balance in the funding standard account.

“(8) ANNUAL VALUATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a determination of experience gains and losses and a valuation of the plan's liability shall be made not less frequently than once every year, except that such determination shall be made more frequently to the extent required in particular cases under regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

“(B) VALUATION DATE.—

“(i) CURRENT YEAR.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the valuation referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be made as of a date within the plan year to which the valuation refers or within one month prior to the beginning of such year.

“(ii) USE OF PRIOR YEAR VALUATION.—The valuation referred to in subparagraph (A) may be made as of a date within the plan year prior to the year to which the valuation refers if, as of such date, the value of the assets of the plan are not less than 100 percent of the plan's current liability.

“(iii) ADJUSTMENTS.—Information under clause (ii) shall, in accordance with regulations, be actuarially adjusted to reflect significant differences in participants.

“(iv) LIMITATION.—A change in funding method to use a prior year valuation, as provided in clause (ii), may not be made unless as of the valuation date within the prior plan year, the value of the assets of the plan are not less than 125 percent of the plan's current liability.

“(9) TIME WHEN CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS DEEMED MADE.—For purposes of this section, any contributions for a plan year made by an employer during the period—

“(A) beginning on the day after the last day of such plan year, and

“(B) ending on the day which is 8½ months after the close of the plan year, shall be deemed to have been made on such last day.

“(10) ANTICIPATION OF BENEFIT INCREASES EFFECTIVE IN THE FUTURE.—In determining projected benefits, the funding method of a collectively bargained CSEC plan described in section 413(a) shall anticipate benefit increases scheduled to take effect during the term of the collective bargaining agreement applicable to the plan.

“(d) EXTENSION OF AMORTIZATION PERIODS.—The period of years required to amortize any unfunded liability (described in any clause of subsection (b)(2)(B)) of any plan may be extended by the Secretary for a period of time (not in excess of 10 years) if the Secretary determines that such extension would carry out the purposes of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and provide adequate protection for participants under the plan and their beneficiaries, and if the Secretary determines that the failure to permit such extension would result in—

“(1) a substantial risk to the voluntary continuation of the plan, or

“(2) a substantial curtailment of pension benefit levels or employee compensation.

“(e) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARD.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A CSEC plan which uses a funding method that requires contributions in all years not less than those required under the entry age normal funding method may maintain an alternative minimum funding standard account for any plan year. Such account shall be credited and charged solely as provided in this subsection.

“(2) CHARGES AND CREDITS TO ACCOUNT.—For a plan year the alternative minimum funding standard account shall be—

“(A) charged with the sum of—

“(i) the lesser of normal cost under the funding method used under the plan or normal cost determined under the unit credit method,

“(ii) the excess, if any, of the present value of accrued benefits under the plan over the fair market value of the assets, and

“(iii) an amount equal to the excess (if any) of credits to the alternative minimum standard account for all prior plan years over charges to such account for all such years, and

“(B) credited with the amount considered contributed by the employer to or under the plan for the plan year.

“(3) INTEREST.—The alternative minimum funding standard account (and items therein) shall be charged or credited with interest in the manner provided under subsection (b)(5) with respect to the funding standard account.

“(f) QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a CSEC plan which has a funded current liability percentage for the preceding plan year of less than 100 percent fails to pay the full amount of a required installment for the plan year, then the rate of interest charged to the funding standard account under subsection (b)(5) with respect to the amount of the underpayment for the period of the underpayment shall be equal to the greater of—

“(A) 175 percent of the Federal mid-term rate (as in effect under section 1274 for the 1st month of such plan year), or

“(B) the rate of interest used under the plan in determining costs.

“(2) AMOUNT OF UNDERPAYMENT, PERIOD OF UNDERPAYMENT.—For purposes of paragraph (1)—

“(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of the underpayment shall be the excess of—

“(i) the required installment, over

“(ii) the amount (if any) of the installment contributed to or under the plan on or before the due date for the installment.

“(B) PERIOD OF UNDERPAYMENT.—The period for which interest is charged under this subsection with regard to any portion of the underpayment shall run from the due date for the installment to the date on which

such portion is contributed to or under the plan (determined without regard to subsection (c)(9)).

“(C) ORDER OF CREDITING CONTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), contributions shall be credited against unpaid required installments in the order in which such installments are required to be paid.

“(3) NUMBER OF REQUIRED INSTALLMENTS; DUE DATES.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) PAYABLE IN 4 INSTALLMENTS.—There shall be 4 required installments for each plan year.

“(B) TIME FOR PAYMENT OF INSTALLMENTS.—

“In the case of the following required installments:

1st	April 15
2nd	July 15
3rd	October 15
4th	January 15 of the following year.

The due date is:

“(4) AMOUNT OF REQUIRED INSTALLMENT.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of any required installment shall be 25 percent of the required annual payment.

“(B) REQUIRED ANNUAL PAYMENT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘required annual payment’ means the lesser of—

“(i) 90 percent of the amount required to be contributed to or under the plan by the employer for the plan year under section 412 (without regard to any waiver under subsection (c) thereof), or

“(ii) 100 percent of the amount so required for the preceding plan year.

Clause (ii) shall not apply if the preceding plan year was not a year of 12 months.

“(5) LIQUIDITY REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A plan to which this paragraph applies shall be treated as failing to pay the full amount of any required installment to the extent that the value of the liquid assets paid in such installment is less than the liquidity shortfall (whether or not such liquidity shortfall exceeds the amount of such installment required to be paid but for this paragraph).

“(B) PLANS TO WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES.—This paragraph shall apply to a CSEC plan other than a plan described in section 412(1)(6)(A) (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006) which—

“(i) is required to pay installments under this subsection for a plan year, and

“(ii) has a liquidity shortfall for any quarter during such plan year.

“(C) PERIOD OF UNDERPAYMENT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any portion of an installment that is treated as not paid under subparagraph (A) shall continue to be treated as unpaid until the close of the quarter in which the due date for such installment occurs.

“(D) LIMITATION ON INCREASE.—If the amount of any required installment is increased by reason of subparagraph (A), in no event shall such increase exceed the amount which, when added to prior installments for the plan year, is necessary to increase the funded current liability percentage (taking into account the expected increase in current liability due to benefits accruing during the plan year) to 100 percent.

“(E) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) LIQUIDITY SHORTFALL.—The term ‘liquidity shortfall’ means, with respect to any required installment, an amount equal to the excess (as of the last day of the quarter for

which such installment is made) of the base amount with respect to such quarter over the value (as of such last day) of the plan’s liquid assets.

“(ii) BASE AMOUNT.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘base amount’ means, with respect to any quarter, an amount equal to 3 times the sum of the adjusted disbursements from the plan for the 12 months ending on the last day of such quarter.

“(II) SPECIAL RULE.—If the amount determined under subclause (I) exceeds an amount equal to 2 times the sum of the adjusted disbursements from the plan for the 36 months ending on the last day of the quarter and an enrolled actuary certifies to the satisfaction of the Secretary that such excess is the result of nonrecurring circumstances, the base amount with respect to such quarter shall be determined without regard to amounts related to those nonrecurring circumstances.

“(iii) DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE PLAN.—The term ‘disbursements from the plan’ means all disbursements from the trust, including purchases of annuities, payments of single sums and other benefits, and administrative expenses.

“(iv) ADJUSTED DISBURSEMENTS.—The term ‘adjusted disbursements’ means disbursements from the plan reduced by the product of—

“(I) the plan’s funded current liability percentage for the plan year, and

“(II) the sum of the purchases of annuities, payments of single sums, and such other disbursements as the Secretary shall provide in regulations.

“(v) LIQUID ASSETS.—The term ‘liquid assets’ means cash, marketable securities and such other assets as specified by the Secretary in regulations.

“(vi) QUARTER.—The term ‘quarter’ means, with respect to any required installment, the 3-month period preceding the month in which the due date for such installment occurs.

“(F) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may prescribe such regulations as are necessary to carry out this paragraph.

“(6) FISCAL YEARS AND SHORT YEARS.—

“(A) FISCAL YEARS.—In applying this subsection to a plan year beginning on any date other than January 1, there shall be substituted for the months specified in this subsection, the months which correspond thereto.

“(B) SHORT PLAN YEAR.—This subsection shall be applied to plan years of less than 12 months in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

“(g) IMPOSITION OF LIEN WHERE FAILURE TO MAKE REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a plan to which this section applies, if—

“(A) any person fails to make a required installment under subsection (f) or any other payment required under this section before the due date for such installment or other payment, and

“(B) the unpaid balance of such installment or other payment (including interest), when added to the aggregate unpaid balance of all preceding such installments or other payments for which payment was not made before the due date (including interest), exceeds \$1,000,000,

then there shall be a lien in favor of the plan in the amount determined under paragraph (3) upon all property and rights to property, whether real or personal, belonging to such person and any other person who is a member of the same controlled group of which such person is a member.

“(2) PLANS TO WHICH SUBSECTION APPLIES.—This subsection shall apply to a CSEC plan for any plan year for which the funded current liability percentage of such plan is less than 100 percent. This subsection shall not apply to any plan to which section 4021 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 does not apply (as such section is in effect on the date of the enactment of the Retirement Protection Act of 1994).

“(3) AMOUNT OF LIEN.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the amount of the lien shall be equal to the aggregate unpaid balance of required installments and other payments required under this section (including interest)—

“(A) for plan years beginning after 1987, and

“(B) for which payment has not been made before the due date.

“(4) NOTICE OF FAILURE; LIEN.—

“(A) NOTICE OF FAILURE.—A person committing a failure described in paragraph (1) shall notify the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation of such failure within 10 days of the due date for the required installment or other payment.

“(B) PERIOD OF LIEN.—The lien imposed by paragraph (1) shall arise on the due date for the required installment or other payment and shall continue until the last day of the first plan year in which the plan ceases to be described in paragraph (1)(B). Such lien shall continue to run without regard to whether such plan continues to be described in paragraph (2) during the period referred to in the preceding sentence.

“(C) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—Any amount with respect to which a lien is imposed under paragraph (1) shall be treated as taxes due and owing the United States and rules similar to the rules of subsections (c), (d), and (e) of section 4068 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 shall apply with respect to a lien imposed by subsection (a) and the amount with respect to such lien.

“(5) ENFORCEMENT.—Any lien created under paragraph (1) may be perfected and enforced only by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or at the direction of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, by any contributing employer (or any member of the controlled group of the contributing employer).

“(6) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) DUE DATE; REQUIRED INSTALLMENT.—The terms ‘due date’ and ‘required installment’ have the meanings given such terms by subsection (f), except that in the case of a payment other than a required installment, the due date shall be the date such payment is required to be made under this section.

“(B) CONTROLLED GROUP.—The term ‘controlled group’ means any group treated as a single employer under subsections (b), (c), (m), and (o) of section 414.

“(h) CURRENT LIABILITY.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘current liability’ means all liabilities to employees and their beneficiaries under the plan.

“(2) TREATMENT OF UNPREDICTABLE CONTINGENT EVENT BENEFITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any unpredictable contingent event benefit shall not be taken into account until the event on which the benefit is contingent occurs.

“(B) UNPREDICTABLE CONTINGENT EVENT BENEFIT.—The term ‘unpredictable contingent event benefit’ means any benefit contingent on an event other than—

“(i) age, service, compensation, death, or disability, or

“(ii) an event which is reasonably and reliably predictable (as determined by the Secretary).

“(3) INTEREST RATE AND MORTALITY ASSUMPTIONS USED.—

“(A) INTEREST RATE.—The rate of interest used to determine current liability under this section shall be the third segment rate determined under section 430(h)(2)(C).

“(B) MORTALITY TABLES.—

“(i) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may by regulation prescribe mortality tables to be used in determining current liability under this subsection. Such tables shall be based upon the actual experience of pension plans and projected trends in such experience. In prescribing such tables, the Secretary shall take into account results of available independent studies of mortality of individuals covered by pension plans.

“(ii) PERIODIC REVIEW.—The Secretary shall periodically (at least every 5 years) review any tables in effect under this subsection and shall, to the extent the Secretary determines necessary, by regulation update the tables to reflect the actual experience of pension plans and projected trends in such experience.

“(C) SEPARATE MORTALITY TABLES FOR THE DISABLED.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (B)—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of plan years beginning after December 31, 1995, the Secretary shall establish mortality tables which may be used (in lieu of the tables under subparagraph (B)) to determine current liability under this subsection for individuals who are entitled to benefits under the plan on account of disability. The Secretary shall establish separate tables for individuals whose disabilities occur in plan years beginning before January 1, 1995, and for individuals whose disabilities occur in plan years beginning on or after such date.

“(ii) SPECIAL RULE FOR DISABILITIES OCCURRING AFTER 1994.—In the case of disabilities occurring in plan years beginning after December 31, 1994, the tables under clause (i) shall apply only with respect to individuals described in such subclause who are disabled within the meaning of title II of the Social Security Act and the regulations thereunder.

“(4) CERTAIN SERVICE DISREGARDED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a participant to whom this paragraph applies, only the applicable percentage of the years of service before such individual became a participant shall be taken into account in computing the current liability of the plan.

“(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the applicable percentage shall be determined as follows:

If the years of participation are:	The applicable percentage is:
1	20
2	40
3	60
4	80
5 or more	100.

“(C) PARTICIPANTS TO WHOM PARAGRAPH APPLIES.—This subparagraph shall apply to any participant who, at the time of becoming a participant—

“(i) has not accrued any other benefit under any defined benefit plan (whether or not terminated) maintained by the employer or a member of the same controlled group of which the employer is a member,

“(ii) who first becomes a participant under the plan in a plan year beginning after December 31, 1987, and

“(iii) has years of service greater than the minimum years of service necessary for eligibility to participate in the plan.

“(D) ELECTION.—An employer may elect not to have this subparagraph apply. Such an election, once made, may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary.

“(i) FUNDED CURRENT LIABILITY PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘funded current liability percentage’ means, with respect to any plan year, the percentage which—

“(1) the value of the plan’s assets determined under subsection (c)(2), is of

“(2) the current liability under the plan.

“(j) FUNDING RESTORATION STATUS.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section—

“(1) NORMAL COST PAYMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a CSEC plan that is in funding restoration status for a plan year, for purposes of section 412, the term ‘accumulated funding deficiency’ means, for such plan year, the greater of—

“(i) the amount described in subsection (a), or

“(ii) the excess of the normal cost of the plan for the plan year over the amount actually contributed to or under the plan for the plan year.

“(B) NORMAL COST.—In the case of a CSEC plan that uses a spread gain funding method, for purposes of this subsection, the term ‘normal cost’ means normal cost as determined under the entry age normal funding method.

“(2) PLAN AMENDMENTS.—In the case of a CSEC plan that is in funding restoration status for a plan year, no amendment to such plan may take effect during such plan year if such amendment has the effect of increasing liabilities of the plan by means of increases in benefits, establishment of new benefits, changing the rate of benefit accrual, or changing the rate at which benefits become nonforfeitable. This paragraph shall not apply to any plan amendment that is required to comply with any applicable law. This paragraph shall cease to apply with respect to any plan year, effective as of the first day of the plan year (or if later, the effective date of the amendment) upon payment by the plan sponsor of a contribution to the plan (in addition to any contribution required under this section without regard to this paragraph) in an amount equal to the increase in the funding liability of the plan attributable to the plan amendment.

“(3) FUNDING RESTORATION PLAN.—The sponsor of a CSEC plan shall establish a written funding restoration plan within 180 days of the receipt by the plan sponsor of a certification from the plan actuary that the plan is in funding restoration status for a plan year. Such funding restoration plan shall consist of actions that are calculated, based on reasonably anticipated experience and reasonable actuarial assumptions, to increase the plan’s funded percentage to 100 percent over a period that is not longer than the greater of 7 years or the shortest amount of time practicable. Such funding restoration plan shall take into account contributions required under this section (without regard to this paragraph). If a plan remains in funding restoration status for 2 or more years, such funding restoration plan shall be updated each year after the 1st such year within 180 days of receipt by the plan sponsor of a certification from the plan actuary that the plan remains in funding restoration status for the plan year.

“(4) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION BY PLAN ACTUARY.—Not later than the 90th day of each

plan year of a CSEC plan, the plan actuary shall certify to the plan sponsor whether or not the plan is in funding restoration status for the plan year, based on the plan's funded percentage as of the beginning of the plan year. For this purpose, the actuary may conclusively rely on an estimate of—

“(A) the plan's funding liability, based on the funding liability of the plan for the preceding plan year and on reasonable actuarial estimates, assumptions, and methods, and

“(B) the amount of any contributions reasonably anticipated to be made for the preceding plan year.

Contributions described in subparagraph (B) shall be taken into account in determining the plan's funded percentage as of the beginning of the plan year.

“(5) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) FUNDING RESTORATION STATUS.—A CSEC plan shall be treated as in funding restoration status for a plan year if the plan's funded percentage as of the beginning of such plan year is less than 80 percent.

“(B) FUNDED PERCENTAGE.—The term ‘funded percentage’ means the ratio (expressed as a percentage) which—

“(i) the value of plan assets (as determined under subsection (c)(2)), bears to

“(ii) the plan's funding liability.

“(C) FUNDING LIABILITY.—The term ‘funding liability’ for a plan year means the present value of all benefits accrued or earned under the plan as of the beginning of the plan year, based on the assumptions used by the plan pursuant to this section, including the interest rate described in subsection (b)(5)(A) (without regard to subsection (b)(5)(B)).

“(D) SPREAD GAIN FUNDING METHOD.—The term ‘spread gain funding method’ has the meaning given such term under rules and forms issued by the Secretary.

“(E) PLAN SPONSOR.—The term ‘plan sponsor’ means, with respect to a CSEC plan, the association, committee, joint board of trustees, or other similar group of representatives of the parties who establish or maintain the plan.”.

(b) CSEC PLANS.—Section 413 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) CSEC PLANS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in the case of a CSEC plan—

“(1) FUNDING.—The requirements of section 412 shall be determined as if all participants in the plan were employed by a single employer.

“(2) APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.—Paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (5) of subsection (c) shall apply.

“(3) DEDUCTION LIMITATIONS.—Each applicable limitation provided by section 404(a) shall be determined as if all participants in the plan were employed by a single employer. The amounts contributed to or under the plan by each employer who maintains the plan (for the portion of the taxable year included within a plan year) shall be considered not to exceed such applicable limitation if the anticipated employer contributions for such plan year of all employers (determined in a reasonable manner not inconsistent with regulations prescribed by the Secretary) do not exceed such limitation. If such anticipated contributions exceed such limitation, the portion of each such employer's contributions which is not deductible under section 404 shall be determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

“(4) ALLOCATIONS.—Allocations of amounts under paragraph (3) and subsection (c)(5)

among the employers maintaining the plan shall not be inconsistent with the regulations prescribed for this purpose by the Secretary.”.

(c) SEPARATE RULES FOR CSEC PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 412(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting “, and”, and by inserting at the end thereof the following new subparagraph:

“(D) in the case of a CSEC plan, the employers make contributions to or under the plan for any plan year which, in the aggregate, are sufficient to ensure that the plan does not have an accumulated funding deficiency under section 433 as of the end of the plan year.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 412 of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking “multiemployer plan” in paragraph (A) of subsection (a)(2), in clause (i) of subsection (c)(1)(B), the first place it appears in clause (i) of subsection (c)(1)(A), and the last place it appears in paragraph (2) of subsection (d), and inserting “multiemployer plan or a CSEC plan”.

(B) by striking “430(j)” in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) and inserting “430(j) or under section 433(f)”.

(C)(i) by striking “and” at the end of clause (i) of subsection (c)(1)(B),

(ii) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(B) and inserting “, and”, and

(iii) by inserting the following new clause after clause (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(B):

“(iii) in the case of a CSEC plan, the funding standard account shall be credited under section 433(b)(3)(C) with the amount of the waived funding deficiency and such amount shall be amortized as required under section 433(b)(2)(C).”.

(D) by striking “under paragraph (1)” in clause (i) of subsection (c)(4)(A) and inserting “under paragraph (1) or for granting an extension under section 433(d)”.

(E) by striking “waiver under this subsection” in subparagraph (B) of subsection (c)(4) and inserting “waiver under this subsection or an extension under 433(d)”.

(F) by striking “waiver or modification” in subclause (I) of subsection (c)(4)(B)(i) and inserting “waiver, modification, or extension”.

(G) by striking “waivers” in the heading of subsection (c)(4)(C) and of clause (ii) of subsection (c)(4)(C) and inserting “waivers or extensions”.

(H) by striking “section 431(d)” in subparagraph (A) of subsection (c)(7) and in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) and inserting “section 431(d) or section 433(d)”.

(I) by striking “and” at the end of subclause (I) of subsection (c)(4)(C)(i) and inserting “or the accumulated funding deficiency under section 433, whichever is applicable.”.

(J) by striking “430(e)(2),” in subclause (II) of subsection (c)(4)(C)(i) and inserting “430(e)(2) or 433(b)(2)(C), whichever is applicable, and”.

(K) by adding immediately after subclause (II) of subsection (c)(4)(C)(i) the following new subclause:

“(III) the total amounts not paid by reason of an extension in effect under section 433(d),” and

(L) by striking “for waivers of” in clause (ii) of subsection (c)(4)(C) and inserting “for waivers or extensions with respect to”.

(3) BENEFIT RESTRICTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (29) of section 401(a) of such Code is amended by striking “multiemployer plan” and inserting “multiemployer plan or a CSEC plan”.

(B) CONFORMING CHANGE.—Subsection (a) of section 436 of such Code is amended by striking “single-employer plan” and inserting “single-employer plan (other than a CSEC plan)”.

(4) BENEFIT INCREASES.—Subparagraph (C) of section 401(a)(33) of such Code is amended by striking “multiemployer plans” and inserting “multiemployer plans or CSEC plans”.

(5) LIQUIDITY SHORTFALLS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 401(a)(32) of such Code is amended by striking “430(j)(4)” each place it appears and inserting “430(j)(4) or 433(f)(5)”.

(B) PERIOD OF SHORTFALL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 401(a)(32) of such Code is amended by striking “430(j)(3) by reason of section 430(j)(4)(A) thereof” and inserting “430(j)(3) or 433(f) by reason of section 430(j)(4)(A) or 433(f)(5), respectively”.

(6) DEDUCTION LIMITS.—Subsection (o) of section 404 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) CSEC PLANS.—Solely for purposes of this subsection, a CSEC plan shall be treated as though section 430 applied to such plan and the minimum required contribution for any plan year shall be the amount described in section 412(a)(2)(D).”.

(7) SECTION 420.—Paragraph (5) of section 420(e) of such Code is amended by striking “section 430” each place it appears and inserting “sections 430 and 433”.

(8) COORDINATION WITH SECTION 4971.—

(A) Subsection (a) of section 4971 of such Code is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

“(3) in the case of a CSEC plan, 10 percent of the CSEC accumulated funding deficiency as of the end of the plan year ending with or within the taxable year.”.

(B) Subsection (b) of section 4971 of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph (1), by adding “or” at the end of paragraph (2), and by inserting immediately after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) a tax is imposed under subsection (a)(3) on any CSEC accumulated funding deficiency and the CSEC accumulated funding deficiency is not corrected within the taxable period,” and

(ii) by striking “minimum required contributions or accumulated funding deficiency” and inserting “minimum required contribution, accumulated funding deficiency, or CSEC accumulated funding deficiency”.

(C) Subsection (c) of section 4971 of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking “accumulated funding deficiency” each place it appears in paragraph (2) and inserting “accumulated funding deficiency or CSEC accumulated funding deficiency”.

(ii) by striking “accumulated funding deficiency or unpaid minimum required contribution” each place it appears in paragraph (3) and inserting “accumulated funding deficiency, CSEC accumulated funding deficiency, or unpaid minimum required contribution”, and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) CSEC ACCUMULATED FUNDING DEFICIENCY.—The term ‘CSEC accumulated funding deficiency’ means the accumulated funding deficiency determined under section 433.”.

(D) Paragraph (1) of section 4971(d) of such Code is amended by striking “accumulated

funding deficiency or unpaid minimum required contribution" and inserting "accumulated funding deficiency, CSEC accumulated funding deficiency, or unpaid minimum required contribution".

(E) Subsection (f) of section 4971 of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking "430(j)(4)" in paragraph (1) and inserting "430(j)(4) or 433(f)",

(ii) by striking "430(j)" in paragraph (1)(B) and inserting "430(j) or 433(f), whichever is applicable", and

(iii) by striking "412(m)(5)" in paragraph (3)(A) and inserting "430(j) or 433(f), whichever is applicable".

(9) EXCISE TAX ON FAILURE TO ADOPT FUNDING RESTORATION PLAN.—Section 4971 of such Code is amended by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i), and by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

"(h) FAILURE OF A CSEC PLAN SPONSOR TO ADOPT FUNDING RESTORATION PLAN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a CSEC plan that is in funding restoration status (within the meaning of section 433(j)(5)(A)), there is hereby imposed a tax on the failure of such plan to adopt a funding restoration plan within the time prescribed under section 433(j)(3).

"(2) AMOUNT OF TAX.—The amount of the tax imposed under paragraph (1) with respect to any plan sponsor for any taxable year shall be the amount equal to \$100 multiplied by the number of days during the taxable year which are included in the period beginning on the day following the close of the 180-day period described in section 433(j)(3) and ending on the day on which the funding restoration plan is adopted.

"(3) WAIVER BY SECRETARY.—In the case of a failure described in paragraph (1) which the Secretary determines is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, the Secretary may waive a portion or all of the tax imposed by such paragraph.

"(4) LIABILITY FOR TAX.—The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid by the plan sponsor (within the meaning of section 433(j)(5)(E))."

(10) REPORTING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 6059(b) of such Code is amended by striking "430," and inserting "430, the accumulated funding deficiency under section 433,".

(B) ASSUMPTIONS.—Subparagraph (B) of section 6059(b)(3) of such Code is amended by striking "430(h)(1) or 431(c)(3)" and inserting "430(h)(1), 431(c)(3), or 433(c)(3)".

SEC. 203. ELECTION NOT TO BE TREATED AS A CSEC PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 414(y) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by section 201, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) ELECTION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan falls within the definition of a CSEC plan under this subsection (without regard to this paragraph), such plan shall be a CSEC plan unless the plan sponsor elects not later than the close of the first plan year of the plan beginning after December 31, 2013, not to be treated as a CSEC plan. An election under the preceding sentence shall take effect for such plan year and, once made, may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary.

"(B) SPECIAL RULE.—If a plan described in subparagraph (A) is treated as a CSEC plan, section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, as amended by the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010, shall cease to apply to such plan as of the first date as of which such plan is treated as a CSEC plan."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply as of the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4275.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4275, the Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act.

Madam Speaker, like most Members of this body, I meet with charities, schools, and cooperatives throughout my district on a routine basis when I am back home in Indiana. I often ask them what Washington can do to facilitate their mission or ask about the obstacles that they face when trying to serve their communities. To my surprise, frequently over this past year, their answers revolve around the uncertainty and the burden of their pension funding requirements.

This was somewhat of a shock to me, but I soon found out that some charities, schools, and cooperatives are actually shutting down summer camps, cutting back on services to the community, or raising prices just to meet their pension obligations. And for what? To protect the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation because their plans are unsustainable or underfunded? No. It is because they will soon be lumped into more onerous funding requirements found in the Pension Protection Act, known as the PPA, and are making decisions today that reflect that assumption.

In fact, Congress has already exempted these organizations and found that multiple employer cooperative and charity plans have unique missions, limited participation, and sufficient precautionary safeguards, and that, by design, pose little risk that they will be unable to pay benefits in the future.

Unfortunately, this exemption is set to expire soon and will require pension providers to unnecessarily overfund their plans, rather than using those funds to support services to our communities.

If this were allowed to happen, the results could be catastrophic. For instance, in my home State of Indiana, rural electric cooperatives alone could be forced to needlessly increase their pension contributions by up to 50 per-

cent, costing them \$12.7 million a year and adversely affecting over 1,800 employees in Indiana alone.

Now, it is no secret that the PBGC is facing significant problems that require a comprehensive solution, and I applaud Dr. ROE, Chairman KLINE, and Ranking Member MILLER for their leadership on this issue. The bill, however, only affects 30 plans and just over 127,000 active employees, and the very design of the plan shelters the PBGC from almost all risk. However, without this bill, some Christian schools or some United Way chapters across the Nation will be forced to meet costly regulations directed toward at-risk, single-employer plans.

Madam Speaker, forcing charities to overfund their already solvent plans is not only wrong from an actuarial standpoint, but from a moral one, as well. For instance, Jewish Federations across the United States don't needlessly overfund their pensions when that money could be going to their mission of providing urgent support for Jews in Ukraine or possibly helping Holocaust survivors age with dignity. These are the types of consequences that are going to take place if we don't pass this bill.

And subjecting rural telecom companies to PPA rules would force them to shift funds from critical services and hurt their ability to provide pension benefits to their current workers.

Our bill injects certainty and sensibility into the multiple-employer pension world by simply allowing plans that are already exempted from the PPA the flexibility to stay excluded permanently or elect into the PPA structure if they wish to do so. That is why it is called "flexibility."

This bill helps cooperatives, schools, and charities do what they do best: provide quality services that enrich our communities and our lives. This is something that government cannot do, and it is something we need to help facilitate.

I urge all of our colleagues to support the Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the committee for bringing this bill to the floor and for Congresswoman BROOKS' explanation of this legislation, the Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act.

As she has detailed, this is a small piece of legislation, but a very important piece of legislation to the existence of these plans and also to the priorities of the nonprofits that support those plans and the work that they do in our communities. And what has become clear is that we need this congressional action because the temporary exemption is going to expire,

and that would cause a hardship that Congresswoman BROOKS has laid out.

Without these changes, these plans, known as CSEC plans, will be forced to comply with Pension Protection Act funding rules, and many small, non-profit employers will be unable to continue to provide those pension benefits.

This legislation ensures that charities and cooperative associations will continue to be able to provide quality pension benefits to their employees by implementing pension funding rules that reflect the unique design of their plans.

H.R. 4275 is supported by a wide variety of charitable organizations from across the country, including the United Way Worldwide and Girl Scouts of America and many others, and I would urge our colleagues to support this legislation so that we can make sure that these plans can continue to provide the benefits for their employees but also provide the services to their communities.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. I yield as much time as he might consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

Mr. KLINE. I thank the gentlelady.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4275. I want to thank my colleague, Representative SUSAN BROOKS, for sponsoring the legislation and for her work on this important issue, and my friend and colleague, Mr. MILLER, for his strong support.

In recent years, Congress provided a limited number of charities and eligible cooperatives temporary exemption from Federal pension requirements. Our intent was to offer relief to those who faced unsustainable pension obligations. It is now time to provide the certainty and flexibility necessary to plan for the future.

Without that certainty, important organizations, such as the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys, would have to cut back services and support fewer young women. Without that certainty, farmers would face the prospect of raising food and dairy prices to help make ends meet. Without that certainty, religious charities would be hampered in their ability to serve local communities. And without that certainty, Madam Speaker, utility companies providing electricity to homes and businesses would have to consider raising rates just to meet their pension obligations.

That is precisely the reality we now confront. We have a duty to enact responsible rules that provide certainty and protect the pension benefits of workers and retirees. The bill before us today is an attempt to do just that.

This bill would provide certain multiple-employer pension plans greater flexibility to manage their obligations in a way that supports the goods and

services their participants need to deliver.

Again, I want to thank my friend and colleague, Mrs. BROOKS, for her leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

I would like to thank my distinguished colleague from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) for co-leading this important effort with me. He has worked tirelessly in championing and raising awareness about this issue. Without his work, we would not be here today, and I thank him for his passion and his expertise on this difficult subject.

Congress faces many difficult challenges, but the fact that we can come together in a bipartisan way to craft solutions for our country should be the norm and not the exception for this body. I hope this will set an example for what we can accomplish when we put partisan bickering aside. I know there are other pressing issues we can work on together to move our Nation forward.

In closing, I would just encourage my colleagues to support this common-sense bill that will save taxpayers money, enhance communities across America, and encourages co-ops and so many charities to continue to provide their employees with economic security in retirement.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4275.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) at 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3060, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1813, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

SERGEANT WILLIAM MOODY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3060) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 398, nays 0, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 136]

YEAS—398

Aderholt	Clark (MA)	Esty
Amash	Clarke (NY)	Farenthold
Amodei	Clay	Farr
Bachmann	Cleaver	Fattah
Bachus	Clyburn	Fincher
Barber	Coble	Fitzpatrick
Barletta	Coffman	Fleischmann
Barr	Cohen	Fleming
Barrow (GA)	Cole	Flores
Barton	Collins (GA)	Forbes
Bass	Collins (NY)	Fortenberry
Beatty	Conaway	Foster
Becerra	Connolly	Fox
Bentivolio	Conyers	Frankel (FL)
Bera (CA)	Cook	Franks (AZ)
Bilirakis	Cooper	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (GA)	Cotton	Fudge
Bishop (NY)	Courtney	Gabbard
Bishop (UT)	Cramer	Gallego
Black	Crawford	Garamendi
Blackburn	Crenshaw	Garcia
Blumenauer	Crowley	Gardner
Bonamici	Cuellar	Garrett
Boustany	Culberson	Gerlach
Brady (PA)	Cummings	Gibbs
Braley (IA)	Daines	Gibson
Bridenstine	Davis (CA)	Gohmert
Brooks (AL)	Davis, Danny	Goodlatte
Brooks (IN)	Davis, Rodney	Gosar
Brown (FL)	DeFazio	Gowdy
Buchanan	DeGette	Granger
Bucshon	Delaney	Graves (GA)
Burgess	DeLauro	Graves (MO)
Bustos	DelBene	Grayson
Butterfield	Denham	Green, Al
Byrne	Dent	Green, Gene
Calvert	DeSantis	Griffin (AR)
Cantor	DesJarlais	Griffith (VA)
Capito	Deutch	Grimm
Capps	Diaz-Balart	Guthrie
Capuano	Dingell	Hahn
Cárdenas	Doggett	Hall
Carney	Doyle	Hanabusa
Carson (IN)	Duffy	Hanna
Cartwright	Duncan (SC)	Harper
Cassidy	Duncan (TN)	Harris
Castor (FL)	Edwards	Hartzler
Castro (TX)	Ellison	Hastings (FL)
Chabot	Ellmers	Hastings (WA)
Chaffetz	Engel	Heck (NV)
Chu	Enyart	Heck (WA)
Ciçilline	Eshoo	Hensarling

Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott

NOT VOTING—33

Benishek
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Camp
Campbell
Carter
Costa
Duckworth
Gingrey (GA)

Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Holt
Kingston
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Olson

Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Meng
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Pastor (AZ)
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Schwartz

Simpson
Speier
Thornberry
Tsongas
Visclosky
Yarmuth

□ 1857

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE MARCH 22, 2014, LANDSLIDE IN WASHINGTON STATE

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday morning, a devastating natural disaster struck near the towns of Oso and Darrington in Washington State, where a hillside collapsed in a massive landslide, wiping out an entire neighborhood. At least eight lives have been lost already, with dozens and dozens more reported missing. The scale of damage and loss caused by this disaster is truly heartbreaking.

After spending time in the affected communities and in local emergency command centers over the weekend, I am inspired by the spirit, courage, and cooperation of everyone in these communities. I have seen the bravery of all of our first responders who have risked their own lives to save others and continue to do so selflessly.

As search and rescue efforts continue, tonight I ask my colleagues and those around the country to keep the victims, their families, and all those affected by this tragedy in your thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from the Washington delegation and I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in honor of all those that we have lost.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will now observe a moment of silence.

□ 1900

LANCE CORPORAL DANIEL NATHAN DEYARMIN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1813) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the “Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building”, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 137]

YEAS—393

Aderholt	DeLauro	Issa
Amash	DelBene	Jackson Lee
Amodei	Denham	Jeffries
Bachmann	Dent	Jenkins
Bachus	DeSantis	Johnson (GA)
Barber	DesJarlais	Johnson (OH)
Barletta	Deutch	Johnson, E. B.
Barr	Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam
Barrow (GA)	Dingell	Jolly
Barton	Doggett	Jones
Bass	Doyle	Jordan
Beatty	Duffy	Joyce
Becerra	Duncan (SC)	Kaptur
Bentivolio	Duncan (TN)	Keating
Bera (CA)	Edwards	Kelly (IL)
Bilirakis	Ellmers	Kelly (PA)
Bishop (GA)	Engel	Kennedy
Bishop (NY)	Enyart	Kildee
Bishop (UT)	Eshoo	Kilmer
Black	Esty	Kind
Blackburn	Farenthold	King (IA)
Blumenauer	Farr	King (NY)
Bonamici	Fattah	Kinzinger (IL)
Boustany	Fincher	Kirkpatrick
Brady (PA)	Fitzpatrick	Kline
Braley (IA)	Fleischmann	Kuster
Bridenstine	Fleming	Labrador
Brooks (AL)	Forbes	LaMalfa
Brooks (IN)	Fortenberry	Lamborn
Brown (FL)	Foster	Lance
Buchanan	Fox	Langevin
Bucshon	Frankel (FL)	Lankford
Burgess	Franks (AZ)	Larsen (WA)
Bustos	Frelinghuysen	Larson (CT)
Butterfield	Fudge	Latham
Byrne	Gabbard	Latta
Calvert	Gallego	Lee (CA)
Cantor	Garamendi	Levin
Capito	Garcia	Lewis
Capps	Gardner	Lipinski
Capuano	Garrett	LoBiondo
Carney	Gerlach	Loeb sack
Carson (IN)	Gibbs	Lofgren
Cartwright	Gibson	Long
Cassidy	Goodlatte	Lowenthal
Castor (FL)	Gosar	Lowe
Castro (TX)	Gowdy	Lucas
Chabot	Granger	Luetkemeyer
Chaffetz	Graves (GA)	Lujan Grisham
Chu	Graves (MO)	(NM)
Cicilline	Grayson	Luján, Ben Ray
Clark (MA)	Green, Al	(NM)
Clarke (NY)	Griffin (AR)	Lummis
Clay	Griffith (VA)	Lynch
Cleaver	Grimm	Maffei
Clyburn	Guthrie	Maloney,
Coble	Hahn	Carolyn
Coffman	Hall	Maloney, Sean
Cohen	Hanabusa	Marino
Cole	Hanna	Massie
Collins (GA)	Harper	Matheson
Collins (NY)	Harris	Matsui
Conaway	Hartzler	McAllister
Connolly	Hastings (FL)	McCarthy (CA)
Conyers	Hastings (WA)	McCaul
Cook	Heck (NV)	McClintock
Cooper	Heck (WA)	McCollum
Cotton	Hensarling	McDermott
Courtney	Herrera Beutler	McGovern
Cramer	Higgins	McHenry
Crawford	Himes	McIntyre
Crenshaw	Holding	McKeon
Crowley	Honda	McKinley
Cuellar	Horsford	McMorris
Culberson	Hoyer	Rodgers
Cummings	Hudson	McNerney
Daines	Huelskamp	Meadows
Davis (CA)	Huffman	Meehan
Davis, Danny	Huizenga (MI)	Meeks
Davis, Rodney	Hultgren	Meng
DeFazio	Hunt	Messer
DeGette	Hurt	Mica
Delaney	Israel	Michaud

Miller (FL)	Rigell	Southerland
Miller (MI)	Roby	Stewart
Miller, George	Roe (TN)	Stivers
Moore	Rogers (AL)	Stockman
Mullin	Rogers (KY)	Stutzman
Mulvaney	Rogers (MI)	Swalwell (CA)
Murphy (FL)	Rokita	Takano
Murphy (PA)	Rooney	Terry
Nadler	Ros-Lehtinen	Thompson (CA)
Napolitano	Roskam	Thompson (MS)
Neal	Ross	Thompson (PA)
Negrete McLeod	Rothfus	Tiberi
Neugebauer	Royce	Tierney
Noem	Ruiz	Tipton
Nolan	Runyan	Titus
Nugent	Ruppersberger	Tonko
Nunes	Ryan (OH)	Turner
Nunnelee	Ryan (WI)	Upton
O'Rourke	Salmon	Valadao
Owens	Sánchez, Linda	Van Hollen
Palazzo	T.	Vargas
Pallone	Sanchez, Loretta	Veasey
Pascrell	Sanford	Vela
Paulsen	Sarbanes	Velázquez
Payne	Scalise	Wagner
Pearce	Schakowsky	Walberg
Pelosi	Schiff	Walden
Perlmutter	Schneider	Walorski
Perry	Schock	Walz
Peters (CA)	Schrader	Wasserman
Peters (MI)	Schweikert	Schultz
Peterson	Scott (VA)	Waters
Petri	Scott, Austin	Waxman
Pittenger	Scott, David	Weber (TX)
Pitts	Sensenbrenner	Webster (FL)
Pocan	Serrano	Welch
Poe (TX)	Sessions	Wenstrup
Pompeo	Sewell (AL)	Westmoreland
Posey	Shea-Porter	Whitfield
Price (GA)	Sherman	Williams
Price (NC)	Shimkus	Wilson (FL)
Quigley	Shuster	Wilson (SC)
Rahall	Sinema	Wittman
Rangel	Sires	Wolf
Reed	Slaughter	Womack
Reichert	Smith (MO)	Woodall
Renacci	Smith (NE)	Yoder
Ribble	Smith (NJ)	Yoho
Rice (SC)	Smith (TX)	Young (AK)
Richmond	Smith (WA)	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—38

Benishek	Gohmert	Pingree (ME)
Brady (TX)	Green, Gene	Polis
Brown (GA)	Grijalva	Rohrabacher
Brownley (CA)	Gutiérrez	Roybal-Allard
Camp	Hinojosa	Rush
Campbell	Holt	Schwartz
Cárdenas	Kingston	Simpson
Carter	Marchant	Speier
Costa	McCarthy (NY)	Thornberry
Duckworth	Miller, Gary	Tsongas
Ellison	Moran	Visclosky
Flores	Olson	Yarmuth
Gingrey (GA)	Pastor (AZ)	

□ 1908

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the 'Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LANCE CORPORAL PHILLIP VINNEDGE POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2391) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service lo-

cated at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the "Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2391

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LANCE CORPORAL PHILLIP D. VINNEDGE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any references in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), the author of the bill.

Mrs. WAGNER. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of a great American hero.

On October 13, 2010, Missouri's Second District lost a fearless young man when Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving valiantly during Operation Enduring Freedom in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Phillip first decided to join the military at the age of 10 after witnessing the tragic events of September 11, and after graduating from Francis Howell Central High School in 2009, Phillip enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

To those who knew Phillip, his devotion to his country through service and sacrifice came as no surprise. He was always determined to protect family and friends and was a respected leader of humble, quiet, and kind nature who never sought accolades or recognition for his accomplishments. At the end of the day, he was happy just reaching his own personal goals while serving and protecting the country that he loved.

□ 1915

In addition to his military service, Phillip was an outstanding person. He

always sought exciting adventures and new opportunities, from being a Boy Scout, an Order of the Arrow member, a member of the trap shooting club, a wrestler, a welder, and a skydiver among many other great things. There was no challenge that Phillip would back down from. It is for these fearless and courageous servants like Phillip that we are able to know we are protected and allowed to enjoy freedom and liberty here at home.

Phillip will be greatly missed by all who knew him, but most of all by his family: his parents, David and Julie Vinnedge; and his brothers, Corey and Jason.

However, despite their grief, the Vinnedges continue to work hard to honor the memory of Phillip. Phillip had always wanted to buy and restore an old 1950s pickup truck. Since he never had the chance, his parents bought a 1951 Chevy and dedicated it to their son and other fallen marines. The images of the truck resemble events from Phillip's life and ideas that were important to him. Julie and David Vinnedge now use the truck to promote charities such as Toys for Tots, the Missouri Military Memorial Foundation, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

The United States of America owes Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge a priceless debt that we will never be able to fully repay. Therefore, the least I can do as a Representative of the United States Congress, it is my honor to sponsor H.R. 2391, a bill that names the Cottleville Post Office after such a genuine, honest, and great young man and by immortalizing a hero who gave up his life serving a Nation he absolutely loved. I am proud that this legislation will allow the inspiring story of Phillip to continue to be told in Missouri's Second District for a long, long time to come.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 2391, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri, as the Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office.

The measure before us was introduced on June 14, 2013, by my colleague, Representative ANN WAGNER. In accordance with the committee's requirements, the bill before us is cosponsored by all members of the Missouri delegation. H.R. 2391 was reported out of committee by unanimous consent on March 12, 2014.

After graduating from Francis Howell Central High School in 2009, Phillip attended Lewis & Clark Technical School for 2 years. Described as loving life and the challenges it presented, it

is no surprise that Phillip enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

Phillip Vinnedge was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force based at Camp Pendleton in California. In September 2010, Lance Corporal Vinnedge's unit was deployed to Afghanistan. Only a month later, he was tragically killed on October 13, 2010, as his unit was conducting combat operations in the Helmand province region.

While Lance Corporal Vinnedge will always be remembered as a marine who proudly served his country, those who know him best will forever remember him for his courageous and competitive spirit. Lance Corporal Vinnedge leaves behind his loving parents, Dave and Julie Vinnedge, and two brothers, Corey and Jason.

Lance Corporal Vinnedge is the recipient of the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we pass this bill to show honor and appreciation to one of our fallen heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I want to comment just briefly, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge is among the very first postal namings of the year. No other postal namings have occurred this entire Congress except these we are considering today for our fallen heroes. It has become clear that the public understands the importance of honoring those who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and so we do so today on behalf of the several fallen heroes.

This particular lance corporal, in addition to being from Missouri, deployed from Camp Pendleton in my district with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, a unit that has seen as a percentage the greatest amount of losses of any unit in the theater of Afghanistan or Iraq. The sacrifice of our marines in this conflict in Afghanistan with not a single body of water anywhere around it says a great deal about the new marines.

When Lance Corporal Vinnedge enlisted, he knew he was joining a force that wasn't waiting for a war in amphibious landing craft, but that in fact had already been and had fought with great distinction in Afghanistan, in addition to Iraq. He went there to serve his country, and he paid the highest cost. That is far too often what is happening around the world.

On behalf of the marines of Camp Pendleton, we have great pride in his service, his commitment, and I am pleased to urge all Members to vote for the passage of the naming of this post office after one of our heroes of this decade. With that, I urge support of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2391.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HHS MANDATES

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, jobs, health care, health insurance, and the First Amendment are all on the line this week when the Supreme Court hears about the threats posed by the Obama administration's HHS mandate. The question is simply this: Can the government use the threat of crippling fines to force the owners of a business to violate their own deeply held beliefs?

Two family-owned businesses that already provide good health coverage for their employees believe they should not be forced to pay for drugs and devices that are potentially life ending. But the Obama administration, which has waived or delayed other ObamaCare mandates, has fought for its HHS mandate all of the way to the Supreme Court. If the administration gets its way, the good jobs and the health insurance these businesses have provided may be lost and religious freedom will be assaulted.

The First Amendment protects the freedom of Americans to live and work according to their beliefs, and the Supreme Court must uphold that freedom.

HOBBY LOBBY V. SEBELIUS

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is a big day for the women of this country. The United States Supreme Court will hear argument in a case called *Hobby Lobby v. Sebelius*.

The Affordable Care Act mandates that employer-provided health care cover all forms of contraception at no cost. However, Hobby Lobby, a for-profit corporation, contends that its "religious beliefs prohibit it from providing full coverage."

I respectfully suggest, Mr. Speaker, that what is at stake is not the religious freedom of a corporation but the life and liberty and ability to pursue happiness by our daughters, our sisters, and our mothers.

There is no more crucial right for women and their families than the

ability for women to be in control of their own bodies. The decision to use birth control is a conversation for a woman and her physician, not a woman and her boss.

Tomorrow is a big day for the women of this country.

COLD WAR II

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Russian bear has roared. Bully Putin has gobbled up the strategic Crimea. The world did little except protest. So the bear eyes more sovereign land as prey.

We should not forget that while the West watched, KGB Colonel Putin invaded Georgia and stole one-third of that nation. The Russians have never left.

Now the persistent, pesky Putin is still hungry, and he wants more. Will it be Ukraine, Moldavia, Belarus, or our NATO ally, Estonia? This is Cold War II. It has begun.

Villain Vladimir holds former Soviet Republics hostage because the Ruskies control their energy. I was in Ukraine when Putin turned off the gas in winter to punish the Ukrainians. It was cold; it was dark.

Let us loosen the noose around the neck of Ukraine. Sell them our oversupply of natural gas. Expedite the permits, development, and delivery of U.S. natural gas. Send the word over there that the gas is coming, the gas is coming. Let the Napoleon of Siberia know he has bitten off more than he can chew by starting Cold War II.

And that's just the way it is.

CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

(Mr. GARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, last week marked 1 month since Leopoldo Lopez was unjustly arrested in Venezuela for his role in demonstrations against the ineptitude of the Venezuelan Government.

Mr. Lopez is one of the best-known prisoners in Venezuela, but he is not the only one: 121 people remain behind bars; over 2,000 have been detained while the democratic protests continue.

Despite these arrests, despite the hundreds of injured, dozens killed, the demonstrations continue. The voices of reform will not be silenced. Every day, the Venezuelan people are fighting for freedom, pleading for a better future, demanding their basic rights.

While much of our attention has been focused on the events in Ukraine and Russia, few nations are more closely

tied to our national interests than Venezuela. The time for America to act is coming.

CONGRATULATING JANA FALIC

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to congratulate a dear friend and an incredibly kind and compassionate woman, Jana Falic, the president of Women's International Zionist Organization, WIZO, U.S.A.

This Wednesday, March 26, Jana will be honored at this year's annual WIZO Gala with the prestigious Joseph Handleman Light of Philanthropy Award for her outstanding contributions to securing Israel's future.

Through her time, effort, and generosity, Jana has helped WIZO secure the needs of vulnerable Israelis through assistance, education, and empowerment so that they too can realize the hope of a better tomorrow.

Her philanthropic endeavors are motivated by her deep affection for the democratic Jewish State of Israel and have helped improve the lives of so many children, women, and elderly Israelis.

I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award than Jana Falic, and I only regret that I cannot be there in person to congratulate this good friend of Israel, this good friend of the United States.

Congratulations, Jana.

□ 1930

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CLEVE MINTER

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Reverend Cleve Minter, a member of my community, who passed away a few days ago.

Reverend Minter was pastor of the New Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, but also was a great gospel singer, who along with three of his friends—Reverend John Parker, Reverend Mac McCullum, and Reverend William Jenkins—were known fondly as the four heavyweights, and it didn't mean anything to do with size.

I express condolences to his family and church.

THE HOME HEATING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE THROUGH TRANSPORTATION ACT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, President Obama on Friday signed into law H.R. 4076, the Home Heating Emergency Assistance Through Transportation, or HHEATT, Act.

Having heard from so many constituents facing hardship relating to home heating fuel shortages and supply disruptions, I am a proud cosponsor of this bill, which will extend emergency relief to families and businesses during this ongoing crisis.

On February 5, 2014, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued temporary emergency declarations to allow tank truck operators delivering propane and other home heating fuels to drive for longer hours to speed up deliveries to affected States.

Even though spring is officially upon us, demand for home heating fuels remains high as communities across the country continue to endure below average temperatures. The HHEATT Act provides a guaranteed extension of the Department of Transportation's short-term emergency declarations until May 31, 2014.

I am pleased the Senate followed the House and took immediate action on this emergency legislation that will alleviate propane supply disruptions and get fuel to those who need it most.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW RUMENAPP

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize a very special 7-year-old. He is none other than Matthew Rumennapp of Wynantskill, New York. Matty is one of two Winning Kids who have been designated and selected by the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York to represent all children with epilepsy during the coming year.

Matty is the son of Amy and Derrick Rumennapp. Their 7-year-old attends first grade at St. Jude the Apostle School in Wynantskill and was diagnosed with epilepsy when he was only 2½ years old.

After 3 months of bravely battling the disease, Matty became seizure free and, to this day, remains so. His courage, positive attitude, and lively spirit gives strength to his schoolmates, his teachers, his sister, his parents, and me.

This evening, I salute Matty's bravery and courage, as well as the strength of his entire family. As a Winning Kid, Matty will help others fight seizures and work to find a cure.

2014 NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, did you know that, today, each American farmer feeds more than 144 people? In 1960, that same farmer fed only 25 people. Clearly, American agriculture is doing more and doing it better. As the world population continues to grow, there will be an even greater demand for food produced in the United States.

Tomorrow, March 25, marks the 41st anniversary of National Agriculture Day, sponsored by the Agriculture Council of America. The day represents a nationwide effort to educate Americans in classrooms and communities across the country on the importance of our family farmers, their contribution to our Nation's agriculture heritage and legacy, and how the industry impacts each and every one of us for the better.

Farming and agriculture are a crucial part of our economy, especially in Maryland, in the 1st Congressional District. It is the number one economic industry in our State, totaling \$2.3 billion in gross sales. Not surprisingly, poultry makes up the largest component in Maryland, supporting 24,000 jobs.

So as we recognize the efforts of these hardworking American families tomorrow, please be sure to take the time on National Agriculture Day to thank a farmer.

RENAMING THE NEWTOWN BYPASS TO THE BRIAN S. GREGG MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in my district in Pennsylvania, the Newtown bypass will be renamed, on April 22, the Brian S. Gregg Memorial Highway, in honor of a Newtown Borough police officer who lost his life in the line of duty on September 29, 2005.

Officer Gregg was 45, a husband and a father. Throughout a police career that began in 2003, Officer Gregg demonstrated his dedication to the Newtown community and its residents with his earnest and daily commitment to their protection.

Always professional in the performance of his duties, Officer Gregg was a familiar and friendly face in the borough. His presence and his service is missed.

Now, as we recognize the great sacrifice made by Officer Gregg and his family, we are also grateful as a wider community for the commitment we see reflected in the daily work of police officers and first responders everywhere.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PITTENGER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the

gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the subject of our Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, this month is Women's History Month, and the Congressional Black Caucus is pleased to come during this Special Order hour to bring attention to the important issues that particularly face women this month, but we shouldn't be fighting for equality just 1 month out of the year.

It is a constant effort. We are here tonight to encourage everyone to get engaged in making equality a reality.

As President Obama made clear during his State of the Union Address, when women succeed, America succeeds. So tonight, we, the Congressional Black Caucus, gather to discuss the ways in which we can help women succeed, rather than continuing to turn back the clock on women's rights.

I am pleased to start this hour with our chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the person who brings these issues forward each and every day on behalf of her constituents in Ohio and on behalf of constituents all across America, the gentlelady from Ohio, Representative FUDGE.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to thank Congressman JEFFRIES and HORSFORD for organizing this Special Order hour to celebrate Women's History Month.

Throughout the month of March, we highlight the important role women have played—and continue to play—in our Nation's history, a role too often overlooked.

My home State of Ohio has had a dynamic group of women who have changed the face of the State and of this country. There are countless areas influenced by women, including access to education and participation in our country's democracy.

Ohio women have made great strides in breaking down barriers. In fact, the first woman to run for President of the United States was from Ohio. Ms. Victoria C. Woodhull was a writer and women's rights activist. She ran for President in 1872, with the abolitionist Frederick Douglass as her running mate.

While there has yet to be a woman elected President, the number of women in elected offices has grown over the years. However, the rate of growth has been at a less than desirable pace.

Despite the fact that women make up more than 50 percent of the Nation's

populous, we are less than 20 percent of the U.S. House of Representatives, where, until 1917, women were not represented at all.

African American women often face compounded discrimination because of our race and gender. As a result, many of our firsts are more recent.

In 1971, Ellen Walker Craig-Jones was the first African American woman elected mayor, by popular vote, for an American municipality, leading Urbancrest, Ohio.

The first African American congresswoman to represent Ohio was my friend and predecessor, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who was elected in 1998.

While I could go on to detail the important firsts of more women from Ohio and what they have accomplished, there is a better way, and it is legislation.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 863, the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013. The National Women's History Museum would be the first museum to place a national spotlight on the many contributions women have made over the course of our country's history.

More accurately, it is an opportunity to have a permanent place to acknowledge and to celebrate women who have shaped our history and will shape our future.

Women continue to lead national dialogues on critical issues and advance policies and politics in ways that move this Nation forward, including groundbreaking legislation like the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

When we are at the decisionmaking table, we make the discussions more representative of our population, while bringing a unique perspective which expands the conversation.

That is why I will continue to support legislation that will amplify our voices and improve the quality of life for women across our Nation by increasing the minimum wage, investing in quality early childhood education, protecting reproductive rights, and increasing access to high-quality STEM Education.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let's be mindful of the progress we have made and the work that still needs to be done because when women succeed, America succeeds.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus for your dynamic leadership as the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. It has been my honor to serve with you this legislative Congressional session and look forward to the many achievements ahead on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, so much of the focus tonight is on the history that women contribute to our great Nation. We have many dynamic women who serve in our delegation in the House of Rep-

resentatives. It is part of that representation that ensures that these issues that are important to women, as they are important to all Americans, are brought forward.

We have none other than a champion for women in her district in the northern part of California, but also around the world. She is someone who needs no introduction because she brings so much experience and education and knowledge to these issues. I would like to yield now to the gentlelady from California, Representative BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Let me first thank you, Representative HORSFORD and Congressman JEFFRIES, for organizing the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order. You have really shown tremendous leadership and consistency and have been working so hard on behalf, not only of your constituents, but for the entire country and especially for the CBC.

Let me just thank, while she is here, our phenomenal chair, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, for her leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus.

As we celebrate women's history and trailblazing women, we celebrate them for their courage, character, and commitment. That is our 2014 Women's History Month theme.

So I am so proud that we have a chairwoman who exhibits all three of these characteristics. Thank you for standing strong and for leading the Congressional Black Caucus on so, so many fronts. Thank you and congratulations.

Let me just say that I agree with Congressman HORSFORD when you say, each month—each day, really—we should always celebrate women's history; though in March, we, again, take a moment to recognize really the triumphs of women throughout the course of history and to mark how far we have come, but also to recognize that there is much work to be done.

Now, let me just start by mentioning the phenomenal and beautiful 89-year-old woman, Mildred Massey, who of course is my role model. She raised three girls in segregated El Paso, Texas, until desegregation and, at one point, worked three jobs to help take care of her family.

We lived in a multigenerational household and, until his death, was her father's—W.C. Parrish, my grandfather—primary caregiver while working and taking care of her girls.

She taught me at an early age that girls and women are born equal to boys and men and to never forget that and to always fight for equality and justice. That was a given in our household.

□ 1945

I would not be where I am had it not been for my mother and also for many incredible fighters like my mother who

came before me in the public arena. I would like to take a moment to honor three women in particular, in addition to my mother, whose shoulders we stand on: Bessie Coleman, Dr. Dorothy Height, and, of course, Shirley Chisholm.

Bessie Coleman, as she was quoted, refused to take “no” for an answer. Although she dreamed of becoming a pilot, no flight school in the United States would accept her simply because she was a woman and because she was Black, but she refused to take “no” for an answer. She enrolled in flight school in France and became the only woman and the only person of color in her class in Paris. She soon became the first African American woman pilot and the first American of any race to hold an international pilot’s license.

Several weeks ago, a portion of Airport Drive at the Oakland International Airport, in my district, was renamed “Bessie Coleman Drive.” It was such an inspiration to be part of this dedication ceremony because she, of course, was from or worked in Oakland, and really went to many of her classes and learned a lot about piloting in Oakland, California.

Another great woman who refused to take “no” for an answer was our beloved and great doctor, Dorothy Height. Let me just say how fortuitous it is that today is Dr. Height’s birthday. She was a bold and brilliant African American woman who blazed many trails and opened many doors to the American Dream for women and people of color.

From her stewardship as the national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority—of whom I know our chair, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, and Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY are proud members—to her leading the National Council of Negro Women for 41 years and to her more than 60 years at the YWCA, which she was responsible for desegregating, Dorothy Height dedicated her life to achieving racial equality and securing women’s rights. Dr. Height was especially committed to empowering women and girls, and worked to ensure that Black women’s issues were equally addressed. She was also dedicated to helping women work towards full employment, pay, and education.

I remember when Dr. Height turned, I believe it was, 90 years old. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus honored her at a luncheon here on Capitol Hill. She really gave us more background and knowledge and information during that luncheon as to how those following behind her needed to really focus on the fact that, yes, when women succeed, America succeeds. Dorothy Height was a true leader for all women not only in our own country but throughout the world.

In the seventies, Women’s History Month was little more than an idea. As

this idea was taking formation, Shirley Chisholm, a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, had only recently made history by becoming the first African American woman elected to Congress. I was a student at Mills College in the early seventies when Mrs. Chisholm again made history by becoming the first African American woman and the first African American to run for the Democratic Presidential nomination. Although she did not win the nomination, her campaign inspired thousands, myself included, to use their voices and to speak up through the ballot box. She blazed the trail for, of course, our Nation’s first great President, President Barack Obama.

Throughout her congressional career, the unbought and unbossed Mrs. Chisholm continued her fight against discrimination in all forms and championed issues for women and their families. She was a strong voice for domestic workers and led the fight to give them the right to a minimum wage. This was way back in the day, but we are still struggling and fighting for many of those issues. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was instrumental, along with the first Asian Pacific American, our beloved Congresswoman Patsy Mink, in passing title IX, which prohibits discrimination in the funding of education programs. She was also a fierce advocate for the Affordable Child Care Act. There is no doubt that the 16 African American women in Congress today are truly standing on the strong, strong shoulders of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

After years of trying, I am pleased that we were finally able to secure a postage stamp in her honor. Just last month, I was joined by Leader PELOSI in my district for the west coast unveiling of the United States Postal Service’s Black Heritage stamp as a small token of our thanks while Congressmen JEFFRIES and RANGEL and Congresswoman CLARKE had the privilege to unveil the beautiful stamp in Shirley Chisholm’s former district in Brooklyn, New York.

So 101 years after women marched in Washington, D.C., for the right to vote, women are still fighting to break down barriers. It is really a disgrace that in 2014, despite making up 50 percent of our workforce, women still make, on average, 77 cents for every dollar a man makes. Even worse, African American women are making only 64 cents and Latinas only 55 cents for every dollar a White man makes. The point is that working women are paid less for the same work as men. This is wrong and it is discriminatory. What is more, child care remains unaffordable; quality, affordable education remains out of the reach of far too many women; and pregnancy discrimination continues. Again, this is simply unacceptable.

That is why the Democratic women of the House, including the women of

the CBC, under the leadership of NANCY PELOSI and DONNA EDWARDS and DORIS MATSUI and ROSA DELAUNO, have launched When Women Succeed, America Succeeds, and are championing an economic agenda for women and families, one which our President supports.

Finally, let me just quote from my dear friend, our beloved Shirley Chisholm. She once said: I want to be remembered as a woman who dared to be a catalyst for change.

There is no doubt that she was.

As we honor heroines like my mother, Shirley Chisholm, Dorothy Height, Bessie Coleman, and so many others in our districts who fight each and every day with little resources to make our communities better, let us remember that, yes, when women succeed, America succeeds. Also, as I said at the United Nations very recently at the Commission on the Status of Women, when women succeed, the world becomes a more just and a more equitable place.

Thank you for your leadership.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you to the gentlelady from California. Thank you for that great historical overview and perspective and for bringing those profound remarks to the floor this evening.

I would also like to yield to a dynamic colleague. We have had the great honor and privilege to get to know each other as freshmen in this congressional session. She is the gentlelady from Ohio. She brings so much talent and perspective, energy and focus to the issues that she works on here in the House of Representatives on behalf of her constituents and those around the country. I would like to yield now to the gentlelady from Ohio, Representative JOYCE BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you to my colleagues.

I would like to thank Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. JEFFRIES for hosting the Congressional Black Caucus’ important discussion on celebrating Women’s History Month. As we honor so many women who have shaped our history, let us also celebrate those who make progress in today’s time.

Certainly, you will hear throughout this hour, “When Women Succeed, America Succeeds.” What an honor it was, Mr. Speaker, to hear our President of these United States say it before an audience of millions of people in his State of the Union address. More importantly than his saying it is how it was received. People received it in the spirit that he said it. Do you know why, Mr. Speaker? It is because, when women succeed, America succeeds.

As you have heard, in 1987, Congress declared March to be National Women’s History Month, giving the Nation the chance to salute the trailblazers who paved the way for so many of us to have the rights that we have today. National Women’s History Month gives us

an opportunity to acknowledge the groundbreakers of the past, thank the heroines of today, and inspire the leaders of the future. It is a reminder that, if we believe in ourselves, we can really make a difference.

It reminds us of women like Rosa Parks—the mother of the modern civil rights movement—or the woman known for: I shall be unbought and unbosomed. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Shirley Chisholm, who ran for President and who was the first African American woman elected to Congress, and, yes, Dorothy Height, who, if still living, would have just this week celebrated her 102nd birthday. There are so many more women we could talk about—women of the past or today—like our very own Congressional Black Caucus chairwoman, MARCIA FUDGE, from the great State of Ohio. Others are unknown outside of their own families and communities, people like my grandmother and my great-aunt and like my 90-year-old mother, who lives today and sets a great example, not only for her three daughters, but for women across this Nation. All of them are a part of our history, and their courage and dedication have helped to sustain the American spirit.

These pioneers and heroines have brought down barriers and have created new opportunities. We have now witnessed the first African American woman Secretary of State, the first female Speaker of the United States House of Representatives—a woman I get to sit with on a weekly basis, a woman who sets an example. Yes, she is Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI. There is now a record number of women serving in Congress, with 20 women serving in the Senate and 82 women serving in the House of Representatives. However, although women have made great strides, there is much more to do.

We continue to face discrimination in the workplace. We have a higher risk of sexual assault and an earnings gap that will cost the average woman hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of her working lifetime. An average woman still makes 77 cents for every dollar made by men, and the gap is even wider for Black women. On average, Black women earn only 64 cents for every dollar earned by White men. In addition, women-owned businesses continue to lag behind male-owned businesses. The average revenue of women-owned businesses is only 27 percent of the average revenue by male-owned businesses.

In response to these and other challenges women are currently facing, in July 2013, House Democrats unveiled “When Women Succeed, America Succeeds: An Economic Agenda for Women and Families.” This platform addresses the need to ensure that women get equal pay for equal work. It helps to ensure work and family balance by al-

lowing working parents to support their families and to care for their children. So many of us in this Chamber understand that. It also recognizes that expanding educational opportunities, increasing job training, and investing in women entrepreneurs is essential for women’s success in our economy.

Federal investments have and continue to help ensure economic opportunities for women and girls. For example, earning a college degree remains one of the surest pathways to the middle class. Women with a bachelor’s degree earn more than 80 percent more than those with a high school degree. Today, more than 11 million women are pursuing a postsecondary education, and average graduation rates for women exceed those of their male counterparts, but we certainly know everyone will not go to college, and that is okay. We have to continue to fight to make sure that there is a place for women in workforce development, in higher education, in the home, or in whatever work they choose to do. Women in STEM fields make, on average, 33 percent more than women in non-STEM fields, and certainly we know that technology and innovation in STEM—science, technology, engineering, and math—is the way of the future.

So let me just say to my colleagues: Thank you for hosting this evening on Women’s History Month. Thank you for honoring women.

To all of the women—the mothers, the sisters, the aunts, the girlfriends—who are watching us: remember, when women succeed, America succeeds.

Thank you.

□ 2000

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio, Representative JOYCE BEATTY, for those illuminating topics that were covered, and for highlighting all the various ways, both historically and currently, that women make a huge impact in our society, in the home, in the workplace, in education, and throughout all aspects of life. So thank you, Representative BEATTY, for your ongoing contributions to these important issues.

I am so proud to be joined here by the Representative from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), my coanchor of this hour. I look forward to his remarks.

I want to also highlight in addition to all of the national leaders and women who have run for office, whether it be here in the House of Representatives, in the Senate, or as President, we also have many unsung women who toil everyday but who make a huge impact.

It is only fitting, Mr. Speaker, that during Women’s History Month that I recognize a Nevada leader, an icon, Ms. Ruby Duncan, who is an inspiration in my home State to many.

Ruby to me is the personification of the word fight. She is someone we can all learn from each and every day. Her history is a lesson in never giving up and staring down the specter of inequality. Nothing was ever handed to her, but much was taken.

Ruby’s life began in the middle of the Great Depression. Where she grew up in rural Louisiana, people were already poor for a long time. Ruby had three brothers and a sister, all but one passing from accidents or illnesses. She lost her parents before she was 4. She spent most of her youth moving around Tallulah, living with relatives.

The school that she attended, a school for Black children, was located in a church miles from home. There was no transportation. She walked every day until she left school after the ninth grade for full-time work. Actually, it was more than full-time work. For years she was a waitress making about \$9.50 a week. Yes, that’s right, \$9.50 a week. Her work weeks were long, over 80 hours a week.

When she heard her aunt in Las Vegas was making \$40 for similar work, she moved there. When she arrived, she discovered her aunt living in a cardboard shack in the desert, sharing a community wash house with others. She discovered a de facto segregated community there, separate schools, housing, and zoning in the community resulted in a system of clear disenfranchisement.

Blacks were not welcome at the Las Vegas Strip hotels. There were colored sections designated in movie theaters. Still, Ms. Ruby Duncan persevered. She survived. She did day work as a maid in homes around the area. In 1959 she worked as a hotel maid but was fired later for attempting to organize other maids to protest the inhumane treatment and workload.

For a while her only income for herself and her children was the aid to dependent children grant that she received from the State welfare system. Like those struggling today, she did not rest. She was not lazy; she worked. She searched for work and was hired in the pantry of one of the Strip hotels in Las Vegas.

After an accident, she learned she could no longer do the heavy work that she was performing. When a State program that was supporting her was cut, she was contacted to join a group of mothers going up to Carson City, our State’s capital, to protest standard grants from the Nevada Legislature.

Ruby marched and spoke at a hearing with no prior experience in public speaking. She did it because someone had to say something for those who were struggling. Someone had to stand up for what was right.

After Mrs. Duncan’s trip to Carson City, she was elected president of the Clark County Welfare Rights Organization. As president, she led the nationally publicized 1971 marches on the Las

Vegas Strip, protesting the purge of thousands of needy Nevada families from programs designed to help the poor and allow them to keep their heads above water.

From that she has fought to provide basic necessities to families in need—food, shelter, health services, and education. Her organization that she created, Operation Life, has had an impact on health screening centers, libraries, food programs for women, infants and children, child care, and the list goes on.

Ruby Duncan represents hope. In a country plagued by inequality and discrimination of the worst forms, Ruby fought and won many decisive battles that affect the lives of so many in Nevada and across this Nation today.

Not everyone wins their battle with poverty. For so many, circumstances beyond their control take over their lives. For many born poor, they stay poor. For many born just above the poverty line, they dip below and enter a cycle of living paycheck to paycheck, if they can even find one.

The poor are not poor because of a weak character. They are not lazy. Many are poor because no one ever gave them a chance. It is people like Ruby Duncan that I am here to represent. The people who had less than a hand up, but they still persevered. She is strong, and she is an inspiration to me, and someone who I wanted to recognize during this recognition of Women's History Month. Congratulations to Ms. Ruby Duncan.

I would now like to yield to the co-anchor for this hour, my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES). It is always great to be here with you, to bring this hour of power of information to the constituents throughout the United States who are listening. I thank you for your friendship, for always working hard, for including me, and it is great to serve with you in this 113th Congress.

I yield to my good friend.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman, my good friend from the Silver State, Representative STEVEN HORSFORD, for his tremendous leadership in anchoring the CBC's Special Order and for the tremendous advocacy that you have consistently provided to the people of the congressional district you so ably serve back at home in Nevada and indeed to people all across this country.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as a coanchor during this CBC Special Order, this hour of power where for 60 minutes members of the Congressional Black Caucus have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people about an issue of great relevance.

Today as you have heard, we today stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives to celebrate the role that women have played throughout

the tapestry of the American people from the beginning of the Republic to where we stand right now in 2014.

Representative BARBARA LEE spoke moments earlier about the Women's History Month theme, involving courage, character, and commitment. As I reflected upon that theme, several individuals came to mind. Certainly when it comes to courage, I think no one meets that threshold in American history perhaps more than the great Harriet Tubman, a conductor on the underground railroad.

Harriet Tubman is someone who displayed tremendous courage throughout her time here in this country. She was known for having a Bible in one hand and a gun in the other. Harriet Tubman freed herself from slavery.

At that point, after settling in New York State she could have simply gone on to try and live out her life with relative tranquility, having escaped the harshness of human subjugation down in the Southern part of this country.

Instead, Harriet Tubman, we know as history records, went back down South an additional 19 times and freed more than 200 Black slaves, risking her life, her well-being, her freedom each and every time she crossed the Mason-Dixon line to try and liberate those who were subjected to slavery in this country.

What is interesting about that life story and the courage that Harriet Tubman displayed, the selflessness and the sacrifice as this prominent conductor on the underground railroad, stations exist in the district that I currently represent in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, at the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church.

What was tremendous about Harriet Tubman is that later on in life she was apparently asked about her heroics, the sacrifice, the selflessness, the courage, the willingness to risk life and limb to free others after she had already liberated herself. She made an observation that has always stuck with me. Harriet Tubman said: I could have freed more, if they only knew that they were slaves. I could have freed more if they only knew that they were slaves.

That suggests to me that sometimes people who find themselves in life in a certain station and notwithstanding their talents or their ability, the fact that someone has put before them a pathway towards success, an opportunity to move forward in pursuit of the American Dream, that there is something that constrains them and keeps them standing in place.

I have always looked to those words of Harriet Tubman and the great heroism that she displayed as a source of tremendous inspiration and something that should inspire all Americans—Black, White, Latino, Asian, men and women, older Americans, younger Americans—like courage, character and commitment. I certainly think in

terms of courageousness you can find no one who had that quality in greater abundance than of course Harriet Tubman.

Now, Representative LEE also referenced Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. I stand here today proud of the fact that I represent many of the neighborhoods that Congresswoman Chisholm once represented in this Congress.

She was elected in 1968 and became the first African American woman ever elected to the House of Representatives in the history of this great Republic, served seven terms, 14 distinguished years. She retired in 1982. At which point, there were parts of her district that were subsequently represented by Congressman Ed Towns, who served for 30 years in the Congress and whom I had the opportunity to replace.

Then there were other parts of her district subsequently represented by Congressman Major Owens, who served for 26 years and who Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE subsequently represented.

For a great while there was a tremendous debate as to who actually held the legacy of Shirley Chisholm's seat. Well, I think Congresswoman CLARKE and I worked it out. She was such a tremendous Member of the House that it actually takes two Members of Congress to replace her. I proudly acknowledge that I serve in one of the two Shirley Chisholm legacy seats here in the House of Representatives.

Of course when she got elected in 1968 there were some folks in this Chamber not used to seeing an African American woman, with very prominent hair, who was "Unbought and Unbossed," and comes into this Chamber. Tradition says that she was assigned by the Speaker then to the agricultural committee as a punitive measure, because obviously in this urban district that she represented it seems to a lot of folks that appointment to the agricultural committee would not necessarily be the committee of relevant jurisdiction for the issues that she was elected to Congress to fight for.

Shirley Chisholm took that assignment and quickly recognized that while in this country you had surplus, abundance of food that was being created, you also had a lot of hungry folks, many of whom lived in the district that she represented.

□ 2015

So she began to work on expanding the food stamp program and championed, in fact, increasing supplemental nutritional assistance to at-risk, expectant mothers and helped lead the charge in the House of Representatives for the Women, Infants, and Children supplemental nutritional assistance program.

She partnered with then-Senator Bob Dole, who was over on the other side of

this Capitol. She took what was meant as a punitive assignment and turned it into something transformative for the people that she represented, as well as those across the country.

So, from a character and a commitment standpoint, she demonstrated, again, that there is opportunity in the face of adversity. That is what she did here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Earlier today, the League of Women Voters acknowledged Shirley Chisholm for her accomplishments in the district that I represent, in fact, in the Shirley Chisholm State Office Building that I was proud to have authored the legislation, when I was in the New York State Assembly, that transformed that Kings County State Office Building into one named on behalf of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

We stand on the shoulders of a lot of giants, but I certainly acknowledge that I am standing on the shoulders of Representative Shirley Chisholm, as so many folks are all across the city, the State of New York, and certainly this country. She inspired generations of people to believe what was possible.

I was talking to one of the women who, in the seventies, began to work closely with Congresswoman Chisholm, and she explained to me that Shirley Chisholm was such a forceful personality that her group of young women who, in the seventies, she would work closely with, that they were called Shirley Chisholm and the Chisettes.

Sounds to me like a Motown group, but these were transformative individuals, Shirley Chisholm and the Chisettes, who believed, perhaps back then, that when women succeed, America succeeds, and understood that there was still work that needed to be done to shatter the glass ceilings that had been erected all across this country.

Shirley Chisholm did just that in 1972, when she ran for the Democratic nomination for the United States Presidency. What I find fascinating is that her theme at that point was “catalyst for change.”

In many ways, this was a prophetic theme, “catalyst for change,” because she was that catalyst for a whole lot of things that were to have occurred decade after decade, when she made that first run for office.

As has been mentioned on the floor of the House of Representatives, many could argue that there would not be a President Barack Obama had Shirley Chisholm not taken that bold step forward in 1972.

We have a whole lot of things, of course, that still need to be addressed, and I look forward to dealing with some of those issues.

As has been pointed out, women simply make 77 cents for every dollar that a man makes in America, and that hurts our overall economic productivity because 40 percent of the house-

holds in this country, women are the predominant primary breadwinner.

So we have got some economic issues to work out to continue the work that had been done by so many in this country, Shirley Chisholm included, and I look forward to continuing that discussion with Congressman STEVEN HORSFORD.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the gentleman from New York. Thank you for that very insightful background on your district and the leadership of the district. It speaks to why there is so much impact that comes from Representatives from your district and the area and the neighborhoods that you represent.

I know that you cannot fully fill those shoes, but you are doing your part in bringing forward the message that so many others carried and that we follow now on their shoulders, so thank you for that historical perspective.

In addition to the historical perspective that women offer in this country, the House Democrats also have a legislative agenda that focuses on when women succeed, America succeeds. It is an economic agenda for women, and it is one that was created by the women in the House Democratic Caucus that is sponsored and supported by men.

As a man, I support this economic agenda for women because, as a husband and a father, I want for every woman what I want for my own wife and my daughter. As a brother and a son, I want for other women what I want for my two sisters and my mother. So this economic agenda for women focuses on a number of areas.

The first, of course, is equal pay for equal work. It is appalling, Mr. Speaker, that in the year 2014, we are still struggling to pay women the wages that they deserve. They are still not receiving equal pay for equal work. That, on its face, is wrong.

Women in my home State of Nevada are paid about 85 cents for every dollar paid to men; and while that is better than the 77-cent national average, we still have a long, long way to go.

As my colleagues have already explained, for African American women and Latinas, this pay gap is even larger. African American women, on average, earn only 64 cents; and Latinas, on average, earn only 55 cents for every dollar earned by White, non-Hispanic men.

In my home State of Nevada, the pay gap between men and women is, on average, \$6,316 per year. Now, that is real money, and it makes a real impact in the lives of families. Nevada women lose approximately \$2 billion per year because of this wage gap.

Now, what can \$6,316 pay for, for families in my home State of Nevada?

\$6,316 is about 46 more weeks of food. \$6,316 per year is 4 more months of mortgage and utility payments. \$6,316

per year is 7 months of rent. \$6,316 per year is an additional 1,681 gallons of gas.

So if we thought that the wage gap was just some rhetoric that was being talked about out there, all you have to look at is the real impact of lost economic benefit to women. If we closed the wage gap between men and women, we could cut the poverty rate in half for working women and their families.

It is the right thing to do, to treat people equally, to pay them equal pay for equal work. That is why 125,000 households in Nevada, who are headed by women, expect this Congress to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, invest in job training and educational opportunities, and make sure that we protect pregnant workers from discrimination in the workplace.

Now, another area that we have to address is raising the minimum wage and giving America a raise.

Mr. Speaker, low-income workers continue to struggle to provide for their families, while the rich continue to make record profits in the millions.

It is important to remember who earns the minimum wage in this country. They are women. Women make up the majority of low-income workers. In fact, nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women. These are our mothers. They are our sisters and our daughters.

Can we really expect for women to provide for their families when they are making the minimum wage?

Let's talk about what \$7.25 really means as a national wage for women. That is \$14,500 a year. Can people really survive on \$14,500 a year?

Particularly, more than a majority now of women who are the head of their household, the primary breadwinners, can they provide for themselves and their families on \$14,500 a year?

That is why House Democrats, in this economic agenda for women—when women succeed, America succeeds—we understand that by lifting the Federal minimum wage to \$10.10, that if it were adjusted for inflation, compared to what it was in the 1960s, it would be well past time, Mr. Speaker, to address this pay gap for women.

In addition to increasing the minimum wage to help 1 in 3 adult women who are currently living in poverty or on the brink of it, this would help lift those women out of poverty, helping 30 million Americans see an increase in their wage, a million Americans being lifted out of poverty.

These are the real impacts and the benefits on the economic agenda for women.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, Mr. JEFFRIES, to elaborate further on these points, and then I can close us out.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I want to thank my distinguished colleague for his comprehensive presentation as it relates to

the economic trauma that many women find themselves in, given the pay disparities that continue to exist in America.

Mr. Speaker, the President came to the House of Representatives earlier this year to deliver a State of the Union Address and pointed out the fact that women, of course, make 77 cents for every dollar that a man makes and indicated the outrageousness of that in modern-day America.

It is a moral outrage, and for that reason alone, we should seek corrective action by moving forward with the Paycheck Fairness Act here in the Congress.

But aside from it being a moral outrage, as Congressman HORSFORD has pointed out, it has economic consequences. Because 40 percent of households in America are headed by women as the primary breadwinners, if you have such a significant portion of households led economically by individuals who are receiving disparate pay, you are hurting American families.

Now, one of the ways in which we can remedy this situation, of course, is to move forward with H.R. 1010, the minimum wage increase legislation authored in the House of Representatives by Congressman GEORGE MILLER, co-sponsored, of course, by Congressman HORSFORD, myself and many other Democratic Members of the House of Representatives.

We are of the view that both America needs a raise and women in America need a raise. 66 percent of minimum wage earners in this country are women.

Now, the minimum wage in America right now, the floor that is set by Congress, \$7.25 an hour, means that someone can work 40 hours a week, each and every week throughout the year, go to work, and still fall below the Federal poverty line in attempting to raise a family. That is disgraceful, the classic definition of working poor, and it should not exist.

I thought the American ideal was that if you get up for work, you work hard, you punch the clock, that at the end of the day, there should be a pathway toward meaningful success in the context of the American Dream.

Right now, we have got a minimum wage that keeps individuals trapped in poverty, and the overwhelming majority of those individuals are women in America. So when we talk about an agenda that we have put forth—when women succeed, America succeeds—that is not just hyperbole or something designed to make folks feel good. It is an economic reality. That is why we are so committed to that agenda.

We are committed to making sure that child care in America is affordable because of the fact that so many women, thankfully, are part of the workforce; but as a result of their par-

ticipation in the workforce, they need to find affordable, quality child care for their children.

That is one of the things that we, as House Democrats, continue to try and put forth, and we are just hopeful that our friends on the other side of the aisle will realize that moving forward with an agenda that uplifts women in America honors the great contributions of women in this country, decade after decade, century after century, from the founding of the Republic; but more significantly, will empower women and, in doing so, empower America to continue to forge forward into the future as the greatest Nation in the world.

□ 2030

So I am thankful to my colleague for his leadership tonight in connection with this Special Order, and I look forward to continuing to work on a progressive Congressional Black Caucus agenda for women, for men, for America, and for our future.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the gentleman, my coanchor, for joining me this hour.

Mr. Speaker, as we come to a close, to just highlight some of the major reasons why the Congressional Black Caucus along with the House Democrats believe that, if we are really going to honor the role of women in this country, then we need to start by honoring them through equal pay. We need to honor them through an economic agenda that supports their needs and the needs of their families.

And as my colleagues have already ably laid out, women now make up half—47 percent—of the general workforce and some 62 percent of the minimum wage workforce, which is up from about 30 percent in the 1950s. Twelve percent of workers in the United States have access to paid family leave through their employers, and fewer than 40 percent have access to personal medical leave through employer-provided short-term disability insurance.

So one of the other cornerstones, in addition to giving women equal pay for equal work, for increasing the minimum wage, is providing a work-family balance by allowing women to be able to take off work when necessary to care for a loved one without losing their earnings and a paycheck.

Laws providing paid family leave and medical leave allow workers to continue to earn a portion of their pay while they take time away from work to address serious health conditions, including pregnancy, to care for a family member with a serious health condition, and to care for a newborn, newly adopted child or a newly placed foster child.

You know, we should be encouraging the growth of strong, healthy families. And so often my colleagues on the

other side talk about family values. Well, if you won't pass legislation that allows workers to spend time with their families, then what kind of a family value is that?

Over the average lifetime of a woman, by the age of 65, they will have lost \$431,000 because of the earnings gap. That is something that the House Democrats, along with the Congressional Black Caucus, are working to address. We have legislation, When Women Succeed, America Succeeds, the economic agenda for women that we have laid out here tonight that would close this earnings gap, provide women the support they need to make more, helping their families and helping our economy as a whole.

So in closing, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about Women's History Month, we hope that it will resonate in this Chamber and in the Halls here in Washington that the decisions that we make impact the lives of all of our constituents. And it is time that women have a fair shot to the full opportunity that this country has to offer, and it starts by providing them with the earnings that they deserve. This is good not only for that woman and her future, but it is good for the family as a whole.

As I said earlier, I want for every woman what I want for my wife and my daughter: to be able to have the same opportunities and to be treated the same way as a man is treated in this country. I want for every woman what I want for my two sisters and my mother: to have the same equal opportunities to pursue their dreams and to be paid the same for pursuing that dream.

So these are the issues that we have laid out tonight, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues on the other side. We would like to thank the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative FUDGE, and all of the members of the CBC and those who were able to speak tonight. When women succeed, Mr. Speaker, America succeeds.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues with the Congressional Black Caucus in this Special Order in recognition of Women's History Month.

I want to offer a special mention for the U.S. House of Representatives women firsts:

Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin of Montana who was the first elected woman member of the House of Representatives;

Congresswoman Patsy Mink of Hawaii was the first woman of color and the first Asian American woman elected to Congress;

Congresswoman Shirley Anita Chisholm of New York who was the first African-American Congresswoman member of the House of Representatives; and

Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN whom we have the honor of working with is the first Hispanic woman elected to serve in Congress.

National Women's History Month's roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions.

International Women's Day was first observed in 1909.

In 1981, Congress passed a law authorizing the President to proclaim March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." It was a modest beginning, but very significant to women because it started a societal and cultural change in how women—and especially young girls saw themselves within the American story.

In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the President has issued a proclamation.

This month we recognize Women's History Month by noting the fundamental role women have played in shaping America's history. But I say to you that a month is not enough to make known the significant contributions of women to the success of the United States of America.

We taught our girls about Rosie the Riveter who represented the millions of American women who went to work on assembly lines to manufacture tanks, planes, and weapons for the defense of this nation during World War II. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 863, the National Women's History Commission Act.

The bill would establish a Commission to study the potential for creating a National Women's History Museum and submit to the President and Congress a report containing recommendations on a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC.

Congressional action is needed to be sure that when the story of our nation is told that the role of women is represented in the narrative of our nation.

I along with my colleagues participating in this special order are urging passage of H.R. 863, to study the potential creation of a National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC, on or near the National Mall.

The Shriver Report, "A Woman's Nation Pushes Back from the Brink: Some Recommended Steps for Government, Businesses, and Women" reported on the economic health of the average American woman.

Today, women make up half the U.S. workforce, but the average full time working woman earns only 77 percent of what the average full time working man makes.

There are many women in the State of Texas and in the city of Houston who have made significant contributions to the American story:

Congresswoman Barbara Jordan of Texas was the first African-American woman elected to the House of Representatives;

Kathryn "Kathy" Whitmire was the first woman elected to serve in Houston City government; and

Mae Carol Jemison was the first African-American woman astronaut.

These many accomplishments do not mean there is not more that needs to be done. There is still a long way for women to go according to the Shriver Report.

Women are more than 50 percent of the population and more than 50 percent of the votes.

A woman working full time, all year at a minimum-wage job, or a job close to the minimum wage, will not be able to bring her family above the poverty line. Families need an income closer to 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold to escape the brink.

In the Shriver Report's survey:

73 percent of Americans said that in order to raise the incomes of working women and their families, they strongly favor the government ensuring that women get equal pay for equal work;

79 percent of Americans said the government should expand access to high-quality, affordable childcare for working families;

Almost 60 percent of Americans said women raising children on their own face tremendous challenges and should be helped financially by government, employers, and communities; and

If we are going to win the war on poverty we must wage and win the war of discrimination of women in the workforce.

Pay inequality is not just a women's issue—it is a family income equality issue.

TEXAS LOW WAGE WORKER BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

In 2012, Texas ranked second among the 50 states with workers earning at or below the federal minimum wage.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics of the 6.1 million workers are paid hourly rates in Texas in 2012,

In Texas 282,000 earned exactly the prevailing federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, while 170,000 earned less.

From 2011 to 2012, the number of Texas workers who earned at or below the federal minimum wage was 7.5 percent. The percentage of workers earning less than the federal minimum in 2012 was 2.8 percent, while the share earning exactly the minimum wage was 4.7 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to help celebrate Women's History Month by becoming cosponsors of H.R. 863.

BY THE NUMBERS

161 million: The number of females in the U.S. as of December 2013. The number of males was 156.1 million.

2 to 1: At 85 and older, the approximate ratio by which women outnumbered men in 2012 (3.9 million to 2.0 million).

JOBS

74.8 million: The number of females 16 and older who participated in the civilian labor force in 2012. Women comprised 47.4 percent of the civilian labor force in 2012.

41.6%: Percent of employed females 16 and over in 2012 (annual average) who worked in management, professional and related occupations, compared with 34.7 percent of employed males in the same year (annual average).

MILITARY

1.6 million: Number of female veterans in the United States in 2012.

EARNINGS

\$37,791: The median annual earnings of women 15 or older who worked year-round, full time in 2012. In comparison, the median annual earnings of men were \$49,398.

77¢: The amount that female year-round, full time workers earned in 2012 for every dol-

lar their male counterparts earned. This ratio was statistically unchanged from 2011.

EDUCATION

11.3 million: Number of women college students in fall 2012. Women comprised 56.8 percent of all college students.

31.4: Percent of women 25 and older who had obtained a bachelor's degree or more as of 2012.

25%: Percentage of women 18 and older with an alternative educational credential—such as professional certifications, licenses and educational—not statistically different from men. However, women had higher rates of alternative credentials than men at the bachelor's degree and advanced degree levels.

15%: Among people with advanced degrees, the percentage of women who held educational certificates compared with 12 percent of men; 51 percent of women held professional certifications or licenses compared with 43 percent of men.

VOTING

63.7%: Percentage of female citizens 18 and older who reported voting in the 2012 presidential election, in comparison to 59.7 percent of their male counterparts.

MOTHERHOOD

85.4 million: Estimated number of mothers in the U.S. in 2009.

1.9: Average number of children that women 40 to 44 had given birth to as of 2010, down from 3.1 children in 1976, the year the Census Bureau began collecting such data. The percentage of women in this age group who had given birth was 81 percent in 2010, down from 90 percent in 1976.

MARRIAGE

66 million: Number of married women 18 and older (including those who were separated or had an absent spouse) in 2013.

5.2 million: Number of stay-at-home mothers nationwide in 2013; compared with 214,000 stay-at-home fathers.

THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS IN OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to share the tale of two garages: the American Dream and the threat to that American Dream.

The first garage is down in Oklahoma, and it is owned by David and his wife Barbara. In 1972, David and Barbara borrowed \$600, and they began

making picture frames in their garage. They had a dream. They said, you know: People might want to buy premade frames. There are pictures all the time that people take, and we could do that.

So they enlisted their two sons, Steve and Mart, and they began building those picture frames. And then they opened up a retail location—actually, it was 300 square feet in size—and they started selling those picture frames, and it was very, very successful. And now, their dream has just blossomed into 556 stores in 41 States, and 70 more are scheduled to open this year.

They have now what started out in the garage with just David and Barbara and their two sons, they have 16,000 full-time employees. And we all know that store. I am sure many of us have been there. It is called Hobby Lobby. We love it. It has expanded now not just to picture frames, but all kinds of art and decorating supplies. And their headquarters is actually located just down the street from that garage in Oklahoma City.

The other garage is over in Pennsylvania, and it is owned by Norman and Elizabeth Hahn. They have three sons: Norman, Anthony, and Kevin. And in 1964, about 40 years ago, they, too, had a dream, and they started in their garage making high-quality doors and wood components for kitchen cabinets. You know, they said: We can do this, so let's do it. So they started working hard and expanding.

And from their modest beginnings in just a small garage in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, they have now grown to be one of the industry leaders in wholesale wood products for kitchen cabinets. They have five facilities located in the United States in three States—Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Washington—and what started out with five family members, they now have 950 full-time employees. It is truly an encouraging sign that the American Dream is alive and well.

And something else these two garages and these two families—David and Barbara Green as well as Norman and Elizabeth Hahn—have in common is that they care for not only their customers and having a high-quality product, but they also care about their employees. They both have provided a lot of high-quality benefits to their employees, paying them well, and also providing health care for years, as well as other benefits.

But I am sad to say both of these businesses and both of these families are in trouble, and these businesses are in jeopardy of having to close—not because of the economy. Like I said, Hobby Lobby is actually planning to open 70 more stores. There is a need. People want their products. It is not because of any other reason other than, sadly, the government.

The government is threatening these American businesses, what we need more of. They are providing good jobs and are providing health care. They are in jeopardy of closing because our government and our Representatives, a few years ago, passed the President's health care takeover law. And part of that was a mandate that said, if you provide health insurance for your employees, you have to include abortion-inducing drugs. It doesn't matter that you already had a good policy that your employees like; you have to do that. And if you don't, you are going to be fined not just a little bit, but a lot.

I have a poster here I want to show you that shows the injustice of this mandate. You have two numbers here: \$36,500; \$2,000. Here is the situation for these two families:

The ObamaCare law says that if you don't provide health care for your employees, we are going to fine you \$2,000 an employee; but if you do provide health insurance for your employees but just don't include the abortion-inducing drugs, then we are going to fine you \$36,500. Where is the justice in that? Where is the common sense?

I am from Missouri, and we are the Show Me State. Show me how this makes any sense at all. This is the situation that faces the Hahn family and the Green family. They are providing their health insurance coverage. They are conscientious. Due to their beliefs, they believe that all life is valuable, and they don't want to be complicit in paying for potentially life-ending drugs. And because of that, our government is going to fine them this amount of money, \$36,500 per employee, which, sadly, could put both businesses out of work. We would have tens of thousands of people across this country out of work just because of this government takeover of health care. It is wrong.

We have a long-standing tradition in this country of following something in here. It is in the Constitution. It is an amazing little document that our Founders started. But you know the very first amendment to the Constitution establishing our rights is that it lays out the importance of religious liberty. It says: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Our country has always upheld religious freedom and the right to exercise and live according to your beliefs. There are examples everywhere where we have done this before up until this point. Employees have been able to take off on Sundays or religious holidays. That has been respected. Crosses and other religious symbols have been respected. Certain special activity restrictions, like kosher foods, have been honored. Not working certain days, Sabbaths, have been honored. There is even a religious conscientious objector provision, where we have honored peo-

ple's religious beliefs regarding military service. Always our country has upheld the Constitution first and held that sacred that it is our religious right to live free.

You had the Pilgrims come to this country. Why? So they could have religious freedom. It is the foundation our country has been built on. And yet it is being jeopardized, trampled on, and attacked by the Affordable Care Act.

Now, tomorrow, the U.S. Supreme Court is going to hear the case of these two American families and see if they can be forced by their government to go against their religious moral objections. This is a historic moment. It is one that will have ramifications forever in our country. What do we stand for? What will we allow our government to do and inflict on our lives?

My colleagues and I are here tonight to share the concerns we have as we stand up for the people that we represent and for what our Founders started this country on and why we want to stand for future generations, to protect those freedoms that those who have gone before us stood up and fought for us, for our generation. And we hope and pray that the Supreme Court will uphold the Constitution and will not jeopardize it or trample on it.

So I thank my colleagues for coming tonight, and I would like to ask my friend from Ohio, BOB LATTA, to share his thoughts on this very important historic moment.

□ 2045

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for first hosting this Special Order tonight, and I appreciate you recognizing me to speak here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of our First Amendment rights and in support of the millions of American jobs, livelihoods, and health care plans that are now in jeopardy as a result of the ObamaCare HHS mandate.

Tomorrow, the Supreme Court will be hearing oral arguments in both the *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties v. Sebelius* cases challenging the constitutionality of the ObamaCare HHS mandate. I am hopeful that the court will recognize and acknowledge that the mandate unquestionably infringes upon Americans' rights of conscience and the freedom to live and work according to one's faith or religious beliefs.

This ObamaCare mandate wrongfully forces American citizens to choose between their conscience or face oppressive fines, as the gentlelady has already pointed out, that will undoubtedly destroy family-owned businesses across this great country. Equally alarming is that this mandate will drive employers to stop offering health insurance coverage to their employees altogether to escape the encroaching hand of government that is coercing individuals to violate their fundamental freedoms.

We have to remember this is occurring at a time when ObamaCare is cutting millions of jobs and forcing taxpayers from full-time jobs to part-time jobs. This is unacceptable and completely contrary to the tradition of our country and the principles of our democratic government.

My hope and the hope of millions of other Americans is that the Supreme Court will act to protect Americans from this government infringement and reassert the full scope and intent of the liberties conferred upon all citizens through the First Amendment.

I again thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank Representative LATTI, and you brought up a great point, of how employees can lose coverage. They have health insurance now, these two families are offering it, but an option they have is to drop coverage completely. How is that helpful to these hardworking Americans who work there?

Now I would like to turn to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENTIVOLIO).

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with 71 of my colleagues, have signed on to the brief in support of Hobby Lobby. We must fight for religious freedom. In responding to the Hobby Lobby case, the President has acknowledged how critical religious liberty is to our freedom. I couldn't agree more.

There is a reason why the Bill of Rights prioritizes our right to religious freedom: our Founders knew people could never be free if they could not worship in a manner they found appropriate. Sadly, ObamaCare takes away that right by forcing Americans to participate in a practice they are morally opposed to. ObamaCare is more about forcing Americans to follow a certain dogma rather than promoting a healthy society.

Tomorrow, the Supreme Court will hear the advocates for religious liberty pitted against the voice in support of government moralism. From *Plessy v. Ferguson* to *Roe v. Wade* to the ObamaCare ruling, we have seen how a handful of judges can take away our natural rights. I pray the Supreme Court will rule on the side of American liberty.

The Supreme Court must protect the First Amendment. The foundation of our Nation rests upon it.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank Representative BENTIVOLIO. Well said. Foundational principle: religious liberty. I thank you very much for that.

Now I turn to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) to share her thoughts on this historic moment.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank the gentlelady from Missouri for hosting this important discussion because nothing

could be more important and more basic to every American than standing on the principle of our First Amendment rights of speech and religious expression.

You know, it was very interesting, just the week before last we had an expert on James Madison speaking to us, and he wrote a book about Madison. Madison is the author of our First Amendment, and we had the document in Madison's own handwriting where he had his First Amendment. James Madison crossed out the word "full toleration" when it came to religious liberties, and instead he inserted not just belief but also the free exercise, the acting of our beliefs. This is what America is about. We are standing here in the well of the House of Representatives, the most important forum for freedom of speech in the world, and just beyond the double doors of this Chamber lies the rotunda, and in the rotunda is a painting of the Pilgrims, and the Pilgrims are on their knees before they come to the United States. It is the "Embarkation of the Pilgrims." They have open before them a copy of the Bible, the Geneva Bible, turned to the New Testament. And why was it that the Pilgrims came to the United States? They searched for religious freedom and toleration.

One thing that the bill that will be before the Supreme Court tomorrow addresses is this issue: will toleration be a two-way street? I think it is. Toleration should not be just the government-enforced coercion of government's beliefs on every American, because that is what is happening in a family business, for the Green family with Hobby Lobby or the Hahn family with Conestoga. This is the government enforcing its beliefs down the throats of two family-owned businesses, and what is at stake is not just the rights of the people who own the business. What about the rights of those who work in the business, the employees? They also have moral rights and protections. These businesses pay very good wages and they offer very good benefits to their employees. So here is what we are being looking at: either the business pays over \$36,000 a year per employee for the price of standing up for their moral beliefs, or they have to give up health insurance altogether for their employees and pay the government a \$2,000 fine per employee. Who, I ask you, benefits? That is dealing with a case that is coming before the court tomorrow.

An even more fundamental issue is at stake, and it is this: here we are, Representatives of the United States Congress, and we are having to fight President Obama on whether or not we can retain our constitutional rights and liberties. That is what is at stake.

We are standing here for the Constitution. We are standing here for every man and every woman in the

United States that agrees with those rights. This is a discussion worth having. I thank the Speaker. I thank the gentlelady from Missouri. Tomorrow is an extremely important day, and I thank God for all of the wonderful Members of Congress who are standing up for these important issues. They are not negotiable. They are not for sale at any price.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank Representative BACHMANN. Very well said. I thank God for Members here as well who are standing up for religious freedoms. I thought she said it so well: Is toleration going to be a two-way street, or are we going to allow this government to impose its will, its morals on the rest of us? Thank you for sharing.

Now I turn to my fellow friend from Missouri, Representative ANN WAGNER, and look forward to hearing what she has to say.

Mrs. WAGNER. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for hosting this Special Order. There is no greater defender or champion for faith or family or freedom than Congresswoman VICKY HARTZLER.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to protect the conscience of the American people. Since taking office in January of last year, I have heard from countless constituents on how the government is abusing their individual freedoms under ObamaCare over and over again.

I recently heard from my constituent, George, a seminarian from St. Louis County, about the administration's mandate. He notes that what the administration is asking Catholic hospitals and nonprofits to do is in direct opposition to our Catholic beliefs. He writes to me:

Mrs. WAGNER, I ask you to please stand up for us. We are being persecuted and unjustly forced to comply with procedures that are in conflict with our own beliefs.

As George articulated, the United States Federal Government is currently discriminating against its citizens of faith in this country.

One of this country's founding principles is the freedom to worship without interference by the Federal Government. Our forefathers did not flee from oppressive nations, build a country on liberties, and emblaze them in the Bill of Rights just for this administration to trample on them over and over again.

Yet the rule issued by the administration under ObamaCare does just that. This administration now mandates that religious nonprofits and businesses must provide health care benefits that go against their fundamental beliefs. If businesses and nonprofits do not comply with this mandate, they are penalized with crippling fines that the gentlewoman from Missouri has talked about. These fines can go up to \$100 per day per employee. This means that if a business decides

to provide health care but does not comply with the mandate, they can owe up to \$36,500 for one employee for the year. This is in comparison to the \$2,000 they could owe for not providing any health insurance—any health insurance—for that same employee at all.

Mr. Speaker, not only does this not make any sense, it is discrimination by the Federal Government and it is wrong. This mandate puts the jobs, the livelihoods, and the health care of millions of Americans at risk. It forces those who stand up for their conscience to choose between paying detrimental fines that could shut down their business or dropping health care coverage, as has been discussed before, completely for their employees altogether.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you: Should the Federal Government be allowed to tell the St. Louis Post-Dispatch what they can and cannot print? Should the Federal Government tell my neighbors in Ballwin, Missouri, what they can and cannot say about their government leaders? Should the Federal Government tell George, the seminarian from St. Louis County, what he can and cannot preach?

Mr. Speaker, while in many parts of the world authoritarian governments control the press, prohibit freedom of speech, and only allow for certain beliefs, that cannot be the case in the United States of America. We will not, I believe, stand by and watch this administration strip away our freedoms. I will continue to fight on behalf of the constituents of Missouri and all the American people to keep this the land of the free.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, ANN. That was great. It really goes back to people like George. The individuals are having their liberties violated, and it is wrong. It is just chilling what he said: Are we going to allow this government to discriminate against citizens of faith? We don't want that to happen. Thank you for your comments.

Now we turn to someone who knows personally one of these families who started their business in a garage, followed the American Dream, succeeded, provided jobs, and now that is in jeopardy. I turn to Representative JAMES LANKFORD from Oklahoma to give us your insights in this moment of history.

Mr. LANKFORD. I thank the gentlelady for hosting this conversation and for standing up for liberty. I have seen you on this floor over and over again, speaking up for what is right in our Nation. I very much appreciate that.

When a family runs their business by the principles of their faith, which those principles used to be protected in America, can a President step in and say: I disagree with your faith, and so I will pass a regulation.

This is very important because some people believe this is written into the

law. It is not. This is a regulation that was selected by this President. Can a President step in and say, I am going to create a new regulation that you can no longer practice your faith at work? You can practice your faith at home, but you can't practice your faith at work.

Hobby Lobby is a family-owned business. It doesn't want Washington to be its boss. They believe that abortion takes the life of a child and that every child deserves the chance at life. What is wrong with that?

If a Federal employee disagrees with the faith practice of someone in a company, does that business have to change their faith, change it to the faith of the Federal employee, or can they keep their own faith?

□ 2100

It is now the rule that to open a company or to work in a job or to get health care, you have to have the same religious convictions as the President of the United States.

If you don't, you will be fined until you change your faith practice. That is not what we are founded on; that is not who we are—every faith, every opportunity for every person to live out what they believe at home, at work, and in the community.

Just days ago, the President spoke at the National Prayer Breakfast about the cornerstone right of the free expression of religion. That includes Americans who believe that children are a gift of God and they should be nurtured and cared for, not discarded as tissue.

Washington is not the boss of every American. Our Constitution matters, freedom of religion matters, and, quite frankly, children matter.

This family is not some corporate ogre trying to rule over their employees. They are my neighbor. They live a mile from my house. They are a quiet family. They are a great family that has lived out their faith. They are a tremendous community partner in so many ways in our community and around the country and, quite frankly, around the globe with what they have done to take care of the poor and the needy and the people of faith all over the world.

They are an incredible gift to our Nation, yet they are being told: you cannot practice your faith anymore.

This is not something new that they are doing. The government changed the rules on them. They didn't change their practice. Suddenly, a new administration walked in and changed the rules and said: you can no longer live your faith at work.

Well, I am honored that they have stepped up and they have said not so, not so for their business, not so for businesses around the country. All of us have seen the lists and lists and lists of waivers that this administration has

given for the Affordable Care Act, waivers for the employer mandate, waivers for the income and verification requirements, waivers for the Small Business Health Options Program, a waiver just given a month ago.

The administration delayed the requirement for businesses with fewer than 100 employees to offer health insurance until 2016; and then this one, just March the 5th, a few days ago, the administration announced it will allow people to keep noncompliant insurance plans through 2016—that is, noncompliant except in this area.

In this one area, they have said: no, we are not going to give a waiver for that one; instead, we will fine you \$36,500. Everyone else that is noncompliant, we will give you a waiver, except for Hobby Lobby and other businesses like them. They get no waiver. They get the hammer.

Is that fair? Is that right? Is this what we have really become as a Nation? I think better of us.

I look forward to the Supreme Court taking up this case and setting things straight because, in this country, we have a constitutional right to speak out and to live out our faith.

With that, I yield back to the gentlelady.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, Representative LANKFORD. I am so glad you shared about this family. You know them. What a treasure they really are to our Nation and the world, as you said, and truly courageous, standing up, putting their business on the line, saying this is worth fighting for. Those who have gone before us have fought for us. Now, it is time for us to stand up and fight. Thank you for sharing that.

You are right. They are trying to change the regulations. You can't practice your faith at work, being coerced to change your faith practice, gave waivers to others, but they give the Green family the hammer. Well said. Thank you.

Now, I turn to someone who knows the other family involved in the Supreme Court decision, who has the honor of representing the Hahn family. That is my friend and courageous leader for faith, family, freedom, for years, Representative JOE PITTS.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to thank the gentlelady for hosting this Special Order. This is so important because, tomorrow, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties against Sebelius. I have the privilege, tomorrow, to sit in the Chamber and listen to the oral arguments.

At the heart of the argument is the question about whether you stop following your conscience when you go into business. For family businesses like Conestoga Wood Specialties, located in my Congressional district, faith and business are not separate.

Their business would not be the same if they did not apply the values that guide their life. I visited this business. I have talked to their employees. I know the Hahn family. They are sincere Mennonites and wonderful people of faith and good business people.

It is those values that prompted Conestoga Wood to provide quality health insurance to their employees in the first place. They provided health insurance long before this regulation or mandate came along under ObamaCare.

No government mandate had to tell them that it was the right thing to do. Now, the government wants to use force and fines to stipulate the details of what that plan covers. Conestoga Wood and many other businessowners of faith now find themselves in a catch-22 of conscience.

The First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act were meant to guard against using the heavy hand of government to infringe on our religious rights. We should not have to leave our faith at the church door.

Under the First Amendment, we are guaranteed freedom of religion, and I might remind you, it is the First Amendment. It is not the Second Amendment. It is not the Sixth or the 16th or the 26th. It is the First Amendment. It is the first thing mentioned in the First Amendment—freedom of religion, not freedom from religion.

Pennsylvania has a long history of people of differing faiths engaging in commerce. 100 years before there was a First Amendment, William Penn established his colony as a place where religious dissenters could find freedom and safety.

The Forefathers of the Hahn family—Mennonites and others—came to Pennsylvania because it was advertised as a place where you could live and work freely according to your religious beliefs.

These people of faith supported themselves with businesses, and the colonial authorities in Pennsylvania let them apply their principles freely. These principles of religious freedom would later inform the founding of our Republic, and something that had at first been uniquely Pennsylvanian would become part of our national culture.

Family-owned and -operated businesses provide millions of good jobs in America. The Hahn family is facing a difficult choice that no American should have to face.

We hope and pray that the Supreme Court will uphold a basic Pennsylvania value and a basic American value and the First Amendment right to religious freedom.

Every American, including family businessowners, should be free to live and work according to their beliefs without the fear of punishment or coercion by the government.

Americans don't give up their freedom when they open a family business.

Let's hope and pray that the Supreme Court will uphold all of our rights to religious freedom here in this great country we call America.

I yield back.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, gentlemen. So true. Family-owned businesses have a right to not be coerced into giving up their faith just for providing jobs.

Now, I would like to turn to my friend and truly a leader here for families and life and common sense, Representative CHRIS SMITH.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague from Missouri for her outstanding leadership on behalf of the life issues, for her courage, and for her consistent approach to these vital issues that really are also passing. She has been a leader for so long. Thank you for organizing this, this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I, like my colleagues, am grateful that the U.S. Supreme Court took up this critical case for religious liberty; and I—we, Mr. Speaker, are hopeful that the court will provide much-needed relief from this discriminatory ObamaCare policy.

Under the Obama administration's coercive mandate, family-owned businesses like Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood have found themselves in the impossible situation of being forced to violate their moral or religious beliefs or face crippling fines. This not only puts businesses in serious and unnecessary risk, but also employees who may lose their jobs, as well as their health care.

It is the height of hypocrisy, Mr. Speaker, for the Obama administration to coerce family businesses that provide generous health care for their employees into a situation that may force them to close and to shutter their businesses.

The ObamaCare financial penalties are draconian, egregious, and without precedent in U.S. law. Under ObamaCare, family businesses that do provide health care for employees, like the Hobby Lobby, but object to covering certain drugs and devices—in their case, that provide for abortions—will be fined up to \$36,500 per year, per employee. That is outrageous.

For the Green family of Hobby Lobby, this could mean an amount to nearly half a billion dollars in fines every year. There is no way they can absorb that kind of body blow without closing their doors.

I would note, parenthetically, that a company that does not provide any health care insurance—the gentlelady from Missouri spoke about this in her opening comments—will be fined some \$2,000 per year, clearly, an unfair burden, but far less than the \$36,500 per year, per employee, if they refuse, again, to include certain drugs or devices that violate their moral or religious tenets.

When you calculate that out for the Green family of Hobby Lobby, dumping their existing health care coverage for employees could result in fines up to \$26 million per year; again, a huge penalty, but that is still \$448 million less than if they actually provided health insurance and remained true to their core convictions, which they will do.

Mr. Speaker, this burdensome penalty is completely unfair, unreasonable. It is unworkable, and it is unconscionable. The Obama administration is saying: we will punish you, we will hurt you, we will even put you out of business for providing health care to your employees, unless you provide health care according to the government's conscience.

Also, employees currently on their business health plan could lose their coverage that they desperately need for their families, as well as for themselves. Secretary Sebelius and President Obama have no business whatsoever imposing their morality on people of faith, but that is exactly what their oppressive mandate does.

The Supreme Court, Mr. Speaker, has a duty to protect the religious and conscience rights of the Greens and the Hahns and everyone else suffering government-imposed harm. The U.S. high court must act to protect the First Amendment rights of these families. Protecting these rights also protects their employees.

Let's make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker. This mandate and its deleterious effects and consequences are very much Obama's willful intention. The imposition of this attack on religious freedom is no accident. It comes straight from the pages of ObamaCare.

In December of 2009, in the runup to the passage of that legislation, Senator MIKULSKI offered an amendment which provided the authorizing language for this oppressive mandate.

In 2009, the same year, when President Obama spoke at Notre Dame University, which parenthetically is also suing over the mandate, he spoke about drafting a sensible conscience clause—his words—and yet, today, protection of conscience is another highly visible broken promise of ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, to tell people that their conscience is irrelevant and that they must follow the Federal Government's conscience, rather than their own, is completely antithetical to the American principle of religious freedom and the First Amendment.

Unless reversed, Obama's attack on conscience rights will result in government-imposed discrimination against those who seek according to their faith and their moral code.

Under the weight of the mandate's ruinous fines and penalties, many businesses could be forced to shut down, eliminating jobs. I would never have believed that this kind of religious violation could occur in the United States

of America, but it has. The Supreme Court must end this abuse.

I yield back to my good friend.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Absolutely. This is a moment in history, a moment of opportunity, for this Supreme Court to stand up and to do the right thing. Half a billion dollars in fines, half a billion dollars in fines this company is facing. Thank you for bringing home what that means.

□ 2115

You know they are going to coerce. You said that it is draconian, that it is unprecedented, that they are going to force you. That is the definition of a bully. "We are going to bully you into doing what we think is right." We stand up against that in every other arena, and we are standing up against it here as well.

Now I would like to turn to my friend from Nebraska, Representative JEFF FORTENBERRY, to share his thoughts at this moment in history.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. First, let me thank the gentlelady from Missouri for her leadership, not only tonight, but on this absolutely most critical issue.

Mr. Speaker, there is an important court case tomorrow, one that has come upon our country fairly quietly. I am not sure most Americans actually know what is at issue here. What is at issue is whether or not the relationship between the government and her people will fundamentally shift, whether the government will be able to coerce people who disagree as to the content of what their health care should be based upon their religious faiths or their deeply held ethical sensibilities. If they don't obey, they will be fined, as was mentioned here earlier.

In a very ironic way, the case before the Supreme Court tomorrow is about whether or not Hobby Lobby, a store at which millions of Americans, I assume, enjoy shopping—at which I enjoy shopping—that very outwardly celebrates, projects, its Christian perspective in the way it conducts its business. I assume, because of that perspective—the desire to do the right thing by their employees—they have established a good health care plan. If they drop their health care plan, they will be fined \$2,000 by the government. That is all they will have to pay. Yet, if they refuse to go along with that which violates their religious perspective and fundamental ethical sensibilities, the government will fine them \$36,000.

Again, the irony here is striking in that a business that is doing the right thing, which is based upon the values of their owners, which promotes good products that millions of Americans enjoy, which closes on Sunday because that is their stated Christian belief and because that is the way they choose to exercise it—I don't see any lawsuits over that—nonetheless is saying, in their health care plan, they simply

cannot provide certain drugs that would violate the dictate of their faith, certain drugs that this administration has deemed "preventative."

Another irony here is, when most of us were looking at the health care bill when it was first passed, there was a portion that was put in there called "prevention services." Now, I did not vote for the health care bill. I believe we need the right type of health care in our country, one that actually reduces costs and improves health care outcomes and protects vulnerable people; but what we have instead is a huge shift of cost to unsustainable government spending and a serious erosion of health care liberties. We can do better than this. We must do better than this.

Buried in that health care bill was prevention authority. To me, that means that we are going to try to prevent the onset of diabetes or the onset of heart disease—chronic disease—which is part of what is driving up our health care costs and which is that we could maybe get underneath if we were all thinking about and adhering to the principles and dynamics of wellness. That is what I thought it was about. Instead, it is an ideology of the administration's that is imposing upon people of faith or other Americans who simply do not have a faith perspective on this but who know that religious freedom is a first freedom and the government should not coerce people from their deeply held, reasonably held belief systems or those who have ethical sensibilities to certain types of drugs and procedures. That is what is at issue here, and if it goes the wrong way, the relationship between the government and her people will ultimately change.

You see, the government will then be conferring this right of religious liberty, not protecting it. It will be deciding who gets to exercise what type of religious liberty rather than protecting the individual conscience of the person—that sacred space that is inherent to the dignity of all persons—which is where our rights actually come from. In the First Amendment of the Constitution, this is clearly stated, and it is reflected in the ideals of religious liberty and in the separation of church and State. I have a copy of the original Bill of Rights—not the "original" original but a copy of the original—in my office, and actually penciled in there, as they were working through the draft, is "the rights of conscience." That concept actually precedes the principle of religious freedom because it says, again, rights are not conferred by the government. They come from the inherent dignity of each person by virtue of who he is and the way in which he has been created; and that person's ability to exercise who he is in the most poignant way, particularly in his religious faith, is a sacred space that the government must protect. That is why they listed it as the num-

ber one spot in the Bill of Rights, but that is what tomorrow is about.

In the aftermath of the French Revolution, there was a young child born named Jeanne Jugan. She was one of eight children, and they lived in the west coast of France, and her father was a fisherman. One day, he was lost at sea, and the family was reduced to poverty. As a teenager, Jeanne Jugan went out and worked as a maid servant, doing servile labor, to help the family and to help sustain herself. She received a proposal of marriage, but in her own discernment decided that was not appropriate for her, and she, apparently, lived a quiet and humble life.

One day, outside in the cold, she saw a woman who was blind and paralyzed and freezing, and she picked her up and brought her to her own bed. This was a key turning point in Jeanne Jugan's life. Perhaps she always knew her life would turn out this way. There was a religious order called the Little Sisters of the Poor, which traced its origins back to that simple act of kindness, to Jeanne Jugan. She was canonized a saint by Pope John Paul after a medical doctor from the Omaha area of Nebraska received a miraculous cure after having asked for her intercession. She was recently canonized a saint. The Little Sisters of the Poor are not nuns on a bus, and they are not political activists. They just take care of the vulnerable elderly through health care facilities. Yet they find themselves having to sue the Federal Government to be able to exercise their religious freedom as they see fit.

That is what this health care bill has brought about through this prevention mandate. It is a direct frontal assault on America's first freedom, so much so that a group of humble nuns—and as I spoke to one, she told me: In the elderly, we just see Christ—that has dedicated its life to the poor and vulnerable in health care is now having to fight in the court system for its right to exercise its religious faith as it sees fit.

So tomorrow's decision, while it is about two very strong businesses—Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood—has very vast ramifications. Even the people who are in religious orders who have set up charitable institutions are being forced by the government to, again, buy products through their health care plans for their employees, products that are inconsistent with their faith traditions. As one of the nuns told me: It violates our conscience. We didn't want to sue the government, but yet here we are.

I am glad to have had a little bit of opportunity with you tonight, my good friend VICKY HARTZLER, to discuss this most essential of issues because, if we don't speak, who is going to speak? I am not quite sure that all of America has really realized what is at stake at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning—whether

the government will be allowed to coerce Americans into violating that fundamental first freedom of religious faith and the rights of conscience. If so, it will be tremendously unfair. It is un-American. It will change the nature of the relationship between government and her people. Let's hope that the Supreme Court gets this right. There have been a few precedents before this in which they have gotten it right. In fact, the Little Sisters of the Poor has gotten an injunction so that this is not being forced upon it at the moment.

The deeper principle here that is at stake is whether or not the First Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees the right to religious freedom—an appropriate separation between church and State—is going to hold and remain that most cherished freedom in our country to come.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, gentleman.

A fundamental shift this would represent, you said. The relationship between the government and her citizens will forever change. That is chilling.

I appreciate your sharing the story of the Little Sisters of the Poor to show that this isn't just about the two entities that are before the Supreme Court tomorrow. In fact, there are 94 different lawsuits around the country from other small businesses and entities and colleges and others that, too, are being forced into this. So this has huge implications, not just for the 94 that have bravely, courageously stood up and said "no" and challenged it, but for each and every citizen.

With that, I would like to thank my friend, Representative DAN LIPINSKI from Illinois, for coming here today. I appreciate his leadership of the Pro-Life Caucus and of other pro-family liberty issues.

So thank you for coming. What would you like to share tonight?

Mr. LIPINSKI. I thank Mrs. HARTZLER for yielding and for her leadership on this critical issue, which is not just as partisan issue. I am a Democrat. I know this is not a partisan issue—religious liberty.

This is not even just a foundational American principle. It is a fundamental human right. Many of the men and women who came to America were fleeing religious persecution and were searching for a place where they could freely exercise their faiths. They had the courage to pledge their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to the cause. As a number of my colleagues have stated, the First Amendment to our Constitution starts with these words: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." I used to teach my American Government students that, clearly, this was not freedom to worship—just the freedom to go on Sunday or Saturday or whatever day of the week that you

worshiped—but a freedom to exercise religion in the way they see proper.

As First Lady Michelle Obama stated at a conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, our faith journey isn't just about showing up on Sunday; it is about what we do Monday through Saturday as well.

That is what Americans believe, and we must protect the freedom to exercise our religious beliefs every day of the week. Many millions have had the courage to fight, and many have died to protect our Nation in this constitutional right. We all have a duty to our fellow Americans and to the world to reclaim a true religious liberty in our Nation because this goes beyond our borders. America has been a beacon of liberty for people around the world for more than two centuries. As people blessed with liberty, we have a special obligation to protect it and to proclaim it for all the world to see. Especially today, as we see around the world attacks on religious freedom, we must stand up here in America.

I want to thank all of my colleagues for standing up here today and for continuing to work in Congress to protect our religious freedom, and I want to pray for wisdom for our Supreme Court Justices tomorrow as they consider this very critical, fundamental case. We all must rededicate ourselves and continue to fight for religious freedom in our Nation, without which freedom we would be giving up on a fundamental principle that underlies this greatest of nations.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, Representative LIPINSKI.

It is so true that we are and have been the beacon of liberty for this world, and this Court decision tomorrow has implications for not only our country and its citizens but for those around the world. I, too, was a teacher, and I appreciate that, how we taught our students what the basic rights were, but this decision will impact their futures, too. If government can force its citizens to go against their basic, most fundamental, moral values and consciences, what else can it do?

With that, Representative ANDY HARRIS of Maryland, thank you for being here tonight. The floor is yours.

Mr. HARRIS. I want to thank the gentlelady from Missouri for hosting this Special Order hour this evening.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois talked about people who come to this country in fleeing religious persecution. As the gentlelady may be aware, my mother emigrated from Ukraine. She was, in fact, a Ukrainian Greek Catholic. As the gentlelady probably knows of the history, when the Soviet Union took over Ukraine, they persecuted the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, burning them to the ground. It is ironic that we are discussing this here—and that the Supreme Court will be taking up this

issue—as we are seeing what is going on with religious persecution in Ukraine this week and last week, where the church in Dora, for instance—the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church—burned to the ground because, you see, the Russian Government didn't agree with the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church's beliefs.

□ 2130

So what do they do? They burn churches to the ground.

It is interesting. We have to learn the lesson, though, because they tried that. After World War II, the Soviet Union tried to destroy churches that way, but they learned the lesson that the church is not the building. The church is the group of believers who share common, deeply held religious beliefs. That is why when the Soviet Union fell, the churches that they thought they had burned to the ground rose up.

I would suggest that what is going on in Oklahoma City with Hobby Lobby and in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with Conestoga Wood Products is a church burning without a match. In fact, it is even more insidious because you can't see something. You can't see the ashes. But in fact, if the government has its way with these two employers, they will attempt to persecute them for their religious beliefs and attempt to destroy them. That is not the way it is in America.

As the gentleman from Illinois said, there are plenty of places in the world where that may be true, but we do have a First Amendment. We have a First Amendment that doesn't protect church buildings, it protects religious believers in whatever walk of life they are in, whatever they are doing, from the government imposing their belief system, whether it is the case of a belief of a religious body or a belief that you shouldn't provide life-destroying drugs. Because that is what is at issue in these cases.

And I would hope that the Supreme Court realizes that this country does have a First Amendment and that its job, its duty, our duty is to protect the religious beliefs of every individual, including those owners of Conestoga Wood Products and Hobby Lobby, who deserve the right and freedom in America to believe their religious beliefs and not have the government impose theirs.

So I thank the gentlelady from Missouri.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Well said. Thank you for sharing your story.

I now have a friend from Kansas, Representative TIM HUELSKAMP.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Thank you, Congresswoman. It is a pleasure and honor to join you tonight. I will keep my comments short.

You have heard the words here tonight. You have heard the words "religion tax." You have heard the words

“religious litmus test.” You certainly heard the words “religious liberty.” Of course, we also heard that the principles of the First Amendment have to do with religious liberty and religious freedom.

I was on the floor the day after the Supreme Court decision on the President’s health care law, and I would like to issue a challenge to what is generally considered the swing vote of this current court, the Chief Justice himself.

When I spoke about this issue, court challenges were already coming forward on this HHS mandate, but knowing that the Chief Justice is a Roman Catholic, I issue a strong challenge to the Chief Justice.

Given the history of the Catholic Church in this country, it has been one of severe discrimination at times. I would ask the Chief Justice—the deciding vote—to consider his core convictions. I believe he bears a particular burden to protect the religious liberties of employers and their employees from the excesses of his very own constitutional creation.

The court asked to be in the middle of this position. They asked for the government to have the right to tell businesses what to do, whether for profit or nonprofit or businesses or non-businesses as well.

What is at stake here is not the choice of businesses alone. What is at stake here is not necessarily what the government can tell selected entities. At stake is our Constitution and our rights and freedoms as Americans.

We were founded on the issue of religious freedom and liberty from our very beginning. Tomorrow, I stand with the businesses, the non-businesses, and the private entities as well.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, gentleman. Well said.

We have been here, and we are not done yet. My time is about done, but we are going to continue on here because we believe in standing up for the Constitution. We believe in the First Amendment: religious liberty. We believe in our country and our future and our children’s future. We want to preserve those freedoms that others have sacrificed for.

So I want to thank all my colleagues who have come here tonight and have shared their wisdom and their insights into this. Let us pray tomorrow that the Supreme Court hears the words that we have spoken and rules on the side of freedom.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT)

for the remainder of the time until 10 p.m.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield to my friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank the gentleman from Texas. I also want to thank the gentlelady from Missouri for organizing the previous hour’s discussion on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the people of faith at companies like Hobby Lobby and Pennsylvania’s Conestoga Wood. These companies want to provide health insurance for their workers, and they should be able to do that without violating their deeply held religious and moral convictions.

It is simply unacceptable that President Obama’s health care law requires people of faith to violate their conscience rights. This happens when regulations issued pursuant to the law forces them to pay for services such as abortifacient drugs when they provide health insurance for their employees.

The hostility in the President’s health care law towards people of faith is made clear when you consider the penalty scheme in the law. If these family-owned businesses do not comply with the mandate, they could be fined \$100 per day per employee. That amounts to \$36,500 per year per employee, even if the health insurance provided is of excellent quality.

Compare that with the \$2,000 fine per year per employee if they stopped offering insurance altogether.

How is that fair, just, or respectful of their beliefs?

This poster, Mr. Speaker, is striking. This discrepancy is simply indefensible. Looking at these numbers, you would think that this administration thinks that it is more important for an employer to provide abortifacient drug coverage than it is to provide comprehensive health insurance coverage that would cover items such as cancer treatment.

As the Supreme Court considers this case tomorrow and hears oral arguments, I join men and women of faith from western Pennsylvania and across the country in defending conscience rights and religious liberty, and standing with Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood.

I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from Pennsylvania very much. They are very, very good points.

Also along the lines my friend was talking about, some of us were here when our fine President stood at that podium and spoke to all of us here and he said in his speech that in his bill there would be no funding of abortion. We all heard that. In fact, there was such an involuntary response of JOE WILSON to categorize that statement. From the bill, we had seen from the Democrats it was clear there was going to be money forced out of taxpayers’

hands and forced to fund abortion, and we now know that is true.

Most of the time, the decent thing to do, if you find out that something you said was simply not true, the decent thing to do is to step up and say, You know what? JOE WILSON, you were right, but it was unintentional. I didn’t mean to misrepresent anything. So I want to set this straight.

Instead, it is like this administration has doubled down and said not only is the government funding it, but you are going to have to fund abortion for your employees, and it doesn’t matter that you have firmly held religious convictions against it.

I just wanted to mention to my colleagues that before I came to the floor to hear the wonderful work that our friend Mrs. HARTZLER has been doing—is she from the “Show Me” State or what—I walked by where Roger Williams’ statue has always been since I have been here. Apparently, they have moved statues, because he is not there. It has been in the last week I know they have moved Roger Williams.

Roger Williams was born in England between 1603 and 1606. He grew up a member of a privileged class. He received a liberal arts education from Sir Edward Coke.

This is from the Capitol Web site.

He abandoned the study of law to become a priest in the Church of England. He was interested in the Puritan movement and the newly established Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was warmly welcomed to the New World by Massachusetts Governor John Winthrop. He arrived in Boston.

Williams was an adamant separatist. He accepted a post as an assistant pastor in Salem, reputedly a friendly place. However, his teachings were deemed radical, and he was banished from Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635. He founded the colony of Rhode Island in 1636.

I know each State gets to choose which two statues you want to have. I look forward to him coming back. I am sure that they would never have permanently removed the statue of the founder of Rhode Island. There is nobody I can think of more appropriate.

I just thought it probably is appropriate that a man that staked his entire life on religious freedom would not have his statue here to figuratively witness what has gone on and what has passed in this Capitol.

To talk about this issue further, I want to yield to my friend from Georgia, DOUG COLLINS.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding. I also thank the gentlewoman from Missouri, who started our night off. I think there has been a lot said as we go forward in bringing this important matter.

I want to take just a little bit of a different tack as we talk about the issues of tonight.

I believe we are blessed to live in a time when medical research and technology have allowed us to extend and improve human life in ways we never thought possible, and the truth of this matter is that why we are standing here tonight is about life. It is about an understanding of life, and it is about the life not only of the unborn, but also those born, and the right to express the life that is given to them.

From the moment of conception, each individual has unique DNA that dictates his or her gender, eye color, blood type, and countless other specifications. Even from his or her earliest moments, a child in the womb has the ability to respond to his or her environment, as well as adapt to that environment.

These scientific facts are amazing, but I have an even deeper motivation for protecting human life because I believe life is a gift from God. I believe that that gift from God is also expressed and was expressed by the Founders when they said that they would stand up for the right to express our religious liberties. As Roger Williams was just spoken of, that right to say: This is what I believe, and this is why I am in this country.

And that is what we are talking about here. It is not only life at birth and in the womb, but it is life expressed outside of that and the God-given, I believe, rights that are expressed in our Constitution.

So for me, I not only understand that life begins at conception, but life continues all through until natural death. That natural life here in America is expressed in ways that we can contribute our life to others. How we express it should not be taken away.

Unfortunately, this administration is too preoccupied with its own ideological commitment to its definition of good health insurance to care about other points of view. That is why it continues spending so much time and energy and, by the way, taxpayer resources trying to silence those who do not share its view of the contraceptive mandate.

Just a few months ago, I stood on the floor of this House and thought I would never have come to the House of Representatives and ever determined that it would have been non-essential to have religious liberty protected on the floor of this House or in this country.

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That is just an amazing thought to me, that we would even have to think about that; but under the President's nonsensical policies that was just expressed by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, businessowners would face fines of \$36,500 for each employer every year they were offered health insurance consistent with their religious convictions.

On the other hand, they could just quit offering health care altogether and only pay \$2,000.

Tell me what the priorities of this administration are, and I will show you the money. I have always said: you want to see the priorities of somebody in life, look at their checkbook, and look at their calendar.

This administration's priorities are found in their checkbook, and they are found in their calendar because that is what they want to punish us for, and they have got a timeline to do it, and they said now is the time.

That is the argument to be made by the Supreme Court tomorrow, the argument you want to step forward with Hobby Lobby and others, that when they step forth before those Justices tomorrow, they say here is the priority of this country.

The priority of this country should be that it protects religious liberties, it protects what is found in the Constitution, it protects those liberties upon which we were founded and not an ideological agenda driven by points it made by hurting others.

I agree with my friend from Texas. I was always taught that, when you make a mistake, just say: look, I made a mistake.

But that is not what this administration wants to do. They want to continue to beat an ideological driven policy. They went to continue to beat down and say: this is what we believe, and you will believe like us because we are not so sure that the essentials of the Constitution are essential anymore.

It is time that I hope tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, that the argument made before the highest court in the land is that there is a right to protect life, that there is a right, even better, to have religious liberty protected; and that, when I get up and I go in or I have my business, that those rights aren't checked at the door, and that, when you look at priorities of this country—when, God forbid, they look back a number of years from now and they say: I hope they stood up for the rights that the Constitutional Founders founded.

And when they do that, then they will see our priorities. They will see the ones on this floor tonight, and they will say what is priority is what we spend on and what we plan on.

For this administration, it is obvious that theirs is an ideological driven agenda that says the Constitution only when it is convenient, and I will only pay for it, but I will punish you if you don't.

Mr. Speaker, that is wrong. It is time to change it.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from Georgia so very much. I need to come to where he preaches some time and get some more of that good preaching. That was outstanding; and I know, as a servant to the country in Congress and our military, as he is, as well as a servant of Christ, what a powerful message.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, you may not be aware—I wasn't until today—in past times, when there was oral arguments in which Members of Congress were interested, we could call over to the Clerk of the Supreme Court, and they normally just make one bench—sometimes more—but at least one pew there available for Members of Congress, either as the Speaker would allocate or first come.

But anyway, the Marshal of the Supreme Court, Pamela Talkin, has decided that, though it has always been reciprocity in the past, we invite the Supreme Court to come and watch speeches they may care to, reciprocity between the House and Senate, the Marshal, Pamela Talkin, perhaps she got guidance from one of the Justices or the Chief Justice, but Members of Congress are not going to have a reserved spot, which is interesting. We are supposed to oversee that Court, just as they oversee the Congress.

So as of today, I am going to be the most outspoken supporter of getting cameras in the Supreme Court. I think it is time. If they are going to do something untoward, we need to have people be able to see it.

As Members of Congress, if we are funding them, we need to be able to see what they are doing in there with our own eyes, so we need to get cameras in there, and we can thank Pamela Talkin for that.

At this time, I yield to my dear friend from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) and also the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for putting this time together tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Hobby Lobby Stores and Conestoga Wood Specialties as they take a stand for religious freedom against the unconstitutional coercive ObamaCare HHS mandate.

All Americans, including family businessowners, should have the freedom to live and work according to their religious values without fear of the government punishing them for doing so.

This issue of religious liberty is not limited to these two employers. Many family-owned small businesses and nonprofits across this country have expressed grave concern about this mandate from the Obama administration. It forces them to violate their deeply-held religious beliefs or face crippling penalties.

In my home State of Colorado, Hercules Industries, founded in 1962 by William Newland, a family-owned heating, ventilation, and cooling manufacturer with locations all over Colorado, including Colorado Springs, has been forced into this legal dilemma as well.

As devout Catholics, the Newland family has always worked to run their companies in a way that reflects their

sincerely-held religious convictions. This is why, when the Obama administration issued this mandate to force them to violate those beliefs and provide coverage of potentially life-terminating drugs and devices, they had to file a lawsuit to protect their religious freedoms.

Hercules Industries already provides generous health insurance for their employees through a self-insured group plan. With 265 full-time employees throughout its various locations, Hercules could be facing over \$9 million in government fines each year.

This comes if they refuse to violate their deeply-held religious convictions and if they don't comply with the Obama mandate to provide drugs to their employees that the Newland family believes can end human life.

What an unbearable choice the Obama administration has burdened them with. Not only is the HHS mandate an attack on religious liberty, it also puts into jeopardy jobs and health care of millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I support businesses like Hercules Industries, Hobby Lobby. And Conestoga Wood Specialties because of their principled stand against this oppressive mandate. Religious freedom is a foundational component of American greatness. It is of utmost importance that we do everything we can to defend it.

I look forward to the Supreme Court's decision, and I hope and I pray that this will be a positive precedent for future religious freedom cases.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from Colorado so very much. We have done much together in our time here, and I am grateful for his service.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend from Florida (Mr. YOHIO), for such time as he may use.

Mr. YOHIO. I thank the gentleman from Texas, along with the gentlewoman from Missouri, for starting this discussion.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today—or tonight—not only in firm opposition to the Affordable Care Act, but also to the Affordable Care Act's religious mandate.

I would like to take you back to March of 2009, when a one-sided government passed a bill, and they said that we have to pass it to see what is in it, we have to pass it to see how it is going to work. I think what we are seeing today is evidence of that, and we are just seeing the tip of the iceberg.

In accordance to this terrible law, HHS issued rules that health care plans must include all FDA-approved contraceptives, including drugs that can terminate a human embryo and sterilization services.

The HHS mandate only contains an exemption for churches, but not for religious nonprofits or businesses run by people of faith who are morally opposed to such practices.

The HHS mandate puts jobs and the health care of millions of Americans at risk. It forces people who stand up for their conscience to choose between paying crippling fines and dropping health care coverage altogether for their employees, as you have seen expressed over and over again tonight; yet it excludes some people of certain faiths, the Muslim faith or the Amish faith, because participating in group health insurance is a form of gambling and that is against their religious beliefs, but yet it won't exclude people who are morally opposed against this.

The First Amendment was put in place for a reason, to protect religious beliefs from being attacked by the Federal Government. The ACA, or ObamaCare, completely disregards this and attacks the freedom of America's conscience.

We are a nation of free individuals who should not have to forsake our religious beliefs and rights of conscience in order to adhere to legislation that was quickly passed into law before all the disastrous effects could be considered.

We, as Americans, must take this opportunity to stand up to the Federal Government and to protect our First Amendment. I would like to caution all of my colleagues and the American people that the more we allow the Federal Government to do for us, the less freedoms we, as Americans, enjoy.

For me, I will stand with the First Amendment, the Constitution, and with the American people and stand for freedom and liberty.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from Florida for those strong words.

We had strong words from the Vatican Chief Justice, as reported by CBS today. They quoted him, the Vatican Chief Justice, as saying:

It is true that the policies of the President of the United States have become progressively more hostile toward Christian civilization. He appears to be a totally secularized man who aggressively promotes anti-life, antifamily policies.

I know he professed Christianity, so I don't necessarily agree with all of those statements; but how profound when the Vatican Chief Justice feels compelled to make that kind of statement.

Mr. Speaker, for the remainder of our time, I yield to my dear friend from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for your leadership in bringing to light an incredibly important issue that is going to be debated right across the street from where we stand today in the House over at the Supreme Court.

The Hobby Lobby case deals with so much more than just one company, but it really deals with one of the funda-

mental rights that has been laid out in our Constitution, and that is the right of religious freedom.

What does that right really mean? Just how much ability does the Federal Government have to impede upon that right, especially when we talk about the right of a President—in this case, Barack Obama—to put out an edict that would literally take away that right to religious freedom from millions of Americans that enjoy it today and have enjoyed it since the beginning of our country?

If you will look at the rostrum right above the Speaker, it says, "In God We Trust." A lot of people across the country would be surprised because there are school boards, there are other governmental bodies that right now have threats against them if they try to pray before any kind of governmental service.

In schools—in many schools across our country today, that right of religious expression is being challenged by groups every single day, and they threaten different groups, schools, other governmental organizations; yet, here in the House Chamber, we pray at the beginning and the start of every session every day.

We have "In God We Trust" emblazoned right above the Speaker's rostrum, and it is there for a reason.

It is because our Founding Fathers, when they created this Nation, they didn't say these were rights, the rights that they laid out in the Constitution. These were not rights that were given by men. These were rights that were granted through men from God.

Don't take my word for it. These were the writings of our Founding Fathers. They acknowledged God. They praised God. They talked about the great blessings of liberty given to us by God.

Yes, our Founding Fathers said that. This isn't some rightwing nut in the Tea Party. Thomas Jefferson may have been considered one of those rightwing nuts, using the definitions of some of the liberals running around this town today.

But if you look at what this President is doing right now, trying to trample on those religious freedoms, the Hobby Lobby case is the epitome of where those trappings of those rights converge, to our job creators.

This is a business that wants to just run and provide services to people all across this country, a few locations in my district. My wife likes going to Hobby Lobby.

They shouldn't have to be faced with a dilemma every time they cut their paychecks to their employees of whether or not they are going to violate their own religious freedoms just to continue operating as a business in this country.

Nobody should be faced with the threat of our government taking away

their religious freedoms just to be able to operate as a business; and yet, that is what is happening right now with the President's mandate through his own health care law.

It is not just limited to businesses, Mr. Speaker. If you look at what is also happening, you know, the President loves talking about a war on women. This President loves dividing this country anywhere he gets the opportunity for political gain to try to divide Americans against each other. How shameless that is.

Where is the President's war on women when it relates to religious freedom?

It is against people like the Little Sisters of the Poor, a Catholic order of nuns that is just trying to do good for people. They are forced to sue the Federal Government because this President, Barack Obama, wants to make Little Sisters of the Poor pay for abortion-inducing drugs as part of their condition of providing health care. Otherwise, they are in violation of the law.

What law, Mr. Speaker, would force Catholic nuns to pay for abortion-inducing drugs just to comply with health care laws?

That is what is at stake here. That is why it is so important, this debate that is going to happen across the street, and that is why it is so important that we all come together to stand up against this kind of oppression of religious freedom.

It wasn't the tenth of all ten amendments in the Bill of Rights. It was the First Amendment that guaranteed religious freedom. That is what we stand here in support of tonight.

I sure hope the Supreme Court hears those arguments as well and recognizes not just what we are talking about tonight, but what our Founding Fathers laid out as one of the basic fundamental tenets of our Nation's constitutional guarantee, and that is the right of religious freedom.

I appreciate all of my colleagues standing up in support of it, as we all do; and hopefully, the Supreme Court hears those pleas and rules the right way.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful to the gentlelady from Missouri for calling so many Members and leading this in this time.

Mr. Speaker, just closing with one line from Benjamin Franklin:

Without God's concurring aid, we will succeed in our political building no better than the builders of Babel confounded by our local partial interests and becoming a byword down through the ages.

Mr. Speaker, we pray for his wisdom for the Supreme Court. I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BENISHEK (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and March 25 on account of attending a family funeral.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5037. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report presenting the specific amount of staff-years of technical effort to be allocated for each defense Federally Funded Research and Development Center during fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5038. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the Repair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 7310; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5039. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Occupant Crash Protection [Docket No.: NHTSA-2013-0121] (RIN: 2127-AK56) received February 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5040. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-76, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5041. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 102(g) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FY 1994 and 1995 (Pub. L. 103-236 as amended by 103-415), certification for FY 2014 that no United Nations affiliated agency grants any official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organization which promotes and condones or seeks the legalization of pedophilia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5042. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses as required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5043. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national

emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5044. A letter from the Chairman, Occupation Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's strategic plan for fiscal years 2014 through 2018; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5045. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations; Eleventh Coast Guard District Annual Marine Events [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0361] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received February 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5046. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0466; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-156-AD; Amendment 39-17749; AD 2014-03-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5047. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0937; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-029-AD; Amendment 39-17762; AD 2014-04-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5048. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; 328 Support Services GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0702; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-181-AD; Amendment 39-17753; AD 2014-03-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5049. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters) [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0351; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-049-AD; Amendment 39-17770; AD 2014-04-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5050. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1226; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-122-AD; Amendment 39-17741; AD 2014-03-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5051. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0125; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-119-AD; Amendment 39-17778; AD 2014-05-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5052. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0866; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-131-AD; Amendment 39-17743; AD 2014-03-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5053. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0830; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-128-AD; Amendment 39-17776; AD 2014-05-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5054. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's twentieth annual report prepared in accordance with section 207 of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5055. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office Fiscal Year 2013 Report to Congress; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

5056. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting fiscal year 2015 Congressional Justification of Budget for the Office of the Inspector General; jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 4284. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to encourage greater State input and authority over species and habitat management by allowing States to propose and implement State Protective Action before species are listed under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 4285. A bill to facilitate State and local governmental entities in developing and implementing private sector job creating programs through local government financing of the installation of energy efficiency, water conservation, and renewable energy generation improvements on privately owned property with the financing to be repaid from assessments that may be levied on the local property tax bill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE (for himself, Mr. COOK, and Mr. YOHIO):

H.R. 4286. A bill to free the private sector to harness domestic energy resources to create jobs and generate economic growth by removing statutory and administrative barriers; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, En-

ergy and Commerce, Agriculture, the Judiciary, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mr. FORBES):

H.R. 4287. A bill to advance the public health by encouraging independent innovators to pursue drug repurposing research and develop new treatments and cures by providing appropriate intellectual property protections for those innovations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4288. A bill to provide certain protections from civil liability with respect to the emergency administration of opioid overdose drugs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H.R. 4289. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 4284.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California

H.R. 4285.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 3)

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE:

H.R. 4286.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 gives Congress the power to "make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper" to execute the enumerated power of regulating "Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes." The titles of the American Energy Renaissance Act deals existing laws affecting the production and transportation of energy among the states and Indian tribes and the export of energy to foreign countries.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 4287.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

The U.S. Constitution

Article I, Section 8: Powers of Congress

Clause 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4288.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article, 1 Section 8

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 4289.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. COSTA and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 32: Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 60: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 118: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 460: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 477: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 487: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 494: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 522: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 580: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 594: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 596: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 647: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 683: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 713: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 721: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 833: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 949: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1020: Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 1070: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1141: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1175: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 1249: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 1250: Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 1286: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1313: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1318: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1333: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1339: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1354: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 1431: Mr. KEATING, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1490: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 1551: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. JONES, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 1563: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1620: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 1666: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1692: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 1701: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 1725: Mr. LOEBACK and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 1726: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 1728: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1761: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr.

DELANEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 1763: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 1772: Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 1775: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 1915: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1998: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 2084: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 2143: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 2213: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 2254: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 2315: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 2405: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2415: Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 2429: Mr. LATTI.
H.R. 2453: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 2536: Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 2540: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 2548: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. YODER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 2591: Mr. COHEN, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2656: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 2662: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 2663: Mr. MORAN and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2670: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2746: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H.R. 2750: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 2773: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 2788: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 2807: Mr. DEFazio and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2825: Mr. SERRANO and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 2870: Mr. REICHERT and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 2892: Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 2901: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. REICHERT, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2939: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 2957: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 2989: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 2994: Mr. FARR, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 2996: Mr. BENTIVOLIO and Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 3040: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 3043: Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 3090: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3162: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 3179: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3211: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 3303: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 3322: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 3335: Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 3344: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3367: Mr. HARPER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 3383: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3395: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 3461: Mr. BERA of California.
H.R. 3478: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 3493: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 3494: Mr. NEAL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HIMES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 3500: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 3505: Mr. LANCE, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 3513: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 3518: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3530: Mrs. NOEM, Mr. WOLF, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 3544: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. FORBES and Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 3571: Mr. LANCE and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 3600: Mr. KILMER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SIRE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KEATING, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 3619: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 3620: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 3698: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 3708: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. HULTGREN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. JONES, and Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 3712: Mr. BERA of California.
H.R. 3714: Mr. JONES and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 3717: Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 3723: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 3728: Mr. LATTI, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 3740: Ms. FUDGE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. BERA of California.

H.R. 3742: Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. LATTI, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. OLSON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LANCE, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. BARROW of Georgia.

H.R. 3747: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 3761: Mr. CARTER and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 3769: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 3771: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 3776: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 3854: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3877: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 3930: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 3954: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 3989: Mr. COTTON and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 3991: Mr. GARDNER, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 4012: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 4016: Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 4031: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. RIGELL, and Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 4057: Mr. DINGELL and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 4058: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4080: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 4092: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 4106: Mr. COTTON and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 4108: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 4112: Mr. LEWIS, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 4141: Mr. JONES and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 4148: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CHU, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 4149: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 4154: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 4155: Mr. STOCKMAN and Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 4162: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 4164: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 4169: Mr. WELCH and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 4184: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 4188: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. DELANEY, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 4190: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 4205: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 4208: Ms. WATERS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 4213: Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 4225: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 4227: Mr. SIRE.

H.R. 4228: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. GRAYSON, and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 4249: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 4254: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 4255: Mr. McDERMOTT and Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY.

H.R. 4278: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. COOK.

H.J. Res. 43: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. BARBER.

H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. PIERLUISI and Mr. ENGEL.

H. Con. Res. 78: Ms. BASS.

H. Con. Res. 87: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H. Con. Res. 91: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H. Res. 72: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H. Res. 109: Mr. COOPER.

H. Res. 188: Mr. TIERNEY.

H. Res. 231: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H. Res. 417: Mr. McCLINTOCK.

H. Res. 418: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 456: Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H. Res. 480: Mr. HANNA.

H. Res. 494: Ms. FOXX, Mr. FORBES, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. STEWART, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. ROSS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. BERA of California.

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CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF UTAH

The amendment filed to H.R. 1459 by me does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of House Rule XXI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SIMULATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the National Center for Simulation (NCS), headquartered in Orlando, Florida, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. Since 1993, NCS's mission has been to "serve as the nation's focal point and as a catalyst for the development, understanding, and advancement of simulation and related technologies; to improve defense readiness and facilitate space exploration; to support education and training initiatives; and to extend useful applications of simulation."

NCS is a consortium that facilitates collaboration and networking among its local, national and international membership. Home to acquisition commands for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, the University of Central Florida, the Air Force Agency for Modeling Simulation and over 150 industry companies, Orlando is a focal point for cooperative and collaborative efforts across diverse fields.

NCS fosters relationships between these varied communities to help disperse resources and innovations in modeling, simulation and training to those industries which may benefit from the knowledge. These relationships result in new understandings in fields such as health care, transportation, entertainment or even military readiness. In addition, their advancements support our workforce and business development, as well as growth in education.

As membership continues to grow and strengthen bonds across diverse communities, I would like to congratulate NCS on its successes and advancements thus far, and trust NCS will continue to provide us with the latest ideas and efforts in simulation, modeling and training.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF AIR FORCE LIEUTENANT COLONEL DARREN HALL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Lieutenant Colonel Darren Hall, United States Air Force for his 21 years of service to our nation and to congratulate him on his announced retirement.

Lieutenant Colonel Darren Hall is the Joint Staff/J-4, Deputy Chief of the Distribution Division and is responsible for shepherding programs related to air mobility through the Joint Capability Integration Development System

(JCIDS) and providing inputs on all current, planned, and potential mobility platforms across the Department of Defense. Lt. Col. Hall also serves as the J-4 representative in the National Military Command Center during exercises and crisis/contingency operations.

Having received his commission from the United States Air Force Academy in 1993, Lt. Col. Hall has served in a variety of leadership and staff positions at the wing, major command, and air staff level. Additionally, he is a command pilot with more than 3,000 hours in the C-21A, KC-135R, T-1A, and T-37.

During his service to our nation, Darren has received multiple awards and decorations including: the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Darren is married to Sophia and they are the proud parents of Cord, Michael, Xavier, Cameron, and Maxwell. Lt. Col. Hall's hometown is Newport News, Virginia, and I am proud to say that Darren and his family have chosen Bristow, Virginia, as their new home.

XAVIER CORRAL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Xavier Corral for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Xavier Corral is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Xavier Corral is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Xavier Corral for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING DR. KANT TUCKER AND DR. IRMA HARRIMAN'S 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Kant Tucker and Dr. Irma Harriman on the special occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Dr. Tucker, who was born in Mumbai, moved to the United States in 1975 with just eight dollars in his pocket, a plane ticket that was purchased by his siblings and a bag of clothes. Unaware of the trials and tribulations that lay ahead, Dr. Tucker was determined to make a living and stay true to his humble beginnings.

During his first months in the United States, Dr. Tucker struggled to earn a living. He was hired as a dishwasher at a fast food chain for only a short time before he was let go. The owners believed that he was a short term employee because he was a medical school graduate.

He continued his search for a career as a doctor, hoping that he would find a hospital that would accept him as an intern. On one occasion, Dr. Tucker was on his way to St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx to interview for an internship when he was mugged at gunpoint causing him to miss his appointment. Although discouraged and disappointed, Dr. Tucker went back to the hospital for a second interview, where he was later offered an internship. From there, Dr. Tucker went on to complete a residency in Jersey City and then to research positions at hospitals in New York and California.

During the course of Dr. Tucker's career, he was also able to find love. In the early 1980s, Dr. Tucker was an assistant professor of nephrology at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) where he met Irma Harriman. Seven years after Irma Harriman became his partner in his Simi Valley practice, they married.

In Dr. Tucker, Dr. Harriman saw the same determination and idealism that she saw in herself and related to the same barriers that she, too, had faced. The pair symbolized hard work and determination. Despite the adversity that both Dr. Tucker and Dr. Harriman faced, they remained persistent in their pursuit of success, always remaining true to their up-bringing.

Today, Dr. Tucker and Dr. Harriman operate nine dialysis centers throughout Southern California. Currently living across the Santa Susana Pass, Dr. Tucker and Dr. Harriman never forget the experiences, people, and opportunities that shaped their lives.

I want to sincerely thank Dr. Tucker and Dr. Harriman for their generosity and commitment

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to our community and wish them all the best upon the celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary. I applaud the love and support they have both provided each other over the years, and I know that there are many more memories to be made.

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
JOHN L. MURRAY, U.S. ARMY
CONTRACTING COMMAND

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and applaud the achievements of Command Sergeant Major John L. Murray of the U.S. Army Contracting Command (ACC). Headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, ACC includes more than 6,100 military and civilian employees across the globe that provide support to our war fighters by acquiring equipment, supplies, and services vital to our Soldiers' mission and daily needs. Command Sergeant Major Murray will soon retire after more than 35 years of distinguished service to America's Army. He has served with distinction at virtually every level in the Army—from team chief to command sergeant major, the Army's highest enlisted grade. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, initiative and selfless service in the execution of programs supporting the total force of quality Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Command Sergeant Major Murray began his Army career in 1979 as a radio operator, completing initial entry and advanced individual training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Before joining Army Contracting Command Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal in December 2011, Command Sergeant Major Murray was the Command Sergeant Major for the Expeditionary Contracting Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He previously served as Commandant of the Regimental Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Fort Gordon, Georgia. A former drill sergeant, Command Sergeant Major Murray has served with distinction in a number of critical assignments while deployed to over 20 countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, Korea, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He spent more than five years in Southwest Asia in support of Operations Southern Watch, Desert Storm, Desert Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom with the Joint Communication Support Element MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, the 10th Mountain Division, the 11th Signal Brigade and the 160th Signal Brigade.

While his career accomplishments are many and significant, I wish to highlight Command Sergeant Major Murray's contributions to the establishment of the Army Contracting Command on March 13, 2008. He was one of several key Army leaders who worked tirelessly to create a new major subordinate command from the ground up in record time. His wisdom, insight and vision were essential elements in building the foundation of a global enterprise that awarded and managed more

than 190,000 contractual actions valued at more than \$60.9 billion in fiscal year 2013.

Command Sergeant Major Murray also played an important role in the relocation of ACC Headquarters from Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to Redstone Arsenal in 2011. This move followed the transfer of ACC's parent command, Army Materiel Command (AMC) Headquarters, to Redstone Arsenal from Fort Belvoir, as directed by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision in 2005. While AMC had several years to plan for and transition to its new Alabama home, ACC completed its relocation in less than 18 months. This tremendous accomplishment was a direct result of Command Sergeant Major Murray's inspired leadership, foresight and team-building skills.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank Command Sergeant Major Murray's wife, Ingrid, for supporting her husband and Army families. She served as the Family Readiness Group leader for the 11th Signal Brigade and Signal Corps Regimental Non Commissioned Officer Academy. She has also served as a senior spouse advisor and mentor for other Family Readiness Groups and the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Even the youngest member of the Murray family, John, Jr., was recognized by the Army Surgeon General for encouraging Army family members to "Ask for Help" when contemplating suicide.

The distinctive accomplishments of Command Sergeant Major Murray represent a long and distinguished career in the service of his country and reflect great credit upon himself, Army Contracting Command and the United States Army. We wish Command Sergeant Major Murray, Ingrid and John Jr., all the best in the years ahead.

TIA FRANK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tia Frank for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tia Frank is an 11th grader at HOPE House and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tia Frank is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Tia Frank for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Slippery Rock University on celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

In 1887, the citizens of Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania saw the need for affordable and accessible higher education in their community. In less than 18 months, Slippery Rock raised funds, acquired land, erected buildings and gained approval to be a state normal school. Slippery Rock State Normal School opened its doors on March 26, 1889 to its first class of 168 students with its "ultimate object . . . to make the student, as far as possible, an educator." The Norman School became Slippery Rock State Teachers College after it was purchased by the Commonwealth in 1926. In 1960, it was renamed Slippery Rock College and was granted university status in 1983 to become Slippery Rock University.

Today, Slippery Rock University offers a broad array of undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 8,000 students. The University is a recognized leader in evidence-based planning and decision making. The approximately 80,000 alumni have served in occupations across the spectrum. Slippery Rock University has consistently been recognized not only as one of the best universities in the Northeast but also as a great place to work. Shaped by its normal school heritage, Slippery Rock University is characterized by its commitment to intellectual development, leadership, and civic responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, in light of Slippery Rock University's 125th anniversary, I ask that my colleagues join with me today in recognizing its educational leadership in Pennsylvania for more than a century.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE MANUFACTURING EXPO AND CONGRATULATING THIS YEAR'S INDUSTRY HONOREES

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor Oakton Community College, in partnership with NSERVE and with the support of the Tooling and Manufacturing Association, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, North Shore Community Bank and more than 50 local manufacturers, for hosting the 2014 Manufacturing Expo in the suburban Chicago district I represent.

The Expo includes workshops, speakers and student tours of local manufacturers offering young people the opportunity to learn more about American manufacturing and available careers. Since 2008, nearly 2,000

students have benefited from these experiences.

The 2014 Expo is also honoring some of its most outstanding industry partners for demonstrating a true commitment to serving young people and to ensuring our future economic and manufacturing success.

It is my honor to congratulate Terry Iverson of Iverson and Company; John Winzeler of Winzeler Gear; John Rubco of Woodward; and Mark Glennerster and Tara Kandra of John Crane, this year's award recipients.

Since 2008, countless manufacturers have generously opened their doors and welcomed curious students, making these education/business partnerships possible. I am grateful for their excellence and participation. I would also like to recognize all the participating high schools, with Oakton Community College, for their dedication to providing the next generation with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in the 21st Century.

The 2014 Manufacturing Expo is poised to be the most successful to date, and I am so proud that these partnerships are happening in and around the Tenth District.

WILLIAM GRASER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud William Graser for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. William Graser is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by William Graser is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to William Graser for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MRS. PEARL RILEY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Mrs. Pearl Riley and I join her family members and friends on April 6, 2014, in commemorating this special centenarian birthday.

Pearl was born on April 6, 1914, and raised in Alsoma, Oklahoma, a suburb of Tulsa. Pearl and her husband, the late Alonzo Riley,

Sr. were married for 50 years and raised eight children. She is the grandmother of twenty two; great grandmother of thirty nine; and great, great grandmother of fourteen. One of Pearl's great loves in life, in addition to her family and gardening, was the church. Throughout her life, she was a regular teacher of both children and adults in Sunday school, drama, arts and crafts, and choir. She also served as her church's President of the District Missionary Society and was a member of the Deaconess and Mother's Board. Outside the church, Pearl was an active member of her community working as a volunteer for voter registration and serving as a community representative.

Pearl Riley has led an outstanding life, highlighted by her love of family and service to her community. I wish her many more years of health and happiness.

INVISIBLE FAMILY

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, the following speech has been delivered to audiences at various veteran service organizations and veteran events in Kansas by a brave young lady named Kristin Stowers who lives in the Big 1st District of Kansas that I represent. After hearing twelve-year-old Kristin Stowers deliver her remarks on her family's experience with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, I wanted to share it with my colleagues in Congress. We could all learn a tremendous amount about sacrifice, commitment, and perseverance from this young lady's remarks.

INVISIBLE FAMILY

(By Kristin Stowers of Hutchinson, Kansas)

It is hard to realize that these amazing people that gave up their lives to save and protect our nation and its people are gone. . . . It makes you see that life is not just a fairy tale ending that we were taught as children, we were taught that it was going to be okay in the end. We now realize you can't win every battle you enter. Some don't make it home to their families, but you have to say to yourself. We were put to the test to complete life a way that we see fit and once you have completed your mission, you wait patiently in your favorite place that you have always found comfortable. Where you wait to see your family that has not yet completed their missions. I know it is hard to coop with what you are going through I had to deal with it, but in a different way.

My mother had a brain tumor and had to have surgery on my first day of kindergarten and had a stroke later on. Our house caught on fire in my fourth grade year and we had to live in a hotel for three months. My father was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and we as a family have to deal with the others sufferings each day. In the last few months we have discovered many other things have gone wrong in our relationship with each other causing more pain than intended. We have not gotten the chance to talk to each other about our problems at home and since the VA does not implement family counseling in their facilities, but they do have spouse counseling. Having

said that, I would like to say that the injuries affect the whole family not just the spouse.

PTSD is like a black hole, you get sucked in without even knowing what is happening around you. Your hoping that tomorrow will be better than today, but still hoping that when you come from school or work that the stress has not overcome them and they are laying in their chair. . . . Silent. . . . Dead. With the help of the VA it is still progressing, but still worse than before. It makes me think that he is floating away in a bubble, but God will not leave him without a fight. To this day he is in a battle with PTSD and the prize of the battle is him and us. . . . His family and friends. We are hoping that he wins, but you never know what the outcome will be. That is why we are all here. Every person in the world with PTSD is in a battle. Some lost and some still lead victorious and I trust him to be victorious.

All I ever wanted is for the pain to end and many of you may be thinking the same thing, and I know this is over used but it will heal with time. I will promise you that it will get better even if it doesn't look like it. Just think they want you to carry on with your life even if it is looking grim at the moment. It takes guts to take that chance that you will never see your smiling family that on the inside is torn from your choices, but know that they are the right ones.

It makes me realize that I will not have a perfect life and no one ever will with our missions, and the people that finish theirs when you're not ready to let go of the memories that you had together. The memories that will and have impacted your world and will leave a crater that you have to live with and have to move on even if you can't. The thoughts and the people will ever be imprinted in our minds and will never leave because the pain will always be demanding. People always think that war is just a thing that can be stopped on the spot, but they don't know the aftershock of the explosion that is a death or an injury that is fatal.

The people that saved us from ourselves and different countries that are or was threatening us. They saved us and our nation from danger and the problems of life. Heroes and Inspirations are these people that risked their own life to save the people that are going to change a million lives or just a few. Humans like this are my inspiration and I hope to be just like them; they changed a thousand people; a thousand points of views on life; and a twelve year old girl that is striving to be an inspiration just like them later on in life.

Many young people have their favorite bands and/or actors as their people to look up too, and sure I have my own but I have many leaders in my life some I can't name but they changed my life no matter what they did to protect me, my family, and my neighbors. They will be remembered as the ones that grew up as the kids that were big hearted and the ones that were strong and brave. The reason we are here is these people wanted to save us and that is what they did and they bought us time.

Time to spend thinking of ways to buy us more time. These warriors spent their lives saving their family and friends and their generations and so on. These are the people that are my heroes and my saviors at the time of need and always will be.

STEPHANIE McDANIEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stephanie McDaniel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Stephanie McDaniel is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Stephanie McDaniel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Stephanie McDaniel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN THE ADVANCED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN ILLINOIS'S TENTH DISTRICT

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Technology and Manufacturing Association (TMA) for its outstanding commitment to training and education in the advanced manufacturing industry in the district I represent and across the country.

Since 1925, the TMA Training & Education program has served as a valued source of employee learning and development for member companies. TMA training has experienced a significant resurgence.

Its Related Theory Apprentice Training program has been assisting member companies in training their apprentices for more than 70 years, and is one of the largest, most recognized precision metalworking apprenticeship programs in the United States.

Remarkably, enrollment in this program has more than quadrupled in the last three years. TMA has also expanded its curriculum to include the latest advancements and, for the first time since 1925, incorporates hands-on training.

The Fred W. Buhrke Training Center in Arlington Heights trains in the programming, set-up and operation of new, state-of-the-art computer numerical control (CNC) machines. More than 100 students have completed CNC training with TMA and can now earn nationally-recognized, stackable credentials.

TMA continues to partner with local organizations to expand training and work hand-in-

hand to help bridge our skills gap and ensure our future success in advanced manufacturing.

I personally thank TMA for all it does to support advanced manufacturing and to expand economic opportunities throughout our communities and in the Tenth District.

HONORING NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Autism Awareness Month, a special opportunity to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism and to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.

Autism is a developmental disorder that by some estimates affects 1 in 88 children age 8. These rates mark dramatic increases from just decades ago, and I believe it is vital that more research be done to investigate the causes of autism and to determine prevention tactics, as well as treatments and possible cures for people already afflicted. As a member of the Congressional Coalition on Autism Research and Education, I have long supported increased funding for medical research to combat this unfortunate condition.

I would also like to recognize Rising Tide, which will celebrate its first anniversary on April 1. Rising Tide embodies the spirit of National Autism Awareness Month. Founded by John D'Eri and his son Thomas to create a supportive environment for Thomas' autistic brother Andrew, Rising Tide is a carwash that employs forty-three men and women with autism. The mission of this company is to empower autistic individuals and inspire communities to redefine their perception of the capabilities that people with autism have. Rising Tide is the largest single store retail employer of individuals with autism in the United States.

I am proud to recognize National Autism Awareness Month and the hard work that advocacy groups are doing in communities across the country to increase autism awareness in our community and make the world a better place for individuals with this diversity.

REMEMBERING ASHLEY EARL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sadness to mourn the death of Peace Corps volunteer Ashley Earl. Ashley passed away on Saturday, March 8, in her beloved host community of Oshakati, Namibia.

As a community health volunteer, Ashley worked tirelessly for the health and well-being of the residents of Oshakati, a community she was proud to be a part of. Working with Catholic AIDS Action, she coordinated after-school programs for youth in the local area. Those who worked with her say she "cared

deeply for her students, and taught them to show respect for others as well as respect for themselves."

Ashley's time as a volunteer in the Peace Corps was just one component of her legacy of service. Prior to joining, she served six years in the Army Reserve and worked for a variety of social service organizations on behalf of women, children, and veterans.

At the beginning of her Peace Corps service, Ashley wrote, "I am hoping that I will be able to instill or inspire positive change in the community I will be working with." I can say with confidence that Ashley not only instilled and inspired positive change in the community of Oshakati, but also in those who encountered her. We all have much to learn from her heart for service and passion for life.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness, and even greater admiration that we remember the legacy of Ashley Earl. Our hearts go out to her parents, Phylliss and Lee Lundquist, and her sister, Stacy Earl.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. EDWARD ZALOGA AND HIS SERVICE TO THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Edward J. Zaloga, who on March 22, 2014, retired from his position as the 136th President of the Lackawanna County Medical Society. Since his graduation from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Zaloga has used his training and expertise to improve the state of health care in Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1878, the Lackawanna County Medical Society works to foster excellence in medical care, act as an advocate for physicians and their patients, and represent physicians to the entire community. Taking an active role in the health of the local community, Lackawanna County Medical Society holds an annual "Health Fair in the Park" that offers health screenings and benefits to county residents free of charge. Physicians of Lackawanna County Medical Society joined together to establish the Leahy Clinic for Uninsured at the University of Scranton, which provides crucial health care for local residents who cannot afford insurance.

Through his continued involvement with the Lackawanna County Medical Society, Dr. Zaloga has demonstrated a sincere commitment to his community. He served as a strong advocate for patients and his fellow physicians as a delegate to the House of Delegates of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and as the Society's chief spokesperson on patient rights and quality of care issues. Throughout his career, Dr. Zaloga pushed the medical community to provide quality, cost-effective health care to the citizens of Lackawanna County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I am proud to congratulate Dr. Zaloga on his many achievements during his career, and I thank him for his dedication to improving

health care in Lackawanna County. He has done a great service for the health care professionals, the uninsured, and all those who need health care in the Lackawanna community.

SOLEDAD SIERRA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Soledad Sierra for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Soledad Sierra is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Soledad Sierra is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Soledad Sierra for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD UNIVERSITY PHARMACY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating the Howard University Pharmacy Alumni Association on 55 years of service to the Howard University College of Pharmacy and to the profession of pharmacy.

Pharmacy education is an essential part of the core curriculum at Howard University. Since its establishment, Howard University has consistently educated diverse, culturally competent and thoughtful pharmacists. In fact, one of Howard University's earliest graduates earned a Bachelor of Sciences in Pharmacy, and started the legacy of service and excellence that has defined subsequent generations of graduates.

The College of Pharmacy's graduates work tirelessly to address existing and emerging health care concerns, including health care disparities along racial and economic lines. However, their call to serve extends well beyond the clinical and beyond the confines of their profession. For 55 years, the Pharmacy Alumni Association has served as one of the most effective advocates for the school and its students. Through its efforts, countless students have received scholarships and mentoring that enabled and empowered them to join this noble profession.

I ask the House to join me in celebrating the Pharmacy Alumni Association's 55th anniversary, and I wish the Howard University Pharmacy Alumni Association many more years of success as they continue to provide financial and networking opportunities to the next generation of pharmacists.

HONORING ABDULLAHI CHARIF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Abdullahi Charif, a 12-year-old boy who tragically lost his life on March 1st, 2014, as a result of an accident that occurred while swimming during a physical education class at school.

Abdullahi lived a short life but he made a significant impact on his family and community. He was a bright and promising young man who enjoyed life. We must cherish the gifts and lessons he provided to his family and friends during his short time.

The tragic loss of Abdullahi should serve as a reminder that pool procedures in schools must be evaluated and held to the highest standards of safety. We must do all we can to avoid tragedies like this from occurring again.

I offer my condolences to his family and community in this time of loss.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of Abdullahi Charif.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congregation Ahavas Achim in Highland Park, New Jersey as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary this year. Since its incorporation in 1889, Congregation Ahavas Achim has provided a spiritual center for prayer, education and community to Middlesex County residents.

Upon its incorporation, Congregation Ahavas Achim began humbly, meeting in members' homes or rented stores in New Brunswick. Over the next several years, it grew, purchasing land and a building and continued to enlarge and remodel to meet the needs of a growing membership. Congregation Ahavas Achim relocated to Highland Park in 1987 and its new building was dedicated in 1989. The synagogue expanded once again and was re-dedicated in 2010.

Congregation Ahavas Achim is a Torah-observant congregation and member congregation of the Orthodox Union. It is open to Jews of all backgrounds and strives to include all members in synagogue life.

Over the years, Congregation Ahavas Achim has been led by Rabbi Israel Marcus, Rabbi Samuel Baskin, Rabbi Abraham Sha-

piro and Rabbi Ronald L. Schwarzberg. After serving as Assistant Rabbi, Interim Rabbi and Program Director, Rabbi Steven Miodownik became Rabbi of the congregation in 2006 and continues to provide spiritual leadership and guidance today. In addition to the Rabbi, the officers, staff and members of Congregation Ahavas Achim endeavor to carry on its mission and commit to a Halakhic life.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating Congregation Ahavas Achim as its members and supporters gather to celebrate its 125th Anniversary on March 30, 2014 and honor Marcia and Barry Levinson and Jennie and Josh Fine. Congregation Ahavas Achim and the esteemed honorees and guests of honor are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

WILSON MANTILLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Wilson Mantilla for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Wilson Mantilla is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Wilson Mantilla is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Wilson Mantilla for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,546,932,628,558.05. We've added \$6,920,055,579,644.97 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 13 and 14, 2014 I joined Admiral Mike Connor, Commander of US Submarine Forces, on a visit to the USS *Missouri* to see firsthand the operations of a Virginia Class Submarine and missed several recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yes" on rollcall No. 129, on the motion to recommit H.R. 3973 with instructions;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 130, on agreeing to the Polis of Colorado Part A Amendment No. 3 to H.R. 3973;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 131, on the motion to recommit H.R. 3189 with instructions;

"No" on rollcall No. 132, on passage of H.R. 3189;

"No" on rollcall No. 133, on the motion to table H. Res. 517;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 134, on the motion to recommit H.R. 4015 with instructions;

"No" on rollcall No. 135, on passage of H.R. 4015.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
RANDALL TREGO**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man who has put God and others above himself. The Reverend Randall Trego has been a blessing to The Woodlands through his ministry. As chaplain at St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital for the past 11 years, Rev. Trego has helped families heal. Since the hospital's opening in 2003, patients, staff, and families have all relied on Rev. Trego for loving, spiritual guidance.

Rev. Trego began his service at St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital with four volunteers as part of his pastoral care team. Today those same individuals have been joined by 19 other spiritual caregivers. St. Luke's volunteer chaplains come from all faiths and are available to all patients, employees, doctors, nurses, and visitors 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In 2004, Rev. Trego, began what has become known as the "feelie heart" ministry. Inspired by another's story, the Reverend encouraged his team to make small fabric hearts to give to those who needed encouragement. With love, the team initially made 50 hearts to give away. To date, nearly 30,000 hearts have been hand made by volunteers, organizations and even the families of prior patients. The hearts have become so important to patients that those having surgery have their feelie heart pinned to the underside of their gurney for reassurance.

This week Rev. Trego is retiring, but not before performing his last Blessing of the Hands ceremony on Tuesday, March 25. Annually, the Reverend has offered this ceremonial washing, drying, and anointing of hands in

service to others. Over 2,000 individuals have participated in these ceremonies that serve as a reminder of God's healing power and compassion. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this special day.

It can't be overstated what a tremendously important part of the fabric of St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital that Rev. Trego has become. He truly embodies St. Luke's motto of "Faithful, Loving Care." As the St. Luke's family honors him this week and receive their Blessings from him, they reflect on how they have been blessed by this man's faith, compassion, and dedication. Bless you, Rev. Trego. Your retirement is well earned.

TIMMY RITTER**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Timmy Ritter for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Timmy Ritter is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Timmy Ritter is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Timmy Ritter for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
LEONARD KRAVITZ**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Private First Class Leonard Kravitz, who gave his life during the Korean War in an extraordinary act of heroism and posthumously received the Medal of Honor on March 18, 2014. PFC Leonard Kravitz fought valiantly to protect our country and rightfully deserves our recognition and admiration.

I am proud to represent a district that is home to such a large number of veterans, and I feel tremendous gratitude to the heroes of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and to the new generation of veterans from the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. My father, Bernard Deutch, volunteered to fight in World War II as a teenager where he earned a Purple Heart at the Battle of the Bulge. It was his example of service to our nation that motivated me to serve in Congress.

PFC Leonard Kravitz sacrificed himself for his platoon when he took over a machine gun,

fired into an ambush of Communist forces, and stayed behind so that his fellow soldiers could withdraw safely. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for his sacrifice. PFC Leonard Kravitz was also recommended for the Medal of Honor, but he never received it due to widespread prejudice in the military against Jewish and other minority servicemembers. His childhood friend, Mitch Libman, a resident of South Florida, worked tirelessly for decades to ensure that the courageous sacrifice of his dear friend would not go unnoticed. This heartfelt act of advocacy led to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2002 and H.R. 3304, a bill that I introduced, which ensures the recognition of all soldiers who never received the Medals of Honor they deserved.

In this era of partisan vitriol and gridlock in Washington, our leaders can always look to veterans as an example of how individuals from all walks of life can put their differences aside in order to accomplish great things. PFC Leonard Kravitz has finally been recognized as the hero he is, and his friend Mitch Libman reminds us of the duty we all have to ensure that no soldier becomes a forgotten hero. I urge every citizen of this great country to live by their examples.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S CHIEF
DIPLOMAT TO THE UNITED
STATES**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with the other co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus—Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART, Representative ALBIO SIREs, and Representative JOHN CARTER—to recognize the service of Taiwan's chief diplomat to the United States, Representative Pu-tsung King. During his tenure in our nation's capital, Representative King was an invaluable resource and dear friend to the Taiwan Caucus. We congratulate him on his next assignment as Secretary General of National Security Council for the Republic of China on Taiwan.

Representative King earned a Ph.D. in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Arts in Communications from Texas Tech University. During his recent tenure, Representative King worked to resume negotiations for the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), turning a new page in trade relations between Taiwan and the United States. He and his team also worked toward passage of a bill which called for Taiwan to be granted observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization. President Obama signed the bill into law in July 2013.

As co-chairs of the Taiwan Caucus, we would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the upcoming 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). The legislation established direct relations between Washington, DC, and Taipei. The 35th anniversary represents an important milestone in our long-standing relationship

with Taiwan, serving as the foundation for our bilateral economic, security, and trade relations.

In closing, we congratulate Representative King and on his successful tenure as Taiwan's top diplomat in the United States. We look forward to working with him in his new capacity and to his enduring friendship.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWEST IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PROJECT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise to recognize the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) on thirty years of fighting for the rights of immigrants and refugees in my home state of Washington. With four offices throughout the state, the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project has protected the well-being of tens of thousands of immigrants throughout its history.

The Northwest Immigrant Rights Project was founded in 1984 as a non-profit legal services organization serving Central American refugees. Since that time, it has expanded to serve individuals and families from more than 100 countries around the world, and added educational and public policy work to its efforts. This level of excellence can be seen in NWIRP's innovative weekly legal clinics on the Deferred Action Program, which have been a vital resource for immigrant youth in our state.

Our nation needs more advocates for the rights of immigrants and refugees, and I am proud that an organization in Washington state is setting such a fine example. I am confident that the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project will be a strong voice on these issues for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project on a fantastic thirty years. Their work is of incredible value and I wish them well in the future.

TAYLOR NATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Taylor Nation for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Taylor Nation is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Taylor Nation is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Taylor Nation for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge

Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 115TH AN- NIVERSARY OF SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 115th anniversary of San Francisco State University. The San Francisco State Normal School, a small women's-only teaching academy, opened its doors in March 1899. With a \$10,000 stipend from the State Legislature, the school rented a building on Powell Street and offered free tuition. The first graduating class was made up of just 36 women with the motto *Experientia docet*—"Experience teaches."

During the 1906 earthquake, the SF State Normal School was destroyed. Relocating at a new site on Market Street, SF State Normal School was the first public school to re-open after the destruction of the earthquake. In 1921, SF State Normal School changed its name to San Francisco Teachers' College and received authorization to grant the Bachelor of Arts degree.

In the 1930s, the college chose the colors purple and gold. With sports becoming more popular at SF State, the student newspaper, "Bay Leaf," called for the school to adopt a mascot. A reader proposed the alligator because "it is strong, and we hope our teams have strength."

In 1935, SF State Teachers College changed its name to San Francisco State College. The influx of returning WWII veterans swelled the student population from 1,117 in 1945 to 4,390 in 1950. To accommodate the growing number of students, 56 acres of land near Lake Merced was purchased to replace the cramped and aging campus.

During the 60s, SF State became the center of student activism. When the House Un-American Activities Committee met in San Francisco, students from SF State demonstrated and disrupted the Committee's hearings in City Hall. The students were fire-hosed down the steps and arrested. Student sit-ins at the Administration Building protested racial discrimination, the Vietnam War, and the draft, pressing for campus reform.

Events came to a head in 1968, with the beginning of the longest campus strike in the nation's history. This five-month event defined the University's core values of equality and social justice, laying the groundwork for establishment of the only College of Ethnic Studies in the United States.

In 1972, San Francisco State College briefly changed its name to California State University, San Francisco. The name changed when Governor Ronald Reagan signed a measure officially changing the name to San Francisco State University in 1974.

In the 80s, SF State became the first major university to select a President of Chinese-

American heritage. President Chia-Wei Woo is a symbol of SF State's continual progressive attitude that has represented the larger San Francisco community. By the millennium, SF State garnered a reputation for having several prestigious educational programs, with some of the finest trained faculty in the world.

Robert A. Corrigan served as the 12th president of San Francisco State University from September 1988 to July 2012. President Corrigan became one of the longest-serving university presidents in the education system of the United States. Under his direction, SF State developed into a respected institution with the highest ranking in the nation for the number of international students at a comprehensive university. Under President Corrigan's leadership, SF State increased its grant funding. The campus had just \$9 million in federal research grants and contracts when he first arrived, but by the time he left, SF State had \$53 million. SF State also expanded its campus with the creation of the downtown campus at Westfield San Francisco Centre mall. I had the privilege of working with President Corrigan during my tenure in Congress and he has left a lasting legacy.

Leslie E. Wong joined San Francisco State University as its 13th president in August of 2012. He now oversees one of the nation's premier urban comprehensive universities. President Wong has hit the ground running and is frequently seen on campus cheering on student athletes, academic competitors and performers. He endowed the Leslie and Phyllis Wong Scholarship as a cornerstone of the campus-wide Students First Scholarship Campaign. Having partnered with President Wong on numerous campus events and activities, I know President Wong will continue to lead SF State into a prosperous future.

Veterans make up a good portion of the student population at the university. SF State has stayed true to its commitment in helping active duty members and veterans of military service attain their educational goals. On November 10, 2010, the Veterans Services Center opened its doors and has brought together a range of veterans' support services under one roof, including pre-admissions counseling, educational benefits assistance as well as a study area with computer workstations. I had the distinct honor of meeting several of these student veterans and thanking them for their service.

Notable alumni of San Francisco State include business leaders, elected officials, award winning authors, journalists, film stars, athletes, musicians, doctors, and scientists. This list grows with every graduating class. Though the school's name, mascot, and location have all changed, San Francisco State University remains committed to public education 115 years later. Today, SF State offers more than 200 degrees and certificates and serves nearly 30,000 students each year—quite a different story when compared to the humble beginnings of the University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to commend the San Francisco State University for its dedication to higher education.

BREAUX BRIDGE LOSES KEY
LEADER JOHN "JOHNNY" THOMAS
RAYMOND

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the passing of a great leader in our community who served his country as a soldier and later as a civic leader while opening numerous small businesses in South Louisiana.

John "Johnny" Thomas Raymond was a distinguished war veteran who served as a platoon leader in the Korean War and later became a member of the Army's 77th Special Forces Group. This group helped to train and reorganize the Royal Thai Army Ranger Battalion in special operations. In 2004, he was recognized as the father of the Royal Thai Army's special forces. After serving a tour in Vietnam, Johnny retired from the Army in 1968 as a lieutenant colonel. His decorated military career included receiving the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross, and the Gold Star.

Johnny was instrumental in laying the foundation for numerous civic activities such as the Louisiana Military Hall of Fame & Museum in Abbeville and the Breaux Bridge Downtown Merchants Association. He was also active in the Atchafalaya Basin Board in addition to the Louisiana Boxing Commission. For many years, he served on the Louisiana Nursing Home Association Board of Directors. This year, he was chosen as King Agricole II of the Krewe de St. Martin.

Survivors include his wife, Coatney Sibley Raymond of Breaux Bridge; his son, John R. "Bobby" Raymond and his wife, DeAnna, of Owasso, OK, his daughters, Renee R. Delahoussaye and Carol Raymond both of Breaux Bridge; his grandson, John C. Raymond and his wife, Joy, of Baton Rouge and one great granddaughter, Sadie Laine Raymond; his stepsons, Barrett Reid Branch and his wife, Angel, Byron Branch and his wife, Rhonda, all of Breaux Bridge, and Beau Branch and his wife, Wendy, of Broussard, and 5 step grandchildren, Sydney Branch, Barry Branch, Deuce Hardy, Julian Branch and Tylor Guillot.

SONA METZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sona Metz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sona Metz is a 12th grader at Pomona High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sona Metz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sona Metz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF COUNCILMAN
JAMES A. WALLACE, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Councilman James (Jim) A. Wallace, Jr. for his 45 years of service to the Metuchen Fire Department. Councilman Wallace's outstanding contributions to his community are to be celebrated by the Metuchen Fire Department at its 2014 Chief's Dinner and Installation of Officers.

A lifelong resident of Metuchen, Councilman Wallace serves his community in many capacities. He was recently re-elected to his second term on the Metuchen Borough Council. In addition, Councilman Wallace served on the Metuchen Police Department for 27 years, retiring in 1992 as a sergeant.

Before joining the police force, Councilman Wallace volunteered with the Washington Hose Co. for 4 years. In 1971, he rejoined the Metuchen Fire Department with the Eagle Hook and Ladder Co. and was elected Captain a year later. He also served as treasurer, Assistant Fire Chief and Chief. In 2010, the Washington Hose Co. and the Eagle Hook and Ladder Co. merged to become the Metuchen Volunteer Fire Co. Councilman Wallace was elected treasurer of the newly formed company in 2011.

Councilman Wallace was a member of the Metuchen Fireman's Relief Association, serving as treasurer for many years, and the Middlesex County Fireman's Association, where he served as president for several years. He was also a member of the board that created the Middlesex County Fire Academy, which has trained thousands of firefighters since opening in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in thanking Councilman Wallace for his service to the Metuchen Fire Department and the greater Metuchen community. He has dutifully served Metuchen for 45 years and his selfless commitment is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE RAINIER BEACH
HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Rainier Beach High School (RBHS) men's basketball team on their invitation to the Dick's Sporting Goods High School National Tournament. This prestigious invitation is yet another example of the program's excellence and reminds us that Rainier Beach deserves a place in the upper echelon of high school basketball in our nation.

The Rainier Beach High School basketball team has played with excellence all season long, and is incredibly deserving of this opportunity. Going undefeated throughout their regular season has made them the top-ranked team in Washington State, and has given them much deserved national recognition as the basketball powerhouse that they have proven themselves to be.

Founded in 2009 to create a national championship tournament for high school basketball, the Dick's Sporting Goods tournament invites the top eight teams in the country to compete. The tournament will be broadcast on national television and the final game played in New York City's Madison Square Garden. This event is a fantastic opportunity for the RBHS Vikings to showcase their skills in front of a national audience. I am pleased that the incredible athletic prowess from the 9th District of Washington State will be recognized across the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Rainier Beach Vikings on their successful season. I wish them the best of luck as they take on the top talent our country has to offer.

SIERRA SANCHEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sierra Sanchez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sierra Sanchez is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sierra Sanchez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sierra Sanchez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF KILAH DAVENPORT

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Kilah Davenport, a young girl from my district in North Carolina who was taken from this world much too soon.

Kilah was a young girl full of joy, laughter and love. Two years ago, when Kilah was just three-years-old, she was a victim of felony child abuse and suffered severe mental and physical damage. All of the doctors told Kilah's family that she would not survive, but she pulled through and overcame the odds stacked against her.

I had the pleasure of meeting young Kilah and her wonderful, loving family, and I was moved by their incredible strength and faith. Kilah's recovery was slow and she faced extensive physical therapy and rehab. When most people would have given up, Kilah and her family endured, becoming advocates for legislation to protect our children. Kilah inspired the state of North Carolina to pass legislation that increases sentencing punishments for five child abuse-related felonies. Tragically, on March 12, just three weeks before her 5th birthday, Kilah Davenport passed away.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Kilah Davenport Child Protection Act of 2013 (H.R. 3627), which guarantees that our states can address the serious problem of felony child abuse and makes certain that those who choose to harm a child suffer real and meaningful consequences. I am committed to ensuring the safety of the most innocent in our society. I support this bill that passed the House, and I encourage the Senate to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to pray for Kilah's family. I hope they can find the peace and comfort that only comes from our loving God as they go through this troubling time.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP
OF DR. TERRI H. FINKEL**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Terri H. Finkel, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Finkel serves as Chair of Pediatrics and Chief Scientific Officer at Nemours Children's Hospital in Lake Nona Medical City, Orlando, Florida, and Professor of Pediatrics and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine.

Dr. Finkel received both her medical degree in 1982 and a Ph.D. in biochemistry and biophysics in 1984, from Stanford University. She completed pediatric residency training at Boston Children's Hospital and the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. She then completed a fellowship in pediatric rheumatology and postdoctoral training as a

Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) fellow at the National Jewish Medical & Research Center (NJMRC). Dr. Finkel also served on the faculty at NJMRC and the University of Colorado.

In 1999, she was recruited to lead the Division of Pediatric Rheumatology at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and to serve as the Joseph Lee Hollander Chair of Pediatric Rheumatology and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, where she was later promoted to Professor of Pediatrics. At CHOP, Dr. Finkel built the Division of Rheumatology from a small group to one of the largest and most academically productive divisions of rheumatology in the country. Her trainees are currently on faculty at leading academic medical centers in the United States and abroad. In 2011, she was recruited to help lead the building of Nemours Children's Hospital, which opened in October 2012.

Dr. Finkel has devoted more than 20 years to caring for children with rheumatic diseases. U.S. News & World Report has ranked her in the top one percent of pediatric rheumatologists in the Nation for each of the past 4 years, a distinction held by only 15 physicians across the U.S.

Dr. Finkel's work has been recognized by more than 100 publications and she has received 140 invitations to speak nationally and internationally. She has nine issued patents and patents pending, and has had continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 1990, with research grants totaling more than \$12 million. Among Dr. Finkel's many honors and awards are those from the American Cancer Society, American College of Rheumatology, American Foundation for AIDS Research, American Medical Association, Children's Miracle Network, Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, Henry Kunkel Society, HHMI, Lupus Foundation, Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Philadelphia Magazine, State of Pennsylvania, and Gates Foundation.

A strong advocate of evidence-based medicine, Dr. Finkel's research has helped to uncover extensive genetic overlap across many pediatric autoimmune diseases. Using cutting-edge genomics, she has successfully unmasked dozens of novel risk factors common to childhood arthritis, lupus, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, celiac disease, immunodeficiency, thyroid disease, and psoriasis. Dr. Finkel has led studies that investigate the origins of immunodeficiency and autoimmunity in individuals with HIV infection and AIDS. Other key interests include expanding caregiver sharing of electronic medical records and exploring faster ways to deliver new therapies to patients.

In 2001, the Arthritis Foundation selected Dr. Finkel as one of 50 "Research Heroes" for her significant contributions to the field of rheumatology. In 2003, the Arthritis Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania presented the Arthritis Hero Award to Dr. Finkel for her leadership in the field of arthritis. In 2004, Dr. Finkel was awarded the University of Pennsylvania's Lady Colyton Prize for Autoimmune Research, based on her research on autoimmune disorders. In 2009, she was elected to the prestigious Henry Kunkel Society for her contributions to the fields of immunology and rheumatology.

Dr. Finkel is married to pediatric neurologist Dr. Richard Finkel. Among the Finkels' proudest accomplishments are their two children. Paul will graduate this year from Carnegie Mellon University with a master's degree in Electrical & Computer Engineering. Valerie is completing a master's degree in Philosophy at The New School in New York City.

I am happy to honor Dr. Terri Finkel, during Women's History Month, for her leadership and contributions to the medical community.

WORLD TB DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World TB Day and call for a continued effort to drive down rates of tuberculosis (TB) across the world and accelerate progress toward ending TB as a threat to global public health.

World TB Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about TB-related problems and solutions and to support TB-control efforts. While great strides have been made to control and cure TB, much more needs to be done to eliminate this disease.

Often believed to be a disease of the past, TB is still a life-threatening problem in the United States and around the world. Anyone can contract TB, and our current efforts to find and treat latent TB infection and TB disease are not sufficient.

We must raise awareness, enhance prevention, control, and treatment efforts, and develop new therapies to treat TB, especially for multi-drug resistant (MDR-TB) and extensively-drug resistant TB (XDR-TB).

Everyone has a role in ensuring that one day TB will be eliminated. As a co-chair of the Congressional TB Elimination Caucus and longtime advocate on this issue, I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and our partners to further the commitment to a world free of TB.

RECOGNIZING WHITE CASTLE

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize White Castle, a family-owned hamburger chain based in my district, for being the creators of Time Magazine's "Most Influential Burger of All Time."

Since White Castle opened in 1921 in Wichita, Kansas, White Castle has revolutionized the fast food industry. White Castle's signature 5-holed square patty has skyrocketed the company's popularity, developed an almost-cult following of self-proclaimed 'Cravers' and resulted in White Castle becoming the first hamburger chain to sell one billion hamburgers.

A little over a decade after its first store opened, White Castle moved its headquarters

to Columbus, Ohio—where it has resided for the last 80 years. This trailblazing company has provided hundreds of jobs in the great state of Ohio, as well as in Ohio's 15th Congressional District.

Today, White Castle is more than a hamburger chain. White Castle is now an experience which people from across the country and across the world travel great distances to get their hands on.

I offer my congratulations to White Castle for their years of success and their designation as having the "Most Influential Burger of All Time" by Time Magazine. Ohio's 15th District, the Buckeye State and Cravers across the nation have loved the first billion sliders and look forward to one billion more.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DONNA DOWLESS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Donna Dowless, Chairman of the XOXO Media Group. Dowless is an instrumental and creative force in her community and in the entertainment industry. She is an experienced executive and strong community leader that is goal oriented and results driven. She fosters powerful partnerships with diverse groups to cultivate positive change and create economic impact and sustainability.

Prior to starting her own Orlando-based entertainment media and arts consulting company, Ms. Dowless served as Executive Vice President of Industry Relations for Ticketmaster, a position she held for 18 years. She has over 30 years of experience in sports and live entertainment. She has directed and managed sports arenas, theaters and concert venues and worked with professional sports leagues, prominent live event producers and numerous political and presidential event directors. Ms. Dowless was recently recognized by Venues Today Magazine as one of the "Top 5 Women of Influence in the Entertainment Industry." In 2005, she was honored with a lifetime achievement award for distinguished service from the International Association of Venue Managers.

As Chairman of XOXO Media group, Dowless is dedicated to delivering results-driven programs for her arts and entertainment clients. Her specialty services range from event development, public relations, branding, and customer relations management to strategic insights for growth and sustainability. Additional services include career and business development, public speaking, mentoring and motivational programming. Her clients, who include the Ticketmaster Corporation, Atlantic Hill Music, Churchill Development, Castaneda Studios, Florida Artists Registry, Kosmo Creative Studios, and select arts and entertainment venues, have achieved great success under her direction and counsel.

Ms. Dowless is an award-winning contemporary artist creating compositions of balance and harmony which express affirmations from

the heart. Her art is featured in collections worldwide. Over the years she has encountered many unique individuals and entertainers, including the Beatles, Elvis, Tina Turner, Madonna, Frank Sinatra, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, and Bruce Springsteen. All of these entertainment icons left her with inspiring memories that continue to stir her desire and passion to create each day. An early 1970's encounter with Andy Warhol left her with these defining words: "If you are in an artist in your heart, so be it."

Dowless currently serves on the Executive Board of the Downtown Orlando Arts District and CityArts Factory, the Executive Board of See Art Orlando, the Orange County Public Art Review Board, the Executive Board of After School All Stars, and Full Sail University's Entertainment Advisory Board. She has been an arts advocate and supporter, community leader, executive volunteer, mentor, and philanthropist for over 25 years. Because of her inspirational efforts to spread the meaningful message of love through arts and culture, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer appointed Donna as Orlando's official "Ambassador of Love" in October, 2007. Dowless' impact is sure to be seen and cherished for decades to come.

I am happy to honor Donna Dowless, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

SELECTION OF SENATOR ROBERT DOLE FOR THE 2014 NATIONAL VETERANS AWARD

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of National Veterans Day in Birmingham, it is my privilege to inform this House that a distinguished American statesman and patriot, Senator Robert Dole, has been selected as the recipient of the 2014 National Veterans Award.

The National Veterans Award was created in Birmingham for America's first official National Veterans Day observance November 11, 1954 as authorized by Congress and tirelessly advocated by Raymond Weeks. Each year, the award recognizes an outstanding veteran who has made the greatest contribution to veterans and veterans organizations in America.

As one of the greatest of our "Greatest Generation," Bob Dole embodies the values celebrated by this award and essential to the preservation of our freedom: duty, honor, and service to country.

Senator Dole's life story should inspire every American. As a young man, he left his home state of Kansas to answer the call of duty during World War II. He received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his valor in combat. As so many know, he was gravely wounded on the battlefield while leading a platoon of the 10th Mountain Division in Italy in April 1945.

Returning home, Bob Dole surmounted the challenge of physical injury and entered into a new form of service to his country: public service. He was elected to this House in 1960 and elected in 1968 to the U.S. Senate, where dur-

ing his 28 years of service he earned recognition as one of the true legislative giants in the history of the chamber. He was the Republican vice-presidential candidate in 1976 and the Republican presidential candidate in 1996.

Throughout his service in elected office, Senator Dole stood as a principled voice for fiscal responsibility, free enterprise, a strong national defense and American values. He was skilled in working in a bipartisan manner on issues including hunger and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The National Veterans Award specifically recognizes his unwavering support of our troops in the field and his commitment to ensuring quality medical care for veterans.

After leaving government service, Senator Dole accepted a new mission that will stand as an enduring and indeed monumental legacy: the construction of the National World War II Memorial on our National Mall. His leadership of the national campaign for the memorial was instrumental in bringing this long-held dream to honor those who fought on overseas battlefronts and those who contributed here at home into magnificent reality.

At the dedication ceremony on May 29, 2004, Senator Dole said, "What we dedicate today is not a memorial to war, rather it's a tribute to the physical and moral courage that makes heroes out of farm and city boys and that inspires Americans in every generation to lay down their lives for people they will never meet, for ideals that make life itself worth living."

As a congressman, I have cherished the opportunity to welcome and express gratitude to veterans brought to the World War II Memorial by Honor Flight. Senator Dole is known for coming to the memorial to meet with Honor Flight groups, and I have personally witnessed how proud and privileged veterans from Alabama have felt to be in the presence of this American hero. It is altogether appropriate that Senator Dole has been recognized with his own bronze plaque at the memorial.

Senator Dole has always been modest about the immense contributions that he has made to the good of our nation, often minimizing them with his quick wit and willingness to share credit. But his steadfast devotion to the cause of freedom towers as sure and lasting as any of the glorious monuments in our nation's capital. With the support of his lovely and accomplished wife Elizabeth, he continues to provide wise guidance and inspiration to our country.

National Veterans Day in Birmingham takes pride in being the home to the largest and longest-running commemoration of Veterans Day in the U.S. The recipient of the National Veterans Award holds a special and esteemed place in this tradition. For lifelong defense of liberty and dedication to America, Senator Robert Dole honors us by accepting the 2014 National Veterans Award in the name of the veterans across many generations who have sacrificed to keep us all free.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STEPHANIE PORTA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Stephanie Porta. Born and raised in Orlando, Florida, Stephanie has been a leader from an early age. While in middle school, she received the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadet can earn for her demonstration of successful leadership skills.

After graduating with honors from American University in Washington, DC, she worked on several campaigns until becoming Director of Central Florida ACORN and then Florida ACORN.

Stephanie left Florida ACORN in 2009 when she co-founded Organize Now! and the Florida Institute for Reform and Empowerment (FIRE). Both organizations work to address the needs of Florida's low and moderate income communities. Stephanie serves as the Executive Director for both organizations.

Throughout her career, Stephanie has worked on a variety of successful campaigns for candidates and issues, including affordable utilities, police accountability, foreclosures, environmental justice, community safety, community development, health care, and public education.

In 2012, Stephanie led the effort to pass an ordinance to allow employees in Orange County to earn sick time. When the effort was thwarted by the Orange County Commission breaking the law, the campaign called out the injustice and continued to fight for more transparency and accountability in Orange County while leading the investigation around the scandal called "Textgate" in which the Mayor and Commissioners were secretly communicating with special interest lobbyists via text messages to thwart the will of 50,000 voters.

In 2013, Stephanie was recognized by the Orlando Sentinel as an "up and comer" for its "25 Most Powerful People in Central Florida" list and was recognized as one of "12 to Watch" in Orlando Magazine's "50 Most Powerful People in Orlando" list.

Stephanie was raised by Katie Porta, a single mother who spent her lifetime advocating for the disabled and taught Stephanie from an early age to treat people with dignity. Katie raised Stephanie with the belief that "people don't want to be treated down; they want to be treated up," a mantra that has influenced Stephanie's work. Stephanie's relentless quest to achieve justice for those who have no voice in our community has been a beacon of hope and inspiration.

I am happy to honor Stephanie Porta, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF LINDA W. CHAPIN

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize former Orange County Mayor Linda Chapin. A Florida native, Ms. Chapin holds a Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University. Ms. Chapin served as the first elected mayor of Orange County, Florida, from 1990–1998.

After leaving office, she joined the University of Central Florida where she founded the Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies, which focuses on issues facing the region such as growth, the environment, and transportation. Today she serves on a number of civic and community boards, and is Chairman of the Orlando Health Board of Directors.

As Orange County Mayor, Ms. Chapin took a strong role in promoting business and industry in Central Florida by developing an economic action agenda that included annual regional economic summits; incentives for high-technology companies; and trade missions to Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Under her leadership, Orange County was the first county in Florida to mandate that attention to economic development be included in its local comprehensive plan. In 2004, she became the first woman to receive the James B. Greene Economic Development Award from the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission.

Ms. Chapin's tenure in public office also included the construction of the nation's second-largest convention center, a new courthouse, the Regional History Center, fifteen new parks and recreational trails, and the purchase of over twelve thousand acres of environmentally sensitive lands. In an effort to work with citizens to redevelop historically neglected neighborhoods, Ms. Chapin began the Targeted Community Initiative. President Clinton awarded the Initiative the 1997 Public Service Excellence Award for the best local government program in the country. At the conclusion of her final term in elected office, the Orlando Sentinel described Ms. Chapin as "a model of integrity and character."

In 1999, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University named Ms. Chapin Distinguished Alumni of the Year, and the University of Central Florida awarded her an honorary doctoral degree. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, the Trust for Public Lands, and myregion.org. A committed proponent of citizen involvement and the need to build social capital and confidence in public decision-making, Ms. Chapin has published articles in the National Civic Review and other social policy journals.

I am happy to honor Linda Chapin, during Women's History Month, for her leadership and contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LANDRA ROBESON

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Landra Robeson. Raised by "super voters," Landra understood the strength of the vote at a very young age. She gravitated towards C-SPAN and National Public Radio when most people her age found it boring and insignificant.

After graduating from college, Landra spent many years in the workforce serving in managerial roles for staffing, telecommunications and banking companies. Even though she had succeeded financially in these positions and had the opportunity to mentor both men and women, she felt something was lacking.

Her life changed when she was afforded the opportunity to serve as a Legislative Aide for then State Representative, and now State Senator, Geraldine Thompson. She came to discover that no role was more significant than that of a public servant. The gratification that came from assisting constituents with unemployment claims, child support and a myriad of other issues was incomparable to any bonus she had ever received from her previous professional positions.

Landra's position as a Legislative Aide also provided the opportunity for her to work with students from the University of Central Florida (UCF) through their Legislative Scholars Program. Her former students recognized Landra's dedication to mentorship by honoring her as UCF's first "Legislative Scholars Mentor."

During Women's History Month, Landra is grateful for her grandmother Roxy, who she never had the pleasure of meeting, because she lost her battle with cancer at a young age. Roxy raised Landra's mother Doris Wormack, who helped Landra understand that she could make a difference by participating in the political process through the simple act of voting. Like her parents, Landra is a super voter.

I am happy to honor Landra Robeson, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for

printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 26

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Agriculture.

SD-192

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Navy.

SD-106

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine if alternative financial products are serving consumers.

SD-538

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine strengthening public-private partnerships to reduce cyber risks to our nation's critical infrastructure.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of, "The Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act".

SD-226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine unwinding quantitative easing, focusing on how the Fed should promote stable prices, economic growth, and job creation.

SH-216

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine preventing Medicare fraud, focusing on the best way to protect seniors and taxpayers.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine the current readiness of United States forces in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Environmental Management of the Department of Energy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine protecting personal consumer information from cyber attacks and data breaches.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Syria after Geneva, focusing on the next steps for United States policy.

SD-419

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for Tribal Programs.

SD-628

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control

To hold hearings to examine America's addiction to opioids, focusing on heroin and prescription drug abuse.

SD-192

MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, both of the Department of the Interior, and subcommittee assignments.

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine MAP-21 reauthorization, focusing on state and local perspectives on transportation priorities and funding.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation; to be followed by a closed session in SVC-217 at approximately 11:15 a.m.

SD-192

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Federal Communications Commission.

SD-138

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine strengthening the Federal Student Loan Program for borrowers.

SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1720, to promote transparency in patent ownership and make other improvements to the patent system, and the nominations of Gregg Jeffrey Costa, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Tanya S. Chutkan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, M. Hannah Lauck, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Leo T. Sorokin, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Richard Franklin Boulware II, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, Salvador Mendoza, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Staci Michelle Yandle, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, John Charles Cruden, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, and Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on African Affairs

To hold hearings to examine powering Africa's future, focusing on the Power Africa Initiative.

SD-419

1 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To receive a briefing on the highs and lows in United States-Russia relations.

RHOB-2103

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sherry Moore Trafford, and Steven M. Wellner, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD-342

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

- 3 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Oversight, Federal Rights and Agency Action
To hold hearings to examine access to justice for those who serve.
SD-226
- MARCH 31
- 3 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine creating a 21st century government part II, focusing on outside views.
SD-342
- APRIL 1
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD-G50
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine Caterpillar's offshore tax strategy.
SD-106
- 2:15 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold hearings to examine proliferation prevention programs at the Department of Energy and at the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SR-222
- APRIL 2
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
To hold hearings to examine tactical aircraft programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD-562
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
To hold hearings to examine military construction, environmental, energy, and base closure programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR-232A
- 10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger and the impact on consumers.
SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1474, to encourage the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in the State relating to the enforcement of certain State laws by Indian tribes, to improve the quality of life in rural Alaska, to reduce alcohol and drug abuse, S. 1570, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service by providing 2-fiscal-year budget authority, S. 1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S. 1622, to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and an original bill entitled, "The Native American Children's Safety Act".
SD-628
- APRIL 3
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD-G50
- APRIL 10
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD-106
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
To hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR-222
- MAY 20
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD-G50
- 11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222
- 2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222
- 3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD-G50
- 5 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD-G50
- MAY 21
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD-G50
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222
- MAY 22
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222
- MAY 23
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, March 25, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MASSIE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 25, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS MASSIE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am on the House floor today to bring attention to an article from the *World Affairs Journal*, titled, "Money Pit: The Monstrous Failure of U.S. Aid to Afghanistan." This is an eight-page article documenting case after case of American tax dollars being wasted in Afghanistan.

I would like to bring one specific example to your attention, keeping in mind that many more months have now passed since this article was published and these figures are now even larger.

In a recent quarterly report, the U.S. Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction said that when security for aid workers is figured, the total amount of nonmilitary funds Washington has appropriated since 2002 is "approximately \$100 billion"—more than the United States has ever spent to rebuild a country.

Since then, Congress has appropriated another \$16.5 billion for "reconstruction." And all that has not brought the United States or the Afghans a single sustainable institution or program.

As I traveled through the Third District of North Carolina last week, I spoke on this subject many times and was met with frustration from the audience at the waste of taxpayer money in Afghanistan.

When I went on to explain that the Afghan Parliament was able to vote on the bilateral strategic agreement that we are in the process of finalizing with Afghanistan, but we have not even debated the issue in the House, the individuals with whom I spoke were incredibly disappointed in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot blame the American people for wanting a vote on this agreement, which will spend billions of American dollars in Afghanistan with little to no accountability over at least the next 10 years.

This is not a partisan issue. Congressman JIM MCGOVERN and I have signed a letter asking the leadership of both parties for a debate on the expenditure of tax dollars to prop up the corrupt nation of Afghanistan.

To further explain why this debate is necessary, I will briefly read two more examples from the "Money Pit" article.

The Special Inspector General's office, widely known as SIGAR, noted that for the 2012 and 2013 fiscal years the United States has been providing Afghanistan, practically the most corrupt nation on Earth, with \$1.1 billion in fuel for the Afghan military—even though the United States has made no effort to determine how much fuel the military actually requires.

The article goes on to cite a GAO report, stating that for \$130,000, Afghan contractors built a large shower/bathroom facility, "without holes in the walls or floors for plumbing and drains." What's more, the walls were constructed of "crumbling cinder blocks." The report named insufficient oversight.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we bring to a close the era of waste, fraud, and abuse of the United States' resources overseas and in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the leadership of both parties will allow this Congress to debate whether we should stay in Afghanistan for 10 more years. If the Parliament in Afghanistan can have that debate, why can't the United States House of Representatives?

In closing, I would like to ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform and their families.

I will close by saying we have spent enough blood and treasure on this failed policy in Afghanistan. Let's debate the issue and stop spending the taxpayers' money in Afghanistan.

SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this morning's New York Times had a jarring reminder of the fate for those Afghans who put their trust in the United States when they decided to help us as interpreters, as guides, providing a variety of services that made the American mission possible. Indeed, our soldiers, our diplomats, countless Americans have put their lives in the hands of these brave partners. There was a promise, that we would be there for them, just as they were there for us.

Sadly, this is a promise that has been broken time and time again. For the last 10 years, I have been working on an initiative to have the special immigrant visas to allow these trusted partners, whose lives are now at risk, to escape to safety and freedom in the United States.

Too often we have had a program mostly in name only. Visas were authorized, but through lack of attention, resources, commitment, focus, the paperwork languished. People have been in a bureaucratic hell, impossible conditions created, and to be met by despair and too often threats, injury, and, sadly, death of the people who trusted us. During the height of the government shutdown, we were nonetheless able to come together to bring the program back to life, or at least put it on life support.

I deeply appreciate the staff of Majority Leader CANTOR and Minority Whip HOYER. Their key staff members worked with a bipartisan coalition. Special thanks to ADAM KINZINGER and TULSI GABBARD, two new Members of Congress who served in theater in the Middle East, who know what the problems are and our commitment to those who helped us.

Because of this team we were able not only to keep it alive, we secured some real advances in the Defense Authorization Act. We are hearing noises from the administration and the many bureaucracies involved: the State Department, Homeland Security, FBI. There are lots of places for the system to break down, yet there appears to be some greater commitment but still not enough action.

Again, this morning, there is a reminder of the reality of our government having failed to deliver. For too many of us, it is a story in *The New*

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

York Times. But for the Iraqis and the Afghans left behind, they don't need a story in a foreign newspaper, except the people who are featured in these stories miraculously often get their cases expedited. For the rest of these poor souls, they have a daily reminder of the threats, the assaults, of what it means to be left in the tender mercies of al Qaeda and the Taliban.

Next month, I will be introducing legislation for the next steps. I would strongly urge my colleagues to remember that brief moment when we came together during the shutdown to keep the program alive.

Please join me in cosponsoring the legislation because it is not enough just to keep the program alive. Let's come together to make the program work so those partners of America in Afghanistan and Iraq themselves can be kept alive.

THE MEDICAL EVALUATION PARITY FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, despite the recent military drawdown, our Nation continues to rely upon qualified and well-trained volunteers joining the military in order to regenerate our Armed Forces. Now, some of these young men and women have prepared their entire lives for service, while others found the call to duty some years later. All have chosen to serve their country in uniform and do so with honor and bravery.

When joining the service, new recruits must undergo comprehensive medical and physical examinations in order to certify they are both fully fit and capable of performing the range of rigorous and demanding jobs our military must carry out. However, Mr. Speaker, despite comprehensive physical and medical evaluations, there is no similar examination for mental health competency; meaning, we thoroughly examine knees, backs, eyes, and even the heart, yet leave the most important part of the body—one's mind—off-limits.

Now, this is certainly cause for concern and what some view as a serious gap in recruitment evaluation, especially as the military continues to address issues of behavioral health, posttraumatic stress disease, traumatic brain injury, and suicide. According to a recent Army study, nearly one in five Army soldiers enter the service with a psychiatric disorder, and nearly half of all soldiers who tried suicide first attempted it before enlisting. Additionally, the Journal of the American Medical Association found that a large percentage of suicides in the military were individuals who had never been deployed in a combat role.

Mr. Speaker, as policymakers, we have a responsibility to address this challenge. And this week, Ohio Congressman TIM RYAN and I plan to call on our colleagues to do just that and to join as cosponsors of the Medical Evaluation Parity for Service Members, or MEPS, Act. This bipartisan bill will institute a preliminary mental health assessment at the time recruits are first joining the military.

Keeping individual privacy in mind, the MEPS Act will follow all HIPAA guidelines and cannot be used in consideration for promotion or assignments. Additionally, the Congressional Budget Office has found the MEPS Act to have no budgetary effect.

In addition, this legislation requires the National Institute of Mental Health, in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs and other experts, to report their recommendations on the assessment to ensure best practices are done. Now, this common-sense proposal seeks to bring mental health to parity with physical health and recruitment evaluations and will ensure that our incoming troops are both physically and mentally fit to serve.

Additionally, the bill has the support of the American Psychological Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Guard Association of the United States, the Reserve Officers Association, the Reserve Enlisted Association, and the Association of the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Speaker, the MEPS Act is not, alone, the magic silver bullet to solve all of the behavioral health issues the military faces, but it is an important step in better understanding the scope of the challenge that we face. Now, I encourage my fellow colleagues to join us in this effort to protect the safety and security of those in uniform by becoming a cosponsor of the Medical Evaluation Parity for Service Members Act. These brave men and women deserve as much.

THE AMERICAN WAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to take a few moments to share thoughts with my colleagues on a number of items that I believe we should be focused on.

Before I do that, I want to join my friends and colleagues from the great State of Washington to express my concern and my sympathy for the people of Darrington and Oso on Highway 530 that have experienced this terrible devastation of a mudslide. To the families of those who lost their loved ones, we mourn and pray for you; and to those who are still missing, we thank the first responders and pray for their accuracy in discerning and finding those that are alive.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, and as we have a hearing this morning on emergency preparedness, I am asking that all of the resources that the delegation from Washington request, and, as well, the Governor of that State, that all of us will embrace them, stand as Americans, unite behind them and provide the resources as we do for our fellow brothers and sisters in this country because it is the American way that we never leave a lonely person along the highway of despair. We always provide for them. And I want those people in Darrington and the city of Oso to know that we will not leave you along the highway of despair.

□ 1015

I want to now challenge this Congress, the other body, as they proceed to move on what actions should be taken in Ukraine. We know that Americans are war-weary, but if we have principles of democracy, if we believe there is an international world order, we cannot sit idly by and not act. So I am grateful that the President has strongly denounced Russia's actions and has begun to move on strong sanctions. I would argue that there should be more.

We should ensure that the new Ukrainian Government that wants to cling to aspects of democracy and wants to associate with a democratic Europe, that they be allowed to strengthen themselves. We cannot have a timidity on behalf of Europe, so busy worrying about their pocketbook that they will stamp on their principles. Some European countries are now wavering about sanctions. I would suggest to them that they are dangerously providing an opportunity for Russia to continue its aggressive and illegal acts.

You must have principles. You must provide the strength to sanction. One can travel through the years of history in the 20th century and be reminded of those who get one step of aggression and watch as they march across Europe. I am very glad that there will be no meeting of G8 in Sochi, and I would ask that we continue to isolate Russia. Russia violates the human rights of its own people. It does not even recognize the LGBT community, and they are persecuted. What more do we have to hear from Russia and its head of government to not know that they must suffer the consequences of their acts.

I stand with the people of Ukraine because I believe in democracy, I believe in peace and human dignity, and I believe America has those values that we can ensure through the world family that Russia understands that they are not part of the world order of democracy and the freedom of people.

I might also add, Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, all of us have watched,

some with intensesness the Malaysian aircraft. With great disappointment and sadness, we are told, without all of the facts, not knowing what the recent announcements have been, that this aircraft, this airliner may be lost. But it opens our eyes to the crisis of airline security and technology.

I call upon the aviation industry to stop hiding behind costs and how much it costs and start ensuring that our pilots and our customers, our flying public are safe. Why do we have the capacity to dismantle the transponders? Why wasn't the emergency call already in place that automatically signals when an aircraft goes off its designated destination as relates to its flight pattern? Why does it have to be done manually? The mysterious turn. Homeland Security will be having a hearing on the false passport.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is overdue for us to pass comprehensive immigration reform, and I will continue that discussion.

COERCIVE CONTRACEPTION MANDATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there is no shortage of issues here in Washington, and I find it so interesting when people come to our offices and ask: What is going on today?

As you will hear, whether it is talking about foreign affairs, the job issues, the budget, the issues that are of such concern to our constituents, there is always something that is on the front burner, and today is one of those days. The Supreme Court will hear yet another legal challenge to one of the many unconstitutional aspects of ObamaCare, and that is the HHS contraception mandate. Of course, this isn't the first time that the Affordable Care Act, the President's health care law, has been pulled into the Supreme Court, and it is probably not going to be the last, but today the hearing is on the contraception mandate.

No American should have to choose between feeding their family and abiding by their faith. I have to tell you, that is what we see happening right now. It is precisely what this coercive contraception mandate is doing to millions of hardworking people of faith, like the Hahns and the Greens, who simply want to run a business and practice their faith. These family businesses want to take care of their employees and provide them with quality health care coverage. All they ask is to not be forced to pay for the life-ending contraceptives that violate their religious convictions.

Now, ObamaCare's unreasonable mandate has placed them in a bind: violate the tenets of their faith or be

fined, fined by the Federal Government, fined by ObamaCare, fined \$100 per employee per day. That is what the fine works out to be. Unbelievably, it would be cheaper to strip their employees of health care coverage altogether and pay a single \$2,000 fine per employee per year. That is what you find in the 20,000 pages of regulation, in the 2,700 pages of the President's health care law.

That is not what these family businesses want to do. They really want to do the right thing and take care of the hardworking men and women who are in their employment.

If these family businesses are forced to close or drop health care for their employees, it will be the employees and their families who are made to suffer.

This mandate is just another flawed part of a terribly flawed law, and Americans are growing tired of having to cope with it. Fifty-nine percent of the country opposes the contraception mandate because they know what the Greens and the Hahns know. This is a country founded on religious liberty, and that freedom of conscience is a cherished American tradition. The American people know that and they value that; they value that liberty and they value that tradition.

The Obama administration has already doled out special exemptions to 100 million health care plans from this mandate, and for every reason under the sun except religious liberty. In fact, the HHS mandate only explicitly contains a religious exemption for churches and their affiliates. The Obama administration even expects hospitals and religious nonprofits to abide by the mandate without complaint, as if the very founding principles of these organizations aren't outright violated by paying for life-ending contraceptives.

Unless it is a religious institution, the Obama administration seems to think no organization, not even a charity, is allowed to exercise the right of conscience, unless it is granted a special waiver from the administration, of course. The administration: What the government gives, the government can delay, and the government can take away. That is their plan.

It is my hope the Court will act to uphold the protections inherent in the First Amendment, respect America's long-held tradition to right of conscience, and let these families operate their businesses in accordance with their religious beliefs and tenets.

END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the House voted on the farm

bill conference report, legislation that reauthorizes our Nation's agriculture policies as well as the preeminent antihunger program known as SNAP. I voted against the conference report both as a conferee and when it came before this House because it contained an \$8.6 billion cut to SNAP. Even worse, it was the second major cut to SNAP in less than 6 months.

I strongly believe in our Nation's antihunger programs. Unfortunately, there are about 49 million hungry people living in our great Nation. Technically known as food insecurity, the truth is that these are low-income people who don't know where their next meal will come from. America's antihunger programs, led by SNAP, provide food to people who otherwise would have difficulty finding it, if they were able to find access to food at all.

For years, I have talked about how SNAP works, and over the past year, I have led these End Hunger Now speeches about how SNAP and other antihunger programs are working to reduce hunger in our country. That is why these two SNAP cuts, the cut in November 2013 and the cut in the farm bill, were not just disappointing, but they were actually damaging. We saw real cuts to real people.

For example, look at Luis Marin, who was profiled in the New York Daily News:

Food stamp cuts have dealt a double blow to Luis Marin and his family. Marin's hours have been cut from 30 to 20 hours a week at Red Apple Deli Supermarket in uptown's Hamilton Heights, where his boss, Ramon Murphy, is losing business because of the food stamp cutbacks. And Marin, 56, his wife, and their two little girls—who subsist on his \$8-an-hour income—also saw their food stamps benefits drop to \$397 a month in November and have had to change their eating habits.

It is not just low-income families in our urban areas; military families are using SNAP more than ever. In fact, military families used food stamps more in fiscal year 2013 than in any other year. Members of the military redeemed almost \$104 million worth of food stamps over that time, about \$5 million more than the previous year.

The thing many of my colleagues don't seem to understand is that cuts to SNAP don't just change the amount of money the Federal Government spends. As you can see from the case that I highlighted with Mr. Marin, these cuts hurt real American people. We are taking food away from children and away from poor families.

That is why I am pleased that seven of our Nation's Governors are taking the courageous stand that this Congress wouldn't take. The cut included in the farm bill was harmful, but it only affected 17 States. That is because it only dealt with a program called Heat and Eat, a program that linked LIHEAP and SNAP together. The farm bill changed the way States could continue participating in that program.

Essentially, States could continue if they increased the State contribution from \$1 to \$20 in LIHEAP benefits. These seven States—Connecticut, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island—are playing by the new rules Congress established in the farm bill, and thankfully, they are saying that they are not going to let low-income food insecure people in their State feel the pain of these cuts, even if Congress is going to cruelly and cowardly cut SNAP in the name of deficit reduction.

I sit on the Agriculture Committee, and I remember when the committee didn't have the votes to abolish the Heat and Eat Program entirely. The \$20 level was supported by the chairman of the committee and is now the law of the land. Yet the distinguished Speaker of this House continues to say that States are somehow cheating when all they are doing is following the law that he shepherded through this House. Perhaps he didn't read the bill, or perhaps he doesn't understand the fact that there are millions and millions of people in this country who are hungry.

I want to commend the Governors of these States, including the Republican Governor of Pennsylvania and the Governor of my home State of Massachusetts, for doing the right thing and taking action to prevent these cuts from taking effect and preventing their citizens from going hungry.

I am grateful to these Governors and the Governors of 10 other States who are still working to enact this change in law, and for taking the actions that many in this Congress simply did not take. I say "thank you" to the Governors for preventing hunger from getting worse in those States. Hopefully, they can be an example for all of us in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we were elected to help people. These cutbacks in SNAP and other nutrition programs have hurt our fellow citizens. These cuts are unconscionable. They are a rotten thing to do. We in this Congress and the leadership of this Congress have to stop beating up on poor people, have to stop diminishing their struggle. Surely we can come together in a bipartisan way and agree that hunger is not acceptable in the richest country in the history of the world. We need to end hunger now, not make it worse. So let's come together and end hunger now.

CELEBRATING 193RD ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 193rd anniversary of Greek independence. Citizens of Greece have always been a proud people in body, mind, and spirit.

□ 1030

From Pericles, Greek statesman and general, dubbed the first citizen of Athens; to Plato, who laid a groundwork in philosophy so vast that the entirety of European philosophical tradition is said to simply be a footnote to his work; to Count Ioannis Kapodistrias, the first head of state of an independent Greece, Greeks have been exceptional, Mr. Speaker.

I am almost certain that Thomas Jefferson cast an eye across the Atlantic towards Greece when he uttered these words in 1821, when Greece declared their independence:

The flames kindled on the 4th of July 1776 have not spread over much of the globe to be extinguished by the feeble engines of despotism—on the contrary, they will consume these engines and all who work them.

It is no coincidence that the Feast of Annunciation, a commemoration of the conception of Jesus Christ, was chosen to ignite the action for independence.

I am blessed to be of two cultures that have been beacons of liberty for all of civilization, the place of my birth, the land of the free, and the home of the brave, the United States of America; and the land of my ancestors, the birthplace of democracy, the Hellenic Republic.

Many Greeks fought for years, clutching to the heritage, culture, and faith. Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the emblem of freedom for Hellenes, the flag bearing a white cross and nine blue and white stripes representing the nine letters in Eleftheria, which means freedom.

Eight years of bloodshed and battle led to the Treaty of Adrianople, the formal declaration of a free and independent Greece.

Greece was the world's first advanced civilization, one that provided a cultural heritage that has influenced the world. Firsts in philosophy, mathematics, politics, sports, and art all stemmed from a free Greece.

Liberty and justice, freedom to determine the path of one's own life, these are human desires and were embodied by Greece throughout their fight for independence.

Those unyielding Hellenes paid life and limb for those desires, and generations of Greeks—Americans of Greek descent as well—for decades to come owe their ancestors many thanks.

As George Washington once said:

Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.

This held true in Greece in 1821, as it did in America in 1776.

"Freedom or Death"—Eleftheria Thanatos—was the battle cry of the revolutionaries nearly 200 years ago. It rings true today. Freedom is a powerful and beautiful notion. The Greek people achieved that for themselves 193 years ago, and I am proud to celebrate in memory of those who fought bravely to shed the shackles of the Ottoman Empire.

Long live Greece—zito Hellas—and God bless America.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month. On March 13, my colleagues joined together on the House floor to call for the passage of H.R. 863, which would call for a commission to study the potential creation of a national women's history museum in our Nation's Capital.

They discussed the critical need for the museum and recognized the many women who have shaped our Nation. My colleagues are historic women in their own right. Today, I am proud to join them in voicing my support for H.R. 863.

H.R. 863 would establish a commission to study and recommend a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a national women's history museum here in Washington, D.C.

The National Women's History Museum will be the first of its kind to celebrate women's history and women's contributions to the United States. It will not cost the Federal Government a dime since every cent will be privately raised.

Why is it necessary? Well, from our Nation's founding, women have played a crucial role, providing numerous contributions to help create and reinforce this great foundation of our Nation. Women have changed the course of history, and we are long overdue in celebrating and recognizing them and their accomplishments.

Women's history is largely missing from textbooks, from memorials, from museum exhibits, and from many other venues. Of the 210 statues in the United States Capitol, only nine are of female leaders.

Less than 5 percent of the 2,400 national historic landmarks chronicle women's achievement, and a recent survey of some 18 history textbooks found that only 10 percent of the individuals identified in the text were women.

What about New York and its role—my home State? Well, the women's suffrage movement had its roots in upstate New York that I proudly represent. Certainly, the start of what would become a nationwide movement for women's rights in the United States was staked in Seneca Falls, New York, and began in 1848.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Susan B. Anthony, all who have made their voices heard for the empowerment of women, claim New York as their home State. Let's make sure their stories continue to be told.

Countless outstanding women in the capital region have stories that every

American should know. Let me cite one, Shirley Ann Jackson, in the capital region of New York that I represent.

Shirley Ann Jackson—Dr. Jackson, President Jackson of RPI—is a renowned American physicist, who in 1973 graduated from MIT with a Ph.D. in theoretical elementary particle physics, becoming the very first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in MIT's history.

She currently serves as President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, or RPI, and she continues to advocate on behalf of women and minorities in the sciences. Her story should be told.

There are countless stories that need to be told. I will continue to proudly support the creation of a national women's history museum and H.R. 863.

When visitors from the capital region of New York come to our Nation's Capitol, they should have the opportunity to learn about, to celebrate, and, yes, to be inspired by women's history.

I thank the gentlewoman from New York, CAROLYN MALONEY, and the gentlewoman from Tennessee, MARSHA BLACKBURN, for their continued efforts on behalf of this endeavor.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend John Rosenberg, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Olympia, Washington, offered the following prayer:

Holy one, we know You in an infinite variety of ways. By whatever name we call You, You are the one in whom we live and move and have our being.

We ask Your blessing upon the Members of this House as they carry on the business of our Nation at this critical time in our history.

Give them courage in the face of immense challenges, a spirit of cooperation despite their differences, and trust in Your divine guidance as they work together for the common good.

When the path ahead is unclear, remind them that throughout the ages, Your prophets and holy ones have shown us what is good; that You require nothing more of us—but nothing less—than to do justice, to have com-

passion for one another, and to walk humbly with You, the beginning and the end of all things.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CRAWFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND JOHN ROSENBERG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to welcome to the Nation's Capital Pastor John Rosenberg of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Olympia, Washington, where he is the lead pastor. He is my pastor; today it is personal with me.

Pastor Rosenberg is a graduate of Concordia Senior College of Luther Seminary and even has a graduate degree from one of my alma maters, Portland State University.

It is personal with me today because, in part, Pastor Rosenberg has announced his retirement on June 30. We will miss him greatly.

I have no fear for how he will spend his retirement time because he is an

obsessive, compulsive fisherman, which is a good thing to be in the Pacific Northwest, as a matter of fact.

I deeply appreciate him for his presence here today. More importantly, for living the example of the Scripture which he quoted today, by far my favorite, that which I believe is the most holy and that which I believe is the wisest, and that is Micah 6:8: Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your Lord.

All these things Pastor John Rosenberg does. Thank you so much for being here today, my good friend.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BETTY CLARK-DICKEY

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Women's History Month, honoring Arkansas' first female Supreme Court Chief Justice, Betty Clark-Dickey.

Born and raised within Arkansas' First Congressional District, Mrs. Dickey has served as an educator, attorney, prosecutor, commissioner, and chief legal counselor to the Governor.

In 2004, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee appointed Dickey to fill the position of chief justice for the Arkansas Supreme Court, making her the first woman to ever occupy that position.

Mrs. Dickey has not only succeeded professionally, but she has done it all while raising a family. She reared four biological children and one foster child: John, Laura, Ted, Rachel, and Cindy; and she has 11 grandchildren.

Mrs. Dickey's son, Ted, called her a "high achiever who is never afraid of big things," and said of his mother, "She embodies love and justice simultaneously."

A little more than a decade after Mrs. Dickey first took office, Arkansas will have its first Supreme Court female majority in 2015, further cementing Dickey's status as a pioneer in a multitude of areas in the State of Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and the entire State of Arkansas in honoring the service of all women, including Betty Clark-Dickey.

WELCOMING COMMISSIONER KERLIKOWSKE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome Gil Kerlikowske, recently confirmed as Commissioner of the United States Customs and Border Protection.

I am pleased to welcome a Commissioner who has an understanding of the needs of the northern border, as he previously served as police commissioner for the city of Buffalo. His firsthand experience comes at a critical time as we work to advance the United States-Canada Beyond the Border initiative.

In western New York, this cross-border relationship is especially critical to the local economy. I worked with Customs and Border Protection in the past to advocate for increased border staffing levels along the border. At the Peace Bridge, there is also a pre-inspection pilot currently underway that hopes to ease congestion and shorten wait times. In the coming year, we hope to continue moving forward on plans to construct a new border station at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Commissioner Kerlikowske. I look forward to working closely with him and his staff on issues important to the Buffalo-Niagara region and the entire Nation.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Every year at this time we all bring attention and understanding to the needs and the potential of people with developmental disabilities.

As an individual with a hearing disability and a grandfather of a child who has CHARGE syndrome, I am very familiar with the hardships of overcoming these disabilities.

We must all think of ways that would be more inclusive, respectful for our communities, schools, and our workforce.

Interning for us in our Washington office we are fortunate to have a young woman who happens to have Down syndrome. She is also attending a local university. We look forward to those days we have her in our office. Her cheery disposition and her work ethic is infectious.

I encourage everyone to engage with people in our communities who have developmental disabilities and recognize their talents and abilities that will make this a better Nation.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND MINIMUM WAGE

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, Women's History Month is a time

for us to reflect on what women have done for America and what America can do for its women.

If we really look at the history of women in this country, we see that they have done far more than we give them credit for. I am not just talking about extraordinary figures like Susan B. Anthony and Rosa Parks. I am talking about the countless women who have worked day in and day out since this country was founded.

The idea that women are new to working is a myth. The truth is women have always worked to better their families and their communities, but too often the work that they do is undervalued.

Almost two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women, and although more families than ever rely on female breadwinners, women's wages still lag behind men's. For these women it isn't about having it all; it's about having enough to get by.

This Women's History Month, let's give women and their families the raise they deserve. Let's show all Americans that their work is worth a living wage. After all, when women succeed, America succeeds.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DEPUTY SHERIFF WILLIAM R. MAST, JR.

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Watauga County Deputy Sheriff William R. Mast, Jr. Deputy Mast was shot and killed while responding to a 911 call in Deep Gap, North Carolina, in 2012.

Deputy Mast was only 23 years old when he was killed 20 months ago, and his first child was born shortly thereafter.

Today, at a ceremony at the Perkinsville Baptist Church in Boone, the bridge spanning the south fork of the New River on U.S. Highway 421 will be named for Deputy Mast. This is a small token of gratitude from the community which Deputy Mast served so ably and honorably.

Our thoughts and prayers today are with Deputy Mast's widow, young son, and all those who continue to mourn his passing.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a question that the American people have been raising for more than a decade: When will we address the question of human dignity of so many who are in our country who desire the status of citizenship? When

will we pass a sensible, reasonable immigration reform legislation or package? Will we combine our concern for national security with border security, along with human dignity?

The question is being asked by constituents from my 18th Congressional District in Houston. It is being asked by the American Jewish Committee. It is being asked by Cardinal DiNardo in the most eloquent and passionate way as they met last week to hear from voices of those who have not heard the answer. Or the 139 who showed up at a press conference some weeks ago, standing with me, demanding that people be given their human dignity. Or the leadership from Ireland who was here at a St. Patrick's Day luncheon who stood up and asked the Speaker, When are we going to put comprehensive immigration reform on the floor of the House.

This is a multicultural challenge to America. This is an economic challenge. This is from the Irish. This is from South Asians, from Asians. This is from people from Bangladesh, from Poland. It is all over America. Let's pass comprehensive immigration reform.

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, March is Red Cross Month across the country, and as chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I would like to take some time to recognize the accomplishments of the American Red Cross and its volunteers, everyday heroes.

Last year, Red Cross and volunteers responded to over 60,000 emergencies and provided over 900 shelters to people forced from their homes. Following the Boston Marathon bombing last April, the Red Cross provided 500 units of blood products to Boston-area hospitals. They played a pivotal role in sheltering families in my district in Indiana during last year's winter holiday floods.

I visited the Red Cross national headquarters, where I toured the digital operations center and saw how they are utilizing social media in their operations.

I am grateful for their achievements in educating Americans on how to prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters. This organization and their volunteers exemplify the everyday heroes as they lead the way in disaster preparedness and response, and we must all thank Red Cross. I urge my fellow Members to visit chapters and to follow them on Facebook and Twitter. Please visit and thank them for all the work they are doing in our communities.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind Americans today to hurry: they have 6 days left to sign up for the Affordable Care Act through their Federal and State exchanges and marketplaces. Don't believe the hype from the Republicans. The Affordable Care Act is working to improve the lives of millions of Americans. More than 5 million Americans have signed up so far through the marketplace, and they will continue to do so.

This weekend, I hosted two enrollment events in my district, both in Dallas and Fort Worth, and attended two additional ones to ensure that constituents in my district get the affordable health care they deserve. What I saw when I visited those events were rooms filled with men, women, and children looking to provide insurance for their families, looking to ensure that they are protected from unforeseen sickness and health issues.

Let's stop playing politics with people's health care. Let's work together to get every American covered.

□ 1215

DEFENDING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY FROM THE ACA

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in support of religious liberty.

The Affordable Care Act, better known as ObamaCare, forces businesses to provide services like the morning-after pill as part of their health insurance. For businessowners who believe that life begins at conception, this aspect of the ACA violates their religious principles.

The First Amendment is sacred to Americans. At the time of its creation, the First Amendment was completely unique. God, not government, gave unalienable rights to women and men, including freedom to practice their religion without interference.

No individual should be forced to violate their religious beliefs. Opponents will say that this is restricting access to health care. I disagree. This is about ensuring the integrity of religious freedom for all Americans, regardless of religion. That is a founding American principle.

INVESTING IN SPACE EXPLORATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. has always been the world leader

in space exploration. We were the first and only nation to put humans safely on the Moon and the only nation to send unmanned ships to Mars, among other extraordinary missions.

In 2011, NASA flew its last space shuttle mission. Without any new human lift system ready, the U.S. has had to depend on Russia to send our astronauts to space. This arrangement has worked because of a sense of cooperation and mutual respect between our two great nations' space programs.

But American innovation cannot be stopped. Several private companies are working with NASA to ensure that Americans can once again fly on American spaceships.

As a Nation, we should support this effort and encourage private American companies to accelerate their programs. These public-private partnerships will ensure that the U.S. does not rely solely on Russian spacecraft.

I urge my colleagues to consider the long-term benefits of investing in space exploration and scientific research.

RECOGNIZING BRANDI BRULEY

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Brandi Bruley, principal of North Elementary School in my hometown of Taylorville, Illinois.

Ms. Bruley was recently named the Illinois Principals Association's 2014-2015 Elementary School Principal of the Year in recognition of her positive impact on her students and the entire educational community.

She has worked hard to improve communication between teachers and parents with a goal of raising student achievement. As a result of her efforts, North Elementary School has been awarded the Illinois State Board of Education's Spotlight Award for the last 3 years and made the ISBE Honor Roll in 2013.

Ms. Bruley has a long-standing and deep commitment to serving her students, faculty, and our entire community. Her experience and innovation enable her to bring creative ideas that focus on high standards for our local schools.

Congratulations and thank you to Brandi. This is a well-deserved award to recognize all that you do for our students and the entire Taylorville community.

IN HONOR OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF GREECE'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 193rd anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

The ancient Greeks forged the notion of democracy. They believed in the right of self-governance, one of the foundations of our great Nation; yet, for centuries, the Greek people—the people whose ancestors inspired our own country's founding, the people who Thomas Jefferson called the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness, the Greek people were denied this right.

Today, Greeks celebrate March 25 as the day when the Greeks began the long, hard battle for independence.

I recently met with Ambassador John Koenig, ambassador to Cyprus, to discuss the latest on our Cyprus negotiations. He was hopeful that real progress could be made in unifying the island and stopping the illegal Turkish occupation.

The U.S. must also continue to work to find a mutually agreeable name for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Greece is an important ally to the United States. I am proud to stand with American Greeks today to celebrate their independence and aspirations.

HOBBY LOBBY

(Mr. PETERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the Hobby Lobby case, which is being argued today at the Supreme Court.

In this case, a for-profit company is refusing to cover the birth control of its female employees, citing the owners' personal religious objections.

In 2014, the idea that a woman has to fight for access to birth control is astonishing. Ninety-nine percent of American women will use contraception at some point in their lives.

As I have said before, all health care decisions, including birth control and women's reproductive rights, should be between a woman and her doctor, not involving her boss or a politician here in Washington, D.C.

The wide availability of birth control has been an enormous benefit for millions of women and the American economy, enabling generations of women to support themselves financially, complete their education, and plan for the right time to start a family.

It is a basic, preventative health care option. It should not be available only at the discretion of a woman's employer, nor should a woman have to choose between her job and her health.

As a husband of nearly 28 years and a father of two, it seems pretty simple to me. Women, not bosses, should be in

charge of their personal health care decisions.

HOBBY LOBBY

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, today, the United States Supreme Court, just down the street, heard the arguments for Hobby Lobby, Inc., a for-profit corporation, which is refusing some or all contraceptive services in health plans offered to their employees.

The issue here is whether the religious beliefs of a shareholder, the owner, can dictate what type of contraceptive services a health plan will offer.

Note, this is not a religious institution or an employer like a church or a religious institution of any kind. It is a for-profit corporation.

The issue here is also whether an employer can pick and choose what type of services female employees can avail themselves of; and remember—remember—women in childbearing age actually pay 68 percent more for their medical coverage now—68 percent more. That is just not fair.

I hope the Supreme Court will reverse the Hobby Lobby decision and say that the Constitution and the laws of this great Nation support women.

HIDDEN TAXES INCLUDED IN THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, you wouldn't know it by the weather, but it will soon be April, and tax day is right around the corner. As Americans scramble to gather their W-2s and other important tax documents, many are unaware of the extra hidden taxes included in the Affordable Care Act that will ultimately fall on them.

These hidden taxes will surprise and catch hardworking families and small businesses off guard and put a strain on family budgets that are already stretched thin.

A 3.5 percent tax on insurance premiums, a 2.3 percent medical device tax—raising the cost of pacemakers, prosthetics, stents, and more—a tanning tax, an investment income and Medicare payroll surtax, the list goes on and on; and all these costs are passed on to Americans and families in our communities.

That is hundreds and hundreds of billions of dollars leaving our communities, out of the pockets of hardworking families in States like Kansas and heading to Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, with the many challenges Americans face today, the last thing they need this tax season is to

carry a heavier government tax burden on their backs.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

(Mr. LIPINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the more than 3 million Americans who served in the Vietnam war. This weekend, we will observe Vietnam Veterans Day to pay tribute to these brave Americans who were called to serve during one of our Nation's longest and most difficult conflicts.

Lasting more than a decade, Vietnam defined a generation. Over 58,000 Americans were killed, and those who did return home were not treated as the American heroes that they are.

In recent years, I am grateful that most Americans have been able to put aside their opinions about specific military missions and have an unwavering commitment to our courageous men and women operating in dangerous places around the world.

Vietnam Veterans Day is meant to reaffirm our respecting gratitude for those that served our Nation in that war and show a generation of soldiers our immense gratitude. I will be doing so this Saturday at the VFW Post in Lemont, Illinois.

I ask my colleagues to join me in doing the same, not just this weekend, but every day, because our Vietnam veterans, and all our veterans, deserve this.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, comprehensive immigration reform has been a low priority for the Speaker and for the Republican leadership. Americans have spoken loud and clear. They want comprehensive immigration reform.

Just last year, as the Senate was considering comprehensive reform, the Speaker implied that the House would take it up after the Senate did. The Senate acted in a bipartisan fashion and passed comprehensive reform on a vote of 68-32.

Then we were told that the House would take up comprehensive immigration reform after the Speaker brought to his conference his immigration reform principles. That happened at the end of January; yet nothing—nothing has been brought to the floor.

If there is not a reason for us to do this on the basis of the policy, which I think is clear, it is consistent with our national interest and our national values to institute comprehensive immigration reform.

I just would direct Members of the other side to take a look at the bipartisan CBO report that was published that shows that comprehensive immigration reform would reduce our national deficit by \$900 billion.

It is the right policy, it is good economics, and we should bring it up right away.

CONGRESS MUST REVERSE GOP ELIMINATION OF CRITICAL LIFELINE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during Women's History Month, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to the life of Joyce Wise of Sandusky County, Ohio, a remarkable, sparkling, witty, intelligent, generous, and kind woman who loved her family, her community, and her country.

She was a political activist. Her indefatigable efforts improved our State, improved our community, and broadened representation for women and men across our country.

Joyce would have been the first person to speak up here on behalf of the 2 million American job seekers who have lost their unemployment benefits and the 72,000 Americans who lose their benefits every single week, one every 8 seconds due to Republican obstruction.

She would have been the first to point out it is the Republican's failure to extend unemployment insurance that has actually put millions and millions of our families out to sea.

If the Republicans want to limit unemployment benefits, they should start by creating more jobs. I am waiting for the first good jobs bill to come to this floor from the other side of the aisle.

Joyce Wise understood that every citizen matters and those who work hard for a living shall be respected. May her family and friends draw strength from her unbelievable spirit and may her legacy live on in fighting for justice for all.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

The Republicans have turned a blind eye to the plight of more than 2 million Americans whose unemployment benefits have been cut off.

In my State of Florida, we have over 100,000 Floridians struggling to find work and are unable to collect insurance, which has also led to nearly \$130 million in lost revenue for the State of Florida; yet in spite of repeated attempts time and time again, Republicans in Congress have coldheartedly

refused to restore this vital economic lifeline that helps people support their families and pay their bills while they look for a new job during this very difficult time, the worst time since the Great Depression.

To whom God has given much, much is expected. I urge my House and Senate Republican colleagues to look inside their hearts and do the right thing for the American people and pass an unemployment insurance extension today.

□ 1230

ELECTING A MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration by the House.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 523

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr. Jolly.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS—Mr. Jolly.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PREVENTING GOVERNMENT WASTE AND PROTECTING COAL MINING JOBS IN AMERICA

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill H.R. 2824.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 501 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2824.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1231

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2824) to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to stop the ongoing waste by the Department of the Interior of taxpayer resources and implement the final rule on excess spoil, mining waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams, and for other purposes, with Mr. WOODALL in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is well-known the Obama administration has waged a long-running war on coal, which last year a White House adviser admitted "is exactly what's needed," but this is not only a war on coal. It is a war on jobs, our economy, affordable energy, small businesses, and the household budgets of American families. Already faced with higher home heating costs, middle class families will be further squeezed if the Obama administration is successful in its attempts to shut down coal production.

One of the ways the administration has carried out this war on coal is through the reckless rewrite of a coal production regulation, the 2008 Stream Buffer Zone Rule. Shortly after taking office, the Obama administration discarded the 2008 rule that went through 5 years of extensive public comment and environmental review. Since then, the administration has spent over 10 million taxpayer dollars in working to rewrite this rule, including hiring new contractors, then only to dismiss those same contractors once it was publicly revealed that the administration's proposed rewrite would cost 7,000 jobs and cause economic harm in 22 States. A report released by our House Natural Resources Committee staff in September of 2012, following years of oversight and investigations, exposed the gross mismanagement of the rule-making process, potential political interference, and widespread economic harm the proposed regulation would cause.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General, or IG, released a report with similar findings. However, what is more troubling is that the IG has identified significant ongoing problems with the rulemaking process. To make matters worse, they are refusing to disclose those problems to us here in Congress. For example, there is an entire section of the report that we have received, entitled "Issues with the New

Contract," that have been almost completely blacked out. Despite our repeated requests, Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall has refused to give Congress an unredacted copy of this report. In a letter, she states that the Department of the Interior decided that it should be withheld from the committee.

The IG is charged with being an independent watchdog for Congress. It is completely unacceptable and inappropriate for the IG to be taking orders from the Interior Department, especially about what information to withhold from us here in Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I don't take what I am going to say lightly. That is why, today, I have issued a subpoena to the Department's Inspector General Kendall for this information that she has withheld from us. If the IG discovered ongoing issues with the way the Department is currently conducting this rulemaking process, they have a responsibility and a duty to share that information with Congress now. The committee is not asking the IG for materials produced by the Department, but we are asking for materials and interviews produced by the IG's staff.

The Obama administration's rule-making process has been and continues to be an unmitigated disaster. Despite having spent millions of taxpayer dollars, they have absolutely nothing to show for it and, to date, haven't even produced a draft. Meanwhile, States, industry, and America's coal miners are left in limbo, unsure of what the operating rules are on the ground. Without the 2008 rule, we are left with a rule that was put in place in 1983.

That is why we are here today—to consider H.R. 2824, the Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act. This legislation will put an end to the years of ongoing waste and dysfunction. It will put in place a responsible process to ensure there is no rush to recklessly regulate.

First, Mr. Chairman, it stops the administration's unnecessary rewrite and implements the 2008 Stream Buffer Zone Rule that I mentioned took 5 years to put in place. It then directs the Department to responsibly study the impact of the rule for a prescribed period of time prior to initiating another new rule. This will provide certainty to the economy, to the individual States, and allow a clear examination of what may be needed and changed in the future. This bill will make certain that a new rule is written properly.

Now, some will attempt to criticize this bill for the fact that it puts in place the 2008 rule that was vacated on a very narrow technical ground by a Federal judge last month. There is really nothing new here, however, because this is the exact outcome that the administration has been seeking

for over 5 years—to get rid of the 2008 rule. But let's be clear what the court ruling and, subsequently, the Department's actions really mean.

The court ruling strikes down the more protective 2008 rule and sets us back 30 years to a less restrictive 1983 rule. The 2008 rule is more modern and more protective in limiting the impacts of coal mining than the 1983 rule, but one Federal judge ruled that the 2008 rule must be set aside due to a narrow procedural technicality. This judge ruled, because the 2008 rule didn't have formal consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service on possible impacts to endangered species, the entire rule should be set aside and, thus, revert back to the 1983 rule.

Mr. Chairman, for the record, there were multiple meetings and discussions and consultations with Fish and Wildlife in proposing the 2008 rule regarding species when the 2008 rule was written, and it was done in a published and transparent fashion over a multiple-year period. Comments were taken and recommendations were made, but the bureaucratic process wasn't done precisely so, and as a result, this judge struck it down. Compare this conscientious effort, which was done to protect species in the 2008 rule, with the fact that there was absolutely zero consultation of protecting species in the 1983 rule.

What could be the responsible thing to do? Clearly, it would be to implement the more modern and protective 2008 rule. What does the Obama administration say? It says let's go back to 1983. Why should we go back? It simply makes no sense to discard a modern rule, where we know the ESA consultation took place, for a 30-year-old rule that we know had no ESA consultations.

Perhaps we should look to the people whom the Obama administration hired to write a rule of its own. In case notes that the committee obtained from the IG's office during their investigation, it quotes one of the current contractors, admitting, "The 1983 rule was less restrictive than the 2008 rule." In the same case notes, it also states about the current contractor that, although she is a Democrat, the Stream Protection Rule appears to be an "effort to kill coal mining." There you have it—straight from the mouth of the person who is working on the current rewrite—an admission that the new rule is an effort to "kill coal mining."

That is why we must take action today to stop this administration. Not only are they attempting to impose a new coal regulation that will destroy thousands of American mining jobs, but they have also wasted 5 years and over 10 million taxpayer dollars on a process that has been completely dysfunctional and misguided.

Enough is enough. Republicans want to create an America that works, and

that requires access to affordable energy. If we do not stop the administration from implementing its new coal regulation, thousands of Americans will be out of work, and home heating costs for working middle class families will rise.

Let's pass this legislation to protect American taxpayer dollars, to protect American jobs, and to end this administration's reckless, wasteful rewrite by putting in place a responsible process that will allow a proper new rule to be written.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong opposition to this legislation that would ignore the poisonous environmental impacts of mountaintop removal mining and would attempt to force States to adopt a discredited and vacated midnight Bush administration rule.

Mountaintop removal mining is a serious environmental health threat in Appalachia. Companies literally blast the tops off of mountains, scoop out the coal, and dump what is left over—what used to be the mountaintop and the mining residue—into the valley below. In the process, landscapes are scarred; wild habitat is destroyed; mountain streams are buried; fish are killed; and the long-suffering people living in the valleys suffer as they are left with degraded water.

It is not simply my opinion or the warnings of a few fringe environmental groups. This is what the science tells us. In a paper published in the journal *Science* a few years ago—a preeminent scientific journal—dozens of scientists laid this out very clearly. Building on a wealth of recent scientific data from a variety of researchers, they wrote:

Mountaintop mining in the valley fills revealed serious environmental impacts that mitigation practices cannot successfully address.

Now, the chairman today is talking about detailed procedural matters. He is wrong on that. The real point is the health of the people in the valleys. These scientists described:

When streams are buried, water emerges from the base of the valley fills, containing a variety of solutes that are toxic and damaging to biota, and that the recovery of biodiversity in mining waste impacted streams has not been documented.

In other words, the recovery that they talk about does not exist in fact. It has not been shown to be possible.

□ 1245

Most frighteningly for the people who live with these impacts in their backyards, the scientists write:

Adult hospitalizations for chronic pulmonary disorders and hypertension are elevated as a function of county-level coal production . . .

They know it comes from this.

To continue the quote:

. . . as are the rates of mortality, lung cancer, chronic heart, lung, and kidney disease.

Hospitalizations, hypertension, lung cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, increased flooding. Water with dangerous concentrations of toxic metals? Yes. That is what the science says. And the destruction of forests and streams.

These are the impacts of mountaintop removal mining that Congress should be addressing today. This is what we should be holding hearings on and writing legislation about.

We should be making the protection of people and the environment of the Appalachian region our top priority and making the mining companies act responsibly, not just cheaply. But the Republicans, Mr. Chairman, don't seem to want to talk about any of these impacts. They prefer to keep their heads in the sand and the gravel and the toxic waste when it comes to this issue.

Instead of the real impacts of mountaintop removal mining, they are focusing on imagined impacts of a rule that hasn't even been released yet. They imagine a war on coal, they imagine a political conspiracy to subvert the rule that the Bush administration put in place in the last minutes of their administration, instead of seeking to guarantee clean water for all Americans.

So they spent years trying to uncover that conspiracy, all the while forcing the Department of the Interior to spend tens of thousands of hours of staff time and millions of taxpayer dollars in order to comply with their commands—and now their subpoenas. And they have come up empty.

The inspector general for the Department of the Interior confirmed in December there were no political shenanigans. There was no misconduct. There was a poor choice of contractors, yes, and a debate among career staff about the proper way to move forward.

Could it have been handled better? Maybe. But there was no misconduct.

Meanwhile, the rule put in place by the Bush administration—the very rule that this bill would force States to adopt—was thrown out by a Federal court 2 weeks ago because the real misconduct was from the Bush administration, which decided that it didn't even need to consider the effects that destroying streams and rivers would have on threatened and endangered species. They did not do the consultation that is required under the law.

So this bill would overturn the court's decision, forcibly enact a rule that was improperly developed in the first place, and forbid the Obama administration from actually doing something to protect the streams from being buried and to protect the people who live there.

This bill would forbid them from actually doing something to protect forests, fish, wildlife, and humans. It

would forbid them from actually doing something to protect the health of the people in these communities. This bill would create its own reality through an amendment added at the last minute that would deem the 2008 rule to have met the requirements of the Endangered Species Act that the court said they did not meet.

Now “deem” is a word that is not in common use. It certainly is a strange word the way it is used here in Congress. By “deem,” they mean they would declare in legislation that the Endangered Species Act was observed and that consultation had taken place, even though it wasn’t and it hadn’t. That is preposterous.

I wish we could do the same thing to environmental destruction caused by mountaintop removal mining and to the contaminated water and to the health impacts by simply saying, by legislation, that contamination never happened. Those people were never affected. Their health never deteriorated. They didn’t die. But we can’t do that.

This bill does nothing to protect people from the destructive impacts of mountaintop removal mining. It is strongly opposed by a coalition of environmental groups like the Southern Environmental Law Center, the Sierra Club, the League of Conservation Voters, the National Parks Conservation Association, and many more.

It is not just me standing here talking about it. It is not even just these scientists. It is many more.

Once again, I want everyone to understand that the real issue here today is not bureaucratic procedure. It is not even when a rule might have been issued and what went into making up that rule. What is at stake today is safe water for people, the health of the population, and an environment that can save us all.

I urge my colleagues to defeat this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), the subcommittee chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee dealing with this legislation.

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2824, the Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act. This critical piece of legislation, which was introduced by Representative BILL JOHNSON and myself, is designed to save taxpayer dollars and protect American jobs by putting the Office of Surface Mining on a responsible path forward for managing and regulating coal mining in America.

So far, the Obama administration has spent nearly 10 million taxpayer dollars rewriting a coal production rule

and the 2008 Stream Buffer Zone Rule, but the 2008 rule was never fully implemented. The administration is conducting this rewrite without ever providing justification for the need for a new rule.

The \$10 million does not include the money spent on attorneys fees and costly litigation or the internal costs borne by the agency. Even more critically, it does not include the costs to the families of the thousands of workers who have been displaced or seen work delayed by the regulatory inaction of the Department.

The legislation before us today is very simple. It would cripple the Obama administration’s war on coal by ending their unnecessary rewrite and it would require the Office of Surface Mining to implement the 2008 Stream Buffer Zone Rule. This rule was developed over 5 years through an open, public, multimillion-dollar process and requires consultation on endangered species where necessary.

Under this legislation, H.R. 2824, once all the plans have been approved, the effects of the new regulations will be analyzed for a period of 5 years. On completion of this analysis, the Office of Surface Mining is required to report back to us on the effectiveness of the rule, impact on energy production, and to identify and justify anything that should be addressed through a new rulemaking process.

If the Obama administration had followed this process from the beginning, taxpayers would have 9 million more dollars, thousands of unemployed Americans would likely have jobs, and we would be far along in the process of understanding the impacts and environmental benefits of the 2008 rulemaking. Unfortunately, this administration’s first act was to discard the rule and plunge head first into a failed, wasteful, and never-ending rulemaking process.

This legislation will stop the massive ongoing waste, saving the taxpayers money. It will stop the administration from continuing with a reckless rulemaking process and imposing a needless regulation that will directly cost thousands of hardworking American jobs and cause significant American economic harm.

This bill will also provide regulatory certainty for an important domestic industry—an industry that not only provides great family-wage jobs with good benefits, but also provides affordable energy for the American people and the Nation’s manufacturing base.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the ranking minority member of the Resources Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I appreciate the gentleman’s statement and leadership.

What are we doing here today? We are going to take a rule established by Ronald Reagan, the first modest attempt to protect water quality, stream quality, forests, and other environmental values in cases of strip mining mountaintop removal.

So the Republicans today are going to overrule the judgment of Ronald Reagan, preempt him with a rule that basically says it is okay to blow the top off a mountain, dump it into a stream, and it doesn’t affect water quality because the stream doesn’t exist anymore. Except there is a little problem. The water does still leach through all the toxic soils and it does cause problems downstream. But let’s not worry about that too much.

Secondly, they are going to preempt states rights. Hey, the party of states’ rights. They are all for local control. They hate those one-size-fits-all Federal rules, don’t they? No, not today.

We are going to impose a Bush administration midnight rule which a court found to be laughable in terms of its compliance with Federal law. They are going to impose that on all the States of the United States of America as the law of the land. We are going to preempt the judgment of any State that wants to do more to protect water quality than allow the tops to be blown off mountains and mining waste dumped into streams and saying there is no problem. But we will study it for 5 years, as we heard previously. Okay, sure. How much harm will happen in that time?

So those are a few of the problems and the inconsistencies I see here today. We are preempting a Reagan rule that was quite modest and not overly burdensome on the industry. It should have been improved upon. The Bush administration tried to totally undo it. It was laughed out of court. The Obama administration fumbled and messed up writing a new rule with an incompetent contractor. And now we are going to impose the Bush rule on all the States.

They are going to deem, as we heard earlier—that is, pretend—that it meets the Endangered Species Act, and give that pretension the force of law. What they are saying is there were at least two or three people in the Bush administration who had a conversation. That meant they talked about the Endangered Species Act, so that meets the intention of the Endangered Species Act.

Finally, they are talking about a war on coal. We will hear from some well-intentioned people later here today who are going to talk about the potential job impact of this, and I appreciate that. There has to be a balance. But this is not a balance.

This is yet another imaginary war being waged by the Obama administration on coal. A war on Christmas, a war on coal, a war on jobs, a war on whatever. At least it is not an overseas war

that is unnecessary in Iraq that cost us many thousands of lives and trillions of dollars.

But the war on coal? When the Obama administration came into office, there were 5,000 less jobs in coal mining than there are today.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HOLT. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. The Obama administration leased out 2.1 billion tons of coal in the Powder River Basin in its first term. That is twice what the Bush administration leased in the 4 years before that. Recent accounts from the GAO lead us to believe that maybe they were a little too cozy with the industry and in fact that those deals were a little too sweet for that 2.1 billion tons of coal.

So that is a war on coal? No. What they are talking about is actually less coal is being used to produce electricity.

Now they are also the party of market forces and capitalism. Well, guess what? Market forces and capitalism have reduced the use of coal. Natural gas was really, really, really cheap a couple of years ago. Coal used to generate electricity. It totally tanked. It had nothing to do with the Obama administration. It had to do with market forces, and they worship the market. I hope they are not trying to undo market forces here and have some kind of socialist dictate.

So what has happened is coal use has bumped up a little bit as natural gas has become a little bit more expensive. But that was about economics and not policy.

The bottom line here is should we allow, without any regulation, blowing the tops off mountains, dumping them into valleys, filling in streams, and pretend it has no impact on the environment. And I would say "no."

□ 1300

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON), the author of this legislation.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, today, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2824, the Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act, legislation that I introduced with my friend and colleague, Congressman DOUG LAMBORN.

This important legislation addresses the administration's flawed, waste of taxpayer money, and job-killing rewrite of the Stream Buffer Zone Rule.

Immediately upon taking over in 2009, the administration began their efforts to rewrite the Stream Buffer Zone Rule, even though a new rule that took 5 years to codify had just been finished in 2008.

From the beginning, the Office of Surface Mining and the Department of

the Interior fumbled the ball, and it has been a train wreck and lack of leadership over the past 5 years.

Nearly \$10 million of taxpayer money has been wasted by the administration in their attempts to destroy thousands of direct and indirect jobs and cause electricity prices to skyrocket.

We know from the administration's own estimates that their preferred rule would cost 7,000 direct coal jobs and thousands more indirect jobs, not to mention that States like mine in Ohio would see their electricity prices skyrocket thanks to increased coal prices.

We also know, from the whistleblower contractors that worked on the rule, that the political appointees in the Office of Surface Mining tried to cover up these job loss numbers because they knew how politically damaging they would be in the runup to the 2012 election year.

In fact, a political appointee threatened the contractors that there "would be consequences" if the contractor refused to change the numbers.

Furthermore, a recent report from the inspector general at the Department of the Interior confirmed these findings and even quoted the President-appointed and Senate-approved Director of OSM, saying that we need to "fix the job loss numbers."

Is this the type of good government that the American people expect of our leadership, a rulemaking process that sees political appointees threatening contractors and cooking the books to get a preferred outcome?

Under the leadership of Chairman DOC HASTINGS, the Natural Resources Committee has been aggressively investigating the malfeasance and flawed rewrite of this rule. In a serious threat to the separation of powers spelled out in the Constitution, the administration has largely ignored requests and subpoenas for relevant documents.

This is just another example of a Presidency and administration ignoring the will of the people and abusing power.

That is why this legislation is so important, Mr. Chairman. It will ensure that my constituents in eastern and southeastern Ohio, along with other hardworking Americans employed by the coal industry all across the country, can keep their jobs and continue to mine and use the coal that powers our manufacturing engine here in America.

It directs the States to implement the 2008 rule, a rule that had tens of thousands of comments and was thoroughly vetted before being thrown aside by the incoming administration.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. After 5 years, the States would be asked to report

back with a description in detail of any proposed changes that should be made to the rule.

This legislation ensures that the States that are directly impacted by the proposed rule would have an actual say-so in the process, instead of a topdown approach from the Office of Surface Mining.

Despite what some may say, it does not stop the administration from protecting waterways or the environment.

Mr. Chairman, the rewrite of this rule has cost the taxpayers nearly \$10 million and threatens to shut down underground coal mining in America, killing thousands of jobs in the process.

I thank Chairman HASTINGS and Congressman LAMBORN for their leadership on this important issue, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to my friend from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH), a champion for people's health, for wildlife and the environment, an outspoken critic of destructive mining practices, and the sponsor of the Appalachian Communities Health—emphasis on health—Emergency Act, a bill on which I am pleased to join him as a cosponsor.

Mr. YARMUTH. Thank you, Mr. HOLT, for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, this bottle is filled with water from a well near a mountaintop removal mining site in eastern Kentucky. In case you can't see it, the water is orange.

This is what comes out of the taps in Appalachian communities where the water is contaminated by dangerous mine waste, which fills their wells and flows through the streams in their yards.

It is the result of an inadequate law that is failing to protect public health and safety near mountaintop removal mining sites; but today, rather than examining ways to strengthen that law and begin to address the public health crisis that accompanies mountaintop removal mining in Appalachia, we are debating a bill that would make it worse.

Mining communities already have more instances of chronic pulmonary disorders and hypertension, as well as higher mortality rates, lung cancer rates, and instances of chronic heart, kidney, and lung disease. Proximity to mountaintop removal mining operations also correlates with a higher risk of birth defects and damage to the circulatory and central nervous systems.

Yet, instead of finding ways to better balance public health and safety with coal mining—or at least working to prevent mining companies from turning our water supply this shade of toxic orange, we are debating a bill to roll back what little protection the Federal

Government currently offers these Appalachian communities.

I sympathize with my colleagues' desire to protect jobs in the coal fields, and the loss of 75 percent of eastern Kentucky coal mining jobs due to mechanized mining over the past several decades has brought challenges; but a rule to protect waterways that has been in effect since 1983 is not the source of those challenges, nor is addressing the public health crisis that has unfolded in Appalachia as a result of mechanized mining.

No one here would risk their health by drinking this water. If any of my colleagues want to prove me wrong, I invite them to come have a sip.

It is bad enough that children who live in mining communities color their streams orange when they draw their environment, but it is tragic that the water they drink is denying them the healthy future they deserve.

We are risking the health of families in mining communities in Kentucky and throughout Appalachia by continuing to ignore the toxic orange water that pollutes their drinking supply.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for public health and vote against this legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), a member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman HASTINGS and Chairman LAMBORN and my friend from Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON, for introducing this important legislation.

I had the great honor, for nearly 10 years prior to coming to Congress, to be on the North Dakota Public Service Commission, where we carried the SMCRA laws and enforced the Federal SMCRA laws on behalf of our lignite coal industry that employs thousands of people.

We had a little over 100,000 acres under permit, mined 30 million tons of coal every year, and burned it to generate electricity, very low-cost electricity.

We had a great relationship with our Federal Government, our Federal partners. We did it in partnership. They appreciated and honored State primacy. We carried out the letter and the spirit of the law very well.

As a consequence, we have clean streams; clean water; clean air; good, rich topsoil; as well as the jobs that come with it.

We don't have mountains, so a rule that was designed by somebody to deal with mountain removal mining doesn't really match the prairie of North Dakota, which is always the problem with one-size-fits-all regulations; and that is what we find so offensive back home, is when the Federal Government tries to fix every problem with one piece of legislation or one regulation.

We were very familiar—I worked with the 2008 rule. It works just fine. It involved stakeholder involvement. It involved consultation with stakeholders. We are missing that in this particular case.

Quite honestly, I guess when you talk about the war on coal, and some might want to deny that one exists, you might believe that if it was just one rule occasionally; but in the context of the aggregate of all of the rules and regulations and laws coming down from this administration, it is hard not to believe that there is an attempt to unilaterally disarm our economy and the global marketplace with a war on coal.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for this important piece of legislation.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), my good friend.

Mr. RAHALL. I thank my dear colleague from New Jersey for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chairman, I do rise in support of the pending legislation, H.R. 2824; and to my good friend, the chairman of the committee, DOC HASTINGS, I commend him for bringing this bill to the floor of the House.

As he knows, I am the only Member left in this body that served on the original conference committee that wrote H.R. 2, which was enacted as the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, otherwise known as SMCRA.

Due to the nature of my congressional district and my years of service on the Natural Resources Committee, I am very familiar with SMCRA and what it requires.

This law has numerous performance standards governing the coal surface mining and reclamation process. These standards govern everything from the handling of excess spoil to the period for which successful revegetation must take place prior to bond release.

One fundamental aspect of the performance standards is that the mine area be reclaimed to its approximate original contour, with one exception. The law is clear, and it provides for an exception from the approximate original contour requirement in the case of mountaintop removal operations if certain conditions are met.

A stream buffer zone rule is not included among the many SMCRA performance standards. Such a rule was not contemplated by the conferees on H.R. 2 back in 1977. This rule was a manifestation of the bureaucracy.

That is not to say that there should not be such a rule, but any such rule must work within the statutory framework of SMCRA.

The effort by the current administration to replace the 2008 stream buffer zone promulgated by the Interior Department does not meet that test. It is

clear, at least to me, that the effort by the current administration to revise the 2008 rule is aimed at halting a mining practice that is specifically condoned by SMCRA.

Fundamentally, there is no question; this debate is about jobs. It is about good-paying jobs in West Virginia and other areas of the Appalachian region.

Mr. Chairman, it is about our economy, whether it be providing needed flat land for agriculture or industrial facilities or saving millions of dollars by providing a readymade roadbed for a new highway, as has been done, and is continuing to be proposed in Mingo County, in the congressional district I am honored to represent.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I urge passage of the pending measure, the Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act. I commend, again, the chairman of the committee, and I commend my colleague from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) for his introducing this bill as well.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), a new Member, not necessarily a brand-new Member, but a newer Member.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in really strong support of H.R. 2824.

I think if we go back to the President's original candidacy, he said: Listen, if you want to continue to make electricity using coal-fired power plants, you can do it, but we are going to bankrupt you.

There is no question about the war on coal. It is factual. Now, we come here today, and I think that—the area of the country that I represent is western Pennsylvania. It is hard to look at a source that is so abundant, so accessible, so affordable, so reliant, and so sustainable that keeps our energy costs lower and creates thousands of jobs.

The administration's efforts have not only eliminated people who are mining coal, they have absolutely eliminated entire communities and wiped them off the face of the Earth.

Now, we look at a piece of legislation, and we say wait a minute. In 2008, we had a rule that received certification from the Environmental Protection Agency and complied fully with the Clean Water Act.

So the question becomes: How good does the coal energy have to become in order to receive a pat on the back from the administration?

The answer is they can never reach that level. They will never be accepted. It will never be part of our energy strategy. It will never lead America to be independent from every place else in the world.

All you have to ask yourself is: What in the world are we doing to the people we represent?

This is not a Republican strategy or a Democrat strategy. This is an American strategy. If it is truly about energy and about creating jobs and protecting our environment, it is all there, gentleman, and has been there for years.

□ 1315

Why would the administration spend \$10 billion to get an answer that didn't comply with what they thought it was going to be? So automatically, the answer has to be: These folks didn't do the test the right way. They didn't come up with the results that we needed, so we are going to get rid of them and get somebody else in here.

Mr. Chairman, the lights are going out across this country. Our position in the world is being challenged right now, in a country that has been so blessed for so long with abundant, affordable, and accessible energy, and to sit back and say: You know what? They are getting better, but they are never going to be good enough for us; they are never going to quite reach that metric they have to reach.

In fact, the bottle of water the gentleman just showed, I have got to tell you: Take a bottle of Fiji water off the shelf; it won't comply either.

So we have got to start asking ourselves, where is it that they are going with this? Is this a way to prop up an agenda by the administration or is this a way to prop up the American success story? Are we going to go forward and truly achieve independence from energy from anyplace else in the world other than our own or are we going to continue to fight over things that don't make sense to the American people but yet somehow make sense in this House?

Listen, what we are doing today just makes sense. We have already run the traps on it. We have already run the tests. We have done all the metrics. Coal is good for America. Coal has always been good for America. Coal has cleaned itself up incredibly and will continue to do so. These are the most responsible people. I would invite some of my friends who have never been down in a coal mine, travel with me to western Pennsylvania. Go down in the Bailey mine. Go down 700 feet and see how they are scrubbing coal, and then say to me that they are not doing it the right way.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I really want to ask my colleagues today, let's take a real good look at this, at what we are doing. In a country that so badly now is looking for leadership across all phases so that we can retain our position in the world, let's take a look at where we are today

with this coal strategy. If it is truly a war on coal and if it is truly a war we can't win, then I say that is not why we came here.

I strongly urge the passage of H.R. 2824.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), a Member of this body who has been a leader on countless environmental issues, my friend from Virginia who knows the harmful effects that mountaintop removal mining has had in his own State and throughout the Appalachian region.

Mr. MORAN. I thank my very good friend from New Jersey for yielding to me, and I thank my very good friend from Arizona.

Mr. Chairman, I do rise in opposition to this so-called Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America bill. I know that is what this bill's sponsors have tried to suggest, but the fact is that this promotes destructive mountaintop mining removal and it doesn't protect jobs.

The goal of this bill is to require all States to incorporate a now vacated 2008 rule that was issued in the very last days of the Bush administration and was then struck down by a U.S. Federal court. It was an eleventh-hour regulation that was designed to repeal Reagan-era protections for streams and waterways from the impacts of mountaintop mining by providing a buffer zone for waste disposal. Its vague and permissive language sets an alarmingly low bar when it comes to protecting communities and wildlife habitats near mountaintop mining operations.

The reality is that this midnight rulemaking of the Bush administration would only hasten further environmental destruction and increase the volume of toxic chemicals entering our water supply.

This bill before the House represents a transparent attempt to resurrect an already rejected rule by forcibly enacting it across this country, thereby putting communities nearby coal mining plants at risk while undoing necessary protections from pollutants.

But in addition to resurrecting this stream buffer zone rule, H.R. 2824 comes with a 5-year mandatory implementation period that conveniently prohibits the Department of the Interior from issuing any new regulations to protect streams.

So the public should be deeply troubled by what is a blatant disregard for public health. Americans living near coal mining operations are going to be harmed by this. Our legal process is jeopardized, and certainly the integrity of already fragile ecosystems will be put at risk.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HOLT. I would gladly yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. MORAN. I very much thank my good friend.

An environmental impact statement found that between 1985 and 2002, nearly 2,000 miles of streams were buried or destroyed by mountaintop removal. Not surprisingly, peer-reviewed scientific studies continued to confirm the devastation on the surrounding environment and wildlife habitats of the numerous toxic chemicals, like arsenic and mercury, that enter into streams as mountaintops are blasted and bulldozed away.

We found in a 2011 study that cancer rates were twice as high in communities exposed to the effects of mountaintop mining. In the journal *Science*, we found, likewise, chronic pulmonary disorders in coal country. A 2011 study of births in Appalachia from 1996 to 2003 found that counties near mountaintop mining areas had substantially higher rates of multiple types of birth defects.

Congress should welcome regulations that are going to save and enhance American lives, not put them in jeopardy; and unfortunately, this bill gives a green light to remove mountain summits and dump their waste into nearby valleys and streams.

The fact is that coal has been the mainstay of Appalachia's economy for more than 100 years, but it has yet to make the region prosperous. We are talking about jobs. We need healthy people, and we need healthier environments. So I urge a rejection of this legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. I appreciate my colleague yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act introduced by my colleague from Ohio.

Mr. Chairman, there is a war on coal by the Obama administration. It is being carried out every day throughout this country in many ways through rules and regulations imposed by radical agencies like the EPA, and so what we are doing here is pushing back and saying: Enough is enough. Stop killing jobs in America, Mr. President. Stop increasing energy costs for American families, hardworking taxpayers who are struggling in this bad economy.

The President continues to pursue this global warming agenda. It is snowing outside of the Capitol right now as we speak in support of this bill, and they are still talking about global warming and imposing more regulations that are killing—killing—American jobs.

If you look at the sue-and-settle process that has brought us to this point, that really is the reason behind legislation like the bill we are bringing

up today. The sue-and-settle process that the Obama administration is using through agencies like the EPA, in this case, has resulted in 7,000 lost jobs and is wreaking havoc in 22 States. Just one rule.

This isn't a bill that was passed through Congress. The President loves bragging about he has got a pen and a phone, yet he is using Federal agencies, not law passed by the people's House, debated in the open public view. Behind closed doors, they are going and trying to impose these radical regulations that are killing jobs in America. The President is going to spend days and days on the campaign trail, a campaign trail that never ends. He never leads and governs. He runs around campaigning, and his latest mantra is to talk about unemployment benefits. Mr. Chairman, the best unemployment benefit is a good job.

The American people don't want to be getting unemployment checks from the Federal Government—they want jobs—and yet this administration, through its war on coal and so many other radical regulations, is killing jobs in America. Enough is enough. This legislation helps to undo the damage that President Obama's radical policies are wreaking through our economy.

Again, I commend my colleague from Ohio for bringing this legislation forward. I think we will see a very strong bipartisan vote in support of helping get jobs back in our economy.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), my good friend and colleague from the Natural Resources Committee who has been a leader on standards and enforcement in mining and knows as well as anyone the time and energy that has been wasted in the committee's investigation of this stream protection rule, time that could have been spent protecting the environment and the people's health.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I thank my colleague from New Jersey for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chairman, it is our singular responsibility, as Members of Congress, to protect the health and well-being of the American people. Voting "yes" to this legislation would do just the opposite. H.R. 2824 is not only poisonous to our pristine rivers and waterways, but harmful to the health and well-being of the American people.

H.R. 2824 is wrong at many levels. First, it seeks to lock in a 2008 Bush administration rule that virtually eliminates the buffer zone protecting streams from mine waste. Just last month, a Federal court ruled that the 2008 rule that this legislation seeks to lock in was unlawful because it risked the federally protected endangered and threatened species.

But the problem with this bill isn't limited to just endangered and threat-

ened species. The bill would also violate the purposes and objectives of the Clean Water Act and those of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act to minimize harm from surface mining. These are a few laws and regulations to protect rivers and waterways in our communities and ultimately ensuring public health and well-being. H.R. 2824 is about eliminating our environmental safeguards and deteriorating our public health to provide legal loopholes for private mining companies.

The effect of polluted waterways to our communities is catastrophic and costly. This year, we have already witnessed a few incidents. First, the chemical spill in Elk River in West Virginia in January. Then the coal spill in Dan River in North Carolina in February. While both these incidents remain unsolved and are being investigated, they have forced tens of thousands of residents to go without clean and safe water for weeks—and this legislation seeks to grant immunity to those violations.

The bill will not only pollute more rivers and waterways and risk millions of Americans being without clean and safe water, but worse, it will poison millions of Americans. The question I want to ask my colleagues in this Chamber is: What kind of government poisons its own people? Is that the government we are?

So with that, I urge Members who care about its people to oppose this poisoned legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes, again, to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), the chairman of the subcommittee dealing with this legislation.

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the full committee chairman.

Mr. Chairman, my colleagues on the other side seem to continue living in the past. This bill isn't about the Bush administration. This bill is about the rampant failure of the Obama administration and its inability to craft a reasonable rule on coal mining. They have spent 5 years and nearly \$10 million on this rewrite. And for what? What have they produced? Absolutely nothing. Their waste-ridden, failed effort is apparently nothing more than a sham facade over a real agenda—to kill coal mining.

You don't have to take my word for it. This is a direct quote from an inspector general investigator's interview with a current DOI contractor working on the rule, Emily Medine. She said the rule appears to be "an effort to kill coal mining."

Also, the Department has continued to insist on falsifying the baseline to reduce the stated impacts of their rule-making. As you can see from the interview with the current contractor, over here, OSM continues to insist that

companies use the more restrictive but never implemented 2008 rule as a baseline in an effort to hide the real economic impacts of whatever rule they want to come up with. Again, don't take my word for it. Right here, OSM's own contractor says that by using the more restrictive 2008 rule, they will show fewer job losses.

That is our choice today: a rule fine-tuned over 5 years with a clear process for future rulemaking and certainty for jobs and affordable energy, which we have now, or, if we follow this path, a continued waste of taxpayer dollars to pursue an agenda to kill coal mining.

I choose jobs and affordable energy for American families. Please support H.R. 2824.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is an actual photograph of actual water coming from an actual mountaintop removal site. I hope that the camera captures the color of the green hills that used to be there and the orange water that is there now. A stream this orange might be good for dyeing Easter eggs but not for drinking.

Now, earlier, I referred to the studies by scientists that associated hospitalizations with these activities. I referred to hospitalizations, hypertension, lung cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, increased flooding, loss of habitat, damage to wildlife. The other side, the majority, keeps wanting to talk about procedures, so let's talk about procedures for just a moment.

□ 1330

The record is clear. These are the words of the Federal District Court. The record is clear. The 2008 rule may affect or threaten endangered species or critical habitat. Further, the court goes on, the errors in this rule constitute a—in their words—serious deficiency and not merely a procedural defect.

Mountaintop removal mining is a serious environmental and health threat in Appalachia. That is what we should be talking about today, not about creating legislation that will deem reality to be different than it actually is, that will declare this stream clear flowing, that will declare these mountains green and verdant, that will declare that the Endangered Species Act was observed when it wasn't, that will declare that this rule will protect the environment and human health when it won't.

No amount of legislative deeming will make this reality change. What will make this reality change would be good, strong regulations with good, strong enforcement with an emphasis not on speed and cheapness but on people's health and an environment that can sustain us. That is what we should be talking about.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN).

Mr. STUTZMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I come to the floor to support H.R. 2824, the Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act. I thank my colleagues Congressman JOHNSON and Chairman Doc HASTINGS for their hard work and leadership on this very important issue.

The Obama administration has consistently put mandates ahead of jobs and energy security. Instead of promoting the American-made energy that powers our factories, small businesses, warehouses, and offices, Washington bureaucrats have wasted nearly \$10 million to overhaul coal mining regulation.

Three years ago, the Obama administration's own experts estimated that these unnecessary and sweeping changes could kill 7,000 jobs. The urge to issue mandates was too strong and, instead of listening to reason, the administration fired its own advisers and kept on pressing. That is no way to promote economic recovery.

Mr. Chairman, today's legislation would halt the Obama administration's haphazard and disastrous rulemaking. Hoosiers deserve an all-of-the-above energy plan, not a red tape agenda. So I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a most thoughtful and strong spokesperson on protecting our environment and people's health.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy as I appreciate his leadership.

Mr. Chair, there is nothing here in terms of what the administration has done that is ill-considered or reckless. I am sorry that there is opposition to protections that were put in place by the Reagan administration dealing with stream buffers, simple and common sense, which would indeed merit the support by virtually all of our colleagues.

We have seen that the last-minute efforts by the Bush administration to circumvent protections for mountaintop removal were rejected by the courts because they did not deal adequately with requirements of the Endangered Species Act. We are still facing the specter of taking the debris from mountaintop removal mining and putting it in our streams and waterways, and we would sentence our States to not be able to put in place more effective and stringent protections if they wanted to but force them to follow this outdated and rejected proposal and wait until 2021 to be able to move forward.

Mr. Chairman, this is an expression, I think, of frustration on the part of some of my friends on the other side of the aisle for the fact that they are on the wrong side of history, they are on the wrong side of science, and they are on the wrong side of public opinion; and simply declaring that the administration is out of control or EPA is overreaching or there is a war on coal doesn't make it so.

People can see for themselves the devastation from mountaintop removal and the fact that we have been negligent as a country for years providing adequate protections.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HOLT. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I would hope that the Chamber sees fit to reject legislation that is not going anywhere and that we stop the charade of initiatives that are conjuring up imaginary threats when we are not focusing on the clear and present dangers to the environment now, to community protection, and for health. Reject this legislation, and then let's get down to business on things that really will make a difference and that we can agree upon.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I would advise my friend from New Jersey I am prepared to close if the gentleman is prepared to close.

Mr. HOLT. I am prepared to close, as well.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The other side speaks about technicalities. Is it a technicality to fail to consider the negative impact on wildlife and the environment? Is it a technicality to ignore the harmful health effects for people living in communities near mining operations? Is it a technicality that allows us to sacrifice people's clean drinking water so that large mining companies can save a few dollars as they blow up a mountain?

No. These are not technicalities. In fact, the U.S. district court a few weeks ago made it clear these were not technicalities. I will repeat, in their words: the way this was put together is a serious deficiency and not merely a strictly procedural defect. That is why the rule was vacated by the court. We should not be imposing that now. We should be looking after the health of our environment and the health of the people we were sent here to represent.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains on my side?

The CHAIR. The gentleman has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, to hear my friends on the other side of the aisle argue about

this, they are making arguments that are pre-1977. Now, why do I say that? Because they are talking about their perception of mountaintop mining or surface mining probably in general. Well, it is precisely that argument that led to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 under the Carter administration—with a Democrat Congress, I might add. So that bill passed to allow for surface mining.

Now, there is always necessary rulemaking that comes after that, and the latest rulemaking prior to the turn of this century was in 1983 under the Reagan administration. So the Bush administration looked because of some court test that maybe we ought to rewrite this rule; and, Mr. Chairman, contrary to what my friends on the other side of the aisle said that that was a late-breaking rule, it took 5 years to put that together—5 years to put that together.

So, as a result, because of this court decision that ended up vacating because of the technicality of the 2008 rule, the issue before us is this: Do we put the 2008 rule in place, which is what the focus of this legislation is, and then look forward to further rulemaking, or do we vacate the 2008 rule and go back to 1983? That is what the choice is.

What I find that is so interesting about my colleagues on the other side of the aisle is that everybody acknowledges that the 2008 rule is more restrictive—more restrictive—but they want to go back to the 1983 rule. I find that hard to understand, but at least that is what appears to be their argument.

So, Mr. Chairman, we think the responsible way to do this is to take into consideration what the Bush administration did for 5 years, looking at proper rulemaking that, by the way, looked into the Endangered Species Act. That is something the '83 rule did not look at at all. So we think that is a better way to put that in place right now. It is a more restrictive rule that industry understands, the States understand, and it is probably better for energy certainty in this country.

So I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2824, the so-called "Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act."

I oppose the bill because it would misdirect limited resources and limit State discretion in regulating industries within their borders.

The bill would require State surface coal mining regulatory agencies to implement the discredited 2008 Stream Buffer Zone Rule—promulgated by the Bush Administration—for a mandatory implementation period, which inadequately protects drinking water and watersheds from strip mining.

H.R. 2824 replaces sensible Reagan-era protections for streams and communities in Appalachia from mountaintop mining with the

flawed 2008 Bush rule that has been rejected by a federal court, most states, and the Administration.

The bill puts families at risk by stopping the current updating of federal rules, wasting time and money, while delaying development of a responsible stream protection rule for years.

The bill allows big coal companies—many of whom export their coal—to reap larger profits, while families in Appalachia pay the price through with degraded water, flooding, and health impacts.

In opposing this misguided legislation I stand with a broad range of conservation and environmental groups, including American Rivers, Environment America, Clean Water Action, League of Conservation Voters, National Parks Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Federation, and Sierra Club.

Mr. Chair, waste from mountaintop removal coal mining has buried over 2,000 miles of streams throughout Appalachia. This practice destroys wildlife habitat, contaminates surface and drinking water, and leads to flooding.

As a number of new studies show, there is an increased incidence of cancer, birth defects, lung disease, and heart disease for those living and working near these mines.

In December 2008, the Bush Administration finalized a last-minute rule that weakened Reagan-era protections for streams from the impacts of mountaintop removal mining. The Bush rule was challenged in court and in February 2014, the D.C. Circuit Court vacated the rule, finding that the Bush Administration's refusal to consider the impacts of stream fills on threatened or endangered species in drafting the rule had been illegal.

The bill before us seeks to write the midnight Bush rule into law and require all states to incorporate it into their state mining regulations.

Mr. Chair, it makes no sense to require the states to adopt a vacated rule that has already been vacated by a federal court, especially when the Obama Administration is in the process of finalizing a new stream protection rule providing for responsible development while protecting our communities and environment.

This new rule will reflect the significant technological and scientific advances in mining practices that avoid, minimize, and mitigate environmental damage from coal mining.

Mr. Chair, I support the amendment offered by Congressman LOWENTHAL that would keep in place implementation of the Reagan Administration rule. I also support the amendment offered by Congressman CARTWRIGHT that would ensure that states retain the ability to issue their own stream buffer rules.

But I do not support the underlying bill. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 2824 and reject this misguided, irresponsible, and harmful legislation.

Then let us finally get to work on the issues the American people care about.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule, an

amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-41, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 113-374. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 2824

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America".

SEC. 2. INCORPORATION OF SURFACE MINING STREAM BUFFER ZONE RULE INTO STATE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 503 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1253) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) STREAM BUFFER ZONE MANAGEMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the requirements under subsection (a), each State program shall incorporate the necessary rule regarding excess spoil, coal mine waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams published by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement on December 12, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 75813 et seq.) which complies with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) in view of the 2006 discussions between the Director of the Office of Surface Mining and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's consideration and review of comments submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service during the rule-making process in 2007".

"(2) STUDY OF IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall—

"(A) at such time as the Secretary determines all States referred to in subsection (a) have fully incorporated the necessary rule referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection into their State programs, publish notice of such determination;

"(B) during the 5-year period beginning on the date of such publication, assess the effectiveness of implementation of such rule by such States;

"(C) carry out all required consultation on the benefits and other impacts of the implementation of the rule to any threatened species or endangered species, with the participation of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States Geological Survey; and

"(D) upon the conclusion of such period, submit a comprehensive report on the impacts of such rule to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, including—

"(i) an evaluation of the effectiveness of such rule;

"(ii) an evaluation of any ways in which the existing rule inhibits energy production; and

"(iii) a description in detail of any proposed changes that should be made to the rule, the justification for such changes, all comments on such changes received by the Secretary from such States, and the projected costs and benefits of such changes.

"(3) LIMITATION ON NEW REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may not issue any regulations under this Act relating to stream buffer zones or stream protection before the date of the publication of the report under paragraph (2), other than a rule necessary to implement paragraph (1)."

(b) DEADLINE FOR STATE IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the en-

actment of this Act, a State with a State program approved under section 503 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1253) shall submit to the Secretary of the Interior amendments to such program pursuant to part 732 of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations, incorporating the necessary rule referred to in subsection (e)(1) of such section, as amended by this section.

The CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 113-374.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, beginning at line 16, strike "December 12, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 75813 et seq.)" and insert "June 30, 1983 (48 Fed. Reg. 30312), except that this paragraph shall not apply to a State if the Governor of the State notifies the Secretary that such application would reduce stream protection from the level of protection achieved by the State program as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 501, the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is about protecting the health of those Americans who live near mountaintop removal coal mines. It is about keeping surface water from being contaminated; it is about keeping drinking water from being contaminated; and my amendment is about reducing the risk of cancer, birth defects, lung disease, and heart disease for families living near coal mines.

Mr. Chairman, all of these health problems have been conclusively linked to the mining practices of dumping the tops of mountains into streambeds. For example, in January 2010, the peer-reviewed journal Science published an article, entitled, "Mountaintop Mining Consequences." And in that article, the authors, who were a dozen scientists from institutions across the country, concluded:

Adult hospitalizations for chronic pulmonary disorder and hypertension are elevated as a result of county-level coal production, as are rates of mortality, lung cancer, and chronic heart, lung, and kidney disease.

Health problems are for women and men. So the effects are not simply the result of direct occupational exposure of predominantly male coal miners.

Mr. Chairman, in 1983, the Ronald Reagan administration completed rules that kept coal mining companies from dumping their overburden directly into streams. The rules required a buffer of 100 feet around waterways. The Reagan rule also allowed States to promulgate more protective rules, effectively creating a Federal floor of protection against stream contamination.

Right now, the Reagan rule is the regulation that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is operating under, and my amendment would keep the Reagan rule in effect.

So what does the majority bill do? It wipes away the Reagan rule and forces all States to adopt the 2008 Bush stream buffer rule. Instead of protecting streams, the Bush rule is a blank check for mining companies to dump their overburden directly into waterways. That's right. The Bush rule referenced in this bill has a gaping loophole that allows mining companies to dump mine waste into streams if avoiding disturbance of the stream is not reasonably possible.

And how is "reasonable" to be interpreted by the agency? Very loosely. An alternative to dumping mine waste into streams generally may be considered unreasonable, according to the agency, if its cost is substantially greater than the cost normally associated with this type of project.

Well, of course it is cheaper to dump mine waste into a nearby streambed than to properly treat and remove it elsewhere. Thus, given the agency's criteria, it will always be found cheaper and reasonable to dump coal mine waste into streams.

But it gets even better, Mr. Chairman. This is the same Bush rule that was struck down by the D.C. circuit court just this last month, and it is the same Bush rule that is really against the States' ability to promulgate stronger rules because it creates a ceiling that no State can exceed.

□ 1345

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would simply return to the Reagan rule to protect the health of families living near coal mines. I urge support of my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I find it hard sometimes to listen to this debate, especially when I hear my good friends on the other side of the aisle defending anything that the Reagan administration did. But they are doing it, so I will acknowledge that there is some substance there, but let me just go back to what I mentioned in my closing arguments.

SMCRA was passed in 1977. The Reagan rulemaking was 6 years after that. So there has not been an update on that rule—right now—for 30 years, but it was more likely probably 20 years when the Bush administration thought it should be updated.

Now I want to get right to the heart of the matter and the reason that the environmental community does not like the 2008 rule and instead opts for the 1983 Reagan rule. They don't like it because the 2008 rule will provide clarity and certainty in the SMCRA process, which of course will free up job creation, meaning that there is going to be some certainty in coal production; rather, the environmental community would like to use loopholes that they found in the 1983 rulemaking to take people to court.

That is exactly why, from my perspective, that this amendment is offered, to go back to the Reagan times so there can be probably more litigation and less certainty in rulemaking of surface mining.

The gentleman mentioned, for example the 100-foot buffer zone. The Bush rule has a 100-foot buffer zone just like the Reagan rule. Nothing changed there. The only change in the long run in rulemaking is certainty, and those who like to go to court don't like certainty. That is why I believe we have this improbable defense of anything that Reagan did, because they see that over a period of time there are ways that you can manipulate that to their advantage.

I think the Bush rule—which I said several times and is even acknowledged by the coal mining industry that it is more restrictive but has more certainty in it—is a better model, and it is precisely what this legislation does. It takes us to the 2008 rule.

This amendment takes us back to the 1983 rule, and I don't think that is a proper way to go. I urge rejection of this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to respond to one thing that was just said. The 2008 Bush rule is not more protective than the 1983 Reagan rule. I have explained that. The 2008 Bush rule has huge exemptions within it, and that is why it is important that we go back and we adopt my amendment to take us back to the reasonable 1983 Reagan rule.

I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

I rise in support of the amendment by the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) which seeks to reinstate the 1983 Stream Buffer Rule. While the Reagan administration rule is not perfect, the 2008 Bush rule inserted unnecessary loopholes in the law and takes us in the wrong direction.

This commonsense Lowenthal amendment from the Natural Resources Committee would simply keep the best option we currently have in place instead of forcing the adoption of the 2008 rule, which the courts have already struck down. Thus, I urge my colleagues to support the Lowenthal amendment.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Very briefly, and maybe we are caught here in semantics, but the issue—I have said several times and it has been acknowledged that the 2008 rule is more restrictive. My friend on the other side of the aisle and the author of the amendment said, "Let me be clear, the 2008 rule is not as protective."

I think when we are talking about protecting the environment, that "restrictive" and "protective" are probably synonymous in nature. So when we hear statements made by the industry that the 2008 rule is more restrictive, I take them at their word.

But, Mr. Chairman, I have to make this point and this point is very important because we need to have a certain supply of energy in this country if we are going to have a growing economy. I am in favor of all of the above, and that certainly includes coal. Unless you have certainty in the regulations, you will not have an energy source.

As I have said right from the start—and as a matter of fact, many have acknowledged within the administration that this administration has a war on coal—this provides certainty. It is contrary to where the administration obviously wants to go because it does provide certainty with our energy production. So I would urge rejection of this amendment, which would take us back to a rule that would be more potentially litigious in nature to something that has certainty. With that, I urge rejection of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the

amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CARTWRIGHT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 113-374.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, line 17, before the last period insert “, except that this subsection shall not apply to a State if, upon request from the Governor of the State, the Secretary finds that the State’s existing program exceeds the standards established by such rule regarding excess spoil, coal mine waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 501, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The underlying bill I seek to amend has been labeled today as Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America. The true label for this bill ought to be the “No Streams Protection” bill.

Mountaintop removal coal mining is a process that has buried over 2,000 miles of streams throughout Appalachia, contaminating surface and drinking water, and destroying wildlife in Appalachia communities.

The practice is currently governed by a rule written by the Reagan administration. The Reagan rule needs to be updated, and this is what the Obama administration wants to set about doing. H.R. 2824 seeks to accomplish two things: to write into statute a stream buffer rule promulgated in December of 2008 by the Bush administration and then to prohibit the Obama administration from working on writing a new stream buffer rule for at least 5 years while precluding the States also from issuing their own more stringent rules.

Members ought to be aware that the Federal District Court of the District of Columbia handed down a decision on February 20, just last month, vacating the 2008 rule because the Bush administration refused to consider the impacts of coal mining on threatened or endangered species in writing the rule. As a result, the rule this bill would write into statute no longer exists.

It is also surprising that the Republicans would enact a bill that strong-arms States into forcibly adopting a Federal standard, completely preempting states’ rights to enact their own rules.

That is why the amendment I am offering today protects states’ rights by

ensuring that all States are able to implement a stream buffer rule that can go beyond the national floor. States ought to have the ability to protect their natural resources at a level beyond the requirements of the Federal Government when they see that need. My amendment ensures that States maintain the ability to issue their own more stringent stream buffer rules, which this legislation is attempting to prohibit.

States should be able to maintain the ability to adequately protect their natural resources and health and safety of their local coal mining communities. Safe drinking water should be a right for everybody, and should not be subject to the Federal loopholes this bill would insert. States should have the right to close loopholes as they see fit.

It is important to remember that the amount of coal exported from this country is significant and growing. In fact, a record amount of coal was exported in 2012, over three times the amount exported one decade earlier. We don’t need to relax our environmental and health protections for this industry. We don’t need to jeopardize the health of the people and the once-pristine environment of Appalachia for the profits of these companies.

Finally, the claim that the Obama rule must be stopped because it is part of a so-called war on coal is obviously false. How can you make such a claim about a rule that doesn’t even exist yet?

This bill is simply an attempt to resurrect a flawed 2008 Bush rule, rejected by a Federal court and the administration, which provides loopholes to the industry. It is poor public policy and a poor use of Congress’ time given the pressing needs of this country.

My amendment protects states’ rights from overreach by the Federal Government, protects Appalachia communities, protects our environment, and protects clean drinking water. My amendment allows States to do better by their citizens if they so choose, and I believe that is a goal that everybody ought to agree upon.

I urge Members to vote for this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL).

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding me this time.

I strongly agree with my friend that States must be given the right to implement a stream buffer rule that works for them, given the fact that local conditions will vary from State to State. What we are saying is that States should have the ability to protect their natural resources at a level beyond the requirements of the Federal Government when they see the need. What we are saying is that the Federal Government sets a floor, and the

States have a right to protect their citizens from public health crisis and illness by setting their own requirements.

H.R. 2824 keeps the States from tailoring stream safeguards and requires the States to waste taxpayer dollars by adopting a rule that has been vacated by a Federal court.

Mr. Chairman, for these reasons I urge support of the Cartwright amendment.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, before I speak directly as to why we should not adopt this amendment, let me respond to the rhetorical question that my friend from Pennsylvania asked when he said:

How can you say that this administration rule, which hasn’t been promulgated yet, will cost jobs?

Well, I would tell the gentleman, Mr. Chairman, that there were leaked documents of the first initial rewrite of the 2008 amendment, leaked documents that said that the contractor that was hired by the administration to rewrite the rule came back with the conclusion that 7,000 jobs would be lost in 22 States. So what was the response of the Obama administration? They fired the contractor; it was the wrong message.

Now they are still in the rulemaking process. But, Mr. Chairman, I have to tell you, I doubt that the philosophy has changed from that very way because they are trying to manipulate which rules to follow to minimize what we found out in the initial go-round.

So let me just talk about this amendment. This amendment is not only unnecessary, it is actually harmful to protecting states’ rights. Under SMCRA of 1977, State regulations have to meet or exceed the new regulation issued by the Office of Surface Mining. The gentleman’s amendment would eliminate the ability of States to meet these rules by mandating that States can only exceed the OSM rules. This ignores both the history of Federal-State regulations with regard to rulemaking but also the need for flexibility in the States to meet the OSM rules while protecting their own geology, hydrology, and community interests.

Again, States already have the ability to change regulations to meet or exceed Federal rules with regards to all aspects of the regulatory regime under SMCRA.

□ 1400

We should not limit the ability to have flexibility in meeting the new rules. This amendment would mandate that you could only change that by increasing it. I think, Mr. Chairman,

that is the wrong way to go. I think the amendment is ill-advised.

I urge rejection of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 113-374 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. LOWENTHAL of California.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. CARTWRIGHT of Pennsylvania.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 188, noes 231, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 138]

AYES—188

Barber	Cleaver	Fattah
Bass	Clyburn	Foster
Beatty	Connolly	Frankel (FL)
Becerra	Conyers	Fudge
Bera (CA)	Cooper	Gabbard
Bishop (NY)	Courtney	Gallego
Blumenauer	Crowley	Garamendi
Bonamici	Cuellar	Garcia
Brady (PA)	Cummings	Gibson
Braley (IA)	Davis (CA)	Grayson
Brown (FL)	Davis, Danny	Green, Al
Brownley (CA)	DeFazio	Green, Gene
Bustos	DeGette	Grijalva
Butterfield	Delaney	Gutiérrez
Capps	DeLauro	Hahn
Capuano	DeBene	Hanabusa
Cárdenas	Deutch	Hastings (FL)
Carney	Dingell	Heck (WA)
Carson (IN)	Doggett	Higgins
Cartwright	Doyle	Himes
Castor (FL)	Edwards	Holt
Castro (TX)	Ellison	Honda
Chu	Engel	Horsford
Cicilline	Enyart	Hoyer
Clark (MA)	Eshoo	Huffman
Clarke (NY)	Esty	Israel
Clay	Farr	Jeffries

Johnson, E. B.	Michaud	Schiff
Kaptur	Miller, George	Schneider
Keating	Moore	Schrader
Kelly (IL)	Moran	Scott (VA)
Kennedy	Murphy (FL)	Scott, David
Kildee	Nadler	Serrano
Kilmer	Napolitano	Sewell (AL)
Kind	Neal	Shea-Porter
Kirkpatrick	Negrete McLeod	Sherman
Kuster	Nolan	Sinema
Langevin	O'Rourke	Sires
Larsen (WA)	Owens	Slaughter
Larson (CT)	Pallone	Smith (WA)
Lee (CA)	Pascrell	Speier
Levin	Pastor (AZ)	Swalwell (CA)
Lewis	Payne	Takano
Lipinski	Pelosi	Thompson (CA)
Loeb sack	Perlmutter	Thompson (MS)
Lofgren	Peters (CA)	Tierney
Lowenthal	Peters (MI)	Titus
Lowe y	Pingree (ME)	Tonko
Lujan Grisham	Pocan	Tsongas
(NM)	Polis	Van Hollen
Luján, Ben Ray	Price (NC)	Vargas
(NM)	Quigley	Vega
Lynch	Rangel	Veasey
Maffei	Reichert	Vela
Maloney,	Richmond	Velázquez
Carolyn	Roybal-Allard	Visclosky
Maloney, Sean	Ruiz	Walz
Matsui	Ruppersberger	Wasserman
McCollum	Rush	Schultz
McDermott	Ryan (OH)	Waters
McGovern	Sánchez, Linda	Waxman
McIntyre	T.	Welch
McNerney	Sanchez, Loretta	Wilson (FL)
Meeks	Sarbanes	Yarmuth
Meng	Schakowsky	

NOES—231

Aderholt	Ellmers	Kingston
Amash	Farenthold	Kinzinger (IL)
Amodei	Fincher	Kline
Bachmann	Fitzpatrick	Labrador
Bachus	Fleischmann	LaMalfa
Barletta	Fleming	Lamborn
Barr	Flores	Lance
Barrow (GA)	Forbes	Lankford
Barton	Fortenberry	Latham
Bentivolio	Fox	Latta
Bilirakis	Franks (AZ)	LoBiondo
Bishop (GA)	Frelinghuysen	Long
Bishop (UT)	Gardner	Lucas
Black	Garrett	Luetkemeyer
Blackburn	Gerlach	Lummis
Boustany	Gibbs	Marchant
Brady (TX)	Gingrey (GA)	Marino
Bridenstine	Gohmert	Massie
Brooks (AL)	Goodlatte	Matheson
Brooks (IN)	Gosar	McAllister
Broun (GA)	Gowdy	McCarthy (CA)
Buchanan	Granger	McCauley
Bucshon	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Burgess	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Byrne	Griffin (AR)	McKeon
Calvert	Griffith (VA)	McKinley
Cantor	Grimm	McMorris
Capito	Guthrie	Rodgers
Carter	Hall	Meadows
Cassidy	Hanna	Meehan
Chabot	Harper	Messer
Chaffetz	Harris	Mica
Coble	Hartzler	Miller (FL)
Coffman	Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)
Cole	Heck (NV)	Mullin
Collins (GA)	Hensarling	Mulvaney
Collins (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (PA)
Conaway	Holding	Neugebauer
Cook	Hudson	Noem
Costa	Huelskamp	Nugent
Cotton	Huizenga (MI)	Nunes
Cramer	Hultgren	Nunnelee
Crawford	Hunter	Palazzo
Crenshaw	Hurt	Paulsen
Culberson	Issa	Pearce
Daines	Jenkins	Perry
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (OH)	Peterson
Denham	Johnson, Sam	Petri
Dent	Jolly	Pittenger
DeSantis	Jones	Pitts
DesJarlais	Jordan	Poe (TX)
Diaz-Balart	Joyce	Pompeo
Duffy	Kelly (PA)	Posey
Duncan (SC)	King (IA)	Price (GA)
Duncan (TN)	King (NY)	Rahall

Reed	Schock	Upton
Renacci	Schweikert	Valadao
Ribble	Scott, Austin	Wagner
Rice (SC)	Sensenbrenner	Walberg
Rigell	Sessions	Walden
Roby	Shimkus	Walorski
Roe (TN)	Shuster	Weber (TX)
Rogers (AL)	Simpson	Webster (FL)
Rogers (KY)	Smith (MO)	Westrup
Rogers (MI)	Smith (NE)	Westmoreland
Rohrabacher	Smith (NJ)	Whitfield
Rokita	Smith (TX)	Williams
Rooney	Southerland	Wilson (SC)
Ros-Lehtinen	Stewart	Wittman
Roskam	Stivers	Wolf
Ross	Stockman	Womack
Rothfus	Stutzman	Woodall
Royce	Terry	Yoder
Runyan	Thompson (PA)	Yoho
Ryan (WI)	Thornberry	Young (AK)
Salmon	Tiberi	Young (IN)
Sanford	Tipton	
Scalise	Turner	

NOT VOTING—12

Benishak	Duckworth	McCarthy (NY)
Camp	Hinojosa	Miller, Gary
Campbell	Jackson Lee	Olson
Cohen	Johnson (GA)	Schwartz

□ 1427

Messrs. TERRY, CULBERSON, and COLE changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. MAFFEI and LARSON of Connecticut changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR.

CARTWRIGHT

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 196, noes 225, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 139]

AYES—196

Barber	Castor (FL)	DeFazio
Bass	Castro (TX)	DeGette
Beatty	Chu	Delaney
Becerra	Cicilline	DeLauro
Bera (CA)	Clark (MA)	DeBene
Bishop (NY)	Clarke (NY)	Deutch
Blumenauer	Clay	Dingell
Bonamici	Cleaver	Doggett
Brady (PA)	Clyburn	Doyle
Braley (IA)	Cohen	Edwards
Brown (FL)	Connolly	Ellison
Brownley (CA)	Conyers	Engel
Bustos	Cooper	Enyart
Butterfield	Costa	Eshoo
Capps	Courtney	Esty
Capuano	Crowley	Farr
Cárdenas	Cuellar	Fattah
Carney	Cummings	Fitzpatrick
Carson (IN)	Davis (CA)	Foster
Cartwright	Davis, Danny	Frankel (FL)

Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey

Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Loebach
Reichert
Rice (SC)
Richmond

Rigell
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Palazzo
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)

NOT VOTING—10

Benishak
Camp
Campbell
Cassidy

□ 1435

Mr. WALBERG changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 139, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) having assumed the chair, Mr. WOODALL, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2824) to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to stop the ongoing waste by the Department of the Interior of taxpayer resources and implement the final rule on excess spoil, mining waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 501, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. BERA of California. I am opposed to it in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Bera of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 2824 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 3, after line 20, add the following:

SEC. ____ MAKING IT IN AMERICA AND PROVIDING JOBS FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS.

Nothing in this Act limits, restricts, or prohibits the Secretary of the Interior or any State program from giving priority to—

(1) hiring unemployed workers, including veterans, who are actively seeking work and for whom unemployment taxes were paid during prior employment; and

(2) utilizing equipment and materials manufactured in the United States in mining operations, where practicable.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to the committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

Mr. Speaker, instead of voting on divisive bills that threaten communities and their water supply with toxic mining waste, we need to focus on creating jobs and getting unemployed Americans back to work.

Mr. Speaker, we have no more urgent mission than getting our veterans back to work. That is our priority. American families want their leaders to work together, Democrats and Republicans, to rebuild an economy that works for the middle class, not more partisan politics.

Today, over 2 million unemployed Americans have been waiting for Congress to restore Federal emergency unemployment benefits since December.

Among veterans who have served since 2001, the unemployment rate is 9 percent. This is disgraceful. During these tough economic times Americans need to focus and Congress needs to focus on getting Americans back to work.

This amendment would do just that, allowing priority hiring of veterans and those who have received unemployment insurance. To help create more jobs, we also need to make more products here in the United States. There is

NOES—225

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham

Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxo
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp

Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer

a greater opportunity for our people to make it in America if we make things in America.

That means we need to focus on creating the best conditions for American businesses to manufacture their products, to innovate, and to create jobs right here in the United States.

Already, more and more U.S. companies are bringing overseas manufacturing back home. Let's continue to encourage these U.S. companies to continue to bring those jobs back here and to build things here in America. We have seen the American auto industry come back, Apple computers, alternative energy companies, just to name a few. We need to continue to encourage these companies to make their products here.

□ 1445

That is exactly what this amendment does, and it will help set us on a solid path forward to a future of greater economic competitiveness, more jobs, and longstanding, long-term economic success.

Let's show the American people what our priorities are. It is about creating jobs and getting Americans back to work and, most importantly, getting our veterans back to work. That is exactly what this amendment does.

I urge the adoption of this important amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this is simple. There are two competing views on the floor right now about the future of America.

One side believes that the key to America remaining the leader of the free world starts with a robust American economy, led by a strong and stable energy market; an America that then leverages a healthy economy and a strong energy market to help allies across the globe like Ukraine, Japan, and others; an America that can go toe-to-toe with the Russians as they leverage their energy resources to try and achieve their political ambitions; an America that creates energy jobs here at home in a way that balances the dual needs of a vibrant economy and a healthy environment.

Now, that other competing view would rather see American manufacturers and hardworking middle class families pay more for their electricity. Mr. Speaker, that is not fair. The other side talks a big game about being for an all-of-the-above energy policy, but at every turn, it tries to shut down our fossil fuel production and use.

The other side would rather shut down our cheapest and most reliable form of energy and the thousands of jobs that go with it, in favor of tax-

payer-subsidized windmills to heat our homes on cold days like today.

The other side's apparent unwillingness to leverage America's energy abundance to influence geopolitics is unwise. America's rivals and adversaries are watching.

Mr. Speaker, like I said, this is simple. What side of the coin do we want to stand on? The one that shoots ourselves in the foot or the one that embraces our God-given energy advantage and leads?

To me, the choice is clear. I urge all of my colleagues to vote against this motion and to vote for final passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the bill, if ordered, and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 197, noes 224, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 140]

AYES—197

Barber	Cummings	Holt
Barrow (GA)	Davis (CA)	Honda
Bass	Davis, Danny	Horsford
Beatty	DeFazio	Hoyer
Becerra	DeGette	Huffman
Bera (CA)	Delaney	Israel
Bishop (GA)	DeLauro	Jackson Lee
Bishop (NY)	DelBene	Jeffries
Blumenauer	Deutch	Johnson (GA)
Bonamici	Dingell	Johnson, E. B.
Brady (PA)	Doggett	Jones
Braley (IA)	Doyle	Kaptur
Brown (FL)	Duncan (TN)	Keating
Brownley (CA)	Edwards	Kelly (IL)
Bustos	Ellison	Kennedy
Butterfield	Engel	Kildee
Capps	Enyart	Kilmer
Capuano	Eshoo	Kind
Cárdenas	Esty	Kirkpatrick
Carney	Farr	Kuster
Carson (IN)	Fattah	Langevin
Cartwright	Foster	Larsen (WA)
Castor (FL)	Frankel (FL)	Larson (CT)
Castro (TX)	Fudge	Lee (CA)
Chu	Gabbard	Levin
Cicilline	Gallego	Lewis
Clark (MA)	Garamendi	Lipinski
Clarke (NY)	Garcia	Loeb sack
Clay	Grayson	Lofgren
Cleaver	Green, Al	Lowenthal
Clyburn	Green, Gene	Lowe y
Cohen	Grijalva	Lujan Grisham
Connolly	Gutiérrez	(NM)
Conyers	Hahn	Luján, Ben Ray
Cooper	Hanabusa	(NM)
Costa	Hastings (FL)	Lynch
Courtney	Heck (WA)	Maffei
Crowley	Higgins	Maloney,
Cuellar	Himes	Carolyn

Maloney, Sean	Peters (MI)	Sinema
Matheson	Peterson	Sires
Matsui	Pingree (ME)	Slaughter
McCollum	Pocan	Smith (WA)
McDermott	Polis	Speier
McGovern	Price (NC)	Swalwell (CA)
McIntyre	Quigley	Takano
McNerney	Rahall	Thompson (CA)
Meeks	Rangel	Thompson (MS)
Meng	Richmond	Tierney
Michaud	Roybal-Allard	Titus
Miller, George	Ruiz	Tonko
Moore	Ruppersberger	Tsongas
Moran	Rush	Van Hollen
Murphy (FL)	Ryan (OH)	Vargas
Nadler	Sánchez, Linda	Veasey
Napolitano	T.	Vela
Neal	Sanchez, Loretta	Velázquez
Negrete McLeod	Sarbanes	Visclosky
Nolan	Schakowsky	Walz
O'Rourke	Schiff	Wasserman
Owens	Schneider	Schultz
Pallone	Schrader	Waters
Pascarell	Scott (VA)	Waxman
Pastor (AZ)	Scott, David	Welch
Payne	Serrano	Wilson (FL)
Pelosi	Sewell (AL)	Yarmuth
Perlmutter	Shea-Porter	
Peters (CA)	Sherman	

NOES—224

Aderholt	Garrett	McHenry
Amash	Gerlach	McKeon
Amodei	Gibbs	McKinley
Bachmann	Gibson	McMorris
Bachus	Gingrey (GA)	Rodgers
Barletta	Gohmert	Meadows
Barr	Goodlatte	Meehan
Barton	Gosar	Messer
Bentivolio	Gowdy	Mica
Bilirakis	Granger	Miller (FL)
Bishop (UT)	Graves (GA)	Miller (MI)
Black	Graves (MO)	Mullin
Blackburn	Griffin (AR)	Mulvaney
Boustany	Griffith (VA)	Murphy (PA)
Brady (TX)	Grimm	Neugebauer
Bridenstine	Guthrie	Noem
Brooks (AL)	Hall	Nugent
Brooks (IN)	Hanna	Nunes
Broun (GA)	Harper	Nunnelee
Buchanan	Harris	Palazzo
Bucshon	Hartzler	Paulsen
Burgess	Hastings (WA)	Pearce
Byrne	Heck (NV)	Perry
Calvert	Hensarling	Petri
Cantor	Herrera Beutler	Pittenger
Capito	Holding	Pitts
Carter	Hudson	Poe (TX)
Cassidy	Huelskamp	Pompeo
Chabot	Huizenga (MI)	Posey
Chaffetz	Hultgren	Price (GA)
Coble	Hunter	Reed
Coffman	Hurt	Reichert
Cole	Issa	Renacci
Collins (GA)	Jenkins	Ribble
Collins (NY)	Johnson (OH)	Rice (SC)
Conaway	Johnson, Sam	Rigell
Cook	Jolly	Roby
Cotton	Jordan	Roe (TN)
Cramer	Joyce	Rogers (AL)
Crawford	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (KY)
Crenshaw	King (IA)	Rogers (MI)
Culberson	King (NY)	Rohrabacher
Daines	Kingston	Rokita
Davis, Rodney	Kinzinger (IL)	Rooney
Denham	Kline	Ros-Lehtinen
Dent	Labrador	Roskam
DeSantis	LaMalfa	Ross
DesJarlais	Lamborn	Rothfus
Diaz-Balart	Lance	Royce
Duffy	Lankford	Runyan
Duncan (SC)	Latham	Ryan (WI)
Ellmers	Latta	Salmon
Farenthold	LoBiondo	Sanford
Fincher	Long	Scalise
Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Schweikert
Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Scott, Austin
Fleming	Lummis	Sensenbrenner
Flores	Marchant	Sessions
Forbes	Marino	Shimkus
Fortenberry	Massie	Shuster
Fox	McAllister	Simpson
Franks (AZ)	McCarthy (CA)	Smith (MO)
Frelinghuysen	McCaul	Smith (NE)
Gardner	McClintock	Smith (NJ)

Smith (TX)	Turner	Whitfield
Southerland	Upton	Williams
Stewart	Valadao	Wilson (SC)
Stivers	Wagner	Wittman
Stockman	Walberg	Wolf
Stutzman	Walden	Womack
Terry	Walorski	Woodall
Thompson (PA)	Weber (TX)	Yoder
Thornberry	Webster (FL)	Yoho
Tiberi	Wenstrup	Young (AK)
Tipton	Westmoreland	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—10

Benishek	Hinojosa	Schock
Camp	McCarthy (NY)	Schwartz
Campbell	Miller, Gary	
Duckworth	Olson	

□ 1454

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3771. An act to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair wishes to reiterate the announcement of February 26, 2013, concerning floor practice.

Members should periodically rededicate themselves to the core principles of proper parliamentary practice that are so essential in maintaining order and deliberacy in the House. The Chair believes that a few of these principles bear emphasis today.

Members should refrain from trafficking the well when another, including the presiding officer, is addressing the House.

Members should wear appropriate business attire during all sittings of the House, however brief their appearance on the floor might be.

Members who wish to speak on the floor should respectfully seek and obtain recognition from the presiding officer, taking the time to do so in proper form, including 1-minute. The proper form would be to ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute.

Members should take care to yield and reclaim time in an orderly fashion, bearing in mind that the Official Reporters of Debate cannot properly transcribe two Members simultaneously.

Members should address their remarks in debate to the presiding officer and not to others in the second person or to some perceived viewing audience.

Members should not embellish the offering of a motion, the entry of a request, the making of a point of order, or the entry of an appeal with any

statement of motive or other commentary, and should be aware that such utterances could render the motion, request, point of order, or appeal untimely.

Members should attempt to come to the floor within the 15-minute period as prescribed by the first ringing of the bells. Members should be advised that if they are in the Chamber attempting to vote, the Chair will try to accommodate them. But as a point of courtesy to each of your colleagues, voting within the allotted time would help with the maintenance of the institution.

Following these basic standards of practice will foster an atmosphere of mutual and institutional respect. It will ensure against personal confrontation, among individual Members or between Members and the presiding officer. It will facilitate Members' comprehension of, and participation in, the business of the House. It will enable accurate transcriptions of proceedings. In sum, it will ensure the comity that elevates spirited deliberations above mere argument.

The Chair appreciates the attention of the Members to these matters.

□ 1500

PREVENTING GOVERNMENT WASTE AND PROTECTING COAL MINING JOBS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 229, noes 192, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 141]

AYES—229

Aderholt	Burgess	Daines
Amash	Byrne	Davis, Rodney
Amodei	Calvert	Denham
Bachmann	Cantor	Dent
Bachus	Capito	DeSantis
Barletta	Carter	DesJarlais
Barr	Cassidy	Diaz-Balart
Barrow (GA)	Chabot	Duffy
Barton	Chaffetz	Duncan (SC)
Bentivolio	Coble	Duncan (TN)
Bilirakis	Coffman	Ellmers
Bishop (GA)	Cole	Farenthold
Bishop (UT)	Collins (GA)	Fincher
Black	Collins (NY)	Fleischmann
Blackburn	Conaway	Fleming
Boustany	Cook	Flores
Brady (TX)	Costa	Forbes
Bridenstine	Cotton	Fortenberry
Brooks (AL)	Cramer	Fox
Brooks (IN)	Crawford	Franks (AZ)
Broun (GA)	Crenshaw	Frelinghuysen
Buchanan	Cuellar	Gardner
Bucshon	Culberson	Garrett

Gerlach	Marchant	Ros-Lehtinen
Gibbs	Marino	Roskam
Gingrey (GA)	Massie	Ross
Gohmert	Matheson	Rothfus
Goodlatte	McAllister	Royce
Gosar	McCarthy (CA)	Runyan
Gowdy	McCauley	Ryan (WI)
Granger	McClintock	Salmon
Graves (GA)	McHenry	Sanford
Graves (MO)	McIntyre	Scalise
Griffin (AR)	McKeon	Schock
Griffith (VA)	McKinley	Schweikert
Grimm	McMorris	Scott (VA)
Guthrie	Rodgers	Scott, Austin
Hall	Meadows	Sensenbrenner
Hanna	Meehan	Sessions
Harper	Messer	Shimkus
Harris	Mica	Shuster
Hartzler	Miller (FL)	Simpson
Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)	Smith (MO)
Heck (NV)	Mullin	Smith (NE)
Hensarling	Mulvaney	Smith (TX)
Holding	Murphy (PA)	Southerland
Hudson	Neugebauer	Stewart
Huelskamp	Noem	Stivers
Huizenga (MI)	Nugent	Stockman
Hultgren	Nunes	Stutzman
Hunter	Nunnelee	Terry
Hurt	Palazzo	Thompson (PA)
Issa	Paulsen	Thornberry
Jenkins	Pearce	Tiberi
Johnson (OH)	Perry	Tipton
Johnson, Sam	Peterson	Turner
Jolly	Petri	Upton
Jones	Pittenger	Valadao
Jordan	Pitts	Wagner
Joyce	Poe (TX)	Walberg
Kelly (PA)	Pompeo	Walden
King (IA)	Posney	Walorski
King (NY)	Price (GA)	Weber (TX)
Kingston	Rahall	Webster (FL)
Kinzing (IL)	Reed	Wenstrup
Kirkpatrick	Renacci	Westmoreland
Kline	Ribble	Whitfield
Labrador	Rice (SC)	Williams
LaMalfa	Rigell	Wilson (SC)
Lamborn	Roby	Wittman
Lance	Roe (TN)	Womack
Lankford	Rogers (AL)	Woodall
Latham	Rogers (KY)	Yoder
Latta	Rogers (MI)	Yoho
Long	Rohrabacher	Young (AK)
Lucas	Rokita	Young (IN)
Luetkemeyer	Rooney	

NOES—192

Barber	DeGette	Horsford
Bass	Delaney	Hoyer
Beatty	DeLauro	Huffman
Becerra	DelBene	Israel
Bera (CA)	Deutch	Jackson Lee
Bishop (NY)	Dingell	Jeffries
Blumenauer	Doggett	Johnson (GA)
Bonamici	Doyle	Johnson, E. B.
Brady (PA)	Edwards	Kaptur
Braley (IA)	Ellison	Keating
Brown (FL)	Engel	Kelly (IL)
Brownley (CA)	Enyart	Kennedy
Bustos	Eshoo	Kildee
Butterfield	Esty	Kilmer
Capps	Farr	Kind
Capuano	Fattah	Kuster
Cárdenas	Fitzpatrick	Langevin
Carney	Foster	Larsen (WA)
Carson (IN)	Frankel (FL)	Larson (CT)
Cartwright	Fudge	Lee (CA)
Castor (FL)	Gabbard	Levin
Castro (TX)	Gallego	Lewis
Chu	Garamendi	Lipinski
Cicilline	Garcia	LoBiondo
Clark (MA)	Gibson	Loebsack
Clarke (NY)	Grayson	Loftgren
Clay	Green, Al	Lowenthal
Cleaver	Green, Gene	Lowe
Clyburn	Grijalva	Lujan Grisham
Cohen	Gutiérrez	(NM)
Connolly	Hahn	Luján, Ben Ray
Conyers	Hanabusa	(NM)
Cooper	Hastings (FL)	Lynch
Courtney	Heck (WA)	Maffei
Crowley	Herrera Beutler	Maloney,
Cummings	Higgins	Carolyn
Davis (CA)	Himes	Maloney, Sean
Davis, Danny	Holt	Matsui
DeFazio	Honda	McCollum

McDermott	Polis	Smith (NJ)
McGovern	Price (NC)	Smith (WA)
McNerney	Quigley	Speier
Meeks	Rangel	Swalwell (CA)
Meng	Reichert	Takano
Michaud	Richmond	Thompson (CA)
Miller, George	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (MS)
Moore	Ruiz	Tierney
Moran	Ruppersberger	Titus
Murphy (FL)	Rush	Tonko
Nadler	Ryan (OH)	Tsongas
Napolitano	Sánchez, Linda	Van Hollen
Neal	T.	Vargas
Negrete McLeod	Sanchez, Loretta	Veasey
Nolan	Sarbanes	Vela
O'Rourke	Schakowsky	Velázquez
Owens	Schiff	Visclosky
Pallone	Schneider	Walz
Pascarella	Schrader	Wasserman
Pastor (AZ)	Scott, David	Schultz
Payne	Serrano	Waters
Pelosi	Sewell (AL)	Waxman
Perlmutter	Shea-Porter	Welch
Peters (CA)	Sherman	Wilson (FL)
Peters (MI)	Sinema	Wolf
Pingree (ME)	Sires	Yarmuth
Pocan	Slaughter	

NOT VOTING—10

Benishkek	Hinojosa	Olson
Camp	Lummis	Schwartz
Campbell	McCarthy (NY)	
Duckworth	Miller, Gary	

□ 1506

Mr. PAYNE changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN). The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

CONGRATULATING FIU COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the College of Engineering and Computing at my alma mater, Florida International University, known as FIU, on its 30th anniversary of proven excellence in producing high-quality graduates.

The college was established with one mission in mind: to provide public access education to those interested in these fields and to serve as an instrument for economic development in our vibrant south Florida community. They have accomplished that and much more. From using nanotechnology to improve human health to building superior bridges, people's lives across the country are impacted each and every

day in a positive way through FIU's STEM graduates.

FIU has also created many programs to encourage young students to pursue careers in STEM fields. Their latest innovative approach was to create an Accelerated Technology Magnet Program that would prepare low-income high school students for employment and educational options in computer science and information technology. I am certain FIU will continue to lead and produce more skilled professionals in these fields.

Go, FIU. Go, Golden Panthers.

193RD ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, March 25, to celebrate the 193rd anniversary of Greek independence. In Greek, we say "Long Live Greece, Long Live Freedom"—Zito Ellada, Zito Eleftheria—in recalling the day that the Greek people threw off the yoke of the Ottoman Empire and established modern Greece as a free and independent nation.

America's Founding Fathers drew upon the example of the ancient Greeks in forming our constitutional Republic, and modern Greece has been a staunch and dependable ally of the United States. Our relationship is based on shared democratic values and respect for individual freedom.

The spirit that guided the Greek people in securing their freedom nearly 200 years ago resides within them still. It is the reason I am confident that Greece will overcome the economic and humanitarian crisis that it faces today. The United States must and will stand as a strong partner in Greece's efforts to regain its footing, to take full advantage of new opportunities that are emerging in the eastern Mediterranean, and to move forward as a vital economic and cultural resource for a critical region of the world.

Knowing that America and Greece will stand together allows us to proclaim that both democracies will continue to live in freedom. Long Live Greece, Long Live America, Long Live Freedom—Zito Ellada, Zito Ameriki, Zito Eleftheria.

SELL AMERICAN NATURAL GAS TO UKRAINE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Napoleon of Siberia, Putin, controls Ukraine and other European countries by holding their energy needs hostage. Russia uses gas as a political and economic weapon to manipulate its neighbors.

This does not have to be, and the United States can change that.

By selling European countries our oil and gas, we can reduce their dependence on imperialist Russia. We have more gas than we can use here in the United States, and we could sell the gas we don't need to our allies in Europe. That would create jobs here in America and help our allies overseas.

The same goes for crude oil.

Mr. Speaker, my amendment that passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee today would require the State Department to submit a report to Congress within 90 days on the effect our increased natural gas and crude oil exports would have on Russia's economic and political influence over Ukraine and other European nations.

Ukraine has to get their oil and gas from someplace. Let's have them buy American and make the Russian bear Putin and his energy irrelevant.

And that's just the way it is.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I rise in support of the goals of National Agriculture Day, which is today, March 25.

Agriculture remains the number one industry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, supporting upwards of 63,000 family farms, generating more than \$67 billion in economic impact, and one in seven residents of Pennsylvania works in the agriculture sector.

While a good portion of America's population does not see firsthand where our food supply comes from, a wise man once told me that we shake hands with a farmer at least three times a day. This saying truly illustrates the importance of supporting agriculture, but equally the importance of supporting the future of agriculture and our future food security.

I had the pleasure of meeting with two officers of the Pennsylvania chapter of the Future Farmers of America earlier this morning. I commend them for their outreach efforts here in Washington to promote the goals of National Agriculture Day. Their advocacy in engaging the next generation to become farmers is crucial to ensuring our country has the most affordable, the highest quality, abundant, and safest food supply in the world.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORMAN BORLAUG'S BIRTH

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Agriculture Day. But also, today marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of a man who literally changed the world. His name is Norman Borlaug. He was born in an upstairs bedroom in northeast Iowa 100 years ago today. He went to the University of Minnesota, where he received a Ph.D. degree in plant biology.

While he was in a class dealing with plant genetics and the future options of increased food production, Norman Borlaug had that moment of divine genius. That is when he applied himself to work. And Norman Borlaug, because of 6,000 experiments in very difficult terrain, created a grain of wheat that literally changed the world.

Norman Borlaug is rightly credited with saving the lives of over 1 billion people, 1 billion people on this Earth because he dedicated his life and persevered to create strains of wheat which would grow in India, Pakistan, Africa, and places that never before could be able to uphold a grain of wheat. He did that in East Asia with rice.

Today we honor and recognize and celebrate the life of one American who did so much for 1 billion people across the world.

□ 1515

OUR FIRST FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DeSANTIS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this is an important day right across the street at the U.S. Supreme Court Building. It has been interesting. In the past, most of the time that I am aware of, when there was a matter coming before the Supreme Court, they observed what is called reciprocity, just as if a U.S. Senator wants to come down here and observe—they can't speak on the floor—but they can come to the House floor. In the same way, we have reciprocity with the Senate. We can go down to the Senate and stand in the Chamber and be there in person, as I have done when RAND PAUL was doing what amounted to a filibuster and when TED CRUZ was doing what amounted to a filibuster.

With the Supreme Court, normally, if there are Members of Congress that are going to be coming, they will reserve a bench. There have been a couple of times that the bench was full and other Members of Congress filled those spaces before I got there; but it has been an observation that, since this body is charged with funding the Supreme Court and providing what they need and determining what they don't

really need, it is part of reciprocity that they provide those places to observe what is happening.

I have been rather ambivalent. I can see both sides of the issues of cameras in the courtroom, because as a judge, murder trials, other things of interest, networks would want to come film. I had one case that went for 10 weeks. We have very strict rules. We only allow one camera in the courtroom. It could never be worked on during anything that was going on, and it could never be a distraction at all. But I saw how cameras could work in the courtroom without being any problem at all.

Here in Congress, I have fairly much taken the position that if a camera is going to be in the courtroom, leave it up to the courts. But with the United States Supreme Court, as I have seen this week, there would be no harm in having a camera somewhere in the courtroom where people didn't notice so that Americans could see—since we moved the Supreme Court toward being an oligarchy—we could see what they are doing, whether they are sleeping, whether they are participating, or whether they are asking stupid questions.

I went over, and since I am sworn in as a member of the Supreme Court Bar, I was allowed to be in the overflow room and hear what was going on; so it was kind of difficult to really tell who was addressing what during the case that the Supreme Court was hearing this morning that I heard oral arguments on. This is an extremely critical case, and I couldn't tell which judge asked the questions, but when the Supreme Court is, in effect, expressing concern through their questions that a corporation, a for-profit corporation, could not possibly have firmly held religious beliefs, then it occurred to me, for Heaven's sake, this Justice Department doesn't seem to have a problem indicting corporations. So, if the Justice Department can indict a corporation and say they have an intent to violate the law, well, if that corporation can have intent with regard to violations of the law, it certainly ought to be able to form the intent to have firmly held religious beliefs.

It was shocking as I listened to questions from some of the Supreme Court Justices today, when that is compared with the history of the United States of America and Roger Williams, for example, whose statue has been moved last week, but how he formed Rhode Island because of his firmly held religious beliefs and his beliefs that there should be freedom of religion in America where the government does not interfere in any way.

You compare the beliefs of the Pilgrims who came from Holland to England and then here—they wanted religious freedom so they could serve the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; they could follow their Christian be-

liefs without being persecuted or without having a government say that you don't have any right to practice those beliefs—compared with the Supreme Court Justices, in effect, saying, gee, they could just pay the fine and it would be a lot cheaper than \$475 million in penalties they will have to pay. Actually, one Justice had the nerve to say: I believe that was called a tax and not a penalty.

Paul Clement was doing a great job. My immediate thought was, well, no, the Supreme Court at page 15 of the majority opinion said that clearly the mandate was a penalty. Congress called it a penalty. It clearly was a penalty. It is only assessed if you don't do what the bill requires people to do, so clearly it is a penalty. And since it is a penalty, they said at page 15, then we do have jurisdiction to go forward because, the Supreme Court pointed out, if that mandate were a tax, then under the anti-injunction statute, the Supreme Court would not have jurisdiction to have proceeded when they did and the plaintiffs that brought the case would not have had standing to bring the case. But they said, since this is clearly a penalty and not a tax, then we can go forward, because if it is a tax, then the Anti-Injunction Act kicks in, and we don't have jurisdiction at this time.

But on page 15, the Supreme Court called it a penalty. And they, in that opinion, apparently to the ignorance of at least one of our Supreme Court Justices, the Supreme Court called it a penalty at page 15, because they quoted the Congress calling it a penalty in ObamaCare, and they said, clearly, it is a penalty. We have got jurisdiction, and we will go ahead and determine the rest of the case.

Then you go over about 40 pages, and then they determine, okay, now that we are hearing this because it is a penalty and not a tax, we determine it is a tax and therefore it is constitutional.

We know under the rules of this House that Supreme Court judges would not do anything inappropriate, but, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that opinion was indecent. It was a travesty. It was hypocritical, that decision was. How you can call it a penalty at page 15 and then, with a straight face, 40 pages later, say now it is a tax so it is constitutional, and then sit as they were today and have a Justice say, kind of snidely: Well, we didn't call it a penalty. I mean it was called a tax. It depends on where you look in the majority opinion as to whether it is a penalty or a tax, but Congress clearly called it a penalty.

I am very concerned. We had someone who was in a position with the executive branch when ObamaCare was put together and pushed here in Congress, and in her position with the executive branch, at that time, she had to either be incompetent and failed to

give the executive branch any advice on its most important bill that they took up or there was a lie told that no advice was ever given about this bill. Either way, that Justice should not have been allowed to hear this case as a member of the Supreme Court because, clearly—and I think the questions that were apparently asked by her today show—she was an advocate, is an advocate now and most likely was an advocate then in this administration.

So this country is in trouble.

I yield to my dear friend from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) for any comments she might have.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Well, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for allowing me to participate in this discussion, because this really is the issue of our day.

People on a political level are talking about ObamaCare and how ObamaCare is destroying our economy. It is hurting job prospects, and it is not allowing us to move into the robust growth we would be in without ObamaCare. But it is even more fundamental; and I think the gentleman from Texas, as a judge and as a lawyer, has been laying out, really, his broken heart over what he observed today at the Supreme Court.

I share that same level of heartbrokenness because this really is the whole game. This is the whole ball of wax. Because if you look at what America was founded upon and why we were founded in the first place, it was so that we could be a free land made up of free people who are allowed to exercise our own moral conscience—and not just in the realm of belief, freedom of belief, but also freedom of speech and freedom of expression. But even one step further, it is the exercise of our religious liberties.

There was a case that the gentleman from Texas would remember. It was during the Vietnam war era. It was called *Tinker v. Des Moines*, and the very famous holding out of that Supreme Court decision was this: students did not have to check their constitutional rights at the schoolhouse door. Today, the Supreme Court is taking up this question: Will the American employer and will the American employee have to check their religious liberties at their church door so they can only exercise their religious faith within the confines of their religious house of worship or maybe even so far as in their home, but certainly, according to the Obama administration, not in the workplace?

Think about it for a moment. The author of the Constitution of the United States, James Madison, and the other Founders specifically wrote the Constitution and, in particular, the First Amendment to the Constitution to guarantee that it wasn't just behind closed doors in our church or behind

the confines of our home that we would be entitled to religious liberty of freedom of belief and freedom of expression and walking out our faith, because isn't that what most churches and synagogues and mosques advocate during the time of worship, that we live our faith, that we don't have a dead faith but an alive faith that we practice?

This is really the key, and this is the issue. We are here in the most lively place on the planet for speech—the House of Representatives. Representative GOHMERT is standing in the well. There is no other piece of real estate on this Earth that allows for greater freedom of speech and expression than right here. In fact, we are protected by law. We can't be arrested while we are coming here to cast a vote. We can't be dragged off to a court because of the speech that we enjoy here on this House floor.

Just merely steps from here, if you pass through Statuary Hall and into the rotunda—Representative GOHMERT has given probably more tours of this building than any other Members of Congress, and I know when he gives that tour he points to one of the seminal paintings that hangs in the rotunda. That painting is called the “Embarkation of the Pilgrims,” and it shows our ancestors, the Pilgrims, as they bowed on their knees before a holy God, the Bible in front of them on their lap turned to the New Testament. And on the sail of the ship it says, “God with us,” hanging in the rotunda just in yonder Hall.

The Pilgrims left their surroundings not because they didn't like England and not because they didn't like Holland. They came to the United States because their religious liberties were being infringed upon. They weren't allowed to believe and act on their belief in such a way where they truly felt free.

□ 1530

So they came to the United States of America. That was in 1620 when the Pilgrims first came, and it wasn't until later in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was passed, and then later in 1789, I believe, or '87 when the Constitution of the United States was passed, but the author of the Constitution, James Madison, wrote, and I just the week before last saw the First Amendment to the Constitution. It was written in James Madison's hand. I bent over and read in that beautiful calligraphy script, and James Madison scratched out the original words that he was going to put in the First Amendment. It was full toleration of religious expression, meaning we tolerate your belief. Instead, what he wrote in was “free exercise.”

So that not only was our government saying that it is nonnegotiable, there is no negotiating away these rights. These were fundamental rights every

American enjoyed just because we are Americans—freedom of religious belief and freedom of free exercise, expression of those beliefs.

That is what is on trial today before the Supreme Court. It should have never gotten there because our liberties shouldn't be up for sale. That is part of the problem. We believe there should be equal treatment under the law for every American—Black, White, whether or not you are male, female, poor, rich—everybody should be treated equally under the law. Is that true under ObamaCare? According to the Becket Fund, they say over 100 million Americans who are politically connected to this administration are exempted or waived from some of the requirements under the Affordable Care Act. But Americans who have religious objections to providing drugs or devices that would take the life of innocent Americans, they are being denied the exercise of their religious liberties.

So just think of that: over 100 million people, whether they belong to a union or maybe they work for a university, but somehow they are politically connected to this President and this administration, they are waived, but the people who aren't politically connected, they have a different kind of justice that they have to come under. That is wrong, and that denies equal treatment under the law.

Mr. GOHMERT. I would say to the gentlelady, I was not aware of the line that was scratched out by James Madison, but obviously if he scratched out “tolerate” and added in “free exercise,” it was intended to be more than just tolerant. This was a bedrock principle. I know the gentlelady, I doubt there is anybody else in all of Congress or even the Senate that has a master's in tax law, as the gentlelady from Minnesota does, but I know we have both heard during our professional lives that the power to tax is the power to destroy.

I don't have the exact words, and I haven't seen the transcript or heard any replay since I was at the Supreme Court building this morning, but to hear a Supreme Court Justice of this country say to the litigants' attorney, in essence:

Why don't you just pay the tax, the penalty, and then you can have your religious beliefs?

Staggering.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Could we talk about that?

Mr. GOHMERT. I yield to the gentlelady. I doubt you were aware that in essence that question was asked:

Why don't you just pay that tax?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Let's talk about the reality as an employer and an employee of how egregious this tax is.

The employers that were in front of the Supreme Court today, and there were two employers before the Supreme Court today, they could pay the

tax. They could do that, and then enjoy their religious liberty. This is what the tax is: it is over \$36,000 per employee per year. So we are talking about a company that has 16,000 employees. They offer a very generous health care package. The employer wants to provide health insurance for their employees. In fact, they already offer 16 different contraceptives. They just don't believe, because it violates their moral belief, that they should supply four different contraceptives because it takes the life of an innocent human being. So they fully pay for health insurance, but if this employer decided they didn't want to offer health insurance, then they would pay the government a \$2,000 fine per person. So they can either choose to offer health insurance and pay over \$36,000 a year, which would effectively shut the company down. They would have to go out of business.

Mr. GOHMERT. And apparently it is phenomenal insurance. The employees love it.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Yes, it is very, very high, wonderful insurance that they already offer. Or they offer no insurance and they pay the government a \$2,000 fine, and the employees don't get any health care, by the way. Or they can choose to violate their moral conscience. Or they can just close their doors and go out of business. This is freedom under the Obama administration? This is freedom for the American people?

I think the gentleman would agree that the supreme irony of all of this is that we have a President today who under article II is given executive power, and he has made a decision apparently that he is going also to arrogate to himself the power that is given to Congress under article I, which is to make the laws, because this President is currently making his own law, even as we speak every day. But it is also arrogating to himself the powers of article III of the judicial system when he and our Attorney General said they don't agree that the Defense of Marriage Act is a constitutional law, so they are not going to uphold it, in violation of article II, which says the President must faithfully execute the laws of the land.

So we have a President who, ironically, is taking power that wasn't granted to him, and by this law today he is taking away fundamental guaranteed rights from the American people. The President is giving himself power unconstitutionally, but he is taking away from the American people power that belongs to them.

That to me is a part of gangster government. We talked about gangster government early on when the President issued 3,400 pink slips to automobile dealerships all across America. He shut them down virtually overnight because he said so. Now we have a President who is giving a pink slip to

anybody who wants to exercise their religious liberty rights.

We are here to say, Mr. Speaker, to the President of the United States—I hope he is listening—that our First Amendment rights, our Second Amendment rights, all of our rights are non-negotiable because they are guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. That is why this matters, and that is why the gentleman from Texas is dead-on today to talk about this issue because this is it. If we lose political speech and expression and religious liberty, it is game over for the American people. It is game over.

Mr. GOHMERT. I would like to ask the gentlelady a question, knowing our American history as well as you do: Can you imagine if King George had sent a decree that said pay a \$2,000 penalty or tax and then you can observe your religious beliefs, what would the gentlelady think would be the response of Patrick Henry, John Adams, James Madison, Thomas Payne, and all of those people? Thomas Payne was not a very religious man, but he was big on rights.

Mrs. BACHMANN. We know exactly what they would say. Patrick Henry said:

Give me liberty or give me death.

They were willing to put their lives, their honor, their sacred fortune on the line to fight for exactly what the Obama administration has been eager to deny to the American people, which is political speech and expression, and also religious liberty. We know that is what they would do.

They would do far more than dump some boxes of tea into Boston Harbor in one of the first tea parties there is. If they thought the Tea Party was strong now, you ain't seen nothing yet, because we are going to see the American people rise up in force. They are unwilling to put duct tape willingly over their mouths. They are unwilling to put duct tape over their moral conscience. They are unwilling to put duct tape over their hearts, to have a heart for God.

People will stand for freedom. It is written in our DNA as Americans. It is what we do for a living. We get up in the morning and we fight for liberty. It is who we are. The Obama administration can pass an unconstitutional bill, which ObamaCare is, but the American people won't stand for it. That is why we are here today in this Chamber, where we still retain free speech, to hopefully continue to give free speech and religious liberty to every American so they don't have to check their religious liberty at the doors of their church or their synagogue or their home.

Mr. GOHMERT. If it came down to this, the Federal Government, of course using the IRS under ObamaCare to enforce the law, the Federal Government comes and says, the gentlelady

from Minnesota must either pay a \$2,000 fine, penalty, tax, whatever they may wish to call it today, or you cannot observe your religious beliefs, what would the gentlelady's reaction be?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Fundamentally what they are doing in this legislation, and apparently the question that the Supreme Court Justice asked today, that is what the Justice was saying. That is that you pay a fine of over \$36,000 a year per employee, and then that is the price for exercising your religious liberty. So you can have religious liberty, but it is at a very steep price. Since when did it become for sale? That is the issue. That is what is unconstitutional about this bill. No one has to pay for speech. Are we going to start charging the printing presses? What about local TV? What about bloggers and what about all of the mainstream media, usually called "Team Obama." What if they have to start paying for the privilege of being able to publish? Then where would they be in their defense of the administration?

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, it is going to be interesting, and this is a bit of a tangent, but because of what the gentlelady has pointed out, this President has indicated he is going to turn over control of the Internet away from where it is now to an international confab that has been chomping at the bit to have a chance to control the Internet. They have been hoping desperately that some day they would have something that everybody wanted to use so they could begin taxing it, charging fees to use the Internet. And once they could do that, then the international entity, like the U.N., wouldn't have to go begging to the different countries that make up its membership. They could require taxes and penalties to be paid in order to publish on the Internet, in order to send an email on the Internet. You could rack up taxes, and then they will be a permanent entity from now on once we give control of the Internet over to an international group that will have authority to tax those who want to publish online.

So we are talking about the disaster that ObamaCare is, but that is where it is going.

Mrs. BACHMANN. The gentleman is exactly right because if you have an international body, whether it is the U.N. or some other international body—we know that the largest bloc in the U.N. is the OIC, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. And the number one agenda item of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation is to criminalize speech, any speech that they consider as an insult to their prophet.

So we would see across the world again a silencing of freedom of speech and expression dictated in all likelihood by this large bloc at the U.N., which takes us back to religious liberty here in the United States.

As the gentleman asked in his original question, what about this idea of the government being able to tax us for religious speech? I believe that if we lose this case, this will set the precedent that the government will then be able to dictate and decide any practice that touches our religious belief.

So, for instance, if you are in a doctor's office or if you are in a counselor's office or a therapist's office, the government could conceivably then dictate to the therapist what the therapist can say or not say in that office; or likewise, a doctor, what they can say or not say.

□ 1545

Let's remember, again, what this is. This isn't a company imposing its beliefs on employees because employees are free to buy whatever they want to buy in health care.

This is the government. This is government censorship. This is our government forcing government's politically correct beliefs and religious ideas down the throats of every American—every American company, every American employer, every American employee.

Do we see where this is leading? It is here right now. It is government-enforced coerced speech. I want to say that again. This is government-enforced coerced speech—speech and religious practice.

Now, the Federal Government is going to have the power to force you and me and everyone listening to us today, the government gets to choose, the government gets to decide what our speech is, what our religious expression is. That is not America.

You see, that is it. That is the entire game right there. That is why I say it is game over if we lose on this issue. That is how central and important the issue is that the gentleman from Texas is bringing up today.

Mr. GOHMERT. I just can't avoid thinking in these terms the conclusion when, ultimately, you follow the logic of at least one of the Supreme Court justices.

In essence, what is being implied by the question is if you want to avoid paying to kill a child in the womb, then just pay the tax, and we will allow you to observe your conscience, your firmly held religious beliefs.

It is staggering that anybody, any justice on the United States Supreme Court, would have rationalized to the point that—could ever even dream of saying: just pay the fine penalty tax, and then you don't have to pay for killing children in utero.

Mrs. BACHMANN. The gentleman is absolutely correct because in that statement lies the premise. The premise that the justice is embracing is that you don't have a guaranteed right to religious expression and to religious thought; you don't have that

right. That is our right. We will sell it. The only question at this point is how much and can you afford it.

Now, for people who are poor people, will the government be subsidizing them so that they can buy their indulgence from the government?

Is that what it will be? We have to buy indulgences from the government now?

Mr. GOHMERT. It is protection.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Protection money.

Mr. GOHMERT. From the government.

Mrs. BACHMANN. That is why I call it a gangster government. It is a gangster government when you have to buy protection from your own government. In this instance, it is over \$36,000 per year, per employee.

In fact, the fine is in excess of what the wage is for some of the employees that are being provided full generous health insurance.

Mr. GOHMERT. The gentelady brought up something that I don't recall being mentioned during the entire argument. Hobby Lobby, because of their Christian beliefs, not only wants to provide compensation, they want to provide an excellent health care policy.

What I don't believe was brought up in the entire oral argument was that the employees can buy supplemental insurance to cover those four drugs that will kill children in utero, and nothing is denying them that opportunity.

Mrs. BACHMANN. And can I tell you at what price?

Mr. GOHMERT. Certainly.

Mrs. BACHMANN. This is how expensive it is. This doesn't deny any employee to go out and purchase a drug that would kill their child in the womb.

You can purchase it at one retailer for \$4 a month and another retailer—all of these retailers are widely available across the United States—for \$9 a month, so this is well within the grasp of any employee.

The one employer from Oklahoma that you mentioned pays a starting wage of over \$14 an hour. There are a lot of Americans listening right now who would love to have a job at \$14 an hour—in fact, I think it is \$14.61 per hour, I think that is their starting wage—plus very generous health insurance benefits.

So why in the world would the Obama administration deny to 16,000 employees scattered across the United States potentially their job, their livelihood? It is either you agree with our administration's view of religion and morality or you forfeit your company.

This is a pretty big deal. This is about as big as it gets. This to me shows a stunning arrogance of power by the Obama administration, that they would force people to give up and yield their religious liberty and freedom of expression rights or pay for that right.

Mr. GOHMERT. One of the justices—and, again, since we don't have cameras in the courtroom yet, I will be fighting for that in the future, I could only listen to the audio—but one of the justices, again, tried to belittle Paul Clement's comment that they have a choice.

The gentelady has pointed out accurately that you can pay \$2,000 or \$36,500; but he was indicating that, when you add up, with all the employees they have, the total cost, they either pay \$475 million, or they can drop the insurance, leave the employees in a real dilemma to have to go buy ObamaCare insurance that, other than those four contraceptives that bring about abortion, they provide them far better insurance than what ObamaCare requires.

So when he said it is either \$475 million or \$26 million, she was insisting that you could just pay the \$2,000 fine and was virtually in unbelief that it actually amounted to \$26 million when you add up all the people they would have to pay for.

So that was his position before the Supreme Court: to follow our religious beliefs, we either pay \$475 million or we pay \$26 million.

Mrs. BACHMANN. In fines, in fines to the government, and nobody gives anything. In fact, you give up the health insurance you have today. That is why people are so upset, and rightly so, across the country because more people have lost health insurance, we are told, than have gained health insurance under ObamaCare.

Again, all across my district—I am sure you have the same stories, it breaks your heart—people whose deductibles quadrupled, people whose premiums quadrupled if they still have insurance. This is real.

Then you have got the spectre, as the Becket Fund said, of over 100 million Americans who are politically well connected enough to this administration under what I call gangster government that they were able to be waived out of the ObamaCare requirements.

Does that mean that they get to exercise their religious liberties, but if you are a business that has, what, Christian-held beliefs, then you are going to lose those beliefs?

This is insanity. We have to have freedom in this country, and we have to have equal application of justice under the law. That is who we are. It is a good thing. It is what builds us up. That is worth fighting for.

Mr. GOHMERT. That is who we have been. The question now before the Supreme Court is: Is that who we will continue to be?

We know that at least one justice of the Supreme Court seems to think that it is okay for the government to tax you \$2,000. Just pay the tax, and then you can observe your religious beliefs, even though it keeps you from providing the great health care that you have been providing.

I will tell you that this is a seminal point in our history. ObamaCare, that decision broke my heart because I thought so much of Chief Justice John Roberts. Then when you read the decision, the decision is so poorly written, so pitifully reasoned, so hypocritical within the decision itself.

Yes, it is a penalty, so we have got jurisdiction, and now that we have got jurisdiction, it is a tax, so it is constitutional. I mean, it is totally at odds with itself.

Now, we are to this place. Is a majority of the Supreme Court going to say: Pilgrims, Roger Williams, all of you that brought us to the place where the freest, most successful country in the history of the world, those freedoms that you saw, that you prayed for, they are going away because now, since the government has the power to tax, it will have the power to destroy your religions?

As the gentlelady points out, why stop with \$2,000? Once the Supreme Court says this government has the power to tax you to observe your religious beliefs, why not \$10,000, why not \$20,000, why not \$50,000?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Well, remember that the tax to express your religious beliefs is \$36,500 per employee. The tax is \$2,000 per employee if you decide you are not going to purchase health insurance, so it is extremely expensive.

I think the gentleman is raising an excellent point because to where do the people of this country repair? If we have a President who many believe is no longer following the Constitution of the United States under article II with the limitations of power or if we look at the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court justices themselves are not rendering opinions that are within the Constitution of the United States, what do the people do?

The Constitution provides for impeachment for justices. There is impeachment provided for the President of the United States. That is an option, but those are options of last resort.

I think what we are trying to do is appeal to the justices, to think of the people, think of the oath they took to the Constitution. Don't consider that, every time you meet in the Supreme Court, that you are in a new open constitutional convention.

It isn't a constitutional convention where the justices have a free pen and a phone, so to speak, and can rewrite the Constitution.

We are appealing to the justices to limit themselves under the Constitution and observe that the First Amendment has been ironclad since James Madison wrote it.

We are here on this floor today saying we stand with James Madison, we stand with the people of this country, and we are not, for one moment, going to allow anyone to attack any American's religious liberties and freedoms.

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, chains can be figuratively applied—figuratively applied when someone taxes because a tax hung around the neck is a burden. It is a chain. It is an albatross. It can be devastating, as some people have found out.

□ 1600

Mr. GOHMERT. Going back to this morning, as I mentioned, I am a member admitted to practice before the Supreme Court. It is a great honor, back when I was a real lawyer. There is seating in front of the bar for the members of the Supreme Court Bar, so those were full. So there is an overflow room where we listened to the audio but obviously don't get to see what is going on.

I was just listening to the argument, the oral argument audibly, without the benefit of being able to see which Justice asked which question. I don't know that I will be able to forget the premise of an educated Supreme Court Justice, almost rhetorically, asking: Why don't you just pay the \$2,000? She didn't say this, but pay the \$2,000 so you can practice your firmly held religious beliefs. That is what her question amounted to.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Did she say the \$2,000 or \$36,500?

Mr. GOHMERT. She pointed out the \$2,000.

Mrs. BACHMANN. What she was saying is: Don't provide health insurance for your employees. Just push your employees out in the cold. They can sit on the curb. They won't have employer-sponsored insurance—which, by the way, has zero tax consequence to the employee. They have no tax consequences.

Under ObamaCare, every American is forced to buy a product whether they want it or not, even if they can't necessarily afford it. So then people now under ObamaCare have to go buy a product that the government dictates to them they have to buy at a price that the government dictates that they have to pay. So either they get health insurance with no tax consequence or they have to buy their health insurance with after-tax income, money that they have already paid taxes on. Now they are going to get double-hurt under ObamaCare.

So, what the President wins, the American people lose. That is our choice. The President wins; the American people lose—financially, freedom, most importantly in this case, religious liberty, and that is not acceptable under our constitutional guarantee of liberty.

I don't care who it is, because the Magna Carta taught King John at Runnymede that no man is above the law, especially the King, because that is who you have to worry about. It is no different in the United States of America. No man is to be above the law, in-

cluding the President of the United States. He can't just change a law with the stroke of a pen or with a telephone call. He's not allowed to under our system of justice, but he also is not within his power to deny anyone their religious liberty rights.

Mr. GOHMERT. The gentlewoman makes a great point. But unfortunately or fortunately, depending on your point of view, the Founders created so much in the way of checks and balances to prevent the government from abusing the power, as the gentlewoman points out.

If the Congress will not protect its own powers, as we have not, the Senate has been very protective of the President's executive orders that usurped our power. They have gladly handed over power.

I was shocked to hear in this very room, as the President spoke from this podium, a standing ovation from most of the people on this side of the aisle when the President, in effect, said: If you don't change the law, I will. And they stand and applaud a President who says, in effect: I am going to usurp even more of the legislative power given to Congress under article I than I have already taken.

It is staggering to hear that applauded. It is also staggering to me to see the Senate has a body, in effect, protecting the President's usurpation of our power. That is one check, one balance.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I was here in the Chamber with the gentleman. I saw and observed exactly what you said, that our colleagues across the aisle stood up and applauded. That is a constitutional crisis. As we are having this discussion today, we are in the midst of a constitutional crisis with a President who is aggregating to himself powers that are not constitutionally his. He is rendering also, taking away and denying constitutional liberties to the American people in terms of freedom of speech, expression, and religious liberty.

It is interesting, too, with all due respect to our colleagues across the aisle, they are applauding becoming dinosaurs when the President of the United States decides that he will also be Congress and he will also write the laws.

Thank you very much. I don't need your help. I am going to do what I want to do.

Why in the world would any Member of this body who has an election certificate applaud that now they get to become a dinosaur? Now they are no longer relevant. We might as well dispense with the cost of elections altogether and go home and revert to what King George III wanted in the first place, which is a total and complete and absolute government with one person calling all the shots. That isn't our form of government.

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, I was shocked that one of the Justices asked the

question, basically: How can or does a corporation exercise religious freedom?

You know, this Justice knows that the Justice Department has indicted corporations charging criminal intent, intent to violate the law, and yet she cannot figure out how a corporation could have intent to violate the law but could not have intent to have religiously held beliefs. That was a bit staggering to me to hear that question: How can a corporation exercise religious beliefs?

Mrs. BACHMANN. She also fails to understand that the Federal Government again is practicing censorship and that the Federal Government is the one forcing its vision of morality and religious belief on every American. Again, that is government-enforced coercive speech and morality and religious expression. That is also contained in that remarkable premise of the Supreme Court Justice.

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, it is remarkable. Again, the Justice, if I heard her correctly, just advocated, well, just drop the insurance. Drop the insurance. This company is providing great insurance, as the gentlewoman pointed out, and her point was not made because time is so limited. I know Paul Clement knows, but that is such a huge benefit to the employee.

There was discussion by the Supreme Court about benefits to the employee. Well, gee, you can raise their salaries and make up the difference, when actually you may have to raise that salary an extra third in order to cover the cost that is pretax to the employee. So the employee is getting hammered when they just, as this Justice appeared to callously advocate, just drop the insurance, pay the \$2,000 tax penalty. Congress said "penalty"; they said "penalty" and "tax," take your pick. Either way, they were advocating harming the employee.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Sixteen thousand employees of one company.

Mr. GOHMERT. Harming 16,000 employees as a way to deal with an unconstitutional act.

Mrs. BACHMANN. By the way, isn't it true, if the gentleman recalls, that while this Supreme Court Justice was just advocating, in a flippant way, drop health insurance coverage for over 16,000 employees, doesn't that same Supreme Court Justice enjoy Federal employee health insurance? And isn't that same Supreme Court Justice protected from not going into ObamaCare?

It seems to me that our President is not in ObamaCare nor are the Supreme Court Justices in ObamaCare. It seems to me that there is a shield of protection for them. It is good enough for the American people to suffer under ObamaCare, but I don't believe our President or the Supreme Court Justices have to be in ObamaCare.

Mr. GOHMERT. That is my recollection. And some of us were pushing for

and asking our leadership why don't we do an amendment that will make sure the Supreme Court has to be under ObamaCare. I really think that would have been the more appropriate thing to do. In fact, I still think it is the appropriate thing to do.

It is hard to know, since Congress was not given a chance to see what the Supreme Court was doing and who was asking what questions, but it sure seems like since they feel so strongly about ObamaCare, that they really should have the chance to experience it firsthand and just find out how wonderful it is.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I would like to share my experience with it, because as Members of Congress we were forced to go into ObamaCare. The only exchange we were allowed to go in was the one here in Washington, D.C. It is called a small business link. The only small business is Congress, the government. We are the ones put in.

Just for the record, my own individual premium increased for the same number of people in our family that we would have to cover. Our premium was scheduled to increase times four. So we would have had to increase our premium by four times, and our deductible was quadrupled. That also went up four times. So there was no Affordable Care Act in our family. It is an extremely unaffordable health insurance act.

I would be curious to know if the Supreme Court Justices would voluntarily put themselves in ObamaCare so they, too, could know the pleasure of what it is to pay four times more for the same health insurance than my family paid last year.

Mr. GOHMERT. One of the Justices appeared to point out, apparently, that an agency is the one that established so many of these things. So the question arises, since an agency can say your insurance policy must provide this medicine, this medicine, not this medicine, this medicine, have we given unelected bureaucrats the power to determine what your religious beliefs firmly held include? Because under ObamaCare, an agency says: Your religious rights must yield to our unelected bureaucratic decision that this medication must be included; therefore, your First Amendment rights yield to our unelected bureaucratic agency rights to decide what your religious rights have to include and what they don't.

Mrs. BACHMANN. That is exactly right. That is government-enforced coercion on religious belief. It varies at caprice and whim. That is one thing under the rule of law that has been a pillar of American exceptionalism, the fact that under the rule of law there is certainty for the American people. If you look at the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, you knew with certainty when you woke up tomorrow morning that your religious

liberties were intact. Now, apparently, today, the gentleman was in the Chamber and heard that, according to at least one Supreme Court Justice, in her opinion, they aren't so certain anymore.

It is not only the election of the Court, but at the election of the unnamed bureaucrat who decides today we will have these killer drugs that we mandate. Tomorrow what drugs will they take off the list? Will I not get lifesaving drugs that I would need to get? Will I not get lifesaving treatments that I thought I was going to get? Will the bureaucrats decide that only politically connected best friends of the administration get certain surgical procedures or get to see the best doctors? We don't know, because apparently the Supreme Court has decided that the bureaucracy must be fully imbued with all power.

That means again that the President and his administration wins their religious liberty and the right to force their religious views down the throats of the American people. While the President wins, the American people lose, and they lose under the protections of the Constitution. It is unlike anything we have ever seen before in the history of the United States of America. It is a seminal day in Washington, D.C., and it is why the American people better wake up really quickly and watch what is happening, because we are living in a country we no longer recognize. It is being rewritten by unelected bureaucrats. It is being rewritten by Supreme Court Justices who apparently think that the amendments in the Constitution are optional rather than mandatory.

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, God bless Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas. I didn't hear Justice Thomas ask questions. He normally doesn't. It is extraordinary to spend time with Justice Thomas. You find out rather quickly just how really brilliant he is.

□ 1615

He didn't need affirmative action to get him into Yale Law School—or Harvard, as he was accepted to, but at the time thought was too conservative.

Justice Scalia took on the Government's position. The Government's attorney stood up and basically said if a corporation is for profit, no matter how religiously convicted the holders of that are, they have no right to religious beliefs. Scalia took him on and said there has never been a case.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1459, ENSURING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE CREATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (during the Special Order of Mr. GOHMERT), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-385) on the resolution (H. Res. 524) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1459) to ensure that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 applies to the declaration of national monuments, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE PRICE IS WRONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to address the House tonight on what is called the Defense Logistics Agency, something probably not many people have heard about. The DLA is like a big hardware store in the Department of Defense.

About 30 years ago, we heard horrific stories about wasteful spending of taxpayers' dollars being spent: \$436 on a hammer, \$7,600 on coffee makers, and \$640 for toilet seats. We all thought, Well, it has been taken care of. Well, not so fast.

I am showing you right now what is a plumbing elbow. At the local hardware store, this elbow sells for \$1.41. But the taxpayers of this country spent \$80 to a defense contractor that charged us that much money for this elbow.

How about a box of washers? At the local hardware store, we as individuals would pay something like \$1.22 for this box of washers. What did the taxpayers of this country pay a defense contractor for a box of washers? How about \$196.50?

So that issue that was around some 30 years ago is still with us today. It is time for the House of Representatives and for the Armed Services Committee to hold a hearing on why it is that the Defense Logistics Agency, our hardware store that is responsible for putting together good pricing on spare parts, is being overturned and overlooked by defense contractors and persons within the Department of Defense who would rather go outside and pay triple, quadruple, 100 percent more, or 200 percent more.

We are going to play a game tonight on C-SPAN called "The Price Is

Wrong," and see what we are talking about here. And if for 1 minute you think that we are talking about small potatoes, we are not talking about small potatoes. We are talking about a lot of money.

The Defense Department has so many excess spare parts, they have disposed of—thrown away—\$15 billion in excess parts and materials in just the last 3 years. There is about \$96 billion worth of spare parts inventory right now in the Defense hardware agency coffers.

So why would we ever go outside the internal hardware store to buy parts?

Well, some argue that it is faster or it is cheaper to go outside. Audits have revealed instances when the military had enough of certain parts that they would last 100 years—and they are still going outside of the Defense Logistics Agency. That is the equivalent of having spare parts that include horseshoes for a cavalry. If we were looking back in time today, that is 100 years of spare parts. The likelihood of these parts being used completely over 100 years is not so likely.

You might say, Well, maybe it is difficult for the Defense Department to figure out where their spare parts are and how much they are and how much they cost. Well, that is not correct. In fact, the Department of Defense has the resources and the databases to check the accuracy of these prices. The auditor found these overcharges by using the Department of Defense's own database. So this is no more than a click on a mouse to find out, one, whether the part is in stock and, two, how much it costs.

Well, let's start this game. The first game we are going to play is called "Flip Flop." It is a game where the numbers are scrambled.

I am going to start with the gate assembly in this picture here. This is what it looks like. It is a little bit larger than a quarter. Ramp gate roller assembly. It is used for the Chinook helicopters.

You can buy this at a local hardware store for about \$3.50, but because this is the military and we want the very best quality, the DLA sells this part for \$7.71.

So the question is, What did the Army pay for this gate assembly? Did they pay \$7.71 cents? No, they didn't pay that.

Did they pay \$77.01?

No, they didn't pay that either.

Did they pay \$771 for this little gate assembly part?

No.

For this ramp gate roller assembly they paid \$1,678.61.

That is obscene, and that shouldn't be happening in the Department of Defense or anywhere in the Federal Government. The taxpayers should not be ripped off in that manner.

In "The Price Is Wrong," taxpayers always lose because the Defense De-

partment consistently pays too much, yet defense contractors consistently win.

So we are going to play the next game, which is "That's Too Much." See what happens again when the military thinks that they can get something faster and cheaper by not going to the Defense Logistics Agency, our in-house hardware store.

This is a bearing sleeve. Let's see what we paid for this. Did we pay \$6? That is what it would cost at our local defense hardware store. No, we didn't pay \$6.

Was \$86 too much to spend for that bearing sleeve?

No, \$86 wasn't too much.

How about \$286? Was that too much to pay?

No, that wasn't too much to pay either.

We paid \$2,286 for a bearing sleeve that cost \$6 at the Defense Department's Defense Logistics Agency.

So that is what we are dealing with here—a rip-off of the taxpayers.

The truth of the matter is that the Defense Department didn't just buy one of these bearing sleeves that we just bought one of here this evening. They bought 573 of these bearing sleeves—not for \$6, not for \$86, but for \$2,286. And let me do the math for you. That is \$1.3 million in overpayments for just these 573 bearing sleeves.

Next, we are going to talk about a spur gear for the Chinook helicopter. This is what it looks like. It is this tiny little thing smaller than a quarter. This is what is used in Chinook helicopters. We have lots of them in the DLA. But, again, they didn't want to go to the DLA, our hardware store, to actually purchase this.

They would have paid \$12.51 if they had gone to the hardware store within the Department. No, they didn't want to do that.

So was \$125 too much to pay for that spur gear?

No, that wasn't too much.

In fact, they were willing to pay \$644.75 for this little rubberized spur gear. It was 34 times the fair and reasonable price.

So, again, why are we doing something like this? Why are we allowing the taxpayer dollars to be flushed down the toilet by not paying what is the normal price for these spare parts?

The last part is a flush door ring. Look at this. This is a pen next to it so you can see this is a pretty small part. It is smaller than a pen the contracting officer would have used to sign off on the price. The DLA sells this part for \$8.37.

Did we pay \$83.37 for this product?

No, we didn't pay \$83.37. That wasn't too much.

What we did pay, though, was \$284.46 for this flush ring—34 times the fair and reasonable price. For that price you could go to dinner, a movie, and rent a hotel room.

Which brings me, I guess, to our last game, "The Showcase Showdown" on "The Price Is Wrong." Much like "The Price Is Right," we have this final showcase and we are going to compare two packages and guess which one costs more.

The first showcase is two ramp gate roller assemblies. This was the very first thing that we showed you earlier. Here it is. This is the item that cost \$7.71.

So the question is, which costs more as a package, two ramp gate roller assemblies or a trip to Paris, France? It includes airfare and 4 nights in a four-star hotel for two adults. Which one do we think costs more?

Well, you have probably figured out that we in fact paid more for the ramp gate roller assembly, times two, than you would have paid for a trip to Paris France. The Army paid \$3,357.22 for these two parts, while the trip to Paris is only \$2,681.

So what are we doing here? How many more studies have to be done for us to make a serious attempt to clean up the spare parts issue in the Department of Defense?

Very recently—in fact, it just came out in February of this year—the inspector general for the Department of Defense put out this report entitled, "Air Force Lifecycle Management Center Could Not Identify Actual Costs of F-119 Engine Spare Parts Purchased From Pratt and Whitney."

Can it get any more embarrassing than that? Not only are we spending extraordinary sums of money on spare parts and not using the internal hardware agency that we have, but in an inspector general's report, the Air Force can't even figure out how much it paid for the initial spare parts.

So I would close, Mr. Speaker, by saying that we have a lot to do. The Army overpaid Boeing \$13 million recently, but the Pentagon only recovered \$2.6 million.

□ 1630

It included paying twice the fair and reasonable price for kits, overpaid \$16,000 for a structural support that should have only cost about \$1,300.

So, all right, we overpaid; they overcharged. What happened next? Well, after the IG exposed the rip-off that had occurred, what did we do? Was that defense contractor kicked out?

No, I am sorry to say that what happened was the Air Force gave this contractor a new contract to oversee the supply chain contract. That is like giving the fox a contract to guard the chicken house.

I don't like playing this game any more than I think the taxpayers do; and it is not a game, it is truly a disaster, and it is one that we, as Members of the House of Representatives, have to clean up.

So I will continue to make the public aware of these kinds of overpayments

until we fix the system. Stay tuned for the next show, "The Price Is Wrong."

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3771. An act to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5057. A letter from the Director, Joint Staff, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding a report on the construction requirements related to antiterrorism and force protection or urban training; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5058. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the semi-annual status report of the U.S. Chemical Demilitarization Program for March 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5059. A letter from the Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding recommendations to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5060. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Community Services Block Grant Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2010; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5061. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on gifts given by the United States to foreign individuals for Fiscal Year 2013, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2694(2); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5062. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's determination and certification under Section 490(b)(1)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 relating to the top five exporting and importing countries of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5063. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-300, "Classroom Animal for Educational Purposes Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5064. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5065. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Audit of the Administration of District Funds to the D.C. Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5066. A letter from the Staff Director, Sentencing Commission, transmitting report on the compliance of the federal district courts with documentation submission requirements on sentencing, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(w)(1); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5067. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0687; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-118-AD; Amendment 39-17767; AD 2014-04-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5068. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0035; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-036-AD; Amendment 39-17734; AD 2014-02-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5069. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0547; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-028-AD; Amendment 39-17758; AD 2014-03-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5070. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshift Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0381; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-16-AD; Amendment 39-17764; AD 2014-04-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5071. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Central, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0017; Airspace Docket No. 13-AAL-1] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5072. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Brevig Mission, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0078; Airspace Docket No. 12-AAL-1] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5073. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Class E Airspace; Leesburg, VA [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0085; Airspace Docket No. 14-AEA-2] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5074. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Burnet, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0594; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASW-14] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5075. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Eagle, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0777; Airspace Docket No. 12-AAL-16] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5076. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0562; Directorate Identifier 2011-CE-015-AD; Amendment 39-17740; AD 2014-03-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5077. A letter from the National Ombudsman and Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Enforcement Fairness, Small Business Administration, transmitting the National Ombudsman's Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2012; to the Committee on Small Business.

5078. A letter from the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2015, including the Performance Plan, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(f); jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4005. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-384). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 524. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1459) to ensure that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 applies to the declaration of national monuments, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 113-385). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MATHESON (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 4290. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROGERS of Michigan (for himself, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. CON-

AWAY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LANDEVIN, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 4291. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the bulk collection of call detail records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 4292. A bill to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mrs. LUMMIS):

H.R. 4293. A bill to authorize the approval of natural gas pipelines and establish deadlines and expedite permits for certain natural gas gathering lines on Federal land and Indian land; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 4294. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to exclude child care from the determination of the 5-year limit on assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4295. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to collect and maintain data on the number of sexual assaults that occur on aircraft during flights in passenger air transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SABLON:

H.R. 4296. A bill to amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 4297. A bill to authorize a land exchange involving Fort Hood, Texas, and the City of Copperas Cove, Texas, to support the city's efforts to improve arterial transportation routes in the vicinity of Fort Hood and to promote economic development; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H. Con. Res. 94. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should hold the Russian Federa-

tion accountable for being in material breach of its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H. Con. Res. 95. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding support for voluntary, incentive-based, private land conservation implemented through cooperation with local soil and water conservation districts; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS:

H. Res. 523. A resolution electing a Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MATHESON:

H.R. 4290.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. ROGERS of Michigan:

H.R. 4291.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States government including those under Title 50 and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, as amended, are carried out to support the national security interests of the United States, to support and assist the armed forces of the United States, and to support the President in the execution of the foreign policy of the United States.

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States provides, in pertinent part, that "Congress shall have power . . . to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States"; ". . . to raise and support armies . . ."; "to constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court"; and "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested in this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 4292.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this legislation is based is found in article I, section 8, clause 9; article III, section 1, clause 1; and article III, section 2, clause 2, of the Constitution, which grant Congress authority over federal courts.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 4293.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States, as enumerated in Article 4,

Section 3, Clause 2, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 4294.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4295.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 4296.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution, Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 4297.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution, which pertains to managerial authority over property.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 494: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 498: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 503: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 508: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 676: Ms. HAHN.
H.R. 710: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 713: Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 721: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 725: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 808: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLAY, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 820: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 921: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 942: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. McALLISTER.
H.R. 1024: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1091: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. CAMP.
H.R. 1125: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1180: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 1199: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 1209: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 1249: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 1250: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1252: Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 1278: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 1281: Mr. PASCARELL.
H.R. 1291: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 1313: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 1362: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1461: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 1462: Mr. HOLDING and Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 1528: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. CHU, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 1563: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 1573: Mr. JONES and Mr. PETERS of California.
H.R. 1738: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. HAHN, and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
H.R. 1761: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 1812: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 1827: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 1843: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 1851: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 2001: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 2012: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 2028: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 2041: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2315: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 2366: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. TURNER, Mr. JONES, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. HARPER, Mr. TERRY, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. MOORE, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2480: Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 2509: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 2529: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 2537: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2548: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 2619: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 2690: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 2692: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 2794: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2835: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 2839: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2955: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2996: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 2997: Mr. CHAFFETZ.
H.R. 3116: Mrs. ELLMERS and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 3135: Ms. HAHN and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 3240: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 3322: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 3367: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 3395: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 3397: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 3408: Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 3485: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 3530: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3543: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 3560: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3658: Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. GERLACH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. FARR, Mr. REED, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. KLINE, and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 3678: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DOYLE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 3698: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 3712: Mr. O'ROURKE and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3774: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 3836: Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 3852: Ms. CHU and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 3963: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KEATING, Ms. HANABUSA, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 3970: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 3978: Mr. NEAL, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 3991: Mr. MICHAUD and Mrs. LUMMIS.
H.R. 4016: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 4023: Mr. JONES and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 4068: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
H.R. 4069: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 4075: Mr. POLIS and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 4083: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 4098: Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 4105: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4111: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 4139: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 4143: Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 4144: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 4149: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4158: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. LONG.
H.R. 4160: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 4188: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 4205: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 4208: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BERA of California, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 4214: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 4216: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4221: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4227: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 4228: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 4234: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4277: Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 4278: Mr. STOCKMAN, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, and Mr. MESSER.
H.R. 4286: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.J. Res. 47: Mr. MCINTYRE and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H. Con. Res. 86: Mr. LATTA.
H. Res. 112: Mr. RIBBLE.
H. Res. 247: Mr. HIGGINS.
H. Res. 254: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. ROSS.
H. Res. 480: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H. Res. 494: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. CHU, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. BURGESS, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H. Res. 500: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.
H. Res. 519: Ms. SCHWARTZ and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

SENATE—Tuesday, March 25, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CORY A. BOOKER, a Senator from the State of New Jersey.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, as the snow falls gently to the Earth, we are reminded of the shifting seasons of our lives. As we continue to look to You for guidance, guide our lives and inspire our hearts.

Today, strengthen our Senators as they deal with unattended needs and unresolved problems. Make them eager to lift burdens, to bring deliverance to captives, and to give hope to the oppressed. May our lawmakers serve humanity in a way that glorifies Your name. Lord, keep them open to a growing faith and a maturing set of convictions.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CORY A. BOOKER, a Senator from the State of New Jersey, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BOOKER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the

Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first half, the Republicans the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2124, the Ukraine act. That will be postcloture time.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings and that the time during the recess count postcloture on the Ukraine bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Very, very soon we hope to work out an agreement to begin consideration of the bill. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled. I have spoken this morning to Senator MENENDEZ, chairman of the committee, and I spoke last night to Senator CORKER and Senator MCCAIN. I talked to Senator MCCAIN this morning, and he was going to talk to Senator CORKER. Hopefully, we will move forward very quickly on this legislation.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2149

Mr. REID. I am told S. 2149 is due for its second reading and is at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2149) to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

UKRAINE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last night the Senate took the first steps in supporting the people of Ukraine, sending a clear message to Russia. I am pleased the Senate voted overwhelmingly in a bipartisan fashion to consider this bipartisan bill that was reported to the Senate floor. The measure includes a number of provisions: a loan guarantee, sanctions, and security assistance. This certainly is a step in the right direction. It is not everything, but I certainly applaud the efforts of the Members from both sides of the aisle who have labored diligently to get us this far.

I hope the bipartisan support will continue so we can finish the bill this week and provide the people of Ukraine with the critical support they need while imposing strong sanctions against those in Russia and Ukraine who created this crisis. There is no reason why we can't pass the bill today.

According to all reports, the situation regarding Ukraine is getting worse, not better. Russian troops are seizing facilities in the Crimea. All they have to do is make a phone call. They didn't need to have all the brute force, knocking down doors and injuring people in the process. They have done this throughout Crimea. The Government of Russia looks foolish. The world community understands that. They are levying foolish retaliatory sanctions, mocking the efforts of the international community to bring about a peaceful and fair resolution to the illegal invasion and the annexation of Crimea.

Yesterday President Obama and other European leaders meeting in The Hague formed a strong, united front in denouncing Russia's unlawful actions against the people of Ukraine. Under President Obama's leadership, the United States, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom took further action by suspending Russia from the G8—as of today it is the G7—and canceling the planned summit in Sochi this summer.

I mentioned those seven countries, but over in Europe yesterday, the President was there with some 42 other nations, all of them looking with an eye toward what Russia had done that was totally contrary to international law. By excluding Russia from the G8, President Obama and our allies have sent the message loudly and clearly that bullying behavior and rhetoric will not go unchallenged. I applaud the efforts of our allies to take a stand against Russia's aggression and welcome their further commitment to hold accountable President Putin and his cronies—and they really are his cronies. If there were ever a thugocracy, this is it. This is a government that is corrupt, and they need to be held accountable for violating international law. This cannot go unnoticed and unretaliated against.

As for action here in the Senate, I look forward to stabilizing Ukraine and imposing new sanctions against Russia by passing the bill that is before us. We should do that today. One way or the other, we need to get it done as quickly as possible.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to start with a few words about the legislation the Senate is considering this week on Ukraine. It touches on the jurisdiction of many committees and is of high interest to Senators on both sides of the aisle. How the United States meets the Russian invasion of Crimea matters. It is related to the future vitality of NATO, the negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program, and our own energy policy regarding the export of natural gas.

We have Members on both sides of the aisle working closely, and there is a decent amount of common ground here, which is good. Nearly everyone agrees the Ukrainian people deserve our support. Most of us also agree we should back up that support with meaningful legislation, not just to show our support for an independent, democratic, and free Ukraine but also to show President Putin there will be costs for his actions.

So one would think it wouldn't be that difficult to get a solution here, but roadblocks keep popping up. First, there was a House-passed bill prior to the recess that would have provided loan guarantees to Ukraine. It was blocked by the majority leader. We should have passed that and sent it to the President. Now the majority leader seems determined to blow up the process too. Yesterday he actually came to the floor to effectively blame the Republicans—believe it or not—for the invasion of Crimea. I mean, who writes this stuff? It is not just completely unhelpful, it also injects hyperpartisanship into the process at a time when we should all actually be working together. At this point it is not at all certain the majority leader might not even make things worse by shutting down the amendment process. I hope that is not where we end up. This issue is way too important for that.

Look, this bill in the Senate cannot pass the House or become law in its current form. It has to be amended. Not only have many Members not yet had a chance to offer amendments in committee, but so many developments have unfolded in this crisis in the weeks since the bill was drafted, the

legislation has to be at the least modified to take those realities into account. In order for this bill to become law, the controversial IMF provision must be removed.

This simply cannot be a “take it or leave it” situation. That is just nonsensical. The people who sent us here to represent them deserve better. We should give them that. That means allowing a sensible amendment process, and it means dropping the kinds of wild partisan accusations we have seen—attacks that will only make it that much harder to get an effective bipartisan solution.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half.

The Senator from Illinois.

UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I listened carefully to the comments of the minority leader, Senator McCONNELL, and he is asking for bipartisanship and quick action on the Ukrainian matter before the Senate today. I agree with him completely.

In fact, it was about 10 days ago when Senator JOHN MCCAIN, on the other side of the aisle, joined with me and six of our colleagues, and we took a late-night flight on a Thursday evening, flew all night long to go to Kiev, Ukraine. We spent the whole day on Friday meeting with government leaders. We had one night in a hotel room and then the next day, Saturday, a whole day of meeting with their leaders as well. Late that night we caught a plane back to Washington, arriving at 5 in the morning.

It was a whirlwind trip but an important one because it came just hours before the Russians staged this phony referendum in Crimea—a referendum that had been condemned by the United Nations Security Council, with the exception of Russia's vote. They voted against the condemnation, which was to be expected. China abstained.

So the question before us is, What can and should the Senate do, and when should it do it? Well, we have a measure before us that passed out of the Senate Foreign Relations Com-

mittee. I believe the vote was 14 to 3. I may be mistaken by a vote or two there, but it was a strong bipartisan majority. Senator MENENDEZ then brought it to the floor.

When it came to the floor before our trip to Ukraine, Senator REID offered to bring it to the floor and pass it and do this on a bipartisan basis quickly—just what the Senate minority leader is now asking for—but there was an objection. The objection came from the Senate minority leader's side of the aisle. A Republican Senator objected to moving this bipartisan measure forward quickly. So Senator REID set up the vote that happened yesterday when 78 Members voted in the affirmative to move to this measure. That is a good thing. I hope we can bring it up this week, and if the other side or any Senator has a proposal for an amendment, I hope they won't keep it to themselves and conceal it but bring it forward. Let's talk about it and see if we can amend this measure, change this measure in a constructive fashion, without introducing a lot of amendments which might bog us down in long-term debate.

The Ukrainians are waiting to hear from the United States. What they want to hear from us is very simple. Are we on their side? Will we stand with them as they resist Russian aggression and the possibility of Russia moving from Crimea into Ukraine proper. This is a legitimate concern in Ukraine.

We met with the governor of Donetsk in the eastern reaches of Ukraine, where there are more Russian-speaking people and perhaps more Russian loyalty than perhaps in other parts of the country, and he is concerned about provocateurs coming in from Russia stirring up the local people in demonstrations. Several people have been killed in the process. They want to see things stabilized and quieted. In order to do that, I think the United States and freedom-loving nations around the world need to stand with Ukraine. This is the purpose of our resolution: to sanction Russia for its aggression in Crimea, to warn them off from any further aggression into Eastern and Southern Ukraine, to provide some basic assistance to Ukraine, and to set up a process where this new government in Ukraine can borrow—underline “borrow”—money under conditions from the International Monetary Fund to rebuild their economy. It is an economy on the ropes.

The previous leader Yanukovych was loyal to Moscow. People came to the streets and said they felt the government was insensitive to their own feeling that there also should be an attachment to the West and that Ukraine could in fact at least look to the West in terms of its economic future. Yanukovych resisted—demonstrations on the street, hundreds of thousands of

people in the Maidan and Kiev, Ukraine, and 103 of those demonstrators gunned down, shot and killed in the streets, by snipers firing from government buildings.

There is a high state of emotion in the Ukraine today, as Yanukovych fled the country and the parliament took control. The new prime minister is a man who, at the age of 39, has an awesome responsibility. He carries the burden of his nation on his shoulders. He came to the United States asking for our help. President Obama met with him. He met with Members of the Senate, and I thought that conversation was positive—moving us forward. Now it is up to the Senate this week to move on this measure. Let's not bog down in partisan debates. Let's not get off on tangents.

One of the issues I think will be brought up in the course of this week is the question of energy, and it is an important question because Putin has to be viewed for what he is today. He is the leader of Russia, and he is trying to save and sustain a failing Soviet franchise. He said: The most disappointing event of the 20th century was the elimination of the Soviet Union. Those were Putin's words. He has this dream of restoring an empire, reaching out to countries which used to be republics of the Soviet Union and members of the Warsaw Pact nations, and trying to bring them back into the Russian fold. We saw it 8 years ago when he invaded Georgia and took territory there.

I have been there. I have seen it. Behind the barbed wire in South Ossetia we see the Russian troops. They are garrisoned trying to protect that region of Georgia which they seized 8 years ago. The same thing is true now in Crimea. This is Putin's idea. If he can't win the hearts and minds of neighboring nations, he will take them over with masked gunmen, Russian soldiers, and energy extortion.

There was a debate in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about whether or not we can come to the assistance of those surrounding nations being preyed upon by the Russians and Putin—and to do it with assistance through energy. In the last several years we have found an abundance of natural gas in the United States. Somewhat surprisingly, our country, 5 years ago dependent on foreign energy sources, now has a surplus of natural gas.

So the question was raised: Can we transport this gas to these countries, liberating them from dependence on Russia for energy sources? It is a very important question. It is a timely question. But it is one we should view in the context of where we are today.

The good news is companies are moving back to the United States to reestablish manufacturing in our country—good-paying jobs. Why? We have skilled workers, some of the most pro-

ductive in the world. Secondly, we now have this surplus of natural gas—an important feedstock for manufacturing jobs. With those two elements and transportation costs, we find more companies coming back to the United States, and we need them—in Illinois, in New Jersey, and desperately around the United States.

So the question then is raised—an important question: Would we jeopardize our economic growth, our creation of manufacturing jobs, if we started exporting the natural gas which we have discovered? It is a worthy debate, an important debate. It is one that is really important when we consider the future of building manufacturing jobs in America.

Secondly, we take a look at this natural gas debate, and we have to put it in historic context. Those who say to export, just to sell it, and that it is another commodity, need to put this in historical context. If 5 years ago the United States had gone through a famine, would we be exporting agricultural goods today without concern? I don't think so. We would think twice about it because we can remember that not that long ago we were vulnerable. Thank goodness we weren't and haven't been. But think about the energy famine we suffered some 5 years ago. We were dependent on OPEC. We were dependent on foreign suppliers. We were worried about where our Nation was going from an energy perspective.

The discovery of new sources of natural gas, new methods of extraction and new sources of oil, for example, have given us hope that we are going to be an energy surplus Nation. But it is a newfound treasure, and it is one about which we ought to be careful and measure carefully.

Some say we have plenty, more than we can use, and it should be an international commodity. Others say take care and make certain we make the decisions best for America, number one.

Should we debate that and decide that in a matter of minutes or hours on the floor of the Senate this week or take the time to look at it carefully? I think the latter.

When I went and spoke with the new Prime Minister of Ukraine, Yatsenyuk, I mentioned this possibility: What if we exported liquefied natural gas to Ukraine? He said: We don't have a place to receive it today. It is a pretty substantial investment of infrastructure to receive LNG into our country and to use it effectively. We are not in the position with our economy to make that investment today. We are going to look to other energy sources in the near term.

So the notion that natural gas exports will have benefit for Ukraine or any nation in the near term may be wishful thinking. Shouldn't we look at that part of the equation honestly

about what they can absorb, when they can absorb it, and whether they want it? I think these are all legitimate and critically important energy policy debates in which we should engage.

But let's not make any mistake about it. We need to pass a resolution condemning what Russia has done in Crimea and threatens to do in Ukraine. They have gathered at the borders of Belarus and in Russia, on the eastern reaches of Ukraine—military forces far beyond what was necessary to guarantee an orderly referendum in Crimea a little over 9 days ago. They are poised to move forward. I pray that they won't.

We have to make it clear in the West—whether it is President Obama's visit with the G-7 nations, whether it is the European Union in resolution or even our Senate and House—that we stand with Ukraine. We want to stand by their sovereign and territorial integrity.

Many people didn't notice—they should have—but in 1994, Ukraine was the third strongest nuclear power in the world. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, Ukraine had more nuclear weapons than any country on earth, save the United States and Russia.

In 1994, they came forward and said: We are prepared to eliminate and destroy our nuclear arsenal if we have the assurance of major nations this won't jeopardize our future and it won't jeopardize our territorial integrity. They produced what was known as the Budapest Memorandum. The Budapest Memorandum was signed by the United States, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and Russia, guaranteeing that at least in principle all those nations would respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Within the last 2 weeks, Russia has not only reneged on that promise—it has in fact invaded Ukraine and taken over territory there.

It is important for us, when it comes to Ukraine, to not only stand by the Ukrainian people as they move toward a more democratic form of government, but it is important for us to reinforce the premise that if a country will give up its nuclear weapons, will not pursue the development of nuclear weapons, and become part of the nuclear club, we will basically say: That will not create a dangerous situation for your future. This is what the Budapest agreement was about, recently violated by Russia, one of the signatories.

If we want to make the argument in Iran, North Korea, and other countries, that they should forswear their nuclear weapons, shouldn't we also be standing by the premise that if they do, at least civilized nations will stand behind them if they and their sovereignty are threatened? This is what is happening today in Ukraine and Crimea.

It is not just a question of the survival of the Ukrainian Government but also a question as to whether civilized countries around the world trying to lessen the threat of nuclear weapons will stand with one voice and condemn the Russians for what they have done.

It is very clear Putin has ambitions far beyond the Republic of Georgia and far beyond Ukraine. He engaged in this charm offensive at the Sochi Olympics and talked about the modern Russia and what it meant in the 21st century. The very same troops who were protecting the athletes from terrorism in Sochi, as soon as the final ceremony ended, were shifted and transferred into Crimea to invade that nation. The charm offensive was clearly over. NBC may have covered the Sochi Olympics, but it didn't cover the invasion of Crimea in real-time. But it happened, and we know it happened.

Having been to Ukraine with Senator MCCAIN and six other colleagues, our bipartisan delegation found a deep attachment in Ukraine to the United States. It is an attachment sometimes linked to specific families. I happen to represent the City of Chicago, where there is a prominent section known as Ukrainian Village. When I returned from Ukraine and went back to this section of Chicago, near the church where the Ukrainians worship on Sunday, we had over 500 people who gathered to hear what I had seen and heard and to talk about where we should go when it came to the future of Ukraine.

But it is worthy to note that there weren't just Ukrainian Americans in that room in Chicago when I returned a week ago. In the front row were Polish people—and we have more Poles in Chicago than almost any other city outside of the nation of Poland—Lithuanians, Latvians, Georgians, and even Venezuelans. They had all come there to listen carefully, many of them with memories that not that long ago they were under Soviet domination and lived in fear of what would come from Moscow. These same people were standing together. They were standing in league with their Ukrainian-American neighbors, with the understanding that throughout its modern history Russia and the Soviet Union have taken over countries nearby when they could, and many times we didn't speak out.

I have heard the argument made that perhaps, if the United States showed more military force in other places in the world, we might have discouraged Vladimir Putin. That argument doesn't make sense. Look at history. We were in the midst of the Vietnam war and we had committed half a million troops. The greatest military in the world was engaged in Southeast Asia when Brezhnev, the head of the Soviet Union, invaded Czechoslovakia. We were engaged in two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, actively showing the power of our military in those coun-

tries, under President George W. Bush, when Vladimir Putin invaded the Republic of Georgia.

So I think it is an empty argument to say if we just show our muscles and start a war someplace, the rest of the world will be fearful. I don't think it is a recipe for the future. What the President is trying to do is to establish political and economic sanctions on Russia which will cost their economy and put pressure on them to stop this aggressive conduct. That, to me, is sensible.

Let's take up this measure. If Members have amendments, bring them to the floor. Let's pass it today, not later this week. Let's show that we stand with the Ukrainians and oppose Russian aggression, support sanctions when needed, and prepare to loan to the Ukrainians the money they need to sustain their economy and to build it in the future.

Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe. It is moving toward the West. Let us welcome them. As long as they are going to make certain their future is consistent with our democratic values, I think it is important we not only continue this dialogue but show we can truly be their allies and friends.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I come to the floor to discuss the fourth anniversary of ObamaCare. Four years ago this past Sunday the President signed his health care legislation into law. The measure was jammed through Congress on a party-line vote against the strong objections of Republicans and the American people. Democrats and the President assured everyone this opposition was temporary. When people find out what is in the law, they will like it, Democrats and the President promised.

Four years later, however, that isn't the case. The majority of the American people still disapprove of the law. Why do they still disapprove? Because the President's health care law has failed in every possible way. We have canceled health care plans. We have seen people who have lost their doctors and lost their hospitals. We have seen soaring premiums, higher out-of-pocket costs, lower pay, disastrous Web sites that have left thousands in limbo, confusion in the health insurance market, and widespread damage to the economy.

The President's law has failed so badly that some of the President's strongest supporters are rejecting it. Young people whose support of the President was so successful in his election and reelection are turning their backs on the President's law. Unions which pushed for the law's passage and the President's reelection are now protesting that the law will destroy their health care plans and damage workers' livelihoods. Democrats running for reelection are running from the health care law as fast as they can for fear that association with ObamaCare will doom their chances of reelection. People are finding out what the law truly means for them and they don't like it.

When the President was trying to pass his health care law, he made a few promises. I think a lot of people remember when the President said: If you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan. He said: If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. The reality of the law has proven to be quite different.

Six million Americans so far have lost their health care plans as a direct result of ObamaCare, and far too many of them found their only alternative was a plan that offered less coverage for more money. Millions of other Americans have lost their doctors and hospitals. ObamaCare placed a number of new taxes and regulations on insurance companies that left them facing huge cost increases. In an effort to manage their costs without raising health care premiums even further, many companies have narrowed their network of doctors and hospitals, especially in exchange plans. As a result, many Americans have lost doctors they have been seeing literally for years. Cancer patients in the middle of treatment have found their doctors are not covered by the new health care plans. Patients are also discovering their hospital options are now far more limited, as many plans exclude top hospitals.

A recent article in the Associated Press reported:

Some of America's best cancer hospitals are off-limits to many of the people now signing up for coverage under the Nation's new health care program.

Practically speaking, the AP reports:

Those patients may not be able to get the most advanced treatment including clinical trials of new medications.

In a particularly cruel twist, many of the patients who lost access to doctors and hospitals didn't know they would lose access when they signed up for their plans as provider information on the health care exchange Web sites is often, to quote a Business Week article, "missing, wrong, or difficult to navigate."

In addition to promising that patients would be able to keep their health care plans and their doctors, the President promised his health care law

would reduce health care costs, but in fact health care costs have only risen since the Affordable Care Act passed. Families and individuals who were effectively dumped into the exchanges have frequently found that their only health care options cost far more than their previous health care plans and offer far less.

Family shopping for so-called silver plans now can face deductibles up to \$12,700, a staggering amount of money that very few families are able to afford. For many families that number represents a full quarter of their income before taxes.

Last week news emerged that already-high premiums on the exchanges are set to increase substantially next year. This was the headline in *The Hill* newspaper: O-Care premiums about to skyrocket. *The Fiscal Times* reported that Americans should “expect premium prices to soar.” In fact, *The Hill* reported that “health industry officials say that ObamaCare-related premiums will double in some parts of the country.” *The Wall Street Journal* reports that “one recent analysis finds that 80% of firms offering employee coverage have raised deductibles or other cost-sharing provisions, or are considering doing so . . . to avoid a new tax that’s set to hit more lavish plans in 2018 and to counter health-cost increases. Thus, employee out-of-pocket costs could rise.” Perhaps a more accurate name for the law would have been the “Unaffordable Care Act.”

The havoc ObamaCare has wreaked on our health care system would be ample reason to dislike the law. ObamaCare’s damage isn’t limited to our health care system; it is also damaging our economy.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office reports that ObamaCare will result in 2½ million fewer full-time workers over the next 10 years and reduce wages by more than \$1 trillion. Those are real-world economic impacts.

Household income has already dropped by almost \$3,700 over the course of the Obama Presidency, and American families are already struggling. Unemployment is high and economic growth is sluggish. The last thing we need is fewer workers and lower wages.

On top of that, ObamaCare is discouraging employers from hiring and reducing employees’ hours, thanks to the slew of new taxes, mandates, and regulations ObamaCare levies on businesses large and small. Chief among these, of course, is the requirement that businesses with 50 or more employees provide health insurance to all of their full-time employees, which the law defines as those working 30 hours or more. If they don’t do that, they pay fines. Faced with this mandate, State and local governments, nonprofits, and businesses with small profit margins

have been forced to cut employees’ hours to avoid health care bills or fines they can’t afford to pay. Other businesses have been forced to keep their businesses under 50 workers instead of creating new jobs and hiring new people.

Larger businesses are also deciding not to hire or even letting workers go as a result of the costly taxes and regulations the health care law imposes. According to a recent study, ObamaCare’s tax on lifesaving medical devices, such as pacemakers and insulin pumps, has already affected more than 30,000 jobs in the medical device industry.

I don’t care what party you are from, you cannot think this law is working. Our health care system may have needed reform, but this was not the way to do it. Instead of improving our health care system, ObamaCare is making it far worse. It is time to repeal this law and pursue real solutions to our health care challenges.

Instead of the failing government health care exchanges, we could create affordable health care plans by allowing the purchase of insurance across State lines. This would allow for interstate competition when it comes to the purchase and sale of insurance. That would increase competition among health plans, which in turn would drive prices down, not up, as is happening now.

We could allow businesses to pool together to negotiate lower rates with health insurance companies.

We could improve high-risk pools to help people with preexisting conditions and expand health savings accounts to allow families to put away money tax free to pay for future health care-related expenses.

We could end the rampant lawsuit abuse that is driving up the cost of care for all Americans.

We do need real reform of our health care system—the kind of reform that will actually drive down costs and expand access to care while allowing Americans, not the government, to make decisions about the health care plans they choose and the doctors they visit. ObamaCare is doing the opposite.

ObamaCare isn’t working. We need to repeal it now and replace it with real health care reforms so that Americans don’t have to endure another 4 years like the last 4.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RUSSIA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, sometimes it takes a sudden, flagrant breach of international order to dispel a President’s naivete about an adversary. The 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan had that effect on President Carter, and one can only hope that Russia’s annexation of Crimea will have a similar impact on President Obama.

Only recently the President was describing his Russian reset—those were his words—as a success. In other words, he was still calling the reset a success after Moscow had done the following things—and I think it is worth recalling the litany of things Vladimir Putin and Russia have done notwithstanding President Obama’s hopeful intention to reset that relationship. Here is what Moscow has done:

They brutalized domestic human rights activists.

They tortured and murdered anticorruption whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky.

They unleashed a barrage of anti-American propaganda.

They threatened to target U.S. missile defense sites with offensive weapons.

They vetoed numerous United Nations resolutions regarding Syria, where Bashar al-Assad has now killed roughly 150,000 civilians. They vetoed those resolutions. They also ignored U.S. demands to stop aiding Bashar al-Assad, period. It is well known and documented that Russia regularly sends weapons to Assad to use on his own people.

Russia has denounced U.S. sanctions against Iran as undisguised blackmail. This is a country seeking a nuclear weapon that would destabilize the entire region—and perhaps worse—in the Middle East.

Russia has expelled USAID from their country and pulled out of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program designed to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons.

Russia has also banned American citizens from adopting Russian children and offered asylum to NSA leaker Edward Snowden.

That is quite a list. As you can see, while President Obama said he wants to reset that relationship with Russia, Vladimir Putin has basically thumbed his nose at the United States and the international order. Yet none of that has kept President Obama from calling this relationship with Putin and Russia a success.

If we consider the three biggest U.S. diplomatic victories often attributed to this reset the President likes to talk about—greater Russian cooperation in Afghanistan, the New START arms control treaty, and the Russian support for U.S. sanctions in Iran—only the first one looks like a genuine, durable achievement from the vantage point of March 2014.

The New START treaty was a dangerous giveaway. In addition to jeopardizing U.S. missile defense plans, it reduced the number of American nuclear launchers and warheads while allowing Russia to increase the size of its own arsenal.

As for the Iran sanctions endorsed by the U.N. Security Council members in June of 2010, these were less significant than the unilateral U.S. sanctions that Congress forced upon President Obama despite his objections in December 2011. For that matter, the administration has now unilaterally decided to loosen U.S. sanctions—and thereby relinquish some of the best leverage we have on Tehran—to keep them from crossing that red line and acquiring a nuclear weapon. What did we get for that? We got minor concessions and more hollow promises.

As with other U.S. adversaries, the Iranians are watching Ukraine to see how President Obama responds. In the modern era, cross-border military invasions of sovereign States have been a blessedly rare occurrence. Yet Vladimir Putin has now launched two of them in less than 6 years. The Secretary General of NATO has called Russia's armed seizure of Crimea "the gravest threat to European security and stability since the end of the Cold War." Europe remembers the primary location for two world wars during the last century. They remember, and they remember what happened in 1938 which, unfortunately, bears an eerie resemblance to some of the initial steps being taken by Vladimir Putin and Russia today, and they remember what happened after that, casting the world into a terrible war in which millions of people lost their lives in World War II.

President Obama's initial response was to sanction 11 Russians and Ukrainians, leaving Putin's inner circle and his favorite oligarchs untouched, and they drew mocking rebukes from the Kremlin. Last Thursday, the President decided to ramp up the sanctions by issuing new sanctions that did go a little further, targeting four oligarchs and 16 government officials, including Putin's Chief of Staff, along with a prominent Putin-linked financial institution.

In addition, President Obama declared he had now signed a new Executive order. Remember, the President said he has a phone and a pen. Well, he has been using them—not necessarily working with Congress but he has been using them. He has issued a new Executive order that gives us the authority to impose sanctions not just on individuals but on key sectors of the Russian economy. The problem with that is that sanctions imposed on Russia's economy are going to hurt Europe and invariably end up inflicting damage even on the U.S. economy. But I hope the President uses this authority to send Putin a message and finds a way

to thread the needle to exact the costs he said he would exact on Putin for this lawless act.

In my view, the sanctions should also target Rosoboronexport. This is a State-owned Russian arms dealer that has been supplying the Assad regime and Syria with weapons, and it has become the Grand Central Station of corruption. The U.S. Pentagon has inexplicably been buying Mi-17 helicopters from Rosoboronexport to supply the Afghan military, despite numerous alternatives. I am happy to report the senior Senator from Indiana Mr. COATS has introduced an amendment that would terminate these contracts and prohibit all business dealings with companies that cooperate with Rosoboronexport, and I am a proud cosponsor of that amendment. I hope the majority leader, as Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, implored this morning, will allow an open amendment process so reasonable amendments designed to improve this bill will be allowed to be voted on.

As America responds to Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, sanctions will remain a critically important tool, but sanctions alone are not enough. They should be accompanied by at least three other U.S. policy moves.

First, the United States needs to assess the military needs of Ukraine and other Eastern European countries and then swiftly dispatch—or facilitate the purchase of—whatever resources may be required. Offering military ration kits rather than serious military assistance is a joke. It is a bad joke, and it is an insult to our friends in Kiev and freedom-loving people within the orbit of Russia.

Second, we should enhance and expand our European missile defense system with upgrades such as a new X-Band radar and more capable interceptors. We should also increase our overall missile defense budget. This is something Putin hates but which is a legitimate expenditure of self-defense monies to help keep the world safer, particularly from the threat of an Iranian missile.

Third, we should dramatically accelerate the approval process for U.S. companies seeking to export liquefied natural gas. Congress can take the lead here by amending the 1938 Natural Gas Act, an antiquated, Depression-era law that has become an obstacle to economic growth and U.S. foreign policy interests. Even in the short term, most of our LNG exports would go to Asia, it is true, rather than Europe, but it would increase overall the supply, and expediting and expanding those exports would increase that global supply, help push down prices, and signal to Vladimir Putin that Washington is determined to squeeze his gas revenues and break his energy stranglehold on Eastern Europe. That is why members of both political parties have called for

boosting and accelerating LNG exports as quickly as possible. Those can begin to flow from the United States as early as 2015, thus increasing supply, alleviating dependency on other sources, and send a very important message to Mr. Putin.

All of the actions I have described would send a powerful message to Moscow and help maximize our diplomatic leverage in the current crisis. The March 20 sanctions were a good start. The legislation that is crafted by my friend from Tennessee, the ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, along with Senator MENENDEZ, the chairman, are a good start, but there is more that can be done and should be done. I hope the majority leader will allow a reasonable and rational process to allow other Members in the body to participate by adding their constructive ideas to this legislation, which will pass by the end of the week, but I think there are a multitude of good ideas that could be added to it to make it even stronger and send an even more effective message to Vladimir Putin and, hopefully, discourage him from acting further in his naked aggression in Ukraine.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I wish to ask about my time, but before the Senator from Texas leaves, I wish to thank him for his comments and his involvement in this issue. I appreciate his coming to the floor. I think this is an important issue for us to be debating and I firmly support the open amendment process that has been alluded to.

If I could, I wish to inquire as to how much time is remaining at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 4 minutes remaining on the Republican side.

Mr. CORKER. I was afraid that might be the case. I wonder if I could ask unanimous consent to speak for 8 minutes or so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UKRAINE

Mr. CORKER. I thank the Chair. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the pending business before the Senate, which is the aid package and sanctions package and the IMF package relative to Ukraine. I wish to thank Senator MENENDEZ for the way he conducted our hearings and markup relative to this bill.

I think most people in this body understand this is a bill that came out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on a 14-3 vote. We had one Member who was absent, dealing with some business in Florida. It is my understanding had that Member been there, this actually would have come out of

committee on a 15-3 vote. So I emphasize, first of all, this bill has been through the committee process. On the other hand, events on the ground have changed since the bill came out of committee. Things have evolved since it came out of committee. I hope there is an open amendment process to make adjustments to the bill to take into account some of the things that have occurred on the ground since that time.

Look, I know all of us want to strongly support Ukraine. I know all of us strongly condemn what Russia and Putin have done recently in Crimea, and I think all of us understand that what we want to do is to stop that aggression from moving on into the southern and eastern portions of Ukraine. So we are trying to respond in a way that sends a signal to Russia, sends a signal to those who have been involved in these illicit activities, that they should at least stop on the Crimean border and, hopefully, over time they will recede from Crimea. What we are trying to do is prevent further aggression in this area.

I think everyone understands it has been our policy for 70 years as the United States to promote a democratic whole and free Europe. So what is happening with Russia and Crimea—and hopefully not in Ukraine, although there is no doubt they have fomented many of the problems that have occurred there—what we are attempting to do is to ensure that Europe remains free, democratic, and whole.

I know everybody here remembers the fact that Ukraine was a place of numbers of nuclear weapons from Russia. When the Soviet Union broke apart in 1991, there was a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons and warheads in Ukraine. We signed an agreement called the Budapest Memorandum with the United Kingdom, Russia, and Ukraine relative to Ukraine's sovereignty if they were willing to give up these nuclear weapons. So it is very much in our national interests that we prevent Russia from breaking up and dealing nefariously with the sovereignty of Ukraine.

We have crafted a bill which does three things. No. 1, it provides economic aid. I think everyone in this body understands the tremendous economic problems Ukraine is experiencing. I think we all understand the first thing that has to happen in Ukraine is it has to be stabilized economically. Therefore, the administration has pledged \$1 billion in aid. This bill backs that up in a way that allows that to occur. Obviously, Congress has to approve spending, which is associated with loan guarantees. These loan guarantees, by the way, would not take effect until after Ukraine has signed an IMF agreement that makes sure they are going to go through the structural processes necessary to make sure they do what actually causes them to be a more successful country.

The bill also deals with sanctions. I think everyone knows there have been numbers of people who have been involved nefariously in dealing internally in Ukraine with their sovereignty issues, but there also have been numbers of corrupt officials in Russia who have affected what is happening in Ukraine, and this bill sanctions both. We are sending a very strong message. Economic aid is important, but I also think sanctioning the bad behavior and Russia understanding there are going to be additional sanctions put in place is important.

I wish to thank the administration for the sanctions that have been put in place. I thought it was a big step to put in place sectoral sanctions, or when they said they had the ability through Executive order to do that. What I hope will happen, and what we have pressed for out of our office, is they will implement some of those sectoral sanctions to send a shock wave through the Russian economy that in the event they do anything to come into Ukraine while they are amassing troops on the border—if they do anything in that regard—this is just the beginning.

I think all of us understand Russia is in a place where their economy is weak and we know the ruble has depreciated greatly in value. We understand our best asset against them right now is sanctions that would hurt them economically and certainly affect those people who sit around Putin and affect him in big ways.

The third piece of this bill is IMF reform. I join a number of people who believe the IMF reforms that have been laid out are important. They are important to the world. I talk to my friends on this side of the aisle who I think may have more of an isolationist bent, and I say that one of the things that is most important for us as a nation is to have an entity such as the IMF—it is not perfect, it makes mistakes, but it is the entity that everything in the world is looking to right now to help usher Ukraine from where they are to a place that is prosperous and has the ability to improve the standard of living of Ukrainians, which is very important from the standpoint of their stability.

So we are all focused on the IMF. We have people on my side of the aisle who again have become more isolationist, less adventurous, if you would, relative to—which is where the country is, I understand. But what the IMF does is allow us to share the risk of stabilizing countries such as Ukraine with other countries around the world. I think all of us understand the threats to global stability are greater today than they have been in the past. So there was an agreed-to set of reforms that took place back in 2010. I strongly support—I strongly support—those reforms and, as a matter of fact, would say Ukraine

is the poster child for why we need to have an IMF that is functioning at a much higher level.

We account for a transfer from something called the NAB, if you will—it is a line of credit that we have; it is out there; it is a liability our Nation has—and we transfer \$63 billion of that \$100 billion over to something that is in a basket of currency. So we are not taking on any additional liabilities. Yet there is a pay-for aspect of this through the budgeting process that is fully accounted for in this bill.

Again, I join Dr. Henry Kissinger, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, former Secretary Jim Baker in saying and knowing we should adopt these IMF reforms.

These are the three big elements of this bill. We have some democracy assistance. We have some authorized sums to help us build stronger relationships with our allies. But I strongly support this piece of legislation. I think this piece of legislation is a full package. It is a package that deals with the three aspects that need to be dealt with at this time.

Ukraine is, again, the poster child of why we want to have a fully functioning IMF. Look. I know there are going to be amendments offered. There actually have been some already. I hope we will have a full and open process, with amendments that are relevant to what we are dealing with on the floor. I think the bill can be improved.

It is my hope, as we move through this week, that we will have the opportunity for those amendments to be heard and voted on but, at the same time, by the time the week ends and we head back to our respective States we will have, in a unified way, sent a message to Russia, sent a message to the people of Ukraine as to where this body stands relative to their support economically, relative to sanctions that we believe strongly should be put in place against Russia, and how we believe the IMF should be functioning as a stabilizing force in the world.

With that, I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, INTEGRITY, DEMOCRACY, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY OF UKRAINE ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2124, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 329, S. 2124, a bill to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, my understanding is we are on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are.

Mr. RUBIO. I wanted to speak about the issue of Ukraine. I get a lot of questions, phone calls, emails about it. It has certainly been on the minds of a lot of people across the country. The most common question that I get is: What do we do about it? What can we do? Related to that is the question of: Why does this even matter?

I am going to get to that in my conclusion. But on this motion that is now before the Senate, where we are being asked to vote on a package of sanctions and also assistance to Ukraine, I wanted to first outline what it is we can do moving forward in addition to this bill that is before us, but also why this bill that is before us is so important.

I think there are a couple of things that we really need to focus on in terms of our reaction to what has happened with regards to Crimea and with Ukraine, in particular, because of the Russian actions that have been taken.

First and most important we need to help the Ukrainian people and the interim government in Ukraine to protect its nation's sovereignty but also to protect its transition to democracy—to full democracy.

They have elections scheduled in May of this year. For these elections it is going to be critical that they go off smoothly, that they are free and they are fair because that is an important step in their transition to democracy.

But we should anticipate that Russia, through Putin, is going to do everything it can to disrupt these elections, to delegitimize these elections. We already see evidence in open source reporting in the media that, in fact, there are highly trained agitators sponsored by the Kremlin that have found their way into Ukraine and could potentially participate in ways to try to disrupt these elections.

So I think one of the first things we can do, working with our allies in Europe, is to help them with the logistical support they need to carry out in May elections that are free and are fair and to help them with the biggest step they are going to take so far towards a transition to democracy in Ukraine.

The second action we need to take to help Ukraine to protect its sovereignty and to make its transition to democracy is to help them stabilize their

economy. You can imagine that this disruptive change in government, combined with an invasion of its territories, has been highly disruptive to their economy, which was already feeling some real constraints. That is why the bill before us is so critical. In addition to some of the direct assistance, it will help them access loans that will allow them to stabilize their economic situation.

What we can anticipate is that Russia is going to do everything it can to disrupt their economy. Again, the Russian argument here is—it is a ridiculous argument. But the argument they are making to the world is: Ukraine is a failed state. The Russian-speaking population is being threatened. So we have to get involved. We must intervene to try to stabilize that situation.

That is the argument they have made in Crimea. Increasingly, that is the argument they seem to be making with regard to Eastern Ukraine. So the bill before us is critical because it will be a major step on the part of this government to do its part, in conjunction with our allies in Europe, to help Ukrainians stabilize their economy.

As I have shared before, I have some real concerns about some of the language that is in this bill. It has to do with these changes to the IMF that I do not think belong in this legislation. I do not think they belong in this legislation for two reasons. One, I do not think that we should be taking up an issue of that importance in this manner. We should have a full debate. That should be dealt with separately. But I also think it was a mistake by this administration to include the IMF language in this bill because what we need as much as anything else is not just to pass this bill out of the Senate but to pass it with the most amount of support possible.

I want to see it be 100 to 0 or 95 to 5 so we can send a very strong message to Russia and the world that the United States of America and her people are firmly on the side of Ukraine's sovereignty and Ukraine's desire for independence from Russia and its ability to stabilize itself in moving forward. That, quite frankly, is endangered as a result of the administration's decision to push this divisive language into this bill. There was no reason for them to do that.

In fact, that sentiment is not a Republican sentiment. It is being echoed in the House, where a number of Democrats today are quoted in newspaper articles as saying that this is a mistake, that they should never have done this. If they were to take this language out, you would pass a bill in the House and Senate this week. We could have passed one before we left 2 weeks ago. Instead, it continues to have to go through a prolonged debate and divisiveness.

There are people who have had to vote against it here on the floor be-

cause they feel so strongly about the IMF language. We could have had their support. We could have sent a stronger message than the one that is being sent now.

I have those concerns. By the way, there was a statement made on the floor yesterday that I think deserves to be addressed. The majority leader stood here and said that, basically, the reason that—Republicans are responsible for the loss of Crimea in an effort to help a family that is engaged in American politics. I think that statement is absurd and ridiculous. I think it is the kind of hyperbole that in issues such as this has no place.

At some point there have to be issues so big and so important to the national security of this country that they are above politics and above that sort of statement. That being said, while I share the same concerns that many of my colleagues do about the IMF language, and initially expressed my position that I was not willing to vote for this bill with it, after much thought and consideration over the last couple of weeks, researching the issues, I made the conclusion that in the cost-benefit analysis, helping Ukraine stabilize itself, helping Ukraine stabilize its economy, given the importance of this issue, it is so important that I am prepared to vote for this despite the fact that it has something in it that I do not like. That is how important I think this issue truly is.

Oftentimes in foreign policy that is what we are called to do. We are called to make pragmatic decisions that are in the best interests of America and our allies around the world, even if it is less than ideal or perhaps not the complete solution that we want. That is why I voted to proceed with the debate on this bill yesterday. That is why I am prepared to support it despite the inclusion of IMF language that I am strongly against—because I think this issue is that important.

The third thing we can do to help Ukraine protect its sovereignty and make its full transition to democracy is to help them with their defense capability. Now, understand that when the Soviet Union fell in the early 1990s, Ukraine was left with the world's third largest stockpile of tactical nuclear weapons and strategic nuclear weapons on the planet.

But they signed this agreement with the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia that basically said: If you give up your nuclear weapons, we, these three countries that signed this, will provide for your defense and assure you of your defense. So Ukraine did that. They gave up these weapons. This was signed in 1994, and 20 years later, one of the three countries that signed that agreement has not just not provided for their defense, they actually invaded them.

I want to make a point on this for a second. Think about if you were one of

these other countries around the world right now that feels threatened by your neighbors, and the United States and the rest of the world are going to you and saying: Listen, do not develop nuclear weapons. Do not develop nuclear weapons, South Korea. Do not develop nuclear weapons, Japan. Do not develop nuclear weapons, Saudi Arabia. We will protect you. We will watch out for you.

What kind of lesson do you think this instance sends to them? I think the message this is sending to many nations around the world is: Perhaps we can no longer count on the security promises made by the free world. Perhaps we need to start looking out for ourselves. That is why the Ukrainian situation is so more important than simply what is happening in Europe. This has implications around the world.

There are a number of countries around the world now that are considering increasing their defense capabilities, including a nuclear capacity, because they feel threatened by neighbors that have a nuclear capacity themselves. So far they have held back because they have relied on the United States and our partners to assure them that they do not need these weapons, that we have their back. But now when something like this happens, these countries see it as further evidence that potentially those sorts of assurances are no longer enough in the 21st century.

That raises the real risk that over the next 2 decades, you could see an explosion in the number of countries around the world that possess a nuclear weapons capability because they now feel that they must protect themselves and can no longer rely on other countries to do it for them.

So how can we help Ukraine with its military and defense capabilities? By providing them assistance. By the way, the Ukraine military capability degraded not just because of their overconfidence in these assurances that were made to them, but there was also corruption in that government. In fact, the previous president who was ousted by a popular revolt, that president actually undermined the defense capabilities of that country and took a lot of that money and used it for internal control, to be able to control his own population instead of being able to protect his country.

So what can we do to help? The first thing that I have called for us to do is to provide Ukraine with more military equipment and more training. We should work with our NATO allies and the European Union to help equip and train the Ukrainian military forces so that they can protect the country now and moving forward. We can also share intelligence information with them to help them better position their assets and understand and have a better

awareness of what is going on around them.

We can also help them with logistical support. These are the sorts of things that I hope this administration will take steps toward in the next couple of days. So that is the first thing we can do. We can help Ukraine protect its sovereignty and make its full transition to democracy.

The second thing we need to do is we need to continue to raise the price on Putin for the invasion of Crimea. We need to change the calculation, the cost-benefit calculation that he is going to go through as he decides whether to move into Eastern Ukraine now and potentially even parts of Moldova.

So already some steps have been taken in that regard. I applaud the administration for having additional sanctions announced last week. I think we are going to have to continue to do more in conjunction with our allies. I think we need to add more names of individuals, of financial institutions, and of businesses, primarily those who have links to this invasion, but also Russia's involvement in supporting the Syrian regime as it carries out the mass slaughter of its own people.

I think we need to suspend our civil and nuclear cooperation agreement that was entered into as part of the 123 agreement 4 years ago as a strong message to them. I think we need to reassess the role that NATO plays in Europe. NATO was largely built around the Soviet risks in Western Europe.

Then, after the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, NATO kind of lost its way a little bit in terms of its role in Europe because there was no threat. In fact, you saw some of these countries saying, you know, it is likely that NATO's role now will be about operations in the Middle East or in Africa and being involved in threats there as opposed to actually having to defend our own territory.

The facts on the ground in Europe have changed dramatically in the last 2 months. You now, in fact, do have a powerful military force in the region that has shown a willingness to invade a neighbor. They did this in 2008 in Georgia. They are doing it again now in a way that is even more egregious and outrageous. I think it is time for NATO to reevaluate its capabilities, given this new threat that is here to stay.

Also, the time has come for NATO to reposition its assets to face this threat and this risk. I think and I hope that those conversations are happening now. I think for NATO, in many respects, it is time to reinvigorate this alliance. It has a clear and present danger in Europe in the form of the government of Vladimir Putin, who threatens his neighbors and the stability of Europe. So now I think NATO has found a reason to reinvigorate itself.

The last point I would make, in terms of changing the calculus, is the real stranglehold Russia has on Europe. It is not simply its military capabilities, it is its natural resources. Much of Europe depends on Russia for its oil and natural gas. This creates a tremendous amount of leverage on their neighbors. One of the reasons we have seen some countries in Europe reluctant to move forward on even higher sanctions is because they are afraid of losing access to the natural gas and oil from Russia that their economy depends on.

We need to change that. That can't happen overnight, but we need to begin to change that; first, by increasing our exports to those countries and particularly Ukraine. I know Senator BARRASSO will have an amendment as part of this debate that I hope will be considered that will allow us to export more natural gas to Ukraine. But what also needs to happen is other countries in Europe need to develop their own domestic capabilities in natural gas so they can become less reliant on Russia for these resources and become more reliant on themselves and free countries in the region to be able to do that. That is a critical component of a long-term strategy in all of this.

Let me close by answering the question I began with. Why does this matter? I think this matters for a lot of different reasons. I have highlighted one, in terms of decisions being made around the world and governments deciding whether they are going to pursue their own domestic nuclear weapons capability, but there is another that perhaps we need to think about.

After World War II—in fact, after the last century when the world went through two devastating World Wars—there was a commitment made that no longer would nations be allowed to aggressively invade other countries and take over territory and exercise illegitimate claims. In fact, international norms were established at the end of World War II. There were some conflicts during the Cold War with Russia, with the Soviet Union, and with the spread of communism, but by and large, especially since the end of the Cold War, that has been the established norm.

It is not acceptable in the late 20th century and in the early 21st century for a country to simply make up an excuse and invade a neighbor and take their lands and territory. That was perhaps the way of the world 300 years ago, 200 years ago, and 100 years ago, and there were massive wars and loss of life as a result of countries doing that, but the world grew tired of these conflicts and decided we will no longer tolerate or accept these sorts of things.

If you recall, in the early 1990s, Saddam Hussein did that. He invaded Kuwait. The entire world community rallied around the United States of America to expel him as a result of that illegitimate action.

In the 21st century, we have the most egregious violation of that norm. We basically have Russia deciding they don't like the way things are going in Ukraine so they decide to invade. They decided to take over a territory. Think about how they did it. They denied ever doing it. They sent Russian troops into Crimea, but they had them wear uniforms that had no markings on them. In fact, the press would ask these soldiers: Where are you from, and they wouldn't answer. They invaded a country but lied about their invasion. They claimed these were local defense forces that had rallied around the Russian flag. They made up this excuse that somehow the Russian-speaking population in the region was being oppressed and attacked and was in danger and so they needed to intervene.

To this day, Russia still will not admit the military role they are playing on the ground in Crimea. So in addition to violating this international norm, which is an outrageous behavior, they have lied about it and think they can get away with it. The point I am making is, if in the 21st century a country is allowed to invade a neighbor, lie about it and lie about the reasons for it and they can get away with it without significant costs, we have created a dangerous precedent with which we are going to have to live. All over the world there are powerful nations that can now claim land they do not control belongs to them.

I took a trip in February to Asia. I visited Japan and the Philippines and South Korea. You know what the No. 1 fear in that region is. That China has similar claims to Russia. They claim all sorts of pieces of territory and of oceans that belong to them. They claim it belonged to them 1,000 years ago and should belong to them now. They have taken a different tack, but the point is, if we now live in a world where a country can make territorial claims and then simply act on them without any repercussions from the international community, then I think the 21st century is starting to look more and more like the early 20th century, a time that subjected the world to two devastating World Wars.

We cannot allow this to go unpunished. The only way this can be punished is if the free countries of the world rally together and impose sanctions and costs on Vladimir Putin and his cronies for having taken this action. That will never happen—the free world will never be able to rally to impose those costs—unless the United States leads that effort. We can't do it alone, but it cannot be done without us.

That is why it is so important that measures such as the one the Senate now is considering happen with the highest amount of bipartisan support we can muster. We may not agree with every aspect of it—I certainly do not—but we must weigh the equities. If we were to put this on a scale, the need to do something about Ukraine so far outweighs the things about the legislation before us that we don't like because of the implications it has not just on our Nation but on the world and the role we must play. If some other country around the world fails to pass sanctions, fails to take steps or does so in a way that is divided, it might have some impact, but when the United States fails to act in a decisive way, it has a dramatic impact.

One of the arguments our adversaries around the world use is asking our allies: Why are you still in the camp of the United States? They ask: Why are you still allying yourself with the United States? They are unreliable. Their government is always bickering and deeply divided. They can't come together in Washington to do anything. Do you think, if you are ever invaded or ever get into trouble, the United States could possibly muster the domestic political support necessary for them to come to your assistance? Don't count on America. Count on us or count on yourself.

I have already explained why there is danger in that, but that is the argument these countries use against us. What I fear is that if we fail to take decisive and unified action in this body, in the Senate, to send a strong message—and while we may not agree on every component of this, and I have already said I believe it was a mistake for the administration to push for that IMF reform language—if we do not send a strong and decisive message, then I think this will be spun against us. I think this will be used as evidence to our allies and other countries around the world why America is no longer reliable, either economically or militarily.

The consequences of that could extend far beyond Europe into other regions of the world, such as Asia. This is not a game. This is not some domestic political dispute. This issue has ramifications that will directly impact the kind of world our children will inherit. In fact, it will dramatically impact the kind of world we will have to live in over the next 20, 30, and 40 years. We cannot afford to make a mistake. We cannot afford to be wrong.

I hope I can convince as many of my colleagues as possible to support this legislation, with all of its flaws, so we can send a clear message that on these issues we are united as a people and as a nation and that we remain committed to U.S. global leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

PHILIPPINES CHARITABLE GIVING ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I understand we have an announcement from the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Under the previous order, the Senate having received H.R. 3771, the text of which is identical to S. 1821, the Senate will proceed to consideration of the measure, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3771) to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, H.R. 3771 is read a third time and passed, S. 1821 is indefinitely postponed, and the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, INTEGRITY, DEMOCRACY, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY OF UKRAINE ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I enjoyed very much the remarks of the Senator from Florida. He is very much concerned about this, very much plugged into the situation of what is happening in Ukraine, but I would like to make a couple of comments about that from a slightly different perspective, one that is from my current position as the ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I would like to look at just one part of this proposal; that is, the money that would be coming out of the military to take care of a problem the military should not have to take care of at a time when things are very serious. The IMF has all the authority it needs to meet all of Ukraine's borrowing needs—that is the \$35 billion—with its existing commitments from the global community. The IMF does not need additional U.S. funds to help Ukraine. It does not make sense to double the size of the IMF by ratifying a 2010 agreement, paying for it with money that could be used by DOD to address the shortfalls which I am going to talk about.

By the way, there is another option out there because the House has a bill. Chairman ROYCE of the House Foreign Affairs Committee is marking up a bill today as we are speaking that I believe addresses our response to Ukraine in a more responsible way. The House bill is likely to provide \$68 billion in Ukraine aid that does not expand the IMF and removes it from the bans on LNG. This does not contain IMF reform. It does not take money from the DOD. I think that is good.

The Senator from Florida commented that we wouldn't be in the position we are in right now with the Europeans afraid to come to the aid of Ukraine if it weren't for the fact they are reliant upon Russia for their ability to produce LNG. We in this country have had a real boom in getting in the tight formations of the LNG. Right now we need to be exporting more of it to get the price up so it can be produced for ourselves in this country. No better way than to start exporting this to countries such as Ukraine. If we are doing this, the Western European countries would not be reliant upon Russia for that ability.

I think we have an opportunity there to do something with this bill, and hopefully we will be able to satisfy the needs of Ukraine and at the same time not provide further damage to our military.

I recognize that out of the \$315 million pricetag in total aid for the package, it rightly cuts \$150 million from the State Department. That is true. That is where it should come from. But it also then takes an equal amount—\$150 million—away from the Department of Defense to double the size of IMF in order to give authority that isn't actually required for the IMF to adequately loan to Ukraine, and should not be included as part of this bill.

The unnecessary proposed \$157 million of defense rescission to pay for this aid has already been used by OMB, the Office of Management and Budget, and by the DOD, Department of Defense, to build the current defense budget. These funds have already been spent and we cannot get any more out of the military right now. If Defense is forced to pay for this aid, then the services will likely have to reduce their readiness accounts.

Readiness accounts mean lives because we talk about risk. If we are not ready, to the degree we are not ready, we incur more risk, and risk is translated into lives. Our national security funding can't be treated like an ATM. Mr. President, \$157 million can be used to support critical defense readiness needs, such as an Army brigade combat team for 6 months, 1,000 Marine embassy security personnel for 1½ years, about 2 months of the O&M for a second carrier air wing or almost two F-16 squadrons for 1 year.

What has happened to the military, if only people out there would understand, and they do not—there are a lot of Republicans and Democrats both out there not talking about this, the most serious problem we are facing in this country—is what the Obama administration has done to our military.

I remember so well 5 years ago going to Afghanistan so I could respond to the President's budget, which was at that time talking about what he was going to be doing to the military. I knew he would begin 5 years ago to

start disarming America, and what did he do. He did away with our only fifth-generation fighter, the F-22; he did away with our carrier capability, the C-17; did away with our future combat system; and he did away with our ground-based interceptor in Poland. Of course, we are desperately looking for something to protect the Eastern part of the United States as a result of that. That was all in the first year, the first step in disarming America.

Since that time, the President in his budget has taken out of the military some \$487 billion. If he goes through with his sequestration, it will be another one-half billion dollars.

People don't realize where this all started. They will say: Wait a minute. It is just entitlements. Entitlements are a problem, because 60 percent of the total budget goes to entitlements. But keep in mind, there is also discretionary spending which is nondefense discretionary spending. When this President took office, the first thing done was to take \$800 billion for a stimulus, none of which was used for the military. That obligated us on non-defense discretionary spending for the rest of the time at the expense of defense. So now we are in a situation which is so serious in this country that even our military leaders have come out and made statements. People have to understand how critical this situation is and how we have disarmed this country.

Secretary Hagel 2 weeks ago said:

American dominance on the seas, in the skies, and in space can no longer be taken for granted.

Is this America? We have taken this for granted since World War II, and all of a sudden—because of what has happened through this administration to the military in the last 5 years—we can no longer do this.

General Amos, head of the Marines, agrees with me on increased risk:

We will have fewer forces arriving less-trained, arriving later to the fight. . . . This is a formula for more American casualties.

We just said when the risk increases, then our very brave troops die.

Under Secretary Frank Kendall of this administration, on January 3, said:

We're cutting our budget substantially while some of the people we worry about are going in the opposite direction. We've had 20 years since the end of the cold war [and sort] of a presumption in the United States that we are technologically superior militarily.

That is not the case now.

The top military person, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dempsey, was appointed to the position by President Obama. He said to our committee, the Armed Services Committee, that we are putting our military on a path where the "force is so degraded and so unready" that it would be "immoral to use the force."

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: Immoral to use the force. This is

supposed to be America. We are supposed to be a superior country. What has happened to us?

Admiral Winnefeld, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the second highest position, stated:

[t]here could be for the first time in my career instances where we may be asked to respond to a crisis and we will have to say that we cannot.

Unfortunately, this is something which not many people are aware of in terms of what we are doing.

Yes, we want to do what we can for Ukraine, and we believe the State Department certainly has an obligation. But the other half of the amount, the \$157 million, cannot come from the military because we are so unready today.

When we are considering this, we have to consider we have a real serious problem with our military. Unfortunately, people are not aware of this, and a lot of politicians don't talk about it because they are uncomfortable talking about it.

SEBELIUS V. HOBBY LOBBY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today in the Supreme Court something very significant is happening.

I am from Oklahoma. David Green and his wife, of Oklahoma City, started a business called Hobby Lobby by making picture frames in their garage. It wasn't that long ago. I can remember them doing that. They were able to open their first store which was about 300 square feet.

With the profits they made in their little garage operation, David Green's faith, practice, and his day-to-day business decisions led him and his family to build a successful nationwide company. Over the years, their business has grown to 602 stores. With plans to expand, Hobby Lobby has an annual revenue upward of \$2.5 billion, and David has had success despite running his business in a very countercultural way.

For instance, all of the retail stores close at 8 p.m. each night and all day on Sunday so employees can spend time with their families. This is appreciated by the company's some 16,000 employees who are paid above the minimum wage. Hobby Lobby's generous employee benefit plan includes an on-site clinic with no copay at Hobby Lobby headquarters and eligibility to enroll in medical, dental, and prescription drug plans, along with long-term disability, life insurance, and a 401(k) plan with a generous company match. This is something they have done since long before ObamaCare came along.

At one point Hobby Lobby was challenged by a competitor who said they would bury the company with their money; so the firm opened their doors on Sunday, ultimately earning the company some \$150 million in revenue each week over and above what the competitor previously had been able to

raise. Eventually David Green said he was challenged by God to trust in Him with his business to go back to his policy of closing on Sundays. He did, and his business has prospered. David's Christian faith runs deeper than his desire to have a profitable, successful company. But he is getting both. When he was faced with the decision to make money or obey God, he chose to obey God, whatever the consequences.

More recently he was faced with a new test. It didn't come from a competitor. It came from the U.S. Government.

Part of ObamaCare requires employers not only to provide health insurance to their employees but also to provide free access to the pills which terminate pregnancies. David, as I and many others, believes that life begins at conception. I believe that; David believes that. We are free to believe that. Offering an option to end that life would be a violation of our moral compass as defined by his faith and our faith.

Here is a guy who feels so strongly in his belief, and as his actions have shown, he would rather pay the \$1.3 million a day in fines from the Obama administration than comply with the law—in other words, killing an unborn child.

Today the Obama administration is claiming this privately-owned business is waging a war on women for not agreeing to provide these treatments for its employees free of charge—never mind that he has been offering his employees health insurance since long before the government mandated it.

So we have the faith of an individual and what he is willing to do for his faith: He is willing to stand up to this abusive government. If we restrict those of faith from applying their conscience to the world around, then we quench the progress of freedom.

The Obama administration is attempting to write a new moral code if it is going to tell people like David Green he no longer has the freedom to apply his faith and convictions to how he operates his private business.

The case before the Supreme Court today is about maintaining freedom, which starts by preserving the fundamental freedom of religion under the First Amendment—whether it is practiced in a temple or a public square. Hobby Lobby is not alone, but it is a leader in this battle. More than 100 institutions have filed similar claims. Four universities in my State of Oklahoma have also filed a lawsuit along the same lines.

So here we have a situation—and it is hard to believe this can happen in America—where there is a man who has built up and is actively employing 16,000 people who otherwise might not be employed. He is providing income, selling products. He is a self-made man who started out in his garage. He has

built up a giant operation all throughout America and has made a great contribution. Along comes the Obama administration and ObamaCare which says: We are going to fine you \$1.3 million a day if you don't offer these abortions.

This is actually being considered right now in the U.S. Supreme Court. I think God is on our side and I think we are going to have a good outcome. But imagine, one man taking the risk of \$1.3 million a day in fines just to stand behind his faith and behind the 16,000 people who work for him to make sure that good happens.

Mr. President, I yield the floor

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Missouri. Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I wish to speak about the same topic as my good friend from Oklahoma.

I was at the Supreme Court listening to the arguments on this case, *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby*, and another case involving a Pennsylvania company which I wish to speak about as well.

Of course, this case, as the Senator from Oklahoma has pointed out, starts with the Affordable Care Act and what many people and I believe the Supreme Court will decide is a blatant violation in religious freedom in the way that act would be applied.

There is nothing in the act that deals with the rule which sets those big fines up or establishes how those fines would be collected—or, in fact, nothing in the act which specifies specific things that have to be in the so-called model plan. That all is up to the administration, all up to the Department of HHS—unless the Court or the Congress does what needs to be done here, which is to say there are certain boundaries you can't cross.

The so-called Affordable Health Care Act—which seems to be providing neither better health care nor better affordability—was signed into law 4 years ago this week. In that 4 years we have seen disastrous effects of the health care act. One of those is the workplace effect where more and more people work less and less.

Why do they work less and less? Because for the first time ever the government has said businesses and people had an obligation to provide insurance for somebody who worked more than 30 hours. Prior to that law, many people with insurance worked less than 30 hours. It may not have been insurance which the President of the United States would have specified they had, but it was insurance which appeared to be working for them. But once the government says: Here is what you have to do, the government ironically also appears to be saying: Here is what you don't have to do.

So we know the workplace effects are bad. We know this is one of the principal reasons given for people working part time without benefits instead of

working either full time or part time with benefits. We see the cut in Medicare and the impact it has on seniors. We see the increasing amount of money you have to spend before your insurance kicks in for so many people. We know this law is not working for American families or American individuals. Now we see a case where the law doesn't work for the Constitution.

Specifically, the law forces businesses such as Hobby Lobby—mentioned by the Senator from Oklahoma, Senator INHOFE—to offer health insurance for employees which covers services that violate their religious belief. This is a company which has always prided itself in its ability to offer health care coverage better than its employees might be able to get other places. This is a company which starts its nonseasonal employees at a rate about twice minimum wage, its lowest paid employee. This is not a company which is in any way trying to take advantage of its employees. This is a company which in every indication through the existence of the company is they want to act in a certain way which is comfortable with its faith.

The penalties? If you don't do what the government says, the penalties are \$36,500 per employee per year. In the case of this company, which has locations all over the country and a significant number of employees, that is more than \$450 million a year. If you don't provide insurance at all, one of the points made by the government lawyers today, your option would be you would only pay a \$2,000 penalty. So \$2,000 a year if you don't offer insurance at all; \$36,500 a year per employee if you don't offer exactly the insurance the all-knowing government has decided you need to have.

What a foolish position for the Federal Government to be in: Your penalty, if you are this big company but privately held, closely held by a family—this happens to be a big and successful company but not a publicly-traded company. It happens to be a company that chose to incorporate but incorporated within the ability of the family to do so in a closely-held way. If you don't pay—if you don't do what the government says, your penalty would be less than the insurance you are providing by quite a bit—if you don't provide insurance at all. If you don't do exactly what the government says, it is probably the amount of money that puts your company out of business.

Hobby Lobby, with more than 500 arts and crafts stores around the country, is being joined in the case today. The cases were joined together by *Conestoga Wood Specialties*, a company that manufactures kitchen cabinets. Their case was presented at the same time. This company was founded by the Hahns family, a Mennonite family

from Pennsylvania. It is a smaller company than Hobby Lobby, but a company that still upholds their own religious beliefs and has a tradition of upholding those religious beliefs in everything they do. These two companies of very different size do not object to all of the things in the list of things the government says you have to offer. In fact, in the area of contraception, they object to only 4 of the things that happen after conception, the things that would create an abortion in their view after conception. They both traditionally offered other kinds of contraception, but this crosses their religious boundary. So for these 4 things only the government would say you have to pay \$36,500 per employee per year.

There are at least 46 cases filed concerning for-profit companies that have the same kinds of religious objections. More than 10 of those lawsuits are in my State of Missouri. It is not just about one set of religious beliefs, but it is about protecting all Americans' First Amendment rights to pursue their faith-based principles and what they believe. These happen to be a Mennonite family and an evangelical Christian family. The largest Christian group in America, the Catholic Church, has a broader sense of what they think would violate their religious beliefs. But the point here is not what the government is specifically trying to force you to do; it is that the government under the laws that we have passed should not be able to force you to do things that violate your faith principles.

There are many faith-based groups that have different views of how you deliver health services. I met with many of those groups over the course of the last 2 years since this rule came out. There are 84 different briefs that have been filed with the Court on behalf of these two cases, suggesting as friends of the Court that here is something you should think about and look at. On those 84 amicus briefs they are at least 3 to 1 in favor of the families that own these companies that want to be able to run their companies based on their faith-based principles.

The numbers of people that are concerned about this are large, and they include a very diverse set of coalitions of people who care. One brief from a bipartisan group of 107 Members of Congress said you should uphold the law that Congress passed that protects people's freedom of religion—not to mention the Constitution itself—where freedom of religion is the first freedom mentioned and the first sentence in the First Amendment to the Constitution. It is important in our history of who we are. Twenty-one states have joined this case on behalf of these companies. Doctors' and women's organizations have filed briefs advocating that the Court respect the religious rights of companies. Protestant and Catholic

theologians have filed briefs, as have the Rabbinical Council of America, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the International Society of Krishna Consciousness, Crescent Foods, a halal food company, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities. All have a broad diversity of religious views, but they agree on one thing: This is a principal tenet of who we are.

President Jefferson said in a letter he wrote to the New London Methodists in 1809 that of all the rights we hold, we should hold the right of conscience most dear. Once the government can start telling you what to believe and how you apply what you believe, we have given up the most fundamental of all freedoms.

Congress has a long tradition of protecting religious liberty. The Congress enacted the Religious Freedom Restoration Act to ensure broad protection of religious liberty. The HHS regulations do not satisfy the high bar set by that act. That is a position that I hope the Court upholds. The mandate is an enormous government overreach, and it violates Americans' constitutional rights.

While this mandate severely fines religious individuals, it exempts plenty of other nonreligious institutions. The administration has already exempted 100 million employees from the mandate for commercial or political reasons. People should also not be forced to give up their business to hold on to their faith or to give up their faith to hold on to their business. These family businesses are not publicly traded corporations.

I am not a lawyer, but I am told on the best authority there is not one court case that diminishes the rights of these kinds of corporations. In fact, numerous Federal courts have upheld the ability of for-profit corporations to bring racial discrimination cases. So you could have a racial profile as a corporation, but you couldn't have a religious profile as a corporation. This is an untenable position for the government to take.

The Supreme Court has heard this case today. I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers to urge the Court to preserve the fundamental religious freedoms that Americans have enjoyed, the Constitution demands, that laws passed overwhelmingly by the Congress and signed by the President in 1993 continue to be the standard that is applied to our right of conscience, our right of belief, of what we want to believe, must believe, and do believe.

I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues to talk about this very same topic.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. I thank Senator BLUNT. I did not get to hear all of Sen-

ator INHOFE's comments, but as an Oklahoman I think we couldn't have a finer company or a finer corporate citizen than the Green family, in terms of their chains of stores around the country and what they have done. The reason they are successful is because they actually care, nurture, and support every one of their employees.

They work on principles that they truly believe in, and it has really been the key to their success. They are never open on the sabbath. They believe in paying somebody a livable wage. They are big in the community. As a matter of fact, they are one of the largest contributors to organizations that are funded in the charitable realm. They go down deep to actually help people. They come with pure motives.

The Senator from Missouri mentioned what Thomas Jefferson said in 1809:

No provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of civil authority.

I want you to listen to that for a minute. Jefferson, one of the authors of the rules of the Senate, one of the key Framers of the very Constitution that we live under, recognized that it is most important to protect this conscience of the Green family to do what they think, according to their faith, is the right thing to do.

My colleague referenced the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Why was that necessary? Because we saw civil government starting to impede into an arena that Thomas Jefferson warned about. That is why it was passed, that is why it was signed, and that is why it is the law of the land. This is going to be a seminal case, and it has nothing to do with birth control. Hobby Lobby pays for birth control. It always has and always will. It has to do with can we allow the civil government to impede to such a level, as my colleague from Missouri said, that the government can now tell you what your values are, what you have to think, and how you have to act, on the basis of what the government says your values are.

As an obstetrician who has delivered more than 4,000 children, as somebody who has cared for every complication of pregnancy, as somebody who believes in the value of newly created human life, all the Greens are saying is: We really shouldn't have to pay our money to abort a baby when we find it unconscionable to take innocent human life. It doesn't mean that people that work for them cannot get an abortion. It just says they don't want to violate their own conscience by supplying it.

The other issue that ought to be evident to everybody is that plan B is over the counter. It is not even part of your health care. You can go buy it. As a

matter of fact, there is not even an age limit on it now. A 12-year-old can go buy it over the counter. So it is not about limiting abortion; it is about the conscience of a very successful company. The reason they are successful is they follow the teachings of their faith. Now we have government in a position where they are going to tell them what their faith is.

Let me reiterate what Jefferson said:

No provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of civil authority.

These are deeply felt and held beliefs based on their faith.

The other side of this is we see their deeply held beliefs and how they have rescued universities, how they have come to the aid of food pantries, how they have actually been active in the community. Everywhere they are involved they are out following the same deeply held beliefs of helping the poor and indigent, giving people an opportunity through a college education that they never would have had, giving people a day of rest.

Their stores are not open late. Their employees get to go home. They could sell more products if they were open later. They could sell more product if they were open on Sunday. They choose not to because they think the principles under which they operate their business based on their faith have created an environment which allows everybody who works for them to succeed. If you go through their businesses, if you go through their warehouses, and if you go to their stores, what you see is a smile on almost everybody's face. Why? Because people enjoy working there, because they are treated as human beings. They are lifted up. They are given opportunity. They are given the very things that we all want for our neighbors and for ourselves.

My hope is that the Constitution will be looked at as the Supreme Court considers this case and that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act will be looked at as the Supreme Court considers this case.

The Affordable Care Act is not affordable; it is unaffordable. For Americans it has a \$2 trillion cost over the next 10 years. It is a disaster in terms of how it has been implemented. It is going to be a disaster in terms of quality care and delayed care because of the increased deductibles that almost everybody is facing. We shouldn't let it be a disaster in terms of destroying businesses.

We ought to embrace this family and their business for what they have done. They have taken advantage of the American enterprise system in a way that has built tremendous success, that has benefited not just the Green family but hundreds of thousands of people through their generosity, and their ca-

pability to empower people to get ahead.

I am glad to see my colleague, and I yield the floor.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I would ask for an additional 5 minutes for the Senator from New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. AYOTTE. Thank you, Madam President.

I come to the floor today to talk about a very important case that the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on this morning that goes to the very core of our Nation's foundation—the future of religious freedom in the United States.

As Americans we cherish our religious liberty. It lies at the heart of who we are as a people, and we know we must always guard against threats to our religious freedom enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution. That is why I am joining my colleagues Senator BLUNT and Senator COBURN on the floor today and speaking in support of the constitutional rights that all Americans have under the First Amendment, which guarantees the right of freedom of conscience and religious liberty.

Here is what is at stake. Americans should not be forced to give up their religious freedom or their rights of conscience simply because they want to open a family business. American families should not be forced into choosing between their family business and complying with unlawful government mandates that infringe on the First Amendment to the Constitution, and that is why this case, which is being heard today by our Supreme Court, is so important to the American people.

A provision of President Obama's health care law includes a mandate that threatens penalties on private organizations unless they involuntarily agree to violate their deeply held religious beliefs. This is anathema to the First Amendment to our Constitution. If religious institutions and faith-based organizations are forced to comply with government mandates that violate the core principles of their faith, that is a violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution, and it is contrary to what we stand for as Americans.

I have heard from people in my State who are deeply concerned about this mandate and the issue that is being considered by the Supreme Court today. They are simply asking to have the same conscience rights they had before the President's health care law was passed—the same conscience rights that are enshrined in our Constitution that protect all Americans regardless of what our faith is and regardless of our background.

This is a fundamental matter of religious freedom and the proper role of our government. It is about who we are

as Americans. If the government, through mandates, can take away our conscience rights, what does that say about other rights we have under our Constitution?

This debate comes down to the legacy left behind by our Founding Fathers and over 200 years of American history. We have a choice between being responsible stewards of this legacy or allowing the Federal Government to interfere with religious life in an unprecedented way.

Protecting religious freedom and conscience rights in the past has been a bipartisan issue. Congress has a long history of protecting religious liberty. I heard my colleague talk about the Religious Freedom Restoration Act that was signed into law by President Clinton to ensure that the government should be held to a very high level of proof before it interferes with someone's free exercise of religion. That is what is at stake in the Supreme Court decision and the mandates that are being rendered by the health care law against private companies such as Hobby Lobby and others.

This is what is at stake: Under the President's health care law, companies such as Hobby Lobby and Conestoga—and we are proud to have a Hobby Lobby in the State of New Hampshire—that want to help and provide health care coverage for their employees could be forced to pay over \$36,000 per employee unless they provide drugs and devices that violate their religious beliefs and conscience rights. Why should they be forced into this position? If the Federal Government is able to violate the First Amendment in this way, what is to stop other fundamental rights from being violated?

Protecting religious freedom was once an issue that bound Americans together. I believe this effort, which is so fundamental to our national character, must bring us together once more.

I look forward to seeing the Supreme Court's decision on this issue, but this is a case that never should have been filed. The Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare, should have never violated the rights of conscience of these companies or of religious organizations, and it is time to turn this around. I look forward to the Supreme Court vindicating their rights under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which should have been respected by this administration, but that is why we have a Supreme Court. I look forward to the Supreme Court decision, which I hope will uphold the First Amendment rights of the parties to this litigation and to all Americans.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:35 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION FLEXIBILITY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate has received H.R. 4275, the text of which is identical to S. 1302. The Senate will proceed to consideration of the measure, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4275) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, H.R. 4275 is read a third time and passed.

SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, INTEGRITY, DEMOCRACY, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY OF UKRAINE—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WASHINGTON LANDSLIDE

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I wish to take a moment to address an issue that has really been on the hearts and minds of those back home in my home State of Washington.

On Saturday, as I am sure many of my colleagues heard, the town of Oso, WA—a small, tightly knit town along-side the Stillaguamish River—was directly hit by a massive landslide. That landslide cut off the town of Darrington, which is just a few miles down State Road 530. Houses over a square mile were simply swept away. We already know we have lost several people, and yesterday we learned there could be well more than 100 who are still missing. So right now in Washington State there are dozens of families who simply don't know if their loved ones are even still alive.

Even though Oso and Darrington are 2,300 miles away from the Nation's Capital, our hearts and prayers are with them and their families. I want them to know that in the coming days and weeks and months—and even years, if that is what it takes—all of us will stand with the people of Oso and Darrington and provide any resources they need to recover and rebuild and that they have the thoughts and prayers of everyone in this country, from their Washington to this one.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Let me change gears a bit and address one of the most significant pieces of legislation for women in my lifetime—the Affordable Care Act.

On Sunday this law celebrated its fourth anniversary, serving as a very stark reminder of where our Nation's health care system was just 4 years ago. Four years ago our health insurance companies could deny women care due to so-called preexisting conditions such as pregnancy or being a victim of domestic violence. Four years ago women were permitted to be legally discriminated against when it came to insurance premiums and often were paying more for coverage than men. Four years ago women did not have access to the full range of recommended preventive care, such as mammograms or prenatal screenings and much more. Four years ago insurance companies had all the leverage and all the power, and too often it was women who paid the price.

Now, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, for the first time women—not their insurance companies or their employers—are fully in charge of their own health care. In fact, women make up over half of the 5 million people who have already signed up for coverage in the new marketplace, and over 47 million women have already gained guaranteed access to preventive health services thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

That is why I feel so strongly that we cannot go back to the way things were. While we can never stop working to make improvements, we owe it to the women of America to make progress and to move forward and not allow the clock to be rolled back on their health care needs.

Unfortunately, there are efforts underway all across the country—including here today in our Nation's Capital—to severely undermine a woman's access to some of those most critical and lifesaving services that are provided under the Affordable Care Act. No provision of this law has faced quite as many attacks as the idea of providing affordable, quality reproductive health services to the women of America.

For this reason I was very proud to lead Members of my caucus in filing an amicus brief with the Supreme Court in the two cases being considered there today. Those cases were brought by CEOs who want to take away their employees' right to insurance coverage for birth control, which is guaranteed under the Affordable Care Act.

As was the case in the many attempts before this case, there are those out there who would like the American public to believe this conversation is anything but an attack on women's health care. To them, it is a debate about freedom—except, of course, freedom for women's access to care. It is no different than when we are told that attacks on abortion rights somehow are not an infringement on a woman's right to choose but it is somehow about religion or States rights; or

when we are told that restricting emergency contraception isn't about limiting women's ability to make their own family planning decisions, it is somehow about protecting pharmacists; or just like last week when an Alaska State senator proposed placing State-funded pregnancy tests in bars but ruled out providing contraception because "birth control is for people who don't necessarily want to act responsibly."

The truth is that this is about contraception. This is an attempt to limit a woman's ability to access care. This is about women. Allowing a woman's boss to call the shots about her access to birth control should be inconceivable to all Americans in this day and age. It takes us back to a place in history when women had no voice and no choice.

In fact, contraception was included as a required preventive service in the Affordable Care Act on the recommendation of the independent, non-profit Institute of Medicine and other medical experts because it is essential to the health of women and families. After many years of research, we know that ensuring access to effective birth control has a direct impact on improving the lives of women and families in America. We have been able to directly link it to declines in maternal and infant mortality, reduced risk of ovarian cancer, better overall health care outcomes for women, and far fewer unintended pregnancies and abortions, which is a goal we all share.

What is at stake in this case before the Supreme Court is whether a CEO's personal beliefs can trump a woman's right to access free or low-cost contraception under the Affordable Care Act.

I strongly believe every American deserves to have access to high-quality health care coverage regardless of where they work or where they live, and each of us should have the right to make our own medical and religious decisions without being dictated to or limited by our employers. Contraceptive coverage is supported by the vast majority of Americans, who understand how important it is for women and families.

In weighing this case, my hope is the Court realizes that women working for private companies should be afforded the same access to medical care regardless of who signs their paycheck. We can't allow for-profit, secular corporations or their shareholders to deny female employees access to comprehensive women's health care under the guise of a religious exemption. It is as if we are saying that because someone is a CEO or a shareholder in a corporation, their rights are more important than the employees who happen to be women.

As I sat inside that Supreme Court chamber this morning listening to the arguments being made on both sides, I

couldn't help but think: If these CEOs are allowed to evade this law, what would happen to the other legal protections for employees? Could a boss decide not to cover HIV treatment? Could an employer opt out of having to comply with antidiscrimination laws? Corporations should not be able to use religion as a license to discriminate.

I am proud to be joined in filing the brief by 18 other Senators who were in office when Congress enacted the religious protections through the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in 1993 and again when we made access to women's health care available through the Affordable Care Act in 2010. We are Senators who know that Congress did not intend for a corporation or its shareholders to restrict a woman's access to preventive health care. We all know that improving access to birth control is good health policy and good economic policy. We know it will mean healthier women, healthier children, healthier families, and a healthier America. And we all know it will save money for businesses and consumers.

I know many of our colleagues believe that repealing the Affordable Care Act and access to reproductive health services is somehow a political winner for them. But the truth is that this law and these provisions are winners for women, for men, for children, and for our health care system overall. So I am very proud to stand with my colleagues who are committed to making sure the benefits of this law do not get taken away from the women of America, because politicians and ideology should not matter when it comes to making sure women get the care they need at a cost they can afford.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. I wish to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HARPOOL NOMINATION

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Madam President, I rise to urge my colleagues to vote this afternoon—hopefully this afternoon or, if not this afternoon, tomorrow—for a terrific man to be a judge in the Western District of the Federal District Court in Missouri.

As an old lawyer—too old—I find myself amazed that I have the opportunity to speak to the Senate about someone I have known a long time, about a lawyer I know very well. This is a man whose name is Doug Harpool. He is from Springfield, MO.

Back in the early 1980s he and I arrived as very young lawyers in the Missouri House of Representatives. I had the opportunity to get to know him well—his character, his integrity, his work ethic. I watched him, against tremendous odds and, frankly, some inappropriate pressure, fight for a first major attempt at ethics reform in the Missouri Legislature. His journey was sometimes a very lonely journey, but he had a pit bull kind of mentality about going after this important topic, believing that if a person is in public service, a person's standards must be high; believing that if one chooses—many times at less compensation—a path in the public arena, one has a certain duty to conduct oneself with integrity and the kind of character that could make others proud of their representation.

After his time in the Missouri Legislature, he went on to be a lawyer's lawyer. I don't mean the kind who says "I am a litigator" and never goes near a courtroom, and I don't mean the kind who says "I handle serious cases" and does nothing but shuffle paper, but, rather, a real litigator—somebody who is in the courtroom, by the way, on both sides of the table. This is somebody who helped clients who were suing people and helped people who were being sued.

He has worked with great regard as a practicing attorney now for many years. There is nothing better than being respected by one's peers, especially those whom one has battled because when we battle with someone, we see it all. We see what kind of a person we are up against and what tactics the other person is willing to use. We see a person's raw intellect and their ability to think on their feet. So when I started hearing from so many lawyers who were Doug Harpool's colleagues what a terrific choice he would be, I knew that what I believed about him was shared by so many others.

He will never be a judge who gets "robitis." That is a serious disease which sometimes strikes Federal judges more often than other kinds because they are appointed for life. Practicing lawyers talk about judges who have robitis, which is a malaise that comes upon a judge who all of a sudden removes himself from the common people and that somehow makes him or her above the struggles lawyers are having, makes them above the problems clients are presenting in their courtroom. This is a grounded man. This is a man who will understand what it is like to litigate a case, why his judgments must be fair and also speedy, why he owes it to the litigants to actually read their briefs—not assign it to someone else, to thumb through and then make a decision based on a predetermined notion he might have.

This is someone who will take this work with the degree of seriousness it

deserves and with the amount of compassion we all should demand.

I am so proud to be here urging his confirmation. I am confident he will be confirmed by a wide margin. But I am even more confident he will be the kind of Federal judge who will make me proud and all of Missouri proud for as long as he chooses to sit on the bench.

Thank you, Madam President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I rise today to speak to the importance of passing the pending legislation to support the people of Ukraine in maintaining their independence at this very challenging time.

Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea marks the first time one European nation has seized territory from another since the end of World War II. Now President Putin is continuing his military buildup along Ukraine's eastern border, and Russia's actions in the Crimea fly in the face of the basic principles of sovereignty that have underpinned security in Europe and around the world for decades. The United States and the international community must stand with Ukraine and reaffirm our commitment to Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity.

This moment is a real test for the international community. It tests whether the nations of the world can respond in a unified way to support Ukraine and to check Russia. It will also test whether we in Congress can overcome political differences and leave partisanship at the water's edge.

I believe we can and that we will rise to the occasion. We had a very good vote last night and hopefully that will continue as we take up the pending legislation.

First, we should provide Ukraine with much needed economic assistance. That is why I strongly support the legislation that is currently before us. It authorizes the administration to extend \$1 billion in loan guarantees to Ukraine.

Second, Congress needs to continue to push the administration to impose costs on Russia for its illegal and escalating actions.

I applaud yesterday's decision by the G7 nations to cancel their participation in the upcoming Sochi summit, to suspend Russia's participation, and to convene energy ministers for talks to strengthen our collective energy security.

The latest round of U.S. and EU sanctions are another very important step. However, Congress must continue to

explore options for additional bipartisan sanctions legislation. In addition, the administration should be aggressive in responding to Russian provocations using the authorities we give them.

Third, we need to demonstrate support for our other allies and partners in the region who are threatened by Russia's expansionist agenda.

NATO has already taken some commendable actions in the past week. They have deployed additional aircraft and early warning systems, and we are reinforcing our commitment to Poland and our Baltic partners.

This is a significant moment for Ukraine, for Europe, and for the United States. It is imperative that we do our part to help the people of Ukraine secure the bright independent future they deserve. The people of Ukraine and of Ukrainian descent—whether they be in Kiev or in Manchester, NH—are watching and counting on our support.

Our European allies are watching and are counting on our continued leadership. And maybe most important, Vladimir Putin is watching and counting on our acquiescence.

So let us be committed and resolute. Let us stand together in support of the people of Ukraine. And let us start by passing this important legislation.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. REED. Madam President, the Senate needs to do everything it can to help create jobs, improve our economy, and address the basic needs of the average American. Unfortunately, many efforts to make meaningful progress on these issues have been thwarted in the last 2 months. Specifically, for the last 87 days, emergency assistance for job seekers has been blocked by gridlock.

Despite the best efforts of several of my colleagues, including my colleague and friend Senator DEAN HELLER of Nevada, today over 2.2 million Americans are being denied vital assistance in what remains a very difficult economy, but I am pleased to say that a group of five Republicans and five Democrats have reached a principled compromise to end this impasse and help get people back on their feet.

Indeed, I along with Senators HELLER, MERKLEY, COLLINS, BOOKER, PORTMAN, BROWN, MURKOWSKI, DURBIN, and KIRK have introduced a bill to continue emergency unemployment insurance for 5 months retroactive from December 28.

As I have advocated, this bill contains no cuts to the weeks of benefits available or the structure of the tiers of benefits, nor does it include other problematic policy changes. It is, however, fully paid for and includes some positive reforms that better align the unemployment insurance and workforce systems to help get people back to work sooner.

It also includes language my colleagues on the other side of the aisle sought—and that was previously passed in the Senate 100 to 0—which would prohibit millionaires from receiving Federal emergency benefits.

I wish to thank Senator HELLER for his commitment to this issue, for his steadfastness, and for his recognizing that this should not be a partisan issue. He has been an extremely thoughtful, collaborative, and constructive colleague in trying to bring this issue to the floor.

I also wish to particularly thank Senators COLLINS, MURKOWSKI, PORTMAN, and KIRK because they also have been extremely thoughtful, tireless, and resolute in their efforts to find a pathway forward. They have all brought constructive ideas to the table. We have been able to craft a principled compromise that will provide aid to an estimated 2.7 million Americans, including 12,000 Rhode Islanders.

This is a vital lifeline that can mean the difference between making a rent payment, putting enough food on the table, and keeping the heat on as our constituents search for work in an economy where there are still more than two job seekers for every opening and in fact in some places three job seekers for every opening.

I have been working since last year to extend these benefits. Every day that passes is another day that hard-working Americans do not have the same type of aid as those who were unemployed and looking for work last year had. I am glad we have reached a principled bipartisan compromise. It deserves to move forward quickly so we can provide much needed relief to our constituents and can strengthen our economy.

I understand there have been administrative concerns raised about this bill by the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, which Speaker BOEHNER appears to be using as a reason to not take up this bipartisan compromise. Frankly, administrative challenges should not be a reason to deny aid to working Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own and are out there hitting the pavement searching for work in a challenging economy.

The Secretary of Labor has sent Congress a letter addressing all of the concerns raised by the national group. This letter notes the Secretary of Labor is "confident that there are

workable solutions for all the concerns raised by NASWA. From the Great Recession to the present, the Congress has worked in a bipartisan fashion to enact twelve different expansions or extensions to the EUC program. A number of extensions included changes to the program that were as or more complex than those included in the current bill. The Department of Labor has consistently worked with states to implement these extensions in an effective, collaborative and prompt fashion, and will do so again."

Indeed, the States have implemented benefits retroactively several weeks after the program has expired previously. I would like to add that my colleagues who have joined as cosponsors of this bill, out of an abundance of caution and a desire to allay these administrative concerns, have included clarifying language to ensure that administrative funding constraints related to the prohibition on millionaires receiving emergency unemployment insurance could not be read in an overly broad fashion, so that it will make this bill administratively easier to implement.

I look forward to debating this bill later this week. I am hopeful that with this strong bipartisan showing, we can convince our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol that this is the right thing to do for the economy and for working Americans who lost their job through no fault of their own and who are searching for work.

Again, I am delighted to join Senator HELLER in this effort and our other Republican cosponsors. They have been extraordinarily thoughtful, constructive, and collaborative. They have served not only their constituents but this Senate and this country with great and deeply appreciated effort.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I would like to begin by thanking my friend from Rhode Island for his continued work to help the American people by temporarily extending unemployment insurance benefits. This is something he and I have been working on together since this past December. I am pleased to have finally reached a bipartisan agreement that can pass this Chamber.

I admire my colleague's dedication and am greatly pleased that we are here this week to support our efforts to help keep American families on their feet during this tough economy. I also wish to thank Senators COLLINS, PORTMAN, MURKOWSKI, and KIRK for their continued willingness to come to the table to craft a bill that can garner enough support to pass in this Chamber.

I would also like to recognize some of my other colleagues: Senator COATS, Senator AYOTTE, who though not cosponsors on this bill today were instrumental in these negotiations from the

beginning. I understand their concerns and I also share their desire to see additional reforms to these programs.

Regardless, I am grateful for their contribution over the past few months. I would also like to thank Senator ISAKSON and Senator HOEVEN for their input and am appreciative of their efforts throughout the process. Though it has not always been easy, this process has truly been a collaborative effort at every level.

Fortunately, I believe we have reached a compromise that will garner enough support in the Senate to help 1.3 million unemployed Americans get back on their feet as they look for work in the toughest job market in decades.

This bill is a responsible, fully paid for, temporary extension of unemployment insurance benefits that expired in December. It addresses concerns that any further extension ought to be paid for. As our economy recovers and people find new jobs, the demand for social safety net programs should naturally diminish, but States such as Nevada, Rhode Island, and many others still have long economic recoveries ahead of them.

I know some may feel there is little reason to extend these benefits, especially since they were allowed to expire at the end of last December, but the fact remains that too many Americans are out of work but want to return to the workforce. I have heard from many Nevada job seekers who in addition to trying to find a job are also struggling to put food on the table for their families, pay their rent or mortgage, and are running out of ways to make ends meet. Extending these benefits will help these families before their situation goes from bad to worse.

My colleagues and I have worked together to come to a reasonable bipartisan agreement on both policy and pay-fors. I think we would all agree there are certain provisions that I think each side would prefer to see included in this bill, such as additional reforms, but this is the nature of compromise.

We also recognize the challenge of dealing with a patchwork of State UI systems of varying capabilities, but I believe we are all open to finding ways to ensure that this extension is implemented as efficiently as possible. This task may not be easy, but I firmly believe it is worth doing.

Again, thanks to all of my colleagues, especially my colleague from Rhode Island who has been involved in this process. I look forward to moving to this bill very soon and am hopeful Congress can finally resolve this matter as soon as possible to help restore some stability for the millions of unemployed Americans looking to get back to work.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to express my robust concern about Russia's actions and the continuing escalation of tensions in Central and Eastern Europe. Even with Ukrainian troops leaving Crimea, Russia continues to extort Ukraine, disavowing an agreement on gas prices that was part of a bilateral agreement allowing Russia to lease the Black Sea port in Crimea for its fleet. Russia is now arguing it no longer has to provide the discounted gas—because it illegally seized the port—but that it also must be paid back \$11 billion for prior discounts.

At the same time Russia has amassed more than 100,000 troops at Ukraine's border, in addition to 23,000 troops that are in Crimea, making clear the threat of an outright invasion of Ukraine and possibly a portion of Moldova. Putin is watching to see what we will do, to see if we have the resolve to act or if he, in essence, gets the green light to take the next step.

I believe we need to act now. Although I also believe our response to Russia's annexation of Crimea should include the International Monetary Fund reforms that passed in a bipartisan way out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and that obviously received a rather strong procedural vote yesterday in the Senate—and these are critical to strengthening the assistance package for Ukraine and to strengthen U.S. global leadership—I recognize our ability to move this package with those reforms in it at this point is unlikely.

The House Republican leadership has proven itself intransigent on IMF reform, and we all know why. Trying to link support for IMF reforms to C-4 political committees that may have violated campaign finance laws and may involve individuals who illegally used them to influence Federal elections is pretty outrageous. I cannot believe the House leadership will not put national security interests above their partisan political interest but, obviously, politics clearly don't stop at the water's edge on this issue.

So while I am not happy about it, I believe we need to move forward on a bill today that sends the necessary message of support to Ukraine and resolve to Russia. But as we take that step, let us realize it is the IMF that is leading the effort to stabilize Ukraine's fragile economy. Congressional ratification of the 2010 IMF reforms would increase IMF emergency funding to

Ukraine by up to 60 percent and provide an additional \$6 billion for longer term support, setting an important marker for other donors, such as the EU and the World Bank.

Let us be clear about what keeping the IMF provisions would have done. The IMF is strengthened at no cost to U.S. finances or influence. The United States retains its executive board seat and the sole veto power at no net cost because the \$63 billion increase in the U.S. quota is totally offset by an equivalent decrease to a separate emergency facility. However, other countries would put in new money, increasing the IMF's lending power.

The fact is this would be a pure win for the United States. We would fully have paid for the \$315 million budget impact of the bill with real cuts and from funds that were underperforming or no longer needed. Given that the IMF helps to stabilize countries, often an ingredient precluding future need for military action, the minor cost would have been paid back many times over. And we will have another crisis in the future, in which the IMF will be critical to whether that crisis can be diffused and solved.

I repeat what I have said before. This should not be a partisan issue. Presidents Reagan, Clinton, and both Presidents Bush backed legislation to increase IMF resources. Ronald Reagan called the International Monetary Fund "the linchpin of the international financial system."

In a letter to the House and Senate leadership last week, members of the Bretton Woods Committee, the original entity that created some of the international organizations that have created global stability, such as the IMF, wrote that "Implementing the IMF quota reforms . . . bolsters our leadership in the fund" . . . and provides the United States with "leverage to continue to preserve our national security and economic interests abroad."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter I am referring to.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE BRETTON WOODS COMMITTEE,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID, SPEAKER BOEHNER, MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: We write to urge Congress to maintain strong U.S. leadership in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by enacting IMF quota reform legislation. For over 60 years, the IMF has been a principal tool for advancing U.S. national security and economic interests globally.

The immediate importance of a strong IMF role for countries in crisis is apparent now in Ukraine, which seeks help from the U.S. and IMF to maintain its independence and economic health, and to reduce its energy dependence on Russia. Implementation of IMF quota reform would mean Ukraine would be able to borrow 60% more in rapid IMF financing (from \$1B to \$1.6B) than is possible today. Coupled with the U.S. \$1 billion in new loan guarantees for Ukraine currently being considered by the Congress, Ukraine would have a total of \$2.6 billion in emergency resources to draw upon to stabilize its economy. This enhances the geopolitical position of Ukraine's government in the current crisis with Russia.

The IMF doesn't always get it right but it has been doing important work in countries for decades to stabilize their financial situation and put them on a path toward economic growth for decades. This clearly serves our interests.

ADVANCING NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS

The IMF is often the first responder of choice for the United States and our allies, to help countries prevent or manage financial crises before they destabilize an economy and give rise to conditions of economic stagnation, poverty, and political instability, which can embolden terrorism. When Russia went to war with Georgia in 2008, the U.S.-backed IMF \$750 million emergency loan to Georgia countered the early financial fallout and kept our friend on a path of market-friendly economic policies. It was the IMF that stepped in to provide financial assistance to the former Eastern European countries after the fall of the Berlin Wall. U.S.-supported IMF loans helped stabilize Pakistan after 9/11, and have reinforced fragile economies such as Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco to help ensure our partners can focus on counter-terrorism cooperation and combating radical extremism.

PROMOTING U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS

In its role to promote the stability of the international monetary and financial system, the IMF consistently promotes a growth-oriented agenda based on open markets and strong macroeconomic and structural policies. IMF support to the Euro Area during the recent financial crisis lessened the global fallout and financial instability of highly interconnected economies, and forced long-needed structural reforms to begin to take place. The IMF was first responder to the Asian crisis in the late 1990s, and helped restore growth to Asian economies and create robust export markets for U.S. businesses, which supports American jobs.

Implementing the IMF quota reforms negotiated by the United States in 2010 bolsters our leadership in the Fund without increasing the overall U.S. financial commitment. It requires other countries to make additional financial commitments, effectively providing a larger and more stable source of financing that the U.S.—as the largest shareholder and only country with veto power over major IMF decisions—can leverage to continue to preserve our national security and economic interests abroad. A stronger IMF keeps emerging economies secured in the system we designed without sacrificing any of our influence.

We would therefore urge the Congress to continue its longstanding, bipartisan support of the International Monetary Fund for our national self-interest and for the good of the global system.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Let me cite the names of some of the folks who signed

that letter: Madeleine Albright, former Secretary James Baker, Zbigniew Brzezinski, William Cohen, Stephen Hadley, Henry Kissinger, Tom Ridge, Condoleezza Rice, Clayton Yeutter, Robert Zoellick, Lee Hamilton, Brent Scowcroft, Frank Carlucci, Robert Rubin, Larry Summers, John Snow, and Henry Paulson. This is a bipartisan list of "Who's Who" in foreign policy, all saying this is critical to do.

Let me be very clear. Opponents have argued that IMF reforms provide no added relief to Ukraine, so it is superfluous to this bill. That argument is patently false. The 2010 IMF reforms strengthen the IMF. That is why they were done. And as it relates to Ukraine, by increasing Ukraine's quota, the reforms increase available short-term lending from \$1 billion to \$1.6 billion, and longer term resources the IMF can leverage for Ukraine by up to \$6 billion. It also strengthens our ability to shape an IMF support package for Ukraine.

Critics say IMF reforms undermine U.S. influence and increase Russia's influence in the IMF. They are dead wrong again. We remain the largest IMF shareholder even after reform, we are guaranteed our executive board seat, and we will continue as the only country—the only country—with veto power over major IMF decisions.

Meanwhile, the reforms rationalize the voting structure of the IMF to increase buy-in of dynamic emerging economies in a way that ensures continued U.S. leadership in a more relevant international institution. On the other side, the reforms matter little to Russia, which already has a board seat.

Opponents say IMF reforms cost American taxpayers billions and put taxpayer money at risk. Again, wrong. There is no cost to American taxpayers. The reforms included in the Senate Ukraine bill preserve U.S. leadership, the veto position in the IMF, without increasing—without increasing—our financial commitment to the IMF. The IMF is the most solvent financial institution in the world, and the risk of IMF default is de minimis.

We would have paid for all of this budget impact through real cuts, as my colleague and ranking member on the committee BOB CORKER asked. We came together and we figured it out. The appropriators helped us determine underperforming funds, programs from which we could take these funds, and we ultimately came to a very successful conclusion.

I regret the failure to strengthen the IMF to support Ukraine and other unforeseen crises around the world will endanger the system we have so painstakingly built. And it shouldn't need arguing that fragmentation of global economic governance is not in our national interest. The fact is IMF reform, combined with the aid package for Ukraine, would send a clear and unam-

biguous message to the world that the annexation of Crimea will not stand.

But I understand this institution and our political realities, so I have come to the floor to ask that we come together to at least send our message of support to Ukraine and another message to Putin. We should act today. We cannot and should not stand for the violations of international norms perpetrated on Crimea by Russia. The world is watching, and the world's superpower cannot be seen as incapable of rising to Russia's challenge. That is the responsibility before the Senate today.

So for those who have criticized the IMF reforms—and because the House leadership doesn't want to pursue it because of extraneous matters having to deal with politics and not policy, willing to risk national security issues—they are going to get their way today. I would hope, therefore, the rest of this package, which provides a loan guarantee to Ukraine of \$1 billion, that provides sanctions against the Russian regime and others who corrupted Ukraine, the previous Ukrainian Government, and who have violated its territorial integrity, that provides assistance to ensure democratic elections can be held this May in Ukraine, that provides for greater defense cooperation with Ukraine, all other elements of this legislation, should have universal support. We should do it today in order to ensure that we send a clear, unambiguous message, as 100,000 Russian troops are on the eastern front of the Ukraine. I believe this is a critical moment for us to answer affirmatively.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about an issue that has been in the news quite a bit, and quite a bit on the minds of people, I think, all around the Capitol, which is what is happening with, specifically, Vladimir Putin and Russia and the invasion and takeover of Crimea and the activities in Ukraine.

On March 15 Russian forces seized a natural gas distribution station in a Ukrainian village. I think this is key because this was right at the time they were getting ready to have a vote on Crimea leaving Ukraine, joining Russia, and I was in Ukraine at the time. I was there with a bipartisan group. We had eight Senators—Republicans and Democrats from across the aisle and across the broad spectrum of politics in America. What we saw at the time,

right before the vote, was the helicopters heading in to take over the gas plant. To me that showed how Vladimir Putin thinks of energy, thinks of politics, and thinks of power.

In the Washington Post that Sunday morning, the day of the vote in Crimea: "Ukraine decries Russian Invasion, Natural Gas Facility Seized." Their first action before the vote even occurred, the Russians came in and seized a natural gas facility. It showed his willingness, his desire, to use energy as a weapon. It is also a reminder that energy for us can be a powerful weapon to counter Russian aggression.

President Putin has repeatedly made it clear that he does not care about democracy, about freedom or about the Ukrainian people. What he does care about is money and power. As the United States considers how to help the Ukrainian people, as we are doing right now on the floor of the Senate with sanctions and aid, I think we need to make sure we take steps to hit Putin exactly where it hurts, which is in his wallet, in his power. Right now some may say: How does this matter? How important is this? Right now about half of Russia's revenue comes from oil and natural gas.

We heard it today in the energy committee. The chairman of the committee stated that in her remarks before hearing testimony. Fifty-two percent, she said, of Russia's revenue comes from oil and natural gas. I think Senator JOHN MCCAIN was exactly right when he said this past Sunday on CNN that "Russia is a gas station masquerading as a country." He was part of that group of eight Senators who went to Ukraine, went to Kiev, went and saw where the massacres occurred and visited with the new Prime Minister and the new President.

That is why I believe my amendment to this sanctions bill, this aid bill on the floor of the Senate, is so very important not just to us as a Nation but to the people of Ukraine, the people of Europe, those who are trying to regain some freedom from the yoke and the tyranny of what Russia is doing by charging outrageous energy prices to people across Europe and across the Ukraine. We have an opportunity right now to make it easier for the United States to export our own gas to NATO countries and Ukraine. That is what my amendment will do. It is simple. It is two pages. By expediting the approval of facilities to export liquefied natural gas, we can send a very powerful signal to European markets that alternative supplies will be available soon. We can undermine Russia's leverage with its European customers today and undercut Russia's ability to make so much money off gas exports in the future.

Some Washington Democrats continue to act as though the conflict in Ukraine has nothing to do with energy.

Other Democrats see it differently. The Obama administration claims that speeding up LNG exports to Europe would not have an immediate effect. That is not what we heard today in the energy committee. That is not what a bipartisan group of Senators has heard and believes.

We cannot ignore Russia's economic dependence on energy and the reality about how energy markets work. Remember, half of Russia's revenue comes from oil and natural gas. That is why the United States shale gas revolution is already undermining Russia's negotiating position with its European neighbors.

This all has come about in the last decade—new techniques of horizontal drilling, directional drilling, all of which makes energy in the United States easier, cheaper to get, and then more available so it can then be more easily exported. By reducing U.S. demand, that frees up supply that can be bought on European markets. Because there is more supply, that forces Russia's state-owned gas companies to adjust their prices. Every molecule of American gas that can get anywhere else in the world is going to be a molecule that those in Europe and those in Ukraine cannot be held hostage to buy from Russia.

That is what The Economist said earlier this year. The more supply there is, then Russia's state-owned gas company will have to adjust its prices. It ran an article on European efforts to reduce the control Russia has had over gas prices. We can immediately apply more pressure to the region's gas prices and further erode Russia's revenues by approving additional liquefied natural gas export capacity.

I think about that hearing earlier today in the energy Committee, when every witness endorsed LNG exports to undercut Russia. So what is stopping us? Some Washington Democrats have denied any need to act more quickly. The administration has approved just seven applications for LNG export facilities over many years. It spent an average of 697 days processing each of them. The Energy Department has still not processed another 24 applications that are waiting and waiting and waiting.

My amendment would speed up that process, force the administration to act on applications to be able to allow energy to be sent to our NATO allies and to the Ukraine. We don't need more hearings to tell us what we already know. Natural gas and the pricing continues to be a boot on the neck of the Ukrainian people and in Europe.

Majority Leader REID needs to allow a vote on my amendment. To me, it strengthens the Ukrainian relief package. It strengthens the economics in terms of money going from the United States. It strengthens aid, and it strengthens sanctions because it actu-

ally works to specifically undercut, undermine Russia's ability to hold others hostage. Plus, it has bipartisan support. There are a number of Democrats who would vote to support it. I think it is time to send a signal to Russia that we are finally ready to use energy to help stop their aggression.

I will point out that I am not alone in this, and there is significant across-the-board support. It is interesting, the number of headlines in the past week or so from papers with various different approaches, including the New York Times: "U.S. Hopes Boom In Natural Gas Can Curb Putin," directly tying natural gas to the Russian President. That is the New York Times.

The Wall Street Journal: "West Tries To Loosen Russia's Gas Grip."

Investor's Business Daily: "Bold Energy Policy Best Response To Russia In Ukraine."

The Wall Street Journal: "Energy Exports as Foreign-Policy Tool" and "Moscow Tightens Squeeze on Ukraine Over Energy."

It is evident the export of liquefied natural gas from the United States will help us as a Nation. It will help us in terms of our foreign policy, and it can be used and should be used and must be used to undermine the Russian economy at a time when they are—with Putin on the move, Putin on a daily basis evaluating the consequences of his actions to decide what he is going to do, planning to do, with the possibility of additional incursions into Ukraine. He continues with troops along the border between Russia and the Ukraine ready to act, ready to go in, ready to cross the border. All he understands is strength and power, and the way to undercut that is by undercutting his economic strength and power, by exporting liquefied natural gas.

So I come to the floor asking that Senator REID allow an amendment that would strengthen the bill we are discussing right now and making it better for the people in Ukraine, better for the people here at home, and actually doing something significant about the problem we see existing with the additional use of power by Vladimir Putin.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I come to the Senate floor today to address the legislation that we are considering, legislation that will provide economic and diplomatic sanctions to

deter Russian aggression and also provide financial assistance in the form of a loan guarantee to the Ukraine to provide financial assistance that will be combined with \$15 billion in loan guarantees from the European Union as well as assistance from the International Monetary Fund that can truly make a difference for Ukraine in helping them to stand up to this Russian aggression, while at the same time undertaking sanctions that I believe can be effective in deterring the incursions Russia is making into Ukraine.

A very important part of what we do is to be united with the European Union in this effort. For the sanctions to work, for the economic assistance to Ukraine to work, we have to have a united front. We have to work with our allies throughout Europe. But the European Union's ability and willingness to stand with us is greatly impacted by their energy situation. So how do we help? How do we help them address a very difficult situation in energy so that they will stand with us in putting forth the kinds of sanctions that can truly make a difference now? And the time to take action is now. The time to stand up to Russia's action of invading another country unlawfully, taking part of that country, holding an election that is not bona fide, and amassing troops on the border of a country and threatening to make additional incursions into a country—the time to stand up and put sanctions in place that will deter that behavior is now.

But the European Union finds itself in a situation where fully one-third if not more of its energy comes from Russia. Half of that is piped through the Ukraine and 50 percent or more of Ukraine's energy comes from Russia as well—specifically, natural gas. So the EU finds itself in a very difficult position when it comes to energy, and obviously that is a very important factor as they deliberate their steps in terms of both sanctions against President Putin and Russia and the activities he has undertaken and may undertake in the future and also in terms of their willingness to stand up and to halt those actions and to assist Ukraine.

So as part of this legislation we are considering, we have offered to help provide energy to Europe. The good Senator from Wyoming, Mr. BARRASSO, was on this floor. He is the prime sponsor of legislation that would help move natural gas in the form of LNG—liquefied natural gas—from this country to Europe. I am a cosponsor of that legislation. We filed that legislation as an amendment to the bill we are considering, and we are asking for a vote on that legislation. I think there would be very strong bipartisan support in this Chamber, and I have no doubt whatsoever that the legislation will pass the House as well. Representative GARDNER has introduced the same or very similar legislation on the House side, and

there is no question that the support is there to pass the legislation.

So as we look this week—and I think we will pass a bill this week—to both put sanctions on Russia in place and to assist Ukraine, we can add this energy legislation which is an integral piece in helping the EU stand with us in standing up against Russian aggression—very simple, straightforward legislation.

What the legislation provides is that for companies in the United States that are willing to build LNG facilities and export liquefied natural gas, which they are prepared to do—and we will expand the countries to which they can export. Right now we have a limitation in terms of the exports. They can go to countries with which we have free-trade agreements, but there are many other countries that we have strategic security interests in that make a huge difference in terms of our security and security in the world, NATO countries, the EU, Ukraine.

I understand it would take time to build the facilities and move that product, but there is no question in the near term that if we pass this kind of legislation, we will be sending a very strong signal to world markets and, even more importantly, a very strong signal to President Putin that we are serious about working with the EU to provide energy so that they have sources other than Russia. That strengthens the EU, and it also weakens Russia because Russia is entirely dependent for revenue on their sales of energy. So as we take this step, we not only strengthen our allies, we weaken Russia's ability to make the kinds of incursions they have made into the Ukraine.

This is a very straightforward amendment. It has bipartisan support. We are offering it as part of this bill. As we work through the amendment process and we determine the form this bill is going to take—and again, I think there is strong bipartisan support to move this legislation. I believe we can move it this week. I believe we can get agreement to have the votes and to move it this week. But I call on our leadership, I call on the leadership of the majority party in a bipartisan way to come together and give us the opportunity to vote on this amendment. It is part of a commonsense, comprehensive approach to truly deal with the situation in Eastern Europe.

In addition, I would like to take a moment to call on the President of the United States to take concrete steps that could make a big difference in the energy equation. The President is negotiating with our NATO allies right now, with the EU, which is now the G7—formerly the G8 but the G7 without Russia—talking about what steps can and should be undertaken to address what Russia has done and may do in the future.

On a bipartisan basis, I joined with Senator MARK WARNER of Virginia, and on May 21 we wrote a letter to the President calling on him to undertake an energy plan. I would like to take a minute to read that letter on the Senate floor because I think it is a straightforward, commonsense energy plan that the President could undertake right now and show the world and show specifically President Putin that he is serious, that we are serious about working with the EU starting immediately. So it addresses taking short-term steps but undertaking a long-term plan that will ensure that the EU, working with the United States and others—countries such as Norway, which is producing incredible amounts of natural gas in the North Sea—working with countries that can supply natural gas to the EU, that we will end their dependence on Russia. And if Russia continues the kinds of activities it is undertaking, they will find themselves isolated.

Dear President Obama: We write to you today because we are deeply concerned with the events unfolding in Ukraine and Crimea that have been instigated and supported by Russia. President Vladimir Putin's aggressive actions and intransigence, and his continued dismissal of U.S. and European Union warnings, is of particular concern. We share your view that tough sanctions from both sides of the Atlantic will be required to provide the necessary motivation to change Putin's behavior, and to enable a diplomatic resolution of this crisis.

The sanctions that have been implemented so far are good and appropriate; however, we believe that energy security is a critical component to achieving a successful outcome in the region. Russia provides one-third of Europe's natural gas needs. With Russia in a position to slow or stop gas flowing into much of Europe, Putin retains leverage to continue to dominate European energy markets. Though Russia has publicly committed to maintaining a full supply of gas to Ukraine and Europe, their recent history contradicts those proclamations. In January 2009, Moscow cut its supply of gas flowing through Ukraine, and at least 18 European countries saw their supplies completely or partially reduced. Some governments declared states of emergency and ordered factories and schools to close, while millions of people struggled to cope in freezing temperatures.

As long as Vladimir Putin continues to use energy as a weapon, we must take this threat seriously and take this Russian threat off the table. For the first time in a generation, America is in a position to export energy, and acting strategically to increase our natural gas exports accompanied by a more comprehensive U.S.-EU energy security dialogue will weaken Putin's grip on European energy markets.

We produce 30 trillion cubic feet of gas a year in the United States. States such as mine are producing incredible amounts. We are flaring off gas we would like to get to markets. This is a winning proposition to the United States. If we provide gas to the EU, that generates economic activity and jobs here and helps strengthen the EU and reduces our dependence on natural gas from Russia.

We urge you to take five specific actions that will have near and long term positive

impacts on the energy security of Ukraine and the EU.

First, direct the Department of Energy to accelerate the natural gas export permit process by approving the pending permits within 60 days, or providing specific reasons why it cannot approve individual permit applications. Though exports would not start immediately, and though the price points in Asian markets are currently more attractive to natural gas exporters, calling for expedited approval of Liquefied Natural Gas exports will increase liquidity on the global markets and will improve the European energy security.

Second, conduct a strategic review of U.S. energy policies, and expand the group of nations that currently qualify for U.S. energy exports beyond those with free trade agreements to include our NATO allies, the EU, Ukraine, and any others that are in the national security interest of the United States.

It just makes sense.

The review could include examining the potential of additional investments of facilities capable of liquefying natural gas.

Third, launch a joint U.S.-EU initiative on energy security at next week's—

Meaning this week—

U.S.-EU summit in Brussels, with specific near-term and future deliverables. One area of critical importance to ensure greater energy security in Europe is the natural gas infrastructure. While some European countries such as Lithuania and Austria receive 100 percent of their gas from Russia, others receive far less, and by improving the interconnections, these countries could far more easily direct supplies to one another in case of an outage. One specific fix would be to reverse the flow of gas from Slovakia to Ukraine, a proposal that is under consideration by the European Commission. Additionally, we should assist Ukraine to establish and maintain a high level of security around its strategically significant gas storage facilities in Southern Ukraine.

Countries such as Norway—Statoil—can supply more gas. Working cooperatively, we could have an impact right now as well as put a long-term plan in place that sends a very clear message to President Putin that we are going to change the energy equation.

Fourth, help Ukraine implement a significant energy productivity initiative. U.S. businesses have developed many off-the-shelf technologies that can greatly reduce energy waste and promote greater efficiency, which will reduce Ukraine's energy needs. This has the potential to greatly reduce the amount of energy required by Ukraine and lessen their dependence on Russia.

I was recently in Ukraine. We have many U.S. companies doing business over there. Many of the companies were from my State. I met with 10 CEOs from different companies in Kiev that are doing business throughout Ukraine. There is no question that by working with our companies they can have a major impact on what happens in Ukraine both in terms of conserving energy but also producing more energy, and that goes to the final point.

Finally, help Ukraine implement energy development technology to enhance domestic production and promote energy security. We have been contacted by several U.S. companies that are ready to make strategic in-

vestments to help Ukraine increase production of their own energy resources to reduce reliance on Russian energy supplies.

We urge you to support and encourage the U.S. State Department's Unconventional Gas Technical Engagement program that allows U.S. local and state-level officials to share best practices with European government officials. Already, U.S. oil and gas companies are leading EU countries in shale gas exploration and off-shore exploration in Eastern Europe to help these countries diversify their energy sources.

We urge you to use the meetings to encourage more European cooperation to solve their own energy dependency problem. A recent proposal from the United Kingdom provides a series of recommended reforms to the European energy infrastructure. We believe our proposal aligns with the British recommendations will provide a helpful starting point for the discussions next week. The U.S. has a long history of supporting the transatlantic relationship on areas of security and defense, and energy security should be part of that dialogue.

We then close the letter saying:

We look forward to working with you to implement this plan.

Think about it. These are steps the administration can and should take now. There is bipartisan support for energy legislation in this body to back it up and make it happen.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together as part of an effort to deter Russian aggression, help Ukraine. To help the EU stand strong and united with us, we need to address the energy issue. We can and we should.

With that, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I appreciate Senator HOEVEN's work on the Ukraine issue. I know he went there recently, and I have also visited the great energy resources in his State as his guest and know they have a broad range of energy sources, as does Minnesota.

I rise to talk about the importance of the Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of the Ukraine Act, and I urge the Senate to act as quickly as possible to get it done.

As the past week has made clear, the crisis in Ukraine is not waiting for us. We witnessed Russia's blatantly illegal annexation of Crimea and its continued efforts to bully, intimidate, and weaken the new Ukrainian Government.

It is critical we immediately demonstrate to the world, one, our support for Ukraine as it charts a new democratic future for itself; two, our abhorrence of the Russian Government's actions that violate Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity; and three, our commitment to continue leading the world through a tough and determined response to the crisis.

This legislation, which was backed by our colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee on a strong bipartisan vote, accomplishes these important

goals. It provides badly needed assistance to Ukraine to help its new government stand on its own two feet.

It also punishes those who contributed to the crisis by authorizing sanctions targeting Russia's officials, Crimea's self-appointed leaders, and the former leaders of Ukraine who lined their own pockets at their country's expense.

It is unfortunate we have not passed this bill already, given that the vast majority of our colleagues agree on the basic framework of how we should respond to events in Ukraine. I understand some of our colleagues may want to add something else to this bill, but almost everyone agrees we should provide assistance, including loan guarantees to the new Ukrainian Government and impose sanctions on Russian leaders and key institutions.

Now is the time for us to move forward. Together, the United States and our allies have taken important steps, such as barring Russia from the Group of Eight and imposing sanctions on key Russian officials. President Obama is in Europe this week working to convince our allies to take even stronger measures to help Ukraine and hold Russia accountable. We in the Senate must also act.

I think it is important to step back to reflect on how we arrived at this point. This is not a crisis the United States sought. The situation in Ukraine became a crisis because the former President of Ukraine and Russian leaders sought to keep the Ukrainian people from pursuing their right to determine their own future.

The Ukrainian people rose last November after their then-President turned his back on an association agreement with the European Union. This agreement would have helped bring Ukraine into the prosperous community of European nations while also compelling it to reduce corruption and enhance the rule of law. In short, it was a treaty that would have helped lift Ukraine to a better future with greater opportunity for its people.

When the former President abandoned that treaty, the people of Ukraine did not go quietly. They demonstrated courageously for months in the face of severe repression by the regime, including snipers shooting at civilians in the streets of Kiev. In the face of all odds, they succeeded in forcing the regime to the negotiating table.

The President fled the country, taking with him his ill-gotten wealth. It seemed the Ukrainian people would at least have the freedom they had worked so hard to achieve. The new government even signed—at long last—the association agreement with the European Union that the old regime had rejected.

Unfortunately, President Putin has long sought to keep Ukraine from

charting its own course, first through economic manipulation and now through brutal force. When it became clear that the people of Ukraine would not be denied, President Putin carried out a military intervention to cut off Crimea and stage a sham referendum before illegally annexing the territory in a flagrant breach of international law and Russia's own past commitments to Ukraine's sovereignty.

Even though he claims Russia will seek no more territory from Ukraine, he continues to harass and undermine the new government by reneging on previous agreements to provide subsidies for gas and slowing deliveries, something my colleague from North Dakota has focused on. Russia's military continues to mass on Ukraine's borders.

I find it interesting that just a few months ago President Putin wrote a New York Times op-ed on the subject of international law and the use of force. He declared:

Under current international law, force is permitted only in self-defense or by the decision of the Security Council. Anything else is unacceptable under the United Nations charter and would constitute an act of aggression.

In President Putin's view, force must be approved by the U.N. Security Council or it is an act of aggression, except when it comes to Ukraine.

It should be clear by now that President Putin will use any means to advance his ends. He employs the language of ethnic nationalism while he tries to take apart Ukraine. His dissenters are sent to prison on trumped-up charges, children languish in state institutions as a result of the adoption ban, which is something we care so much about in Minnesota as one of the top States for adopting kids from Russia and across the world, and the Russian LGBT community lives under the constant threat of oppression.

All the people of Ukraine want is a simple freedom to seek a brighter future for their country, to not be a pawn to President Putin's efforts to resurrect the Soviet Union. The whole world sees that.

On March 15, 13 members of the U.N. Security Council voted for a resolution to condemn Russia for the very use of force that President Putin criticized last year. Only one country voted against it and that country was Russia.

Now the world is watching us. They are watching to see whether the Congress of the United States will act. We have talked a lot about Ukraine over the past several weeks. I was proud to cosponsor a bipartisan resolution, led by Senators DURBIN and COATS, that expressed support for Ukraine and criticized Russia's actions. That resolution passed unanimously 2 weeks ago. Now is the time to show we are actually doing something.

Ukrainians need to know that the United States stands with them, not

just in the very important speeches on the Senate floor but also with real assistance and real action. President Putin needs to know we will not meekly return to business as usual and allow him to bully Ukraine with impunity.

Our allies and adversaries around the world need to know we will stand together to protect our vision of a world governed by democracy and law, where nations do not live under the threat of force by their neighbors.

This is one of those times where the impact of our votes will be felt far beyond the walls of this Chamber. In Ukraine they are going to be watching this vote. In Russia they are going to be watching this vote. All over Europe they are going to be watching this vote and in those countries from the former Soviet Union. The world is watching. So other people, other countries that may choose to engage in this illegal breach of international law, that may choose to tread on this illegal ground will be watching, and that is why this vote is so important.

I urge my colleagues, in the support of the people of Ukraine, to support this bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I wish to take a moment to commend the Senator from Minnesota on her remarks. She expressed what we feel very strongly in this body. I wish to express both my agreement with her comments as well as the importance of moving this legislation. I believe there is very strong bipartisan support to move this legislation. I think we can get it done this week.

Again, I express my appreciation for her words here today and I believe that is exactly the kind of cooperative spirit we need on the part of all 100 Senators to get this done. Now is the time for action. I join with the good Senator from Minnesota in calling for that action.

With that, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 4152

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding cloture having been invoked, the motion to proceed to S. 2124 be withdrawn; that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 328, H.R. 4152; that following the reporting of the bill, a Menendez-Corker substitute amendment, the text

of which is at the desk, be made pending; that no other amendments be in order; that no points of order or motions be in order other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; that on Thursday, March 27, following morning business, there be 2 hours of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to a vote in relation to the Menendez-Corker amendment; that upon disposition of the amendment, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I note in the majority leader's requested consent order he stipulates that no other amendments be in order, which I think is deeply regrettable, given the fact that this matter has been considered in the Foreign Relations Committee and then came to the floor without any opportunity for the rest of the Senate to participate, either in the deliberative process or to debate important improvements to the legislation. I would note two for the majority leader's consideration.

Two amendments which seem to enjoy a tremendous amount of bipartisan support are in recognition of the stranglehold Vladimir Putin and Russia have on Ukraine's energy supply as well as the energy supply to the rest of Europe. There is a Barrasso amendment many of us support that calls for the expedited consideration and permitting of exporting liquefied natural gas.

There is another amendment I have offered that would provide military assistance to Ukraine. Right now, the underlying bill provides \$100 million. It doesn't specify the precise nature of the assistance, but it appears to be in the nature of rations, uniforms, and medical supplies. I would think at a minimum we would want to make sure the Ukrainians who are defending their country are supplied additional U.S. military assistance in order to defend themselves against this Russian aggression.

So I ask the majority leader to modify his unanimous consent request with the following: that the first amendment in order be a Barrasso amendment related to the exportation of liquefied natural gas; and that following the disposition of the Barrasso amendment, the majority leader and the Republican leader or their designees be recognized to offer relevant amendments in an alternating fashion, including the Cornyn amendment on military assistance to Ukraine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the majority leader so modify his request?

Mr. REID. I reserve the right, and will just make a brief comment. The

committee action on this bill was really historic. The issue my friend just suggested be part of an amendment process was discussed at some length in the committee.

As I discussed this morning, the situation in Ukraine is critical. The Senate must act as quickly as we can on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations bill.

The bill before us gives additional aid to the fragile Ukrainian economy. As Secretary Kerry said yesterday, he wants this aid that is in our bill now, but he also wanted what was in our bill—IMF funding. But he said: If I cannot get both, the most important thing we do now is the funding that is in our bill, and he is probably right.

We already know there have been many signals—not any hidden signals—from the House that they would not accept the IMF. The Republican leader said he was concerned about the IMF.

So I am very pleased the sanctions inside this legislation that I hope will pass on Thursday is something that is going to help Ukraine. I am confident it will. It sanctions those inside Ukraine and Russia who have undermined Ukraine's sovereignty and stability.

I think, as far as I am concerned, we will have more legislation on this in the not distant future. As far as I am concerned, I think there should be more sanctions that we look at. I think they need more aid. On Sunday shows, I heard Republican Senator AYOTTE, Democratic Senator DURBIN both talking about the need for sleeping bags, small arms fire, and things such as that that the Ukrainians simply do not have.

That is why I am pleased we have been able to come to a tentative agreement to vote on this measure Thursday. I would have preferred to include, as I have already indicated, the International Monetary Fund provisions in this bill. It is something that is needed. These provisions would have provided additional funds to stabilize this fragile Ukrainian economy, but my Republican colleagues, for reasons unrelated to Ukraine, were ready to kill the bill over the IMF issue.

Today we are ready to move forward on the bipartisan Senate Foreign Relations Committee bill without the IMF language. Let me just take a minute—a brief minute—to extend my appreciation—and I think I speak for the entire Senate—for the hard work that has allowed us to get where we are.

Chairman MENENDEZ, Ranking Member CORKER—they have worked very well together on legislation generally but on this specifically. Senator MCCAIN, who is a long-time leader on national security issues, has been very articulate and forceful in his view as to what should be done. By the way, both Senators CORKER and MCCAIN suggested we should have the IMF money

in this, but I called Senator MCCAIN this morning and told him reasons why I thought we could not go forward with it, and I think he agrees with that.

I hope my colleagues will join us in voting to pass this important bill on Thursday. The people of the Ukraine are watching. The Russians are watching. It is time for the Senate to act. It is time for Ukraine to get the support it needs, it is time for this body to sanction the Russians, and it is time to send a clear message to Putin that the United States condemns the Russian annexation of Ukraine. I say once again, if he so likes these votes he created in Crimea, why doesn't he have one in Chechnya? Why doesn't he have a vote there? Because I think that would turn out much differently than what he would want.

I understand Senator BARRASSO is talking about this issue that my friend from Texas suggested, and it and other issues are something we need to bring up when we talk about further work on Ukraine.

So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I will be brief, but further reserving the right to object to the majority leader's request, I just want to make sure the majority leader understands no one is talking about slowing down this bill. It is anticipated, I think even under the majority leader's consent request, that we will be finished with this bill no later than Thursday. It is one of those circumstances where, given the context of what is in the legislation, there is actually bipartisan support because of the importance of sending a unified message to the Russian leader about this aggression.

But I wish to be clear that my position is that sanctions are not enough. We need to go further and to provide a means for the Ukrainian people to defend themselves against this sort of aggression, which they do not presently possess. We need to find a way to relieve the stranglehold Putin has on Ukraine and much of the rest of Europe that he is going to keep using as long as he feels we have not acted to undermine or jeopardize that stranglehold.

That is the purpose of these amendments, and I regret the majority leader has seen fit to object to my request—reasonable request—for germane amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, my friend from Texas is absolutely right. We need to do more on Ukraine—there is no question about that—and I look forward to working with him and all Senators to do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The motion to proceed is withdrawn.

PROVIDING FOR THE COSTS OF LOAN GUARANTEES FOR UKRAINE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report H.R. 4152.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4152) to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

AMENDMENT NO. 2867

(Purpose: To provide a complete substitute)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the substitute amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. MENENDEZ, for himself and Mr. CORKER, proposes an amendment numbered 2867.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. REID. Madam President, is there more that the Chair needs to do?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is not on that matter.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 26, 2014, the Senate proceed to executive session, and that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 581, 582, 583, and 584; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, the time until 2:30 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and that at 2:30 p.m. all postcloture time be expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that following Senate action on these nominations, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of Calendar No. 694; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all roll-call votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, that following the disposition of Calendar No. 694, the Senate resume legislative session; further, that upon disposition of the listed nominations, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 333, H.R. 3979.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 333, H.R. 3979, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am now here for the 62nd weekly effort to have my colleagues wake up to the threats of climate change. Congress continues to remain sound asleep, I suspect anesthetized by the narcotic drip of polluter money into our veins. But the signs of change around us continue.

These are the Mau Loa monthly carbon dioxide concentrations. We have just passed, again, 400 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This is the second year in a row this has happened. This year it happened 2 months earlier than last year. So why does it matter that we are at 400 parts per million? What does that mean to anybody?

We have actually gone back and measured where the carbon concentration in the atmosphere has been going way back. We can measure back in ancient ice so we know that for at least 800,000 years, our carbon concentration is between 170 and 300 parts per million. That is a long run for a species that has only been homo sapien for about 250,000 years. That has been a long and hospitable window, during which our species has developed from very primitive hunter-gatherers into the complex people that we are now.

So when you take something like that, the carbon concentration, and you bust out of a range that has sheltered us for 800,000 years, that is not nothing. It is particularly not nothing when you know that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere raises the temperature of the Earth. We have known that since Abraham Lincoln was President. This is not something that is debatable. This is not new news. This is established science for 150-plus years.

We also know—because you can replicate it in the laboratory—that when you put higher concentrations of carbon in the air over seawater, it acidifies the seawater. If you doubt any of that, you can go out and measure that it is actually happening—the known provable theories, the known prin-

ciples, I should say. In fact, laws of science are actually manifest in sea level rise from the warming oceans, in warming ocean temperatures, in increased acidification. These are measurements.

As this continues, we continue to do nothing about it, but we let the big polluters continue to spew carbon pollution into our atmosphere. Some of us in Congress are tired of waiting for folks to wake up. This month 31 Senators from every part of the country held the Senate floor through the night to sharpen this Chamber's focus on the threats of climate change. I thank Senator SCHATZ of Hawaii for leading us through this wake-up call, and to Senator BOXER for her leadership of the Senate Climate Action Task Force, and to the Presiding Officer, the senior Senator from Massachusetts, for her enthusiastic participation and support in that effort.

The American people tuned in, tweeting over 54,000 times at the hashtag up4climate in the 24-hour period of this effort. Also, Americans added more than 200,000 signatures to online petitions urging Congress to get with it and do something about this climate problem. The public knows it is a problem and has been pushing us to act now for years.

I have heard it from Rhode Island fishermen who now have to chase their catch further offshore into cooler waters because our coastal waters have warmed. The Presiding Officer has heard it from her Massachusetts fishermen as well. I have heard it from homeowners in South Kingston, RI, whose houses are falling into the ocean as the sea level rises and they encroach further inland into what had for generations been family homes.

Rhode Island does its part to try to address climate change. We are participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and we are everywhere readying our coastlines for worse storms and higher seas. But the Ocean State cannot do this alone. The health, the safety, the prosperity of the people I represent in Rhode Island's communities depend on national action. We need a national groundswell of citizens and elected officials from every State.

So last week I went to Iowa to share with that State Rhode Island's climate change stories and to listen to Iowans tell me their climate change stories and how it is affecting their communities. I was invited to Iowa by Senator Rob Hogg, who is a passionate defender of the Iowan environment and way of life and a very knowledgeable expert on climate change.

I want to thank him and I also want to thank the Iowa legislature, particularly house minority leader Mark Smith and senate majority leader Michael Gronstal for their warm welcome. I also want to thank my colleague Senator HARKIN and his staff for

their assistance in planning and coordinating my visit.

Farming is not a big deal in Rhode Island. We are not known as an agricultural State. We have farms and we love them. But it is not quite the same as Iowa. Farming is the cornerstone of Iowa's economy. Disruption of agricultural productivity is one of the great climate risks in Iowa. The recent National Climate Assessment draft finds this:

In the long term, combined stresses associated with climate change are expected to decrease agricultural productivity, especially without significant advances in genetic and agronomic technology.

But we do not have to wait for the long term. Iowans are already being hit by extreme weather. In 2013, just last year, 155 science faculty and research staff from 36 Iowa colleges and universities—home State Iowa teachers from their colleges and universities, 155 of them—signed the Iowa Climate Statement, concerning the losses that farmers across the State are already experiencing due to climate change.

I ask unanimous consent that the Iowa Climate Statement be printed in the RECORD following my statement.

Iowa has had 20 Presidential Disaster Declarations since 1990 due to flooding. Damage has been more than \$20 billion. Although no one particular flood can be directly connected to climate change, we know that carbon pollution loads the dice for the extreme downpours that provoke these floods in Iowa and in the Midwest.

I call it the Barry Bonds rule. You do not know which home run was caused by the steroids, but you know for sure he was hitting extra home runs because of the steroids and you can measure that. In 1993 in Iowa, a flood exceeding once-in-500-year flood levels hit Des Moines. Ted Corrigan of Des Moines Water Works told me during my visit that the city's infrastructure was overwhelmed, leaving Des Moines without clean water for more than 2 weeks.

The Des Moines Register reports that Iowa has endured at least 10 so-called 500-year floods since 1993—10 500-year floods since 1993. That includes the big 2008 flood that cost \$10 billion statewide in Iowa.

Doug Newman, the executive vice president at the Cedar Rapids Economic Alliance, told me what it was like to live through that unprecedented flood. Doug explained that in Cedar Rapids, flood levels had never, for as long as they have measured it, exceeded 21 feet. This flood maxed out at 31 feet, 10 feet above the all time previous ever recorded record.

A thousand businesses were flooded. One-fifth of them were lost. More than 1,000 people lost their jobs. So it was tough. But what I saw was Iowans taking action—from college students to business leaders, from activists of the Iowa Citizens Climate Lobby to the

conservationists to the Izaak Walton League. Iowans are preparing for the effects of climate change, and they want to see Federal action.

Like Rhode Islanders, they are tired of trying to carry this themselves. Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie is one of over 1,000 mayors represented on this map all across the country who have signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own cities and to press their State governments and the Federal Government—us—to enact meaningful greenhouse gas reductions.

I visited with TPI Composites. TPI Composites has a development and manufacturing facility in my home State, in Warren, RI. They are part of our composites cluster in Rhode Island. But they are also a leading Iowa manufacturer of wind turbine blades. In 10 years, TPI has manufactured more than 10,000 wind turbine blades. So when the Maytag headquarters closed, leaving as many as 4,000 workers jobless in Newton, IA, this helped the town get back on its feet.

If we allow the production tax credit or the PTC to lapse, loss of that tax incentive for wind energy producers will jeopardize the business that TPI has built. So the Iowa State Senate unanimously passed a resolution in January supporting the extension of the production tax credit—unanimously, bipartisan.

There is bipartisan support for the extension of both the production tax credit and the investment tax credit, and we should get that done in this Congress. I also heard in Iowa from Warren McKenna, the manager at the Farmer Electric Cooperative in Kalona, IA. Kalona is a town of about 2,400 people. It has Iowa's first community solar garden, with 25 kilowatts of capacity. For the co-op's 800 owner-members, that 25 kilowatts of energy helps reduce their monthly bills. And for members who have their own solar panels, they also get paid for the energy they add into the co-op's system. And this year, off of those successes, the co-op is breaking ground on an 800,000-kilowatt solar installation, taking advantage of a State solar tax credit that was passed by a Democratic senate and a Republican house and signed into law by a Republican Governor.

This body could learn a thing or two from the Iowa State legislature. It shows what can happen when the polluter money doesn't have a Democratic institution locked down the way Congress has been.

I also visited BioProcess Algae. This is a Rhode Island-based company. The CEO, Timmy Burns, is right here—a Quidnick Islander like myself. They design, build, and operate commercial-scale algae bioreactors. The commercial demonstration project shown here

is located down in the southwest corner of Iowa in Shenandoah.

BioProcess Algae uses the wastewater and the waste heat and the carbon dioxide emissions from the nearby ethanol refinery to grow algae. The algae can then be used for animal feed, can be used for biofuels, and, while it is growing, it eats up the carbon dioxide that would otherwise be emitted to pollute the atmosphere. Here in Shenandoah, American ingenuity is turning carbon pollution into economic opportunity.

I also visited this wind turbine. This is the base of a wind turbine. This is the stairway up into where you can go inside to serve it. You can see it is pretty big. There is the arc of the round steel base, and it towers up hundreds of feet. I think the blade diameter was 160 meters. It is a pretty serious-sized wind turbine. It is located in one of five wind parks which have a combined 500 wind turbines that are operated by a company called MidAmerican Energy.

Thanks to pioneering companies such as MidAmerican, and to the State tax incentives that encourage these projects, more than a quarter of Iowa's electricity is generated by wind. They are leading the country. More than a quarter of their electricity is generated by wind. It measures in the gigawatts. That is a lot of wind power. And they love it. The farmers get paid for having the wind turbine on their farm. If you look—I don't know how well the camera can see this—this is the turbine itself, the stand that it rises up on, the column. That is the doorway into it. We are standing on a gravel sort of service road ring around it so that equipment can be pulled up to it for maintenance purposes. But look right here. That is not too far away. That is maybe 25 feet. They are farming right up to 25 feet away from this thing. So you farm and you get paid for having the wind turbine located on your farm. It is a wonderful two-fer.

The conclusion I drew from all of this—from the exciting new types of energy being grown from algae, from the huge commitment to wind, from the audiences that came out and expressed their support for getting stuff done on climate, for the bipartisan support from so much of this clean energy stuff—is that Iowans have awoken to the threat of climate change. And that is important. Because Iowa plays a key role in our politics. Iowa helps determine which issues our Presidential candidates will be judged on. In 2016, I will bet that Iowans are going to insist they all address carbon pollution and they are not going to accept a lot of nonsense denial out of those candidates.

In fact, I believe if the Republican Party tries to nominate a climate denier for President, they are in big trouble. Of course, the carbon fuel-funded

denial machine will do its best to change the subject, to muddy the waters, to create doubt, to use its anonymous dark political money to keep candidates quiet. But all the money in the world can't change the fact that Iowans know, just like Rhode Islanders do, that climate change is real. And those Iowans are going to put those Presidential candidates on record. If you are a denier, good luck in Iowa. Iowans see the changes taking place and they are speaking up. Farmers in Iowa and fishermen in Rhode Island may be miles from each other geographically, but they both see in their lives around them the facts of the changes that are already happening.

The time to sit on the sidelines is over. If we fight hard, if we are willing to have this fight, I am confident we can do a strong climate bill in Congress and soon—a climate bill that will strengthen our economy, because it will; a climate bill that will redirect our future, as it must; a climate bill that will protect our democracy, because the pollution of our atmosphere and oceans that the carbon polluters are doing is matched by the pollution of our democracy that they are doing with their dirty and anonymous money; and finally, a bill that will honor our duty to the generations that will follow us, because each American generation takes that duty as a very high duty. Right now we are dishonoring that duty and we are not leaving for future generations the kind of country we should.

I went recently to Ukraine. I met with one of the leaders of the Ukrainian freedom movement. His name is Vitali Klitschko. If you are a boxing fan, you know who Vitali Klitschko is because he is a huge guy who was the world heavyweight boxing champion for years, and he has now thrown himself into the struggle of Ukraine for freedom; first of all, freedom from Russian influence and control, and more recently freedom from the oligarchs who basically robbed the country blind but were finally run out after that long bloody siege at the square in Kiev, the Maidan.

Vitali has an interesting phrase that he uses. Because when he started this fight, it wasn't the least bit clear that anybody could win this thing. The oligarchs are billionaires. They have immense resources at their disposal. And they keep stealing, so there is always more. And, of course, the Russians are right there with their baleful influence, trying to make sure there is as little freedom and opportunity as possible and to keep Ukraine under their thrall. Those are some powerful forces. So people would ask him: Can you win? And he had a very simple answer. I can't imitate the good Slavic accent, and I can't imitate the basso profundo voice of a man that big, but his phrase was memorable: No fight, no win.

Well, we have had no fight in us for too long on climate. It is time to put some more fight into this thing, because I think on climate the opposite is true. This isn't a no-fight, no-win situation. This is a "if we fight, we will win" situation. The facts are there. The public is ready. There is nothing between us and doing our duty other than the barricade of lies, the polluter-funded denial beast that is out there shopping their nonsense, and we can outdo them. It doesn't take much. Because, among other things, it is always easier for the truth to win over a lie. You just have to be willing to go out there and have that fight. So we have to wake up. When we do, we will win. I am more confident than ever, having been back from Iowa.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

IOWA CLIMATE STATEMENT 2013: A RISING
CHALLENGE TO IOWA AGRICULTURE

Our state has long held a proud tradition of helping to "feed the world." Our ability to do so is now increasingly threatened by rising greenhouse gas emissions and resulting climate change. Our climate has disrupted agricultural production profoundly during the past two years and is projected to become even more harmful in coming decades as our climate continues to warm and change.

Swings from one extreme to another have characterized Iowa's 2013 weather patterns. Iowa started the year under the widespread drought that began in 2011 and persisted throughout 2012. But the spring of 2013 (March–May) was the wettest in the 140 years of record-keeping, creating conditions that hampered the timely planting of corn and soybean fields. During those months, sixty-two Iowa counties experienced storms and flooding severe enough to result in federal disaster declarations.

By mid-August, very dry conditions had returned to Iowa, subjecting many of the state's croplands to moderate drought. These types of weather extremes, which are highly detrimental to Iowa's crops, were discussed in our 2012 Iowa Climate Statement, where we also noted that globally over the past 30 years extreme high temperatures are becoming increasingly more common than extreme low temperatures. In a warming climate, wet years get wetter and dry years get dryer and hotter. The climate likely will continue to warm due to increasing emissions of heat-trapping gases.

Climate change damages agriculture in additional ways. Intense rain events, the most notable evidence of climate change in Iowa, dramatically increase soil erosion, which degrades the future of agricultural production.

As Iowa farmers continue to adjust to more intense rain events, they must also manage the negative effects of hot and dry weather. The increase in hot nights that accompanies hot, dry periods reduces dairy and egg production, weight gain of meat animals, and conception rates in breeding stock. Warmer winters and earlier springs allow disease-causing agents and parasites to proliferate, and these then require greater use of agricultural pesticides.

Local food producers, fruit producers, plant-nursery owners, and even gardeners have also felt the stresses of recent weather extremes. Following on the heels of the dis-

astrous 2012 loss of 90% of Iowa's apple crop, the 2013 cool March and record-breaking March-through-May rainfall set most ornamental and garden plants back well behind seasonal norms. Events such as these are bringing climate change home to the many Iowans who work the land on a small scale, visit the Farmer's Market, or simply love Iowa's sweet corn and tomatoes.

Iowa's soils and agriculture remain our most important economic resources, but these resources are threatened by climate change. It is time for all Iowans to work together to limit future climate change and make Iowa more resilient to extreme weather. Doing so will allow us to pass on to future generations our proud tradition of helping to feed the world.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I am here to express my support for S. 2124, which expresses the American people's support for the sovereignty, integrity, democracy, and economic stability of Ukraine. I also support the Senate taking up a modified version of H.R. 4152 so we can get this measure to the President's desk—something we should have done weeks ago.

I thank and praise Majority Leader REID for his commitment to this issue, his fortitude, and his patience—as well as our colleagues Senator MURPHY, the head of the subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee, and my colleague from Connecticut and Senator MENENDEZ, along with Senator MCCAIN, whose leadership in spearheading this measure has been so instrumental.

I believe the people of Ukraine need and deserve the opportunity to determine their own future. This goal is not an exceedingly ambitious one. It is hardly novel. It is the universally accepted principle that forms the basis for the sovereignty of all nations.

Together with our European allies, the United States has encouraged Ukrainians to stabilize their country and hold elections this spring. We have taken these actions not to bring Ukraine closer to the European fold or separate it from its historic ties to any of its neighbors but to affirm the principle of human rights, freedom, and sovereignty, which is the bedrock of our own national security and ultimately the security of our global order and the rule of law.

Russia's territorial expansion into Crimea destabilizes and calls into question the security of Russia's neighbors from Finland to China. Who will be next? What pretext and implausible denials will Russia use next time? Who knows, other than Putin and his inner circle.

The United States needs a productive working relationship with Russia, and the world relies on us to be the one nation that can always be counted on to speak clearly and honestly about world events. Ukraine's deep internal division and chronic economic challenges are exacerbated by Russia's less than neighborly interests.

I support targeted individual sanctions already put in place by the President. I thank him for his leadership. We will vote on those this week. But we and our European allies must do more. These measures must be the beginning, not the end. What we do on this measure is a start, a good step in the right direction, but it must be accompanied by additional action—not just words or rhetoric on the floor of the Senate but action that speaks louder than words, sanctions that bite, just as the sanctions on Iran had their effect and brought Iran to the table.

Two years ago I worked successfully with my Senate colleagues on the Helsinki Commission to impose sanctions on government officials in Russia who were complicit in the murder and coverup of Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian lawyer and auditor who died in a Moscow prison after investigating fraud. This law serves as good groundwork and a framework for expanding these types of individually targeted sanctions, which should include travel and banking restrictions on anybody inciting violence and anyone who profits from the theft of state assets.

I believe the legislation before us is an important matter of national security, and we should delay it no further. We have taken a week with extraneous amendments, and delay and time do not strengthen our hand.

The fact is, as we have seen with Iran, we will need strong and strengthening sanctions on Russia to have real effect. This first step must be followed by more, and maybe equally important we need close cooperation with our regional allies to create a really effective deterrent so the Russians know their unilateral seizure of Crimea is condemned by all law-abiding nations and we are taking positive steps to isolate Russia.

Russia's attack ought to be an alarm to the harm of Russian arms exports and military expansion that have brought effects globally and should be a focus of ours and international efforts countering Russian expansion. That expansion takes place at the expense of its neighbors, also sovereign nations, and at the expense of more than 140,000 civilian casualties.

To my dismay and to the sadness of much of the international community, Russia remains the largest arms supplier to the Syrian Government. Russia is a chief obstacle in achieving meaningful progress toward a peaceful resolution in Syria, and they have undermined progress in Geneva, obstructing

or watering down efforts at the U.N. Security Council and a variety of international forums to bring humanitarian relief so desperately needed within Syria and in the refugee camps.

The Senate should take meaningful action to sanction Russia's arms exporters. These companies and individuals who benefit from contracts, both for the fuel they provide to the civil war in Syria and the takeover of Crimea, truly deserve not only our condemnation but action. That is why I am cosponsoring an amendment with my colleagues, Senator CORNYN and Senator COATS, to take exactly such action and why I introduced the Syria Sanctions Enhancement Act of 2013, which would create comprehensive sanctions against anyone who finances the murderous actions of Bashar al-Assad or sustains his military.

I have also written the U.S. Department of Treasury urging them to take action against Russian banks that have undermined U.S. sanctions by facilitating transactions with the Syrian Government. That is right—Russian banks facilitating actions with the Syrian Government. Sanctions on them can have an effect because their activities have reportedly included facilitating payments for S-300 missile batteries, Assad's personal offshore funds, as well as payments for crude oil. In my view, these institutions—Russian banks, the financial structure of Russia—are complicit in prolonging the brutal conflict in Syria and should be barred from the U.S. financial system.

Secretary Kerry said in February:

Russia needs to be part of the solution, not contributing so many more weapons and so much more aid that they are really enabling Assad to double down.

As the majority leader has said, we need to act quickly on the legislation before us. But let's begin and let this action be the beginning of the Senate working together on a bipartisan basis to push back against Russian adventurism and aggression in all its forms, whether it is in Crimea or Syria, and the institutions—financial, energy, and otherwise—that support those efforts. I look forward to joining with my colleagues in those efforts and approving this important measure.

GM CALL FOR ACTION

Madam President, there is no question at this hour on the Senate floor that serious and severe defects in the ignition switches in General Motors vehicles have caused at least 31 crashes and 12 deaths. That tragic loss of life—not even counting the damage to cars, resulting in economic loss, and the injuries to people, resulting in suffering and emotional pain—is part of a situation that calls for action. These defects meant that in a car going full speed down the highway, simply bumping or weighing down the key in the ignition could cause the engine to shut down—as well as disabling the airbags.

That situation has prompted leadership on the part of a number of my colleagues, and I want to thank Senator MARKEY for his legislative proposal on NHTSA, Senator MCCASKILL for her convening a hearing of our consumer protection subcommittee of the commerce committee, as well as others who have taken action to criticize General Motors.

There is also no question, as the New York Times reported this past Saturday, that GM was aware of that situation—those problems with the switches—as early as 2001. That was 8 years before GM went into bankruptcy. The old GM and the new GM were separated. Now the Department of Justice is investigating whether GM committed fraud when it did not disclose those defects in the context of its 2009 bankruptcy.

I have been a Federal prosecutor, and I can tell you about people who have been prosecuted very severely for lying to banks or lying to the Federal Government—lying to banks when they got a loan sometimes for as little as a couple of thousand dollars and false statements to the Federal Government in connection with a seemingly small matter.

At the time it went into bankruptcy and then emerged, GM signed a document—section 6.12—entitled “True and Complete Disclosure,” and it said to the Federal Government that in return for not a couple of thousand dollars, not even a couple million dollars, not a couple of billion dollars, but tens of billions of dollars, more than \$40 billion—I am quoting:

There is no fact known to a Responsible Person of any Loan Party that, after due inquiry, could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect that has not been disclosed herein.

It also said that the documents that were submitted to the U.S. Government at that time “do not contain any untrue statement of material fact or omit to state any material fact necessary to make the statements herein or therein.”

And that section is replete with other representations that now pretty clearly were false because those defects and the role of those defects in causing the crashes were known to GM. It knew also that those defects and the death, injury, and damage seem almost certainly then and now to be a material fact and have a material adverse effect on that agreement.

Well, when GM was restructured in 2009, it was split into an old GM, which took most of the bad assets, such as GM's closed-down plants, and the new GM, which took the good assets. Old GM took the liability for accidents that occurred before the bankruptcy, effectively granting the new GM a shield from responsibility but not a shield from criminal liability. That is why the Department of Justice inves-

tigation is so critically important in holding GM officials and GM itself responsible.

Although some prebankruptcy claims have been settled, they have a greatly reduced pool of money to draw upon so that the potential claims on the part of those 12 families whose loved ones perished, not to mention the injured parties who are due money for their suffering as well as economic loss and others who may have claims—all those claims will be without recourse unless something is done.

Let's be clear about the 2009 bankruptcy. It was not the kind of reorganization that involved Manville, where a fund was created with a trustee. That kind of reorganization is a way that bankruptcies are often pursued. This was a sale of assets. It was fast and easy because the government wanted it so. And, of course, the old GM and the new GM—GM officials, shareholders, everyone interested—wanted it to be so.

I was serving as attorney general of Connecticut at the time, and I warned that this bankruptcy agreement would leave many injured victims without recourse. I led a group of eight State attorneys general in warning the Federal Government—which supported and sponsored the bankruptcy plan—that the situation we see now would come to pass. I don't take a lot of satisfaction in knowing that now we have learned the real facts GM concealed then. I don't take any satisfaction in the potential denial of what is due to the victims of GM's concealment, not to mention its reprehensible and potentially illegal failure to repair those defects rather than conceal them. But, unfortunately, that is what has happened.

Due to GM's failure to disclose that known defect in its vehicles and facts that will continue to come to light in this investigation, everything suggests that this failure to disclose was, in fact, deliberate, fraudulent concealment of information from consumers and from government officials. That is criminal, and that is why the Department of Justice is investigating.

As we stand here, we may be too early to reach conclusions but not too early for the Department of Justice to make things right and for GM to do the right thing.

Yesterday I sent a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder. I told General Holder respectfully that I believe the Federal Government has a moral if not a legal obligation to take certain steps to protect innocent consumers, and I requested that he give it his personal attention. I do that again today—make that request—and urge his personal attention.

Although consumer victims may be barred from seeking relief before the bankruptcy court, the Department of Justice can take steps now in the context of this criminal investigation that

could greatly help people who have been injured—innocent victims who were driving that car down the freeway or on a country road when the ignition was bumped, when the key ring had too many keys and their car stopped, the airbag failed to operate, and some died.

I requested the DOJ to have GM establish a fund to compensate injured consumers. It is a civil remedy that can be done as an interim step in a criminal prosecution. The Department of Justice has the authority to request many kinds of relief, and in light of the continuity of personnel between the old GM and the new GM, this kind of remedy would be absolutely appropriate for the new GM and it could simply allocate some of its assets. And fortunately it is doing well. No one begrudges GM its success. We welcome its profitability. But it can do what is right and use some of those profits to correct this wrong.

If necessary, the Department of Justice also could enter into a deferred prosecution agreement, as it did recently with Toyota, and it reached a settlement there of \$1.2 billion.

There is also a precedent for criminal investigations of this nature being resolved by settlements in the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. A \$4 billion criminal settlement was distributed among groups working to mitigate the spill's effects and prevent future problems, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which has done great work, and the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

If such a settlement were reached here, there should be priority on ensuring that funds compensate consumers who suffered the worst losses—the loved ones of people killed as well as the innocent victims who were injured or suffered economic loss.

In addition to the fund, I also requested that the Department of Justice intervene in pending civil actions to oppose GM's effort to deny knowledge or responsibility for damage. What GM has done is to remove State court cases to Federal court and then asked for a transfer to the bankruptcy court, all the while knowing that the bankruptcy proceeding cannot be reopened, and in any event the old GM has vastly insufficient assets to satisfy any real judgment.

I believe there are answers here that will satisfy fairness and justice and enable GM to live up to the integrity and image that befits them. I believe that the Department of Justice, or another consumer protection agency, must ensure that consumers are aware of the potential dangers in this continuing defective series of vehicles, including the Cobalt, the Saturn, and other models over those same years.

I would never let one of my children behind the wheel of one of those cars without a major repair. I don't know that anyone else should—or anyone

driving themselves—be behind the wheel of these cars.

When a large national company such as GM markets a product, they have a responsibility. They have a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that the product is safe. When one of those companies—any company—becomes aware of safety issues, it has a responsibility to disclose them.

I joined a bill—with the leadership of Senator MARKEY—that would require better, faster disclosure by NHTSA, and I will speak on another occasion about the lapses in responsibility on the part of Federal watchdogs who failed to protect the public, failed to detect a pattern of problems in these cars, and failed to blow the whistle.

GM has its own responsibility, and I know that a new era of leadership at GM under a new leader may mean a new day in its acknowledging its moral and legal responsibility, and I hope for that new day.

The innocent victims of defective cars suffered life-ending and life-changing injuries. Many of them could have been avoided but for the purposefully misleading and deceptive conduct by GM. Our responsibility now is to see that justice is done either through ensuring that compensation is made available or through appropriate criminal enforcement or both. The criminal law, as we know in this body, is a means of seeking justice, and it can provide a good outcome if it is properly framed and enforced.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN M. MANNING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I congratulate Jean Manning on her retirement from the Senate and thank her for her 21 years of dedicated service. Her wise counsel will be missed in the Senate. That is why the Senate recently passed S. Res. 391 designating Jean Manning as Chief Counsel for Employment Emeritus of the United States Senate.

Jean grew up in the heart of Chicago and received three degrees from the

University of Illinois—a B.A., an M.B.A., and a J.D. While pursuing her law degree, Jean was a member and the articles editor of the University of Illinois Law Review and was awarded the Rickert Award for Excellence in Legal Writing. Not forgetting where she came from, today Jean remains very active at the University of Illinois, where she is a member of the University of Illinois Foundation and of the College of Law Board of Advisors, serving as president at one time.

In the early 1990s, Congress as a workplace underwent a sea change when all major employment laws became applicable. In 1993, following a nationwide search, Jean was tapped to establish and manage the Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment. She and her staff helped guide Senate offices as these employment laws were implemented and has continued to assist our offices to this day. Jean has counseled Senate offices to ensure compliance with the Equal Pay Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and many other laws. It was her responsibility to see that Senate offices understood and followed employment laws so that Senate employees have the rights and protections the laws provide.

To Jean's credit, the Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment has earned a stellar reputation throughout the Senate. Her office provides impartial and discreet legal advice, training, and representation to Senate committees, support services, and the 247 Senators who have served in this body since Jean's hiring. Jean and the attorneys under her supervision have resolved countless administrative matters within the Senate and have always been ready to assist with any question a Senate office may have on employment matters. Considering the Senate is comprised of some 150 offices—Member, committee, and support services—this is no small task.

Jean also has represented Senate offices at all levels of the Federal court system, including the U.S. Supreme Court. And since its inception 21 years ago, the Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment has never lost a case.

I thank Jean for her exceptional service to the Senate. The Senate is losing a great legal advocate, educator and source of institutional knowledge. We will miss her, though I will be among the many who will gladly welcome her back when she returns to Illinois.

SUNSCREEN INNOVATION ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by Senator ISAKSON and Representatives DINGELL and WHITFIELD in the introduction of the Sunscreen Innovation Act.

According to the American Cancer Society, skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. In 2014, over 2 million people will be diagnosed with skin cancer, and 20 percent of Americans will get skin cancer at some point during their lifetime. Melanoma, a dangerous form of skin cancer that often spreads throughout the body if not treated, will be diagnosed in an estimated 76,000 individuals this year, and will take the lives of almost 10,000 Americans. Many skin cancers are preventable with the use of effective sunscreen and by avoiding certain activities, like the excessive use of tanning beds.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have been working to ensure consumers have adequate information to prevent skin cancer. For example, I authored the 2007 Tanning Accountability and Notification Act, which has helped spur the Food and Drug Administration's, FDA review of indoor tanning bed labels. Through letters to the FDA and report language in the annual appropriations bill, I continue to press the FDA to implement new tanning bed labeling standards found to be most effective in warning consumers about the harm caused by indoor tanning.

In addition, after working with my former colleague, Senator Chris Dodd, since 1997 to compel the FDA to strengthen sunscreen labeling standards, in 2011 the FDA finally began to take action to finalize parts of the sunscreen monograph relating to the testing and labeling of sunscreen lotions. These regulations were over 30 years in the making. Last year, I urged the FDA to complete its review of sunscreen sprays and the use of sun protection factor, SPF, numbers higher than 50 on product labels.

One barrier to improved sunscreens has been the rate at which new over-the-counter, OTC sunscreen ingredients have been approved by the FDA. Indeed, the last such ingredient approved by the FDA was in the 1990s, with the eight new ingredients submitted since 2002 still awaiting review. It is critical that the FDA perform its due diligence to guarantee that the sunscreen products are safe and effective, but this review process also needs to occur in a timeline that allows these necessary products to get into the hands of consumers.

Many of these ingredients have been used in sunscreen products in Europe, Asia, and Central and South America, in some cases for many years. Unfortunately, delays in the FDA review process have kept these products off of the shelves in the United States for years while awaiting approval.

Our bipartisan, bicameral Sunscreen Innovation Act aims to improve the application process for these new OTC ingredients and ensure consumers have access to new and potentially more effective sunscreen products in a timely

manner. Americans have waited far too long for the most advanced, effective ways to protect themselves from the sun.

I am pleased that this legislation has the support of the PASS Coalition, which is made up of such organizations as the Melanoma Research Alliance, the Prevent Cancer Foundation, the Skin Cancer Foundation, and many others.

I look forward to working with these and other stakeholders, as well as Senator ISAKSON, Representatives DINGELL and WHITFIELD, and the rest of our colleagues to pass the Sunscreen Innovation Act in order to improve access to new and more effective sunscreen products. Indeed, as we look to the coming warmer months, it is important that we undertake serious efforts that will give consumers greater peace of mind that the sunscreen products they purchase offer the strongest possible protection against the sun's harmful rays.

GOULDSBORO, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the town of Gouldsboro, ME. Known today as a beautiful gateway to the Schoodic Peninsula section of Acadia National Park, Gouldsboro was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today.

Gouldsboro's incorporation in 1789 was but one milestone on a long journey of progress. For more than 10,000 years, the area was a favorite hunting and fishing grounds of the Abenaki, the Native American tribe of northeastern North America. The name "Schoodic" comes from their word for a place of plentiful fish in waters kept ice-free through the winter by the moderating currents of the Gulf of Maine. The reverence of the Abenaki for nature remains strong among all who call the peninsula home today.

The original name of Acadia National Park—Sieur de Monts National Monument recognizes the ongoing influence of the French explorers who visited the area in the early 1600s. In 1763, the Seven Years' War between France and Great Britain for control of North America ended with a British victory. With peace came bold pioneers seeking opportunity.

The first recorded non-Native American settler on the peninsula was Thomas Frazer, who built a salt works at the mouth of a creek that today bears his name. Another early settler was the town's namesake, Robert Gould, whose untiring efforts and boundless optimism helped attract new members to the growing community. By the early 1800s, Gouldsboro was a thriving town of lumber and grain mills, fishing, and shipbuilding.

The character of the people of Gouldsboro of years gone by and of

today is best represented by one of the town's historic treasures, the bell of the SS *Queen Victoria*. In 1864, leaders of the Canadian Confederation gathered on that great steamship anchored at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and reached the agreement to found a new nation.

Two years later, the *Queen Victoria* sank in a hurricane off the coast of Cape Hatteras, NC. Captain Rufus Allen, from the Gouldsboro village of Prospect Harbor, steered his Gouldsboro-built brig *Ponvert* into harm's way and was able to rescue 42 of the 43 officers and crew. In recognition of his heroism, Captain Allen was presented with one of the few items saved from the doomed steamship—the bronze bell. He gave the 95-pound bell to the Prospect Harbor School upon his retirement in 1875.

In 2004, 138 years after Captain Allen's daring rescue, the people of Gouldsboro recognized the significance of the *Queen Victoria* to Canadian history and commissioned Prospect Harbor artist and craftsman Dick Fisher to create a replica, which was given to the people of Charlottetown.

That single gesture reaffirmed Gouldsboro's connection to the sea and strengthened the enduring friendship between the United States and Canada.

Today, Gouldsboro is a place where fishing families and summer visitors cherish that connection to the sea. Through hard work and ingenuity, Gouldsboro has become not just a gateway but an essential part of the Acadia experience. With its charming villages, working waterfronts, artist studios, and many recreation opportunities, Gouldsboro is a true gem on the Maine coast.

One of Gouldsboro's early and most influential citizens was David Cobb of Massachusetts, a hero of the American Revolution who served as General Washington's aide during the British surrender at Yorktown.

As the war neared its end and American independence was secured, General Washington urged his aide to leave rocky and cold New England and make his future in Virginia, which he argued had a superior climate and more fertile soil. With his sights already set on Maine, Colonel Cobb replied, "Sir, we have our heads and our hands."

That is the spirit that made a thriving town out of the wilderness more than two centuries ago and that sustains a vibrant community today. It is a pleasure to congratulate the people of Gouldsboro, ME, on their 225th anniversary and to wish them all the best in the years to come.

COSI 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the Center of Science and Industry, COSI, located in central Ohio as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. In

1964, COSI opened its doors as a hands-on center of science education. Fifty years later, COSI has witnessed tremendous growth and expansion as well as national recognition. COSI has welcomed more than 30 million visitors from all 50 States and in 2008 COSI was named America's No. 1 science center for families by Parents Magazine.

COSI has collaborated with schools and organizations across Ohio to provide interactive STEM education in order to prepare our children for the future, and inspire the innovators of tomorrow. Part of COSI's mission is to "motivate a desire toward a better understanding of science, industry, health, and history . . . for the enrichment of the individual and for a more rewarding life on our planet, Earth." They accomplish this mission through partnerships with organizations including WOSU@COSI, the only working television station in a science center, the Columbus Historical Society, and Battelle.

I have visited COSI a number of times, starting with my children when they were in grade school. I have been able to see firsthand the great experience it provides to visitors. I am pleased to honor 50 years of success as COSI continues to lead the way in science education in Ohio.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ROSS ARAGÓN

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today we recognize the distinguished public service of Ross Aragón on the occasion of his retirement after serving 36 years as mayor of Pagosa Springs—the longest serving mayor in Colorado. Since taking office in 1978, Mayor Aragón has fulfilled his duties with passion, diligence, and honor. Over his more than three decades of service he has never missed a regular monthly scheduled meeting. For over a generation, the citizens of Pagosa Springs have known Ross Aragón as the best man for the job.

Mayor Aragón's steadfast approach to city management led to many notable accomplishments, including improving the quality of police and fire protection, expanding the community's recreational programs and facilities, and establishing the town's popular river walk. He also spearheaded the development of the San Juan River's kayaking, rafting, and tubing features, improving the community for both residents and tourists alike.

Of his many achievements, which are too many to list here, two projects in particular embody Mayor Aragón's approach to leadership more than most: his advocacy for local food produced using Pagosa Springs' geothermal resources was a clear demonstration of Mayor Aragón's ability to harness

Pagosa's rich assets and translate them into a brighter future; and his successful efforts to designate Chimney Rock as a national monument exemplified the enthusiasm, dedication, and collaborative mindset Mayor Aragón brought to his job. Thanks to his leadership, an important part of Southwest Colorado's cultural heritage will forever be protected.

On behalf of Pagosa Springs in particular and Southwest Colorado in general, thank you, Mayor Aragón, for your many years of public service. We wish you well in your retirement and we can't wait to see what challenges you tackle next.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN LANIGAN

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I wish to honor John Lanigan, the longtime northeast Ohio radio personality, who will broadcast his final show on WMJI/Cleveland on March 31, 2014.

John and I haven't always agreed on all of the issues, but he has always been well-read and outspoken, and his at times sharp-witted, controversial personality captured the attention of Cleveland listeners, whether you agreed with him or not.

John grew up in Ogallala, NE, and got his start in radio broadcasting while still in high school. He worked in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Colorado—where he would work the overnight shift in Denver and then travel to Colorado Springs for the dayshift—before coming to Cleveland in 1970.

He was hired at WGAR to replace Don Imus, and, within a year, the show's ratings had nearly doubled, no doubt thanks to his trademark style of interjecting jokes in between songs.

John would go on to Tampa for 2 years, but returned to Cleveland and WMJI in 1985, where he made his mark.

In 1989, comedian Jimmy Malone appeared on the show, and the "Lanigan and Malone Show" was created soon after. No topic was off limits for John—politics, sports, music, and entertainment—he covered it all. And, if you were a guest, you had better come prepared because John was always ready to fire off the tough questions.

John would occasionally take the show on the road to DC and broadcast live from my office in the Senate. I would arrange for guests like then-Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton or Barack Obama, to come on and be interviewed with me.

While John cemented his loyal following on the radio, they came with him when he took his skills to the silver screen, hosting a weekly TV show named "Prize Movie" on WUAB.

While he is not on the air, John dedicates his time to benefiting his adopted city. He volunteers for the Our Lady of the Wayside, an organization that serves hundreds of children and adults with developmental disabilities

throughout northeast Ohio, even winning their Starlight Guardian Humanitarian Award in 2012.

John came to Cleveland nearly 40 years ago, and though his talents could have taken him to any big city in the country, he chose to stay in Cleveland. He won the ear of his listeners and viewers because they could trust him.

It is that admirable trait that we will miss with his retirement, but it is also what has earned him this retirement—and no more early morning wake-up calls.

John, I wish you all the best in your retirement. Thank you for all you have done for your listeners, viewers, and for the city of Cleveland.●

FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD HUNGER

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on this day I hope Marylanders across our State can "Hear the Maryland Crunch!" of students eating a healthy school breakfast. Thanks to the leadership of Maryland Hunger Solutions, the "Hear the Maryland Crunch!" campaign offers all Marylanders the opportunity to become more aware of the daily struggle of our food insecure children and stand together in support of school breakfast. I wish to continue to highlight this critical issue facing our children.

Maryland has the highest median income in the nation. Yet even in Maryland one in five children is food insecure. These children lack consistent access to adequate food resources. Yet I am happy to announce we are making strides to ensure our children are fed and ready to learn. Approximately 262,000 students in Maryland participate in the 100 percent federally funded National School Lunch Program and receive either free or reduced price lunches. These students know that when they come to school, they are able to receive a nutritious school lunch.

Only 149,000 children or 59 percent of students receiving a school lunch start their day ready to learn with a school breakfast. At this time, Maryland ranks 14th in the nation in school breakfast participation rate after making tremendous progress over the past 5 years to ensure all children have access to nutritious meals. Over the course of 5 years Maryland's school breakfast program participation rate has increased by 37 percent, and our school lunch participation rate has more than doubled with a 56 percent increase.

I am encouraged by these developments and efforts to continue to expand school breakfast access for all children. Marylanders are united in the vision that the ability of children to learn and succeed in our classrooms should not be impaired because they come to school hungry. Thanks to the

partnership between Governor Martin O'Malley, the Maryland General Assembly, national organizations such as the Share Our Strength's No Kid Hunger campaign, the Family League of Baltimore, and Maryland Hunger Solutions, our State has continued to make efforts to expand access to school breakfast with the Maryland Meals for Achievement Program.

Maryland Meals for Achievement allows schools where 40 percent of students or more qualify for free or reduced price school lunch to provide school breakfast meals for all students at no cost to the child. This program combines the expansion of the school breakfast program with innovative efforts to encourage increased participation, including a change in the traditional breakfast delivery model of serving school breakfast meals in the cafeteria to an in-classroom setting. Schools have shown a positive increase in school breakfast participation rates from the new "Grab and Go" breakfasts or "Breakfast After the Bell" programs, allowing more students to be better prepared to succeed in the classroom. I commend Governor O'Malley for requesting additional funding this fiscal year for the Maryland Meals for Achievement Program that will allow an additional 40,000 students to receive a healthy breakfast.

According to a study sponsored by the Share Our Strength's No Kid Hunger campaign, research has shown students who receive a school breakfast are better prepared to learn and perform in their classwork, are less likely to be overweight, have more strength and endurance throughout the day, are less likely to cause classroom disruptions, and are less likely to be absent from school than if they were not receiving a school breakfast.

In closing, I am honored to join with Maryland Hunger Solutions and Marylanders across our State who are committed to do better for our children. On this Maryland day, we reflect on our rich past and look forward to a bright future in which the only hunger our schoolchildren have is a hunger to learn. I am proud that Maryland is leading the fight against childhood hunger. Together, let's all "Hear the Maryland Crunch!"

MARYLAND DAY

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to celebrate Maryland Day and the proud history of my home State. Marylanders across the State are taking a moment to reflect on our proud history and contributions to the Nation. I wish to spend a few minutes to highlight the importance of this State holiday and the activities that are underway.

On this day 380 years ago, two ships commissioned by Lord Baltimore, *The Ark* and *The Dove*, carried the first English settlers to land at St.

Clement's Island in what is now recognized as St. Mary's County. Leonard Calvert, a son of Lord Baltimore who eventually served as the first Governor of Maryland, led the 150 settlers who came ashore to St. Clement's Island after spending more than four months at sea. This landing represented the first time European settlers came to Maryland and those settlers eventually formed just the third English colony to be settled in British North America.

The origin of Maryland Day began with the Maryland State Board of Education placing an emphasis on State and local histories in public schools. In 1903, the Maryland State Board of Education officially recognized Maryland Day as a tool for students and teachers to increase instruction of Maryland history in public schools. The Maryland General Assembly, which held its first session in St. Mary's County not long after the landing at St. Clement's Island, enacted Maryland Day as an official State holiday in 1916. Young learners across our State will spend today learning about the significant contributions of Maryland to the Nation and important historical figures in Maryland.

I am proud to say that every region of my home State has played a role in shaping our Nation. From the Eastern Shore of Maryland, for instance, Harriet Ross Tubman was born into slavery in 1820 in Buckstown, MD along the marshes of the Blackwater River in Dorchester County. After learning she would be sold to settle her late master's debts, Tubman escaped from slavery to Philadelphia, PA, marking the first of many expeditions over the course of the next 11 years to and from the Eastern Shore of Maryland to lead nearly 70 slaves out of slavery. In addition to becoming a famous conductor on the Underground Railroad, she held a lifelong commitment to the women's suffrage movement and worked as a nurse, cook, spy, and scout for the Union Army during the Civil War in Port Royal, SC. She became the first woman to lead an armed assault during the Civil War in Combahee Ferry Raid, liberating nearly 750 slaves. In her later years, she worked tirelessly for the women's suffrage movement, speaking before countless women's groups with fellow suffrage movement leaders Susan B. Anthony and Emily Howland. When asked if she believed women deserved the right to vote, she would reply, "I suffered enough to believe it."

In Western Maryland, Maryland citizens played a key role in the military and political struggles of the Civil War. The control of Maryland territory was crucial due to the State's proximity to Washington, DC, the State's border with Virginia and with other States that remained in the Union, and Baltimore's position as a key railroad link to the West. In 1862, GEN Robert E. Lee

led his Confederate Army of Northern Virginia across the Potomac River around Leesburg, VA into Maryland, marking his first invasion into the North during the Civil War. The Maryland Campaign consisted of a number of battles along Maryland's western-most counties and often pitted Marylanders on opposite sides of the fighting. In the single bloodiest day battle in American history, the Battle of Antietam in Sharpsburg, MD formed a turning point in the Civil War. With savage close range fighting lasting over a period of 12 hours, the Union and Confederate forces suffered nearly 23,000 total casualties. This battle forced General Lee to withdraw his Confederate Army back across the Potomac River into Virginia, thus ending the invasion of the North and the last major battle that took place on Union soil. The people of Maryland honor those who valiantly fought in the Civil War, endured the hardships brought on by the conflict, and made the ultimate sacrifice in order to form a more perfect Union.

Perhaps the most recognizable contribution Maryland has provided to our Nation is the national anthem. During the War of 1812, British troops enacted heavy damage to Washington, DC, setting both the U.S. Capitol and the White House ablaze. The British forces then marched towards Baltimore. Citizens of Baltimore, including free blacks, quickly mobilized to protect their city. Barricades stretching more than 1 mile long were constructed to protect the harbor, hulls were sunk to impede navigation, and a chain of masts was erected across the harbor entrance. When the British fleet approached Baltimore at North Point, Marylanders fought the British Army and helped repulse the British Navy from Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore. It's important to note that American forces during the Battle of North Point were volunteer militia, heavily outnumbered by the highly trained British infantry, but they managed to delay the British forces long enough for 10,000 American reinforcements to arrive, preventing a land attack against Baltimore. Following 25 hours of intense British naval bombardment at Fort McHenry, the American defenders refused to yield, and the British were forced to depart.

During the bombardment, American lawyer Francis Scott Key, who was being held on board an American flag-of-truce vessel in Baltimore Harbor, took notice of the American flag still flying atop Fort McHenry. Key realized then that the Americans had survived the battle and stopped the enemy advance. He was so moved by the sight of the American flag flying following the horrific bombardment, he composed a poem called the "The Defense of Fort McHenry," which was published in the Baltimore Patriot and Advertiser

newspaper later that year. This poem, and later the song, inspired love of country among the American people and not only helped usher in the Era of Good Feelings immediately after the war, but became a timeless reminder of American resolve. “The Star Spangled Banner” officially became our national anthem in 1931. The flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired this anthem is now a national treasure on display at the Smithsonian Institution, a very short distance from where we are today.

On this Maryland Day, Marylanders are in the midst of celebrating Baltimore’s role in the bicentennial anniversary of the War of 1812. *The Pride of Baltimore II*, named in honor of the Baltimore clipper the *Chasseur*, set sail from the Baltimore Inner Harbor to the State capital while carrying a replica of the Star Spangled Banner “that was still there” after the bombardment of Fort McHenry in September 1814. Sewn by volunteers of the Maryland Historical Society, this flag will be presented to Governor Martin O’Malley and members of the Maryland General Assembly at the Annapolis Statehouse.

I am proud of the legacy of my home State and the efforts Marylanders have made and continue to make to remember those who have come before us. I thank all of those who participated in Maryland Day ceremonies and congratulate the students who learned something new about our great State today.●

CONGRATULATING PENNY REYNOLDS AND ANDREA DAVIS

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Carson City teacher, Penny Reynolds, and 12th grade senior, Andrea Davis, on their Nevada Restaurant Association ProStart State culinary competition victories. Each was named Teacher and Student of the Year, respectively. Nevada is proud to offer education in a wide variety of subjects, including the culinary arts.

For nearly 30 years, Ms. Reynolds has been an educator in my home State of Nevada. Ms. Reynolds and her 173 students serve lunch four times a week to the community in their student-operated establishment. Ms. Reynolds’ Teacher of the Year designation, based on her high expectations for her program and her students’ knowledge, is nothing short of deserving. I commend Ms. Reynolds for her leadership and positive influence in Nevada’s education system.

Along with her team of chef classmates, 18-year-old Andrea Davis competed at and won this year’s ProStart State hot foods competition, making for 10 first place finishes at the annual event for my alma mater, Carson High School. The five culinary students were each awarded scholarships for their winning dish. I wish Ms. Davis the best

of luck on her and the entire team’s trip to the national arena.

I admire and recognize the commitment of our teachers to uphold high education standards for Nevada. Educators work tirelessly to ensure our Nation’s students are prepared to compete in the 21st century, and I am grateful for Ms. Reynolds’s strong leadership and positive influence on Nevada’s youth. My home State of Nevada is proud and privileged to acknowledge such an extraordinary educator and leader.

Nevada is fortunate to have such strong educational leadership serving the students of the Silver State. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Reynolds, Ms. Davis, and the entire Carson High Culinary Arts program on their appetizing successes thus far.●

REMEMBERING RAYMOND JOHN NOORDA

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, this month, the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce will honor Raymond John Noorda, posthumously, with the 2014 “Pillar of the Valley” Award. I would like to take a moment to recognize the achievements of this great Utahn.

Raymond Noorda, or “Ray,” as everyone knew him, was born in Ogden, UT in 1924 to Dutch immigrants, Bertus and Alida Noorda. Like nearly all Americans who grew up during the Depression, Ray learned the virtue of hard work early on, and he never stopped working throughout his life. The Deseret News reports that during his youth, Ray worked “in a candy shop, setting pins in a bowling alley, as a loading clerk at a train station, picking cherries, selling magazines, and even herding sheep.”

He was an outstanding baseball player, and he was asked to join a professional team right out of high school. However, his mother had other plans for young Ray, and he subsequently enrolled in classes at Weber State College. During World War II, Ray put school on hold and served in the Navy as an electronics technician, working on radar systems. At the conclusion of his military service, he returned to his studies, transferring from Weber to the University of Utah, where he earned a degree in engineering. Ray married his sweetheart Tye shortly after graduating from college, and they were together for 56 years, until Ray’s passing in 2006.

After his graduation from college, Ray worked for General Electric for 21 years, where he was known as an innovator and entrepreneur. He eventually left the company and led a number of businesses to success in the following years. In the early 1980s, Ray became the leader of a struggling Utah company called Novell Data Systems, which would shortly thereafter become Novell.

Ray worked to put together a team of engineers, dubbed “SuperSet.” The team eventually invented powerful networking software, which opened the doors to modern networking. For this and other contributions, Ray has been called the “Father of Network Computing.” This development set Novell on a path to success and pushed the company far ahead of their early competitors in computer networking throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s.

Of Novell’s success under Ray’s leadership, The Independent reported, “Novell’s NetWare product was to become the de facto standard networking software from the late 1980s through to the mid-1990s. Noorda oversaw the growth of the company from 17 to 12,000 staff, whilst still maintaining a community spirit for his employees, whom he treated with immense respect and who, in turn, affectionately referred to him as Uncle Ray.”

Ray was a visionary and humble leader, who believed that cooperation with competitors would help grow the emerging computer networking industry. Thus, he led his company with a term he coined—“co-opetition”—and Novell was a leader in cooperative advancements in the computing industry. One of Novell’s Vice Presidents once said of Ray, “What he preaches is what you always wanted to hear from your father—love, sharing—and he uses those words.” When Ray spoke to employees, he was rarely, if ever, without a joke, and he was always positive and encouraging.

Ray’s success in business was a testament to his personal character and virtues. He loved children, and enjoyed serving in his church. His philanthropy knew no bounds, and his family continues that legacy in Utah and throughout the country each day. Ray was a titan of business, and his life is a shining example for not only business leaders, but also Americans in general. I join with the Utah Valley Chamber in honoring his wife Tye and his family, and I thank them for their support of such a great man. I pray that we will honor the life of Ray Noorda by doing the best we can in our individual capacities, and by helping those around us achieve greatness, success, and happiness throughout life.●

TRIBUTE TO ELDER DALLIN H. OAKS

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, this month, the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce will honor Elder Dallin H. Oaks, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with the 2014 “Pillar of the Valley” Award. I would like to take a moment to recognize the achievements of this great man who is dear to my heart.

Elder Oaks was born in Provo, UT in 1932. He spent his youth in Utah Valley

and Vernal, and he started working from a very young age to support his two younger siblings and widowed mother. Elder Oaks remembers that his mother was "an extraordinary mother," who gave him "a great deal of responsibility and freedom" and "encouraged [him] to have a job." He graduated from Brigham Young High School in 1950, where he was the senior class president and played on the football team. He also became a licensed first-class radiotelephone operator in his teenage years.

Elder Oaks was a member of the National Guard from 1949 to 1954. During this period, he met his wife June Dixon, and they were married in 1952. They raised six beautiful children together. After more than 45 years of marriage, June, stricken with cancer, passed from this mortal existence. Elder Oaks' extraordinary faith and trust in God's plan during this time of trial was an example for all of us who have lost a loved one to cancer.

Elder Oaks has worked tirelessly to lift those around him and to achieve greatness throughout his life. After graduating from Brigham Young University, BYU, with a bachelor's degree in accounting, Oaks went on to law school at the University of Chicago. His hard work at Chicago led him to the tremendous opportunity of clerking at the Supreme Court for Chief Justice Warren. He subsequently returned to Chicago to go into private practice, and eventually joined the faculty at the University of Chicago.

It was during this time that my parents moved to Chicago so that my father could earn his law degree at the University of Chicago. Elder Oaks and June kindly welcomed them, and they became lifelong friends. While in Chicago, Elder Oaks also had the opportunity to serve as assistant state's attorney for Cook County, a position in which he excelled.

After years of extraordinary work and service in Chicago, the Oaks family was called home to Utah Valley, as Elder Oaks was appointed president of BYU in 1971. He was a brilliant leader, who inspired the students to learn as much as possible and to be advocates for virtue and goodness throughout the world. He also set a high bar for his successors, one of whom was my father, who praised Elder Oaks as a man of great humility and wisdom.

After 9 years as president, he was nominated and confirmed as a justice of the Utah Supreme Court. Before and during his service as a justice, Elder Oaks was on multiple short lists for nomination to the Supreme Court of the United States. He served with distinction on the Utah Supreme Court from 1980 to 1984, when he resigned to answer a call to serve in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Placing his faith above worldly suc-

cess, Elder Oaks has travelled the world, bearing testimony of Jesus Christ and strengthening the faith of millions. He has been an ardent defender of religious liberty, and continually works to bring members of all faiths together to accomplish good.

Elder Oaks has been an inspiration to millions of individuals all over the world. I congratulate him and his wife Kristen on their many wonderful accomplishments over the last 14 years together. Elder Oaks is not only an example of a genius legal mind to which all jurists, including myself, aspire, but also a tireless advocate for truth, virtue, freedom, and goodness throughout the world. I am proud to say that I know such an individual, and I believe that our world would be a much better place if more men strived to emulate his virtues.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3771. An act to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

At 11:47 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1036. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office".

H.R. 1376. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building".

H.R. 1451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building".

H.R. 1813. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building".

H.R. 2391. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the "Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office".

H.R. 3060. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building".

H.R. 4275. An act to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3771. An act to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1036. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1376. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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H.R. 3060. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2149. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2157. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4963. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel (OSS-2014-0358); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4964. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order further expanding the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, and expanded in Executive Order 13661 of March 16, 2014, with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Ukraine; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4965. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 on April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4966. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Illinois Shoreline Erosion, Interim III, Wilmette, Illinois, to the Illinois-Indiana State Line (Chicago Shoreline) project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4967. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Western Sarpy and Clear Creek, Nebraska, flood risk reduction project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4968. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's revised Strategic Plan for the period of fiscal year 2014 through fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4969. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the Idaho State Implementation Plan; Approval of Fine Particulate Matter Control Measures; Franklin County" (FRL No. 9908-38-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4970. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans (Negative Declarations) for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont; Withdrawal of State Plan for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: New Hampshire; Technical Corrections to Approved State Plans (Negative Declarations): Rhode Island and Vermont" (FRL No. 9908-37-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4971. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Evansville Area; 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Maintenance Plan Revision to Approved Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets" (FRL No. 9908-16-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4972. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa" (FRL No. 9907-77-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4973. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Hawaii; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone and the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9907-73-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4974. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California San Francisco Bay Area and Chico Nonattainment Areas; Fine Particulate Matter Emissions Inventories" (FRL No. 9906-92-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4975. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation of Fuel and Fuel Additives: Reformulated Gasoline Requirements for the Atlanta Covered Area" (FRL No. 9907-91-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4976. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Arizona; Payson PM10 Air Quality Planning Area" (FRL No. 9908-00-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4977. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans, State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants, and Operating Permits Program; State of Missouri" (FRL No. 9907-79-Region 7) received during adjourn-

ment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4978. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri" (FRL No. 9908-02-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4979. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Approval of Redesignation Requests of the West Virginia Portion of the Steubenville-Weirton, OH-WV Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standards" (FRL No. 9908-05-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4980. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9908-04-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4981. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Updates to HCFC Trade Language as Applied to Article 5 Countries; Ratification Status of Parties to the Montreal Protocol; and Harmonized Tariff Schedule Commodity Codes" (FRL No. 9906-75-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4982. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Nevada; Infrastructure Requirements for Lead (Pb)" (FRL No. 9908-09-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2151. A bill to enhance the early warning reporting requirements for motor vehicle

manufacturers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HEITKAMP:

S. 2152. A bill to direct Federal investment in carbon capture and storage and other clean coal technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2153. A bill to establish a National Regulatory Budget, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2154. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KIRK:

S. 2155. A bill to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to create a Federal Spectrum Reallocation Commission, to provide for the use of a portion of the proceeds from the auction of reallocated Federal spectrum for deficit reduction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2156. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to confirm the scope of the authority of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to deny or restrict the use of defined areas as disposal sites; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2157. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 395. A resolution designating the month of April 2014 as "Military and Veterans Caregiver Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 396. A resolution designating March 25, 2014, as "National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 397. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 398. A resolution to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. RISCH):

S. Con. Res. 34. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should hold the Russian Federation accountable for being in material breach of its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 15

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 15, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 84

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 84, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 200

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 200, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the interment in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration of individuals who served in combat support of the Armed Forces in the Kingdom of Laos between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975, and for other purposes.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, *supra*.

S. 738

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, and for other purposes.

S. 741

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms.

COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 741, a bill to extend the authorization of appropriations to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2017.

S. 1049

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1049, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1349, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1364

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1364, a bill to promote neutrality, simplicity, and fairness in the taxation of digital goods and digital services.

S. 1733

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 1803

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1803, a bill to require certain protections for student loan borrowers, and for other purposes.

S. 1810

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1810, a bill to provide paid family and medical leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1828

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1828, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 1992

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1992, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid.

S. 2008

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2008, a bill to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2082, a bill to provide for the development of criteria under the Medicare program for medically necessary short inpatient hospital stays, and for other purposes.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2125, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 2133

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2133, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other statutes to clarify appropriate liability standards for Federal antidiscrimination claims.

S. RES. 384

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 384, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, resulting humanitarian and development challenges, and the urgent need for a political solution to the crisis.

AMENDMENT NO. 2853

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from North Da-

kota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2853 intended to be proposed to S. 2124, an original bill to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2853 intended to be proposed to S. 2124, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 2854

At the request of Mr. COATS, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2854 intended to be proposed to S. 2124, an original bill to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. HEITKAMP:

S. 2152. A bill to direct Federal investment in carbon capture and storage and other clean coal technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Advanced Clean Coal Technology for Our Nation (ACCTION) Act. This bill seeks to remedy one of the main impediments to the development of advanced clean coal technologies, in particular carbon capture and sequestration, CCS, by laying out concrete funding mechanisms to encourage investment, innovation, and collaboration between the Federal Government and companies looking to build the next generation of coal-fired power plants in this country. The Federal Government continues to put in place regulations that seek to further reduce emissions from our nation's coal-fired power plants, yet they provide little to no incentive for utilities and other coal stakeholders to invest in and develop advanced clean coal technologies.

The Federal Government invests heavily in our renewable resources and provides an environment for oil and gas producers, efforts that I wholeheartedly support. However, if we are to truly invest in an all-of-the-above energy policy that will provide the most robust and diverse portfolio of energy sources then we must find a path forward for coal-fired power. The ACCTION Act will put coal back on a level playing field with our other resources by incentivizing technologies that reduce the carbon footprint of coal-fired power through Federal funding programs, offering Federal support for private investment, and putting forth recommendations on how best to

support future CCS projects in the United States.

The ACCTION Act will increase Federal investment in clean coal technology by: developing large-scale carbon storage programs to support the commercial-scale application of enhanced oil recovery and geologic storage of carbon dioxide; increasing access to and streamlining existing Federal funding programs for coal projects and; revamping existing research and development programs for advanced coal, and carbon capture and sequestration technologies by including transformational coal-related technologies; increasing to 30 percent the current tax credit for carbon sequestration from coal facilities; establishing a variable price support for companies that capture CO₂ for use in enhanced oil recovery operations; creating clean energy coal bonds to provide tax credits for coal-powered facilities that sequester CO₂ or meet efficiency targets; and requiring reports and recommendations to Congress on existing carbon capture projects and how those projects can be duplicated with a combination of public and private financing.

The ACCTION Act takes into account two very important realities and attempts to address the seemingly divergent points by looking for a solution. First, the climate is changing, and we need to recognize we will be functioning in a carbon constrained world moving forward. We will have to continue to innovate and look for new ways to reduce emissions while at the same time meeting our energy needs. Second, coal is not going anywhere. The Energy Information Administration has stated that coal will still be providing a third of our electricity decades into the future. If we continue to support and invest in advanced technologies, coal will remain in the energy mix for decades beyond that.

Finding a path forward for coal is critical for our Nation and my State. North Dakota is one of the top ten states for percentage of our electricity generated from coal, with coal-fired power providing almost 80 percent of the State's electricity needs. At the same time, our state maintains some of the lowest rates per kilowatt-hour in the Nation. North Dakota is also one of the top 10 coal producing States in the Nation. It is estimated that over 4,000 North Dakotans were directly employed as a result of lignite-related coal activities in 2012, and as many as 13,000 other jobs in the state were supported indirectly by the lignite coal industry.

Coal use continues to increase around the world, and if the United States wants to truly be a leader on emissions reduction and advanced energy technologies, then we must be fully committed in investing the necessary funding and resources to develop and implement clean coal technologies

here and abroad. These efforts will come with significant costs, and will not happen overnight, but we must take the necessary steps now to further reduce emissions while providing a path-forward for coal-fired power.

Coal-fired power remains the most reliable, redundant, affordable source of electricity for major portions of this country. Coal remains an abundant resource in this country. The ACCTON Act lays out a path-forward for coal-fired power and advanced clean coal technologies, and I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 395—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2014 AS “MILITARY AND VETERANS CAREGIVER MONTH”

Mr. BURR (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 395

Whereas more than 2,400,000 members of the Armed Forces have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since October 2001, 6,800 have been killed in action, more than 51,000 have been wounded in action, and 1,558 have undergone an amputation for a battle-related injury;

Whereas the signature wounds of members of the Armed Forces who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn are traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas, between January 1, 2000, and January 10, 2014, 287,911 cases of traumatic brain injury were diagnosed among members of the Armed Forces, and approximately 7,100 cases were classified as severe or penetrating;

Whereas studies have shown that the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder among veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom ranges between 15 and 20 percent, and reports from the Department of Veterans Affairs show that 29 percent of veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom and sought health care during fiscal years 2002 through 2012 had post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas many of the members of the Armed Forces and veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom and suffered these injuries require assistance from a family caregiver to complete activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, and feeding, or instrumental activities such as transportation, meal preparation, and health management;

Whereas as many as 1,000,000 spouses, parents, and children of veterans have served or are currently serving as family caregivers to veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to a study of military caregivers conducted by the RAND Corporation;

Whereas section 1672 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) introduced an expansion of medical care available to family caregivers, and the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act

of 2010 (Public Law 111-163) facilitated a new program for access to health insurance, mental health services, caregiver training, and respite care by family caregivers of veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the program provided under the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163) is limited to veterans enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration, who sustained a serious injury in the line of duty after September 11, 2001, and who require at least 6 months of personal care services because of an inability to perform activities of daily living or who require supervision due to neurological impairment; and

Whereas the primary caregivers of members of the Armed Forces and veterans injured in the line of duty make tremendous sacrifices of their own, saving the United States millions of dollars in health care and potential institutionalization costs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of April 2014 as “Military and Veterans Caregiver Month”;

(2) honors caregivers of members of the Armed Forces and veterans for their service and sacrifice to the United States; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States—

(A) to observe the month with appropriate activities and events; and

(B) to participate in activities that will show support to military families and the sacrifices endured by those families in service to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 396—DESIGNATING MARCH 25, 2014, AS “NATIONAL CEREBRAL PALSY AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 396

Whereas the term “cerebral palsy” refers to a group of permanent disorders of the development of movement and posture that are attributed to non-progressive disturbances that occur in the developing brain;

Whereas cerebral palsy, the most common motor disability in children, is caused by damage to 1 or more specific areas of the developing brain, which usually occurs during fetal development, before, during, or after birth;

Whereas the majority of children who have cerebral palsy are born with the disorder, although cerebral palsy may remain undetected for months or years;

Whereas individuals with cerebral palsy also have at least 1 co-occurring condition, with 41 percent of such individuals having co-occurring epilepsy and nearly 7 percent having co-occurring autism spectrum disorder;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released information indicating that cerebral palsy is not decreasing in prevalence and that an estimated 1 in 323 children has cerebral palsy;

Whereas approximately 800,000 people in the United States are affected by cerebral palsy;

Whereas although there is currently no cure for cerebral palsy, treatment often improves the capabilities of a child with cerebral palsy;

Whereas scientists and researchers are hopeful that breakthroughs in cerebral palsy research will be forthcoming;

Whereas researchers across the United States are conducting important research projects involving cerebral palsy; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness in the general public and the medical community about cerebral palsy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 25, 2014, as “National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages all people of the United States to become more informed and aware of cerebral palsy; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to Reaching for the Stars: A Foundation of Hope for Children with Cerebral Palsy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 397—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 397

Whereas the week of May 4 through 10, 2014 has been designated as “Public Service Recognition Week” to honor the employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments of the United States;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the United States through work at all levels of government;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service in every city, county, and State across the United States and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas the Federal Government and State and local governments are responsive, innovative, and effective because of the outstanding work of public servants;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly-trained individuals who work in public service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend the freedom of the people of the United States and advance the interests of the United States around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to the Armed Forces of the United States and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver Social Security and Medicare benefits;

- (6) fight disease and promote better health;
- (7) protect the environment and the parks of the United States;
- (8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;
- (9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;
- (10) help the people of the United States recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;
- (11) teach and work in schools and libraries;
- (12) develop new technologies and explore the Earth, the Moon, and space to help improve understanding of how the world changes;
- (13) improve and secure transportation systems;
- (14) promote economic growth; and
- (15) assist the veterans of the United States;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and maintain homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent the interests and promote the ideals of the United States;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, and abuse, and of dangers to public health;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as the skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances, and contribute greatly to the security of the United States and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of the United States and its ideals, and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants; and

Whereas the week of May 4 through 10, 2014 marks the 30th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) supports the designation of the week of May 4 through 10, 2014 as “Public Service Recognition Week”;
- (2) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great country during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;
- (3) salutes government employees for their unyielding dedication to and spirit for public service;
- (4) honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;
- (5) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and
- (6) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

SENATE RESOLUTION 398—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. McCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 398

Whereas, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs conducted an investigation into offshore tax evasion and the effort to collect unpaid taxes on billions in hidden offshore accounts;

Whereas, the Subcommittee has received a request from a state regulatory agency for access to records of the Subcommittee's investigation;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to law enforcement officials, regulatory agencies, and other entities or individuals duly authorized by federal, state, or foreign governments, records of the Subcommittee's investigation into offshore tax evasion and the effort to collect unpaid taxes on billions in hidden offshore accounts.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HOLD THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR BEING IN MATERIAL BREACH OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INTERMEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES TREATY

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 34

Whereas the Russian Federation is in material breach of its obligations under the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, commonly referred to as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988; and

Whereas such behavior poses a threat to the United States, its deployed forces, and its allies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should hold the Russian Federation accountable for being in material breach of its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty;

(2) the President should demand the Russian Federation completely and verifiably eliminate the military systems that constitute the material breach of its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty;

(3) the President should not engage in further reductions of United States nuclear forces generally and should not engage in nuclear arms reduction negotiations with the Russian Federation specifically until such complete and verifiable elimination of the military systems has occurred; and

(4) the President, in consultation with United States allies, should consider whether it is in the national security interests of the United States to unilaterally remain a party to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty if the Russian Federation is still in material breach of such Treaty beginning one year after the date of the adoption of this concurrent resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2856. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2857. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2858. Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2859. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2860. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2861. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2862. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2863. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2864. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2865. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2866. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2867. Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

SA 2868. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2856. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 30, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. —. EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS TO WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION MEMBER COUNTRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(c) For purposes” and inserting the following:

“(c) EXPEDITED APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION MEMBER COUNTRY.—In this subsection, the term ‘World Trade Organization member country’ has the meaning given the term ‘WTO member country’ in section 2 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501).

“(2) EXPEDITED APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—For purposes”; and

(2) in paragraph (2) (as so designated), by inserting “or to a World Trade Organization member country” after “trade in natural gas”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to applications for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) that are pending on, or filed on or after, the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2857. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 10, line 25, strike “integrity.” and insert the following: “integrity; and

(9) in order to strengthen long-standing treaty obligations of the United States and Ukraine related to the civil use of nuclear energy, including the Agreement for Cooperation Between the United States of America and Ukraine Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, done at Kiev, May 6, 1998, and entered into force May 29, 1999, coordinate with the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Commerce to assist the Government of Ukraine in identifying nuclear fuel requirements for Ukraine's power sector, identifying and supporting commercial production capabilities for alternative nuclear fuel supplies and any other assistance determined necessary by the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Commerce to maintain safe, secure, and sustainable operation of nuclear reactors in Ukraine, and to consider expansion of such assistance to other Central and Eastern European countries as determined appropriate by the Secretary

Energy, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of State.

SA 2858. Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 21, strike line 9 and all that follows through page 30, line 23, and insert the following:

SEC. 10. ANNUAL REPORT ON MILITARY AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than June 1, 2015, and June 1 of each year thereafter through 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the specified congressional committees a report, in both classified and unclassified form, on the current and future military power of the Russian Federation (in this section referred to as “Russia”). The report shall address the current and probable future course of military-technological development of the Russian military, the tenets and probable development of the security strategy and military strategy of the Government of Russia, and military organizations and operational concepts, for the 20-year period following submission of such report.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the security situation in regions neighboring Russia.

(2) The goals and factors shaping the security strategy and military strategy of the Government of Russia.

(3) Trends in Russian security and military behavior that would be designed to achieve, or that are consistent with, the goals described in paragraph (2).

(4) An assessment of the global and regional security objectives of the Government of Russia, including objectives that would affect the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Middle East, or the People's Republic of China.

(5) A detailed assessment of the sizes, locations, and capabilities of the nuclear, special operations, land, sea, and air forces of the Government of Russia.

(6) Developments in Russian military doctrine and training.

(7) An assessment of the proliferation activities of the Government of Russia and Russian entities, as a supplier of materials, technologies, or expertise relating to nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction or missile systems.

(8) Developments in the asymmetric capabilities of the Government of Russia, including its strategy and efforts to develop and deploy cyberwarfare and electronic warfare capabilities, details on the number of malicious cyber incidents originating from Russia against Department of Defense infrastructure, and associated activities originating or suspected of originating from Russia.

(9) The strategy and capabilities of space and counterspace programs in Russia, including trends, global and regional activities, the involvement of military and civilian organizations, including state-owned enterprises, academic institutions, and commercial entities, and efforts to develop, acquire, or gain access to advanced technologies that would enhance Russian military capabilities.

(10) Developments in Russia's nuclear program, including the size and state of Russia's stockpile, its nuclear strategy and associated doctrines, its civil and military production capacities, and projections of its future arsenals.

(11) A description of the anti-access and area denial capabilities of the Government of Russia.

(12) A description of Russia's command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance modernization program and its applications for Russia's precision guided weapons.

(13) In consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State, developments regarding United States-Russian engagement and cooperation on security matters.

(14) Other military and security developments involving Russia that the Secretary of Defense considers relevant to United States national security.

(c) SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “specified congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 11. RESCISSIONS FROM FOREIGN RELATIONS ACCOUNTS.

(a) INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Of the funds appropriated under the heading “International Security Assistance, Department of State, International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement” in title IV of division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76), \$65,000,000 are rescinded.

(b) CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION.—Of the funds appropriated under the heading “Multilateral Assistance, International Financial Institutions, Contribution to the International Development Association” in title V of division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76), \$43,525,000 are rescinded.

(c) CONTRIBUTION TO THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND.—Of the funds appropriated under the heading “Multilateral Assistance, International Financial Institutions, Contribution to the Asian Development Fund” in title V of division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76), \$9,000,000 are rescinded.

(d) CONTRIBUTION TO THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND.—Of the funds appropriated under the heading “Multilateral Assistance, International Financial Institutions, Contribution to the African Development Fund” in title V of division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76), \$16,475,000 are rescinded.

(e) SUBSIDY APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.—Of the unexpended balances available under the heading “Export and Investment Assistance, Export-Import Bank of the United States, Subsidy Appropriation” from prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs, \$23,500,000 are rescinded.

SA 2859. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 13 and insert the following:

SEC. 13. ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILD TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e) of section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “under this section to a taxpayer” and all that follows and inserting “under this section to any taxpayer unless—

“(1) such taxpayer includes the taxpayer’s valid identification number (as defined in section 6428(h)(2)) on the return of tax for the taxable year, and

“(2) with respect to any qualifying child, the taxpayer includes the name and taxpayer identification number of such qualifying child on such return of tax.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2860. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 13, beginning on line 9, strike “Not later than” and all that follows through line 13 and insert the following:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A preliminary assessment of deficiencies in the defensive military capabilities of Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe, including air defense systems and anti-armor capabilities.

(B) A detailed description of which types of defense articles, defense services, and areas of military training can and will be provided to help address any deficiencies.

SA 2861. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 11 the following new section:

SEC. 12. REPLACEMENT OF FOREIGN SERVICE NATIONALS SERVING AT UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES IN RUSSIA.

The Secretary of State shall ensure that, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, every individual employed by the United States Government and serving at a United States diplomatic facility in the Russian Federation shall be a citizen of the United States and shall have passed, and be subject to, a thorough background check.

SA 2862. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 11 the following new section:

SEC. 12. INCLUSION OF RESTRICTED ACCESS SPACES IN UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES IN RUSSIA AND ADJACENT COUNTRIES.

Each United States diplomatic facility that, after the date of the enactment of this Act, is constructed in, or undergoes a construction upgrade in, the Russian Federation or any country that shares a land border with the Russian Federation shall be constructed to include a restricted access space.

SA 2863. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 11 the following new section:

SEC. 12. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ASSESSMENT OF WEAPON SYSTEMS PROHIBITED BY THE INTERMEDIATE RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES TREATY FROM BEING PROVIDED TO NATO COUNTRIES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of weapon systems the development and provision of which to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries is prohibited by the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, done at Washington December 8, 1987 (commonly referred to as the “Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty”).

SA 2864. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 11 the following new section:

SEC. 12. ENHANCED ASSISTANCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IN UKRAINE.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States to assist Ukraine to eliminate the human rights abuses associated with the Berkut forces in order to foster a democratically-reformed police force with strong public oversight, which is critical to fostering political unity and stability throughout Ukraine.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Of amounts made available to carry out section 1207 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note) for fiscal year 2014, \$8,000,000 may be made available to enhance United States efforts to assist Ukraine to strengthen law enforcement capabilities and maintain the rule of law.

(c) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The congressional notification requirements contained in section 1207(l) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note) shall apply to the initiation of activities under a program of assistance under subsection (b) to the same extent and in the same manner as such congressional notification requirements apply to the initiation of activities under a program of assistance section 1207(b) of such Act.

SA 2865. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 7, line 2, strike “security.” and insert the following: “security; and

(18) to ensure that the United States strategically deploys defensive ballistic missile interceptors and x-band radar capabilities to provide realistic security assurances to European and NATO allies, including Ukraine.

SA 2866. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 12, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

(2) as part of the NATO summit to be held in the United Kingdom on September 4, 2014, prioritize the expansion of NATO membership to include applicant countries.

SA 2867. Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ALIEN.—The term “alien” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Appropriations, and the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(3) MATERIALLY ASSISTED.—The term “materially assisted” means the provision of assistance that is significant and of a kind directly relevant to acts described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 8(a) or acts described in section 9(a)(1).

(4) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SEC. 3. UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD UKRAINE.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to condemn the unjustified military intervention of the Russian Federation in the Crimea region of Ukraine and its concurrent occupation of that region, as well as any other form of political, economic, or military aggression against Ukraine;

(2) to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to, and to remind Russia of its

ongoing commitment to, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, which was executed jointly with the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom and explicitly secures the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and borders of Ukraine, and to demand the immediate cessation of improper activities, including the seizures of airfields and other locations, and the immediate return of Russian forces to their barracks;

(3) to work with United States partners in the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and at the United Nations to ensure that all nations recognize and not undermine, nor seek to undermine, the independence, sovereignty, or territorial or economic integrity of Ukraine;

(4) to use all appropriate economic elements of United States national power, in coordination with United States allies, to protect the independence, sovereignty, and territorial and economic integrity of Ukraine;

(5) to support the people of Ukraine in their desire to forge closer ties with Europe, including signing an Association Agreement with the European Union as a means to address endemic corruption, consolidate democracy, and achieve sustained prosperity;

(6) to use the voice and vote of the United States to secure sufficient resources through the International Monetary Fund to support needed economic structural reforms in Ukraine under conditions that will reinforce a sovereign decision by the Government of Ukraine to sign and implement an association agreement with the European Union;

(7) to help the Government of Ukraine prepare for the presidential election in May 2014;

(8) to reinforce the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to bring to justice those responsible for the acts of violence against peaceful protestors and other unprovoked acts of violence related to the antigovernment protests in that began on November 21, 2013;

(9) to support the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to recover and return to the Ukrainian state funds stolen by former President Yanukovich, his family, and other current and former members of the Ukrainian government and elites;

(10) to support the continued professionalization of the Ukrainian military;

(11) to condemn economic extortion by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, Moldova, Lithuania, and other countries in the region designed to obstruct closer ties between the European Union and the countries of the Eastern Partnership and to reduce the harmful consequences of such extortion;

(12) to condemn the continuing and longstanding pattern and practice by the Government of the Russian Federation of physical and economic aggression toward neighboring countries;

(13) to enhance and extend our security cooperation with, security assistance to, and military exercises conducted with, states in Central and Eastern Europe, including North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member countries, NATO aspirants, and appropriate Eastern Partnership countries;

(14) to reaffirm United States defense commitments to its treaty allies under Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty;

(15) that the continued participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of Eight (G-8) nations should be conditioned on the Government of the Russian Federation re-

specting the territorial integrity of its neighbors and accepting and adhering to the norms and standards of free, democratic societies as generally practiced by every other member nation of the G-8 nations;

(16) to explore ways for the United States Government to assist the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to diversify their energy sources and achieve energy security; and

(17) to ensure the United States maintains its predominant leadership position and influence within the International Monetary Fund, and to guarantee the International Monetary Fund has the resources and governance structure necessary to support structural reforms in Ukraine and respond to and prevent a potentially serious financial crisis in Ukraine or other foreign economic crises that threatens United States national security.

SEC. 4. PROVISION OF COSTS OF LOAN GUARANTEES FOR UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—From the unobligated balance of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available under the heading “ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND” under the heading “FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT” in title III of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2014 (division K of Public Law 113-76) and in Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for preceding fiscal years (other than amounts designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A))), amounts shall be made available for the costs (as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a)) of loan guarantees for Ukraine that are hereby authorized to be provided under this Act.

(b) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—Amounts made available for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine pursuant to subsection (a) shall not be considered “assistance” for the purpose of provisions of law limiting assistance to Ukraine.

SEC. 5. RECOVERY OF ASSETS LINKED TO GOVERNMENTAL CORRUPTION IN UKRAINE.

(a) ASSET RECOVERY.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall assist, on an expedited basis as appropriate, the Government of Ukraine to identify, secure, and recover assets linked to acts of corruption by Viktor Yanukovich, members of his family, or other former or current officials of the Government of Ukraine or their accomplices in any jurisdiction through appropriate programs, including the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative of the Department of Justice.

(b) COORDINATION.—Any asset recovery efforts undertaken pursuant to subsection (a) shall be coordinated through the relevant bilateral or multilateral entities, including, as appropriate, the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the World Bank Group and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network, and the Global Focal Point Initiative of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

(c) INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall assist the Government of Ukraine, the European Union, and other appropriate countries, on an expedited basis, with formal and informal investigative assistance and training, as appropriate, to sup-

port the identification, seizure, and return to the Government of Ukraine of assets linked to acts of corruption.

(d) PRIORITY ASSIGNED.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall ensure that the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury assists the Government of Ukraine, the European Union, and other appropriate countries under section 314(a) of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (31 U.S.C. 5311 note).

SEC. 6. DEMOCRACY, CIVIL SOCIETY, GOVERNANCE, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINE AND OTHER STATES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, directly or through nongovernmental organizations—

(1) improve democratic governance, transparency, accountability, rule of law, and anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine;

(2) support efforts by the Government of Ukraine to foster greater unity among the people and regions of the country;

(3) support the people and Government of Ukraine in preparing to conduct and contest free and fair elections, including through domestic and international election monitoring;

(4) assist in diversifying Ukraine's economy, trade, and energy supplies, including at the national, regional, and local levels;

(5) strengthen democratic institutions and political and civil society organizations in Ukraine;

(6) expand free and unfettered access to independent media of all kinds in Ukraine and assist with the protection of journalists and civil society activists who have been targeted for free speech activities;

(7) support political and economic reform initiatives by Eastern Partnership countries; and

(8) support the efforts of the Government of Ukraine, civil society, and international organizations to enhance the economic and political empowerment of women in Ukraine and to prevent and address violence against women and girls in Ukraine, and support the inclusion of women in Ukraine in any negotiations to restore Ukraine's security, independence, sovereignty, or territorial or economic integrity.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a). Amounts appropriated for the activities set forth in subsection (a) shall be used pursuant to the authorization and requirements contained in this section. Additional amounts may be authorized to be appropriated under other provisions of law.

(c) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a).

(d) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to subsection (b) may not be obligated until 15 days after the date on which the President has provided notice of intent to obligate such funds to the appropriate congressional committees.

(2) WAIVER.—The President may waive the notification requirement under paragraph (1) if the President determines that failure to do so would pose a substantial risk to human health or welfare, in which case notification

shall be provided as early as practicable, but in no event later than three days after taking the action to which such notification requirement was applicable in the context of the circumstances necessitating such waiver.

SEC. 7. ENHANCED SECURITY COOPERATION WITH UKRAINE AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, subject to the availability of appropriations—

(1) enhance security cooperation efforts and relationships amongst countries in Central and Eastern Europe and among the United States, the European Union, and countries in Central and Eastern Europe;

(2) provide additional security assistance, including defense articles and defense services (as those terms are defined in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794)) and military training, to countries in Central and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine; and

(3) support greater reform, professionalism, and capacity-building efforts within the military, intelligence, and security services in Central and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President a total of \$100,000,000 for fiscal years 2015 through 2017 to carry out this section. Amounts appropriated for the activities set forth in subsection (a) shall be used pursuant to the authorization and requirements contained in this section. Additional amounts may be authorized to be appropriated under other provisions of law.

(c) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a).

(d) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to subsection (b) may not be obligated until 15 days after the date on which the President has provided notice of intent to obligate such funds to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) WAIVER.—The President may waive the notification requirement under paragraph (1) if the President determines that failure to do so would pose a substantial risk to human health or welfare, in which case notification shall be provided as early as practicable, but in no event later than three days after taking the action to which such notification requirement was applicable in the context of the circumstances necessitating such waiver.

SEC. 8. SANCTIONS ON PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE OR UNDERMINING THE PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY, SOVEREIGNTY, OR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to—

(1) any person, including a current or former official of the Government of Ukraine or a person acting on behalf of that Government, that the President determines has perpetrated, or is responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, significant acts of violence or gross human rights abuses in Ukraine against persons associated with the antigovernment protests in Ukraine that began on November 21, 2013;

(2) any person that the President determines has perpetrated, or is responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing,

significant acts that are intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine, including acts of economic extortion;

(3) any official of the Government of the Russian Federation, or a close associate or family member of such an official, that the President determines is responsible for, complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, acts of significant corruption in Ukraine, including the expropriation of private or public assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, bribery, or the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption to foreign jurisdictions; and

(4) any individual that the President determines materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the commission of acts described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—In the case of an alien determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a), denial of a visa to, and exclusion from the United States of, the alien, and revocation in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other documentation of the alien.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under paragraph (1)(A) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “good” has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(4) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a notice of and a justification for the waiver.

(d) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 9. SANCTIONS ON PERSONS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION COMPLICIT IN OR RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNIFICANT CORRUPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized and encouraged to impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to—

(1) any official of the Government of the Russian Federation, or a close associate or family member of such an official, that the President determines is responsible for, or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, acts of significant corruption in the Russian Federation, including the expropriation of private or public assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, bribery, or the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption to foreign jurisdictions; and

(2) any individual who has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, an act described in paragraph (1).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—In the case of an alien determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a), denial of a visa to, and exclusion from the United States of, the alien, and revocation in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other documentation of the alien.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under paragraph

(1)(A) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) **GOOD DEFINED.**—In this paragraph, the term “good” has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(4) **EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.**—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(c) **WAIVER.**—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a notice of and a justification for the waiver.

(d) **REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 10. ANNUAL REPORT ON MILITARY AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than June 1, 2015, and June 1 of each year thereafter through 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the specified congressional committees a report, in both classified and unclassified form, on the current and future military power of the Russian Federation (in this section referred to as “Russia”). The report shall address the current and probable future course of military-technological development of the Russian military, the tenets and probable development of the security strategy and military strategy of the Government of Russia, and military organizations and operational concepts, for the 20-year period following submission of such report.

(b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the security situation in regions neighboring Russia.

(2) The goals and factors shaping the security strategy and military strategy of the Government of Russia.

(3) Trends in Russian security and military behavior that would be designed to achieve, or that are consistent with, the goals described in paragraph (2).

(4) An assessment of the global and regional security objectives of the Government of Russia, including objectives that would affect the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Middle East, or the People's Republic of China.

(5) A detailed assessment of the sizes, locations, and capabilities of the nuclear, special operations, land, sea, and air forces of the Government of Russia.

(6) Developments in Russian military doctrine and training.

(7) An assessment of the proliferation activities of the Government of Russia and

Russian entities, as a supplier of materials, technologies, or expertise relating to nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction or missile systems.

(8) Developments in the asymmetric capabilities of the Government of Russia, including its strategy and efforts to develop and deploy cyberwarfare and electronic warfare capabilities, details on the number of malicious cyber incidents originating from Russia against Department of Defense infrastructure, and associated activities originating or suspected of originating from Russia.

(9) The strategy and capabilities of space and counterspace programs in Russia, including trends, global and regional activities, the involvement of military and civilian organizations, including state-owned enterprises, academic institutions, and commercial entities, and efforts to develop, acquire, or gain access to advanced technologies that would enhance Russian military capabilities.

(10) Developments in Russia's nuclear program, including the size and state of Russia's stockpile, its nuclear strategy and associated doctrines, its civil and military production capacities, and projections of its future arsenals.

(11) A description of the anti-access and area denial capabilities of the Government of Russia.

(12) A description of Russia's command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance modernization program and its applications for Russia's precision guided weapons.

(13) In consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State, developments regarding United States-Russian engagement and cooperation on security matters.

(14) Other military and security developments involving Russia that the Secretary of Defense considers relevant to United States national security.

(c) **SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “specified congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives.

SA 2868. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 11 the following new section:

SEC. 12. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING CYBER ATTACKS AND DEFENSE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a direct Russian cyber attack or cyber violation against NATO or United States operations that causes significant disruption or destruction, or against Ukraine's critical infrastructure, would be considered a violation of peace agreements; and

(2) the United States Government should establish effective cyber deterrence policies and pursue the establishment of objectives to defend Europe against Russian short- and medium-range ballistic missiles.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a business meeting has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The business meeting will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2014, at 9:45 a.m., in room, SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Building.

The purpose of the business meeting is to resume consideration of the following nominations: Rhea S. Suh, to be the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks; and Janice M. Schneider, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Land and Minerals Management.

The Committee previously met to consider the two nominations on February 13, 2014, but the meeting was adjourned in the absence of a quorum.

In addition, the Committee will be asked to approve new subcommittee assignments, appointing Senator WYDEN to subcommittee assignments previously held by Senator LANDRIEU.

Because of the limited time available for the business meeting, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to Sam_Fowler@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Sallie Den at (202) 224-6836.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 25, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 25, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Importing Energy, Exporting Jobs. Can it be Reversed?”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,

and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, on March 25, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Teacher Preparation: Ensuring a Quality Teacher in Every Classroom."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 25, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "Transparency and Training: Preparing our First Responders for Emerging Threats and Hazards."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 25, 2014, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 25, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MURRAY's Budget Committee's legal extern, Elizabeth Mendoza, be granted floor privileges beginning March 26 and ending April 30, 2014.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 396, S. Res. 397, and S. Res. 398.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

S. RES. 398

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has received a request from a State regulatory agency seeking access to records that the subcommittee obtained during its recent investigation into offshore tax evasion and the effort to collect unpaid taxes on billions in hidden offshore accounts.

This resolution would authorize the chairman and ranking minority member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, acting jointly, to provide records, obtained by the Subcommittee in the course of its investigation, in response to this request and requests from other government entities and officials with a legitimate need for the records.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2157

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I understand S. 2157, introduced earlier today by Senator WYDEN, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2157) to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2014

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 26, 2014; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each and the time equally divided and controlled by the two leaders or their designees, with Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; and that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. There will be four rollcall votes at 11 a.m. tomorrow and another series at 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:16 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ARTHUR J. FILKINS,
JR.'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Mr. Arthur J. Filkins, Jr., who will celebrate his 90th birthday on April 10, 2014.

Larry Filkins is a World War II veteran, and I cannot thank him enough for his strength of character, his service to our country, and his patriotism.

He was a combat medic with the 3rd Armored Division, First Army. He landed on Omaha Beach three weeks after D-Day, endured the bitter cold of the Battle of the Bulge, and pressed on to Germany.

At age 18, Mr. Filkins was an Army private. At war's end, he came home, age 21 and a Sergeant. He is an example to those who will follow in his footsteps, and it is a privilege to be a part of thanking him and acknowledging him. He is the kind of person who makes Oklahoma great. I am fortunate to be able to represent him, and I wish him all the best on his 90th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in celebrating Mr. Arthur J. Filkins, Jr.'s 90th birthday, and the many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on March 24, 2014, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall Vote 136 and rollcall Vote 137.

Had I been present for rollcall Vote 136, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3060, I would have voted "yes."

Had I been present for rollcall Vote 137, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 1813, I would have voted "yes."

HELEN A. RIZZO'S 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Helen A. Rizzo of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania who is turning 100 years old on March 21, 2014.

Mrs. Rizzo was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania on March 21, 1914. She worked as a

seamstress and married Daniel G. Rizzo. Mrs. Rizzo has two children, Carmen and Marian, as well as five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, as she turns 100, I wish Helen Rizzo a happy and healthy birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARIN SANITARY SERVICE AND CENTRAL MARIN SANITATION AGENCY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marin Sanitary Service and Central Marin Sanitation Agency in celebration of the ribbon cutting held on March 18, 2014, for their Food-to-Energy (F2E) program, a public-private partnership designed to cut fossil fuel use and landfill waste by converting leftover kitchen scraps into a renewable energy source. Marin Sanitary Service, an innovative waste disposal company that plays an integral role in achieving Marin County's exceptional 75 percent diversion rate and its zero waste by 2025 goal, will turn food scraps from restaurants, caterers, and supermarkets into renewable energy at Central Marin Sanitation Agency's wastewater treatment plant.

Central Marin Sanitation Agency, a public agency, and Marin Sanitary Service, a family-owned local business, developed this cutting edge program to divert food scraps from the landfill and use it to generate energy. The F2E program and this public-private partnership is a first for Marin County and one of only two programs of its kind in California.

Mr. Speaker, the Food-to-Energy program represents an important and exciting step in the right direction for the environment and people of California. Public-private partnerships such as this serve as an innovative example for other communities to follow in an effort to reduce our impact on the environment. It is therefore appropriate that we celebrate the beginning of this pilot program.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAYLOR MEDICAL CENTER AT GARLAND

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Baylor Medical Center at Garland as they celebrate fifty years of success.

Over the past fifty years, their commitment to provide high quality health care to their community has remained steadfast. Since its

founding as Memorial Hospital of Garland in 1964, Baylor Medical Center at Garland has grown from a 100-bed hospital to a 240-bed hospital, expanded its campus to four Medical Plazas, and opened the Don and Ruth Buchholz Pavilion. I want to commend Baylor Garland for being nationally recognized, including ranked as a Top Metro Hospital in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metro Area by the U.S. News & World Report and receiving the Heart Failure Gold Achievement Award from the American Heart Association. Their integrity and care are evident through the personalized and excellent health care they provide which recognizes and fulfills the needs of all patients. I am deeply grateful for Baylor Garland and the positive impact they have on their community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Baylor Medical Center at Garland for another fifty years of continued success.

STEPHANIE JALLEN, 2014 U.S.
WINTER PARALYMPICS TEAM

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Stephanie Jallen of Harding, Pennsylvania who represented the United States in the women's alpine skiing competition in the 2014 Winter Paralympics in Sochi, Russia.

Stephanie is one of about 60 people worldwide born with a rare condition called Congenital Hemidysplasia Ichthyosis Limb Defect (CHILD) syndrome that leaves the left side of the body underdeveloped. At the age of nine, she attended the Camelback Adaptive Ski Camp in Tannersville, Pennsylvania and fell in love with the sport. Despite her instructor's attempts to put her in a bi-ski, Stephanie insisted on learning to ski standing up. She continued to work with the Pennsylvania Center for Adapted Sports and quickly became an accomplished skier.

Stephanie has received many accolades for her achievements in alpine skiing. In 2011, she was named to the U.S. Paralympics Alpine National Team at the age of 15. Since then, she has taken home numerous first, second and third place medals in contests ranging from national championships to world cups. During the 2014 Winter Paralympics, she won two bronze medals, one in the Women's Super Combined (standing), and one in the Women's Super-G (standing).

Despite her intense training schedule, Stephanie remains a true scholar athlete. She is currently a senior at Wyoming Area Secondary Center. After graduating this year, she will attend Kings College in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, Stephanie Jallen has demonstrated tremendous grit and determination in pursuing her Paralympic dreams. Therefore, I commend her for her hard work and achievements as part of the United States Paralympic alpine skiing team, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE TRINITY VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE LADY
CARDINALS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Trinity Valley Community College Lady Cardinals as the 2014 National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) Division I Women's Basketball Champions. This marks the 3rd consecutive NJCAA Championship for the Lady Cardinals, a new NJCAA Division I record.

In a 65 to 46 victory, the Lady Cardinals closed out their season with a 35–1 record. The success enjoyed by the team is truly remarkable and a testament to the hard work and dedication of its players as well as Head Coach Elena Lovato, Assistant Coaches Gerald Ewing and Spencer Robertson, and Team Manager Scott Pellegrin. Trinity Valley Community College President Dr. Glendon Forgey, faculty, staff, and students are also to be commended for TVCC's success both on the court and in the classroom.

In addition to the record breaking team performance of the Lady Cardinals this season, I also want to recognize Adut Bulgak for being named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, and Coach Lovato being named "Coach of the Tournament."

Trinity Valley Community College Lady Cardinals include: Adut Bulgak, Roddricka Patton, Shlonte' Allen, Jazmine Spears, Julianne Anchling, Kuaneshia Baker, Deborah Meeks, Sylvia Smith-Gatson, Leashja Grant, Kyhonta Doughty, Autumn Williams, and Dominique Brooks.

On behalf of the citizens of Athens and the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to be able to recognize the Lady Cardinals in the United States House of Representatives.

PAT SOLANO, 2013 ATTORNEY JOSEPH SAVORITO SR. GREATER PITTSTON LIFETIME OF SERVICE AWARD WINNER

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Pat Solano, the recipient of the 2013 Attorney Joseph Saporito Sr. Greater Pittston Lifetime of Service Award.

Mr. Solano was born on June 22, 1925 in Pittston Township, Pennsylvania. In 1942, he graduated from Pittston Township High School

and immediately joined the U.S. Army Air Corp. During World War II, Mr. Solano flew 23 combat missions over Germany with the Eighth U.S. Army Corp Heavy Bombardment Group. For his service, he received the Group Presidential Citation, the Air Force Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the European Combat Theatre Medal with two Bronze Stars. Once home from the war, Mr. Solano met and married his wife Marie, and they had six daughters.

After serving in the Army, Mr. Solano dedicated his life to public service, beginning as the assistant police chief for Pittston Township. In 1950, he became the Third District Republican Chairman, and later was named the County Republican Chairman in 1968. He also served two terms as a member of the Pittston Township School Board. Since 1969, Mr. Solano has worked for and advised ten Pennsylvania governors from both sides of the aisle. In 2002, he retired after 40 years of federal service.

Mr. Solano's dedication to Pennsylvania does not end with his work. He was a member of the Pittston Township Bicentennial Committee, Assistant Scout Master for Troop 212 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 3rd Degree Knight of Columbus, the Columbus League of Luzerne County, Pittston Memorial Library fundraising co-chairman, and Luzerne County Community College trustee.

For his commitment to improving Pennsylvania, Mr. Solano has received many accolades and awards. He was honored by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, an agency he helped start 20 years ago. He also received the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Thomas P. Shelbourne Environmental Leadership Award, a Doctor of Humane Letters from Misericordia University, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Commander's Award.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Solano has shown outstanding dedication to our nation, the state of Pennsylvania, and his local community. Therefore, I commend him for his service and receipt of the 2013 Attorney Joseph Saporito Sr. Greater Pittston Lifetime of Service Award, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION
OF NOWRUZ

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with this opportunity to recognize Nowruz, a traditional Persian holiday that began on March 20 and celebrates the arrival of spring.

Nowruz has been observed by millions of individuals of Persian descent for more than 3,000 years as a time of renewal health, happiness, and prosperity. The holiday's ecumenical values are celebrated by adherents of many religions including Islam, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and the Baha'i faith. It is considered a special time to share with family and friends and to honor cultural traditions.

In the United States, Nowruz serves to remind us of the many noteworthy and lasting contributions of Iranian-Americans to the social and economic fabric of American society. In Los Angeles, which is home to the largest Iranian-American community in the United States, there is great pride in the community's devotion to civic activism, philanthropy, and entrepreneurship. I ask my colleagues in joining me to wish all those celebrating Nowruz a happy and prosperous new year.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT S. "BOB"
STRAUSS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert S. "Bob" Strauss who passed away last Wednesday, March 19 at age 95. Strauss was not only a fixture in Dallas and Texas, he was nationally revered as a close advisor to presidents of both parties, from Lyndon B. Johnson to George W. Bush.

Not only was Strauss politically valuable to our nation, his personality was unforgettable. Bob Strauss was personally influential and I admire him greatly. Strauss' weight on our political world today was extremely vast. His contributions to Dallas and to Texas will not be forgotten.

Strauss had early success as a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin where he campaigned for a state-assembly candidate and volunteered for Lyndon B. Johnson's first congressional campaign. Strauss completed his law degree at the University of Texas and worked as a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigations during World War II. At the end of the war, he and fellow FBI agent founded the law firm Gump and Strauss which later evolved into Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer, and Feld. In law school, he met former Texas Governor John Connally who helped Strauss cultivate his political career.

Strauss served as the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee between 1972 and 1977. Strauss has been credited for the Democratic Party's reunification that helped to elect President Jimmy Carter in 1976. During the Carter Administration, Strauss served as the United States Trade Representative and as Middle East negotiator. During the first Bush Administration, he served as the U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union and subsequently as the U.S. ambassador to Russia. Strauss played a major role for American interests during the Soviet Union's breakdown and the emergence of a democratic Russia. Strauss was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Carter in 1981.

Strauss had the unique ability to serve presidents and political leaders on both sides of the aisle. His political astuteness and skill are rare traits and will be fondly remembered. I urge my colleagues to recognize and celebrate the life of Bob Strauss.

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOSEPH P.
McFADDEN

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, a distinguished former member of the Philadelphia education and Catholic community.

Bishop McFadden was born in Philadelphia on May 22, 1947. Attending Catholic schools for his elementary and secondary education, Bishop McFadden was an involved and active student. He then enrolled in Philadelphia's Saint Joseph University, where he matriculated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Politics. Bishop McFadden's childhood and education prepared him well to be a life-long advocate for education in Philadelphia.

After teaching and coaching at West Catholic Boys High School from 1969–1976, Bishop McFadden entered Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Ordained as a priest on May 16, 1981, Bishop McFadden continued in his passion of higher education. He received a Master of Divinity, graduating Summa Cum Laude, upon completing his studies at Saint Charles Seminary.

Bishop McFadden served as an Honorary Prelate to Pope John Paul II for two years. In 1993, Cardinal Bevilacqua appointed Bishop McFadden as the first President of Cardinal O'Hara High School. As President, the Bishop was vital to increasing the school's enrollment to 2000 students and initiating the program "Laptops for Learning."

Bishop McFadden began his service as a pastor in Downingtown in 2001, until he was appointed to be an Auxiliary Bishop in Philadelphia in June 2004. He was ordained to the Episcopacy on July 28, 2004 and was named the tenth Bishop of Harrisburg on June 22, 2010. Unfortunately, Bishop McFadden passed away on March 2, 2013. His passing is still mourned by the Catholic community. This week, Bishop McFadden will posthumously be given the Distinguished Catholic School Graduates Award by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for his service to Catholic School education in the state of Pennsylvania.

I invite you and all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating Bishop Joseph P. McFadden. May his legacy and commitment be an inspiration to all of us in the years to come.

COMMEMORATING ARTS
ADVOCACY DAY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, entrepreneur Steve Jobs once said, "It is in Apple's DNA that technology alone is not enough—it's technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields us the results that make our heart sing."

I rise today to recognize National Arts Advocacy Day and to stress the importance of arts and arts education for advancing technology and growing our economy.

I am proud to represent the Illinois delegation of thirteen arts and cultural leaders on Capitol Hill today, which include Ingenuity, a group that works with Chicago Public Schools, and whose mission it is to make arts education available to every child in every school.

Students in the arts and humanities learn how to explore, discover and innovate. Arts education engages kids in school, promotes confidence and builds a foundation for success for every student, but it also grows our economy.

In Illinois, the non-profit arts and culture sector generates 2.75 billion dollars and supports more than 78,000 full-time-equivalent jobs. Additionally, Illinois is home to nearly 34,000 non-profit and for-profit arts businesses. These creative enterprises employ more than 140,000 people in jobs that cannot be outsourced.

I continue to be a proud supporter of arts education, and I've consistently supported robust funding for the National Endowment for the Arts—I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent due to illness and was not present for rollcall votes on Monday, March 24, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner:

H.R. 3060—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building"—"yes."

H.R. 1813—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building"—"yes."

RECOGNIZING THE CONSERVATION
AND LAND PRESERVATION EF-
FORTS OF EAST BRADFORD
TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate East Bradford Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania on receiving the Growing Greener Communities Award bestowed by Natural Lands Trust and the Chester County Association of Township Officials.

East Bradford Township's 30-year-old Open Space Initiative, designed to protect natural areas and connect them through a trail net-

work, has resulted in 6,000 acres of permanently protected land, 16 parks, and 26 miles of trails. In 2013 alone, the Township secured county funding for conservation easement on more than 80 acres of Township land, spearheaded a volunteer effort to plant 750 trees, commissioned stewardship plans for three of its sixteen parks, constructed more than two miles of trails, and organized the second annual Trail Blazer Race, the proceeds of which will be used to fund trail construction and maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the community's long-standing commitment to conservation and land preservation, and on the occasion of being honored with the Growing Greener Communities Award, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding efforts of East Bradford Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW 40TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding institution of higher education in Illinois. Southern Illinois University School of Law celebrates its 40th anniversary this month.

We spend our time on the House floor discussing, debating, and voting on laws which impact American citizens, while the faculty and staff of SIU Law develop the next generation of great legal minds.

With humble beginnings in 1973, that first year began with 90 students and 8 faculty members. SIU Law today is a nationally recognized institution with alumni practicing in 49 states and 11 countries. The school's 3,800 graduates include military general officers, over 90 state and federal judges, and at least one United States Congressman.

Please join me in congratulating my alma mater, Southern Illinois University School of Law, for 40 years of serving students. Go Dawgs.

UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT
FIRST CLASS WILLIAM K. LACEY

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant First Class William K. Lacey, or Kelly, as his family wants him to be remembered, who was killed in action on January 4, 2014 after a rocket propelled grenade attack by insurgents hit his unit in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his wife, Ashley, and his loving family and friends.

Born at Eglin Air Force Base where his father, Master Sergeant John H. Lacey, was stationed, Kelly spent most of his childhood in

Florida. He attended Niceville High School before joining the Army in 2003. While in the Army, he attended Meridian Community College and received an Associate Degree. Sergeant First Class Lacey was assigned to the F Company, 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Kelly was on his second deployment to Afghanistan, and he had already completed three previous deployments to Iraq: the first a 5 month deployment, the second a 14 month deployment and the other a year-long deployment. From April 2011 until March 2012, Kelly served in Afghanistan.

From his earliest time in the Army, Sergeant First Class Lacey was considered a great soldier. Over his career he earned more than a dozen honors including three Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, three Army Good Conduct Medals, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Star and two Iraq Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Stars. For his bravery in action, Sergeant First Class Lacey was awarded a Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device "V", two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart posthumously.

We remember Kelly and offer our deepest condolences and prayers to his family. Everyone in our great nation owes Sergeant First Class Lacey and his family a debt of gratitude for his selfless sacrifice and courage. It is vital that we keep our men and women in uniform who are in harm's way in our thoughts and prayers. I call on my colleagues and all Americans to remember Kelly and the many others who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our freedoms and all that we value as a nation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING AIRLINE PASSENGERS FROM SEXUAL ASSAULTS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Protecting Airline Passengers from Sexual Assaults Act, a bill to require the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to collect and maintain data on the number of sexual assaults that occur on commercial airplanes. At the moment, there are no real-time statistics or documentation. As a result, we cannot gain either the necessary information to prosecute these crimes or the insights to help eliminate them and improve complicated onboard sexual assault investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Passengers expect that after going through extensive security at airports that they will be safe aboard their flights, but a recent surge in reports of sexual assaults occurring on planes suggests otherwise. Those who staff flights and who may witness these crimes should have guidance as to how to proceed. Law enforcement and the flying public deserve to have access to data on sexual assaults that occur on planes so that we can work towards preventing these devastating crimes.

In recent years, there has been an increase in reports of sexual assaults on flights in the United States. Oftentimes, the survivors of these crimes were asleep during part of the assault, but were so afraid and shocked that they did not call for help. In these cases, the dynamics of surviving a sexual assault are amplified. In order for the FAA and law enforcement to better gauge the extent of these horrendous crimes that have taken place on aircraft and to work towards prevention, data on the number of sexual assaults needs to be collected and shared with the public.

My bill would require the FAA to establish a program to collect and maintain data on the number of sexual assaults that occur on commercial flights, including international flights and domestic flights that land or take off in the United States. Even more importantly, my bill would require the FAA to make this data available to the public on its website.

Sexual assaults on airplanes are criminal acts that elude police and prosecutors more than many other crimes due to a number of factors, including fear on the part of the survivor, lack of witnesses, and a lack of education on how to respond to such acts. We need to know where the source of the surge is. This data is also very important because the public deserves to know that such incidents have happened.

I urge support of this bill.

CELEBRATING THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the important role that the Boys & Girls Clubs of America play in communities across the country. This week, in celebration of National Boys & Girls Club Week and to highlight their successes in the areas of academic achievement, good character, citizenship, and healthy lifestyles, representatives from Boys & Girls Clubs will be here in Washington for their first annual Boys & Girls Clubs Day of Advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I was a member of the local Boys Club in my youth, as were many others who have served in government and as leaders in our economy, the law, the arts, the sciences, education, and the military. Like mine, their Boys & Girls Clubs experiences instilled lessons about citizenship, character, and both personal and social responsibility that continue to guide them today in their careers and in their service to our country. Those who participate in the Clubs today are given the opportunity to learn about their country, community, and the world, to develop positive behaviors that nurture a healthy life and outlook, and to challenge themselves as future leaders.

Every year, I am proud to join the Boys & Girls Clubs for their annual gathering, where I have the opportunity to meet those who are named Youth of the Year finalists and hear about their service projects and their aspirations for the future. I look forward to joining

them again this year to reflect on my own experiences as a Boys & Girls Club alumnus and to meet the next generation of leaders for our country.

Frederick Douglass, from my State of Maryland, once said: "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." This continues to be the guiding principle behind the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. It is more than an organization; it is a movement to inspire young people to recognize the potential in themselves and the contributions they can make as members of their communities, as citizens of our country, and as citizens of the world.

I join once again in saluting the Boys & Girls Clubs of America for the extraordinary work they do across our country every day. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking the organization and in sending a strong message of support for our Nation's youth.

HONORING LAMEY-WELLEHAN FOR 100 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lamey-Wellehan on its 100th anniversary.

One hundred years ago last week, Dan Wellehan and Charlie Lamey opened Lamey-Wellehan Shoes on Lisbon Street in Lewiston, ME. Despite Dan being sent to fight in World War I and Charlie tragically passing away at a young age, this Maine institution has persisted for a century, expanding to six locations and more than 100 employees, fitting countless young Mainers with their first pair of shoes.

Since the death of Dan Wellehan in 1976, Lamey-Wellehan has been under the stewardship of his son, Jim Wellehan, who began working in the store's stockroom as a young high school student. Under Jim's leadership, Lamey-Wellehan has continued to grow, build strong relationships in Maine's communities and separated itself as an environmentally conscious business. Over the years, Lamey-Wellehan has made concerted efforts to reduce its carbon footprint by recycling up to 96 percent of its solid waste, increasing its use of solar energy, and most recently ceasing its use of plastic bags.

Although Jim Wellehan does not have specific retirement plans, he is working to ensure that when he does retire the company remains in good hands by slowly having his employees buy the business. As Lamey-Wellehan moves into its second century of business, I am confident that it will continue to successfully serve Mainers in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in recognizing Lamey-Wellehan's 100th anniversary.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 125th anniversary of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the national association representing our nation's State utility economic regulators.

The work of our nation's public utility regulators often goes unnoticed and unheralded until the lights go out or our utility rates increase. But rest assured, the work these officials do on a daily basis impacts every single one of us in the country.

State utility regulators ensure the rates we pay for utility services are fair, just, and reasonable. They help make sure the utilities deliver these services—electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications—in a safe and reliable manner.

NARUC offers its members countless opportunities for education, sharing of best practices, advocacy, and much more. Since March of 1889, the Association has provided resources aimed at improving regulatory practices. Since just about all of us pay utility bills in some way or another, we have all benefited from NARUC's work over the last century and a quarter.

One hundred and twenty five years ago the electricity industry was in its infancy. Alexander Graham Bell was still perfecting his groundbreaking invention called the telephone. We were still learning how best to transport water and natural gas.

We can now electrify our homes from solar rooftops. We can carry our personal computers in our pockets on our smart phones. We are using new technologies to find abundant resources of natural gas.

The one constant has been NARUC and the quality utility regulation it promotes. I want to thank NARUC and congratulate it on this 125th year anniversary.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,548,206,894,037.06. We've added \$6,921,329,845,123.98 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SANTANA GONZALEZ

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Santana Gonzalez on his retirement with thirty-five years of service with Chevron Corporation. Santana began his professional career with Gulf Oil, and since then, he has held a succession of public and government relations assignments in Texas, New Mexico, and Southern California. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a unique ability to engage governmental, media, and community stakeholders as well as provide support to incident response activities.

Most recently, Santana has served with distinction in Chevron's State Government Relations office and as the Manager for Policy, Government and Public Affairs for Chevron Pipeline in Chevron's Gas and Midstream.

One of his career highlights includes receiving the Chevron Chairman's Award, an award that recognizes colleagues and teams who demonstrate ingenuity and initiative to achieve extraordinary results for the company. In addition, his service to the Hispanic community earned him the National Council of La Raza's President's Award.

Santana Gonzalez grew up in South Texas, in the Brownsville-Harlingen area. His family moved to Houston in 1968. He attended Bellaire High School and, coincidentally, his last work assignment was also in Bellaire. Gonzalez graduated from the University of Texas—Pan American in 1976 and went on to receive his Juris Doctorate from the University of Houston School of Law in 1979.

To say that Santana will be missed on his retirement is an understatement. His gift of gab and contagious laugh are legendary amongst his colleagues and all who know him. Those who work most closely with him have admired his capacity for work, his intelligence and wise and wry counsel. No challenge has been too big for him to manage, and Chevron's reputation was lifted by his every engagement with communities, governments and business partners.

Santana and his wife Nellie reside in Pearland. She is looking forward to having Santana as her personal chef and tour guide during retirement. Santana is looking forward to doing a lot of reading and spending time with his two beautiful daughters, Lisa and Amber, and his granddaughter, Crisalynn Mae. He and Nellie are anxiously awaiting another grandchild into the world in the near future.

I congratulate Santana on his retirement, and thank him for his diligent service to the energy industry, particularly in the great state of Texas. I wish him all the best that retirement has to offer. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING DR. NORMAN E. BORLAUG

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, who is most commonly known as the "Father of the Green Revolution."

The United States Congress today dedicated a statue of Dr. Borlaug in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol. This dedication happens to coincide with what would have been his one hundredth birthday.

Dr. Borlaug's groundbreaking work in wheat improvement has been able to save millions of starving people around the globe. He cross-bred thousands of wheat varieties from around the world to produce new breeds resistant to diseases. He crafted dwarf wheat varieties, which kept stalks erect, salvaging them from becoming unharvestable. Additionally, he came up with the technique of shuttle breeding, which involves growing two successive plantings, in different regions, a year.

These advancements in wheat have helped food deficient countries, such as Mexico and India, become self-sufficient in producing high-yield, disease-resistant grains.

Dr. Borlaug touched millions of lives through his research, knowledge and teachings in advancing agriculture to help end hunger worldwide. His outstanding work has been recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize, U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, U.S. Congressional Gold Medal, United Nations FAO Agricola Medal and over fifty honorary doctorate degrees.

In 1984, Dr. Borlaug joined the faculty at Texas A&M University as Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture. He continued to teach and inspire young scientists at Texas A&M until his death in 2009.

Dr. Borlaug's work continues to live through the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M University. The institute leads long-term agricultural efforts by focusing on other design and implementation of sustainable programs of international development that integrate research, training and education to benefit developing countries around the globe.

I would like to thank Dr. Norman Borlaug for all of his work and his commitment to ending worldwide hunger. He will forever be remembered as a great humanitarian, scientist, agriculturalist and professor.

God bless the continuing legacy of Dr. Borlaug and the United States of America.

SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND THE ECONOMIC AGENDA FOR WOMEN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Women's History Month and specifically, the Economic Agenda for Women. While our women

leaders in history have paved the way for our success, we must continue to fight for justice, rights, and values.

The facts are staggering; women continue to earn only 77 cents for every dollar that a man makes, the poverty rate for women is at its highest in two decades, and family and medical leave protections do not cover nearly half of full-time employees. Each March, we celebrate our progress through Women's History Month. But we must not forget what more we can do for our future. When Women Succeed, America Succeeds is an agenda that each town, city, county, and state must adopt so that we can continue the work to provide women with economic security and opportunities.

There are so many women that can legitimately be acknowledged during these days of Women's History Month. Women have been at the forefront in every community in every worthy cause. Today, I would like to call attention to a few extraordinary women that I have had the pleasure of sharing my congressional experience who have completed their earthly journey with care, skill, and commitment. Cardiss Collins was the first African American woman to represent Illinois in Congress and chaired the Congressional Black Caucus with leadership and skill. Julia Carson was the first woman and the first African American to represent the 7th District of Indiana and lead the House measure to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks. Juanita Millender-McDonald represented the 37th District of California and was the first African American woman to chair the House Committee on House Administration. Stephanie Tubbs Jones was the first African American woman to be elected to Congress from Ohio and served as the Chairwoman of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct during the 110th Congress.

There are three outstanding former members who have retired back to their home areas who served with distinction as well. Carrie Meek was elected to Congress in 1992 after fourteen years in the Florida legislature. Meek, who retired at the end of her term in 2003, served as the first African American lawmaker elected to represent Florida in Congress since Reconstruction and faced the difficult task of helping her district recover from the devastation of Hurricane Andrew. Eva Clayton was the first African American woman, with Congressman Mel Watt being the first African American, to serve in the House of Representatives from North Carolina. When Clayton retired in 2003, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization appointed her Assistant Director-General. Diane Watson, who recently retired after the 111th Congress, represented the 33rd District of California and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to be the U.S. Ambassador to Micronesia. I applaud these African American women who truly are history makers.

Though we see gains in leadership and in Congress for women each year, we are far from done. Hardworking, responsible American women are depending on us for leadership in policy. With smart economic policy changes, we can achieve even more. I urge my colleagues to think of the women who have shaped our history and to help support

the women who have the potential to shape our future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, on March 24, 2014, I was not present to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all votes: H.R. 3060: The Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building in Burleson, Texas; and H.R. 1813: The Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building in Tallmadge, Ohio.

RECOGNIZING TECH MOLDED PLASTICS AS PLASTICS NEWS' PROCESSOR OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartiest congratulations to Tech Molded Plastics Inc., a family-owned injection mold company, on being named Plastics News' Processor of the Year.

Located in Meadville, Pennsylvania, Tech Molded Plastics celebrated its 40th year in business just last year. In 1973, Bill Hanaway and his wife Eva started their family business in a rented garage. Over the years, Tech Molded has expanded and diversified its business through smart investments in their people and technology. In the mid-1990s, Tech Molded erected the factory building that now houses its company headquarters. In 2011, the company expanded again by purchasing the building adjacent to it with an investment of more than \$1.5 million. Today, sons Scott and Mark still run the family business along with their mother, Eva, manufacturing precision parts for the electronics, automotive and medical industry. Employing 120 Pennsylvanians and generating sales of \$17.7 million, Tech Molded Plastics embodies the best of America's family-owned small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, in light of being awarded Processor of the Year, I ask that my colleagues join with me today in recognizing Tech Molded Plastics for its national leadership in the plastics industry and for the invaluable contributions of the Hanaway family to the citizens of Meadville and Western Pennsylvania.

CELEBRATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the only Hellenic-American woman serving in Congress, to recognize and celebrate Greek Independence Day.

This holiday commemorates the Greek people's victory in their struggle for independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1821. It is a day of singing praise, dancing, eating, and paying homage to those who fought so bravely to restore democracy to its birthplace. As Sir Winston Churchill said during World War II, "Hence you will not say that Greeks fight like heroes but that heroes fight like Greeks."

This is also a day for honoring the strong bonds that have long existed between Greece and the United States. Our form of democratic government owes much to the principles established in Ancient Greece and our international success today relies on Greece as a valued NATO ally.

Our culture has also been influenced by Hellenic art, architecture, and letters dating back to the days of Homer and Euripides, Sophocles and Hippocrates. As President James Monroe said, "The mention of Greece fills the mind with the most exalted sentiments."

So today let us reaffirm our support for Greece in good times and trying circumstances. And let me encourage my colleagues to visit Greece and experience for themselves the beauty of the land, the power of the antiquities, and the warmth of the people.

REMEMBERING ASHLEY EARL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sadness to mourn the death of Peace Corps volunteer Ashley Earl. Ashley passed away on Saturday, March 8 in her beloved host community of Oshakati, Namibia.

As a community health volunteer, Ashley worked tirelessly for the health and well-being of the residents of Oshakati, a community she was proud to be a part of. Working with Catholic AIDS Action, she coordinated after-school programs for youth in the local area. Those who worked with her say she "cared deeply for her students, and taught them to show respect for others as well as respect for themselves."

Ashley's time as a volunteer in the Peace Corps was just one component of her legacy of service. Prior to joining, she served six years in the Army Reserve and worked for a variety of social service organizations on behalf of women, children, and veterans.

At the beginning of her Peace Corps service, Ashley wrote, "I am hoping that I will be able to instill or inspire positive change in the community I will be working with." I can say with confidence that Ashley not only instilled and inspired positive change in the community of Oshakati, but also in those who encountered her. We all have much to learn from her heart for service and passion for life.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness, and even greater admiration that we remember the legacy of Ashley Earl. Our hearts go out to her parents, Phylliss and Lee Lundquist, and her sister, Stacy Earl.

RECOGNIZING THE RECORD-
BREAKING SEASON OF THE
DICKINSON RED DEVILS MEN'S
BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues, Representative LOU BARLETTA (PA-11) and Representative BILL SHUSTER (PA-9), to congratulate the players and coaches of the Dickinson College Red Devils Men's Basketball Team of Carlisle, Pennsylvania on their incredible season which was capped by their advancement to the "Elite Eight" in the 2014 NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament.

The Dickinson Red Devils won a program-best 24 games, including establishing a record of 15 wins in Centennial Conference play. The Red Devils scored a school record 2,335 points during the season and broke the single game record for three-point shots (17) in their win over nationally ranked Guilford College on December 28, 2013.

The Red Devils' 2013-2014 roster includes: Brandon Angradi, Jonah Brooks, CJ Burke, Steve Collins, Chris Cox, Zacc Dwan, Brian Erhart, Brian Gerney, Ted Hinnenkamp, Adam Honig, Matt Jackson, Tucker Landy,

Brian Lissak, Tom McInerney, Robert Picka, Gerry Wixted, and Pete Yingst. The Red Devils are ably led by Head Coach Alan Seretti, Assistant Coach Ethan Stewart-Smith, Student Assistant Adam Spinella and Scorekeeper Madeline Kern, with dedicated administrative support by College Athletic Director Dr. Les Poolman.

Additionally, as a result of their terrific performances, both senior guard Adam Honig and junior forward Gerry Wixted achieved individual honors by being named to the D3hoops.com All-Mid-Atlantic Region Team. Head Coach Alan Seretti likewise was named Mid-Atlantic Region Coach of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, in light of their outstanding accomplishments and history-making season, we ask that our colleagues join me today in recognizing the players and coaches of the Dickinson College Red Devils Men's Basketball Team of Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

IN HONOR OF INDEPENDENCE,
OHIO'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, Independence, created by a glacier on the west bank of the

Cuyahoga River first sheltered Indians, then became a settlement, grew with the Ohio and Erie Canal, expanded into a stone quarrying center, then slumbered along as a farming community until urbanization of Cuyahoga County which resulted in its growth as a suburban city. Independence was organized as a Township in 1814. With the opening of the Ohio and Erie Canal in 1827, Independence Township became accessible to trade and settlers.

Centrally located at the crossroads of Interstate 480 and Interstate 77, Independence is widely known as the "Heart of Cuyahoga County" and the region. With approximately 7,133 residents in 9.73 square miles, the City of Independence exhibits all the character and charm of a small town community that embraces family values and its rich history, while maintaining a robust commercial setting as well. The community boasts of a great school system, excellent city services and a diverse residential and business population. It is my honor to recognize their Bicentennial celebration and wish them all the best for their next 200 years.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, March 26, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 26, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DIANE BLACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, a famous storyteller Mark Twain once said, "Never let the truth get in the way of a good story," and proponents of the Keystone pipeline are following that advice very well. Supporters are painting an awfully rosy picture of Keystone's benefits while completely ignore the truth about the devastating damage it could cause.

TransCanada, a Canadian company that wants to build Keystone XL, claims the pipeline is safe, but this is the same company that operates the existing Keystone pipeline which spilled a dozen times in the first year of operation. The worst spill released 21,000 gallons of oil in North Dakota, contaminating local soil and water.

TransCanada claims that significant spills will be few and far between, but engineers at the University of Nebraska found that the company ignored data on spills and failed to factor in the more corrosive tar sands oil transported in Keystone XL. The engineers determined that instead of being safe,

Keystone XL could have as many as 91 major oil spills over the life of the pipeline.

This concerns me because Keystone XL will run through 2,000 miles of American farmland and over our country's largest water aquifer, the Ogallala. This aquifer provides drinking water for 2 million people and supplies water to more than a fourth of our Nation's irrigated farmland.

Most Americans understand that past oil spills have severe environmental impacts, but any Keystone XL spill will be truly catastrophic. Keystone XL spills are more dangerous because tar sands oil is heavier than conventional oil, meaning it would soak into soil and flow into water, sinking, contaminating miles of river and shoreline.

Tar sands oil is also the world's dirtiest oil, and approving the pipeline will accelerate its production, endangering our families, community, and climate.

When extracted and refined, tar sands oil emits 17 percent more carbon pollution than conventional oil production, which contributes to climate change. With 830,000 barrels of tar sands oil flowing through the pipeline each day, the metric tons of carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere each year would be equal to putting more than 5½ million more cars on our roads.

This means that building Keystone XL will undo the progress America has made to become more energy efficient and reduce carbon pollution for the sake of our environment. The bottom line is Keystone XL brings a whole lot of environmental risk and very little reward.

Proponents claim the pipeline will be great for the economy because it will promote jobs and reduce America's dependence on foreign oil. The data, however, doesn't support the claims that the pipeline will create 20,000 American jobs. The State Department says Keystone would only create 35 permanent jobs and fewer temporary construction jobs than initially projected.

Proponents claim the pipeline will lower gas prices and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. In reality, it will do neither. Prices at Midwestern pumps could actually increase. The pipeline will divert oil from Midwestern refineries designed to produce gasoline to Texas gulf refineries designed to produce diesel, which has a high overseas demand. Oil economists found a decline in gasoline production would increase gas prices in the Midwest between 5 cents to 40 cents per gallon.

We should not move forward on Keystone XL when we know the environmental impact far outweighs the projected minimal economic and job benefits. Our focus should be on strengthening our clean energy economy that has a job growth four times faster than any other sector. We have increased our solar capacity to power more than 2.2 million homes and made wind power an affordable alternative energy source.

When something seems too good to be true, it usually is. The Keystone XL pipeline sets false expectations about gas prices and job growth. The truth is it will only accelerate climate change, harm our environment, and jeopardize the health of our communities.

REFORM THE LAVISH CONGRESSIONAL PENSION PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I come to the well of the House today to invite support of my bill, H.R. 2357, which addresses the congressional pension program.

The congressional pension program becomes vested after 5 years of service, Madam Speaker. I claim to be no expert on pensions, but I know of no pension that vests after 5 years. This would involve a Member to serve not even three complete House terms and not even one complete Senate term.

My bill would increase the timeframe from 5 years, presently, to 12 years. At least if my bill became law, a Member would be required to serve six full House terms, two full Senate terms, or a combination thereto.

I am disappointed to say, Madam Speaker, that my bill has attracted zero cosponsors, and it has been surfacing for several days now. I am here today to invite every Member of the people's House to warmly embrace and support this bill. You should do so for two reasons:

Number one, it will result in reduced public spending;

Number two, it would send a message back to our constituents that we are willing and able to reduce our own perks and benefits.

I urge every Member of the people's House to come forward, Madam Speaker, and sign his or her name to this bill, and we will go down the path of fiscal sanity and fiscal responsibility before it is too late.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

END OF LIFE CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, we have a health care crisis in this country, but one few have heard about because we don't think about it until it hits us or our family, but it almost always does.

As we approach the first anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombing, that tragedy might serve as an illustration. Who in that crowd in Boston, almost a year ago, thought they would be facing not just life-or-death medical decisions, but about who would decide whether a leg would be amputated or not?

Who speaks for our loved ones when they can't speak for themselves? Who speaks for us when we are unable to speak? And how would they know what we want? This has profound implications.

Over 80 percent of Americans feel they want to spend their last days at home, surrounded by loved ones, lucid, aware, and enjoying their company. Unfortunately, about three-quarters of us spend our last days in a hospital, maybe in ICU, with tubes up our noses and heavily sedated. Is that exactly what we want? Who decides? And how will people know what my decisions or your decisions might be?

The failure for us to deal with this issue—whether it is the health care system, the Federal Government, individual families—can lead to tragic consequences. People can get the wrong care, be removed from their loved ones, sometimes get intrusive, expensive, and painful care when that is not their wish, drugged and helpless.

The failure doesn't just lead to unwanted care and pain, denying people the treatment they want, but it can have huge consequences on families. The loved ones left can be racked by guilt and uncertainty that can increase the trauma and the depression after the passing of a loved one. Commentators as diverse as Billy Graham and Dr. Bill Frist have spoken out eloquently about this need for all of us to spare our loved one's doubt and uncertainty.

This is an interesting test for Congress. Can we take steps that are supported by over 90 percent of the population that will lead to better patient care and satisfaction that empowers families to face medical emergencies the way they want?

This is, it should be noted, not just an issue for someone who is elderly with a terminal disease. Any of the bright, young people on Capitol Hill living away from home, perhaps for the first time, perhaps with some friends, can fall and suffer a concussion slipping on the ice or in a soccer game or in a car accident.

What have we done on Capitol Hill to make sure we know in each office who

speaks for us and our staff if we are no longer able? One simple solution is to support H.R. 1173, a bipartisan bill cosponsored by over 50 Members that Dr. PHIL ROE and I have introduced. The government that will pay tens of thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands of dollars towards operations would finally pay maybe \$150 or \$200 for a doctor to consult with the patient and their family to find out exactly what their choices might be and make sure their wishes are respected.

Don't just cosponsor the legislation, but use it to have a serious conversation with your staff and your family if you haven't had the discussion. Let's make sure that everyone on Capitol Hill is protected when the inevitable happens, and let's make sure the Federal Government is a full partner. Cosponsor H.R. 1173, and then let us work to enact it.

RECOGNIZING ROXCY O'NEAL BOLTON ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS A WOMEN OF CHARACTER, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT HONOREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Roxcy O'Neal Bolton, a pioneer and champion for the rights of women and an honored constituent in my south Florida congressional district. Yet Roxcy is truly larger than life and belongs to our entire State as well as our Nation.

This week she will be recognized as a Women of Character, Courage and Commitment Honoree by the National Women's History Project. This accolade is a well-deserved acknowledgment of her efforts to lead American women out from lifetimes as second-class citizens into an era of far greater equality between the genders, all while being a committed wife and mother.

Just as she did in her home life, Roxcy demanded equal respect in the workplace. From equal opportunity to equal pay, she knew that if women banded together, we were going to make a difference.

In 1972, she founded Women in Distress, the first women's rescue shelter in Florida to provide emergency housing, rescue services, and care to women who found themselves in situations of personal crisis.

Roxcy was also a fighter on behalf of abused women. At that time, no one talked about rape, much less did anything about alleviating the horrendous trauma that the victim undergoes. Brave crime victims who actually reported their rapes were often treated callously. Roxcy used her amazing presence, her force of will and characteristic personality as aggressive tools for positive change.

As an outspoken woman, she made waves on these topics, and by 1974, her efforts facilitated the creation of the first rape treatment center in the country located in my regional congressional district at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. In 1993, this center was proudly renamed after Roxcy. She is also known for organizing Florida's first crime watch to help curb crime against women.

For all of these efforts and more, Roxcy has been the recipient of numerous civic awards related to her work. That includes the prestigious induction into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame in 1984 for forcing police and prosecutors to make rape crime a priority, as well as illustrating to health departments the need for rape treatment centers.

She is a true champion for woman-kind. Her legacy as a champion for human rights, an end to sexual discrimination in employment and education, as well as in preserving and recognizing women's role in history will forever be remembered.

I am proud to have Roxcy O'Neal Bolton in my congressional district. As Roxcy would certainly say, the struggle for women's equality issues is far from over. Yet, with her example, I am confident that we will continue to push ahead and positively change the future for our daughters and granddaughters.

So, again, Roxcy, congratulations on being honored as a National Women's History Project 2014 Women of Character, Courage and Commitment. You have given countless girls and women the ability to pursue their full potential.

Congratulations to Roxcy, and may you keep fighting for many years still.

□ 1015

BORDER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'ROURKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Border Enforcement Accountability, Oversight, and Community Engagement Act with my friend from across the aisle, Congressman STEVE PEARCE. This is a policy that will disproportionately impact the border and one that is humane, fiscally responsible, and rational. It is also a bill that reflects the best values, experiences, and expertise of the people who live along the border. And it is, in fact, written by people who live on and represent border communities.

Madam Speaker, today we spend \$18 billion a year on border security and immigration enforcement. That is twice what we were spending just 10 years ago. We have a surge in border security, a surge in border personnel where we have seen a doubling of the

size of the Border Patrol from just 10,000 10 years ago to more than 20,000 today. But this surge in resources and personnel and enforcement has not been accompanied by an adequate regime of oversight, accountability, or transparency.

Tens of millions of our fellow Americans live along our borders with Canada and Mexico, and millions more cross them on a regular basis. In the community I represent, El Paso, Texas, we have 22 million border crossings a year; 99-plus percent are legal with people who are crossing for legitimate purposes with all of the appropriate travel documents. But when you combine the millions of people who live and cross our borders with this unprecedented surge of resources and law enforcement without the necessary oversight or accountability or transparency, this will lead to predictable abuses of power that we have seen not just at the borders themselves but at interior checkpoints that are up to 100 miles into the interior of the United States: detentions, interrogations, and retention of personal property, all without probable cause.

While the vast majority of our border protection agents and our CBP officers are professional, and all of them face very difficult challenges in their job in terms of the level of vigilance they must maintain, the territory through which they must patrol, the unpredictable threats they must guard against, our office hears on a day-to-day basis from constituents who are harassed and hassled or otherwise treated with less than the appropriate dignity or respect. But there is no clear process that exists for these individuals to resolve their complaints. I will give you two examples, one from the northern border and one from the southern border.

Pascal Abidor, an Islamic studies Ph.D. student and one of our fellow U.S. citizens, was crossing the Canadian border on an Amtrak train when he was questioned by CBP officers. He was taken off the train in handcuffs and held in a cell for several hours before being released without charge. His laptop was confiscated and held for 11 days following his detention during which time his private messages and photos were reviewed by CBP officers.

We have a case, unfortunately, in the community I represent, a woman who has not released her name but a fellow U.S. citizen who lives in New Mexico who was crossing into the U.S. from Mexico. She was suspected of carrying drugs. She was detained, frisked, strip searched, and taken to a hospital. There she was invasively searched, X-rayed, and made to perform a bowel movement against her will by doctors at the request of CBP officers looking for drugs. At no time was she read her rights or given access to an attorney because even at the hospital, miles

away from the physical border, Customs and Border Protection maintains that they are still in the process of a border interrogation. No traces of illegal drugs were found, and she was billed \$5,000 for the exams.

While stories like these are exceptional, they should never happen. As a result of a more militarized border, we are also seeing migrants who are pushed away from community ports of entry into harsher and more dangerous terrain, leading to a jump in the number of deaths. Two years ago, we saw the second-highest number of migrant crossing deaths on record, even though we saw the lowest number of crossing attempts across our southern border. We have had over 5,500 migrants die in the attempt to cross into the United States over the last 15 years.

It is not just the individuals who have been victims of unfounded searches and seizures or who have perished in the desert who are failed by our current border policy. The Border Patrol agents and CBP officers who perform these toughest jobs in the Federal Government do not always receive the training or support they need to be safe in the field or to do their jobs effectively.

For the taxpayers who deserve to have their tax dollars spent responsibly, secrecy and lack of transparency has prevented a sober accounting of whether the \$18 billion a year that we are spending on the border is money well spent. Our bill addresses these issues in five concrete ways:

First, robust oversight of all border security functions;

Second, a transparent and timely complaint process that is independent of the existing chain of command;

Third, increased and improved training resources for our agents and officers;

Fourth, engagement between CBP and border communities;

Fifth, new transparency measures.

So I urge my colleagues to join me in a humane, rational, and fiscally responsible approach to the border.

OBAMACARE'S IMPACTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I hope my remarks will help America better understand the damage that ObamaCare inflicts on patients, health care, the economy, and jobs.

Today, I share a letter by Dr. Marlin Gill of Decatur, Alabama, that details Washington's damage to America's health care. On March 23, 2014, Dr. Gill wrote me:

Dear Congressman Brooks,

As a practicing family physician, I plead for help against what I can best characterize as Washington's war against doctors.

The medical profession has never before remotely approached today's stress, work

hours, wasted costs, decreased efficiency, and declining ability to focus on patient care.

In our community alone, at least six doctors have left patient care for administrative positions, to start a concierge practice, or retire altogether.

Doctors are smothered by destructive regulations that add costs, raise our overhead, and "gum up the works," making patient treatment slower and less efficient, thus forcing doctors to focus on things other than patient care and reduce the number of patients we can help each day.

I spend more time at work than I have at any time in my 27 years of practice, and more of that time is spent on administrative tasks and entering useless data into a computer rather than helping sick patients.

Doctors have been forced by ill-informed bureaucrats to implement electronic medical records (EMR) that, in our four-doctor practice, costs well over \$100,000-plus in continuing yearly operational costs, all of which does not help take care of one patient while driving up the cost of every patient's health care.

Washington's electronic medical records requirement makes our medical practice much slower and less efficient, forcing our doctors to treat fewer patients per day than we did before the EMR mandate.

To make matters worse, Washington forces doctors to demonstrate "meaningful use" of EMR or risk not being fully paid for the help we give.

In addition to the electronic medical records burden, we face a mandate to use the ICD-10 coding system, a new set of reimbursement diagnostic codes.

The current ICD-9 coding system uses roughly 13,000 codes. The new ICD-10 coding system uses a staggering 70,000 new and completely different codes, thus dramatically slowing doctors down due to the unnecessary complexity and sheer numbers of codes that must be learned. The cost of this new ICD-10 coding system for our small practice is roughly \$80,000, again driving up health care costs without one iota of improvement in health care quality.

Finally, doctors face nonpayment by patients with ObamaCare. These patients may or may not be paying their premiums, and we have no way of verifying this. No business can operate with that much uncertainty.

On behalf of the medical profession, I ask that Washington stop the implementation of the ICD-10 coding system, repeal the Affordable Care Act, and replace it with a better law written with the input of real doctors who will actually treat patients covered by it.

America has enjoyed the best health care the world has ever known. That health care is in jeopardy because physicians cannot survive Washington's "war on doctors" without relief.

Eventually the problems for doctors will become problems for patients, and we are all patients at some point.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Marlin Gill of Decatur, Alabama.

Madam Speaker, America should heed the warnings of Dr. Marlin Gill of Decatur, Alabama. Failure to do so risks unnecessary patient deaths while destroying the best health care system the world has ever known.

HONORING GRACIELA TISCARENO-SATO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. SWALWELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the work and achievements of a local Hayward veteran and businesswoman, Graciela Tiscareno-Sato. I was honored to meet with her yesterday in my office.

Before coming to my office, Graciela was recognized by the White House as one of 10 Women Veteran Leader Champions of Change for the work of her Hayward business, the Gracefully Global Group. It produces books and educational materials highlighting the positive contributions of Latinos.

The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Graciela received an Air Force ROTC scholarship to attend the University of California Berkeley, where she obtained a degree in environmental design and architecture.

Graciela then served 9 years on Active Duty in the Air Force as an officer, receiving the Air Medal for combat air operations during the Iraq war.

Graciela is also a mom, and a fierce advocate for her oldest daughter, who has been blind since birth. I asked Graciela how she has accomplished so much for being so young. She gave me one word: tenacity.

Graciela brings her heritage and experience to work writing educational books for children. One of her most recent bilingual books is titled "Good Night Captain Mama," and it tells the story of a mother's service as a pilot in the Air Force, and it is the first bilingual children's book about a woman serving in the military.

Graciela is also committed to bringing jobs and economic development to her hometown of Hayward. I look forward to working together with her to accomplish this goal. Graciela's story is truly one of resilience and determination, or, as she would put it, tenacity. Thank you, Graciela, for bringing positive examples of Latinos to schools and inspiring young students across the world. And congratulations on your much-deserved recognition by the White House.

I am proud to represent Graciela Tiscareno-Sato: veteran, business owner, daughter of immigrants, mother. Your work is inspiring to the next generation of leaders who want to dream big and reach for the stars.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROOKS of Alabama). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month. Our Nation is blessed to have so many women who have played important roles in its formation across the country.

I want to highlight one particular Renaissance woman from my neck of the woods, Tennessee.

My home in Gallatin has a special significance to me in that it resides on the property that used to be known as the Fairvue house, which was eventually sold off and broken apart. One resident of Fairvue was a particularly notable woman by the name of Miss Ellen Stokes Wemyss, and to say that she lived a notable life would be an understatement.

Born in 1895, Miss Wemyss lived a long, eventful life until she passed away in 2001 at the age of 106.

□ 1030

Over the course of her life, she marched in the Nashville Suffragette Parade, flew in an early airplane, and rode her horse into her eighties.

Miss Wymess was an avid traveler who explored glaciers in Alaska and bicycled in France through her eighties. She even worked her plantation farm well into her nineties.

When she wasn't working or embarking on adventures, she was giving back to our community, including giving to Volunteer State Community College, the Gallatin Day Care Center, Sumner Academy Day School, Sumner County Public Library, among many other local organizations.

I had the pleasure of meeting Miss Wymess several years ago before she passed away, and it gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to share just a peek of her wonderful life here on the House floor.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I encourage everyone to think about a role a woman has played in our rich American history.

FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CLEANUP OF VIEQUES AND CULEBRA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, Vieques and Culebra are two island municipalities of Puerto Rico. Each is home to beautiful beaches, to rich animal and plant life, and to warm, welcoming people.

For decades, the two islands were used as military training ranges. The U.S. citizens living in Vieques and Culebra were required to make tremendous sacrifices to ensure the readiness of our Armed Forces and to enhance our national defense.

Although Vieques and Culebra are no longer used for training purposes, both islands bear the scars of their past. Some of those scars are easy to see, like the impact of bombing on the once pristine landscape or like the threat that unexploded bombs in the ground and surrounding waters currently pose to the safety of residents and visitors.

Other scars might be more difficult to discern, like the effect that bomb-

ing-related contamination may have had on public health, particularly in Vieques.

The Department of Defense is currently conducting decontamination operations in both Vieques and Culebra. The cleanup of Vieques is being conducted by the Navy, while the cleanup of Culebra is being carried out by the Corps of Engineers.

Several days ago, I wrote a letter to the Secretary of Defense about DOD's responsibilities with respect to Vieques and Culebra. The letter, which was signed by 16 of my colleagues in the House and Senate, makes three specific requests.

First, although many years have passed since the military stopped conducting training exercises on Culebra and Vieques, there are still meaningful gaps in information about the types and amounts of munitions used on both islands.

My constituents have a compelling interest in knowing which types of weapons were used, where they were used, and in what volume they were used.

Congress agrees. As a result of bicameral efforts, the report accompanying the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act encourages DOD to make public all of its historical documents related to its training activities on both islands.

Our letter to the Secretary requests an update about how DOD intends to implement this Congressional language and strongly urges DOD to collect, organize, and publish the relevant documents on the Internet in a single location.

Second, the report accompanying the 2014 Defense Appropriations Act encourages DOD to accelerate cleanup efforts on Vieques. Therefore, my colleagues and I also urged the Secretary of Defense to implement this Congressional guidance by allocating the funding necessary to complete the cleanup of Vieques as rapidly as possible.

Finally, the letter reminds the Secretary that there is a serious public safety threat in Culebra that requires resolution. As a result of a rigid legal interpretation, DOD refuses to fund the cleanup of a 400-acre parcel that formerly served as the bombardment zone and which now has popular beaches, pedestrian walkways, and campgrounds.

This is unacceptable. Since 1995, there have been over 70 incidents in which members of the public have encountered unexploded bombs in this part of Culebra that could have caused them great harm.

Last March, a young girl visiting a Culebra beach suffered burns after she picked up an artillery shell containing white phosphorous.

Earlier this year, local authorities had to close the same Culebra beach when a 100-pound unexploded bomb was discovered underwater close to shore.

I have filed multiple bills to require DOD to fund the cleanup of this parcel and to remove this public safety threat, but DOD has opposed my efforts. The letter urges DOD to reconsider its position in this matter.

The use of Vieques and Culebra as training ranges may have ceased, but the legacy of such use must be addressed by DOD. Working with my colleagues, I will continue to do everything within my power to ensure that DOD fulfills its legal and moral responsibilities.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY WILDCATS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, when it comes to college basketball, there is simply no place like my old Kentucky home.

I rise with the distinct honor of congratulating my hometown University of Kentucky Wildcats men's basketball team on moving on to the Sweet 16 in the 2014 Men's Division I Basketball Tournament.

This season has had its ups and downs, but this group of young men—the youngest average age of any team in the tournament—is coalescing at just the right time.

This momentum is a testament to the players' willingness to put team ahead of self—a lesson we here in Congress could stand to learn from—and the ability of Coach John Calipari and his staff to mold raw talent into a cohesive, disciplined attack on both the defensive and offensive ends of the court in just a few short months.

Hard-fought victories by these Wildcats over Kansas State and an unbeaten Wichita State team—a very likable team—have set up what might well be the main event of the entire tournament, not just for residents of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but for college basketball fans all around this country—a rematch between the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville, the two previous national champions.

With all due respect to Duke and North Carolina, the University of Kentucky-University of Louisville rivalry is the greatest and most competitive rivalry in all of college basketball. One of the reasons for this is this is a non-conference rivalry. After the original dream game in 1983, the general assembly of Kentucky mandated in State law that these two great programs in college basketball play against one another each and every year.

Our Wildcats won the meeting earlier this season between these two squads and are now looking to repeat the events of the 2012 tournament in which a victory over archrival Louisville in

the Final Four paved the way for the University of Kentucky's eighth national championship.

This year's young Cats were second in the Southeastern Conference in average points scored and fourth in terms of points allowed, demonstrating that their physical play is equal opportunity on offense and defense.

Both statistics are grounded in these players' ability to pound the glass for rebounds, led by forward Julius Randle, who has averaged a double-double all season and routinely finds ways to rebound and drive when double-, triple-, or even quadruple-teamed.

While Randle and other big men—including freshman Dakari Johnson and future draft prospect Willie Cauley-Stein—collapse opponents' defenses, the outside shooting threats of twins Aaron and Andrew Harrison and James Young keep the Cats a threat from the perimeter.

As any college basketball fan can tell you, these young men have a lot to live up to, given the legacy of the University of Kentucky and the lofty expectations of the most passionate fan base in all of college basketball, the Big Blue Nation.

The Wildcats represent the greatest tradition in the history of college basketball as the winningest program of all time, in both the number of total wins and total win percentage.

As Coach Cal said at the beginning of the season:

Kentucky doesn't just play college basketball; we are college basketball.

Even former coach and current Louisville coach Rick Pitino said that the University of Kentucky is the Roman Empire of college basketball.

This new batch of Cats, young as they are, has already lived up to this imposing pedigree. While Friday's game against Louisville will be a significant challenge, I know it will be "On, On, U of K" to the Elite Eight and the Final Four; and I know, for many in the Bluegrass, a win over the Cardinals will be enough to call this season a success.

In fact, I am so confident this game will go in favor of the Wildcats that I have made a friendly wager of locally distilled Kentucky bourbon with my good friend, the Member from Louisville, JOHN YARMUTH.

While he thinks I will be eating crow, I am pretty sure that the Wildcats will be eating some Cardinal come Friday night.

REFORM THE MILITARY SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, last week, as the world watched in disbelief, the trial of Brigadier General Sinclair concluded much as it began, flawed and unjust.

Even with the world watching, the military once again demonstrated its outright incompetence at administering justice.

Brigadier General Sinclair walked out of the court a free man, even though he had pled guilty to these charges:

He pled guilty to an inappropriate relationship with his accuser; an inappropriate relationship with another female Army captain; an inappropriate relationship with a female Army major; possessing and displaying pornographic images and videos on his computer in Afghanistan.

He pled guilty to using a government-issued travel card for personal purposes for a trip to Tucson, Arizona, and a trip to Fort Hood, Texas, to see his mistress.

He pled guilty to attempting to start an inappropriate relationship with a female Army lieutenant; sexually explicit communications with a female Army major, requesting and receiving nude photos and a sexually explicit video of her.

He pled guilty to vulgar language to describe female staff officers; impeding an investigation; and adultery with his accuser.

Again, these aren't the charges the judge found Sinclair innocent of, but all of the charges Sinclair pled guilty to.

His punishment? No demotion in rank, no forced retirement, no jail time.

Instead, a small fine that he will pay with his generous taxpayer-funded pension and a potent message to those that are thinking of coming forward: you will be dragged through the mud, and you will be punished, not the perpetrator.

A civilian would have been fired. The misuse of government funds and the gross misconduct by General Sinclair, who pled guilty to all of those charges, should have been more than enough to fire him.

I would like to say that I was shocked by this unconscionable decision, but after working on this issue for 3 years, I have learned that this pattern is the rule, not the exception.

Whether the Army intended it or not, this was a high-profile test case for whether the military can hold its highest officers accountable for committing serious offenses. It failed.

The military seems to be determined to make our point for us. The current military system of justice is incapable of meting out justice in an impartial and effective way.

When Sinclair was challenged by his staff for his conduct and remarks towards women, the general replied:

I'm the general. I'll say whatever [expletive deleted] I want.

You know, he is right. In the military, misogynous attitudes and conduct, even violent crimes against

women, are condoned and, at times, even celebrated.

In 2010, a skit was performed for General Sinclair's benefit, where a soldier wore a wig and dressed as a female officer and offered to perform oral sex for the general. This skit was performed in front of the general's wife and more than 500 people; yet this gross performance of General Sinclair's sexual misconduct was no cause for concern at the time.

Until these cases are taken out of the chain of command, the reality and perception will continue to be that the military justice system is tainted under command influence and is inherently unjust.

The American people look at how this case was handled and see that a commanding officer without legal expertise and a built-in conflict of interest is not competent to prosecute serious crimes.

It should now be clear to everyone in Congress that the military is incapable of holding perpetrators accountable. It is our duty to reform the system which we created in the first place, not the commanders whose legal training and built-in conflicts of interest have proven to be so effective.

This case is an embarrassment to the military; and, frankly, it is an embarrassment to Congress. When will we be willing to say "enough" and do our duty to protect our servicemembers from predators like General Sinclair?

□ 1045

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. To my colleagues, I say good morning.

Madam Speaker, it is good to be an American, and it is good to have the opportunity to celebrate the greatest democracy in the world. That is why I stand today and join my Democratic colleagues as they appear on the east steps in calling all colleagues to stand under the bright shining Sun to celebrate that democracy, for, today, Democrats will stand united, calling upon our Republican friends to push for a vote on comprehensive, reasonable, sensible immigration reform.

I stand with these icons:

Remember always that all of us—that you and I especially—are descendants from immigrants and revolutionists—President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The land flourished because it was fed from so many sources, because it was nourished by so many cultures and traditions and people—President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Everywhere immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of American life—President John F. Kennedy.

He never strayed away from his strong Irish heritage. Then, of course, in Women's History Month:

I am a beneficiary of the American people's generosity, and I hope we can have comprehensive immigration legislation that allows this country to continue to be enriched by those who were not born here—former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE, a descendant of Jamaican immigrants. My grandmother and grandfather came by way of the Panama Canal. Today, I can go to the Panama Canal and see my grandfather's name X'd there, for he worked with his hands to build the Panama Canal. Then the family traveled with small suitcases to South Carolina and, ultimately, made a life in this great Nation. What a privilege it is to serve in this body as a descendant, as someone who has recent immigrant grandparents who came to this Nation for opportunity.

Finally, let me offer these thoughts through this quote:

This issue has been around for too long. A comprehensive approach is long overdue, and I am confident that the President, myself, and others can find the common ground to take care of this issue once and for all—House Speaker John Boehner.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you today to stand with those eloquent and important Americans, Presidents and Secretaries of State who have indicated that we are better for the immigrant opportunities that we have been given. Mr. BOEHNER, we want a vote now.

As you look, you will see a picture of Leader PELOSI and of myself and of my colleague from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL). We are not important, but the children are who are here, who are diverse in their understanding of cultural diversity. Madam Speaker, these children speak Chinese and Spanish. They are 2 years old and 3 years old and 4 years old. They are in the Barbara Jordan International Child Care Center. We know we need child care, and they understand the richness of what happens with diversity.

Let me share with you very briefly that there are 16.4 percent of Texans who are foreign born: 42 percent are Latino or Asian; 87 percent of children with immigrant parents are U.S. citizens, and 75 percent of those children are English fluent. These are individuals who want to contribute to America. Asian-owned businesses in Texas create \$40.2 billion in revenue, and Latino-owned create \$61.9 billion in revenue from their businesses.

Here are the results of deporting rather than putting forward comprehensive immigration reform legislation, not for people who want to do you harm but who want to do you good. I am glad that H.R. 1417 is in the bill that we want to vote on. That is the bipartisan Homeland Security bill that I helped write that came out in a bipartisan manner, but this is what America will do to herself without comprehensive immigration reform:

We will lose, in wages, \$33.2 billion if you deport every person who is non-

status. In tax revenue, you will lose \$14.5 billion. In jobs creation, you will lose \$77.7 billion in the decrease of gross State product. This is from the State of Texas alone.

So, in actuality, comprehensive immigration reform creates jobs, and it creates opportunities. But do you know what? It is the right thing to do.

As a young child, I looked to the Statue of Liberty for such inspiration. I remember school trips of my going to the Statue of Liberty, and I am reminded of that extending arm that said it welcomes those who are worn and those who are forlorn. It welcomes them to the greatest democracy in the world.

Give us a vote right now. We want to vote for comprehensive immigration reform. We want these children to grow up in a democracy that is befitting of this great Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, as I have mentioned a few times when I have come to the floor in the last 14 months now, I am a member of the freshman class, elected in 2012. I am proud of that fact. I am proud of it for several reasons, but one of the things that is significant about this class, particularly on our side of the aisle here as Democrats, is that it is the most diverse group of individuals ever elected to the United States Congress in a single class. In fact, its diversity is such that it is made up of a majority of minorities, women, and LGBT members—a majority minority class. Its diversity gives us tremendous strength. As I sit with my colleagues, it is amazing to me the vast perspectives that we bring, and I think it has brought to us much better opportunity and a much better ability to see the needs of this country and to address them.

It is the diversity of this Congress, and especially of this Congress elected in 2012, that is its principal strength. I say that because it is my view that it is the diversity of our Nation that is our greatest strength. What makes America exceptional is its diversity, and that diversity is the result of a culture and of values that have been welcoming to people from all corners of the world to come here and make the U.S. home—to build businesses, to bring their families, to invest in community—and to be a part of something that we have never seen before on the face of the planet, which is a nation of immigrants.

For far too long, however, the need to reform our obsolete immigration system has been a low priority for the

House leadership. It has been, essentially, on the back burner. Americans have said loud and clear that they want Congress to act on comprehensive immigration reform, and it doesn't seem to matter whom we talk to. For people on the left and the right, across the different regions of this country, the need for immigration reform is increasingly clear, not just because it reflects our values, but because many see it as in our vital economic interest that we reform our obsolete immigration policies and return to the values that made this country so great. It is that welcoming value, that value that says: Come here. Be a part of this Nation. Help grow it. Help build it, and help contribute to its productivity.

Last year, when immigration reform was, obviously, coming before us because so many Members were expressing the need for it, we heard the Speaker say that the Senate should act first and that he would await Senate action before bringing comprehensive immigration reform to the floor of the House of Representatives. Last year, the Senate acted. The Senate acted in a bipartisan fashion by a vote of 68-32 and passed comprehensive immigration reform. It was not a perfect piece of legislation—none of them are—but they passed comprehensive immigration reform, which is something that people in this country have been asking for for a long time.

But nothing. Nothing was brought to the House. In fact, while we had immigration reform ready to go—we have a bipartisan bill here in the House of Representatives—silence from the leadership on the Republican side.

Then earlier this year, in January, the Speaker said that, once he had been able to present to his Conference the principles by which the Republican Conference would pursue comprehensive immigration reform, we would be able to then turn to this question and move forward on what the American people have been asking for for a long time. That was in January. Next week, it is April, and the House and the American people still wait.

There is overwhelming support for comprehensive immigration reform. It comes from labor. It comes from our business community. It comes from the agriculture community. It is so rare that we have an issue like this that is number one fundamental to who we are as Americans, and it is so rare that we have an issue that unites the people who very often on this very floor have their differences manifest in the debates of Congress. Now we have an issue that is consistent with our history, that is consistent with our values, and that is supported by big and small businesses, by agriculture interests, by organized labor, by Democrats and Republicans.

It is long overdue. It is time for us to get about the business of the American

people and to take immigration reform up now.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POLIS. I come before this body today, Madam Speaker, to address the urgent need for passing immigration reform and finally replacing our broken immigration system with one that secures the rule of law, that secures our Nation's borders, and that ensures that we fix this problem and issue going forward.

Look, nobody is happy with how things are today with regards to immigration. Why should we be? We should, in fact, be ashamed as a country to look ourselves in the face and say: We are a country in which we don't even know who is here. There could be 10 million people or 15 million people here illegally. We don't enforce the law at workplaces. There is no mandatory workplace authentication. We are not serious about border security. These are the things that the Senate bill and H.R. 15 would remedy.

We have an unprecedented level of investment in border security. We make sure that businesses verify every employee who goes to work in order to ensure that one is there legally to work. We make sure the people we need in our economy to work and have jobs are able to get the permission to go to work the next day. H.R. 15 would create over 150,000 jobs for American citizens. It would reduce our budget deficit by \$200 billion. It would secure our border, reflect our values as a nation of immigrants and as a nation of laws with an immigration system that makes sense for our country, that makes sense for American citizens, that makes sense for reducing our budget deficit, and that works—fundamentally works—to help make America more competitive.

That is why there is an unprecedented coalition around H.R. 15, our comprehensive bipartisan immigration reform bill. It is a coalition so strong that, if this bill were placed on the floor of the House tomorrow, it would pass.

It is a coalition that unites business and labor, a coalition that unites the agriculture industry with farmers and with farmworkers, a coalition that includes members of the faith-based community, from the evangelical traditions, to the Catholic tradition, to the Jewish tradition, to the Muslim tradition. The full diversity of faith in our country supports this bill and this approach to immigration reform.

It is a coalition that includes the technology community and that includes the innovators of tomorrow's economy. H.R. 15 includes entrepreneurship visas. It includes a route

where high-skilled workers who are trained at our universities with Ph.D.'s in engineering and math are able to stay in our country to deploy their talents here rather than our route of current dysfunction of an immigration system that forces them back to overseas countries where the jobs follow them.

□ 1100

We want that talent here to make our country stronger. H.R. 15 does that.

We call upon the Speaker to move forward with bringing this bill to the floor. There has not been a single immigration bill considered by this House, and that is why moments from now my colleagues will be launching a discharge petition to bring H.R. 15, immigration reform, to the floor of this House.

Madam Speaker, you may ask, What is a discharge petition?

A discharge petition is a way that the membership of this body, the 435 fine men and women who make up the United States Congress, can go around a Speaker who is unwilling to schedule a bill for a vote, and we ourselves can schedule the bill for a vote.

Normally, the Speaker decides what bills are considered on this floor. But if 218 of 435 Members—that is half of this body, a majority of this body—sign a discharge petition, that bill will immediately come to the floor of the House for an up-or-down vote. And that is all we are asking, Madam Speaker.

We know that there are people in this body who might have heartfelt convictions against fixing our immigration system. They can vote their conscience, just as we vote ours. But when we have a majority of this body ready to act in concert with the Senate, in concert with the President, in harmony with over 75 percent of the American people who support fixing our immigration system, it is time to act.

No Speaker, no majority leader, should stand in the way of overwhelming opinion both inside this body and outside this body. The time for finally fixing our broken immigration system, replacing chaos with order, replacing unruliness with the rule of law, replacing a lack of certainty with security and certainty, and an investment in our future, is now.

I call upon all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, in the face of the failure of this body to act, to sign the discharge petition, take back control of this Chamber for a solid, commonsense majority of Democrats and Republicans who want immigration reform to pass now. We can do that simply by signing on the dotted line on the discharge petition, as I intend to do moments from now.

I call upon all my colleagues to sign the discharge petition and finally fix our broken immigration system.

BUILDING FUTURES RHODE ISLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Building Futures, a Providence-based work training program that prepares Rhode Islanders for careers in the construction industry. This program has made a real difference in the lives of 145 Rhode Islanders by placing them in registered apprenticeships as bricklayers, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and other construction trade apprenticeships. This success is due, in large part, to its dedicated and talented staff, led by director and founder Andrew Cortes.

I was pleased to stand with Andrew as mayor of Providence in 2007 to help launch Building Futures, which has become a national model for work training programs, and recently to be with him and many others to celebrate their success at Building Futures and to hear directly from so many who have benefited from this program who are now holding good-paying jobs in my State.

Addressing the skills gap is one of Rhode Island's and our Nation's most pressing challenges. We know that too many people are searching for good-paying jobs, but too often, even though they are hardworking, they lack the particular skills they need for the jobs that are available.

Building Futures is helping to restore opportunity by bridging the skills gap and strengthening Rhode Island's workforce. Today, I am proud to salute their efforts and congratulate them on a job well done.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I think what we are engaging on today has the potential of being truly historic. We need a vote on immigration reform.

Several weeks ago, I was home in the district I represent. I go home every week. The Secretary of Commerce was visiting in Silicon Valley. She gave a good speech. After she finished her speech, she invited questions. The very first question was from a young man—a scientist—who said this:

I started a company. I am about to hire four Americans. But my visa is up next month. What am I supposed to do?

As I was talking to that young man, another young man came forward—another scientist who has just formed a company. He is about to go into a hiring mode, but his visa was about up.

So when you take a look and listen to the people in Silicon Valley saying we are going to lose jobs in America

because we have a dysfunctional immigration system, that shows the problem that we have allowed to fester.

Recently, I met with farmers. They told me that they are not planting crops this year because they can't identify who is going to pick those crops. About 80 percent of the migrant farmworkers in America are here without their proper documents. Do I think that is a good situation? No, I do not.

A number of years ago, when I chaired the Immigration Subcommittee, we had a wonderful witness, Dr. Richard Land, then the head of the Southern Baptist Convention, and this was his testimony. He said:

We had for many years two signs at the southern border. One sign said, "No Trespassing," and the other sign said, "Help Wanted."

Those farmworkers who are here picking the vegetables that we will enjoy at our meals responded to that "Help Wanted" sign.

Sometimes people say you should do it in the legal way. Get to the end of the line. And this is from someone who was a former immigration lawyer. I used to teach immigration law at the University of Santa Clara. The truth is, there is no line to get into. We have created a dysfunctional system that does not serve American interests.

H.R. 15 is not a perfect bill. No piece of legislation is. But it was a bill that attracted broad bipartisan support in the United States Senate.

This discharge petition says just one thing: Let's have a vote. Why would the Speaker of the House and the Republican leadership refuse to allow this body to have an up-or-down vote on that bill?

A discharge petition is something that has been in the rules of the House for many, many decades. It has been used occasionally in the past to actually un-bottle-up bills that the leadership didn't want the body to vote on. Most recently, campaign finance reform came to the floor of the House because of a discharge petition.

A lot of Members of the House say that they favor immigration reform. Here is an opportunity to hold every Member of this House accountable. If you favor reform of the immigration system, you should favor having an up-or-down vote on H.R. 15. If you favor an up-or-down vote, we expect you, no matter what your party designation, to sign this discharge petition so the House of Representatives may have an opportunity to address this question and vote "yes" or "no" on this bill.

I hope that members of the public who are aware of the need for immigration reform to reform a system that is not serving our economic interests, that is breaking up families and leaving children in foster care while their parents are deported, will call their Members of the House of Representatives and ask them to sign this dis-

charge petition. It is in the rules. It is what we expect.

We need a vote.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCIA. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for joining me here today, as well as those advocates tirelessly working for comprehensive immigration reform.

Nine months have passed since the Senate moved on a strongly bipartisan comprehensive immigration bill. In that time, we have heard nothing but excuses and empty promises from the Speaker.

Yesterday, the Congressional Budget Office confirmed what so many of us already know: immigration is a boon for our economy. It will reduce the deficit by nearly \$1 trillion, raise wages, and increase the Nation's productivity. It will make our country richer and create opportunity for all. But because the Speaker refuses to give us a vote, we have seen more families ripped apart, more jobs go overseas, and more people get stuck in a broken, outdated, and inefficient system.

We can't afford to wait any longer for this House to take up immigration reform. The time has come to move this forward.

Immigration reform isn't just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do. Our country needs it, the American people support it, and there are enough votes today in the House of Representatives to pass it.

I invite all my colleagues to join me in signing the discharge petition so we can finally bring immigration reform to a vote.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, this week, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office told us that the bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform legislation in this House, H.R. 15, will reduce the deficit by \$900 billion over the next 20 years—\$200 billion in the first decade alone.

In today's economy, immigration reform is a vital lifeblood. By adding 11 million to our workforce here in the United States, our economy will continue driving our recovery. This influx of workers will increase consumption, pushing businesses to grow and hire more employees to meet their new consumers' needs.

Thanks to the Congressional Budget Office's report, we are reminded that bringing 11 million hardworking men and women out of the shadows is not

simply a moral battle, it is not only an attempt to legalize millions of hard-working people who are already here in our country, it is an opportunity for us to create employment for our fellow Americans. It will supercharge the economy of this great Nation.

I think it is important for all of America to understand that comprehensive immigration reform is the best thing that we can do for our economy. The economists have reminded us of that. But, unfortunately, ladies and gentlemen, what stands in the way is a decision by the Speaker of this House to just offer the opportunity to put that bill on this floor so that we as Members of Congress can vote on this legislation.

Should it pass, should it fail, that is the objective as to why we are elected to this House—so that we can debate, so that we can deliberate, so that we can help make decisions that move this country forward.

All we are asking is that we have the opportunity to vote on the floor of the United States Congress on a bill, an issue, that will unleash this economy, and that is something that I think every American wants to see happen.

We have millions of Americans who are out of work. Some have been out of work for years. This comprehensive immigration reform will unleash this economy and create more jobs for American citizens more than anything that this Congress can do today.

I think it is incumbent upon every American to urge your congressional Member to vote on comprehensive immigration reform. Should they choose to vote “no” or choose to vote “yes,” that is the prerogative of that elected official. Unfortunately, the Speaker of this House will not give us that opportunity.

Once again, Americans, the best thing that we can do as a country is to get our economy back on track and allow hardworking Americans the opportunity to go back to work, to have the dignity of bringing home a paycheck for them and their families.

Comprehensive immigration reform is that answer. The economists have said so. But, unfortunately, some politicians refuse to face reality and refuse to supercharge the American economy. We are just one vote away, one opportunity away, from doing that.

□ 1115

WHAT WE KNOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for 2½ minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, last week, the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences released a new report titled “What We Know.”

The report states unequivocally that climate change is a scientific fact, that

human activity is linked to climate change, and that, if we do not act soon, the problem will get far worse and more expensive for us to deal with.

This is not a super-PAC or a political association tied to a candidate or to a group of scientists. This is a group of scientists representing the leading experts in their fields, and they are speaking to us in one unified voice.

In Georgia, agriculture is our State's number one industry; and yet, as damaging and unpredictable as the weather patterns are making life difficult for our farmers, Republicans in our State suggest that the science is not well settled.

Madam Speaker, I hope that they get a chance to read this latest evidence. The science is settled. The only debate that remains is whether or not we will take action before it is too late.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 25, 2014 at 5:54 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4275.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 16 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Jonathan Weaver, Greater Mt. Nebo AME Church, Bowie, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

To You, O Lord, the God of the universe and the author and finisher of life, we come today expressing our thanks for all that You have done for us, not just within the last few mo-

ments, but over the sweep of our lives, the triumphs as well as the turmoil.

We pray that as the Members of Congress deliberate today, grant them even greater wisdom so that their actions will honor You in what they do to serve the people they represent.

Help all of us to continue to look beyond ourselves and our personal interests and to seek ways to make life better for those around us, both near and far.

I pray that even with and through our differences, that You will unite us as a people, so that our Nation will continue to prosper and honor You.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Ms. HAHN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAHN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND JONATHAN WEAVER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor this morning to express the gratitude of the House for this morning's opening prayer by one of Maryland's most dynamic and inspirational faith leaders, my dear friend, Pastor Jonathan Leslie Weaver.

Pastor Weaver likes to share with visitors to his church this verse from

Psalms 68: "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits."

For the past 25 years, Mr. Speaker, Reverend Weaver has been sharing the benefits of his care and his wisdom with his flock at Greater Mt. Nebo African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bowie, Maryland.

Pastor Weaver has overseen its growth from 100 members in 1988 to more than 1,600 today. It now has more than 50 ministries serving the church and our wider community.

Under the pastor's leadership, the church is engaged in numerous charitable works, including reentry programs, community-based violence prevention, and antihunger projects.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, Pastor Weaver has been at the center of an economic empowerment effort which has advantaged literally tens of thousands of people in our area and now has five chapters throughout our country.

I thank Pastor Weaver, along with his wife, Pamela, for their many years of service. They are a blessing to our community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

BACKLOG AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I know that the House shares my deep concern over the backlog of benefit claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

It is nothing short of a black eye for our government. This country has made promises that it is our duty to keep, and the House has acted to tackle this problem.

Even so, reform won't get very far if it is carried out by managers who have proven that they are not up to the job. So we recently introduced H.R. 4031, the VA Management Accountability Act. This measure gives the VA Secretary the authority to fire and demote officials who aren't performing.

The principle here is simple. When you are not getting the job done, you have got to go. At the VA, it has been quite the opposite. For all the incompetence we have seen and all the lives that have been lost, the evidence shows there has been no accountability. Only half-measures and little slaps on the wrist.

At any agency that has fallen down on the job this would be unacceptable. But to have it happen in the health care system for America's veterans? I think it is shameful.

The VA is failing our veterans and their families. It is time we hold these people accountable and get people in there who can fix this backlog once and for all.

I am going to applaud Chairman MILLER and the Veterans Affairs' Committee for their leadership. I am pleased this legislation has already picked up the support of several veterans' organizations. I would urge all of my colleagues to back this critical measure.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF RALPH WILSON

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Ralph Wilson. Wilson is best known in my western New York community as the founder and owner of the Buffalo Bills for a remarkable 55-year tenure. He was a savvy businessman and true lover of the game of football.

I remember Mr. Wilson calling me to his office to discuss his concerns about the new NFL collective bargaining agreement. He believed that agreement was stacked against smaller market teams like Buffalo, and I found him to have a better command of the details than anyone on the subject. He was passionate not only about his beloved Buffalo Bills, but about its place in our community as well.

Mr. Wilson's interest in our community did not stop at football. His foundation donated over \$11 million in the past two decades, including to the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the community food banks, and the Hospice Foundation of Western New York.

Mr. Speaker, we are forever grateful for Mr. Wilson's dedication to western New York and to our Nation as a World War II veteran. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Agriculture Week. It is a time to celebrate the extraordinary diversity, abundance, and evolution of American agriculture.

In 1960, the average U.S. farmer fed 26 people; today, Mr. Speaker, the average U.S. farmer feeds 155 people by using less land, less water, less energy, and less fertilizer.

Thanks to agriculture research which has given rise to new technologies and techniques, America's producers are adopting practices which allow them to meet food, fiber, feed, and fuel demands and preserve our natural resources for

generations to come. From high-tech irrigation tools to biotechnology, growers are producing a more stable, safe, quality, and affordable food supply.

As we recognize National Agriculture Week, we have much to celebrate but many challenges ahead. Knowing the forward-thinking nature of producers, combined with these exciting advances in agriculture, I am confident we will meet all of the demands of our growing world.

As cochair of the Modern Agriculture Caucus and the rural caucus, I am committed to ensuring Federal policy reflects sound science and strives to complement, not undermine, this innovation.

LET'S PASS COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because today the Democrats will present a discharge petition to force a vote in this House on something that so many Americans know to be absolutely essential, which is comprehensive immigration reform.

The Senate has weighed in with 78 "yes" votes. This is a Senate where you don't get 78 votes for just about anything—bipartisan support for comprehensive immigration reform.

The reason I rise today, Mr. Speaker, is because yesterday in Financial Services we had a very interesting hearing on why debt matters. We talked a lot about what we need to do to continue to put our country on a sustainable path and to help this recovery be stronger.

We had David Cote, CEO of Honeywell; Alice Rivlin of Brookings; Doug Holtz-Eakin of the American Action Forum; and Jared Bernstein from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. They agreed on one thing enthusiastically: that one of the most important steps we can take to spur growth in our economy, and to help our fiscal situation and balance our budget, would be to pass comprehensive immigration reform. The Senate has done so. It is time for this House to do the same and stand up for the economy and American families.

GOOD LUCK, DAYTON FLYERS

(Mr. TURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, as a proud alumnus of the University of Dayton, I am here today to wish good luck to the Dayton Flyers.

The University of Dayton men's basketball team has advanced to the NCAA tournament's Sweet 16 for the first time in 30 years. The Dayton Flyers are the only team this season to

have upset two top 25 teams in the second and third rounds of the NCAA tournament.

But the city of Dayton has a history of being underestimated. Orville and Wilbur Wright started working on their so-called “flying machine” in a Dayton garage. As we all know, these pioneers of aviation went on to complete the first manned flight, transforming the way we travel and engage in commerce.

It is fitting that the University of Dayton bears the Flyer name in honor of the Dayton tradition of succeeding despite all odds.

Congratulations to the Dayton Flyers and Coach Archie Miller. You have a vast fan base of students, faculty, and alumni throughout the country who will be cheering you on tomorrow night.

ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR WOMEN

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, far too many women face financial pressures simply due to outdated policies that hamper their opportunities for success.

I recently hosted an event in Los Angeles with Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD and Congresswoman NAPOLITANO to discuss women's economic agenda. Over 200 women showed up to talk about this.

We heard from women like Sonia and Caryn. Sonia has been a hotel worker for 9 years, barely making it on minimum wage, while balancing her work with the needs of her three young sons. Without paid medical and family leave through her employer, whenever one of her boys was sick, she had to stay home without pay.

For mothers like Sonia, we must increase the minimum wage and ensure employers provide paid family and medical leave for all of our families.

Caryn's life has turned around after she was finally able to access affordable child care in San Pedro, after struggling to balance taking care of her daughter as a single mom and building a future. Because of that she has already earned an associate's degree and is now studying for her bachelor's degree.

The success of our Nation relies upon the economic security of these women because when women succeed, America succeeds.

FOUR YEARS AND OBAMACARE IS STILL FAILING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, according to an institute at the University of New Hampshire, the number of long-term unemployed

Americans has more than doubled since 2007, to a gruesome 39.3 percent.

The President has had more than enough time to get our weak economy back on track. Instead of working with Congress on pro-growth reforms to our tax system and encouraging businesses to hire more workers, he has focused his attention on implementing his disastrous health care takeover, destroying jobs.

American families have felt the duplicity of the “Unaffordable Care Act.” They have lost health care plans. They have been forced to pay higher insurance premiums and receive smaller paychecks due to reduction in work hours.

A key to economic recovery starts with repealing and replacing the takeover with a commonsense, patient-centered solution. Our workforce should not lose 2.5 million more jobs because of government mandates. We must work together to promote jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

NATIONAL LIHEAP ACTION DAY

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about a critical Federal program that helps seniors and low-income families in Michigan and across the country with their utility bills.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, provides short-term assistance to help households with their heating costs in the winter and cooling costs in the summer. In Michigan, more than 600,000 households received LIHEAP assistance last year. Nationally, LIHEAP serves 6.7 million people.

These mostly one-time payments provide a financial bridge to ensure that vulnerable populations do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and affording the other necessities of life, like food and medicine.

Today is National LIHEAP Action Day, and constituents, businesses, and nonprofit organizations are all in town to ask Congress to provide adequate funding so residents across the country are able to continue accessing this vital program. Please welcome them into your offices, and please support the critical LIHEAP program.

With this year being one of the coldest winters in decades, many agencies are struggling with record numbers of people seeking assistance. LIHEAP benefits have already been cut; it is not time to cut them again.

□ 1215

HONORING ILLINOIS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR SHERYL GRAY

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a caring and innovative educational leader from Illinois' 14th Congressional District.

For her hard work, Sheryl Gray was named Illinois Assistant Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association.

Since she began at Prairie Trail School in Wadsworth, she has created and implemented fresh ideas that bring together students and their families in education.

Her brainchild Partnership and Achievement Lead to Success, or PALS, has been extremely successful in educating and empowering at-risk children. She has also devoted her time to improving Prairie Trail School's special education program and increasing school attendance by supporting families who are in need.

A servant to the Lake County community, Sheryl Gray is an inspiration to her students and to the next generation of educators.

With more leaders like Sheryl in schools, all of our children will be able to reach their true potential.

RAISE THE WAGE

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, during the past 40 years, we have made tremendous progress in America technologically, medically, socially, and—for many of our citizens—economically, but not if you are a family trying to get by on the minimum wage.

In real value, today's Federal minimum wage is about 30 percent below the days when President Ford pardoned Richard Nixon and Cannonade won the Kentucky Derby.

As American productivity has surged, the economic status of the American worker has weakened and, along with it, the capacity of American consumers to continue driving our economy.

Even Walmart executives have admitted an obvious cause and effect. When their employees can't afford to shop in their stores, profits will suffer.

Madam Speaker, a fair minimum wage has the power to make work pay a little better, to give families a shot at a stronger future, and to grow our economy substantially.

It is a corrective to obscene corporate welfare, whereby American taxpayers must support low wage workers when their employers don't.

It reaffirms the basic American idea that, if you put in 40 hours a week, you

should be able to put food on your family's table every day.

PARALYMPIC CHAMPION EVAN STRONG

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Evan Strong in celebration of his continued achievements in the 2014 Sochi Paralympic Winter Games.

Bordering the Tahoe National Forest, Nevada City is home to 3,000 people, including Evan and his wife, Mariah. Today, I join the members of that community in recognizing his accomplishments, generosity, and strength.

Evan Strong grew up with a strong passion for sports. Whether it was surfing the waves in Maui or skateboarding around the neighborhood, you could not find him without a board in his hand. Unfortunately, shortly before his 18th birthday, Evan, on his motorcycle, was struck head-on by a drunk driver. Three days later, his left leg was amputated.

Today, 10 years after his accident, Evan remains the most dominant athlete on the adaptive snowboarding circuit.

Evan's story of overcoming adversity is an inspiration to California and to athletes all across the country. By turning an obstacle into opportunity, he has earned every title in the sport of adaptive boardercross, including a Winter X Games gold medal, a world championship title, two overall titles, and 11 world cup titles.

Perhaps most extraordinary, his historic performance in the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games led the United States to a sweep in the men's snowboard cross event and to earn himself the first gold medal in the games.

I congratulate Evan on his remarkable achievements. You make California and our Nation extremely proud.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today, the National Association of Letter Carriers Buckeye Branch 78 arrived in Washington for its national conference. I rise to honor these dedicated postal workers and thank them for the great service that they provide, bringing news during tragedy and triumph.

America's letter carriers have a long history of delivering the mail for well over 200 years. Their tireless commitment helps ensure the timely delivery of prescriptions, paychecks, Social Security checks, and other communications to countless Americans and keeps the stream of commerce flowing.

In light of the fiscal challenges faced by the United States Postal Service, a number of postal workers have been presented that they could potentially be downgraded; thus we would downgrade Postal Services, hurt postal workers, and shutter post offices.

As we continue these debates on this House floor, I wish to reassure the National Association of Letter Carriers Buckeye Branch 78 that they have an ally in me.

REPEAL OBAMACARE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Supreme Court heard arguments in the Hobby Lobby case. This business is simply asking that owners' rights under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act are respected.

In an ironic bit of timing, the administration just effectively waived the March 31 deadline for signing up for an ObamaCare plan.

Despite President Obama's continuous extra-legal rewriting of his health care law, he remains unwilling to accommodate religious businessowners who are providing health care coverage for employees.

Yesterday also brought a news report from North Carolina of 200 substitute teachers having their hours cut in order to comply with ObamaCare mandates. The teachers' plight is not unique.

As Republicans noted during the original debate over this law, putting the government in charge of 1/7th of the economy is a recipe for disaster.

We need to repeal ObamaCare and enact health reform that empowers patients, not bureaucrats.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT DEADLINE

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, with the deadline to sign up for the Affordable Care Act approaching, I want to encourage everyone, especially young people and people in my district, to sign up for health insurance.

For those who think the process is too cumbersome or you won't get an affordable rate, listen to this story from a 29-year-old woman from New Jersey, Fawziah Qadir. She said: My employer agreed to provide \$300 a month towards any health plan I could find.

Unfortunately, trying to find an affordable insurance plan on her own in New Jersey where she lives, she said, was insane. One quote was over \$700; others provided flimsy coverage.

Full of frustration, Fawziah's mother told her about the health care insur-

ance marketplace. She says that when she logged onto healthcare.gov, she was surprised to find out how easy it was to enroll.

With her employer's contribution, she has a comprehensive plan that costs just \$63 a month. That is less than a cell phone bill or a cable bill, and we are talking about something much more important—our Nation's health.

Don't wait. Go to healthcare.gov and find a plan that works for you.

RUSSIAN VIOLATION OF THE INTERMEDIATE NUCLEAR FORCES TREATY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Napoleon of Siberia has launched cold war II. He seems to be on a mission to restore the Soviet empire. He invaded Georgia, then Ukraine. He seized Crimea. Putin's next target? Well, no one knows.

However, quietly, behind the scenes, Putin seems to be resurrecting a cold war nuclear program in violation of the 1987 INF Treaty with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, what good is a nuclear treaty if not all sides abide by it? Will Russia's cheating start a 21st century arms race?

Representatives MIKE ROGERS, JOE HECK, and I have introduced a resolution stating that the Russians have violated the treaty and there must be consequences. Russia cheats on treaties, invades other nations, and we basically watch and talk and say that just isn't nice.

The President said of treaties in 2009: "Rules must be binding. Violations must be punished. Words mean something."

However, as my grandfather used to say: "When all is said and done, more is said than done."

What are the consequences for Russian violation of the INF Treaty? We shall see.

And that's just the way it is.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, 42 years ago, Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment to guarantee equal rights for American women. Although we have made progress leveling the playing field, we still have a ways to go.

Women earn more advanced degrees and make up half of our national workforce, but the return on their educational investment doesn't come close to their male counterparts. Women

still earn 77 cents to the dollar men earn and are working lower wage jobs in a time when their families are becoming more dependent on their salaries.

I am working to balance the inequities that disadvantage American women and, consequently, their families. I cosponsored House Joint Resolution 56, the constitutional proposal for an equal rights amendment, and I supported the Paycheck Fairness and Fair Minimum Wage Acts. These bills are good for working women and good for their families.

Today, I urge my colleagues to stand up for the many unemployed women and impacted families in their districts by passing an unemployment insurance extension immediately.

Let's honor Women's History Month by supporting fair wages for all, promoting equal treatment under our laws, and by supporting vulnerable women by extending safety net benefits like unemployment insurance.

CONGRATULATING SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Slippery Rock University, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

In 1887, the citizens of Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, saw the need for affordable and accessible higher education in their community. In less than 18 months, land was purchased from my good friend and colleague JIM GERLACH's family, to whom it had belonged for three generations.

On that land was soon established Slippery Rock State Normal School. It opened to 168 students on March 26, 1889, with its ultimate object to make the student an educator. It was purchased by the Commonwealth in 1926 and was granted university status in 1983.

After 125 years, Slippery Rock University has nearly 80,000 proud graduates. It offers a broad array of undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 8,000 students and is consistently recognized as a great place to learn and work.

For as long as this impressive institution remains standing, Slippery Rock's commitment to intellectual development, leadership, and civic responsibility will endure.

CONGRESS MUST ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, in the year 2000, the people of Nevada overwhelm-

ingly voted to legalize medical marijuana 65 to 35 percent. Thirteen years later, the State legislature passed an enacting statute, and last week, the Las Vegas City Council and the Clark County Commission both approved the establishment of dispensaries.

Similar action has taken place in 18 States, creating a patchwork of conflicting State, local, and Federal laws and regulations. As a result, there is a great deal of uncertainty and confusion for Nevadans and doctors, patients, and businesses in other States where marijuana is legal.

As more States move towards legalizing marijuana use, it is important that Congress address the issue to ensure consumers and businesses are protected and are able to operate without fear of Federal prosecution.

That is why I am cosponsoring the Respect State Marijuana Laws Act, the Truth in Trials Act, and the Marijuana Business Access to Banking Act.

I have also joined a bipartisan group of my colleagues to call on the Appropriations Committee to ensure the Department of Justice is not wasting taxpayer dollars.

These are commonsense proposals that preserve states' rights and ensure patients and businesses are protected.

ENSURING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE CREATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS ACT

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, for generations, Montanans have been dedicated to stewardship of our lands. Montanans know how to best preserve and protect these lands, so that future generations can enjoy them.

That is why so many Montanans were upset by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's recent comments inferring that the President would take action and unilaterally designate new lands as national monuments under the Antiquities Act.

Comments like these concern Montanans, who recall recent efforts by the Department of the Interior to designate millions of acres along the Hi-Line as a national monument without local involvement. This unilateral action is unacceptable to the people of my State.

That is why I am proud to support the Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act, which requires public participation and local support before the President can make any new monument designations.

The American people deserve a voice in the monument designation process, and I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

□ 1230

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND THE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AGENDA

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark Women's History Month and to recognize the important role that women play in our workforce, businesses, and homes.

In fact, 40 percent of working women are the primary breadwinners in their families, and it is just a fact that the success of our Nation relies on the economic security of women. Unfortunately, outdated policies are constraining the ability of women to participate fully in our economy. Many face a lack of good-paying jobs, a high cost of education and child care. In fact, two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women, and the poverty rate for women is 14.5 percent—the highest in two decades. Women earn just 77 cents on the dollar. For African American women, it is only 64 cents on the dollar. For Latinas, it is a shocking 58 cents on the dollar.

That is why House Democrats have launched an economic agenda for women: When Women Succeed, America Succeeds. We have got to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour, increase tipped wages which haven't been raised in 23 years, have equal pay for equal work, paid sick days, and access to quality, affordable child care.

Women are playing an expanded role in our economy and in our country. It is time we recognize their contribution because, when women succeed, America succeeds.

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Sadly, colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among both men and women in this country, including over 2,000 Ohioans, but it doesn't have to be.

As the American College of Gastroenterology reminds us, colon cancer screenings can prevent cancer from occurring in the first place. In fact, evidence shows that colonoscopies could prevent over 50 percent of colorectal cancer deaths in the U.S. When colon cancer is detected early, the survival rate climbs to 90 percent. The American Cancer Society reveals that screenings have reduced the rate of colon cancer incidences by 30 percent over the last 10 years. Still, more needs to be done.

Mr. Speaker, as we observe Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, I urge all Americans, particularly those

over 50, to talk to their doctors and ask if screenings are right for them. Cancer is a killer, and colon cancer can be more deadly than most, but we can fight back by taking proactive steps to diagnose and combat the disease at its outset.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AGENDA

(Mr. BARBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the women's economic agenda and to acknowledge Women's History Month. Women's History Month is a time when we pause to recognize the extraordinary contributions that women have made throughout our Nation's history.

As a husband to my wife, Nancy, who is a leader in health care for women, as the proud father of two accomplished daughters, and as the grandfather of three girls with so much promise, I am absolutely committed to making our country's full range of opportunities available and a reality for all of America's daughters.

That is why I introduced, earlier this month, the Women's Economic Bill of Rights, because all women have a right to equal pay and because all women have a right to fair treatment in the workplace and to economic and retirement security. The Women's Economic Bill of Rights is about standing up in Congress to make sure that we strengthen our commitment to advancing women's economic security for current and future generations.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this resolution because we know that, when women succeed, America succeeds.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, our economy continues to struggle, and that means hardworking Americans are struggling. Far too many Americans are having trouble making ends meet, and government overreach is only making things worse. The worst example of this overreach is the President's deeply flawed health care law.

We just had ObamaCare's fourth anniversary this past weekend, and what do we have to show for it?

Americans can't keep their plans even if they like them. Families are being forced to pay more for their health care insurance. Women are unable to stay with their doctors despite the President's promise. Seniors are facing cuts to their hard-earned Medicare benefits. Businesses are afraid to hire more workers.

House Republicans have a plan to get Washington out of the way—to create

an America that works—and addressing these problems is a great place to start.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AGENDA

(Mr. CASTRO of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, I was proud to host a women's economic agenda event at the Young Women's Leadership Academy in San Antonio, Texas. It was a great way to celebrate Women's History Month by having a conversation about what we can all do to ensure that women in our Nation are empowered. There were three specific issues that we spoke of that concern our Nation greatly.

The first one was fair pay, making sure that when women put in a full day's work they make the same amount of money as men do. The second was family leave, the ability to be able to take time off to be with sick parents or when you have a child. That is extremely important for working women. Also, there is child care. Many women are unable to take and keep jobs because they simply don't have the child care resources they need to make sure their children are safe so they can go on to work.

It is imperative that the United States Congress takes up these issues and continues to make sure that there is parity in our society and that women are able to enjoy the same benefits as men.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand action on comprehensive immigration reform.

For over a year, we have experienced nothing but broken promises from our Republican leadership. The Senate did its job in passing a bipartisan bill by a vote of 68-32, but Speaker BOEHNER and House Republicans have refused to consider this responsible proposal even though it has the votes to pass right now.

The reason for this is clear: Republicans would rather protect themselves from a primary challenge than address the challenges that face our Nation. That is why House Democrats have resorted to introducing a discharge petition this week to demand a vote on immigration reform.

This is supposed to be a democracy. Comprehensive reform is backed by a majority of the American public, including the business community, labor unions, and religious organizations.

Comprehensive reform would grow our economy, strengthen families and open doors of opportunity for millions of Americans who want to embrace the American Dream.

America has always been a nation of immigrants, continuously revitalized by those who come to our shores to make better lives for themselves and their families. Now is the time to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AGENDA

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Women's History Month.

March is the time to honor our foremothers by recommitting to the fight for complete equality between the sexes. Democrats know that the biggest challenge to attaining complete equality is through economic justice. My daughters are growing up in an America where women still make just 77 cents to every man's dollar. This wage discrimination is compounded even further when you consider that women also represent nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers and that they often have jobs with no sick leave. If women have to choose between their jobs and their families, clearly, we still have a lot of work to do.

First, we must extend unemployment benefits. Women struggling to find work need that bridge to help pay the bills while they look for work. We must also increase the minimum wage, fight wage discrimination by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, and extend paid family and medical leave to all women by passing the FAMILY Act.

This agenda is the perfect way to celebrate Women's History Month and to honor all Americans who have fought for equality and fairness. As President Obama said, "When women succeed, America succeeds."

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AGENDA

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month, and I rise in memory of a trailblazer, Georgia Lee Lusk, the first woman to ever represent New Mexico in the House of Representatives.

Georgia was elected in 1946 and served Congressional District One, my district. Georgia is in our history books as a woman who wasn't afraid of

a fight. She grew up on a farm in Carlsbad and went to Highlands University in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Georgia went to Washington to fight for better education and better care for veterans. As a school administrator, she had seen the effects of book shortages and overcrowded classrooms on young students. As a mother of three boys who all fought in the Second World War, she knew all too well the challenges faced by those returning from war. Georgia served on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and worked across the aisle to make sure that veterans received the benefits provided to them in the GI Bill of Rights. She fought for Federal aid to education, hot meals for students, and helped establish what we now know as the Department of Education, and she did so much more.

Mr. Speaker, as only the third Congresswoman in New Mexico's history, I am determined to carry on Georgia's fight—a fight for better care for our veterans and a better education for our students. When women succeed, America succeeds.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1459, ENSURING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE CREATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 524 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 524

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1459) to ensure that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 applies to the declaration of national monuments, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such

amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of March 27, 2014, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules, as though under clause 1 of rule XV, relating to the following: (a) a measure addressing the Medicare payment system for physicians; and (b) a measure addressing Ukraine.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which they may revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this resolution provides for a structured rule for the consideration of H.R. 1459, Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act.

It provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule makes in order three amendments, two of which are Democrat amendments, in addition to a manager's amendment. The rule also wisely provides for same-day authority for the legislative day of Thursday to consider the so-called "doc fix" bipartisan proposal, which may come forward for our consideration, as well as for the consideration of measures aimed at supporting the people of Ukraine against Russian aggression and expansionism. So this is an important rule. Therefore, it deserves our strong support.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before the House today in support of the rule as well as of the underlying legislation primarily because it is my bill. I appreciate the hard work and support of the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), in forwarding this important bill to the floor of the House for our consideration.

I have to admit, Mr. Speaker—perhaps because the underlying bill is my bill—that I have had a closer consider-

ation of the discussion, of the comments, that have been made about it, and I have taken some of them rather personally. To be honest, I am, quite frankly, amazed at some of the inaccuracies and the misinformation that has taken place by some outside groups in blogs, in Internet descriptions by special interests groups, and, actually, even by some Members of the floor.

□ 1245

When I originally saw some of the reports that said this bill would stop the creation of any more national parks, nothing could be further from the truth, because actually the President can't create national parks; only Congress can. It has nothing to do with national parks.

Eventually, they changed it to say this will stop creation of national monuments. Again, that charge is simply ridiculous.

The essence of this bill is very simple. What it says is the President should be treated like everyone else. Congress, if they are going to make any kind of land decisions, must have an open process where they have hearings and markups and bring things for an open vote.

If an agency of the government is going to make some sort of land designation, they have to go through NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act, the process which provides for input—public discussion and public advice—about it. The only one who cannot do that is the President.

When the administration testified about this bill in committee, I was amazed, because they said the President should not have to go through the open process of obtaining public input on his decisions because even though the entire Federal branch has to, he is only the head of the Federal branch, he is not the Federal branch.

That just does not make sense to me. The idea is that everyone, including the President, should ask for public input.

One of the groups, the National Resources Defense Council, wrote on their blog that NEPA was the Magna Carta of environmental laws. They wrote:

Much like the Magna Carta protected people from dangers of monarchical rule, NEPA protects people by providing transparency in Federal projects. Both the Magna Carta and NEPA espouse the ideas of public participation in democracy by giving citizens a voice in government decisions.

Yesterday, in a different bill in a different committee, the administration testified against the bill, saying it would stop public comments about this particular issue. I am sorry, but that is why I get so confused about the rhetoric about this particular bill.

What we are asking is that before the President uses this authority, it go through NEPA to provide for public comment and concepts.

If NEPA is the Magna Carta and it provides for citizen voices in democratic decisions, how can you then say that this bill, which provides for NEPA and that kind of policy, would eviscerate one of America's bedrock conservation laws?

This is simply intellectual gymnastics at the highest level. Either getting public input is good, in which case we should pass this bill, or getting public input is bad, in which case there are a lot of things that we should change around here. I happen to think that getting public input is good. Because it does one thing: it solves problems before they develop.

In our State, we have had a National Monument that has been designated by Presidential proclamation for almost 20 years now. We are still dealing with issues of what kind of grazing rights were or were not included in that proclamation, what kind of roads were or were not open. Even though we tried to solve the problem, because the President had no concept of what School Trust Lands were in that area, and we have tried to exchange those out, not all of those exchanges have yet to be consummated.

Another of the monuments that the President recently proposed, they have already come to us and said there are problems within the boundaries of that monument. We have found private property we didn't know existed. We don't know whether there are provisions in there to allow duck hunting to go on, but we are not quite sure how you accomplish that. We are really not quite sure which land agency is responsible for the administration.

Those issues are all the issues that could be settled before you make the designation. And if, indeed, the NEPA process was required, those would become the issues that would be brought up, they would be understood, and they would be dealt with before you make the initiative.

So I have had people tell me that this is actually the "No More National Monuments" bill. It would stop national monuments. It is patently false. It is a false premise. It is a scare tactic, not an argument. And it is incredibly wrong.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am here with my good friend from the Rules Committee, Mr. BISHOP, and he made a passionate case. He cares deeply, as do many of us, about issues affecting our public lands under the Antiquities Act. But the real antique here is our outdated immigration system. That is the antique.

When I have my town hall meetings in my district across Colorado, and join my friends across the country, what I hear from my constituents is not, Let's alter the process whereby a President

might designate something as a National Monument. That is not the number one issue. That is not the number five issue. It is not the number 10 issue.

What my constituents demand, what Colorado demands, what our Nation demands, is we replace our antiquated, out-of-date, ill-conceived, completely dysfunctional immigration system with one that works for our country, with the principle of securing our borders, with the principle of creating jobs for Americans, reducing our deficit, ensuring that people who work here pay taxes, ensuring that companies have a responsibility to authenticate and verify that their employees are here legally. That is what the country needs. It is what more than 75 percent of the American people support.

I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that we have a bipartisan immigration reform bill, H.R. 15. If we were to advance that bill to the floor of the House, it would pass tomorrow. It would pass the next day.

But instead of that bill being even presented in the Rules Committee for a vote and despite my repeated desires to the chair of that committee, to the chair of the committee of jurisdiction, Mr. GOODLATTE, as Mr. BISHOP has witnessed over a period of months, saying, When will you bring forward this bill, when will you bring forward this bill, when will you fix our broken immigration system, we have not advanced one single immigration-related bill that addresses any one of the flaws in the immigration system to the floor of the House this entire legislative session.

So our patience is wearing thin, Mr. Speaker. And I have great respect for you, Mr. Speaker, and for the majority leader, Mr. CANTOR. Great respect. And I understand it is the prerogative of the majority party to control the bills that are being debated on the floor. But in the absence of leadership, Mr. Speaker, in the absence of you bringing a bill forward that allows us to fix our broken immigration system, we the Members of this body, Democratic and Republican, have no choice but to take it upon ourselves to bring this issue forward to the floor of the House.

I am going to tell you a little bit about, Mr. Speaker, the way we can do that.

These are the rules of the House. I strongly recommend them as a bedtime read, Mr. Speaker. Fortunately, they have a provision called the discharge petition that provides a way that the Members of this body, 218 out of 435, meaning a majority of the Members of this body, can sign a discharge petition for a bill. That means that despite a Speaker or majority leader that refused to schedule that bill for debate, if a majority of Members sign the discharge petition, it goes right to the floor for a straight up-or-down vote.

That is all we are asking for, Mr. Speaker: a straight up-or-down vote. I

am confident H.R. 15 would pass tomorrow if we had that opportunity. I call upon my colleagues, Democratic and Republican, to sign the discharge petition. Mr. Speaker, I call upon my friends across the country to inform their Members of Congress that they want to see action on this important issue.

In no way, shape, or form should this detract from the passion Mr. BISHOP has for obscure provisions of the Antiquities Act and the NEPA process surrounding the establishment of public monuments, but this simply isn't the issue that galvanizes our country. This simply isn't the issue that reduces our deficit by \$900 billion over two decades.

Whatever we do to the Antiquities Act does not create 150,000 jobs for American citizens, does not boost GDP, and is not backed by an unprecedented coalition of labor and business, farmworkers and agricultural companies, the faith-based community, police and law enforcement, and the business sector.

We have the opportunity to do something great for our country, Mr. Speaker—the opportunity to show real leadership by, of course, encouraging you, Mr. Speaker, to bring forward immigration reform. And if you prefer to bring forward several components, we will work with you to ensure that we can address some, if not all, of the issues within our broken immigration system.

But failing your leadership, Mr. Speaker, the membership of this body, under the rules of the House, has asserted itself under a discharge petition to bring comprehensive immigration reform, H.R. 15, immediately to the floor of the House for an up-or-down vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.
Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Is a discharge petition the process provided in the House rules to allow a majority of the House, without the support of the Speaker or the Rules Committee, to bring a measure to the floor that has not been reported by committee?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The discharge process is addressed in clause 2 of rule XV.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, is it correct that any House Member can file a discharge petition if a committee has failed to act on a bill after 30 legislative days?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Member is free to consult the standing rules of the House. The pending business on the floor debate is House Resolution 524.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, are there any provisions in the current rule that would allow for an up-or-down vote on immigration reform?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not construe the pending resolution.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, is it true that H.R. 15, the bipartisan immigration reform bill, has been pending before several committees and has not even faced a vote in committee since it was introduced in October?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not stating a proper parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, the American people will determine what is relevant and what is not.

Mr. Speaker, I think what is relevant here is the fact that this body, which wasn't even in session last week, which is working 9½ hours this week, is simply not addressing the issues that the American people are demanding that we address.

Mr. Speaker, one wonders why perhaps only 8 or 12 percent of the American people approve of the institution of Congress. It is precisely because of the issues that people care about and they want us to solve. And it is not a partisan thing. These are the issues that my Democratic and Republican and Independent constituents all want us to solve. They all want to make sure that we reduce the deficit, secure our borders, and implement mandatory workplace authentication of workers. These are commonsense provisions that are supported across the ideological spectrum.

There has not been a committee vote on H.R. 15. There has not been a floor vote on any legislative proposal to address any dimension of our broken immigration system.

That is why I join my colleagues in signing a discharge petition under the rules of the House to bring forward this bill for immediate consideration on the floor so that this body can work its will to finally replace our broken immigration system with one that works.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to see the passionate fervor of the gentleman from Colorado on this issue. I wish that that passion and fervor had been there a couple of years ago when I had an immigration bill on the floor that dealt with many of these issues.

Unfortunately, today, we have an issue that is extremely important to those of us who live in the West. I think my county commissioners, all of whom see this as a very, very critical issue, will take some kind of umbrage to saying that this is not a significant thing, especially if you are one of the county commissioners that lives in the West and the Federal Government has

control of your land—the entire county. Take Wayne County, for example: 3 percent of its county is private property, and that is not a small county. The rest is controlled by the Federal Government.

There is the constant fear by these people that the President, by a stroke of a pen or picking up a telephone, can make a ruling or a proclamation that will change their lives significantly; that will make their economy turn upside down. And there is not a thing they can do about it. This is the reason we have asked for this bill—to at least give these county commissioners the chance of having public input before the decision is made. That is why this becomes so significant.

These county commissioners want to be treated fairly, as all people want to be treated fairly, and one of the problems they have in being treated fairly is simply this particular archaic act.

The original Antiquities Act was passed in 1906. Think about that for a minute. What kind of environmental laws were there in 1906? Also consider the state of the Nation in 1906. In 1906, the States of Alaska, Hawaii, Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma were not part of the Nation.

□ 1300

Even my State of Utah was less than a decade old as a State in this particular Nation.

A lot is made often about how the Grand Canyon was created by using the Antiquities Act. Actually, it was. Unfortunately, it was a monument using the Antiquities Act, but the Grand Canyon had actually been a national forest before it was created a monument; and when it was created as Grand Canyon National Park, that was done by Congress because only Congress has the ability to create national parks.

So one of the situations we have is the situation is extremely different from 1906 till today; and one of the things that also is different is that the Antiquities Act has been used in the past, but it has basically been abused in the current time.

There are three criteria for which the Antiquities Act is supposed to be able to be used to create a national monument. One is it has to have a specific element that needs to be protected: archaeological, historical, geographical.

Secondly, it has to be in imminent danger of being destroyed.

Third, it has to be in the smallest footprint possible, which meant, when they were debating it in 1906 on the floor, the debate was very clear they were talking about 2 to 300 acres.

President Bush created thousands of acres of a national monument. Fortunately, it was in water, but he created one because it had a lot of fish without ever deciding what the significant factor was.

The President has created a couple of national monuments, our current one, for structures that were already under preservation status. There was no imminent danger.

When President Clinton did the Grand Staircase-Escalante, that was not 200 acres. That was 1.9 million acres, which is larger than a couple of our small States combined. So the criteria for the use of the Presidential authority has changed radically.

Also, the way it has been used has changed radically. Look, from the Depression era to the beginning of 1976, let us say, roughly a half century, the Antiquities Act was only used nine times.

President Roosevelt, in his four terms, only used it three times, and one of those was reversed by Congress.

When President Carter came into office, he then used it 15 times in his 4 years.

President Clinton then used it 22 times, all of which were in his last 4 years.

President Obama has already used it eight times, and is counting.

It is very clear that we are doing it differently than it was in the past. All those other uses of the Antiquities Act were done, actually, to designate a specific topic and try to preserve it. What we are finding now is it is being used as a political weapon, a "gotcha" effort, a power play, without letting anyone know about it.

In the case of the Grand Staircase-Escalante, the Governor, the morning, at 2:00 in the morning, was explaining what public trust lands were to the White House. At 12, the President then designated the Grand Staircase-Escalante monument without ever dealing with the issue of school trust lands in those particular areas.

What I am saying is, we need to change something now because we are starting to use the Antiquities Act as a political bludgeon, and it shouldn't be that way. The most mellow way, the most moderate way of doing that is simply doing this bill that says, okay, we are not going to take the power away from the President. All we are going to do is, before you use it—you can't surprise people with it—you have to go through the NEPA process, which requires public comment, public input, which is what every other agency in the Federal Government has to use. Congress has to go through that same process.

The only one who is exempt from public comments is the President. That is why this is important. That is why this is vital, especially to people who live in high rural areas that have a lot of Federal land in which they are frightened that the President could upend everything simply by a stroke of a pen, and they don't have an avenue to give input. This bill gives them input. It is easily the most moderate approach that will ever come about the

Antiquities Act on this floor, and I think it is worthy of supporting the rule and bringing it to the floor for a final vote.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, let's replace the antiquity that is our broken immigration system with one that reflects our values as a country. The hole in our border security is wider than the Grand Canyon the gentleman from Utah mentions. Let's fix that.

The hole in our values is wider than the Grand Canyon. Let's fix that.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that honors our American values.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would advise that all time has been yielded for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) for a unanimous consent request.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that provides an earned pathway to citizenship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would advise that all time has been yielded for the purpose of debate only.

Does the gentleman from Utah yield for the purpose of this unanimous consent request?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I do not yield for this purpose.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah does not yield; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GARCIA), the chief sponsor of the bipartisan immigration reform bill, for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that unites our families and moves our country forward.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Utah yield for the purpose of this unanimous consent request?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I do not yield for this purpose.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah does not yield; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), a champion of immigration reform, for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that unites our

families, keeps our families together, moves our country forward.

We demand a vote, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Utah yield for the purpose of this unanimous consent request?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. May I ask an inquiry?

Was that for a vote on Tule Springs or something else? Apparently, it was something else.

Mr. POLIS. Was your inquiry through the Speaker?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate my earlier announcement that all time is yielded for the purpose of debate only. I am not prepared to yield for any other purpose.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah does not yield; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, we are going to continue to try until the gentleman from Utah allows our consent request.

I am proud to yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), a true leader on immigration reform, for a unanimous consent request.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that unites our families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Utah has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Would the Chair inquire of the gentleman from Utah if he does accept the request?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah indicated he will not yield for any request for unanimous consent.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. POLIS. Point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, does the RECORD show a response for the gentleman from Utah to the request from the gentlewoman from Illinois?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understood that that is the feeling of the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. POLIS. Further parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. How does the Speaker know the "feelings" of the gentleman from Utah?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman stated that he will not yield to any more unanimous consent requests of this type.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr.

BEN RAY LUJÁN), a leader in the fight for immigration reform, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request to bring up H.R. 15.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that honors our American values.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Utah has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA), the chair of the Democratic Caucus, for a unanimous consent request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair first asks the gentleman from California to please remove the badge from his lapel.

The gentleman from California may now proceed.

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that has been held up for more than 733 days to honor our American values so that I can wear this tag later on in the future with great pride.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Utah has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), a leader on the fight for immigration reform, for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that unites families and moves our country forward.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Utah has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. POLIS. Point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I did not hear a response on the last four inquiries from the gentleman from Utah. I was hoping the Speaker could pose the question to him, if he would accede to our request for a unanimous consent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is the understanding of the Chair the gentleman from Utah would not yield for any more unanimous consent requests, and therefore, they will not be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. I would ask the gentleman from Utah—and I will be happy to yield him a moment for an answer—

how many of us need to come forward and ask for a vote on replacing the antiquity that is our broken immigration system until you will accede to a simple request for an up-or-down vote?

I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I thank the gentleman for giving me his time, which I would be happy to talk about the bill that is actually before us and will be here because it is a wonderful bill.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, the gentleman from Utah chose not to answer the simple question of how many people we need to have to bring up this bill. I know that we can get more people to come down because, guess what? We stand ready to solve the issue of our broken immigration system. We also stand ready, as Americans, as Democrats, as Representatives, to work with our friends on the other side of the aisle to fashion a solution that works for our country.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 15, the bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill introduced by Mr. GARCIA that is nearly identical to the measure already passed by the Senate.

We need comprehensive immigration reform. And if the leadership of this body, Mr. Speaker, yourself, and the leader, Mr. CANTOR, are serious about wanting to pass a jobs bill, are serious about wanting to reduce the deficit, they will act on this bill, because the Congressional Budget Office estimates that enacting this bill reduces our deficit by \$900 billion over 20 years. It boosts economic output, raises capital investment in our country, and increases the productivity of both labor and capital.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with the extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, what we have here and what we are doing under the rules of this body is we are using another method called the previous question where we, in the minority party, can actually get a vote where, if we defeat the previous question, we can then bring forward immigration reform, H.R. 15, the bipartisan bill. That is all we ask, Mr. Speaker, is that we ask our friends on both sides of the aisle to join us in a procedural motion to defeat the previous question.

Since the gentleman from Utah has thus far refused to allow a unanimous consent request—although I certainly am hopeful that he will as more Members of this body request that, out of courtesy, at least to have an up-or-

down vote on immigration reform—we do have another outlet, and that is the previous question, which will be forthcoming.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request, another leader in the fight to replace our broken immigration with one that works.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I thank my colleague for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that provides an earned pathway to citizenship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Utah has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request so that this House can address replacing the real antiquity that is our broken immigration system.

Mr. COHEN. I appreciate the gentleman's yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that reduces our deficit by \$900 billion over the next 2 years, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, and \$200 billion in the first year, and gives people an opportunity to participate out of the shadows of government and yet, be tax-paying citizens out in the front of society and be Americans who contribute to our economy and provide workers that we need to be a 21st century economy that is effective in keeping us as the world's number one economic power.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Utah has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

As the Chair advised on January 15, 2014, even though a unanimous consent request to consider a measure is not entertained, embellishments accompanying such request constitute debate and will become an imposition on the time of the Member who has yielded for that purpose.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, with due respect, our desire that we are placing before you is to have a debate about immigration.

Mr. Speaker, not 1 hour, not half an hour, not 10 minutes, not 1 minute of floor time for the last entire year and a half has been scheduled for debate on this important topic: replacing our immigration system with one that works. There is no desire to embellish or debate through motions. There is an earnest desire to debate the merits of the bill. We can accomplish that in three ways here, Mr. Speaker:

We can defeat the previous question and bring up immigration reform; the continued enthusiasm from my colleagues can convince Mr. BISHOP to allow for the unanimous consent request to bring up H.R. 15; or, third, my colleagues can sign the discharge petition now at the desk, and once that petition receives 218 votes, it will advance immediately to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico (Ms. LUJAN GRISHAM) for a unanimous consent request.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that unites our families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Utah has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN), a leader in the fight to replace our broken immigration system with one that works, for the purpose of a unanimous-consent request.

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Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that provides an earned pathway to citizenship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Utah has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire of the gentleman from Utah how many more of my colleagues need to urgently request that this bill come forward before he would kindly consider our unanimous consent request to allow this bill to be debated on, even recognizing you may be opposed to it and others may support it, at least allowing us to have this debate?

How many more Members need to come forward and request that for him, as a courtesy, to consider that?

I am happy to yield for an answer.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I, again, appreciate the gentleman from Colorado giving me the opportunity to speak about the issue that is at hand. I would even be happy if he would give me the opportunity to speak about a good immigration bill, which is mine, but since that is not the case, let me go, once more, to the issue that is at hand.

Mr. POLIS. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Utah is immersed in the arcane aspects of antiquities law. I certainly understand his passion for that. I truly do.

The gentleman from Utah and I have had a many great discussions on managing our public lands, which is a big

part of his district and is certainly a big part of the district that I represent, but the true antiquity in the room is our broken immigration system.

The gentleman from Utah has the ability to allow us, through unanimous consent, to bring H.R. 15, comprehensive immigration reform, to the floor of the House to solve this issue.

Every Member of this body, Democratic and Republican, has the ability to sign a discharge petition. Once it reaches 218 signatures, no Member—not the Speaker and not the majority leader—can prevent that bill from being voted on in a straight up-or-down vote. It is time to simply demand a debate, demand a vote on comprehensive immigration reform.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we have a chance to act on legislation that has already passed the Senate with more than a two-thirds majority, including support from the home State of the gentleman from Utah, the senior Senator.

We passed a bill that the President would sign. We have a chance to pass bipartisan legislation that reduces our deficit, that secures our borders, that requires workplace authentication.

I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that just this morning, Congressman GARCIA filed a discharge petition on H.R. 15, finally allowing the membership of this body to go around a Speaker or a majority leader that is unwilling to address the issue of immigration, to bring forward our solution, our bipartisan solution, H.R. 15.

Now, again, I and many Members of this body are happy to consider other proposals. The gentleman from Utah has mentioned that he has a proposal. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle have a number of proposals.

Some have even passed through the Judiciary Committee, but not one immigration bill has been debated or voted on in the entire year and a half of this legislative session.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the gentlelady from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO), a leader in the fight for immigration reform, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) for allowing me to ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that reduces our deficit by \$900 billion. This is an American values reform bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Utah has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think reducing our deficit by \$900 billion is a good idea. I really do. I think the American people agree that reducing our deficit by \$900 billion is a good idea; and if all that stands in the way

of us reducing our deficit by \$900 billion is allowing this request to move through, I would certainly urge my friend from Utah to reconsider.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I reserve the balance of my time for the moment.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, the majority of the American people, regardless of where they stand in the ideological spectrum or their party—Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Greens, Libertarians—all agree that the time is now to pass immigration reform. A recent CNN poll showed 81 percent support for immigration reform.

Another poll showed that 72 percent of Republicans support the package of reforms that are included in the Senate bipartisan package and the House bipartisan package.

So what are we debating here, Mr. Speaker? Are we simply refusing to discuss any solutions? Mr. Speaker, we have offered unanimous consent request after unanimous consent request, which the gentleman from Utah has not agreed to one of those; and, Mr. Speaker, on others, you have read his mind and assumed that he hasn't agreed, although we haven't heard from him on each of those.

We filed the discharge petition. I hope that that soon has 218 votes, but very soon, Mr. Speaker, there will actually be a vote right here in this body on the previous question; and if we defeat that motion on the previous question, we will bring forward H.R. 15, the bipartisan immigration reform bill.

A similar version passed the Senate with more than two-thirds' support, and I am optimistic that that bill will pass the House today.

Let's have some debate on immigration reform. Rather than working 9½ hours this week, the American people want to see a Congress that tackles problems and works towards solutions.

They want to see a Congress that creates jobs for Americans, makes sure that we have workplace enforcement of our immigration laws, and secure borders. It doesn't happen by itself.

Absent this body taking action, the hole in our border security will continue to be as wide as the Grand Canyon, as the gentleman from Utah has mentioned.

The hole in our national spirit and our identity and our values will be just as wide if we continue to refuse to act to unite families and bring together Americans and to finally reflect our history as a nation of immigrants and as a nation of laws.

It is not inconsistent to be a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws, but under the current chaos and disorder that is our immigration dysfunction, we appease no one.

It is not good for our security when we don't know who is here. It is not good for American business when they don't know who is here legally and who

is not, nor when companies that hire people under the table for cash are rewarded.

It doesn't reflect our values, as a country, to tear an American child from their parent and, at taxpayer expense, sending a parent back to another country away from their child.

It doesn't reflect our values to, at taxpayer expense, keep people detained for months or even years who have committed no criminal act in our country.

These should all be addressed, Mr. Speaker, through a bill with broad bipartisan buy-in, with support from across the ideological spectrum that would pass tomorrow if we can simply defeat the previous question or if the gentleman from Utah will entertain one of my colleagues' unanimous consent requests or if 218 of us sign where I have signed on demand a vote, the discharge petition now at the desk on immigration reform.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I am actually prepared to close and will reserve the balance of my time until that time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We have an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, an opportunity in this body to address an issue that is in the hearts and in the minds of people across our country, of businesses across our country, of faith leaders across our country, and that is reconciling our immigration system with our values and with our economic needs, as a country.

We can do it, Mr. Speaker. We can, with one bill, reduce our deficit by \$900 billion. We can, Mr. Speaker, secure our borders and prevent people from entering this country illegally. We can, Mr. Speaker, ensure that every company verifies the people that work for it are legally here through a national database.

We can, Mr. Speaker, create 151,000 jobs for Americans. We can, Mr. Speaker, grow our economy by an additional 4.8 percent over a 20-year period. We can, Mr. Speaker, unite an American child with their parents, so they can grow into the great Americans that they will become, if only we let them.

There are millions of aspiring Americans throughout our country—in my district, in my State of Colorado, and across the country—people who want nothing more than to play by our rules, to speak our language, to pay taxes, and to spend money in our stores, generating jobs for our economy, if only we will let them.

We need immigration reform, Mr. Speaker, which is why an unprecedented alliance has come together from across the spectrum in support of immigration reform. In the faith-based community, leaders in the evangelical movement, the Catholic Church, the Jewish faith, and many others have joined arm-in-arm saying: demand action, the time is now.

The business community—from the tech community to the farmers to agriculture—are united around replacing our broken immigration system with one that works, so we have the pipeline of talent we need, so that America remains competitive and to prevent the offshoring of jobs overseas.

Workers across the country are united, in organized labor, in saying: we want to replace our broken immigration system with one that works because, when we have a large illegal workforce in our country, it undermines wages for American workers.

We need to prevent the undermining of wages for American workers by replacing our immigration system with one that works and one that requires workplace authentication of all people that are employed.

At this time, I will move down to the well, where I have a sign that will be displayed with me, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 and demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that unites our families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Utah has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. I would like to ask the gentleman from Utah if he has changed his mind and will yield for that purpose?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I have not.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, we will not give up. The American people will not give up. American companies will not give up, whether they are Fortune 400 companies, whether they are tomorrow's start-ups, which contains an entrepreneurship visa bill within immigration reform. We will not give up.

This issue gets larger and larger, bigger and bigger the longer we wait. There may be 10 million people here illegally today. If this body takes no action, Mr. Speaker, there might be 15 million people here illegally in 10 years.

The problem does not solve itself. We need to have enforcement of the law and border security and a rational way to deal with the issue within our country.

I encourage my friends, Mr. Speaker, on social media, on Twitter, on Facebook, to demand a vote and join me in simply allowing this body, Congress, the only body that can solve this bill—I know, Mr. Speaker, many of our State legislatures have debated around the edges and discussed whether instate tuition works or what benefits might be denied to people who aren't here legally.

But our State legislators across the aisle—Democratic and Republican—know that only Congress can secure our borders and replace our broken immigration system with one that works.

□ 1330

That is why I encourage you, Mr. Speaker, to join me in demanding a vote, demanding a debate, and bringing to the floor comprehensive immigration reform, or, if you prefer, Mr. Speaker, a series of bills designed to address issues within immigration reform to see how we can move forward to get on the same page with the Senate and fundamentally address this issue in a way that creates jobs for Americans, secures our borders, restores the rule of law, and reduces our deficit by \$900 billion.

I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform that reduces our deficit by \$900 billion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Utah has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. The longer we delay in passing immigration reform, the greater costs of inaction. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office shows that H.R. 15 would reduce our deficit by \$900 billion. Imagine including that, \$200 billion in the first decade, in the baseline budget for the House of Representatives being worked on by Mr. RYAN and his associates on the Budget Committee.

What could that \$200 billion do? Could we reduce the marginal rate? Could we reduce tax rates for corporations that keep jobs here rather than outsource them overseas? Could we reduce our deficit with that \$200 billion? Could we invest it in tomorrow's infrastructure to help America remain competitive?

The answer is yes. \$200 billion is generated from fixing our immigration system in a commonsense way that more than 80 percent of the American people support. Immigration reform means that housing units would be increasingly in demand and residential construction spending would increase by \$68 billion per year over a 20-year period. Under immigration reform, over \$100 billion more in additional taxes would be paid, allowing, again, tax reductions to others or investments in education and infrastructure, including revenues to State and local government.

I hope the majority is listening to former Speaker Hastert who said in an op-ed recently:

Immigration reform will make us safer, and it will make us economically stronger. It is politically smart and morally right.

And when we look at ourselves at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, we do need to stand for what in our own faith traditions and in our own conscience is morally right. And I know, Mr. Speaker, that what is morally right is an immigration system that reflects our values as Americans, one that honors our ancestors, one that honors my great-

grandparents who came to this country from foreign shores at a young age and had their families here and allowed their great-grandson to serve here in the United States Congress.

Today's immigrants are no different from my great-grandmother who came in 1905 to this country from Eastern Europe. If only we will provide them the opportunity and a pathway for them to be and become the good Americans that they already are and contribute to make our country stronger, we will be strengthened as a nation; jobs will be created for Americans; we will prevent foreign workers from undermining wages for American workers; we will secure our borders to prevent people from sneaking across and working in this country illegally; and we will require that companies authenticate the legal status of all workers.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my plea has not fallen upon deaf ears.

I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15 to demand a vote on the bipartisan immigration reform bill that unites our families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Utah has not yielded for that purpose; therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, every day we fail to act, the economic and human toll increases. Every day we fail to act, we sacrifice significant levels of investment in our country as well as lose out on talented and entrepreneurial potential Americans to overseas corporations.

I represent a district that contains the Colorado State University and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Like a lot of great schools across our country, many of our graduate students in computer science and engineering are from other countries. They are here on student visas. And when they receive their master's or their Ph.D., rather than allow them to stay here, work here, and make our country stronger, we force many of them to return overseas where the jobs follow them to make another country stronger. In some cases, countries that have differences of opinion with us on a geopolitical landscape, like Russia and China, allow these students to make their countries stronger rather than ours.

Our economy, our faith leaders, our businesses, our workforce, and our families are all crying out for the House to debate this bill and to demand a vote now. I urge House leadership to heed their calls and put H.R. 15 on the floor for an immediate vote. It will pass; it has the votes. It will become the law, and it will solve this issue. The time is now. Our country and our families demand a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. In all due respect, I have been called very sarcastic in the past, and I probably am. So as I speak to you now, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to be considered flippant in anything I say, but in all due respect, the speaker was not just divining what I was thinking at the time. I clearly said at the very beginning of what my purpose was and for what I would yield, and you did that very well.

The continuous requests for unanimous consent were for immediate consideration of a bill which, in my humble opinion, I think is a poorly written bill. There are better bills out there. I have one of those. In fact, a couple of years ago, I had one of those that I would have liked the support of the other side, as well.

Perhaps if we had talked about some of those that I think actually go to the point of the issue and are properly written, it may have been somewhat different. But, instead, I am going to come back to the issue that is at hand which deals with the Antiquities Act and how the Antiquities Act has been abused.

Congress has recognized that in the past. It is kind of ironic, and I don't think many people realize this, but not every State allows the Antiquities Act to be used in their State. Congress, in 1944, withdrew the use of the Antiquities Act in the State of Wyoming. Responding to an abuse later on, the State of Alaska was withdrawn from that consideration. Even the ranking member of our committee has introduced legislation and voted for it, and it passed this House, which would limit the use of the Antiquities Act in his district.

So people are recognizing that there is a reason—a reason—that the use of the Antiquities Act has changed over the years, and not necessarily for the better. The best way of solving that problem is not necessarily taking that act away or that power away, but simply making sure that the President of the United States gets public input before he actually pulls the trigger.

Now, you may ask why I consider this such a significant issue. Well, to be honest, it is for two reasons: one, I am from the West; and number two, I am a schoolteacher.

You see, when the Antiquities Act is used without public input, it has the potential—and has in the past and could in the future and I think will in the future—to destroy economic patterns that take place, especially in rural counties. When that happens and that disruption takes place, then the ability of raising revenue for local needs becomes significant. And it is more difficult in the West than it is in the rest of the Nation. Let me try to illustrate why.

The States that are in red are the States that are considered public land

States. Those are the ones that have the greatest potential of having abuse of the Antiquities Act foisted upon them. The States that are in yellow have very little public lands. In fact, two-thirds of everything the Federal Government owns is found in the red States.

What I am holding up here is the ability of these States to generate funds for their education system. As you can look over the past two decades, those States in the eastern portion of this country—the yellow States—have increased their education funding at twice the rate of those of us who live in the West. And the simple question has to be: Why do you think this takes place?

There is a distinct correlation to the amount of Federal land and the inability of States who have all that Federal land to raise money for their education systems. That is one of the continuous complaints that we have.

When monuments are made without getting the input of local citizens, the chance of making this even worse is a reality. It has happened in the past, and it will happen in the future. So I am not saying do away with the act altogether. What I am simply saying is make sure that the people who live in these red States who have a more difficult time funding their education system have the ability of making a statement before final action takes place, before simply a pen is signed to a proclamation that can change the dynamics of everything. It has happened in the past.

So that is why this is not simply a procedural bill for me. This is a bill that impacts my kids. It impacts my profession. It impacts the future of education in the West and should not be dismissed as insignificant. That is why this issue becomes so vital to those of us who live in the West because it has a direct impact on the way we live.

The gentleman from Colorado did say one thing in which I agree. He said that at some time we should all play by the same rules. That is the purpose of the underlying bill. The President should play by the same rules Congress has to use and as every agency of the Federal Government has to use, which is simply to come up with the concept that before decisions are made you get public input. And that is why all the discussion I have seen in blogs and from special interest groups are so confusing to me, because at one time we say, yes, it is important that we get public input, except for this particular bill in which public input is bad. That does not make sense. That is mental gymnastics of the worst variety.

If this bill were to pass, it would not change the Antiquities Act, it would not prohibit the President from making national monuments, and it would not prohibit Congress from estab-

lishing national parks. All it would do is simply say you have got to go through the NEPA process which requires public input, especially from those who are going to be directly impacted.

And we have seen that if you mandate that ahead of time, you solve problems before they develop. We have practice, we have proof, and we have examples of where the monument was created without getting the input and problems developed which still have not been solved.

Don't do that. Do it the right way. We can do that, and we can make this effort happen. And, once again, of all the concepts of how to deal with the Antiquities Act and the problems it presents for those of us who live in the West, this is easily the most moderate approach, a simple approach which simply says, look, before you do it, listen to us. Let us have the chance to say something.

That is the way it ought to be and the way it should be. This bill is actually a vast improvement on a 100-plus-year-old bill that has outlived its usefulness and has changed not necessarily for the better over that course of time.

So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the comments that had been made. I would have appreciated it if people would also recognize the significance of this bill to those of us who live in the West. I wish they would also look at the bill as it is written. It is a very positive approach. It is something which we can all support, and it is a very good bill. I am biased because it is my bill, but it still is a very, very good bill.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to close to reiterate the fairness of not only the bill but also of the rule, the other parts of the rule, the appropriateness of the underlying pieces of legislation, the potential of putting up other issues that are significant that must be addressed this particular week.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 524 OFFERED BY
MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert:

That immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 15) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the

House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

Sec. 2. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 15.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon re-

jection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) at 2 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 524;

Adopting House Resolution 524, if ordered;

Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1228.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1459, ENSURING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE CREATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 524) providing for consideration of the bill (H. Res. 1459) to ensure that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 applies to the declaration of national monuments, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 187, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 142]

YEAS—230

Aderholt	Fitzpatrick	LaMalfa
Amash	Fleischmann	Lamborn
Amodei	Fleming	Lance
Bachmann	Flores	Lankford
Bachus	Forbes	Latham
Barletta	Fortenberry	Latta
Barr	Fox	LoBiondo
Barton	Franks (AZ)	Long
Benishek	Frelinghuysen	Lucas
Bentivolio	Gardner	Luetkemeyer
Bilirakis	Garrett	Lummis
Bishop (UT)	Gerlach	Marchant
Black	Gibbs	Marino
Blackburn	Gibson	Massie
Boustany	Gingrey (GA)	McAllister
Brady (TX)	Gohmert	McCarthy (CA)
Bridenstine	Goodlatte	McCaul
Brooks (AL)	Gosar	McClintock
Brooks (IN)	Gowdy	McHenry
Broun (GA)	Granger	McIntyre
Buchanan	Graves (GA)	McKeon
Bucshon	Graves (MO)	McKinley
Burgess	Griffin (AR)	McMorris
Byrne	Griffith (VA)	Rodgers
Calvert	Grimm	Meadows
Camp	Guthrie	Meehan
Cantor	Hall	Messer
Capito	Hanna	Mica
Carter	Harper	Miller (FL)
Cassidy	Harris	Miller (MI)
Chabot	Hartzler	Mullin
Chaffetz	Hastings (WA)	Mulvaney
Coble	Heck (NV)	Murphy (PA)
Coffman	Hensarling	Neugebauer
Cole	Herrera Beutler	Noem
Collins (GA)	Holding	Nugent
Collins (NY)	Hudson	Nunes
Conaway	Huelskamp	Nunnelee
Cook	Huizenga (MI)	Olson
Cotton	Hultgren	Palazzo
Cramer	Hunter	Paulsen
Crawford	Hurt	Pearce
Crenshaw	Issa	Perry
Culberson	Jenkins	Petri
Daines	Johnson (OH)	Pittenger
Davis, Rodney	Johnson, Sam	Pitts
Denham	Jolly	Poe (TX)
Dent	Jones	Pompeo
DeSantis	Jordan	Posey
DesJarlais	Joyce	Price (GA)
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	Reed
Duffy	King (IA)	Reichert
Duncan (SC)	King (NY)	Renacci
Duncan (TN)	Kingston	Ribble
Ellmers	Kinzinger (IL)	Rice (SC)
Farenthold	Kline	Rigell
Fincher	Labrador	Roby

Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin

Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner

Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NAYS—187

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al

Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal

Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swailwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—14

Blumenauer
Campbell
DelBene
Duckworth
Gabbard

Gallego
Hinojosa
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Rangel

Ryan (OH)
Schwartz
Wolf
Young (AK)

□ 1425

Messrs. SCHRADER, McNERNEY, Ms. ESHOO, Messrs. CONYERS, NADLER, and GUTIERREZ changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. TURNER and GRAVES of Missouri changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 142 I was unavoidably detained en route to the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, on March 26, 2014, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 142. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on ordering the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 227, noes 190, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 143]

AYES—227

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Benishak
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham

Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding

Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Meadows
Meehan

Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell

Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)

Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—190

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi

Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)

Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swailwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz

Wasserman Waxman Yarmuth
Schultz Welch
Waters Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—14

Barton Hinojosa Rangel
Campbell McCarthy (NY) Schwartz
Cárdenas McCollum Wolf
DelBene Miller, Gary Young (AK)
Duckworth Miller, George

□ 1433

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I was participating in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense's Classified Hearing and missed the vote on passage of the H. Res. 524, a resolution providing consideration on H.R. 1459—the "No More National Monuments" Act and adding two bills to the Suspension Calendar. It was my intention to vote against the rule.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in remembrance of our brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our country in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families, and of all who serve in our Armed Forces and their families.

CORPORAL JUSTIN D. ROSS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1228) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Packerland Drive in Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building", as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 0, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 144]

YEAS—418

Aderholt Amodei Bachus
Amash Bachmann Barber

Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)

Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallo
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee

NOT VOTING—13

Barton
Campbell
DelBene
Duckworth
Hinojosa

□ 1442

Mr. SCHRADER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the 'Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENSURING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE CREATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1459.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 524 and rule

XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1459.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1445

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1459) to ensure that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 applies to the declaration of national monuments, and for other purposes, with Mr. POE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

□ 1445

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, President Obama has not been shy about his willingness or his desire to circumvent Congress and take unilateral action on a variety of issues. This lack of shyness includes the designation of new national monuments.

In fact, during the President's first term in office, an internal memo was leaked that showed plans to potentially lock up more than 13 million acres of Western land with the simple stroke of the President's pen.

Major land use decisions such as this should not be made behind closed doors and should fully involve the local citizens whose livelihoods would be directly affected by such action.

That is why, Mr. Chairman, I strongly support H.R. 1459, the Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act, sponsored by our colleague from Utah (Mr. BISHOP). This legislation would require public participation before a President can designate a national monument under the Antiquities Act.

Mr. Chairman, let me repeat this last sentence that I gave because this is the heart of the legislation. This legislation would require public participation before a President can designate a national monument under the Antiquities Act.

Over 100 years ago, the Antiquities Act was passed to allow a President to unilaterally designate national monuments without any input or involvement from the people, communities, or elected officials of the areas that would be directly impacted.

However, this authority was intended to be used under narrow circumstances

and in emergencies to prevent destruction of a precious place; but unfortunately, we have seen this power abused by Presidents of both parties. It has been used as a tool to score political points, rather than to protect areas facing imminent threat or harm.

National monuments are one of the most restrictive of all land use designations. They can significantly block public access and limit public recreation and other job-creating economic activities.

The American people and their elected leaders deserve to have a say in which of their lands deserve special protections as national monuments and which should, instead, be allowed to contribute to the full range of recreational, conservation, economic, and resource benefits that carefully managed multiple-use lands provide.

H.R. 1459 would guarantee public involvement and ensure that the designation process is transparent by requiring all national monument designations made under the Antiquities Act to comply with the NEPA process.

Most, if not all, major land use decisions are statutorily required to go through the NEPA process. Designations made by the President should be treated no differently than those other processes.

I will openly state, however, that I—and many of my Republican colleagues—believe that NEPA is a law that should be streamlined and updated. However, this bill is about transparency and ensuring that the public has a voice.

So let me ask the rhetorical question, Mr. Chairman: If my Democrat colleagues believe that the NEPA is a worthwhile law that works and that NEPA is important, why should they oppose making sure that Presidential designations should not go through the same process?

This bill continues to uphold the original intention of the Antiquities Act, which is to allow the President to act in emergency situations. It protects the President's ability to act if there is an eminent threat to an American antiquity by allowing for a temporary emergency designation of 5,000 acres or less for a 3-year period.

After that time, in order to ensure public participation in the process, the designation would be made permanent if the NEPA process is completed or if it is approved by Congress.

The bill would also limit national monument declarations to no more than one per State during any 4-year Presidential term and prevent the inclusion of private property in monument designations without the prior written consent of the property owners.

National monument designations deserve public input from the people and communities who are directly impacted. This bill is necessary to stop

unilateral actions by the President and ensure participation by the American public.

I commend subcommittee Chairman BISHOP for his work on this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this week, the majority advanced a bill that would block the administration from implementing a stream buffer zone rule intended to protect waterways from the impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining, adding to the list of their attacks on the environment.

House Republicans ignore the fact that Americans want clean water, clean skies, and more—not less—national parks and national monuments because, now, they are forcing a vote on H.R. 1459, a bill that will make it harder for Presidents to create new national monuments, adding layers upon layers of duplicative oversight and unnecessary congressional review.

This is not what our constituents are asking Congress to do. It is simply another attempt by the majority to stall the protection of Federal land.

In its 100-year history, the Antiquities Act has been used by 16 out of 19 Presidents. In fact, Teddy Roosevelt used it to protect the Grand Canyon, and over half our national parks started out as national monuments.

Congress should not be diluting this popular tool or making it more difficult for future Presidents to set land aside and honor our shared history, but that is exactly what this legislation is trying to do.

There are two ways to create a new national monument. Congress can pass a law, or the President can use the Antiquities Act.

As we all know, it is becoming increasingly difficult to pass a law, even for popular bipartisan conservation measures. Bills languish in Congress for years, and the Antiquities Act is often the only way to move some of these projects across the goal line.

The majority will refute this by pointing the finger at the Senate, blaming the other side of the Hill for inaction, and highlighting their own track record of passing bills out of the House.

That is a smokescreen. They have only moved a fraction of the conservation bills sitting before the House. Many do not even get a subcommittee hearing, and some of these proposals have been around for 10 years.

As Democrats, we are very pleased to create new wilderness in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Don't get me wrong. This is a good legislation; but passing one standalone wilderness bill, one national monument, and one new national park bill in 3

years is not proof that Congress can do the work of conserving land and creating national monuments.

For example, I introduced a bill to establish a national monument in my district that would honor and recognize land considered sacred by Native American communities in the Southwest.

It is an area full of ancient petroglyphs increasingly under threat for looting and vandalism. A national monument designation will ensure that these cultural treasures receive the level of protection that they deserve.

This proposal is supported by the National Congress of American Indians and every tribe in Arizona. Like many of my colleagues with similar national monument proposals, I am unable to get even a hearing on that particular bill.

If the majority is truly concerned about public input or congressional review of national monuments and conservation of Federal land, why don't they consider bills to establish new monuments, parks, heritage areas, or wilderness?

Nearly 100 conservation designation bills have been introduced in the last two Congresses. Four have become law. This track record doesn't prove that we need more Congressional review. On the contrary.

If the majority is so eager to apply NEPA to the Antiquities Act, why are they trying to limit its scope for other activities on public lands?

In the Natural Resources Committee alone, the majority has considered and advanced measures to limit public review for timber operations, mining activity, and oil and gas leasing.

Following this logic, there is too much review when foreign corporations want to extract American taxpayer-owned natural resources, but not enough when we set aside land for future generations.

House Republicans have attempted to rewrite California water law, undermine the Endangered Species Act, blow up the Stream Buffer Rule, and encourage State and private takeover of Federal lands, a trust owned by all of the American people.

Putting up barriers to Presidential proclamations of national monuments, as envisioned by H.R. 1459, is just another feather in the antienvironmental cap.

H.R. 1459 will set up arbitrary per-State limits on Presidential monument designations and require congressional review of any monument under 5,000 acres. Monuments over 5,000 acres won't have to be approved by Congress, but they will be delayed by a process intended to evaluate the environmental impact on major Federal actions.

I hate to break it to the majority, but conservation and the establishment of national monuments don't have the same footprint as open-pit mines and oil wells.

Republicans want us to believe that this bill is about protecting private property. The Antiquities Act only applies to Federal land—let me repeat, only applies to Federal land.

If there are some concerned about people who have inholdings within that Federal land, why are they standing in the way of Federal land acquisition and depriving those property owners who are willing sellers of the right to sell?

H.R. 1459 is a wasteful and duplicative piece of legislation that will, like most bills passed out of this House, have no chance of ever becoming law.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 1459, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the work of the gentleman from Washington and for his yielding time.

You have just heard one view of what the bill does from our friends on the other side of the aisle. I would bring a different view.

Just a couple of months ago, Secretary Jewell visited a city in my district, Las Cruces, with the full intent—my belief—to create a Presidential executive order creating a monument.

Keep in mind, that monument bill could not be passed through this House under Democrat rule. It could not be passed through the Republican-controlled Senate with a Republican sponsor. It could not be passed through the Democrat-controlled Senate when they had a filibuster-proof majority.

Now, then the President is going to come and unilaterally declare almost one-third of a county to be restricted. The West is starving education because of the public ownership of land. Any time you create a monument, you restrict the ability of local economies to survive.

So the first monument—the first wilderness area that was created by Congress is in my district, the Gila National Wilderness, and they are starving for jobs in that entire region. They are asking: When can we have our jobs back?

So the gentleman describes that it is somehow we, as Republicans, objecting. No. All we are saying is that the President needs to live by the same rules as everyone else. The President is not above the law; neither is his Secretary.

This bill is very simple. It is transparent.

□ 1500

It says that the NEPA process is about public involvement. That public involvement is what has scared away both Democrats and Republicans trying to make this 600,000-acre wilderness happen in the 2nd District of New Mexico.

This bill needs to be passed because Washington needs to understand the people own the land.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank my friend and colleague for the time.

Mr. Chair, since Congress passed the Antiquities Act in 1906, both Republican and Democratic Presidents have used the power granted under the act to protect some of our most recognizable, most beloved natural wonders: Grand Teton in Wyoming, Zion in Utah, Olympic in Washington, and the Statue of Liberty. That is a few.

Last week, I had the opportunity to backpack for 7 days in what is the best known and most visited—4.4 million people last year—the Grand Canyon of the United States.

In 1908, Republican President Teddy Roosevelt granted national monument designation for the Grand Canyon under the Antiquities Act, and all but two Presidents since then have used this authority.

At that time, it was critical to protect the Grand Canyon because tremendous development was being proposed, both for tourism purposes and for commercial uses and mining and other issues, so that was an extraordinary step that that President took back then.

Why would we turn back the clock? Why would we strip this President or future Presidents from having this authority to preserve and conserve national treasures when they are indefinitely stalled, as was the Grand Canyon, in the morass of Congress?

It was dysfunctional for a different reason back then; but it is just as dysfunctional or more dysfunctional today as it was back then. There is going to be no protection passing this House easily or freely with this majority in charge.

Now, it is true that there have been some controversial designations, one mentioned previously and earlier by Chairman BISHOP; but I would also note that no one—no one—has proposed legislation to repeal that designation by President Clinton.

If they are so aggrieved and it is so egregious, I wonder why they haven't done that. Perhaps because it enjoys tremendous popular support, except from among a few people.

Now, they say this is about more control. Let's take a look at what they have done with control. Over the last 4 years, the Republican majority has proposed legislation to sell off public lands.

They have passed multiple bills that would open our public lands, virtually unregulated, as of yesterday, to mountaintop removal, mineral, and energy extraction. They shut down access to our national parks because of their stupid government shutdown last fall, and they found out that wasn't too popular.

Then they held a hearing to find out why the parks were shut down when the government was shut down. Look in the mirror, guys. That is why the parks were shut down. They found out that the parks and these monuments enjoyed tremendous support from the American people.

There have been 89 conservation bills introduced from both sides of the aisle in this House in the last two Congresses, and only four of the 89 have become law. This Republican majority is genuinely openly hostile to conservation designations; yet, today, they are pretending that they actually really care about these iconic places, and they are just making a couple little changes to the law to include more public input.

You know, I have an experience from the Clinton administration for the Steens Mountains in Oregon. We only got it done because President Clinton and Secretary Babbitt said: we are going to make that a monument.

Now, we don't have as much flexibility in designation, but if you would legislate something, we will work with you.

We had a meeting in my office with the Republican Senator, a Republican Member from Oregon, myself, a couple of other Members came in and out, and the Secretary, and we hammered out a bill to protect the Steens Mountains in Oregon, and it passed on a bipartisan basis in a Republican Congress, with a Republican House and a Republican Senate. Unfortunately, those are the old days.

As I said earlier, 16 out of 19 Presidents have used this power. Teddy Roosevelt said it best, I think, about the Grand Canyon, that we should:

Let this great wonder of nature remain as it now is. Do nothing to mar its grandeur, sublimity, and loveliness. You cannot improve on it, but what you can do is to keep it for your children, your children's children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see.

Today, the majority here would undo the potential for future legacies under the Antiquities Act.

Just one side note: Chairman BISHOP made much of talking about, in a Dear Colleague letter, that there was a provision in legislation, of which I was a sponsor, critical and unique to my State, designating the O&C lands, and he said it precludes new monument designations.

Yes, he is right. That was in there at the insistence of the Republican majority. I would have been happy to take it out, but I will cut him a deal. I would be happy to negotiate.

He voted for that bill, but it also includes 1.2 million acres of old growth preservation, 90,000 acres of wilderness, 300,000 acres of riparian set-asides, and 150 miles of wild and scenic designations.

If he will fully support those conservation provisions in my bill, I will,

perhaps, negotiate with them, that they could say: well, we won't do any more monuments in that area because we have already had a massive conservation victory.

But that is why it is in the bill. They insisted, not me. Let's not create phony arguments here.

With that, I urge my colleagues to reject this horrible legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI).

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Chairman, it is nice to see that the assault on the authority of this branch continues. It is sad that it continues from within, and it is interesting to hear westerners talk about issues that are particularly acute in Western lands.

I happen to hail from a State that is 87 percent owned by the Federal Government. The key word there is "owned."

If you want to protect natural resources that are Federal—which, by the way, this law takes into account—the Federal Government already owns them. You do not have enough authority by virtue of ownership interest over the last 110 years, almost, to protect things? Things have not changed.

I have heard criticism about the mining reform law of 1874 from my colleagues. Here is something from 1906, and it is like, if you can't protect it by being the owner, as the Federal Government—under the land management auspices of multiple Federal land use agencies, I am wondering why—and I heard somebody say these areas enjoy tremendous support of the people—what is the problem with allowing the people to participate in the process of monument designation?

Why is it awful for these people who want these areas, want to enjoy them, to say, hey, you know, we are thinking of making a monument of this, and even though you control it by virtue of ownership and countless regs? We want to use the regulation that applies to that, to let the people who enjoy them so much participate in the process. We want to cede all authority to the executive branch because we happen to disagree on some things?

Let me tell you, as a member of the Republican side of the aisle who has been advocating for the creation of 96,000 acres of wilderness in a bipartisan context with my colleague from Nevada—which I can't get through yet. I am frustrated too.

I fail to see the harm in allowing the people that so much appreciate these Federal lands to participate in their further designation, adding another layer of administration, as monuments.

Let's, please, defend our authority as this branch, and let's support this bill.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from

California (Mr. HUFFMAN), a member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1459. This bill is a solution in search of a problem. The reference to public participation in the name of the bill implies that there is a complete lack of public input in the process of designating these monuments, that these designations are dropping abruptly and arbitrarily out of the White House.

I will tell you, as the Representative of the newest national monument in the country, that is just not the case.

Before President Obama added Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands to the California Coastal National Monument, literally, the entire community in that area that I represent, all of the interested stakeholders were not only engaged, they had been engaged for several years.

That includes everyone from the business community, local tribes, conservation groups, and local governments, to schoolchildren in the area. There was no opposition to this proposal.

People came out to public meetings, and that included a public workshop that Secretary Sally Jewell had herself. She came out to the area. I assure you, there was no shortage of public input, no shortage of public participation, so this premise that there is a lack—an absence of public participation is, at least in my experience, totally false.

But so is the political narrative behind this bill, this idea that President Obama has somehow overreached in his exercise of executive authority. In fact, President Obama has been much more judicious than many of his predecessors in deciding when to designate these monuments.

Prior to this President, 16 Presidents from both parties have used this authority under the Antiquities Act over the course of more than a century, and that ranges from President Roosevelt's designation of the Grand Canyon to 140,000 square miles of marine monument that were designated around Hawaii by President George W. Bush.

By comparison to his predecessors, President Obama has been very sparing in using the Antiquities Act, and he and his Cabinet have been very careful to bring the public in and to be very transparent, so the narrative about executive overreach is also false.

Limiting the Antiquities Act, as this bill would do—and I want to emphasize this—will harm jobs and economic growth; and in the case of my district, in Mendocino County, the community understood that one of the reasons for broad support of this monument designation is that the community understood it was good not just for the environment, but good for the economy.

The travel and tourism industry is one of Mendocino County's biggest industries, bringing in over \$300 million

annually, and everybody understood that this monument designation was going to significantly boost that part of our economy; and it is going to happen now, this summer, thanks to what President Obama did.

So why should a community like Mendocino County wait on a monument designation, especially in a situation like this, where there was no opposition to the proposal? No one is saying that Congress shouldn't play a role in protecting our public lands.

It is important to note that bills to protect this part of the Mendocino coast were introduced first more than 2 years ago, so the 112th Congress had a full chance at it.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield the gentleman from California an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, we know that Congress can be slow, that there are uncertainties in the process of moving through Congress.

The question is: Why, in the case of something like this, when there is no opposition, all these economic benefits, should my district or any other district have to wait for this critically important designation?

I think we should be very careful about repealing a bill that has stood the test of time and worked well for both Democrats and Republicans for more than a century, and I request a "no" vote on H.R. 1459.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes now to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART), a former member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my good friend and, really, one of my heroes, Congressman BISHOP of Utah, for bringing attention to, I think, this very important topic, especially one to my home State of Utah.

To my friends across the aisle, I think you have to twist yourselves into pretzels in order to object to this bill. In 1996, nearly 2 million acres in the heart of my district were locked up in the creation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument—nearly 2 million acres.

It was the largest national monument created in the history of the United States. This massive monument was created with a stroke of the President's pen, without any consultation, without even notice given to the local population, no phone calls, no conversations, nothing.

The President didn't even have the courage to step into my State when he created this monument. He stood on the Arizona border and said: I create a national monument over there.

If the President desires to create new large national monuments, surely he can believe that conducting a thorough

environmental analysis is a good thing. NEPA was specifically designed to mandate that Federal agencies stop and think about proposed actions and make sure that those actions are appropriate.

It also mandates that all of those who are impacted by that decision would have sufficient information and approval. If the creation of a national monument is a good idea, shouldn't the monuments have to undergo public scrutiny?

□ 1515

And if the President can take 5 years—5 years and counting—to approve, say, the Keystone pipeline, can't we take an appropriate amount of consideration before we create another massive monument? That is what democracy is all about. That is all that this bill asks for.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the ranking member.

Mr. DEFAZIO. To the previous speaker and others who have complained about Grand Staircase-Escalante, you could introduce a bill to repeal it. Why don't you?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD), one of my classmates.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Chairman, I join in support of this bill not just because it is about amendments and the importance of public input, but ultimately because it is about two central tenets that the Founding Fathers laid out that I think are important to both Republicans and Democrats alike.

Quite simply, their belief was that three, four, or five perspectives were always better than one. They didn't want to see unilateral action, they didn't want to see a king, and the idea of overstepping on that front was contrary to what they set up; and secondly, that the individual was to be the sole repository of power in our political system and that any government had legitimacy only inasmuch as there was consent by the governed. And what you see with many of these monument-type activities is no consent by the locally governed.

So I very much believe in land conservation and have been an advocate for a long time, but I believe in a process that prescribes to that which the Constitution laid out necessary in that process.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I want to join my colleagues in opposition to H.R. 1459, the

Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act. It sounds good, but it should be known as the "Preventing New Parks Act."

This bill would severely restrict this and any future President's authority to establish a national monument, eliminating a crucial part of our Nation's conservation strategy. In this current poisonous climate, the majority has made it nearly impossible for Congress to conserve land for future generations using the legislative process. This past Congress, in fact, was the first since World War II to not protect a single acre of land as a national park, monument, or wilderness area—not one single acre.

Just last year, there was a significant bipartisan effort on the part of the President and others to designate the Harriet Tubman National Historical Parks Act, of which I am an original cosponsor, but that bill failed to even make it out of the committee—with public support and with family support, failed to make it out of committee. Just yesterday, we celebrated the first anniversary of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument located in my State of Maryland and designated as a national monument by President Obama using his authority under the Antiquities Act.

I was in the Oval Office with the descendants of Harriet Tubman and the people of that community who had been working for years for this designation. I saw what it meant to the community. They believed that it meant economic development, also.

Had H.R. 1459 been passed a year ago, this monument to a national hero would probably be stuck in the arbitrary hurdles and redundant research this bill proposes.

National monuments are an important part of telling our American story, and yet, currently, only 26 of our Nation's 460 national parks have a primary focus on African Americans, and just eight are dedicated to women. That includes the Harriet Tubman Park.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. EDWARDS. Rather than rolling back the President's ability to preserve both our national history and our natural heritage, we should be encouraging this and future administrations to continue to work for the common good—for the public good—that this necessary preservation work entails.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this restrictive bill, and I urge a "no" vote on the bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, before I yield to my colleague from Wyoming, I want to address what the previous speaker mentioned. She was talking about the Tubman bill.

Had this bill that we are debating here today been in effect, we wouldn't have had the problem with the Tubman issue right now. The Tubman issue was designated as a national monument, but it didn't go through the local process, and as a result—as a result of that—there are flaws in that designation. Thus, the bill that the gentlelady from Maryland is introducing is to correct the flaws that were put in place because of the monument designation.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, the State of Wyoming is exempt from the Antiquities Act. I don't know if you knew there is any State that is exempt from the Antiquities Act.

In 1950, when Grand Teton National Park and the Jackson Hole National Monument were combined, lawmakers and President Truman exempted Wyoming from further congressional designations. Now 48 percent of Wyoming is Federal land. We have the first national park, the first national forest, and the first national monument. We have nine total national forests and one national grassland within our State borders. Yet, without having to comply with the Antiquities Act, we created the national migratory bird refuge in Wyoming, which is a massive area that happened with local input.

You don't need the Antiquities Act as it exists to continue to create Federal designations. They can be done with local and State input, which is exactly what this bill will allow. If there are additional unique and special designations necessary, they should go through the congressional process and not be usurped by unilateral Presidential powers.

This is 2014. We are not back in the era when Presidents needed to designate areas that were at risk of being degraded. The ethic of a nation for conservation has come far beyond that. Let's adapt our laws to the morality and the ethics of the times. Let's pass this bill and give people involvement in decisions that are made in their States.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY).

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to join my colleagues in opposition to H.R. 1459. This bill will clearly undermine the Antiquities Act, one of our country's most important environmental and historic preservation tools, and one that has been critical to protecting beautiful land in my home State of Delaware.

Currently, Delaware is the only State in the Union without a national park. That means that every summer as families flip through the guidebooks of national parks and search through the Internet for outdoor vacation ideas, Delaware is not on the map, except, of course, for our beautiful beaches. The

good news is that, last year, the Antiquities Act helped fix this problem. It allowed for the creation of the First State National Monument, including the historic Woodlawn property, through a process that involved broad public input and public participation.

The Woodlawn property is 1,100 historic acres spanning the border of Delaware and Pennsylvania. It had been privately owned and used for public recreation for over 100 years and was about to be sold, potentially leading to extensive residential development. In response to considerable public outcry about the possible loss of this great property, a private foundation, the Mt. Cuba Center, stepped in with an incredibly generous donation of more than \$20 million to protect the property for future generations. Given the various limitations related to the management and transfer of the property, the Antiquities Act provided the right path for us to move quickly with plenty of public input to ensure that the monument effectively represented our community's goals.

As part of this process, we held over a dozen public meetings on the creation of the monument, including a hearing attended by the National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis and hundreds of Delawareans and Pennsylvanians who expressed strong support for the protection of the Woodlawn property. The First State National Monument continues to enjoy virtually unanimous, enthusiastic support from all stakeholders in our community, including colleagues on the other side of the aisle representing districts in Pennsylvania.

The provisions in this bill under consideration today would have jeopardized this process, and we may not have been able to realize the tremendous gift.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CARNEY. I thank the gentleman for the additional time.

Teddy Roosevelt, a Republican President, a great outdoorsman, and a lover of nature, said this about the importance of protecting our national treasures. He said:

It is not what we have that will make us a great nation; it is the way in which we use it.

Let's continue our Nation's tradition of protecting our public lands in a way that reflects the greatness of our Nation. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time remains on both sides?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington has 16 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Arizona has 9¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, at this point, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1459, the "No More National Monuments Act." I have experienced the Antiquities Act firsthand through my community's efforts and success in establishing Fort Monroe as a national monument in November of 2011.

The history of Fort Monroe is older than the history of the United States, and the story of Fort Monroe is really the story of our Nation. Fort Monroe is also known as "Freedom's Fortress," witnessing both the beginning and the end of slavery in our Nation, and it played a crucial role in nearly every military engagement right up to its closure in 2005. After its closure, the city of Hampton and the entire Hampton Roads region united in support for the inclusion of Fort Monroe in the National Park System.

The creation of Fort Monroe National Monument was the culmination of years of hard work led by then-Hampton Mayor Molly Ward, the citizens of Hampton, conservation and historic preservation groups, Hampton's City Council, Virginia's Governor, and Virginia's congressional delegation. These parties worked together at the local, State, and Federal level to urge the President to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to take immediate action to establish Fort Monroe as a national monument.

While I supported legislation introduced by my neighboring colleague, Congressman SCOTT RIGELL, to enshrine Fort Monroe as part of the National Parks System, this bill stalled in committee and was never given a proper hearing. Without the President's statutory authority to protect this land, it is doubtful that Fort Monroe and the history of the site would be protected as it is today.

Mr. Chairman, had the underlying bill been law in 2011 when President Obama designated Fort Monroe as a national monument, we would be nearing the 3-year approval deadline included in this bill, and the powerful role that Fort Monroe played in our Nation's history would be in danger of being lost to future generations as the legislation to authorize the President's designation lingered in committee.

While this legislation has been introduced to promote more public participation in the designation process, in my experience, the administration, including the President and the Secretary of the Interior, both went to great lengths to make sure that public input was a top priority in the decision to designate Fort Monroe as a national monument. This legislation, should it become law, would jeopardize the ability of other communities to protect sensitive Federal lands in their areas the same way that my community was able to do.

Mr. Chairman, for these reasons, I oppose the passage of H.R. 1459, and I hope other Members will oppose the legislation as well.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN).

□ 1530

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, it is with great disappointment that I come to the floor today in opposition to this attempt by my Republican colleagues to undermine the Antiquities Act, a law that has resulted in the protection and preservation of some of our Nation's most cherished lands. The Grand Canyon, Zion National Park, the Cesar Chavez National Monument, and many more have all been protected under the Antiquities Act by Presidents of both parties.

This issue hits close to home for me and my constituents. Last March, President Obama designated the Rio Grande del Norte in northern New Mexico as a national monument under the Antiquities Act. The result was years of work and the community coming together to find consensus on a path forward that respects our traditions and respects our culture. Protecting the Rio Grande del Norte had broad support and a strong coalition worked with the administration and Secretary Salazar to show that protecting this land needed to be a top priority. Whether it is for recreation, farming, or sustaining a way of life, the Rio Grande del Norte impacts all those who visit and all those who live off the sustenance it provides.

It is one of the crown jewels of our State, and if it were not for the Antiquities Act, this majestic land that represents our culture and drives the local economy would not have received the protections that will ensure its vitality for future generations. This attack on the Antiquities Act is an attack on the preservation of lands that are a part of who we are, our rich history as a diverse Nation, and our ability to enjoy these lands in the future. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I ask my friend from Arizona how many more speakers he has.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I have one more speaker, and then I will close.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for allowing me the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1459 because it could have severe unintended consequences for the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey, which I represent.

This is yet once again an attack on the President's authority, but in this

case, H.R. 1459 would create unnecessary obstacles regarding the President's ability to conserve lands and protect our country's most notable destinations.

The Antiquities Act has been used to protect a site in my district that commemorates the outstanding achievements of a great American inventor, Thomas Edison. This great innovator produced many of the inventions loved across the world—silent and sound motion pictures, the motion picture camera, phonographs, and the electric storage battery.

For more than 40 years, Thomas Edison's laboratory complex located in West Orange, New Jersey, was cranking out innovation after innovation. The laboratory employed at one time over 100 people, working on various projects from chemistry to physics to metallurgy.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower used his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the Edison Laboratory as a national monument. One year prior, in 1955, Congress had established Thomas Edison's home as a national historic site. Six years later, the Edison National Historic Site legislation combined the two into a unit of the National Park System.

Recently, the laboratory complex underwent an extensive renovation and had a grand reopening in 2009 to welcome America to explore two new floors of the laboratory that were previously closed to the public. The museum collections at Thomas Edison National Historical Park are by far the largest single body of Edison-related material in existence, and it is the third largest museum collection in the National Park Service.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. PAYNE. I don't believe Thomas Edison would appreciate this partisan bill which could turn out the lights on our future national monuments that honor innovators such as him.

I ask my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 1459.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, as I said on the rule, sometimes I am amazed at the kind of misinformation and inaccuracy that is taking place about this bill. This bill does not stop parks. It does not stop monuments. We have heard about the Grand Canyon being made a monument under this act, under this power, but please realize it was a national forest before that, and it was made a park by Congress because only Congress can make parks.

The gentleman from Delaware, I appreciate him being here, he still has his

park because only Congress can go through that particular process.

I also get somewhat confused when people talk about how this is a way of rolling back any kind of protection. Mr. Chairman, the Federal Government owns over 635 million acres. We already have 336 million acres that presently are in a protected status. There is no way they can be touched by anyone at any time for anything. And those that are for development are only 38 million acres. It is almost a 10 to 1 ratio between the two of them.

I want you to think back on when the Antiquities Act was originally passed. It was 1906. The States of Hawaii, Alaska, New Mexico, Arizona, and Oklahoma did not exist. They were all territories. My home State had only been in the Union for a decade. There were very few environmental laws. Today, if you were to list all of the environmental protections that we have on the statutes, both by the Federal Government and by the States, it would take four or five pages, small type, just to list them all. There could have been a reason for doing this. This is back in the era when there was no Bureau of Land Management. There was not even a Park Service when this was being done. The majority of the designations Teddy Roosevelt made were in territories that were not States. Things have changed since that time. Unfortunately, this law hasn't.

And if you don't allow the NEPA process to allow public input, you make mistakes. You made mistakes in Utah—and, yes, we have had bills that have been filibustered by the Senate to make those changes, but 20 years later we are still trying to work through what ought to have been there.

The gentlelady from Maryland was here, and I appreciate her concept. Her Harriet Tubman national monument is a good idea. The unfortunate thing is it was poorly done because you didn't take the time to go through the NEPA process and get some public input. It is still in draft status. This is the boundary within the green. The stuff with the stripes on it are private property they just kind of found within the boundary that now they have to try to get approval to try to acquire that property. The white is also other private property that right now they don't think they need to acquire.

Now, how come we missed all that stuff? It is simply because the President decided to use the Antiquities power without taking the time to get public input to go through those situations.

Yes, a lot of Presidents have used this stuff.

One other thing, too. The proclamation that created Harriet Tubman said there would be 11,750 acres set aside. The Park Service says it is actually 25,000, and no one knows the difference—25,000 acres of Federal, State

and private lands. See, that is the problem. If you rush this stuff through without taking the time to get input from people, you make mistakes.

Don't make mistakes.

The National Resources Defense Council said that NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act, which regulates the requirement to have public input before you go forward with that, held that the Magna Carta protects people from the dangers of monarchy, and NEPA protects people by providing transparency in Federal projects. Both the Magna Carta and NEPA espouse the ideals of public participation and democracy by giving citizens a voice in government decisions.

Giving people the chance to have a voice in government decisions is the purpose of NEPA. Every Federal agency has to use NEPA. Congress has to do something very similar because everything requires some kind of hearing. The only person that doesn't have to do that is the President when he uses this archaic act, over 100 years old, in situations that have changed.

Instead, what was said about this in some of the misinformation going out, they said if this bill is passed, it eviscerates one of the America's bedrock conservation laws. Look, you can't say it is good to have public involvement except here, in which it is bad to have public involvement. Unfortunately, that is exactly what the administration said. The administration said the President should not have to go through NEPA, should not have to get public input because he is only head of the executive branch, he is not an agency of the executive branch. That is intellectual gymnastics, and one of the reasons why we have problems.

This bill doesn't stop anything. Any monument that was made could easily be made. This bill recognizes there may be an emergency situation, and anything less than 5,000 acres can be done.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, what I was trying to say was, this is a damn good bill. And there is a reason why it is a good bill: because it simply requires the President to have public information and get the input of people.

If there is an emergency situation, it allows for them to create something under 5,000 acres on an emergency basis without doing NEPA, it is just that Congress has to respond within 3 years to validate it, otherwise it reverts back. Anything that he wants to do with NEPA, he can do it regardless of the size. It is the appropriate thing to do.

This bill moves us forward and takes a bill that may have been appropriate in 1906—but we are certainly living in a

different time and a different era, and we need to make sure that a President, before he puts his pen to a paper, has actually talked to local people, and it has not always happened.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, in closing, let me just say that at the direction of the Republican leadership, this House has approved a remarkable series of anti-environmental bills in this Congress. While conservation bills languish and are stalled in Congress, we have seen time and time again House Republicans vote to deregulate mining, make drilling on public lands less safe, prevent Federal regulation of fracking, open virtually the entire coast of the United States to unsafe drilling offshore, give away precious public lands, override State and local water laws, and just yesterday, weaken existing limits on dumping coal mining waste in streams and rivers.

In the last 6 years, 7.4 million acres of public lands have been leased for oil and gas drilling; only 2.9 million protected for the future legacy and conservation, for the future use of the public and this Nation. That imbalance is directly the responsibility of a lack of action by this Congress.

Each of these measures were not only poor public policy, but also poor use of our time. They were, thankfully, dead on arrival in the Senate. This bill, H.R. 1459, is simply another bill in this series of deeply flawed proposals, and it will rightly suffer an identical fate.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a couple of points. It is pretty hard to follow-up on what the author of the legislation did, talking about the history of this legislation and why there needs to be some changes. I thought he did that in a very, very good way.

My friends on the other side of the aisle, at least the previous speaker, but also others, have mentioned about different pieces of legislation that we have passed out. I understand that they are probably in opposition to having more exploration, making us less energy dependent with offshore legislation, with onshore legislation, and so forth.

But, Mr. Chairman, what wasn't said in that argument was that in every case, in every case the legislation that the gentleman lamented that we passed, we had a hearing in the committee. We had a hearing and went through the normal legislative process. When you look at what the intent of this legislation is all about, it is simply to have a hearing with consultation and transparency with those that are affected, nothing more. You may not like it, but at least you have that transparency.

Several Members said we haven't passed national park legislation in sev-

eral years, and that is true. There is some pending, and obviously we hope to have that done by the end. But this point needs to be made, too. The National Park Service, by their own admission, has over a \$10 billion backlog in maintenance. Shouldn't we, as the keeper of the taxpayers' purse, look at that and say before we rush on some of this, let's make sure that we can afford to maintain whatever is going to be ensuing next.

Finally, let me make an observation about my colleague from California, from Mendocino County, Mr. HUFFMAN. He was saying that his community was very in favor of that monument designation that is going to happen, I guess, later on this year.

□ 1545

I don't think the gentleman, however, mentioned that that precise piece of legislation, which was H.R. 1411, passed this House on a voice vote. In other words, there is no need to make a monument designation for that because this House had determined that it was the right thing to do.

The problem is the Senate hasn't moved on that piece of legislation; so, on the one hand, they say we haven't passed legislation, and when we do, the President steps in and, I think, overstates his authority on the Antiquities Act.

I am sorry. Before I close, I did have another speaker. I apologize to my friend. If the gentleman wants to take more time, I will give him more time.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my friend from Washington for yielding and for bringing this bill forward.

We are seeing an abuse of the Antiquities Act where you have got a President using this law to shut off more areas of Federal land to things like energy exploration. That is not what this law was intended to do.

In fact, I think, if you look at the reforms that are included in this law, they are very good and responsible in ensuring that a President still has the ability to designate monuments where appropriate, one in each State for a Presidential term.

If there is some monument that warrants being designated a national monument, that opportunity is still there. You just have to come and talk to Congress.

I know this President has a hard time working with Congress, but we are right here. He talks about he has got a pen and a phone. Pick up the phone, Mr. President.

You can call us, and if it makes sense, we are going to work with you to get it done; but don't abuse the Antiquities Act to go and cordon off Federal land, so that we can't explore for energy and for other great resource needs.

I think it is important that we finally put the brakes on this Presidential land grab that we are seeing.

I encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, in closing, I want to, again, make the point there of my colleague from California (Mr. HUFFMAN). He had a bill that passed the House and is pending in the Senate.

There is no need for the President to go through this. All you have to do is pass the legislation which, by the way, had a hearing and was marked up properly in our committee.

This piece of legislation, I think, is a good piece of legislation. I think it corrects abuses that have happened by the way of Presidents in both parties over the years.

I ask my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 1459.

Exactly one year ago yesterday, the President designated 970 acres of land in my district as the San Juan National Monument. This designation came after years of grassroots work and outreach to create a consensus plan to protect these critically important areas.

It came only because Congress failed to act on that consensus. I know, because I tried to get Congress to act and it didn't happen.

In both the 112th and 113th Congress, I introduced legislation that would have protected these lands in a nearly identical way to the National Monument designation. Unfortunately, those bills stalled because of ideological opposition to conservation.

In the part of the country I represent, people know that conservation isn't just good for the environment, it's good for business. The San Juans and the water around them are home to diverse wildlife from the Island Marble Butterfly to the Southern Resident Killer Whales.

Because of that diversity, they are an economic engine for Northwest Washington that attracts thousands of tourists each year. Every year, fishermen, hunters, tourists, boaters, hikers, snowboarders, and tourists spend millions throughout my state. They come for the natural beauty and abundant outdoor activities we have to offer.

If we do not protect those resources, we lose that business. For many rural areas, outdoor recreation is the driver of the economy.

Unfortunately, this Congress has handcuffed itself when it comes to protecting public lands. And this legislation would handcuff the President and prevent him from providing that protection. I suppose the idea is that the President should follow our bad example. I disagree with that.

Instead of stopping the President from doing his job, we should start doing ours.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1459

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act".

SEC. 2. NEPA APPLICABILITY TO NATIONAL MONUMENT DECLARATIONS.

Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431; commonly known as the "Antiquities Act of 1906") is amended—

(1) by striking "That the President" and inserting the following:

"(a) That the President";

(2) by striking "discretion, to declare" and inserting "discretion, subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), to declare";

(3) by inserting before the final period the following: "No more than one declaration shall be made in a State during any presidential four-year term of office without an express Act of Congress"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) A declaration under this section shall—

"(1) not include private property without the informed written consent of the owner of the private property affected by the declaration;

"(2) be considered a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), if it affects more than 5,000 acres;

"(3) be categorically excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and expire three years after the date of the declaration (unless specifically designated as a monument by Federal law), if it affects 5,000 acres or less; and

"(4) be followed by a feasibility study that includes an estimate of the costs associated with managing the monument in perpetuity, including any loss of Federal and State revenue, which shall be submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and made available on the website of the Department of the Interior not later than one year after the date of the declaration.".

The CHAIR. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in House Report 113-385. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF UTAH

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113-385.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, beginning on line 6, strike "if it affects more than 5,000 acres;" and insert "except if it affects 5,000 acres or less, in which case—

"(A) the declaration shall be categorically excluded from the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969;

"(B) the declaration shall expire three years after the date of the declaration; and

"(C) the declaration may become permanent if—

"(i) specifically designated as a monument by Federal statute; or

"(ii) the President follows the review process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; and

Page 4, strike lines 8 through 13.

Page 4, line 14, strike "(4)" and insert "(3)".

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 3. USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.

This Act shall not be construed to increase the amount of funds that are authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 524, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, this amendment tries to clarify the process for monument designations of 5,000 acres or less, providing that they can become permanent if the President follows the regular NEPA public involvement process.

There was a question on the clarity of the language in the underlying bill that is there.

It also ensures that new taxpayer dollars are spent by requiring the use of existing funds to conduct any study or analysis that is in the bill or may be added by an amendment.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I think his amendment adds to this legislation, and I support his amendment.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, we are not really sure what this amendment is trying to achieve. If the underlying goal of the bill is to make sure that every national monument designation goes through a NEPA process or is approved by Congress, this amendment makes things more confusing.

The amendment states that all monuments established through the use of the Antiquities Act shall expire after 3 years. It goes on to say that they may become permanent if the President follows the review process under NEPA.

Does this mean the President could declare the designation a categorical exclusion? If so, what is the point of the amendment? Does that mean the administration has to file an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement? Can they just issue a finding of no significant impact?

Again, the amendment does nothing to fix or clarify the underlying bill. I oppose the legislation and the adoption of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, just to respond one more time, the purpose of this is to make sure that it was very clear on those emergency situations that were 5,000 or less. If, indeed, the President uses the NEPA process, that 3-year clock does not tick on all those parcels of property. Anything that he does NEPA process, that is okay.

It was not clear in the underlying bill. This attempts to make it clear.

With that, I encourage adoption of the manager's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. BARBER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 113-385.

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 17, after "revenue," insert "and the benefits associated with managing the monument in perpetuity, including jobs created and tourism dollars associated with managing the monument,".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 524, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BARBER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 1459, the Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act.

Under this bill, national monument declarations must include a feasibility study that assesses the costs to the Federal Government to manage the monument in perpetuity. However, costs of managing the monument are only one side of the equation.

As all Arizonans know well, national monuments, like Chiricahua and the Casa Grande Ruins, also bring significant benefits, such as tourism dollars, that create jobs and stimulate local economies. These benefits are real.

Travel and tourism is a major economic driver in Arizona, bringing in millions of dollars to the part of the State that I represent—southern Arizona—and billions of dollars in direct spending statewide.

The same is true for national monuments all across the country. Communities near national monuments would testify to the economic benefits of their national monuments.

My amendment is simple and straightforward. This amendment says

that, in addition to assessing the costs associated with managing a monument, we should also look at the many benefits that result from the establishment of a national monument.

Doing so will ensure that Congress and the American people have a thorough and complete picture of how a monument will impact local communities.

This is a commonsense amendment that will not add additional costs to the bill.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I wish to claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I think what the Barber amendment does is reemphasize the fundamental purpose of this bill, which is to ensure there is transparent public participation and input in making these types of designations.

I appreciate the addition he has made as to what should be studied and what should be encompassed. I think it an addition to the bill. I think it is a good amendment. I would urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BARBER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. TSONGAS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 113-385.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 3. APPLICABILITY.

The amendments made by this Act shall not apply to any use of section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431; commonly known of as the "Antiquities Act of 1906") the purpose of which is the protection or conservation of historic or cultural resources related to American military history.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 524, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, the underlying bill presented before us today is problematic for many reasons, as my Democratic colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee have very clearly outlined on the floor this afternoon.

The Antiquities Act has served our country for well over 100 years and has

been used by 16 Presidents to designate over 140 national monuments, many of them protecting American military heritage.

To date, Presidents and Congress have designated 22 military sites as national monuments. One of the many unintended consequences of this legislation is that it would prevent the President from protecting important military cultural and historical sites under the Antiquities Act.

As someone who grew up on military bases both across the country and overseas, I know firsthand the tremendous sacrifices that our servicemembers and their families make on behalf of our Nation.

My father was a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument is just one example of a monument that was designated by Presidential authority under the Antiquities Act.

My amendment preserves the ability of the President to declare as national monuments those that provide for the "protection or conservation of historic or cultural resources related to American military history," regardless of their size.

I urge adoption of this amendment to maintain the President's ability to honor our military and military families and fix one small piece of this misguided legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I claim opposition to the misguided amendment to the well-proportioned bill that is under there.

I appreciate what the gentlelady from Massachusetts is trying to do. I am an old history teacher, so these sites are important to me.

But as well-intended as this amendment may indeed be, it still undermines the intent of the legislation, which is to make sure that any designation that is at large has public transparency, and you allow the local people to do it, whether it is a military site or not.

This would create a very large loophole that is unnecessary because the provisions of the bill provide for that. If something is smaller than 5,000 and in immediate jeopardy, it can be handled.

If it is larger than that and goes through the NEPA process, it is handled. There is no problem that could develop from this particular piece of legislation.

I might also add that, in the Antiquities Act, any harm to anything that is an antiquity of element on a public property already is subject to fine and imprisonment.

This amendment was attempted in committee—I appreciate the sentiment—but it was also defeated in committee by a vote of 24-13. It is the same amendment here.

I would urge my colleagues to also defeat it, simply because it undermines the very purpose of this bill, and it does not lead to the public process.

With that, Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for his remarks, but I respectfully disagree.

As we know, yet again to reiterate, the Antiquities Act has served our country well for over 100 years, has been used by Presidents, both Democratic and Republican, to designate over 150 national monuments.

It was created to allow swift action to conserve high priority public lands when Congress is unable to act. It was not the intention of the Antiquities Act to let Congress dictate which national monuments the President can and cannot create.

We have heard from our colleagues from Delaware and New Mexico the robust public input around designating the Antiquities Act. Presidential actions taken under the Antiquities Act are, like all other Presidential actions, exempt from the NEPA process.

It would be a radical departure from long practice to subject Presidential action to NEPA. A significant change like this should not be considered on the fly in a manager's amendment without prior debate in the House.

□ 1600

Again, the underlying intent of this amendment was to protect military monuments. I respectfully disagree with my colleague across the aisle.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 113-385 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 3 by Ms. TSONGAS of Massachusetts.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. TSONGAS

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman

woman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 197, noes 223, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 145]

AYES—197

Barber	Green, Gene	Owens
Barrow (GA)	Grijalva	Pallone
Bass	Gutiérrez	Pascarell
Beatty	Hahn	Pastor (AZ)
Becerra	Hanabusa	Paulsen
Bera (CA)	Hanna	Payne
Bishop (GA)	Hastings (FL)	Pelosi
Bishop (NY)	Heck (WA)	Perlmutter
Blumenauer	Higgins	Peters (CA)
Bonamici	Himes	Peters (MI)
Brady (PA)	Holt	Peterson
Braley (IA)	Honda	Pingree (ME)
Brown (FL)	Horsford	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Hoyer	Polis
Bustos	Huffman	Price (NC)
Butterfield	Israel	Quigley
Capps	Jackson Lee	Rahall
Capuano	Jeffries	Rangel
Carney	Johnson (GA)	Reichert
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	Richmond
Cartwright	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard
Castor (FL)	Keating	Ruiz
Castro (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Chu	Kennedy	Rush
Ciциlline	Kildee	Ryan (OH)
Clark (MA)	Kilmer	Sanchez, Linda
Clarke (NY)	Kind	T.
Clay	Kirkpatrick	Sanchez, Loretta
Cleaver	Kuster	Sarbanes
Clyburn	Langevin	Schakowsky
Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Schiff
Connelly	Larson (CT)	Schneider
Conyers	Lee (CA)	Schrader
Cooper	Levin	Scott (VA)
Costa	Lewis	Scott, David
Crowley	Lipinski	Serrano
Cuellar	Loeb sack	Sewell (AL)
Cummings	Lofgren	Shea-Porter
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Sherman
Davis, Danny	Lowe y	Sinema
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham	Sires
DeGette	(NM)	Slaughter
Delaney	Lujan, Ben Ray	Smith (WA)
DeLauro	(NM)	Speier
Dent	Lynch	Swalwell (CA)
Deutch	Maffei	Takano
Dingell	Maloney,	Thompson (CA)
Doggett	Carolyn	Thompson (MS)
Doyle	Maloney, Sean	Tierney
Edwards	Matsui	Titus
Ellison	McCollum	Tonko
Engel	McDermott	Tsongas
Enyart	McGovern	Van Hollen
Eshoo	McIntyre	Vargas
Esty	McNerney	Veasey
Farr	Meeks	Vela
Fattah	Meng	Velázquez
Fitzpatrick	Michaud	Visclosky
Foster	Miller, George	Walz
Fudge	Moore	Wasserman
Gabbard	Moran	Schultz
Gallego	Murphy (FL)	Waters
Garamendi	Nadler	Waxman
Garcia	Napolitano	Welch
Gerlach	Neal	Wilson (FL)
Gibson	Negrete McLeod	Yarmuth
Grayson	Nolan	
Green, Al	O'Rourke	

NOES—223

Aderholt	Bachus	Barton
Amash	Barletta	Benishke
Bachmann	Barr	Bentivolio

Bilirakis	Hartzler	Poe (TX)
Bishop (UT)	Hastings (WA)	Pompeo
Black	Heck (NV)	Posey
Blackburn	Hensarling	Price (GA)
Boustany	Herrera Beutler	Reed
Brady (TX)	Holding	Renacci
Bridenstine	Hudson	Ribble
Brooks (AL)	Huelskamp	Rice (SC)
Brooks (IN)	Huizenga (MI)	Rigell
Broun (GA)	Hultgren	Roby
Buchanan	Hunter	Roe (TN)
Bucshon	Hurt	Rogers (AL)
Burgess	Issa	Rogers (KY)
Byrne	Jenkins	Rogers (MI)
Calvert	Johnson (OH)	Rohrabacher
Camp	Johnson, Sam	Rokita
Cantor	Jolly	Rooney
Capito	Jones	Ros-Lehtinen
Carter	Jordan	Roskam
Cassidy	Joyce	Ross
Chabot	Kelly (PA)	Rothfus
Chaffetz	King (IA)	Royce
Coble	King (NY)	Runyan
Coffman	Kingston	Ryan (WI)
Cole	Kinzinger (IL)	Salmon
Collins (GA)	Kline	Sanford
Collins (NY)	Labrador	Scalise
Conaway	LaMalfa	Schock
Cook	Lamborn	Schweikert
Cotton	Lance	Scott, Austin
Cramer	Lankford	Sensenbrenner
Crawford	Latham	Sessions
Crenshaw	Latta	Shimkus
Culberson	LoBiondo	Shuster
Daines	Long	Simpson
Davis, Rodney	Lucas	Smith (MO)
Denham	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NE)
DeSantis	Lummis	Smith (NJ)
DesJarlais	Marchant	Smith (TX)
Diaz-Balart	Marino	Southerland
Duffy	Massie	Stewart
Duncan (SC)	Matheson	Stivers
Duncan (TN)	McAllister	Stockman
Ellmers	McCarthy (CA)	Stutzman
Farenthold	McCaul	Terry
Fincher	McClintock	Thompson (PA)
Fleischmann	McHenry	Thornberry
Fleming	McKeon	Tiberi
Flores	McKinley	Tipton
Forbes	McMorris	Turner
Fortenberry	Rodgers	Upton
Fox	Meadows	Valadao
Franks (AZ)	Meehan	Wagner
Frelinghuysen	Messer	Walberg
Gardner	Mica	Walden
Garrett	Miller (FL)	Walorski
Gibbs	Miller (MI)	Weber (TX)
Gingrey (GA)	Mullin	Webster (FL)
Gohmert	Mulvaney	Wenstrup
Goodlatte	Murphy (PA)	Westmoreland
Gosar	Neugebauer	Whitfield
Gowdy	Noem	Williams
Granger	Nugent	Wilson (SC)
Graves (GA)	Nunes	Wittman
Graves (MO)	Nunnelee	Wolf
Griffith (AR)	Olson	Womack
Griffith (VA)	Palazzo	Woodall
Grimm	Pearce	Yoder
Guthrie	Perry	Yoho
Hall	Petri	Young (AK)
Harper	Pittenger	Young (IN)
Harris	Pitts	

NOT VOTING—11

Amodei	DelBene	McCarthy (NY)
Campbell	Duckworth	Miller, Gary
Cárdenas	Frankel (FL)	Schwartz
Courtney	Hinojosa	

□ 1628

Messrs. RYAN of Wisconsin and LAMALFA changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. PETERSON, Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD, Messrs. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, HANNA, and CLEAVER changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NUGENT) having assumed the chair, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1459) to ensure that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 applies to the declaration of national monuments, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 524, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

□ 1630

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Rahall moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1459 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 3. PROVIDING A WAGE INCREASE FOR AMERICA'S WORKERS.

This Act shall not take effect until the hourly wage for the lowest 10th percentile of workers for all occupational codes reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics under the Occupational Employment Statistics survey is no less than \$10.10 an hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill. It will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If the amendment is adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

My amendment is quite simple. It raises the minimum wage to \$10.10. My amendment assures that, in America, if you work hard, you will not be forced to live in poverty.

In this era of stagnant and falling wages, of a widening gap in inequality between the haves and the have-nots, we must ensure that the promise of the American Dream remains a reality for all Americans, not just the wealthiest among us. We can't just say it. We have to act to make it possible.

Today, the minimum wage is 22 percent below its peak level in the 1960s. It has not increased since July 2009, when it reached \$7.25 per hour. It has not been raised in five long years.

It has not increased since the near bottom of the Great Recession, when working Americans were walloped by the greed and reckless behavior of the privileged and the elite on Wall Street.

We like to think that, if you work hard, if you earn calloused hands, you can rise to the heights of success in America. The reality is that, by not raising the minimum wage, we are condoning—we are endorsing a pay cut for the very hardworking Americans that we speak about in such glowing terms whenever we talk about working our way—working your way up the ladder. Such doublespeak makes a mockery of the American Dream.

This is the House of the people, not the House of the 1 percent. Ours is a government of, for, and by the people and not a government of, for, and by the billionaires, at least not yet. Heaven help us.

As Representatives of the people, we have a constitutional obligation to look after the interests of all of our citizens, but more fundamentally, we have a moral obligation to ensure that opportunity is available to all and not reserved only for the most well-to-do among us.

Each and every year, minimum wage workers face a pay cut as inflation eats away at their earnings. Each and every year, this House, the people's House, sits inactive. It sits silent. It sits shamefully moot.

As the House of the people, we have a moral obligation to do what we can to help boost the paychecks of hardworking Americans. There should be outrage. There should be contempt for our inactivity on this issue.

I am talking about the 3.6 million American workers whose salaries are at or below the current minimum wage, more than three-quarters of whom are adults, nearly two-thirds of whom are female, more than one-third of whom are full-time workers, and nearly three-quarters of whom have graduated from high school.

These are real people—real people, Mr. Speaker, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers. Every day, they must make hard choices to provide for their families. Every day, they look to this body, this House of Representatives, the House of the people, they look to us for help; and every day, this body has nothing to say, nothing new to offer.

Introduced in 1938, the minimum wage has been increased 22 times, by

both Republican and Democratic Congresses. It was even raised in the hyperpartisan Congress of the Gingrich impeachment era twice—twice; but it has not been raised in this Congress, nor the last. That is more than shameful. It is immoral.

In running against the do-nothing Republican-controlled House of Representatives in 1948, Harry Truman spoke of the gluttons of privilege, of cold men, of cunning men who were curiously deaf to the voice of the people, but who also were curiously able to hear even the slightest whisper from Big Business.

Here is a case where the government must be an advocate for the people and for the working men and women of this Nation and for the forgotten man, as another great President once said, those at the bottom of the economic pyramid upon which everything else is built.

Vague promises of hope are not sufficient. Economic excuses are not enough. We must act, and we must act now, and we can. Vote for this amendment to increase the minimum wage for the working men and women of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am still having a difficult time trying to grasp the concept that my good friend, the gentleman from West Virginia, would be opposed to such a brilliant bill in its current form in the first place; but with that, I appreciate his efforts and his concept dealing with this MTR.

I just want to remind of you of one element. If you pass this motion, you don't raise the minimum wage, and you don't bring about any of the consequences CBO or other organizations talked about, that concept.

All this amendment does is delay the bill. It doesn't raise anything. It simply delays the bill.

This bill, the underlying bill, tries to take an act that is 108 years old and modernize it, so that the American people are given the right to be heard before the President takes his pen and signs his name to a piece of paper and a proclamation.

This bill simply says let Americans have the chance to talk about this before the President acts, like every other element of government has to do.

With that, I urge your rejection of this MTR. I urge you to favorably vote for passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of H.R. 1459, if ordered, and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 193, noes 227, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 146]

AYES—193

Barber	Garcia	Nadler
Barrow (GA)	Grayson	Napolitano
Bass	Green, Al	Neal
Beatty	Green, Gene	Negrete McLeod
Bera (CA)	Grijalva	Nolan
Bishop (GA)	Gutiérrez	O'Rourke
Bishop (NY)	Hahn	Owens
Blumenauer	Hanabusa	Pallone
Bonamici	Hastings (FL)	Pascarell
Brady (PA)	Heck (WA)	Pastor (AZ)
Braley (IA)	Higgins	Payne
Brown (FL)	Himes	Pelosi
Brownley (CA)	Holt	Perlmutter
Bustos	Honda	Peters (CA)
Butterfield	Horsford	Peters (MI)
Capps	Hoyer	Peterson
Capuano	Huffman	Pingree (ME)
Cárdenas	Israel	Pocan
Carney	Jackson Lee	Polis
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Price (NC)
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Quigley
Castor (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Rahall
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Rangel
Chu	Keating	Richmond
Cicilline	Kelly (IL)	Royal-Allard
Clark (MA)	Kennedy	Ruiz
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	Ruppersberger
Clay	Kilmer	Rush
Cleaver	Kind	Ryan (OH)
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Sánchez, Linda T.
Cohen	Kuster	Sanchez, Loretta
Connolly	Langevin	Sarbanes
Conyers	Larsen (WA)	Schakowsky
Cooper	Larson (CT)	Schiff
Costa	Lee (CA)	Schneider
Courtney	Levin	Schrader
Crowley	Lewis	Scott (VA)
Cuellar	Lipinski	Scott, David
Cummings	Loeb sack	Serrano
Davis (CA)	Lofgren	Sewell (AL)
Davis, Danny	Lowenthal	Shea-Porter
DeFazio	Lowey	Sherman
DeGette	Lujan Grisham	Sinema
Delaney	(NM)	Sires
DeLauro	Luján, Ben Ray	Slaughter
Deutch	(NM)	Smith (WA)
Dingell	Lynch	Speier
Doggett	Maffei	Swailell (CA)
Doyle	Maloney,	Takano
Duckworth	Carolyn	Thompson (CA)
Edwards	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (MS)
Ellison	Matheson	Tierney
Engel	Matsui	Titus
Enyart	McCollum	Tonko
Eshoo	McDermott	Tsongas
Esty	McGovern	Van Hollen
Farr	McNerney	Vargas
Fattah	Meeks	Veasey
Foster	Meng	Vela
Frankel (FL)	Michaud	Velázquez
Fudge	Miller, George	Visclosky
Gabbard	Moore	Walz
Galleo	Moran	
Garamendi	Murphy (FL)	

Wasserman
Schultz
Waters

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Peters (CA)
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Eilmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy

Becerra
Campbell
DelBene
Graves (GA)

Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)

NOES—227

Granger
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Palazzo
Paulsen

NOT VOTING—11

Hinojosa
McCarthy (NY)
McIntyre
Miller, Gary

Yarmuth

Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 222, noes 201, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 147]

AYES—222

Aderholt	Graves (GA)	Palazzo
Amash	Graves (MO)	Pearce
Amodei	Griffin (AR)	Perry
Bachmann	Griffith (VA)	Petri
Bachus	Guthrie	Pittenger
Barletta	Hall	Pitts
Barr	Hanna	Poe (TX)
Barton	Harper	Pompeo
Benishek	Harris	Posey
Bentivolio	Hartzler	Price (GA)
Bilirakis	Hastings (WA)	Reed
Bishop (UT)	Heck (NV)	Renacci
Black	Hensarling	Ribble
Blackburn	Herrera Beutler	Rice (SC)
Boustany	Holding	Rigell
Brady (TX)	Hudson	Roby
Bridenstine	Huelskamp	Roe (TN)
Brooks (AL)	Huizenga (MI)	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (IN)	Hultgren	Rogers (KY)
Broun (GA)	Hunter	Rogers (MI)
Buchanan	Hurt	Rohrabacher
Bucshon	Issa	Rokita
Burgess	Jenkins	Rooney
Byrne	Johnson (OH)	Ros-Lehtinen
Calvert	Johnson, Sam	Roskam
Camp	Jolly	Ross
Cantor	Jones	Rothfus
Capito	Jordan	Royce
Carter	Joyce	Runyan
Cassidy	Kelly (PA)	Ryan (WI)
Chabot	King (IA)	Salmon
Chaffetz	Kingston	Sanford
Coble	Kinzinger (IL)	Scalise
Coffman	Kline	Schock
Cole	Labrador	Schweikert
Collins (GA)	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin
Collins (NY)	Lamborn	Sensenbrenner
Conaway	Lance	Sessions
Cook	Lankford	Shimkus
Cotton	Latham	Shuster
Cramer	Latta	Simpson
Crawford	Long	Smith (MO)
Crenshaw	Lucas	Smith (NE)
Cuellar	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NJ)
Culberson	Lummis	Smith (TX)
Daines	Marchant	Southerland
Denham	Marino	Stewart
Dent	Massie	Stivers
DeSantis	Matheson	Stockman
DesJarlais	McAllister	Stutzman
Diaz-Balart	McCarthy (CA)	Terry
Duffy	McCauley	Thompson (PA)
Duncan (TN)	McClintock	Thornberry
Ellmers	McHenry	Tiberi
Farenthold	McIntyre	Tipton
Fincher	McKeon	Turner
Fleischmann	McKinley	Upton
Fleming	McMorris	Valadao
Flores	Rodgers	Wagner
Forbes	Meadows	Walberg
Fortenberry	Messer	Walden
Foxy	Mica	Walorski
Franks (AZ)	Miller (FL)	Weber (TX)
Frelinghuysen	Miller (MI)	Webster (FL)
Gardner	Mullin	Westmoreland
Garrett	Mulvaney	Whitfield
Gibbs	Murphy (PA)	Williams
Gingrey (GA)	Neugebauer	Wilson (SC)
Gohmert	Noem	Wittman
Goodlatte	Nugent	Wolf
Gosar	Nunes	
Gowdy	Nunnelee	
Granger	Olson	

□ 1647

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Womack
Woodall

Yoder
Yoho

Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—201

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallo
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibson

Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod

Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmuter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reichert
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—8

Campbell
DelBene
Duncan (SC)

Hinojosa
Johnson (GA)
McCarthy (NY)

Miller, Gary
Schwartz

□ 1656

Mr. CONYERS changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 147, I missed the vote on final passage of H.R. 1459, the Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments

Act. I supported this bill in the Natural Resources Committee and would have voted in favor of it on final passage. Unfortunately business on the Senate side of the Capitol prevented me from voting before the rollcall ended. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRY). The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

HOURLY OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during a vote on H.R. 2824, the Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act, on Lowenthal amendment No. 1. If I had been present, I would have voted "yes."

In addition, Mr. Speaker, on H.R. 3370, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, I was unavoidably detained with my constituents in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted a resounding "yes," for this legislation will bring much-needed relief to our constituents on the gulf coast.

□ 1700

CONGRATULATING THE PENNSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY NITTANY LION FENCING TEAM FOR WINNING 13TH NATIONAL TITLE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pennsylvania State University Nittany Lion Fencing Team. On Sunday, the team won their 13th NCAA championship which took place in Columbus, Ohio. Beating out the second-place Princeton University team, which totaled 159 bout victories, the Nittany Lions completed the competition with 180 bout victories.

On the individual level, Kaito Streets, a sophomore, claimed the men's sabre NCAA championship, be-

coming the 13th individual champion for the team. As a result of this title win, Penn State fencing is now the winningest fencing program in the NCAA.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my praise to these student athletes, along with head coach Wes Glon, for their hard work and determination. The University and the Happy Valley community are extremely proud of your efforts, and we congratulate you on another amazing season.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 27th observance of the National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and to add my respect and understanding that developmental disabilities may be visible or invisible and range from physical impairment that involves vision or mobility to those conditions that affect cognitive functions related to how the brain processes information and how someone learns. I am also actively involved in the Dyslexia Caucus in efforts to shine the light on dyslexia.

Developmental disabilities, which include autism, deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other developmental delays, have increased, requiring more health and education services.

I want to reemphasize the need for access to education services but also to work. It is not a respect of age. Sometimes it comes because of accident or of illness that people can become disabled, but they are still deserving of the opportunity to work, and they also deserve the opportunity to access the various assets that this country has.

It is important that we focus on language, focus on mobility, and we provide the resources necessary. My salute to those who are supporting the improvement of access for those suffering from developmental disabilities or experiencing it. We look forward to working together.

HONORING VEDNITA CARTER, CNN HERO

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable woman and my guest at this year's State of the Union address, Vednita Carter.

Vednita was recently recognized as a 2014 CNN Hero for her work combating sex trafficking and is truly deserving of this recognition. Her organization, Breaking Free, provides food, clothing,

and support for women who are victims of sex trafficking to help them escape from their tragic situations. Breaking Free has helped over 6,000 women leave sex slavery.

Studies have shown, Mr. Speaker, that women who are trafficked often come from difficult home situations and are vulnerable to exploitation. For many of these victims, Vednita is the first person to reach out and try to help them.

With over 100,000 children estimated to be involved in the sex trade in the United States, Vednita's efforts should serve as a guide to how we can combat this trafficking problem on a wider scale.

Congratulations, Vednita Carter, and thank you for positively impacting so many exploited women's lives and for inspiring so many others.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND WORKDAY INITIATIVE

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the women who have shaped our Nation's history and those women who continue to make a difference in our communities. Women entrepreneurs are the fastest growing sector in the small business community.

This month, I launched a new initiative to help better understand the challenges that constituents face in their jobs and daily lives by spending the day working as a baking assistant at Del Norte Bakery, a successful women-owned-and-operated Hispanic business in Dallas.

As I rolled up my sleeves and I made pan dulce and other baked goods alongside owners and sisters Carolina Lopez and Gloria De Lira, I gained invaluable insight on some of the challenges small minority-owned and women-owned businesses face and what I can do as a Member of Congress to help.

I also hope that by sharing their story, I can inspire other women to realize their dreams of running their own businesses. Let us all continue to work together to ensure that all women enjoy equal opportunity, because when women succeed, America succeeds.

COMMEMORATING THE OCCASION OF MR. HOUSTON WAGGONER'S 93RD BIRTHDAY

(Mr. MCALLISTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to commemorate Mr. Houston Waggoner on the occasion of his 93rd birthday, which he and his loved ones celebrated, fishing, on March the 17th.

Mr. Waggoner is a proud World War II Navy veteran who has lived the American Dream. As a father of eight children, he worked for 30 years before retiring as a bag plant manager and starting his own small business, Chatham Automotive Parts and Supply, in 1972.

After owning his own business for 18 years, he retired for a second time in 1990. He now resides in Jackson Parish and enjoys hunting, fishing, and involvement with The National World War II Museum in New Orleans, where he is a member.

Mr. Waggoner exemplifies a strong character of leadership and dedication. As his family and friends continue to celebrate and honor him, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Waggoner a very happy 93rd birthday.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S ANNIVERSARY MARCH 26, 2014

(Mr. ENYART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding institution of higher education in Illinois. Southern Illinois University School of Law celebrates its 40th anniversary this month.

We spend our time here on the House floor discussing, debating, and voting on laws which impact American citizens while the faculty and staff of SIU Law develop the next generation of great legal minds.

With humble beginnings in 1973, that first year began with 90 students and eight faculty members. SIU Law today is a nationally recognized institution with alumni practicing in 49 States and 11 countries.

The school's 3,800 graduates include military general officers, over 90 State and Federal judges, and at least one United States Congressman.

Please join me in congratulating my alma mater, Southern Illinois University School of Law, for 40 years of serving students.

Go Dawgs.

SUPREME COURT COMMENTS

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I went over and heard the audio as the argument before the Supreme Court was taking place. It was shocking to hear a Supreme Court Justice ask Paul Clement why his client didn't just pay the tax and then they could have their religious ideas and religious beliefs. Of course, he called it a penalty, as the statute called it.

She said: Well, the legislation called it a tax. She didn't even know that the

majority opinion said on page 15 that it is a penalty because Congress called it a penalty. Forty pages later, the majority called it a tax so they could uphold it.

Outrageous. Pay your religion tax, and then you can have your religious beliefs in America. Where is it going to stop if we don't stop it now?

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in calling for a vote on comprehensive immigration reform. We have bipartisan legislation that has the support of the American people and the votes needed to pass the House.

Our system has been broken for far too long. In my own district, there are heart-wrenching stories of families who came here for a chance at the American Dream only to have been torn apart and separated.

Not only is comprehensive immigration reform morally right, it is the right thing to do for our economy. Also, the Congressional Budget Office this week found that passing H.R. 15 would reduce the deficit by \$900 billion over the next two decades. The economic benefits are clear.

Now is the time to pass a fair immigration plan which provides a pathway to citizenship, reunites families, and helps grow our economy. The Senate passed immigration reform last year. Now the House must act. We have the votes. Let's do it now.

OBAMACARE HAS BEEN A FAILURE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, so here we go again. Yet another change, another modification in ObamaCare, another deadline extended. I don't understand it. If there was such a clamor for socialized medicine, why aren't people standing in droves to sign up for ObamaCare?

I can tell you why. Because it has not decreased their premium, it has not increased their quality, and it has not increased access to health care. ObamaCare has been a failure.

We need to replace it with market-driven, patient-centered health care where the doctor and the patient are in charge of health care. We need to have health care that gives consumers options and health savings accounts so that they have more choices and they can pocket whatever savings they create. We need to allow consumers to buy health care across State lines so that

there will be more competition. We need to allow small businesses to band together so that they can get the economies of scale that large businesses get. And we need to push back on frivolous lawsuits so that doctors aren't practicing defensive medicine.

Mr. Speaker, these are things we can do that will make health care increase in quality and go down in price.

NATIONAL JAZZ PRESERVATION, EDUCATION AND PROMULGATION ACT OF 2014

(Mr. CONYERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I am introducing a Jazz Appreciation Month piece of legislation entitled the "National Jazz Preservation, Education and Promulgation Act of 2014."

In 1986, I introduced a bill in which simply sought to make a compelling statement about the importance of Jazz within American culture. Its final clause read:

Now, therefore be it Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that it is the sense of the Congress that jazz is hereby designated as a rare and valuable national American treasure to which we should devote our attention, support and resources to make certain it is preserved, understood and promulgated.

The jazz community came together in strong support of that legislation, and through many phone calls and letters generated enough co-sponsorships to get House Concurrent Resolution 57 passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on September 23, 1987. The fact that the 23rd was John Coltrane's birthday made the accomplishment even more special for me and was able to secure approval of the bill by the U.S. Senate a little more than two months later, on December 4, 1987.

During my work on that bill, which has come to be known as the "Jazz Resolution," I saw it inspire successful jazz-related political activity at the local governmental level in New York City, in Philadelphia and in Washington, DC. While each of these legislative victories were a milestone for the music, with each making profound statements about the importance of jazz in those communities, none of them directed financial resources toward its support. So, a couple of years later, I began working through the Congressional appropriations process to do just that.

In the Fall of 1990, I secured funding for the creation of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra. I was able to obtain additional funds for the Smithsonian's Jazz program on three subsequent occasions. The result has been the solidification of a comprehensive Jazz program that involves preservation, education and performance. I chose to focus my efforts on the Smithsonian Institution because it serves as the nation's treasure chest. It is where all things American that are historic and valued are kept. I wanted Jazz to have an appropriate and permanent place at the Smithsonian. It has that now.

I want to express my special thanks to Dr. John Hasse, the Smithsonian's Curator of

American Music, for his leadership and strong support for Jazz. I also want to congratulate him on establishing Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM). Today, is the kick-off of the 13th JAM, which has grown to become a global celebration of Jazz as America's classical music. I am pleased that John Coltrane, one of our nation's greatest musibians and composers, was selected to be the focus of the 2014 JAM poster and today's JAM activities. The "Acknowledgement" of his recording "A Love Supreme" 50 years ago in December 1964 is a great way to honor John Coltrane. The fact that his original score of that iconic composition is a part of the Smithsonian's collections and is on display there today is much appreciated.

Jazz is now well over 100 years old. Scores of many remarkable compositions, artifacts, documents, and photographs are in private hands, at risk of getting damaged, lost, or being sold abroad. In addition, jazz education at the elementary and secondary school level is virtually impossible to find. As such, in order to ensure the continued prominence of Jazz as a part America's cultural heritage, I have just introduced H.R. 4280, the National Jazz Preservation, Education, and Promulgation Act of 2014. This legislation would enable the further implementation the mandate established in H. Con. Res. 57. It will help our nation preserve its jazz heritage, educate our youth about this national treasure, and encourage the promulgation of jazz by fostering opportunities for jazz artists to create and share their music with the public here and abroad.

H.R. 4280 would authorize funding to establish a National Jazz Preservation Program at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. The Program would create oral and video histories of leading jazz artists, acquire, preserve and interpret artifacts, and conduct exhibitions and other educational activities that would enable generations of Americans to learn about and enjoy jazz. The Program would also work with local museums, educational institutions and community organizations to establish jazz collections and share artifacts between them.

In addition, the legislation promotes jazz education in several ways. It encourages the introduction of jazz to our youth by authorizing funding to establish a Jazz Artists in the Schools Program. This program should be modeled on the successful one previously operated by the National Endowment for the Arts. It also authorizes funding for the development of jazz education curriculum and materials and their dissemination to educators at all levels. The bill authorizes funding for a Jazz Ambassadors Program. This program should be modeled on the historic one that the U.S. State Department launched back in 1956. That program sent noted American jazz musicians abroad to perform. My bill would enable young jazz musicians and jazz ensembles from secondary schools to be sent abroad on missions of goodwill, education, and cultural exchange.

Finally, HR 4280 promotes the promulgation of jazz by authorizing funding to support a nationwide series of performances by jazz artists. This would be done through the establishment of a Jazz Appreciation Program at the Smithsonian Institution. This program would

work through the network of Smithsonian Affiliates to host jazz concerts. The Affiliates network includes more than 180 museums, educational and cultural organizations in more than 40 states, Puerto Rico and Panama.

I encourage all of you to take a look at and consider supporting H.R. 4280. I also encourage you to share a copy of it with others that have an interest in America's jazz music.

□ 1715

HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT

(Mr. ROONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I was happy to see the President sign H.R. 3370, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act. This bill is an important first step in addressing affordability in the national flood insurance program, but we have a long way to go to put solvency back into the system.

We are working hard not only through the appropriations process, but also with leadership and other Members in coastal districts whose constituents have been victims of the rate increases brought about by Biggert-Waters. H.R. 3370 has some great provisions, including: removal of the dreaded "sales trigger" that would have devastated the housing and real estate markets in Florida and other states. Perhaps most importantly, we were able to reassure FEMA of the importance of the affordability study.

Mr. Speaker, the next step is to find new ways to stabilize NFIP and make flood insurance more affordable for homeowners and small businesses. I will continue working with my colleagues in Florida and across the country to put some stability back in this important system.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS DISCUSSES FRACKING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and we are here today to talk about the issue of fracturing, also known as fracking, and the need to have more regulation on fracking to protect our environment, our groundwater, our air, and the families who live around the over half-million wells that are across the country, and also talk a little bit about global warming.

The Progressive Caucus has been at the forefront of talking about issues that are important to our environment. We have so much to do to stop the effects of global warming that are

happening. Climate change is real. It is one of the greatest threats that we have to our country and to our planet. There are increasing CO₂ levels in our atmosphere, and if we continue to leave that unchecked, they carry very dire consequences for the future of the planet.

Rising sea levels, unpredictable and dangerous weather patterns, and drought are all examples of the consequences of failing to take action to address this threat. For generations, those who have come before us have held the ideal that they should leave their descendants with a better life. This is an integral part of our American story.

I joined the Safe Climate Caucus because I believe in leaving a safer environment for future generations of Americans. Stewardship of our environment, of the air we breathe and the water we drink, is essential to this commitment.

That is why I am here today to voice my support for commonsense legislation that will end unnecessary exemptions that protect the oil and gas industry from basic regulations and instead extend protections for our families and communities in all areas that effect global warming. But specifically tonight, we want to talk a little bit about fracturing.

I would like to first yield to a colleague, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), a great poet. I think we are going to be entertained and informed through that entertainment.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time. This is just a little short ditty because I am very concerned as a person who lives in an inner city environment, I have become intensely aware of how environmental injustice affects the health and safety of our communities.

So I just wanted to talk a little bit about fracking this evening.

As we frack, under intense pressure, we force a fissure through the delicate veins of our unbound Earth and a black hole forms, poisoning the valley and streams of our spirit.

Man, don't you fear it? Wrecking the ecosystem and trekking recklessly over pristine black loam.

Man, don't you hear it? The harsh acid rain as it drains into the vital marsh of our existence.

Oh, but, of course, the coarse priority of wealth strips our Earth's fertility and reservoir of life. Fracked and cracked, lost, perhaps for all eternity.

Alas, it is true, there is none so blind as he who will not see.

Mr. POCAN. I thank Representative MOORE for that. Your poetry is always much appreciated not only on this floor, but also in our State of Wisconsin. Thank you for sharing today.

Before I get to fracking, I want to talk about one part of global warming that recently got a little attention

back home but serves as a debate when we talk on the floor of Congress. When I spoke before on the floor of Congress about the need to address global warming, one of the things I said, and this is about 6 weeks ago, was that in Wisconsin, ice fishermen are already noticing fewer days they can be out on our ice-covered lakes.

Now, the conservative right in Wisconsin, they decided to have a field day. There was a shock jock in Milwaukee who decided to play up on this. He said, can you imagine in Wisconsin, where this winter we had days that were minus 22 degrees, real temperature, minus 40 and 50 degrees with wind chill, how can we possibly be talking about fewer days of ice coverage. Based on that cold experience, clearly there is no global warming. Now I know that is not a scientist's statement, that is a shock jock, but they went with it and let it roll.

Here is the reality. We are a planet that is warming. And that statement, despite the polar vortex that we experienced in Wisconsin and other parts of the country that gave us some really cold weather, that is exactly what we are talking about, these intense swings in the weather that can produce that.

What was so interesting was when the conservative movement went so hard to say clearly there is no global warming—they are all climate change deniers that were out doing this attack—they decided to approach a group called PolitiFact. Now PolitiFact often takes things that politicians say and decides where the truth is. Sometimes it is in a TV commercial, sometimes it is in a speech. Specifically, they were asked to address that statement that I made, which was, ice fishermen are already noticing fewer days they can be out on our ice-covered lakes.

Here is what they said. First of all, they rated that statement as true, and here is why. They said it is not just about this winter; it is about what has happened over all in winters in Wisconsin. There is a site called climatewisconsin.org that is done by a number of professors and other professionals in the field in Wisconsin. They have been tracking ice coverage on the lakes in Madison, Lake Mendota, and Lake Monona, going back 150 years. And you know what they found?

Overall, the average number of days of ice cover on the Madison lakes has decreased by around 29 to 35 days over the past 150 years.

Not my words; these are scientists with knowledge, people who work specifically in the field who are measuring our lakes. So when people talk about climate change and they want to deny the facts, the science, that over 95 percent of scientists who work in this field clearly have said we have a climate that is changing because we have global warming because of human activity, well, this is just one example where a simple 1-minute speech on the floor

talking about climate change became a shock jock's material for weeks to talk about why doesn't Congressman POCAN come home and see the weather.

Well, I get home every chance I can. Every single weekend, I am home in Wisconsin. When we are not here, I am in Wisconsin. Trust me, I would prefer to spend my time in the district talking to the people of the district that I represent. I get back there.

Yes, we had cold days. But to determine everything based on a few cold days, that is not science, that is just rhetoric. And that is exactly what PolitiFact found. That their charges were rhetoric, and we are seeing a serious climate change. And when you actually test 150 years of ice coverage in the State of Wisconsin, we now have 29 to 35 fewer days because of global warming.

So before we start talking about fracturing, I wanted to put that out there because it is all a part of why we are talking about this subject today.

At this point, I would yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), the cochair of the Progressive Caucus.

Mr. ELLISON. I appreciate the gentleman for yielding. Congressman POCAN has been just a beacon, a voice for working Americans all over the country. Our States are next to each other, and we share a lot. I am honored to be here with you today.

We are going to talk about fracking, but I just want to set the stage for the conversation. You know, we are in the United States House of Representatives and we have had stagnant wages for 40 years, yet we can't see a way, a bill to raise the minimum wage on the House floor.

We see that unemployment insurance has been stalled since December 28, 2013. Mr. POCAN has made this point abundantly clear, and over 2 million people are now without that unemployment insurance support, and yet we still see no action on the House floor here.

We see our infrastructure crumbling across the United States. In Minnesota, we saw our I-35 bridge fall into the Mississippi River. We have seen water mains break and problems with grids, and yet we see no action here on the House floor.

We all thought we were going to get some action on immigration reform. In fact, even the Speaker, to his credit, said I have some principles out there, let's talk about how we move forward. The Senate already has moved forward. Yet no sooner than the Speaker said he had some principles he wanted to start working on did he come back and say he can't trust Obama so we can't have an immigration bill.

It is outrageous how little substantive work we have done on this floor of the House of Representatives: no to immigration reform; no to unemployment insurance; no to raising the

minimum wage; and no to all these key things that Americans really, really need. What is the idea here? What is the idea when we won't do anything other than politically charged bills to sort of make a point? I mean, what is that all about?

Well, today we are going to talk a little bit about fracking, but I ask the question, Mr. Speaker: When are we going to get to some real work around here? We cannot be in this House of Representatives with a responsibility to discharge the duties of the American people, and we are completely unresponsive under this Republican leadership to what the American people want. People are unemployed. People need a raise. People need a better life, and we are not doing anything to help.

In fact, the only time we ever care about NEPA, which is environmental review, is if it is going to block monuments that the President may want to decide to establish. Every other time, it is a "job-killing regulation." It is total lingo, total rhetoric, and it is just really a shame. I am getting to the point, Mr. Speaker, and I want to yield back to the gentleman so we can begin talking about fracking, but it is really getting frustrating.

We know we are here with different political points of view. I am a proud, progressive liberal, absolutely. Just like Hubert H. Humphrey, LBJ, Martin Luther King, I admired them all, and I am not apologizing to anybody for being as progressive liberal as I am. But that doesn't stop me from talking to a conservative Republican as long as we are both trying to solve the problem. But they are not trying to solve anything.

I am happy to talk to Republicans with their conservative views. We will haggle it out, and we will meet somewhere in the middle. It will not be everything I want, and it will not do everything they want, but we will do something.

Where are we at? No immigration, nothing. Where are we at with UI, people are suffering, 2 million strong? Nowhere. Where are we at on raising the minimum wage, which has been sliding as inflation goes up, and we have lower minimum wage than we did since the 1950s when you adjust it for inflation? Nothing. We are just not meeting the needs of the American people.

We have tried to repeal ObamaCare—I even hate that phrasing—the Affordable Care Act, 53 times. This is an outrage.

We shut down the government for 16 days for the one purpose of stopping people getting access to health care, and yet it feels like we are in "Star Wars," Mr. Speaker.

I just had to share those views and just share my thoughts that it is time, high time, for us to get to work, to stop this party of no business, to stop this obstructionism and bring our val-

ues, different though they are, to this debate and come up with something to meet the needs of the American people.

I thank the gentleman for letting me share my views on those matters.

□ 1730

Mr. POCAN. Thank you very much, Mr. ELLISON. I share your concern. I came to Congress as a new Member, thinking that we are going to get some important work done for the country.

I remember, in history class, I believe it was the Congress of 1948 that got so little done that they were dubbed the do-nothing Congress—well, because they did nothing, right? So they get the label. That do-nothing Congress passed 350 bills. That is it.

Our Congress last year passed 62 bills.

Mr. ELLISON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. POCAN. Absolutely.

Mr. ELLISON. If we were the do-nothing Congress of the 1940s, that would be more activity than we have right now. We are the do-nothing Congress. We are the do-nothing Congress. Our goal is to improve the lives of Americans. I would be surprised if it was even half of the 60 that we actually did pass.

It is hard to get a label, gentlemen, to what you would call worse than the do-nothing Congress. I don't know what the label would be to establish to us. It has been a highly unproductive Congress.

What was interesting, at the end of January, I got on the elevator with a Republican who I won't name, and I said: We have been here for two weeks again, and we haven't done anything.

The response I got is: Don't worry. It will get better in 3 or 4 years.

I don't know about you, gentleman, but I didn't come to Congress to wait 3 or 4 years. We have real work to do.

Mr. ELLISON. That's right.

Mr. POCAN. Whether it be the fact that we have discharge petitions now on raising the minimum wage, so that people can be lifted out of poverty who are working hard every single day, playing by the rules, and just trying to get by; by extending unemployment benefits to the millions of people in the country who have lost those extended benefits—including a gentleman from Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, who was my guest right here in this Chamber for the State of the Union.

He was my guest. He had lost his benefits at the end of December. He was a steamfitter, worked hard all of his life, played by the rules, and because of not extending the emergency benefits, they are in dire financial straits.

His wife wrote me an email. This is how we found out about them. Their daughter wanted to bring a friend over for dinner, and they said: I don't know if we can afford another plate at the table.

They have their home up for sale because they don't want to be foreclosed on. This is the reality of Congress not acting.

Today, we now have a discharge petition on immigration reform, something that will effect millions and millions of people across this country. This Congress is not acting.

What we are going to talk about in just a little bit are 5 bills that effect fracking—fracturing—to make sure that everyone can have cleaner air, cleaner water and that people can actually know what toxins are going in the ground when so many people live so close to these wells across the country.

There is more of an agenda that the Progressive Caucus is working on and that we are trying to put out there. Again, I think, gentlemen, we would be remiss if we didn't talk about, just very briefly, the Progressive Caucus' budget, the better-off budget, to make sure people are better actually investing in infrastructure, to actually invest in research and development, to actually invest in education, and to get people back to work now.

Mr. ELLISON. If the gentleman would yield about the better-off budget?

All I want to say about the better-off budget is that it is going make Americans better off. That is what the better-off budget does.

The better-off budget topline 8.8 million jobs—8.8 million jobs—in 3 years. That is what we do by making infrastructures in education and infrastructure, putting people back to work, making sure that public employees, teachers, police officers, people like that, stay on the job. This is what the better-off budget does.

Now, the Republicans are going to come in here with a budget, and they are going to brag about how much deficit reduction it does. We have already been reducing the deficit significantly, by the way; but they are going to talk about what they have cut.

They are going say: oh, we cut food stamps, we cut Head Start, we cut medical research, we cut research on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and things like that. They are going to brag about how many people they have left behind.

I think that the real thing is that, as we invested 8.8 million jobs, our better-off budget actually has deficit reductions to a tune of about \$4 trillion in 10 years because, as people are working, they are paying taxes, and we are growing ourselves out of the debt and deficit picture.

That is why even some conservative groups have said that this is a good budget because we are being responsible about the debt, not because we are pointing straight at it, but because we are pointing straight at putting people back to work, people are working, people are paying taxes, and we

are dealing with our fiscal picture. So the better-off budget is definitely worth people reading about. It is an awesome budget.

A few things I just want to mention about the better-off budget, and then we can talk about it another time. We also require in our budget that the amount of money going to our spy agencies, our intelligence agencies, the topline be revealed, not the nuts and bolts and the guts of it, but just in these days of NSA spying and things like that, I think it is important to have budget accountability, so that people really know.

This is something that we hope people will really look at and feel that Congress is actually exercising its proper role in doing oversight with this.

The other thing is there was a huge fight over chained CPI. This is that form of CPI, this measure of inflation, which literally cut benefits for people who are older Americans, people who are on disability benefits, and people who are on survivor benefits. It cuts their benefit over time.

CPI-E, another measure of inflation that actually enhances retirement benefit because it really reflects the real cost associated with making a living in the United States, so we put CPI-E in our budget, which we believe is a far better measure of what is really going on in days of retirement insecurity brought about because of decisions of the Republican Caucus.

It is important that we really invest in making sure that we have some retirement security.

So those are just a few lines on the better-off budget, but I do want to thank you for raising it.

Mr. POCAN. Thank you, Mr. ELLISON, for all your leadership and your cochairing the Progressive Caucus.

One other thing that is in that budget, in addition to growing us out of the economic problems we have had in this country that we have slowly been rebounding out of, we also take away the subsidies to oil and gas companies, which save this country money that we can invest in creating jobs, but also deals directly with the issue at hand, which is the issue of fracking.

What is fracking? It is hydraulic fracturing, or it is called fracking. Is a process of drilling by injecting a fluid, which is a chemical water-sand mix, into the ground, at a very high pressure, in order to fracture shale rocks to release natural gas inside. That is the basic concept behind fracking. There are about a half a million active natural gas wells in the United States right now.

Here is what is involved in the process that I think people don't really realize: Every single gas well requires an average of 400 tanker trucks to carry water and supplies to the site. It takes 1 to 8 million gallons of water to complete each fracturing job.

To run all the active wells in the U.S., that would be 72 trillion—trillion with a t-r—trillion gallons of water and 360 billion gallons of chemicals that are used in this process. The water is brought in, it is mixed with sand in a chemical mix to create a fracturing fluid.

Now, one of the things I think that people don't realize is we don't know what is in that fracturing fluid because the companies say that it is proprietary. If they gave up that information, it is a secret sauce that they put together that allows them to do this; and if they disclose that, somehow, a competitor could find out what it is.

The problem is that also means you and I don't know what those toxic chemicals are. We have an idea, in some cases, what is used, but the exact mix, you don't know in any specific well.

So you have 40,000 gallons of chemicals used per fracturing, with up to 600 chemicals in any fracturing fluid, which has known carcinogens and toxins. This fracking fluid has been pressure injected into the ground through a drilled pipeline about 10,000 feet deep.

The mixture reaches the end of the well, where the high pressure causes the nearby shale rock to crack, creating fissures where the natural gas can flow into the wells. Only about 30 or 50 percent of the fracturing fluid is ever recovered. The rest of the toxic mix is left in the ground, and it is not biodegradable.

Also, during this process, methane gas and toxic chemicals leach out of the system and contaminate our nearby groundwater. Methane concentrations are 17 times higher in drinking water wells near fracturing sites than normal wells.

You may remember—I believe Time magazine had it, and I have seen it on TV—where people in Pennsylvania, in some cases, near wells, have turned on their drinking water and a match and lit the drinking water on fire from what has been released into the groundwater from fracking wells.

This contaminated well water is then used for drinking water, like I explained, in these nearby communities, and there have been over a thousand documented cases of water contamination next to areas of gas drilling, as well as cases of sensory, respiratory, and neurological damage due to ingested contaminated water.

In the end, the hydraulic fracturing produces about 300,000 barrels of natural gas a day, but the price is numerous environmental, safety, and health hazards that we have to deal with.

I yield time to Mr. ELLISON.

Mr. ELLISON. Certainly, I think it is really important for the gentleman to bring us to this conversation about fracking today. It is a lot of courage that you bring to this debate as well.

The interests that are really promoting fracking are powerful, wealthy,

energy companies; and opposing them, you know, is something that, I believe, is something that not everybody would do. I think raising real questions about how this is affecting the health and the environment are critical.

I had the occasion of talking with a number of people in my office who came and told me really amazing stories about what their experiences with fracking were. One gentleman actually told me a story about the lighting of the fire coming out of the faucet in the sink.

Another told me a story about how his cows drank the water that was contaminated with the fracking fluid, and those cows died. Another individual told me how, when they made complaints about it, there was just a lack of responsiveness.

These are folks who—before they came to my office, I didn't know them—but they wanted to talk to me about a problem of common concern, so I said: Sure. Share with me what you know.

What they shared with me caused me to do my own research. I was particularly disturbed by the fact that the process, particularly the fluid that is used, is not something that we can know. I think you are talking about injecting a fluid into the ground that is causing the natural gas to come up, and yet, it has proprietary protections.

Now, how can we safeguard the public interest if we don't even know what is in that stuff? If nothing in there is harmful, why don't they want to share what is in that stuff?

At the end of day, there are stories of regular citizens, cropping up all over this country, about dead farm animals, toxic drinking water, fire coming out of the water faucet, and all sorts of things. It has happened to people who thought that they could lead a good life, trying to farm, trying to live in rural America, and yet, the answers just are not coming for them.

I remain very concerned. I believe that we do have a public interest in knowing much more about this process. A few years ago, Mr. Speaker, we were sort of sold that natural gas would be the answer to get off petroleum, but what we didn't know is all the health hazards that were involved with trying to make that conversion.

It is absolutely essential that we, as the American people, get to the bottom of the health risks associated with all of the ingredients of fracking. These same folks who came to my office, Mr. Speaker, made complaints about skin irritation, nasal irritation, eye problems, chronic issues; they talk about farm animals and other sorts of issues that they have lost. It is just something that I think is crying out for real answers.

If Congress does not stand up and say, look, we have got to figure out

what the environmental health impacts on fracking are on our citizens, then who is now going to?

Europe has already asked some tough questions about how fracking works. Europe has already said: Well, wait a minute. We need to know a little bit more about this.

In some places, the practice has been banned. I really believe that this is an appalling situation, calling out for answers, and it is our public duty to get those answers.

I appreciate the time to talk about my exposure, my discussions with people who have experienced fracking firsthand.

I also need to mention one other thing that I forgot. One gentleman talked about the frequency of earthquakes near the fracking area. When he tried to figure out and when he asked questions about, well, is the fracking causing the earthquakes because, before you were fracking, there were no earthquakes, he really was stonewalled and didn't get any answers.

It makes sense—you are doing something to disrupt the ground, you are shooting a substance into the ground causing these sort of issues, like tremors in the Earth; and then this farmer who talked to me could not get any answers and could not get much responsiveness.

Again, this is something I remain concerned about and look forward to people Facebooking, Tweeting, and writing regular old emails and snail mails telling their stories about what they are going through, so that we can make a case. The true, real investigation needs to take place, and we can actually look out for the public interest.

□ 1745

Mr. POCAN. Thank you, Mr. ELLISON.

It is not just members of the Progressive Caucus, Democrats, or concerned citizens who live near these wells who are talking about this. There actually was a recent investigation that was done by The Weather Channel, the Center for Public Integrity, and InsideClimate News that found numerous violations on current sites.

At one, they found, for example, that the State of Texas, that they know “almost nothing” about the pollution that one of these shale drilling wells causes. They said that thousands of Texas oil and gas facilities are allowed to self-audit their emissions, meaning they don't have to report them to the State. They go on to talk about pollution complaints. They also said in another study in the U.K. and Pennsylvania that they looked at multiple data sets of wells in Pennsylvania to determine the rate of well failures, and they found that one-third of a data set of 3,500 wells were reported for environmental violations between 2008 and 2011.

So, while we have special exemptions in clean water and in clean air laws for this process, we are finding severe violations by groups like The Weather Channel—hardly someone who is biased—who actually look at these facilities. Then when you actually look at the list of chemicals, at some of the known 600 chemicals that go into these mixes, and when you look at the actual effects—the colors—that are on here, you have got chemicals that lead to skin, eye, and sensory organ problems, problems with respiratory, in gastrointestinal, in the brain and nervous systems, the immune systems, with the kidney, cardiovascular and blood, with carcinogens, mutagens, developmental, reproductive, and endocrine disrupters. These are the types of effects that can happen from the chemicals that we are not even allowed to know that are happening.

I think one of the most telling parts of this is that 15.3 million people in this country live within a mile of one of these wells that have been drilled since the year 2000. That is more than the entire State of Michigan. These are people who live near a well who don't have the public information that they need to know for their families' safety.

Members of this caucus, the Progressive Caucus, have worked on five bills that have been kind of called the “frac pack,” which address specific concerns that we have on the regulation of this. We are not saying that you are going to stop this completely, but we should know what we are doing, not proceed until you know what you are doing and make sure we provide the clean air, the clean water and the notification requirements so that we actually know what we are doing before we proceed. I would like to go over those bills if I could. I would like to just give you a little idea of some of the bills that are out there.

One bill by Representative DIANA DEGETTE, from the State of Colorado, is called the FRAC Act. That bill would close the so-called “Halliburton loophole.” That loophole protects the special sauce recipe of chemicals that they use for this fracturing process. It also protects the companies that drill for natural gas from disclosing those chemicals involved in the fracking operations, which would normally be required by our clean water laws that we have at the Federal level. It has three major provisions:

One, it repeals the exemptions granted to oil, gas, and geothermal fracking operations under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Let's make sure our water is safe as the Safe Drinking Water Act says;

Second, it would make sure that all fracking operations would be required to disclose to the State as well as the public the fracking chemical cocktail intended for use prior to the commencement of any operations—not

after your water is set on fire, not after your cows are sick, not after your family has problems, but prior to the use of those chemicals;

Finally, if a medical emergency should arise, any fracking operation would be required to disclose the exact chemical formula of any compounds utilized.

It is a pretty basic set of ideas that would make sure that you have at least information to know.

There are four other bills.

Another bill that is part of the frac pack is the BREATHE Act, introduced by Representative CARTWRIGHT from Pennsylvania and Representative POLIS from Colorado. It would close the loopholes of the Clean Air Act that currently exempt the oil and gas industry from essential protections from toxic air pollution, as those studies have been proven from the wells they tested in Pennsylvania. The bill would also require that toxic emissions of multiple related smelt sources be aggregated to determine total emissions, just like other industries have to, so they are not exempted in other ways, and it makes sure, with all fracking operations that release pollutants, including benzene, that we have protections in these areas.

Another bill is the CLEANER Act, which has been introduced, again, by Representative CARTWRIGHT from Pennsylvania and Representative JARED HUFFMAN from California. This bill would specifically protect the environment and the public health by closing a loophole in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which currently prevents adequate, consistent regulation of harmful waste associated with oil and natural gas production and, particularly, with fracking, and it has a few other compounds specifically related to that.

The next bill is the FRESHER Act, introduced, again, by Representative CARTWRIGHT from Pennsylvania. This would close the loophole in the Clean Water Act, and it would require oil and gas producers to obtain the standard permits necessary for activities that increase storm water runoff and risk water pollution. Treat them like everybody else so that we know what is going on in the process. It also makes oil and gas companies play by the exact same rules that apply to other industries, and it conducts a basic study to further make sure that we understand what they are using.

The final bill that is part of the frac pack is a bill called the SHARED Act, introduced by JAN SCHAKOWSKY from the State of Illinois. This bill would provide further protection for public health by requiring water testing before fracking begins, and it would help document any drinking water contamination within a mile's radius of a site operation.

Now, none of these are crazy ideas, saying we are absolutely closing down

every operation because we don't like it. It is saying let's make sure they follow the law like any other industry would follow the law when it comes to our clean water and our clean air and that we know what toxic compounds are being put into the groundwater since we know so much of it is left there, especially when you live nearby, like 15.3 million Americans do. Those are simple bills that we have put out there that we are hoping this body will take up, because it is important that we provide those safeguards for the people across the country.

Mr. ELLISON. I do appreciate the gentleman for going over all of those bills, which, I think, will bring about transparency, accountability, disclosure—all things that are just basic fairness issues.

In the United States, we pride ourselves on having due process and fairness and accountability, and I think every one of those bills has a lot of merit and should be carefully considered because they will allow Americans to make decisions about whether this practice of hydraulic fracking is something that we need to just continue to let happen as it happens now.

There is an idea in economics, which is, if you make the money, you need to pay the cost, right? If you are going to internalize the profits, you should internalize the costs of what you are doing. If you are going to make a lemonade stand, then you should buy the lemons; you should get the water; you should put in whatever sweetener you have; you should clean up after yourself after you make the lemonade; and you should deal with problems that you cause in the sale of your lemonade. Yet, when it comes to fracking, the profits are absolutely internalized, but the cost is forced on everyone else.

How is that good, free market economics to say that we are going to keep the money we make by getting this natural gas but that we are not going to clean up after ourselves and that we are not going to tell everybody what we are doing even though it affects them?

I mean, there is just something very unfair about the way fracking is being done right now. So I think that this set of bills, the frac pack, and this Special Order are really important.

Again, I really urge people, Mr. Speaker, to let their voices be heard because we were told that this is the clean energy future—fracking, natural gas—that it is much cleaner than petroleum. It is. Natural gas is cleaner. It is still a fossil fuel, though, and there are still social and economic and environmental and health costs as a result of the way we get this natural gas.

Unfortunately, I do have to go to another meeting, but I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that there are other ways to power our world. Let us have a real conversation about investing in renew-

able energy, in zero waste, in living in societies that have more transit options, that are more walkable so we use less, that we make our buildings much more fuel efficient.

One of the sad days in Washington was when President Ronald Reagan took down the solar panels that Jimmy Carter had put up on the White House. That was too bad. That was unfortunate that that decision was made. Think about if, in the seventies, we had been moving aggressively into renewables. Think about the world we would live in if we truly had recycling, composting, reuse. Right now, according to the scientists, we have put so much CO₂ up into the atmosphere that we are changing the climate. So who knows if the action that we take now will be enough. We had better take that action. We dare not avoid taking that action. I just think to myself that these things like fracking are not the only answer. Oil and gas exploration is not the only answer. There are other things we can do to power our world, and I absolutely urge us to do it.

I just want to wrap up by saying, too, that, when we think about what we are going to use our tax dollars to subsidize, we are subsidizing the fossil fuel industry. BERNIE SANDERS and I worked on a bill called the End Polluter Welfare Act. We have documented up to about \$110 billion worth of subsidies to the oil and gas industry, which is six times the subsidy that goes to renewable energy sources—solar, wind. It is high time we started investing in the wind and in the Sun and in the wave technology and in other forms of technology that can help us power our world that don't have these ugly, costly, expensive externalities.

I would ask the gentleman to excuse me now, but thank you for hosting this very important Special Order on raising questions around fracking.

Mr. POCAN. Again, thank you, Representative ELLISON, for all of the work you do with the Progressive Caucus.

This was a Special Order hour tonight to talk about why we need to have safer practices around hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in this country. For the 15.3 million people who live within a mile of the wells, for everyone who has to eventually suffer the effects of the environment and the health pollutants that are put out by this, there are bills that are introduced in this body that can make sure that we regulate this better, that can make sure they are not exempt from clean air and clean water protections, and that disclose the toxins that are used so that we can make sure that this process is safer, healthier, and better for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to add as a reminder to everyone, which is also important, that March 31 is the deadline for signing up for the Afford-

able Care Act. There are extensions. If you have tried to do it and if you can't get it done, there is a little bit of an extension at this time, but you need to do it by March 31. I think we have got some of my colleagues who are going to be talking about that in just a little bit, but I would like to encourage everyone to take advantage of that while they have time in the remaining week.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MASSIE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, we are here to talk about the Affordable Care Act, about some of its milestones and the benefits to the people of the United States, also about some of the critiques that have come up over the last few years and in the last few months.

The Affordable Care Act has succeeded in doing a few things. The United States, for a long time, has been the wealthiest nation on Earth; however, millions and millions of Americans, despite our country's wealth, have been unable to get health care insurance. Many folks have suffered a very long time, either themselves or their family members, in not being able to see a doctor when they have needed to and in being kicked off of insurance because they have hit lifetime caps. College students have gone without insurance for years because they could no longer stay on their parents' plans.

There was, I know, a discussion earlier on the floor—I think during the lunch hour—and there was a question raised by one of the Republican Members. Essentially, his question was: What has the Affordable Care Act done?

□ 1800

Well, there are several concrete things that it has done for the United States. The first is that 3 million students have been able to stay on their parents' insurance plans, where they otherwise would have been kicked off before. The average age where students were kicked off before was about 19. Under the Affordable Care Act, millions of college students can now stay on until the age of 26.

We know this number—5 million people, so far, and growing—have signed up for health care through the exchanges. Five million people. That is very significant. That number continues to grow, as some of the busiest days for the health care Web site and for the call-in number have been over the last few weeks.

Also, 4.4 million Americans have signed up for health care through Medicaid. They have been covered through Medicaid expansion.

We can talk about the fact that some States have decided not to expand Medicaid. So millions of these people, including in my home State of Texas, low-income Americans, most of these people going to work every day, working hard to support themselves and their family members who are still low-income Americans, but because the State governments have not expanded Medicaid in many States, they have not been able to get covered. So we are going to talk about that.

Another issue I want to talk a little bit about is something that is very significant for millions and millions of Americans, and that is mental health parity with physical health.

For years, we tried in State legislatures—I know I tried in Texas, as well as people across the United States—to make sure that mental health issues are covered by insurance in the same way that you would cover a broken arm or broken leg or even cancer. Millions of Americans suffer from anxiety, depression, and a slew of mental health issues. Previously, they were unable to get covered.

So those are some of the issues that we are going to talk about this evening.

I now yield to my good friend Congressman, GENE GREEN from Texas.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. First of all, I thank my colleague from San Antonio. We are both Texans, and we know the problems. You served a lot of years in the State legislature. I did, too. Frankly, I think a lot of our problems could have been dealt with if Texas would have expanded Medicaid. We are actually giving back money to the Federal Government and not covering children and families in our community because of that.

Frankly, even with the problems with the rollout of the Affordable Care Act, I know some States have done a great job, like Kentucky and California. Some States haven't. But I would think that if Texas did their own exchange, we could be the ones making those decisions, I think particularly with the Medicaid expansion.

I appreciate you asking for the Special Order tonight because we are coming down up to the deadline of March 31. In fact, I have to do a commercial first.

A lot of us have done these events on how people can sign up for the Afford-

able Care Act. I have one that we are sponsoring this Saturday at the Harris County Department of Education building. It is at 6300 Irvington Boulevard in our district. I am partnering with some of your former colleagues: State Representative Armando Walle; State Representative Jessica Farrar; our relatively new State senator, Sylvia Garcia; and our city council member, Ed Gonzalez. We are doing that this Saturday from 9 to 1 so people can come in and sign up.

The success, though, is that the Web site was down for 2 months, but we have seen a huge number of people signing up—5 million as of last week. I hear on Monday of this week they had 1 million contacts, both by phone and to the Web site.

So there is a need out there for the Affordable Care Act. It is landmark health care reform.

I was on the subcommittee and the Committee of Energy and Commerce to help draft part of it. We did days and nights of drafting amendments. We had both bipartisan amendments adopted, including one on mental health that Congressman MURPHY from Pennsylvania and I had worked out to expand mental health coverage.

Of course, we live in a bicameral Congress and sometimes the Senate doesn't always do what we would like to do on the House side. That is the nature of it. But the Affordable Care Act is expanding health care access.

You mentioned some of the successes that we have. I know as a State legislator I would have loved to have a State law that required insurance companies to pay 80 percent of their premiums they received back as benefits. I don't know of any State that does that. I would have loved to have that in Texas.

Somebody who pays an insurance premium, whether it is employer health care or an individual health policy, they can be guaranteed that 80 percent of their premium will come back in benefits. That is what the Federal law is.

We hear our Republican colleagues say they still haven't come up to an alternative to the Affordable Care Act—because they can't.

That is one of the successes in there, and there are a lot of successes. In fact, some of that law is actually Republican ideas that have been built up over the last 20 or 30 years, saying, How can we cover the uninsured in our country?

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. That is right.

Congressman, once upon a time, these were the ideas of the Heritage Foundation. This was a conservative movement, conservative ideas, about how folks would take individual responsibility. Because, as you know, being in Harris County, our large hospitals systems end up with millions of dollars in uncompensated care every year.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Our Harris County Hospital district is our catchment. But not all counties in the State of Texas have that option to have a hospital district.

Even in our area, I have a district that is one of the highest in the country of people who work who don't get insurance through their employer. That is why the Affordable Care Act is important. In our district, we have an estimated 261,000 people who would have the opportunity to get health care through the Affordable Care Act. And we are hoping to sign them up. We started in November, and we have had these workshops literally all over our district, in partnership with lots of different groups.

The Affordable Care Act is particularly important in our districts because we have one of the highest rates in the country of people who are uninsured. It is essential people know that the financial assistance is available under the Affordable Care Act that can lower their health care costs. In fact, nearly 6 of the 10 uninsured people will find that they can find health coverage for \$100 or less a month.

Like I said, this Saturday we are having a forum. This forum is a great opportunity for people to come and actually learn about health care options, because health care insurance is important.

After World War II, our country made a decision. The countries we rebuilt in Western Europe had government-run insurance. Canada has government-run insurance. Our country decided to go with employer-based insurance. And that worked well up until about 10 or 12 years ago, where we started seeing employers drop that coverage.

At one time in our country, 80 percent of the people who worked had insurance through their employer. Now it is below 60 percent, and it is getting worse. Although with the Affordable Care Act, we are actually seeing increases. Because even a small business can be eligible for subsidies to cover their employees under the Affordable Care Act.

Like I said, as a member the Energy and Commerce Committee, I am proud of us passing something. It is not perfect, but it is a step in the right direction. I would hope that this Congress and maybe a future Congress can say, Okay, let's see what is wrong with the Affordable Care Act. It is just like we had to go back and fix Medicare on a number of occasions.

Nobody wants to abolish Medicare. It is one of the greatest pieces of legislation that we have ever passed. I would hope that over the years we would not only build on the Affordable Care Act to make people—just like with Medicare—know that they don't have to worry about putting their families in

bankruptcy because they have an illness. The Affordable Care Act will help us on the road to protect that.

I appreciate your leadership tonight on this. I know I have a colleague from California from my class who is up next. I thank you for your time.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congressman.

A few things that you pointed out that I think are especially noteworthy. The first is that there is no perfect bill that we pass here. And especially, the larger the bill is, the more you are going to have to come back and change it and tweak it. That is what you have seen with the Affordable Care Act. So there is no surprise that we are going to have to have some changes to it. Quite frankly, there have been some changes in deadlines. There have been some other changes. Americans rightly ask, Well, why is the President or the administration doing that?

Well, it is very simple. Last year, for example, Congress passed the least amount of legislation of any year on record. The President is taking action to improve the law because the Congress will not or cannot. Somebody has got to be doing something here in Washington. Unfortunately, in the House of Representatives, we have hit a standstill. So the administration is making sure and listening to Americans and making the changes that are necessary.

No bill is ever going to be perfect. Social Security was deeply criticized when it was enacted. For several years, Medicare was deeply criticized when it was enacted.

So this is no surprise. Americans in previous generations have seen this before, have lived through this before, and this program has been a successful one. It will be even more successful as we go forward, and we will continue to talk a bit about some of the benefits to millions of Americans.

Before I yield to my colleague from California, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, I want to point out that there are a few ways people can get information and sign up. We have been talking a lot about the Web site and asking people to go online, but there is also the traditional method.

We have the online Web site at healthcare.gov, of course. Also, by mail. You can download an application and send it in by mail. You can go in person here. You can also call by phone at 1-800-318-2596. I know there has been a lot of emphasis on the Web site, but you can also enroll by these traditional methods. That means a lot to a lot of folks in different communities.

I was at an enrollment fair on Saturday, and there was a woman who looked to be somewhere between 55 and 60. Quite honestly, she was a bit baffled by having to get on the computer, even thought she was being assisted, and she asked, Is there another way I can do it

where I don't have to use a computer? The answer to that is yes, there are traditional methods.

With that, I want to yield to Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD from the wonderful city of Los Angeles.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for organizing tonight's Special Order on the Affordable Care Act, which is helping to make health care a reality for millions of Americans across our Nation.

Luckily, California is one of the States that has a plan. It has bought into the Affordable Care Act. As a result, thousands of California are now benefiting from what we in California call Covered California, which is the ACA plan there.

By enrolling in the Affordable Care Act, parents and their children no longer have to endure illnesses or painful injuries because they can't afford a doctor. Parent don't have to worry about their children getting a preventable illness because they can't afford to have them vaccinated or treated for a chronic preventable disease.

Why? Because under the ACA, many immunizations and preventative services are free.

Seniors and adults are also eligible for free preventive services, including annual checkups, annual mammograms, prostate cancer screenings, and immunizations. Young adults, including 435,000 young Californians, don't have to worry about being a burden on their family if they get sick or are in an accident because they can remain on their parents' insurance until age 26, and get affordable insurance after that.

Also critical is the fact that under the Affordable Care Act, no one can be denied health care coverage because of a preexisting condition.

The ACA is a wonderful opportunity, as you have pointed out, for uninsured Americans to get the health care that they need to improve the quality of life for themselves and for that of their family. And I would like to just give one example of that.

A constituent of mine from the city of Bell by the name of Roberto Rivas is in his mid-twenties. On December 21, 2013, he arrived at 6 a.m. to enroll in a health insurance plan before going to work at KFC, where he is not offered any health insurance. He is also a full-time student at Trade Tech studying chemistry. He would like to use his education to study proteins and to research viruses such as hepatitis and other infectious diseases.

Until the age of 21, along with his 10-year-old sister, he was covered by his mother under Medi-Cal. When he turned 21, he was no longer eligible for Medi-Cal. He lost that insurance and was left completely without any health insurance whatsoever.

Shortly after, he began suffering from breathing problems. He went to a

doctor and found out that he had pneumonia. Later, after being treated for that pneumonia, he received a medical bill for \$4,663. He had no insurance to cover that. He even asked for charity care services to help cover his expenses, but was denied that request.

Robert said:

As a minimum wage worker and a full-time student, it is hard to get health insurance.

Thanks to ObamaCare:

Now I can go to school and not stress about getting sick and ending up in the hospital.

I'm calling everybody in my family to tell them I'm enrolled in health care and that they need to come out and get covered, too.

□ 1815

Robert Rivas was also astounded by the service, the friendly faces, and the applause he received when he enrolled; and he says:

To know so many people actually care about me getting health insurance is great.

This is just one example of the millions of Americans who are benefitting from what we call ObamaCare, or the Affordable Care Act.

I am hoping that more Californians who have not applied, and Americans across the country who are uninsured and can benefit greatly by enrolling in health care, that they don't miss out.

There are only 5 days left until the enrollment deadline of March 31. I hope that, today, they will visit healthcare.gov or use any services which you have already outlined to enroll in the Affordable Care Act for themselves and for their families.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congresswoman. And what a powerful story that you have told. I am glad to hear that California has done such an incredible job in making health care available to its constituents and to its residents. Thank you.

I would also point out, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD mentioned something that is very significant because Republicans have tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act now—I think it is about 51 times—50, 51 times.

We make no bones about it. There are a lot of Americans—a decent number of Americans who agree with that argument, who say repeal it; but let's understand, if your argument is repeal it, then understand exactly what you are repealing.

First, there is no plan that has been offered by the other side—no alternative. Also, if you repeal it, what you are saying now is you are going to, again, allow insurance companies to kick off cancer patients because they hit a lifetime limit, send them out of the hospital, send them home.

You are not going to allow recent college graduates to stay on their parents' insurance until they are 26 years old.

Remember, health care problems and big hospital bills, for years now, have been the number one reason for personal bankruptcies. People would run out of insurance money.

They would have to take out all of their savings from their bank accounts to pay their hospital bills; and then, they could no longer make their mortgage payment, their car payment. They couldn't help their kids go to college. They essentially became broke.

If you are talking about repealing the Affordable Care Act, then you have to accept and be upfront about the kind of future that you are inviting, which is a travel back to the past.

I have been surprised in my time here that Republicans have tried to repeal this law 51 times, and what is more surprising is that there is no alternative plan to the Affordable Care Act.

That is why, in the surveys, you see over 60 percent of Americans that say: Yeah, I may have an issue with it. I didn't like the way the Web site was done. I disagree with some parts of it, but I don't want it repealed. I want it improved.

Unfortunately, on the other side of the aisle, the strategy has not been to improve this thing and work with us to make it better. Like I said, any big law—any big law—whether it is about health care or mortgages or financial services or anything, any big law is going to require some tweaks and some changes.

So I hope that they will listen to the voice of Americans and take a different tack.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. I thank my good friend from San Antonio, Texas.

Congressman CASTRO, you are absolutely right. To go back away from the Affordable Care Act means to go back to the old system, and the old system is not the good old days.

When we are looking at families who are fortunate to even have insurance, their insurance is going up seven to 17 percent, year over year over year. That is unsustainable.

People's income does not go up that high, that fast. People's opportunity to find other ways to find that money somewhere else in their budget doesn't go up that fast, so those were not the good old days. Actually, the best days are yet to come.

What we have seen 52 times here is an opportunity—or a tried opportunity to sabotage the Affordable Care Act, and by calling it by another name doesn't make it bad.

Yes, the rollout could have happened better, but the bottom line is the good days are yet to come. They are here now. The past are not the good old days.

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak. I think it is important for us to understand that what we are talking about here is high quality affordable health care, which is something that was denied and out of reach for so many seniors and families in my

district in the San Fernando Valley and across the country.

One in three people in my district were uninsured, but Covered California is giving those people the opportunity to purchase affordable plans that will give them the care they need when they get sick and the preventative services they will need to stay healthy.

While the rollout of the Affordable Care Act hasn't been perfect, Covered California has been very successful in providing a simple, straightforward way to enroll.

I feel really bad for those States where their State legislatures and their Republican Representatives have denied them the opportunity to experience good affordable health care. I hope that they can catch up.

Last week, Covered California announced that they had enrolled over 1 million people through the State-run exchange. That is in California alone. Their critical work has helped hundreds of thousands of California families, seniors, small businesses to gain access to high quality affordable health care that was once denied to them for too long.

My staff and I have been working alongside Covered California to help enroll residents in the San Fernando Valley. Over the last few months, I have been hosting a series of successful enrollment workshops for the Affordable Care Act; and as a matter of fact, we will reach 30 events by this weekend.

This is where families learn about the options available to them under the new health care law, including learning about insurance policies that can be purchased through the Covered California health insurance exchange, which has been successful in getting folks enrolled.

More than 500 families have taken advantage of these workshops just in my district alone.

Wow. Can you imagine, Congressman CASTRO, if every single one of the 435 Congressional Members rolled up their sleeves and helped people get enrolled? That would be millions upon millions of more American families that would be enrolled in affordable health care.

In the last week before the deadline, every Representative should take this opportunity to do the same job that we have been able to do in my district. We must help families sign up for the Affordable Health Care Act.

The day will come very soon when the truth will overcome the lies that have scared so many people. Billions of dollars have been spent scaring people away from trying to even enroll in the Affordable Care Act.

Let me give you an example. I have met with parents who have come to workshops to sign up, and they have anxiety and fear in their eyes; but thank God, just moments later, their fears go away when they find out that

they now have affordable, reliable health care.

People with mild asthma that were once denied health care can no longer be discriminated against. They are no longer denied health care, and they can breathe easy knowing that they can now see a doctor, and they can actually get the medicines that they need just to breathe.

I met with a gentleman who was sitting there with his wife and his daughter, the sole income earner for that family. I don't know how he does it, but with \$9 an hour, he manages to feed a family of three; and he was worried that he couldn't afford maybe \$30, \$40, \$50 a month.

When the person turned the computer around and showed him what his eligibility was, he almost came to tears, realizing that, once and for all, himself, his wife, and his teenage daughter can now have health care.

I will tell you what. This is serious business. America, it is time that you sign up for affordable health care. Just try it. Don't worry; be happy.

Sign up for the insurance that you deserve.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congressman CÁRDENAS. Thank you for all of your work.

You also raise a great point, which is folks will often see the sticker price of the insurance on the exchanges.

By the way, I, as well as many other Members of Congress, bought our insurance off of the exchanges. We were getting asked that question a lot. You know, are you going to buy ObamaCare?

The answer is yes. I bought my insurance off the exchanges, and I saved money.

Folks should make sure that they also check, besides the sticker price, what kind of subsidy they get because it is meant to make insurance affordable for middle class Americans and others.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM).

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Thank you very much, Congressman JOAQUIN CASTRO.

Muchas gracias, al congresista JOAQUIN CASTRO.

Thank you so much for calling us together to talk about this critically important issue for our families.

Twenty years ago, when I was running the New Mexico Department on Aging, I remember an incredibly tragic call from a family of a 60-year-old woman who had fallen and broken her hip. She was in a hospital in Albuquerque.

Now, of course, hospitals are required to provide stabilizing emergency treatment and even surgery if that is required in that instance; but unfortunately, this 60-year-old woman didn't have insurance, and she was rolled out

of the hospital in a wheelchair without the required surgery for her hip fracture.

If the Affordable Care Act was in place when this happened, this 60-year-old woman could have simply provided her health insurance card to someone at the hospital, and the hospital would have stabilized her hip, performed the surgery, and then provided follow-up rehabilitation care. This would allow this woman to walk again.

The required stabilization is critical for successful recovery of that particular hip injury, and the long-term consequences of not receiving the care, in addition to the pain and suffering of this woman, are significant. Quite frankly, she would never have walked again without that surgery.

Now, thankfully, in her case, the whole community came together to gather enough money to pay for her treatment; but if this were to happen today, she could have already purchased subsidized insurance in the health insurance marketplace or qualified for Medicaid, and she would have been able to receive treatment without the scare and the subsequent fundraising by her family in that instance.

People across the country face situations like this every single day. That is why it is critical that we tell our friends and neighbors that they only have 5 days left to enroll in health insurance through the marketplace—5 days. There is absolutely no time to waste.

Like many of my colleagues, I have been working with groups in my district and have been participating in enrollment events to help provide information and to assist New Mexicans to enroll.

Two of my constituents, Mark and Elizabeth Horst from Albuquerque, signed up for bronze plans through the exchange last fall. They make \$24,000 a year between them and have qualified for \$612 in subsidies, which covers the cost of the bronze plan.

Thousands more New Mexicans are still eligible. New Mexico had the third highest uninsured of any State before the Affordable Care Act went into effect this year. In the Hispanic community, more than 25 percent are uninsured, and more than that are underinsured.

Today, more than 360,000 in New Mexico are still eligible for enrollment. By enrolling in a plan, you don't have to risk injury or a lifetime of debt. You can get your family covered; and, by having access to primary care, your family can stay healthier longer.

I appreciate my colleague's effort today. I thank you very much.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congresswoman.

We only have a few minutes left, and I would like to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. I would just like to thank you for the work that you are

doing on this, and I believe our real message is to the many people out there—some of whom may even think that this law has been repealed. They have tried so many times.

As you pointed out a little earlier, this is an opportunity that is there for the next 5 days. Get beyond all the political chatter. Turn to a group like the American Cancer Society or the American Diabetes Association. Look at the information that is there.

Then go to one of the many enrollment fairs we are having across San Antonio this weekend. There is one up in Austin that is going to go almost 24 hours straight. These are opportunities to get out and do this.

I know you had a very successful enrollment fair in San Antonio. I had one over at Progreso Hall. Our colleague, PETE GALLEGOS, had one out at Palo Alto. These have been opportunities for a wide range of our neighbors to come out and participate. We just want to encourage them to do more.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congressman DOGGETT, and thank you for your work when this bill was being worked on and drafted. Thank you for helping to pass it and, since then, passionately making sure that people get on to the ACA.

Mr. DOGGETT. I think, if we keep working together, we can find ways to strengthen and improve this, but the main thing is for our families to get out there now.

I think, increasingly, most folks are realizing, as you pointed out, with so many efforts to repeal, that the only alternative that they offer is "Nothing Care."

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. DELBENE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business in the district.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4275. An act to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the

House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 27, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5079. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-014, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5080. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-167, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5081. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-001, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5082. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-010, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5083. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-004, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5084. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-171, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5085. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-178, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5086. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-136, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5087. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a letter of determination and certification; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5088. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on the status of Data Mining Activities, pursuant to Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act, Section 804; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5089. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period October 1, 2013 through November 30, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5090. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Draft Fiscal Years 2014-2018 Strategic Plan [NRC-2013-0230] received March 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5091. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Mansfield, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0842; Airspace Docket No.: 13-AGL-27] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5092. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Macon, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0552; Airspace Docket No.: 13-ASO-14] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5093. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Philip, SD [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0916; Airspace Docket No.: 13-AGL-30] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5094. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Hamilton, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0593; Airspace Docket No.: 13-AGL-22] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5095. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0174; Airspace Docket No.: 13-AGL-10] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5096. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Lawrenceville, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0590; Airspace Docket No.: 13-AGL-20] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5097. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Hampton, IA [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0585; Airspace Docket No.: 13-ACE-7] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5098. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace; St. Joseph, MO [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0917; Airspace Docket No.: 13-ACE-16] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5099. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace; St. Paul, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0954; Airspace Docket No.: 13-AGL-35] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk

for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 2575. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours; with an amendment (Rept. 113-386). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 88. Resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby (Rept. 113-387). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 92. Resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (Rept. 113-388). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WAXMAN:

H.R. 4298. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to protect the bulk-power system and electric infrastructure critical to the defense of the United States against cybersecurity, physical, and other threats and vulnerabilities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PITTS (for himself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 4299. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 4300. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take actions to support non-Federal investments in water infrastructure improvements in the Sacramento Valley, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. WOLF, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 4301. A bill to restore long-standing United States policy that the Wire Act prohibits all forms of Internet gambling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 4302. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by

the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. VELA):

H.R. 4303. A bill to increase transparency, accountability, and community engagement within U.S. Customs and Border Protection, provide independent oversight of border security activities, improve training for U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents and officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself, Mrs.

BLACK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. FLORES, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BARTON, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. SALMON, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. DESJARLAIS):

H.R. 4304. A bill to make certain repeals and revisions to Federal labor laws, to decrease the regulatory burdens on small businesses, to provide for comprehensive energy reform, and to amend the securities laws to streamline access to capital; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, Small Business, Education and the Workforce, Oversight and Government Reform, the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Science, Space, and Technology, Rules, Financial Services, Agriculture, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARINO, Mr. JONES, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 4305. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide an individual with a mental health assessment before the individual enlists in the Armed Forces or is commissioned as an officer in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 4306. A bill to increase the rates of pay under the General Schedule and for prevailing rate employees by 3.3 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself, Mr. AMASH, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 4307. A bill to authorize the interstate traffic of unpasteurized milk and milk products that are packaged for direct human consumption; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LABRADOR, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MULVANEY, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 4308. A bill to prohibit Federal interference with the interstate traffic of unpasteurized milk and milk products that are packaged for direct human consumption; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 4309. A bill to amend the Sikes Act to make certain improvements to the administration of cooperative agreements for land management related to Department of Defense readiness activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 4310. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue implementing regulations for drug testing under State unemployment compensation programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA:

H.R. 4311. A bill to amend the Wagner-Peyser Act to include American Samoa in the employment services provided under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4312. A bill to establish an advisory committee to issue nonbinding government-wide guidelines on making public information available on the Internet, to require publicly available Government information held by the executive branch to be made available on the Internet, to express the sense of Congress that publicly available information held by the legislative and judicial branches should be available on the Internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JOLLY (for himself, Mr. BILLRAKIS, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 4313. A bill to ensure fairness in premium rates for coverage for business properties and second homes under the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RIBBLE (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 4314. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a student loan repayment program for totally disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. MOORE, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. EDWARDS, Mrs.

McMORRIS RODGERS, Ms. BASS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. NUNES, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. DELAURO):

H. Res. 525. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's History Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. WAXMAN:

H.R. 4298.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 4299.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which states that Congress shall have the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states. . ."

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 4300.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 4301.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 4302.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 4303.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 4304.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution grants Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

Additionally, Article I, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be made law; and therefore it implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

Furthermore, Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the Constitution grants Congress the power to dispose of and make all needful

rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4305.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution which gives Congress the power "to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces."

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 4306.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitution of the United States of America, Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 4307.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution gives Congress the power to regulate commerce among the States, and therefore grants Congress the power to prevent federal agencies from interfering with citizens' ability to purchase, sell, or distribute unpasteurized milk across state lines.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 4308.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution gives Congress the power to regulate commerce among the States, and therefore grants Congress the power to prevent federal agencies from interfering with citizens' ability to purchase, sell, or distribute unpasteurized milk across state lines.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 4309.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 14 of section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 4310.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA:

H.R. 4311.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Labor Regulation

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nation, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4312.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The legislature power vested in Congress by Article I of the Constitution to conduct oversight of executive agencies, and the "Necessary and Proper" clause found in Article I, section 8, c1.18.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 4313.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1; and Article I, section 8, clause 3

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 4314.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 75: Mr. HUELSKAMP.
H.R. 104: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 139: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 141: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 142: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 155: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 171: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 279: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 285: Ms. HAHN.
H.R. 385: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 440: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 460: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 494: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 532: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 543: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 597: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 630: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 647: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 702: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 713: Mr. KEATING, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 721: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 784: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 792: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 822: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RAHALL, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 831: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 851: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 863: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. DENT, and Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 924: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 958: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 1008: Mr. McDERMOTT and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1020: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. BRADY of Texas.
H.R. 1074: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DELANEY, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1094: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1129: Mr. GARCIA.
H.R. 1141: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 1148: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 1201: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 1263: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 1318: Mr. SCHRADER and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 1339: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1386: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 1429: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 1518: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1566: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 1593: Mr. GARCIA, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 1616: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1620: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 1635: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1692: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1750: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 1751: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 1761: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
H.R. 1771: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1795: Mr. DEFazio.
H.R. 1806: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 1812: Mr. REICHERT, Mr. WESTMORELAND and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1830: Mr. HALL.
H.R. 1832: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1852: Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 1877: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 1878: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1923: Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 2084: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 2093: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 2098: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 2203: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. LANCE, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HALL, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. PETRI, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. HUNTER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 2278: Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 2291: Mr. REED, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. NADLER, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 2366: Mr. NUNES, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 2387: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 2424: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2499: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 2502: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2536: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 2548: Mr. LoBIONDO, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 2560: Mr. McDERMOTT.
H.R. 2607: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2672: Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 2707: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 2791: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 2807: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2825: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2841: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KEATING, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2847: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 2939: Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 2957: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 3116: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 3138: Mr. LATTI.
H.R. 3179: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 3306: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 3331: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3335: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 3344: Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 3377: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 3395: Mr. LoBIONDO.
H.R. 3461: Mr. McDERMOTT.
H.R. 3470: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 3490: Mr. McDERMOTT and Mr. LoBIONDO.
H.R. 3505: Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 3516: Mr. MAFFEI and Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 3529: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 3530: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 3544: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 3583: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MENG, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 3601: Mr. JONES and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 3602: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. HANABUSA, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3673: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 3676: Mr. McGovern.
H.R. 3708: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 3710: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3717: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 3724: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3726: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 3852: Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 3876: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 3877: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 3930: Mr. POCAN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H.R. 3978: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 3983: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3992: Mr. PETERS of California and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 3996: Mr. FINCHER.
H.R. 4008: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 4031: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 4049: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4060: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 4079: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4098: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 4103: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 4122: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 4128: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4135: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. McINTYRE.
H.R. 4139: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 4143: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4149: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 4155: Mr. COOK.
H.R. 4156: Mr. ENYART, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. JONES, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 4158: Mr. LATTI.
H.R. 4190: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 4217: Mr. HONDA, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 4221: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4225: Mr. LONG, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, and Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 4232: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. LOEBACK.
H.R. 4254: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4255: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ENYART, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 4265: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 4278: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4285: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 4286: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.J. Res. 26: Mr. SANFORD.
H. Con. Res. 16: Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. MICA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. BARBER.
H. Con. Res. 69: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H. Res. 19: Mr. TIERNEY.
H. Res. 30: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. LANCE.
H. Res. 116: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H. Res. 356: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
H. Res. 365: Ms. ESTY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. RUSH.
H. Res. 476: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mrs. BACHMANN.
H. Res. 477: Mr. TIERNEY and Mr. SHERMAN.
H. Res. 480: Mr. PASCRELL.
H. Res. 494: Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. FLORES, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. COOK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. PETRI.

SENATE—Wednesday, March 26, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Dr. Daniel McClure, American Legion national chaplain.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray together.

Our Heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer of all that we are or will be, thank You for Your care in our daily national concerns. History has revealed Your hand in our national affairs and how much our lawmakers need Your wisdom, courage, and grace. We ask a special endowment of mental strength and physical endurance in these dangerous but exciting times. Grant them the insight to know the path to follow the road of righteousness and the ethics others can admire.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 333.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 333, H.R. 3979, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will be happy to yield to my friend, the senior Senator from Iowa.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. GRASSLEY. I appreciate the majority leader yielding.

It has been a tradition in the U.S. Senate—usually this time of the year, when various veterans organizations come to Washington, DC, to testify for their membership before Congress about issues dealing with the veterans of all of our wars—for a person who is chaplain to be guest Chaplain. This year it is my privilege that person for the American Legion be from the State of Iowa.

We have just heard Dr. Daniel A. McClure give his prayer this morning.

Dr. McClure is a veteran of over 40 years' military service with the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, Air Force and National Guard. He retired from the military in 2005. With Vietnam veteran status, he joined the American Legion in 2001 and has since served as post chaplain, district chaplain, department chaplain, oratorical contest judge, and district chairman of the Americanism Commission and Boys State counselor. He is a member of The American Legion Leon Beatty Post 29 in Washington, IA.

Dr. McClure was ordained by the Heritage Baptist Church, Lakeland, FL, in 1979 and has pastored churches in Washington State, Montana, Florida and Iowa. He earned his doctorate at Luther Rice Seminary, Lithonia, GA in 1993. Though he retired from formal duties in 1999, McClure continues to volunteer in all aspects of the ministry.

Dr. McClure currently serves his country and community in a number of capacities. He is president and treasurer of the All Veterans Association, treasurer of the House of Heroes, board chairman of the Tree of Life Free Clinic, a patron of NRA, past president of the local Community Chest, past presi-

dent of Kiwanis, works with the Lake Darling Youth Center and is chairman of 1st Baptist Church's deacon board in Yarmouth, IA.

Dr. McClure and his wife Marge have been married 48 years, raising a son and a daughter. The McClures are now the grandparents of three boys and one girl.

I am glad to have the privilege of an Iowan serving as the national chaplain of a great veterans organization—the American Legion.

I thank the majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session. At 11 a.m. there will be a series of votes on U.S. District Court judges. We will have four votes before lunch, and we will have four more votes, or thereabout, starting at 2:30 on confirmation of these nominations.

We will debate the Ukraine bill during today's session and vote on that legislation tomorrow.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2157

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S. 2157 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2157) to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings at this time on this legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed upon the calendar.

UKRAINE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate took a step in the right direction yesterday. In response to Russia's destabilizing actions in Ukraine, my colleagues and I came to an agreement to vote on the bipartisan Senate foreign relations bill tomorrow. This important measure not only aids Ukraine but it also punishes President Putin and his cronies for their unlawful aggression. It also sends this message to the world: We, the American people, stand with Ukraine.

I was happy to hear yesterday the assistant Republican leader—the whip—the senior Senator from Texas, talk

about the need to do more. And I agree; we need to do more. I, of course, was a fan—as was Senator MENENDEZ, the chair of the committee; the ranking member, Senator CORKER; and our senior policy mentor around here, Senator MCCAIN—of having IMF funding. So I hope we can move beyond what we are going to do tomorrow for the Ukrainian people. Based on what I heard on the Sunday shows, I believe we have bipartisan support to do more for Ukraine, so I invite my friend, the senior Senator from Texas, to work with Democrats to come up with a package of things we can do in the next few weeks to give the people of Ukraine the understanding and the basis for the fact that America will stand with them.

What President Putin did is wrong. It is a violation of international law. I think it is too bad he is homesick over the Soviet Union. He is one of the few who looks back with joy at what took place to build the Soviet Union. Tens of millions of Russians were killed—purposely—by the viciousness of the leaders prior to Putin. So let us hope he does not look back on all that as being good. We all know he was part of the KGB and we would hope he would return to having Russia become a civilized nation rather than what the Soviet Union used to be.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. President, as the Senate finishes its work on the Ukrainian issue, we will soon have the opportunity to show millions of American families that we also stand by them. It is my sincere hope the bipartisan progress we have just made on the Ukraine legislation will also carry us over to work on unemployment insurance. Certainly we have a bipartisan bill that we have been working on for a long time.

President Lyndon Johnson once said:

The duty of government is to help people who are caught in the tentacles of circumstance.

That is certainly what we have in Nevada with 26,000 people. Around the country more than 2 million people are caught in the circumstance of having lost their job—usually these people are a little bit above 50—and because of the recession they can't find a job. So they need help, and that is what this legislation is all about.

In our country today you will find no greater example of people at the mercy of unfortunate circumstances than the long-term unemployed. In the 3 months since the Republicans first filibustered a bill to restore emergency benefits, more than 1 million Americans have lost their benefits. Considering that in the time that was wasted by our Republican filibuster, almost 1 million people in America, in dire need of help, have been told that no help is coming, we are here to deliver a message on a bipartisan basis that help is coming. For people who have worked hard all

their lives, worrying about how to pay their rent, put gas in the car, and buy groceries while they search for a new job can be demoralizing, especially when they see nothing good over the horizon. For the long-term unemployed, losing a \$300-per-week employment benefit can be the difference between keeping a roof over their children's heads and, as we have heard—because I have read into the record on a number of occasions letters from Nevadans saying they are going to become homeless—going out of business as a family, literally.

Here is what one Nevada man wrote to me this month as he begged us to act. His wife had been out of work for months. With resources scarce, the family will be forced to choose between paying their rent or paying for cancer treatments for their 2-year-old son. But here is what he wrote:

We keep praying you will do everything in your power to bring back emergency benefits to help us in our most difficult time.

This man, and millions of Americans just like him, have waited too long for action. But the Senate has another opportunity to do our job and help those struggling Americans. In the upcoming days the Senate will consider an agreement, negotiated in good faith by a bipartisan group of Senators, including my colleague from Nevada Senator HELLER. This agreement will restore benefits to millions of long-term unemployed Americans looking for work.

I urge all my colleagues to put philosophical differences aside and help struggling families get the support they need and deserve. All we have to do is work together, Democrats and Republicans, to do what is right for our constituents in their hour of need.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO ROCHELLE EUBANKS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, here on the Senate floor we often speak about numbers of great magnitude. Whether we are speaking of the national debt, jobs, or tax dollars, the numbers can be in the thousands, millions, or even billions. Sometimes these numbers are enough to numb even the most policy minded to the sheer volume and amount of people and resources that go into running the Nation's Capital City.

Today, as I bid farewell to Rochelle Eubanks, a diligent, beloved, and loyal staffer for 25 years, there is one number in particular I want to bring to my colleagues' attention. That number is 1,807,181.

For a quarter of a century, Rochelle has been the backbone of my office, in charge of the one critical task that all of us honored enough to be elected to Congress are charged with: to listen, to respond to, and to act on behalf of our constituents.

First as my correspondence mail system, or CMS, operator; and since 1994, as my CMS production manager, Rochelle has been at the front lines of communicating with Kentuckians. CMS is the computerized system Senate offices use to keep track of their letters to constituents. And that number—1,807,181—is the number of letters to the Bluegrass State Rochelle has sent out in her 25 years of service.

It is truly remarkable. If every letter were to go to a different person, then Rochelle has mailed a letter to nearly half the State. No one else on my staff has had more contact with the voters back home than she has. After her retirement on April 4, she will be very much missed by myself and by all of her colleagues in my office.

Rochelle started back in March of 1989. But her Senate service extends back to April of 1982, when she began work as a mail manager for the Republican Conference. She also worked with Senators John East and Jim Broyhill, both of North Carolina, before moving to the House side in 1987. I am very glad we were able to lure her back over to the Senate side to work in my office beginning in 1989.

Most staff offices have two or three staffers working on CMS. But for the majority of her tenure with my office, Rochelle has handled CMS duties on her own. How in the world does she do it? Well, "I just do what I do," Rochelle says, in her usual modest fashion. Perhaps the key to how she does it is that Rochelle is always the first to arrive in the office, often by 5:30 in the morning. I know for a fact Rochelle can be counted on as the first to arrive at work, because I can recall a time or two when she had to let me in my own office.

I knew I could always count on, as I have called her, the early bird. In fact, that is how I introduced Rochelle to my wife Elaine: This is my early bird. Rochelle could always be counted on to be there.

Because of her long tenure, Rochelle has become almost a den mother of sorts to many of the younger staff members and interns in my office. Rochelle has been with us in three different office locations, all in the Russell Building, and every time her desk has been located near the mailroom and the office interns.

When new interns or mailroom staffers start their first day, they already know who is looking out for them. "You must be Rochelle," many have been heard to say. "I've heard so much about you."

One of my longtime staffers who worked with Rochelle for nearly 20 years remembers her fondly.

She interacted with me the same day I came as a staff assistant, to the day I left as chief of staff. It was the same way she treated everybody. It didn't matter if you were a senator or an intern. She was always sweet and pleasant and positive.

Another longtime staffer recalls:

Rochelle has long been the master of mass mail. Regardless of how many bins I brought her, she always had a bright smile, a kind word, a listening ear, and a delightful laugh. All the things that make a colleague a dear friend—that's what Rochelle is truly the master of.

Yet another former longtime time staffer says in tribute to her:

Rochelle . . . you were always the sounding board, the moral compass and the reality check for the people you worked with, some of whom you may have forgotten, but who will always count you as a friend. And while your work over the years was excellent, please know that those you have worked with will remember you for much more.

The fidelity and loyalty Rochelle has shown to my office is exceeded only by her fidelity and loyalty to her family. Rochelle has two daughters: Rochelle and Endyia, and six granddaughters: Nyla, Germany, Albany, Liberti, Milini, and little Marlei, who was born just this March 9.

Everyone in the office knows how cute Rochelle's granddaughters are because she proudly displays several pictures of them at her desk. Some former staffers recall years ago when Rochelle would occasionally bring her then-school-aged daughters into the office and they would show off their cartwheels. The tradition continues today with Rochelle's granddaughters. "Granny, can we come work with you?" they ask.

Family is also the reason that after 25 years, Rochelle is taking her well-earned retirement and moving into the next phase of her life. I was thrilled to learn Rochelle will be marrying her fiancé Kevin Perry. They will soon be moving to New York. Of course, she will be missed by her family here in the District as well as by everyone in the McConnell office, but our loss is Mr. Perry's gain, and I wish the two of them great happiness in their marriage.

Kevin is a professional musician who plays the guitar, and his genre of choice is R&B and funk music. He and Rochelle have known each other since high school and after 30 years recently reconnected. Now they are back in each other's lives and looking forward to starting a new life in Queens—"not Manhattan," as Rochelle is quick to point out.

Rochelle is a native Washingtonian, and of course Rochelle's daughters, granddaughters, and other family here will miss her terribly, but Rochelle is reassuring. "I'm only 4 hours away. And we'll do a lot of Skype," she says. "They don't want me to stop [working] and they don't want me to leave DC. But I'm ready for a change."

Quite a change it will be. It is hard to imagine the McConnell office without Rochelle. She is the fourth longest serving staffer in the history of my office. When she retires next Friday, she will have 9,140 days of continuous serv-

ice. In fact, the three longest serving staffers still in my office are all women who have more than 25 years of service each; field assistant Sue Tharp, architect Nan Mosher, and Rochelle.

For Rochelle it all comes down to family—her own family and the McConnell family which she has formed and grown close to in her time with us. So it is fitting that she is retiring to start a new chapter with her family.

"It's a very close-knit office," Rochelle says of her tenure. "Everybody cares. Everybody helps each other out." I am glad Rochelle feels that way, and I couldn't agree more.

Another longtime staffer and longtime friend of Rochelle's sums up the special place she holds in our hearts this way:

For Rochelle, it comes down to family. To her, that's the unifier. My nephew is 20 years old; she still asks what he's up to. She's that way with everybody. She's the glue.

Now the McConnell office is going to have to soldier on without the vital glue Rochelle Eubanks has provided for 25 years. It is a great loss not only for us but for the people of Kentucky—for all of my constituents she reached out to, for the recipients of 1,807,181 letters, each letter representing a vital link between them and their elected representative.

So farewell, Rochelle, my friend, and thank you ever so much for two and one-half decades of tireless service. It is going to be a very different office without your welcoming smile and easy laugh.

Congratulations and best wishes on your marriage and the wonderful new life you will begin with your husband. You certainly deserve every happiness.

It would be such a remarkable turn of events and a genuine pleasure to receive a letter from you for a change. I would even settle for a postcard. I hope you will send us one from New York.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, I wish to start by acknowledging the majority leader's decision to remove extraneous IMF provisions from the Ukraine bill. As I noted yesterday, no legislation could have passed with those provisions included. So I think it is a positive step forward. We are glad he took our advice, and now Congress will be able to pass an effective bill on Ukraine very soon.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, President Obama and his Washington Democratic allies are well into their sixth year of presiding over our economy. Yet the jobs recovery they keep promising us just never seems to materialize.

We have to give Washington Democrats at least some credit though. They have tried regulating, taxing, spending, stimulating, just about everything their ideology will allow. The problem is their ideology just simply doesn't work. Many of their policies just end

up making things worse. Of course, the best example is ObamaCare.

They promised the Sun and the Moon to sell this thing. They said it would create jobs. They also said it would improve the economy, lower premiums, insure the uninsured, without causing Americans to lose their insurance, their doctors or their hospitals—the kind of claims which would have made Billy Mays blush.

But now Americans know better. Evidence shows that not only will ObamaCare encourage less job creation, but it is also making the economy worse, that it is driving premiums higher, and it will not come anywhere near insuring all the uninsured, while causing millions of Americans to lose the insurance and the doctors they were promised they could keep.

It is also a law which is unraveling before our very eyes. As we read this week, the administration has now handed out so many waivers, special favors, and exemptions to help out Democrats politically that the heart of the law—the individual mandate—may actually no longer even be viable. It has basically become the legal equivalent of Swiss cheese.

There is a broader point. If Washington Democrats think ObamaCare is so bad they need to exempt that many people from its mandates, then why shouldn't we remove the hardship for everyone? Doesn't the middle class deserve a break too?

Why shouldn't we repeal the 30-hour workweek created by ObamaCare, the provision which reduces take-home pay for the middle class.

Why shouldn't we do away with ObamaCare's job-killing medical device tax, something even many Democrats would vote to abolish if the majority leader would allow the vote.

What I am saying is if Washington Democrats are actually serious about job creation, then it is time to actually show it. Work with us to eliminate the things that hurt jobs, that hold Americans back from a real recovery—such as these job-killing ObamaCare mandates—and work with us to enact things which can actually create jobs.

Approving the Keystone Pipeline would create thousands of jobs right away. Passing trade legislation—legislation President Obama has already endorsed—would help create even more, but Washington Democrats need to work collaboratively with us to make those things happen. Yet this morning's New York Times highlights their strategy for the rest of the year. Here it is summed up in three words, "political show votes."

Get this. Their plan is not to pass legislation but to time show votes to "coincide with campaign-style trips by President Obama." Rather than take up House-passed jobs bills which would actually help middle-class Americans,

they plan for yet another year of turning the Senate floor into a campaign studio.

I am asking Washington Democrats to put the ideology and political show votes aside for once and finally join us, join us to give the American people what they have been asking for all along—more jobs, more opportunity, and an economy which works for the middle class once again.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half.

The Senator from Wyoming.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, this past Sunday was the fourth anniversary of President Obama's health care law.

Four years ago Democrats in Washington were confident the law they forced through Congress would be extremely popular today. Instead, the law has broken almost every significant promise President Obama made about the law itself, and Americans regrettably have been left to deal with the consequences.

The actual law doesn't even look the same as it did 4 years ago because President Obama has lawlessly rewritten so much of it. Last night word leaked about the latest change. Now the administration is getting rid of the March 31 deadline for some people to sign up for insurance in the government exchange.

According to this morning's Washington Post, if people just check a box on the Web site saying they are having trouble signing up, they will get an extension until at least mid-April—and I wouldn't be surprised if another extension after that and then again beyond.

Remember, the Obama administration said 7 million people would have to sign up by March 31 in order for this open enrollment period to be a success. Those are the administration's words. But with less than 1 week to go, they are 2 million short of their goal. That is why they are allowing this extension because they are in a panic, a panic not enough people are signing up.

The White House may come out and say they have come close to their 7 million target. They may even claim

they were somehow able to find all of the 2 million people they needed to buy insurance on the exchanges, but looking at some of the dubious numbers the administration has released so far, we can predict there will be many unanswered questions about the numbers—whatever numbers the White House claims to now be the new numbers.

The first question we should ask about the numbers is, how many of the people signing up actually have insurance?

Apparently, it doesn't seem to matter much to the administration how many people who go to the Web site actually have insurance. The Obama administration released a report showing how many people went through the signup process on the Web site through the exchanges. Those people don't actually have insurance until they write a check, pay their premiums, and make sure they do have insurance.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius said recently she had no idea in the world—no idea at all—about how many people had paid and how many had not paid, and she is the President's Secretary of Health and Human Services—no idea.

Insurance companies say they have given Washington plenty of information to know the answer to that question, but the person in charge has no idea.

One industry official told Politico:

If they have not processed those yet and compiled the data, that is a choice they are making. But they have that data now.

The White House can say whatever they want—and they tend to do that—but they have the data. They are not admitting the truth.

Why isn't the administration playing it straight with these numbers? The point of ObamaCare was to get people insurance, not just register them on a Web site. A recent survey by McKinsey & Company found that only 53 percent of the previously uninsured people who had selected a plan actually then went and paid the first month's premium. So only about half of the people that didn't have insurance before, who signed up on the Web site, actually went to pay for and buy the insurance. That is question number one.

Question No. 2 is: How many people are newly insured? That was the major goal of the Obama health care legislation. Washington Democrats said time and time again that we needed a massive overall of the entire health care system of this country in order to cover the uninsured. Many of the people who are signing up today and people who have signed up are doing so because the insurance they had, that they liked, that worked for them, that they could afford, under the health care law was canceled. The President's health care law forced them to switch.

How many people? We don't know that either. One Health and Human

Services official admitted as much. He said: "That is not a data point that we are really collecting in any sort of systemic way."

The government officials overseeing this part of the Web site are not even collecting the data. The goal of the whole policy plan was to get people that didn't have insurance on insurance. They are not collecting that data point at all. It turns out that the paper application for ObamaCare included a question—reasonably so—as to whether that person already had insurance because it is information we want to know. But the bureaucrats and the contractors who were apparently overseen by the President of the United States, who created the healthcare.gov Web site—the Web site that the President said was going to be easier to use than Amazon for insurance and cheaper than your cell phone bill—apparently they just dropped the question. Why did they do that? Why did they drop the question that was on the paper form and leave it off of the Web site to ask if somebody had actually had insurance before? That is what they did.

Isn't it something the Obama administration would want to know if they wanted to be honest with the American people. The best estimate has been from this McKinsey survey. They figure that by early February only about a quarter of the people who signed up for ObamaCare insurance were actually newly insured. Three-fourths of them were just changing out insurance, many of whom had their insurance canceled. If that number holds, the exchanges might end up covering fewer than 2 million previously uninsured Americans this year—fewer than 2 million people who didn't have insurance before covered on the exchange. Think about how much simpler, how much more cost effective health care could have been while still covering that same number of people.

Here is the third important question. Who exactly is signing up? The administration is pushing young adults between the ages of 18 and 34 to buy insurance. It is not happening the way the administration wants it to happen. Through February, less than 10 percent—less than 1 in 10—of the young adults who potentially could enroll have actually done so. Insurance companies need lots of young, healthy people to pay premiums—to pay for premiums and then not use much care in return. That is the only way this works. Unless more of those young people sign up by the beginning of next week, theoretically—now extended by checking a box—premiums are going to jump.

Here is the final question. When people buy insurance through the ObamaCare exchanges, what kind of care will it provide? Just remember what the President said: If you like what you have, you could keep it; you

could keep your doctor—easier than Amazon and cheaper than your cell phone. People are losing access to doctors they have known and trusted for years. We have heard from people around the country that this has happened. But for some people having a doctor won't mean they can actually see the doctor. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, we are facing a shortage of about 90,000 physicians by the end of this decade.

Some patients may be able to get to see a doctor but maybe not the one they need. According to an Associated Press survey that was reported last week, only 4 of 19 leading cancer hospitals—only 4 of 19 leading cancer hospitals—said that they accept the plans from all the insurance companies in their State's exchanges. For many other patients, the doctor is going to be spending more time looking at the computer instead of looking at them, even though they are in the same office together because of the burdensome new rules and recordkeeping requirements in the law. Maybe you can keep your doctor, maybe you cannot. Do you need special cancer care? Are you worried about whether you are going to be able to get that, and is the doctor going to be able to look at you and interact or is the doctor going to be staring at his computer screen instead of you in the limited time they have because of the burdensome requirements? It is going to be bad for patients.

So patients are going to be getting less care and many will be paying a lot more than they were paying before. Secretary Sebelius finally conceded that the rates will continue to rise in 2015. Now The Hill newspaper that is around—this is what they said on Wednesday, March 19: "ObamaCare premiums are about to skyrocket."

The President said: cheaper than your cell phone. Reuters ran a headline that said: "Insurers see double-digit Obamacare price rises in many states next year." Bloomberg's headline yesterday was almost the same: "Obamacare insurer WellPoint Sees Double-Digit Rate Rise."

The President said recently the law "is working the way it should." The President of the United States looked into the camera and said it is working the way it should. What does he think of the people who are on the other side watching him on TV? Does he realize how he is losing credibility with the American people when he makes blatant statements like that, when they see how poorly it is working?

I believe the President has no idea how the law is working, how poorly it is working or what is going to happen next. Does he really think the law is working or is it just a line that somebody wrote for him and that he read? It is hard to know. Does he think that double-digit premium increases are a

sign that the law is working? I heard from one of my constituents the other day, as we were away for the week talking to people around Wyoming, and he put it in writing. He is from western Wyoming. He said:

Senator Barrasso, I am sorry for the snide subject of our e-mail but the truth hurts. I know I am preaching to the choir but I just wanted to share our story and frustration.

Now I know the majority leader has been to the floor and said all of these stories that we tell are all lies. This is a person who lives in Wyoming. This is what is happening in that person's life. He said:

We have finally just finished applying for health care through the exchange and found out that our health insurance will double if we sign up. Fortunately for us, we are covered under our own insurance until this December. Our current plan is \$505 a month, and it has a \$15 thousand deductible after which it is an 80/20 split. The rub for us is the following:

Under the construct of the subsidy plan we would theoretically qualify, based on our family size (5 girls) and our income. But since my employer offers health insurance for me and my family, we don't qualify. So we are stuck in limbo. Nonetheless, if we go on my employer's health insurance, we will be paying over \$1000 more each month. If we go on the health care market place plan, the least expensive is \$1,054/month. This is a significant increase for our middle class family.

I thought the affordable health care act was supposed to help us not hurt us.

The affordable health care act was supposed to help us, he said, not hurt us.

We are panicked on how we are going to pay for this in December? We will be taking all of the money that was going into savings to pay for a terrible insurance plan. Please help us and share our story with people who say this act is helping the middle class.

I wish the majority leader were here to hear this. Please share this story—our story—a true story about a family in Wyoming, with those who say the act is helping the middle class.

Madam President, it clearly is not. Does it sound like the law is working for this man and his family? President Obama says it is working just the way it is supposed to work. It is not working for this man and his family.

Our health care system needed reform. It needs it now more than ever. We all know that. What Americans got with the Obama health care law was a monstrous new bureaucracy. It is raising costs for millions of people. It is leading to worse care and other unintended consequences. Now these questions are just a small part of what the American people want to know.

In fact, as of last night, I can think of another question. How does the Obama administration define the word deadline? Kathleen Sebelius in the House the other day said the deadline is March 31. We are not going to extend it. We are not under any circumstances going to extend it. The White House press secretary said the same. Are

there any deadlines at all for anything in this administration? Is it all on the honor system?

As we start to get answers to these questions, we are going to see even more clearly that this health care law has failed patients, it has failed health care providers, and it has failed taxpayers. The President needs to admit that his law is not working. He needs to accept Republican ideas to replace it. Americans need better access to quality, affordable health care, not just broken promises, tired excuses, and unanswered questions.

Thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. MURRAY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2162 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to Rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Christopher Reid Cooper, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow, Robert Menendez, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Carl Levin, Bernard Sanders, Joe Donnelly, Maria Cantwell, Barbara A. Mikulski, Tom Harkin, Tim Kaine, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Christopher Reid Cooper, of the District of Columbia, to be United States

District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 80 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Landrieu	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Levin	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Menendez	Walsh
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—43

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Chambliss	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cornyn	Kirk	Vitter
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McCain	
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—1

Warner

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 56, the nays are 43.

The motion to invoke cloture is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of M. Douglas Harpool, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow, Robert Menendez, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Carl Levin, Bernard Sanders, Joe Donnelly, Maria Cantwell, Barbara A. Mikulski, Tom Harkin, Tim Kaine, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I yield back all time on the next three nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call is waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Douglas Harpool, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 81 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Landrieu	Schumer
Casey	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Levin	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Menendez	Walsh
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—43

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Chambliss	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cornyn	Kirk	Vitter
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McCain	
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—1

Warner

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 56 and the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow, Robert Menendez, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Carl Levin, Bernard Sanders, Joe Donnelly, Maria Cantwell, Barbara A. Mikulski, Tom Harkin, Tim Kaine, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 82 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Ayotte	Hagan	Murray
Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Levin	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Toomey
Collins	Markey	Udall (CO)
Coons	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Walsh
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murkowski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	

NAYS—43

Alexander	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Pryor
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeven	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Coburn	Isakson	Scott
Cochran	Johanns	Sessions
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Landrieu	Vitter
Cruz	Lee	Wicker
Enzi	McCain	
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—1

Warner

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 56, the nays are 43.

The motion to invoke cloture is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Edward G. Smith, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow, Robert Menendez, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Carl Levin, Bernard Sanders, Joe Donnelly, Maria Cantwell, Barbara A. Mikulski, Tom Harkin, Tim Kaine, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Edward G. Smith, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 75, nays 23, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 83 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Barrasso	Hagan	Nelson
Begich	Harkin	Portman
Bennet	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Heitkamp	Reid
Boozman	Hirono	Roberts
Boxer	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Brown	Isakson	Rubio
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Cardin	Kaine	Schatz
Carper	King	Schumer
Casey	Klobuchar	Scott
Coburn	Leahy	Stabenow
Cochran	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Toomey
Coons	Markey	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	McCain	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wicker
Flake	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—23

Blunt	Grassley	Paul
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Johanns	Shaheen
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Crapo	Kirk	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Vitter
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—2

Landrieu	Warner
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 75, the nays are 23.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER REID COOPER TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NOMINATION OF M. DOUGLAS HARPOOL TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

NOMINATION OF GERALD AUSTIN MCHUGH, JR., TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

NOMINATION OF EDWARD G. SMITH, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the clerk will report the nominations.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of Christopher Reid Cooper, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia; M. Douglas Harpool, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri; Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; and Edward G. Smith, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 2:30 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Republican whip.

BETTER FOCUS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I wish to say a few words about the business pending before the Senate; that is, providing aid and assistance to the citizens of Ukraine who find themselves invaded by the Russian federation. But before I get to Ukraine, I wish to say a quick word about a story that appeared today in the New York Times.

This was a remarkable story, remarkable in its transparency but also in its cynicism in terms of what some of our friends across the aisle have in mind between now and November. To put it in a word, they have given up. They have given up legislating and are going to spend the next several months holding a series of show votes which are in essence those designed to highlight poll-tested messages.

The New York Times writes this:

The proposals have little chance of passing.

Little chance of passing.

But Democrats concede that making new laws is not really the point. Rather, they are

trying to force Republicans to vote against them.

I would think the American people would expect and certainly they would deserve better than that from the Senate—scheduling a series of show votes, not for the purpose of actually improving the lives of the American people or solving the problems that confront our country at this time of low economic growth and high joblessness but, rather, for show votes, for purely partisan political reasons.

At a time when millions of people have lost their health insurance, when millions have been forced to pay higher premiums or deductibles, when 3.8 million people have been unemployed for more than 6 months, when the labor force participation rate—the number of people actually looking for work—has fallen to 30-year lows, and when nearly 46.8 million people are receiving food stamps, it is more than a little disappointing that the leaders of the Democratic Party in the Senate are into scoring cheap political points.

As I said, the American people certainly deserve better. Again, I am a little bit surprised that some of the leadership on the Democratic side of the aisle would be so transparent and so obvious as to state their intentions to the New York Times, but that is what it appears.

What we need is a Senate and a Congress that is more focused on creating an economic condition where the American people can find jobs rather than politicians who are focused solely on saving their jobs, particularly leading up to the next election. Of course, this is the kind of stuff that makes people extraordinarily cynical about Washington, DC, but with an election coming up, I guess some people have lost all sense of proportion.

UKRAINE

As we continue to discuss the proper response by the United States of America to Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, it is important that we stay focused on two overarching realities; No. 1, the Government of Russia is much more vulnerable to Western pressure than it might appear from the outside; No. 2, we have far more leverage today against Moscow than we did 10 years ago or even 5 years ago because of the renaissance in American energy, the oil and gas boom we are experiencing in America, thanks to the discovery of a man named George Mitchell from Houston, TX, who pioneered horizontal drilling, which together with fracking has allowed access to natural gas and oil reserves undreamed of just 5 or 10 years ago.

Let's start with the first reality. As Ruchir Sharma of Morgan Stanley Investment Management wrote on Monday in the Wall Street Journal:

Russia has become a classic weak-investment, high-inflation economy.

An economy plagued by massive levels of corruption.

According to Mr. Sharma:

... wealthy Russians have been moving money out of the country at one of the fastest rates in two decades—\$60 billion a year since 2012—and now foreign investors are pulling out too.

So it is worth noting that Russia's economy is currently suffering through a period of stagnation, despite the fact that oil prices remain high. As a matter of fact, its government's main source of income is oil and gas revenue, which has led our friend the senior Senator from Arizona to say that Russia these days is "a gas station masquerading as a sovereign state."

They depend on the ability to sell that oil and gas to Ukraine and Europe. Indeed, they use this as a political tool to work their will in Europe and obviously in Ukraine.

Sometimes we talk about crony capitalism here in America in which private individuals and private companies collude with government in order to gain special benefits. That is what crony capitalism is. The Russian economy represents crony capitalism on steroids. If we could squeeze the oligarchs and the Kremlin advisers who have gotten fabulously rich thanks to their collaboration with Vladimir Putin and the Russian Government, many of Vladimir Putin's closest allies will begin to rethink their support. That is an area of vulnerability we ought to be focused on like a laser.

As I said yesterday, I am encouraged by the sanctions the Obama administration announced on Thursday. It is a good start, but I would urge the administration to continue imposing serious penalties on high-level Kremlin officials and the super-rich oligarchs who comprise Putin's inner circle. In other words, sanctions are not enough. We need to do more to dissuade and discourage Putin and his allies from engaging in the current course of conduct, as well as further adventures in other parts of Europe and areas of the former Soviet Union.

It is time for more robust sanctions that target the financial energy sectors of the Russian economy. The cost for Moscow's aggression must be real, and that is not just me saying that, that is what President Obama said too. With that in mind, I urge the administration to sanction the Russian arms exporter known as Rosoboronexport, which has been tied up in all sorts of corruption scandals and which is also the primary arms supplier for Bashar al-Assad in Syria, who has murdered about 150,000 of his own people in the ongoing Syrian civil war.

I cosponsored an amendment introduced by the Senator from Indiana that would end all U.S. Government contracts with Rosoboronexport and punish the companies with whom it does military-related business. Once again, I hope that the majority leader, Senator REID, would reconsider and

allow the amendment to receive a vote, something he refused to do yesterday. I am hoping after a good night's sleep and reconsideration, maybe he would be open to that.

I would also call on the majority leader, Senator REID, to allow us to offer another amendment introduced by the junior Senator from Wyoming, which would greatly expand American exports of liquefied natural gas by granting automatic approval to all applications for new LNG terminals that would ship gas to Ukraine and other members of our NATO alliance.

One may wonder why that is necessary. Just to recapitulate, Putin uses energy as a weapon. If he is not getting what he wants out of Ukraine or Europe, he squeezes off the supply of energy which is essential to the economy and to life itself in those vulnerable parts of the world.

We have been blessed as a result of the innovations of people such as George Mitchell with this new renaissance in energy in America through shale gas—sometimes called unconventional plays—but the point is we are now able to produce much more energy than we can consume domestically, and in North America alone we are fast approaching energy independence. We can afford to be an exporter of some of this energy to vulnerable countries such as Ukraine and Europe, so we can get Putin's boot off their neck when it comes to the impact he has on their energy supply.

Before the shale gas revolution, which has just been in the last decade or so, there was very little the United States could do to deter Eastern Europe's dependence on Russia's LNG. The global energy landscape is much different than it was just a half decade ago.

Back in October the House Energy & Commerce Committee held a hearing at which several Eastern European diplomats discussed the geopolitical significance of America's natural gas boom. The Lithuanian Ambassador said bluntly: "We need your gas. We want to buy your gas." Well, Lithuania is one of the countries that are in the greatest jeopardy now against the depredations of somebody like Vladimir Putin and a Russian Federation on the march.

Meanwhile, the Czech Republic's Deputy Chief of Mission said that U.S. LNG exports would increase his country's leverage in future energy negotiations with Moscow. This same Czech diplomat has also urged the U.S. Government to treat LNG exports to NATO countries the same way it treats LNG exports to countries with which America has a free-trade agreement. This is how he put it: Such a policy shift "puts us in a different league. We are in League B and we would like to be in League A."

Passing the Barrasso amendment, of which I am a proud cosponsor, would

put all NATO countries in league A, and it would send an unmistakable message to Vladimir Putin and his allies in this aggression against the people of Ukraine and potential aggression against other countries that this weapon he uses, known as energy, is no longer available to him to use to intimidate people and gain their territorial ambitions.

It would also demonstrate that Members of both political parties here in Congress are committed to breaking Vladimir Putin's energy stranglehold over the nations of Eastern Europe. This is going to be very important because if Putin keeps coming—as he may very well do—and as Europe considers working with the United States to impose higher and higher costs, Europe is going to look in the mirror and say: What do sanctions against Russia mean in terms of our economy?

I am afraid they are going to be compromised if they realize their engagement with us—and increasingly high sanctions against Russia—has a negative impact on their economy because it will essentially jeopardize their energy imports.

In addition to sanctions and gas exports, the third prong of America's Ukraine strategy should include serious military assistance to Kiev. Everyone has said: We are not talking about American boots on the ground, but we are talking about providing military assistance to people who are trying to defend themselves.

If our alliance and agreement with Ukraine means anything, it means we are going to help them defend themselves against Russian depredation.

Believe me, not only is Ukraine watching but other nations, such as NATO—which has a treaty relationship with the United States and a self-defense agreement in section 5 of the NATO treaty where aggression against any single NATO country is treated as an attack against all of them—are watching America's response in Ukraine.

In some cases, America might not have to send that military aid directly. We might only have to facilitate the purchase of certain equipment from other sources. But either way, we should be doing everything possible to make sure our friends and our allies have the resources they need to deter Russian aggression further.

It is not just our enemies who are looking to see if America retreats—pulling back in the world and creating a vacuum that is being filled by people like Vladimir Putin—it is our friends and our allies who are wondering if America is a dependable friend and ally. If we are not, they are going to make other arrangements all around the world.

I have a few final words about what is at stake.

When Ukraine voluntarily gave up its nuclear arsenal in the mid-1990s, it did

so after receiving a U.S. security guarantee. When other Eastern European nations decided to join NATO, they too were seeking a guarantee from America that we would come to their defense and other NATO allies would also come to their defense.

If Russia's annexation of Crimea is allowed to stand, many of our allies, our partners, and our friends will no longer trust American promises, and many would-be aggressors, such as China, will be emboldened to pursue their territorial claims with much more belligerence, and correspondingly the world will become a much more dangerous place. In other words, the outcome in Ukraine is critically important both to U.S. credibility and the future of the international order. Our policies should reflect that.

I am disappointed that the majority leader has seen fit to cut off any opportunity for Senators on both sides of the aisle to offer constructive additions for a vote. We are not even asking for assurance that they would pass; we are just asking for a vote on amendments, such as military assistance to the Ukraine, expediting the permitting of LNG export facilities to help alleviate the stranglehold Putin has on Europe and Ukraine. The majority leader has said no, he is not going to allow that, and we do need to get this bill out of here tomorrow—and we will—to send a unified message that this sort of aggression will not be met with silence by the U.S. Government. Even the advocates of this underlying bill have said it is not enough. This is just a start.

I would like to hear a schedule from the majority leader of when he purports to bring some of these other important issues to the floor—particularly if Putin does what many expect him to do, and that is to continue rolling on into Western Ukraine and perhaps other countries. What will be America's response? What will be the bipartisan response of the Senate? What we have done so far is a start, but it is nowhere near good enough to exact the kinds of costs President Obama said he wants to exact on Putin and Russia for this act of international aggression and invasion in the country of Ukraine.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I believe Senator MCCAIN is on his way to the Chamber. We want to have a colloquy about Ukraine. I ask permission to do that when Senator MCCAIN arrives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, as Senator MCCAIN makes his way to the floor, we are trying to figure out what to do as a nation—along with our allies in Europe and throughout the world—about Ukraine and really what to do with Putin.

In my view, this is a symptom of a greater problem. Crimea had been a part of Russia for a very long time, but in 1954, I believe it was, Crimea became part of a sovereign nation called the Ukraine through an agreement. In 1994 the Ukrainians—after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, which was the third largest nuclear power in the world—agreed to turn their nuclear weapons back over to the Russian Federation as part of the Budapest agreement. In return for receiving the weapons, the Russian Government promised to honor the territorial integrity of the Ukraine, and we were part of that deal.

I guess no one really fleshed out what honoring the territorial integrity of the Ukraine would mean, but clearly, in 1994 when the Ukrainian people gave up the nuclear weapons they possessed to the Russians—and we were part of the deal where we were going to guarantee their territorial integrity for the swap—no one envisioned that Russia would move into Crimea because they don't like the political dynamic in Kiev. If the people of the Ukraine want to move west, that is not a reason to basically abrogate the 1994 agreement.

What is going on around Russia is the following: As the former Soviet Union collapsed, people who had been in the sphere of influence of Russia—the former Soviet Union—have all embarked on a different path for the most part. There are a couple of people who align with Russia but not many.

My goal is quite simple: Allow the people of the Ukraine, Poland, and the former Soviet Union to make their decision about how they would construct their country apart from threats of force or intimidation by Russia.

It is no surprise to me that all those who could choose to move away from Russia because of the experience they had in the past have done so. Ukrainian people will always have a unique relationship with Russia, but they want to be Ukrainian.

There are a lot of ethnic Russians in Ukraine. We have everybody in America. America is an idea, not an ethnic group or a particular religion. Ukraine is multiethnic. They have ethnic Russians with a bunch of other folks—“Ukrainians,” for lack of a better word.

The bottom line is that they have been debating among themselves about how to move forward and in what direction to move. Yanukovych won an election. He moved the Ukrainian people away from Europe and toward Russia. The President preceding him rode a

revolution into power—the Orange Revolution, which some would argue did not produce the results the Ukrainian people were hoping for. It took us a long time as a nation—and we are still trying—to figure out who we are and where we are going. Democracies are messy.

The one thing we should all be doing is aligning ourselves around the concept that choosing one's destiny as an individual within the confines of the law and choosing one's destiny as a nation in international law should preclude having that choice taken away by your neighbor through military force and intimidation.

Entering into Crimea was a breach of international law. It was a breach of the 1994 agreement. Putin has proven to be an antidemocratic force in the world and in Russia.

When you are dealing with somebody, you need to look at their value system and their agenda and their interest. The value system of Mr. Putin is that of a KGB colonel. Most of his adult life he worked for the KGB, so his value system comes from that organization. It is about the ends, not the means. Democracy is about the process. I am not surprised that he snuffed out democracy—as any reasonable person would know it in Russia—and that he has made the Duma almost irrelevant, if not a joke. There is no independent judiciary; if you oppose Putin, you are liable to go to jail. I understand where he is coming from because of his value system; I just don't agree with it.

What we can't do is let him affect those who are living around him who want to go on a different path because the day you begin to do that, it never works out well. In World War II, every time somebody gave Hitler a little of this or a little of that, it never worked out well.

So what do we do? The European community, along with the United States, has a historic chance to reset what I think is a deterioration of world security and order. Having sanctions combined with aid, including sanctioning the Russians in a fashion they will feel, hitting their energy sectors, their oil and gas companies masquerading in this country, and increasing the capability of a gutted Ukrainian Army to defend themselves from further insurgents, would be a combination of hitting the Russians and helping the Ukrainians militarily and economically without any boots on the ground from the United States. I hope that is what the President will do. That is what we are trying to do here—to some extent, at least—on the sanctions side in the U.S. Senate.

I see Senator MCCAIN has arrived. He has been the most consistent voice for the last decade about the role of America, our destiny as a country, with what we should align ourselves, understanding the Arab spring, and he has

been a thorn in the side of Putin and Russia for quite awhile. So I wish to, if I could, ask a question of Senator MCCAIN.

Given what we know about Putin's past and what he has done in Crimea, what does the Senator expect in the future and what can we reasonably do as a nation to change the outcome?

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank my colleague.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from New Hampshire and the Senator from South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank my colleagues. The American people should know exactly what has happened and what is happening now, and what may happen, unless we show a steadfast and robust response to the active aggression which has just taken place as Colonel Putin has moved and is aggressively using the force of arms, invaded a country and absorbed part of that country into Russia. A blatant act of aggression, sparked by the age-old practice of demonstrations and desire for intervention to protect Russian-speaking people has just been enacted by Vladimir Putin.

Vladimir Putin's forces, I would say to my friend from South Carolina, as he knows, are on the border of Eastern Ukraine right now, and they are poised to invade. They even have forces in Belarus. Vladimir Putin is figuring out the cost-benefit ratio of moving into Eastern Ukraine, the cost-benefit ratio of moving into Moldova, which is not a member of NATO; of inciting the Russians there—there are 1,400 Russian troops stationed in Transnistria. He is figuring out the cost-benefit ratio of inciting violence in the Russian-speaking population of the Baltic countries, especially Estonia.

Vladimir Putin is on the move. A fundamental and naive attitude toward Vladimir Putin by this President and this administration, I hope, is shattered for all time. Vladimir Putin is a KGB colonel who said the greatest mistake of the 20th century was to break up the Soviet Union. He is intent on restoring the Russian empire. That is what Vladimir Putin is all about. And what has been our response? Fascinating. The President of the United States, in his press conference yesterday, basically said, So what I announced and what the European Council announced was that we are consulting and putting in place the framework, the architecture for additional sanctions, additional costs should Russia take the next step.

How does Vladimir Putin read that statement by the President of the United States? He reads it by saying, We got away with it. We got Crimea back.

Both the Senator from South Carolina and I predicted he would not give up Sevastopol and he would invade if he felt it was necessary to do so.

So that is where we are today. Does anybody believe that when the President of the United States says "the architecture for additional sanctions, additional costs, should Russia take the next step"—how does Vladimir Putin interpret that statement?

I wish to digress for a minute. There has been a lot of conversation about what the reaction was to Georgia and the invasion of Georgia and what the Bush administration did or did not do. I will let people judge what the Bush administration did or did not do.

I will submit for the RECORD an opinion piece written by Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and Senator Joe Lieberman dated August 26, 2008, after the invasion by Vladimir Putin into Georgia at the conclusion of my remarks.

At that time—this is 2008—Senator Lieberman and Senator GRAHAM wrote:

There is disturbing evidence Russia is already laying the groundwork to apply the same arguments used to justify its intervention in Georgia to other parts of its near abroad—most ominously in Crimea.

That is what Senator GRAHAM and Senator Lieberman said 6 years ago.

They went on:

This strategically important peninsula is part of Ukraine, but with a large ethnic Russian population and the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet at Sevastopol.

Then Senator Lieberman and Senator GRAHAM went on to argue for a much more robust response than the Bush administration gave:

Specifically, the Georgian military should be given the anti-aircraft and antiarmor systems necessary to deter any renewed Russian aggression.

Our response to the invasion of Georgia must include regional actions to reassure Russia's rattled neighbors and strengthen trans-Atlantic solidarity. This means reinvigorating NATO as a military alliance.

It goes on and on.

Senator Lieberman and Senator GRAHAM 6 years ago predicted this. I wonder what lesson this President took from that event and their predictions. The fact is—and it is with great sadness I tell my colleagues—we will hear a lot of rhetoric, there will be a lot of meetings, gatherings and conversations and threats about what needs to be done. But for a broad variety of reasons, which I do not have the time to go through, I predict to my colleagues now that the sanctions that are in place, which are for a handful of people, will be the extent of our reaction to the invasion of Crimea and the further violation of Ukrainian territory from the east.

After Hitler invaded Austria in 1938, he gave a speech in Vienna, from the balcony of a hotel in Vienna. We should look back at that speech—and I will give more quotes from it. It is a carbon copy of what Vladimir Putin said about Crimea. Hitler said they had to go in and protect the German-speaking people and they had to do it with force of arms. But guess what. They were going

to have a referendum. And they had—they used to call it plebiscites then—they had a referendum—a plebiscite—in Austria, and guess what. Ninety-six percent of the people voted that they wanted to be a part of Nazi Germany. This is an old playbook Vladimir Putin is operating from.

So, tomorrow, fortunately, there is going to be a vote on some assistance to our beleaguered friends in Ukraine. I believe military assistance is a vital part of the assistance.

I ask my friend from South Carolina: Isn't it true the first thing people need once they have been invaded, once part of their country has been taken over, is the ability to defend themselves? And isn't it a fact that the Ukrainian military, because of previous administrations, has been emasculated and they only have about 6,000 troops they can rely on? We just saw in Crimea their total inability to resist what the Russians did to their fleet and to their bases.

Mr. GRAHAM. The Senator from Arizona is absolutely right.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, if I could interrupt to ask unanimous consent that the article entitled "Russia's Aggression Is a Challenge to World Order" by LINDSEY GRAHAM and Joe Lieberman, dated August 26, 2008, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Aug. 26, 2008]

RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION IS A CHALLENGE TO WORLD ORDER

(By Lindsey Graham and Joe Lieberman)

In the wake of Russia's invasion of Georgia, the United States and its trans-Atlantic allies have rightly focused on two urgent and immediate tasks: getting Russian soldiers out, and humanitarian aid in.

But having just returned from Georgia, Ukraine and Poland, where we met with leaders of these countries, we believe it is imperative for the West to look beyond the day-to-day management of this crisis. The longer-term strategic consequences, some of which are already being felt far beyond the Caucasus, have to be addressed.

Russia's aggression is not just a threat to a tiny democracy on the edge of Europe. It is a challenge to the political order and values at the heart of the continent.

For more than 60 years, from World War II through the Cold War to our intervention in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the U.S. has fostered and fought for the creation of a Europe that is whole, free and at peace. This stands as one of the greatest strategic achievements of the 20th century: the gradual transformation of a continent, once the scene of the most violent and destructive wars ever waged, into an oasis of peace and prosperity where borders are open and uncontested and aggression unthinkable.

Russia's invasion of Georgia represents the most serious challenge to this political order since Slobodan Milosevic unleashed the demons of ethnic nationalism in the Balkans. What is happening in Georgia today, therefore, is not simply a territorial dispute. It is a struggle about whether a new dividing line is drawn across Europe: between nations that

are free to determine their own destinies, and nations that are consigned to the Kremlin's autocratic orbit.

That is the reason countries like Poland, Ukraine and the Baltic States are watching what happens in the Caucasus so closely. We heard that last week in Warsaw, Kiev and Tbilisi. There is no doubt in the minds of leaders in Ukraine and Poland—if Moscow succeeds in Georgia, they may be next.

There is disturbing evidence Russia is already laying the groundwork to apply the same arguments used to justify its intervention in Georgia to other parts of its near abroad—most ominously in Crimea. This strategically important peninsula is part of Ukraine, but with a large ethnic Russian population and the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet at Sevastopol.

The first priority of America and Europe must be to prevent the Kremlin from achieving its strategic objectives in Georgia. Having been deterred from marching on Tbilisi and militarily overthrowing the democratically elected government there, Russian forces spent last week destroying the country's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, port and security facilities. This was more than random looting. It was a deliberate campaign to collapse the economy of Georgia, in the hope of taking the government down with it.

The humanitarian supplies the U.S. military is now ferrying to Georgia are critically important to the innocent men, women and children displaced by the fighting, some of whom we saw last week. Also needed, immediately, is a joint commitment by the U.S. and the European Union to fund a large-scale, comprehensive reconstruction plan—developed by the Georgian government, in consultation with the World Bank, IMF and other international authorities—and for the U.S. Congress to support this plan as soon as it returns to session in September.

Any assistance plan must also include the rebuilding of Georgia's security forces. Our past aid to the Georgian military focused on supporting the light, counterterrorism-oriented forces that facilitate Tbilisi's contribution to coalition operations in Iraq. We avoided giving the types of security aid that could have been used to blunt Russia's conventional onslaught. It is time for that to change.

Specifically, the Georgian military should be given the anti-aircraft and antiarmor systems necessary to deter any renewed Russian aggression. These defensive capabilities will help to prevent this conflict from erupting again, and make clear we will not allow the Russians to forcibly redraw the boundaries of sovereign nations.

Our response to the invasion of Georgia must include regional actions to reassure Russia's rattled neighbors and strengthen trans-Atlantic solidarity. This means reinvigorating NATO as a military alliance, not just a political one. Contingency planning for the defense of all member states against conventional and unconventional attack, including cyber warfare, needs to be revived. The credibility of Article Five of the NATO Charter—that an attack against one really can and will be treated as an attack against all—needs to be bolstered.

The U.S. must also reaffirm its commitment to allies that have been the targets of Russian bullying because of their willingness to work with Washington. The recent missile-defense agreement between Poland and the U.S., for instance, is not aimed at Russia. But this has not stopped senior Russian officials from speaking openly about mili-

tary retaliation against Warsaw. Irrespective of our political differences over missile defense, Democrats and Republicans should join together in Congress to pledge solidarity with Poland, along with the Czech Republic, against these outrageous Russian threats.

Finally, the U.S. and Europe need a new trans-Atlantic energy alliance. In recent years, Russia has proven all too willing to use its oil and gas resources as a weapon, and to try to consolidate control over the strategic energy corridors to the West. By working together, an alliance can frustrate these designs and diminish our dependence on the foreign oil that is responsible for the higher energy prices here at home.

In crafting a response to the Georgia crisis, we must above all reaffirm our conviction that Russia need not be a competitor or an adversary. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Democratic and Republican administrations have engaged Russia, sending billions of dollars to speed its economic recovery and welcoming its integration into the flagship institutions of the international community. We did this because we believed that a strong, prosperous Russia can be a strategic partner and a friend. We still do.

But Russia's leaders have made a different choice. While we stand ready to rebuild relations with Moscow and work together on shared challenges, Russia's current course will only alienate and isolate it from the rest of the world.

We believe history will judge the Russian invasion of Georgia as a serious strategic miscalculation. Although it is for the moment flush with oil wealth, Russia's political elite remains kleptocratic, and its aggression exposed as much weakness as strength. The invasion of Georgia will not only have a unifying effect on the West, it also made clear that Russia—unlike the Soviet Union—has few real allies of strategic worth. To date, the only countries to defend Russia's actions in the Caucasus have been Cuba and Belarus—and the latter, only after the Kremlin publicly complained about its silence.

In the long run, a Russia that tries to define its greatness in terms of spheres of influence, client states and forced fealty to Moscow will fail—impoverishing its citizens in the process. The question is only how long until Russia's leaders rediscover this lesson from their own history.

Until they do, the watchword of the West must be solidarity: solidarity with the people of Georgia and its democratically elected government, solidarity with our allies throughout the region, and above all, solidarity with the values that have given meaning to our trans-Atlantic community of democracies and our vision of a European continent that is whole, free and at peace.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, if people are wondering why Senator McCain's name wasn't on that article—he is on everything else JOE and I did—it is because he was running for President and just got the nomination.

We were very much worried then, the three of us, that the Bush administration wasn't doing enough, and we needed to help the Georgian people as a signal not only to those in Georgia but other people in the neighborhood.

Let's talk about the Ukrainian military. It has been devastated, it has been gutted, because Yanukovich, the Ukrainian President, who won the election by less than 1 million votes—if you take Crimea out of Ukraine

electorally, then no pro-Russian candidate inside Ukraine has much of a chance to win. So now they have destroyed the balance of power inside Ukraine politically. So as those left in Ukraine, the Ukrainian people move west, they are going to have the ability to align themselves with Europe. Putin is, in my view, very much likely to take some eastern cities that may ask for his help, because the referendum by the Ukraine to move west they opposed, but they can't stop because of the electoral change.

So watch out for a move by Ukraine to integrating the European Union in April or May when they have an election, and people in the east create a fake fight and Russia uses that as a reason to go further into the east.

But to Senator McCain's point: President Obama has conceded Crimea. There is just no other way we can say it. Our European allies and our President have basically said, If you do any more, we are going to get tougher with you. The Senator from Arizona nailed this. What does that say to Putin? I got Crimea. Seven people and I may be sanctioned, but I have been given Crimea by Europe and the United States.

The sanctions we are talking about get tougher only if he moves further into his sovereign neighbor.

Six thousand troops are combat-ready in Ukraine. Why? Because the pro-Russian President and their Defense Minister, who got fired yesterday, gutted the Ukrainian military, setting up a scenario such as this, making it impossible for the Ukrainians to effectively defend themselves.

Here is the question for us: Do we let the Russians get away with it? They have been planning this for a while. Clearly, the pro-Russian forces inside Ukraine took on the task of neutering the Ukrainian military and they have done a heck of a good job. Should the United States and our NATO partners, at the request of the Ukrainian people, supply them with defensive weapons to rebuild the military, gutted by pro-Russian elements? To me, the answer is yes. Because if we want to make Putin think twice about what he does next, he has to pay a price greater than he has for Crimea. If he gets away with this and he doesn't pay any price, he is going to be on steroids. But if he thinks about moving and he sees on the other side of Crimea a Ukrainian people willing to fight with some capacity, that will change the equation. Because it is one thing to cheer in Moscow for getting something for almost nothing in terms of effort. It will be another thing to talk about Russian soldiers getting killed to continue to be on the aggressive path.

So if the NATO alliance, along with the United States, doesn't help rebuild the Ukrainian military so they can defend themselves without our troops being involved, we have made a historic mistake, because everybody in

the world is watching how this movie ends. The Iranians are watching, after Syria, now Russia. Does anybody in their right mind believe the Iranians take us seriously as a nation when it comes to stopping their nuclear program?

So I say to Senator MCCAIN, you have been a voice for realism, understanding Putin for who he is. For years, you have been telling the Senate and the country and the world at large: Watch this guy. There have been a series of foreign policy failures that have added up to make it confident to Putin that he can move forward without consequences.

So I hope we can convince our colleagues in the Senate and the House to honor a reasonable request by the Ukrainian people to help them rebuild the military destroyed by pro-Russian forces.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I would like to make a couple additional points to my friend from South Carolina, and I notice the Senator from New Hampshire is here.

In 1994, an agreement, a treaty was reached which divested Ukraine of the world's third largest nuclear inventory. In return for Ukraine turning over that inventory of nuclear weapons, there was a pledge made by Russia, the United States, and the British that they would respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine, including Crimea. That was a part of the treaty. Obviously, Vladimir Putin violated that.

The second point is, look, I have no illusions or worry about the long-term future of Russia. Russia is now a gas station masquerading as a country. Once we get the LNG and other energy to the European countries, it will dramatically reduce and eventually eliminate Vladimir Putin's influence because there is nothing but corruption and oligarchs in Russia today. One of the reasons Vladimir Putin wanted the Crimea and did not want Ukraine to be independent is because he was afraid this "disease" may spread to Russia. The Russian people are also sick and tired of the kleptocracy and the corruption.

Finally, again we need—and we should have had in this legislation—a commitment to help export our excess energy to the Europeans so they then would be able to reduce their dependency—not just Ukraine but all of Europe on their dependency on Russian energy.

So I have no doubt about the future of Russia. It will collapse like a house of cards. But in the short term, what Mr. Putin will do in committing further aggression—because this has raised his popularity dramatically at home. One of the most respected people whom Senator GRAHAM and Senator AYOTTE and I had to deal with over the years was Bob Gates. Mr. Gates served this country in a variety of posts, the

latest of course being as an outstanding Secretary of Defense. This morning in the Wall Street Journal he wrote a piece called "Putin's Challenge to the West." I am not going to read the whole thing.

I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 25, 2014]

PUTIN'S CHALLENGE TO THE WEST

(By Robert M. Gates)

Russia has thrown down a gauntlet that is not limited to Crimea or even Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has a long-festering grudge: He deeply resents the West for winning the Cold War. He blames the United States in particular for the collapse of his beloved Soviet Union, an event he has called the "worst geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century."

His list of grievances is long and was on full display in his March 18 speech announcing the annexation of Crimea by Russia. He is bitter about what he sees as Russia's humiliations in the 1990s—economic collapse; the expansion of NATO to include members of the U.S.S.R.'s own "alliance," the Warsaw Pact; Russia's agreement to the treaty limiting conventional forces in Europe, or as he calls it, "the colonial treaty"; the West's perceived dismissal of Russian interests in Serbia and elsewhere; attempts to bring Ukraine and Georgia into NATO and the European Union; and Western governments, businessmen and scholars all telling Russia how to conduct its affairs at home and abroad.

Mr. Putin aspires to restore Russia's global power and influence and to bring the now-independent states that were once part of the Soviet Union back into Moscow's orbit. While he has no apparent desire to recreate the Soviet Union (which would include responsibility for a number of economic basket cases), he is determined to create a Russian sphere of influence—political, economic and security—and dominance. There is no grand plan or strategy to do this, just opportunistic and ruthless aspiration. And patience.

Mr. Putin, who began his third, non-consecutive presidential term in 2012, is playing a long game. He can afford to: Under the Russian Constitution, he could legally remain president until 2024. After the internal chaos of the 1990s, he has ruthlessly restored "order" to Russia, oblivious to protests at home and abroad over his repression of nascent Russian democracy and political freedoms.

In recent years, he has turned his authoritarian eyes on the "near-abroad." In 2008, the West did little as he invaded Georgia, and Russian troops still occupy the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions. He has forced Armenia to break off its agreements with the European Union, and Moldova is under similar pressure.

Last November, through economic leverage and political muscle, he forced then-President Viktor Yanukovich to abort a Ukrainian agreement with the EU that would have drawn it toward the West. When Mr. Yanukovich, his minion, was ousted as a result, Mr. Putin seized Crimea and is now making ominous claims and military movements regarding all of eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine is central to Mr. Putin's vision of a pro-Russian bloc, partly because of its size and importantly because of Kiev's role as the

birthplace of the Russian Empire more than a thousand years ago. He will not be satisfied or rest until a pro-Russian government is restored in Kiev.

He also has a dramatically different worldview than the leaders of Europe and the U.S. He does not share Western leaders' reverence for international law, the sanctity of borders, which Westerners' believe should only be changed through negotiation, due process and rule of law. He has no concern for human and political rights. Above all, Mr. Putin clings to a zero-sum worldview. Contrary to the West's belief in the importance of win-win relationships among nations, for Mr. Putin every transaction is win-lose; when one party benefits, the other must lose. For him, attaining, keeping and amassing power is the name of the game.

The only way to counter Mr. Putin's aspirations on Russia's periphery is for the West also to play a strategic long game. That means to take actions that unambiguously demonstrate to Russians that his worldview and goals—and his means of achieving them—over time will dramatically weaken and isolate Russia.

Europe's reliance on Russian oil and gas must be reduced, and truly meaningful economic sanctions must be imposed, knowing there may be costs to the West as well. NATO allies bordering Russia must be militarily strengthened and reinforced with alliance forces; and the economic and cyber vulnerabilities of the Baltic states to Russian actions must be reduced (especially given the number of Russians and Russian-speakers in Estonia and Latvia).

Western investment in Russia should be curtailed; Russia should be expelled from the G-8 and other forums that offer respect and legitimacy; the U.S. defense budget should be restored to the level proposed in the Obama administration's 2014 budget a year ago, and the Pentagon directed to cut overhead drastically, with saved dollars going to enhanced capabilities, such as additional Navy ships; U.S. military withdrawals from Europe should be halted; and the EU should be urged to grant associate agreements with Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine.

So far, however, the Western response has been anemic. Mr. Putin is little influenced by seizure of personal assets of his cronies or the oligarchs, or restrictions on their travel. Unilateral U.S. sanctions, save on Russian banks, will not be effective absent European cooperation. The gap between Western rhetoric and Western actions in response to out-and-out aggression is a yawning chasm. The message seems to be that if Mr. Putin doesn't move troops into eastern Ukraine, the West will impose no further sanctions or costs. De facto, Russia's seizure of Crimea will stand and, except for a handful of Russian officials, business will go on as usual.

No one wants a new Cold War, much less a military confrontation. We want Russia to be a partner, but that is now self-evidently not possible under Mr. Putin's leadership. He has thrown down a gauntlet that is not limited to Crimea or even Ukraine. His actions challenge the entire post-Cold War order including, above all, the right of independent states to align themselves and do business with whomever they choose.

Tacit acceptance of settling old revanchist scores by force is a formula for ongoing crises and potential armed conflict, whether in Europe, Asia or elsewhere. A China behaving with increasing aggressiveness in the East and South China seas, an Iran with nuclear aspirations and interventionist policies in the Middle East, and a volatile and unpredictable North Korea are all watching events

in Europe. They have witnessed the fecklessness of the West in Syria. Similar division and weakness in responding to Russia's most recent aggression will, I fear, have dangerous consequences down the road.

Mr. Putin's challenge comes at a most unpropitious time for the West. Europe faces a weak economic recovery and significant economic ties with Russia. The U.S. is emerging from more than a dozen years at war and leaders in both parties face growing isolationism among voters, with the prospect of another major challenge abroad cutting across the current political grain. Crimea and Ukraine are far away, and their importance to Europe and America little understood by the public.

Therefore, the burden of explaining the need to act forcefully falls, as always, on our leaders. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "Government includes the act of formulating a policy" and "persuading, leading, sacrificing, teaching always, because the greatest duty of a statesman is to educate." The aggressive, arrogant actions of Vladimir Putin require from Western leaders strategic thinking, bold leadership and steely resolve—now.

Mr. MCCAIN. This is very important for all of our colleagues and the American people to know, and they do not have to take Senator GRAHAM's and my word for it. Already we are accused of being partisan—politics stops at the water's edge, all of that baloney. When they cannot rebut the message, they shoot the messengers. This is former Secretary of Defense Gates:

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So we are not just even talking about Ukraine. We are not even talking about that part of Europe. We are talking about the lesson that bad people—whether they be Kim Jong Un or

whether they be the Chinese who want to increase their influence in the South China Sea or whether they be the Iranians who continue to supply weapons to Hezbollah fighters to the fight in Syria, which the resistance is losing—in case you missed it, there was an interesting article this morning about how jihadists will establish a base in Syria with which to export terrorism throughout the Middle East and the world, including the United States of America.

The President of the United States has to understand Vladimir Putin for what he is and what his ambitions are and what he will do.

My friend from South Carolina and I are not sure what he will do now. But I think it is obvious, with his troops amassed on the boarder of Eastern Ukraine, he is contemplating further action. Whether he does so, I am not sure, but I think his calculation has to do with the cost-benefit ratio of further aggression against a sovereign nation.

I see my colleague.

Could I just make one more comment because my colleague was in Ukraine recently. These are wonderful people. All they want is what we have. They do not want to be part of Russia. They are tired of their corrupt dictator, Yanukovich, whom they had. They are willing to stand for weeks in freezing weather in Maidan—this huge square in Ukraine. Madam President, 110 of them were assassinated by snipers.

Can't we at least give them some weapons with which to defend themselves and speak up for them, rather than saying "additional costs should Russia take [the] next step."

I yield for my colleague from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I wish to thank my colleague from Arizona and my colleague from South Carolina. I was in Ukraine on Sunday, and I was in Maidan, along with two of my colleagues: Senator DONNELLY, who represents Indiana in the Senate, as well as Representative STEPHEN LYNCH, who is a Congressman who represents Massachusetts.

We had an opportunity, actually, to see and meet Ukrainians. In fact, when we went down to Maidan, there were 30,000 people there protesting. Do you know what they were protesting? They were protesting the Russian invasion and illegal annexation of Crimea. They were standing for their country, and they were standing against Russian aggression.

In fact, one of the experiences we had is that as we walked along, so many people came up to us and said: Thank you, America. Thank you for standing with us. In fact, I met a mother and daughter who had come from Crimea. They were waving a flag—a Ukrainian flag—and they gave me this, what I hold in my hand, and they put it

around me. What they wanted me to know is that they were from Crimea and they did not accept the Russian aggression and invasion of their country. What they asked us to stand for is to stand for the freedom of the Ukrainian people to decide their future and to not let Russia interfere with their ability to decide what they want for their country.

They are wonderful people. They are very patriotic. In Maidan there were over 100 Ukrainians who were killed. Many of them were murdered by snipers who were up on the rooftops, who were just killed in cold blood by the Yanukovich government, the pro-Russian-backed government, because they were simply doing what we in the United States of America call coming out and stating their viewpoint, saying: We want a government that is not corrupt. We want a government that will allow us to have a say in our future. For that they were murdered in cold blood.

We are at an important moment for our country right now. What happened in Crimea and what is happening in Ukraine matters very much to the United States of America, because if we do not stop Russian aggression toward Ukraine, then I think this very much threatens the NATO alliance. It puts us in a position where our words do not have meaning because we were a signatory to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, along with the United Kingdom.

Russia violated that memorandum by invading Crimea. They have made further efforts to amass their troops on the boarder of Eastern Ukraine. In fact, what they are also doing is sending armed Russian agents into Eastern Ukraine to try—they are armed, they have money—and they are trying to actually create artificial demonstrations in Eastern Ukraine so they can use the very same excuse they used in Crimea to go over and take more territory of Ukraine in violation of international law and in violation of all standards among civilized countries.

I believe it is time for us to set forth—I appreciate what the President has done with the sanctions, but we need to do more. If we do not do more now, then Russia—I fear that Vladimir Putin in particular will move into the remainder of Ukraine and that we will undermine our agreement on the Budapest Memorandum. But, most important, we have a lot at stake.

First, as my colleagues have said, if we do not stand with NATO to send a strong message to Vladimir Putin, by not just sanctioning individuals, we should sanction segments of the Russian economy so he understands there are serious consequences for invading another country.

We should provide military assistance to the Ukraine military so they can defend themselves. We should revisit our decision and reinstate the

memorandums of understanding that we have with Poland and the Czech Republic for missile defense systems. We as a country should be looking to help Europe reduce their dependency on Russian natural gas and oil, and there are steps we can take that will be good for our economy but will also be good for the safety and security of the world.

We should be doing all that now so Vladimir Putin, who is a schoolyard bully, understands we are very serious.

Why does it matter? Not just NATO, but we had Ukraine give up their nuclear weapons in exchange for the agreement of the United Kingdom and the United States that we would respect their sovereignty, and they felt they had assurances of security from us.

How are we going to deal with nuclear proliferation around the world and get other countries to give up their nuclear weapons if we are not serious and we do not say now: Vladimir Putin, we are serious—tough sanctions, much tougher than have been in place. We are going to support the Ukrainian military and we are not going to stand for any more aggression against the Ukrainian people—because otherwise why give up your nuclear weapons, again, if you are a country, if the United States of America does not mean anything they say on an agreement they have signed on to?

In addition, what will the Chinese do? In the Senkaku Islands they have been very aggressive toward the territory of not only the Japanese but also the Philippines, the Vietnamese, and they are watching. They are watching whether we care whether Russia invades another country, whether we care that Vladimir Putin is pushing the Ukrainian people around.

That is why this matters, not just because we stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine—we do and we should—so they can decide their future, not Vladimir Putin—they, the people of their country, should decide their future—but also because it matters for us around the world, not just China, not just nuclear proliferation, but what do the ayatollahs in Iran think about how serious we are about ending their nuclear weapons program.

This is an important moment for America, and it is time for our President to really step forward. The initial steps he took were in the right direction, but it is time not to continue saying there will be further costs. The costs must be rendered now. The Senate will be taking an important step in providing loan guarantees to Ukraine and a scheme for sanctions, but ultimately I call on the President of the United States to say to Vladimir Putin now—to recognize whom we are dealing with, the former KGB colonel—to say to him: We are going to impose sanctions on entire segments of your econ-

omy. We are going to hurt your ability to do business in the world because you have invaded another country. We are going to bolster NATO, and we are going to reinstate missile defense systems in the Czech Republic and Poland, that we will not accept this aggression.

It is time for the President to say this very clearly and to impose the consequences on Russia now because after they invade Eastern Ukraine, it will be too late.

Vladimir Putin needs to understand now that we are very serious about this, that we will stand by our word under the Budapest Memorandum, that we will stand with the Ukrainian people, and that we will make sure that we will not accept aggressions from Vladimir Putin, and that this school yard bully understands, through strength, that the United States of America will not be bullied around, nor will our friends and allies.

Mr. GRAHAM. Will the Senator yield for a question?

There is the Membership Action Plan, MAP—I think that is the acronym—where a country gets ready to enter into NATO. Georgia would like that. I think Ukraine now would like that. Here is the basic tension; don't you agree?

A plurality before Crimea was invaded wanted to move into the European Union and Ukraine. Now, I think clearly a majority, if you take the Crimea out, wants to associate with the European Union. Putin is saying hell no. So the Ukrainian people in the coming months are going to make a move toward the European Union and alliances with NATO, most likely, and the Russians are going to try to stop them.

I fear the way they will choose to stop them is not to try to influence the vote but to try to grab some eastern cities where you will have vocal minority Russian populations saying: Come here and help your fellow Russians. We are being absorbed by a bunch of thugs in Kiev. Senator MCCAIN made a good point while we are talking. The theory of the case for Russia is: We have a legitimate right to go into this area to protect native Russians, ethnic Russians. That has no limit in that region.

If we adopt the theory of the case, ignore international law, let him break the 1994 agreement with no punishment for taking the Crimea, then I hope you understand what comes next. The theory of this case can apply to many countries in the region, not just Crimea and the Ukraine. So we need to reject this theory of the case.

We need to make him pay a price for what he has done, not what he might do. If he does not pay a price for what he has done, I can assure you what he will do. He will do more. The last thought is that Senator MCCAIN and I and Senator AYOTTE have been talking about the Al Qaeda buildup in Syria.

The Director of National Intelligence has testified before the country as a whole, before the Congress, that the Al Qaeda elements in Syria are representing a direct threat to our European allies and to our own homeland. There was a press report yesterday: What is your Congress and your Commander in Chief doing about it?

We have been told as Members of the Senate that the 26,000-plus Al Qaeda fighters, many of them European, some American, are amassing in Syria. Al Qaeda leaders from the tribal regions in Afghanistan and Pakistan are moving into Syria to organize this cabal. One of the goals that they would like to achieve is to take this force that is in the fight in Syria and disperse it back to Europe and the United States.

What are you doing about this threat, Mr. President? Members of the Senate, you have been told—11, 12 years after 9/11—that Al Qaeda is thinking about hitting us again. They exist in a certain part of the world. They are amassing capability. Their leaders are moving in to help organize this group. What is our response? What are we doing?

It is just not Ukraine. The whole world is melting down. I would end with this thought. Ronald Reagan had a great slogan. It was not a slogan. It was a world view: Peace through strength. Here is what I will say to the times in which we live, and I will talk about this more later. I want to come with my colleagues and talk about the Al Qaeda threat in Syria and elsewhere.

Peace is an illusion when it comes to radical Islam. It can never be achieved. But here is what can be achieved: security through strength. We need to have as a Nation security policies, national security policies that will deter aggression from nation-states and radical Islamic organizations who do not fear death. We have no such policy. We need to have security through strength. We are cutting our military. We are gutting our ability to defend ourselves through reducing intelligence capabilities at a time when the threats are on the rise.

This is the most dangerous time in American history—since the end of the Cold War, in many ways since the end of World War II—because the enemies of this Nation are getting stronger and we are getting weaker. Somebody needs to change that calculation before it is too late.

So to Senator MCCAIN and Senator AYOTTE, both of you have been to the Ukraine in the last couple of weeks. You have done the hard work of traveling away from your constituents and your families to find out first hand what is on the ground. I hope that people in the body will listen to their experiences. There are a lot of Democrats who seem to have the same experience.

Mr. McCAIN. I thank my colleague, and I appreciate his longstanding support for freedom and democracy throughout the world, but also for a very prescient piece that he and Senator Lieberman wrote 6 years ago predicting the likelihood of the events that we have just observed taking place. There is an article in the Washington Post: "Three ways NATO can bolster Ukraine's security," by Ian Brzezinski. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 24, 2014]

THREE WAYS NATO CAN BOLSTER UKRAINE'S SECURITY

(By Ian J. Brzezinski)

NATO's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has drawn a red line, but it is one that leaves Ukraine militarily isolated, fending for itself. If the West's economic and diplomatic sanctions are to deter Moscow from further military aggression, they must be complemented by a robust defensive strategy to reinforce Ukraine's armed forces.

When Russia invaded Crimea, it mobilized 150,000 troops along Ukraine's eastern frontier. Most of those forces still menace Ukraine, with some 20,000 troops still occupying the peninsula while provocateurs sent by Moscow continue to stir unrest in the country's eastern regions.

NATO's response has, by contrast, been underwhelming. The United States and Britain reinforced the air space of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania with a handful of fighter jets, and AWACs patrols fly over Poland and Romania. The United States deployed about a dozen F-16s to Poland and sent an additional ship to the Black Sea. No ally appears to have mobilized any ground forces.

When Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk met with President Obama this month, his request for weapons that would enable his military to better defend against Russia's massed forces was politely declined. Instead, the Obama administration offered uniforms and military meals.

In a similarly negative move, Vice President Biden visited Warsaw and Vilnius, Lithuania, last week to reassure them of the U.S. military commitment to their security, but he bypassed Kiev. This was surely noted by Moscow, as was Obama's recent statement that he would not allow the United States to get involved in a "military excursion" in Ukraine.

These U.S. and alliance actions constitute a red line that depicts Kiev on the outside and on its own. This must be deeply disillusioning for Ukrainians who in recent months have so courageously expressed their desire for freedom and a place in Europe—and whose forces participated in a NATO collective defense exercise as recently as November. This red line can only reassure Vladimir Putin and his military planners, whose use of unmarked military personnel—and the plausible deniability they provided—in Crimea reflected at least initial concern about potential responses from the West.

There are prudent defensive measures the United States and NATO can and should take to bolster Ukraine's security. First, Yatsenyuk's request for military equipment should be immediately approved, and anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons should be included. Equipment and weapons could quick-

ly be transferred from prepositioned U.S. military stocks in Europe.

If NATO cannot attain the consensus to initiate such assistance, then Washington should forge a coalition of the willing or act on its own. These weapons would complicate Russian military planning and add risk to its operations against Ukraine. U.S. equipment in particular would bring back unpleasant memories of when Soviet forces encountered Western weapons in Afghanistan.

Second, the alliance or a U.S.-led coalition should back that assistance with the deployment of intelligence and surveillance capabilities and military trainers to Ukraine. This would provide not only needed situational awareness and help the Ukrainian military maximize its defensive capacities, but it would also force Moscow to consider the potential political and military repercussions of any actions that affect that presence. The deployment of military trainers to Georgia was one of the more effective elements of the U.S. effort to bolster Georgia's security after it was invaded by Russia in 2008.

Third, NATO allies and partners should soon conduct a military exercise in Ukraine as part of the effort to train the Ukrainian military. The alliance's plan to wait until its next scheduled exercise in Ukraine, this summer, could incentivize Russia to take additional military action before then.

The NATO Response Force, created to deploy on short notice a brigade-level force backed by combat air support, is well suited for such an exercise. The force offers a means to demonstrate Western resolve prudently and rapidly. It has the potential to significantly reinforce Ukraine's defense against a sudden Russian offensive, but it is not big enough to jeopardize Russia's territorial integrity.

Each of these initiatives would complicate Putin's ambitions regarding Ukraine and could be executed in the near term. None would present a threat to Russia. They would, however, amend the red line the alliance has mistakenly created, assure Ukrainians that they are not alone and force Moscow to consider the possibility of a much more costly and prolonged military conflict. The absence of a firm Western response will only encourage Putin to act aggressively again, be it to drive deeper into Ukraine, make another attempt to seize Georgia, expand Russia's occupation of Moldovan territory or grab other areas that were once part of the Soviet Union.

NATO's response to this crisis is critical to both Ukraine's security and the alliance's long-term future. A NATO summit planned for September is to focus on the alliance's way forward in a new world. But what it does to assist Ukraine today and in the coming weeks will have a far more profound influence on its future and transatlantic security.

Mr. McCAIN. It goes on to say:

These U.S. and alliance actions constitute a red line that depicts Kiev on the outside and on its own. This must be deeply disillusioning for Ukrainians who in recent months have so courageously expressed their desire for freedom and a place in Europe—and whose forces participated in a NATO collective defense exercise as recently as November. This red line can only reassure Vladimir Putin and his military planners, whose use of unmarked military personnel—and the plausible deniability they provided—in Crimea reflected at least initial concern about potential responses from the West.

One of the more remarkable returns to the days of the Soviet Union was

when Vladimir Putin had the press conference and was asked if those were Russian military in Crimea, and he said: Well, they can buy old uniforms from most any store in the region.

He not only denied that Russian troops were there, but he added to the flat-out lie with a statement so ridiculous that he must have known that we knew that he was absolutely lying through his teeth. Let me just say to my colleagues what we need to do is we must recognize the reality that President Putin is not, and will never be, our partner. He will always insist on being our adversary and working to revise the entire post Cold War vision of a Europe whole, free, and at peace—and the security architecture that supports it. Our policy must begin with the reality of what Vladimir Putin is, what his ambitions are, and what he is willing to do.

We have to support Ukraine's emergence as a successful democracy with a thriving economy, fighting corruption, and with a strengthened national unity. We must ensure that the March elections in Ukraine occur on time, freely, and fairly. We must meet Ukraine's request for immediate military assistance as part of a larger, long-term initiative to help the Ukrainian armed forces rebuild and reform into an effective force that can deter aggression and defend their nation; support countries such as Moldova and Georgia in deepening democratic, economic, and military reforms that can hasten their integration into the Euro-Atlantic community; expand sanctions under the Magnitsky Act; increase targeted sanctions against Putin's sources of power, especially for corruption; push for an arms embargo against Russia; prevent defense technology transfers; use the upcoming NATO summit to enlarge the alliance; move Georgia into the Membership Action Plan; expand NATO cooperation with Ukraine; conduct significant contingency planning within NATO to deter aggression and defend alliance members, especially along the eastern flank; strategically shift NATO military assets eastward to support deterrence.

We must take these actions. None of them, by the way, entail the commitment of American troops. I also want to make one additional comment. I hope that the Senator from New Hampshire would comment as well. Whenever I see a news story—no matter which network it is on—the overwhelming majority of American people do not want to have anything to do with Syria.

The overwhelming majority of Americans do not want to have anything to do with Ukraine. We do not even want to assist the people of Ukraine. We do not want to assist the people of Syria that are fighting and struggling—140,000 of whom have been slaughtered

already in the most atrocious fashion. I say to my colleagues and to the American people: We cannot ignore the lessons of history. We cannot revert to the 1930s when isolationist impetus in this country kept us out of being prepared for a conflict.

If it had not been for Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the actions he took in the late 1930s, we would have had an even worse time after Pearl Harbor. It is up to the President of the United States to inform the American people of what our vital national security interests are. That does not mean involvement in another war.

But we cannot leave the world because the world will not leave us. So the President of the United States—rather than announcing that if the Russians go any further there will be punishment for it, the President of the United States needs to go before the American people and say: Here is what we are facing. We are facing what Senator GRAHAM just talked about: the rise of Al Qaeda across the Middle East; the failure in Syria, which is now becoming a breeding ground for Islamic extremism; the Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea; the Iranian talks which are “failing;” and of course this latest and most outrageous aggression committed by Vladimir Putin.

The world is a dangerous place. It cries out for American leadership. As LINDSEY GRAHAM said, there was a guy, in the words of Margaret Thatcher, who won the Cold War without firing a shot. It is called peace through strength. It is through being steadfast.

Right now, when the Chinese announced that they are increasing their defense spending by 12.2 percent, we are announcing that we are cutting our defense dramatically. That is a long series of cuts in defense, which can put this Nation's national security interests further in danger.

I thank my colleague from New Hampshire for going to Kiev. It is an uplifting and wonderful experience to see how much they want to be like us, how much they appreciate what little we do, how much it matters to them to be able to be part of Europe and free, and to have an economic system that is not beset with the corruption and kleptocracy that devastated their economy.

They need our help. I hope tomorrow we will be passing legislation which will be the first step in providing that assistance to this Nation. I say to my colleagues, the people of Ukraine will be watching us. They are watching what we do. The sooner we guarantee \$1 billion of loan guarantees to them, the sooner we impose these sanctions which are embodied in this bill in a bipartisan fashion, the better it will be for the people of Ukraine to know that we stand with them.

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I want to thank the senior Senator from

Arizona for his leadership and to really frame what Ronald Reagan said. It is so important at this moment. He said: Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong. So when we talk about peace through strength, we are talking about ensuring that we do not have to get involved in another conflict. Before I went to Ukraine I was in Afghanistan. One of the commanders that I was speaking with in Afghanistan said to me: You know, Senator AYOTTE, I worry about America's span of attention. I am worried. I have fought here. I have done multiple tours here. We sacrificed here. I am really worried. I understand how people at home view where things are in Afghanistan. But for us just to throw our hands up right now and what that will do—I am just worried that we are forgetting the lessons of what happened on September 11, when we thought that we did not have to be engaged, when we thought that the fight could stay over here and that this country Afghanistan, which was a haven for Al Qaeda, that they would just leave us alone.

Unfortunately, in this fight with Al Qaeda, they won't leave us alone. Now we are facing a situation in Syria where our Secretary of Homeland Security or our Director of National Intelligence has said the threat of Al Qaeda in Syria is a threat to our homeland.

As we look at events unfolding around the world, what is happening in Ukraine does matter to the United States of America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Ms. AYOTTE. I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. AYOTTE. I would say in order that we don't have to deal with wars here and that we hopefully don't have to send our men and women in uniform to war, we have to maintain a strong position in the United States and Ukraine using the strongest sanctions we can, having a prepared military, and supporting our allies to ensure that we don't fall back into forgetting the lessons we have seen. When America disengages, it becomes dangerous for America. That is what this is about.

I am pleased we are going to pass bipartisan legislation to support Ukraine. I ask the President to issue even stronger sanctions against Russia, Vladimir Putin, and to ensure we stand with the people of Ukraine, because when we stand with them we stand for ourselves as well and what we believe in.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MURPHY. Yesterday, healthcare.gov saw about 1.2 million visits to the site. The call centers,

which are busy enrolling people at a pace that is now exceeding 50,000 to 100,000 people a day, saw 390,000 phone calls.

A new poll just came out suggesting that a full 60 percent of Americans want the Affordable Care Act to stay in place, and if they want changes, they only want minor changes. Only 11 percent of people in this poll said they want to repeal and replace the law, and only 18 percent said they wanted to repeal it completely.

It is not rocket science to figure out why we have hundreds of thousands of people lining up as we approach the deadline for enrollment seeking to get care. It is not rocket science why there are over 1 million people only yesterday alone going to the Web site trying to find out what their options are.

The simple fact is that even today, as we stand on the brink of the enrollment deadline, there are still millions of Americans who remain on the outside of the best health care system in the world. There are still millions of families who are waking up today, as they have week after week, year after year, wondering how they are going to pay the medical bills that are piling up for a sick father and worrying what would happen if their child were diagnosed with a disease, having no way to pay for it. That is a reality still today for millions of families. Many of them, frankly, have stayed away from the Web site because of the misinformation that has been spread by opponents of the health care law.

Now as we are coming to the enrollment deadline, we are seeing a surge of interest, much of it from families who are desperate to finally get access to health care insurance that will allow them to avoid the fate of millions of other Americans who have fallen into bankruptcy, have lost their homes, have lost their cars, and who have lost their savings simply because of a mistimed illness.

I was pleased today to see the President make a very simple announcement. What he said is that people who are in line trying to apply for health care insurance when the deadline hits on Monday are going to get a shot to complete their application.

For very complex cases, for instance, women who are in a situation of extreme domestic violence who don't want to apply jointly and have to apply themselves, they are going to be able to have a little extra time as well. For most of the people I represent, that is just common sense.

If someone is desperately in need of health care and if they have gone months, years, and maybe even decades without health care and they have this chance—a chance that will expire Monday this year—then if they are in line trying to fill out an application, they should be able to get through that application even if the midnight clock hits.

I heard my friend from Wyoming speak on the floor earlier today and criticize this announcement from the President. I thought it was worthwhile to come to the floor and make it clear that if someone is criticizing a simple decision to allow people a little bit of extra time, they are essentially rooting for people to stay outside of the ranks of those who are insured. They are essentially guaranteeing that people who could get insurance, because they have the ability now over the course of the next few days to sign up, aren't going to be able to get it.

Of course, I think people understand this concept because there is plenty of precedent. When folks rush home from work late on election day to go vote, they often see very long lines outside of the polling place. But we don't shut down the polls at 8 o'clock when there is a line outside. We allow people who are in line to vote because they worked hard to get there, to get in line. They deserve a chance to express their choice in an election. That is essentially what the President has announced today, that individuals who are in line on March 31 are going to get a chance to sign up, because why on Earth would we deny people the ability to get insurance? I get it that there are people who oppose this law, who want it repealed, and many people of good faith who want it replaced with something else. But the reality of here and now is that there are millions of people who are going onto the Web site every day. There are hundreds of thousands of people who are calling, and they deserve a chance to get health care insurance, to be able to treat their loved ones for the diseases that they have today or may incur.

I would note that there is precedence to this. When President Bush was managing the enrollment process for Medicare Part D, he did, in fact, the same thing. He extended the enrollment deadline for people who were in process and for complex cases. People who were trying to sign up for Medicare Part D at the enrollment deadline received extra time, and there were plenty of Republicans who supported that effort.

I come to the floor today to make it clear that for a lot of folks it makes sense that if people are so desperate for health care and they are in the process of filling out these applications, they should get the chance to finish the job.

I am continuing to receive letters and emails from people who have gone through the process and whose lives have been transformed. I simply want to make sure that on Monday, if people are in the process of signing up, they don't get foreclosed from the possibility of experiencing a reality such as one of my constituents, Sean Hannon, from Weston, CT. I will finish by reading a letter he sent to our office.

Speaking for himself and his wife he said:

As working freelancers, my wife and I are not covered by company health plans and we have had to buy private health insurance out of pocket. It has been our largest financial burden. Last year, our monthly premium for Golden Rule was \$1,216. That came to \$14,592 annually. This plan also came with a huge deductible that needed to be met completely before any payout.

This year, Golden Rule increased our premium to \$1,476 a month, or \$17,712 annually.

On February 1, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, we were able to switch from Golden Rule to Connecticut on the CT Exchange. It wasn't easy to go through enrollment, but we had great assistance from a woman at the enrollment center in New Haven, and she stuck with us until we got it right.

Let me tell you what the new healthcare plan has done for us. . . .

First and foremost, we lowered our monthly premium of \$1,475 to \$309. Let me spell that out so you know it wasn't a typo: three hundred and nine dollars. That is a savings of nearly 80%!

So now I am sure you are thinking that we must have made a huge sacrifice in quality of care or services. Just the opposite. We have lost none of the benefits we previously had. We were able to keep all of our doctors, our primary GP and specialists. They all accept the insurance.

While we still have a high deductible, unlike the previous plan that didn't pay anything until the deductible was met, we now have co-pays for doctor visits of \$30, and procedures such as CAT scans and MRIs are \$75 for each visit, and the remainder of the expense is covered COMPLETELY, even before the deductible is met.

And we have the peace of mind of not being dropped or penalized for pre-existing conditions.

They finish by saying:

Despite the messed up rollout and the attendant growing pains of a massive program, ObamaCare has been a Godsend, and we are overwhelmed and ecstatic over the dramatic difference this has made in our family budget.

We are sharing all of this personal information here because there is an aggressive campaign underway to dismantle this valuable program. The misinformation being put out there is skewing public opinion and this must not happen. . . . This treasure is ours to lose if we do not speak up now.

Yesterday 1.2 million people went to the Web site and 400,000 people called in to seek help. I imagine those numbers will continue to escalate as we move through the weekend. They deserve to be able to get to a reality that Sean Hannon and his family are experiencing now. They deserve to have a chance at paying lower premiums, 80 percent savings, for some individuals, to finally get insured for the diseases, illnesses, and conditions that have plagued these families for years.

I applaud the President for allowing these families the ability to complete their applications, and I hope that many of them get to see the same final reality that the Hannon family of Weston, CT, have.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor, having heard my col-

league's concerns and story of a family who was helped by the President's health care law. We want people in this country to be helped. My concern is there are a lot of people who are actually being hurt by the President's health care law. We shouldn't have to hurt people, specifically people who have had insurance, to try to help people who haven't had insurance. That is the big concern that my friend from Connecticut referred to as I came to the floor this morning to discuss.

I have grave concerns about the impact on the people of Wyoming and all around the country as we are getting letters and concerns. We were told on the floor that all of these stories—nine of us were reading different stories—that all of these are lies.

These are not lies. These are people hurt by the President's health care law. We see them in States all around the country.

We don't know how many people have signed up, how many have gone to the Web site. The White House can't even tell us if they know how many have insurance.

Sure, they may have had a lot of people visit the Web site. I wonder how many people have actually paid to have insurance? What the President asked for is he said: We are going to get 30 million people who didn't have insurance to have insurance.

It looks as if there may be fewer than 2 million who go through that. We know that fewer than 1 in 10 young people—the people who are supposed to pay for this program—young people paying more so that older, sicker people will pay less, those people aren't signing up. Only 1 in 10 of those eligible at that age is signing up.

That is what we are seeing across the country, and that is why the worry is that there is going to need to be a big bailout of this program because the money that is being spent by the taxpayers is not getting the job done. They are not doing it in a way to actually help the people who need help without hurting so many other people, the 5 million people who received letters of cancellation.

I hear my friend and colleague from Connecticut. It is not only people—one person who may have gotten insurance in Connecticut who may have been helped in that situation. The impact on jobs and communities has been dramatic. When I looked at the State of Connecticut, there was a story in the New York Times only last month about the impact of this law that my colleague and friend has voted for that has now been changed over two dozen times. They are interviewing a superintendent of schools in Meriden, CT.

We just heard a story of somebody who was helped by the health care law. Now let's look at what has happened to the superintendent of schools in Meriden, CT, Mark Benigni. He is also a

board member of the American Association of School Administrators.

In an interview with the *New York Times*, he said that the new health care law was having “unintended consequences for school systems across the Nation.”

We have a letter from somebody in Connecticut, but let's see what happened to school systems across the country. Maybe they have children in school, I don't know.

The article states:

In Connecticut, as in many States, significant numbers of part-time school employees work more than 30 hours a week and do not receive health benefits.

We know the health care law defines a workweek as anything above 30 hours. They have people who are working part time with more than 30 hours, and according to the health care law those are full-time employees. So they have workers with more than 30 but who do not receive health benefits, and he says:

Are we supposed to lay off full-time teachers so that we can provide insurance coverage to part-time employees?

That is a question asked by the superintendent of schools in a town in central Connecticut. He says:

If we have to cut five reading teachers to pay for the benefits for substitute teachers, I'm not sure that would be best for our students.

The impact of this health care law and the mandate and the costs go way beyond the health care of an individual or a family or a community. It goes to so many other things, including the education of our young people. And those are some of the tradeoffs and the unintended consequences that have developed since passing a 2,700-page health care law.

Whether they delay the signup date to allow more people to sign up, as a doctor, my concern is for those people who do sign up, what kind of care are they going to get. Are they going to be able to keep their doctor, which the President promised. The deadline date is less important than the kind of care people can get with the insurance they are mandated to buy as a result of the health care law, and pay a lot more than they would have paid had the law not been passed. Will they be able to keep their doctor? Will they be able to see a doctor?

We know there is a shortage coming of about 90,000 physicians, half of them specialists, half of them primary care physicians around the country. This is coming in the next 5 or 6 years. We know the things that are happening along those lines with not enough nurses, not enough physician assistants, not enough EMTs, paramedics—across the board not enough people to take care of the population of this country. Having insurance is not enough to provide care.

The President made promises that are not being kept. That is a concern I

have when I hear the deadline is extended. My concern is what happens after they sign up. Will they be able to get the care they need?

Last week, the Associated Press reported the results of a poll of all these different cancer hospitals. My wife is a cancer survivor, so I know how important it is for people to have the peace of mind to get the care they need. Of the 19 hospitals that responded to the Associated Press, only 4 of the 19 said, yes, they will be able to accept all of the plans of the people who are signing up on the Web site in those States where those hospitals are located. So it is not just a matter of keeping your own doctor, but it is getting the doctor you need at a time of family crisis, personal family concern—the time when people are most vulnerable. Will the fact they have some coverage bought through a Web site actually help them get the care they need? And will the doctor who happens to see them—even if they are able to keep their own doctor—be able to spend the time interacting with the patient or, with all the additional paperwork and time-consumption activities, will the doctor have to cut the visit short, spend time looking more at the computer screen than looking at the patient? There are complaints in every State of the Union from patients who are complaining either to their doctor or the nurse at the office or at the checkout area of the office saying, you know, I would have liked to have had the doctor look more at me and not so much at the computer screen.

There are many components of this health care law that are harmful to health care delivery and to patient care in this country, and so the President decides to unilaterally delay a part of the law that this last week or the week before the Secretary of Health and Human Services said will not be done; this is the deadline; this is it. When is the law not the law anymore? When it is just Swiss cheese? When do you trust somebody, take them at their word? Words have meanings.

It is time for this President and this administration to actually realize the American people see what is happening. Each time they do a delay or do a change or do this or that, it has a huge impact on people's lives as they try to decide what to do and what matters and what doesn't matter under this administration. People are very disappointed as a result of the health care law. Those who were looking for something better haven't found it.

We still don't know how many people actually have paid for insurance. We may know how many went to the Web site, but we don't know how many of those who bought insurance through the Web site actually had their own insurance and got one of those letters—of the 5 million people who got letters of

cancellation—canceling their insurance or how many were uninsured.

It looks as though the Web site doesn't even want to look into that. On the paper application there is actually a box to check off. It says: I didn't have insurance but now I am going to get it. The Web site left that off. I don't know if that was ineptitude on the part of the designers of the Web site or if it was left off or fell through the cracks in the disastrous rollout. I don't know, but it wasn't there. So the administration, which said our goal is that of the 30 million people who do not have insurance, getting them insured, will never know the answer to that. Then there is the question of who are these folks, in terms of young or old, sick or not sick. And we know of those eligible, only about 1 in 10 has signed up.

But the big concern is—regardless of some of these things the President is doing to delay this and let others sign up or not sign up for a bit of time—what kind of care are they going to get? Whether they are insured through the Web site this week, next week, or the week after, what kind of care is going to be available to them? And what happens when they find the cost of the care—as for so many people I hear from in Wyoming—is much higher than they were paying before? And if they had a policy they liked—or are still finding, if they didn't have insurance—many of them still think the rates are unaffordable.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3521

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I come to the floor again to try to move forward on a bill with near unanimous support. In fact, with regard to the actual substance of the bill, it has unanimous support because it would advance 27 community-based health care clinics for veterans in the VA system immediately, around the country, which would serve hundreds of thousands of veterans in communities that absolutely need this type of expanded community-based clinic. Two are in my State—one in Lafayette, one in Lake Charles, LA.

All of these community-based clinics—including the ones in Lafayette and Lake Charles—have been fully authorized by the VA and throughout the

process. They have been on the books. We have been planning on them and moving forward with them for some time. But they have hit a series of bureaucratic glitches.

For the Lafayette and Lake Charles facilities in particular, first they hit a big VA glitch when the VA just screwed up—and those are their words, not mine—just screwed up in the letting process to put out contracts to locate land and to build or lease these facilities. Because of that bureaucratic mistake, the VA lost a whole year in the process in terms of moving forward with these clinics that are fully approved, fully authorized.

During that year of delay, out of the blue CBO decided to score how these clinics are financed differently than it ever did before. I won't go into the weeds, but suffice it to say that under this new scoring method, it created a scoring issue, which it never did before. Well, that was an additional hurdle and additional point of delay to which we had to respond. We overcame it with a proposal that ensures the VA funds and handles this correctly so there is no scoring issue. The bill passed the House nearly unanimously. In fact, the vote in the House was 346 to 1. As the Presiding Officer knows, not much passes either body nearly unanimously, but this did with very widespread bipartisan support, 346 to 1. This is the bill which has come over here to get final approval.

With the addition of an amendment to help pay for any costs associated with the bill—and the amendment has been fully vetted and is supported in a bipartisan way—with the addition of an amendment, we have no opposition here in the Senate on the actual substance of my proposal, on moving forward with these 27 important VA clinics around the country, two of which are in Louisiana.

Unfortunately, the only objection that appears to reside here in the Senate is from the Senator from Vermont, Mr. SANDERS, who does not object to this bill as amended, who does not object to the substance within the four corners of this bill, but who simply wants his much bigger, much broader VA bill passed. I applaud his passion to advocate for it, but there is significant concern with that much bigger, much more complicated proposal. There are 43 Senators, including myself, who have very significant concerns about that proposal.

I think it is really unfortunate for him to block something where there are no concerns—it has been vetted, it has bipartisan support, and every conceivable substantive issue has been worked out—simply to hold that as hostage for a much broader bill that has concerns and opposition from almost half of the Senate, 43 Senators. So I hope we can avoid that, and I come to the floor to ask for unanimous consent.

I think the American people want us to work together. I think the American people want us to agree on things we can agree on. There is a lot to fight about, there is a lot to wrestle with, there is a lot to disagree about, and we should work on that stuff too, toward an agreement. I am open to doing so with Senator SANDERS. But in the meantime, I firmly believe the American people want us to agree where we do agree. Don't create disagreements that don't exist. They want us to move forward where we can move forward. They want us to make progress where we can and keep working on the rest.

In that spirit, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of my bill, H.R. 3521, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that my amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I appreciate the interest my colleague from Louisiana has on this very important issue. I agree with him that we want to expand VA health care, that we have run into a bureaucratic morass, and there are 27 facilities in 18 States that can and should be approved. If the Senator from Louisiana is prepared to join with me, we can pass his concern today or within the next couple of weeks, along with many other provisions the veterans community is deeply concerned about.

During the last government shutdown, it is not widely known but the truth is that we were 7 to 10 days away from a situation where veterans—disabled veterans, veterans who have pensions—were not going to get their benefits. The comprehensive bipartisan legislation that received 56 votes here on the floor—unfortunately, not the vote from my colleague from Louisiana but 56 votes, and we are working to get the 60 votes we need to overcome a Republican point of order, and we are going to get those 60 votes—makes sure we do have advanced appropriations so no disabled veteran will not get a check in the event of another government shutdown.

My colleague from Louisiana may or may not think that is an important issue. I don't know. I think it is an important issue. And I can tell him the reason the legislation I introduced has the support of the American Legion—and, by the way, 500 of them were here this morning at a very interesting hearing—has the support of the VFW, the DAV, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Iraq and Afghanistan

Veterans of America, Gold Star Wives of America, and virtually every organization is because they understand that the veterans community has very serious problems we have to address.

My friend from Louisiana may or may not have concerns about making sure that every veteran gets their benefits in an expedited way and that we don't have this backlog. Our legislation addresses that. My friend from Louisiana may or may not be concerned that there are veterans who want to take advantage of the post-9/11 GI bill—which over 1 million people are now having advantage of—and are having problems with getting in-state tuition. Our legislation addresses that. Our legislation for the first time makes sure dental care will be part of VA health care. Our legislation addresses the reprehensible situation faced by many women and men in the military who had to deal with sexual assault. We think they should get the care they need. And on and on and on.

So we have a comprehensive piece of legislation which is supported by virtually every veterans organization in this country. We received 56 votes—1 person was absent who would have voted for it—57 votes, and we are now working with some of our Republican colleagues to make sure we get the 60 votes. And I say to my colleague from Louisiana, work with us. Bring some of your other colleagues on board. Please don't tell me this is too expensive. If it is too expensive to take care of our veterans, then let's not go to war in the first place.

So I give my colleague from Louisiana the opportunity now to do something really extraordinary, to do something the veterans' committee wants.

I object to the proposal from my colleague from Louisiana, and in its place I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 297, S. 1950; that a Sanders substitute amendment, the text of S. 1982, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

If we pass this right now, we deal with the Senator's concerns and a lot of other concerns.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the request of the Senator from Louisiana.

Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Vermont?

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I object on behalf of 43 Senators, including myself.

Reclaiming the floor and reclaiming my time, I would say we all want to work very hard to help veterans. We all acknowledge that the health care and work claim backlog issues are extremely important. That is why I am

very involved in all of those issues across the board. That is why, for instance, I am an active member of the claims backlog working group, working with the VA to improve that situation and proposing focused legislation. We all care very much about that.

But right now Senator SANDERS' comprehensive bill has significant concerns in opposition—43 Senators, over 40 percent of the whole body. I do object on behalf of myself and the rest of those folks. I do commit to continuing to work on those issues, but I also express real regret that when this body is very divided on the important details of that bill—and the details do matter—we don't come together on something we agree on, and we can't accomplish a few important steps at a time.

Perhaps Senator SANDERS thinks that if we do this, somehow it takes away momentum for his larger bill. I think that is nonsense. These 27 clinics in 18 States are important, but they are a trivial part of that broader bill. They are a trivial part of all of the proposals in that broader bill. I don't think it takes away any momentum in any way, shape, or form for that broader bill. I will continue to be just as committed and just as interested in VA health care issues and working down the claims backlog and everything else. These clinics are a tiny part of that. So he doesn't lose any advantage. He doesn't lose any momentum. We could move forward on something we do agree on and build from there. I think that is more reasonable and more constructive.

There is literally no disagreement among any of us in this body about these clinics. I have worked hard with several other colleagues to address every question and every concern out there. The amendment at the desk erases some of those concerns. We have covered the waterfront on this clinics issue in particular.

I am very disappointed that we can't move forward as a first step and agree on what we agree on. We disagree on enough. Let's agree on what we agree on. Let's move forward on what we agree on and pass these 27 clinics and start that progress and certainly continue to work on important compromise on the much bigger piece represented by the Sanders bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to use leader time for a few minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the junior Senator from Wyoming has come to the floor several times recently talking about the fact that examples he and other Republicans have given dealing with ObamaCare, examples they think

are bad, I call lies. That is simply untrue. I have never come to the floor, to my recollection, and said a word about any of the examples Republicans have given regarding ObamaCare and how it is not very good. But I have come to the floor—I think my friend, the junior Senator from Wyoming, must be getting mixed up about what I have said about the Koch brothers and what they have done regarding health care. But it is easy to get mixed up because I think it is hard to separate the Koch brothers from the Republican caucus, anyway.

Mr. President, I have asserted and I will continue to assert that the Koch brothers are trying to buy America, and they are doing it in a number of different ways. They don't believe in Social Security. They don't believe in minimum wage. They don't believe in benefits—unemployment benefits. They don't believe in environmental laws. As you know and read in the paper, they have a chemical plant. They were fined about \$400,000 over the last week or 10 days and ordered to pay about \$50 million to bring it up to standard because it was deleterious to the health of people in the area.

The Koch brothers are running false and misleading ads all around the country against Democratic Senators dealing with health care. Do they care about health care? Of course not. These are false and misleading ads, and they have gone so far as to have actors there pretending they are from the States, and they not only have done that in one State; they used the same actor in different States. So the record should be very clear. Yes, I have called many, if not most, of the anti-Obama ads by the Koch brothers false and misleading because they are.

VOTE ON COOPER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is now 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote on the Cooper nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Christopher Reid Cooper, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia?

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 84 Ex.]

YEAS—100

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murphy
Ayotte	Graham	Murray
Baldwin	Grassley	Nelson
Barrasso	Hagan	Paul
Begich	Harkin	Portman
Bennet	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Heller	Risch
Boozman	Hirono	Roberts
Boxer	Hoeben	Rockefeller
Brown	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cantwell	Johanns	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Casey	Kaine	Sessions
Chambliss	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Coburn	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Landrieu	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Coons	Lee	Toomey
Corker	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Crapo	Markey	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wicker
Fischer	Mikulski	Wyden
Flake	Moran	
Franken	Murkowski	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HARPOOL NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the Harpool nomination.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of M. Douglas Harpool, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri?

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 85 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Blunt	Cardin
Ayotte	Booker	Carper
Baldwin	Boozman	Casey
Barrasso	Boxer	Chambliss
Begich	Brown	Coats
Bennet	Burr	Cochran
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Collins

Coons	Johnson (SD)	Reed	Flake	Kirk	Roberts
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Reid	Graham	Landrieu	Rubio
Cruz	Kaine	Roberts	Grassley	Lee	Scott
Donnelly	King	Rockefeller	Heller	McConnell	Sessions
Durbin	Kirk	Rubio	Hoeben	Moran	Shelby
Enzi	Klobuchar	Sanders	Inhofe	Paul	Thune
Feinstein	Landrieu	Schatz	Isakson	Portman	Vitter
Fischer	Leahy	Schumer	Johanns	Pryor	Wicker
Flake	Lee	Scott	Johnson (WI)	Risch	
Franken	Levin	Sessions			
Gillibrand	Manchin	Shaheen			
Graham	Markey	Stabenow			
Grassley	McCaskill	Tester			
Hagan	McConnell	Thune			
Harkin	Merkley	Toomey			
Hatch	Mikulski	Udall (CO)			
Heinrich	Moran	Udall (NM)			
Heitkamp	Murkowski	Vitter			
Heller	Murphy	Walsh			
Hirono	Murray	Warner			
Hoeben	Nelson	Warren			
Inhofe	Paul	Whitehouse			
Isakson	Portman	Wicker			
Johanns	Pryor	Wyden			

NAYS—5

Coburn	McCain	Shelby
Crapo	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Corker	Menendez
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The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MCHUGH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the McHugh nomination.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I yield back time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 86 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Hatch	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Coats	Manchin	Toomey
Collins	Markey	Udall (CO)
Coons	McCain	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—41

Alexander	Burr	Cornyn
Ayotte	Chambliss	Crapo
Barrasso	Coburn	Cruz
Blunt	Cochran	Enzi
Boozman	Corker	Fischer

Flake	Kirk	Roberts
Graham	Landrieu	Rubio
Grassley	Lee	Scott
Heller	McConnell	Sessions
Hoeben	Moran	Shelby
Inhofe	Paul	Thune
Isakson	Portman	Vitter
Johanns	Pryor	Wicker
Johnson (WI)	Risch	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SMITH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Under the previous order, there is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the Smith nomination. Who yields time?

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Edward G. Smith, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 87 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Alexander	Flake	McCaskill
Ayotte	Graham	McConnell
Barrasso	Grassley	Moran
Bennet	Hatch	Murkowski
Blunt	Heitkamp	Murphy
Boozman	Heller	Nelson
Brown	Hirono	Paul
Burr	Hoeben	Portman
Carper	Inhofe	Pryor
Casey	Isakson	Reed
Chambliss	Johanns	Reid
Coats	Johnson (SD)	Risch
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Roberts
Cochran	Kaine	Rubio
Collins	King	Scott
Coons	Kirk	Sessions
Corker	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cornyn	Landrieu	Thune
Crapo	Leahy	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Vitter
Durbin	Levin	Warner
Enzi	Manchin	Whitehouse
Fischer	McCain	Wicker

NAYS—31

Baldwin	Hagan	Schumer
Begich	Harkin	Shaheen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Stabenow
Booker	Markey	Tester
Boxer	Menendez	Udall (CO)
Cantwell	Merkley	Udall (NM)
Cardin	Mikulski	Walsh
Donnelly	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Rockefeller	Wyden
Franken	Sanders	
Gillibrand	Schatz	

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH WILLIAM WESTPHAL TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the Westphal nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph William Westphal, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the Westphal nomination.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for perhaps more than 2 minutes or such time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to recognize they have an opportunity now to support someone who is most deserving for the position of Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His name is Dr. Joseph William Westphal. While he is not an Oklahoma man, in his heart I think he is. He spent most of his time or much of his time in Oklahoma. He is a good personal friend of mine. He actually attended and graduated from the University of Oklahoma. Then he came back and was head of the political science department at Oklahoma State University—kind of an unusual combination.

Joe Westphal is one who has had a career in academia—and I don't really care that much about that, except for his two exposures in Oklahoma—but he also was the chancellor at the University of Maine, he taught public policy as the adjunct professor at Georgetown University, and he has been a Capitol Hill professional staff member for a long time. He actually was on the House Budget Committee for a long period of time. He was also a special assistant to our Senator THAD COCHRAN, although this has been some time ago.

In the executive branch, Joe served as the Army assistant secretary, then the Acting Secretary of the Army—that was 2001—and then as the 30th Under Secretary of the Army for the past 5 years.

As I say, he is a good friend of mine. What is different about him is, there are a lot of people who have a career, have a background in academia, but then there are the ones who have shown they also have a heart—they have a reason for what they are doing and they have a love for using the position they hold to help other people, and that is what Joe Westphal has done for a long period of time.

When Joe was Under Secretary—I think he was actually Acting Secretary of the Army—we were together in southern Oklahoma at Fort Sill. Fort Sill is outside of Lawton, OK, in the southwestern part of the State, and we had two schools down there, one called Geronimo and the other was Sheridan. Not Sheraton, like the hotel chain, but the Sheridan Indians, and we all know

who Geronimo is. These were old schools. They are public schools, but the roofs leaked, and they had been around for a long period of time. The majority of the kids who went to school there are the sons and daughters of our military people. And because of his heart, for them, we went down together and we looked at this and saw something could be done to help these kids. So we put together—and he did through the Army—using it, perfectly legitimately, for the percentage of the population in the school who were actually the sons and daughters of military people, and we built a school that is now a model for schools and establishments that are in conjunction with large cities. It is something that now a lot of kids are very happy as they graduate from the Freedom Elementary School at Fort Sill, OK. Oklahoma has at this school 1,000 servicemember children. So we replaced the old one for them.

I also remember when we had a request—and I am sure the Chair knows, because he has made requests of the bureaucracy before, and sometimes it takes longer than it would be otherwise, longer than it should take—because we had a need in my State of Oklahoma for a museum to have an old Huey helicopter that had been used in the military many years ago. We tried everything we could to get that done, and one phone call from this guy named Dr. Joseph William Westphal, and it was done.

I probably shouldn't say this to my Democratic friends over here, but I have been such a good friend of his, I was afraid to express myself for fear President Obama might change his mind. But nonetheless he is now up for confirmation—I understand we are going to do that by voice vote—and I can't imagine anyone wouldn't take advantage of the opportunity to vote for Dr. Joseph Westphal to be U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Joseph W. Westphal to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

REMEMBERING KATE PUZEY

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the fifth anniversary of the tragic murder of a Georgia citizen who volunteered for the Peace Corps, who traveled to West Africa to the nation of Benin and lost her life. She lost her life because she did the right thing—she reported the abuse of children in a village school where she taught.

The reason I have recently returned from Benin is that I have taken this case on as a personal passion, to see to it that justice and some closure comes to the family of this wonderful young lady. Her name was Kate Puzey. Kate Puzey was top of her class, valedictorian, outstanding student, and she wanted to go out and save the world, to help the world and fulfill the dream John Kennedy professed in 1961 when he created the Peace Corps.

So Kate Puzey went to Benin and she found that one of the village natives in the village where she was teaching was abusing children in the school where she was teaching. In this very remote area, she took the only communication mechanism she had to report the violation of these children to the appropriate authorities in Cotonou, Benin. Unfortunately, because those communications were not secure, a relative of the person she reported notified the person she had reported that he had been reported. That night, in her hut in the Nation of Benin, her throat was cut and she died. She died because she did the right thing.

This Senate, 2 years ago, joined me and Senator BOXER in passing the Peace Corps Protection Act, which is now named the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act. This provides a mechanism and a way where Peace Corps volunteers can report violations or trauma of a sexual nature, gender-based violence, or any other type of violence against themselves or in any other place where they might be as a servant of the Peace Corps. Because of that, there are now ombudsmen and ways and mechanisms where our Peace Corps volunteers can safely report violations and damage and have the protection not only of the United States but of the nation where they serve.

But back to the point of my trip to Benin, which took place this last week. This was my second visit to Benin, because what I want to see is a continuation of the investigation of the death

of this young lady until there is a trial and closure available for her and her family, just as any of us would want were we the parent of a young lady who had lost her life on behalf of the United States of America.

I rise to pay particular tribute first to Secretary Kerry; to the United Nations' Samantha Power; to the State Department of the United States of America; to Michael Raynor, the Ambassador in Benin; to Todd Whatley, the Deputy Chief of Mission; to Kevin Armstrong, the USAID Director; to Billy Alfano, to Marilyn Gayton, and to Robert Freedom—Bob Friedman—the Peace Corps representative in Benin, all of whom have made the investigation and the fulfillment of bringing this case to a reality their top priority.

Three years ago, when I went to Benin for the first time, it was to encourage President Yayi of Benin to allow the United States to come in and assist in the investigation and the prosecution of the case—a rare thing to happen in a French colony which is governed by French law. To our credit and to President Yayi's credit he allowed the United States and Jennifer Dent, the FBI agent in charge in Lagos, to come in to Benin and begin assisting the investigation.

I went back last week during our break because it looked as though the case was dying. It looked as though the intensity of the interest was dying. And it was so important to me and for the family in my home State of Georgia to see to it we in some way finally bring closure, either right or wrong, for the terrible things that happened. I am happy to report the visit was successful.

President Yayi spent over 4 hours with the family members and myself. He committed the judiciary and the investigatory body in the Nation of Benin to accept the assistance of the U.S. FBI and our technology. During the course of our visit, he removed and separated the prisoners, as had been requested by the FBI, to see to it those who are being held and thought to be guilty in this case could no longer communicate in the prisons where they were held.

I don't know what the ultimate result will be, and I want justice to be done. I want the right person to be persecuted and prosecuted, and the right person to pay the price, but I want closure for this family.

I want to thank the American Embassy, the State Department, and Samantha Power at the U.N. for the intensity they have put into this investigation, as well as the U.S. FBI, and in particular Victor Lloyd, special agent in Lagos, Nigeria, for all the time he has dedicated. We seem to be at a point where everything is coming together toward a prosecution and, ultimately,

a trial. When that happens, it will happen primarily because the U.S. Government, the people of the United States of America, both President Bush and President Obama, and all in this Congress have dedicated themselves to the interest of one child's life—Kate Puzey.

It is important the people of this country know that we as a body will come together behind any injured American, any loss of life, anybody who has deployed themselves on behalf of this country in the service of peace and prosperity. They deserve to know the U.S. Congress and this U.S. Senate are standing ready to help.

But I am here in particular to pay tribute to the Embassy of Benin, to FBI Special Agent Victor Lloyd, and to all those who have helped and assisted in seeing to it the prosecution of the case in the murder of Kate Puzey comes to a final conclusion. I am grateful for their service to America, grateful for what they have done for the Puzey family in Georgia, and grateful that I live in a country that protects and loves those who have represented our interests wherever it may be, on whatever shore it may be, and in whatever country it may be.

May God bless America, may God bless the Peace Corps, and may God bless the family of Kate Puzey.

I yield back, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as I speak, all over the country telephones are ringing. When the recipient of the call picks up, they are greeted by the friendly voice of a college recruiter from a for-profit college or university. It is easy to go back to school, this recruiter will tell those who answer the phone. In fact, we can sign you up for Federal loans right now.

That is the key. These for-profit colleges and universities target individuals who qualify for easy Federal money. Pell grants and GI bill benefits are preferred. And all the promises sound so good to those who are receiving these phone calls. After all, going back to school is supposed to be the path to success and more money in your life. But before they know what has hit them, these people who answered the phone call from for-profit schools and universities find out they are taking on more debt than they can even understand and may end up with a so-called education that is worthless.

That is what happened to Jaqueta Cherry from North Carolina. After trying a community college, Jaqueta was lured by the kind voice on the other end of the phone and the fancy commercials on TV. She saw them in North Carolina. You see them across the

United States. Get on a bus in Chicago and look around at all the signs trying to lure young people on those buses into for-profit colleges and universities.

Jaqueta said: The schools blew up my phone.

She enrolled at Everest College, which is part of the Corinthian College chain. The California attorney general is currently suing this chain of schools, and the Department of Education is investigating allegations that they lied to the Federal Government about their job placements.

In the meantime, Jaqueta's living situation changed, and she had to drop out and couldn't continue her studies at Everest. It wasn't long before she was tracked down by another for-profit school through a pop-up ad she clicked on, on the Internet. If someone is college age and gets on the Internet, they will see these ads bombarding them from for-profit colleges and universities. She got a call the next day from the Education Management Corporation's The Art Institutes and signed up for an online program.

After taking out more loans, Jaqueta found herself unable to continue her courses. Her roommate had moved out, left her with unpaid bills, and her only access to the Internet was a phone that was turned off 2 days prior to her final exams. At that point she was thousands of dollars in debt with nothing to show for it. Guess what. The calls kept coming. DeVry—the second or third largest for-profit school in the United States, based in Chicago, currently being investigated by the Federal Trade Commission for their advertising and marketing policies—called her, and then ITT Tech called her as well. They are being sued by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for pressuring students into high-cost private loans.

The calls she gets from Everest and The Art Institutes these days are not the kind voices they used to be. "They're very mean and threatening," she says. Not surprising. You see, Jaqueta is no longer an ATM machine from which they can draw Federal dollars.

For many years for-profit schools were allowed to operate relatively freely and often one step ahead of the regulators. I am hopeful that with the investigations I mentioned and the many others that are occurring State by State, we may be turning a corner. We need to hold these schools—all schools but especially for-profit schools—accountable to taxpayers, who often subsidize up to 90 percent of their operations, and to students, who ultimately are their victims.

If we take all the Federal money that goes to for-profit colleges and universities and total it up, it is around \$20 billion. This private sector group would be the equivalent of the ninth largest Federal agency in Washington. They

survive on Federal money. The only thing different is, of course, their employees aren't Federal employees and their CEOs make more money than any employee of the Federal Government could ever dream of.

There are a lot of agencies involved in looking at these for-profit colleges and universities—Department of Education, Securities and Exchange Commission, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Federal Trade Commission, Department of Defense, and others. It is important that they work together.

This morning I held a hearing in my Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. In front of me was the Secretary of the Navy, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the Chief of Naval Operations, and we talked about these schools. I can tell you in private what they told me. They are saddened at how many military families are lured into these schools and waste their GI benefits, going online to places called the American Military University—boy, doesn't that sound official. That sounds like the real thing. It is another for-profit school that just happened to pick a name which appeals to a lot of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

A nephew of mine was a doorman right up here. Then he served in the Army and was sent overseas to Afghanistan. I was so proud of him. He got home safely. Then he was sent to Korea. He came home safely. Now he is out of the Army. He contacted me once and said: I have good news for you. I avoided all those for-profit schools you warned me about, and I signed up with the American Military University.

He didn't know any better. He thought for sure that this was real. It is really not. I advised him that there is one university from his home State, the University of Maryland, which has been offering courses to the military for decades—and their hours are transferable when he comes home.

Oh, he said. I should have thought of that.

What the Navy told us this morning is they are now sitting down with the sailors and their families and saying: Think twice before you sign up for these for-profit schools. You are wasting your GI benefits on schools that could be worthless. Think twice about whether those hours are transferable when you get out of the service.

Sadly, there are too many American citizens—young people primarily and even members of the military—who were lured into these awful schools before anybody warned them.

Senator TOM HARKIN of Iowa and I are working on a bill we will introduce next week to ensure that the agencies currently investigating all of these for-profit schools are coordinating their efforts. He and I teamed up on this issue a long time ago. It is going to be a shame when Senator HARKIN retires

from the Senate this year, but the for-profit schools should know that the spotlight TOM HARKIN turned on with his committee hearings is going to continue even after he leaves.

An industry that receives more than \$25 billion in Federal dollars and has such a terrible record needs aggressive oversight. We don't owe it to just the taxpayers who are coming up with \$25 billion for these schools; we owe it to the students who are lured into these schools, lured into debt, and end up many times with nothing to show for it.

We need to keep three numbers in mind when we think about the for-profit colleges and universities, and I always warn people that these three numbers will be on the final, so listen closely.

Ten percent of the students who graduate from high school go to for-profit colleges and universities; yet they receive 20 percent of all the Federal aid to education because they cost twice as much. For-profit colleges and universities account for 46 percent of all student loan defaults. So 10 percent of the students, 46 percent of the defaults. Why? They charge too much, they lure these students deep into debt, and the students can't finish school or end up with worthless diplomas when they graduate.

The sad reality is that the Federal Government is complicit. We are complicit because we don't blow the whistle on these schools, which should never, ever—never—qualify for Pell grants and Federal student loans.

There is a kicker. Unlike virtually every other debt you can incur in life, student loans are not dischargeable in bankruptcy. I have had students \$150,000 in debt after 4 years in school and their lives are virtually ruined. They had no idea what they were getting into. When they were private loans, those loans grew geometrically whenever they failed to pay. Where are those students today? They are living in their parents' basement. They cannot afford to get married, they cannot buy a car, and if they get married, they cannot afford to have children. They certainly cannot afford to borrow money to go to a real college or university. They are stuck, and we ought to do something about it.

Student loans in this country are exploding. They are trapping generations of students such as Jaqueta in poverty, and they are hurting their opportunities for being full members in our society and economy. We have to address head-on these for-profit colleges which are a scourge on education. There are a few exceptions, but by and large this industry with 46 percent of the student loan defaults is shameful.

Chairman HARKIN is going to hold a hearing in the Senate HELP Committee this week on the student loan programs. I am going to work with him

and submit some testimony. Senator JACK REED of Rhode Island and Senator ELIZABETH WARREN of Massachusetts and I are putting together a package of bills. We are going to address this issue from a lot of different perspectives. There is no reason a college student should sign up for a private loan with higher interest rates and worse conditions for payback when they are still eligible for government loans which are more flexible and have lower interest rates. Yet some of these irresponsible schools steer their kids into private loans. The kids don't know any better, neither do their parents. Secondly, they end up loaning money to these students and to their families that they will never, ever be able to pay back. Senator REED says they ought to have some skin in the game. At some point if they have been over-extended in loans, they ought to have to eat some of those losses when the students cannot pay it back.

Senator WARREN is tackling an even bigger issue about refinancing college loans. What is it all about? It is about giving a fair shot to these families and these students. We are going to talk a lot about this.

When I think of where I am today, it is because of my mother who checked my report card every 6 weeks and told me I could always do better and because of that I ended up in college and law school and here I stand. I borrowed money from the government to do it and couldn't have done it otherwise. So I believe in education, and I certainly believe kids from lower and middle-income families, when they need to borrow money, should have that opportunity. What is happening today is out of hand. The debt we are piling on students and their families is unconscionable, not just the for-profit schools but across the board.

On this side of the aisle we believe these students deserve an opportunity, and they shouldn't be saddled with a debt that can literally ruin their lives. We are going to be working on this issue as part of our effort this year to define what Congress can do to make this a better nation for working families across the board to make sure everyone—everyone—has a fair shot.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

HEALTH CARE

Ms. STABENOW. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

We are 5 days away from the deadline to begin enrolling for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act—5 days for folks who don't have insurance now or want to see if they can find a better deal under their local marketplace or Federal marketplace under the Affordable Care Act.

We have heard the stories about the trouble with the Web site last October, but there are so many stories we

haven't heard of people successfully signing up now for health care coverage. Those are the stories we want to talk about, in terms of the millions of people who are finding, in fact, for the first time they can have peace of mind, knowing they can find affordable health insurance and not only from a cost standpoint.

Every woman who is able to get insurance now knows she is not going to be rated differently and have higher costs from the insurance company just because she is a woman—being a woman previously was somehow a pre-existing condition—or if she is wanting to have a baby, she knows she can have her maternity care covered, which was not true for millions of women. In fact, going to the private marketplace prior to health care reform, about 60 percent of the insurance policies didn't cover something as important and basic as maternity care, unbelievably. So we are talking about people who are getting covered and people who have peace of mind, knowing they have affordable coverage and they can't get dropped if they get sick.

In fact, now going forward, if anyone has a policy, they cannot get dropped just because they get sick. Anyone who has cancer or diabetes—children with juvenile diabetes or heart disease—all of the various concerns and chronic diseases people have, knows they can find insurance; that they will not be blocked from getting medical care and health insurance because of a pre-existing condition.

So far over 5 million people have already enrolled in private health insurance plans through the new marketplaces, including over 144,000 in my home State of Michigan, people who are finally in a position where they have peace of mind at night, knowing they have health insurance for themselves and their families if somebody gets sick. If they need preventive care, they are not going to have out-of-pocket costs to get the cancer screening, the mammogram, and other preventive care.

In Michigan 144,000 individuals have signed up for health care, which is nearly 16,000 more people than was actually predicted at this point in time, because people want and need affordable health care. This is not a frill. We cannot control whether somebody in the family gets sick. Now there are things we can do to do our best to stay healthy, but we never know when something is going to happen, no matter our age or our circumstance. We all understand. We all want to make sure our children are covered, whether they are 3 years old or 30 years old. We want to make sure our moms and dads are covered, and we want to make sure we have coverage as a small business owner, that there is access to affordable coverage. People are signing up because this is personal for them and for their families.

I wish to share success stories of three of my constituents today. The first story is about LaNika, a 34-year-old volleyball coach from Flint, MI, who lived without health insurance for years while she focused on developing her career path. She didn't think she needed health insurance because she was healthy. One day she had an accident. She was playing volleyball, and she and another woman collided, leaving her with a concussion. We all know head injuries are serious. So she had no choice but to go to the emergency room without having health insurance.

By the way, we all know that people who go to the emergency room without health insurance get treated, as they should, and then everybody with insurance—this is the way we have done it for decades—everybody with insurance sees their rates go up to pay for folks going into the emergency room, getting care in the most expensive way possible, which is going to the emergency room for care, rather than seeing a doctor.

In this particular case LaNika said this was her aha moment. After going to the ER, LaNika logged on to healthcare.gov to see if she could get covered. She entered her information, she compared plans, and she selected the best plan for her. She ended up selecting a silver plan from Michigan's largest health insurance company for less than \$100 a month because of her income level.

The whole process, she said, took an hour. She said that getting her insurance card was like a breath of fresh air because she knew that if disaster struck again she would be covered. Peace of mind, as they say in the commercials, is priceless. Now she can go see a doctor without worrying about a bill she cannot afford to pay.

Another constituent, Jim, from Shelby, MI, shared his story too. He had seen all the bad press, he said, on the Affordable Care Act on TV and social media and thought it wasn't worth it to sign up. He planned to sign his family up for COBRA coverage because he had worked and was going to sign up for COBRA to keep his former employer's coverage going but found out that wasn't an option. He decided to give healthcare.gov a try. After filling out his basic information, he saw how low his costs for good coverage would be and he signed up his family. Because he had such a positive experience, he began sharing it on Facebook so other people could see how easy it was to get covered. A recent post of his read: "There are only a few days left to sign up. Don't let this opportunity pass without taking a look," which is our message today. Don't let this opportunity pass without taking a look.

Another constituent, Bryan, from Okemos called my East Lansing office because he was upset that his health plan had been canceled. The replace-

ment plan he was offered by his insurer wasn't affordable. He let us know how upset he was. He then asked what he was supposed to do.

We suggested he go to healthcare.gov to see if he could find a more affordable option that would meet his needs. He said he didn't have a computer. So we gave him the 1-800 number to call. He was skeptical, of course, that he would find a good plan. He expected to have to wait on the phone for hours to talk to somebody, but we encouraged him to give it a try.

He called the office back shortly with some good news. He had called the 1-800 number and someone answered right away. They were very friendly and helpful, he said. They helped Bryan find a plan that had better coverage than his old plan. On top of that, it was \$60 per month cheaper than his old plan, and he was able to add dental coverage too. He apologized for his first call.

We certainly understand that when people get those kinds of notices that the insurance they have has been canceled, of course everyone responds with panic and being upset with what is going on, what is going to happen to me. But the good news is that he was able to call the 1-800 number and, in fact, find better coverage that was lower priced and he is now also covered for important dental care. He said he is extremely happy with the Affordable Care Act.

LaNika's, Jim's, and Bryan's stories aren't unique. They are very typical. Despite all of the hype and all of the efforts that have gone on, they are very typical. It is important that people get beyond all the politics of health care, which for the life of me I don't know why we are not all working together to make sure people have the health care they need and the information they need—for all the politics that have come before, for people to get beyond that and just find out for themselves if it will work. Hopefully, it will and they will have the same kind of results that LaNika and Jim and Bryan had.

To everyone in America who doesn't have health insurance right now and needs to sign up but hasn't yet, there is less than 1 week to begin the process. Once you have begun, I want to make sure you complete it.

I appreciate the President's willingness to allow more people time to complete that process because health care is an essential in life that literally can be about life or death for a person or their family. I would suggest that folks not get left behind but get covered as LaNika, Jim, and Bryan did. It is quick, it will give you peace of mind, and we are hopeful you will find it to be something that is very good for you and your family.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank Senator STABENOW not only for her statement, but

she has talked a lot about people she meets in her State and they say to her: Senator, all we want is a fair shot. Before Senator STABENOW leaves the floor I wanted to say I hear the same thing at home as well. When it comes to insurance all people want is a fair shot at affordable insurance. That is why we are here today. We are here to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Affordable Care Act.

I say for the record, we have millions of reasons in California to say thank you for the Affordable Care Act, and I will go through some of the numbers. We have exceeded our goals. We have now signed up 1 million, and that is 300,000 over our goal. We now know President Obama has extended the sign-up period for those who are signing up on the national exchange. We are not sure yet whether California is going to extend its time. Anyone within the sound of my voice—those in California—need to know that we have not yet extended the time, so join the millions of Californians who have signed up through the exchanges.

Let's be clear: This is a real partisan battle. The House Republicans have been bragging about the 54 times they voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act, but I have to tell them before they vote again to tear this law down and vilify this law for the 55th time: Pay attention to the people in my State and all over the country.

I will go through the math of what is happening here. In addition to the 1 million people in California who have signed up on the exchange, we have 400,000 young adults who are staying on their parents' insurance policies and 1.8 million people on Medicaid. When I say we have more than a million reasons to say thank you for this law, we really do.

I have some other numbers to add to this. Eight million Californians now have access to free preventive care, including mammograms, birth control, and immunizations; 16 million Californians with preexisting conditions, such as asthma, cancer, and diabetes are guaranteed coverage—including 2.2 million children. California seniors and people with disabilities are saving money on prescription drugs—350,000, thanks to the work we did to close that doughnut hole, and 12 million Californians have new insurance protections and no longer have to worry about hitting annual limits on their health care.

I say to the Republicans: Wake up and see what is happening in your communities. Don't take my word for it. Listen to some of my Californians:

Just got my Obamacare Covered CA insurance plan. I'm ecstatic. Saving \$400 a month.

Another Californian said: "Loving my new health coverage, way to go California."

Another person wrote:

Just paid my first premium for Covered CA healthcare. A 42% reduction for a nearly identical plan.

Bobby Dutta from Sacramento writes:

I was being crushed by the heavy burden of health insurance premium costs. I had a PPO plan with Anthem Blue Cross and was paying \$1,324 per month for a family of two. Now, for a comparable plan through ACA, my premiums are \$61 per month.

Earth to Republicans: People are saving so much money because of the Affordable Care Act. They are getting peace of mind. Why would Republicans want to repeal a law that is helping so many people in California and across the country? I have never seen a law so vilified.

Today I went back to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—and I want to share this with Senator MURPHY, who has organized this today. I thought this was the only law Republicans vilified, but I went back to take a look at when Social Security was debated and passed.

In 1935, on the floor of the House during the debate on Social Security, a Republican Congressman from Ohio said:

This is compulsion of the rankest kind.

That was how he talked about Social Security. He called it rank.

Do not be misled by the title. The title says "Old Age Benefits." Shame on you for putting such a misleading and unfair title on such a nefarious bill. Old-age benefits? Think of it! What a travesty! . . .

Another Republican Congressman from Pennsylvania said:

. . . security for the individual, whether worker or aged, will be a mockery and a sham if . . . [we] allot to our people the role of puppets of a socialistic state . . .

Doesn't this sound familiar? If you do anything for people, Republicans will call you a socialist. They call Social Security socialist.

He says:

We cannot provide a sense of security by programs for the destruction of wealth . . .

That is how he described Social Security. Listen, people pay into Social Security. It is an insurance plan. People pay premiums for their health care.

I have to say it: The Republicans are vilifying the Affordable Care Act just as they vilified Social Security and they vilified Medicare.

Let's look at what Republicans said about Medicare. In 1965 a Representative from Missouri said:

. . . we cannot stand idly by now, as the Nation is urged to embark on an ill-conceived adventure in government medicine, the end of which no one can see, and from which the patient is certain to be the ultimate sufferer.

I say to my colleagues: This is unbelievable. In 1965, the Republicans said that government medicine, which they called Medicare, even though you have a private doctor, would lead to patients suffering. If you ask patients who have Medicare now if they like it, they love it. Even the rightwing tea partiers who came to Washington had signs that said: "Hands off my Medicare." The Republicans vilified Medicare.

How about another one? A Republican from Wyoming had this to say about Medicare:

I am disturbed about the effect this legislation would have upon our economy and upon our private insurance system . . .

In 1995, Dick Armey, the Republican House majority leader, said that Medicare is "a program I would have no part of in a free world."

I want people to understand that when the Republicans vilify the Affordable Care Act, they are doing exactly what they did on Social Security and Medicare. They were on the wrong side of history then and they are on the wrong side of history now. And, of course, Newt Gingrich said Medicare was "going to wither on the vine." Well, it would, if Republicans controlled this place.

Senate Majority Leader Dole said in 1996, "I was there, fighting the fight, voting against Medicare . . . because we knew it wouldn't work in 1965."

Folks, there is a big difference between the parties. When you see the Republicans start to vote again to repeal the Affordable Care Act, that is what they wanted to do to Social Security and that is what they wanted to do to Medicare. We stopped them then, and we will stop them now. All they want to do is repeal all of these great benefits that are helping millions of people, and I say to them: Enough already. Enough. Work with us. Let's make sure everyone in America has that sense of security that they can handle whatever health impacts hit their families.

I thank my colleague from Connecticut.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

MR. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, we are here to point out that there are an awful lot of Americans who are winning because of the Affordable Care Act—whether it is a mom with kids who have gotten out of college but couldn't get health care on their own who can now stay on mom and dad's policy. That is one less thing for her to worry about—her 22- or 23-year-old children; that is a pretty big win.

Olive, who has been in touch with me, is a Rhode Islander from Woonsocket. She used to go into the doughnut hole every year because her husband has Alzheimer's and needs expensive medication. She saved \$2,400 in the first year alone. That is a significant benefit for Olive.

We have people who are trapped in their jobs because they couldn't get away. They were chained to their jobs because of the need of insurance. Alana, from Warwick, was one such person. She was working at one of our universities. She liked her job, but she really wanted to be a Web entrepreneur. She was tied to her job by employer-supplied health care. She went to HealthSource Rhode Island back in

December and found a plan that worked for her. The plan's premium was so low she told me it sent her "over the moon." She has become the proud owner of her own Rhode Island small business because she had the confidence she could go forward. Stories such as Alana's abound not just in Rhode Island but across the country.

When I first came into our Rhode Island health exchange, the first person I saw who was ahead of me in line had boxes of Dunkin' Donuts and two big boxes of coffee. They had been there earlier in the afternoon, and the people who worked there were able to help them sign up for health insurance for the first time for their family. They were so thrilled they brought in doughnuts and coffee as a thank-you. That is the story we see.

I have to say that we have to look at what the problem was with health care. This is where we should be working together. Look at where the costs are going; that is health care costs. In 1960, \$27 billion, and \$2.7 trillion in 2011. This was out of control. This was not going to be sustainable. Something absolutely, positively has to be done to get health care under control.

The unsung part of the Affordable Care Act is the part that begins the change in our delivery system reform so we can make our system affordable. Do we do it by taking things away from people? No. We do it by making the system better. How do we know that will work?

Here is a graph of all the major countries that are various kinds of competitors with us: Switzerland, Norway, Netherlands, Great Britain, Japan, and basically the rest of the major industrial nations. If you plot their life expectancy in years and their population against how much they spend per capita on health care, you get a pretty solid grouping through here, and you get a pretty clear curve that can be drawn through that.

Well, here is the U.S.A. We are way more per capita than the most expensive country—better than \$2,000 per person more per capita than the other most expensive countries in the world. Look at us for life expectancy. We come in around Chile and the Czech Republic, and we are below all of our competitors.

There is huge room for improvement—better health care at lower costs that will extend our lives and reduce the costs. If we just move back into this pack, we would save \$1 trillion a year in health care in this country—not just the government, but across the country. It would help businesses, it would help taxpayers, and it would help everybody.

There are different ways to do it. Here is one little example. This is people who are readmitted after they have gone into the hospital. What was happening was that after people got out of

the hospital and went back to their nursing home or back to their house, their discharge plan was not very good. Their doctor may not have even known they were getting out, and they didn't know what to do with their medications. So what happens? Two weeks or a month later, they are back in the hospital again. We decided to do something about it in the Affordable Care Act.

This is the readmission rate. It was rocking along around 19 percent, and then along comes our bill in 2011, and it starts to drop. It starts to drop pretty dramatically. If we can keep that up, we save the money of all of those readmissions. You don't pay for a readmission that never happens. It is an absolute economic savings. Plus, the family doesn't have to worry about grandma going back into the hospital again and picking up a hospital-acquired infection or some other cost like that.

I thank the Senator from Connecticut, Senator MURPHY, for organizing us on the floor today.

I want to summarize that there is a great human interest story to tell about the Affordable Care Act that is helping families not only in Rhode Island but across the country; and moreover, it is a great tool for us as I hope we can work together to improve our delivery system of health care so we are delivering better health care to Americans for a lower cost. We know we can do it. For crying out loud, if Greece and these other countries can do it, then by God so can the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE, who is an extraordinary leader on the issue of trying to control costs and improving quality. Senator STABENOW and Senator BOXER have been down here talking about the importance of the Affordable Care Act long before I got to this body, and I thank them for being with us as well.

Our message is pretty simple. Our message is that the Affordable Care Act is working. We know that because just yesterday we had record numbers of people who went onto the Web site to try to sign up for coverage. They placed calls into the call centers. We had 1.2 million people who went on the Web site yesterday looking for coverage. About 390,000 people placed a call.

We are seeing extraordinary levels of signups day after day. It looks as though we are on pace to achieve the goal to help those 6 million individuals sign up. That is not surprising because folks have been crying out in desperation for a better way for years and years. People such as one constituent of mine, Sean Hannon, from Weston, CT—I talked about him earlier on the

floor today. He had a plan for him and his family that cost about \$1,400 a month. Under the Affordable Care Act and the Connecticut Exchange, he is now paying \$309. He wrote a really wonderful letter talking about what that means to him and his family, and he ended with this. He said:

We are sharing all of this personal information—

His family is sharing this personal information—

because there is an aggressive campaign underway to dismantle this valuable program. The misinformation being put out there is skewing public opinion and this must not happen.

Part of the reason why we have decided to come to the floor week after week is because Republicans who are spreading mythology about this law not working for people are chilling interest all across the country in signing up. Part of the reason why we are here on the floor is because there are Governors and State legislatures all around the country that are working to undermine the law rather than to implement the law. But in States such as California and Connecticut, that are actually working to make the law work, we are seeing record numbers of people sign up, and we are seeing story after story such as the Hannons.

In Connecticut, we had a goal of signing up about 100,000 to 120,000 people between Medicaid and the health care exchanges. Right now we have 170,000 people signed up. I don't know what our final number will be, but I imagine it will likely be double, if not more, of what our original estimate was. Why? Because we are actually going out and making it easy, simple for people to sign up. When we go out and make it easy for people to get affordable insurance, guess what. They want it.

Now that we are celebrating the 4-year mark of this law's being signed by President Obama, it is worthwhile to talk for a second about what the reality was before the law was passed and what the reality of the law is today because that explains why we are seeing this overflow of interest in this final week of signup.

Before the passage of this law, there were 3.4 million seniors who were Medicare Part D enrollees—that is the prescription drug benefit—who were falling into the doughnut hole. There was about 15 percent of those using drugs in that doughnut hole who were skipping or stopping medications when they reached that gap in coverage. The average senior could be paying out as much as \$160 in cost-sharing for certain procedures such as colorectal cancer screenings, paying lots and lots of money in preventive health care copays that had effectively stopped a lot of seniors from getting that wellness coverage they so badly needed.

So what has happened after the passage of the law? There are 7.9 million

seniors who are now in the doughnut hole and saving, on average, about \$1,200 in drug costs. That is \$9.9 billion being saved by seniors because of the Affordable Care Act. Thirty-seven million seniors all across the country have taken advantage of the free preventive care, getting at least one free preventive service now that the law is in effect.

Let's look at the other end of the age spectrum. Before this law was passed, 31.4 percent of young adults between ages 19 and 25 lacked coverage. That was nearly double the national rate. We are seeing young people flock to sign up for these health care exchanges, but even before that, about 3 million young adults all across the country had gained coverage because the health care law allows them to stay on their parents' coverage until age 26.

Before the law, women often paid 50 percent more in premiums because of gender rating—the idea that one could be charged more as a woman simply because she is a woman. Put another way, being female was listed by many insurance companies as a preexisting condition. After the law, gender rating was banned, and women are on equity with men in terms of the rates they pay.

For middle-class families that have been struggling with health care costs because of a crippling illness, they now never have to worry about losing coverage simply because someone gets sick or not being able to afford coverage in the first place because of a preexisting condition. A world in which 60 percent of all personal bankruptcies were reported to be related to medical costs will be history in this country.

Four years after the passage of the law, that is the reality of what life was like before: Seniors paying thousands of dollars more in prescription drug costs, young adults unable to get coverage, women paying more for health care simply because they are women. The new reality is much different.

I imagine that is also why a new poll out this week tells us that 60 percent of Americans want to keep the Affordable Care Act in place. They may entertain some minor changes to the law, but less than 20 percent of Americans want to see this law repealed.

There is a total incongruity between what people out there believe, what they are experiencing, and what we are hearing as the reality from our Republican colleagues. That is why we are going to come down to the floor week after week and talk about how the Affordable Care Act is working for millions of Americans.

Finally, I wish to share one story because Republicans are very good at coming down and telling stories about people who have disagreements with the law. We are beginning to see an overflow of stories and anecdotes from

people whose lives are being transformed.

Anne Masterson, from Norwich, CT, writes this:

Because of a minor preexisting condition, I was unable to get health insurance as an individual. I could get it through my business, my own law practice. I've always opted for good coverage, but I paid dearly for it. My premiums this year increased \$965 a month—equivalent to a second mortgage payment.

Let's just break that down. What she is saying is she could get coverage through her business, but she couldn't get coverage as an individual, and that was the real story for decades when it came to individuals who had a pre-existing condition. For many of them, it wasn't a matter of just having to pay more for health care; they couldn't get insurance at all because of a pre-existing condition, and that was the real world for Anne Masterson.

She further goes on to say this:

Part of my practice is representing children and the elderly in local probate courts. While not very lucrative, it's one of the most professionally satisfying things I do. I feel like I make a difference. However, with the increased premiums, I don't know how I could continue to pay for my health insurance.

Let's break that down for a second. Think of all the people all across this country who are stuck in a job simply because they have to get health care for them and their family. Think of all of the innovation that is being stymied because people can't go out and start a business because it would involve taking the risk of going for a period of time without health care.

Anne was contemplating giving up work she loved, work she was good at, representing children and the elderly—maybe one of the most important jobs we have in our legal system—because she couldn't afford to pay the premiums on that salary.

She finishes by saying:

Under the Affordable Care Act silver plan, I'll have the exact same Anthem policy I have now—and pay nearly \$600 less per month. Not only will I have the peace of mind of having good health insurance, but I'll also be able to continue representing our most vulnerable citizens.

We should step back and try to think about what our job really is here. We get consumed with studies and numbers and data, but really our job is to protect the security of this country and to try to increase the quality of life for the people we represent. It is hard to sometimes measure whether we are doing a good job at increasing the quality of life, but it is really about trying to make sure the people we represent are happy.

Happiness comes in all sorts of different ways, but happiness had been stolen from millions of families across the country because every morning they would wake up thinking about how sick they were or how sick their child was or how sick their husband or

wife was and their inability to pay for it.

We hear those words “peace of mind” come up over and over when people talk about the Affordable Care Act. Yes, they are getting better coverage. Yes, they are healthier, but they just feel better about their existence in this world because they no longer have to worry about being part of the 60 percent of bankruptcies caused by medical debt. They no longer have to worry whether their child is going to have to have their life dictated by the terms of their illness.

We can talk about the 5 million people who have signed up in exchanges all across the country or the fact that, as Senator WHITEHOUSE says, the Federal Government is slated to save \$1.2 trillion as compared to previous estimates on health care costs. We can talk about the \$9 billion that seniors are saving because of the Affordable Care Act when it comes to prescription drug costs. But if we really want to talk about the transformation in the Affordable Care Act, if we really want to read into all of these letters we are getting in increasing volumes, it is about the fact that people don't have to wake up every day worrying about health care, worrying about getting sick, worrying about how they are going to pay for an illness.

Maybe, in the end, when this law is fully implemented and ultimately Republicans come to this floor and defend it, just as they do Medicare, that will be the true measure of how the Affordable Care Act works.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UKRAINE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, tomorrow we are going to have an opportunity to vote on S. 2124, and I am pleased to learn that it looks as if there is going to be overwhelming support in the Senate for the passage of S. 2124. This is the legislation that helps Ukraine in dealing with the invasion by Russia.

Russia's illegal actions of using its military to overtake Crimea, a part of Ukraine, violate numerous international obligations that Russia has committed to.

I have the honor of chairing the U.S. Helsinki Commission. The Helsinki Ac-

cords were entered into in 1975. Russia was one of the leading forces for forming the OSCE.

Russia's taking over of Crimea violates its commitments it made under the Helsinki Final Act. It violates the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, which was signed by the United States, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and Russia, that guaranteed basically Ukraine's integrity of its land. It violates the 1997 Ukraine-Russia bilateral treaty. It violates the U.N. Charter. The list goes on and on and on.

So I believe it is absolutely essential that we have a strong voice in standing with the people of Ukraine. There was absolutely no justification whatsoever for Russia's action. There was no threat to any of the ethnic communities in Ukraine. All the rights of the people were being protected. The country was in transition from a corrupt government to a government that respected the rights of its citizens. If there was any provocation whatsoever of any unrest, it was caused by Russia's presence in Ukraine.

We got reports from the chief rabbi in Kiev that Russia was staging anti-Semitic provocations in Crimea, and the list goes on and on as to what Russia was doing in order to try to give some justification for its actions.

Russia's thinly veiled landgrab, cloaked in the cloth of self-determination, must not go unchallenged. Here is what I think is critically important: This is a dangerous precedent. We saw Russia use a similar action in Georgia, and now in Crimea in Ukraine. There are other territorial issues involved around the world. If this goes unchecked, if we do not speak with a unified voice, it just encourages more irresponsible action by Russia in other countries.

We know that we have concerns about the South China Sea. We know we have concerns about Moldova. There are many other areas where Russia could be involved in its border areas.

So all of these issues are matters for us to speak with a strong unified voice. S. 2124 does that. It does it in two principal ways.

First, it imposes the sanctions against those responsible for Russia's invasion into Crimea, Ukraine. It provides sanctions so that these individuals are not permitted to come to the United States. There are economic sanctions in regard to the use of our banking system. These are similar sanctions to what are now being imposed by our European allies.

We need to isolate Russia. As we all know, the G8, which included Russia, is now a G7 without Russia. Russia needs to know that there will be sanctions imposed, and they will be stronger sanctions unless they stop this aggressive action.

In addition, the legislation provides economic assistance to the new Government of Ukraine. Just 2 weeks ago the Prime Minister of Ukraine was here and met with Members of the Senate. I tell you, it was inspirational to listen to his vision for Ukraine as a democratic, independent state, with full integration into Europe. That is important. He is preparing for a May 25 election for the Presidency of Ukraine.

These are all very, very positive steps. But if Ukraine does not have the economic foothold to be able to develop the type of economy and strength in their country, it will be difficult for Ukraine to be maintained as a viable independent state.

Here is where the United States and our European allies, and I hope the global community, come together, as we have in this legislation, to provide economic help on a restructured economic plan for Ukraine that will help them move forward in a very constructive way.

Mr. President, I must tell you I am disappointed, though, that the reforms of the IMF will be eliminated from this legislation. I think that is regrettable. We are entering into a plan for Ukraine that very much depends upon the IMF's—the International Monetary Fund's—plan to make sure that the moneys we are spending, Europe is spending, and other countries are loaning and providing to Ukraine are based upon a sound economic plan that will work. That is why the IMF is there. And they will be there. But the United States needs to be a full participant in the IMF. We are out of compliance, and here is another opportunity lost for us to be in full compliance with the IMF. I am disappointed about that.

But as I said as I took the floor, we must speak with one voice—the Obama administration; the House, the Senate; the Congress—as we stand with the people of Ukraine for their integrity, for their independence, and for the adherence to international principles, which Russia has clearly violated.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, on October 16, 1936, President Roosevelt visited the then-largest city in Ohio, the town my wife and I live in, Cleveland, OH. He spoke about why the “trickle

down” theory does not work—this whole view that has been tried a number of times in our country: trickle down economics—that trickle down economics does not work. That is when you give major tax breaks to the wealthiest people in the country.

President Roosevelt called them “economic royalists”—a term that sounds a little out of date but maybe fairly descriptive. But President Roosevelt said when you help the wealthy get wealthier and wealthier—my Republican colleagues call them the “job creators,” but it just does not work that way; the hope then is that some of that wealth they accumulate—and we do not resent their wealth, we do not envy their wealth; we just do not think it is good economic policy for Toledo or Gallipolis or Chillicothe or Cleveland—that when the wealthiest people get richer and richer, it does not really trickle down and create jobs.

Forget Franklin Roosevelt for a minute. Look at two decades in very recent memory—the 1990s during the Clinton years and the 8 years during the Bush years. From 1993 to 2000, the Clinton years, we actually reduced the budget deficit to the point where there was a surplus. There was an increase in taxes on upper income people and some budget cuts. But what happened during that 8 years is that 21 million private sector jobs were added to our economy between 1993 and 2000—21 million private sector jobs.

Then President Bush took office. Twice—once in 2001 and once in 2003—with the assistance of kind of a bought-and-sold special interest Congress in those days, President Bush gave major tax cuts to the wealthiest people in this country. You know the theory, “trickle down.” You give tax breaks to the rich and it trickles down to moderate-income, middle-class people and creates jobs. Well, the middle class shrank during those 8 years. President Bush gave major tax cuts to the rich twice. Do you know how many jobs were created during those 8 years? Under 1 million private sector jobs.

So from 1993 to 2000 when we did not follow trickle-down economics, there were 21 million private sector jobs. During the 8 years of the Bush administration, there were big tax cuts for the rich—twice. There was essentially no real job creation in the private sector.

A number of my colleagues want to continue that policy. But let's look at it the other way. The real job creation is not tax breaks for the richest people, it trickles down, and maybe some jobs will be created for the middle class and for low-income people. Let's look at it the other way. Let's look at it as the real job creation is from the bottom up. One of the ways to do that is a minimum wage increase. It will not mean everything, but look at this. The minimum wage today is worth \$7.25 an

hour nationally, in some States a little bit higher. My State is 90 cents higher than that, I believe. But the minimum wage today has one-third less buying power than it did in 1968. In 1968 a couple with minimum wage jobs—a husband and wife—actually had an OK standard of living. They were not doing great, but they were making it. They could afford to pay their rent. They could afford a car. They could afford some things. They were doing sort of OK.

The minimum wage today—again, a minimum wage job—has one-third less buying power than it had in 1968. But think about this: The minimum wage for tipped employees—I imagine a number of the pages who are sitting here today are not indicative; it is really older people generally who have had minimum wage jobs and have had jobs where they rely on tips. It is a myth that minimum wage jobs are held by mostly teenagers. They are not. Minimum wage jobs are often held by people supporting themselves, and they are supporting kids sometimes on minimum wage jobs. They are not teenagers or mostly in their twenties and thirties.

But get this. Do you know how much the tipped minimum wage is? It is \$2.13 an hour. That means when you see a valet at an airport—if you go to Cleveland Hopkins Airport and you see someone pushing a wheelchair with an often older disabled person in it, those are tipped jobs. Those people do not even make \$7.25 an hour. But they can make as little as \$2.13 an hour. Do you know the last time they got a raise, the last time the tipped minimum wage was raised? It was 1992. For 20-plus years the tipped minimum wage has been \$2.13 an hour. It has been that for 20 years. That means that the waitress in the diner, the server in the diner, the valet in front of the restaurant, the person pushing the wheelchair or driving the cart at the airport, the person working in the hotel, their minimum wage is \$2.13 an hour.

The people opposed to this minimum wage increase—to me, some of the most self-absorbed interest groups in this country and some of the best off—say: Well, nobody really makes that because people get these tips.

Well, if they work at a really high-end restaurant where the average patron will spend \$75 or \$100, buy a few drinks, where there is an expensive menu and all of that, the waiters do a little better. They make \$50,000 or \$60,000 or \$70,000 a year if they are busy enough and if they are working enough hours, some even more than that. But in the diner where three retirees will come in on a Tuesday morning and drink coffee and sit there for 2 hours and take up a table, that waitress is usually a woman who is a sub-minimum wage tipped employee. The people may leave \$1 on the table, and she

has worked for 2 hours. All they buy is coffee, and she keeps filling it up and filling it up. Think about the wear and tear on her body. She is standing on her feet all the time. She is working hard. You know, we like to think we work hard in the Senate. We do, but we do not do that and it is not so hard on our bodies.

When I think about this minimum wage—I am never angry about politics. One of my heroes was Hubert Humphrey. They called him the “Happy Warrior” because he always fought for justice but he was not angry. But there are some things that make me angry about this job, such as when I see some of my colleagues—and there are a number of them—vote for pay increases for themselves and then vote against the minimum wage. They may tell you they work hard. They are not working harder than that person pushing the cart at the airport. They are not working harder than the woman in the diner who is filling the coffee cup.

I urge my colleagues to do something that Pope Francis mentioned. Pope Francis exhorted his parish priests to go out and smell like the flock. You think about the Biblical allegory of that, the sheep and the Old Testament and the shepherd. When he said “go out and smell like the flock” to his parish priests, what he was saying is pretty obvious: Go out and find out how they live. Go out and try to live among them. Go out and do what they do. Go out and understand their way of life.

I ask my colleagues to think about it. I am not asking them to live on a minimum wage job. I am not asking them to wait tables. But I do ask them to spend some time talking to people about the hopes and dreams for their children and in their lives, people who are minimum wage workers, people making \$7.25 an hour and working hard, people who are making less than that and rely on tips that may or may not be there.

It is justice. Are we going to reward work? If so, we ought to increase the minimum wage. At the same time, we ought to expand the earned-income tax credit. It actually rewards work. If you are a trickle-down economics guy—and most of them are guys—and you believe that you reward people by cutting their taxes so they will work harder, maybe we ought to think about rewarding hand-working lower income people with tax breaks. For someone making \$28,000 a year, that extra thousand dollars really means they can maybe put a little aside for their kid's community college or maybe they can actually go out to eat once in a while or maybe they can occasionally buy a really nice dinner for their kids or maybe they can buy school supplies or whatever with that extra thousand or two thousand dollars from the earned-income tax credit.

We need to increase the minimum wage and the earned-income tax credit.

It will not only be better for those families, it will help the economy because you put money into the economy. The unemployed worker or a minimum wage worker is going to spend that money. They are not going to invest it in a Swiss bank account the way some wealthy people might; they are going to spend that money, and that is going to create jobs in the local community. So increasing the minimum wage and expanding the earned-income tax credit is good for those families, it is good for those communities, and it is good for our economy. It is something we ought to do.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. I would ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENSION

Mr. CASEY. Thank you very much.

I rise tonight to speak about emergency unemployment compensation. We know by the acronyms around here people refer to unemployment insurance as UI. What we are talking about in the real world are literally millions of Americans affected in one way or another because they have been out of work, unemployed for long periods of time.

By one estimate the number of Americans who have been out of work for 6 months or longer—and many of these individuals have been out of work for a lot more than 6 months, but when the line is drawn of 6 months or longer, it is more than 4 million Americans. It is a big number. I will talk a little bit more about the Pennsylvania impact and walk through some of those numbers.

This legislation that is finally coming together after many weeks is going to be, and I think must be, a bipartisan compromise. That is the only way to move forward. It is an effort to provide an essential lifeline—that is not an overstatement and may be an understatement—an essential lifeline to middle-class families who rely upon the program to stay afloat as they are actively seeking work. I think what is sometimes lost in the discussion is these are folks who are trying to work, trying to find a job again.

I would have preferred a much longer extension than the one that is being discussed and worked on. I also would have hoped that people relying upon this type of compensation—emergency unemployment compensation—would not have to see their benefits lapse. Extending this program has always been bipartisan, and we need to make sure

we keep it in that vein. While our economy has made substantial improvements, we have a long way to go. Families are still hurting and they need help.

Unfortunately, when families read the business page of their local newspaper, some of the numbers look pretty good. But if you are out of work for any period of time, especially 6 months or longer, it doesn't really matter what is on the business page or what the overall assessment is; it is very difficult for that individual or family because they are not working, and because they are not working they are not able to help their family.

We know that in addition to being the lifeline for families—an essential connection to any kind of economic security—the other reason it is important to have the emergency unemployment compensation passed is because of the economic boost it provides. Emergency unemployment compensation provides an economic jump start.

Just by way of example, in 2012, Mark Zandi, one of our more respected economists on both sides of the aisle, found that for every dollar of emergency unemployment compensation there was a \$1.52 economic impact—or new economic activity resulted. That is the old spend a buck, and what do you get for spending the buck? You spend a buck on this, you get a buck fifty-two in return. That is a substantial return on that investment.

Recent analysis specifically focusing on the extension of benefits in 2014 has also found a large economic boost. The Economic Policy Institute has estimated that extending unemployment benefits in 2014 would generate \$37.8 billion in economic activity. We know that this is an issue—unemployment, emergency unemployment or long-term unemployment—that varies depending on the State, but we know every State has been affected and almost every community has been affected in a very substantial way.

Pennsylvania is a big and diverse State with more than 12 million people. In some ways it tends to broadly reflect what is happening in various parts of the country. In Pennsylvania 73,300 people immediately stopped receiving unemployment benefits when the emergency unemployment compensation expired on December 28, 2014. That was kind of the beginning of the current crisis for these families. They have been living through a very difficult economy for years now. They have been out of work for many months, and in some cases more than a year or two, but the current crisis started for them on December 28.

I can't even imagine what it is like for them. You are at the end of the holiday season, you are out of work, you have been robbed of your dignity and your ability to contribute to your family's well-being, and on top of all of

that—in the middle of the holiday season when it is supposed to be a time of hope and optimism and gift giving and all kinds of family time—you, and perhaps another member of the family, lose your emergency unemployment compensation. That is where it started.

Because Congress didn't have a bipartisan consensus until recently, the days and weeks started to add up. So when you go from December 28 to March 1—and we can take another look at the numbers—unfortunately, and not surprisingly, those numbers went up. As of March 1, 105,000 Pennsylvanians lost their benefits. It gets worse than that. If it continues, and there is not some relief provided through May—and this is the period that would be covered by the bill—it is estimated that 158,400 Pennsylvanians and some 2,795,300 Americans who could benefit from this bill will lose their unemployment compensation.

It is very simple in terms of the choice we have to make. We need to decide in the very near future—we hope starting this week so we can begin the process of finally getting this done—whether we will help almost 2.8 million Americans and almost 160,000 Pennsylvanians. It is a very simple choice. We are going to take either one path or the other. I hope and pray we take the path that helps those almost 3 million Americans and almost 160,000 Pennsylvanians.

Earlier I mentioned the economic impact of passing this kind of legislation. We know that in Pennsylvania, for example, one estimate shows that extending benefits would provide a boost to consumption and economic activity which would save an estimated 15,000 jobs. That is another way to measure the impact of this program.

It is my hope that the Senate can swiftly pass this bipartisan legislation to extend emergency unemployment compensation and that the House will take it up and pass it without delay. We can't allow politics to stand in the way of helping families in need.

This is a basic and fundamental issue. These families and individuals have waited far too long. I will conclude with just one example. A couple of Sundays ago—maybe 3 weeks ago—I was walking out of church in our neighborhood and a woman came up to me. I didn't know her, but I recognized her from the neighborhood. She asked me about this issue. She said: I'm out of work; when do you think it will pass? She asked me the same question a couple of weeks before that. I said: I think we are getting to the point where there is a consensus. On that particular Sunday—just a couple of weeks ago—she asked me again. When she started to ask the question, she asked it with a seriousness and an earnestness and a kind of worry in her voice that caught my attention. I said something like: I think we are starting to get there, but

I can't say for sure when. When I gave that answer, she looked at me and she started to become very emotional and said: I hope you are reaching the point where you can pass something because it is going to be very difficult for me to hang on any longer.

This is very tough. I felt at that moment—as an elected official who was given power by the voters to vote and represent them—if not powerless, I was not doing nearly enough for her. I am part of an institution that has not come together yet—in the Senate and in the other body as well. We have not come together to answer her question with full confidence and to say: Yes, we understand. We understand what you are up against to the extent we can—not having lived through this ourselves—and we are going to act this week or tomorrow or the next day.

Not having a specific answer for her gave me a sense of not just frustration but a sense of failure. There was a sense of urgency that she brought to my attention, and I believe almost every Member here could probably tell a similar story.

We have to act. We have to get this done, and we have to make sure we undertake every effort in the next few days—and I hope we are talking days now—to get this done so we can finally provide a measure of relief which is short term but will have the effect of providing a measure of relief to families who have suffered in ways I can't even imagine.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOHN B. OWENS TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 573.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John B. Owens, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John B. Owens, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Jon Tester, Tom Udall, Bernard Sanders, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, is the motion to proceed to H.R. 3979 now pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed is now pending.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, that being the case, I have a cloture motion that has been filed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 333, H.R. 3979, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Harry Reid, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Jon Tester, Tom Udall, Bernard Sanders, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of H.R. 4152, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 689; that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on the nomination; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEROIN AND OPIOID ADDICTION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week I had the privilege of chairing a field hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee in Rutland, VT. The committee received powerful testimony about community solutions to breaking the cycle of addiction to heroin and other opioids. The hearing marked the fourth time in the past 6 years that the Judiciary Committee traveled to Vermont to explore issues related to drug abuse. As in many States, opioid addiction has ripped through parts of Vermont. Overdoses have reached record levels, while communities have struggled to keep pace with the demand for treatment. Sadly, this story is not unique. We are confronting a localized problem with regional echoes and national implications. Some of what we face is similar to the addiction outbreaks in large cities, and other aspects are particular to rural areas.

What struck me in Rutland last week is how Vermonters have worked together—and are continuing to work together—to get ahead of this problem, with innovative prevention, treatment, and law enforcement strategies.

The city of Rutland has an important story to tell. Its addiction crisis has received national attention. But I brought the Judiciary Committee to Rutland not to explore the horrors the city once faced; rather, I wanted us to learn how the people of Rutland are reclaiming their community, block by

block. One effort that has shown great promise is Project VISION—Viable Initiatives and Solutions through Involvement of Neighborhoods—developed by city and community leaders to address the many issues related to opioid abuse: addiction and treatment, prevention, quality of life, and crime and safety issues.

The chief of the Rutland Police Department, James Baker, testified at the hearing. Chief Baker explained that the police department for the first time is housing social workers, a domestic violence advocate, a mental health specialist, an early intervention coordinator, an assistant attorney general, a school resource officer, a crime analyst, and a building inspector. All are working in concert toward one goal: “Not on our streets; not in our town.” When Chief Baker asked how many in the audience were connected with Project VISION, over half of the standing-room-only audience raised their hands. Project VISION has proven adept at pursuing emerging, community-driven strategies. Just this week, community leaders and police in Rutland are considering implementing drug market intervention. This is a promising tactic designed to clear neighborhoods of nonviolent street-level dealers by bringing them in front of community leaders and giving them a stark choice: Stop selling today or go to jail tomorrow. Rutland has clearly risen to the challenge of combatting heroin and opioid abuse.

Other witnesses at the hearing described communities in action, working together to find inventive and tailored solutions. The U.S. attorney for Vermont, Tristram Coffin, who has had remarkable success leading enforcement efforts in the State, described how he has taken the message of prevention to Vermont schools, partnering with the father of a young man who tragically died of a heroin overdose. Dr. Harry Chen, the Vermont Department of Health commissioner and a career emergency room physician, described what it means to recognize addiction as a public health issue, expanding access to prevention and treatment services to all corners of the state. Mary Alice McKenzie, director of the Boys & Girls Club in Burlington, made clear how important it is to provide young people early and safe alternatives to drug use. The director of the Vermont State Police, Colonel Tom L’Esperance, described how State police will soon carry naloxone, a drug that immediately reverses the effects of a heroin overdose. Addicts in Vermont now know that police are not just there to arrest but to save lives.

It is important that the Judiciary Committee hear about a range of experiences, as opioid addiction has plagued communities large and small, rural and urban. This is why I encouraged all Vermonters to submit testimony on

strategies to curb addiction, which will be incorporated into the permanent record of the U.S. Senate. The response was remarkable. We received testimony from law enforcement officers, first responders, substance abuse counselors, doctors, public health officials, mental health practitioners, professors, school counselors and teachers, concerned parents, Governor Peter Shumlin—who is sharply focusing his administration on these problems—and many, many others.

Taken together, the testimony submitted to the committee offers a blueprint for communities ready to get ahead of addiction. It is clear that success requires community investment. Only after a community identifies addiction as a problem can it commit to defeating it. This is where Vermont is ahead of the curve. We tend to come from close-knit communities in Vermont. When we hear about victims of overdoses, and concerns about a growing problem, nearly all Vermonters can name someone who is affected. I suspect that is why we have had a number of excellent initiatives already enacted—it did not take long for heroin and opioid abuse to affect all Vermonters. And it did not take long for Vermont to take steps to resolve the problem. Nowhere is this more evident than in Rutland.

It is equally clear from the submitted testimony that success requires close collaboration among prevention, treatment, and law enforcement efforts. From my years as a Vermont prosecutor, I recall how important such collaboration is, but never have I seen a law enforcement community as committed to prevention and treatment efforts as I do now. We know we cannot arrest our way out of this problem. If the underlying cause of criminal behavior is an addiction, treatment is often a more humane and cost-effective alternative to arrests and prison.

As we continue to review testimony submitted to the committee, I look forward to working with other members of the Judiciary and Appropriations Committees to ensure that these community-driven responses receive the support necessary to succeed. I will continue to work to fund youth mentoring and prevention organizations on the front lines, like the Boys & Girls Clubs, and I will continue to work to fully fund Byrne-JAG and COPS grants to enable law enforcement agencies to devote the necessary time and resources to develop durable solutions with community partners. We also need to continue to support drug court and diversion models to substitute treatment for prison when appropriate. Many programs funded through the Second Chance Act provide offenders a real opportunity to succeed once released from prison by ensuring they have the resources to become productive members of their community.

I also look forward to discussing effective law enforcement strategies and partnerships with Michele Leonhart, Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency, when she comes before the Judiciary Committee next month.

We all understand that the ability of the Federal Government to provide any assistance is increasingly challenged in light of our burgeoning prison population, which is largely driven by inflexible and unfair drug mandatory minimums. Federal prison and detention costs have risen to account for nearly one-third of the budget for the Department of Justice. This unsustainable growth in our prison costs siphons resources from other crucial law enforcement priorities every year. It is vital that Congress pass our bipartisan Smarter Sentencing Act, which would make modest reductions to mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses and help preserve funding for assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies and to victim services.

Addiction to heroin and other opioids is a community problem, demanding community solutions. I can report that Vermonters have stepped up to this challenge. Obstacles remain, but Vermont communities have rallied to develop lasting solutions and get ahead of addiction. After seeing this commitment firsthand, I left Rutland hopeful. And very proud.

DEVELOPING EUROPE'S ENERGY SUPPLIES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I wish to call for new aid to Eastern Europe to strengthen our allies in the face of Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Some of my colleagues have suggested that we can do this by immediately increasing our export of domestically produced and processed liquefied natural gas. I have been cautiously optimistic on the domestic production of this energy source, relying heavily on the need for the environmental regulation of such activities. But in the case of Eastern Europe there is little that we can do domestically to quickly help their situation.

For more than a century, America's real power has been exporting the keys to economic growth and security. Therefore, it is time to do something real to bolster Europe's energy security by helping them develop Eastern Europe's substantial natural gas reserves and reduce the leverage Russia has over its energy dependent neighbors.

The most powerful tool the United States can give Eastern Europe is not exported natural gas that will not get to Europe for years, if ever. It is empowering our European allies to develop their own energy resources, like the major shale gas deposits in Poland.

It is clear that energy—and natural gas in particular—is at the very heart

of Russia's influence over that part of the world. Europe is dependent on Russia for nearly one-third of its natural gas. And while countries in Western Europe have had some success in diversifying their energy supplies, as former State Department Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs David Goldwyn testified yesterday, Eastern Europe is still heavily dependent upon Russia for energy.

Russia is not above using that dependence as a hammer and has been eager to remind us of that fact. For instance, Moscow shut off the gas lines in 2006 and again in the winter of 2009, leaving millions temporarily without heat. In 2013, when the country of Moldova sought to pursue stronger ties with Europe, Russia's deputy prime minister issued a barely veiled threat to the Moldovans, saying "we hope you will not freeze."

As I noted, some have suggested the answer to this problem is to automatically approve natural gas exports from the United States.

This position simply ignores the facts about how the gas market actually works.

U.S. LNG facilities are not slated to come online until the end of next year, at the earliest, while any new approvals would not provide any natural gas exports for at least several years. Further, unless Congress directed exports to go to Ukraine, the gas would go to the country paying the highest price, which would likely be in Asia.

I support the Energy Department's current, measured process for considering export requests. The Energy Department has already approved more than 9 billion cubic feet per day of exports, which exceeds what most analysts believe is the current international market for U.S. natural gas. It is helping our European allies bolster their energy security by developing the major shale gas deposits in Poland and elsewhere.

United States entrepreneurs triggered the shale revolution with a combination of innovation and technical know-how. This created tens of thousands of jobs and produced stable energy supplies that are 50 percent cleaner than traditional fossil fuels. It helped us with our energy security and it can do the same for Europe.

That is exactly what we should be doing to help NATO allies that are justifiably worried following Russia's illegal actions in Ukraine.

So what I am proposing today is to increase funding for a State Department program that helps spur natural gas development abroad. My common-sense amendment would direct \$10 million within the Economic Support Fund toward the Unconventional Gas Technical Engagement Program to help Eastern European countries develop the regulations and technical expertise they need to access their own gas.

Let me be clear—this assistance would go to countries, like Poland, that have asked for American help to harness their own gas reserves. I am aware that Europe is having its own debate about shale gas, and this amendment would not force any nation to participate. In doing so, it will help our European allies throw off the yoke of dependence on Russian gas.

I want to be clear that this amendment cannot free Eastern Europe from Russian influence. Russia has other ways of bullying its neighbors economically. Moscow temporarily banned imports from Ukraine, for example, and it also banned imports of Moldovan wine—a very significant part of Moldova's economy.

This is clearly only one step of many needed to send a message to President Putin. But as the former chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee I know that a stable energy supply is the lifeblood of any economy and a very important component to a secure nation.

I believe there is bipartisan support for America to give our allies the tools they need to become more secure and less dependent on the whims of Mr. Putin.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. MURRAY W. WEST

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Baltimore physician Murray W. West, a valued member of Maryland's medical community. At the end of this month, Dr. West, a family physician, will retire from clinical practice after more than 30 years.

Born in Washington, DC, on September 11, 1954, Murray West moved to Philadelphia at age 10. From 1975 to 1976, he attended Queen Mary College in London, and he was awarded a bachelor of science degree from Antioch College in 1977.

A 1981 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Dr. West completed his residency in family practice at the Georgetown University Department of Family Medicine here in Washington, DC. After 3 years with the Indian Health Service in Yuma, AZ, Dr. West moved to Maryland, where he earned a master of public health degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in 1993. Since 1986, he has treated patients exclusively at nonprofit health centers in our State—Arundel Village, Washington Village, Peoples Community, and the Belair-Edison Family Health Center, where he served as medical director from 2001 until 2007.

On Thursday, March 28, family members, colleagues, and friends will gather to celebrate this committed practitioner whose career epitomizes dedication to public health and quality care.

I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. West all the best in his retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT SAMUEL L. JOHNSON

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to CMSAF Samuel L. Johnson on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Air Force.

Chief Johnson has given much to this Nation through his dedicated and selfless service. His Air Force career started in the great State of Georgia on December 21, 1984, following his graduation from Echols County High School near Statenville. When Chief Johnson began his career, he got exactly what he asked for—the ability to see the world. His first assignment took him to the United Kingdom, where he laid the foundation for a tremendous career as a security policeman. His career would take him to the ICBM fields of Wyoming, followed by his first tour in the Republic of Korea. Chief Johnson would end up in the United Kingdom once again, then to the Emerald Coast of Florida, followed by his first tour in Texas. He would spend a couple of years in our Nation's Capital before heading back to Korea. He would then return to the States, landing himself his first tour in south Georgia. Long from ending his travels, Chief Johnson would take one more assignment to Texas, followed by a year in Qatar. Finally, Chief Johnson landed back in south Georgia for his second assignment there, which would be his last assignment in the Air Force. During his career, along with all of the aforementioned permanent duty station changes, Chief Johnson deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. Chief Johnson sewed on his final stripe, earning him a spot in the top 1 percent of all enlisted members of the military allowed by law, on September 1, 2009.

Chief Johnson is the recipient of the following major medals and decorations for his service and accomplishments: two Bronze Star Medals, five Meritorious Service Medals, four Air Force Commendation Medals, four Air Force Achievement Medals, the Air Force Combat Action Medal, the Air Force Combat Readiness Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, and the NATO Medal.

Throughout his distinguished career he has represented our country and the Air Force with dignity and honor. On behalf of the Senate and the United

States of America, I thank CMSAF Samuel L. Johnson for his service and sacrifices over the past 30 years. I wish him Godspeed and continued happiness as he starts a new chapter in his life.●

LIHEAP ACTION DAY

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, today is National LIHEAP Action Day. Advocates from many different States are here to make the case for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP. This important initiative helps low-income Rhode Island families and millions of vulnerable Americans across the country pay their energy bills. Simply put, access to affordable home energy is a matter of health and safety for many low-income households, children, and seniors.

In Rhode Island this year, LIHEAP provided roughly \$24 million, which allowed the State to deliver assistance to 27,700 households. However, despite bipartisan efforts that I have led with my colleague from Maine, Senator COLLINS, to press for robust support for the program, funding reductions in 2011 and 2012, along with sequester cuts, have led to a decrease in the number of households served. As a result, nearly 1.5 million vulnerable households have lost access to this vital lifeline.

With one of the harshest winters in decades and the high cost of energy experienced in some regions of the country, including high natural gas and heating oil prices in New England, the importance of the LIHEAP program is even more pronounced. According to the Energy Information Administration, the average cost of home heating this winter will rise to nearly \$1,000 on average, a 6 percent increase over last year. These cost increases are happening at a time when households are receiving lower benefits. The average LIHEAP payments have been reduced by more than \$100 since 2010, dropping from \$520 in fiscal year 2010 to \$406 in fiscal year 2013.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the need to provide access to affordable home energy for the most vulnerable households in our States and join me in support of LIHEAP. This assistance is an indispensable lifeline, helping to ensure that recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and affording other basic necessities such as food and medicine.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:05 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2824. An act to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to stop the ongoing waste

by the Department of the Interior of taxpayer resources and implement the final rule on excess spoil, mining waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4275. An act to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2157. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4983. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Amendment 5" (RIN 0648-AY47) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4984. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area; Amendment 102" (RIN 0648-BD03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4985. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Amendment 95 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish" (RIN 0648-BC39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4986. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD125) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4987. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction" (RIN0648-XD134) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4988. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #12 Through #34" (RIN0648-XC964) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4989. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2013 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper" (RIN0648-XC984) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4990. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery off the Southern Atlantic States; Closure of the Peneid Shrimp Fishery off South Carolina" (RIN0648-XD122) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4991. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Maintenance Dredging 35-Foot Channel and Rock Removal; Portland Harbor, Portland, ME" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0010)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4992. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Eleventh Coast Guard District Annual Fireworks Events" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0362)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4993. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Havasu Triathlon; Lake Havasu, AZ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0004)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4994. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Annual Events Requiring Safety Zones in the Captain of the Port Lake Michigan Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2013-1033)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4995. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Terrebonne Bayou, LA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2013-1072)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4996. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Inner Harbor Navigational Canal, New Orleans, LA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0562)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4997. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Great Lakes Pilotage Rates—2014 Annual Review and Adjustment" ((RIN1625-AC07) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0534)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4998. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area; Southern Oahu Tsunami Vessel Evacuation Honolulu, HI" ((RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0080)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4999. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Jackfruit, Pineapple, and Starfruit From Malaysia Into the Continental United States" ((RIN0579-AD46) (Docket No. APHIS-2011-0019)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5000. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Iaconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9907-25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5001. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Heat-killed *Burkholderia* spp. Strain A396 Cells and Spent Fermentation Media; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9907-41) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5002. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of ten (10) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general or brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5003. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Weapons Council, Department of Defense and Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the nuclear stockpile and stockpile stewardship program requirements for fiscal year 2015 and over the next four years; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5004. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report describing activities under the Secretary of Defense personnel management demonstration project authorities for Department of Defense Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories (STRs) for calendar year 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5005. A communication from the Director, Joint Staff, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a delay in submission of a report relative to construction requirements related to antiterrorism and force protection or urban training requirements; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5006. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Program Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) and Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) for the Joint Precision Approach and Landing System (JPALS) Increment 1A program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5007. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Department of Defense (DoD) programs, policies, and procedures regarding security at Department of Defense installations and the security clearance process; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5008. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Report (NGRER) for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5009. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense's Evaluation of the TRICARE Program for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5010. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs) transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2014 Department of Defense Annual Report to Congress on Chemical and Biological Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF
COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Eric Rosenbach, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

*David B. Shear, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

*Michael J. McCord, of Ohio, to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).

*Robert O. Work, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Christine E. Wormuth, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

*Air Force nomination of Gen. Paul J. Selva, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Anthony J. Rock, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Trask, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Andrew J. Toth, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Darren W. McDew, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Heithold, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Robert I. Miller, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. William B. Garrett III, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Herbert R. McMaster, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Col. Robert D. Tenhet, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Bertram C. Providence, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Bennet S. Sacolick, to be Lieutenant General.

*Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Michael S. Rogers, to be Admiral.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. John W. Miller, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Capt. David A. Lane, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Brian D. Beaudreault and ending with Brig. Gen. Gary L. Thomas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 24, 2014.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nomination of Darvin E. Winters, Jr., to be Major.

Air Force nominations beginning with Bruce E. Sternke and ending with Elizabeth M. F. Libao, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 26, 2014.

Air Force nomination of Jose A. Sanchez, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Jeffrey A. Uherka, to be Major.

Army nomination of Steven K. White, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Daniel B. Thompson and ending with Todd A. Morris, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 26, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Peter P. Aleria and ending with Shay L. D. Worthy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 10, 2014.

Marine Corps nomination of Jason K. Fettig, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Michelle A. Rakers, to be Major.

Navy nomination of Ogwo U. Ogwo, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of William Rabchenia, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Matthew M. Anthony and ending with Thomas A. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 26, 2014.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2158. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to protect the bulk-power system and electric infrastructure critical to the defense of the United States against cybersecurity and physical and other threats and vulnerabilities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. LEE, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2159. A bill to restore long-standing United States policy that the Wire Act prohibits all forms of Internet gambling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BARRASSO, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2160. A bill to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2161. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing any final rule under the Clean Air Act until the date on which the Administrator improves certain employment effect analyses under that Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. REED, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2162. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a deduction for

married couples who are both employed and have young children and to increase the earned income tax credit for childless workers, and to provide for budget offsets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2163. A bill to establish an emergency watershed protection disaster assistance fund to be available to the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance for any natural disaster; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. Res. 399. A resolution expressing support for the American GI Forum; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 862

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate.

S. 890

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 890, a bill to clarify the definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes.

S. 1066

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Missouri

(Mrs. McCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1066, a bill to allow certain student loan borrowers to refinance Federal student loans.

S. 1088

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1088, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1336

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1336, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit States to require proof of citizenship for registration to vote in elections for Federal office.

S. 1468

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1468, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation and for other purposes.

S. 1476

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1476, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 1507

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

S. 1555

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for a delay in the implementation schedule of the reductions in disproportionate share hospital payments, and for other purposes.

S. 1729

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1729, a bill to

amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide further options with respect to levels of coverage under qualified health plans.

S. 1767

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1767, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require gas pipeline facilities to accelerate the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of high-risk pipelines used in commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1768

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1768, a bill to establish State revolving loan funds to repair or replace natural gas distribution pipelines.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1823

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1823, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2075

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2075, a bill to prohibit a reduction in funding for the defense commissary system in fiscal year 2015 pending the report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2082, a bill to provide for the development of criteria under the Medicare program for medically necessary short inpatient hospital stays, and for other purposes.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2125, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 2140

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2140, a bill to improve the transition between experimental permits and commercial licenses for commercial reusable launch vehicles.

S. 2153

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2153, a bill to establish a National Regulatory Budget, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 17, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S. RES. 384

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr.

CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 384, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, resulting humanitarian and development challenges, and the urgent need for a political solution to the crisis.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. REED, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2162. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a deduction for married couples who are both employed and have young children and to increase the earned income tax credit for childless workers, and to provide for budget offsets; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, our workforce has changed a lot in the last few decades. Thirty years ago the majority of families with children had only one parent working outside the home. More of the country's low-wage workers were teenagers earning some extra spending money. Today two-thirds of families with children rely on earnings from both parents, and millions of low-wage workers in our country are far less likely to be teens supplementing their allowance and far more likely to be adults struggling to support their families. It has also gotten a lot harder for young people just starting out to find work that puts them on a strong path. There is a very concerning pattern of young people dropping out of the labor force rather than keeping up their search.

These are the kinds of trends we need to be thinking about as we look for ways to help today's workforce succeed in today's economy. There are many steps we can and absolutely should take to tackle the barriers our workers and our families are facing. We should start with raising the minimum wage because no one working full time in the United States today should live in poverty. Low-wage workers in today's economy, who are putting in very long hours while raising their children, paying taxes, and trying to pay the bills, deserve a better shot at success.

But that is not the last step we should take. As we are looking for ways to expand opportunity for struggling workers and families, we should be using every tool in the box—including our Tax Code. Policies such as the earned-income tax credit have succeeded in helping millions of households lift themselves out of poverty, which is why Republicans and Democrats have come together to strengthen the EITC so many times in the past. But today too many struggling workers and families are left behind under our outdated Tax Code.

It is time to build on these efforts to support work, including the critical ex-

pansions of the EITC in 2009, which should be made permanent, and we need to update our Tax Code so that it reflects the needs of today's workforce.

I am proud to be here today to introduce the 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act. It is a bill that would complement critical reforms, such as raising the minimum wage, by providing targeted tax cuts designed for today's workforce. It is paid for by closing wasteful loopholes that both Democrats and Republicans have proposed eliminating.

The 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act would put in place a new tax deduction to help struggling families with two workers keep more of what they earn. The way our Tax Code is currently structured, the second earner in a household often pays a higher tax rate on his or her earnings. Making matters worse, when a second earner decides to enter the workforce, the family usually faces many new costs, such as childcare or transportation, and the family can lose eligibility for credits, such as the EITC and other benefits.

Add it all up, and many struggling two-earner families today end up taking home a smaller percentage of their paycheck than many of the wealthiest households in America. These realities often discourage a potential second earner, such as a mother who is considering reentering the workforce to return to her professional career.

Struggling families face a lot of challenges to getting ahead today. The very least we can do is keep our Tax Code from forcing families to take a half step backward for every step forward, and that is exactly the problem the 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act will help to solve.

This bill will give our working families a 20-percent deduction on the second earner's income. A mom or dad who goes back into the workforce and brings home an extra \$25,000, for example, would get a \$5,000 deduction. For a family in the 25-percent bracket, that means \$1,250 back in their pocket for groceries, childcare, transportation, or retirement savings.

The bill also reflects the reality that workers without dependent children and young workers who are just starting out are being left behind under the current EITC. My colleague Senator BROWN has been a leader on this issue. He is a cosponsor of the bill I am introducing today.

Unlike low-income workers with kids at home, workers without dependent children receive little or nothing from this credit. As workers file their 2013 tax returns this spring, a single worker with no dependent children is eligible for a maximum credit of only \$487. She is entirely phased out of the credit once her income reaches \$14,340, which is about what a full-time minimum wage worker would earn in a year. Young, childless workers under 25, who are starting out in a tough labor mar-

ket, are not eligible at all. In an economy today where more low-wage earners are middle-aged and where young people are struggling to gain a toehold in the job market, it doesn't make any sense.

Our bill, the 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act, would increase the EITC for workers without dependent children to about \$1,400 next year and expand the income range over which workers are eligible for the credit. It would also lower the eligibility age for the childless worker to qualify for the EITC from 25 years old to 21 so that young workers without dependents get the same incentives that have helped so many others get on their feet. The Treasury Department estimated that EITC changes similar to these would help more than 13 million struggling workers climb the economic ladder.

As we expand the EITC, we have a responsibility to do everything we can to make sure this credit is going straight to the workers and families who need it, and part of that responsibility is to make sure that the EITC claims are filed correctly. Professional tax return preparers complete 70 percent of these EITC claims. Under our bill, the 21st Century Worker Tax Cut, they would receive twice the current penalty if they don't follow due diligence requirements put in place by the IRS.

Workers and families are playing fair, and the biggest corporations should too, and that is why this bill would be paid for by closing loopholes that the biggest corporations take advantage of. The 21st Century Worker Tax Cut would draw on a proposal from my colleague Senator REED of Rhode Island, who is also a cosponsor of this bill. His proposal closes a loophole that lets corporations claim outsized tax breaks by paying their executives stock options instead of regular paychecks. This bill would also stop multinational corporations from shifting profits into tax havens such as Bermuda and the Cayman Islands to avoid paying their fair share.

There is bipartisan support for closing those loopholes. Both Democrats and House Ways and Means chairman DAVE CAMP have proposed eliminating each of them. Updating our Tax Code to give tax breaks to our struggling workers instead of big corporations is the right thing to do.

As we continue this important debate about how to expand opportunity to those who are struggling today, we need to make sure we are giving today's workforce the best shot in today's economy. We should increase our outdated minimum wage to give millions of workers a raise, and then Democrats and Republicans need to come together to update our Tax Code and give today's struggling workers the tax relief they deserve. The 21st Century Worker Tax Cut would be a strong, fiscally responsible step toward

that bipartisan goal, and I am hopeful we can get this done for our workers as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 399—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE AMERICAN GI FORUM

Mr. CORNYN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 399

Whereas millions of Hispanic veterans returning home from World War II were segregated from other veterans groups and wrongfully denied services by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas in response to such inequities, Hector P. Garcia, a United States Army veteran and physician from Corpus Christi, Texas, founded the American GI Forum (AGIF) on March 26, 1948;

Whereas the motto of AGIF is "Education is our Freedom and Freedom Should be Everybody's Business";

Whereas in 1998, AGIF was granted a Federal charter pursuant to an Act of Congress (Public Law 105-231);

Whereas one of the purposes stated in the AGIF charter is "fostering and enlarging equal educational opportunities, equal economic opportunities, equal justice under the law, and equal political opportunities for all United States citizens, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin";

Whereas the flagship Veterans Service Center of the AGIF National Veterans Outreach Program is based in San Antonio, Texas, and provides a "continuum of care" to veterans in need, including employment training, counseling, and a homeless veterans reintegration program;

Whereas the AGIF Residential Center for Homeless Veterans has 80 transitional beds and 60 single-room apartments dedicated to the needs of our Nation's homeless veterans;

Whereas AGIF is now the largest Federally-chartered Hispanic veterans organization in the United States, with chapters in 40 States and Puerto Rico; and

Whereas AGIF continues to be a beacon of hope and an avenue for community involvement for returning veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports and commends the mission, goals, and ideals of the American GI Forum and its members; and

(2) encourages others to join with the American GI Forum to ensure that veterans are never again denied the benefits they have earned through their service.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2869. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2867 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER)) to the bill H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2870. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2867 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER)) to

the bill H.R. 4152, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2869. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2867 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER)) to the bill H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 7 of the amendment, after line 25, add the following:

(c) USE OF LOAN GUARANTEES TO ENHANCE NUCLEAR ENERGY SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE.—Loans for which loan guarantees are provided pursuant to subsection (a) may be used by the Government of Ukraine or nuclear power utilities in Ukraine to purchase nuclear fuel from private sector sources and to make other investments to enhance the nuclear energy security and independence of Ukraine.

SA 2870. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2867 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER)) to the bill H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNCONVENTIONAL GAS TECHNICAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR ENGAGEMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE.

From amounts made available to carry out chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.; relating to the Economic Support Fund), there are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter \$10,000,000 to the Secretary of State for the Unconventional Gas Technical Engagement Program of the Department of State, to be used for engagement on the utilization and development of natural gas resources by foreign countries, with particular emphasis on countries in eastern Europe.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 26, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Protecting Personal Consumer Information from Cyber Attacks and Data Breaches."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of

the Senate on March 26, 2014 at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate office building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Oversight Hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 26, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled "Syria After Geneva: Next Steps for U.S. Policy."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 26, 2014, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships to Reduce Cyber Risks to Our Nation's Critical Infrastructure."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 26, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget for Tribal Programs."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 26, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Reauthorization of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 26, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 26, 2014, in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 1:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Preventing Medicare Fraud: How Can

We Best Protect Seniors and Tax-payers?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 26, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Are Alternative Financial Products Serving Consumers?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 26, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 26, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 26, 2014, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICAN FIGHTER ACES CON- GRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1827 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1827) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1827) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1827

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Fighter Aces Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) An American Fighter Ace is a fighter pilot who has served honorably in a United States military service and who has destroyed 5 or more confirmed enemy aircraft in aerial combat during a war or conflict in which American armed forces have participated.

(2) Beginning with World War I, and the first use of airplanes in warfare, military services have maintained official records of individual aerial victory credits during every major conflict. Of more than 60,000 United States military fighter pilots that have taken to the air, less than 1,500 have become Fighter Aces.

(3) Americans became Fighter Aces in the Spanish Civil War, Sino-Japanese War, Russian Civil War, Arab-Israeli War, and others. Additionally, American military groups' recruited United States military pilots to form the American Volunteer Group, Eagle Squadron, and others that produced American-born Fighter Aces fighting against axis powers prior to Pearl Harbor.

(4) The concept of a Fighter Ace is that they fought for freedom and democracy across the globe, flying in the face of the enemy to defend freedom throughout the history of aerial combat. American-born citizens became Fighter Aces flying under the flag of United States allied countries and became some of the highest scoring Fighter Aces of their respective wars.

(5) American Fighter Aces hail from every State in the Union, representing numerous ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds.

(6) Fighter Aces possess unique skills that have made them successful in aerial combat. These include courage, judgment, keen marksmanship, concentration, drive, persistence, and split-second thinking that makes an Ace a war fighter with unique and valuable flight driven skills.

(7) The Aces' training, bravery, skills, sacrifice, attention to duty, and innovative spirit illustrate the most celebrated traits of the United States military, including service to country and the protection of freedom and democracy.

(8) American Fighter Aces have led distinguished careers in the military, education, private enterprise, and politics. Many have held the rank of General or Admiral and played leadership roles in multiple war efforts from WWI to Vietnam through many decades. In some cases they became the highest ranking officers for following wars.

(9) The extraordinary heroism of the American Fighter Ace boosted American morale at home and encouraged many men and women to enlist to fight for America and democracy across the globe.

(10) Fighter Aces were among America's most-prized military fighters during wars. When they rotated back to the United States after combat tours, they trained cadets in fighter pilot tactics that they had learned over enemy skies. The teaching of combat

dogfighting to young aviators strengthened our fighter pilots to become more successful in the skies. The net effect of this was to shorten wars and save the lives of young Americans.

(11) Following military service, many Fighter Aces became test pilots due to their superior flying skills and quick thinking abilities.

(12) The American Fighter Aces are one of the most decorated military groups in American history. Twenty-two Fighter Aces have achieved the rank of Admiral in the Navy. Seventy-nine Fighter Aces have achieved the rank of General in the Army, Marines, and Air Force. Nineteen Medals of Honor have been awarded to individual Fighter Aces.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to the American Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom, which has spanned the history of aviation warfare.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the American Fighter Aces under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display or temporary loan to be displayed elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the American Fighter Aces, and that preference should be given to locations affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medal, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and amounts received from the sale of such duplicates shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the commerce committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 387.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 387) celebrating the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, in Fairbanks, Alaska.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 387) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 13, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions".)

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 27, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 10:30

a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each and the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; and that following morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4152, the Ukraine bill; that notwithstanding the previous order, the time until noon be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees and all other provisions of the previous order remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. There will be a series of rollcall votes at noon tomorrow. Additional votes are possible during tomorrow's session. Senators will be notified when they are scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:18 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 27, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 26, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

CHRISTOPHER REID COOPER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

M. DOUGLAS HARPOOL, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI.

GERALD AUSTIN MCHUGH, JR., OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

EDWARD G. SMITH, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOSEPH WILLIAM WESTPHAL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF DONALD FLAMINIO

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with sadness on the occasion of the passing of Donald "Flip" Flaminio, who passed away on March 20, 2014. Donald was born in Iron Mountain, Michigan, on August 24, 1930. Flip was a veteran of the United States Navy, and the owner-operator of Quality Cleaners for ten years, he married his wife of 61 years, Zella "Terri" Haggart, in 1953. Flip was a lifelong Iron Mountain resident and enjoyed spending time with his loved ones. He is survived by Terri, and his three daughters.

In this time of sorrow, I am reminded of the quote of philosopher George Santayana, who said, "There is no cure for birth and death save to enjoy the interval." I know that Flip lived a life of love and that the cherished memories of his life will never be forgotten by his many friends and family.

On behalf of all residents of the First Congressional District of Michigan, I wish to express my sadness and condolences on Flip's passing. It is my hope that we are able to emulate Flip's good nature and example in how we conduct ourselves with each other. Although Flip is no longer with us in this world, he will remain with us in our hearts, alive and well forever.

IN HONOR OF THE USS "ROBERT G. BRADLEY" UPON ITS DECOMMISSIONING ON MARCH 28, 2014

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the fine Sailors who have served on the USS *Robert G. Bradley* (FFG 49). On March 28, 2014, this magnificent warship will be decommissioned in Mayport, Florida.

The ship and her outstanding crew have served tirelessly to ensure that America remains the preeminent naval power on the globe. The USS *Bradley* has served our Nation for nearly 30 years and has continually lived up to the ship's motto of "Power to Prevail." True to its namesake, Lieutenant Robert G. Bradley—who was awarded the Navy Cross after dying in a heroic effort to save his ship, the USS *Princeton*—the USS *Bradley* and her crew have embodied selfless service, a trait so common in our outstanding men and women in uniform. While the ship may be decommissioned, the friendships and camaraderie this ship established on its decks will last for ages.

It is a pleasure and honor to represent the great men and women who serve in the 4th District of Florida and to see them successfully complete the mission of the USS *Bradley*. Their hard work reiterates our community's importance as an anchor of national security.

The Sailors of the USS *Bradley* can stand tall in the knowledge that their hard work and dedication has contributed to the most important missions of our Nation's defense and we are grateful for their tireless efforts and sacrifice.

HONORING COLLEGE BOUND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITS OUTSTANDING SUCCESS, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor College Bound Opportunities (CBO), an extraordinary community organization that is opening doors and broadening opportunities for under-resourced and low-income students in the suburban Chicago district that I represent.

Founded in 2006, CBO started with four outstanding students, growing to nearly 150 today. Each class of students receives mentoring and assistance through test prep classes, professional development and workshops, technology training and financial aid.

CBO provides a one-on-one mentorship program, matching a mentor with a student. For six years, these mentors help guide their students through the college application process, adjustment to college life and even life after graduation. This engaged approach achieves truly remarkable results: 97 percent of CBO scholars graduate from college, compared to 56 percent nationwide and merely 12 percent among low-income students. More than 90 percent of CBO scholars are first-generation college students. At a time when only 11 percent of nationwide first-generation students graduate, CBO is making a real difference.

These statistics speak to the incredible CBO impact in the community and the bright futures its programs are helping make possible. Many of these students would never have the opportunity to apply to college, let alone graduate, without these programs and the generosity of CBO's many dedicated volunteers.

Recently, I joined CBO to welcome a new class of 25 students to the program. In this group I saw inspiring potential and many reasons to be confident for the future. The opportunities CBO makes possible will empower its students, enrich our community and perhaps one day help change the world.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESIDENT MARY SUE COLEMAN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mary Sue Coleman, the thirteenth President of the University of Michigan, as she retires at the end of June. I've had the distinct honor of working closely with President Coleman since 2002, when she began her hard work on behalf of this fine University, and her spirit and dedication will be missed. She has worked to raise standards, invest in a higher education for our students, and has further elevated the University of Michigan and continued its role among the absolute finest education opportunities in the land. She has ushered in a period of growth, not only across the campus, but also in the hearts and minds of the students she so tirelessly works for. Through her leadership, the University of Michigan and its students have remained "the leaders and best." I thank President Coleman for her years of service and dedication to the people of Michigan. Go Blue!

RECOGNIZING AUBURNDALE CITY HALL

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Auburndale City Hall on the occasion of its addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

Designed by Polk County architect Roland Buckley and contractor Paul Smith, the 87-year-old Italian Renaissance-style building has housed the library and Chamber of Commerce, most of the cities departments and even jail cells throughout its existence. It is currently home to the city's Information Technology Office.

Noted for its Romanesque architecture, open arches and ornate masonry work, City Hall is now among four National Historic buildings in Auburndale. It joins the Holland Jenks house, the Baynard House and the Auburndale Citrus Growers Association Packing House. It is the twelfth city hall in Florida to have secured a spot on the Register.

It is a privilege to serve the residents of Auburndale, and I thank them for their tremendous contributions to the Central Florida community.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN HONOR OF THE USS "DE WERT"
UPON ITS DECOMMISSIONING ON
APRIL 4, 2014

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the fine sailors who have served on the USS *De Wert* (FFG 45). On April 4, 2014, this superb warship will be decommissioned in Mayport, Florida.

The ship and her crew have served tirelessly to ensure that America retains its status as the strongest naval power in the world. The ship is named for Richard De Wert, a hospitalman who was killed in action while aiding an injured comrade during his service in the marines. Hospitalman De Wert was awarded the Medal of Honor for this amazingly selfless act. Following in the footsteps of this great man, the USS *De Wert* has served our Nation fearlessly for over 30 years.

I am so honored to be able to represent these great men and women who serve in 4th District of Florida and it is a privilege to commend them upon their completion of the mission of the USS *De Wert*. Their hard work illustrates the importance of the First Coast to national defense. While the ship may be decommissioned, I know that the ship's motto of "Daring, Dauntless, Defiant" will remain a guiding force for these sailors wherever their lives may lead.

The sailors of the USS *De Wert* can stand tall in the knowledge that their hard work and dedication has contributed to the most important missions of our nation's defense and we are grateful for their tireless efforts and sacrifice.

CELEBRATING MR. RICHARD YOUNG

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Mr. Richard Young on his recent retirement from the Crescent City Harbor District. Mr. Young's dedication to the Crescent City Harbor District has never been shaken even as he worked to restore the harbor after repeated disasters.

Mr. Young earned a Ph.D. in economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara and went on to teach in the Naval Postgraduate School. He then worked as a commercial fisherman, owning the vessels *City of Eureka* and *Willola*.

Mr. Young was hired as harbormaster at the Crescent City Harbor District in March 2004. He became known for building relationships with members of the harbor community and with regulatory agencies.

Following the tsunami of 2006, the winter storms of 2008 and a major tsunami that crippled the harbor in 2011, Mr. Young led the district through massive repairs to rebuild the city's vital harbor. This \$54 million effort led to

the West Coast's first tsunami-resistant harbor—designed to withstand a 50-year tsunami event. The harbor's design also includes amenities that residents of California will enjoy for years to come.

Please join me in expressing deep appreciation to Mr. Richard Young for his long and impressive career, and his exceptional record of service.

REMEMBERING MARGARET E. PEACE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the life of Margaret E. Peace, of Newton Falls, Ohio, who passed on February 13, 2014. Margaret was born on March 13, 1921 in Greenwood, South Carolina, to Clarence and Lillian McCuen Elledge. On December 5, 1938 she married the love of her life Mr. James Peace and the two were happily married for 74 years before James' tragic passing in June of 2013.

While living in South Carolina, Margaret worked in a cotton mill. Upon moving to Newton Falls, Ohio she began working as a waitress at the Superquick restaurant, and soon became an active member of the Newton Falls First Church of God. Throughout her sixty years of attendance, she was heavily active with singing in the choir, serving as Sunday School teacher, serving as an assistant with the Brownie and Girl Scout groups, sitting member on the church council, an active member on the Women's Missionary Society Board, and she also diligently served as the nursing director for over 45 years.

Not only did Margaret touch the lives of those in the church community, she was incredibly loved by her extensive network of family and friends. She collected hundreds of cookbooks over the course of her life, loved reading her Bible, and found happiness in her flower garden.

Margaret has joined her loving parents, Clarence and Lillian, her tender husband James, her son Freddie, her sister Martha and brother Bill. She will be missed by a countless number of people in the community, and most of all by her two sons, James and Eddie Peace, her daughter Linda Hospodor, her daughter-in-law Kay Peace, and her brother Frank Elledge. Margaret will also be fondly remembered by numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Margaret was an extraordinary woman, and she will live on in the hearts and minds of those she has touched. It was an honor to work with her in my district, and I will never forget her boundless kindness and enduring commitment to her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 24, I was unable to be present for two rollcall votes while attending to personal matters in Texas. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Nos. 136 and 137.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH CARUBBA AS HE RECEIVES THE ANTHONY M. CASTIGLIA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Joseph Carubba, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Carubba Collision, as he receives the prestigious Anthony M. Castiglia Achievement Award from the Italian American Leadership Council of Western New York. As we come together in celebration of St. Joseph's Day, we also celebrate the remarkable contributions Joe has made to our region, through his esteemed business and generous philanthropic efforts.

Joe began his career in the automobile industry in the 1970s, as a part-time employee at his father Anthony Carubba's company. Still a high school student at Williamsville North, Joe learned how to clean cars and sweep floors under his father's tutelage.

After completing his education at Oklahoma A&M and Syracuse University, Joe joined his father's company full-time in 1981. In 1990, Joe's father passed away, and Joe was given the full responsibility of managing the business. At that time, Carubba Collision was a small shop of 5,500 square feet with only 12 employees. Under Joe's direction, Carubba expanded to four offices, a dealer satellite office, and six production facilities, occupying almost 80,000 square feet. The company now employs 130 people and has increased its profitability to 20 times that of its numbers in the 1980s.

Today, Carubba Collision is widely known for its commitment to excellence and customer service. Autochex has awarded Carubba its "Best in Service" award a total of five times, and in 2013, Body Shop Business magazine named Joe Carubba their "Executive of the Year."

The company's dedication to its customers mirrors Joe's commendable civic involvement. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Better Business Bureau, the YMCA Leadership Club, and the Alliance of Automotive Service Providers, among others. Joe has generously supported countless organizations, including the Make A Wish Foundation, Cradle Beach, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Women & Children's Hospital, the Parkinson's Foundation, SUNY at Buffalo, Mercy Flight, the Food Bank of Western New York, and the Buffalo

Niagara Victory Scholarship Awards. Perhaps most famously, Carubba Collision has partnered with the Buffalo Sabres to create the Carubba Collision of the Game, a beloved institution among Sabres fans.

A proud family man who grew up in a close-knit Italian-American family, Joe enjoys spending his spare time with his daughters Jackie and Andrea, and his three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Joe Carubba, a civic-minded business owner who exemplifies the American values of hard work and good will. Joe built a business both by and for the local community, and in doing so, turned what was once a small body shop into one of the region's leaders in automobile repair. I congratulate him as he receives the Anthony M. Castiglia Achievement Award from Italian American Leadership Council of Western New York, and wish him the absolute best in all his future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING HOUSTON
WAGGONER ON HIS 93RD BIRTHDAY

HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to commemorate Mr. Houston Waggoner on the occasion of his 93rd birthday, which he and his loved ones celebrated on March 17.

Mr. Waggoner is a proud WWII Navy Veteran and the father of eight children. He worked for 30 years as a bag plant manager before retiring and starting a small business, Chatham Automotive Parts and Supply in 1972. After owning his own business for 18 years, he retired for a second time in 1990. He now resides in Jackson Parish and enjoys hunting, fishing, and his involvement with the National WWII Museum in New Orleans where he is a member.

Mr. Waggoner exemplifies a strong character of leadership and dedication. As his family and friends continue to celebrate and honor him, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Waggoner a very happy 93rd birthday.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH
CAPOBIANCO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph Capobianco, who passed on Wednesday, January 29th in Columbus, Ohio at the age of 67. Joseph was a dear friend of mine, and I am grateful for his support over the years.

Joseph was born in Gaeta, Italy to his loving parents, the late Luigi and Antonetta Capobianco. He spent his childhood in Italy but immigrated to Boston at the age of 10 to begin a new life in the United States.

Joseph dedicated much of his time to St. Brendan the Navigator Catholic Church, which

he served proudly for many years. During his service he was significantly involved in Cum Christo, the Lay Catholic Renewal Movement, and also spent time performing prison ministry. In addition to serving his church, Joseph found great joy in playing golf and spending time with his grandchildren. He also enjoyed travelling with his loving wife Linda, particularly back to Italy.

Joseph will be dearly missed by Linda; his son, Louis; his grandchildren, Maggie, Joseph and Lily; his sisters, Alesandra DiCecca and Erasma Simeone; his brother, Cosmo, and a number of nieces and nephews. Joseph's passing will be felt by the greater community, as he touched the lives of everyone around him. I am proud to have known such a philanthropic and compassionate Ohioan.

RECOGNIZING PIPEFITTERS,
STEAMFITTERS, REFRIGERATION
AND AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE
LOCAL 636

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contributions that the Pipefitters, Steamfitters, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Service Local 636 have made to their members as well as working families and communities throughout southeast Michigan. On Saturday, March 29, 2014, the men and women of Local 636 will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding.

Since it was chartered on March 17, 1914, Local 636 has worked to secure safe working conditions, fair wages, health and welfare benefits, and retirement security for its membership. Also notable is Local 636's longstanding commitment to ensuring that its members have the training necessary to do the difficult and skilled work required of them. In 1936, Local 636 began its first organized Apprenticeship Training. Today, Local 636's leaders and members are justifiably proud of its 27,000 square foot Pipefitting Industry Training Center, located on 3 acres in Troy, Michigan, where apprentices can receive classroom and other instruction, and where journeymen can continuously update their professional skills.

Local 636 members have literally helped to build the City of Detroit and so much of southeast Michigan. Early in its history, Local 636 members helped to build Detroit's Statler Hotel and the Stroh's Brewery, and they installed Carrier centrifugal chillers at the J.L. Hudson Company, making it the first air-conditioned department store in the United States. Local 636's members have helped build the Detroit area's iconic workplaces, including Ford, General Motors and Chrysler plants, Detroit's Renaissance Center, and the corporate headquarters of Compuware. The region's sports and entertainment fans benefit from the work that Local 636's members have done at Cobo Hall, the home of the annual North American International Auto Show and numerous events and conventions each year, the Detroit Red Wings' Joe Louis Arena, the Detroit Tigers' Comerica Park, and the Detroit Lions' Ford Field.

The members of Local 636 are also committed to the well-being of people living in communities throughout Metro Detroit, contributing their time and money to causes including blood drives, The Wellness House, St. Patrick's Senior Center, and the "Heat's On/Water's Off" program.

Mr. Speaker, for the last century, the men and women of Local 636 have stood at the forefront of the labor movement in Michigan, and have made vital contributions to communities throughout the Metro Detroit area. I am proud to represent so many members of Local 636 in Michigan's 9th Congressional District. I hope you and my colleagues will join me in congratulating the men and women of Local 636 as they mark 100 years of excellence, and in wishing them continued success in their second century.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISH
GENTLEMEN ORGANIZATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men, The Distinguish Gentlemen.

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way," Psalm 37:23. This is the vision of John Jossell in wanting to start a male mentoring organization called, "The Distinguish Gentlemen." Pondering a sense of directions with the vision, a group of male students approached him with a desire to start a step team. Considering their approach, he decided to incorporate his vision in a step team.

The Distinguish Gentlemen started in 2010 at Quitman County Middle School in Marks, MS. It consist of 20 young, aspiring men that have an interest in building a close relationship with Christ, amongst their mentoring group, and within the community. Many of the male group members come from poor, single parent household. They joined the organization with behavioral problems, lack of goals, and misunderstanding of themselves, depression, and anger issues, etc.

Some have testified that knowing the true meaning of a father was when they met their organization leader, Mr. Jossell. The goal of the organization is to shape at-risk students into better young men in the Lord and amongst their families.

Throughout the year, The Distinguish Gentlemen participates in community and church functions through "stepping", volunteer work, and mime. They have traveled many cities and in some states winning 1st Place in a step show competition. They have received standing ovation in their ministry of mime in different churches and community activities. Because of the discipline, time, and guidance given by Mr. Jossell and other men, The Distinguish Gentlemen have improved their grades in all subjects, developed a more positive attitude, and become better leaders in their perspective homes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Distinguish Gentlemen Organization for their dedication, hard work and commitment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed in returning to Washington, DC on Monday, March 24, 2014 and missed the following two rollcall votes.

On rollcall vote 136, passage of H.R. 3060—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building," I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 137, passage of H.R. 1813—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building," I would have voted "yes."

IN MEMORY OF PASTOR TIMOTHY J. WINTERS' LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dr. Timothy J. Winters, Pastor Emeritus who led the Bayview Baptist Church in San Diego from 1973 to 2013 and offered spiritual guidance to thousands of people within the region.

Pastor Winters came to San Diego by way of the United States Navy, in which he served until his honorable discharge. Following his career with the U.S. Navy, Pastor Winters became a San Diego Police officer for over 10 years. Some of those who served with him spoke warmly of his "no nonsense" attitude on the job and the leather jacket he became known for wearing almost as a part of his uniform.

Pastor Winters presided over the Bayview Baptist Church when it built the 40,000 square foot Martin Luther King, Jr. Christian Center, which houses its ever-expanding Christian Education ministry and the Nubia Leadership Academy. Pastor Winters was a minister of vision who expanded the Bayview Baptist Church from 60 families to a congregation of more than 2,500 followers.

Pastor Winters is survived by his wife, Mrs. Betty Winters, daughters Phyllis and Tori, grandchildren, extended family members, close friends, including Senior Pastor Terry Wayne Brooks, and the Bayview Baptist Church family.

Pastor Winters was an exemplary member of our community and showed an admirable commitment to improving the spiritual lives of residents within San Diego County. I would

like to commend him for his leadership and thank him for his contributions to the community.

THE RETIREMENT OF RANDALL PUGH

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize Georgia native Randall Pugh as he prepares for his retirement at the end of the month. Randall has dedicated his nearly 50-year career to the vital work of rural electrification, and I especially want to highlight his two decades of service at Jackson Electric Membership Corporation (EMC).

Randall's career began in 1968 at the Walton EMC in Monroe, Georgia. He held various management positions in the company and served as general manager for nine years. Randall came to Jackson EMC to serve as President and Chief Executive Officer of the nation's second-largest electric cooperative, measured by customers served, in 1984.

Randall's simple philosophy of providing solid customer service helped grow Jackson EMC into the provider reliable electric service for more than 209,000 customers in 10 Northeast Georgia counties, making it a vital utility provider in my district. He also served as director of the Oglethorpe Power Corporation Board of Directors and as a member of the Georgia System Operations Corporation Board of Directors.

In addition to his vibrant professional life, Randall is an active part of his community. He is a Member of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America's Northeast Georgia Council. Randall is a member and past president of the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce as well as the Jefferson Rotary Club. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for both the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

I'm sure that Randall's family—especially his wife, Patricia—is looking forward to spending more time with him as he enters this next phase of life.

I join our community in congratulating Randall for all his accomplishments and wish him the very best in the future.

HONORING ALPHA EPSILON LAMBDA CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Alpha Epsilon Lambda of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. On June 10, 1927, Alpha Epsilon Lambda was organized in Jackson, Mississippi with Brother D.J. Jackson officiating for the General Organization.

Alpha Epsilon Lambda has the distinction of being the first chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, alumni or undergraduate, in the State of Mississippi. The charter members were Brothers: S.R. Redmond, D.J. Thomas, J.W.E. Bowen, H.C. Latham, E.A. Lanier, E.R. Lawrence, F.W. Martin, and Frederick Hall. The establishment of Alpha Epsilon Lambda, like many other graduate chapters, was the result of graduate brothers requesting the General Organization to set them apart as local chapters because of their desires to establish closer unity among themselves and renew old Alpha ties.

Alpha Epsilon Lambda provides a pool of leadership which serves as the advisory arm for three undergraduate chapters in the metro Jackson area: Gamma Upsilon at Tougaloo College, Delta Phi at Jackson State University and Omicron Gamma at Milsaps/Belhaven Colleges.

The Chapter is committed to fostering the growth and development of the collegiate brothers in order that they may become and remain actively involved in all aspects of the Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Alpha Epsilon Lambda of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated for their dedication to serving others.

RECOGNIZING THE LONE PEAK HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Lone Peak High School basketball team, who made history in Utah this month. For the first time ever, the state basketball championship has been won by the same team for 4 consecutive years.

The Lone Peak Knights, led by a group of seniors with unprecedented success, completed their latest championship run with a decisive victory over the outstanding Pleasant Grove High School.

Congratulations to the greatest team in Utah high school basketball on making history with their 4 consecutive seasons of excellence culminating in the 2014 5A State Championship. Coach Quincy Lewis deserves recognition for producing consistent results, including last year's award for best high school basketball team in the Nation according to website Max Preps.

I recognize the contributions of each player to this historic achievement. In particular, I acknowledge the unprecedented success of the senior players who have contributed to each of the 4 state championship titles won during their career at Lone Peak High. Seniors T.J. Hawes, Zach Frampton, Jantzen Allphin, McKay Webster and Spencer Curtis have now played their last game as Knights, but they can be proud of their contributions to this team during their high school careers.

Finishing their season with a 23–3 record, the Knights scored a blistering 14 3–point shots during the championship game. Spectacular performances by Hawes and Frampton

made the victory a decisive one. Hawes scored a game high 29 points, including making 8 of 14 shots from three-point range. Frampton dominated the scoreboard in the early part of the game with 21 points before halftime and ultimately ending the night with a double double.

The win must also be credited to the impressive execution of younger players who will continue to build on the success of this season.

Mr. Speaker, high school basketball is a competitive sport that places great physical demands on players. These young people have worked hard to balance the rigorous demands of their sport with impressive academic achievements. They reflect the best today's youth have to offer. I honor their commitment, dedication and achievements and look forward to the contributions each one is sure to make in the future, both on and off the basketball court.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OF VAL DEMINGS

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Chief Valdez B. Demings. Val, the youngest of seven children, was born to James and Elouise Butler in Jacksonville, Florida. She attended Duval County Public Schools and is a graduate of Wolfson High School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology from Florida State University and her Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from Webster University. Val is also a graduate of the 226th session of the FBI National Academy as well as the FBI National Executive Institute.

After working as a social worker in foster care, Val moved to Orlando in 1983 to attend the Orlando Police Academy. She was elected president of her class at the Academy and later received the Board of Trustees Award for overall excellence. Val's many assignments with the Orlando Police Department included assignments in the West Patrol Division, the Criminal Investigation Division, Crime Prevention, Explorer and Cadet Unit, Public Information Office, Internal Affairs, and as Commander of the Airport Division. She also served as the Commander of Special Operations where she managed special events, dignitary protection, traffic enforcement, traffic homicide, marine patrol, the K-9 and Vehicles for Hire units, and the Reserve and Auxiliary units. In addition to her regular job assignments, Val served 12 years on the Crisis Negotiation Team, was Commander of the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team, and was Executive Vice President of the International Association of Airport and Seaport Police.

In 2007, Val was selected to serve as Chief for the Orlando Police Department. She was the first woman to ever hold the position. Her tenure was marked by a dramatic forty percent reduction in violent crime, including robberies, shootings and murders.

After twenty-seven years at the Orlando Police Department, including three and a half years as the Department's top cop, Demings decided to retire from the force and continue her commitment to public service in another way. In 2012, Val Demings ran for the United States House of Representatives in Florida's tenth congressional district.

Today, Chief Demings stays involved in her community through numerous social service activities. She is an active member of Saint Mark A.M.E. Church, where she is a Steward, Trustee, and Chairperson of the Annual Church Women's Conference. She is also President of the Women's Missionary Society through which she has participated in mission trips to Peru and Haiti.

Val is very active in her community through numerous social service activities. She is Chairperson of the Committee on Global Housing and Homelessness, and serves on the boards of Heart of Florida United Way, Central Florida Police Athletic League, United Negro College Fund, and Guardian Care Nursing and Rehabilitative Center. In addition to several other affiliations, Val was named one of Orlando's "50 Most Powerful People."

Val is married to Jerry L. Demings, Sheriff of Orange County and former Orlando Police Chief. They have three sons, Austin, Antoine, and Antonio.

I am happy to honor Val Demings, during Women's History Month, for her service and contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ERIN SULLIVAN

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Erin Sullivan. Ms. Sullivan is the daughter of an Irish immigrant mother who came to the United States as a teenager in the 1960s with only a third grade level of education. Her Irish-American father was a fervent believer in social justice and responsive government. A proud graduate of the University at Albany, State University of New York, Ms. Sullivan was the first in her family to graduate from college.

Today Ms. Sullivan is the editor of Orlando Weekly, an alternative newsweekly dedicated to strengthening the community by keeping readers informed about important local issues, events and politics. She began her career in journalism at a business newspaper in Albany, N.Y., but soon discovered a desire to report on issues that impacted people's lives, so changed her focus to political and issues-based reporting. Ms. Sullivan covered state government in New York for five years before moving to Baltimore, Md., where she became the managing editor for the award-winning investigative weekly, Baltimore City Paper.

In 2010, she moved to Orlando to take over as editor of Orlando Weekly, where she re-envisioned the paper as an invaluable community asset that keeps the Central Florida community apprised of important local and state news, politics, and social issues. She is also a regular commentator on National Public Radio affiliate WMFE 90.7 News FM, where she has created a weekly segment that focuses on topical local news stories that other media outlets often overlook.

Over the years, Ms. Sullivan has earned awards and recognition for public-service reporting, feature reporting, and news writing. She appears on local TV news shows to offer

alternative viewpoints on issues that are often treated one-dimensionally. She has also led workshops and seminars for young journalists on developing their skills as reporters.

Ms. Sullivan is also dedicated to giving back to the community through public service. She has served on the board of the Association for Alternative Newsweeklies and Baltimore City's Animal Control Advisory Board, and is a founding member of a nonprofit organization that offers humane-education workshops for schoolchildren living in Baltimore's inner city. Currently an animal rescue volunteer for the Humane Society of the United States, Ms. Sullivan spends as much time as she can educating people about the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence and about how the humane treatment of animals intersects with creating a stronger, more compassionate, and evolved community.

I am happy to honor Erin Sullivan, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MICHELE RENEE LEVY

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Michele Renee Levy. Michele was born in The Bronx, New York on August 25, 1942. She grew up in the city and attended public schools. Her father was a political activist and union leader, so she and her brother learned at an early age to never cross a picket line and to respect the working people of this country. Michele's dad was a history buff who made dinner table discussions a learning experience. It was expected that she would study hard and get the grades necessary to attend the local university, the City College of New York (CCNY).

During college, Michele became involved in student politics. It was the 1960s, and there was so much to protest. She took part in student rallies at CCNY to "ban the bomb" and became active in the civil rights movement when she joined the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). When her brother was drafted and sent to Vietnam she took her two children (a toddler and an infant) to anti-war protests in the New York area.

In 1973, Michele and her family moved to Orlando and she began a career as a social worker. She worked for the state of Florida in what was then the Department of Family Services, determining eligibility for welfare, food stamps, and Medicaid. Several years later she began working for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities where she worked with children and adults with developmental disabilities. Michele retired in 2005 and began her own company, MRL Training Consultants through which she trained job coaches, supported living coaches, and direct care staff.

In 2007, Michele joined the League of Women Voters to become more involved with community and local politics. She joined the Local Government Committee where she met other women who were active community leaders. Michele became Chair of the League's Government Committee where she championed changes to the Orange County Charter which would make citizen access easier. She used the public comments part of local government meetings to speak out about the issues impacting the Central Florida community.

More recently, as the Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Orange County, she highlighted the Orlando Orange County Expressway Authority's ethical reasons for not hiring former State Representative Steve Precourt. She received an appreciative letter from Mayor Teresa Jacobs for her attention to the issue.

Michele was also active in a local campaign against an amendment to the Orange County Charter that would have required a mail-in ballot, abolished the Tax Collector's office, and made it more difficult for a citizen-initiative to be put on the ballot. The amendment did not pass.

Michele believes that all citizens have an obligation to, at the very least, participate in their government by voting, and by participating to the best of your abilities. One of her favorite quotes is by the founder of the League of Women Voters, Carrie Chapman Catt, who said, "[t]o the wrongs that need resistance, to the right that needs assistance, to the future in the distance, give yourselves."

I am happy to honor Michele Renee Levy, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LINDA
SUTHERLAND

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Linda Sutherland. Ms. Sutherland has served as the Executive Director of the Orange County Healthy Start Coalition since February 2001. She oversees a \$3 million budget and related staff and programs which support the Coalition of over 160 members, as well as a variety of direct maternal and child health and social services offered to the community. These services include a Fatherhood program, ACA enrollment help, and Children's Health Insurance (KidCare). The Coalition served over 7,000 women and 5,000 infants last year.

The Coalition is responsible for identifying needs in the community, and designing and supporting related services for mothers and babies who are at-risk. Through its work, the Coalition ensures that every baby gets a "healthy start" in life. In order to develop and maintain the Coalition and build community collaborations with the purpose of improving target health indices, Ms. Sutherland works with a wide variety of area maternal and child health providers, community agencies, and service providers.

As Healthy Start Director, Ms. Sutherland has taken an interest in health disparities, serving as Founding Member of the Primary Care Access Network, Chair of the Central FL Partnership on Health Disparities, and initiating programs specifically to reduce racial disparities in birth outcomes. She also serves on the March of Dimes State Planning Council.

Prior to her work with the Coalition, she served as the President of the Orange County Council of PTAs and then on the Orange County School Board for twelve years, from 1990–2002. During her tenure she served as both Chairman and Vice Chairman of the local School Board and as President of the State School Board Association. She also represented Florida on the Council of Great City Schools and the National School Board Association.

Ms. Sutherland was invited to the White House by then First Lady Laura Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush for a discussion on early literacy and school readiness in 2001. Her areas of special interest and advocacy have always been early childhood issues, especially related to early intervention and prevention, and legislative matters affecting the welfare of children which have involved working closely with neighborhood groups, community leaders, and political representatives.

First and foremost a child advocate, Ms. Sutherland has spent considerable time learning about brain research, child health and best practices of parenting, and educating. She was a pioneer in advocating for the importance of investing in the early years for better long term outcomes. She is a sought-after speaker at events related to the well-being of children. She also serves on many boards responding to issues facing children and families in Central Florida and around the state, including the Florida Children's Campaign and the Children's Cabinet of Orange County.

Ms. Sutherland has been married to her best friend, Doug, for 40 years and they have one son, Andrew.

I am happy to honor Linda Sutherland, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DEBORAH C.
GERMAN, M.D.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Dr. Deborah C. German, a physician, educator, and administrator. Dr. German has served as Vice President for Medical Affairs at the University of Central Florida (UCF) since July 2010 and as the Founding Dean of UCF's College of Medicine since December 2006.

After receiving her M.D. from Harvard Medical School, Dr. German worked at a number of prestigious institutions. She was Resident in Medicine at the University of Rochester, Fellow and faculty member at Duke, Associate Dean for Students and Senior Associate Dean of Medical Education at Vanderbilt, President and CEO of Saint Thomas Hospital in Nashville, and Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Petersdorf Scholar-in-Residence.

In her current position at UCF, Dr. German is working with a team of over 2,400 full-time, part-time, and volunteer faculty and staff members to develop a 21st century research-based medical school as part of Orlando's emerging Medical City. Recognizing the central role of the College of Medicine in Lake Nona, she takes an active leadership role in facilitating partnerships and expanding the reach of the Medical City. Dr. German led a community effort to fund scholarships for tuition and living expenses for the entire Charter Class. This was the first such effort in the history of American medicine, and to date has not been matched by any other college.

Dr. German's service to her community has been recognized by several local and national organizations. She is the recipient of honors and awards including the Athena Award from the City of Nashville in 2000, the AAMC Women in Medicine Leadership Development Award in 2002, the Orlando Sentinel Editorial Board's Central Floridian of the Year in 2002,

the National Library of Medicine's a Local Legend of Medicine in 2005, Orlando Sentinel's "25 Most Powerful People in Central Florida" in 2012, and the Orlando Blueprint Women of Distinction Award Honoree in 2014.

I am happy to honor Dr. Deborah C. German, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, I was unavoidably detained due to a family emergency and missed the following votes:

An amendment, offered by Mr. LOWENTHAL, numbered 1 printed in Part B of House Report 113–374 to require States to implement the June 30, 1983 Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement stream buffer zone rule, unless a State has a program with greater stream protection. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

An amendment, offered by Mr. CARTWRIGHT, numbered 2 printed in Part B of House Report 113–374 to ensure that States maintain the ability to issue their own stream buffer rules. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

A Motion to Recommit, offered by Mr. BERA. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

H.R. 2824, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to stop the ongoing waste by the Department of the Interior of taxpayer resources and implement the final rule on excess spoil, mining waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill. H.R. 2824 is another cynical attempt to threaten the clean air and clean water my constituents in Illinois' 8th district rely on. Passage of this bill would undoubtedly open up our precious waterways to toxic mine waste and roll back the gains the Clean Water Act, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), and Endangered Species Act have had for our communities. I have voted in the past to limit the materials that can be dumped in our waterways, including an amendment by Mr. MORAN on H.R. 2609, and would have voted again to protect the miles of waterways and numerous communities that would be affected under H.R. 2824.

HONORING BETA DELTA OMEGA
CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA
ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Beta

Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated that was organized on May 28, 1934 at Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi while Margaret Davis Bowen was the South Eastern Regional Director and Ida M. Jackson was the Eighth Supreme Basileus. Its charter members were Inez B. Prosser, Katie M. Wilson, Helen Griffin, Aquila Jones, Florence O. Alexander, and L. Zenobia Coleman.

Beta Delta Omega Chapter has a current membership of over 150 women and is the largest Chapter in the state of Mississippi. The Chapter's Program currently focuses on social justice, poverty, health, the African-American family, economic security, political awareness and the world community. Its work often involves collaborating with other organizations to facilitate numerous projects.

Beta Delta Omega is continually engaged in programming efforts that promote education, economic empowerment, healthy living, the Black family, the arts, and community involvement. In addition, the Chapter has distinguished itself by having the immediate past International Supreme Tamiouchos, Glenda Glover and the immediate past South Eastern Regional Director, Juanita Sims Doty, as members of the chapter. Also, two other South Eastern Regional Directors were/are members of Beta Delta Omega Chapter: 1) 14th South Eastern Regional Director Ernestine Holloway (deceased); and 2) 17th South Eastern Regional Director Esther Riggsby.

The Chapter's foci on building leaders and instituting effective chapter operations keep all members mindful of the goals of its charter members. Beta Delta Omega continues to make history with commitment, dedicated service, and exceptional programming. It is through "service to all mankind" that the sorority will prosper and be an ever present light in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for their dedication to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in a meeting in my office and was unable to be present for rollcall Vote number 138, the Lowenthal Amendment to H.R. 2824.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, in March, we celebrate Women's History Month; a time to revere on the vital

contributions women have made to American history. Today, 140 women for every 100 men will earn a degree in American colleges while still experiencing a pay of 81 cents for every dollar men make.

In the health insurance market, women have often paid more and faced discrimination due to health status and gender. However, implementation of the ACA has provided the prospect of health coverage for up to 18.6 million previously uninsured women. In addition, there are more than 200,000 women in the military who serve on active duty. It is important to recognize their service, and honor them by providing them with the same opportunities as the men have in the military, along with an environment free from sexual assault.

Women remain the unsung heroes of our society. While progress has been celebrated, it is critical to the future economic and social fabric of the nation to work towards creating a more equitable environment that harvests future generations of prosperous and thriving women.

HONORING DR. ROGER UNGER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Roger Unger, a distinguished leader in my community on the occasion of being awarded the 2014 Rolf Luft Award. The award is from Karolinska Institute, a medical university in Sweden that is also home to the Nobel Assembly, which annually honors one scientist worldwide for outstanding contributions to endocrinology and diabetes research.

Dr. Unger is a graduate of Yale University and earned his medical degree at Columbia University. He was elected to the National Academy of the Sciences in 1986 and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1994. Dr. Unger currently serves as professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center, an institution which is a gem in my Congressional district. As one of the Nation's premier diabetic researchers, Dr. Unger has exemplified scientific and educational excellence.

Serving as a UT Southwestern faculty member since 1956 and director of the Touchstone Center for Diabetes Research from 1986 to 2007, he has shown an unwavering commitment to excellence in the sciences and has ensured that the future of Americans is a bright one through his research. While working at the Dallas VA Medical Center in 1959, Dr. Unger developed a test to measure concentrations of glucagon and established that glucagon was a true pancreatic hormone released in opposing partnership with insulin to maintain normal blood glucose (sugar) levels. His most recent discovery proves that a glucagon-suppressing hormone called somatostatin can normalize the glucose levels of type 1 diabetic patients.

The award he received recognizes his decades of contributions to diabetes research. UT Southwestern and our country have benefitted

immensely from Dr. Unger's service. Dr. Unger deserves to be commended. In order to keep the United States at the leading edge of discovery, it will take more amazing professors such as Dr. Unger.

I wish to commend Dr. Unger and thank him for his service to this great nation. As leader in diabetic research, he has created positive pathways for the future of those affected by this illness.

HONORING MISSISSIPPI NAACP

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Mississippi NAACP. The first branch in Mississippi was chartered in Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1918 and re-charted on April 8, 1940.

In 1945, members of branches from across the state came together to charter the Mississippi State Conference of Branches to coordinate the efforts of local branches and to carry out the mission and vision of the national organization statewide.

The Mississippi State Conference was on the forefront of all the major battles of the civil rights movement in Mississippi during the 50's, 60's and 70's through and collaborating with other civil rights organizations to organize demonstrations, protests, selective buying campaigns, sit-ins, marches and legal action, all aimed at securing equal rights under the law for ALL citizens of the state.

Since its founding, the State Conference has been led by some notable leaders including:

Aaron E. Henry, State Conference President for 33 years and perhaps the chief architect of integration in Mississippi;

Medgar Evers, the civil rights martyr, who served as executive director and led voter registration campaigns;

Winston Hudson, who served as a state vice president and advocated for Head Start programs and rural health clinics;

C.C. Bryant who served as a state vice president for many years and assisted students in the McComb area with establishing the first freedom school; and

Dr. Gilbert Mason of Biloxi who forced the integration of the Biloxi Breach.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Fred Banks is currently the longest serving member of the National NAACP Board of Directors and serves as a distinguished member of the executive committee.

Today, the Mississippi State Conference consists of 112 units, which include branches, college chapters, and youth councils. NAACP has a revolving membership of over 11,000 members across the state and at least one member in 74 of the 82 counties in Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mississippi NAACP for their dedication to serving.

HONORING KEIFER MARSHALL, JR.

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keifer Marshall, Jr., recipient of the Drayton and Elizabeth McClane Community Achievement Award for individuals who truly exemplify public service leadership. Marshall's life of sacrifice and activism reflects the very best values of central Texas.

Marshall, a native son of Temple, TX, bravely stepped forward when his country needed him most and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII. Stationed in the Pacific Theater, he fought the ferocity of the Japanese head on. At Iwo Jima, the casualties of his company were the severest of the entire campaign. Out of 250 Marines, Marshall was one of the lucky few to survive.

This proud Marine is also a committed citizen. Marshall returned to Temple and began the next chapter of his life of extraordinary service. A member of numerous councils and boards, he later became a City Councilman and a two-term Mayor. Marshall was President of the Temple Chamber of Commerce, was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel, and was awarded Temple Citizen of the Year honors in 1992. He remains a respected leader who's made a real and positive impact on his community.

Ronald Reagan once said, "Some people live an entire lifetime wondering if they've made a difference in the world, Marines don't have that problem." Keifer Marshall is a local treasure and a fitting recipient of the Drayton and Elizabeth McClane Community Achievement Award. I join all who celebrate his selfless service to his nation and his hometown.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL
STANFORD "STAN" E. BROWN,
USAF, (RET)

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, CA are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Brigadier General Stanford "Stan" E. Brown, USAF, (Ret) is one of these individuals. On March 27, 2014, Stan will be honored as the 2013 "Citizen of the Year" at the Riverside Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner.

On December 25, 1928, Stan was born in the college town of Champaign, Illinois, to Rose Marie and Gilbert Brown. Stan grew up watching his father establish a successful career as a police officer, and listening to stories of his mother's family emigrating from Sicily. Times were tough and the Great Depression

had hit the family living on one income hard. Stan's natural entrepreneurial spirit proved useful, and the family was able to survive on the income generated by the chicken coup he set up in their basement and the lush garden in their backyard. His athletic nature eventually earned him a baseball scholarship to serve as starting pitcher at the University of Illinois.

Though his passion for America's greatest pastime was strong and could have turned into a career, Stan felt a greater calling to serve his country in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He left his sweetheart, Beverly, behind, but would come back shortly thereafter to marry her. Stan's natural leadership ability was noticed within the Air Force, and afforded him the opportunity to move up very quickly in the enlisted ranks. After earning an officer's commission, Beverly, Stan, and their three boys Stan Jr., Bradley, and Gilbert, took up military life as they moved frequently from base to base. A successful application for pilot's school would eventually send him all over the world and up the chain of command. He experienced many an adventure: from flying reconnaissance jet missions over the Soviet Union, to a combat tour doing classified missions in Vietnam.

In July 1973, Stan and his family would be transferred to a brand new terrain, sunny Southern California at March Air Force Base (March AFB). By August 1975, he had excelled in many positions, and eventually earned one of the top jobs on site, Wing Commander. Though he had lived all over the country, Stan had never quite experienced anything like the camaraderie at March AFB. During his time there, he was credited with starting the Airman's Picnic, the Riverside Trophy Dinner, leading the 22nd Bombardment Wing to become one of the most prestigious in the Strategic Air Command, and establishing the land space that would eventually become the Riverside National Cemetery. He had formed invaluable friendships with individuals who provided him counsel throughout his time at his next assignment serving at the Pentagon and over his many years with the Strategic Air Command.

Though he was transferred to the Pentagon 1977, Stan could never seem to get the Inland Empire off of his mind after leaving behind many friends and family members. With hard work and dedication, Stan achieved the rank of Brigadier General in a matter of two years. A multitude of assignments came his way, until four years later he finally retired from the service as commander of the Defense Nuclear Agency at Kirtland AFB, N.M. With his retirement from the service came a new opportunity to serve as Vice President of Northrop Corp, an experience that eventually gave him the skills necessary to start his own defense company in Southern California.

After quite a ride, Stan made the decision to officially retire in Riverside where his wife Beverly continued to fight cancer; sadly, a battle she would lose in 2002. Despite this, Stan had grown to love the community and became even more involved projects throughout the Inland Empire. He began planning of the Medal of Honor Memorial at Riverside National Cemetery, which led him to become the founder of the cemetery's Monuments and Memorial Committee established to make decisions re-

garding future memorials. Because of his clear leadership, Stan was appointed by the National Cemetery Administration to its Advisory Committee on Monuments and Memorials in 2004, which allowed him to assist other cemeteries throughout the nation in developing their programs and planning boards.

Stan's experience created a need for his involvement in development for the March Joint Powers Authority. He also earned appointment to the Riverside Planning Commission in 2003, where he served two terms, would keep him actively involved in the community. Currently, Stan chairs an advisory committee aimed at establishing a U.S. Veteran Initiative at March Air Reserve Base, which would provide job training to U.S. Veterans.

Stan is most known as an effective leader with a natural ability to organize the efforts and goodwill of others. He proudly served his country with the love and support of his family, and went on to contribute to the character of the Inland Empire as a keen businessman. Considering all that Stan has done for Riverside, the Riverside Chamber of Commerce named him their 2013 Citizen of the Year. Stan's tireless passion for service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our country and community. He has been an inspiration to many and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

IN SUPPORT OF NORTH CAROLINA'S
SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT BEING RECOGNIZED
AS A "PURPLE HEART
DISTRICT"

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District as home to recipients of the Purple Heart. So many of its residents have honorably served our nation in its times of need—all gave some and some gave all. As a reflection of Eastern North Carolina's pivotal role in war efforts past and present, and the deep personal sacrifice of so many of its residents, I stand to proclaim that North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District should be recognized as a "Purple Heart District."

As you know, The Purple Heart is one of the oldest and most recognized American military medals, awarded to service members who were killed or wounded by enemy action. In 1782, George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit to reward "any singularly Meritorious action" displayed by a soldier, non-commissioned officer, or officer in the Continental Army. This award was intended to encourage gallantry and fidelity among soldiers. General Douglas MacArthur (then Army Chief of Staff) revived the award on February 22, 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth. Since its inception and through several wars and conflicts, the Purple Heart

has been given to more than a million wounded or killed while serving our nation.

North Carolina is home to the third largest military population in the United States. Because of its unique location between Fort Bragg, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, and Air Force Base Seymour Johnson, North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District is simply an exploding center for military life. It is estimated that there are over 50,000 Purple Heart recipients currently living in our great state, and a large percentage of these valiant men and women reside in the district I am honored to represent.

Mr. Speaker, Eastern North Carolina has dispatched thousands of its sons and daughters to fight the enemy; many have sacrificed their health and many have sacrificed their lives. We will never forget these sacrifices and are grateful for the valiant men and women who have been harmed defending our country and our freedom.

I ask that my colleagues to join me in recognition and appreciation of Eastern North Carolina's Purple Heart recipients past and present. Now, in the spirit of that appreciation, let it be known that North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District should be recognized as a "Purple Heart District."

HONORING DELTA SIGMA THETA
SORORITY, INCORPORATED
GREENWOOD-ITTA BENA ALUM-
NAE CHAPTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world.

A sisterhood sorority of more than 250,000 predominantly black college educated women and the sorority currently has over 940 chapters located in the United States, England, Japan (Tokyo and Okinawa), Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Republic of Korea.

The major programs of the Sorority are based upon the organization's Five Point Programmatic Thrust:

- Economic Development;
- Educational Development;
- International Awareness and Involvement;
- Physical and Mental Health; and
- Political Awareness and Involvement.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1913 by 22 students at Howard University. These young women wanted to use their collective strength to promote academic excellence; to provide scholarships; to provide support to the underserved; educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy; and to highlight issues and provide solutions for problems in their communities.

Their legacy continues today in the Mississippi Delta through the Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter. With more than 50 years since its inception, the chapter has grown from 16 members in 1963 to 84 members in 2014.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter for its contribution to the black community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,550,128,150,467.43. We've added \$6,923,251,101,554.35 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 13 and Friday, March 14, 2014, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. I would have voted:

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 127 (on the Ellis Amendment to H.R. 3973),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 128 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 3973, with instructions),

"No" on rollcall vote No. 129 (on passage of H.R. 3973),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 130 (on the Polis Amendment to H.R. 3189),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 131 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 3189, with instructions),

"No" on rollcall vote No. 132 (on passage of H.R. 3189),

"No" on rollcall vote No. 133 (on the motion to table H. Res. 517),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 134 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 4015, with instructions), and

"No" on rollcall vote No. 135 (on passage of H.R. 4015).

HONORING THE ACTIONS OF
DANIEL AND GAGE STEPHENS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two courageous young men in

my district whose actions saved a woman's life during a recent winter storm.

16-Year-old Daniel Stephens and his younger brother Gage were hiking near their North Georgia home on January 28th when they saw a Ford F-150 slide off the side of a mountain.

The driver suffered multiple broken ribs, a broken hip, a lower-back injury, and a partially dislocated shoulder.

When she attempted to vacate the vehicle, she fell nearly 100 feet down the side of the mountain.

Thankfully, both Daniel and Gage are Civil Air Patrol cadets with the 507 Ellijay Composite Squadron.

These two young men sprung into action using training they learned in the classroom as well as field exercises.

Daniel scaled the terrain, stabilized the woman, and prevented her from falling nearly another 150 feet to the bottom.

First responders reported that Daniel was "a great asset to the EMS team."

Meanwhile, Gage quickly returned home to call 911 and bring blankets for the injured woman.

There is no doubt that these two brave Georgians saved a life last month, and I join the entire Ellijay and Civil Air Patrol communities in commending Daniel and Gage Stephens for their heroism.

HONORING RHO LAMBDA OMEGA
OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SO-
RORITY, INCORPORATED

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Rho Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated that was established on October 23, 1988 by thirty-two Alpha Kappa Alpha women who had a vision to expand and extend service to all mankind to a growing community in Jackson, Mississippi.

The chartering ceremonies are ceremonies that were conducted by then 18th South Eastern Regional Director, Mrs. Nancy G. Sewell. Since its inception, Rho Lambda Omega has experienced success by implementing many ongoing community service projects which fulfill tangible needs and make a difference in the lives of individuals in the Jackson Metropolitan Area.

Many of the chapter's initial community projects that are focusing on Education, Health, Government, Family, the Arts, and Economic Empowerment have been implemented continuously over the years. Other projects are added as we continue to assess and address the needs of our local community and support the Sorority's international program initiatives.

In a period of almost twenty years Rho Lambda Omega has grown from the initial thirty-two to an active membership of over one hundred.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rho Lambda Omega of Alpha

Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for their dedication to serving others in need.

A BILL TO AMEND THE SIKES ACT TO PROMOTE THE USE OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS UNDER SUCH ACT FOR LAND MANAGEMENT RELATED TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE READINESS ACTIVITIES AND TO AMEND TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, TO FACILITATE INTERAGENCY COOPERATION IN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS TO AVOID OR REDUCE ADVERSE IMPACTS ON MILITARY READINESS ACTIVITIES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill to amend the Sikes Act to promote the use of cooperative agreements for land management related to the Department of Defense (DoD) readiness activities. The bill provides common sense reforms to the Sikes Act. These reforms afford both programs with greater flexibility to leverage cooperative agreements and other federal funds to meet program requirements.

In particular, the bill would provide additional enhancements to the authorities provided to DoD under the Sikes Act and parallels a similar amendment made in the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act to the REPI program. Specifically, the provision would authorize DoD, pursuant to a cooperative agreement under the Sikes Act, to provide funds for the long term maintenance and improvement of natural resources on non-DoD lands without first having to protect such lands through acquisition of easements. This will greatly enhance the ability of DoD to take action to relieve or eliminate current or anticipated challenges that could restrict, impede, or otherwise interfere with, whether directly or indirectly, current or anticipated military activities. For example, this provision would help DoD meet its obligations under the Endangered Species Act and other applicable statutory and regulatory requirements through actions on non-DoD lands pursuant to a cooperative agreement with a state or local agency or a private landowner. This authority would help avoid or reduce the need to restrict training and testing activities on DoD lands.

A similar version of this bill was included as section 314 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 as passed in the House of Representatives. My bill makes some improvements to section 314 and addresses concerns raised by the Department of Defense regarding percentage of funds allowed for administration of the program as well as auditing requirements. I look forward to working with the relevant Committee to incorporate this bill as a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Again, the bill is a common sense approach to better enabling DoD to meet its conserva-

tion goals and requirements while protecting its ability to meet readiness requirements. In a time of fiscal austerity, it is important for Congress to provide the Administration with the tools and authorities to be flexible and adaptable to challenges with innovative thinking and minimal investment. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING CADET TREVOR-LEE TRAVIS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cadet Trevor-Lee Travis of Missouri for his achievement and commitment to serving our country. In addition to completing the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program, Cadet Travis is being awarded the General Billy Mitchell Award and is now eligible to be promoted to the rank of Cadet 2nd Lieutenant. To complete the program and achieve this milestone, Cadet Travis had to excel in different trainings and leadership classes. He then went before a Promotion Review Board of his peers who acknowledged his achievements and awarded him this recognition. This is quite an honor as only a few distinguished cadets nationwide achieve this status.

At a young age Cadet Travis has shown an admirable commitment to serve our country and I am very thankful for patriots like him who will lead the future generation of airmen. It is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNITION OF THE I.C. NORCOM BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to call attention to a group of young students who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the city of Portsmouth, Virginia. The I.C. Norcom Greyhounds boys' basketball team had a remarkable season and I believe the Greyhounds deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments.

On March 13, 2014, the I.C. Norcom Greyhounds beat the John Handley Judges of Winchester, Virginia, to win the Group 4A boys' state basketball championship. The Greyhounds completed their 2014 season with an impressive 23-5 record. I.C. Norcom won the championship with a nearly unbelievable comeback. Down sixteen points with seven minutes left in the game, the team went on a 21-0 run, outscoring the Judges 33-12 in the fourth quarter. At the end of the game, the Greyhounds had prevailed with a final score of 59 to 52.

I.C. Norcom's boys' basketball team has had a consistent run of excellence in recent

years. With this year's championship, I.C. Norcom has won three state championships in the past five years, becoming a dominant force in Virginia high school sports.

I.C. Norcom was founded in 1913 as the High Street School, the first public high school for black students in Portsmouth. It was renamed in 1953 in honor of its first supervising principal, Israel Charles Norcom, a pioneering educator, civic leader and businessman. Now, more than 100 years and three locations later, I.C. Norcom High School is still an innovating and inspiring place for Portsmouth students.

In addition to excelling on the basketball court, the Greyhounds are also doing great things in the classroom. I.C. Norcom houses a Center of Excellence in Math and Science, which provides students with additional classes in science, math, and technology. Seniors completing the Center's curriculum this year will receive Center of Excellence Diplomas which require five science course credits, one more than necessary under the advanced diploma. In addition, I.C. Norcom students have been participating in the First College program—attending Tidewater Community College this semester and taking up to 14 college credits before they graduate. I.C. Norcom is doing a great job cultivating excellence both on and off the athletic field.

I would like to extend my enthusiastic congratulations to the I.C. Norcom players, their families, Principal Dr. Rosalynn Sanderlin, Coach Leon Goolsby and the rest of his coaching staff, on the occasion of this historic Boy's basketball Championship. On behalf of the citizens of the Third Congressional District of Virginia, I.C. Norcom alumni, and the entire city of Portsmouth, I commend them for this historic win and wish the program years of continued success in the future.

HONORING TRI-COUNTY WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Community Organization, Tri-County Workforce Alliance in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Tri-County Workforce Alliance, serving the counties of Bolivar, Coahoma, and Quitman originally with the addition of Sunflower and Tallahatchie counties in 2011, in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, is a non-profit organization funded originally by the Foundation for the Mid South through Pew Charitable Trust and the Walton Foundation.

The Alliance chose its first and only executive director, Mrs. Josephine P. Rhymes, in 1997. The Alliance did not have a 501(c)3 status; however it had as the lead organization, the Coahoma County Industrial Foundation, that did have the exempt status. In 2002, the Alliance received their 501(c)3 status and its fiscal agent at present is Coahoma Community College.

The Tri-County Workforce Alliance's mission is to improve the quality of life for people living in the three counties by promoting long-term

economic and community development and by building a competitive healthy workforce through education and job training.

Through collaborative efforts with other agencies with a similar mission, Tri-County Alliance worked to support and enhance their efforts through technical support and programs and assistance with alternative funding efforts through a strong mini-grant program. They made available the resources of the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, which offered hands-on assistance to new and existing businesses in this region in three program areas: technical assistance, development finance, and private sector purchasing.

Tri-County Workforce Alliance is an organization that is made up of people from many racial, social, and economic groups of the tri-county area, working together to find positive solutions to the individual needs of two special groups of citizens: Future Workforce members are youth in high school, junior high or middle school who need a solid academic foundation or may wish to transition from high school to the workforce; and Out-of-Workforce members are adults and youth who have been unemployed for a long time, receive public assistance, or who do not work on a regular basis.

The Alliance has been successful in that it has bridged the gap between communities, between businesses and educational institutions and has enhanced educational and training strategies for the workforce, thus enabling the Alliance to leverage additional funds from other foundations, local, state and federal government and the private sector.

Through partnerships with other organizations and agencies, Tri-County Workforce Alliance has had success with: the Summer Enrichment Program in Reading and Math, which assisted 165 at-risk 4th, 5th and 6th graders in the Clarksdale Municipal School District; the Intensive Youth Supervision Program, which assisted 60 youth offenders; and the Parent Rallies, which was designed to help parents understand their roles and responsibilities in the education of their children.

This was in collaboration with the ten school districts in the tri-county area: Carpentry for Youth which provided carpentry instruction for youth who have built such things as bookcases, park benches, porches, a playhouse for a health clinic, doghouses, entertainment centers, etc.; Carpentry for Women which was a free training program for unemployed/underemployed women 18 years old and above and other support services such as childcare and transportation were provided for each participant who showed a need.

The organization is published in the Insight Center for Community Economic Development's "Building Economic Stability for Mississippi Families" (June, 2010). The Job Resource and Career Fair is sponsored for unemployed, underemployed citizens, high school seniors, and those people interested in a career change. CHOICES was another program to help curb the dropout rate. It was offered to 7th and 8th graders in the schools in the tri-county area. With the Mini-Grant Program Tri-County awarded grants in the amount of up to \$2,000 to community-based organizations, schools, business, etc. for workforce preparation and workforce development.

These funds have funded programs such as: computer training, teen parent job training,

Hospice Care homemakers training, sweet potato growers training, youth employment training, personal development and job etiquette training, cultural enrichment, education rallies, vegetable processing training, hot tamale processing training, hospitality training, executive housekeeping training, child care certification training, ex-offenders job training skills, job enhancement skills training, education site visits, welfare recipient summits, business development workshops career-pathing seminars and legislative forums; the High School Mentoring Program, is a mentoring program offered to at-risk academic and social 9th–12th graders at Coahoma Agricultural High School, one of our local high schools. The Groundhog Job Shadow Day has been held for the past eight years for 7th–12th graders in Coahoma County, and for the past four years in Bolivar and Quitman Counties. Students spend one day in the world of work. There has been two students who won the Mike Moore Scholarship in the amount of \$500 each. As a result of this activity, students have gotten after school jobs, a full-tuition scholarship and a book allotment totaling \$2,000 is awarded to a freshman student who has maintained a 2.8 average in high school and has an interest in vocational/technical education at Coahoma Community College. Emphasis is placed on interested non-traditional students: Industry Education Day is a program designed to improve the working relationship between business, industry and education for improved economic development; After School Tutorial Programs is a program designed for tutoring in mathematics and reading with cultural and survival components for two schools' 4th, 5th, and 6th graders who are at risk of academic failure; Workforce Public Policy Initiative assists to develop policy that promotes opportunities to construct, implement, and evaluate a framework that is comprehensive and participatory in nature; assists people in preparing for pursuit of living with wage jobs to improve livelihood security and quality of life and to create a model program that can be used as a demonstration to influence public policy.

This program resulted in the development of a professionalization curriculum that is sanctioned by employers and potential employees; Pathways to Collaboration is a workgroup with four other organizations to examine the success of and create a means of communicating to the world the special value of our collaborative process of engaging people who are directly experiencing problems in the community by problem solving.

Chosen as one of the seven originals from 764 applicants Tri-County Workforce Alliance has completed a study and the results have been published in a book entitled: "Engaging the Community in Decision Making: Case Studies Tracking Participation, Voice and Influence" by Roz Diane Lasker and John A. Guidry, McFarland & Company, Inc. Publishers. High School Mentorship Program in Health Care Professions is a program for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students in Bolivar, Coahoma, Quitman, Sunflower and Tallahatchie counties who have express an interest in the health profession. The program has an individual mentor component for on the job shadowing for 60 hours and a two week Summer Institute with advanced studies in

science, math, english/reading and critical thinking/analysis.

This program is a step program that leads into dual enrollment in the community college's RN or CNA or phlebotomy programs in the 12th grade; An Academy of Science, Reading and Mathematics for Potential Health Care Professionals in a program opened to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in Coahoma and Quitman counties who express an interest in health care professions. A four-week summer institute is held where students do intensive study of science, reading and mathematics and health disparities. The students dissect animal organs (heart and kidney) to learn the parts of the body that are affected by the diseases. They work with doctors to create a wellness program for family members with the disease.

The Alliance is deeply embedded in the communities that it serves. It is helping to create change by crossing all boundaries—geographical, political, ethnical, age, and socioeconomic. Its goal is to continue to develop a network of agencies and individuals to provide ongoing strategic planning, innovative programs and leveraging local, state, federal and foundation funds.

Tri-County Workforce Alliance is governed by a 25-member board made up of representatives from government, business and industry, educational institutions (high school, junior college and four year colleges), community-based organizations, youth, and grassroots individuals, representing the three counties. Elected officers included: Charles Barron, Chairman; George Walker (deceased), Co-Chairman, Elizabeth Johnson, Treasurer and Shirley Morgan, Secretary. Other Board members include: Charles Reid, Priscilla Sharpe, Glenn Adams, W.J. Jones, Earnestine Keys, Aurelia Jones-Taylor, Kenisha Shelton, Dorothy Prestwich, Suzanne Walton, Leonia Adams from Coahoma County; Lillie V. Davis, Mary Towner, Hubert Owten, Victor Richardson, Mamie White, Pearlle Owten, Irma Bell, Lister Bowdoin from Quitman County; and Eulah Peterson, Roger Carter and Jordan Goins from Bolivar County.

Currently, an executive director, Josephine P. Rhymes, since 1997 and an administrative assistant, Harold Jones, since 2009 are the only full-time staff and there are seven part-time program staff members. Tri-County has also formed some very wholesome partnerships with other organizations that have similar missions and they provide them with the use of facilities, staff, technical assistance and funds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing Community Organization for their dedication for change and equality.

LETTER REGARDING WARTIME
TREATMENT OF ITALIAN AMERICANS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a letter that I recently received from

Chet Campanella of San Jose. Mr. Campanella is an Italian American who experienced firsthand the injustices committed against Italians living in America during World War II. He has been sharing his story, and his efforts to raise awareness resulted in a formal acknowledgment and apology from the State of California in 2010.

Many are familiar with the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, partly due to the enactment of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act in 1980, the Commission's report in 1983, and the subsequent Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that provided an official apology for the internment of Japanese Americans. What remains less well known is the mistreatment of thousands of Japanese and European Latin Americans, European Americans, and Jewish refugees that took place prior to and during WWII.

The 1980 Commission did address the mistreatment of Japanese, German, and Italian Latin Americans, but only in the appendix to its report. Just one chapter of thirteen addressed the mistreatment of German and Italian Americans in the U.S. Moreover, no recommendations were made with regard to these populations and no official apology was issued—unlike for Japanese internment.

This is an issue that I've been involved with for several years. In 2008, I worked with a number of my colleagues to amend a Japanese-American internment resolution to include injustices committed against European Americans during World War II. As amended and passed by the House, H. Res. 1357 specifically expressed Congress' resolve to "review the wartime treatment of . . . Italian Americans, to determine whether they should also receive an apology and reparations similar to that provided in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 for Japanese Americans interned during World War II." The following year, as Chair of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, I led a hearing that featured testimony from experts detailing the severe injustices suffered by Italian Americans and other groups during this difficult time in our nation's history. Under my leadership, the subcommittee also considered H.R. 1425, the "Wartime Treatment Study Act," which called for a commission to study and issue a report on the treatment of European-Americans during World War II. Although the bill made it through the subcommittee and was reported favorably by the full Judiciary Committee, the bill was not taken up on the House floor.

I urge my colleagues to take the time to read Mr. Campanella's letter.

FEBRUARY, 2014.

Hon. ZOE LOFGREN,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LOFGREN: My name is Chet Campanella, and I am writing this letter to ask that you and all members of Congress vote in favor of giving us Italian survivors a formal public apology on behalf of our United States government for the mistreatments and injustices suffered by Italian "Enemy Aliens" here in the U.S. during World War II.

I am 83 years of age and one of the many thousands of Italian survivors. I was twelve

years of age during the time of these mistreatments, having lived through it, and I remember them very well. I feel that I am well qualified to address the topic I am writing to you about.

Shortly after World War II began the treatment here in the United States and in California of 600,000 Italians who were classified as "Enemy Aliens" was truly horrible. When I refer to "Enemy Aliens" I mean those Italian immigrants to the U.S. who were not yet naturalized American Citizens, who truly loved America, and were here to forever stay. I will describe the mistreatments that our Italian "Enemy Aliens" were made to endure.

I was 12 years old at the time and I remember the curfew times were from 8 P.M. until 6 A.M. "Enemy Aliens" were not allowed to travel more than a five mile radius from their homes. They were given "Enemy Alien" identification tags that they had to carry on their person at all times. We Italian "Enemy Aliens" had our homes searched by the F.B.I. who were searching for all types of signaling devices such as short wave radios, radios, flashlights, cameras, and guns. Italian "Enemy Alien" fisherman who earned their living deep sea fishing off the coast of California had their fishing boats confiscated by our Navy.

There were 10,000 "Enemy Aliens" who lived in coastal communities off the coast of California who were forced to board up their homes and were forced to evacuate inland. These "Enemy Aliens" were made to fend for themselves without any government assistance whatsoever. There were also 2,000 elderly "Enemy Aliens" living in the city of Pittsburg, Ca. who were forced to do the same.

There were hundreds to thousands of "Enemy Aliens" who were arrested by the F.B.I. and interned in internment camps throughout the United States during World War II. The largest of these internment camps was Fort Missoula, Montana. I had an uncle who was arrested by the F.B.I., right in front of me, and sent to an internment camp.

I have always thought that it was so sad that these Italian "Enemy Aliens" were made to endure such harsh mistreatments and injustices because there was not one instance of proof that they ever in any way hindered our American war effort. These "Enemy Aliens", my parents included, truly loved America and would do absolutely nothing to harm their new country.

I know that our United States government decided to make many of the documents that described the mistreatments endured by these "Enemy Alien" during the war classified information top secret. It was to be made as if nothing ever happened.

I am asking Congress for a formal public apology on behalf of our United States government for all of the horrible mistreatments and injustices forced on Italian "Enemy Aliens" during World War II. This formal apology is well deserved and long overdue.

In the year 2010 California Senator Joseph Simitian sponsored SCR 95, The Mistreatments Of Italian Immigrants During World War II. On June 23, 2010 I was asked to give a testimony on this subject to the California State Senate Rules Committee at the Capitol Building in Sacramento, California. I did it from the head and heart with no notes. Shortly after August 20, 2010 we Italian survivors on behalf of the state of California received a formal public apology.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

CHET CAMPANELLA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 24, 2014, I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes:

H.R. 3060—"To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building". Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

H.R. 1813—"To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building". Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RICHARD "DICK" IKEDA AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Dr. Richard "Dick" Ikeda, a dear friend and tireless community leader who recently passed away. Dr. Ikeda founded and served as the executive director of Health For All, Inc. and was an admired advocate for patient centered health care. As his family and friends gather to honor and remember his wonderful life, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most well-respected figures.

Dr. Ikeda was a prominent leader in the health care community, and his death leaves a tremendous void in our community. Dr. Ikeda's work led to the foundation of Health For All, a community health center providing culturally sensitive health care services with a federally qualified health center designation. Under Dr. Ikeda's leadership, Health For All opened a number of community health center locations and has provided health and preventative services for thousands of low income residents in the Sacramento region. Additionally, in 1983, Health For All added an adult day health center that to this day provides medical and social services for low-income seniors at risk of losing their independence at home.

Dr. Ikeda's passion and commitment resonated in his work and will not be forgotten by the Sacramento community. His positive impact is seen in the many individuals he mentored throughout the years. Dr. Ikeda served as a mentor to many in the Sacramento community, served on the boards of medical groups and was active in the Asian American community. He was a past president of local chapters of the American Heart Association and the Japanese American Citizens League. Dr. Ikeda was a wonderful public servant, but he was an even better father and grandfather. He leaves behind his son, Steven, daughter, Arielle and two grandchildren Anthony and Anna.

Mr. Speaker, as Dr. Ikeda's family and friends gather to celebrate his wonderful legacy and many contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to him. I and the countless others who were privileged enough to call him our friend will deeply miss him. I ask all my colleagues to pause and join me in paying respect to an extraordinary man, Richard Ikeda.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY STUDENTS
LEARNING CENTER
(CSLC)

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, The Community Students Learning Center (CSLC).

The Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which has as its motto: "In relentless pursuit of perfection in education and knowledge." It was founded by a husband and wife team, Leslie and Beulah Greer, two longtime residents of Holmes County, Mississippi, who are dedicated to helping improve their community's education and economy. The organization was founded in 2003.

When they learned that their daughter, Takila, would not be allowed to graduate with her high school class in 2001, they became parent advocates. Their daughter was faced with this devastating issue, because she could not pass all parts of the required state tests.

Their daughter had been diagnosed with Specified Learning Disabilities (SLD) at an early age and they felt that students who suffered from SLD should be able to receive a certificate, participate in graduation exercises, be given a chance to later re-take failed parts of the required state tests to receive a diploma and be able to experience the feeling of marching with their graduating class.

A challenge was presented of their concerns to the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). They agreed, but left the final decision up to the Holmes County School District. Unfortunately, for the Greer family's daughter and family, the Holmes County School Board failed to agree.

After much distress and frustration with the Holmes County School System and the Holmes County School Board, they allowed God to minister to their heart for healing. They later realized that things happen for a reason and that what happened to their family was predestined. It was at that moment that they made a vow to help others in a way that the school district was unable to help Takila, their daughter.

Thus, the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) was born in their hearts and minds. They became desperate parents who wanted to save other families from the pain and ridicule their family suffered.

Today, the Community Students Learning Center now has a great working relationship with the Holmes County School Board, Superintendent, teachers and staff. They have even been blessed with the opportunity to serve as

a team monitor member for the MDE Office of Special Education where they have traveled across the state educating parents regarding their rights and laws as it relates to their child/children with special needs.

Throughout the difficult ordeals that Beulah faced, her husband, Leslie, was a "strong tower" for her. He encouraged her to move forward and allow God to direct her path. God has blessed their bud of an idea to blossom into a full blown, yet still growing, non-profit organization that is positively impacting the lives of many families. The idea began as an effort to assist at-risk students who could not pass the state mandated tests, but now the vision has expanded to include many more programs and services.

The Mission for the Community Students Learning Center is to promote community and educational change, by providing state-of-the-art leadership development and personal improvement opportunities for youth, adults, and seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) for their dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

IN MEMORY OF OV SMITH

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the loss of my dear friend OV Smith, who died on March 14th at the age of 99. I had the pleasure of knowing OV for more than 30 years. We became friends while I served in the California State Assembly and she was working to educate members of the Assembly about the needs of persons with developmental disabilities.

OV Smith dedicated her life to caring for the developmentally disabled. For more than 40 years, she welcomed them into her home while also taking them to church on Sundays, traveling with them on cruises and other trips, and accompanying them to activities in the community. OV founded several organizations in Los Angeles. She helped these groups to initiate public policy through the legislative process and educate caregivers on how to care for and develop their clients.

In 1970, Ms. Smith founded OV's Willing Workers for the Mentally Retarded, which provides day care, social development and educational services to developmentally disabled persons. This was the first organization of its kind in California that provided extensive and comprehensive services.

She also founded the Society of California Care Home Operators (SOCCO), which trains caregivers and connects them with the legislative process so they can acquaint themselves with the law and become advocates for the developmentally disabled. Finally, OV helped found the South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC), which contracts with the State of California to coordinate services for the developmentally disabled.

Her courage to confront the establishment, knowledge of the law, and commitment to ini-

tiate change gained the respect of lawmakers, agency officials, and the overall community. She had been recognized by many organizations and sought out for her insights. Her motto "These are God's people, and we are responsible for them" bespoke the true heart she put into advocating for people with developmental disabilities.

OV Smith will be sorely missed by everyone who was touched by her graciousness. We all benefitted from her commitment, vision, and caring heart. My thoughts and prayers are with all of her family and friends during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING DENNIS
MARKOWITZ

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give the heartiest congratulations to Dennis I. Markowitz on being named Person of the Year by the Feasterville Business Association. This honor recognizes his many years of outstanding service to the Feasterville Business Association, as a motivator, officer and current treasurer. A tax accountant and founding partner in the Financial Group Plus Companies, he marks his 50th year as a tax accountant. Dennis Markowitz' many endeavors, both personal and professional, include his honorable service in the United States Army, and also as vice president of the Bucks-Mont Chapter of the Society of Tax and Accounting Partners and educator who has been recognized for his volunteer work by the U.S. International Revenue Service. Throughout his years of community service on many different levels, Dennis Markowitz has set an outstanding example for others to follow and this recognition comes with sincere wishes for a continuation of service and fellowship, health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I intended to vote "no", but was recorded as having voted "yes", on H.R. 2824 (rollcall 141), which would overturn Reagan-era protections for streams and communities in Appalachia. I would like the record to reflect my strong opposition to H.R. 2824.

HONORING THE REDLINERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, the Redliners.

The Redliners is a bike club that was established in 1996. They share a strong family bond and chemistry, spreading across 12 states.

The Redliners' objectives are:

To bring together individuals who share the common interest of motorcycle riding;

To provide an organized environment around which its members may enjoy well-coordinated events without regards to politics, religion, race, sex or creed;

To encourage good riding habits, promote the interests of its members, keep members aware of motorcyclist rights and issues, and sponsor and participate in charitable events and/or affairs;

To foster a network of communication and a better understanding between various motorcycle and non-motorcycle enthusiast; and

To fulfill these objectives the chapter functions shall incorporate both social and information aspects.

The Redliners in Greenville, Mississippi chooses a foundation every year to sponsor a charity ride. They have done charity rides for the Fannie Lou Hamer Foundation, Boys and Girls Club and Our House, Inc.

The Redliners have participated in numerous community services activities, such as handing out candy at the Boys and Girls Club for Halloween. Also, Make A Wish Foundation contacted Redliners for 16 year old, Freddie Green, of Greenville, Mississippi, who is fighting Leukemia. Freddie's wish was to spend time with the Redliners and eat at a restaurant called Frost Top. The Redliners road motorcycles to Belzoni, Mississippi to meet Freddie as he was coming home from the hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. They brought Freddie to Greenville on the motorcycle and he was overjoyed.

Furthermore, the Redliners have adopted a highway in honor of their member, Victor Anderson, who is also known as "Red Angel". They cleaned up Highway 82 in his honor. The Redliners have done other things like, donating turkeys to nursing homes for Thanksgiving and participating in different toy drives. They are always looking for a way to give back to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Redliners for their dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS ON A UNIFIED CYPRUS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the importance of the ongoing negotiations in Cyprus between Greek and Turkish Cypriots that would bring about a peaceful resolution to the dispute on a unified Cyprus. On February 24, 2014, Greek Cypriot negotiator, Andreas Mavroyiannis, and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart, Kudret Ozersay, resumed talks in what the United Nations has deemed

as "substantive discussions." This is promising news and it is my hope that these talks will mark the first, new steps toward a final settlement that will achieve a unified Cyprus.

The Republic of Cyprus has endured a long history of ethnic and religious battles between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. While Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities remain divided, with the latter isolated from the international community, a unified Cyprus has much to offer to the region and global community. A peacefully unified Cyprus would see increased tourism, exchanges of close culture ties, expanded trade opportunities, and a new and stable source of energy. Additionally, a unified Cyprus would create a state and society that protects the rights of all its citizens and help establish a sound government that reflects its rightful place in Europe.

During a phone call with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President Barack Obama thanked the Prime Minister for his role in reviving negotiations. Turkey's leadership in bringing this conflict to an end is welcomed during this time of heightened intensity in the region. Any resolution agreed to should emulate the UN mission in Cyprus' declaration that a settlement "will be based on a bi-communal, bizonal federation with political equality." I ask my colleagues to join me in encouraging both parties to see past the roadblocks that have held back progress and redouble their efforts as they move forward on a solution. Likewise, I hope the Obama Administration will continue to use its influence to push for a swift resolution on the Cyprus question.

I stand with all Cypriots—in both communities—who seek to build a better Cyprus together.

HONORING PETER AND LISA VERNIERO FOR THEIR PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated public service of Lisa and Peter Verniero, the 2014 honorees of the SAFE in Hunterdon Evening of Awareness.

I have known the Vernieros for a generation and I can attest that their recognition as the SAFE in Hunterdon Evening of Awareness honorees is well-earned. Together, Lisa and Peter have a remarkable tenure of service to Hunterdon County and the State of New Jersey.

Lisa is a devoted advocate for those who benefit from the mission of SAFE in Hunterdon. She is a thoughtful, caring and determined leader who has helped craft and sustain SAFE in Hunterdon as well as a generous benefactor, fundraiser and organizer to help provide the resources for this success.

Peter is a public servant whose tenure as New Jersey State Attorney General and Justice of the State Supreme Court was marked with dedication to serving all of our residents, including those most in need. His efforts to protect children and victims of crime and sexual abuse were landmark examples of good

judgment, important public policy and justice under the law. Peter also recently served on the New Jersey SAFE Task Force on Gun Protection, Addiction, Mental Health and Families that examined the root causes of violence and made recommendations to help improve the situation.

Lisa and Peter are committed to doing their part to break the cycle of abuse and empower survivors, their families and all victims of crime through the support networks that have helped construct. Their advocacy is just one example of the fine public servants who support SAFE in Hunterdon and the community of compassion that exists for those who need it most.

IN SUPPORT OF "NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 27th observance of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Developmental disabilities may be visible or invisible and range from physical impairment that involves vision or mobility to those conditions that affect cognitive functions related to how the brain processes information or how someone learns.

Developmental disabilities include: autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other developmental delays have increased, requiring more health and education services.

Everyone is on a continuum that moves us from ability to disability in one aspect or another. Through age, accidents, or illness, the healthy can become disabled.

Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas that are recognized in children from birth until age 22.

The effects of development disabilities will last a lifetime.

From birth to 5 years, a child should reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, act and move.

Tracking a child's development for signs that they are not reaching key milestones in development is critical for early diagnosis and interventions that can help children.

People with developmental disabilities have problems with language, mobility, learning, self-help, and independent living.

About one in six children in the U.S. have one or more developmental disabilities or other developmental delays.

A Center for Disease Control study of 119,367 children aged 3–17 found that boys had a higher prevalence for a certain developmental disabilities when compared with girls.

In the CDC study, parents or legal guardians were asked if their child had: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), autism, blindness, cerebral palsy, moderate to profound hearing loss, intellectual disability, learning disorders, seizures, stuttering/stammering, and other developmental delay.

Hispanic children had the lowest prevalence of developmental disabilities when compared with non-Hispanic white and black children.

Prevalence of any developmental disability increased from 12.84 percent to 15.04 percent over the past 12 years. Autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other developmental delays increased, whereas hearing loss showed a significant decline.

When developmental disabilities go misdiagnosed, undiagnosed, or untreated the capacity of our nation's children to reach their full potential is undermined.

The prevalence of any Developmental Disability in 1997–2008 was 13.87 percent. Prevalence of learning disabilities was 7.66 percent; prevalence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) was 6.69 percent; prevalence of other developmental delay was 3.65 percent; and, prevalence of autism was 0.47 percent.

Over the last 12 years: Developmental Disabilities has increased 17.1 percent—that's about 1.8 million more children with DDs in 2006–2008 compared to a decade earlier; prevalence of autism increased 289.5 percent; prevalence of ADHD increased 33.0 percent; and, prevalence of hearing loss decreased 30.9 percent.

In addition, data from this study showed that: Males had twice the prevalence of any Developmental Disabilities than females and more specifically had higher prevalence of ADHD, autism, learning disabilities, stuttering/stammering and other Developmental Disabilities; Hispanic children had lower prevalence of several disorders compared to non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black children, including ADHD and learning disabilities; Non-Hispanic black children had higher prevalence of stuttering/stammering than non-Hispanic white children; and Children from families with income below the federal poverty level had a higher prevalence of Developmental Disorders.

Mr. Speaker, much progress has been made in the 27 years since President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

But there is still much work to be done to ensure our fellow citizens with such disabilities have the resources and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential.

HONORING CLINTON (MS) ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible group of women, who strive daily to make a difference within the communities they serve. Today, I honor the illustrious women of the Clinton (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

The Clinton (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was chartered on March 29, 2004 at Pleasant Green Baptist Church in Clinton, Mississippi. Thirty-one visionary women, living within the Chap-

ter's public service area, used their collective strength to promote academic excellence, provide academic scholarships to deserving youth, support to the underserved, educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy, and to highlight issues and provide solutions to problems in the communities where they live and work. These charter members were: Tina Austin, Perry M. Boler, Angela D. Bridges, Sonya L. Edmond, La'Verne Edney, Latricha Ephrom, Kristie K. Flowers, Limmie M. Flowers, Sherri M. Flowers, Teselyn Funches, Lisa Green, Sonya Goins, Paulette Grim, Ursula Y. Harris, Tomja W. Jackson, Machel S. Kyles, Laurie S. Lawson, Sophia S. Marshall, Nikita A. Maxwell, Emily A. Miller, Marilyn J. Minter, Michelyn Patton, Angela Y. Perry, Alyea M. Pollard, Shelia P. Spann, Thresa K. Smith, Faith Strong, Katherine A. Thomas, Kenitra Wallace, Elizabeth M. Washington, and Mary M. White. Dr. Limmie M. Flowers was elected the Chapter's first president and helped the organization set into motion its goals for the community in which they would serve. Under the sorority's five programmatic thrusts, the Clinton (MS) Alumnae Chapter has become deeply involved within the Chapter's service area, which includes the cities of Clinton, Bolton, Byram, Edwards, Raymond, Terry, and Utica.

Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement are the five main areas of social involvement the Chapter focuses on and engages in. Under the Economic Development platform, the Chapter members engage in projects that include building homes with Habitat for Humanity, hosting CreditPlus seminars sponsored by local banks, and educating youth about finances and paying for college through "reality fairs" held at local schools. Service activities involving initiatives under the Educational Development platform include donating backpacks and school supplies to the Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle Schools, hosting career exploration workshops, college tours and college recruitment fairs, and a teen summit developed by area youth. Scholastic achievement and leadership development is embedded through various youth programs sponsored by the Chapter.

In addition, the Chapter has nurtured over 300 area middle and high school students through the Dr. Betty L. Shabazz Delta Academy, Dr. Jeanne L. Noble Delta GEMS Institute, and the EMBODI Program, while also providing generous support to the United Negro College Fund. May Week Observance is an annual initiative that recognizes the top 10 African American high school seniors from the high schools within the Chapter's service area. To date, the Chapter has distributed nearly \$50,000 in scholarships to nearly 400 graduating students.

Establishing cultural awareness is a key component under the International Awareness and Involvement platform, through which the Chapter implements projects to broaden understanding and appreciation for people of different backgrounds and cultures. The Chapter has sponsored cultural education programs, including financial support for schools and

clean water in developing countries. Prevention and wellness translate into health education programs, health fairs, and provision of health care services for those in need.

The Chapter participates in the Annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk and Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. The Chapter has donated more than \$6,000 to the organization, including providing very generous funding to the American Heart Association for combating cardiovascular disease. Each spring, the Chapter hosts a health fair in the community that includes comprehensive health screenings.

In keeping with tradition and the political mission of the Sorority, the Chapter is very active in voter awareness initiatives and monitoring legislation impacting underserved communities. Under the Political Awareness and Involvement platform, the Chapter educates the public through workshops, forums, and mass mailing campaigns. Each year the Chapter participates in "Mississippi Delta Day at the State Capitol" to visit with state lawmakers.

The current Chapter leadership encompasses: President, Dr. Juanyce D. Taylor; Vice President, Dr. Laurie Smith Lawson; Treasurer, Joyce Kersh; Financial Secretary, Jacqueline Frison-Owens; Journalist, Katrina Howard-Reeves; Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Tapps; Recording Secretary, Wanda Thomas; Sergeant-At-Arms, Lisa Jackson; Chaplain, Erica Towers; Historian, Jessica Lewis; Custodian, April Bullock; Parliamentarian, Luxie Frison; and Immediate Past President, Dr. Laurie Smith Lawson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Clinton (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated for representing, educating, and informing the underserved communities in their service area for 10 years.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
MARCH 31

3 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine creating a 21st century government part II, focusing on outside views.

SD-342

APRIL 1

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine Caterpillar's offshore tax strategy.

SD-106

10 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine opportunity, mobility, and inequality in today's economy.

SD-608

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold hearings to examine proliferation prevention programs at the Department of Energy and at the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SR-222

Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Swiss Confederation for the Avoidance of Double Taxation With Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Washington October 2, 1996, signed September 23, 2009, at Washington, with a related agreement effected by an exchange of notes September 23, 2009, as corrected by an exchange of notes effected November 16, 2010 (Treaty Doc. 112-1), Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Luxembourg May 20, 2009, with a related agreement effected by exchange of notes May 20, 2009 (Treaty Doc. 111-8), Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Hungary for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Budapest February 4, 2010, with a related agreement effected by exchange of notes February 4, 2010 (Treaty Doc.

111-7), Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Washington February 4, 2010, with a Protocol and a related agreement effected by exchange of notes February 4, 2010, as corrected by exchanges of notes effected February 25, 2011, and February 10 and 21, 2012 (Treaty Doc. 112-8), Protocol Amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, done at Paris May 27, 2010 (Treaty Doc. 112-5), and S. Res. 384, expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, resulting humanitarian and development challenges, and the urgent need for a political solution to the crisis.

S-116

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet
To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the "Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act".

SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine equal pay with the "Paycheck Fairness Act."

SD-430

APRIL 2

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
To hold hearings to examine tactical aircraft programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-562

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
To hold hearings to examine military construction, environmental, energy, and base closure programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
To hold hearings to examine Marine Corps modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Air Force.

SD-106

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-138

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance
To hold hearings to examine the General Motors (GM) recall and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) defect investigation process.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine data breach on the rise, focusing on protecting personal information from harm.

SD-342

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence and its administration and enforcement of sanctions.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior.

SD-192

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense policies and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1474, to encourage the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in the State relating to the enforcement of certain State laws by Indian tribes, to improve the quality of life in rural Alaska, to reduce alcohol and drug abuse, S. 1570, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service by providing 2-fiscal-year budget authority, S. 1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S. 1622, to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and an original bill entitled, "The Native American Children's Safety Act".

SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

3 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for

the Department of Defense and the Department of the Army.

SD-124

APRIL 3

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Food and Drug Administration.

SD-138

APRIL 9

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger and the impact on consumers.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on Indian students in public schools, and cultivating the next generation.

SD-628

APRIL 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

To hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SD-G50

11 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR-222

2 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR-222

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed Na-

tional Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SD-G50

5 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SD-G50

MAY 21

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SD-G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR-222

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR-222

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR-222

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, March 27, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 27, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB WOODALL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, through Whom we see what we could be and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House to encourage them in their official tasks. Be with them and with all who labor here to serve this great Nation and its people.

Assure them that whatever their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful in their duties, and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations and fulfill them with integrity.

Remind us all of the dignity of work, and teach us to use our talents and abilities in ways that are honorable and just and are of benefit to those we serve.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JENKINS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATIONS MARS CHOCOLATE

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mars Chocolate North America on the grand opening of their state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Topeka, Kansas.

This is the first Mars Chocolate factory built in the U.S. in 35 years. Mars has invested more than \$270 million to build this facility, bringing hundreds of jobs to the Topeka area. They will be manufacturing Snickers as well as 39 million individual M&Ms per day.

I want to also congratulate the city of Topeka, Shawnee County, the chamber of commerce, and the State of Kansas for attracting world-class manufacturing to our State. Mars conducted an extensive search, reviewing 80 potential sites. Our talented workforce, access to key infrastructure, and positive business environment all made Topeka the best choice.

Thank you, Mars, for making Topeka your home in the heartland, and welcome to Kansas.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to recognize the month of March as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month. MS is a debilitating, chronic disease that attacks the central nervous system and causes visual problems, overwhelming fatigue, difficulty with balance and coordination, and impaired mobility.

One of my most trusted and long-term district staff members, Ms. Robin McCray, who has been with me for many, many years—first, when I was in the California State Legislature and now in Congress—has a son, Ian, who is now 42 years of age, who has MS.

Ian was diagnosed at the age of 29, at the most productive time in his life. He was an avid snowboarder, an outdoors-

man, and practiced masonry. MS has stolen these things away from him.

There is no cure for MS, which is why we need advocates to help fight this terrible disease. I have seen, through Robin and Ian, how MS not only affects the individual, but the entire family.

Today I speak for Ian, but I advocate for the 400,000 Americans diagnosed with MS.

NATIONAL MULTIPLE MYELOMA AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize March as National Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month. Myeloma is a cancer of the bone marrow that can have a variety of effects on the body, ranging from bone pain to organ failure. The National Cancer Institute estimates that over 22,000 new cases will be diagnosed and 11,000 deaths will occur due to myeloma this year.

While myeloma is not curable, it is treatable. I thank my colleagues, Congressman BACHUS and Congressman RANGEL, for drafting a resolution to establish March as National Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month and the International Myeloma Foundation for raising awareness of the disease year-round.

Additionally, as Congress begins to develop a budget, I encourage strong support for medical research, increasing funding to the National Institutes of Health to \$32 billion.

Finally, I urge the House leadership to bring the Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act to the floor, a bill I introduced to make sure that patients with myeloma and other cancers who are prescribed oral chemotherapy by their doctors will have the insurance coverage they need to treat their illness and to get healthy.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

(Mr. BARROW of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed some light on a very serious issue facing more than 15 million Medicare Advantage recipients across the country, including more than 300,000 seniors in my home State of Georgia.

Medicare Advantage provides care and support to the constituents of

every Member of this body. It reduces the need for hospitalization and reduces health care costs by focusing on prevention and disease management. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently proposed a 5.9 percent cut to this program which will reduce benefits and increase premiums by \$35 to \$75 per month for beneficiaries all across the country.

This month, my colleague from the other side of the aisle, Dr. BILL CASSIDY, and I led an effort with over 200 Members of this body to urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to prevent these devastating cuts to this program.

I urge this body and our friends in the Senate to do all we can to preserve this critical program. We simply cannot place the country's financial burdens on the back of seniors by undermining Medicare Advantage.

HONORING DR. FRANK KITAMOTO

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Frank Kitamoto and offer my condolences to his family and friends in light of his recent passing.

At the age of 2, Dr. Kitamoto and his family were among the 277 Bainbridge Island, Washington, residents forced from their homes during World War II and taken to a war relocation center in California. In total, 12,000 Japanese American Washingtonians were forced out of their homes for the duration of the war.

Dr. Kitamoto returned to Bainbridge Island after the end of the war and he began an oral history project. He traveled the country to educate others about Japanese American history and forced relocation during World War II. He served as president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community for more than 25 years. Dr. Kitamoto also played an integral role in the installation of the Bainbridge Island Exclusion Memorial.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Kitamoto for his dedication to ensuring that the stories of this difficult period in American history are told. I am pleased to honor his legacy in the United States Congress today.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE CUTS PROPOSED FOR 2015 WOULD BE SHORTSIGHTED AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE

(Mr. MURPHY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, with all the questions surrounding

health insurance today, it is vital that seniors can keep the health care coverage on which they depend. I remain committed to working in a bipartisan manner to address the long-term drivers of our debt. I also understand we must consider the impact the decisions we make have on real Americans.

Recent efforts to bring Medicare Advantage payments in line with traditional Medicare makes sense if you think of the budget solely as numbers on a spreadsheet; but we are seeing these cuts resulting in smaller networks of doctors, cuts to add-on benefits, and higher out-of-pocket limits, shifting the cost and burden onto our Nation's seniors on fixed incomes.

The Medicare Advantage cuts proposed for 2015 would be shortsighted and counterproductive if it meant elimination of health care innovations and led to hospital readmissions and worse health outcomes.

I add my voice to the growing bipartisan chorus calling for no more cuts to seniors on Medicare Advantage. I urge the administration to keep the rates flat for this year, protecting seniors' continued access to health care choices that they have earned after a lifetime of hard work.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0942

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) at 9 o'clock and 42 minutes a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO MEDICARE ACT OF 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4302) to amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4302

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—MEDICARE EXTENDERS

Sec. 101. Physician payment update.

Sec. 102. Extension of work GPCI floor.

Sec. 103. Extension of therapy cap exceptions process.

Sec. 104. Extension of ambulance add-ons.

Sec. 105. Extension of increased inpatient hospital payment adjustment for certain low-volume hospitals.

Sec. 106. Extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program.

Sec. 107. Extension for specialized Medicare Advantage plans for special needs individuals.

Sec. 108. Extension of Medicare reasonable cost contracts.

Sec. 109. Extension of funding for quality measure endorsement, input, and selection.

Sec. 110. Extension of funding outreach and assistance for low-income programs.

Sec. 111. Extension of two-midnight rule.

Sec. 112. Technical changes to Medicare LTCH amendments.

TITLE II—OTHER HEALTH PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Extension of the qualifying individual (QI) program.

Sec. 202. Temporary extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA).

Sec. 203. Extension of Medicaid and CHIP express lane option.

Sec. 204. Extension of special diabetes program for type I diabetes and for Indians.

Sec. 205. Extension of abstinence education.

Sec. 206. Extension of personal responsibility education program (PREP).

Sec. 207. Extension of funding for family-to-family health information centers.

Sec. 208. Extension of health workforce demonstration project for low-income individuals.

Sec. 209. Extension of maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs.

Sec. 210. Pediatric quality measures.

Sec. 211. Delay of effective date for Medicaid amendments relating to beneficiary liability settlements.

Sec. 212. Delay in transition from ICD-9 TO ICD-10 code sets.

Sec. 213. Elimination of limitation on deductibles for employer-sponsored health plans.

Sec. 214. GAO report on the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program.

Sec. 215. Skilled nursing facility value-based purchasing.

Sec. 216. Improving Medicare policies for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests.

Sec. 217. Revisions under the Medicare ESRD prospective payment system.

- Sec. 218. Quality incentives for computed tomography diagnostic imaging and promoting evidence-based care.
- Sec. 219. Using funding from Transitional Fund for Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) Reform.
- Sec. 220. Ensuring accurate valuation of services under the physician fee schedule.
- Sec. 221. Medicaid DSH.
- Sec. 222. Realignment of the Medicare sequester for fiscal year 2024.
- Sec. 223. Demonstration programs to improve community mental health services.
- Sec. 224. Assisted outpatient treatment grant program for individuals with serious mental illness.
- Sec. 225. Exclusion from PAYGO scorecards.

TITLE I—MEDICARE EXTENDERS

SEC. 101. PHYSICIAN PAYMENT UPDATE.

Section 1848(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(d)) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (15)—
- (A) in the heading, by striking “JANUARY THROUGH MARCH OF”;
- (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “for the period beginning on January 1, 2014, and ending on March 31, 2014”; and
- (C) in subparagraph (B)—
- (i) in the heading, by striking “REMAINING PORTION OF 2014 AND”; and
- (ii) by striking “the period beginning on April 1, 2014, and ending on December 31, 2014, and for”; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(16) UPDATE FOR JANUARY THROUGH MARCH OF 2015.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (7)(B), (8)(B), (9)(B), (10)(B), (11)(B), (12)(B), (13)(B), (14)(B), and (15)(B), in lieu of the update to the single conversion factor established in paragraph (1)(C) that would otherwise apply for 2015 for the period beginning on January 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2015, the update to the single conversion factor shall be 0.0 percent.

“(B) NO EFFECT ON COMPUTATION OF CONVERSION FACTOR FOR REMAINING PORTION OF 2015 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—The conversion factor under this subsection shall be computed under paragraph (1)(A) for the period beginning on April 1, 2015, and ending on December 31, 2015, and for 2016 and subsequent years as if subparagraph (A) had never applied.”.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF WORK GPCI FLOOR.

Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “April 1, 2014” and inserting “April 1, 2015”.

SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF THERAPY CAP EXCEPTIONS PROCESS.

Section 1833(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(g)) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (5)(A), in the first sentence, by striking “March 31, 2014” and inserting “March 31, 2015”; and

- (2) in paragraph (6)(A)—
- (A) by striking “March 31, 2014” and inserting “March 31, 2015”; and

- (B) by striking “2012, 2013, or the first three months of 2014” and inserting “2012, 2013, 2014, or the first three months of 2015”.

SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF AMBULANCE ADD-ONS.

- (a) GROUND AMBULANCE.—Section 1834(l)(13)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)(13)(A)) is amended by striking “April 1, 2014” and inserting “April 1, 2015” each place it appears.

- (b) SUPER RURAL GROUND AMBULANCE.—Section 1834(l)(12)(A) of the Social Security

Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)(12)(A)) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “April 1, 2014” and inserting “April 1, 2015”.

SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF INCREASED INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT ADJUSTMENT FOR CERTAIN LOW-VOLUME HOSPITALS.

Section 1886(d)(12) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)) is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “in the portion of fiscal year 2014 beginning on April 1, 2014, fiscal year 2015, and subsequent fiscal years” and inserting “in fiscal year 2015 (beginning on April 1, 2015), fiscal year 2016, and subsequent fiscal years”;

- (2) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013, and the portion of fiscal year 2014 before” and inserting “fiscal years 2011 through 2014 and fiscal year 2015 (before April 1, 2015),” each place it appears; and

- (3) in subparagraph (D), by striking “fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013, and the portion of fiscal year 2014 before April 1, 2014,” and inserting “fiscal years 2011 through 2014 and fiscal year 2015 (before April 1, 2015),”.

SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOSPITAL (MDH) PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(G)) is amended—

- (1) in clause (i), by striking “April 1, 2014” and inserting “April 1, 2015”; and
- (2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “April 1, 2014” and inserting “April 1, 2015”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) EXTENSION OF TARGET AMOUNT.—Section 1886(b)(3)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(D)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “April 1, 2014” and inserting “April 1, 2015”; and

(B) in clause (iv), by striking “through fiscal year 2013 and the portion of fiscal year 2014 before April 1, 2014” and inserting “through fiscal year 2014 and the portion of fiscal year 2015 before April 1, 2015”.

(2) PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE RECLASSIFICATION.—Section 13501(e)(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww note) is amended by striking “through the first 2 quarters of fiscal year 2014” and inserting “through the first 2 quarters of fiscal year 2015”.

SEC. 107. EXTENSION FOR SPECIALIZED MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS INDIVIDUALS.

Section 1859(f)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-28(f)(1)) is amended by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”.

SEC. 108. EXTENSION OF MEDICARE REASONABLE COST CONTRACTS.

Section 1876(h)(5)(C)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395mm(h)(5)(C)(ii)) is amended, in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “January 1, 2015” and inserting “January 1, 2016”.

SEC. 109. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR QUALITY MEASURE ENDORSEMENT, INPUT, AND SELECTION.

Section 1890(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395aaa(d)) is amended—

- (1) by inserting “(1)” before “For purposes”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) For purposes of carrying out this section and section 1890A (other than subsections (e) and (f)), the Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund under section 1817 and the Federal Supplementary Medical

Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841, in such proportion as the Secretary determines appropriate, to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account of \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and \$15,000,000 for the first 6 months of fiscal year 2015. Amounts transferred under the preceding sentence shall remain available until expended.”.

SEC. 110. EXTENSION OF FUNDING OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS.

(a) ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (a)(1)(B) of section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1395b-3 note), as amended by section 3306 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Public Law 111-148), section 610 of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240), and section 1110 of the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-67), is amended—

- (1) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

- (2) by striking clause (iv); and

- (3) by adding at the end the following new clauses:

“(iv) for fiscal year 2014, of \$7,500,000; and

“(v) for the portion of fiscal year 2015 before April 1, 2015, of \$3,750,000.”.

(b) ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR AREA AGENCIES ON AGING.—Subsection (b)(1)(B) of such section 119, as so amended, is amended—

- (1) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

- (2) by striking clause (iv); and

- (3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clauses:

“(iv) for fiscal year 2014, of \$7,500,000; and

“(v) for the portion of fiscal year 2015 before April 1, 2015, of \$3,750,000.”.

(c) ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS.—Subsection (c)(1)(B) of such section 119, as so amended, is amended—

- (1) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

- (2) by striking clause (iv); and

- (3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clauses:

“(iv) for fiscal year 2014, of \$5,000,000; and

“(v) for the portion of fiscal year 2015 before April 1, 2015, of \$2,500,000.”.

(d) ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CONTRACT WITH THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR BENEFITS AND OUTREACH ENROLLMENT.—Subsection (d)(2) of such section 119, as so amended, is amended—

- (1) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

- (2) by striking clause (iv); and

- (3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clauses:

“(iv) for fiscal year 2014, of \$5,000,000; and

“(v) for the portion of fiscal year 2015 before April 1, 2015, of \$2,500,000.”.

SEC. 111. EXTENSION OF TWO-MIDNIGHT RULE.

(a) CONTINUATION OF CERTAIN MEDICAL REVIEW ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may continue medical review activities described in the notice entitled “Selecting Hospital Claims for Patient Status Reviews: Admissions On or After October 1, 2013”, posted on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, through the first 6 months of fiscal year 2015 for such additional hospital claims as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(b) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall not conduct patient status reviews (as described in such notice) on a post-payment review basis through recovery audit contractors under section

1893(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ddd(hh)) for inpatient claims with dates of admission October 1, 2013, through March 31, 2015, unless there is evidence of systematic gaming, fraud, abuse, or delays in the provision of care by a provider of services (as defined in section 1861(u) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(u))).

SEC. 112. TECHNICAL CHANGES TO MEDICARE LTCH AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subclauses (I) and (II) of section 1886(m)(6)(C)(iv) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(m)(6)(C)(iv)) are each amended by striking “discharges” and inserting “Medicare fee-for-service discharges”.

(b) MMSEA CORRECTION.—Section 114(d) of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww note), as amended by sections 3106(b) and 10312(b) of Public Law 111-148 and by section 1206(b)(2) of the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013 (division B of Public Law 113-67), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “January 1, 2015,” and inserting “on the date of the enactment of paragraph (7) of this subsection”;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking “January 1, 2015,” and inserting “on the date of the enactment of paragraph (7) of this subsection”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) ADDITIONAL EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN LONG-TERM CARE HOSPITALS.—The moratorium under paragraph (1)(A) shall not apply to a long-term care hospital that—

“(A) began its qualifying period for payment as a long-term care hospital under section 412.23(e) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, on or before the date of enactment of this paragraph;

“(B) has a binding written agreement as of the date of the enactment of this paragraph with an outside, unrelated party for the actual construction, renovation, lease, or demolition for a long-term care hospital, and has expended, before such date of enactment, at least 10 percent of the estimated cost of the project (or, if less, \$2,500,000); or

“(C) has obtained an approved certificate of need in a State where one is required on or before such date of enactment.”.

(c) ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 1206(a) of the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013 (division B of Public Law 113-67) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “Assessment” and inserting “Advisory”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “shall not apply to a hospital that is classified as of December 10, 2013, as a subsection (d) hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(1)(B))” and inserting “shall only apply to a hospital that is classified as of December 10, 2013, as a long-term care hospital (as defined in section 1861(ccc) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1395x(ccc))”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section are effective as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—OTHER HEALTH PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF THE QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL (QI) PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 1902(a)(10)(E)(iv) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(E)(iv)) is amended by striking “March 2014” and inserting “March 2015”.

(b) EXTENDING TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION.—Section 1933(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396u-3(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (T), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (U)—

(i) by striking “March 31, 2014” and inserting “September 30, 2014”; and

(ii) by striking “\$200,000,000.” and inserting “\$485,000,000.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(V) for the period that begins on October 1, 2014, and ends on December 31, 2014, the total allocation amount is \$300,000,000; and

“(W) for the period that begins on January 1, 2015, and ends on March 31, 2015, the total allocation amount is \$250,000,000.”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “or (T)” and inserting “(T), or (V)”.

SEC. 202. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF TRANSITIONAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (TMA).

Sections 1902(e)(1)(B) and 1925(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(1)(B), 1396r-6(f)) are each amended by striking “March 31, 2014” and inserting “March 31, 2015”.

SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF MEDICAID AND CHIP EXPRESS LANE OPTION.

Section 1902(e)(13)(I) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(13)(I)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2014” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR TYPE I DIABETES AND FOR INDIANS.

(a) SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR TYPE I DIABETES.—Section 330B(b)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-2(b)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”.

(b) SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR INDIANS.—Section 330C(c)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-3(c)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”.

SEC. 205. EXTENSION OF ABSTINENCE EDUCATION.

Subsections (a) and (d) of section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710) are each amended by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”.

SEC. 206. EXTENSION OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP).

Section 513 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 713) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1)(A) and (4)(A) of subsection (a), by striking “2014” and inserting “2015” each place it appears;

(2) in subsection (a)(4)(B)(i), by striking “and 2014” and inserting “2014, and 2015”; and

(3) in subsection (f), by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”.

SEC. 207. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTERS.

Section 501(c)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(c)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by striking at the end “and”;

(2) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon and by moving the margin to align with the margin for clause (iii); and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clauses:

“(v) \$2,500,000 for the portion of fiscal year 2014 on or after April 1, 2014; and

“(vi) \$2,500,000 for the portion of fiscal year 2015 before April 1, 2015.”.

SEC. 208. EXTENSION OF HEALTH WORKFORCE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS.

Section 2008(c)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397g(c)(1)) is amended by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”.

SEC. 209. EXTENSION OF MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAMS.

Section 511(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (D);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (E) and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on March 31, 2015, an amount equal to the amount provided in subparagraph (E).”; and

(2) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting “(or portion of a fiscal year)” after “for a fiscal year” each place it appears.

SEC. 210. PEDIATRIC QUALITY MEASURES.

(a) CONTINUATION OF FUNDING FOR PEDIATRIC QUALITY MEASURES FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE.—Section 1139B(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-9b(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “Of the funds appropriated under this subsection, not less than \$15,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 1139A(b).”.

(b) ELIMINATION OF RESTRICTION ON MEDICAID QUALITY MEASUREMENT PROGRAM.—Section 1139B(b)(5)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-9b(b)(5)(A)) is amended by striking “The aggregate amount awarded by the Secretary for grants and contracts for the development, testing, and validation of emerging and innovative evidence-based measures under such program shall equal the aggregate amount awarded by the Secretary for grants under section 1139A(b)(4)(A)”.

SEC. 211. DELAY OF EFFECTIVE DATE FOR MEDICAID AMENDMENTS RELATING TO BENEFICIARY LIABILITY SETTLEMENTS.

Effective as if included in the enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-67), section 202(c) of such Act is amended by striking “October 1, 2014” and inserting “October 1, 2016”.

SEC. 212. DELAY IN TRANSITION FROM ICD-9 TO ICD-10 CODE SETS.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services may not, prior to October 1, 2015, adopt ICD-10 code sets as the standard for code sets under section 1173(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d-2(c)) and section 162.1002 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 213. ELIMINATION OF LIMITATION ON DEDUCTIBLES FOR EMPLOYER-SPONSORED HEALTH PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1302(c) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 42 U.S.C. 18022(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2); and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “paragraphs (1)(B)(i) and (2)(B)(i)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(B)(i)”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2707(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-6(b)) is amended by striking “paragraphs (1) and (2)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall be effective as if included in the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148).

SEC. 214. GAO REPORT ON THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case that the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013 is enacted into law, the Comptroller General of the United States shall, not later than November 30, 2017, conduct an independent evaluation, and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report, concerning the implementation of section 340E(h) of the Public Health Service Act, as added by section 3 of the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013.

(b) CONTENT.—The report described in subsection (a) shall review and assess each of the following, with respect to hospitals receiving payments under such section 340E(h) during the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2017:

- (1) The number and type of such hospitals that applied for such payments.
- (2) The number and type of such hospitals receiving such payments.
- (3) The amount of such payments awarded to such hospitals.
- (4) How such hospitals used such payments.
- (5) The impact of such payments on—
 - (A) the number of pediatric providers; and
 - (B) health care needs of children.

SEC. 215. SKILLED NURSING FACILITY VALUE-BASED PURCHASING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1888 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395yy) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) SKILLED NURSING FACILITY READMISSION MEASURE.—

“(1) READMISSION MEASURE.—Not later than October 1, 2015, the Secretary shall specify a skilled nursing facility all-cause all-condition hospital readmission measure (or any successor to such a measure).

“(2) RESOURCE USE MEASURE.—Not later than October 1, 2016, the Secretary shall specify a measure to reflect an all-condition risk-adjusted potentially preventable hospital readmission rate for skilled nursing facilities.

“(3) MEASURE ADJUSTMENTS.—When specifying the measures under paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary shall devise a methodology to achieve a high level of reliability and validity, especially for skilled nursing facilities with a low volume of readmissions.

“(4) PRE-RULEMAKING PROCESS (MEASURE APPLICATION PARTNERSHIP PROCESS).—The application of the provisions of section 1890A shall be optional in the case of a measure specified under paragraph (1) and a measure specified under paragraph (2).

“(5) FEEDBACK REPORTS TO SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES.—Beginning October 1, 2016, and every quarter thereafter, the Secretary shall provide confidential feedback reports to skilled nursing facilities on the performance of such facilities with respect to a measure specified under paragraph (1) or (2).

“(6) PUBLIC REPORTING OF SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary shall establish procedures for making available to the public by posting on the Nursing Home Compare Medicare website (or a successor website) described in section 1819(i) information on the performance of skilled nursing facilities with respect to a measure specified under paragraph (1) and a measure specified under paragraph (2).

“(B) OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW.—The procedures under subparagraph (A) shall ensure that a skilled nursing facility has the opportunity to review and submit corrections to

the information that is to be made public with respect to the facility prior to such information being made public.

“(C) TIMING.—Such procedures shall provide that the information described in subparagraph (A) is made publicly available beginning not later than October 1, 2017.

“(7) NON-APPLICATION OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995’) shall not apply to this subsection.”.

(b) VALUE-BASED PURCHASING PROGRAM FOR SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES.—Section 1888 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395yy), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) SKILLED NURSING FACILITY VALUE-BASED PURCHASING PROGRAM.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the succeeding provisions of this subsection, the Secretary shall establish a skilled nursing facility value-based purchasing program (in this subsection referred to as the ‘SNF VBP Program’) under which value-based incentive payments are made in a fiscal year to skilled nursing facilities.

“(B) PROGRAM TO BEGIN IN FISCAL YEAR 2019.—The SNF VBP Program shall apply to payments for services furnished on or after October 1, 2018.

“(2) APPLICATION OF MEASURES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall apply the measure specified under subsection (g)(1) for purposes of the SNF VBP Program.

“(B) REPLACEMENT.—For purposes of the SNF VBP Program, the Secretary shall apply the measure specified under (g)(2) instead of the measure specified under (g)(1) as soon as practicable.

“(3) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish performance standards with respect to the measure applied under paragraph (2) for a performance period for a fiscal year.

“(B) HIGHER OF ACHIEVEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT.—The performance standards established under subparagraph (A) shall include levels of achievement and improvement. In calculating the SNF performance score under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall use the higher of either improvement or achievement.

“(C) TIMING.—The Secretary shall establish and announce the performance standards established under subparagraph (A) not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of the performance period for the fiscal year involved.

“(4) SNF PERFORMANCE SCORE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop a methodology for assessing the total performance of each skilled nursing facility based on performance standards established under paragraph (3) with respect to the measure applied under paragraph (2). Using such methodology, the Secretary shall provide for an assessment (in this subsection referred to as the ‘SNF performance score’) for each skilled nursing facility for each such performance period.

“(B) RANKING OF SNF PERFORMANCE SCORES.—The Secretary shall, for the performance period for each fiscal year, rank the SNF performance scores determined under subparagraph (A) from low to high.

“(5) CALCULATION OF VALUE-BASED INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a skilled nursing facility, based on the ranking under paragraph (4)(B) for a performance period for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall increase

the adjusted Federal per diem rate determined under subsection (e)(4)(G) otherwise applicable to such skilled nursing facility (and after application of paragraph (6)) for services furnished by such facility during such fiscal year by the value-based incentive payment amount under subparagraph (B).

“(B) VALUE-BASED INCENTIVE PAYMENT AMOUNT.—The value-based incentive payment amount for services furnished by a skilled nursing facility in a fiscal year shall be equal to the product of—

“(i) the adjusted Federal per diem rate determined under subsection (e)(4)(G) otherwise applicable to such skilled nursing facility for such services furnished by the skilled nursing facility during such fiscal year; and

“(ii) the value-based incentive payment percentage specified under subparagraph (C) for the skilled nursing facility for such fiscal year.

“(C) VALUE-BASED INCENTIVE PAYMENT PERCENTAGE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall specify a value-based incentive payment percentage for a skilled nursing facility for a fiscal year which may include a zero percentage.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—In specifying the value-based incentive payment percentage for each skilled nursing facility for a fiscal year under clause (i), the Secretary shall ensure that—

“(I) such percentage is based on the SNF performance score of the skilled nursing facility provided under paragraph (4) for the performance period for such fiscal year;

“(II) the application of all such percentages in such fiscal year results in an appropriate distribution of value-based incentive payments under subparagraph (B) such that—

“(aa) skilled nursing facilities with the highest rankings under paragraph (4)(B) receive the highest value-based incentive payment amounts under subparagraph (B);

“(bb) skilled nursing facilities with the lowest rankings under paragraph (4)(B) receive the lowest value-based incentive payment amounts under subparagraph (B); and

“(cc) in the case of skilled nursing facilities in the lowest 40 percent of the ranking under paragraph (4)(B), the payment rate under subparagraph (A) for services furnished by such facility during such fiscal year shall be less than the payment rate for such services for such fiscal year that would otherwise apply under subsection (e)(4)(G) without application of this subsection; and

“(III) the total amount of value-based incentive payments under this paragraph for all skilled nursing facilities in such fiscal year shall be greater than or equal to 50 percent, but not greater than 70 percent, of the total amount of the reductions to payments for such fiscal year under paragraph (6), as estimated by the Secretary.

“(6) FUNDING FOR VALUE-BASED INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reduce the adjusted Federal per diem rate determined under subsection (e)(4)(G) otherwise applicable to a skilled nursing facility for services furnished by such facility during a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2019) by the applicable percent (as defined in subparagraph (B)). The Secretary shall make such reductions for all skilled nursing facilities in the fiscal year involved, regardless of whether or not the skilled nursing facility has been determined by the Secretary to have earned a value-based incentive payment under paragraph (5) for such fiscal year.

“(B) APPLICABLE PERCENT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘applicable percent’ means, with respect to fiscal year 2019 and succeeding fiscal years, 2 percent.

“(7) ANNOUNCEMENT OF NET RESULT OF ADJUSTMENTS.—Under the SNF VBP Program, the Secretary shall, not later than 60 days prior to the fiscal year involved, inform each skilled nursing facility of the adjustments to payments to the skilled nursing facility for services furnished by such facility during the fiscal year under paragraphs (5) and (6).

“(8) NO EFFECT IN SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—The value-based incentive payment under paragraph (5) and the payment reduction under paragraph (6) shall each apply only with respect to the fiscal year involved, and the Secretary shall not take into account such value-based incentive payment or payment reduction in making payments to a skilled nursing facility under this section in a subsequent fiscal year.

“(9) PUBLIC REPORTING.—

“(A) SNF SPECIFIC INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall make available to the public, by posting on the Nursing Home Compare Medicare website (or a successor website) described in section 1819(i) in an easily understandable format, information regarding the performance of individual skilled nursing facilities under the SNF VBP Program, with respect to a fiscal year, including—

“(i) the SNF performance score of the skilled nursing facility for such fiscal year; and

“(ii) the ranking of the skilled nursing facility under paragraph (4)(B) for the performance period for such fiscal year.

“(B) AGGREGATE INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall periodically post on the Nursing Home Compare Medicare website (or a successor website) described in section 1819(i) aggregate information on the SNF VBP Program, including—

“(i) the range of SNF performance scores provided under paragraph (4)(A); and

“(ii) the number of skilled nursing facilities receiving value-based incentive payments under paragraph (5) and the range and total amount of such value-based incentive payments.

“(10) LIMITATION ON REVIEW.—There shall be no administrative or judicial review under section 1869, section 1878, or otherwise of the following:

“(A) The methodology used to determine the value-based incentive payment percentage and the amount of the value-based incentive payment under paragraph (5).

“(B) The determination of the amount of funding available for such value-based incentive payments under paragraph (5)(C)(i)(III) and the payment reduction under paragraph (6).

“(C) The establishment of the performance standards under paragraph (3) and the performance period.

“(D) The methodology developed under paragraph (4) that is used to calculate SNF performance scores and the calculation of such scores.

“(E) The ranking determinations under paragraph (4)(B).

“(11) FUNDING FOR PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall provide for the one time transfer from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1817 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account of—

“(A) for purposes of subsection (g)(2), \$2,000,000; and

“(B) for purposes of implementing this subsection, \$10,000,000.

Such funds shall remain available until expended.”

(c) MEDPAC STUDY.—Not later than June 30, 2021, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission shall submit to Congress a report that reviews the progress of the skilled nursing facility value-based purchasing program established under section 1888(h) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (b), and makes recommendations, as appropriate, on any improvements that should be made to such program. For purposes of the previous sentence, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission shall consider any unintended consequences with respect to such skilled nursing facility value-based purchasing program and any potential adjustments to the readmission measure specified under section 1888(g)(1) of such Act, as added by subsection (a), for purposes of determining the effect of the socio-economic status of a beneficiary under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act for the SNF performance score of a skilled nursing facility provided under section 1888(h)(4) of such Act, as added by subsection (b).

SEC. 216. IMPROVING MEDICARE POLICIES FOR CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XVIII of the Social Security Act is amended by inserting after section 1834 (42 U.S.C. 1395m) the following new section:

“SEC. 1834A. IMPROVING POLICIES FOR CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS.

“(a) REPORTING OF PRIVATE SECTOR PAYMENT RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICARE PAYMENT RATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1, 2016, and every 3 years thereafter (or, annually, in the case of reporting with respect to an advanced diagnostic laboratory test, as defined in subsection (d)(5)), an applicable laboratory (as defined in paragraph (2)) shall report to the Secretary, at a time specified by the Secretary, applicable information (as defined in paragraph (3)) for a data collection period (as defined in paragraph (4)) for each clinical diagnostic laboratory test that the laboratory furnishes during such period for which payment is made under this part.

“(2) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE LABORATORY.—In this section, the term ‘applicable laboratory’ means a laboratory that, with respect to its revenues under this title, a majority of such revenues are from this section, section 1833(h), or section 1848. The Secretary may establish a low volume or low expenditure threshold for excluding a laboratory from the definition of applicable laboratory under this paragraph, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(3) APPLICABLE INFORMATION DEFINED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In this section, subject to subparagraph (B), the term ‘applicable information’ means, with respect to a laboratory test for a data collection period, the following:

“(i) The payment rate (as determined in accordance with paragraph (5)) that was paid by each private payor for the test during the period.

“(ii) The volume of such tests for each such payor for the period.

“(B) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Such term shall not include information with respect to a laboratory test for which payment is made on a capitated basis or other similar payment basis during the data collection period.

“(4) DATA COLLECTION PERIOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘data collection period’ means a period of time, such as a pre-

vious 12 month period, specified by the Secretary.

“(5) TREATMENT OF DISCOUNTS.—The payment rate reported by a laboratory under this subsection shall reflect all discounts, rebates, coupons, and other price concessions, including those described in section 1847A(c)(3).

“(6) ENSURING COMPLETE REPORTING.—In the case where an applicable laboratory has more than one payment rate for the same payor for the same test or more than one payment rate for different payors for the same test, the applicable laboratory shall report each such payment rate and the volume for the test at each such rate under this subsection. Beginning with January 1, 2019, the Secretary may establish rules to aggregate reporting with respect to the situations described in the preceding sentence.

“(7) CERTIFICATION.—An officer of the laboratory shall certify the accuracy and completeness of the information reported under this subsection.

“(8) PRIVATE PAYOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘private payor’ means the following:

“(A) A health insurance issuer and a group health plan (as such terms are defined in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act).

“(B) A Medicare Advantage plan under part C.

“(C) A medicaid managed care organization (as defined in section 1903(m)).

“(9) CIVIL MONEY PENALTY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that an applicable laboratory has failed to report or made a misrepresentation or omission in reporting information under this subsection with respect to a clinical diagnostic laboratory test, the Secretary may apply a civil money penalty in an amount of up to \$10,000 per day for each failure to report or each such misrepresentation or omission.

“(B) APPLICATION.—The provisions of section 1128A (other than subsections (a) and (b)) shall apply to a civil money penalty under this paragraph in the same manner as they apply to a civil money penalty or proceeding under section 1128A(a).

“(10) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, information disclosed by a laboratory under this subsection is confidential and shall not be disclosed by the Secretary or a Medicare contractor in a form that discloses the identity of a specific payor or laboratory, or prices charged or payments made to any such laboratory, except—

“(A) as the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this section;

“(B) to permit the Comptroller General to review the information provided;

“(C) to permit the Director of the Congressional Budget Office to review the information provided; and

“(D) to permit the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission to review the information provided.

“(11) PROTECTION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—A payor shall not be identified on information reported under this subsection. The name of an applicable laboratory under this subsection shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

“(12) REGULATIONS.—Not later than June 30, 2015, the Secretary shall establish through notice and comment rulemaking parameters for data collection under this subsection.

“(b) PAYMENT FOR CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS.—

“(1) USE OF PRIVATE PAYOR RATE INFORMATION TO DETERMINE MEDICARE PAYMENT RATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3) and subsections (c) and (d), in the case of a clinical diagnostic laboratory test furnished on or after January 1, 2017, the payment amount under this section shall be equal to the weighted median determined for the test under paragraph (2) for the most recent data collection period.

“(B) APPLICATION OF PAYMENT AMOUNTS TO HOSPITAL LABORATORIES.—The payment amounts established under this section shall apply to a clinical diagnostic laboratory test furnished by a hospital laboratory if such test is paid for separately, and not as part of a bundled payment under section 1833(t).

“(2) CALCULATION OF WEIGHTED MEDIAN.—For each laboratory test with respect to which information is reported under subsection (a) for a data collection period, the Secretary shall calculate a weighted median for the test for the period, by arraying the distribution of all payment rates reported for the period for each test weighted by volume for each payor and each laboratory.

“(3) PHASE-IN OF REDUCTIONS FROM PRIVATE PAYOR RATE IMPLEMENTATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Payment amounts determined under this subsection for a clinical diagnostic laboratory test for each of 2017 through 2022 shall not result in a reduction in payments for a clinical diagnostic laboratory test for the year of greater than the applicable percent (as defined in subparagraph (B)) of the amount of payment for the test for the preceding year.

“(B) APPLICABLE PERCENT DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘applicable percent’ means—

“(i) for each of 2017 through 2019, 10 percent; and

“(ii) for each of 2020 through 2022, 15 percent.

“(C) NO APPLICATION TO NEW TESTS.—This paragraph shall not apply to payment amounts determined under this section for either of the following.

“(i) A new test under subsection (c).

“(ii) A new advanced diagnostic test (as defined in subsection (d)(5)) under subsection (d).

“(4) APPLICATION OF MARKET RATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), once established for a year following a data collection period, the payment amounts under this subsection shall continue to apply until the year following the next data collection period.

“(B) OTHER ADJUSTMENTS NOT APPLICABLE.—The payment amounts under this section shall not be subject to any adjustment (including any geographic adjustment, budget neutrality adjustment, annual update, or other adjustment).

“(5) SAMPLE COLLECTION FEE.—In the case of a sample collected from an individual in a skilled nursing facility or by a laboratory on behalf of a home health agency, the nominal fee that would otherwise apply under section 1833(h)(3)(A) shall be increased by \$2.

“(C) PAYMENT FOR NEW TESTS THAT ARE NOT ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS.—

“(1) PAYMENT DURING INITIAL PERIOD.—In the case of a clinical diagnostic laboratory test that is assigned a new or substantially revised HCPCS code on or after the date of enactment of this section, and which is not an advanced diagnostic laboratory test (as defined in subsection (d)(5)), during an initial period until payment rates under subsection (b) are established for the test, payment for the test shall be determined—

“(A) using cross-walking (as described in section 414.508(a) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation) to the most appropriate existing test under the fee schedule under this section during that period; or

“(B) if no existing test is comparable to the new test, according to the gapfilling process described in paragraph (2).

“(2) GAPFILLING PROCESS DESCRIBED.—The gapfilling process described in this paragraph shall take into account the following sources of information to determine gapfill amounts, if available:

“(A) Charges for the test and routine discounts to charges.

“(B) Resources required to perform the test.

“(C) Payment amounts determined by other payors.

“(D) Charges, payment amounts, and resources required for other tests that may be comparable or otherwise relevant.

“(E) Other criteria the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(3) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION.—In determining the payment amount under crosswalking or gapfilling processes under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider recommendations from the panel established under subsection (f)(1).

“(4) EXPLANATION OF PAYMENT RATES.—In the case of a clinical diagnostic laboratory test for which payment is made under this subsection, the Secretary shall make available to the public an explanation of the payment rate for the test, including an explanation of how the criteria described in paragraph (2) and paragraph (3) are applied.

“(d) PAYMENT FOR NEW ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS.—

“(1) PAYMENT DURING INITIAL PERIOD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an advanced diagnostic laboratory test for which payment has not been made under the fee schedule under section 1833(h) prior to the date of enactment of this section, during an initial period of three quarters, the payment amount for the test for such period shall be based on the actual list charge for the laboratory test.

“(B) ACTUAL LIST CHARGE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘actual list charge’, with respect to a laboratory test furnished during such period, means the publicly available rate on the first day at which the test is available for purchase by a private payor.

“(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR TIMING OF INITIAL REPORTING.—With respect to an advanced diagnostic laboratory test described in paragraph (1)(A), an applicable laboratory shall initially be required to report under subsection (a) not later than the last day of the second quarter of the initial period under such paragraph.

“(3) APPLICATION OF MARKET RATES AFTER INITIAL PERIOD.—Subject to paragraph (4), data reported under paragraph (2) shall be used to establish the payment amount for an advanced diagnostic laboratory test after the initial period under paragraph (1)(A) using the methodology described in subsection (b). Such payment amount shall continue to apply until the year following the next data collection period.

“(4) RECOUPMENT IF ACTUAL LIST CHARGE EXCEEDS MARKET RATE.—With respect to the initial period described in paragraph (1)(A), if, after such period, the Secretary determines that the payment amount for an advanced diagnostic laboratory test under paragraph (1)(A) that was applicable during the period was greater than 130 percent of

the payment amount for the test established using the methodology described in subsection (b) that is applicable after such period, the Secretary shall recoup the difference between such payment amounts for tests furnished during such period.

“(5) ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TEST DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘advanced diagnostic laboratory test’ means a clinical diagnostic laboratory test covered under this part that is offered and furnished only by a single laboratory and not sold for use by a laboratory other than the original developing laboratory (or a successor owner) and meets one of the following criteria:

“(A) The test is an analysis of multiple biomarkers of DNA, RNA, or proteins combined with a unique algorithm to yield a single patient-specific result.

“(B) The test is cleared or approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

“(C) The test meets other similar criteria established by the Secretary.

“(e) CODING.—

“(1) TEMPORARY CODES FOR CERTAIN NEW TESTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall adopt temporary HCPCS codes to identify new advanced diagnostic laboratory tests (as defined in subsection (d)(5)) and new laboratory tests that are cleared or approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

“(B) DURATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the temporary code shall be effective until a permanent HCPCS code is established (but not to exceed 2 years).

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may extend the temporary code or establish a permanent HCPCS code, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(2) EXISTING TESTS.—Not later than January 1, 2016, for each existing advanced diagnostic laboratory test (as so defined) and each existing clinical diagnostic laboratory test that is cleared or approved by the Food and Drug Administration for which payment is made under this part as of the date of enactment of this section, if such test has not already been assigned a unique HCPCS code, the Secretary shall—

“(A) assign a unique HCPCS code for the test; and

“(B) publicly report the payment rate for the test.

“(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIQUE IDENTIFIER FOR CERTAIN TESTS.—For purposes of tracking and monitoring, if a laboratory or a manufacturer requests a unique identifier for an advanced diagnostic laboratory test (as so defined) or a laboratory test that is cleared or approved by the Food and Drug Administration, the Secretary shall utilize a means to uniquely track such test through a mechanism such as a HCPCS code or modifier.

“(f) INPUT FROM CLINICIANS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall consult with an expert outside advisory panel, established by the Secretary not later than July 1, 2015, composed of an appropriate selection of individuals with expertise, which may include molecular pathologists, researchers, and individuals with expertise in laboratory science or health economics, in issues related to clinical diagnostic laboratory tests, which may include the development, validation, performance, and application of such tests, to provide—

“(A) input on—

“(i) the establishment of payment rates under this section for new clinical diagnostic laboratory tests, including whether to use crosswalking or gapfilling processes to determine payment for a specific new test; and

“(ii) the factors used in determining coverage and payment processes for new clinical diagnostic laboratory tests; and

“(B) recommendations to the Secretary under this section.

“(2) COMPLIANCE WITH FACA.—The panel shall be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(3) CONTINUATION OF ANNUAL MEETING.—The Secretary shall continue to convene the annual meeting described in section 1833(h)(8)(B)(iii) after the implementation of this section for purposes of receiving comments and recommendations (and data on which the recommendations are based) as described in such section on the establishment of payment amounts under this section.

“(g) COVERAGE.—

“(1) ISSUANCE OF COVERAGE POLICIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A medicare administrative contractor shall only issue a coverage policy with respect to a clinical diagnostic laboratory test in accordance with the process for making a local coverage determination (as defined in section 1869(f)(2)(B)), including the appeals and review process for local coverage determinations under part 426 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

“(B) NO EFFECT ON NATIONAL COVERAGE DETERMINATION PROCESS.—This paragraph shall not apply to the national coverage determination process (as defined in section 1869(f)(1)(B)).

“(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall apply to coverage policies issued on or after January 1, 2015.

“(2) DESIGNATION OF ONE OR MORE MEDICARE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTORS FOR CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS.—The Secretary may designate one or more (not to exceed 4) medicare administrative contractors to either establish coverage policies or establish coverage policies and process claims for payment for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(h) IMPLEMENTATION.—

“(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—There shall be no administrative or judicial review under section 1869, section 1878, or otherwise, of the establishment of payment amounts under this section.

“(2) ADMINISTRATION.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to information collected under this section.

“(3) FUNDING.—For purposes of implementing this section, the Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841, to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account, for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, \$4,000,000, and for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, \$3,000,000. Amounts transferred under the preceding sentence shall remain available until expended.

“(i) TRANSITIONAL RULE.—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this section and ending on December 31, 2016, with respect to advanced diagnostic laboratory tests under this part, the Secretary shall use the methodologies for pricing, coding, and coverage in effect on the day before such date of enactment, which may include cross-walking or gapfilling methods.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1833(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(D)—

(i) by striking “(i) on the basis” and inserting “(i)(I) on the basis”;

(ii) in subclause (I), as added by clause (i), by striking “subsection (h)(1)” and inserting

“subsection (h)(1) (for tests furnished before January 1, 2017)”;

(iii) by striking “or (ii)” and inserting “or (II) under section 1834A (for tests furnished on or after January 1, 2017), the amount paid shall be equal to 80 percent (or 100 percent, in the case of such tests for which payment is made on an assignment-related basis) of the lesser of the amount determined under such section or the amount of the charges billed for the tests, or (ii)”;

(iv) in clause (ii), by striking “on the basis” and inserting “for tests furnished before January 1, 2017, on the basis”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(D)—

(i) by striking “(i) on the basis” and inserting “(i)(I) on the basis”;

(ii) in subclause (I), as added by clause (i), by striking “subsection (h)(1)” and inserting “subsection (h)(1) (for tests furnished before January 1, 2017)”;

(iii) by striking “or (ii)” and inserting “or (II) under section 1834A (for tests furnished on or after January 1, 2017), the amount paid shall be equal to 80 percent (or 100 percent, in the case of such tests for which payment is made on an assignment-related basis or to a provider having an agreement under section 1866) of the lesser of the amount determined under such section or the amount of the charges billed for the tests, or (ii)”;

(iv) in clause (ii), by striking “on the basis” and inserting “for tests furnished before January 1, 2017, on the basis”;

(C) in subsection (b)(3)(B), by striking “on the basis” and inserting “for tests furnished before January 1, 2017, on the basis”;

(D) in subsection (h)(2)(A)(i), by striking “and subject to” and inserting “and, for tests furnished before the date of enactment of section 1834A, subject to”;

(E) in subsection (h)(3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “fee schedules” and inserting “fee schedules (for tests furnished before January 1, 2017) or under section 1834A (for tests furnished on or after January 1, 2017), subject to subsection (b)(5) of such section”;

(F) in subsection (h)(6), by striking “In the case” and inserting “For tests furnished before January 1, 2017, in the case”;

(G) in subsection (h)(7), in the first sentence—

(i) by striking “and (4)” and inserting “and (4) and section 1834A”;

(ii) by striking “under this subsection” and inserting “under this part”.

(2) Section 1869(f)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ff(f)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) LOCAL COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS FOR CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS.—For provisions relating to local coverage determinations for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests, see section 1834A(g).”.

(c) GAO STUDY AND REPORT; MONITORING OF MEDICARE EXPENDITURES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR LABORATORY TESTS.—

(1) GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PAYMENT RATES FOR CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS.—

(A) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this subsection referred to as the “Comptroller General”) shall conduct a study on the implementation of section 1834A of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a). The study shall include an analysis of—

(i) payment rates paid by private payors for laboratory tests furnished in various settings, including—

(I) how such payment rates compare across settings;

(II) the trend in payment rates over time; and

(III) trends by private payors to move to alternative payment methodologies for laboratory tests;

(ii) the conversion to the new payment rate for laboratory tests under such section;

(iii) the impact of such implementation on beneficiary access under title XVIII of the Social Security Act;

(iv) the impact of the new payment system on laboratories that furnish a low volume of services and laboratories that specialize in a small number of tests;

(v) the number of new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes issued for laboratory tests;

(vi) the spending trend for laboratory tests under such title;

(vii) whether the information reported by laboratories and the new payment rates for laboratory tests under such section accurately reflect market prices;

(viii) the initial list price for new laboratory tests and the subsequent reported rates for such tests under such section;

(ix) changes in the number of advanced diagnostic laboratory tests and laboratory tests cleared or approved by the Food and Drug Administration for which payment is made under such section; and

(x) healthcare economic information on downstream cost impacts for such tests and decision making based on accepted methodologies.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2018, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the study under subparagraph (A), including recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(2) MONITORING OF MEDICARE EXPENDITURES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR LABORATORY TESTS.—The Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services shall—

(A) publicly release an annual analysis of the top 25 laboratory tests by expenditures under title XVIII of the Social Security Act; and

(B) conduct analyses the Inspector General determines appropriate with respect to the implementation and effect of the new payment system for laboratory tests under section 1834A of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 217. REVISIONS UNDER THE MEDICARE ESRD PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM.

(a) DELAY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ORAL-ONLY POLICY.—Section 632(b)(1) of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (42 U.S.C. 1395rr note) is amended—

(1) by striking “2016” and inserting “2024”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Notwithstanding section 1881(b)(14)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(b)(14)(A)(ii)), implementation of the policy described in the previous sentence shall be based on data from the most recent year available.”.

(b) MITIGATION OF THE APPLICATION OF ADJUSTMENT TO ESRD BUNDLED PAYMENT RATE TO ACCOUNT FOR CHANGES IN THE UTILIZATION OF CERTAIN DRUGS AND BIOLOGICALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1881(b)(14)(I) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(b)(14)(I)) is amended by inserting “and before January 1, 2015,” after “January 1, 2014,”.

(2) MARKET BASKET.—Section 1881(b)(14)(F)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(b)(14)(F)(i)) is amended—

(A) in subclause (I)—

(i) by striking “subclause (II)” and inserting “subclauses (II) and (III)”;

(ii) by adding at the end the following new sentence: “In order to accomplish the purposes of subparagraph (I) with respect to 2016, 2017, and 2018, after determining the increase factor described in the preceding sentence for each of 2016, 2017, and 2018, the Secretary shall reduce such increase factor by 1.25 percentage points for each of 2016 and 2017 and by 1 percentage point for 2018.”;

(B) in subclause (II), by striking “For 2012” and inserting “Subject to subclause (III), for 2012”;

(C) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(III) Notwithstanding subclauses (I) and (II), in order to accomplish the purposes of subparagraph (I) with respect to 2015, the increase factor described in subclause (I) for 2015 shall be 0.0 percent pursuant to the regulation issued by the Secretary on December 2, 2013, entitled ‘Medicare Program; End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, Quality Incentive Program, and Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies; Final Rule’ (78 Fed. Reg. 72156).”.

(c) DRUG DESIGNATIONS.—As part of the promulgation of annual rule for the Medicare end stage renal disease prospective payment system under section 1881(b)(14) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(b)(14)) for calendar year 2016, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this subsection referred to as the “Secretary”) shall establish a process for—

(1) determining when a product is no longer an oral-only drug; and

(2) including new injectable and intravenous products into the bundled payment under such system.

(d) QUALITY MEASURES RELATED TO CONDITIONS TREATED BY ORAL-ONLY DRUGS UNDER THE ESRD QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM.—Section 1881(h)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(h)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(C) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

“(iii) for 2016 and subsequent years, measures described in subparagraph (E)(i); and”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “(A)(iii)” and inserting “(A)(iv)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) MEASURES SPECIFIC TO THE CONDITIONS TREATED WITH ORAL-ONLY DRUGS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The measures described in this subparagraph are measures specified by the Secretary that are specific to the conditions treated with oral-only drugs. To the extent feasible, such measures shall be outcomes-based measures.

“(ii) CONSULTATION.—In specifying the measures under clause (i), the Secretary shall consult with interested stakeholders.

“(iii) USE OF ENDORSED MEASURES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (I), any measures specified under clause (i) must have been endorsed by the entity with a contract under section 1890(a).

“(II) EXCEPTION.—If the entity with a contract under section 1890(a) has not endorsed a measure for a specified area or topic related to measures described in clause (i) that

the Secretary determines appropriate, the Secretary may specify a measure that is endorsed or adopted by a consensus organization recognized by the Secretary that has expertise in clinical guidelines for kidney disease.”.

(e) AUDITS OF COST REPORTS OF ESRD PROVIDERS AS RECOMMENDED BY MEDPAC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall conduct audits of Medicare cost reports beginning during 2012 for a representative sample of providers of services and renal dialysis facilities furnishing renal dialysis services.

(2) FUNDING.—For purposes of carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide for the transfer from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1841 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account of \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2014. Amounts transferred under this paragraph for a fiscal year shall be available until expended.

SEC. 218. QUALITY INCENTIVES FOR COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING AND PROMOTING EVIDENCE-BASED CARE.

(a) QUALITY INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE PATIENT SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(p) QUALITY INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE PATIENT SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY.—

“(1) QUALITY INCENTIVES.—In the case of an applicable computed tomography service (as defined in paragraph (2)) for which payment is made under an applicable payment system (as defined in paragraph (3)) and that is furnished on or after January 1, 2016, using equipment that is not consistent with the CT equipment standard (described in paragraph (4)), the payment amount for such service shall be reduced by the applicable percentage (as defined in paragraph (5)).

“(2) APPLICABLE COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SERVICES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable computed tomography service’ means a service billed using diagnostic radiological imaging codes for computed tomography (identified as of January 1, 2014, by HCPCS codes 70450–70498, 71250–71275, 72125–72133, 72191–72194, 73200–73206, 73700–73706, 74150–74178, 74261–74263, and 75571–75574 (and any succeeding codes).

“(3) APPLICABLE PAYMENT SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable payment system’ means the following:

“(A) The technical component and the technical component of the global fee under the fee schedule established under section 1848(b).

“(B) The prospective payment system for hospital outpatient department services under section 1833(t).

“(4) CONSISTENCY WITH CT EQUIPMENT STANDARD.—In this subsection, the term ‘not consistent with the CT equipment standard’ means, with respect to an applicable computed tomography service, that the service was furnished using equipment that does not meet each of the attributes of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) Standard XR-29-2013, entitled ‘Standard Attributes on CT Equipment Related to Dose Optimization and Management’. Through rulemaking, the Secretary may apply successor standards.

“(5) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable percentage’ means—

“(A) for 2016, 5 percent; and

“(B) for 2017 and subsequent years, 15 percent.

“(6) IMPLEMENTATION.—

“(A) INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall require that information be provided and attested to by a supplier and a hospital outpatient department that indicates whether an applicable computed tomography service was furnished that was not consistent with the CT equipment standard (described in paragraph (4)). Such information may be included on a claim and may be a modifier. Such information shall be verified, as appropriate, as part of the periodic accreditation of suppliers under section 1834(e) and hospitals under section 1865(a).

“(B) ADMINISTRATION.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to information described in subparagraph (A).”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT SERVICES.—Section 1833(t) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(t)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(20) NOT BUDGET NEUTRAL APPLICATION OF REDUCED EXPENDITURES RESULTING FROM QUALITY INCENTIVES FOR COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY.—The Secretary shall not take into account the reduced expenditures that result from the application of section 1834(p) in making any budget neutrality adjustments this subsection.”.

(B) PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE.—Section 1848(c)(2)(B)(v) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(c)(2)(B)(v)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(VIII) REDUCED EXPENDITURES ATTRIBUTABLE TO APPLICATION OF QUALITY INCENTIVES FOR COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY.—Effective for fee schedules established beginning with 2016, reduced expenditures attributable to the application of the quality incentives for computed tomography under section 1834(p).”.

(b) PROMOTING EVIDENCE-BASED CARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m), as amended by subsection (a), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(q) RECOGNIZING APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA FOR CERTAIN IMAGING SERVICES.—

“(1) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to promote the use of appropriate use criteria (as defined in subparagraph (B)) for applicable imaging services (as defined in subparagraph (C)) furnished in an applicable setting (as defined in subparagraph (D)) by ordering professionals and furnishing professionals (as defined in subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively).

“(B) APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA DEFINED.—

In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate use criteria’ means criteria, only developed or endorsed by national professional medical specialty societies or other provider-led entities, to assist ordering professionals and furnishing professionals in making the most appropriate treatment decision for a specific clinical condition for an individual. To the extent feasible, such criteria shall be evidence-based.

“(C) APPLICABLE IMAGING SERVICE DEFINED.—

In this subsection, the term ‘applicable imaging service’ means an advanced diagnostic imaging service (as defined in subsection (e)(1)(B)) for which the Secretary determines—

“(i) one or more applicable appropriate use criteria specified under paragraph (2) apply;

“(ii) there are one or more qualified clinical decision support mechanisms listed under paragraph (3)(C); and

“(iii) one or more of such mechanisms is available free of charge.

“(D) APPLICABLE SETTING DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable setting’ means a physician’s office, a hospital outpatient department (including an emergency department), an ambulatory surgical center, and any other provider-led outpatient setting determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(E) ORDERING PROFESSIONAL DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘ordering professional’ means a physician (as defined in section 1861(r)) or a practitioner described in section 1842(b)(18)(C) who orders an applicable imaging service.

“(F) FURNISHING PROFESSIONAL DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘furnishing professional’ means a physician (as defined in section 1861(r)) or a practitioner described in section 1842(b)(18)(C) who furnishes an applicable imaging service.

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF APPLICABLE APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than November 15, 2015, the Secretary shall through rulemaking, and in consultation with physicians, practitioners, and other stakeholders, specify applicable appropriate use criteria for applicable imaging services only from among appropriate use criteria developed or endorsed by national professional medical specialty societies or other provider-led entities.

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In specifying applicable appropriate use criteria under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall take into account whether the criteria—

“(i) have stakeholder consensus;

“(ii) are scientifically valid and evidence based; and

“(iii) are based on studies that are published and reviewable by stakeholders.

“(C) REVISIONS.—The Secretary shall review, on an annual basis, the specified applicable appropriate use criteria to determine if there is a need to update or revise (as appropriate) such specification of applicable appropriate use criteria and make such updates or revisions through rulemaking.

“(D) TREATMENT OF MULTIPLE APPLICABLE APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA.—In the case where the Secretary determines that more than one appropriate use criterion applies with respect to an applicable imaging service, the Secretary shall apply one or more applicable appropriate use criteria under this paragraph for the service.

“(3) MECHANISMS FOR CONSULTATION WITH APPLICABLE APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA.—

“(A) IDENTIFICATION OF MECHANISMS TO CONSULT WITH APPLICABLE APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall specify qualified clinical decision support mechanisms that could be used by ordering professionals to consult with applicable appropriate use criteria for applicable imaging services.

“(ii) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with physicians, practitioners, health care technology experts, and other stakeholders in specifying mechanisms under this paragraph.

“(iii) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN MECHANISMS.—Mechanisms specified under this paragraph may include any or all of the following that meet the requirements described in subparagraph (B)(ii):

“(I) Use of clinical decision support modules in certified EHR technology (as defined in section 1848(o)(4)).

“(II) Use of private sector clinical decision support mechanisms that are independent from certified EHR technology, which may include use of clinical decision support mechanisms available from medical specialty organizations.

“(III) Use of a clinical decision support mechanism established by the Secretary.

“(B) QUALIFIED CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT MECHANISMS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, a qualified clinical decision support mechanism is a mechanism that the Secretary determines meets the requirements described in clause (ii).

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements described in this clause are the following:

“(I) The mechanism makes available to the ordering professional applicable appropriate use criteria specified under paragraph (2) and the supporting documentation for the applicable imaging service ordered.

“(II) In the case where there is more than one applicable appropriate use criterion specified under such paragraph for an applicable imaging service, the mechanism indicates the criteria that it uses for the service.

“(III) The mechanism determines the extent to which an applicable imaging service ordered is consistent with the applicable appropriate use criteria so specified.

“(IV) The mechanism generates and provides to the ordering professional a certification or documentation that documents that the qualified clinical decision support mechanism was consulted by the ordering professional.

“(V) The mechanism is updated on a timely basis to reflect revisions to the specification of applicable appropriate use criteria under such paragraph.

“(VI) The mechanism meets privacy and security standards under applicable provisions of law.

“(VII) The mechanism performs such other functions as specified by the Secretary, which may include a requirement to provide aggregate feedback to the ordering professional.

“(C) LIST OF MECHANISMS FOR CONSULTATION WITH APPLICABLE APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA.—

“(i) INITIAL LIST.—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Secretary shall publish a list of mechanisms specified under this paragraph.

“(ii) PERIODIC UPDATING OF LIST.—The Secretary shall identify on an annual basis the list of qualified clinical decision support mechanisms specified under this paragraph.

“(4) CONSULTATION WITH APPLICABLE APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA.—

“(A) CONSULTATION BY ORDERING PROFESSIONAL.—Beginning with January 1, 2017, subject to subparagraph (C), with respect to an applicable imaging service ordered by an ordering professional that would be furnished in an applicable setting and paid for under an applicable payment system (as defined in subparagraph (D)), an ordering professional shall—

“(i) consult with a qualified decision support mechanism listed under paragraph (3)(C); and

“(ii) provide to the furnishing professional the information described in clauses (i) through (iii) of subparagraph (B).

“(B) REPORTING BY FURNISHING PROFESSIONAL.—Beginning with January 1, 2017, subject to subparagraph (C), with respect to an applicable imaging service furnished in an applicable setting and paid for under an applicable payment system (as defined in subparagraph (D)), payment for such service may only be made if the claim for the service includes the following:

“(i) Information about which qualified clinical decision support mechanism was consulted by the ordering professional for the service.

“(ii) Information regarding—

“(I) whether the service ordered would adhere to the applicable appropriate use criteria specified under paragraph (2);

“(II) whether the service ordered would not adhere to such criteria; or

“(III) whether such criteria was not applicable to the service ordered.

“(iii) The national provider identifier of the ordering professional (if different from the furnishing professional).

“(C) EXCEPTIONS.—The provisions of subparagraphs (A) and (B) and paragraph (6)(A) shall not apply to the following:

“(i) EMERGENCY SERVICES.—An applicable imaging service ordered for an individual with an emergency medical condition (as defined in section 1867(e)(1)).

“(ii) INPATIENT SERVICES.—An applicable imaging service ordered for an inpatient and for which payment is made under part A.

“(iii) SIGNIFICANT HARDSHIP.—An applicable imaging service ordered by an ordering professional who the Secretary may, on a case-by-case basis, exempt from the application of such provisions if the Secretary determines, subject to annual renewal, that consultation with applicable appropriate use criteria would result in a significant hardship, such as in the case of a professional who practices in a rural area without sufficient Internet access.

“(D) APPLICABLE PAYMENT SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable payment system’ means the following:

“(i) The physician fee schedule established under section 1848(b).

“(ii) The prospective payment system for hospital outpatient department services under section 1833(t).

“(iii) The ambulatory surgical center payment systems under section 1833(i).

“(5) IDENTIFICATION OF OUTLIER ORDERING PROFESSIONALS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to applicable imaging services furnished beginning with 2017, the Secretary shall determine, on an annual basis, no more than five percent of the total number of ordering professionals who are outlier ordering professionals.

“(B) OUTLIER ORDERING PROFESSIONALS.—The determination of an outlier ordering professional shall—

“(i) be based on low adherence to applicable appropriate use criteria specified under paragraph (2), which may be based on comparison to other ordering professionals; and

“(ii) include data for ordering professionals for whom prior authorization under paragraph (6)(A) applies.

“(C) USE OF TWO YEARS OF DATA.—The Secretary shall use two years of data to identify outlier ordering professionals under this paragraph.

“(D) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall establish a process for determining when an outlier ordering professional is no longer an outlier ordering professional.

“(E) CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.—The Secretary shall consult with physicians, practitioners and other stakeholders in developing methods to identify outlier ordering professionals under this paragraph.

“(6) PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR ORDERING PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE OUTLIERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1, 2020, subject to paragraph (4)(C), with respect to services furnished during a year, the Secretary shall, for a period determined appropriate by the Secretary, apply prior authorization for applicable imaging services that

are ordered by an outlier ordering professional identified under paragraph (5).

“(B) APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA IN PRIOR AUTHORIZATION.—In applying prior authorization under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall utilize only the applicable appropriate use criteria specified under this subsection.

“(C) FUNDING.—For purposes of carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841, of \$5,000,000 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2021. Amounts transferred under the preceding sentence shall remain available until expended.

“(7) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as granting the Secretary the authority to develop or initiate the development of clinical practice guidelines or appropriate use criteria.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1833(t)(16) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t(16)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) APPLICATION OF APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA FOR CERTAIN IMAGING SERVICES.—For provisions relating to the application of appropriate use criteria for certain imaging services, see section 1834(q).”

(3) REPORT ON EXPERIENCE OF IMAGING APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA PROGRAM.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes a description of the extent to which appropriate use criteria could be used for other services under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395j et seq.), such as radiation therapy and clinical diagnostic laboratory services.

SEC. 219. USING FUNDING FROM TRANSITIONAL FUND FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE (SGR) REFORM.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking “\$2,300,000,000” and inserting “\$0”.

SEC. 220. ENSURING ACCURATE VALUATION OF SERVICES UNDER THE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO COLLECT AND USE INFORMATION ON PHYSICIANS' SERVICES IN THE DETERMINATION OF RELATIVE VALUES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1848(c)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(M) AUTHORITY TO COLLECT AND USE INFORMATION ON PHYSICIANS' SERVICES IN THE DETERMINATION OF RELATIVE VALUES.—

“(i) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may collect or obtain information on the resources directly or indirectly related to furnishing services for which payment is made under the fee schedule established under subsection (b). Such information may be collected or obtained from any eligible professional or any other source.

“(ii) USE OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to clause (v), the Secretary may (as the Secretary determines appropriate) use information collected or obtained pursuant to clause (i) in the determination of relative values for services under this section.

“(iii) TYPES OF INFORMATION.—The types of information described in clauses (i) and (ii) may, at the Secretary's discretion, include any or all of the following:

“(I) Time involved in furnishing services.

“(II) Amounts and types of practice expense inputs involved with furnishing services.

“(III) Prices (net of any discounts) for practice expense inputs, which may include paid invoice prices or other documentation or records.

“(IV) Overhead and accounting information for practices of physicians and other suppliers.

“(V) Any other element that would improve the valuation of services under this section.

“(iv) INFORMATION COLLECTION MECHANISMS.—Information may be collected or obtained pursuant to this subparagraph from any or all of the following:

“(I) Surveys of physicians, other suppliers, providers of services, manufacturers, and vendors.

“(II) Surgical logs, billing systems, or other practice or facility records.

“(III) Electronic health records.

“(IV) Any other mechanism determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(v) TRANSPARENCY OF USE OF INFORMATION.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclauses (II) and (III), if the Secretary uses information collected or obtained under this subparagraph in the determination of relative values under this subsection, the Secretary shall disclose the information source and discuss the use of such information in such determination of relative values through notice and comment rulemaking.

“(II) THRESHOLDS FOR USE.—The Secretary may establish thresholds in order to use such information, including the exclusion of information collected or obtained from eligible professionals who use very high resources (as determined by the Secretary) in furnishing a service.

“(III) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall make aggregate information available under this subparagraph but shall not disclose information in a form or manner that identifies an eligible professional or a group practice, or information collected or obtained pursuant to a nondisclosure agreement.

“(vi) INCENTIVE TO PARTICIPATE.—The Secretary may provide for such payments under this part to an eligible professional that submits such solicited information under this subparagraph as the Secretary determines appropriate in order to compensate such eligible professional for such submission. Such payments shall be provided in a form and manner specified by the Secretary.

“(vii) ADMINISTRATION.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to information collected or obtained under this subparagraph.

“(viii) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONAL.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘eligible professional’ has the meaning given such term in subsection (k)(3)(B).

“(ix) FUNDING.—For purposes of carrying out this subparagraph, in addition to funds otherwise appropriated, the Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841, of \$2,000,000 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account for each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2014. Amounts transferred under the preceding sentence for a fiscal year shall be available until expended.”

(2) LIMITATION ON REVIEW.—Section 1848(i)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(i)(1)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “, and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) the collection and use of information in the determination of relative values under subsection (c)(2)(M).”

(b) AUTHORITY FOR ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO ESTABLISHING PRACTICE EXPENSE RELATIVE VALUES.—Section 1848(c)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(c)(2)), as amended by subsection (a), is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(N) AUTHORITY FOR ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO ESTABLISHING PRACTICE EXPENSE RELATIVE VALUES.—The Secretary may establish or adjust practice expense relative values under this subsection using cost, charge, or other data from suppliers or providers of services, including information collected or obtained under subparagraph (M).”

(c) REVISED AND EXPANDED IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIALLY MISVALUED CODES.—Section 1848(c)(2)(K)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(c)(2)(K)(ii)) is amended to read as follows:

“(ii) IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIALLY MISVALUED CODES.—For purposes of identifying potentially misvalued codes pursuant to clause (i)(I), the Secretary shall examine codes (and families of codes as appropriate) based on any or all of the following criteria:

“(I) Codes that have experienced the fastest growth.

“(II) Codes that have experienced substantial changes in practice expenses.

“(III) Codes that describe new technologies or services within an appropriate time period (such as 3 years) after the relative values are initially established for such codes.

“(IV) Codes which are multiple codes that are frequently billed in conjunction with furnishing a single service.

“(V) Codes with low relative values, particularly those that are often billed multiple times for a single treatment.

“(VI) Codes that have not been subject to review since implementation of the fee schedule.

“(VII) Codes that account for the majority of spending under the physician fee schedule.

“(VIII) Codes for services that have experienced a substantial change in the hospital length of stay or procedure time.

“(IX) Codes for which there may be a change in the typical site of service since the code was last valued.

“(X) Codes for which there is a significant difference in payment for the same service between different sites of service.

“(XI) Codes for which there may be anomalies in relative values within a family of codes.

“(XII) Codes for services where there may be efficiencies when a service is furnished at the same time as other services.

“(XIII) Codes with high intra-service work per unit of time.

“(XIV) Codes with high practice expense relative value units.

“(XV) Codes with high cost supplies.

“(XVI) Codes as determined appropriate by the Secretary.”

(d) TARGET FOR RELATIVE VALUE ADJUSTMENTS FOR MISVALUED SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1848(c)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(c)(2)), as amended by subsections (a) and (b), is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(O) TARGET FOR RELATIVE VALUE ADJUSTMENTS FOR MISVALUED SERVICES.—With respect to fee schedules established for each of 2017 through 2020, the following shall apply:

“(i) DETERMINATION OF NET REDUCTION IN EXPENDITURES.—For each year, the Secretary shall determine the estimated net reduction in expenditures under the fee schedule under this section with respect to the year as a result of adjustments to the relative values established under this paragraph for misvalued codes.

“(ii) BUDGET NEUTRAL REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS IF TARGET MET AND COUNTING OVERAGES TOWARDS THE TARGET FOR THE SUCCEEDING YEAR.—If the estimated net reduction in expenditures determined under clause (i) for the year is equal to or greater than the target for the year—

“(I) reduced expenditures attributable to such adjustments shall be redistributed for the year in a budget neutral manner in accordance with subparagraph (B)(ii)(II); and

“(II) the amount by which such reduced expenditures exceeds the target for the year shall be treated as a reduction in expenditures described in clause (i) for the succeeding year, for purposes of determining whether the target has or has not been met under this subparagraph with respect to that year.

“(iii) EXEMPTION FROM BUDGET NEUTRALITY IF TARGET NOT MET.—If the estimated net reduction in expenditures determined under clause (i) for the year is less than the target for the year, reduced expenditures in an amount equal to the target recapture amount shall not be taken into account in applying subparagraph (B)(ii)(II) with respect to fee schedules beginning with 2017.

“(iv) TARGET RECAPTURE AMOUNT.—For purposes of clause (iii), the target recapture amount is, with respect to a year, an amount equal to the difference between—

“(I) the target for the year; and

“(II) the estimated net reduction in expenditures determined under clause (i) for the year.

“(v) TARGET.—For purposes of this subparagraph, with respect to a year, the target is calculated as 0.5 percent of the estimated amount of expenditures under the fee schedule under this section for the year.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1848(c)(2)(B)(v) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(c)(2)(B)(v)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(VIII) REDUCTIONS FOR MISVALUED SERVICES IF TARGET NOT MET.—Effective for fee schedules beginning with 2017, reduced expenditures attributable to the application of the target recapture amount described in subparagraph (O)(iii).”.

(e) PHASE-IN OF SIGNIFICANT RELATIVE VALUE UNIT (RVU) REDUCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1848(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) PHASE-IN OF SIGNIFICANT RELATIVE VALUE UNIT (RVU) REDUCTIONS.—Effective for fee schedules established beginning with 2017, for services that are not new or revised codes, if the total relative value units for a service for a year would otherwise be decreased by an estimated amount equal to or greater than 20 percent as compared to the total relative value units for the previous year, the applicable adjustments in work, practice expense, and malpractice relative value units shall be phased-in over a 2-year period.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1848(c)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(c)(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(ii)(I), by striking “subclause (II)” and inserting “subclause (II) and paragraph (7)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (K)(iii)(VI)—

(i) by striking “provisions of subparagraph (B)(ii)(II)” and inserting “provisions of subparagraph (B)(ii)(II) and paragraph (7)”; and

(ii) by striking “under subparagraph (B)(ii)(II)” and inserting “under subparagraph (B)(ii)(I)”.

(f) AUTHORITY TO SMOOTH RELATIVE VALUES WITHIN GROUPS OF SERVICES.—Section 1848(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(c)(2)(C)) is amended—

(1) in each of clauses (i) and (iii), by striking “the service” and inserting “the service or group of services” each place it appears; and

(2) in the first sentence of clause (ii), by inserting “or group of services” before the period.

(g) GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON RELATIVE VALUE SCALE UPDATE COMMITTEE.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this subsection referred to as the “Comptroller General”) shall conduct a study of the processes used by the Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC) to provide recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding relative values for specific services under the Medicare physician fee schedule under section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

(h) ADJUSTMENT TO MEDICARE PAYMENT LOCALITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1848(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) USE OF MSAS AS FEE SCHEDULE AREAS IN CALIFORNIA.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the succeeding provisions of this paragraph and notwithstanding the previous provisions of this subsection, for services furnished on or after January 1, 2017, the fee schedule areas used for payment under this section applicable to California shall be the following:

“(i) Each Metropolitan Statistical Area (each in this paragraph referred to as an ‘MSA’), as defined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget as of December 31 of the previous year, shall be a fee schedule area.

“(ii) All areas not included in an MSA shall be treated as a single rest-of-State fee schedule area.

“(B) TRANSITION FOR MSAS PREVIOUSLY IN REST-OF-STATE PAYMENT LOCALITY OR IN LOCALITY 3.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For services furnished in California during a year beginning with 2017 and ending with 2021 in an MSA in a transition area (as defined in subparagraph (D)), subject to subparagraph (C), the geographic index values to be applied under this subsection for such year shall be equal to the sum of the following:

“(I) CURRENT LAW COMPONENT.—The old weighting factor (described in clause (ii)) for such year multiplied by the geographic index values under this subsection for the fee schedule area that included such MSA that would have applied in such area (as estimated by the Secretary) if this paragraph did not apply.

“(II) MSA-BASED COMPONENT.—The MSA-based weighting factor (described in clause (iii)) for such year multiplied by the geographic index values computed for the fee schedule area under subparagraph (A) for the

year (determined without regard to this subparagraph).

“(ii) OLD WEIGHTING FACTOR.—The old weighting factor described in this clause—

“(I) for 2017, is %; and

“(II) for each succeeding year, is the old weighting factor described in this clause for the previous year minus ½%.

“(iii) MSA-BASED WEIGHTING FACTOR.—The MSA-based weighting factor described in this clause for a year is 1 minus the old weighting factor under clause (ii) for that year.

“(C) HOLD HARMLESS.—For services furnished in a transition area in California during a year beginning with 2017, the geographic index values to be applied under this subsection for such year shall not be less than the corresponding geographic index values that would have applied in such transition area (as estimated by the Secretary) if this paragraph did not apply.

“(D) TRANSITION AREA DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘transition area’ means each of the following fee schedule areas for 2013:

“(i) The rest-of-State payment locality.

“(ii) Payment locality 3.

“(E) REFERENCES TO FEE SCHEDULE AREAS.—Effective for services furnished on or after January 1, 2017, for California, any reference in this section to a fee schedule area shall be deemed a reference to a fee schedule area established in accordance with this paragraph.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF FEE SCHEDULE AREA.—Section 1848(j)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(j)(2)) is amended by striking “The term” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (e)(6)(D), the term”.

(i) DISCLOSURE OF DATA USED TO ESTABLISH MULTIPLE PROCEDURE PAYMENT REDUCTION POLICY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make publicly available the information used to establish the multiple procedure payment reduction policy to the professional component of imaging services in the final rule published in the Federal Register, v. 77, n. 222, November 16, 2012, pages 68891–69380 under the physician fee schedule under section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4).

SEC. 221. MEDICAID DSH.

(a) MODIFICATIONS OF REDUCTIONS TO ALLOTMENTS.—Section 1923(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-4(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)(A)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “2016 through 2020” and inserting “2017 through 2024”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking subclauses (I) through (IV), and inserting the following:

“(I) \$1,800,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;

“(II) \$4,700,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

“(III) \$4,700,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

“(IV) \$4,700,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;

“(V) \$4,800,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

“(VI) \$5,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

“(VII) \$5,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and

“(VIII) \$4,400,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.”;

and

(2) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following:

“(8) CALCULATION OF DSH ALLOTMENTS AFTER REDUCTIONS PERIOD.—The DSH allotment for a State for fiscal years after fiscal year 2024 shall be calculated under paragraph (3) without regard to paragraph (7).”.

(b) MACPAC REVIEW AND REPORT.—Section 1900(b)(6) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(b)(6)) is amended—

(1) by striking “MACPAC shall consult” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—MACPAC shall consult”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) REVIEW AND REPORTS REGARDING MEDICAID DSH.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—MACPAC shall review and submit an annual report to Congress on disproportionate share hospital payments under section 1923. Each report shall include the information specified in clause (ii).

“(ii) REQUIRED REPORT INFORMATION.—Each report required under this subparagraph shall include the following:

“(I) Data relating to changes in the number of uninsured individuals.

“(II) Data relating to the amount and sources of hospitals’ uncompensated care costs, including the amount of such costs that are the result of providing unreimbursed or under-reimbursed services, charity care, or bad debt.

“(III) Data identifying hospitals with high levels of uncompensated care that also provide access to essential community services for low-income, uninsured, and vulnerable populations, such as graduate medical education, and the continuum of primary through quaternary care, including the provision of trauma care and public health services.

“(IV) State-specific analyses regarding the relationship between the most recent State DSH allotment and the projected State DSH allotment for the succeeding year and the data reported under subclauses (I), (II), and (III) for the State.

“(iii) DATA.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary regularly shall provide MACPAC with the most recent State reports and most recent independent certified audits submitted under section 1923(j), cost reports submitted under title XVIII, and such other data as MACPAC may request for purposes of conducting the reviews and preparing and submitting the annual reports required under this subparagraph.

“(iv) SUBMISSION DEADLINES.—The first report required under this subparagraph shall be submitted to Congress not later than February 1, 2016. Subsequent reports shall be submitted as part of, or with, each annual report required under paragraph (1)(C) during the period of fiscal years 2017 through 2024.”.

SEC. 222. REALIGNMENT OF THE MEDICARE SEQUESTER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024.

Paragraph (6) (relating to implementing direct spending reductions) of section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) Notwithstanding the 2 percent limit specified in subparagraph (A) for payments for the Medicare programs specified in section 256(d), the sequestration order of the President under such subparagraph for fiscal year 2024 shall be applied to such payments so that—

“(i) with respect to the first 6 months in which such order is effective for such fiscal year, the payment reduction shall be 4.0 percent; and

“(ii) with respect to the second 6 months in which such order is so effective for such fiscal year, the payment reduction shall be 0.0 percent.”.

SEC. 223. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) CRITERIA FOR CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.—

(1) PUBLICATION.—Not later than September 1, 2015, the Secretary shall publish criteria for a clinic to be certified by a State

as a certified community behavioral health clinic for purposes of participating in a demonstration program conducted under subsection (d).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The criteria published under this subsection shall include criteria with respect to the following:

(A) STAFFING.—Staffing requirements, including criteria that staff have diverse disciplinary backgrounds, have necessary State-required license and accreditation, and are culturally and linguistically trained to serve the needs of the clinic’s patient population.

(B) AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICES.—Availability and accessibility of services, including crisis management services that are available and accessible 24 hours a day, the use of a sliding scale for payment, and no rejection for services or limiting of services on the basis of a patient’s ability to pay or a place of residence.

(C) CARE COORDINATION.—Care coordination, including requirements to coordinate care across settings and providers to ensure seamless transitions for patients across the full spectrum of health services including acute, chronic, and behavioral health needs. Care coordination requirements shall include partnerships or formal contracts with the following:

(i) Federally-qualified health centers (and as applicable, rural health clinics) to provide Federally-qualified health center services (and as applicable, rural health clinic services) to the extent such services are not provided directly through the certified community behavioral health clinic.

(ii) Inpatient psychiatric facilities and substance use detoxification, post-detoxification step-down services, and residential programs.

(iii) Other community or regional services, supports, and providers, including schools, child welfare agencies, juvenile and criminal justice agencies and facilities, Indian Health Service youth regional treatment centers, State licensed and nationally accredited child placing agencies for therapeutic foster care service, and other social and human services.

(iv) Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, independent outpatient clinics, drop-in centers, and other facilities of the Department as defined in section 1801 of title 38, United States Code.

(v) Inpatient acute care hospitals and hospital outpatient clinics.

(D) SCOPE OF SERVICES.—Provision (in a manner reflecting person-centered care) of the following services which, if not available directly through the certified community behavioral health clinic, are provided or referred through formal relationships with other providers:

(i) Crisis mental health services, including 24-hour mobile crisis teams, emergency crisis intervention services, and crisis stabilization.

(ii) Screening, assessment, and diagnosis, including risk assessment.

(iii) Patient-centered treatment planning or similar processes, including risk assessment and crisis planning.

(iv) Outpatient mental health and substance use services.

(v) Outpatient clinic primary care screening and monitoring of key health indicators and health risk.

(vi) Targeted case management.

(vii) Psychiatric rehabilitation services.

(viii) Peer support and counselor services and family supports.

(ix) Intensive, community-based mental health care for members of the armed forces

and veterans, particularly those members and veterans located in rural areas, provided the care is consistent with minimum clinical mental health guidelines promulgated by the Veterans Health Administration including clinical guidelines contained in the Uniform Mental Health Services Handbook of such Administration.

(E) QUALITY AND OTHER REPORTING.—Reporting of encounter data, clinical outcomes data, quality data, and such other data as the Secretary requires.

(F) ORGANIZATIONAL AUTHORITY.—Criteria that a clinic be a non-profit or part of a local government behavioral health authority or operated under the authority of the Indian Health Service, an Indian tribe or tribal organization pursuant to a contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or compact with the Indian Health Service pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), or an urban Indian organization pursuant to a grant or contract with the Indian Health Service under title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(b) GUIDANCE ON DEVELOPMENT OF PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR TESTING UNDER DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 1, 2015, the Secretary, through the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall issue guidance for the establishment of a prospective payment system that shall only apply to medical assistance for mental health services furnished by a certified community behavioral health clinic participating in a demonstration program under subsection (d).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidance issued by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall provide that—

(A) no payment shall be made for inpatient care, residential treatment, room and board expenses, or any other non-ambulatory services, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) no payment shall be made to satellite facilities of certified community behavioral health clinics if such facilities are established after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) PLANNING GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2016, the Secretary shall award planning grants to States for the purpose of developing proposals to participate in time-limited demonstration programs described in subsection (d).

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—A State awarded a planning grant under this subsection shall—

(A) solicit input with respect to the development of such a demonstration program from patients, providers, and other stakeholders;

(B) certify clinics as certified community behavioral health clinics for purposes of participating in a demonstration program conducted under subsection (d); and

(C) establish a prospective payment system for mental health services furnished by a certified community behavioral health clinic participating in a demonstration program under subsection (d) in accordance with the guidance issued under subsection (b).

(d) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 1, 2017, the Secretary shall select States to participate in demonstration programs that are developed through planning grants awarded under subsection (c), meet the requirements of this subsection, and represent a diverse selection of geographic areas, including rural and underserved areas.

(2) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall solicit applications to participate in demonstration programs under this subsection solely from States awarded planning grants under subsection (c).

(B) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—An application for a demonstration program under this subsection shall include the following:

(i) The target Medicaid population to be served under the demonstration program.

(ii) A list of participating certified community behavioral health clinics.

(iii) Verification that the State has certified a participating clinic as a certified community behavioral health clinic in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b).

(iv) A description of the scope of the mental health services available under the State Medicaid program that will be paid for under the prospective payment system tested in the demonstration program.

(v) Verification that the State has agreed to pay for such services at the rate established under the prospective payment system.

(vi) Such other information as the Secretary may require relating to the demonstration program including with respect to determining the soundness of the proposed prospective payment system.

(3) NUMBER AND LENGTH OF DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.—Not more than 8 States shall be selected for 2-year demonstration programs under this subsection.

(4) REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give preference to selecting demonstration programs where participating certified community behavioral health clinics—

(i) provide the most complete scope of services described in subsection (a)(2)(D) to individuals eligible for medical assistance under the State Medicaid program;

(ii) will improve availability of, access to, and participation in, services described in subsection (a)(2)(D) to individuals eligible for medical assistance under the State Medicaid program;

(iii) will improve availability of, access to, and participation in assisted outpatient mental health treatment in the State; or

(iv) demonstrate the potential to expand available mental health services in a demonstration area and increase the quality of such services without increasing net Federal spending.

(5) PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pay a State participating in a demonstration program under this subsection the Federal matching percentage specified in subparagraph (B) for amounts expended by the State to provide medical assistance for mental health services described in the demonstration program application in accordance with paragraph (2)(B)(iv) that are provided by certified community behavioral health clinics to individuals who are enrolled in the State Medicaid program. Payments to States made under this paragraph shall be considered to have been under, and are subject to the requirements of, section 1903 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b).

(B) FEDERAL MATCHING PERCENTAGE.—The Federal matching percentage specified in this subparagraph is with respect to medical assistance described in subparagraph (A) that is furnished—

(i) to a newly eligible individual described in paragraph (2) of section 1905(y) of the So-

cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(y)), the matching rate applicable under paragraph (1) of that section; and

(ii) to an individual who is not a newly eligible individual (as so described) but who is eligible for medical assistance under the State Medicaid program, the enhanced FMAP applicable to the State.

(C) LIMITATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Payments shall be made under this paragraph to a State only for mental health services—

(I) that are described in the demonstration program application in accordance with paragraph (2)(iv);

(II) for which payment is available under the State Medicaid program; and

(III) that are provided to an individual who is eligible for medical assistance under the State Medicaid program.

(ii) PROHIBITED PAYMENTS.—No payment shall be made under this paragraph—

(I) for inpatient care, residential treatment, room and board expenses, or any other non-ambulatory services, as determined by the Secretary; or

(II) with respect to payments made to satellite facilities of certified community behavioral health clinics if such facilities are established after the date of enactment of this Act.

(6) WAIVER OF STATEWIDENESS REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall waive section 1902(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(1)) (relating to statewideness) as may be necessary to conduct demonstration programs in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

(7) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the first State is selected for a demonstration program under this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual report on the use of funds provided under all demonstration programs conducted under this subsection. Each such report shall include—

(i) an assessment of access to community-based mental health services under the Medicaid program in the area or areas of a State targeted by a demonstration program compared to other areas of the State;

(ii) an assessment of the quality and scope of services provided by certified community behavioral health clinics compared to community-based mental health services provided in States not participating in a demonstration program under this subsection and in areas of a demonstration State that are not participating in the demonstration program; and

(iii) an assessment of the impact of the demonstration programs on the Federal and State costs of a full range of mental health services (including inpatient, emergency and ambulatory services).

(B) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than December 31, 2021, the Secretary shall submit to Congress recommendations concerning whether the demonstration programs under this section should be continued, expanded, modified, or terminated.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERALLY-QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER SERVICES; FEDERALLY-QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER; RURAL HEALTH CLINIC SERVICES; RURAL HEALTH CLINIC.—The terms “Federally-qualified health center services”, “Federally-qualified health center”, “rural health clinic services”, and “rural health clinic” have the meanings given those terms in section 1905(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(1)).

(2) ENHANCED FMAP.—The term “enhanced FMAP” has the meaning given that term in section 2105(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(b)) but without regard to the second and third sentences of that section.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(4) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given such term for purposes of title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

(f) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated to the Secretary—

(A) for purposes of carrying out subsections (a), (b), and (d)(7), \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2014; and

(B) for purposes of awarding planning grants under subsection (c), \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated under paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 224. ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a 4-year pilot program to award not more than 50 grants each year to eligible entities for assisted outpatient treatment programs for individuals with serious mental illness.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall carry out this section in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, the Attorney General of the United States, the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living, and the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

(c) SELECTING AMONG APPLICANTS.—The Secretary—

(1) may only award grants under this section to applicants that have not previously implemented an assisted outpatient treatment program; and

(2) shall evaluate applicants based on their potential to reduce hospitalization, homelessness, incarceration, and interaction with the criminal justice system while improving the health and social outcomes of the patient.

(d) USE OF GRANT.—An assisted outpatient treatment program funded with a grant awarded under this section shall include—

(1) evaluating the medical and social needs of the patients who are participating in the program;

(2) preparing and executing treatment plans for such patients that—

(A) include criteria for completion of court-ordered treatment; and

(B) provide for monitoring of the patient's compliance with the treatment plan, including compliance with medication and other treatment regimens;

(3) providing for such patients case management services that support the treatment plan;

(4) ensuring appropriate referrals to medical and social service providers;

(5) evaluating the process for implementing the program to ensure consistency with the patient's needs and State law; and

(6) measuring treatment outcomes, including health and social outcomes such as rates of incarceration, health care utilization, and homelessness.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than the end of each of fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on the

grant program under this section. Each such report shall include an evaluation of the following:

(1) Cost savings and public health outcomes such as mortality, suicide, substance abuse, hospitalization, and use of services.

(2) Rates of incarceration by patients.

(3) Rates of homelessness among patients.

(4) Patient and family satisfaction with program participation.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “assisted outpatient treatment” means medically prescribed mental health treatment that a patient receives while living in a community under the terms of a law authorizing a State or local court to order such treatment.

(2) The term “eligible entity” means a county, city, mental health system, mental health court, or any other entity with authority under the law of the State in which the grantee is located to implement, monitor, and oversee assisted outpatient treatment programs.

(3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(g) FUNDING.—

(1) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—A grant under this section shall be in an amount that is not more than \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2018. Subject to the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall determine the amount of each grant based on the population of the area, including estimated patients, to be served under the grant.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2018.

SEC. 225. EXCLUSION FROM PAYGO SCORECARDS.

(a) STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I sorely wish I were here getting ready to vote on a bill that would permanently repeal and replace the sustainable growth rate. In this Chamber, we passed a bill that would do that and that would have fully offset the cost of the repeal by delaying a provision of the Affordable Care Act that the administration just keeps delaying itself. In fact, it was partially delayed again

just yesterday. Unfortunately, we have reached another doc fix deadline. I believe that we must act to protect America's seniors and ensure that they can continue to see the doctors whom they know and trust.

That is why I have introduced legislation that represents a bipartisan-bicameral agreement that will give us additional time to work out our differences and pass permanent repeal. We are closer than ever to reaching that goal. We have an agreement on policy. We need to overcome our differences about the responsible way to pay for those new policies. I hope that we can act before we reach the new deadline of March 31, 2015. In fact, we should try to reach a bicameral agreement before the end of this Congress.

I am glad that Speaker BOEHNER has offered his continuing support to this effort. With the House's having acted, we hope that the Senate can also pass an SGR repeal that has real pay-fors. Then we can begin the process of working through our differences in a conference committee. I am sponsoring this bill today because it is my earnest hope that this is the last patch we will have to pass, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am sorry, but I simply cannot support yet another temporary SGR patch. This bill is bad for seniors, and it is bad for doctors. We want to achieve a permanent solution to this ongoing problem. This bill does nothing to achieve that goal. In fact, it sets back months and months of hard work. What we should be considering today is the bipartisan-bicameral agreement that my colleagues and I developed. That bill is what doctors' groups and patients' groups support. That bill can also be offset without robbing one provider to pay another provider.

What is before us today doesn't fix the problem. It exacerbates it. We had a true opportunity to finally accomplish what our constituents have asked us to do for a decade, and that is to pass a permanent repeal of the SGR, but the Republican leadership is letting that opportunity slip away. I respect my colleague from Pennsylvania, but I don't believe that if we pass another patch that we are going to go back and do a permanent fix. My fear is, by doing this, we will lose the opportunity to do the permanent fix and that it will simply slip away.

Two weeks ago, the Republicans brought to the floor our agreement, and they added a poison pill offset that they knew the President and the Senate would never accept, a delay of critical Affordable Care Act provisions. All that accomplished was wasting time, which has led us to this scenario of spending another nearly \$20 billion on a patch. Meanwhile, this bill includes

health policies that have never seen the light of day. Some have been used as offsets, others as sweeteners, to get Members to vote for it, but I am not falling for it. That is no way to govern. The Senate is actually poised to vote on our bipartisan agreement that is fully offset. It does so without cutting from the health care system, and that is the bill we should be considering here today.

Seniors do not want us to kick the can again for another year. The doctor community spoke loudly and clearly yesterday—no more patches. So I say to my colleagues: let's not go down this road again. Instead, let's come together and pass a permanent solution. Let's get the job done. Vote “no” on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), an important member of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, the SGR cuts would reduce doctors' compensation for treating Medicare patients by 24 percent. Seniors and physicians cannot afford that, and Congress cannot let it happen in 5 days.

The legislation before us would patch the SGR for a year. I support this legislation—of course, reluctantly. Two weeks ago, the House passed a permanent repeal and replacement of the SGR that was fully paid for. The fix provided certainty for doctors who treat Medicare patients—that is what they need—and it incentivized and rewarded doctors to keep seniors healthy.

The Senate needs to negotiate, Mr. Speaker. If they don't like the House pay-for, come up with one. Let's come together and get this done. A patch isn't the best solution. We can replace the SGR, but the Senate has to work with us. Again, let's get this done. Let's work together, and let's get it done for our seniors.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT).

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, apparently, Winston Churchill once said:

Americans will always do the right thing but only after they have tried everything else.

Then again, Churchill never tried to get the doc fix passed in the United States Congress.

For 10 years, we have been trying to fix the sustainable growth rate in Medicare, and for 10 years, we have kicked the can down the road with 17 different short-term patch votes. The Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 is a mixed bag of some important compromises, like ensuring that there is an accurate valuation of services of the Physician Fee Schedule; some

problematic provisions, such as the end-stage renal disease policy; and some provisions that have never been vetted in front of the Congress, in front of committees—at all. More importantly, this bill represents our 18th failure to rebuild the bedrock of the Medicare program, our 18th failure to provide America's seniors with the safety and security of a permanent fix to the SGR.

That is why the AMA is voting “no” on this bill. That is why most physicians' groups are strongly opposed to this bill. Last night, my office was flooded with messages from various physician groups.

I, for one, still believe in finding the will to do what is right. I, for one, am dedicated to the principle of seizing the moment and accomplishing big things on behalf of the American people. We thought we were going to do it this time.

When it comes to this mixed-bag piece of legislation, cooked up in the dead of night, put on the Web at 2 minutes before midnight a couple of days ago, revised several times since—not much more than 48 hours ago this stuff started—I vote “no.” Enough with trying everything else. It is time to do what is right—a permanent doc fix that is argued, debated, agreed upon. It is what our seniors need. It is what our doctors need to help them manage their practices. It is what our Nation needs and deserves.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We have groups who have expressed support for this bill: the American Clinical Laboratory Association; the American College of Radiology; Easter Seals; the Family Research Council; the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation; the Medical Imaging and Technology Alliance, MITA; the National Abstinence Education Association; the Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children; the Pew Charitable Trusts; the ZERO to THREE: National Center on Infants, Toddlers, and Families; AdvaMed, among others.

I would urge Members to seriously consider this.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. UPTON. I thank the distinguished chair of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, here we are at the very end of when the doc fix expires, March 31. That is next week. We have tried in a very responsible way for many months to try and resolve this issue, and I commend my friend Mr. WAXMAN and others for passing our bill out of committee last summer at 51-0. I think it was Speaker BOEHNER who said he didn't think we could honor Mother Teresa for sainthood with a vote like that.

I commend my good friend Mr. CAMP from Michigan and SANDY LEVIN, the gentleman from Michigan, who is on the floor now, as we worked together and worked with the Senate as well to actually lock in place a bill on literally the last day that Chairman BAUCUS was in the United States Senate in order to try and resolve this, and we knew all along that we were going to have to have a pay-for. Here in the House a couple weeks ago, we passed a bill, somewhat on partisan lines, I know—it was not 100 percent on either side—but we passed a 10-year fix with a pay-for.

Now, I had a great ninth grade civics teacher, Mr. Denekas, who is no longer with us. He is with the Lord. I will tell you, as I sit down with my students as I did this week—a lot of them are here in town, my Close Up groups and others—and as I speak to my high schools and colleges, they know there is never such a thing, maybe, as a perfect bill. One of the first lessons in civics is that you pass a bill in the House, and you pass a bill in the Senate, and they are always different. You go to conference, and you work out the differences, and it comes back.

Nobody wants this expiration of the doc fix—nobody. It hurts our physician community. They care about the folks that they treat. Literally, they are going to have almost a 30 percent reduction cut as early as next week in the services that they provide. Let's think about our most vulnerable, too—our seniors. They have got those doctor appointments, and they want to be there. Maybe, with a 30 percent cut, those physicians will say: Gosh, we just can't do this. That appointment is canceled. We are going to just stop serving Medicare patients—period—those over 65.

We don't want that. We don't want that hurting our most vulnerable. So we passed here in the House a couple of weeks ago a 10-year bill. The response from the Senate is—nothing. Yes, we have had some discussions. We have talked with Senator WYDEN, a former member of our committee. He is diligently trying to get something done, but they have got no bill ready for passage on the Senate floor that matches what we did to go to conference. They have got nothing. There is a lot of talk about maybe just doing a bill without a pay-for or some phony savings. That is not what this House is about. It is a lot of money, and we have some rules in the House that you have got to have a pay-for for it, and that is the real difficulty in trying to get things done.

So here we are at the end of the week. The cuts come in next Tuesday, April 1, so we are trying to send another offer to the Senate. If you are not going to take the 10-year fix, let's try a 1-year fix. It is paid for. It is about \$20 billion, and there are a number of little provisions that are in there that, I think, are important, again, in

working with all sides. Last night, we were somewhat surprised that a number of groups came out against it, but the alternative is that the door gets shut. We don't have a backup plan, all right?

This is the bill. If we can get 290 votes—everybody is here—a two-thirds vote, that is great. We will send yet another offer to the Senate, and they can choose either one. They can take our 10-year bill. They can take a 1-year bill. They can pass something different, and we can go to conference. I must say that this bill is now a 1-year bill, but it doesn't stop us from still trying to negotiate something for a permanent fix, because that is what every one of us wants. It doesn't stop us from getting that done, but at least it stops what otherwise will be the denial of services to the most vulnerable, our seniors, who may not understand what is happening. It continues the process moving forward.

We have got a couple of options that we are teeing up, but, obviously, we have to pass it today, here, with a two-thirds vote. Then let the Senate decide which alternative or it can pass something else, but pass something so that we can go to conference; but if that happens, then the doc fix is not fixed, and for however long that period is the cuts go into place. It would be nice if we could actually pass this by voice. What do you think? It will get us off the dime, and, again, we need to get this to the Senate to try and get it done. No one wants it to expire, but without one of these two bills, it expires, and we don't want that to happen.

I would urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—my friend Mr. PALLONE, my friend Mr. WAXMAN, and others—because, yes, we need to get this done. It is the best that we can do right now, and there is not a plan B for next week.

Mr. Speaker, the specter of physician cuts under Medicare, or SGR, has been an unwelcome threat to seniors' access to quality health care well for over a decade. I rise in support of Chairman PITTS' H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act, so we can ensure that seniors' access to quality health care is not jeopardized as we continue the effort to permanently resolving this broken system.

While we're not yet over the finish line, we are closer than ever before. Republicans and Democrats of the House and Senate have agreed to the policy of a permanent solution, and this chamber has already passed a bipartisan, fully paid-for bill that would make it a reality.

We understand that our colleagues in the Senate may have a different vision for next steps, and we'd be happy to meet with them to find a package of true offsets that we can all get behind. But, while we wait for the Senate to join us, it is important for us to keep the promises we have made to seniors who depend on the Medicare program.

By coming together with this patch, we will ensure that care will be there when Medicare

beneficiaries need it. This package prevents the scheduled 24 percent cut in payment rates, updates the rate through the end of the year, and maintains many of the so-called extenders programs for another year, including the Special Diabetes Program and abstinence program. Finally, it includes important mental health provisions like the Assistant Outpatient Treatment program from Chairman MURPHY'S H.R. 3717, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013. All of this is achieved in a fiscally responsible manner, saving \$1.2 billion while we continue to strive for our permanent solution.

Our work is far from done, but today we restore some certainty to our seniors that their trusted doctor will be available when they are in need of care.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

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Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you, Mr. PALLONE.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot express my disappointment with the proposed additional temporary patch to the sustainable growth rate, or the SGR—the “doc fix.”

This was a contrived solution from the very beginning, and it has morphed into a shameful annual ritual, disrupting the provision of medical services in this country, as the parade of medical professionals come to Washington, D.C., to plead with us to not do something crazy.

It is simply, today, an accounting sleight of hand. It is a power play and a fundraising tool, to be sure, that disrupts the practice of medicine.

We have absolutely no intention of ever having the SGR cut occur, but we are not going to allow a reduction on that order of magnitude. We will find some sort of adjustment, as we always have, that will not be satisfactory and will continue the uncertainty and the indignity that is inflicted on people in the health care space and, more important, on the people that they serve.

If you want to actually cut health care spending, we could do so. And if we would stop this charade of meaningless gestures of repealing the Affordable Care Act and actually get down to cases, fine-tuning, and moving forward, we could be there.

There are a range of potential savings within the health care space that is acknowledged by virtually everybody in the industry and every expert that has looked at it. But it can't be done in a cavalier fashion according to some ritualistic formula, and it can't be done overnight, and it is going to require a steady hand, including politicians acting like grownups.

In the meantime, I think it is important to stop this travesty.

Remember, when we had a similar pointless exercise with the alternative minimum tax, realizing that the sup-

posed savings were not real, that the full bite would never take effect, what did we do? We didn't “pay for it,” we finally reset the budget baseline and moved on.

That is exactly what we should do with the SGR, and then deal meaningfully with the adjustments in accelerating health care reform, not a 54th time to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

We should be rewarding people who are providing high-value care and finding ways to be more efficient, and adjusting the system to slowly squeeze out our areas of inefficiency. It won't be easy, but it is definitely within our capacity—and it is already starting around the country.

Maybe Congress should consider debating this issue with an open rule, allowing everybody to come to the floor to speak, to offer amendments, to debate it fully, and see what we can come up with. It won't be any worse.

Let's end this charade, give the health care space some certainty, and get down to work being a full partner in the reform and enhancement of our health care system.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 10½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire of the minority how many speakers they have left?

Mr. PALLONE. I have at least two left.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WAXMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, today, Congress will vote on yet another patch to the Medicare physician payment system. But it should not be that way. We need a permanent fix.

Earlier this year, we seemed on track for a permanent fix. We reached a bipartisan agreement on what a permanent fix should look like. That bill was introduced by both Republican and Democratic leaders: Mr. CAMP, Mr. UPTON, Dr. BURGESS, Mr. LEVIN, myself, Mr. PALLONE, Senator BAUCUS, and Senator HATCH. That bipartisan bill is broadly supported by physician and patient groups.

That bill would not cut providers or beneficiaries to fix payments to physicians, and that bill would fix this problem permanently. The bill before us today is not a permanent fix. It is a short-term fix.

Two weeks ago, Republicans brought up a bipartisan bill with a poison pill offset for the permanent fix that under-

mines reform for low-income families. That was 2 weeks wasted, where we could have worked towards a permanent solution.

I have heard my Republican colleagues say it is too hard to find offsets or we don't have enough time to come up with the offsets to get a permanent bill done. Let's not forget, Republicans do not insist on offsets for things they really care about. Trillions in tax cuts for the wealthy? No need to offset that. A Medicare prescription drug bill that costs far more than this permanent fix to the SGR? No need to offset that. But when we talk about protecting seniors' access to their doctors, their answer is different.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge that, in the end, this is a vote Members will need to make up their own minds on. We may end up being forced to support a short-term patch, but I am not ready to concede that yet.

I am not ready to support this bill that is before us. Let's keep working on getting a permanent solution.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, let me describe briefly the challenge before us.

This bill is very disappointing. The three committees have worked on a bipartisan basis to put together a bill that would address once and for all SGR and would reform the payment system. Indeed, it would transform this bill that we worked on on a bipartisan basis—the physician payment system—into one that is more acceptable for high quality care, rewards value, and provides needed stability for providers and beneficiaries.

The bill has a much larger cost than this patch, though patches themselves are expensive.

In response to the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I want to make a few comments.

There has been no serious discussion all of these weeks about how we would pay for the permanent fix. There has been a dereliction of responsibility.

Also, what has happened here is this patch is a product that hasn't gone through the legislative process. Instead, it is a complex \$20 billion bill with no public hearing, no committee hearings, and no regular order.

The draft of the bill became publicly available at midnight Tuesday, and there were flaws, so it was refiled, and we got this bill just 24 hours ago.

This present legislation contains a completely new, unvetted lab payment system. It undermines delivery system reforms for dialysis patients. It includes promising policy to hold nursing homes accountable for patient care but fails to include key protections to minimize discrimination against certain patients.

In a few words, we deserve better, and we need to do better.

As a result, a large number of physician groups have expressed their opposition to this.

What this bill does today is miss the opportunity to do full-scale repeal and replace the physician payment system.

The Senate still needs to vote on a permanent fix. The chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee said, We passed that kind of bill. Yes, the 10-year fix was a partisan bill that had no chance of passage in the Senate. It has zero chance of passage. The Senate still plans, as I understand, to vote on a permanent fix. We should let the Senate process unfold. We have more time to get this right.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. LEVIN. It is not correct that, if we don't act today, there will be any impact on seniors. We could let the Senate act to try to do something permanently and come back next week, if we have to, and take up this bill.

So this is the challenge before us. We are here once again doing something that is very temporary, that is very, very expensive, and we are failing to step up to the plate on permanent reform and a permanent fix, and doing it with a legislative process with a product that has not gone through committee, has had no public hearings, has had no real airing. We should not be acting blindly.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I also thank him for his leadership on issues that relate to the health and well-being of the American people. I also commend the leadership of the previous speaker, Mr. WAXMAN, and our ranking member on the Ways and Means committee, Mr. LEVIN. They have been two champions on the subject of health care in America—and doing so in a fiscally sound way.

While I appreciate and share the concerns here—and I will speak to that—I do think that we have to think carefully about the decision that we make. I know that they have.

The leadership is bringing this bill to the floor on a short fuse, with an expiration date of March 31, without most people in this room having ever seen what is in the bill, which is a missed opportunity.

We should be considering right now a bill that would permanently speak to the SGR. For those in the public, I know it is inside baseball talk, SGR. That is the rate that docs are compensated for treating Medicare patients.

So don't think of SGR—think of the patients. That is what we are doing here. Think of the certainty that they need in terms of their health care, and that is our seniors. Think of the certainty that a permanent fix, paid for or not—but let's say paid for—would mean to remove the uncertainty from this debate.

The American Medical Association is opposed to this bill that is on the floor today because it is a patch.

How many times have you heard people talk about a Band-Aid? We are just putting a Band-Aid on it. We are not getting to the underlying challenge that we face. This is a Band-Aid, and that is why the docs oppose this patch.

I did hear the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) say, If you don't like these pay-fors, suggest your own. Well, we have suggested our own. It is called OCO. It is the Overseas Contingency Operations. The Republicans said that is a gimmick, but it wasn't a gimmick when you put it in the Ryan budget. It is in the Ryan budget. So it works for you where it works for you, but you don't want to put it to work for America's seniors.

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So here is the thing. The Senate majority and the House majority came together to produce this patch—this Band-Aid. It is the wrong way to go. It does not address the underlying problem.

We could have done that. We have been trying to do it for 10 years, and it is always, always, always something that the Republican majority has backed away from and limited and done on a short fuse.

There are so many things that are wrong with this bill, but the simple fact is that the clock is ticking, and on March 31, it is bad news for seniors and for the doctors who treat them and the Medicare program.

Our seniors depend on Medicare. They depend on Medicare, and this is a weakening of it. It is just the same old-same old let's see what we can do to find some pay-fors that really undermine the health and well-being of the American people.

Those same pay-fors, done properly, could be part of a permanent fix, but instead, they are part of the Band-Aid. So this is all to say to my colleagues: you are going to have to make your decision as you weigh the equities.

Is it better to just succumb to what we have, no matter how mediocre and how missed an opportunity it is? Or is it better to say: Let's hold out until our Republican colleagues agree to the full SGR, essentially, a fix forever, paid for by OCO?

It is really important to note the following: the shorter the fix, the more expensive it is. We have been seeing that year in and year out. If we had

dealt with this, say, 6, 7 years ago, it would have cost much less than it is to patch 1 year to the next, sometimes less than a year to the next.

This is not about reducing the deficit. It is not about the good health of the American people. It is just an ideological reality that we have to deal with from the Republican side of the aisle.

So when the docs—the AMA—says, We are opposed to this, vote it down, that is important to us. I say to them, Talk to your Republican friends, they have the power to do a permanent fix paid for by OCO; they refuse to do it.

So we have something less good that we can do for the American people, and if this sounds a little confusing, it is because it is; and Members have to make the decision as to whether they will vote for this, just because we are forced into it, or whether they want to hold out for something much better.

This would be a more appropriate debate a month ago, where the clock does not run out over the weekend, but this is a tactic. It is a technique used by the majority to force the hand without the proper weighing of equities in all of it.

So, my colleagues, I just urge you to try to weigh those equities. I, myself, come down on the side of supporting the legislation because, frankly, I believe that any uncertainty in the minds of our seniors about their ability to see their doctors will certainly be—the Republicans will say this is because of the Affordable Care Act, and I just don't want to give them another opportunity to misrepresent what this is about.

If the Affordable Care Act never existed, we would still be here debating SGR. They are two separate subjects; but as we know, any excuse will do to undermine the great legislation that the Affordable Care Act was about, life, a healthier life, the liberty of people to pursue their happiness because they had the freedom to do so—better quality, lower cost, more accessibility.

So that is how I come to the conclusion of let's not give them another false claim. Let's just get this done, but let us not give up on the prospect, even before this expires, of having a long-term, permanent fix to SGR.

It makes all the sense in the world. It has no partisanship about it. It is sensible, and it will cost less to do more for our seniors. The challenge is there. The solution is clear. The Republicans have rejected it, so we are at their mercy.

My conclusion is to vote "yes." Members will have to come to their own conclusions on it. I, frankly, wish that the Republicans, in their power, would have brought the bill to the floor under a rule, so we could have a proper debate on it, instead of requiring a 290-vote requirement to pass it.

With the shortness of receiving this information, only this morning, Members are finding out what it is. It is

really hard to predict who will vote pro, who will vote con, who will vote "aye," who will vote "no." This is really a silly decision to bring this to the floor in this form when we know the path that is much better.

I am not going to give you another reason to go out there and make your claims about the Affordable Care Act, which have no basis in fact.

With that, I urge my colleagues to pray over it, as I will.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 10½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the minority how many speakers they have left?

We are prepared to close.

Mr. PALLONE. At this time, I have one more speaker.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), a member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to follow up on a point that Leader PELOSI just made regarding the OCO account, the Overseas Contingency Operations account, which, at Armed Services, we are dealing with actually right now.

The President came over with his OCO request for this year of \$80 billion. This funds the troops over in Afghanistan, the 34,000 that are still fighting courageously to defend our country.

At the end of this year, the projection is that that troop level will be brought down to, at the highest level of 10,000, possibly even lower, and combat missions, for all intents and purposes, are going to come to an end.

As the Congressional Budget Office has demonstrated over and over again, they will score savings with the OCO drawdown that is going to happen at the end of this year. Indeed, the Ryan budget has used those OCO savings to help balance its own priorities, so this is not funny money. This is not hypothetical.

Anyone who has been on a CODEL over to Afghanistan knows we are spending money over there, and starting next year, we are going to spend a lot less money because of the change in our deployments over in Afghanistan.

The cost of the permanent fix to SGR is \$135 billion over the next 10 years. You only need a portion of the OCO account to permanently fix SGR, and everybody who has even come close to discussing this issue knows that in this building.

Hopefully, the Senate, when they take this up next week, are going to move forward with a permanent fix using totally valid, verified savings by the Congressional Budget Office in the OCO account.

It is a peace dividend, in terms of drawing down from Afghanistan, that we can finally stabilize the Medicare system by making sure that fees are not going to be subjected to this annual cliff that, again, denies access in far too many cases in doctors' offices all across the country.

So, again, I just want to emphasize the point that it is not like we are powerless here to come up with an SGR fix for which there is bipartisan support, using verifiable, valid savings by the Congressional Budget Office in the OCO account.

Our brave soldiers are going to be drawing down closer to the end of this year to zero. We can use those savings to fix America's health care system.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, do I still have 3 minutes?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Yes. The gentleman from New Jersey has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out and I would like to enter into the RECORD a letter from the American Medical Association and many, many other physicians' groups, as well as State medical societies, in opposition to the legislation.

Let me just read the first paragraph. It is addressed to the Speaker and to the Democratic leader. It says:

On behalf of the undersigned physician organizations, we are writing to express our strong opposition to H.R. 4302, and we urge you to vote against the bill when it is considered on the floor.

Again, that is from the AMA, many specialty doctor groups, and a number of State medical societies.

I would also point out that it is my strong belief—and I know that my chairman of the subcommittee disagrees on this, but it is my strong belief that if this bill passes, that we will not have an opportunity to bring up the larger permanent fix. We will not negotiate that. I doubt very much that that would be the case.

MARCH 26, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: On behalf of the undersigned physician organizations, we are writing to express our strong opposition to H.R. 4302, the "Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014," and we urge you to vote against the bill when it is considered on the floor.

Instead of reforming the Medicare physician payment system, Congress seems intent on imposing yet another round of arbitrary provider payment reductions to maintain a corrosive policy that essentially every Member of Congress says should be scrapped. Importantly, by selectively choosing cost sav-

ings proposals that were included in the bipartisan, bicameral policy framework set forth in H.R. 4015 and S. 2000, the bill being considered would undermine future passage of that framework and add to the instability that now impedes the development and adoption of health care delivery and payment innovations that can strengthen the Medicare program.

It appears that an unprecedented, bipartisan agreement on Medicare reform is on the verge of being cast aside because elected leaders are unwilling to make tough choices to strengthen programs serving 50 million Americans. We strongly urge Members to vote against this legislation and renew our call for all parties to engage in good faith, bipartisan efforts to enact the physician payment and delivery system reform policy contained in H.R. 4015/S. 2000, the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act. The endless cycle of short-term remedies that serve to support a failed policy are no longer acceptable.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association; American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology; American Academy of Dermatology Association; American Academy of Neurology; American Academy of Ophthalmology; American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery; American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation; American Academy of Sleep Medicine; American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry; American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons; American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons; American College of Emergency Physicians; American College of Gastroenterology; American College of Mohs Surgery; American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine; American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians; American College of Osteopathic Internists; American College of Osteopathic Surgeons; American College of Phlebology; American College of Physicians.

American College of Surgeons; American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; American Gastroenterological Association; American Geriatrics Society; American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society; American Osteopathic Association; American Pediatric Surgical Association; American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association; American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy; American Society for Reproductive Medicine; American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery; American Society of Disability Evaluating Physicians; American Society of General Surgeons; American Society of Hematology; American Society of Nephrology; American Urogynecologic Society; American Urological Association; College of American Pathologists; Infectious Diseases Society of America; Medical Group Management Association.

National Association of Medical Examiners; North American Spine Society; National Association of Spine Specialists; Renal Physicians Association; Society of Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions; Society of Critical Care Medicine; Society of Gynecologic Oncology; Society of Hospital Medicine; Society of Thoracic Surgeons; Alaska State Medical Association; Arkansas Medical Society; Connecticut State Medical Society; Medical Society of the District of Columbia; Medical Association of Georgia; Hawaii Medical Association; Idaho Medical Association; Illinois State Medical Society; Indiana State Medical Association; Iowa Medical Society; Kentucky Medical Association; Maine Medical Association.

Massachusetts Medical Society; Michigan State Medical Society; Minnesota Medical Association; Mississippi State Medical Association; Missouri State Medical Association; Montana Medical Association; Nebraska Medical Association; Nevada State Medical Association; Medical Society of the State of New York; North Dakota Medical Association; Ohio State Medical Association; Oregon Medical Association; Pennsylvania Medical Society; Rhode Island Medical Society; South Dakota State Medical Association; Utah Medical Association; Vermont Medical Society; Medical Society of Virginia; Washington State Medical Association; Wisconsin Medical Society; Wyoming Medical Society.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps we ought to have a criteria of everybody who has read this bill can vote on it. My bet is there would be very few Members who would be able to vote on this bill.

This is an 8-page summary of this bill with probably 50 paragraphs in it about changes that have been effected in the Medicare system. None of us know what the substance of this bill is.

We had a lot of rhetoric in 2010 about reading the bills. I challenge any Member to come up here and say: I have read this bill.

I am for a permanent fix in the sustainable growth rate for doctors. I have pledged that for the last 4 or 5 years. We have a bipartisan agreement to effect that exact end; but, as so often is the case, we do not have the courage to rationally fund that agreement. That is why America is in trouble fiscally. This is a game unworthy of this institution and of the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. It is unfortunate that we have been put in this position with less than 48 hours' notice of what is in this bill to do something that all of us know needs to be done.

The doctors of America, at least the organized doctors of America, have said vote "no" on this bill because they know, we know, The Wall Street Journal knows, we have to fix this permanently, not patch it every year. It is a fraud. Both sides have committed that fraud, and we ought to stop it.

We ought to fix this. Americans ought to expect us to fix it. The doctors expect us to fix it. Seniors expect us to fix it. What a lamentable fact that we cannot summon the courage and the judgment and the wisdom to do just that.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to read out the title of a blast that I just received from The Heritage Foundation. Some of our Members might be interested in this. "A temporary SGR patch is better than permanent deficits in support of the bill."

My colleagues, this morning, seniors are watching. This is not a game. We are thinking of seniors and certainty for them. A vote "no" today is a vote against seniors. We are not voting for the AMA today. We are voting for or against seniors today.

We will continue to work with all of our might for a permanent repeal of SGR. We have worked on this for 3 years. We must get there as soon as possible, but we are at a deadline, and this is the last vote we will have.

If you vote "no" on this bill, you are voting for more uncertainty. You are voting for a cut to doctor reimbursement. You are voting against seniors.

Let us vote for seniors this morning. Vote for H.R. 4302.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014. It is embarrassing that a year of hard work on a permanent replacement for the Sustainable Growth Rate is being thrown in the trash can for yet another politically motivated short-term fix. The American people sent us here to solve our nation's problems, not kick the can down the road yet again. Now is the time for a permanent solution to this annual problem, and the legislation before us today does nothing to give our seniors and our doctors any certainty moving forward.

Everyone in this body agrees that we need to start rewarding our doctors for the quality of their work rather than the quantity of their work. After months of hearings in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in conjunction with our colleagues on the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance, we put our heads together and came up with a common-sense proposal to pay our doctors under Medicare for the next decade. Everyone agrees that this policy makes sense and should be adopted. We have work to do to find pay-fors for the legislation, but that is not an insurmountable task. Congress should be moving full steam ahead to find offsets for the policy we all agree on, rather than doing yet another short-term patch that will make a permanent fix more expensive and ultimately harder to attain.

Our constituents are tired of gimmickry and want real results. We should not have to deal with this issue on an annual basis. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against H.R. 4302 and instead come together to find the necessary offsets to make a permanent fix to the Sustainable Growth Rate a reality.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I oppose this bill because we need to provide a permanent solution rather than just a band-aid approach to maintaining seniors' access to quality health care.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 4302, the so-called "Protecting Access to Medicare Act," which extends current Medicare physician reimbursement rates for one year.

I strongly support providing adequate compensation to our physicians who serve Medicare patients. Medicare patients in every state

make up 10% or more of those who have health insurance.

I oppose H.R. 4302 because it does not provide a long-term fix for Medicare payments to physicians, and the misvalued services under the physician payment system has not been addressed.

The core purpose of the bill is found in its name, the "Sustainable Growth Rate," but that purpose is not being met because the reimbursement rate to physicians is not sustainable for a robust medical care safety net for our nation's seniors.

CMS has made changes to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and other Medicare payment policies to improve efficiency and accuracy in Medicare payment and the quality of care for our beneficiaries.

CMS has improved payment for primary care services, while enhancing efforts to address payment for misvalued services under the physician payment system.

CMS has begun to implement important delivery system reforms included in the Affordable Care Act, which includes the value-based payment modifier that provides incentives for physicians and physician groups to furnish high-quality, efficient care.

Congress needs to do its part in implementing a reimbursement rate that reflects the reality of providing the care our nation's seniors need and expect.

Medicare patients and the medical payments made to their physicians and medical service providers' is critical to our nation's health care economy.

It is important for our seniors to know that Medicare will be there when they need it. But it is equally important that there are physicians who are willing to attend to them without going broke.

That is why we have a Sustainable Growth Rate or "SGR." Medicare reimbursement enables rural physicians and hospitals to remain open for business.

This bill should not impose another round of arbitrary provider payment reductions to maintain a dysfunctional policy that many member of this House knows should be ended.

This bill undermines the future passage of the framework that was part of the original bipartisan SGR bill that the House had the chance to vote on earlier this month.

We should return to that bill and pass it without any gimmicks so that the modernization of the Medicare health care delivery and payment innovations that can strengthen the program can be implemented.

Mr. Speaker, I have always strongly supported providing adequate compensation to our physicians who serve Medicare patients because it is important for our seniors to know that Medicare will be there when they need it.

Thus, it is critical that we not disrupt timely and adequate payment to Medicare providers.

The bill before us will provide payment certainty for one year, but only for one year. This is not acceptable—if we do not press the issue of reform now—when will it be addressed?

This is better than nothing but what must really be done to provide our seniors and physicians the certainty and security they deserve is to reach an agreement on a permanent replacement for the SGR that is fair, responsible, and fiscally sustainable.

Instead of wasting time trying to repeal, impede, or undermine the Affordable Care Act, or making it more difficult for physicians who care for the elderly we should be working together to reach an agreement on a permanent replacement for the SGR and the \$138 billion in offsets needed to pay for that legislation.

That is what the American people sent us here to do.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4302, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

UKRAINE SUPPORT ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4278) to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4278

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Ukraine Support Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

Sec. 2. United States policy.

TITLE I—ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Support for democratic governance and civil society in Ukraine.

Sec. 102. Economic reform in Ukraine.

Sec. 103. United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions.

Sec. 104. Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Sec. 105. Enhanced assistance for law enforcement and the judicial system in Ukraine.

Sec. 106. Enhanced security cooperation among Central and Eastern European NATO member states.

Sec. 107. United States-Ukraine security assistance.

Sec. 108. Recovery of assets linked to corruption in Ukraine.

Sec. 109. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Sec. 110. Offset.

TITLE II—SANCTIONS PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Continuation in effect of sanctions with respect to the blocking of certain persons contributing to the situation in Ukraine.

Sec. 202. Imposition of additional sanctions on persons responsible for violence or who undermine the independence, sovereignty, or territorial or economic integrity of Ukraine.

Sec. 203. Imposition of additional sanctions on persons complicit in or responsible for significant corruption in the Russian Federation.

Sec. 204. Report on certain foreign financial institutions.

Sec. 205. Sense of Congress on human rights in the Russian Federation.

Sec. 206. Certification described and submission to Congress.

Sec. 207. Sense of Congress on suspension of all activities and meetings of the NATO-Russia Council.

Sec. 208. Definitions.

TITLE III—REPORTING PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Annual report on security developments in the Russian Federation and their effects on Ukrainian sovereignty.

Sec. 302. Presidential determination and report on compliance by Russian Federation of its obligations under INF Treaty.

Sec. 303. Report on geopolitical impact of energy exports.

Sec. 304. Amendment to the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act.

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to support the right of the people of Ukraine to freely determine their future, including their country's relationship with other nations and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries;

(2) to support the people of Ukraine in their desire to address endemic corruption, consolidate democracy, and achieve sustained prosperity;

(3) to support the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to bring to justice those responsible for the acts of violence against peaceful protestors and other unprovoked acts of violence related to the anti-government protests that began on November 21, 2013;

(4) to support the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to identify, investigate, recover, and return to the Ukrainian state assets unaccounted for under the leadership and departure from Ukraine of former President Yanukovich, his family, and other current and former members of the Ukrainian government, along with others legitimately charged by government authorities with similar offenses;

(5) to assist the Government of Ukraine in preparations for the presidential election scheduled for May 25, 2014, and to participate in efforts to ensure that this election is conducted in accordance with international standards;

(6) to promote democratic values, transparent and accountable government institutions, and advance United States national security interests through United States international broadcasting, including the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Incorporated;

(7) to support needed economic structural reforms in Ukraine, including in the fiscal, energy, pension, and banking sectors, among others;

(8) to support energy diversification initiatives to reduce Russian control of energy supplies to Ukraine and other European countries, including United States pro-

motion of increased natural gas exports to, and energy efficiency in, Ukraine, which could be enhanced by advances in new energy technologies;

(9) to condemn the armed intervention of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, including its continuing political, economic, and military aggression against that country;

(10) to work with United States allies and partners in Europe and around the world, including at the United Nations, to ensure that all nations refuse to recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and reaffirm the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine;

(11) to refuse to recognize the legitimacy of the illegal referendum in Crimea on March 16, 2014, on the status of that region of Ukraine, which was held under conditions of occupation and coercion by Russian forces;

(12) to support the deployment of international monitors to Ukraine to assess the current status of its territorial integrity and the safety of all people in Ukraine;

(13) to encourage the Government of Ukraine to continue to respect and protect the rights of all ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities;

(14) to encourage the Government of Ukraine to promote and protect the human rights, as recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of all individuals as they seek freedom, democracy, and equality under the law;

(15) to work with United States allies and partners to condemn any violation by Russian Federation occupation forces or their proxies of the rights of ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities in Crimea, including the region's Tatar population;

(16) to call on all Ukrainians to respect the legitimate government authorities, as well as all Ukrainian laws and the Constitution of Ukraine in all regions of Ukraine, including Crimea;

(17) to maintain existing sanctions against and consider all available options for further sanctions on the Russian Federation until Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity are not being violated by the Russian Federation; and

(18) to honor and abide by its commitments undertaken pursuant to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington, District of Columbia, on April 4, 1949, and entered into force on August 24, 1949.

TITLE I—ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized and encouraged to provide assistance to support democracy and civil society, including community-based and faith-based organizations, in Ukraine by undertaking the activities described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activities described in this subsection are—

(1) improving democratic governance, transparency, accountability, rule of law, and anti-corruption efforts;

(2) supporting Ukrainian efforts to foster greater unity among people and regions of the country, combat anti-Semitism and discrimination, and promote respect for religious freedom;

(3) supporting the people and Government of Ukraine in preparing to conduct and participate in free and fair elections, including through domestic and international election monitoring;

(4) assisting Ukraine in diversifying its economy, trade, and energy supplies, including at the national, regional, and local levels;

(5) strengthening democratic institutions and political and civil society organizations; and

(6) expanding free and unfettered access to independent media of all kinds in Ukraine and assisting with the protection of journalists and civil society activists who have been targeted for free speech activities.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 to carry out this section.

SEC. 102. ECONOMIC REFORM IN UKRAINE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Ukrainian economy is weak and vulnerable, as evidenced by short-term debt interest rates as high as 15 percent, a high proportion of foreign exchange-denominated government debt that will mature in 2014 and 2015, a banking sector with non-performing loans at the high level of 14 percent, a financing gap which the Government of Ukraine has estimated will amount to \$35 billion over the next two years, and a large underground economy. This economic condition undermines democratic prospects in Ukraine.

(2) Years of poor economic management and performance have undermined and may continue to undermine political stability and unity within Ukraine.

(3) On March 6, 2014, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4152, to redirect previously appropriated funds to cover the cost of roughly \$1 billion in loan guarantees for Ukraine.

(b) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It shall be the policy of the United States to work with other countries and international institutions to stabilize the Ukrainian economy, while promoting critically needed structural economic reforms in Ukraine, including—

(1) cutting the massive natural gas subsidies that have led to market inefficiencies;

(2) reducing the bloated public sector;

(3) maintaining a market-determined exchange rate;

(4) strengthening the vulnerable banking sector;

(5) promoting a robust, independent, and impartial judiciary, due process, and uniform application of law; and

(6) reducing corruption, such as by supporting reform efforts of the Government of Ukraine to pass legislation related to greater accountability for government officials, greater protection of private property, and increased transparency of government funds.

(c) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that loan guarantees provided by the United States for Ukraine should be used to promote government, banking and energy sector reform, and anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine.

SEC. 103. UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO UKRAINE AND NEIGHBORING REGIONS.

(a) **FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.**—Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The Russian Government has deliberately blocked the Ukrainian people's access to uncensored sources of information and has provided alternative news and information that is both inaccurate and inflammatory.

(2) United States international programming exists to advance the United States interests and values by presenting accurate and comprehensive news and information,

which is the foundation for democratic governance.

(3) The opinions and views of the Ukrainian people, especially those people located in the eastern regions and Crimea, are not being accurately represented in Russian dominated mass media.

(4) Russian forces have seized more than five television stations in Crimea and taken over transmissions, switching to a 24/7 Russian propaganda format; this increase in programming augments the already robust pro-Russian programming to Ukraine.

(5) United States international programming has the potential to combat this anti-democratic propaganda.

(b) **PROGRAMMING.**—Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Incorporated, and the Voice of America service to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

(1) provide news and information that is accessible, credible, and accurate;

(2) emphasize investigative and analytical journalism to highlight inconsistencies and misinformation provided by Russian or pro-Russian media outlets;

(3) prioritize programming to areas where access to uncensored sources of information is limited or non-existent, especially populations serviced by Russian supported media outlets;

(4) increase the number of reporters and organizational presence in eastern Ukraine, especially in Crimea;

(5) promote democratic processes, respect for human rights, freedom of the press, and territorial sovereignty; and

(6) take necessary preparatory steps to continue and increase programming and content that promotes democracy and government transparency in Russia.

(c) **PROGRAMMING SURGE.**—RFE/RL, Incorporated, and Voice of America programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

(1) prioritize programming to eastern Ukraine, including Crimea, and Moldova, and to ethnic and linguistic Russian populations, as well as to Tatar minorities;

(2) prioritize news and information that directly contributes to the target audiences' understanding of political and economic developments in Ukraine and Moldova, including countering misinformation that may originate from other news outlets, especially Russian supported news outlets;

(3) provide programming content 24 hours a day, seven days a week to target populations, using all available and effective distribution outlets, including—

(A) at least 8 weekly hours of total original television and video content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar languages, not inclusive of live video streaming coverage of breaking news, to be distributed on satellite, digital, and through regional television affiliates by the Voice of America; and

(B) at least 14 weekly hours the total audio content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar languages to be distributed on satellite, digital, and through regional radio affiliates of RFE/RL, Incorporated;

(4) expand the use, audience, and audience engagement of mobile news and multimedia platforms by RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, including through Internet-based social networking platforms; and

(5) partner with private sector broadcasters and affiliates to seek and start co-production for new, original content, when possible, to increase distribution.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014, in addition to funds otherwise made available for such purposes, up to

\$10,000,000 to carry out programming in the Ukrainian, Balkan, Russian, and Tatar language services of RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, for the purpose of bolstering existing United States programming to the people of Ukraine and neighboring regions, and increasing programming capacity and jamming circumvention technology to overcome any disruptions to service.

(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Foreign Relations and Appropriations of the Senate a detailed report on plans to increase broadcasts pursuant to subsections (a) and (b).

SEC. 104. OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION.

It is the sense of Congress that the Overseas Private Investment Corporation should prioritize investments in Ukraine.

SEC. 105. ENHANCED ASSISTANCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN UKRAINE.

(a) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to assist Ukraine to eliminate the human rights abuses associated with the Berkut forces in order to foster a democratically reformed police force with strong public oversight, which is critical to fostering political unity and stability throughout Ukraine; and

(2) to assist Ukraine to develop a robust, independent, and impartial judicial system at national, regional, and local levels, which is essential to ensure that the rights of all citizens are respected, and maintain appropriate checks and balances between the co-equal branches of government.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 to enhance United States efforts to assist Ukraine to strengthen law enforcement capabilities and maintain the rule of law.

SEC. 106. ENHANCED SECURITY COOPERATION AMONG CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN NATO MEMBER STATES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate United States departments and agencies, shall seek to provide enhanced security cooperation with Central and Eastern European North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member states by undertaking the activities described in subsection (b).

(b) **ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.**—The activities described in this subsection are—

(1) enhancing existing security cooperation, including defense and military-to-military cooperation, among Central and Eastern European NATO member states;

(2) enhancing security relationships among the United States, the European Union, and Central and Eastern European NATO member states;

(3) providing defense articles, defense services, and military training to Central and Eastern European NATO member states;

(4) expanding the scope and frequency of military exercises among Central and Eastern European NATO member states; and

(5) supporting greater reform, professionalism, and capacity-building efforts within the military, intelligence, and security services in Central and Eastern European NATO member states.

SEC. 107. UNITED STATES-UKRAINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) in fiscal year 2013 the United States provided Ukraine with nearly \$2,000,000 in assistance under chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347 et seq.; relating to International Military Education Training) and nearly \$7,000,000 in assistance under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763; relating to the Foreign Military Financing Program); and

(2) Ukraine has been a longstanding member of NATO's Partnership for Peace.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) United States assistance to Ukraine under chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act should be increased;

(2) consistent with section 506(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a)), the President is encouraged to draw down defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, in order to provide security assistance, which could include communication equipment, clothing, fuel and other forms of appropriate assistance, to the Government of Ukraine; and

(3) the Government of Ukraine should make greater efforts to secure the protection of classified information and military equipment.

(c) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States, in consultation with the Government of Ukraine, to enhance Ukraine's self defense, including through appropriate assistance to improve the capabilities of the country's armed forces.

(d) REVIEW OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate United States departments and agencies, shall submit to Congress a report on the results of a review of all United States security assistance to the Government of Ukraine.

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 108. RECOVERY OF ASSETS LINKED TO CORRUPTION IN UKRAINE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administration should provide expedited assistance to the Government of Ukraine through appropriate United States Government and multilateral programs, including the Department of Justice's Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative, the Egmont Group, the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network, and the Asset Recovery Focal Point Initiative, to identify, investigate, secure, and recover assets missing from the Government of Ukraine or linked to purported acts of corruption by former President Viktor Yanukovich, members of his family, other former or current senior foreign political figures of the Government of Ukraine, and their accomplices in any jurisdiction.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "senior foreign political figure" has the meaning given the term in section 208.

SEC. 109. EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Article 1 of the Agreement Establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) states that the EBRD should support investments in countries that are committed to and applying the principles of multiparty democracy, pluralism, and market economics, and the EBRD has recog-

nized that Russian "progress in the application of these principles . . . has been uneven".

(2) Russia received 21 percent of the investments made by the EBRD in 2013, which is more than any other country received from the EBRD in that year, and has received an inordinate ratio of investment from the EBRD since the 2006 Capital Resources Review.

(b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) should increase investments in Ukraine and cease new investments in the Russian Federation, and the United States Government should press the EBRD to support new investment in Ukraine and halt consideration of new investment in Russia.

SEC. 110. OFFSET.

Section 102(a) of the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 8412(a); Public Law 111-73; 123 Stat. 2068) is amended by striking "\$1,500,000,000" and inserting "\$1,430,000,000".

TITLE II—SANCTIONS PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. CONTINUATION IN EFFECT OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE BLOCKING OF CERTAIN PERSONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—United States sanctions described in subsection (b), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall remain in effect until the earlier of—

(1) the date that is 90 days after the date on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees the certification described in subsection (a) of section 206 in accordance with subsection (b) of such section; or

(2) the date that is 30 days after any date subsequent to January 1, 2020, on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees in writing a determination that the termination of such sanctions imposed is in the vital national security interests of the United States.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—United States sanctions described in this subsection are sanctions imposed under the following executive orders:

(1) Executive Order 13660 (March 6, 2014; relating to blocking property of certain persons contributing to the situation in Ukraine).

(2) Executive Order 13661 (March 16, 2014; relating to blocking property of additional persons contributing to the situation in Ukraine).

(3) Executive Order 13662 (March 20, 2014; relating to blocking property of additional persons contributing to the situation in Ukraine).

SEC. 202. IMPOSITION OF ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS ON PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE OR WHO UNDERMINE THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, OR TERRITORIAL OR ECONOMIC INTEGRITY OF UKRAINE.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States to impose sanctions with respect to those individuals within and outside of the Government of the Russian Federation whom the President determines wield significant influence over the formation and implementation of Russian foreign policy, in particular with respect to the violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, democracy, and territorial integrity.

(b) CRITERIA FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—A foreign person or an alien is subject to sanctions under subsection (c) in ac-

cordance with the provisions of such subsection if the foreign person or alien, on or after November 21, 2013—

(1) is knowingly responsible for or complicit in, or engaged in, directly or indirectly—

(A) actions that significantly undermine democratic processes or institutions in Ukraine;

(B) actions that significantly threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine;

(C) acts of significant corruption in Ukraine, or the seizure or expropriation of significant economic assets from Ukraine, including the expropriation of private or state assets for personal gain, or the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of such expropriation to foreign jurisdictions; or

(D) the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Ukraine or citizens of the Russian Federation;

(2) is a current or former senior foreign political figure of the Government of the Russian Federation who has engaged in any activity described in paragraph (1);

(3) operates in the arms or related materiel sector in the Russian Federation that has engaged in any activity described in paragraph (1);

(4) is a current or former senior foreign political figure of an entity that has, or whose members have, knowingly engaged in any activity described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) or of an entity whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this section;

(5) has knowingly materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, any activity described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) or of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this section; or

(6) is owned or controlled by, or has acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this section.

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—With respect to a foreign person who the President, acting through the Secretary of the Treasury and in consultation with the Secretary of State (or their designees), determines meets the requirements described in subsection (b) (and, if the President determines such foreign person is a senior foreign political figure, such foreign person is not included in the classified annex of a report submitted to the appropriate congressional committees under subsection (e)(1)), the President, acting through the Secretary of the Treasury and in consultation with the Secretary of State (or their designees), shall to the extent necessary investigate, block during the pendency of an investigation, regulate, direct and compel, nullify, void, prevent or prohibit, any acquisition, holding, withholding, use, transfer, withdrawal, transportation, or exportation of, or dealing in, or exercising any right, power, or privilege with respect to, or transactions involving, any property or interests in property of such person to the extent such property or interests in property are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary

of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to believe, meets any of the criteria described in subsection (b) is—

(I) inadmissible to the United States;

(II) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(III) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(i) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who meets any of the criteria described in subsection (b), regardless of when issued.

(II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under subclause (I)—

(aa) shall take effect immediately; and

(bb) shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this section.

(4) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the President to impose additional sanctions pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), relevant executive orders, regulations, or other provisions of law.

(d) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (c) with respect to a foreign person or alien if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is vital to the national interest of the United States; and

(2) not less than 15 days after the waiver takes effect, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of the waiver and a justification for such waiver.

(e) REPORT.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and at least once every 180 days thereafter for a period not to exceed 2 years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed report with respect to senior foreign political figures of the Russian Federation that have been determined to have engaged in activities described in subsection (b).

(B) FORM.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(2) REQUESTS BY CHAIRPERSON AND RANKING MEMBER OF APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after receiving a written request from the chairperson and ranking member of one of the appropriate congressional committees with respect to whether a senior foreign political figure of the Russian Federation is responsible for engaging in activities described in subsection (b), the President shall submit a response to the chairperson and ranking member of the committee which made the request with respect to the status of the person.

(B) FORM.—The President may submit a response required by subparagraph (A) in classified form if the President determines that it is necessary for the national security interests of the United States to do so.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMITTED.—The term “admitted” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(13)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(13)(A)).

(2) ALIEN.—The term “alien” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(3)).

(3) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term “financial institution” has the meaning given that term in section 5312 of title 31, United States Code.

(4) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means—

(A) an individual who is not a United States person;

(B) a corporation, partnership, or other nongovernmental entity which is not a United States person; or

(C) any representative, agent or instrumentality of, or an individual working on behalf of a foreign government.

(5) PAROLED.—The term “paroled” means paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)).

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

(g) TERMINATION.—This section and any sanction imposed by this section shall remain in effect until the earlier of—

(1) the date that is 90 days after the date on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees the certification described in subsection (a) of section 206 in accordance with subsection (b) of such section; or

(2) the date that is 30 days after any date subsequent to January 1, 2020, on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees in writing a determination that the termination of this section and the sanctions imposed by this section is in the vital national security interests of the United States.

SEC. 203. IMPOSITION OF ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS ON PERSONS COMPLICIT IN OR RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNIFICANT CORRUPTION IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) On March 20, 2014, the Department of the Treasury designated four individuals and

one financial institution for acting for or on behalf of or materially assisting, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, a senior official of the Government of the Russian Federation.

(2) Widespread corruption at senior levels of the Government of the Russian Federation, in combination with the suppression of political freedoms and the concentration of enormous wealth in the hands of individuals exercising extensive influence over government policy, has contributed to the establishment of an authoritarian system that does not respect the rights of the Russian people.

(b) AUTHORITY FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

(1) ASSET BLOCKING.—The President, acting through the Secretary of the Treasury and in consultation with the Secretary of State (or their designees), is authorized to impose sanctions described in paragraph (1)(A) of section 202(c) in accordance with the provisions of such section against a foreign person if the foreign person is a senior foreign political figure or a close associate of such senior foreign political figure with respect to whom the President, acting through the Secretary of the Treasury and in consultation with the Secretary of State (or their designees), determines meets one or more of the criteria described in subsection (c).

(2) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—The Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) is authorized to impose sanctions described in paragraph (1)(B) of section 202(c) in accordance with the provisions of such section against an alien if the alien is a senior foreign political figure or a close associate of such senior foreign political figure with respect to whom the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to believe, meets one or more of the criteria described in subsection (c).

(c) CRITERIA FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The criteria described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The foreign person or alien is responsible for, or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, acts of significant corruption in the Russian Federation, including the expropriation of private or public assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, bribery, or the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption to foreign jurisdictions.

(2) The foreign person or alien has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, an act described in paragraph (1).

(d) WAIVER.—The waiver provisions of subsection (d) of section 202 shall apply with respect to this section and any sanction imposed by this section to the same extent and in the same manner as such waiver provisions apply to section 202 and any sanction imposed by such section.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “foreign person” and “alien” have the meanings given such terms in section 202(f).

SEC. 204. REPORT ON CERTAIN FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) On February 26, 2014, the Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network advised United States financial institutions of their responsibility to

take reasonable, risk-based steps regarding the potential suspicious movement of assets related to Viktor Yanukovich departing Kyiv and abdicating his responsibilities and other senior officials resigning from their positions or departing Kyiv.

(2) United States financial institutions are required to apply enhanced scrutiny to private banking accounts held by or on behalf of senior foreign political figures and to monitor transactions that could potentially represent misappropriated or diverted state assets, the proceeds of bribery or other illegal payments, or other public corruption proceeds.

(3) On March 3, 2014, the Government of Ukraine announced that it had initiated criminal proceedings against a number of former Ukrainian officials or close associates of former Ukrainian officials.

(4) On March 5, 2014, the European Union, based on information from Ukraine's Prosecutor General, issued a Council Regulation requiring the European Union to freeze the funds and economic resources of various former Ukrainian officials and their close associates.

(5) The Government of Canada has taken similar action against the same individuals.

(6) The measures being taken against these former Ukrainian officials and their close associates increase the risk that they will seek to move their assets in a deceptive fashion.

(7) Foreign financial institutions should apply similar, enhanced due-diligence and reporting requirements.

(8) The United States has a strong interest in seeing the international financial system protected from illicit financial activity, including money laundering, terrorism and proliferation financing, transnational organized crime, and the misappropriation of state assets, and international sanctions evasion, among others.

(9) The Department of the Treasury possesses a range of authorities to insulate the United States financial system from entities or jurisdictions that pose an illicit financing risk.

(b) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It shall be the policy of the United States to use all of its regulatory and statutory authorities to closely scrutinize all foreign financial institutions, including those in the Russian Federation, that may be complicit in enabling foreign persons and transnational criminal enterprises to evade or otherwise circumvent United States and international sanctions, launder the proceeds of criminal activity, finance acts of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, or any other illicit activity that presents risks and vulnerabilities to the United States financial system.

(c) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter for a period not to exceed 2 years, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(A) foreign financial institutions that are in direct control of Government of Ukraine state-owned or controlled assets in a manner determined by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to be contrary to the interests of the Government of Ukraine;

(B) foreign financial institutions determined by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to be complicit in illicit financial activity, including money laundering, terrorism and proliferation fi-

nancing, transnational organized crime, or misappropriation of state assets, that are—

(i) organized under the laws of the Russian Federation; or

(ii) owned or controlled by a foreign person described in section 202(b); and

(C) foreign financial institutions that are directly or indirectly assisting or otherwise aiding the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, including the Crimea.

(2) **FORM.**—The report required to be submitted under this subsection shall be submitted in an unclassified form, to the extent appropriate, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 205. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

It is the sense of Congress that the President should greatly expand the list of 18 Russian officials and others published on April 12, 2013, who were engaged in actions described in section 404 of the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112-208; 22 U.S.C. 5811) regarding the death of Sergei Magnitsky, illegal activity by officials of the Government of the Russian Federation, or violations of human rights and other offenses in Russia.

SEC. 206. CERTIFICATION DESCRIBED AND SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A certification described in this section is a certification of the President to Congress that Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity is not being violated by the Russian Federation or any other state actor.

(b) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall submit the certification described in subsection (a) to the appropriate congressional committees in writing and shall include a justification for the certification.

(2) **FORM OF CERTIFICATION.**—The certification described in subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 207. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SUSPENSION OF ALL ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS OF THE NATO-RUSSIA COUNCIL.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should work to temporarily suspend all activities and meetings of the NATO-Russia Council.

SEC. 208. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—Except as otherwise provided, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(B) Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(2) **SENIOR FOREIGN POLITICAL FIGURE.**—The term “senior foreign political figure” has the meaning given the term in section 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

TITLE III—REPORTING PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. ANNUAL REPORT ON SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THEIR EFFECTS ON UKRAINIAN SOVEREIGNTY.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than September 30, 2014, and September 30 of each year thereafter through 2020, the Secretary of State

shall submit to the specified congressional committees a report, in both classified and unclassified form, on the current and future security and foreign policy posture of the Russian Federation (in this section referred to as “Russia”).

(b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the security situation in regions neighboring Russia, including Crimea.

(2) The goals and factors shaping the security strategy of the Government of Russia, including potential annexation of non-Russian territory.

(3) Trends in Russian security behavior that would be designed to achieve, or that are consistent with, the goals described in paragraph (2).

(4) An assessment of the global and regional security objectives of the Government of Russia, including objectives that would affect the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Middle East, or the People's Republic of China.

(5) A detailed assessment of the sizes, locations, and capabilities of the nuclear, special operations, land, sea, and air forces of the Government of Russia and how they affect neighboring countries, including Ukraine.

(6) Developments in Russian military doctrine and training and whether the developments have differed from before the annexation of Crimea.

(7) Other security developments involving Russia that the Secretary of State considers relevant to United States national security.

(c) **SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “specified congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

SEC. 302. PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION AND REPORT ON COMPLIANCE BY RUSSIAN FEDERATION OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER INF TREATY.

(a) **FINDING.**—Congress finds that there are reports that the Russian Federation is in material breach of its obligations under the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, commonly referred to as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that includes a determination as to whether or not the Russian Federation is in material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(2) **ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—If the President determines that the Russian Federation is in material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty, the report shall also include the following:

(A) A description of the measures taken to hold the Russian Federation accountable for its violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(B) A description of the measures being taken to ensure that the Russian Federation completely and verifiably eliminates any military system that constitutes a material

breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(3) FORM.—The report required by this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 303. REPORT ON GEOPOLITICAL IMPACT OF ENERGY EXPORTS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department of State's Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed, quantitative, and substantive report on the potential short, medium, and long-term impacts of increased United States natural gas and oil exports on Russia's economic and political influence over Ukraine and other European countries.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

SEC. 304. AMENDMENT TO THE IRAN, NORTH KOREA, AND SYRIA NONPROLIFERATION ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Iran continues its longstanding effort to obtain banned components for its nuclear and missile programs in violation of its obligations under successive United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

(2) Russian entities, including Rosoboronekspert, have been sanctioned with respect to proliferation activities, particularly sanctions under the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act (Public Law 106-178; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(3) The Department of State must expeditiously restore the deterrent effect of the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act by fully applying and enforcing such Act.

(b) AMENDMENT.—Section 2 of the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act (Public Law 106-178; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) PLAN TO EXPEDITE REPORTS AND SANCTIONS UNDER THIS ACT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the Ukraine Support Act, the President shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations in the Senate, a plan, to include specific timetables, to expedite the implementation of this Act with respect to submission of reports required under subsection (a) and the application of measures to certain foreign persons under section 3.

“(2) SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SYRIA.—In the submission of reports required under subsection (a) and in accordance with the plan required under paragraph (1), the President is encouraged to place a special emphasis on any foreign person in Russia, including any Russian Federation official, that is engaged in any activity described in subsection (a) with respect to the government of President Bashar al-Assad and any affiliates thereof.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude or exempt the President from fulfilling or otherwise deviating from the requirements under subsection (b).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, President Vladimir Putin's decision to forcibly annex Crimea was based on his calculation that the price would be bearable.

Now, in fact, Russia is susceptible to pressure. Seventy percent of all the exports from Russia are from oil and gas; 52 percent of the budget that goes to the power behind Mr. Putin's military and his government comes from that monopoly pricing on natural gas. That supplies the budget for Russia. That is what gives him the power to manipulate the situation, the monopoly over gas that he has in Eastern Europe, to manipulate this situation with respect to Ukraine.

If we want to check aggression from Russia, we must push back, and we must work together quickly, not only to confront this monopoly circumstance that exists there, but also to quickly impose tough sanctions on President Putin and on those who have been his accomplices in carrying out this aggression.

Diplomatically, our European allies have helped to eject Russia from the G8 and have suspended all other engagement with Russia until this crisis is peacefully resolved. Economically, they have also imposed sanctions, including asset freezes and visa bans, against many Russian leaders. Our targets must include government officials as well as those who hold no formal position but who, nevertheless, exercise great influence over President Putin's policy and have supported aggression. That includes the so-called oligarchs and others who have amassed enormous wealth through corruption and through other illegitimate means.

We must make clear that if they do not end this crisis—which they have deliberately created, by the way—or if they choose to go even further, then we and our allies will ratchet up the sanctions pressure.

We must also move quickly to strengthen Ukraine by reinforcing its sovereignty, its independence and territorial integrity, and assist the new government in meeting the enormous challenges it faces.

This bill provides assistance to strengthen civil society in Ukraine, to combat corruption, to help recover as-

sets stolen by former Ukrainian officials, to reform the police and the justice sector, to promote the independent media, to strengthen Ukraine's defense, and to help prepare for the run-up to the Presidential election, which is scheduled now on May 25.

And I will add that, in several weeks, I will be leading a bipartisan delegation from this House, with the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), to Ukraine. And I will add that his forefathers, in fact, come from Ukraine. We will be there to meet with the Parliament, the leadership, and the electoral commission in advance of that election.

This bill also directs the assistance already approved by the House to help get the Ukrainian economy back on its feet, including by promoting fundamental economic reforms in the country. Those tough reforms will be essential.

Mr. Speaker, Moscow is using propaganda to sow confusion and fear and unrest inside Ukraine right now, which it then exploits to justify its actions. To counter that effort, this legislation enhances funding for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Voice of America to expand broadcasting in the Russian language, in Ukrainian, in Tatar in order to provide the accurate news and information on the ground across Ukraine. No amount of aid will help Ukraine if Russian propaganda rules the day.

Another priority must be to end Russia's ability to use its energy reserves to blackmail Ukraine and other countries, including many of our NATO allies. Russia supplies 100 percent of Lithuania's natural gas. Well, it might not be that surprising, then, that Lithuania pays the highest price for gas of any country in Eastern Europe. And it supplies two-thirds of Poland's gas.

Energy sales earn Russia not only dollars, but they earn Russia influence because Russia, in the dead of winter, has turned off the valves. Russia's state-controlled gas company, Gazprom, threatened to cut off supplies to Ukraine earlier this month, as it did during the winters of 2006 and 2009. Gazprom has stated that it is preparing to double the price Ukraine pays for its natural gas, which could cripple the country's already weak economy.

Now, we have a powerful tool to counter this pressure, one that is just waiting to be used, and that is our own energy reserves. We must remove restrictions on the export of U.S. crude oil and natural gas into Eastern Europe. We have, in fact, a letter to the Speaker of the House from the heads of state of Poland, of the Czech Republic, of Slovakia, of Hungary, asking us—asking us—to direct resources, to sell resources.

Listen, at the end of the day, if we do this, we end the flaring of gas here in the United States because of the glut.

We are able to help our balance of payments. It will help to reduce our deficits. It increases Russia's deficits, frankly. It produces jobs here in the United States. But it comes at a time when Vladimir Putin has a grip on the necks of the decisionmakers in Eastern Europe with respect to his power on monopoly over gas.

Lifting, frankly, these self-imposed sanctions on ourselves in terms of not exporting our excess gas would not only boost the U.S. economy and create American jobs, as I indicated, but would reduce the energy revenues that comprise 52 percent of the budget for the military and the government in Russia. We must break Putin's energy grip over Ukraine and Eastern Europe. This is a strategic issue.

I am pleased, by the way, to have worked closely with Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL of New York and with all of the members of the committee to produce this strong, effective, and much-needed bipartisan bill, and I look forward to its passage today and to working with our Senate colleagues to have the President sign the bill into law as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2014.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 4278, the "Ukraine Support Act," which the Committee on Foreign Affairs ordered reported favorably on March 25, 2014. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 4278 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4278 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4278, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 4278.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 4278, the Ukraine Support Act, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill. The suspension text contains edits to portions of the bill within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary that were requested by your committee.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4278 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on the Judiciary as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2014.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: On March 25, 2014, the Committee on Foreign Affairs considered H.R. 4278, the Ukraine Support Act, and ordered it, as amended, to be reported favorably to the House. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions of the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction both before and since your markup, I agree not to seek a sequential referral of the measure to my committee so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing a request for a sequential referral of H.R. 4278, as amended, at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may continue to address any issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4278, as amended, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in your committee's report to accompany the legislation and/or in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2014.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 4278, the Ukraine Support Act, and for agreeing to forgo a sequential referral request on that bill. The suspension text contains edits to portions of the bill within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services that were requested by your committee.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4278 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on the Financial Services as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2014.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H.R. 4278, the "Ukraine Support Act," which was favorably reported out of your Committee on March 25, 2014.

Given that certain provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I appreciate that you have addressed these provisions in response to the Committee's concerns. As a result, in order to expedite floor consideration of the bill, the Committee on Ways and Means will forgo action on H.R. 4278. Further, the Committee will not oppose the bill's consideration on the suspension calendar, based on our understanding that you will work with us as the legislative process moves forward to ensure that our concerns continue to be addressed. This is also being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4278, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2014.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 4278, the Ukraine Support Act,

and for agreeing to forgo a sequential referral request on that bill. The suspension text contains edits to the bill related to the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Ways and Means that were requested by your committee.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4278 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on the Ways and Means as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 4278, the Ukraine Support Act.

Let me begin by thanking the chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROYCE, for his strong leadership on Ukraine. As always, he is working with us in a bipartisan and constructive manner on this very important and timely bill. I am very pleased to be the lead Democratic cosponsor. I would also like to thank my other Democratic and Republican colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee for their important contributions.

The United States has long been a steadfast supporter of a democratic, prosperous, and independent Ukraine, and with the people of Ukraine now in dire need of assistance and under imminent threat, there has never been a more critical moment to show our support.

President Putin's invasion of Crimea is a flagrant violation of international law and Russia's commitments to its neighbor. The phony and illegal referendum Putin orchestrated at the barrel of a gun has resulted in the first outright annexation of territory in Europe since the end of World War II. And now Putin is amassing troops on Ukraine's border, threatening to seize more Ukrainian territory and incite further violence and conflict.

Putin's destabilizing and dangerous moves threaten not only Ukraine, but other states in the region, including Moldova and Georgia and, indeed, all of Europe. The United States, our European partners, and the entire international community must take a stand against Putin's naked aggression.

This legislation reaffirms our strong support for the people of Ukraine at this critical time. It authorizes assistance for Ukraine as it attempts to right its struggling economy, increase energy security, strengthen civil society, and prepare for democratic elec-

tions this spring. It supports Ukraine's efforts to recover missing assets, to bolster the rule of law, and to professionalize its law enforcement. It supports additional broadcasting to Ukraine—and Chairman ROYCE has been a champion of that—and other countries in the region to counter the dangerous and hateful propaganda coming from the Kremlin and its media outlets. And it endorses the deployment of significant numbers of international monitors throughout Ukraine to help reduce tensions and ensure the security of all Ukrainians.

The legislation also sends a clear message to Putin and his cronies that their landgrab and reckless actions will have serious consequences. Specifically, it supplements the President's efforts to sanction those responsible for violating Ukraine's sovereignty and international integrity, looting Ukraine's economy, and violating human rights in Ukraine.

And here I would like to applaud President Obama for imposing measures which have already impacted Putin's inner circle, for taking the lead in suspending Russia's participation in the G8, and for rallying support and coordinating actions with our European partners and others throughout the world.

Finally, the bill expresses support for continuing U.S. security assistance to Ukraine and reaffirms our commitment to the security of NATO, the security of our NATO partners in Eastern and Central Europe.

Mr. Speaker, the coming days, weeks, and months will be very difficult for Ukraine. Its leaders must continue the process of reconciliation and reach out to all regions of the country. They must scrupulously respect minority and human rights, and they must make the hard decisions and take the difficult steps that will return their country to political and economic health. And they must do all of this in the face of opposition and likely provocations from Putin and his cronies.

But as they do so, they and the people of Ukraine should know that they have our support. By passing this bill, we are making clear that the United States stands with Ukraine, that we are committed to helping its people build a more democratic, prosperous, secure, and just state for themselves and their children.

You know, if we continue to work with Ukraine and continue to help Ukraine and turn them westward, rather than eastward, then Putin will have lost. He may have a landgrab in Crimea, but he will lose the rest of Ukraine. And we should be doing everything possible to make sure that our European allies are working closely with Ukraine, offering them the incentives they need so that they will look westward and not eastward.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Finally, I want to say, foreign policy should be bipartisan whenever possible. I think this is bipartisanship as its best.

□ 1045

We send a clear message to the people of Ukraine that the United States stands with them. It is not a Republican or a Democratic stand. It is an American stand, and I am proud to be part of it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), our respected majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, the gentleman from California.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the Ukraine Support Act. Vladimir Putin's recent military invasion and illegal annexation of Crimea stand in direct violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and international law. His aggression may only continue unless we in America, along with our allies, respond with strength.

Newspaper reports indicate that Putin may not be content with swallowing Crimea whole and that he is now amassing troops on the border with eastern Ukraine and may soon have his eyes on Moldova.

The eyes of the world are on the United States and our EU and NATO partners. Adversaries and allies around the world are watching to see how we respond to this outrageous provocation, to see whether we mean it when we say Putin's actions are unacceptable.

It is vitally important that the United States, in conjunction with our EU and NATO allies, send an unmistakable signal that this aggression will not be tolerated. Together we must be prepared to exact a significant cost for Russia's behavior and that Mr. Putin's actions will be met with the firmest of resolve.

This bill is a first step towards supporting the Ukrainians and our Central and Eastern European partners and imposing truly significant costs on Moscow—but it is only a first step. We must fundamentally reassess our assumptions about Russia and acknowledge that Putin himself scrapped the administration's "reset" policy a long time ago. We need a new strategy that understands Putin for who he is, not who we wish him to be.

We need a new grand strategy. We need a foreign policy that stands up for our allies and stands up to our adversaries. We need to prioritize defense in our budget so that we maintain a military that can respond promptly to contingencies around the world and that instills fear in our enemies while reassuring our allies.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this bill, modest though it may be, will prove to be the

first step on a long march to restore America's defenses and alliances. Now, more than ever, the threats to the very fabric of the international system require an America that leads.

I want to thank very much the gentleman from California, Chairman ROYCE, and Ranking Member ENGEL and the rest of the Committee on Foreign Affairs for their bipartisan work and for all of their efforts on this issue. I urge my colleagues in the House to support our friends in Ukraine by passing this bill.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), a very distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. I also congratulate the ranking member, Mr. ENGEL, and the chairman, Mr. ROYCE, for their bipartisan leadership on this critical, critical resolution.

Mr. Speaker, apparently, once a KGB agent, always a KGB agent. Mr. Putin seems to have learned nothing from history other than that there is power at the end of the barrel of a gun. To cite the fact that there are Russian speakers in Crimea as a rationale for one of the most audacious power grabs of the 21st century—in Europe, no less—forgets history.

Let us not forget that Crimea was settled by Stalin when he expelled and executed the native Tatars, and this recent so-called referendum in Crimea was also done at the end of the barrel of a gun.

Russian interests were never threatened in the Crimea after the revolution in Kiev. The new government in Kiev never abrogated the treaty that allowed Russia naval privileges through 2042. The Ukrainians didn't occupy military stations in Crimea and around the region. It was the other way around.

For the United States and its allies to allow this naked aggression to go unaddressed would be truly an abrogation of our moral responsibility and would be to turn our backs on the very lessons we should have learned from the 20th century's tragic history.

Mr. Speaker, we need to stop talking about the he-better-not-go-further argument. I am stuck at Crimea, and I hope my colleagues are, too. It is wrong. It cannot be allowed to stand, and we must make him pay a price.

The difference between now and Stalin's time is that his economy is integrated into the global economy. The ruble will fall. The stock market in Russia will pay a price, and investment will suffer because we will help make it so unless he relents, until they pay a price that is so great—systematic and comprehensive—that he will understand that we no longer operate by the rule of the jungle in Europe or, indeed, anywhere else on this planet, not with our blessing and not with our apology.

So I strongly support the legislation before us and urge my colleagues to join with all of us in telling Mr. Putin we will not stand idly by with history doomed to repeat itself.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Ukraine Support Act. I want to thank my friends and colleagues, Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL, for introducing this comprehensive legislation to support Ukraine in its urgent effort to meet its current crisis, including by building up its democratic institutions.

Mr. Speaker, Russia's landgrab in Crimea violates the core principles of several bilateral and multilateral agreements and treaties between Ukraine and Russia, the Budapest Memorandum, and the United Nations Charter, as well as the Helsinki Final Act. This legislation includes strong sanctions against Russians directly responsible for the aggression.

H.R. 4278 also authorizes targeted sanctions against Ukrainians involved in undermining the democratic processes and provides assistance to the Ukrainian Government for identifying and recovering stolen assets. It is, after all, these criminal officials, including and especially Yanukovich and his cronies, who have so harmed the Ukrainian people and placed the country in the vulnerable position which Russia has exploited.

Another key provision of the bill provides support for Ukraine's democracy and civil society; and I want to here recognize the importance of supporting, as well, the faith-based groups and organizations that played such a prominent role, particularly on the humanitarian side, in supporting the movement for democracy and the rule of law.

The Ukrainian democracy movement is, in large part, a religious movement. Orthodox and Catholic clergy, for example, were prominent in the protests, and the drama of priests carrying icons confronting soldiers became as much a symbol of the democratization movement as anything else. And, again, when people were wounded and when people were being dragged away, it was the clergy that tried to step in to mitigate the violence against them.

Let me also point out a Catholic News Service article that just hit the wire that points out that members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church are fleeing Crimea to escape threats of arrest and property seizures.

Father Milchakovskiy, a parish rector in Crimea, said:

The situation remains very serious, and we don't know what will happen—the new government here is portraying us all as nationalists and extremists.

The article also says:

Officials from Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, had called him in for questioning about his community and to ask whether or not he "recognized the new order."

He pointed out that one priest in particular was actually beaten by Russian forces. And, again, Members will recall, and I remember during the 1980s when I first came here, how so many within the church, including the orthodox church, were beaten and sent to the gulag because of their religious faith. This could be the harbinger of a new wave of repression against people of faith. The Ukrainian Catholic Church, by way of reminder, was one of those churches that was outlawed during Soviet times, and now we see the same kind of repetition of that kind of repression.

This legislation is a clear step in the right direction. No piece of legislation will do it all. We have to appeal to the Russians to stop this, but, again, to cease their persecution of people in the Crimea.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend, the ranking member, Mr. ENGEL from New York, and I thank Mr. ROYCE, the chairman of the committee, for bringing this bill to the floor and working in a bipartisan fashion to effect an objective that I strongly support. I thank both of them for their work.

Mr. Speaker, the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine is unacceptable and a gross violation of international law. I agree with President Obama that Russia is acting from a position of weakness, however. Strong nations do not invade and annex territory from their smaller neighbors by force, and strong nations do not suppress the free expression of ideas and the voices of dissent within their own society. Those are the hallmarks not of a great nation but of an insecure bully.

Great nations are those that stand together to reaffirm the principles of liberty and international order. Great nations are those that commit to peaceful diplomacy while protecting free and open debate among our citizens.

The American people continue to stand with the people of Ukraine, Mr. Speaker, because we believe they have a right to join the nations of the world that are free and able to shape their own future. That is why, through this bill, we pledge our support as the new government in Kiev works to stabilize its economy, provide security to its citizens, and ensure that all Ukrainians are afforded the opportunities that

come with vibrant, democratic institutions and basic freedoms. That is what this bill offers the people of Ukraine.

What it offers President Putin and his associates is an opportunity to end their misguided, unjustified, and the illegal incursion into Ukraine's internal affairs, because it affords them a choice, Mr. Speaker: adhere to international law and end their aggression or face increasingly punitive sanctions that will further isolate Russia from the global community.

The one item missing from this otherwise strong bill, unfortunately, is ratification of IMF quota reform, and I hope the House will take action on that piece soon.

However, this is a good bill. We ought to support this bill. We ought to pass this bill and send Mr. Putin a clear message that the United States Congress and the Nation we represent will not stand for Russia's actions and that we are ready to help Ukraine reach for the future it so richly deserves.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation, and I realize that I am a lone voice—or almost a lone voice—in this discussion today.

I see this legislation as a bipartisan green light to reigniting the cold war. Unfortunately, many of my friends and colleagues, both colleagues today and my friends from the time when I spent in the Reagan White House, 7 years, many of these people feel that the cold war is not over, that it never did end. They are more comfortable with treating Russia as if it were still under Communist rule. Well, Putin is not a Communist leader. Putin is a nationalist who loves his country and he is looking out for the national interests of his country. For us to try to demonize him and to try to suggest that he is doing this as he did in the cold war and he is still KGB, et cetera, is not doing the cause of peace any good.

This is what started this whole slide in the wrong direction toward the type of confrontation we are having today. In Ukraine, a democratically elected President was removed from power, and that was a democratically elected President who is more inclined towards better relations with Russia. He was removed from power. And then the Russian Government, under Mr. Putin, decided to ensure the people of Crimea the right to self-determination. Because even Secretary of State Kerry has verified and testified before our committee that the people of Crimea obviously want to be part of Russia, this is not a power grab.

□ 1100

This is defending their right to self-determination, and certainly the peo-

ple of Crimea have the right to make that determination just as the people of Kosovo had their right to leave Serbia behind.

Our military action there to try to protect the right of self-determination of the Kosovars, it cost many, many lives. This Russian military move, with all this power grab, et cetera, has resulted in the loss of one life. That is in stark contrast to when we bombed Belgrade, we bombed Serbia.

No, we should not permit ourselves to reignite a cold war. We should make sure that we realize that the actions we are taking here suggesting the United States must rush in and be the arbiter in every one of these type of conflicts is always stretching our budget. But in this particular bill, we are going to put our name on a loan of \$800 billion to a country that we are going have to borrow the money from China to get.

The United States can no longer afford to right every wrong in the world and be the arbiter. In this case we would be arbitrating in the wrong direction.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, part of our problem here is with President Putin's definition of what is the Russian Nation in his speech to the Duma. When he says the Russian Nation is divided by borders, he is sending a message that, with respect not just to Crimea but other areas throughout Europe, Russia may be staking a claim.

Here is the difficulty. In Crimea, yes, the population today is majority ethnic Russian, but there was a time when, before Joe Stalin moved a wide segment of the Tatars population into Siberia and before the forced collectivization, there was a time when the majority population was very different than it is today. Fifty-six percent of that ethnic group perished. But this is a problem that we also have in Eastern Europe and in eastern and southern Ukraine, because you had some 8 million Ukrainians also perish during Stalin's rule, and ethnic Russians came into that area as a consequence.

The thing we need to remember is that it is, in fact, the Russian-speaking population in the east, as well as the Ukrainians speaking in the west, that voted for independence for Ukraine, that voted strongly to have a separate state. And if this issue is allowed to stand without the world responding, the question is: Is that argument then made in Latvia and Estonia? Is that argument then made in Latvia and Estonia? Is that argument made in all of the former Russian states?

I do not think in any way this is comparable to Kosovo. In Kosovo, NATO responded to a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing by former Yugoslavian forces. In Crimea, Russia attempted to justify its actions by fabri-

cating the myth of widespread violence against the ethnic Russian population, even going as far as to equate it to the bloodshed occurring in Syria. Clearly, this is not true. We know it is not true.

In terms of the election itself, opponents were silenced. International monitors were barred. Crimean Tatars themselves boycotted the very election. Voters were not given the option of preserving Crimea's current status within Ukraine. Independence and de facto independence were the only options, and the bogus vote there was also unnecessary because the Ukrainian Government had made it clear that it was willing to discuss increased autonomy for Crimea.

Now, here is the problem going forward. We know the view taken internationally on this subject. The U.N. Security Council condemned Russia's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine, and Russia stood alone—stood absolutely alone in this case—because even Ukrainians themselves have gone to the sites of the Russian media-reported attacks against ethnic Russian minorities to show that that is not occurring. That is, in fact, propaganda. We can't let this stand.

One of the other things we are doing in this bill is improving our broadcasting into Ukraine and the region to dispel these myths and spread the truth about the situation there.

So I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the managers of this legislation, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for their leadership and for their commitment, as I acknowledge the other body as well.

This morning, a bright announcement came from Mr. Putin that he was drawing Russians to a program of exercise in the name of labor and defense. Someone said it is reminiscent of past history, when other despots drew their Nation together in massive public exercises to show the world that they were not going to be part of the world order.

I believe in peace. I believe that we should be engaged, that diplomacy is right. I also don't believe in condemnation of a Nation purely for its ideological disagreement.

In this instance, it is important for the United States to make a public stand. As a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Exchange, meeting with Europeans over the years, I know that they are proud of the democracy that they have maintained since the horrors of World War II.

Today, the United States, with the passage of this legislation, and ultimately hopefully the signing by the President, will tell the world that the United States stands firmly with its

own democratic principles. But the people of Ukraine, those in Kiev and places around, will still have the knowledge that America stands by it economically, with loan guarantees, but it also stands against a despot who has illegally moved into a sovereign Nation, with no provocation, undermining the military base of Ukraine. So I would ask my colleagues to join against a despot and for a people and support the underlying legislation.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the time, and I also thank the chairman and the ranking member for bringing this legislation to the floor in a very speedy and efficient manner.

I will also say I have great respect for my friend from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER). He knows a lot about foreign affairs, but we disagree on what the evidence shows in this particular matter.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain once said that, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme." Well, Russia is quite the poet these days.

In 2008, Russia invaded Georgia and confiscated one-third of that Nation's territory. The world watched, complained a little bit. The world moved on. There were no consequences. And the Russians, Mr. Speaker, are still there. Again, second verse, same as the first.

The "Napoleon of Siberia" has invaded Ukraine and seized Crimea. Putin is bent on establishing a Soviet-style empire and allegedly uniting Russian-speaking people throughout the world. Well, who knows who his next target will be. It could be our friends in Moldova, the rest of Ukraine, or Estonia.

Russia has been able to maintain dominance over the region because of its vast energy sources, especially natural gas. Six countries in Europe rely 100 percent on Russia for their natural gas. Russia uses gas as a political and economic weapon to manipulate these countries.

I was in Ukraine in winter when Russia turned off the gas for political reasons. It was cold. It was dark. This bill helps disarm that hostage tactic. It includes my amendment that commits the U.S. to helping Ukraine use American natural gas.

There must be consequences for the bully, Putin, for invading other Nations like Ukraine. Justice requires there be consequences. Mr. Speaker, justice is what we do.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire about how much time each of us has?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). The gentleman from New

York has 8 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from California's time has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from California be allowed to control 3 minutes of my remaining time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

What we are doing this morning is the Congress at its best. What we are doing this morning is standing up to a bully and telling him that his actions will not stand. What we are doing is saying that in the 21st century it is no longer acceptable for dictators to invade other countries.

What we are saying to the people of Ukraine is that we stand behind you, we are with you, we haven't forgotten you, and we are going to do everything possible to make you whole again. We are going to do everything possible to let you know the West wants to partner with you. We are going to do everything possible to stand up for freedom and democracy with you.

I think that is a very noble cause. It is not pie in the sky. No one is advocating a war with boots on the ground against Russia, but we are advocating that there have to be some standards in the world.

If we let Putin get away with this, then it sends a green light to Putin that he can continue to do this and to every other despot and dictator around the world that they can do whatever they like and the world is just indifferent or too afraid to act.

I think this is an opportunity, and I think that this is a time when one day we will be able to say to our grandchildren that we acted together.

I want to again commend Chairman ROYCE for working with me in a bipartisan fashion. We will be going to Ukraine together in a few short weeks to show the Ukrainian people that America stands with them.

I urge my colleagues again to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important bipartisan bill. I commend Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for bringing this measure forward.

Today's legislation makes clear that, as a Nation, we speak with one voice regarding Russia's aggression.

The situation in Ukraine is undoubtedly complex. The history between Crimea and Russia dates back centuries. Close to 60 percent of the population identifies as ethnic Russians.

Several facts are clear: Russia has massed troops and perpetrated a breach

of international law with its unwarranted aggression.

The elections in Crimea took place under an illegal occupation. It did not resemble anything close to a real election. Consequently, the results should not and cannot be recognized.

Lastly, there is little doubt that if the world does not act, Russia's territorial aggression will expand and continue. Whatever the complexities, this invasion of a sovereign country is not justified, period.

Today's bill makes clear America will not tolerate Russia's territorial aggression in Ukraine or elsewhere. I urge my colleagues to support it.

□ 1115

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill.

As Ukraine is fighting for its independence and the people of Ukraine are fighting to preserve and to deepen their democracy, we must stand squarely with them. It has been said here, including by the majority leader, that this is a first step.

I would like to make very clear, we really should be taking, in this bill, another step; we should be providing, in this bill, as was proposed in the Senate and by many of us, some assistance to make sure that the IMF can perform its fullest role.

That was the preference of President Obama. He made it clear we should act, the U.S. We should also be able to help the IMF to act as fully and effectively as possible.

So I think, today, instead of anybody here coming and criticizing the President, they should essentially be supporting him in his efforts to have the fullest array of assistance to Ukrainian democracy.

If this is only the first step, let's take some additional steps and stand together on a bipartisan basis, instead of at times, I think, taking partisan shots verbally at the President of the United States.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the esteemed ranking member of New York (Mr. ENGEL), a dear friend, for yielding time in support of the

Ukraine Support Act, H.R. 4278, and for his leadership from the time we traveled to Ukraine together well over a decade ago; and to Congressman ROYCE, the chairman of the committee, to reaffirm America's strong support for liberty and the people of Ukraine at this really critical time in world history and the history of Central and Eastern Europe.

The assistance that is contemplated here is in the form of a loan guarantee and will aid Ukraine's efforts to recover its own missing assets to pay the money back. Ukraine is fully capable of earning its way forward. It is already the third largest grain exporter in the world, so this is nothing that can't be repaid.

In addition, the bill authorizes \$10 million for international broadcasting to Ukraine. I can guarantee you—I did an interview with Voice of America about a week ago—I received emails from people in Ukraine. They are waiting to hear the song of liberty.

Let us sing it loudly by passing this legislation quickly on a bipartisan basis and stand for freedom when it matters most.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, let me, again, say what a pleasure it is to work with Chairman ROYCE on a bipartisan basis. You can see, again, strong bipartisan support for this bill.

Ms. KAPTUR didn't mention that she was cochair of the Ukrainian Caucus. We have Members on both sides of the aisle all standing together to say the United States stands with the people of Ukraine. Please vote "yes."

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is not a new cold war. President Reagan ended the cold war. The way he did that, frankly, was by leading, but also with a strategy which drove down the price of oil and gas, which was the stranglehold, which not only Russia had over Eastern Europe, but also funded the ability of the former Soviet Union militarily to carry out an expansion program.

Today, you have the circumstance where President Putin relies almost solely—70 percent of the exports, 52 percent of the budget, as I indicated—from a monopoly position on oil and gas.

That is why I think it is very important that we understand what the polls and what the Hungarians understood when they exported 2 billion cubic yards of gas last year to Ukraine in order to try to keep the ability of Russia from manipulating the situation into leading to the very chaos that was brought about.

We need to understand, when the U.S.-EU annual summit just occurred and the EU asked us to be part of a program to ship gas into that market in

order to offset this monopoly control and pricing by Russia, that we should be part of this. This is part of this bill.

Also part of the bill is the important consequence of communicating to the people in that region and offsetting the propaganda that Russia right now is sending into the country.

We address that issue, as well, in this legislation, as well as good governance issues, and the steps that are needed in order to reform the economy inside Ukraine in order to set up the rule of law, independent courts.

The polls are on the ground working on this issue right now. The United States needs to support that effort. This sends one last message that, if you are in the business of helping to invade a country, there will be consequences.

I urge an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4278, the "Ukraine Support Act." I support this legislation because I stand in solidarity with the freedom loving people of Ukraine, who are under siege from Russian encroachment.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4278 authorizes \$70 million in aid to Ukraine, including \$50 million for democracy and civil society efforts.

The bill also codifies and expands sanctions imposed this month by the Obama Administration against certain Russian officials and calls on President Obama to sanction Russian officials, corporations and those engaged in the Russian arms sector who have undermined the Ukrainian government or committed human rights abuses. The President is also authorized to examine whether Russia has violated a 1988 arms treaty and permits him to freeze assets and deny visas.

Specifically, the bill authorizes \$50 million for the President to provide assistance to support democracy and strengthen civil society in Ukraine. This assistance is to be used to improve transparency, rule of law, and anti-corruption efforts; strengthen political organizations; and protect independent media as Ukraine prepares for free and fair elections in May.

Additionally, up to \$10 million is authorized for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Voice of America to increase broadcasts into eastern Ukraine (including Crimea), Moldova and other nearby ethnic Russian communities. The broadcasts should, in particular, counter misinformation from Russia-supported news outlets.

In addition to this direct aid, the bill also supports the people of Ukraine in the following ways:

1. Encourages the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) to prioritize investments in Ukraine;

2. Authorizes \$8 million to help Ukraine develop an independent judiciary and eliminate human rights abuses by law enforcement authorities;

3. Encourages increased U.S. security cooperation among NATO states in Central and Eastern Europe through military training, exercises and the exchange of defense articles, and directs the Secretary of State to report to

Congress within 30 days of enactment with a review of U.S. security assistance to that country;

4. Expresses the sense of Congress that the administration should provide expedited assistance to the Ukrainian government to identify and recover assets stolen from the government or linked to corruption by former officials, including former President Viktor Yanukovich; and

5. Offsets the cost of assistance to Ukraine by reducing the \$1.5 billion authorized for Pakistan in the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009 by \$70 million.

That is why I strongly support the codification of three Presidential executive orders issued in March sanctioning individuals involved in the violence in Ukraine or who undermine the independence, sovereignty, or territorial or economic integrity of Ukraine. Such sanctions could include the seizure of financial assets, the denial of visas, and other penalties.

The sanctions could be ended if the President certifies to Congress that Ukrainian sovereignty, independence or territorial integrity is not being violated by Russia or any other state actor, or after Jan. 1, 2020, if the President certifies that their termination is in the national security interest of the United States.

Finally, the bill requires the President, within 30 days of enactment and within 180 days thereafter for at least two years, to report to Congress on senior Russian political figures who are engaged in such activity.

It also requires the President, along identical timelines, to report to Congress on foreign financial institutions (especially Russian banks) to determine whether they are involved in the confiscation of Ukrainian assets; money laundering, terrorist or proliferation financing, or actively helping to skirt sanctions; or helping to annex Crimea.

The bill expresses the sense of Congress that the President should expand the list of Russian officials—currently at 18—sanctioned for gross human rights violations under the Magnitsky Act of 2012.

Mr. Speaker, it is right that the civilized world, led by the United States, opposes aggression and the violation of territorial sovereignty by the Putin regime.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to pass H.R. 4278.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 4278, the Ukraine Support Act. One of the many important initiatives included in this legislation is language urging the President to greatly expand the list of Russian officials and others who have been sanctioned for gross human rights violations. Until this past week, only eighteen had been sanctioned. This is unacceptable. After the recent actions of the Russian Federation, we must expand this list beyond those involved in the death of the Russian anti-corruption lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, whose imprisonment and subsequent death was the impetus for the creation of these sanctions. I am glad to hear that the President just sanctioned 20 additional individuals, freezing their assets and barring U.S. travel. However, more must be done.

Others who deserve to be held accountable for their human rights abuses include militant anti-Westerner Dmitry Kiselyov—head of the

Russian government-owned news agency and called the "Kremlin's New Chief Propagandist" by the Moscow Times—who was recently sanctioned by the European Union, and Maxim Martsinkevich, head of Neo-Nazi extremist group "Occupy Pedophilia" which has engaged in kidnapping and torture. There are others who are allies and friends of Vladimir Putin whom the Administration seems to have avoided placing on the list to avoid Russian retaliation—but it is clear a policy of appeasement has done nothing to deter Putin's government.

Last month, the State Department released its 2013 county report on human rights practices in Russia, which documented widespread human rights abuses under the Russian government. The report found that "[t]he government continued its crackdown on dissent that began after Vladimir Putin's return to the presidency," seeking "to harass, pressure, discredit, and/or prosecute individuals and entities that had voiced criticism of the government." It depicted a suppressive environment where "law enforcement personnel engaged in torture, abuse, and violence to coerce confessions from suspects," politically motivated disappearances continued to occur, and conditions in prisons could be harsh or life-threatening. The State Department noted that Russia had adopted several laws discriminating against LGBT individuals, continued to prosecute some religious minorities, and found some authorities "discriminated against ethnic minorities, arbitrarily detaining thousands of migrant workers amid a wave of anti-immigrant sentiment. Laws, actions, and official rhetoric restricting the rights of the LGBT community, migrants, and other minorities coincided with a marked increase in violent attacks against these groups."

This scathing report makes clear there are more Russian individuals who belong on the sanctioned list. I strongly urge the President to hold these human rights abusers accountable for their crimes.

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4278, the Ukraine Support Act.

This bill will send an important signal to the Ukrainian people that the United States of America will stand by them as they resist Russia's aggression. This is not just a symbolic gesture on our part. In addition to the condemnation of Russia's actions through targeted sanctions, this vital legislation provides assistance to stabilize Ukraine's economy and to support important anti-corruption initiatives.

As a great nation of over 45 million people and a breadbasket for Europe and the world, Ukraine has the potential to be a true economic powerhouse. But decades of mismanagement and corruption at the highest levels have stifled Ukraine's economic growth and military readiness.

This weakness has allowed Russia to bully its way into Ukraine's internal affairs—culminating in the recent invasion and annexation of Crimea. Although the world is condemning this illegal land grab, Russian actions continue to threaten Ukraine's prosperity and territorial integrity.

Our support is vital to ensuring that Ukraine has the ability to defend its sovereignty and strengthen its democracy in order to resist ex-

ternal coercion. By extending a hand to Ukraine, we give them the opportunity to shake off Russia's influence once and for all. The people of Ukraine, as well as Ukrainian-Americans in New Jersey and around the nation, want the United States to hold true to our values by standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Ukraine in her time of great need.

I am grateful that we can come together on a bipartisan basis to quickly bring forward this much-needed legislation. It is high time that we solidified our commitment to Ukraine. Much more remains to be done, but this bill is a step in the right direction. I urge my colleagues to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4278, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 24 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1131

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 11 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1207

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 12 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO MEDICARE ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfin-

ished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 4302) to amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UKRAINE SUPPORT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4278) to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 19, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 148]

YEAS—399

Aderholt	Carson (IN)	DeLauro
Bachmann	Carter	Denham
Bachus	Cartwright	Dent
Barber	Cassidy	DeSantis
Barletta	Castor (FL)	Deutch
Barr	Castro (TX)	Diaz-Balart
Barrow (GA)	Chabot	Dingell
Barton	Chaffetz	Doggett
Bass	Chu	Doyle
Beatty	Cicilline	Duckworth
Becerra	Clark (MA)	Duffy
Benishek	Clarke (NY)	Duncan (SC)
Bera (CA)	Clay	Edwards
Bilirakis	Cleaver	Ellison
Bishop (GA)	Clyburn	Ellmers
Bishop (NY)	Coffman	Engel
Bishop (UT)	Cohen	Enyart
Black	Cole	Eshoo
Blackburn	Collins (GA)	Esty
Blumenauer	Collins (NY)	Farenthold
Bonamici	Conaway	Farr
Boustany	Connolly	Fattah
Brady (PA)	Conyers	Fincher
Brady (TX)	Cook	Fitzpatrick
Braley (IA)	Cooper	Fleischmann
Bridenstine	Costa	Fleming
Brooks (AL)	Cotton	Flores
Brooks (IN)	Courtney	Forbes
Brown (FL)	Cramer	Fortenberry
Brownley (CA)	Crawford	Foster
Buchanan	Crenshaw	Fox
Bucshon	Crowley	Frankel (FL)
Bustos	Cuellar	Franks (AZ)
Byrne	Culberson	Frelinghuysen
Calvert	Cummings	Fudge
Camp	Daines	Gabbard
Cantor	Davis (CA)	Gallego
Capito	Davis, Danny	Garamendi
Capps	Davis, Rodney	Garcia
Capuano	DeFazio	Gardner
Cardenas	DeGette	Garrett
Carney	Delaney	Gerlach

Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)

Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam

Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southernland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (IN)

NAYS—19

Amash
Bentivolio
Broun (GA)
Burgess
DesJarlais
Duncan (TN)
Gibson
Grayson
Jones
Labrador
Massie
Mulvaney
O'Rourke
Posey
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Stockman
Yoho
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—13

Amodei
Butterfield
Campbell
Coble
DelBene
Gutiérrez
Honda
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Rush
Schwartz
Wenstrup

□ 1233

Messrs. ROKITA and YOHO changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. PALAZZO, McNERNEY, and WEBER of Texas changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes today. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote 148.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 26th, 2014 and Thursday, March 27th, 2014 I was unable to be in Washington, DC and vote on the legislative business during these two days. Unfortunately, the tragic mudslide in Snohomish County, Washington required me to return to my district to help my constituents in the aftermath of this disaster.

I would now like to submit how I would have voted had I been present.

I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 142: On Ordering the Previous Question for consideration of H. Res. 524, a resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 1459, the Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act. Had I been present I would have voted “no.”

I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 143: On Adoption of H. Res. 524, a resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 1459, a resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 1459, the Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act. Had I been present I would have voted “no.”

I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 144: On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1228, Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Had I been present I would have voted “yes.”

I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 145: On Agreeing to the Tsongas Amendment No. 3 to H.R. 1459, the Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act. Had I been present I would have voted “yes.”

I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 146: On the Motion to Recommit with Instructions H.R. 1459, the Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act. Had I been present I would have voted “yes.”

I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 147: On Passage of H.R. 1459, the Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monu-

ments Act. Had I been present I would have voted “no.”

I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 148: On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4278, Ukraine Support Act. Had I been present I would have voted “yes.”

□ 1245

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for the week to come, and I am pleased to yield to my friend, Mr. CANTOR, the majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland, the Democratic whip, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday the House is not in session. On Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business tomorrow. In addition, the House will consider an important bill next week to address the middle class squeeze by making sure that government policies do not provide incentives for employers to cut hours for their employees. H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act, sponsored by Representative TODD YOUNG of Indiana, will protect hardworking Americans from losing up to 25 percent of their wages as a direct result of ObamaCare's 30-hour rule.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I expect the House to consider the first of three budget process reform bills next week to help reduce out-of-control spending and improve accountability to the taxpayers. Representative TOM PRICE's Pro-Growth Budgeting Act, H.R. 1874, will require CBO to provide detailed information on the economic impacts of major legislation as a supplement to CBO cost estimates.

With that, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that information.

The gentleman released an agenda memo about a week ago and talked about a budget coming to the floor of the House of Representatives. My understanding is that the budget will be marked up in committee next week, and my presumption is when we come back, the budget will be on the floor. Is that correct? And if the gentleman can give me maybe some week that it will be on the floor, if not the day.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and he is correct. The Budget chairman, Mr. RYAN, intends to hold a markup next week in his committee, and the expectation is, once that markup occurs next week, that we will have the budget on the floor the following week.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for those comments.

Further, it is my understanding, Mr. Leader, that the budget number that the committee will mark to is the budget number that was included in the Ryan-Murray agreement that was adopted by the Congress and signed by the President at \$1.014 trillion in discretionary spending. Is that accurate?

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman, that is accurate.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate that that is being honored. Can the gentleman tell me whether or not the firewall that is also included in the Ryan-Murray agreement will be honored as well? The firewall, just an explanation, and I know the majority leader knows, but the firewall between discretionary defense spending and discretionary nondefense spending.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman, I have not had discussion with the chairman on that particular issue. I am aware of the gentleman's concern, and I think the gentleman represents his caucus in the desire, unfortunately, to limit the defense spending. I think the question is probably aimed at the fact that we have differences on that because, given what is going on in the world right now, I feel very strongly for the need for American military power and our ability to project that, not always necessarily to use it, but necessary in our diplomatic role as well, so I don't have an answer to the gentleman on that and refer him to the Budget chair. I am glad to engage in any conversation with him going forward.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Just to make it clear, as I know he would want me to do: I am opposed to the sequester because I think the sequester damages our national security and domestic investments. Frankly, although the 1.014 number is not the sequester number, as the gentleman knows, the following year will be the sequester number because the agreement only lasts for 2 years. My own view is that the number that we are marking to in 2015 is not substantive enough, not sufficient funds to fund the kind of national security that we need in this country, so I am in agreement with the gentleman, but it is a direct consequence, in my view, of the fiscal policies that we have been pursuing. So I want to say to my friend, the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, that we on this side—certainly me for 33 years, I have been a very strong supporter of a robust national security because I believe

that is essential if we are going to maintain freedom around the world, as well as safety here at home. I know the gentleman and I share that view, and I appreciate his view on that.

Unless he wants to respond, I will go to another issue.

As you know, we filed a discharge petition on H.R. 15, which is the comprehensive immigration bill that we have introduced that reflects, we think, a fix of a broken system, which the majority leader has made clear he shares the view that the system is broken. We would hope that that bill could be brought to the floor. We would hope that at least 218 Members would sign that. We have approximately 235 Members who have said publicly to the press and to the public that they are for comprehensive immigration reform. We would hope that that would lead them to sign the discharge petition so we in fact could bring that bill to the floor.

Does the gentleman have any idea when or if some immigration reform legislation will be brought to this floor so that we can deal with a system that is obviously causing a great deal of difficulty in our country and is, in fact, a broken system?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman, and he knows and he and I have spoken, that most of our conference feels strongly that the existing system is broken. We have got to do something about maintaining the enforcement and implementation of the law. We have to do something about the antiquated system of legal immigration to address the needs of our country.

The problem has been, Mr. Speaker, that there is a serious deterioration in the trust factor with what is going on in terms of the White House and its execution and implementation of the laws. I recall, Mr. Speaker, a prior conversation that my friend, the Democratic whip, and I have had on this floor about the trust factor. I in one instance even indicated to the gentleman that the comprehensive health care law that was passed, now in the vernacular known as ObamaCare, is an example of where we have seen that the White House has by whim, seemingly, chosen to either waive provisions, extend deadlines without consultation with Congress, seemingly without awareness of what the law says. That is not a good way to operate. It is not something that increases the confidence and trust of the American people. So I would say to the gentleman, there is no interest in picking up a comprehensive bill like that if we can't trust that once the law is set, that the White House is going to necessarily implement the law as it stands.

So I am sorry to say to the gentleman that the situation of trust is how it is, but perhaps he could do some

good by talking to the White House and telling the White House the law is the law, and for their unilateral actions taking place and failing to implement the law is a very troubling thing for a lot of us and a lot of the constituents that we represent.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, when I ask this question we usually do change the subject to get on the Affordable Care Act. There is hardly any subject that motivates my friends on the other side of the aisle more to say something than the Affordable Care Act.

If the gentleman believes that trust is the issue and that we can't trust the President to do any of the laws that we pass, then we ought to just stop doing things. As a matter of fact, that is just about what we have done, Mr. Speaker. Maybe that is the strategy—to pass message bills with no expectation that they will pass either the Senate and be signed by the President, and maybe all we are doing is treading water.

My own view would be that the American public expects more than that. If it is broken, as the gentleman says it is, and he says just now a significant number, I don't know if it is a majority of his caucus, believe it is broken, then they have passed out bills out of their committee. This is not a question of trust; this is a question of can this House act. We can't control what the President does. We can't control what the United States Senate does. But as the majority leader well knows, Mr. Speaker, in times past I have said what we can control is what we do. What we can do is pass policy that we think is good policy, or at least that a majority of us think is a good policy, to fix a system.

We believe strongly that a comprehensive immigration bill is good for this country. Not only do we believe it is morally right to do, but we also believe that economically it is right to do. In fact, CBO scores the passage of a comprehensive immigration bill as a substantial help to the budget deficit. That we take people, put them on the tax rolls, make sure they are paying the taxes that are due, and make sure that our country is getting the revenues that it should be getting from those who are working in our country.

In fact, of course, in addition to that, if you talk to many people in industry, that is why the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has urged us to pass a comprehensive reform bill, it is why the AFL-CIO has urged us to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill, and it is why the agricultural community, the growers of America, have urged us to pass a comprehensive immigration bill, and it is why farm-worker representatives have urged us to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill, and why most faith-based organizations in America have urged us to pass a comprehensive immigration bill.

I know there are some Members who would vote against it, but I urge my friend, the majority leader: bring it to the floor. I have said this before, but the Speaker made it very clear that he was going to lead this House in a way that would allow the House to work its will. If the majority of this House doesn't trust the President and they don't want to vote for H.R. 15, so be it. They will do that; they will vote "no."

But I believe there are the votes on the floor to pass comprehensive immigration reform, and the only reason it is not passing is because it is not brought to the floor. For that reason, Mr. Majority Leader, I would ask you, as respectfully as I can, to put the bill on the floor. You may well be right. Your party, which if it all votes together, could defeat a comprehensive immigration bill. If your party believes that is good policy and because of a lack of trust of the President, that should be the road that you go down, then fine. Let the American people see that.

If, however, there are at least very close to half of this House who are going to be signing that discharge petition, believe that it is good policy, and if, in fact, Speaker BOEHNER meant what he said, that he was going to allow the House to work its will, I would urge the majority leader to let the House work its will and bring that bill to the floor. Open it up for amendments. If the gentleman's party wants to offer amendments or my side wants to offer amendments, let that be the case. But let us let the House at least have the opportunity to work its will on this very, very important bill that we think is one of the most critical issues that we ought to be addressing.

I yield to my friend if he would like to respond.

□ 1300

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, all I would like to say to the gentleman is he and I disagree that there would be a majority of votes for H.R. 15. It is a reflection of the comprehensive Senate bill, and I don't believe we have a majority in this House for that bill.

I would furthermore ask the gentleman whether he thinks—or I would just say that perhaps it would be more constructive that we sit down and begin to talk about where we can go in a direction that we have in common, that we feel that we can agree on things rather than differences; rather than filing discharge petitions, perhaps it would be a little more constructive to sit down, instead of demanding our way or the highway.

Again, too much of that has been the way this town has worked over the last several years, and it is unfortunate.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. He and I have a difference of opinion. We discussed this the last time, as I recall.

We have a difference of opinion. He thinks it would not pass. I think it would pass.

The good news for America is there is a very easy way to determine who is right and who is wrong. Put the bill on the floor, give the House a vote, give America a vote. If I am wrong, I will stand up on the floor of the House and say I was wrong.

I am sure that my friend, the majority leader, will do the same if, in fact, he is wrong, but we have an easy way in America to resolve such differences because we all have differences of opinion.

In a democracy, you vote. In a democracy, you resolve differences by coming together. I look forward to sitting down with the gentleman on this issue. I would reiterate I look forward to dealing with him on other issues as we have been able to do in many instances. I thank him for that opportunity.

We can resolve this difference by simply bringing the bill to the floor, giving America a vote, and letting the House work its will. Unless the gentleman wants to say something further, I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday, April 1, 2014, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

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(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extremely important person. Today marks 25 years that Kim Rubin has worked here on Capitol Hill.

In the 1980s, Kim Rubin accepted an internship with former Congressman Jack Kemp from her home State of New York. She has come a long way since then. She has been with me, I am proud to say, since day one that I served in the United States Congress.

I have never met anyone more loyal, more dependable, or more organized. Not only does Kim coordinate our office's schedule and those of our entire staff, she works diligently as our office manager.

Somehow, she still has the time and energy to be a dedicated wife to her

loving husband, Howie, and also to her two beautiful daughters, Lexi and Livi. She is also a volleyball coach, and her nickname is Coach K.

As Kim says, her life is centered on faith, family, and pursuing what makes you happy. I don't know how Kim does it all, but it has been an honor to work with Kim Rubin for these past 8 years.

While we will part ways after we both retire this year, I know I will have a lifelong friend in the indomitable Kim Rubin.

Congratulations and thank you, Kim Rubin.

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FOREST MANAGEMENT
(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act was signed into law in 1973, in order to preserve, protect, and recover key domestic species.

The ESA also contains a citizen lawsuit provision, which allows private citizens—and, in many cases, special interest organizations—to sue Federal agencies and private landowners for allegedly failing to comply with ESA. Taxpayers are on the hook, even when the Federal Government prevails.

The Forest Service, which I had the privilege of holding jurisdiction over as chairman of the Agricultural Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry, must comply with ESA before engaging in any kind of forest management activity, which is the agency's most basic and fundamental role.

Protecting species is our goal, but unfortunately, this provision has been used as a tool by those who would like to halt land management activities.

The financial impact of these activities in the Forest Service is significant, posing a threat to the forest health, the economic well-being of local communities, and also the species we are aiming to protect.

We must replace this flawed policy with one that protects taxpayers and species restoration, but also the health of our forests and our local economies.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Orders speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

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WEEK IN REVIEW
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, a surprising twist today: Who says there is nothing surprising in Washington? We were told there was potential for a bill to come to the floor today to deal with the issue of the SGR, sustainable growth rate, or the doc fix, as it is sometimes called.

There has been some disagreement in our party what would be the best way to handle it. We had a bill. It was a 1-year extension, 1 year that included some other things that some of the people that are providing the care that haven't been properly treated in reimbursement areas we are not happy about.

So it appeared we didn't have—or our leaders may not have had the votes, and so it is quite a surprise that was voice-voted. No one asked for a recorded vote because normally, see, we trust our leaders that, if there is an important bill, that part of the leadership understand, someone here, part of the bill will request a recorded vote, and we will get a recorded vote, and we will all be able to either vote for or vote against.

Otherwise, we have to keep people here all the time, and it did bring back to mind the time that was not so fond back in 2007, 2008, sometimes 2009 and 2010, when on the first day back in Washington, whether it was a Monday or a Tuesday, the first day, there is suspension bills.

Those are bills that are expected to pass and have two-thirds of the body vote for them, naming courthouses, naming Federal buildings, recognizing some important person or deed, those type of things.

They are generally agreed to, and despite all the negativity in Washington, those are things that we agreed to constantly; and both sides of the aisle worked together getting it accomplished.

We saw very quickly, after Republicans lost the majority in November of 2006, sometimes Republican leadership would agree to allow some suspensions to go when it was extremely important. It should never have been brought to the floor on suspension, which means it doesn't go through subcommittee, it doesn't go through committee.

It just comes to the floor, without having gone through Rules Committee, and that is why it takes two-thirds of a vote, because it bypassed the normal procedure.

There were a handful of us who decided back in 2007, since Republican leadership at that time were agreeing to things that we knew our other friends in the Republican side, some friends on the Democratic side would never vote for, if it was a recorded vote, where everyone had a chance to vote—I started flying back early. I know TOM PRICE did at times; LYNN WESTMORELAND did at times.

I got to where I was flying back, even if I thought somebody else was covering the floor. The reason was to make sure that, since we couldn't trust that our leadership would not agree to some bill that we thought was hurtful to the country, was hurtful to the Constitution or to our constituents, we had to be here to ask for a recorded vote.

It went unnoticed except by leadership staff on both sides, and it got to where, when I came to the floor and would sit here for 3 or 4 hours, I would have staff come up, usually Democratic staff, since they were in the majority, and say: Well, obviously, you are concerned about some issue.

Sometimes, I was just here to observe, to make sure nothing was brought to the floor without any notice. Sometimes, there was a particular suspension that I felt should have a recorded vote, so I would show up, and I would, after the voice vote, request a recorded vote.

That is why staff started coming up and saying: Look, which one are you going to demand a recorded vote on or are you going to object to?

Sometimes, I would get up and speak against the bill. It got to where if I had an objection, they knew—because I'd done it between the time of the call for a recorded vote—I would go back to my office; I would type up a notice on why a bill was not a good bill.

I would be standing at the door, get a few other people to stand at other doors to hand out little fliers to Members of Congress as they came to the floor explaining why it wasn't a good bill.

Sometimes, I won; sometimes, I lost, but all you had to get was one more then one-third of the votes to bring down a suspension. So we were able to deal with that issue and make sure that, you know, people knew if you are going to try to pull that stuff, we are going to have people sit here, so that you can't just pass something on a voice vote without it being called for a recorded vote.

I was very surprised today with us in the majority, our own leadership in charge, with something as important as the doctor fix would be brought to the floor on a voice vote.

I would have come over earlier, except it was in recess, back in session, recess, back in session. I didn't know how long the recesses were going to be, but now, I know that I need to get with some other Members and make sure we have people on the floor, since we won't be sure what our own leadership is going to do.

That is very unfortunate. It is unfortunate. You need to be able to trust your own leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's, on another matter, very important that we note that this year's Margaret Sanger Award would go to former Speaker NANCY PELOSI.

I have an article here from American Thinker, dated yesterday. Jeannie DeAngelis wrote the article. I won't read the whole article, but it points out that any woman willing to call late term abortion "sacred ground" and make false accusations that the opposing political party voting for the Protect Life Act would leave pregnant women "dying on the floor" deserves an award named after eugenicist Margaret Sanger.

NANCY PELOSI will be given the Margaret Sanger Award, which Planned Parenthood considers its "highest honor."

Further down, it says:

A committed socialist, Margaret Sanger once said, "My own personal feelings drew me toward the individualist anarchist philosophy, but it seemed necessary to approach the idea by way the socialism," Sanger said.

□ 1315

She also said this:

This is the great day of social planning. We have come to believe in planning the production and distribution of goods. We plan methods of governing cities, States, and the Nation. We plan jobs and leisure time activities and vacations. We plan almost everything, big and little, except families.

Sanger goes on to say:

It can scarcely do any harm—and it may do a vast amount of good—to engage in the thoughtful planning of our population, a population with a still larger percentage of happy families.

An active worker for the Socialist Party, Sanger believed:

The more radical the ideas, the more conservative you must be in your dress.

Saul Alinsky said:

Dresses his crusades in vestments of morality.

The article says:

For Margaret Sanger, eugenics was an avenue to improve the human race by discouraging people with genetic defects or undesirable traits—Blacks, immigrants, and poor people—whom she called "human weeds, reckless breeders, spawning human beings who never should have been born."

Further down, it points out another irony, which is that Italian American NANCY PATRICIA D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI had grandparents named Maria and Tommaso, who immigrated to America from Italy. If Margaret Sanger had had her eugenic way with Maria Foppiani-Petronilla, Ms. PELOSI wouldn't be here, let alone be receiving an award.

In February of 1919, in the Birth Control Review, Sanger published an article entitled, "Birth Control and Racial Betterment."

In 1934, Sanger wrote an article entitled, "America Needs a Code for Babies: Plea for Equal Distribution of Births." Ms. Sanger's baby code said that people with bad genes, or dysgenic groups, should be given a choice between sterilization and segregation. Those who willingly chose sterilization should be rewarded by contributing to a superior race.

In article 6, Sanger suggested issuing parenthood permits that would be valid for no more than one birth.

Despite being lionized by socialist liberals, Margaret “every child a wanted child” Sanger’s legacy is one of murder, racism, revulsion for the handicapped, intrinsic disgust for the male gender, and a form of twisted radicalism that viewed God-ordained marriage and the miracle of life with contempt.

Margaret Sanger’s life was committed to curing what she viewed as the “urgent problem” of how to “limit and discourage the overfertility of the mentally and physically defective.”

It should be noted that, in the past, our former Secretary of State, Secretary Clinton, received the same Margaret Sanger Award, who believed in eugenics, who believed it was a good thing to limit the births of races who, perhaps, were too poor, who she thought were dysgenic.

This article from, actually, March 31, 2009, Catholic Online, points out:

A day before receiving the Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s highest honor, the Margaret Sanger Award, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton paid a visit to the basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, leaving a bouquet of white flowers “on behalf of the American people.”

When leaving the basilica a half an hour later, Secretary Clinton told some of the Mexicans who were gathered outside to greet her, “You have a marvelous virgin.”

The following day, Friday, March 27, Clinton was in Houston to receive the Margaret Sanger Award, named for the organization’s founder, a noted eugenicist. Secretary Clinton, according to a State Department transcript of Secretary Clinton’s remarks, said this:

I admire Margaret Sanger enormously—her courage, her tenacity, her vision. When I think about what she did all those years ago in Brooklyn, taking on archetypes, taking on attitudes and accusations flowing from all directions, I am really in awe of her.

Another article points out, from *The Weekly Standard*, April 15, 2009, that Secretary Clinton stands by her praise of eugenicist Margaret Sanger.

Secretary Clinton points out:

Now, I have to tell you that it was a great privilege when I was told I would receive this award. I admire Margaret Sanger enormously—her courage, her tenacity, her vision.

It is probably worth looking at exactly what Margaret Sanger stood for since she is so admired by our former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who could end up being President, and our former Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI. Let’s look at exactly what Margaret Sanger said. Here are some quotes from Margaret Sanger.

The most merciful thing that the large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it.

That is Margaret Sanger. That is Margaret Sanger, whose name adorns an award that was so revered by Secretary Clinton and now by our former Speaker PELOSI. It is unbelievable that anybody would be held in high esteem who would make that statement:

The most merciful thing that the large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it.

For heaven’s sake. That is not all. She had plenty more to say.

We should apply a stern and rigid policy of sterilization and segregation to that grade of population whose progeny is tainted or whose inheritance is such that objectionable traits may be transmitted to offspring.

That was from “A Plan for Peace,” from the *Birth Control Review* in April of 1932. The first quote I read was “Woman and the New Race” from chapter 6, “The Wickedness of Creating Large Families.”

Then from “America Needs a Code for Babies,” in March of 1934, article 1:

The purpose of the American baby code shall be to provide for a better distribution of babies and to protect society against the propagation and increase of the unfit.

You see, it is important to note here that what this kind of code does is say that we need a governing body that will decide who they think is fit and who they think is unfit. Gee, how about that? In ObamaCare, we have a panel that will decide. You get a pacemaker. You don’t get a pacemaker. We know your hip is giving you a lot of pain, but you are just not worth a new hip. Do you need a new knee? Ah, we have looked at your life, and we have looked at your age. You don’t get a new knee. You just suffer and die.

I mean, it is unbelievable that a bill would pass that sets up a board that will decide who can get a pacemaker to allow him to live and who will not, who will get the lifesaving medication and who will not. I don’t want an insurance company making that decision, and I don’t want the government making that decision. I had a bill that would have avoided that kind of thing, but of course, it didn’t come to the floor when Democrats were in the majority. They brought, instead, ObamaCare, setting up that board.

Let’s go back to quotes from Margaret Sanger.

Article 4, from her “America Needs a Code for Babies,” says:

No woman shall have the legal right to bear a child—and no man shall have the right to become a father—without a permit.

Hey, there is good news. All you have to do is be politically ingratiated enough with the government under Margaret Sanger’s code and they will give you a permit to have a baby, because they will consider you fit. Chances are, if you are of an opposing political view of those who are handing out the permits, you won’t get a permit because you may have a child that disagrees with the people handing out the permits.

It quotes article 6:

No permit for parenthood shall be valid for more than one birth.

This was Margaret Sanger.

She also said, in 1932, in the *April Birth Control Review*:

Give dysgenic groups—that’s people with bad genes—in our population their choice of segregation or compulsory sterilization.

In 1922, she said:

Birth control must lead, ultimately, to a cleaner race.

Gee, the Nazis were pretty good about pushing a cleaner race, but thank God they were completely wrong about the White superhuman race. I always loved that about Jesse Owens. He went there, to the heart of the Nazis, and showed them they were wrong about their superhuman race, and yet here we have a woman, Margaret Sanger, being held in such great, high esteem, who thinks we need a cleaner race, according to her whims.

Here is another quote from the esteemed Margaret Sanger. This is from “The Need for Birth Control in America.” It is quoted by Angela Franks:

Such parents swell the pathetic ranks of the unemployed. Feeble-mindedness perpetuates itself from the ranks of those who are blandly indifferent to their racial responsibilities, and it is largely this type of humanity we are now drawing upon to populate our world for the generations to come. In this orgy of multiplying and replenishing the Earth, this type is *pari passu* multiplying and perpetuating those direct evils in which we must, if civilization is to survive, extirpate by the very roots.

Here is another quote. This is from “Family Limitation,” Margaret Sanger’s eighth edition, in 1918:

Women of the working class, especially wage workers, should not have more than two children at most. The average working man can support no more, and the average working woman can take care of no more in decent fashion.

So that is Margaret Sanger. She is there to tell the world repeatedly that we need a government that will restrict the feeble-minded or maybe, according to her, these disgusting women who work for wages. Ah, we can’t let them have many children. Yet some have the nerve to say that Republicans have a war on women when you look at the heroine of the left, and she was for eugenics. She was a racist. She was a classist—a divider—who wanted and thought the best thing a large family could do was to kill a baby. We consider her a hero?

Forbid it, Almighty God.

I know my friends on the other side of the aisle don’t have a single person on this side of the aisle who want children to go hungry or who want children to have a worse life than we have. I know that, but it is all about the way of getting there.

□ 1330

So there are those of us who think the best thing a person could have for their own self-respect and their own freedom and their own ability to remove themselves from the ties and chains, the strings that come with money from the government, is to get them a job. Grow the economy so they

can have a job and the self-respect and the freedom that comes from that.

I know they have the best of intentions on the other side of the aisle, but I don't think that you help individuals by paying them not to work. Let's get the economy going so they can work and be free from all the strings and entanglements that come from handouts from the government.

I would never call somebody on the other side of the aisle a racist or a hater of the poor. So it gets a little disgusting when I hear that about people on my side of the aisle. We don't want anybody to suffer.

We have seen the likes of Margaret Sanger who think they know better. Get the government in charge, and then we will order people to be sterilized. And we will give you money if you will be sterilized. That is what government does.

Strings come with the money. They always do. We need the government to give out less money because people need less money because they are able to earn it for themselves with all the freedom that means. That is what we want for America. That is what the Founders wanted. And that makes for a much more free America.

In that regard, when it comes to freedom, I know the people that voted for ObamaCare thought it was going to be a great idea, even though most of them had never read it like I did. Because I could see it was a threat to all kinds of freedoms, and I could see before the vote there were provisions in there that allowed for clinics to get Federal money to provide abortion and to have insurance policies that would end up providing abortion.

So I was shocked this week at the Supreme Court. I wasn't in the courtroom. I was listening in a side room for members of the Supreme Court Bar. I was shocked to hear somebody on the Supreme Court actually take the position. Well, just pay the tax and then you can have your religious views.

The power to tax is the power to destroy. Our Founders knew that. Taxation helped cause a revolution. And in fairness to the people of the District of Columbia, they are the only group who, under the Constitution, are not allowed to have a full voting Member of Congress, and who are required nonetheless to pay Federal income tax. Puerto Rico, Samoa, Mariana Islands, all of those that are territories, under the Constitution they are not entitled to a full voting Representative and do not pay Federal income tax.

Franklin made clear during the Revolution that if we do not get to elect one member of the parliament, then that parliament has no right to put taxes on us. I agree. So when Democrats were in charge, I had a bill. They wouldn't bring my bill to the floor. Now the Republicans are in the majority. They haven't so far—or our leaders

haven't. I think it is only fair. They don't get to vote for a full voting Member of the House. So in fairness, the way to fix that legislatively is just to do for the District of Columbia what we do for Puerto Rico, Guam, Samoa, and the Mariana Islands. You don't pay Federal income tax. That would be fair.

There are all kinds of things that aren't fair. But when it comes to intrusions by the government onto religious beliefs, the line cannot be drawn so that it excludes religious beliefs and the ability to practice them.

For anyone, especially a Supreme Court Justice, and even someone who worked for President Obama as Solicitor General, who said—and I am paraphrasing because she didn't say these words—I never did my job when it came to ObamaCare. I didn't talk to the administration about it. I didn't talk to them about what would help them when it came before the Supreme Court. So I didn't do my job as Solicitor General, and that is why I am qualified to be on the Supreme Court.

Unfortunately, the Senate bought that. That is the implied position. They bought that. She is on the Supreme Court. She lights into the Hobby Lobby attorney immediately. But to come around and say, Just pay the tax, then you can have your religious beliefs, you can practice your religious beliefs, it is not that expensive—what's next?

As a judge who has signed death penalty orders, I have struggled with that issue. I believe in some cases it is appropriate. I thought it was totally appropriate in Jasper, Texas, after three people were convicted of dragging an African American behind their truck. Once they had a fair trial, fair appeal, properly convicted, I wouldn't have had a problem with a law that said the victim's family gets to choose the truck and the terrain over which they drag the defendants to their deaths.

When we give the power to decide who gets to practice firmly held religious beliefs to a Supreme Court or to a 218-vote majority in the House, this Republic and the freedoms it has provided more than any Nation in history can't be much longer for the world—not those freedoms—not when Congress will stand by and allow those to be taken.

I think everybody that was here for that vote on ObamaCare knows good and well that if the intention of this government had been made clear that they were going to force people to go against firmly held Catholic beliefs, Christian beliefs, that bill would have never passed. And now they seek to enforce what would never have passed if their intentions had been made clear—it is before the Supreme Court. And who knows what they will do.

Mr. Speaker, my hopes and prayers are still for ongoing religious freedom promised under the First Amendment,

and that they will not be taken away on our watch. But that kind of depends on the American people and the people they put in office and the people they allow to serve on the Supreme Court.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4152. An act to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1827. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the history of our country, our economic development, is predicated on our infrastructure development. Early in our history, canals, ports, postal roads, and 152 years ago, the transcontinental railroad—audacious at the time—proved to be a critical element of tying our nation together, fueling economic growth and communication.

Later, we had the interstate freeway system, which had its genesis going back over a century, nurtured in the basement of Franklin Roosevelt's White House, signed into law, and advocated by President Eisenhower.

One wonders: Could this Congress in Washington, D.C., today have produced the transcontinental railroad, the interstate highway system, provided the resources, the resolve, the research to send humans to the Moon? You have to pay for it. You have to take a risk. You have to have a plan and a design.

Sadly, it appears that that is lacking at this point.

I spent years on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which I finally left to go to Ways and Means and to serve on the Budget Committee to try and deal with the financing issue.

In 187 days, the highway trust fund is exhausted. It is not just that the reauthorization extension expires on September 30, but we have drawn the trust fund balances down to zero. It is already starting to be felt around the

country. Because you cannot manage the multibillion-dollars worth of commitments that the Federal Government has made in partnership with State and local communities and the private sector without having some range of a financial cushion, probably on the order of \$4 billion.

So that means that the Federal Government is going to start delaying the release of funding and having to choose which obligations it honors well before September 30. That means cutting back funding this summer is going to make a difference for local communities later this spring. Already, States are dealing with this uncertainty and making decisions, putting at risk, in some cases, construction seasons.

I think we have reached the point that there are no more cans to kick over or seat cushions to reach behind. If that doesn't make sense to you, sleight of hand, to use another general fund fix.

We have transferred outright over \$50 billion to the general fund since 2008, and we have backfilled by using the Recovery Act, or the so-called stimulus funding. We made an adjustment in the Tax Code dealing with provisions for retirement benefits that were adjusted that somehow gave us a little headroom that enabled us to fund a 27-month extension.

But we are running out of these fixes, and we are not giving the certainty that the private sector, local governments, State governments, that our communities need to be able to deal with the more complicated, more expensive, longer-term projects, especially those that may involve more than one State, those that may be multimodal in nature. These expensive and complicated projects require steady, stable sources of funding.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 21 years since the Federal Government last adjusted the gas tax. It was 1993. That is back when gasoline was \$1.08 a gallon. It is back when there were fewer demands in terms of the highway trust fund, when cars were less fuel-efficient.

In the course of that time, we have watched inflation eat away at the value of that 18.4 cents a gallon that people pay for their Federal gas tax, and because people are using more fuel-efficient cars and because the vehicle miles traveled have been reduced for 9 consecutive years, the amount that the individual pays per mile to support our Federal transportation infrastructure has been cut by more than 50 percent. And Congress has been dancing around this issue.

□ 1345

I have proposed that we adopt the recommendation of the Simpson-Bowles Commission that was so widely heralded 3 years ago, to have a phased 3-year increase in the gas tax.

I would note that it is supported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, by the

AFL-CIO, by local governments, by transit agencies, environmentalists, by professional groups and organizations, local officials.

It is interesting that the AAA, representing auto users, and the trucking industry have both said: Federal Government, you should raise the fuel tax—not that we are wild about the fuel tax, but because the costs of not doing it are going to cost our motorists, going to cost our trucking industry and the American economy far more than the few cents per gallon that would be paid.

I have also introduced legislation that would extend the vehicle mile traveled experiment that Oregon has been doing over the course of the last 10 years. That would allow States to experiment with a different approach that wouldn't be based on gallons of fuel consumed, but based on actual road use, so that people can experiment for themselves to see if this is a promising solution.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 15 years, I have watched blue ribbon commissions come forward impeded by Republicans and Democrats.

I have listened to the testimony from the business community, from organized labor, from local government, from experts all across the scale who have recommended that we step up and adequately fund the highway trust account, so that we can provide the certainty and the capacity to be able to rebuild and renew America.

I, for one, am open to all sorts of suggestions; but it is interesting to note, when my friend DAVE CAMP introduced his tax reform proposal that would have allowed some space for the highway trust fund, which was announced on the same day that President Obama—who I think sincerely is interested in infrastructure—a proposal for \$300 billion—over \$300 billion—that both proposals were pronounced dead on arrival, that they had no political backing, they had very little likelihood of being passed.

When they made their announcements, they were not joined by labor, by business, by local government, by the professions, by people in both parties who are concerned with getting on with business.

I will have more to say, but I have been joined by a couple of my colleagues who are concerned about this, who have been working in this arena, who have some proposals, and I would turn first to my colleague from Maryland (Mr. DELANEY), who has been working in this space, adding to the conversation in a way to help us move forward. I am happy to yield to him for some comments.

Mr. DELANEY. I thank my good friend from Oregon for your really singular leadership on this issue and your unwavering commitment to make sure these problems get solved.

Mr. Speaker, every 2 years, the American Society of Civil Engineers does an analysis of the U.S. infrastructure needs and an assessment of our infrastructure as it relates to our competitors around the world.

In this last analysis they did, they produced a report card, where they graded each component of U.S. infrastructure. They also gave us a composite grade, and that grade was a D-plus. A D-plus, Mr. Speaker, was the grade that the U.S. infrastructure received from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

They estimated further that the amount of investment we would need to make as a country to bring our infrastructure up to a high standard is \$3 trillion to \$4 trillion. \$3 trillion to \$4 trillion, Mr. Speaker, is the gap, the investment gap in the infrastructure in the United States of America.

This creates a very significant challenge for us as a Nation, as we look to compete in a global and technology-enabled world. To successfully compete in a global and technology-enabled world, you need world-class transportation, energy, communications, and infrastructure to be able to compete successfully.

It also creates a great opportunity for us, as a Nation, because investing in our infrastructure is proven to be one of the great jobs programs in this country. It creates middle-skilled jobs. Infrastructure disproportionately creates middle-skilled jobs, which is what we need in this country.

We are actually creating high-skilled jobs at a decent rate, we are creating low-skilled jobs at a decent rate; but we are not creating middle-skilled jobs for middle-class Americans, the kind of Americans that built this country, saved this country, and saved the world, and that is a great tragedy. Investing in our infrastructure will do that.

It also happens to pencil out, Mr. Speaker. Across time, the data strongly suggests that for every dollar we spend on infrastructure, we get \$1.92 of economic benefit as a Nation.

It will create jobs in the short term, it will make us more competitive in the long term, and it is a fundamentally good investment for us to make as a country.

As we think about filling this infrastructure hole, we should analyze how we actually invest in infrastructure in this country, and there are really four ways we do it.

First, government. Federal Government, State governments, and local governments actually grant money to build infrastructure, particularly infrastructure that is used for the public or common good. That is an important role of government, and government is unique in its ability to do that.

The second way we build infrastructure is through financing it with user

fees. Things like the highway trust fund that my colleague referred to have largely been financed through our gas tax. There are other examples, at airports, et cetera, where we charge user fees, and that money is collected, and we build infrastructure with it.

The third way we build infrastructure in this country is through public-private partnerships, where we go to the private sector, and for certain types of infrastructure, we get the private sector to build the infrastructure.

Finally, the fourth way we build infrastructure is we finance it. In other words, State governments and local governments borrow money to build infrastructure.

These are the four ways we build infrastructure in this country. If we actually want to close this infrastructure investment gap that we have, if we actually want to close this \$3 trillion to \$4 trillion gap, if we want to bring our infrastructure from a D-plus grade to something we would be more proud of, like an A grade, we need to be bolstering all four of these methods.

The good news, Mr. Speaker, is that there are bipartisan ways of doing all of these things, and that is what we need to focus on. One example of a bipartisan solution to this problem is a piece of legislation that I introduced with several colleagues almost a year ago. It is called the Partnership to Build America Act.

The Partnership to Build America Act, as of today, has 29 House Republicans on it and 29 House Democrats on it. It was also introduced in the Senate about a month ago with a dozen Senators, also bipartisan.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, the Partnership to Build America Act is the most significant piece of bipartisan economic legislation in the whole of the Congress, and what it does is it creates a large-scale infrastructure financing vehicle called the American infrastructure fund, which will be capitalized for 50 years and be used by States and local governments to build and finance infrastructure.

The money in the American infrastructure fund, Mr. Speaker, is not put in by the Federal Government, but it is put in by corporations who invest and buy very low-cost bonds to finance the American infrastructure fund over 50 years.

As an incentive to get them to put this money in, we allow them to bring back a certain amount of their overseas earnings—their overseas cash back to the United States tax-free.

Almost half of corporate tax is sitting overseas because of flaws in our international tax system. This allows for over \$200 billion of that money to come back, a quarter of which would have to be invested in the American infrastructure fund, and create a 50-year revolving financing vehicle to help close this gap.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Partnership to Build America Act is a real example of bipartisan progress to solve an important problem facing this Nation, to get Americans to work, make us more competitive in the long term, and use our precious resources in a wise and prudent manner that pencils out. It will be the category killer for the financing challenge we have around infrastructure.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will close by reminding everyone of the importance of this issue. Investing in our infrastructure should be our top domestic economic priority. It should be our top jobs program.

We should be bolstering all the ways we have in this Nation to build our infrastructure; and the good news, Mr. Speaker, is we can do it in a bipartisan way.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman joining us and couldn't agree more about the critical nature of investing in our economy and putting people to work. Millions of jobs are at stake, jobs that won't be outsourced overseas. I appreciate your joining in that conversation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like next to turn to the dean of the Oregon delegation, someone with whom I have been privileged to work for over 3 decades. Congressman PETER DEFAZIO is a senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, ranking member of Natural Resources, somebody who I have found to be tireless in his promotion of infrastructure investment, creative in terms of ways to approach it.

Mr. Speaker, I think a number of us would be open to any mechanism that provides steady, predictable resources that would be able to meet the needs because, before you can have public-private partnerships so you can deal with financing, you have got to have the underlying funding.

There is nobody who has spent more time and creativity and taken more risks to advance that than my friend and colleague, PETER DEFAZIO.

I am very pleased that you have joined us to be a part of this conversation and can't say enough for your tireless efforts to try and make sure that we realize the promise of infrastructure investment and that we actually do it.

I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman. I thank Congressman BLUMENAUER for his leadership, a former member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

We have sent him over to the Ways and Means Committee because we can put forward the need, we can document what we need to build and rebuild; but, in the end, someone has got to be responsible for raising the money, and, ultimately, it is going to be Ways and

Means, and EARL has certainly taken a point position there.

We are at an unprecedented point. We haven't been here before since the creation of the national highway program under President Dwight David Eisenhower.

On October 1—or before then even, the trust funds established by Eisenhower, financed by user fees, gas tax, diesel tax, and some other fees on excise taxes, et cetera—but, principally, the fuel tax—is going to be depleted to the point where, if we don't act before October 1, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the obligation authority, that is, the amount of money the Federal Government could invest, beginning next October 1, in any and all transportation projects across the United States of America—roads, bridges, highways, transit—will drop to zero—zero.

Now, this is not one of these other phony cliffs around here that have been created by an intransigent majority and a bunch of grandstanders. This is real. This is real.

Think of what that means to the States. To my State, it means a loss of about \$450 million of Federal aid to fund our Federal highway system in the State of Oregon.

It means that all across America, you are talking about millions of jobs and incredible lost opportunities in terms of creating new jobs and dealing with a crumbling infrastructure, which has already been discussed a little bit before me.

So Congress has to get serious about this. You can't whistle by the graveyard on this one. You can't pretend it is not a fake crisis. It is a real crisis.

Congressman BLUMENAUER explained how it has happened over the years. We haven't raised the gas tax since 1993.

Now, a lot of people look at 4 bucks a gallon at the pump come Memorial Day, and they say: that damn government taking all that money.

No. 18.4 cents went to the Federal Government in 1993 when gas was about a buck a gallon, and in 2014, when ExxonMobil jacks it up over \$4 for the Memorial Day holiday, 18.4 cents will go to the Federal Government.

□ 1400

I would be a lot happier at those higher prices if I knew some of it was going to rebuild our crumbling bridges, some of it was going to fill in the potholes and deal with the failing pavement, some of it was going to the deficit in our transit infrastructure, which is about \$70 billion. The nice thing, if we make those investments which have already been mentioned, it creates about 20,000 jobs for every \$1 billion dollars we spend—and not just construction jobs. You have engineering jobs. You have technical support jobs. You have small business suppliers. In transit, you have manufacturing jobs. You have even high-tech

jobs, computer-driven transit vehicles, and et cetera. All across the economy, it would create jobs, 20,000 jobs per \$1 billion dollars.

And we have the strongest Buy America requirements of any part of the Federal Government, way stronger than the Pentagon. So when we invest those dollars, Americans go to work or go back to work.

But guess what, the other side works. If we stop spending that money on October 1, hundreds of thousands, millions of people will lose their jobs across many sectors in this country, and we will become the laughingstock of the world. The greatest nation on Earth can't afford to invest in its future, in its competitiveness, in rebuilding the Eisenhower-era infrastructure and building an infrastructure suitable for the 21st century to make us more competitive? It is not too hard. One simple way to do it would be to take the existing gas tax and index it.

What does that mean? Well, part of the reason that we are in this pickle is because the gas tax has remained 18.4 cents a gallon since 1993. That means, with inflation, it has been eroded. And as cars and fleets become more efficient, people are driving more miles with fewer gallons of gas, which is a good thing. So if you indexed it and said, okay, we will index the gas tax for construction cost, inflation, and fleet fuel economy, you would see a big increase in gas, about 1.4 to 1.7 cents a gallon next year. Wow.

Well, guess what. Just when I was home recently, I drove to work; and when I came home, gas was up a nickel a gallon because of the crisis in Ukraine. Where did that go? That went into the pockets of ExxonMobil.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. If the gentleman will yield.

Like you, I am on the plane going home every week. But for a weekend, I was at a conference, and so I missed being home for 10 days. In the space of 10 days, gasoline went up 19 cents a gallon at my corner gas station; and the next weekend, it had gone up 30 cents a gallon in 3 weeks. That didn't fill one pothole, didn't put one person to work. Thirty cents in 3 weeks.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman. I think it is an excellent point.

If we fully implemented Dodd-Frank and reined in some of the commodities speculators, it wouldn't be quite so volatile. But the point is, if we took a tiny fraction of the way they jack it up when you are driving to work every week and invested it, your friends, your neighbors would go to work, your commutes would be better, there would be less damage to your car, the country would be more efficient, and we would lose less jobs overseas.

So, if we indexed it and we paid it back over 15 years, we could put somewhere between \$120 and \$150 billion into the trust fund that would be paid for and paid back over a 15-year period.

Another alternative would be to put \$1 on a barrel of crude oil. For every \$1 you tax a barrel of crude oil today—Texas is at \$101.70, I think, when I last checked—that would be less than 1 percent. That raises \$4 billion a year to invest in the future of America, its infrastructure, and putting people back to work in this country. It would also help to rein in some of the speculation on the price of crude oil. And it would also help because OPEC and other suppliers would have to be paying a part of rebuilding our infrastructure.

The proposal I put forward exempts all manufacturing; it exempts all heating oil; it exempts all agricultural uses; it exempts school buses and other things that are currently exempt. So it would only be the fraction of the barrel that goes to current taxable transportation use as \$1 dollar a barrel, which is \$4 billion a year. Again, we could use that future cash flow to bond and fill in the giant pothole in the trust fund.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you.

Well, I deeply appreciate, again, your partnership and your leadership; and what you just demonstrated, a series of ways that we could have adjustments to transportation finance that would be predictable, sustainable, and, as you have pointed out, at a time of record-low interest rates, having a steady revenue stream would permit us to be able to take advantage of that favorable borrowing environment to get multiple benefits. Essentially, if we had done that earlier, as you and I had suggested during the Recovery Act, essentially, we would have had free money because the interest rates were so low. But I appreciate your tenacity and creativity.

We have been joined by another of our colleagues.

Congresswoman TITUS, I must say, I deeply appreciated your hospitality when we visited Nevada, looked at transportation needs, met with people in your community who rely on being able to have this infrastructure work. You have been on a roller coaster in Nevada in terms of boom and bust, but I deeply appreciated your being able to help me understand those dynamics. Your leadership in this arena is welcomed, and I yield to you to join into the conversation.

Ms. TITUS. Well, thank you very much, Congressman BLUMENAUER. You are always welcome to come to my district in Las Vegas. We were very glad to have you there, and you brought your leadership. And I appreciate your wearing your bicycle, because that is one of the things I want to talk about.

A part of infrastructure is safe streets and the ability for our pedestrians and our bicyclists to be safe, as well as through other means of transportation. I certainly respect Congressman DEFAZIO's leadership on this. And I appreciate hearing some of the creative ideas you have for moving infra-

structure forward because it is so important that we fund it, and having this hour to talk about the critical role of government and maintaining and enhancing our infrastructure I think is not only timely, but is critical.

As you heard earlier, the most recent report card from the American Society of Civil Engineers clearly illustrates the dismal condition of our Nation's infrastructure. Now, the good news is we moved up a grade, but the bad news is we went from D to D-plus. So that is not too much to brag about. If that were one of my students, I wouldn't be too proud of that level of accomplishment.

Well, if you look in more detail at the findings of that report, you would find that more than half of the Nation's roads are in poor or mediocre condition. One out of every four bridges is in need of significant repair or can't handle the traffic that relies on it.

We have seen the price of this crumbling infrastructure not just in a loss of jobs but also in a loss of lives. For one out of every three traffic fatalities, the condition of the road was a factor. So we have got to do better than that.

We recently received an update on the fiscal situation of the highway trust fund—the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) was referencing this—and if the projections hold, that trust fund will be insolvent by the end of July. Now, that is at the height of the construction season when we should be moving forward with these infrastructure projects. All of them will come to a standstill across the country, and that immediately threatens 660,000 jobs—direct jobs, not counting the extra industries that rely on that construction as well.

Now, our construction sector was hit very hard already by the great recession, and it continues to see unemployment levels twice the national average. So we simply cannot afford to let this trust fund lapse.

We need to take immediate action to shore it up and remove the insolvency because it not only halts progress, but it injects uncertainty into our State capitals, our city halls, and all of the transit agencies across the country who don't know whether to move forward with projects or not because the money just may not be there.

If you look at the cities, like Las Vegas, you can see how this is especially hard-hitting because infrastructure is at the heart of our local economy. We have world-class hotels and casinos and restaurants and retail, but we rely on infrastructure to bring to us people and goods from around the world, whether it is rail or air or highways. We import everything, from tourists to lobster. We don't make it in there. We have to bring it in. And if you don't have good infrastructure, that system is not going to work.

So as we turn our attention to the next surface transportation authorization, I want us to invest in a number of things, and one of them is existing and future freight corridors. On that list, I hope to see the development of I-11. That interstate has been designated, but we need to move forward with it. It would go from Las Vegas to Phoenix. Eventually, it would connect all points north and south. But right now, Phoenix and Las Vegas are the only two major metropolitan areas in the country that are not connected by an interstate highway.

So this would create new freight corridors. It would relieve the congestion on the narrow road that exists there now. It would save lives. It would increase the connection between the roughly 8 million people who live in that area, and it would foster tourism, which would be a good thing for our economy. So I hope that we can move forward on that because it would be very important for moving freight in the kind of post-Panamax economy.

In addition to this, I am concerned about the safety of the travelling public in the urban areas. And this is where you and I have had many discussions about pedestrians and cyclists.

We have seen marginal improvements in highway safety. That has been going in the right direction. But pedestrian safety has been going in the wrong direction. That has been getting much worse if you look at the statistics. And more and more people are using that kind of transportation, for recreation, to get to work, to go shopping, for exercise. So that population is going to increase, and yet the fatalities have increased as well. In fact, nearly 16 percent of traffic deaths in 2012 were people who were walking or bicycling, and yet less than 1 percent of safety funding goes to infrastructure to protect those travelers.

And that trend is really true in southern Nevada. My district has the most dangerous crossings of any because it is metropolitan Las Vegas. In 2011, there were 23 pedestrian fatalities, but that jumped to 42 in 2012; and last year, 51 men, women, and children lost their lives in pedestrian accidents.

So I hope that as we move forward with infrastructure funding that we provide resources and services to address that issue. And part of that can be encouraging local governments to do planning policies, like the Complete Streets program. I know you are well aware of that, very familiar with it and involved in it. That takes into account the needs of all users when it comes to transportation. There are lots of possible improvements, like bus rapid transit, dedicated transit bike lanes, safer crosswalks. All of those will help users reach their destinations more quickly and more safely.

So as we look at infrastructure, let's remember that it is bridges, it is roads,

it is railroads, it is airports, but also, we need to do what we can for those using bicycles and just walking on their own two feet.

I am committed to working on this. It is very important for our country and for our local economies. So count me in, and thank you for your leadership.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you so much, Representative TITUS.

It was fascinating, when we visited with your constituents, how passionate they were identifying the problems; and I commend you for working with them to try to squeeze what you could out of inadequate Federal, State, and local funding, but worked to try to help with the design, help with the advocacy. They were truly fired up and had lots of ideas about things to do.

And you are right. It would be a travesty if, when we are urging people to be able to do more walking and cycling, to reduce energy, to improve air quality and improve their health, if, in turn, we are putting more families at risk. And being able to have safe routes to school, being able to deal with pedestrian safety and making it part of the mix, I can't say enough about how much I admire your commitment to balanced transportation, to be able to tie those pieces together, and how you worked with your local constituents. It is truly a model, and I look forward to continuing with you on that in the future.

Ms. TITUS. Thank you.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I do want to say that I also appreciate the reference to the economic impact in terms of the men and women who work in this arena. We have millions of tradespeople, men and women in the construction industry who have the necessary skills to rebuild and renew America, who want to work, and in too many of our communities have suffered disproportionate unemployment as a result of the near meltdown of the economy and the too slow recovery.

□ 1415

Being able to tap that energy, that excitement and that commitment I think is very, very important. I have been so impressed as we go around the country looking at the people there who are willing to put those skills to work, and it is an opportunity for a wide range of employment opportunities.

There are opportunities for people who are primarily just working with their hands where there is a lot of manual labor involved. There are a number of skilled opportunities in terms of what has happened in the trades in terms of equipment operation that adds increasing sophistication. There are jobs that are pencil ready where there is design, planning, and management. So there is a wide range.

My colleague mentioned the 20,000 jobs per billion dollars, and that 20,000

jobs includes lots of bedrock, middle class American, family-wage job opportunities, but for a wide range of skill sets and for people to get their feet on the ground to be able to build skills and move further in the advancement of their careers.

I really appreciate your advocacy there and would yield to the gentleman for further comment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Let me just give one example. I have a company in my district called Johnson Rock Crushers. They produce a wide range of rock crushers. They are a major exporter from the U.S., and they are competitive in the world market. They are employing skilled labor and also engineers and others to design these materials. They are sourcing virtually all of their components in the United States for these very large pieces of equipment.

So there is an incredible multiplier effect. They are employing people who are in niche manufacturing somewhere making one big gear or making parts for the conveyor or the giant tires that go on these things. They are employing engineers to make the future designs. They just have finished a major contract for the Seabees with affordable equipment for the Seabees. So they are just covering an extraordinary range of things.

They showed me a chart, and the chart is what happens to their business when the future funding for the highway trust fund comes into question. They can show me what happened back when we did the SAFETEA-LU bill, how much business fell off. They can show me recently a fall-off in domestic business. They are doing pretty well internationally because other countries—somehow other countries can figure out how to invest in their infrastructure. They are concerned about becoming more competitive in the world economy, and they are making massive investments in China, Brazil, and in many of our competitor nations.

In fact, I recall once when my colleague, Mr. BLUMENAUER, heard me giving a speech. I was saying how I kind of thought the U.S. was becoming a Third World nation because of the deterioration of our infrastructure, which we have already talked about tonight. He came up to me afterwards and he said: Hey, you know, that was kind of insulting. And I'm like: EARL, what do you mean? You know how bad it is. I mean, at that point we were at a D, and now we are up to a D-plus for our infrastructure. And he said: No. No. It was insulting to Third World countries, because they are investing a higher percentage of their gross domestic product in their infrastructure than the United States of America.

We can afford these investments. In fact, we cannot afford to forgo these investments because we will lose more ground internationally; we will waste

more fuel; people will spend more time in congestion; and we will kill more people on obsolete mass transit units like they did right here in Washington, D.C. These are investments we must make.

We have, in the past, led the world. We have been number one, number two after World War II up through near the nineties sometime. We are now number 26 in the world in terms of the state of our infrastructure. We are duking it out with Romania these days, I think. This is embarrassing. It is embarrassing for us not to be pushing forward with solutions now and not creating another cliff and eking it out to the end.

As Representative TITUS pointed out, some States are already cutting back their construction program for this construction year. Kansas is one I know of. They have said: Look, the way we run our State, we have got to be sure that the Federal reimbursement is going to be there when the project is done. We can't wait. Our constitution doesn't allow us to borrow money for these things. We can't go into deficit, unlike the Federal Government.

Therefore, just the prospect that the money might not be there is causing many States to say: Well, wait a minute. We are going to pull back here on these projects this coming year, and then if it actually happens on October 1, it will be a massive cutback next year.

I don't know what happens to transit. There is no transit system in the world, except maybe Hong Kong, that makes money. So to say we are going to withdraw all Federal support from transit would mean one heck of a loss of options for people in the United States.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate your detailing the difference it made with that company in your district and the multiplier effect for the employment for the various aspects of that product. It has been exciting for me to look at the range of people who are adding their voice to the cry for the Federal Government to step up and for Congress not to be AWOL on this and not have the collapse of the trust fund.

The range of people who have a keen interest in our being responsible and who are adding their voices is fascinating. There are big equipment manufacturers, like the Caterpillars of this world, and smaller. There are people who lease heavy equipment. There are people who are involved with design and construction, people who are there with the materials, asphalt and concrete, sand and gravel; people who are there with the iron and steel that is necessary, the concrete.

You go through the range of people who are vitally interested in our meeting our responsibilities and who have the capacity of making huge economic

contributions and who are ready, willing, and able to do so, and the vast majority of these jobs are right here in the United States. They are not going to be outsourced. Lots of equipment, manufacturing, and materials are right here. It is cost prohibitive for us not to. So it provides that local economic spark. Then there is the multiplier effect of the coffee shop across the street from the project and the people who are providing materials and supplies, people who benefit from this in dramatic ways.

I do appreciate your reminding us of how we have lost track of where we are in terms of global leadership. We were leaders in the development of our canals and the steam engine. We were leaders with our transcontinental railroad. Nobody did anything on that order of magnitude. We had the finest passenger rail system in the world up until about 70 years ago. We had the finest highway system. You can go through the list of areas that we were justifiably proud of being a global leader. And it was not just prestige. It was health, it was safety, and it was economic impact that made a difference. We appear to have lost our way.

It is interesting, Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago, there was no high-speed rail in China. And in 6 years, they have grown a high-speed rail system that will next year carry more passengers than the entire American aviation system. Other countries are building ports and highways and upgrading water and sewer. And we are stuck, we are losing ground, and it is Congress that has failed to step up for over two decades.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DEFAZIO. The problem here in D.C. is that a lot of people, particularly the Congress, don't discriminate between investments, capital investments, and expenditures. You know, if you buy fuel for the Federal fleet or a battleship or something, okay, that is an expenditure; it is consumed. But if you build a bridge that lasts 100 years, we count that the same as buying something that will be consumed in 1 day. That doesn't make any sense, but that is the way Congress works.

So they treat needed investments in the future mobility of the American people and saving fuel as being competitive, moving goods and people safely, they treat that exactly the same as a consumptive, 1-day expenditure for fuel for the Federal fleet or something else. That makes no sense. We need capital budgets. That is probably a longer term project around here. They need to at least recognize the need for these investments.

What I hear from a lot of naysayers is: Hey, you already did that. You did the stimulus, and that didn't work, did it?

Well, actually, if you look at the so-called stimulus, under the most generous interpretation of infrastructure,

4 percent went into traditional surface transportation infrastructure—4 percent, 4 percent of the \$800 billion—and it created a heck of a lot more than 4 percent of the jobs that that bill created; a really generous infrastructure interpretation, you are up to 7 percent.

So I say, no, that was not a test. That money was well invested and spent, but it was totally insufficient for the job to repair and rebuild our infrastructure and bring it up to a good state of repair for the 20th century, let alone to begin to build out an efficient 21st century infrastructure. That is no test. That money was well spent and well invested.

There are some prominent commentators who say, oh, I don't know where that money went. I had a debate with one of them on television, actually. We can show exactly where that money went and exactly how many jobs were created, and it was certainly a net large return compared to many of the other things that were in that legislation. No, that wasn't a test.

A test would be if we made a commitment now to build a 21st century infrastructure and to rise from 26th in the world back to number one in the world within 10 years just like JFK said we will put us on the Moon in 10 years. Well, in 10 years, we could go back to having the number one infrastructure in the world, and in the meantime we would create a few million more jobs, and the long-term impact of that creates sustainable jobs of untold numbers over the years.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Absolutely. I have really appreciated your laser focus. At the time, you and I both wanted more investment in infrastructure. Something in the neighborhood of 40 percent were tax cuts that people didn't even think they got, that didn't have the multiplier effect, that we would have been well served to double or triple the amount of investment in infrastructure.

But I have been struck—and I know you have—that even though it was inadequate, that we could have done more and should have done more. I am struck by the number of businesses that have told me that that investment was the difference of whether or not their business was going to go under. We had people making bids at that time basically just to cover payroll. We got some of the most favorable bids that were offered up because people were desperate for that work, and so it stretched even further.

If we had had the foresight to invest more and then take advantage of the fact that the world was basically giving us their money for free, we could have had a tremendous impact. But the truth is that people were desperate for it. It made a difference, and it is a hint of what we could do if we did this right.

I am going to turn to my colleague for a moment for the last word, but I

wanted to just say one thing in terms of my concluding observation.

I have been struck, in the 3 months since we have advanced these proposals, by the breadth of editorial support, by the unions, local governments, and elected officials in both parties who are stepping up at the State level to do this. Wyoming, I think, was the latest State that went ahead and raised a gas tax. We are hearing from engineers, and we are hearing from advocacy groups like truckers and Triple A that are doing the right thing and making a difficult recommendation because they know it is the right thing, and they think it is time to have an adult conversation with the American public.

I think it is time for us to listen to the people out there who don't just want, they are insisting that we meet our obligation as a full partner in infrastructure investment in this country, as we have done for years with State and local government, with the private sector, and with local communities.

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I am convinced that it is one of those areas that once we get there and take the step, that it will bring the country together.

Mr. Speaker, historically, infrastructure has been an area that has rallied public support. People came together for these projects. I am convinced that if we step up and do our job, listening to people and giving that support, that it can be that same sort of rallying point. I don't want to be involved in a conversation about whether it is the Republicans' fault or the Democrats' fault, or it is the House versus the Senate or the legislative versus the executive. There has been enough foot-dragging over the last 20 years to go around.

So my hope is we can use this going forward to make a difference. I cannot thank you enough, Congressman DEFAZIO, for your insistence, your leadership, your persistence, your creativity, and your courage on this. It really makes a difference for those of us who are pushing for the path you have blazed and your continued, ongoing zeal to make this work.

Mr. DEFAZIO. To just boil it down to something pretty simple, I would say let's think about the future. Let's think about today, and let's think about the future. And those who would disinvest or devolve our obligations to create a national transportation system that is world class, devolve that duty to the 50 States assembled, or just ignore altogether that obligation, they really are showing that they don't take a long-term view for America, they don't have much faith in our future.

I have a heck of a lot of faith in our future, and it is going to take some leadership to get to that future. Doing

simple things like maintaining the existing purchasing power of the gas tax through indexation and then using the future income to bond, and make a heck of a lot of investments now, will return more in the long term than it will cost, and it won't add a penny to the deficit. Just like the Federal highway trust fund has not been a net contributor to the deficit over time; it has been funded through user fees. We need to continue that principle.

In the future, we can probably evolve to something more high tech, vehicle miles traveled or things like that. We are not ready today to get there, and we sure as heck can't get there by October 1, so we have to work off the basics that we already have, that we have had since Dwight David Eisenhower, a Republican President, and it was Ronald Reagan who added mass transit into the highway trust fund. This has been truly a bipartisan issue over the years. We lost our way for a bit here, and it should become bipartisan again. We should all join together, and we should show that we really believe in America's future and make the investments that are necessary to get us there on a better national transportation system.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Well said, and I have nothing to add to that eloquence.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, CELEBRATES TRICENTENNIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for 30 minutes.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the tricentennial of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, the county I have proudly called home my entire life and where my family has lived since 1739. The celebration this year is led by former State Senator Marcia Karrow and a hardworking committee of exemplary county residents.

The 300-year history of Hunterdon County is an excellent example of the journey in the advancement of the English colonies in North America to the present day status of the United States of America throughout the world. To this day, Hunterdon County maintains its natural beauty and rural charm, as has been the case throughout its history.

The county is proud to be named for Robert Hunter, the distinguished royal governor of New York and New Jersey who sailed to America with 3,000 Palatinate German refugees in 1710. They, and thousands of others like them, yearned for religious freedom and a better life for themselves and their descendants. Hunterdon County was

formed when it separated from Burlington County 300 years ago this month, in March of 1714.

From the first reading of the Declaration of Independence on the steps of what was then the Hunterdon County Courthouse in Trenton to General Washington's historic Delaware River crossing and decisive victory at the Battle of Trenton, Hunterdon's link to the 1776 birth of the United States is significant. I was personally inspired as a child by the tales of Captain Daniel Bray and the Hunterdon County militia who collected the boats on our western border that were used in Washington's crossing on Christmas night in that fateful year of our Nation's birth. The county boasts several sites associated with the Revolution, including the 1759 Vought House in Clinton Township, a Loyalist homestead that still exists with its architecturally distinguished serpentine ceiling.

The county is also proud of its agricultural heritage. The county seal originally included a hay wagon and now features a bountiful sheaf of wheat. Farming was the story of most county residents, from Native Americans through the earliest colonial settlers to those who lived at the beginning of the 20th century. Many barns dot the county landscape, and this heritage is celebrated annually at the Hunterdon County 4-H and Agricultural Fair.

A century and a half ago general stores and hotels, including several owned by my ancestors, were common in the towns that sprouted across the 400 square acres of the county. From Clinton in the north to Lambertville in the south, to Frenchtown in the west, to Flemington, the county seat, in the middle, they were the centers of life where Hunterdon families came to market, to socialize, and to worship.

The nature of Hunterdon has changed as the population increased from the mid-20th century forward. The large agricultural townships have become more heavily populated as farmland has been transformed to houses for new residents, who demanded improvements, including establishment of a system of regional schools and construction of the Hunterdon County Medical Center. After World War II, Hunterdon was the only county in the State still without a hospital. County leaders, including the Board of Agriculture, were responsible for the building of the medical center that opened in 1953. Since then, this health care facility has become one of the premier medical institutions in New Jersey. Public-spirited men and women created five distinguished regional high schools that would become leaders in the State in academics, athletics, and extra-curricular activities.

The 300-year history of Hunterdon County has been captured in writings, photographs, and memories telling the

compelling story of its sheer natural beauty, its people, and the larger community of churches, nonprofit groups, and civic organizations, with neighbor helping neighbor.

Our ancestor have striven for 300 years to make Hunterdon what it is today, a 21st century exemplar of the United States as a whole: free, self-governed, prosperous, and dedicated to the advancement of the Nation. We, the 130,000 current residents, have a responsibility to those who will come after us to preserve and improve the county we love.

Truly, Hunterdon County has always been and will always be in my heart.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. WENSTRUP (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a death in the family.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on March 25, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 3771. To accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines

H.R. 2019. To eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, March 28, 2014, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5100. A letter from the Vice President, Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, AMTRAK, transmitting a letter regarding the general and legislative annual report; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5101. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take Off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30943; Amdt. No. 3577] received

March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5102. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30944; Amdt. No. 3578] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5103. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Stage 3 Helicopter Noise Certification Standards [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0948; Amdt. No. 36-29] (RIN: 2120-AJ96) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5104. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30942; Amdt. No. 3576] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5105. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30941; Amdt. No. 3575] received March 14, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5106. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Helicopter Air Ambulance, Commercial Helicopter, and Part 91 Helicopter Operations [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0982; Amdt. Nos. 91-330; 120-2; 135-129] (RIN: 2120-AJ53) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5107. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters) [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0770; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-057-AD; Amendment 39-17771; AD 2014-04-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5108. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0090; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-003-AD; Amendment 39-17761; AD 2014-04-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5109. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0699; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-198-AD; Amendment 39-17751; AD 2014-03-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5110. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PIAGGIO AERO INDUSTRIES S.p.A Model Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0964; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-035-AD; Amendment 39-17757; AD 2014-03-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5111. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0831; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-125-AD; Amendment 39-17763; AD 2014-04-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5112. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Slingsby Aviation Ltd. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0997; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-044-AD; Amendment 39-17759; AD 2014-04-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5113. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0670; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-081-AD; Amendment 39-17756; AD 2014-03-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5114. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0886; Directorate Identifier 2008-SW-067-AD; Amendment 39-17738; AD 2014-03-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5115. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters (Type Certificate Currently Held by Agusta Westland S.p.A) (Agusta Westland) [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0643; Directorate Identifier 2012-SW-096-AD; Amendment 39-17773; AD 2014-04-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5116. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0695; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-264-AD; Amendment 39-17726; AD 2014-01-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (for himself, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. COLLINS of

Georgia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 4315. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 4316. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to improve the disclosure of certain expenditures under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 4317. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require disclosure to States of the basis of determinations under such Act, to ensure use of information provided by State, tribal, and county governments in decisionmaking under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 4318. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to conform citizen suits under that Act with other existing law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. WOMACK):

H.R. 4319. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require the Secretary of the Interior to publish and make available for public comment a draft economic analysis at the time a proposed rule to designate critical habitat is published; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KLINE (for himself, Mr. McKEON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. SALMON, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. GOWDY, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. MESSER, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 4320. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues;

to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. KLINE, Mr. McKEON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. SALMON, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. GOWDY, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. MESSER, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 4321. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 4322. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide for the payment to affected producers and their employees of duties that are collected pursuant to countervailing and antidumping duty orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 4323. A bill to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. NUGENT, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COLE, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. ENYART):

H.R. 4324. A bill to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. RUIZ, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 4325. A bill to prohibit the marketing of electronic cigarettes to children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4326. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit against income tax to assist individuals with high residential energy costs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself and Mr. GIBSON):

H.R. 4327. A bill to prohibit the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from issuing certain decisions that will raise costs for ratepayers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COLE (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 4328. A bill to establish a program to award contracts to certain tribal organizations, Indian corporations, public school districts, and States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PEARCE (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 4329. A bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-De-

termination Act of 1996, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. VELA, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. GALLEGOS):

H.R. 4330. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to ensure that the treatment of illiquid swaps does not disadvantage certain non-financial end users who use them to manage business risk; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia:

H.R. 4331. A bill to require a 50 percent reduction in the number of limousines in the Federal fleet; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. LONG, and Mr. COFFMAN):

H.R. 4332. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to increase the dollar limitation on the de minimis safe harbor from treatment as a capital expenditure for taxpayers without applicable financial statements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. JENKINS (for herself, Mr. KIND, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 4333. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 4334. A bill to allow homeowners facing foreclosure to avoid deficiency judgments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MAFFEI:

H.R. 4335. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that the estate of a deceased veteran may receive certain accrued benefits upon the death of the veteran, to ensure that substituted claims are processed timely, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MICHAUD (for himself and Mr. RIBBLE):

H.R. 4336. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to the highway safety improvement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4337. A bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Pierre L'Enfant from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in the United States Capitol; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4338. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require gas pipeline facilities to accelerate the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of high-risk pipelines used in commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4339. A bill to establish State revolving loan funds to repair or replace natural gas distribution pipelines; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and

Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROKITA:

H.R. 4340. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to passenger motor vehicle crash avoidance information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 4341. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to submit to Congress a report on the use, in advertising and other media for the promotion of commercial products, of images that have been altered to materially change the physical characteristics of the faces and bodies of the individuals depicted; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mr. ROKITA, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. BARTON, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

H.R. 4342. A bill to prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from relinquishing responsibility over the Internet domain name system until the Comptroller General of the United States submits to Congress a report on the role of the NTIA with respect to such system; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4343. A bill to end the unconstitutional delegation of legislative power which was exclusively vested in the Senate and House of Representatives by article I, section 1 of the United States Constitution, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to issue a report to Congress detailing the extent of the problem of unconstitutional delegation to the end that such delegations can be phased out, thereby restoring the constitutional principle of separation of powers set forth in the first sections of the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself, Ms. DELAULO, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 4344. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service connection for mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 4345. A bill to reauthorize the weatherization and State energy programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. McKEON, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MICA, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H.R. 4346. A bill to encourage continued enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. BARBER, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CART-

WRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KIND, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. POCAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.J. Res. 113. A joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. NADLER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VELA, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. DELAULO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. ENYART, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. REED, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. SHIMKUS):

H. Res. 526. A resolution recognizing the important work of the Meals On Wheels Association of America and its member programs throughout the country in addressing senior hunger and improving the quality of life for millions of our nation's seniors each year; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. HAHN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN

GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. VELA):

H. Res. 527. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BACHUS (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. BYRNE):

H. Res. 528. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 2014 as "National Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SIRES, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MOORE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. FARR, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. HORSFORD):

H. Res. 529. A resolution recognizing March 31 as "César Chávez Day" in honor of the accomplishments and legacy of César Estrada Chávez; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

178. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 305 supporting a complete hydrologic separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

179. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 300 memorializing the Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to take a stronger role in investigating and eliminating delays in veterans' health care; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 4315.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. LUMMIS:

H.R. 4316.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution: To make all Laws

which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 4317.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4318.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 4319.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. KLINE:

H.R. 4320.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 4321.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 4322.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations.

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 4323.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The authority to enact this bill is derived from, but may not be limited to, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4324.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ESTY:

H.R. 4325.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4326.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4327.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 4328.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with the Indian Tribes.

- This bill is enacted pursuant to Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 in order the enforce treaties made between the United States and several Indian Tribes.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 4329.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 4330.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, as this legislation regulates commerce with foreign nations, between the states, and with Indian Tribes.

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia:

H.R. 4331.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 4332.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution which reads: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defense and General Welfare of the United States; but all Duties and Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Ms. JENKINS:

H.R. 4333.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI to the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 4334.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MAFFEI:

H.R. 4335.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 4336.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4337.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: clause 2 of section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4338.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4339.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ROKITA:

H.R. 4340.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States that states "The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 4341.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. SHIMKUS:

H.R. 4342.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4343.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(a) Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution vests the legislative powers enumerated therein in the United States Congress, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives, subject only to the veto power of the President as provided in Article I, Section 7, Clause 2.

(b) Article II, Section 1 of the United States Constitution vests the executive power of the United States in a President of the United States, except as enumerated in Article II, Section 2.

(c) Article III, Section 1 of the United States Constitution vests the judicial power of the United States in "one supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish," subject only to the jurisdictional limitations set forth in Article III, Section 2.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 4344.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Amendment XVI, of the United States Constitution

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 4345.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1,

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 4346.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 12, 13, 14 and 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.J. Res. 113.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 182: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 312: Mr. TIERNEY and Ms. HAHN.
 H.R. 401: Mr. JOLLY.
 H.R. 482: Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 494: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
 H.R. 594: Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 645: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 648: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SIREs, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. NOLAN.
 H.R. 769: Mr. BERA of California.
 H.R. 795: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 1146: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. CHABOT.
 H.R. 1176: Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 1239: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
 H.R. 1240: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 1313: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 1502: Mr. HENSARLING.
 H.R. 1563: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H.R. 1603: Mr. SIREs.
 H.R. 1629: Mr. McDERMOTT.
 H.R. 1652: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
 H.R. 1779: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
 H.R. 1812: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
 H.R. 1996: Mr. TIERNEY.
 H.R. 2001: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. McDERMOTT.
 H.R. 2146: Mr. HOLT.
 H.R. 2366: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
 H.R. 2377: Mr. ENYART.
 H.R. 2452: Ms. HAHN.
 H.R. 2527: Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 2591: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 2662: Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2663: Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H.R. 2697: Mr. WAXMAN.
 H.R. 2737: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
 H.R. 2750: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H.R. 2892: Mr. PITTENGER.
 H.R. 2901: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. POLIS, Ms. CHU, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 2932: Mr. BERA of California, Mr. COOPER, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MENG, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUPERSBERGER, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
 H.R. 2939: Mr. SALMON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. ISSA, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ENYART, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mr. HOYER.
 H.R. 2959: Mr. HENSARLING, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
 H.R. 2994: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
 H.R. 3086: Mr. ISSA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. MICA, Mr. NUNES, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. MORAN.
 H.R. 3162: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 3179: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
 H.R. 3371: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
 H.R. 3481: Mr. ENYART.
 H.R. 3508: Mr. GRIMM.
 H.R. 3563: Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 3583: Mr. CHABOT.
 H.R. 3600: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. ENYART.
 H.R. 3601: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 3602: Mr. WAXMAN.
 H.R. 3610: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
 H.R. 3658: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. ESTY, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. CLAY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. HARPER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. BYRNE.
 H.R. 3670: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois and Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 3673: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. LANCE.
 H.R. 3681: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 3698: Mr. REICHERT.
 H.R. 3708: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. FARENTHOLD.
 H.R. 3717: Mr. CLAY, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 3725: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 3782: Mr. PETERSON.
 H.R. 3793: Mr. VEASEY.
 H.R. 3852: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. GRAYSON.
 H.R. 3930: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 4012: Mr. FLORES and Mr. BARTON.
 H.R. 4031: Mr. BOUSTANY.
 H.R. 4041: Mr. DEUTCH.
 H.R. 4060: Mr. MARCHANT.
 H.R. 4107: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 4119: Ms. HAHN and Mr. ENYART.
 H.R. 4139: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
 H.R. 4149: Mr. WALZ.
 H.R. 4157: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
 H.R. 4158: Mr. McCLINTOCK.
 H.R. 4167: Mr. HIGGINS.
 H.R. 4183: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
 H.R. 4187: Mr. BUCSHON, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Ms. JENKINS.
 H.R. 4200: Mr. PAULSEN.
 H.R. 4225: Mr. COTTON, Mr. LANCE, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 4227: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 4229: Mr. McCAUL.
 H.R. 4250: Mr. FARR, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. BARR.
 H.R. 4257: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. HUNTER.
 H.R. 4261: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. O'ROURKE.
 H.R. 4269: Mr. HOLT.
 H.R. 4285: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 4286: Mr. JORDAN.
 H.R. 4304: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. STEWART.
 H.R. 4305: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.J. Res. 101: Mr. SANFORD.
 H. Con. Res. 86: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H. Con. Res. 87: Mr. LATTI.
 H. Con. Res. 94: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MCKEON, and Mr. COOK.
 H. Con. Res. 95: Mr. COBLE, Mr. JONES, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
 H. Res. 284: Mr. BROUN of Georgia and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
 H. Res. 412: Ms. TSONGAS.
 H. Res. 456: Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H. Res. 480: Mr. HIGGINS.
 H. Res. 494: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. ESTY, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H. Res. 505: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

74. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City of Cudahy, California, relative to Resolution No. 14-07 endorsing comprehensive immigration reform in the United States House of Representatives during the current legislative year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE—Thursday, March 27, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, we would rest in You, who alone can bring order to our world. Reveal yourself to our Senators, guiding them on the path of peace. May they place behind them disappointed hopes as they lean on You for comfort and strength. Lord, rebuke their doubts, strengthen the good in them so that nothing may hinder the outflow of Your power in their lives. Direct them to make a commitment to work together for Your glory.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 333.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 333, H.R. 3979, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO PETER D. ROBINSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have said often that people who work here in the Capitol are some of the most intelligent men and women anywhere in the world. They come here—as I explained to a group of people from Nevada this morning—dedicated to public service. They are not here to see how much money they can make. They are here to change people's lives. Today, the Senate is losing one of its brightest and most seasoned minds.

A lawyer by trade, Pete Robinson came to the Senate in 2002. I knew Pete because he had worked in the House previously, when I served over there. I knew him as someone I always admired—people who are good runners. I saw Pete out running and I was amazed at his gracefulness and speed. I did a lot of running. I wasn't very graceful and didn't have a lot of speed, but I did a lot of running. Pete was the captain of his high school cross-country team. He was a good athlete, which I admire very much.

From the moment he came to the Senate, the Office of Parliamentarian became a better place. He was as close to being indispensable as anyone. He has an incredible work ethic and tremendous experience—having been the Parliamentarian in the House and here and having been in the private sector. He has a great memory and has made the Senate function as it should. Not many people can make that claim, especially today. So he will be missed. I will miss him personally.

I love to joke with him and talk to him about his running days, like I talk about my running days, as if we were both still out running. But that is what life is all about. We look back at the things that we did. I am sure, just as

the Presiding Officer knows, things you do as a younger man become better every day, and that is the way I look back on my athletic endeavors in that regard. Of course, talking just about myself, maybe I wasn't as good as I thought I was, but that didn't matter at the time. It made me feel good, and that is what athletics is all about—trying to build character.

So Pete is going to be missed in his retirement, but he is going to have plenty to do. He has lots of hobbies: an avid gardener, a good cook—some say an amateur chef. I won't go that far, but he is a good cook, as I understand it. He can make his own furniture. So he is going to keep busy feeding and furnishing his wife Connie, their daughter Tara, son-in-law Ethan, and grandson Milo with the good things he has done.

We will truly miss him. I appreciate his courtesies all the time to me, and, as far as I know, to everyone else.

SCHEDULE

Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10:30, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to H.R. 4152. At noon there will be up to three rollcall votes: the Menendez-Corker substitute, passage of the Ukraine bill, and confirmation of Maria Contreras-Sweet to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Last night I filed cloture on John Owens to be a U.S. circuit judge, and on the motion to proceed to the legislative vehicle for the unemployment insurance bill. Under the rule the first cloture vote will be tomorrow morning.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO PETER D. ROBINSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to say a word about our longtime colleague Peter Robinson, who is retiring this week.

Peter joined the Office of the Senate Parliamentarian in 2002 and quickly distinguished himself as a standout talent. He brought a remarkable breadth of knowledge to a job that really requires it and a legendary facility for

reading and digesting complex legislation in record time. His colleagues describe him as kind of a genius, actually—somebody who can remember not only where he read something but the exact page on which he read it. According to Senate legend, one staffer actually showed up one day asking for the software program that he just assumed Peter had been using to analyze complex bills. He was that fast. He was that good.

Peter has all sorts of interests and hobbies, so I am sure he will make very good use of his retirement, but he will be missed around here. Pete's colleagues will miss his professional skill and mastery of precedent and procedure, but they will also miss the good humor and the equanimity which have made him such a great colleague and such a valuable and respected member of the Senate family over the years. We wish Peter all the best.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

UKRAINE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today is an important day for Ukraine and for all nations supporting international law, democracy, and decency. Later today the Senate will pass a bipartisan bill that provides much needed aid to stabilize Ukraine's economy.

For those Russian leaders who have played a role in the destabilization of Ukraine, this legislation contains much needed repercussions against them. Remember, Russia is run by an oligarchy. One of the oligarchs is the President of that country—Putin. This bill is a reality check to him that the United States will not stand idly by while Russia plays the role of schoolyard bully.

It seems to me that President Putin does not understand the way the world works today. It is almost as if Putin yearns for the days of Joseph Stalin. Times have changed since Stalin was around, the world has changed since Stalin was around, and it has changed for the better. The Cold War is over, along with fixtures such as the Iron Curtain, dueling superpowers, and brinksmanship. Yet it is almost as if Putin is living in a time warp. Russia's place in the world has transformed. It does not wield the global power it once did. The rest of the world has changed since Stalin's era, with other countries in leading roles.

But the United States of America remains a beacon of hope to the whole world. Our economic, our military, our political power, and our influence are strong because we stand for freedom, democracy, and economic prosperity. Russia, on the other hand, led by this man who yearns for Stalin, is a nation of immense resources and potential for good. Yet they have chosen to wield its influence solely for self-interests.

Earlier this week President Obama said the following about Russia:

Russia is a regional power that is threatening some of its immediate neighbors—not out of strength, but out of weakness. The fact that Russia felt compelled to go in militarily and lay bare these violations of international law indicates less influence, not more.

President Obama is absolutely correct. Instead of using its influence to bring stability to neighboring countries, Putin has instead played the role of an antagonist. Look at what has taken place in Crimea and the country of Georgia. For what does Russia stand? For what does President Putin stand?

As the world gets closer and closer to looking at Putin, it doesn't like what it sees. The product of Putin's two decades in leadership seems to be a disregard for national law, more corruption, and increased suppression of basic human rights. While countless of his own citizens have rallied in the streets pleading for more freedom, Putin and his cronies have concerned themselves with getting richer—not only with power but with money. These oligarchs have been ruthless in protecting their power and their money.

Inside and outside of Russia, the President of Russia has displayed a penchant for being a bully. He imprisons political rivals and locks them up. He seizes the wealth from Russians who have displeased him. If they don't say or do exactly what he wants, he puts them in jail and takes their wealth. He has singlehandedly rolled back years of progress on equality. He has endorsed the persecution of his own country's gay and lesbian community. And once again he has invaded and occupied a nation for choosing democracy. Are these acts of a statesman? No. They are acts of a bully.

As billions tuned in to the Olympics, I believe few were deluded by the fake veneer of Putin's Sochi show. In fact, all we saw was that Putin's Russia isn't working.

I say every time I get on the floor that if he so likes the vote that took place in Crimea, why doesn't he have a vote of the people in Chechnya? Everyone knows why.

I say to Mr. Putin: Operating by intimidation and belligerence will not work. In today's world, nations should work together through diplomacy and the rule of law.

He has a choice to come back into the international community and honor international law or to continue to isolate Russia.

Russian troops continue to mass at the border of Ukraine, but he should understand this: The consequences for his continued bullying will not end today and certainly not with this bill. His chest-thumping aggression is leading Russia only to isolation and irrelevance.

My colleagues and I will continue to work to strengthen Ukraine's Government and its 46 million people. The bill

before the Senate today sanctions and further isolates Putin and his inner circle. What we are doing here today is just the beginning.

I support this legislation, and I am proud of my Senate colleagues who join in standing for the people of Ukraine. This is what we are doing.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

REAL SOLUTIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I will start by acknowledging the majority leader's candor yesterday in outlining his party's agenda for the rest of the year—in admitting he actually asked his party's "political arm," the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, to come up with it. Maybe he didn't intend to admit that his party's so-called agenda is actually a political gambit or that it basically has one intent—to bail out imperiled Democrats, Democrats desperate to distract from how ObamaCare is devastating the middle class—but it slipped out anyway.

But that wasn't the only Freudian slip we heard at yesterday's press conference. Here is a quote from one of the majority leader's top lieutenants:

When we play the political games that we're playing here, [middle-class families] feel that we are detached from their priorities.

Boy, I couldn't agree more with that. Maybe that is why even the press isn't taking this "agenda" seriously. The New York Times reported that helping struggling Americans is "not really the point" of Democrats' agenda and that a main goal is actually just "to motivate the Democratic base" and drive turnout in places they need to win in November. The Times also noted that the show votes associated with the Democratic agenda "will be timed to coincide with campaign-style trips [by the President]." According to the Washington Post, "Democrats hope to use the votes . . . as fodder . . . in hopes of staving off potential losses in several states."

Look, it doesn't get any more cynical than that—to demonstrate such a total lack of seriousness in such troubling times for the middle class.

At this point Washington Democrats are in the sixth year of trying to fix the economy, and the middle class continues to suffer. It is just not working.

As I have been saying for months now, this presents Washington Democrats with a choice. One option they have is to try something different. This means coming to the middle and working with us on bipartisan solutions that can create jobs, increase take-home pay, and give a leg up to the middle class. The other option is to double down on failed ideology and political gimmicks—the kinds of things that get the Democrats' leftwing base all excited.

In short, Washington Democrats have a choice between helping the middle class and pleasing the left. So when they release a poll-tested, campaign-crafted ObamaCare distraction “agenda” packed to the brim with “lefty show votes,” I think middle-class families can tell whose side Washington Democrats are really on. It is certainly not their side.

The people we represent all deserve better than this. They are hurting, really hurting, and all Washington Democrats seem to have for them is a bunch of show votes. I mean, how will show votes help our constituents? How will they help the people who have been writing to me about the impact of ObamaCare on themselves and their families?

One woman who wrote me from Louisville had been enrolled in Kentucky’s high-risk pool for people with pre-existing conditions. She said she had been battling cancer for years and that in 2012 her cancer metastasized and moved into her liver, pelvis, lung, and diaphragm. Just imagine hearing devastating news like that. Now imagine hearing a year or so later that you are going to lose the insurance you liked too, insurance that had helped you manage your cancer treatment, and, worse, that your new ObamaCare plan was going to classify your chemo medicine as a specialty drug that costs more than \$1,000 for a 3-week supply. ObamaCare, this constituent wrote, “is about as helpful in saving my life as a wet paper sack to help cover me from the rain.”

I would note she contacted me because she wanted me to know that ObamaCare stories like hers are anything but “lies,” despite what some in this Chamber might imply.

Does anyone really think constituents like her care about some show vote? No. What she needs is relief from ObamaCare.

So does another Kentuckian, who wrote me from Henderson County, whose premium will jump \$400 a month to over \$1,100 a month under ObamaCare. He wrote:

Americans were told that we could . . . keep our existing policy [if we chose]. . . . Not only was [this] a lie—it’s a lie that will cost me an additional \$700 per month!

How is a political show vote going to help him? Of course it isn’t. And there is not a thing the Democratic Party’s “political arm” can do to fix these problems.

Kentuckians and countless Americans suffering under ObamaCare need real solutions—not gimmicks, not base-pleasing ideology. Solutions are what is needed. Look, Washington Democrats forced America’s middle class into this impossible situation. They basically blocked every reasonable attempt to reform this law or to change it in any meaningful way. Yet now ObamaCare is becoming politically

difficult for them. They are deflecting blame. Just this morning we saw several imperiled Obama Democrats spin an op-ed that underscores the point, but Americans are not going to be fooled by any of this. Americans agree it is time for Washington Democrats to work with us to remedy the mess they created, and that means repealing this law and replacing it with real reform.

It is time for them to work with us on a real jobs agenda too, and to take up the numerous bills the House has already sent over and get them onto the President’s desk.

Americans are fed up with the games and the tricks. They want serious solutions. They don’t need a campaign poster to figure that out, and Republicans believe it is about time the American people got those solutions.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT MICHAEL C. CABLE

Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a Kentucky soldier who tragically has been lost while serving his country. SGT Michael C. Cable of Philpot, KY, was killed by the enemy while guarding American and Afghan officials in Afghanistan on March 27, 2013, exactly 1 year ago today. He was 26 years old.

For his service in uniform, Sergeant Cable received several awards, medals, and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Non-commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

A decade ago as a high school student, Michael was a star on the Daviess County High School cross-country team, and they won many races. “I sent out an e-mail this morning with this Bible verse,” says Tony Rowe, Michael’s former high school coach.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” He is a hero. He died fighting for us and trying to make life better for the people of Afghanistan.

What Tony Rowe says about Michael is absolutely true, and in fact the most important thing that Michael’s family wants the world to understand is that Michael was performing a mission at the time he was attacked, and this important mission was protecting others. It was not only highly important work but highly dangerous.

Before leaving on his final deployment, Michael pulled his family members aside to warn them his mission would be dangerous. “He was prepared before he left for anything that happened,” said Raymond Johnston, Michael’s older brother. In that conversation Michael described his sisters and a

close family friend as the most important people in his life, and he asked his family to take care of them if anything happened to him.

It is very hard. He was my little buddy. He wanted to make sure that no matter what, we continued to enjoy life. And we are trying to do that.

Michael’s tragic loss was the first combat death for the 101st Airborne Division, based in Fort Campbell, KY, for that deployment to Afghanistan. He joined the Army in August 2007 and arrived at Fort Campbell in December of 2010. He served as a fire support specialist.

In his family Michael was known as a prankster. His last big prank was pulled on his younger sister Idalis. Michael promised he would buy Idalis a car. He had his older sister Wendy tell Idalis that Michael was determined to make good on his word but that he had bought her a really old and ugly car. Wendy told Idalis she would have to act excited so as not to hurt Michael’s feelings. Far from a beat-up clunker, Michael gave his sister his own Jeep Cherokee just before he deployed to Afghanistan.

Michael loved sports of all kinds. He played golf to relax and won a golf tournament at Fort Campbell. His favorite professional sports team was the Green Bay Packers.

Michael had planned to leave the Army after his tour in Afghanistan to open his own home remodeling business. His family remembers Michael as always busy spending time with friends.

We are thinking about Michael’s family today, including his parents, Vickie and Raymond Johnston, his siblings Raymond, Lisa, Wendy, Kennedy, and Idalis, and many other beloved family members and friends.

I would like the family of SGT Michael C. Cable to know this Senate recognizes that Sergeant Cable was doing his job, and we are filled with gratitude. Without the men and women brave enough to wear our country’s uniform and do the jobs our country asks them to do, I fear for what would become of our Nation.

I know my colleagues join me in honoring Sergeant Cable for his life of service and for his tragic sacrifice, and I extend my deepest condolences to Michael’s family for their loss 1 year ago today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m. Senators are permitted to speak therein for up to 10

minutes each, with time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half.

The Senator from South Dakota.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday the Democrats in the Senate held a news conference in which they rolled out their agenda, which has been described differently by different news organizations. The headline from the Washington Examiner said: "Majority threatened, Democrats take up popu-lace agenda to distract from ObamaCare." The Wall Street Journal headline said: "Senate Democrats try to change subject from ObamaCare." The New York Times in reporting on that story, their headline was: "Democrats, as Part of Midterm Strategy to Schedule Votes on Pocketbook Issues." So that was a little more, perhaps, flattering headline.

In the story in the New York Times, it goes on to say:

The proposals have little chance of passing. But Democrats concede that making new laws is not really the point. Rather, they are trying to force Republicans to vote against them.

Later on in the story, the New York Times goes on to say:

Part of the goal is to energize the Democratic base, which will be crucial to turnout in the more conservative states where the party needs to win this year.

So everybody kind of gets the joke that this is really about the midterm elections. The agenda the Democrats are now rolling out is designed to try to create a distraction away from their economic record and from ObamaCare.

It is interesting to me because the Democrats have been the majority in the Senate now for 8 years. So you would think by now this sort of an agenda would have been inactive. In fact, for a few years they had a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate. They had 60 votes and could do literally anything they wanted. Most of these items now are being rolled out because it is, as I said, an election year, and they are saying: These are things that we can do for the American people.

Well, I think the American people are saying enough already. You have done enough to us. Please don't do any more.

The agenda is being described as a fair shot for everyone. Well, I think the American people, perhaps, don't see it as a shot for them as they do a shot at them.

If you look at the last several years as any indication of that, it hasn't worked very well. The agenda that has been advanced by the Democrats here in the Senate and by the President of the United States has left us with a sluggish economy, chronic high unem-

ployment, massive amounts of debt, the lowest labor participation rate, literally, that we have seen in 35 years. In fact, last year the economy grew at 0.9 percent. So you have this sluggish economy sputtering along, and the American people are asking: Where are the jobs? Where is the take-home pay?

Since the President took office, household income in this country has gone down—not up—by \$3,700 per family. If you look at all the policies put in place by the Democratic majority, there isn't really anything that you could point to that helps create jobs mainly because it is heavy handed, top-down management from Washington, DC.

The American people need policies that will unleash the American free enterprise system and unleash the entrepreneurs and small businesses that would allow them to grow this economy and expand this economy. That is better for everyone. Every middle-class American in this country wants a better quality of life, a better standard of life for their children and grandchildren than what they have experienced. This may be the first generation of Americans where this is not true. Why? Because policies in Washington, DC, make it more difficult, more expensive, to create jobs.

You can go down the list. If you look at ObamaCare, according to the Congressional Budget Office, ObamaCare is going to result in 2.5 million fewer full-time workers. According to the CBO, there will be 2.5 million fewer full-time workers over the next decade and \$1 trillion in lower wages. Fewer jobs and lower take-home pay is what we are seeing as a result of the policies that have been put in place by the Democratic majority in the Senate and by the President of the United States.

Yesterday there was another announcement about yet another delay of ObamaCare—which will be, I think, the 30th delay that we have seen so far with regard to that legislation. In speaking about that delay, the majority leader of the Senate said yesterday that he thought the delay was necessary because people weren't educated enough about how to use the Internet. Only in Washington, DC—only in Washington, DC—do you see politicians blaming the American people for their failures because that is essentially what the ObamaCare legislation is. By and large I think most people would conclude it just isn't working. It didn't add up in the first place, and it is not working.

It is creating fewer jobs, higher premiums, higher deductibles, lower take-home pay for the American people, fewer choices for doctors and hospitals, and the idea that it is the fault of the American people because they are not educated enough to use the Internet—my dad is 94 years old. He lives in my hometown of Myrtle, SD, a town of

about 500 people. He uses the Internet every single day.

I don't think the problem is the Internet or that people in this country aren't educated enough to use the Internet. I think it has a lot more to do with the fact that incompetence here in Washington, DC, led to a failed roll-out that confused millions of Americans. That is not the responsibility of, nor should we blame, the American people for that. That is government trying to do big things and not doing them well. The government doesn't do complicated things very well.

So when you hear of the new agenda coming out from the Democratic majority in the Senate, that we are going to do this for the American people; we are going to do that for the American people and talk about a minimum wage increase—again, you have a Congressional Budget Office saying that raising the minimum wage by 40 percent, which is what is being proposed, would, in fact, cost the economy up to a million jobs and also would raise prices.

It is going to raise prices on the people that will be hurt the most by price increases—lower-income Americans. Instead of putting policies in place that cost the American economy jobs, we ought to be looking at things that actually create jobs.

We have a proposal called the Keystone Pipeline which the President's own State Department has said would create 42,000 jobs. So those are real jobs, shovel-ready jobs that would be available today. Instead we want to put policies in place that are actually going to cost the economy jobs. If you're an American citizen out there and you hear Washington, DC, is going to do more for you, yet again, you have got to be saying: Whoa, you know, hold the phone. We have seen enough of that already. We have seen this picture before, and we have seen what results when the government tries to do big and complicated things. It just doesn't work very well.

The Web site rollout is a perfect example of that, as is the 2,700-page ObamaCare legislation followed by about 25,000 pages of regulations, which people in this country have to try and discern and figure out.

I would submit that there are things that will create jobs. We know the Keystone Pipeline will create jobs. Passing trade promotion authority and allowing our trade negotiators to create more market opportunities for small businesses and farmers and ranchers and entrepreneurs in this country and around the world will create jobs. Passing trade promotion authority and getting the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the European trade agreement enacted they say will expose American businesses to 1 billion new consumers worldwide. Those are the types of things that do create jobs, and we know that.

Instead of having an election year agenda that is transparently stated to be that, why don't we actually talk about things that will create jobs and will improve the overall standard of living for people in this country?

I would make one other observation, and that is another thing coming out of the administration right now, which will be incredibly harmful to the economy and make it very difficult for lower income and middle-class Americans to make ends meet, are policies coming out of the EPA that are going to drive the cost of energy. Energy is an important input. It is a huge factor in places such as South Dakota where we have a cold-weather climate and an agricultural-based economy. We travel long distances to get places. When you talk about raising the cost of energy in a State such as South Dakota, you are significantly increasing the cost of doing business in a way that will make it more difficult and more expensive to create the jobs we need, get people back to work, and get the economy growing at a faster rate. These things are harmful to job growth.

I talked to a bunch of small businesses in my State last week and asked them about some of these policies. I asked them: What are the biggest obstacles right now to your success and what are things that could be done that would actually be helpful?

Of course, ObamaCare is something that immediately comes up, but also the whole issue of the minimum wage. The smallest business owner I talked to I believe had 30 employees and the largest had maybe a little over 200 employees. They said, look, this is a job killer. What that means is we are not going to be able to hire as many people. It adds significant higher operating costs every year to our businesses and makes it more difficult to create the jobs for the people who actually need those jobs, most of whom, in a lot of these places, are going to be young people who are trying to get that first job and make their way up the economic ladder.

There are lots of things we could talk about that do address the problem rather than just addressing the symptoms, and we want to vote on an extension. We are going to vote on an extension of unemployment insurance, which will be the thirteenth time we have done that. When you go through an economic downturn, obviously there is a need to help people who have lost jobs and been displaced in the economy. But when are we going to start focusing on the problem rather than the symptom?

The problem is we have almost 4 million Americans who have been unemployed for more than 6 months. We ought to be looking at what we can do to create jobs for the people who don't have jobs in our economy. I have introduced an amendment to the unemploy-

ment insurance legislation, which I don't think is going to get voted on, that has some simple solutions.

One of those things is to waive the employer mandate for any employer who hires somebody who has been unemployed for more than 6 months. So if you are a long-term unemployed person and an employer hires that person, you get a waiver from the employer mandate which could save an employer several thousand dollars a year. It also calls for a 6-month payroll tax holiday for employers, which if you have a \$40,000-a-year employee on your payroll, you would save about \$2,400. You could save \$4,000, \$5,000, or \$6,000 a year in the cost of hiring someone with those two suggestions. Another suggestion is to allow people to have access to low-interest loans—up to \$10,000—to relocate to places where there is lower unemployment.

My State of South Dakota is looking for workers. When I travel through my communities, we can't find workers. One of the biggest obstacles for people to get to jobs is to relocate. If we gave them a low-interest loan that would allow them to move to places where there is low unemployment and where there are jobs, it would make a lot of sense.

Finally, it adopts the SKILLS Act that has passed the House of Representatives, which consolidates 35 Federal programs into 9 programs so you don't have all of this duplication and overlap in all of these Federal programs for worker training and shifts that resource out to the States where States can design programs that actually prepare and equip the people in their States for the jobs that are available.

Those are the types of solutions we ought to be talking about rather than top-down, heavyhanded, government-driven solutions that make it more difficult to create jobs and is equivalent to throwing a big wet blanket on the American economy at the time we can least afford it.

My State of South Dakota is a good example. We have balanced our budget every year since 1889. We have zero personal income tax, zero corporate income tax, and we have a very well-trained, hard-working, educated workforce. We have a good climate for doing business with a light regulatory touch. We have a low unemployment rate and a vibrant economy mainly because we understand that it isn't the government that creates jobs.

When the Senate Democrats and the President come out with the election-year, poll-tested agenda, which is clearly driven simply to try to generate votes in the midterm elections rather than actually solve the problems—and it says that in the stories. The stories are very transparent about what they are trying to do. We ought to be focused on things that actually

create jobs, such as passing the Keystone Pipeline, passing trade promotion authority, and looking at real solutions that do more than just treat symptoms, and actually get at the problems.

The problem is we have too many people in this economy who have been unemployed for a long period of time. We need to get them back to work and get the economy growing faster than 1.9 percent a year. If we get growth back up to 3 or 4 percent a year, it will dramatically change the future for middle-class families in this country, and that is what we ought to be focused on.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mrs. MURRAY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2164 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. MURRAY. Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

PROVIDING FOR THE COSTS OF LOAN GUARANTEES FOR UKRAINE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4152, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4152) to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

Pending:

Reid (for Menendez/Corker) amendment No. 2867, to provide a complete substitute.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 12 noon will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their assigned designees.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time under quorum calls be equally divided between the majority and the minority.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan agreement I have reached with five of our colleagues from across the aisle Senators HELLER, COLLINS, PORTMAN, MURKOWSKI, and KIRK to provide emergency unemployment insurance to 2.7 million Americans. This commonsense, bipartisan agreement is one of the many things the Senate should do to help create jobs and strengthen our Nation's economy so it works for every American, so everyone has a fair shot. So I hope my colleagues will join with us and pass this bill quickly so it can be taken up for a vote in the House.

The individual and economic consequences of a lapse of these unemployment insurance funds are very clear. I have described many times, and my colleagues have come to the floor many times, and indicated the individual cases where people who have worked for years found themselves without a job, through no fault of their own, desperately needing some modest assistance—and these benefits are about \$300 to \$350 a week—just to keep going, to keep looking for work, to keep trying to be part of the workforce, which they desperately want to do. We have shared these stories. These individual hardships ripple across our entire economy.

Indeed, the Congressional Budget Office and other economists looking at this, not from the individual perspective but from the overall economy, find this is one of the most effective ways to keep the economy moving forward. The CBO has indeed estimated our failure so far to extend benefits through 2014 would cost the economy 200,000 jobs. That is simply as a result of these payments to individuals going right back into the economy. It stimulates other workers who have work and creates demand.

So restoring economic assistance for Americans who have lost their jobs and who are trying to find new ones is not only the right thing to do, but it is also the smart thing to do for our economy. That is why I have been pressing for an extension of these benefits over a longer period of time. But, we have reached a principled compromise—and I have to underscore the word “compromise”—to do it over a 5-month period, with some retroactive and some, if we move quickly enough, prospective. But it is frustrating to realize that some in Congress don't want to do this. I think that is unfortunate not only because of the effect it has on individual constituents but also because it is going to adversely affect our economy. It is not going to add jobs. In fact, as CBO suggests, it could indeed take away jobs.

Let me take a few moments to address some of the arguments being raised, particularly in the House of

Representatives, as to why they can't support this. Basically, it comes from the notion that: Well, this is too hard to implement. Even if you concede these benefits are absolutely important, they would provide economic stimulus, we just can't implement them.

These concerns were highlighted by a letter from the National Association of State Workforce Agencies. But all of these concerns are addressable. Indeed, the Secretary of Labor, Tom Perez, has addressed these concerns point by point in a recent letter, and he has, importantly, committed to work collaboratively with the States—as has been the case in all of the 12 extensions or expansions of this program since the great recession—to do this.

We have repeatedly extended this program. There have been periods of time where there has been a gap between extensions, and they have had to look backwards, these State administrators. Secretary Perez is committed to do all he can and have all the efforts of the Department so this can be implemented successfully, and I am confident it can and he is confident it can.

But there were four basic assertions that were made that I want to address.

First, NASWA indicated that, well, States are struggling with antiquated computer systems that make it hard to implement changes quickly. Well, the States have received over the past 5 years \$345 million to modernize their unemployment insurance systems. That is Federal money going to States so they can fix their computer systems. So this is not exactly an area we have neglected in terms of helping them modernize their computer systems. Complex program changes we have made in the past—I was part of the effort in 2012 to extend unemployment compensation benefits—and we made some significant changes. We reduced the total number of weeks from 99 to 73.

So we are not talking today about some complicated new system; we are simply extending the existing system. We are not changing the tiers. We are not changing any of the calculations they have to make. Indeed, that is one of the reasons why I have been arguing consistently for a straight extension—not altering the number of weeks you qualify for tier 1 or tier 2 or tier 3, but simply taking the system that was in place on December 28, and fund it retroactively to benefit those who have lost their benefits unexpectedly, and then prospectively as far forward as we could go.

Let me also point out that I was making this request before December 28. I would have hoped we could have moved in December or at least early in January to go ahead and extend this program so there would be absolutely no disruption whatsoever to the States or for the recipients. But it has been a

difficult and long process to get here. Frankly, without the collaboration and efforts of many of my colleagues, and particularly, as I have indicated, my Republican colleagues—Senators HELLER, COLLINS, PORTMAN, MURKOWSKI, and KIRK—and my Democratic colleagues, including Senator BOOKER, who is here, we would not be at this point. So I am glad we are here. But we would not have any of these implementation problems had we acted in December.

Second, there was a concern that one provision relating to Federal funding for the administration of the program could be read in an overly broad fashion so that the State agencies would be so confused and it would be so complicated they could not function. So out of an abundance of caution, we have worked to address this. We have revised the legislation we had proposed to clarify the particular provision so it could not be misconstrued.

In so doing, we make it crystal clear that the prohibition on the use of Federal funding is limited solely to eligibility determinations relating to ensuring millionaires do not receive emergency unemployment insurance benefits.

Third—and this is a related issue to the whole millionaire issue—there was some concern it would be difficult to administer this prohibition. Well, in our legislation, we have a pretty straightforward requirement that individuals certify their income in the preceding year was not more than \$1 million. This is a simple certification that I think could be accomplished rather efficiently and quickly by the agencies. And the Secretary of Labor has committed to issuing guidance to help States with implementation, as the Department does when any new statutory provision is enacted.

As I said before, the Secretary has assured all of the States that he is going to work to expeditiously and efficiently give them the tools to implement this program as soon as the Congress passes it and the President signs it.

Finally, there was a concern about the retroactivity. That challenge, as I said before, is why I and others pressed so hard to get this done prior to December 28 of last year. But even so, States were able to successfully work with the Department of Labor during previous lapses to provide this aid to unemployed workers. We have had these situations before where there has been a disruption of benefits, and then we have renewed the program several weeks later. And the Department of Labor is confident these challenges can be overcome.

Frankly, all of these administrative challenges for the States seem to me to pale in comparison to the challenges being faced by our constituents, who are in a job market where in some places there are three applicants for

every job, in a job market where, if you have worked for 25 years, you are about 50 years old and you are competing with 25- and 30-year-olds who have gotten recent education. Maybe they have more high-tech skills and computer skills than you have in a market that is rapidly becoming more technologically oriented in terms of labor demand.

They are facing severe challenges. These resources are not lavish. The idea that someone would not work because they are getting \$300 a week is difficult, I think, to imagine for many people, particularly the people who have records of work for 10, 20, and 30 years. And what they are doing with this money is putting it right back in our economy. Many are trying to hold on to their homes, and we have heard stories about that. They are trying to put gas in the car. People have contacted me indicating that they use it to keep their phones working because without a phone they cannot get the callback for the job interview to go and find a job.

So this is something that I think has to be considered and, in my book, weighs much more heavily than administrative issues, which the Secretary of Labor assures us will be dealt with, can be dealt with, and he will work with the States to make sure it is done effectively.

Let me conclude by thanking our Republican colleagues who have joined with us. They have been extraordinarily thoughtful and collaborative. They have really contributed in an atmosphere of exchanging ideas of thoughtful consideration. It is a model, I think, of how this Senate should work more frequently, and I thank them and commend them. They have done a great service for their constituents and for the economy and the country. Indeed, ultimately, many Americans will benefit through their great contribution.

So I will hope, as we come up to these procedural votes, that we can move forward, and then we could move this expeditiously. Then we would hope the House would respond appropriately, and we can give some hope and give some confidence to people who are struggling to find jobs in this very difficult time.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BOOKER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the pending legislation be-

fore the body. I urge the vote of all of my colleagues. This legislation is a bipartisan effort led by Senators MENENDEZ and CORKER, the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee. It is very important.

Today the people of Ukraine will be watching the Senate and later the House as to whether we are going to give them initially the support they need after their country has been dismembered by Vladimir Putin in a blatant act of aggression that cannot go unresponded to.

A long time ago, 15 March 1938, Adolph Hitler made a speech to the Viennese people from a balcony of the Hofburg Palace, in the background of the heroic statue of Archduke Karl. The crowd in the square Heldenplatz numbered several hundred thousand. Hitler's words on that day about the obligation he had to take care of the German-speaking people and the German population in Austria is eerily reminiscent when we look at the speech Vladimir Putin made as he announced the absorption of Crimea into Russia.

I am not predicting we will have a World War III. I am predicting that unless we act and act vigorously—and a lot more than this legislation today—Vladimir Putin will be dramatically encouraged to take further aggressive actions, whether it be in Eastern Ukraine, whether it be Moldova, whether it be the Baltic countries, where he has already put significant pressures. Or will we send a message to Vladimir Putin that the cost of further aggression will not be matched with the benefit?

Have no doubt about the ambitions of Vladimir Putin; that is, to restore the Russian Empire. All of the illusions we had about him should have finally been dispelled. He must be treated for what he is, a KGB colonel who repeatedly stated the worst thing that happened in the 20th century was the dismemberment of the then-Soviet Union.

What Vladimir Putin understands is strength. In the words of Ronald Reagan, we can achieve "peace through strength." This legislation is a good start. It is important we get it done as quickly as possible, but we have to understand he will never be our partner. He will always insist on being our adversary, and he will continue, if unchecked, to continue that vision of his expansion of the old Russian Empire.

I predicted that Vladimir Putin would go into Ukraine because he could not give up the Sevastopol naval base and access to the Mediterranean. I do not know exactly what Vladimir Putin will do in Eastern Ukraine as we speak, but there has been a buildup of Russian forces on the border of Ukraine and Russia.

This should disturb all of us. All of us should be disturbed. All of us should recognize that the kind of signal he

gets in response to his latest aggression will, in many ways, dictate his future behavior in the coming days and weeks. There are many steps we need to take. We have to support Ukraine. We have to give them the economic assistance they need. We have to ensure that the March elections in Ukraine occur on time, freely, and fairly.

We have to meet Ukraine's request for immediate military assistance. Military assistance is their first priority. What did this administration do in response to their plea for the ability to defend themselves? Send them MREs. That is the same thing we did in Syria. We now have an MRE doctrine; that when a country is under threat, such as Ukraine and other countries are, we send them MREs.

We need to send them defensive weapons, which we should have done with Georgia back in the Bush administration when Vladimir Putin annexed South Ossetia and Abkhazia. His troops are there today.

We have to give them the military assistance, short term, and a long-term military assistance program of training and equipping which, by the way, we do with about 50 other countries in the world. It is not a breakthrough.

When my friends and colleagues in the administration say it would be provocative, what does it take to be further—the next time we provoke Vladimir Putin, is it going to be Alaska? We have to support countries such as Moldova and Georgia. Moldova is not a member of NATO. Transnistria is occupied by 1,500 Russian troops as we speak.

We can see the same scenario taking place in Moldova as we have seen take place in Crimea. The Baltic countries are under pressure, and continuing and increasing pressure from Russia, particularly where the "Russian-speaking" population is, especially in Latvia and Estonia. We have to expand sanctions under the Magnitsky Act, increase sanctions against Putin's sources of power, especially for corruption, target corrupt people, push for an arms embargo against Russia, prevent defense technology transfers, use the upcoming NATO summit to enlarge the alliance, move the process for Georgia into a membership action plan, expand NATO cooperation with Ukraine, conduct significant contingency plans within NATO to deter aggression, defend alliance members, especially along the eastern flank, strategically shift NATO military assets eastward to support deterrence. All of these things and more need to be done.

I wish to emphasize that does not mean American boots on the ground. I repeat. It does not mean American boots on the ground. So the response by some of my colleagues and those in the commentary community is that the American people do not want us to do it. Sixty-three percent of the American people say leave it alone. Sixty-

one percent say do not get involved in any way.

I understand that. There have been previous times in history where the American people did not want to be involved. Yet leaders stepped forward. Leaders explained to the American people why the United States has to be involved. I notice that the President's approval rating on the handling of foreign policy is sinking. I also understand the contradiction that over 60 percent of the American people do not want the United States engaged. That is because the American people have not been told what is at stake.

Neville Chamberlain, in 1938, when talking about Czechoslovakia, said: We are not going to send our young men to a country that they do not speak our language and we do not know. Again, I am not predicting World War III, but I am predicting that Vladimir Putin will go as far as he thinks he can in order to realize his ambition, which he has stated on numerous occasions, to restore the Russian Empire.

What does Vladimir Putin understand? Strong alliances, reprisals, consequences for misbehavior. That is what he would understand. This legislation before us, which I hope is passed 100 to 0, will indicate the first steps we are taking in response. I wish the President of the United States had not stated so clearly that we have now acquiesced to the absorption of Crimea into Ukraine.

My message to the people of Ukraine is that in the Cold War it took a long time. But we will never give up. We will never give up in our efforts to see that their country is fully restored, as guaranteed by a solemn agreement when Ukraine gave up their nuclear weapons inventory. At the time they were the world's third largest nuclear power.

In return for giving that up, their security and territory integrity, including Crimea, was maintained. There are other countries that may have nuclear weapons. What lesson do they take from this? Would Vladimir Putin have invaded Crimea if Ukraine still had nuclear weapons? That is an interesting question. So the point is that we have seen a blatant act of aggression.

Sometimes I am astounded at the media reporting. An overwhelming majority, 96 percent, voted for Crimea to be part of Russia. My friends, 12 percent of the population of Ukraine are Tatars who were deported by Joseph Stalin; half of them killed, and they were allowed to come back. I can guarantee you there is no one in that 12 percent of the population who would ever vote to be part of Russia. It was a phony election. There were no observers. I know of a poll taken a few months ago that showed 53 percent of the people in Crimea wanted to be part of the Ukraine. But the point is, here today, I hope we are beginning a path

to, one, recognizing Vladimir Putin for what he is and what his ambitions are; two, dedicating ourselves to supporting these countries, these fledgling democracies—it has not been that long since the end of the Cold War—to help them on the path as they move forward to democracy, particularly Ukraine, so we can help them rid that country of corruption, rid it of its dependency, long term, on energy supplies from Russia.

We can, over a relatively short period of time, months if not years—but probably months—arrange it so we can supply Ukraine and other European countries with energy to have them become independent of Russia.

Finally, I have no illusions about what the Europeans are going to do. Very little, if anything. I have very little confidence in what this administration is going to do. So it is up to the Congress. It is up to us to act and to act decisively and send a clear message. By passing this bill today, hopefully with the House getting it done as quickly as possible, we send a message to the people of Ukraine: We stand with you. We will help you. We will do everything we can to see, over time, the restoration of your nation, as we have in times of old. We stand with you and we stand for freedom.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today the Senate will finally adopt, after some unfortunate delays, urgent bipartisan aid and sanctions legislation on Ukraine developed with the cooperation of a number of committees here in the Senate, and constructed by Foreign Relations Committee Chairman MENENDEZ and his ranking member, Senator CORKER. Both are also distinguished senior members of the Banking Committee, which I chair, and which has jurisdiction over the economic sanctions provided for in the bill. I am pleased to have been able to work closely with them to ensure this sound result, including provisions to impose targeted asset freeze sanctions against individuals and businesses found by the President to have been responsible for threats to the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for certain acts of corruption in Russia.

Once we pass this bill, I hope the House will act quickly to approve it and send it to the President for his signature. With this legislation, Congress is providing the President with flexible new tools to make clear to President Putin and his allies that Russia's recent moves against Ukraine are unacceptable, and that there will be an increasingly painful economic and political price to pay for these actions.

Economic sanctions are an important tool of American diplomacy. In Iran, years of tough, comprehensive economic sanctions have helped finally to bring Iran's leaders to the nuclear negotiating table. Sanctions have been wielded effectively against Sudan,

North Korea, Yemen, former military and security officials in Burma, warlords in the Congo, and elsewhere. If developed in close consultation with administration officials at Treasury and the State Department who are responsible for implementing them, appropriately targeted, and applied multilaterally, sanctions can be a potent tool in the President's foreign policy arsenal. In the case of Ukraine, they will serve both to punish former Ukrainian officials and others responsible for the violence there, and to punish Russian officials for irresponsible behavior. If wielded effectively, as part of a larger diplomatic and political strategy, they can also help to deter future aggressive actions by Russia against Ukraine.

That is why I support this legislation to provide critical economic and security assistance to Ukraine, and to provide new sanctions authority to the President. I support it even though I am deeply disappointed that opposition from some of my Republican colleagues here and in the House forced the removal of important International Monetary Fund, IMF, reforms that had been included in earlier versions of the bill. Those reforms would have enabled the IMF to better implement the economic aid and reform package it has developed with the new Ukrainian Government's leadership in recent weeks, which it announced yesterday. We must get those reforms enacted as soon as possible, by other means.

This measure, along with the steps already taken by the President, the multilateral aid and sanctions measures adopted by our allies, and the economic stabilization package offered by the IMF should help to reduce tensions as this situation moves forward. I look forward to working with my colleagues not only to ensure Ukraine's stability but also the security of all our allies in Europe and beyond.

Again, I thank my colleagues Chairman MENENDEZ and Ranking Member CORKER for working so hard to perfect this legislation and move it quickly.

I urge my colleagues to support it and deliver on the promises this body and this country have made to support the people of Ukraine.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Russian invasion and annexation of Crimea is an affront to decent standards of international conduct. It is a violation of international law and of Russia's explicit commitment under the 1994 Bucharest Memorandum to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity. It has undermined the international order that has been put in place over the last 60 years to promote peace and stability.

President Putin and his advisers in Russia have resorted to these illegitimate actions in order to seize 10,000 square miles of Ukrainian territory. Perhaps the Kremlin believes its robbery has paid off. If so, Putin and his

advisers have miscalculated. And we will aid in the task of making clear the costs of Russia's actions today with passage of this legislation.

This bill sends a message to the people of Ukraine and all those in Europe concerned about Russia's aggressive provocations. We provide important loan guarantees that will help stabilize a Ukrainian economy that was struggling even before Russia's aggression. We authorize funding to help the Ukrainian government provide the fundamental necessities of democratic governance, including free and fair elections, strong civic institutions and protections against corruption. It will aid the Ukrainian government in recovering assets stolen by its disgraced former prime minister and other kleptocratic public officials. It will support Ukraine's efforts to free itself from captivity to Russian energy supplies. And it provides for increased security cooperation with Ukraine and with other nations in Central and Eastern Europe, including military assistance, training, and advice.

Passage of this bill would also send a strong message to Russia. It mandates sanctions and asset freezes that target Russian and Ukrainian individuals responsible for the human rights abuses against peaceful protesters in Kiev under the previous Ukrainian government. It also targets those Russians or Ukrainians whose actions have undermined Ukraine's territorial integrity.

By demonstrating our support for Ukraine and the other democratic nations of Central and Eastern Europe, and by taking action against the individuals who have participated in Russia's aggression against Ukraine, Congress can provide a key element in the broad, sustained, and energetic diplomatic approach this situation requires. The United States must act together with our European allies and other nations around the world who have an interest in maintaining respect for established borders and international law. Key to exacting a high price for Russia's actions is isolating Russia in the international community.

While this legislation is important to accomplishing our goals, it must be part of a sustained and, if necessary, intensifying effort in Congress, by the administration, and internationally. President Obama has wisely refrained from responding to Russian provocation with actions that would further destabilize matters or work against Ukraine's interests or our own. One important step in de-escalating the tension in Ukraine is the dispatch of international observers to eastern Ukraine to monitor the ground truth and hopefully discourage further provocations. But, along with NATO, we have made clear that Russia's actions will not go without response. President Obama has stated that Russia will face an escalating diplomatic and economic re-

sponse if it does not reverse its course. Russia should be under no illusion that the U.S. response to its actions ends today with the passage of this legislation. We must remain prepared to take additional steps to ratchet up the pressure on Russia and to help stabilize Eastern Europe.

Russia also should have no doubt that the United States and our NATO allies take seriously our responsibilities under article 5 of the NATO treaty. Under article 5, an armed attack against any NATO ally is considered an attack against all members, and will draw any actions deemed necessary to assist the ally under attack, which may include the use of military force. Actions such as redeployment of military assets, adding aircraft to the NATO Baltic Air Policing Mission and surveillance flights over Poland and Romania are evidence that we take those article 5 responsibilities seriously. And, as our NATO commander in Europe, General Breedlove, has said, if Russia continues such provocative actions, "we need to think about our allies, the positioning of our forces in the alliance and the readiness of those forces in the alliance, such that we can be there to defend against it."

And as this legislation makes clear, we will continue to enhance our security cooperation with Ukraine and other Eastern European nations. One important step will be for our uniformed military professionals to expand their relationships with counterparts in Ukraine and other Eastern European nations to help build the kind of capable, professional forces that can improve their security.

Some may wonder what these events in a distant land involving old territorial disputes have to do with us as a nation. But Russia's blatant flouting of its commitments, of the territorial integrity of its European neighbors, and its trampling on the international order is damaging to our security and to the values that define us.

By passing this legislation, supporting U.S. and international actions to impose consequences on Russia and reassure the nations of Eastern Europe, and standing ready to take additional actions if required, we protect our interests and the interests of those who value peace and stability.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORKER. I rise today to speak about the bill we are going to vote on at 12:15 p.m. relative to Ukraine.

First, I wish to say it speaks to the best of the Senate, where by working together we are going to end with a bill that sends a very strong signal to Russia but also to Ukraine in support and to the world. I believe it will be done in an overwhelming fashion in the Senate today and hopefully later today or tomorrow in the House. It is exactly what we should be doing at this time.

First, I thank Senator MENENDEZ for the way he marshalled this through the committee. I was pleased to work with him as ranking member.

I know our original piece of legislation had in it the IMF reforms that I strongly support. It was evident that the IMF reforms were not going to make it through the House and actually become law.

We all felt it was incredibly important that all of us speak in a united voice to push back on Russia's illegal actions in Crimea and potentially in Ukraine but also to do what we really need to do to support our friends in Ukraine and in the region. This bill does that. It passed out of committee with strong bipartisan support. My sense is today it will pass out of the Senate with incredibly strong bipartisan support. It will become law soon and will tremendously reinforce the way our Nation feels about what Russia is doing in such an illegal fashion—that was outmoded centuries ago—and support the people of Ukraine.

All of us know this bill provides economic support for Ukraine. We all know they are entering into an agreement with the IMF. The IMF is going to be providing some loans to help move them through the problems they have had. They have tremendous corruption in their country. They use far too much energy. They have massive deficits. Through working with the IMF and signing on to agreements, ultimately they will be forced as a nation to move ahead and to orient themselves toward stronger countries or toward the West and operate in a more democratically free manner and certainly in a way that would allow them to economically sustain themselves over time.

In this bill we also provide additional loan guarantee support, which they will need. They are facing extreme difficulties. I believe people know that recently they have agreed to charge their citizens twice as much for natural gas usage there to try to get their budgets back in balance. But it is very important that we send this signal and this strength of economic health through this \$1 billion loan guarantee, which is a part of this bill today.

Another important part is sending a strong signal to Putin and to Russia. If they feel they have no price to pay for the activities they have already undertaken, they will continue to do more.

What this bill allows us to do is show strong support for what the administration has already done but, in addition to that, to make these sanctions mandatory and actually add additional elements should Russia continue to do the things they are doing in such a terrible way.

I do want to say relative to the sanctions—I appreciate the Executive order the President signed the other day that gave them the ability to put sectoral sanctions in place. The energy sector, the banking sector, and other sectors of the economy can now be targeted with sanctions.

I understand the balance that has to be put in place with sanctions where if we throw in everything but the kitchen sink on the front end, then Russia really has nothing to lose by going on into Ukraine. So we want to calibrate those in a way that deters their behavior but also gives them the ability to de-escalate.

I will say that I do think the President's comments over the past several days in Europe have seemed cautious, have seemed timid. What I hope the administration will do very soon is turn up the volume dramatically and actually send some strong sanctions into some of these sectors—into the energy and banking sectors. We don't have to do all of the companies in those areas, but if we were to do that especially with three or four additional banks in Russia, it would send a strong signal to their economy, continue to weaken their economy and to show Putin there is a heavy price to pay for the activities he is engaged in and may engage in further relative to Ukraine itself.

I encourage the administration to step ahead stronger. The European Union follows our lead, let's face it. If we act in a timid, cautious way, they are going to do the same. I think everybody in this body knows we do about \$40 billion worth of trade annually with Russia, but the European Union community does \$450 billion worth of trade. Generally, we are trying to work in unison, but if we as a nation act in a timid way, it encourages them as multiple countries to do the same.

Again, I do hope we will turn up the volume, and I do hope we will go ahead and sanction some additional entities in Russia. There are many state-owned enterprises there. We all know that. That is one problem with the Russian economy right now. I think we all know they are really an autocratic petrostate. We know that they are not doing well, that their budget is based on the fact that oil sells at \$110 per barrel, and that really that is mostly their economy.

Again, what we need to do as a nation—we are supporting the administration in this bill. We are supporting Ukraine with this bill. We are also authorizing some assistance to some of

our allies in the region. We are also authorizing some democracy assistance. The bill has no fiscal areas that are not paid for. This is a great piece of legislation.

I do hope that over time Senator REID will allow us to revisit the issue because, let's face it, we created this piece of legislation about 2 weeks ago. The events in Ukraine continue to unfold. So I hope we will come back again as changes occur. I know there are many people in this body who are actually trying to put additional pieces of legislation into place not only to sanction Russia even more fully, not only to assist Ukraine in other than economic ways, but also to use some of the strategic assets we have as a nation not only to benefit our economy but also to help our allies in the region so that they are not really subject to the economic extortion we have seen Russia try to carry out with our friends and also try to carry out with Ukraine, which this bill is all about.

I close by thanking Senator MENENDEZ.

I thank Senator REID for filing cloture on a bill that came out of the committee immediately so we would be in a place today to deal with this.

I thank Senator MCCONNELL, who was able to work with Senator REID and the House to deal with this legislatively in a very creative way, using a vehicle that came from the House and sending something back to the House so that this can become law very quickly.

I thank the House for cooperating with us on this bill because to have a piece of legislation go out of the Senate today and likely become law very soon is something that takes a lot of coordination. I thank the leadership in the House for helping us make this happen.

I again thank the administration for their focus on this issue. I hope this bill will show strong support for some of the efforts that have already taken place, and I do hope the administration will not undercalculate. I think that right now Putin doesn't yet know what he is going to do relative to South and Eastern Ukraine. I don't think he knows, and I think he is watching us and he is calibrating what his steps are going to be based on the pain his own country will receive if they take the wrong steps. It is very important that the President send additional sanctions into Russia, send additional signals, and that we send shock waves into their economy now—not everything we have to throw at them but some of it—so they know that if they take additional steps, real pain is on the way.

This bill supports those efforts of the administration, it supports Ukraine, it pushes back on Russia, and it shows support for allies in the region. It is a great piece of legislation. It is the first step. More should come.

I am pleased we are at this point today. I thank all those involved, and I look forward to a very strong vote in the Senate at 12:15 p.m.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor as we are at a moment of truth and a moment of incredible importance, and I wish to start off by acknowledging the distinguished Republican ranking member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator CORKER, for the spirit in which we have worked together to marshal forces to bring critical legislation to the floor at a critical time in history. This is the type of relationship we have had for the last 15 months, during which time we have often seen such partisanship, where on every major piece of legislation that has passed out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it has passed on a strong bipartisan vote, and I appreciate his leadership and his working with us.

Let me reiterate what I have said on the Senate floor. President Putin is watching. He is waiting to see what we will do, waiting to see if we have the resolve to act, waiting to see if he has a green light to take the next step. I believe we need to act now and pass this legislation, and I welcome the flexibility the House has shown in its resolve to move this quickly upon receipt.

Although I believe our response to Russia's annexation of Crimea should have included IMF reforms to strengthen the U.S. role in the international community, that will not be the case, but we still need to act on this issue today. So I hope, in short order, we can have the IMF reform legislation on the floor and take a responsible vote on an important issue.

But let us be clear where we are at this moment. Let us be clear about what happened in Ukraine over the last several years and what is happening now as Ukraine simply looks westward. Former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was elected on a platform that advocated closer ties to Europe. In fact, his first trip abroad was not to Moscow but to Brussels to meet with European Union officials. For 3 years Ukraine officials voted in good faith with their European counterparts. They believed they did so with their President's support. Ukrainian public opinion polls favored the conclusion of an agreement between the EU and the Ukraine that would increase trade and cooperation, allowing more people,

goods, services, and ideas to cross the border from the West.

On November 21, Yanukovych flipped 180 degrees. He announced an end to talks with the European Union, and Ukrainians felt bitterly betrayed. For 20 years, Ukraine has struggled to economically develop. They have struggled to establish representative government. They have struggled to achieve a stable way forward, a path of economic security and political democracy. The association agreement with the European Union had promised a path toward those goals. So people were furious, and they took to the streets. They knew from personal experience what the world now knows—that Yanukovych and his government and his family had stolen tens of billions of dollars from Ukrainian taxpayers, jeopardizing the solvency and independence of their country to support a lavish lifestyle while the public went without.

The people who took to the Maidan Square in the freezing cold were simply looking westward. They believed the European Union was their last best hope to break the cycle of corruption. They knew their future was being stolen. So they marched and they took beatings from Yanukovych's paramilitary forces, not for a treaty but for the hope of a better, more honest and free Ukraine that it promised.

Putin resorted to outright extortion to keep Ukraine in his sphere of influence, essentially offering to buy Ukraine by offering Yanukovych \$15 billion, and it would have worked but for the uprising of the Ukrainian people who realized this was a Faustian bargain and that Putin was the devil, not their savior.

Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians demonstrated for 3 months to call for the President's resignation. On February 22 of this year, President Yanukovych fled to Russia and an interim government was installed in Ukraine.

Almost immediately, Russian forces took control of the Crimean Peninsula, a clear violation of international law and Russia's own commitments under the Budapest agreement and the Helsinki Final Act. This demands a swift and coordinated and powerful response from the international community and from this Congress. It demands a message to Putin of our resolve and to the Ukrainian people of our support.

That message came, in part, on March 13, when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed, by a bipartisan vote of 14 to 3, the Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014.

In addition to providing \$1 billion in loan guarantees for Ukraine to provide crucial support to stabilize Ukraine's economy, this legislation authorizes assistance for democracy, governance, and civil society programs as well as

for enhanced security cooperation. It provides support to the Ukrainian Government to help recover access linked to corruption by former President Yanukovych, his family, and other government officials.

It imposes sanctions against those who are responsible for violent human rights abuses against antigovernment protesters as well as those responsible for undermining the peace, security, stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of the Ukraine. It imposes asset freezes and visa revocations on Russian officials and their associates who are complicit in or responsible for significant corruption in Ukraine and authorizes sanctions against any Russian official engaged in corruption in the Ukraine or in Russia. Putin's cronies should recognize that Putin may not be the right horse to be betting on any longer. Finally, it sends a powerful message to Russia that there are consequences for using force to annex sovereign territory against the established norms of the international community.

I will take one other moment to say that I have read some editorials suggesting that Ukraine is not that important to us; that it is more important to Europe than it is to us, so what could be our interest. Let me offer a few observations of what the interest of the United States is.

For some time we have been working to see Ukraine move to a democratic, stable government, looking westward, and in doing so strengthening a big part of Eastern Europe at the end of the day in a way that strengthens the security of that region and the fiscal opportunities of that region.

We look at the Ukraine and we say to ourselves, well, they are not a NATO member. But other NATO allies—some of which I met with when I was in Brussels this past week—who are NATO members are watching and asking: What will Europe and the United States do in the face of Russian aggression? What is our ultimate security going to depend on? We are a NATO member. We are, under article 5 of NATO's treaty, ultimately supposed to be protected because we are committed to the protection of all our other neighbors under NATO. Some of those countries actually meet the full responsibility they have under NATO to pay their quota for the collective defense.

So Ukraine is not a NATO member, but they are looking at what the West's resolve is in the face of this aggression and the possibility of Russian forces moving further west, asking: Is NATO going to stand up for me? That agreement is one of the fundamental institutions that has created security on the European Continent and for which America twice—twice—sent its sons and daughters abroad to ultimately guarantee that security. We need to ensure that NATO continues to

be a vibrant entity for the collective security of the United States and of Europe. This is another reason we are interested.

Thirdly, I would just simply say, as I have said on the Senate floor before, the world is watching. China is watching, and they are wondering what America and the West will do as they look at territories they dispute with our allies—Japan and South Korea in the South China Sea. They say: The West let Putin get away with this. Why should we not take those territories? There will be no consequence. Or as we are negotiating with Iran across the table to stop their nuclear weapons program, the Iranians look and ask: How much will the West punish Russia for this aggression, because if there isn't much consequence, then why should I not try to get the maximum of this deal or not accept the deal at all. Or North Korea, which wants to advance even further its missile program, which already possesses nuclear capability, what is their calculation?

I could go around the globe describing at this moment, beyond the Ukraine, how the European Union and the United States acts will send a very clear message to world actors, and that message hopefully will be one of strength, because in doing so we may avert the consequences of security challenges around the globe, avert the possibility we will have to send our sons and daughters into harm's way if we act decisively, if we act with strength.

That is the opportunity we have. The world is watching, and we must rise to the challenge. Passing this legislation goes a long way toward that goal, and that is both the opportunity and the responsibility before the Senate. I urge my colleagues to speak with one voice.

I hope we get as near to unanimity as possible, as we have done at other times; for example, on the question of sanctions on Iran. This is such a moment. If the Senate speaks with one voice, I think President Putin will understand the consequences of miscalculating further. I hope that is the opportunity of which we will avail ourselves and, in doing so, send a message beyond Putin to the rest of the world that we have the resolve necessary to rise to such challenges.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHANNES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JOHANNES. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

All time is expired.

Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2867, offered by the Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 88 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Barrasso	Grassley	Nelson
Begich	Hagan	Portman
Bennet	Harkin	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Risch
Boozman	Hirono	Roberts
Boxer	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Brown	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cantwell	Johanns	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Casey	Kaine	Sessions
Chambliss	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Coburn	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Landrieu	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Coons	Lee	Toomey
Corker	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Crapo	Markey	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wicker
Fischer	Mikulski	Wyden
Flake	Moran	

NAYS—2

Heller Paul

The amendment was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I am hopeful and confident the next two votes will be by voice. We expect to have the next vote around 1:45 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment of the amendment and third reading of the bill.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (H.R. 4152), as amended, was passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARIA CONTRERAS-SWEET TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Maria Contreras-Sweet, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

Who yields time?

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask to be recognized for 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I understand that this will be a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Thank you Madam President. I want to thank my Senate colleagues and Senator RISCH for helping us get the next Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration to the floor.

First, I want to recognize everybody's thoughts and prayers here for Oso and Darrington, WA, and for the people who have been hit by an unbelievable tragedy. Our hearts go out to this community and I want to say that this has been a tremendous effort by first responders.

There are hundreds of volunteers, thousands of dollars of contributions. And Darrington High School students made 1,300 sandwiches to try to support the research and recovery effort. I thank them for all of their hard work.

One of the reasons I want to get a Small Business Administrator is because this agency is going to play a role in this recovery. I thank my colleague, Senator MURRAY, for her help and support.

The Small Business Administration plays an important role for communities in disasters and the woman we have before us is a well-qualified woman who can help us with this crisis and continued small business lending.

The SBA has been without an Administrator for 8 months, and it is critical that we get this position filled today. We cannot forget that small businesses create two out of three new jobs in our country—and the SBA provide \$28 million small business assistance that helps them create more jobs.

So every single day we need to think about small businesses in our commu-

nity and how much we need to help and support them. Businesses, from Chobani Yogurt to Ben & Jerry's ice cream to Federal Express, have benefited from the SBA program. To have somebody like Maria Contreras-Sweet to be this person is critical for us.

I urge my colleagues to support her in this nomination and to move forward on an SBA agenda. Everything from making sure we approve the 504 program, to the STEP export assistance program, and to make sure that we continue to make ground on exporting small business products—made in the United States of America—to the growing middle-class around the globe.

I thank my colleagues and I urge them to support this nominee.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise to express my strong support for Maria Contreras-Sweet—a woman eminently qualified to serve our country as the next administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Maria Contreras-Sweet is the right person to lead the SBA given her distinguished record of public service and her deep understanding of the challenges and needs facing small businesses today.

As the founder of ProAmérica Bank, the first Latino-owned business bank in California in over 30 years and a leading financial services provider and SBA lender, she successfully expanded access to capital for small- and medium-sized businesses that often lacked access to larger, traditional financial institutions.

Just yesterday, my colleagues in the Hispanic Task Force and I met with Latino business leaders from across the Nation, and the No. 1 issue that was raised by nearly everyone in the room was the need to assist minority entrepreneurs and small business owners with obtaining financing and access to capital—an essential function of the SBA, and one that Maria Contreras-Sweet understands first-hand.

Her commitment to supporting small businesses owners embodies the entrepreneurial spirit that makes our country great—and is exactly the kind of leadership the SBA needs.

Maria Contreras-Sweet also has a proven track record as a dedicated public servant. She previously served as secretary of the California Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency, where she was the driving force behind major job creation and public investments in infrastructure and housing.

As the first Latina to serve as a cabinet secretary in the state, she managed a budget of \$14 billion and oversaw more than 40,000 employees. This is truly a remarkable nominee who brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to the Small Business Administration, as well as a compelling personal story.

Maria Contreras-Sweet, like me, has humble beginnings. As a young child, she immigrated to the United States

from Guadalajara, Mexico. She settled in California, where her mother worked long hours at a chicken packaging plant to support her and her five siblings. Her family did not speak any English when they arrived, and Maria has said that it was precisely hearing 'no' so many times and seeing so many doors close for them that prompted her to speak up for others, to fight to level the playing field for all, and to find a way to say 'yes' to people with good ideas who can drive innovation who are all too often overlooked for the wrong reasons.

Maria Contreras-Sweet represents the promise of America, the fulfillment of the American Dream, and the expansion of this dream to millions more entrepreneurs and small business owners across the Nation. She is building wealth for American families and communities, and building pathways to growth and prosperity that extend far beyond the business sector.

Maria Contreras-Sweet is the right nominee for the job. I applaud President Obama for selecting her to be our nation's next SBA administrator, and I thank Leader REID for moving quickly to confirm her nomination without delay. I'm very pleased the time has finally come for good people like Maria Contreras-Sweet to get the up-or-down vote they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to vote to confirm this qualified, competent nominee without hesitation.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I am pleased to support the nomination of Maria Contreras-Sweet to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration. The SBA Administrator plays an important role in helping small businesses create jobs, mainly by making sure small businesses have access to capital. Ms. Contreras-Sweet is remarkably qualified for this position, having founded and run a bank that focuses on making small and mid-size loans. She also served as the head of California's Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. The SBA will benefit from the valuable insight Ms. Contreras-Sweet gained from this combination of experience working directly with small businesses and administering a large government agency. The experience will serve her well as SBA Administrator.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship I had the opportunity to engage Ms. Contreras-Sweet during her confirmation hearing. She impressed me with her understanding of all that it takes to launch and run a successful small business. She has the skills and the enthusiasm to help entrepreneurs drive our economic growth and create jobs.

I am happy to support Ms. Contreras-Sweet's nomination and I look forward to working with her as the SBA Administrator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Maria Contreras-Sweet, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1:45 p.m. today the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Owens nomination—Calendar No. 573; that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination; that immediately following the cloture vote and notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate resume legislative session and proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 3979; further, if cloture is invoked on the Owens nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 31, and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the Owens nomination; that upon disposition of the Owens nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and, if cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3979, then all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that following the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3979, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 700; that there be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on the nomination; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that President Obama be immediately notified of

the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

SGR

Mr. REID. Madam President, for the knowledge of all Members, 20 minutes ago or so the House passed by voice vote the—

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, the Senate is not in order. No one can hear.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is correct. The Senate is not in order. The Senate will be in order. Senators will bring their conversations to a close.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Twenty minutes ago the House passed by voice vote the 13-month patch of the SGR.

There was work done on a bipartisan basis by all Senators to get a permanent fix. We can only do what we can do. I have had a number of my Republican colleagues come to me and say: We will do this, but you have to get the assurance of the Speaker that he would accept this, and the Speaker would not accept what was being proposed. The original plan was my idea and I am very disappointed it didn't work out, but I have been trying to do it for 4 years, so I am not surprised. But it is no one's fault in the Senate.

We have a new chair of the Finance Committee. He has worked very hard on a bipartisan basis to come up with a way to get rid of this SGR once and for all. We weren't able to do that.

So the patch we have is imperfect, but it is something that will take care of things. I don't mean to be mean-spirited, but I am tired of people saying you are taking care of the doctors but no one else. We are taking care of patients for the next 13 months—patients—and I think that is extremely important. We have millions of people who have doctors who take Medicare patients. For us not to do this would have been truly unfortunate.

I am disappointed we aren't able to get a permanent fix, but we have been able to do that. We should be very happy we have been able to do as well as we have done. I personally am not overjoyed about what is in the bill, but I am satisfied with what is in the bill. I hope we can expeditiously move and get this done today.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VENEZUELA

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, the reason I come to the floor is to call attention to a crisis that has fallen off

the front pages over the last few weeks; that is, the situation in our own hemisphere that is occurring in Venezuela. I recognize there have been news stories about an airplane that has been tragically potentially lost—or has been lost. We don't know the full outcome of that yet. I know the situation in Ukraine has captivated the attention of the public—and rightfully so—and I am pleased to see the Senate has taken important steps today toward addressing that issue.

I wish to speak about something that is happening in our own backyard, in our own hemisphere; in fact, something that is impacting hundreds of thousands of people who live in Florida because they have family members who still live in the country of Venezuela.

Since February 4 of this year, Venezuelans have been taking to the streets to complain about their government. These Venezuelans are from all walks of life, but they have truly been motivated by young people, by students.

The origins of this public discontent are important to understand because they are not just purely political. It in fact has to do with the dysfunction and the failures of the government that is currently in charge of that country. The statistics bear out that dysfunction and their failures. For example, violence and insecurity is among the highest in the entire Western Hemisphere. The murder rate in Venezuela was 79 per 100,000 people in 2013.

In the city of Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, the murder rate is actually almost double that. It is 122 per 100,000, making it one of the most dangerous cities on Earth. The unbridled corruption that exists in terms of how State assets are used—Venezuela is an oil-rich country. There are individuals in that government who have empowered themselves of Venezuela's oil, not their oil, and are basically giving it away to countries such as Cuba and others and using it as their own personal piggy bank for personal enrichment and to fund their governmental operations at the expense of the people of Venezuela.

Their inflation rate is 57 percent. In fact, this week Fitch ratings lowered Venezuela's sovereign debt rating into junk territory from B-plus to B. They warned, by the way, that further downgrades are on the way.

There is also this unprecedented scarcity of basic goods, including food staples; even things such as toilet paper there is a shortage of. I will show some graphics. This is a line of people waiting in the city of San Cristobal to go into a supermarket. We are talking about a rich country. This is not a Third World country. This is not a nation that is poor. This is a revenue-rich nation, among the most resource rich on the planet. Here is a line of people waiting to go into a grocery store, reminiscent of Cuba, for example, a

country whose model this government follows, and we will talk about that more in a moment.

Let me show my colleagues a picture of some store shelves inside a Venezuelan supermarket: completely empty, nothing on the shelves. This is the economic reality of the failure of the Maduro-Chavez government in Venezuela today, and this is why, among other reasons, people have taken to the streets to demonstrate.

There was another catalyst: a sexual assault that occurred on a college campus, and students were protesting against law enforcement's unwillingness to address that assault. The government cracked down—but not on the sexual assaulters, not on the perpetrators, on the demonstrators.

All of these things we have talked about—the failure of that State, the lack of democratic opening, the political abuses, the corruption, and the economic disaster of the Venezuelan Government—led to demonstrations that began on February 4 and continue throughout the country.

I want to show you a picture of what those demonstrations looked like. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to protest, and they were protesting the things I have outlined already: the insecurity, the violence, the scarcity of basic goods, the lack of opportunity, the political repression.

Meanwhile, Nicolas Maduro, the President of that country, and all of his cronies live a life of luxury—and we are going to talk about that more in a moment—because this government is surrounded by individuals who are living lives of luxury not just in Venezuela but in Florida.

While the people take to the streets—and you saw the empty store shelves—there are people tied to the Government in Venezuela buying gold-plated iPads—I did not even know there was such a thing—in Miami and investing in enormous properties and mansions, with the money they are stealing, with the help of the Maduro government, from the people of Venezuela, leading to these protests.

So what has been the response of the Maduro government? What has been the response to these legitimate complaints about what is happening in Venezuela?

I am going to show you some images of what the response has been from the government.

Here is the first. Here is their national guard. Here is their national guard battling with students in the streets, fully equipped with riot gear, ready to battle against them. This has been their response: repression at every turn in multiple cities.

Here is the other response: teargas—teargas by a fully armored individual, firing teargas canisters into the crowd.

Let me talk about the teargas for a moment. Let me show you this can-

ister. This canister that was used against peaceful protesters actually has a marking. It says: "HECHO EN BRASIL"—"MADE IN BRAZIL." And there have been reports, in fact, that there has been some U.S.-manufactured teargas being used against protesters in the streets in Venezuela.

But if it stopped at teargas, it would be one thing. But it has not stopped at teargas. In fact, it is now known that the Interior Ministry of Venezuela authorized snipers to travel to Tachira State and fire on demonstrators.

Here is a picture of a government official, of a law enforcement or army or national guard individual, or an Interior Ministry individual on a rooftop with a rifle and a scope aiming into a crowd.

Here is a picture of a sniper. It does not end there. Those are not the only pictures we have.

Here are more pictures of more snipers on rooftops.

Here is another sniper aiming into the crowd, with a spotter next to him.

Here is another blown-up picture of the same sniper.

These are government-sponsored individuals. What civilized planet on Earth sends the national guard and the interior ministry of their own government, of their own country, with snipers to fire on their own people who are demonstrating because of the lack of freedoms and opportunity and economic degradation that exists in a country?

They cannot deny this. Here are pictures, taken by demonstrators themselves, of the snipers ready to shoot down people. In fact, 36 people have lost their lives.

But it does not end just with the government snipers. Because what the government is trying to do here to hide their involvement is they have organized these progovernment militia groups, basically—these militant groups that they hide behind. These groups do not wear uniforms. They are called "colectivos." They drive around the city on motorcycles, and they assault protesters. They break in and vandalize their homes. They have weapons that they use to shoot into the crowds and kill or harm people.

There are three main groups. By the way, these groups began under Hugo Chavez's reign, and these groups are actually organized around a concept that has existed for years in Cuba—these committees to defend the revolution. These are neighborhood groups, so they know your family, they know who you are, they are always watching, and they organize themselves into armed militias. The government's claim is: Well, these groups are on their own. We are not coordinating with them. But, in fact, there have been multiple reports that these groups coordinate with the national guard to

take down barricades set up by protesters, to break into the homes of protesters, to vandalize homes, to terrorize people, and to kill.

There are three main groups that I want to point out, these colectivos.

La Piedrita is one of them. It is based in a working-class neighborhood of Caracas. It has a far-left ideology. It is armed. It is comprised of radicals who claim to be willing to die for their revolutionary ideals—whatever those are.

In January, this group, by the way, tweeted that Henrique Capriles—the opposition party's nominee for President in the last elections—is a racist and a fascist and accused him of intending to launch attacks on the poor and on impoverished neighborhoods.

Another colectivo: the Patriotic Force of National Liberation. This group bases its beliefs on the teachings of a leftist revolutionary and murderer by the name of Che Guevara.

A third group is the Tupamaro Revolutionary Movement. This is an armed communist political and militant organization that also operates out of Caracas.

These are just three of these armed, un-uniformed, thuggish, criminal groups that operate under the auspices and at the direction of the government of Nicolas Maduro and the people who surround him.

So what is the result?

The result is there have been over 1,800 people detained in Venezuela since this began last month. Over 450 people have been injured. Over 50 people have been tortured while detained—that we have reports on. And over 36 people have been killed.

This is not happening on a continent halfway around the world. This is happening in our hemisphere, right now, in real time. And these numbers, they just summarize the depth and the scope and the breadth of what is happening in the regime's brutality in Venezuela.

But these are not just statistics. Behind every single one of these—behind the 36 who have been killed, behind the 1,800 who have been detained, behind the 450 who have been injured—are real people, with names and families and fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters and children. I want to tell you the story of a couple of them.

The first is Marvinia Jimenez. Here in this picture you see her on her knees as part of a peaceful protest. And here you see an armed individual with a pistol pointed at her. She is on her knees and poses no threat. She has given herself up as a peaceful protester, as she confronts an armed individual associated with the government holding a pistol.

What happened next in these pictures is these armed individuals from the Interior Ministry grabbed her by the wrist and head. They subsequently throw her to the ground. And here is what they do when she is on the

ground. This individual here—a female, a member of the Interior Ministry—takes off her helmet and proceeds to beat her in the head with that helmet.

Here is the picture. This is real. This is not a movie. This is happening. This is happening now.

This happened to Marvinia Jimenez, and luckily someone caught it on their phone and was able to capture these images.

These are uniformed individuals associated with the government. You saw she had given herself up and was on her knees. And this is what happens: She gets beaten in the face with a helmet.

She lived to tell her story. But there are others who have not been so fortunate.

Here is Geraldine Moreno. She was a college student in the city of Valencia.

On February 19, she stepped outside of her home to see what was going on during an antigovernment protest. Six national guard members—six national guard members of the Maduro government—came by on motorcycles to break up the protest.

As the demonstrators fled, they fired into the crowd, and she was hit by gunfire and fell to the ground. She struggled to get up, and just then one of the national guard members came up and shot her in the face at point blank range and killed her.

Geraldine was someone's daughter. In fact, she was not just anyone's daughter, she was Rosa Orozco's daughter, and Rosa has lost her daughter forever.

This is the youth of Venezuela. This is supposed to be Venezuela's future, and they are being indiscriminately mowed down in the street by the government of their own country.

There are some inspiring stories too.

As shown in this picture, this is Maria Corina Machado, a member of the Venezuelan opposition party in Parliament. She was here in Washington this week. She has bravely spoken out against these things going on in Venezuela, and bravely, the Government of Panama gave her the space to speak out on behalf of the people of Venezuela at a recent OAS meeting. But, shamefully, the rest of the countries that are members of the OAS—not the United States or Canada but every other country did nothing to defend her right to speak, and she was denied the right to tell the world the truth about what is happening.

She could have stayed in exile and asked for political asylum, but do you know what this brave young woman did? She got on an airplane and flew back to Venezuela—to her country—to continue the fight there, peacefully, as a member of their Parliament, as a member of the opposition party.

Well, when she arrived, she was immediately detained at the airport in Caracas. She was questioned by the thugs you just saw, who no doubt tried to intimidate her in that questioning.

She was verbally attacked by government supporters at the airport. And then she got in her car to leave, to go to her destination, and these same thugs tried to run her car off the road. They are so incompetent that they could not even carry that out, thankfully. She finally made it to her destination.

And then guess what happens this week. The speaker of their so-called National Assembly—an individual by the name of Diosdado Cabello—a Maduro loyalist, a criminal—decided to remove her, to basically just expel her from the National Assembly. She is no longer a member of the National Assembly—unilaterally dismissed by the equivalent of their Assembly's president, their speaker.

The OAS's response to this has been shameful. The Organization of American States has been downright embarrassing and shameful. I thought it was best summarized by the opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, who wrote in the New York Times on March 25:

The outspoken response from human rights organizations is in sharp contrast to the shameful silence from many of Venezuela's neighbors in Latin America. The Organization of American States, which represents nations in the Western Hemisphere, has abstained from any real leadership on the current crisis of human rights and the looming specter of a failed state, even though it was formed precisely to address issues like these.

Why do we even need an OAS—an organization of democratically elected governments—why do we even need it, why are we even members of it, why do we even contribute funds of American taxpayers towards it, if it cannot meet and address systemic human rights abuses such as these?

I am less than pleased, by the way, with our own government's reaction. This is not a partisan issue, but I have to say this. President Obama has expressed he is concerned about this. To his credit, the Vice President was stronger in condemning the Maduro regime.

We are not just concerned about this. We should be outraged about this. Just as we are outraged when things go wrong in other parts of the world and weigh in with sanctions—and we should—add our voices—and we should—this is happening in our own hemisphere, right underneath our nose. And it is shameful that the leadership of our government has so far not done more to address this. But we can change that, and I am hoping that we will.

What I hope to do over the next few days is to propose specific sanctions against individuals and companies associated with the Maduro regime so they know there are consequences for what is happening here. And you think our sanctions have an impact on Russia in its violations of Ukrainian sovereignty? Sanctions against Maduro and his government would have a dramatic impact. Because all those people

who are around him who are getting rich off this regime, who are supporting these abuses so they can stay in power and keep making money, they all have bank accounts and property and restaurants and businesses and mansions in the United States of America. And if you support this, this government should sanction you.

I ask what I did a few weeks ago in a speech on this subject: If the United States of America will not stand up and be a strong voice on behalf of people who all they seek is freedom and liberty that our own founding documents say belong to all people—rights given to them by their Creator—if the United States of America will not be a forceful voice, what nation on Earth will? They look to us. Our own model of freedom and our Republic inspires people. We say we stand for these principles. We need to defend them when they are threatened, especially in our own backyard.

So I hope in the weeks to come we can pursue these targeted sanctions against some of these individuals associated with the government, like the Assembly president Diosdado Cabello, and others such as these individuals who we will come on the floor in the next few weeks and identify by name, those who benefit from the systematic violation of human rights in Venezuela, who are stealing money from the Venezuelan people, who are using the resources of that nation to enrich themselves. In the next few weeks, we will identify them by name and the properties they own and the assets they hold in our own Nation.

But I implore my colleagues not to ignore this issue. This is happening right now, right in our own backyard, in our own hemisphere, and it is impacting real people at an extraordinary price.

So I hope in the weeks to come that I—along with Senator MENENDEZ and others who have united behind us and with us—will be able to convince enough of my colleagues to take the next step.

We have already unanimously passed the resolution condemning all of this. I thank my colleagues in the Senate for that. The next step is to build in real consequences for being a part of this. My colleagues will have an opportunity to be a part of this in the next few days, especially when we return next week.

I hope we can get a hearing on these sanctions in the Foreign Relations Committee, and I hope we can get passage of it on the floor, so we can send a clear signal to the people of Venezuela: The people of the United States of America are on your side. We support your cause. We will not forget what you are going through. We will not abandon your aspirations. We stand for the liberty and the freedom of all people, including those who do not live here with us.

This is what we are going to have a chance to do in the next few days. I hope we can successfully take action.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I was not planning this today, but as many of my colleagues do, I do a morning coffee where anybody from my State of Ohio—as Senator DURBIN does in Illinois, Senator UDALL in New Mexico, and others—and my colleague from Ohio does one too, Senator PORTMAN—people can come in from around the State and talk about what they want.

A couple came in today, a father and a mother and two children. One looked to be maybe 10 and the other looked to be maybe 15. They came and wanted to talk to me about their private school. They have sort of a home school association, it sounded like, from a conservative part of Ohio, Southwest Ohio. We talked about what we could do to help them in terms of educating their children.

Then, right before we parted—and I was going to see other people at this coffee; we had maybe 75 people there—the mother of these two children said: By the way, thank you for the Affordable Care Act.

I said: How is that?

She pointed to her son. She said: My son—I think he was 15. She said: My son is diabetic. As I learned later, he was diagnosed at the age of 6 and has injected insulin into his arm and his leg for 8 or 9 years. She said: My son who is diabetic, we could not get insurance because of my son's preexisting condition, diabetes. We were turned down—I counted them. We were turned down 34 times for insurance. My family was turned down 34 times for insurance. Because of the Affordable Care Act we now have health insurance.

She smiled. That is one of the most poignant stories I have heard about the importance of this new law. There are 160,000 people in my State who now have insurance that did not have it in December. But this family—you think about what this is all about. This family's peace of mind, this family's ability to focus on other things now, because they have insurance that they could not get, even though he had a job—the father had a job—I am not sure where the mother worked.

But the point is, they were turned down, she said, 34 times because their son cost the insurance more money because he had a preexisting condition with diabetes. So I guess my question to my colleagues is, why do we want to repeal this? How do my colleagues, including many, many elected officials in my State who before have been resistant to the Affordable Care Act to win elections, saying: Repeal the Affordable Care Act—how do they explain that to this family—if they met this family and the mother said: We have insurance; we were turned down 34 times. Why do you want to repeal this law? Why do you want to take it away from the 160,000 Ohioans who have insurance? Why do you want to do that to the 100,000 25-, 22-, and 19-year-olds in Ohio—in my State alone, one State of the 50 where 100,000 young people have insurance and they are on their parent's plan because of the Affordable Care Act.

Some 900,000 Ohio seniors have gotten check-ups, no copay, no deductibles, free checkups, free osteoporosis screenings, and free physicals because of the Affordable Care Act.

How do you take that away from those seniors? How do you take away the \$900 in savings that the average senior in my State, who is on this—President Bush's, initially—drug plan, the Medicare drug plan? How do you take away that \$900 savings? You are going to repeal ObamaCare? You are going to repeal the Affordable Care Act and take those away? How do you face the people like the family I met today? Thirty-four times she was turned down for insurance. I did not make this up. That is her number. She said: I counted; 34 times they turned our family down for insurance because my child has diabetes. How do you think that makes him feel, first of all. But equally importantly, she has the comfort and safety in her mind now of having insurance.

I do not even understand. What do my colleagues do? Do they wake up every morning thinking: I want to take that insurance from 150,000 Ohio families; I do not want them to have it; I want to take those benefits from those 900,000 Ohio seniors. I want to make them pay \$900 more.

That is what they are saying: Repeal ObamaCare.

We lose all of that, if they want to keep talking about taking these benefits away. Let's live with this law. Let's make it work well. It is starting to work really well in Ohio. We are having thousands of sign-ups every single day. I know in the Presiding Officer's State of Hawaii, they are getting lots of people to sign up. Lots of young people are signing up. Let's move on. Let's stop debating this. Help make it work better. Let's talk about how we create jobs, not how you are going to

repeal some health care law that you did not like because it did not fit with your ideology or you did not like the President—whatever the reason my colleagues seem to not like the Affordable Care Act.

History is going to say over and over: Why do you want to take these benefits away? This is working. Remember back with Medicare in 1965. They were not the tea party. They were called the John Birch Society back then. They did not like it. Insurance companies did not like it. But everybody liked it 5 years later.

Social Security—the same forces, the same far right forces opposed it. Five years later, people liked it. This stuff works. It is going to make such a difference in people's lives. Forget about the 150,000. Forget about the numbers. Focus on that family—34 times turned down for insurance. She has insurance now. Her diabetic son can get the care he needs. That is such a wonderful thing.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING PETTY OFFICER MARK MAYO

Mr. CARDIN. I rise to speak about the tragic death of a fellow Marylander, PO2 Mark Mayo. His heroic sacrifice is the truest display of the U.S. Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment. The U.S. Navy confirmed yesterday that PO2 Mark Mayo put himself in harm's way to save his shipmate. On behalf of a grateful nation and on behalf of my fellow Senators, I offer condolences to the families, friends, and shipmates of Petty Officer Mayo.

The tragic events this past Monday evening are still under investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, but what we know so far is that at approximately 11:20 p.m. there was a shooting on board the destroyer *Mahan*.

A civilian who was behaving erratically approached the *Mahan's* quarterdeck and was confronted by the ship's petty officer of the watch. The two engaged in a struggle and the civilian was able to disarm the sailor.

Petty Officer Mayo, serving as the chief of the guard, witnessed the fight and ran to the quarterdeck and placed himself between the civilian and his shipmate, the petty officer of the watch. The civilian opened fire and fatally wounded Petty Officer Mayo.

U.S. Navy CAPT Robert Clark, Norfolk Naval Station's commanding officer, said:

Petty Officer Mayo's actions were nothing less than heroic; he selflessly gave his own life to ensure the safety of the sailors on board.

Petty Officer Mayo's parents, Sharon Blair and Decondi Mayo, said their son's actions reflected his strong, caring nature. As his mother put it: "He protected people. He was a protector."

Petty Officer Mayo was born in Washington, DC, and moved with his family to Hagerstown, MD, in 1998. He enlisted in the Navy in 2007, 4 months after graduating from Williamsport High School, where he was a Washington County wrestling champion, because he wanted to serve his country and because the Navy offers educational opportunities. He enlisted in the Navy, and he reported to Naval Station Norfolk in May of 2011. Petty Officer Mayo's mother, who is a geriatric nursing assistant, said he always wanted to work in law enforcement.

Randy Longnecker, Petty Officer Mayo's former guidance counselor at Williamsport High School, recalled him as a kind and easygoing student who earned good grades, saying:

He always wanted to make sure he was doing the right thing. He liked athletics and being part of a team. He must have fallen in love with the Navy.

Petty Officer Mayo served tours of duty in Rota, Spain, and in Bahrain. He earned the Good Conduct Award, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon. He was a distinguished member of the Navy.

Americans are privileged and fortunate to have such brave and outstanding young men and women serving in our Armed Forces. We must never forget the sacrifices they and their families make on our behalf in defense of freedom.

Petty Officer Mayo has made the ultimate sacrifice. While his death is tragic, we should remember and honor the way he lived and how he voluntarily chose to save a fellow sailor from harm. He is an American hero.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRAPO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OWENS NOMINATION

Mr. CRAPO. I rise to discuss the nomination of John Owens to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Owens, who currently works as a lawyer in California, has been nominated to fill the seat that has been held for the last 25 years by Judge Stephen Trott of Idaho.

Judge Trott took senior status on December 31, 2004, making the Trott seat the longest current vacancy of any seat on the Federal circuit courts.

That doesn't mean that there haven't been previous attempts to fill this seat. In a letter to the Idaho Senate delegation in 2003, then White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales stated:

I also want to make clear the President's commitment to nominate an Idahoan for a second Ninth Circuit seat if Judge Trott retires or assumes senior status while President Bush is still in office. Idaho has had two Ninth Circuit seats for more than a decade, and that allotment is appropriate.

As such, when Judge Trott did take senior status the following year, President Bush nominated Judge Randy Smith of Idaho to the Trott seat. At the same time another nominee was pending in the Senate to fill another Idaho vacancy on the Ninth Circuit.

Regrettably, Senate Democrats used the longstanding Senate rules that were available at that time to block the confirmation of both Idaho nominees. The reason given by the California delegation for blocking the Randy Smith nomination to the Trott seat made clear that the objections had nothing to do with Judge Smith's qualifications and that they were willing to support his confirmation to the other Idaho seat, the Nelson seat, which is ultimately what happened.

As such, the California delegation blocked Randy Smith's nomination to the Trott seat, not because they believed he was not qualified but because they wanted the seat moved to California—and he was not a Californian.

The so-called Trott seat on the Ninth Circuit has been held by five different judges, including Judge Trott, since it was first created in 1935.

The first judge to hold that seat was from Oregon. The next two judges to hold that seat were from Washington State. Judge Sneed of California, the only judge in that seat to maintain his chambers in California, was the next to hold the seat. Finally, as I mentioned earlier, Judge Trott was the next to hold that seat, and he has maintained his chambers in Idaho for his entire 25 years on the bench.

Despite the fact that California already has more than 20—that is right, more than 20—active and senior judges on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the California delegation apparently believes that Californians have been denied justice for the past 25 years and that the only remedy is to add yet another California judge, leaving the State of Idaho with only one, single active judgeship on the Ninth Circuit. Senator RISCH and I had multiple conversations with the White House counsel in President Obama's first term where we expressed our interest in working with the White House and the California delegation to reach a resolution to this long-standing dispute in a

way that would satisfy both delegations.

Clearly, the Idaho delegation and the Idaho people are disappointed by the President's decision to decline to nominate an Idahoan to fill the Trott seat.

It is even more disappointing that declining to submit any nominee for the Trott seat in his entire first term, the President has chosen to wait until the Senate Democrats unilaterally broke the longstanding Senate rules regarding the consideration of nominees in order to push through this nomination, rather than working with the Idaho and California delegations to develop a mutually agreeable solution.

If these new Senate rules had been in place when Judge Trott first took senior status, the California delegation would not have had the opportunity it took advantage of to block the appointment of Idaho nominees to this seat.

This dispute is not about the qualifications of Mr. Owens. He has been rated unanimously well qualified by the American Bar Association, and I would be happy to work with the California delegation to support his nomination for the next California vacancy on the Ninth Circuit.

But I cannot support a process that is the result of an unfair breaking of the Senate's rules in order to push through a nominee that takes away a seat that has been an Idaho seat on the Ninth Circuit for 25 years, leaving Idaho with only one seat on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sadly, because of the Senate Democrats' rule change, the Idaho delegation will not have the opportunity to stop this effort.

Therefore, I will vote no on this nomination, and my hope is that, if confirmed, Mr. Owens will make the same decision that Judge Trott did 25 years ago by also choosing to maintain his chambers in Idaho.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I have come to the floor to urge my colleagues to support the nomination of John Owens to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. This was approved by the Judiciary Committee without dissent.

I would like to quickly mention his qualifications. He received his bachelor's with high distinction from the University of California in 1993 and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated first in his class at Stanford Law School in 1996.

From 1996 to 1997 he was law clerk to Judge J. Clifford Wallace, a noted conservative jurist appointed by President Nixon to the Ninth Circuit. He then went on to serve as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

In 2001 John Owens became a Federal prosecutor, joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, California. He began in the general crimes section, prosecuting a wide variety of violent crimes—drug crimes. He also served in the public corruption and government fraud section.

From 2004 to 2012, he served in the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Diego. There, primarily his focus was prosecuting complex crimes, including fraud, health care, money laundering, public corruption, and national security.

He has had occasion to receive more than one award, among them the Director's Award for Superior Performance from the Justice Department. Mr. Owens has broad support, and the American Bar Association has given him their highest rating of "well qualified."

The problem that has arisen around this nomination, though, is not really his qualifications because the record will bear those qualifications out. It is the longstanding discussion over the seat vacated by Judge Stephen Trott. There is a history here, and I would like to explain it.

This seat has been vacant for over 9 years—since Judge Trott took senior status in December 2004. It is the longest running vacancy in the entire Federal judiciary. The Ninth Circuit has the greatest number of pending appeals per panel. It takes longer than other circuits to resolve an appeal. It makes no sense for this seat on the busiest circuit to stay vacant any longer.

My colleagues from Idaho have asserted that this is a vacancy which should be filled by someone from their State. Let me explain why that is not the case.

Judge Trott, whom Mr. Owens would replace, spent his entire legal career in California before joining the Justice Department under President Reagan. Throughout his career he was licensed to practice law in one State—California. Beginning in 1965 he served as county prosecutor in Los Angeles. In 1975 he sought the position of DA from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors after then-district attorney Joseph Busch passed away. When John Van De Kamp was named district attorney, Trott was chosen as his chief deputy, the second in command in the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. In 1981 President Reagan appointed Mr. Trott to be U.S. attorney for the Central District of California.

All these things are happening in California. He was recommended for the U.S. attorney position by Senator S.I. Hayakawa of California.

In 1982, while serving as U.S. attorney, he again submitted an application to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to become DA after the DA, John Van De Kamp, was elected to be California's attorney general.

Trott was nominated by President Reagan in 1983 to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice. At his confirmation hearing for that position, Senator Pete Wilson of California introduced him. Judge Trott's official Judiciary Committee biography states that his legal residence at the time was California.

Now, this is all about whether Trott occupies an Idaho seat or a California seat.

In 1986 he was nominated by President Reagan to be Associate Attorney General. Once again Senator Wilson of California introduced him at his confirmation hearing, and once again his official Judiciary Committee biography states that his legal residence at the time was California.

In 1987 President Reagan nominated Trott to the Ninth Circuit. The Judiciary Committee sent blue slips to Senators Wilson and Cranston of California. That is the point. The point is that historically Judge Trott has occupied a California seat. He stated in his committee questionnaire that his "two clients have been the People of the State of California and the Government of the United States."

Judge Trott was confirmed in 1988 to a seat previously held by Judge Joseph Sneed, a California nominee. That judge's connection to the Ninth Circuit prior to his appointment was his 9-year tenure as professor at Stanford Law School. Judge Sneed established his chambers in San Francisco. These are the facts.

Judge Trott was a California nominee to a California seat on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, as was his predecessor. Once confirmed, however, Judge Trott made a personal choice to establish his chambers in Idaho. This personal choice—essentially an arbitrary occurrence—cannot result in a State losing a judgeship to another State.

As we all know, the overwhelming practice of administrations and Senates of both parties has been to retain each State's representation on its respective circuit. Just look at the makeup of the circuits represented by the members of the Judiciary Committee. Both Iowans on the Eighth Circuit occupy Iowa seats. Three Alabamians on the Eleventh Circuit occupy Alabama seats. All of the Texas judges on the Fifth Circuit, who are not the first occupants of their seats, were preceded by Texans. The Senate recently confirmed Carolyn McHugh to the Tenth Circuit. Judge McHugh was strongly supported by Senators HATCH and LEE, and she replaced Michael Murphy, who had been a Utah nominee.

I could go through the history of each circuit, and the same pattern would emerge time after time. This is not by accident. There is a reason for it. Presidents of either party must know which Senators to consult, and Senators must know which vacancies to make recommendations for.

This might sound like inside baseball to some, but it is fundamental to the Senate's advice and consent role, and no Senator of either party would allow the arbitrary occurrence of a judge's personal choice of residence to remove a judgeship from the Senator's home State. This is a precedent this body cannot allow to be set.

Some might accuse California of trying to take more than its share of seats. This is simply not so. There is no objective reason for the Trott seat to be transferred to Idaho, where Judge N. Randy Smith already occupies that State's seat on the circuit.

By every metric—population, appeals generated, district court caseload—California has far less than its proportional share of circuit judgeships and Idaho already has its fair share. In fact, if Idaho were to get an additional judgeship, its representation on the Ninth Circuit would be 5½ times its share of caseload. That is ridiculous. Idaho would have twice as many seats as Montana and the State of our Presiding Officer, Hawaii, have even though those States generate more Ninth Circuit cases than Idaho. Nothing supports removing this seat from California to Idaho—not history, not population, not caseload. Nothing.

Let me conclude by saying this: I don't begrudge the Senators from Idaho seeking additional Federal judicial resources for their State. Senators CRAPO and RISCH have introduced a bill to create a new judgeship on the Federal district court in Idaho. I represent four judicial districts that virtually always have caseloads at judicial emergency levels. One of them—the Eastern District of California—is the most overburdened judicial district in the country and has a caseload that is more than double the national average. So I understand the desire of the Senators from Idaho to ensure that a sufficient number of Federal judges are present in their State to resolve the disputes of their constituents. In fact, I am a cosponsor of the Federal Judgeship Act of 2013, which would create all the new judgeships recommended by the Judicial Conference, including one for Idaho. But the fact remains this seat on the Ninth Circuit was previously held by two Californians and it should be filled by a Californian. I very much hope the Californian will be John Owens, who has an impeccable record, bipartisan support, and whom I am proud to have recommended to President Obama, and whom I would urge my colleagues to support.

I yield the floor.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, we are once again spending unnecessary floor time overcoming a procedural obstacle so we can move to an up-or-down vote on a judicial nomination. John Owens is nominated to fill the longest open vacancy on our Federal courts. For more than 9 years, the busiest circuit court in our Nation—the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit—has been running at less than full strength. In 2013, the Ninth Circuit had 12,761 appeals filed, several thousand more appeals than the next busiest circuit. It also had 14,171 appeals pending, three times more than the next busiest circuit. Each judge in that circuit has nearly 525 appeals pending per active judge. That is nearly 70 more appeals pending per active judge than the next busiest circuit. These caseloads are not sustainable and the delay in resolving these appeals hurts the American people. We should and must approve Mr. Owens's nomination, along with Michelle Friedland's nomination to the Ninth Circuit, as soon as possible.

Mr. Owens was first nominated last August and his early October hearing date had to be moved after Republicans forced a shutdown of our government. A hearing on his nomination was finally held in late October. Mr. Owens could and should have been confirmed before we adjourned last year. Instead, because Republicans refused to consent to hold any nominations in the Senate, every single one had to be returned to the President at the end of last year. They then had to be re-nominated and re-processed through committee this year and Mr. Owens was voted out of committee on a voice vote, without dissent, on January 16, 2014.

Mr. Owens is among six circuit nominees pending on the Senate floor. We last voted on a circuit nominee during the last work period in early March and before that we voted on a circuit court nominee in early January. If Republicans continue to obstruct the Senate from having up-or-down votes on uncontroversial judicial nominees, at our current pace of filing cloture petitions once every month or so, we will not have time this year to vote on even those who are currently pending on the Senate floor.

We have not had a vote on a judicial nomination this year that was not subject to a Republican filibuster. For all but two Republican Senators, I have started to notice a pattern of voting to end filibusters only if a nominee is from a State with at least one Republican home State Senator. Most recently this happened yesterday on the cloture vote for Judge Edward Smith of Pennsylvania. It should not require a judicial nominee to be from a State with one or more Republican home State Senators for some Senators to do the right thing. Filling vacancies so that our Federal judiciary can be fully

functioning should not be a partisan issue.

Born in Washington, DC, Mr. Owens earned his B.A., with high distinction, from the University of California, Berkeley, and his J.D., with distinction, Order of the Coif, from Stanford Law School. At Stanford, he was the Nathan Abbott Scholar, an award given to the student with the highest cumulative point average in the class. Mr. Owens served as executive editor of the Stanford Law Review where he earned the Stanford Law Review Board of Editors Award.

After law school, Mr. Owens served as a law clerk to Judge J. Clifford Wallace of the Ninth Circuit and for Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the United States Supreme Court. He has been a litigator in both public and private practice. In 1998, he joined the U.S. Department of Justice, where he would later serve as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California and the Southern District of California. In 2008, Mr. Owens was promoted to serve as the Deputy Chief of Major Frauds in the Southern District office and later the Chief of the Criminal Division. In 2012, he rejoined private practice as a partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson where he presently works. Over the course of his legal career, he has been counsel of record in more than 20 cases before the court on which he is nominated to serve.

Mr. Owens has the support of his home State Senators—Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER. I hope my fellow Senators will join me today to vote to end the filibuster of Mr. Owens's nomination.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate shall proceed to executive session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John B. Owens, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Jon Tester, Tom Udall, Bernard Sanders, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination

of John B. Owens, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Ninth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 89 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCaskill	Walsh
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Franken	Merkley	Warren
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murphy	Wyden

NAYS—44

Alexander	Enzi	McConnell
Ayotte	Fischer	Murkowski
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Chambliss	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Coburn	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Collins	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cornyn	Kirk	Vitter
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McCain	

NOT VOTING—2

Moran Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 54, the nays are 44.

The motion to invoke cloture is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate resumes legislative session.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 333, H.R. 3979, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Harry Reid, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Jon Tester, Tom Udall, Bernard Sanders, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 333, H.R. 3979, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 65, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 90 Leg.]

YEAS—65

Ayotte	Harkin	Murray
Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Begich	Heitkamp	Portman
Bennet	Heller	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Johnson (WI)	Rockefeller
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Cardin	Kirk	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Casey	Landrieu	Stabenow
Coats	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Toomey
Coons	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Corker	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—34

Alexander	Cruz	Johanns
Barrasso	Enzi	Lee
Blunt	Fischer	McCain
Boozman	Flake	McConnell
Burr	Graham	Paul
Chambliss	Grassley	Risch
Coburn	Hatch	Roberts
Cochran	Hoeven	Rubio
Cornyn	Inhofe	
Crapo	Isakson	

Scott Sessions

Shelby Thune

Vitter Wicker

NOT VOTING—1

Moran

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 65, the nays are 34.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MATTHEW H. TUELLER, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew H. Tueller, of Utah, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Yemen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Matthew H. Tueller, of Utah, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Yemen?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I wish to thank all of my colleagues for this very strong bipartisan vote to move a

step closer to restoring unemployment insurance benefits for over 2 million Americans. I particularly wish to thank Senator HELLER, whose leadership from the beginning has been instrumental, as well as Senator COLLINS, whose leadership, wise counsel, and thoughtful proposals have been one of the really strong forces sustaining our efforts throughout. I also thank Senator PORTMAN, who has consistently thought about progressive changes for our training programs so that people are better prepared for jobs, as well as Senator MURKOWSKI for her support, and Senator KIRK, both of them valuable contributors. I thank all of my colleagues today who came forward.

This is not the end of the story, but it is an important step forward for over 2 million Americans who are looking desperately for work, who need the benefits, and who will contribute to our economy.

With that, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT ALASKA EARTHQUAKE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 400, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 400) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Great Alaska Earthquake, which struck the State of Alaska at 5:36 p.m. on Good Friday, March 27, 1964, honoring those who lost their lives in the Great Alaska Earthquake and associated tsunamis, and expressing continued support for research on earthquake and tsunami prediction and mitigation strategies.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, over the past several days we have all watched the news of the massive landslide in Washington State. We have watched that with sadness, with shock—truly an awful, awful episode. Our hearts, our prayers are certainly with all of those who have been affected by this terrible tragedy. We continue to hope for the best as rescue and recovery efforts continue.

Today I have come to the floor to speak about a different natural disaster.

This is a natural disaster that affected Alaska on Good Friday exactly 50 years ago today, in 1964. This is the Great Alaska Earthquake, the Good Friday Earthquake, the epic earthquake of 1964.

At the time that Alaska was struck by this massive earthquake, I was a young child. I was living in the southeastern community of Wrangell, AK. I have a map here, a map of the State of Alaska. The epicenter of the earthquake is here in the south central area. About a year prior to the quake, my family and I moved down to the small southeastern community of Wrangell, tucked safely in the inland passage waterways here.

We were all looking forward to Easter. When the earthquake hit, I certainly did not know that we had been struck by a massive, massive 9.2 earthquake of the magnitude on the Richter scale that decimated southcentral Alaska. The earthquake struck at 5:36 in the evening. I did not know that what had just occurred was the largest earthquake to strike the United States in recorded history. It is the second largest earthquake ever recorded on modern instrumentation.

Those of us who lived in Alaska at the time have memories of what happened on Good Friday 50 years ago. We have stories that will live with us for generations and passed down from generation to generation. You can talk to Alaskans about it: Where were you in the quake of 1964?

We had just moved, as I said, from Anchorage to Wrangell, AK. We did not feel the shake in Wrangell. We waited for the big waves to come. We waited for the tsunami. We sat listening to the radio. But our home was situated directly on the beach. Everyone was told to move up to higher ground. So we moved everybody in the family, five kids at the time, up the hill. We went to my first grade teacher's house, which was really quite exciting for me.

We were allowed to stay up late into the evening. As a small child, there was a buzz. It was kind of exciting but kind of scary because we did not know what was happening in other parts of the State. My mom had basically packed some diapers for the smallest of the children in the family. She tells me that she brought along her silver tea set. That is the only thing that she brought from the house, along with the five kids.

We also tell the story of the home that we lived in just before we had moved to Wrangell. It was situated in a residential area called Turnagain. Turnagain was the area that was immediately and massively hit.

This is the Turnagain neighborhood. Our home that we lived in prior to moving to Wrangell was situated about two blocks back from the bluff. After the earthquake, the bluff slid down taking tens and tens of houses with it.

The home that we were in then became bluff property. It was condemned never to be lived in again.

We all have stories of the earthquake. We saw the news accounts as they came slowly to us. We saw the photographs of the collapsed buildings.

I am going to go back to the first picture here. This first one that was up initially is downtown Anchorage, AK, 1964. This is on Fourth Avenue. You can see from the picture the ground just sunk, dropped—the crumpled buildings, the cars cattywampus.

The destruction and the devastation in the downtown area literally took your breath away. One very photographed picture was the J.C. Penney building which had just recently been constructed. The whole front facade of the J.C. Penney building just crashed down onto the streets and onto the cars below.

This is a picture here of Government Hill Elementary School. I showed you the previous picture where my family and I had lived in the neighborhood at Turnagain when I was a child. When my husband and I bought our home, where our sons were raised, it was directly across the street from this property where Government Hill Elementary literally slid down the hill.

As you can see from the picture there, the devastation to the school was extraordinary. Fortunately, it was 5:36 in the evening on Good Friday, and there were no children at the school. But the devastation, the visual impact that still remains as we look back 50 years now at what happened—the stories of loss of property, of damage to property, the stories of loss of life and truly miraculous survival—slowly started to reveal the extent of the destruction from an earthquake that Federal scientists would tell us years later was roughly equivalent to 100 million tons of TNT exploding—massive.

The Good Friday Earthquake reshaped the Alaska landscape. Land was lifted 33 feet in some places, and then in other places it sank in the ground—sank as much as 6 feet in places. Cliffs and buildings crumbled, forests and towns were flooded. Huge waves approximately 200 feet high were measured near the community of Valdez. A 200-foot wall of water was coming into the community of Valdez. Communities were literally washed off the map in Anchorage.

This is a picture here of Seward, which again is in Resurrection Bay along the coast, but the waves literally came in and swept everything out with it. But it was not just one wave. It was a series of waves. Anchorage, which is our State's most populous city and really the center of infrastructure in the State, was just 74 miles from the epicenter of the quake.

That is where we see so many pictures of the tremendous damage there.

There has been a series of articles in our local newspaper, the Anchorage Daily News, leading up to this historic 50th anniversary. It is a series written by Mike Dunham. I ask unanimous consent that a portion of these series be printed in the RECORD.

But in the series discussing the tsunamis that hit Alaska, I would like to share with my colleagues some of the information that Mike outlined. He said NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center puts the total number of deaths resulting from the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964 at 139. Fifteen of those deaths are attributed to falling buildings or crumbling ground during the quake itself. The rest were killed by the water. Thirty-two people died when a wave 30-feet high built up in Valdez. Similar-sized waves took 12 lives in Seward, and 15 in Kodiak and its surrounding villages. Another dozen perished when a wall of water 40-feet high smashed into Whittier in the Prince William Sound village of Chenega. One-third of the population, 23 people, were swept away by a 90-foot wave.

One thing that I found very fascinating in understanding some of the attributes of this earthquake and the tsunamis that came is that in many places the ground was still shaking when the water hit. Keep in mind, this earthquake lasted 4½ minutes—4½ minutes where the earth is lurching and shuddering and shaking. That is a horribly long time.

The first tsunami that hit Valdez, I am told, hit just 2 minutes after the quake had begun. So imagine the terror. You have got the ground moving all around you, up and down, lurching back and forth, and 2 minutes into it, you have a tsunami at your doorstep.

The loss of life from the tsunamis did not stop at the Alaska border, though. Four children died in Beverly Beach State Park in Oregon; 12 people died in California, mostly in the waves that destroyed Crescent City's harbor.

But we know that it could have been much worse. The death toll was low for an earthquake of this magnitude. As I mentioned, it was after work. It was on a holiday.

It occurred in an area with a small population that constructed buildings from wood, not bricks or other heavier materials. But the Good Friday Earthquake and the subsequent tsunamis that followed caused some \$3.75 billion in damage and that is in today's dollars. This is 50 years ago, so \$3.75 billion is amazing.

Also, consider this was largely done to a State that was barely 5 years old, but the impacts reached far beyond Alaska. Tsunamis also caused damage to many of our Pacific neighbors, including Canada, Washington, Oregon, California, Washington, and Hawaii.

Those tsunamis destroyed everything in their path. They destroyed houses,

cars, boats, and fishing gear all along the Pacific coast. In Ocean City, WA, a bridge over the Copalis River collapsed. In Crescent City, CA, a dockside tavern was destroyed. In Hilo, HI, 12.5 foot waves overran the waterfront. Seiches, which are seismically induced water waves in rivers, lakes, bayous, and harbors, caused minor damage. It wasn't extensive damage, but it caused damage along the gulf coasts of Louisiana and Texas. Think about how this massive earthquake reverberated around the world.

If we look again to the map that has the epicenter, we would think the extent would only be where the epicenter lines, the fault limits go, but in fact when we account for the tsunami effect, it truly was an amazing instance where Mother Nature came together in a massive and a violent way.

As we think about the devastation, the loss of life, the lost property, we have to ask the question whether anything good can come from a tragedy such as the Good Friday Earthquake, but I think the answer is ultimately yes. We came together, Alaskans came together in the aftermath of the quake and the tsunamis to help rebuild the worst hit communities. We rebuilt them to withstand earthquakes and in locations that are hopefully protected from the ravages of future tsunamis. We set aside parks to remember the historic earthquake and to prevent future building on landslide-prone cliffs. Out of the devastation we did gain a better understanding of what is happening below the surface in Alaska and other earthquake-prone areas.

In the 1960s we had very little information about what caused the massive shifts in the Good Friday Earthquake. There was very little understanding of the giant tectonic plates that make up the surface of the Earth and how their movement causes earthquakes. The 1964 earthquake resulted in greater seismic monitoring across the country and has led scientists to have a far better understanding of how earthquakes occur and where they occur. We can now better protect our citizens by implementing better building codes and preparing for earthquake disaster response in earthquake-prone regions, thereby reducing the chance that another earthquake would result in so many deaths.

The tsunamis that were spawned by the Good Friday Earthquake provided scientists with a unique and important set of tsunami arrival times and heights that have been used to validate new models of tsunami propagation. These models have allowed our scientists and emergency authorities to warn coastal populations of potential tsunamis, protecting life and property.

We see these exercises and drills conducted certainly in my State, I know in Hawaii, and in our coastal communities.

The science has come a long way in the past 50 years and Alaska has too. As we mark this historic anniversary, we remember those who perished in the Good Friday Earthquake.

We salute the men and women who help protect our safety by monitoring and researching earthquakes and tsunamis, both in our State and in others. We thank the first responders who helped Alaskans in 1964, just as we thank those who are helping with the recovery in Washington today. Let us also use this occasion to consider whether we ourselves are prepared for the worst should we ever face a similar day of reckoning in the future.

To recognize this historic event, I have submitted a Senate resolution that commemorates the Great Alaska Earthquake. My colleague from Alaska, Senator BEGICH, and my colleagues from Oregon, California, and Hawaii have joined me.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Anchorage Daily News, Mar. 24, 2014]
TSUNAMIS: WARNING SYSTEMS IMPROVED
SINCE GREAT ALASKA EARTHQUAKE BUT UN-
LIKELY TO HELP

(By Mike Dunham)

NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center puts the total number of deaths resulting from the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964 at 139. Fifteen of those deaths are attributed to falling buildings or crumbling ground during the quake itself.

The rest were killed by water.

Thirty-two people died when a wave 30 feet high boiled up in Port Valdez. Similar sized waves took 12 lives in Seward and 15 in Kodiak and its surrounding villages. Another dozen perished when a wall of water 40 feet high smashed into Whittier. In the Prince William Sound village of Chenega, a third of the population—23 people—was swept away by a 90-foot wave.

Smaller numbers of casualties were reported in scattered settlements across the region, from Cape St. Elias to Port Nellie Juan. One death took place at Shoup Bay on Valdez Arm, where the wave may have splashed 220 feet up the Chugach mountains.

In many places, the ground was still shaking as the water hit.

"We have this picture in our heads that first an earthquake happens, then the tsunami comes," said Mike West, State Seismologist at the Alaska Earthquake Information Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. "But in Alaska's fiords, something else happens."

In the second biggest earthquake ever recorded, that "something else" was massive.

"The entire floor of Prince William Sound failed," said Cindi Preller, Tsunami Program Manager for NOAA Alaska Region. "It was chaos."

WAVE TRAINS

There are different kinds of tsunamis and the 1964 earthquake set off a variety of them.

One was a general global splashing generated by the magnitude of the quake. The 1964 event was so strong that it made the whole world "ring like a bell," reads a U.S. Geological Survey pamphlet. Vibrations shook the planet for weeks and caused measurable sloshing as far away as Florida. Shifts

in water levels were recorded in 47 states, including land-locked ones. Even in South Africa—about as far from Alaska as one can get—fluctuations in well water were noted.

One type of tsunami produced by the earthquake, seiche waves, caused no casualties, but they were violent enough to sink boats in Louisiana. Seiche action refers to standing waves in enclosed or confined water. They can be caused in different ways. Those caused by seismic disruptions can occur in places with no direct connection to bodies of water near the source of an earthquake.

Tectonic tsunamis are created directly by the shock of a fracture. They tend to come in a series of waves rather than a single surge, like the ripples formed when you plunk a rock into a calm pool and the displaced water spreads out in rings.

In the case of an undersea fracture, the displacement of the water comes from below. University of Alaska Anchorage geology professor Kristine Crossen said the sudden upthrust at one spot of Prince William Sound was so large that it took two minutes for the water to run off it.

"When the ocean bottom is moved, it sets up a wave train," said Peter Haeussler, U.S. Geological Survey research geologist.

These trains can travel thousands of miles at speeds of 500 miles an hour. In the deep water of the open ocean they seem small. But as they enter shallow water near shore, they grow slower and taller.

Current thinking is that, in 1964, tectonic waves were generated from two areas in the massive rupture, said Preller. One was near the epicenter, where the quake began, in northern Prince William Sound. The other was near Kodiak, hundreds of miles away. These waves took lives and leveled buildings from Alaska to California, often in concert with the most lethal kind of wave to emanate from the 1964 quake, landslide tsunamis.

These happen when the earthquake causes an avalanche. That's what happened in Lituya Bay in Glacier Bay National Park on July 9, 1958. Tumbling rock and ice sent up a megatsunami 1,720 feet high, the largest wave recorded in modern times.

The steep, mile-high mountains we see above ground throughout the southern coast of Alaska are mirrored by a similar submarine geography, where slopes can be further encumbered by millions of years of volcanic residue, glacial silt and other muck. A strong shake can send incalculable tons of material tumbling underwater, unseen and undetected until the displaced ocean shoots into the air.

"Those are really devilish," West said. "And they're not currently predictable."

SUDDEN DEATH

Valdez was founded during the gold rush on glacial fill and alluvial deposits surrounded by precipitous mountains. The ground at the old townsite was flat and easy to build on and ran right to the edge of a deep water port.

When the earthquake began, the delta deposits liquified. A mile of waterfront slumped into the bottom of the harbor, pushing water toward the open sea.

A home movie taken from the deck of the freighter Chena, tied to the city dock at the time of the quake, shows the 400-foot ship sinking into a giant hole in the water, the bottom of the harbor exposed. Then, with ferocious frothing, the ocean crashes back.

Those on the dock—citizens, curious children and workers—were killed in the first seconds of the quake. Amazingly, the Chena

rode out the surge that carried it into the town and left it high and dry—temporarily. New waves hit, some after midnight, and floated it out to sea again.

"We think Valdez had two landslipping events," said Preller—one in Valdez Arm, the other right under the dock.

Most Valdez businesses and half of the homes in town were destroyed. Fuel tanks split open and their contents caught fire, a catastrophe that would be repeated in the ports of Whittier, Seward and Crescent City.

The fiords and coves throughout Prince William Sound, the area nearest where the quake began, experienced similar underwater landslides causing waves estimated to have splashed as much as 220 feet above sea level. Most of these places had few if any residents.

But there were people in Whittier and Seward. In those towns, as in Valdez, the narrow harbors confined by steep slopes channelized the water into a bore, amplifying the wave action like a giant bathtub.

Arriving immediately after the quake, or even while it was still rumbling, they gave residents no warning and little chance to escape. "The first tsunamis hit two minutes after the earthquake started," said Preller. The quake lasted for 4½ minutes.

The island of Chenega, southwest of Valdez, is not a dead-end inlet, like Whittier. But it is surrounded by precipitous submarine channels. "Prince William Sound is an environment where the inlets are extremely deep," said Preller. The underwater valleys had much the same effect as the above-water fiords.

The first wave rose smoothly but with astonishing speed, catching people trying to outrun it, trapping others in their homes. A second wave struck more violently, smashing every structure in the village except for the school. A third scattered whatever was left.

Survivors huddled around a fire through the night with no way to get word of their plight to the outside world.

EVACUATION

Most people in Kodiak figured the big quake was shaking only their neighborhood. The first inkling that it might be more serious came when they noticed that long distance phone service was out.

In the village of Kaguyak on the south end of Kodiak island, however, residents observed the odd swell on the ocean. They began moving away from the shore and sent radio warnings to nearby communities. Warnings picked up elsewhere on the island, alerting the people of Kodiak city 20 minutes before the first wave arrived.

The city's fire trucks ran their sirens to warn the population. Police went door to door urging evacuation and a line of cars started driving up Pillar Mountain. The town's taxi fleet used their CB radios to establish an ad hoc communications network.

The first surge came into Kodiak harbor at low tide, about half an hour after the quake. It didn't reach much past the docks and is thought to have been a landslide tsunami. "It came much sooner than we would have expected from a tectonic tsunami," said Preller. Most of the affected towns experienced both types of wave, she said.

Thirty minutes later a second wave came into the city, pushing boats into the city streets, floating cars away, wrenching buildings from their foundations and causing walls to collapse. It was not the towering breaker that swept up the Chena in Valdez or wiped out a sawmill and its workers in Whittier, but more on the lines of a large swell.

"Survivors most often describe tsunamis as a rapidly rising tide," said Haeussler.

"They're like a continuous rise of the ocean that never stops. Often you cannot outrun it. It just overwhelms everything in its path."

At least three more waves ripped through the town in the next few hours. It's presumed that the highest reached 26 feet above mean low tide level. But no one saw it. It came in pitch dark after midnight when most of the population had moved up the hill. Kodiak fatalities tended to come not from people on land, but from those who were in fishing boats caught in the surge.

LONG-DISTANCE KILLER

Kodiak was luckier than Crescent City, Calif. Residents there received a warning three hours after the Alaska quake began. Many evacuated before the tectonic wave came in, just before midnight. Half an hour later a second wave, lower than the first, rolled into the harbor.

"People thought that was it," said Lori Dengler, a professor of geology at Humboldt State University in Northern California. "They came back."

At 1:20 a.m., a wave swirled into the waterfront that broke the tide gauge. The fourth wave is estimated to have reached 22 feet, Dengler said. "It was terribly timed. It came just at the top of the tide."

More than 100 homes were destroyed. Eleven people died. Total damage was estimated at \$23 million.

Others died in the rising waters at Newport, Ore. and Klamath River, Calif. \$600,000 in damage was sustained by boats and harbor facilities in San Raphael, Calif.

In Hawaii, tsunamis from the Alaska earthquake caused about \$70,000 in damage. Waves in several places were as high as the one that devastated Crescent City.

But no lives were lost. When the tsunami warning sirens went off, the Hawaiians paid heed. They had learned their lesson from another Alaska earthquake 18 years before.

On April 1, 1946, an Aleutian quake with a magnitude perhaps as high as 8.1 set off a wave that wiped out the concrete, five-story high Scotch Cap Lighthouse on Unimak Island. Hours later, Hawaiians flocked to the shores to observe the peculiar super-low tide. Curious crowds gathered on the beach at Hilo. Children ran to explore the exposed sea bottom. By the time they saw the wave coming it was too late to get away; 165 people died, including six in Alaska.

As a result, a system of ocean-based alarms was established to detect tsunami activity in areas particularly prone to seismic shifts. A line of detectors follows the Alaska coast where earthquake activity is particularly high.

EARLY WARNING

The detectors do a good job of alerting populations far from where the earthquakes take place, Dengler said. She noted a tsunami that hit Crescent City following the 2011 Japan quake was within inches of what the data predicted.

"But near the source area, they're not helpful," she said.

That's because a landslide tsunami will get to shore before the warning does, if there's any warning at all.

"We cannot detect when a landslide has happened," said Preller. "If you're near the ocean when there's an earthquake, get to high ground and stay there. Don't wait for a warning. The earthquake is your warning."

Nonetheless, Dengler said, the progress in long-distance tsunami warning has come a long way since 1964. "Back then it took three hours after the quake for Crescent City to get the warning. Today it would be two or three minutes."

Preller called the Japanese tsunami warning system “the best on the planet.” That country has made some intriguing progress in providing early warnings for earthquakes.

“From the moment an earthquake initiates, you usually have some period of time before the shaking reaches you,” said West. “If you can nail down that earthquake immediately when it happens, there’s the potential of providing several tens of seconds of warning. That’s enough time to shut down transit systems or have a surgeon put down his scalpel.”

West is impressed by Japan’s combination of good instrumentation and a warning notification system. “It was quite successful in the 2011 earthquake,” he said. He sent a link to a Youtube video that shows a computer screen just before the massive earthquake and tsunami of March 11 that year. An automated voice is counting down from 29 seconds. At the moment the countdown reaches zero, the rattling begins.

“California, Oregon and Washington are in the process of developing such systems,” West said. “Gov. Jerry Brown has mandated that California will do this.

“There’s a legitimate discussion to be held as to whether or not such an investment would be worth it here. But nothing like it is currently in development for Alaska.”

Wednesday: Witness to destruction

Shortly after tsunamis destroyed much of Seward, school students recorded their experiences with pictures.

Tidal wave vs. tsunami

In 1964 the phrase “tidal wave” was universally used by both average Alaskans and experts quoted in the media to describe the giant waves that wrought so much death and damage. Today the preferred term for a wave generated by a solid physical force such as an earthquake, landslide or volcano is tsunami. Tidal waves refer to waves caused by extreme tidal action or wind, including tidal bores or storm surges.

Casualties

There are various numbers given for the number of deaths caused by the Great Alaska Earthquake. The most recent estimate is given by the National Geophysical Data Center as 139, 124 of which were due to tsunamis; however that database does not break down the fatalities by location. “The casualties are still under discussion,” said Cindi Preller, Tsunami Program Manager, NOAA Alaska Region.

Is Anchorage in danger?

In theory, a tsunami is possible at any oceanside location. But it’s considered improbable in upper Cook Inlet. “Generally speaking, tsunamis travel better through deep water,” said Kristine Crossen, head of UAA’s geology department. “Cook Inlet is fairly shallow. It creates a lot of friction on the base of the wave.”

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 400) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank you for the opportunity to speak again on this historic event to recognize those who lost lives, lost family, and those who helped to not only ensure that Alaska was able to regroup and regain but knowing we have used these lessons learned 50 years ago to help us going forward.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ANTIPERSONNEL LANDMINES

Mr. LEAHY. Over the past 20 years I have spoken many times about the toll inflicted on innocent civilians and U.S. soldiers from antipersonnel landmines. I have talked about it in the Senate, in Ottawa, and in most parts of the world.

The reason I have done so is that landmines, like booby traps, are inherently indiscriminate. They are triggered by whomever comes in contact with them, whether an unsuspecting child, a farmer, a refugee, or a soldier. They are the antithesis of a precision guided weapon.

One hundred sixty-one nations, including most of our allies and friends and every European member of NATO, have signed a treaty banning them. One hundred sixty-one nations had the courage to sign that treaty.

Unfortunately, the United States is conspicuously not among them.

In 1994, 20 years ago, in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly, President Bill Clinton called for the elimination of antipersonnel landmines.

Two years later, in 1996, President Clinton said: “Today I am launching an international effort to ban antipersonnel landmines.”

President Clinton went on to announce a U.S. plan to develop alternatives to landmines, with the goal that the United States would end its use of antipersonnel landmines by 2006.

We had a meeting in Ottawa where nations came together and Canada’s Foreign Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, called for an antipersonnel landmine treaty. But in 1997 the United States missed an opportunity to be a leader in the international effort to ban antipersonnel mines, when it failed to sign the Mine Ban Treaty.

The year 2006 came and went. President Clinton’s administration ended and President George W. Bush served for 8 years. President Obama was then elected and then reelected. In the meantime, U.S. troops fought two long ground wars. They fought those wars without using antipersonnel landmines.

In 2010, along with 67 other Senators, Democrats and Republicans, I sent a letter to President Obama. We commended him for agreeing to review the

U.S. Government’s policy on antipersonnel mines, and we urged him to conform U.S. policy to the Mine Ban Treaty as a first step. That was 5 years ago. Five years since the start of that review we are still waiting for the results.

After 20 years and three U.S. Presidents, there is no evidence the United States is any closer to joining the treaty than when President Clinton made that speech.

I find it disheartening as an American to think that my country is unwilling to stand with these 161 other countries, many of which real threats, and yet we will not join them.

The Pentagon has long argued that landmines are needed to defend South Korea. In 1996, then-Secretary of Defense William Perry said the Pentagon would “move vigorously” to achieve alternative ways to prevent a North Korean attack so they would no longer need landmines.

In the last century, in 1996, they pledged to vigorously. I don’t know what their definition of “vigorous” is, but after 20 years there is no evidence they have done anything to revise their Korea war plans without antipersonnel mines or that any President has told them to do so.

One could ask what difference it would make if the United States joins the Mine Ban Treaty. As I said, we have not used antipersonnel mines for 23 years. The United States has done more to support humanitarian demining than any other country in the world. We have not exported antipersonnel mines since the Leahy law was passed in 1992, and we have spent many tens of millions of dollars through the Leahy War Victims Fund to aid those injured by mines.

If we are not causing the problem, why bother signing the treaty? Because antipersonnel mines continue to kill and cripple innocent people and because indiscriminate, victim-activated weapons have no place in the arsenal of a civilized country.

Countries as diverse as Afghanistan and Great Britain have signed it.

The United States has by far the most powerful military in the world, and this treaty needs the strong leadership of the United States.

As President Obama said in his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize:

I am convinced that adhering to standards, international standards, strengthens those who do, and isolates and weakens those who don’t.

Twenty years after President Clinton’s U.N. speech, President Obama can give real meaning to his words by putting the United States on the path to join the treaty. That means destroying what remains of our stockpile of mines. We are never going to use them. Get rid of them. It means revising our Korea war plans to eliminate antipersonnel mines.

President Obama is the only one who could make that happen. Time is running out.

Let me tell a story. During the ill-fated contra war, during the time of the Reagan administration, I was visiting one of the contra camps along the Nicaragua-Honduras border. As I looked from a helicopter, I saw a clearing inside Nicaragua where there was a field hospital. So we decided to land. I talked to the doctors who were treating victims. There was a little boy, about 10 or 12 years old, who came out, and he had a makeshift crutch. He had one leg.

He came from a family who survived from what they could hunt and gather in the jungle along the border. We talked to him, and it turned out he had lost his leg by stepping on an anti-personnel mine—mines that were not going to stop any army, they were just there to terrorize and injure civilians.

This is not a picture of that little boy, but this is an example of what happens. I asked the boy which side put this mine there. He had only a vague knowledge of what the two countries were, that there was a border there. All he knew was that his life was changed forever. He would not be able to earn a living as his parents and grandparents and others had. He had a place to stay only because the doctors had put a pile of rags and sheets in the corner on the dirt floor where other people were recovering from their war wounds.

I became more and more interested in the horrifying toll of landmines around the world, and I met other innocent victims like this young girl her legs and a hand missing. I think of those in conflicts especially children—who saw what they thought was a pretty and shiny toy on the side of the road, and they touched it only to have their limbs blown off or their eyesight lost.

I think of the teenage girl I met in an area where there was a war. I met her at a hospital where she was getting artificial legs through the Leahy War Victims Fund. Her parents had sent her away during the war, where she would be safe. The war ended and she was walking home and saw her parents and started running toward them, and in a flash a landmine explodes and she both her legs were blown off.

After World War I, countries came together to ban poison gas. We had international negotiations to do that. The Pentagon was against it, arguing that they might need to use poison gas sometime. We get the same reaction today about antipersonnel landmines: we might need them some day.

This photograph shows one of the places supported by the Leahy War Victims Fund—where they make artificial legs. If any one of the Senators in this body were to lose a leg, our insurance would buy us a high-tech leg to replace it or we might be told: You can

have an even better one but it will cost \$500 or \$1,000 more than your insurance will pay. We would all take out our checkbook and pay it. Here, we are talking about countries in which the per capita income is maybe \$300 or \$400 a year.

Signing a landmine treaty is not going to by itself stop everything. There are millions of mines still littering countries where the wars ended decades ago.

As I said earlier, the United States, to its credit, has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to clear mines and to help people who have been injured. But why shouldn't the United States of America—the country that should be the moral leader—why shouldn't we step up and sign the treaty? How do we credibly tell others not to use them, when they say: Yes, but you never signed the treaty. You have reserved the right to use them. You are the most powerful Nation on Earth; we are not.

Why shouldn't we?

I am proud of the Leahy War Victims Fund, but I would give anything to think there was no need for it. Maybe that day will come.

I tell President Obama: Time is running out. You know what you should do.

I think if he talked to President Clinton, he would find that President Clinton wishes he had signed it. Let's sign it now. Do that. That can be part of his legacy.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GREAT ALASKAN EARTHQUAKE

Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I rise today to remember the Great Alaskan Earthquake, which struck 50 years ago today on Good Friday, March 27, 1964. Over 100 Alaskans died in the earthquake and the resulting tsunami. Entire coastal towns were literally wiped off the map.

I was very young—only 2 years old—but I remember my family telling stories as I was growing up and showing pictures. In those days it was not like we see today—pictures on a computer—because there was none of that existing. I remember in our family of six we always had slideshow night. We had these little slides my mother would put in this carousel, and off it would go and we would be reminded of all the vacations and things we went on, but we would also see these slides about what happened in the earthquake in 1964.

We were lucky. We lived in East Anchorage in half of a small apartment

complex, and the only things that broke in our house were these three swinging lights that went back and forth because our house was built on gravel soil and was very strong and sturdy, in many ways, in its development. But when you look back at the houses on Third Avenue that literally disappeared or Fourth Avenue that collapsed downtown, it was a different story, or around Turnagain, the community out in West Anchorage, that literally fell off and sank.

Today I am honored to join my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI—who I know was on the floor earlier—in cosponsoring a resolution marking the tragic yet important event in our history and thanking those who helped us survive and recover. In those days we had limited access anyway, but when there was an earthquake, especially in a small town or community, the first responders sometimes couldn't get there because of the uniqueness of the situation from the earthquake. But every Alaskan, every first responder, everybody who was available got down to the business of doing everything they could to help people in need. We were coming out of a winter—still cold and yet spring, what we would call a spring winter day.

Alaskans know the importance of tsunami preparedness and warnings and making sure we are prepared for what can happen. Today we are proud to host NOAA's National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, AK. I have been there, and it is the most amazing technology, to see what we can do and what we can see or sense through the sensors and other scientific equipment we have to tell us when a tsunami may be occurring or the magnitude of the tsunami. We monitor on a 24-hour basis with scientists.

The tsunami's impact was felt, from our earthquake, as far away as Hawaii, California, and Washington. That is why today I join Senator CANTWELL and Senator SCHATZ in introducing the Tsunami Warning and Educational Reauthorization Act for 2014. This bill would improve NOAA's Tsunami Warning Center, bringing supercomputing power to the tsunami modeling. It would ensure that all coastal weather forecast offices are better prepared to issue tsunami warnings.

The bill also ensures that coastal communities will be more tsunami-resilient through the National Tsunami Hazardous Mitigation Program. It ensures that communities understand tsunami risks, planning to minimize damages, and are ready to bounce back quickly after the damage occurs.

The bill also recognizes the critical role that advancing our understanding and technology through scientific research plays in meeting the tsunami threat.

This bill was originally envisioned by the late Senator Inouye. I have been

proud to pick up where he was unable to continue on an issue I know is critical in his home State.

Fifty years ago Alaska was a young State with a bright but uncertain future. We still had foreign fishing vessels coming in and taking our fish just a few miles off the coast. The trans-Alaska oil pipeline and the energy it delivers was just a dream. After the damage from the quake and tsunami, there were serious questions from outside whether Alaska could survive. Keep in mind that this was only a few years after becoming a State. But Alaskans already knew the answer. They knew we would rebuild and become stronger, and we have. Alaska is now the Nation's Arctic energy storehouse and feeds the Nation with sustainable seafood stocks. I know the Presiding Officer understands the value of fisheries and that they are an incredible element of our food inventory and storage for our country. Alaska is a State that is important in this regard, as is the State of Massachusetts.

But we must still be very vigilant against the threat of earthquakes and tsunamis. That is why I introduced this bill, joining again with Senators CANTWELL and SCHATZ in this endeavor. We encourage its swift passage, as it is important to make sure, when it comes to these issues, that no matter where one lives, safety is protected because the devastation is incredible.

Let me end on another personal note. When I think of growing up in Alaska—someone born and raised there—and living in East Anchorage, I can still remember growing up and my dad thinking about where he bought land to build this house, and this apartment building was on incredible soil. But years later, when I became mayor of Anchorage and sat on the city assembly, I remember the great debate on building codes and earthquake capacity and stability and making sure buildings were designed right.

I remember the Federal building, which is now city hall—and I was on the Anchorage Assembly then—and the great debate came up as to whether we were going to renovate or move or something else in regard to the location. But we decided we wanted to stay downtown to keep downtown vibrant. Well, the building was built during a time when it would probably not withstand an earthquake of the magnitude that occurred in the 1964 earthquake.

I remember when we vacated the building and they stripped the building down and left the shell. I walked in to take a tour of the building with the developer. He was showing me what he called the shock absorbers—these incredible columns within the building that, if an earthquake hit, not only would they try to absorb it, they would help the building move up or side to side, absorbing the impact of the earthquake and preserving the building, en-

suring that the investment and lives would be saved. To me, it was the most amazing thing because in the old days—as I said, when I grew up—we just put the buildings together, slapped them up, and thanked God we had a home to live in during a cold winter. So the technology has advanced significantly so as to ensure safety in an area that is clearly an earthquake zone.

It is not uncommon for me to be back home and be at a meeting in a hotel or giving a speech in a ballroom or sitting in a home with someone and having a conversation and an earthquake kind of comes through. It is always amazing to me that if I am there with visitors from out of town, they get a little nervous. But as Alaskans, we know we have improved our building codes, we have improved our warning systems, and we have continued to make sure we can minimize or mitigate the damage from those natural disasters that could occur. Again, this bill reauthorization on tsunamis focuses on that. We saw a whole city or town washed off the map—gone—because of the power of a tsunami.

So today I appreciate and remember the history of Alaska and the uniqueness of being there during times of growth and also times of tragedy, but today being part of legislation which in an odd way comes full circle: As a 2-year-old experiencing an earthquake, to where I am today, being able to ensure that not only my State but any coastal State has the capacity to ensure a tsunami warning system is not only the best but the best in the world.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

WEALTH DISTRIBUTION

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, as the longest serving Independent in the history of the U.S. Congress, I wish to address an issue which I believe does not get the kind of discussion it should from either political party but certainly not from our Republican colleagues—the moral, economic, and political dimensions of the kind of income and wealth inequality which we have in our country today. In my view, this is the most important issue facing the United States because it impacts on virtually every aspect of our lives. It is an issue we must be discussing thoroughly and one in which the American people have to be engaged.

The fact is that while we often speak of the United States of America being the wealthiest Nation on the face of the Earth, that is only partially true, because within the context of total wealth is the reality that the great middle class of this country is disappearing. The reality is we have more people living in poverty today than at any time in the history of the United States of America. The fact is we have by far the highest rate of childhood poverty of any major industrialized na-

tion on Earth. So if we add it all together, yes, we are the wealthiest Nation on Earth, but the reality is the people on top own a huge amount of this wealth while the middle class is shrinking and poverty is increasing.

I will speak to our colleagues and the American people about some of the realities in terms of income and wealth distribution.

Today the top 1 percent owns 38 percent of the financial wealth of America. I wonder how many Americans know how much the bottom 60 percent owns. I want people to think about it. The top 1 percent owns 38 percent of the financial wealth, and the bottom 60 percent owns 2.3 percent. One family in this country—the Walton family, the owners of Walmart—are now worth as a family \$148 billion. This is more wealth than the bottom 40 percent of American society. Today the richest 400 Americans own more wealth than the bottom half of America, 150 million people. This is distribution of wealth—what we own.

The latest information we have in terms of distribution of income is from 2009 through 2012, which says that 95 percent of all new income earned in this country went to the top 1 percent. When we talk about economic growth—2 percent or 4 percent, whatever it is—it doesn't mean much, because almost all of the new income generated in this growth has gone to the very wealthiest people in this country. The top 25 hedge fund managers made last year over \$24 billion. This is enough to pay the salaries of more than 425,000 public schoolteachers. Over the past decade, the net worth of the top 400 billionaires in this country has doubled by an astronomical \$1 trillion in the last 10 years.

In a moment I will discuss the extraordinary political power of the Koch brothers, a family investing very heavily in the political process, spending hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars to elect rightwing candidates who will protect the interests of the wealthy and the powerful.

To give some idea of what is going on in this economy, everybody should understand that Charles and David Koch—the Koch brothers—are the second wealthiest family in this country. In the last year alone, this one family saw a \$12 billion increase in their wealth, bringing their total wealth to \$80 billion.

The other day in the Washington Post there was an article talking about the Adelson primary. When we talk about a political primary, what it means is we have candidates in the Democratic Party and the Republican Party competing against each other to get the support of the people in their respective parties. Well, forget about that. That is old news. Now the goal is to appeal to one multibillionaire so this individual can contribute hundreds

of millions of dollars into the campaign. This is what is going on right now in the Republican Party.

While the wealthiest are doing phenomenally well, while the United States today has the most unequal distribution of wealth and income of any major country on Earth, and while that income inequality is worse today than at any time since 1928, what we are also seeing is the collapse of the middle class and an increase in poverty.

Since 1999, the typical middle-class family has seen its income go down by more than \$5,000 after adjusting for inflation. The typical middle-class American family earned less income last year than it did 25 years ago, back in 1989. The Presiding Officer is probably the last person in the world I have to explain this to, having written several books on this subject.

Why are people angry in this country? The median male worker in this country made \$283 less last year than he did 44 years ago, and the typical female worker earned \$1,700 less than in 2007.

The question I think every American should be asking is: How does it happen, when we have a huge increase in productivity—everybody has a cell phone, everybody has a sophisticated computer, we have robotics in all of our factories, we have a huge increase in productivity—where is all of the wealth going which increased productivity has created? The answer is pretty clear: It has gone to the top 1 percent.

So the moral issue we have to address as a nation is: Are we comfortable as a nation in which in recent years we have seen a huge increase in the number of millionaires and billionaires, while at the same time we have more people living in poverty than we have ever had before?

This is an incredible fact: As an aging nation with more and more people reaching retirement, half of the American people have less than \$10,000 in their savings accounts and in many ways have no idea how they are going to retire with dignity. So the first issue we have to deal with is a moral issue. Are we comfortable living in a nation when so few have so much while so many have so little, and so many of our brothers and sisters—our fellow Americans—are struggling economically every single day?

Today we are addressing the issue of extending long-term unemployment benefits. There are millions of workers right now, including people who have worked their entire lives and who no longer can find a job. They have virtually no income coming in and are struggling to survive. Single moms are trying to raise families with very limited income. Is this the nation we are comfortable being?

I don't think we are. But it is not just an issue of individual income.

Today, corporate profits are at an all-time high while wages are near an all-time low.

Then when we look at issues about how can we fund early childhood education, how can we make sure every American has health care as a right—how do we make sure that when people lose their jobs they are going to get the unemployment they need, we should remember that every single year corporations—large, multinational corporations—avoid paying at least \$100 billion a year in taxes because they stash their cash in the Cayman Islands and other offshore tax havens. The result is one out of four American corporations pays nothing in Federal income taxes. In fact, over the last 5 years, huge companies, profitable companies, such as General Electric, Boeing, and Verizon, pay nothing—zero—in Federal income tax, even though all of those companies have made a combined profit of \$78 billion since 2008.

Here is the irony of all ironies. It is one thing to understand that the very wealthy are becoming wealthier while everybody else is becoming poorer, but it is another thing to understand that the people who have the money, the billionaire class, are going to war against working Americans. If one has \$80 billion, do they really need to invest in the political process so they can elect candidates who will give even more tax breaks? Do they really need to invest in rightwing candidates who are out there trying to cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the Environmental Protection Agency, nutrition, food stamps, and education? Why, if somebody has \$80 billion, are they working so hard for more tax breaks for themselves and for more cuts to the middle class and working class in terms of programs people desperately need?

Frankly, I think this is not an economic issue. I think it is a psychiatric issue. I think it is an issue which suggests people are simply power hungry. They need more and more. I think this is a very sad state of affairs.

The struggle we are engaged in now is stopping the billionaire class from cutting Social Security, from cutting Medicare, from cutting Medicaid, and from preventing us from creating the millions of jobs our economy desperately needs. But at the end of the day, what we are really talking about is whether this Nation is going to become an oligarchic form of society, and what that means, what an oligarchic form of society is about and which has existed in many countries throughout the world, historically—in many countries in Latin America, although that has recently changed—is a nation in which both the economics and politics of the nation are controlled by a handful of very wealthy, billionaire families. It doesn't matter what party is in power because the real power economi-

cally and politically rests with a billionaire class. It clearly seems that unless we act boldly to reverse this trend, we are seeing this country moving in exactly that direction.

One of the reasons is as a result of the disastrous Citizens United Supreme Court ruling, which regards corporations as people and allows the super-wealthy to spend as much as they want on elections. The billionaire party, which is obviously aligned with the Republicans, is now, in fact, the major political force in this country. It is not the Republican party, *per se*. It is not the Democratic party, *per se*. It is the billionaire party led by people like the Koch brothers and Sheldon Adelson. They are the dominant political force in this country because they can spend unbelievable sums of money on elections. They can spend as much money as they need, setting up think tanks and various organizations which will support their extreme rightwing point of view.

In the last presidential election Barack Obama's campaign spent a little bit over \$1 billion. Mitt Romney spent somewhere around there, maybe a little bit less, but about \$1 billion. The Koch brothers' wealth increased by \$12 billion in one year.

Is there any reason to doubt that in the future this one family will be able to spend more money on a campaign than the presidential candidates themselves, receiving donations from hundreds of thousands of people? That is where we are today. Where we are today is that the very foundations of American democracy are being threatened by a handful of incredibly wealthy people who are saying: You know what. Eighty billion is not enough for me. Yeah, I made \$12 billion more than last year—not enough for me. I have to have more, and I am going to get more tax cuts for myself, and in order to do that we may have to cut Social Security; we may have to cut Medicare; we may have to cut Medicaid; we may have to cut education for middle-class families.

We are in a debate about whether we raise the minimum wage. My view—and I know the Presiding Officer's view—is that we should raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour so that every working person in this country at least—at least—can have a minimal—minimal—standard of living. Many Americans don't know that it is not just that virtually all Republicans in the Congress are opposed to raising the minimum wage. The truth is many of them want to abolish the concept of the minimum wage.

The theory of the minimum wage is that nobody should work for below a certain wage. For many of my extreme conservative friends, they think it would be perfectly fine in a high unemployment area if we abolish the minimum wage. People today are working in this country for \$3 and \$4 an hour.

It is not only economics. Many of these billionaires are involved, as the Koch brothers are, in energy, in oil. What they want to do is abolish agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency so they can pollute more and more and more. The scientific community tells us in an almost unanimous fashion that climate change is real, climate change is made by human activity, climate change is already creating problems in our country and around the world, and that if we don't get our act together and significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions, the problems will only become worse. Yet you have families such as the Koch brothers and other energy-related billionaires spending huge sums of money trying to confuse people about the reality of climate change.

So to my mind the issue that we have to focus on as a Congress, the issue that we have to focus on as American people is: What kind of nation do we wish to live in? Do we want to live in a nation where a handful of billionaires own a significant amount of the wealth in this country while the middle class has less and less, where families cannot afford to send their kids to college or get decent childcare for their little ones, where people are reaching the age of 65 with virtually nothing in the bank in order to provide a dignified retirement? Is that the country we want to live in or do we want to see the middle class grow and have a more equitable distribution of wealth and income, a fairer tax system where the millionaires and billionaires and large corporations start paying their fair share of taxes.

From a political point of view, which is equally important: Do we want to have a nation in which the concept is one person, one vote; that we are all equal; that you have as much say about what happens in government as anybody else or do we want to have a political system where a handful of billionaires can sit around the room and say: OK, put \$100 million into that State. Let's put \$50 million into that State—where a handful of billionaires will determine who gets elected President, who gets elected Senator, who gets elected Governor, and have Members of Congress crawling up to these billionaires: What do you need, Mr. Billionaire? How do I get the hundreds of millions of dollars you can give me?

Is that really what American democracy is supposed to be about?

We have some very fundamental issues we have to address as a Congress. So I would suggest that we put on the agenda the issue of distribution of wealth and income and the implication of that grossly unfair distribution of wealth and income that we have right now.

With that, Mr. President, I would yield the floor, and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BOSTON'S LOST HEROES

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, this is a difficult day for the city of Boston. Yesterday Boston lost two courageous firefighters who gave up their lives battling a terrible fire in the city's Back Bay.

When others flee, our firefighters rush headlong into danger, concerned only for the safety of others. They put their lives on the line every time. Today we mourn the loss of two brave men, two heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Lieutenant Ed Walsh and firefighter Mike Kennedy were highly respected and committed members of the Boston Fire Department who dedicated their lives to keeping our families safe. Firefighter Kennedy of Ladder Company 15 on Boylston Street was a member of the Boston Fire Department for 6½ years. He grew up in Roslindale, served our country as a U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran in Iraq, and was a first responder to the Boston Marathon attacks last year. He wanted to run in this year's marathon, so to be admitted he wrote an essay about his experiences responding to the marathon bombing. He had been at training for the big day, but he won't be running this year.

Lieutenant Walsh served on Engine 33, also based at the Boylston Street Fire Station. He was a firefighter in Boston for 9½ years and lived in West Roxbury with his wife Kristen and their three young kids. Lieutenant Walsh came from a firefighting family and followed in the footsteps of his father and his uncle, both of whom served on the Watertown Fire Department. He will be missed.

I know I speak on behalf of the city of Boston and the people of Boston when I say that all our thoughts and prayers are with Lieutenant Walsh's and Firefighter Kennedy's families at this very difficult time. Boston is deeply grateful to Lieutenant Walsh and to Firefighter Kennedy, and to all our policemen, firefighters, and first responders who put their lives at risk to protect our families every single day, and to all of our firefighter families who face the risk that a loved one will rush into a burning building and give up everything to keep all of us safe.

Thank you, Mr. President. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, every day firefighters and other first responders around our country put their lives on the line to protect the public. Yesterday members of the Boston Fire Department bravely entered a burning building in Boston's Back Bay in a selfless effort to save lives and keep the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts safe.

Firefighters head toward the danger as ordinary citizens run away from danger. They are a very special breed, these firefighters. It is with a very heavy heart that I come to the floor today, along with Senator WARREN, to honor two of these courageous men, Lieutenant Edward Walsh and firefighter Michael Kennedy, who became caught in the fire and heroically sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Thirteen other firefighters were injured in the blaze and are expected to survive.

Firefighter Michael Kennedy was 33 years old. A native of the Roslindale section of Boston, he lived in Hyde Park and had been with the Boston Fire Department for the past 6 years. A former marine, Michael was among the first responders who nobly and bravely served those injured in the Boston Marathon bombing almost 1 year ago.

Lieutenant Edward Walsh was 43 years old. He lived in West Roxbury with his wife and three children. Lieutenant Walsh came from a firefighting family. Both his father and uncle were fire lieutenants in nearby Watertown. He had been with the Boston Fire Department for 9½ years and was stationed at Engine 33, Ladder 15, just blocks from the building where the fire occurred.

Lieutenant Walsh and Firefighter Kennedy are American heroes. Their memories will live on forever as everlasting examples of the extraordinary courage and dedication that is at the very heart of the Boston Fire Department and in the hearts of firefighters everywhere. Boston is strong because of heroes such as Lieutenant Walsh and Firefighter Kennedy who place the safety of others before themselves.

In this nine-alarm fire, there were zero civilian casualties. These two brave men put their lives on the line so that others may go on living. I offer my condolences to the families of Lieutenant Walsh and Firefighter Kennedy and to the Boston Fire Department. Massachusetts has lost two of its finest sons, and I grieve along with the rest of the Commonwealth, along with Senator WARREN, and along with everyone else for the loss that has been suffered.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, George Holland was a pretty exceptional kid. When he was 14 years old, he went through something that I do not think any of us can even imagine what it is like to go through. His parents got into a heated argument. They were estranged at the time. It became so violent that it culminated in his mother fatally stabbing his father. He was 14 years old, and he lost his dad and then saw his mother get sent away to prison.

He then went to live with his aunt. His aunt attests to the fact that even in those dark days, he was full of a positive attitude. He refused to dwell on the murder, to use it as a crutch. He excelled.

His friends said his smile was infectious. He was always hugging everybody.

He played center on the high school football team in Providence, RI, which is where he is from. His coach says that he was a great team player, he was a leader, and he was always looking to take the younger kids under his wing. His coach said, "He was just a great kid."

Well, 3 years after his mother killed his father, George Holland died as well. A gunman targeted his house on February 4 of this year—a house he was visiting. He was with his girlfriend and her family when someone shot into the house around 9 p.m. A bullet went through the kitchen window and struck George, who collapsed and later died at Rhode Island Hospital. He was 17 years old.

Steve Finkbeiner and his wife Constance were beloved in their town of LaPlace, LA. They owned a feedstore that was at the end of a quiet road. They had owned it for 28 years. The community all looked upon the Finkbeiners as family. Everybody had some reason to go into that feedstore every now and again. Constance and Steve treated their customers as if they were members of their own immediate family.

One friend said exactly that: They were like family. They were just like family.

Others remembered Steve as a hard-working man and a community member.

It was just after 2:30 p.m. on February 25—just a few weeks ago—when deputies received a call from the feed and supply store. A woman said she and her husband had just been shot during an armed robbery. Constance survived the attack but was critically injured. Her husband Steve died. What happened was two robbers initially went

into the store inquiring about shots for a pet. They left briefly only to return to rob the place and shoot the couple who owned the store.

Ruthanne Lodato lived just over the border in Alexandria, VA. She was a music teacher, 59 years old. She was as involved as one can be in the community. She was a loving wife to her husband and the mother of three daughters. She was planning her class's 40th reunion. She was remembered fondly as a music teacher who would hold up her hand to cue the group to sing her school's alma mater. She was the glue that held her family and friends together. That is how she was described.

There were 300 mourners at her funeral. On February 6 of this year—again, just over a month ago—she was shot after she opened the door to her suburban home for what was described as a balding, bearded man in a tan jacket, who shot her dead.

Ricky Roberts was a very exceptional guy. He lived out in Sonora, CA. He was a demolition derby driver, and he used his garage to construct demolition derby cars. That is what he loved to do. He loved it so much that when he got married to his wife Teddi, they were married on top of a derby car, probably one that he had made, in July of 1990. They were married on top one of his derby cars at the town's Mother Lode Fairgrounds.

What he also loved was volunteering for his community. Ricky was a long-time Sonora police volunteer and a member of the Christian Heights Church. He volunteered hours and hours every week as one of the citizen police officers, and he was very involved with the Police Explorers, helping to train and organize some of the kids who were involved in the Police Explorers Program.

He was a very positive person. His mom said that he made people feel good about themselves and that he had a great rapport with people. He had a great sense of humor and he had the ability to laugh at himself.

On February 16 of this year, Ricky was found at 11 a.m. bleeding in his garage—the garage where he built demolition derby cars—from an apparent gunshot. He was pronounced dead at the scene. He was the first homicide victim in Sonora, CA, in nearly 13 years.

The numbers are pretty stunning: 31,000 people every year die from gun violence; 2,600 people die every month, and 86 people die every day.

There is no other country in the industrialized world that has numbers that come anywhere close to approximating these catastrophic totals.

What I have tried to do is come down to the floor every week to tell the story of the voices of these victims to let my friends know that these are real people with real families who are getting killed at a rate of 86 per day all

across the country. We can talk about these statistics, but apparently the statistics haven't moved Congress and the Senate to action. Maybe the voices of those 86 people a day will—even after they leave this place.

The carnage and the wreckage that is left behind is nearly incalculable. Surveys have been done of what it is like to live in cities with a high incidence of gun violence. They show that the rates of PTSD among the kids who have to live every day with the fear of being shot or with the knowledge that they are pretty sure that in that year a friend, a neighbor or a relative will be killed. They rival the rates of PTSD of our returning soldiers. These cities are like war zones.

The tragedy of all of this is that we are not powerless to do something about it. We have the ability to change laws, to modify laws, in order to reduce the rates of gun violence all across this country.

I close by drawing attention to the evidence. Johns Hopkins recently did a new study of a Missouri law that for years had required background checks before people bought guns and licenses for all handgun owners.

In 2007, Missouri repealed that law.

Johns Hopkins, one of the best research universities in the country, did an exhaustive study of rates of gun violence before that law was passed and the rates of gun violence afterwards. They controlled for every factor other than this law that was repealed. They looked at whether rates of gun violence were increasing in only certain counties. They compared it to rates of gun violence in nearby States, and they looked at all of the other factors that could go into an explanation other than the repeal of the law when trying to figure out why rates of gun violence were increasing.

What they found was very simple. They found that even when we control for all of the other factors, the repeal of the background checks law in Missouri led to a 23-percent spike in firearm homicide rates. That is an additional 55 to 63 murders every year from 2008 to 2012.

There were 60 additional people killed in one State alone because that State had chosen to allow criminals to own guns. When we repeal a background check law, we essentially are allowing criminals to go into places where guns are sold, purchase them, and then either use them themselves or sell them in the black market to people who will do the kind of destruction that leads to 31,000 people dying every year.

My colleagues, we have the ability to change this situation. I try to make this point every time I come to the floor to talk about the voices of victims. I understand that we are not going to bring these numbers to zero by passing a commonsense background

checks bill or by investing more money into our mental health system or by trying to do something, even if it is in a nonlegislative way, to address the culture of violence in our society. There is always going to be gun violence.

We can do something. We can lower these numbers. We can lessen the damage, the trauma, and the carnage all across our country, all across the States that we represent.

Think about a kid like George Holland, who had overcome so much, the death of one of his parents and the imprisonment of the other, to become an immensely compassionate 17-year-old. Who knew. Who knows what he was going to accomplish.

We will never get to understand the good that George Holland could have done in this world because, at age 17 on February 4 of this year, he was gunned down in his girlfriend's home.

Hopefully, whether it is the data or the voices of victims, the Senate will figure out that we can do something to change that reality.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order with respect to the motion to proceed to H.R. 3979 be modified so that when the postcloture time is expired the Senate proceed to a vote on the motion to proceed to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 4302

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks on Monday, March 31, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4302, which was received from the House and is at the desk; that there be no amendments or motions in order to the bill with the exception of budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; that the time until 5 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees for debate on the bill; that notwithstanding the previous order, following the vote on confirmation of the Owens nomination on Monday, March 31, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4302, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill; that the bill be subject to a 60-affirmative vote threshold; finally, that upon disposition of H.R. 4302, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3979, as provided under the previous order.

Madam President, I want everyone to understand there will be at least 3

hours of debate on H.R. 4302, and I want to make sure everyone understands I will be giving Senator WYDEN the 1½ hours on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the request is agreed to.

SGR

Mr. REID. Madam President, before Chairman BAUCUS became Ambassador to China, the Finance Committee, under his auspices, negotiated a bipartisan, bicameral bill with the House to repeal the flawed Medicare physician payment system. He worked on that for more than a year. But the committees didn't come to an agreement on the really hard part—how to pay for it.

Senator WYDEN, the new chairman of the Finance Committee, has come up with a way to pay for it. I support repealing the payment system—the SGR—permanently. I have been in favor of that for a long time, and I appreciate the work done on that in the past period of time Senator WYDEN has been chairman of that committee. I repeat, the work done on it for a year didn't have a way to pay for it. So I support repealing this permanently. I believe we should repeal it without pay-fors or by using reductions in the overseas contingency fund, called OCO.

The deadline is here. I spoke on the floor this morning, and I say it again. Everyone is saying, Well, why are you helping the doctors? Madam President, I am helping my Medicare recipients in Nevada. They need physicians. And for us to play around with this bill, as we do continually, isn't fair to the patients. Because doctors are unhappy that they do not have some degree of certainty, and that is what they need. So that is why I am for getting rid of this totally. We don't have that now.

The House passed a short time ago a patch of 12 or 13 months, which is good. So efforts will continue on the permanent repeal of the SGR, and I support Senator WYDEN seeing what he can do to come up with some votes for a permanent repeal. He served a long time in the House and a long time in the Senate and he knows what he is doing. So let us hope he gets enough votes. Until then, we are left with a patch.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KING. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING ED MUSKIE

Mr. KING. Madam President, I rise this afternoon to memorialize one of the great residents, citizens, denizens of this body—Senator Edmund Sixtus Muskie of Maine—who tomorrow, March 28, 2014, would have been 100 years old.

I knew Ed Muskie—not well, but I knew him. I knew him working here as

a staff member. We were very scared of him. He was a presence. He was a force. He was indeed a great man. He is the classic American story—a classic American story we need to remind ourselves of.

He was the son of a Polish immigrant tailor in a small town called Rumford on the Androscoggin River in western Maine. He rose to become a great U.S. Senator, Secretary of State, candidate for President, candidate on the ballot for Vice President of the United States, and one of the great citizens of Maine and the country of the 20th century. Ed Muskie rose by his own merits.

I am convinced that the secret sauce of America is the welcoming of people from all over the world who come here to bring their talents and allowing them to express themselves fully and freely in the wonderful rich soil of this great country.

Ed Muskie went to school on a scholarship at a small college in Maine, Bates College, where the Muskie Archives currently reside. Then he went on to Cornell Law School through the generosity of individuals and scholarships because he had no resources of his own. He was in World War II and then came back to practice law in the small town of Waterville in Central Maine.

In 1954 Ed Muskie literally invented the Democratic Party in Maine. I don't believe there had been a major Democratic officeholder in Maine for some 50 years. I think perhaps there were a few in the 1920s and 1930s, but the State was completely dominated by the Republican Party all through the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s.

When Ed Muskie ran for Governor in 1954, it was the longest of long shots. In fact, the story in Maine was that, of course, in the 1936 election, when Franklin D. Roosevelt ran against Alf Landon, Roosevelt carried every State in the Union except two—Maine and Vermont. Hence the famous saying: As goes Maine, so goes Vermont.

The story goes that on the coast of Maine, in a small Republican town of several hundred people, the clerk announced the vote.

At the end of the tally, she said: Landon 47, Roosevelt 2.

Someone mumbled: The SOB voted twice.

That was the way the Republican Party dominated the State—until Ed Muskie in 1954. He drove from one end of the State to the other with friends, stayed on friends' living room couches—nothing fancy. The idea of a political ad on television in those days was to show up at the TV station at the appointed hour, and as the clock ticked to 8 you would look into the camera, give your statement for 30 seconds, and then you were off to the next campaign stop.

As the campaign went on in 1954, something happened in Maine: An excitement built—a buzz, I guess we

would say today. Ed Muskie—indeed, to everyone's shock and surprise—was elected Governor in that year. In those days, the Maine Governor's term was 2 years. He was reelected in 1956—a very successful Governor—and then was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1958.

There is a wonderful story about when Muskie first came to the Senate. Lyndon Johnson, of course, was the dynamic, I would say all-powerful majority leader of the Senate at the time. The story is that Johnson took Muskie aside and said: Now, Ed, when somebody comes and asks you for your vote, you just tell them you haven't made up your mind yet. Your vote is the most valuable thing you have in the U.S. Senate, and keep it to yourself. And if they press you, just say, "Senator, they haven't gotten to the M's yet. When they do, you will know how I am going to vote."

This was Johnson's advice to the freshman Senator from Maine.

A few weeks later, apparently there was some kind of procedural vote on the floor, and Johnson wanted to line up his votes in his Democratic caucus.

He went to Ed Muskie and said: Ed, can I count on your support?

Allegedly, Muskie replied: Senator, they haven't gotten to the M's yet.

The result was that Muskie was excluded to the Public Works Committee—at the time one of the least desirable of committee assignments. Of course, now it is the Environment & Public Works Committee and one of the most important and prestigious of our committees. But at the time it was the same as being sent to the outer limits by the majority leader, who didn't like this smart aleck from Maine.

But I think this story has an important and instructive ending because Ed Muskie, with his Maine work ethic, his common sense, and his intuition and insight, used the Public Works Committee to invent environmental law in America.

In 1970, 12 years later, the passage of the Clean Air Act was the first major passage of an environmental piece of legislation in American history. There had been a few small things here and there, but most States had very little in the way of environmental regulation and certainly there was no national regulation. But the amazing thing, the astonishing thing about the passage of the Clean Air Act—and it was a very important piece of legislation. It was very significant. It affected every business in the country. It affected the automobile industry. It affected the paper and manufacturing industry. It was a tremendously important piece of legislation and very controversial. But the Clean Air Act passed the Senate unanimously. Imagine. We can't pass the time of day unanimously, and he marshaled the resources, the votes, and the sentiment of the entire Senate. He did it through amazingly hard work.

They had hundreds of hearings and hundreds of hours of markup. He listened to his colleagues, he found compromises, and he found ways to make it work across the entire spectrum of the Senate.

There were plenty of conservative Senators here in 1970. In fact, at one point in the debate on the Clean Air Act, Howard Baker, who was the Republican leader, gave his proxy to Muskie because he had to be out of the Chamber for a few hours. Again, imagine today the Republican leader giving his proxy to one of the Democratic Senators on a major piece of legislation. I think it says something about, unfortunately, the difference between then and now in the Senate, but it also says something about Muskie's leadership. It was made up in part of incredibly high intelligence. People who knew him well, such as Senator George Mitchell, have said he was one of the most brilliant people they have ever met. So he had high intelligence, but he also had high emotional intelligence. He could intuit what people needed, what they needed and wanted, and what they had to hear and how to persuade them. But he also had incredible perseverance and patience, and he was willing to listen and understand other people's point of view.

The Clean Air Act and later the Clean Water Act in 1972 are really the pillars of environmental law in this entire country. It is hard for us to realize today because we take for granted our commitment to environmental protection, but it didn't really exist until Ed Muskie's leadership in the late 1960s.

It is all the more remarkable for me as a political representative of the State of Maine that Muskie took this step because it had a significant impact on our major industry. Maine is a pulp and paper State, with huge mills and outpourings into the water and into the air. At the time, they were virtually untreated.

So this was not an insignificant act from Muskie's own political situation. It wasn't as though he had a free ride on this, but I believe part of the impetus for this great action, for this great insight was Muskie's being raised as a young boy in the town of Rumford on the Androscoggin River. The Androscoggin River at one point was one of the most polluted rivers in America. I live on the Androscoggin today. When Muskie was a boy, the saying was that the river was too thick to drink and too thin to plow. It was a terrible situation. Ed Muskie realized that, and he realized he had to do something about it. So he used the vehicle of the Public Works Committee, where he had been sent in exile, to achieve one of the great legislative monuments of the 20th century.

He also is the father of our current budget process. He was one of the Senators who put together the budget

process in the mid to late 1970s. He had an incredibly distinguished career. He was an incredible force and a very powerful man.

I have a vivid personal recollection of him which to this day I don't quite know what to make of, but it is an absolutely true one. In 1968 he was running for Vice President of the United States. Ed Muskie was Hubert Humphrey's running mate. In the latter stages of the campaign—September, October of that year, 1968—it was the last several weeks of the campaign, and it was a time when Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates flew around the country. They didn't even take the time to have a motorcade and go into town to make a speech. The plane would land, the crowd would be right out on the airport runway, there would be a little fence line, and the candidate would come down the stairs, make a speech, and get back on the plane and go.

I was a law student that year at the University of Virginia, and I had no connection to Maine at the time, but I somehow heard that Ed Muskie, the Vice Presidential candidate, was coming to Richmond, VA, and was going to be at the airport at 8 or whatever on Tuesday night. So a bunch of us went over to Richmond to hear him. I can remember standing in this crowd along a fence line with probably 300 or 400 people and listening to Muskie right before the election in 1968. He spoke passionately about his vision for America. He spoke about what this country can and should mean. And this was a very important election. This was Richard Nixon versus Hubert Humphrey, and it was an election decided by one vote per precinct across the country—it was that close. It was a very close election.

Here is my strange memory, which again I say I don't really fully understand. I remember standing in the crowd listening to Muskie speak—whom I didn't know at all. I had never set foot in Maine at that point. I didn't know him. I hadn't met him. But I was listening to him speak. And at the end of his speech, out of my mouth completely spontaneously came the words "We trust you." It was something about the man that made you feel you could trust him. He was so honest, so authentic, and so entirely himself. It was an amazing moment.

Here it is almost 50 years later, and I remember that evening in Richmond, VA, my first encounter with Ed Muskie.

I got to know him somewhat more when I worked here as a staff member for his colleague Bill Hathaway, the other Senator from Maine at that time. Then I had the privilege of interviewing him in my capacity as a public television host for a documentary in 1981, when he retired as Secretary of State.

He had a distinguished career here in the Senate. Then he went on and heeded Jimmy Carter's call in 1980 to serve as Secretary of State during the height of the Iran hostage crisis. He served our country honorably and well during that period and then retired. But when he retired, he didn't stop his involvement in public affairs. He became a champion of access to the legal system for the poor. He, of course, remained committed to the environment and had a very active life—mostly in Maine, in his beloved house in Kennebunkport—and was a contributor right up to his death in 1996.

Ed Muskie is a true American hero. There is no way my poor words or anybody else's can really capture his career and the impact he made. I think perhaps the closest I could come is to recall Sir Christopher Wren's epitaph on his tomb in St. Paul's Cathedral. On the tomb it says, "If you seek his monument, look around you." If you would see Ed Muskie's memorial, look around you. Take a deep breath. Experience our great rivers. Experience the environment we now have in this country which we treasure and which is so much a part of who we are across the country and in, of course, the State of Maine. Ed Muskie was a great man. He was a great member of this body and it is an honor for me—to say it is an honor is a gross understatement—to be standing today in his seat, the seat that he held for those important years from 1958 to 1980 and when he served our country so, so well. Ed Muskie is a man who belongs to the ages, who we all miss, and who made such a difference in all of our lives.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUSTICE FOR ALL REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I urge Members from both sides of the aisle to come together and support passage of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2013, an important and bipartisan bill that will improve the effectiveness of our criminal justice system. This

legislation was voted unanimously out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on October 31, 2013. It is fitting that the full Senate is considering this legislation now, ahead of Crime Victims' Rights Week.

This important legislation, which is cosponsored by Senator JOHN CORNYN of Texas, reauthorizes the original Justice for All Act of 2004. That landmark law took significant steps to improve the quality of justice in this country by increasing the resources devoted to DNA analysis and other forensic science technology, establishing safeguards to prevent wrongful convictions, and enhancing protections for crime victims. The programs created by the Justice for All Act have had an enormous impact, and it is crucial that we reauthorize them.

We must do more than just reauthorize these vital programs, however.

The legislation before us strengthens key rights for crime victims, reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, includes provisions to improve the quality of indigent defense, and increases access to post-conviction DNA testing to protect the innocent. It also includes new measures to help ensure the effective administration of criminal justice in the States.

The reauthorization strengthens the Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program. Kirk Bloodsworth was a young man just out of the marines when he was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to death for a heinous crime that he did not commit. He was the first person in the United States to be exonerated from a death row crime through the use of DNA evidence.

The Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program provides grants to States for testing in cases like Mr. Bloodsworth's—when someone has been convicted but significant DNA evidence was not tested. The reauthorization clarifies the conditions set for this program, so that participating States are required to preserve key evidence, and are given further guidance that will make the program more effective and allow more States to participate.

The Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2013 also takes important steps to ensure that all criminal defendants, including those who cannot afford a lawyer, receive effective representation. It requires the Department of Justice to assist States in developing an effective and efficient system of indigent defense, and it calls on the States to produce comprehensive plans for their criminal justice systems. I know from my time as a prosecutor that the justice system only works as it should when each side is well represented by competent and well-trained counsel. The principle that all sides deserve zealous and effective counsel is at the bedrock of our constitutional

system, and I am glad the legislation before us today embodies this belief.

The bill reauthorizes and improves key grant programs in a variety of areas throughout the criminal justice system. Importantly, it increases authorized funding for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant program, which is a vital program to assist forensic laboratories in performing the many forensic tests that are essential to solving crimes and prosecuting those who commit those crimes.

It is also important to note that this bill would make all of these improvements while responsibly reducing the total authorized funding under the Justice for All Act. These changes will help States, communities, and the Federal government save money in the long term.

I thank the many law enforcement and criminal justice organizations that have helped to pinpoint the needed improvements that this bill will provide and I appreciate their ongoing support. I also thank Senators COONS, UDALL of New Mexico, MCCONNELL, KLOBUCHAR, FRANKEN, PORTMAN, FEINSTEIN, HATCH, SCHUMER, LANDRIEU, BURR, COLLINS, and MERKLEY for cosponsoring this critical legislation, and I thank the lead Republican cosponsor Senator CORNYN for working with me on this and on broader legislation to improve the use of forensic evidence in criminal cases.

Together we will continue to work toward a criminal justice system in which the innocent remain free, the guilty are punished, and all sides have the tools, resources, and knowledge they need to advance the cause of justice. Our criminal justice system is not perfect and we are all less safe when the system gets it wrong. Americans need and deserve a criminal justice system that keeps us safe, ensures fairness and accuracy, and fulfills the promise of our Constitution. The Justice for All Reauthorization Act will take important steps to bring us closer to that goal.

DISAPPEARANCE OF SOMBATH SOMPHONE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concern with the lack of progress in the case of Sombath Somphone, who has been missing in Laos since December 2012. Mr. Somphone disappeared while working on civil society development, and despite repeated calls by the U.S. government for a transparent investigation and Mr. Somphone's safe return to his family, his disappearance is still unexplained.

A respected member of the development community, Mr. Somphone has lived and worked for many years in Laos and his efforts to strengthen Lao-tian civil society are well documented.

The circumstances of his disappearance are mysterious, and, given his high profile, more than troubling. Furthermore, the lack of effort on the part of the Laotian government to investigate what has been described by many international observers as a forced disappearance is deeply disappointing.

Mr. Somphone's courageous work on behalf of political freedom and the protection of human rights in Laos is admirable, and he and others who engage in such pursuits should not fear for their safety, especially at the hands of a government. Despite repeated offers of international assistance and numerous inquiries about Mr. Somphone's welfare, the Laotian government appears satisfied despite having made no progress on the case.

I call on Laotian authorities to recognize the importance this has for Members of Congress and the American people, and people around the world, and to take all actions necessary to enable Mr. Somphone to return home to his family.

TRIBUTE TO RAY ALLEN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have spoken many times on the Senate floor about Vermont's dedicated farming families. Today, I would like to recognize the contributions of a great Vermont farmer, at a time of transition, Ray Allen of Allenholm Farm in South Hero, VT.

Ray has, since 1990, represented the University of Vermont as a delegate to the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching, CARET. The APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization representing 235 universities and public land grant institutions nationwide, and CARET advocates for greater national support and understanding of the land-grant university system's food and agricultural research, extension, and teaching programs that enhance the quality of life for all people.

Ray is the longest serving delegate nationally to the CARET and has made many significant contributions to the university extension component of the land grant mission. It is fitting, and should surprise no one that this seventh generation Vermont farmer has so truly served the land grant mission, considering that Ray's ancestors began farming in South Hero, VT in 1870, at about the same time that Vermont Senator Justin Morrill gained passage of his legislation creating the Land Grant College system.

Allenholm Farm is the oldest continuously operating apple orchard in the State of Vermont, and over the years has grown to be a mainstay of our regional and State agricultural economy.

In 1870, Ray Allen's great-grandfather purchased the current farm,

marking the beginning of a family farming tradition on lovely Grand Isle, VT. Today, Ray and his wife Pam run the Allenholm Farm with the help of their children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren.

The chain of islands running up the center of Lake Champlain was once home to more than 100 commercial apple orchards. Today there are fewer, but the Allen's have thrived through creativity. They have diversified the farm to include many new apple varieties, and they now produce and retail their own cider, ice cider, hard cider, applesauce, and more than 3,000 apple pies every year.

Making great use of their location, which is within sight of New York and a few miles from the Canadian border, Ray and Pam have made the Allenholm Farm an international destination. Visitors can rent bicycles, stay the night at the Bed & Breakfast overlooking the orchards, buy maple syrup and maple creamies, and visit their petting zoo to meet Willie and Sassafrass, the famous kissing donkeys.

The Allenholm Farm AppleFest attracts up to 25,000 visitors annually and has yielded a bountiful harvest for the entire local economy of the Champlain islands.

Vermont's agricultural economy is thriving today as more and more of farmers follow Ray and Pam's formula: Focus on superb quality, create value-added products, build the Vermont brand, provide local food to local markets, and have fun doing it. For many visitors, Ray and Pam Allen are the face of farming.

As Vermont's agricultural leaders are inclined to do, Ray has taken on many leadership roles in his local community, as well as the State and National level, all in addition to his decades of service to the Association of Public Land Grant Universities. He has served as town auditor, justice of the peace, a member of the school board and has been chief of the rescue squad since its inception in 1973. Ray's contributions to his alma mater, the University of Vermont, are too numerous to list completely here, but they include current or past membership on the boards of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, UVM Extension, and the Alumni Council. Ray's feats as a student track star are still the subject of legend now, 50 years later, and two annual track trophies bear his name.

As a strong supporter of the land grant mission, I thank Ray Allen for his service to the Association of Public Land Grant Universities as a delegate to the Council of Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching. I am certain that Ray will be missed in this role but that he will continue to build on this record of accomplishment and public service in many other venues and that the seventh generation

Allenholm Farm will continue to thrive under his leadership.

Marcelle and I think of Ray and Pam as very special friends and cherished Vermonters.

RECOGNIZING SUNDY BEST

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an exceptionally talented country music duo from my home State of Kentucky. Kris Bentley and Nick Jamerson have vaulted their band, Sundy Best, from the small bars and music halls of eastern Kentucky into the national spotlight. The story of their rise is remarkable, and one that is far from its conclusion.

Nick and Kris first met in elementary school in Prestonsburg, KY, where they both grew up in music-loving families. The two started a band together in high school but parted ways when Nick went to play football at Pikeville College and Kris enrolled in Centre College, where he played basketball. Nick's passion for music never subsided, though, and after college he contacted Kris to inquire about purchasing a drum set. As it happened, Kris's passion for music remained as well—he didn't have a set to sell, but he would gladly come play with his old buddy Nick. The two friends picked up right where they left off, and the very next night they were playing their first gig together.

The band's big break came in November of 2010. Nick had just moved to Lexington with Kris, and the two landed a gig at Redmon's, a classic Lexington live music establishment. Previously the two had played just as "Nick and Kris," but for a venue like Redmon's they needed a name that they could promote. The two settled on one that reflected their musical roots in Sunday church services. As Kris tells it, "It was originally going to be Sunday's Best but then we said, 'No, Sundy Best.'" The duo dropped the "a" from Sunday because, "That's the way we talk."

The show at Redmon's was an enormous success, so much so that they began to play a regular gig there. This consistent venue for their music was instrumental in establishing the band's fan base and name recognition. Kris acknowledges that this was when "people started taking us seriously . . . because that's a premier music venue."

Things have been looking up for Sundy Best ever since. In 2013 they released their first album, *Door Without a Screen*, and watched it climb into the iTunes Top 10. The video for the hit song from the album, "Home (I Wanna Go)," helped drive the album's success and is a fixture on Country Music Television.

As a fellow Kentuckian, I am proud of the success seen by Sundy Best. Nick and Kris are not only talented

musicians, but they are also outstanding ambassadors for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Although their music is spreading further across the country each day, their roots remain grounded in eastern Kentucky.

I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in recognizing the success of Sundry Best and wishing them well with the recent release of their new album, *Bring Up the Sun*.

Kentucky Monthly recently published an article chronicling the rise of Sundry Best. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

[From Kentucky Monthly, Feb. 25, 2014]

THE BEST MEN WIN

(By Tricia Despres)

When kids grow up with something to prove, they can become stubborn and a bit headheaded. But when those kids grow up to be adults who want to make a living as musicians . . . well, they just might become superstars.

So goes the story of Sundry Best.

Blending an eclectic mix of acoustic guitar with the beat of the cajón drum and the compelling vocals of Nick Jamerson and Kris Bentley, Sundry Best looks as if they are about to embark on a career many others are often left to dream about. Just last year, the Kentucky-based duo released a deluxe version of their album *Door Without a Screen* and watched as it landed in the Top 10 on iTunes. The video for their single "Home (I Wanna Go)" reached the top of CMT Pure's fan-voted poll for multiple weeks. A brand-new album in 2014 is sure to help the duo prove to the rest of the world that, sometimes, the underdogs win.

"Growing up, I always seemed to have a chip on my shoulder," says Jamerson. "As a kid who loved playing sports, I was smaller than anyone else, so I always had something to prove in everything that I did. It was the attitude I would ultimately have with everything in my life. I was just always super competitive."

It was an attitude Jamerson seemed to inherit from his close-knit family. "Three of my grandparents had a college degree, which, coming from a small mining town in Kentucky, was not at all common," he recalls. "I mean, my grandmother could build anything. Being around those kinds of people all my life and seeing how driven and successful they were . . . it definitely made an impression on me."

As a 5-foot-10 kid basketball player from Prestonsburg, Bentley also was up against his share of obstacles, none of which he hadn't learned to conquer during his childhood years growing up within the sacred walls of the church, hence the name Sundry Best. "I would play drums every Sunday with my dad and brother," recalls Bentley, describing himself as a good kid who "put Mom through the wringer . . . church really was the only outlet to get out there and do music, especially in eastern Kentucky."

Besides sports and a childhood spent within the church, the two also shared a musical foundation formed within their homes, often spending countless hours listening to a diverse mix of rock, pop, and bluegrass. "Everyone would get together at my grandparents' house and play the old bluegrass

standards," recalls Jamerson. "The doctor up the road would come over and play the fiddle, Grandpa played the banjo, Grandma played guitar, and my great-aunt played the mandolin."

First meeting in elementary school, Jamerson and Bentley would go on to form a firm foundation of friendship through their teenage years, which continues to benefit them to this day. "When you know someone as long as we have, you know each other's dynamics," says Jamerson. "He is like a brother to me. It's gratifying to do this whole music thing alongside someone you have known for so long."

After high school, the pair's goal to play sports often competed with the draw they shared to ultimately pursue a music career. "Music was the one passion that I always had, but looking back, I am glad my parents talked me into getting a college degree," says Jamerson, who was on the Pikeville College football team. "The people I met and the experiences I had in college made me the person I am now. That's where songs come from. You need perspective and life lessons as a writer."

The end of college (Bentley attended and played basketball for Centre) brought the beginning of the duo's quick, yet organic, ascent to musical success. After their joint move to Lexington and a brief stint working at the local cable company, the two began performing at patio parties, restaurants and clubs, often playing four-hour sets each night. A regular gig at Lexington's Redmon's helped the two establish a growing fan base eager to find out more about the band.

"Thank goodness for social media," says Bentley, who cut his musical teeth trying to emulate the songs of artists such as Bob Seger and Tom Petty. "Good ol' Facebook was the only way to connect to our fans and tell them where we were going to be every night. We would always have 20 or 30 people from eastern Kentucky who knew us from when we played sports drive up on a weeknight to see us perform. Seeing that kind of support when we were just out there playing cover songs was a huge boost to our confidence."

Then, Sundry Best recorded the song that would change their career: "Home (I Wanna Go)." "That song took off right around the same time when the winter had set in and the patio gigs had shut down," recalls Bentley. "Once people heard that song, the whole thing just grew. People knew we were serious about doing music."

In 2012, the duo recorded some of their songs that they self-produced with friend and filmmaker Coleman Saunders, and independently released *Door Without a Screen*.

Last year, they were asked to play the jewel of all venues: the Grand Ole Opry. "As a musician and performer, I don't think I will ever be the same," says Jamerson. "I cried when I found out we were playing there. It was like being at church and feeling something on your heart and you don't know what it is. We had been touring all year, so sharing it with our families was an unbelievable feeling. I mean, what else could top that? I was watching Netflix the other night and they were doing a two-day concert special on Neil Young and were showing this concert he did at the Ryman Auditorium, and I mean, he was walking through the same doors we did when we were playing there for the Grand Ole Opry. Every time we get the chance to play there, it ends up being quite the spiritual experience."

The year 2014 brings Sundry Best fans the much-anticipated new album *Bring Up the*

Sun, a collection of songs that just might take their longtime fans a bit by surprise. "Our first album was quite Kentucky-centric," says Jamerson, who spends any spare time he has at home in Lexington with his two dogs and cat. "The music just feels good in our bones. It's a really broad album, which everyone we work with has a hard time explaining. But everyone will find something different in it. It's good music, but it's coming from a bit of a different angle now, so I suppose people are going to be surprised. Some people want every record to sound the same, but once your fans think they know you, you are done. You won't grow as musicians if they think they have you figured out."

"We definitely have a vision of where we want to be," says Bentley, who with Jamerson played more than 190 dates out on the road in 2013. "I would never have expected to be where we are today just one year ago. I think 2014 is going to be another growth year for us. A lot of people still don't know who we are, so we want to definitely continue to play new markets. We are excited to see what happens with this new record and then determine what happens next."

No matter where their musical journey might still yet lead them, one thing is for sure: These two will continue to give credit where credit is due.

"You hear people all the time talking about how they are Texas proud or Georgia proud or even Tennessee proud," says Bentley. "When you are from eastern Kentucky, you are automatically proud. You can be anywhere in the world, and if you meet someone from eastern Kentucky, you are immediately friends. Plus, they are the craziest fans ever. We love Nashville and all, but we would just rather stay right here in Kentucky. The people here have been the biggest driving factor in our career, and we can never be too thankful."

"Before I moved to Lexington, my whole life had been spent living in eastern Kentucky. I had never had a chance to miss living in the country. And as we have begun touring more, I now know it was something I myself took for granted," says Jamerson. "We love Kentucky and will always want to carry that flag . . . but we can't wait to spread the word to everyone else, too."

SYRIAN WAR CRIME TRIBUNAL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Senators RUBIO, MURPHY, KAINE, and I recently introduced in the Senate a concurrent resolution on the need for the investigation and prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed by any groups involved in civil war in Syria. Congressman CHRIS SMITH has introduced the House version of this concurrent resolution. It calls for President Obama to have our Ambassador to the U.N. use the influence and vote of the United States to promote the establishment of a Syrian war crimes tribunal. The need is stark. Quite simply, the terrible crimes being committed in the civil war in Syria call out for justice. As such, the U.N. should establish a tribunal similar to the ones created in response to the charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone, and Rwanda.

As the Syrian conflict entered its fourth year this month, the horrific violence there continues unabated. The losses from the conflict are staggering. According to some estimates the death toll has reached more than 146,000. There are an estimated 6.5 million internally displaced persons in Syria and millions of Syrian refugees have fled their country.

Last week I had the privilege of meeting with a number of dedicated Chicago-area members of the Syrian-American Medical Society who recently returned from a medical mission to treat Syrian patients in the north of Lebanon. They shared heartbreaking stories of the Syrian refugees they met and treated and appealed for continued international help for these millions of innocent victims. As a hearing I chaired in January on Syrian refugees illustrated, this humanitarian catastrophe has created grave challenges for neighboring countries that are hosting the vast majority of the refugees. Additionally, the fighting in Syria is inflaming sectarian violence in neighbors such as Iraq and Lebanon.

A staggering 9.3 million Syrians inside the country are estimated to be in need of assistance due to the conflict, and even more barbaric, starvation is being used as a weapon of war, with an estimated 220,000 people trapped in besieged areas in Syria. The Assad regime and, to a far lesser extent, some opposition groups have blocked humanitarian assistance in a deliberate effort to increase pressure on besieged civilians. If the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime wasn't horrific enough, it has also utilized so-called barrel bombs, mixes of explosives and shrapnel stuffed into barrels, that helicopter gunships drop in civilian areas controlled by the opposition such as Aleppo.

The Syrian conflict has devastated even the most innocent members of Syrian society. I was deeply moved by the plight of the children when last year I visited Kilis, a Syrian refugee camp in Turkey. Yet sadly their plight continues. In January the U.N. issued a report which estimated that more than 10,000 children have been killed. UNICEF said in March that the real number is likely to be even higher. The January U.N. report stated that children in Syria experienced suffering which was "unspeakable." Some of the reports of terrible abuses include sexual violence against children held in Syrian Government detention as well as minors being used in combat and as human shields. In addition, UNICEF released a report in March that estimated there are up to 1 million children who live under siege and in hard-to-reach areas that UNICEF and its humanitarian partners cannot access on a regular basis.

As my colleague Senator McCain mentioned in his remarks in February

on the Senate floor, respected former war crimes prosecutors issued a report in January based on evidence they obtained regarding torture and murder by the Syrian regime. The report stated that the evidence—largely provided by a Syrian defector and which includes 55,000 photographic images of approximately 11,000 detained persons who had been tortured and killed by the Syrian regime—was credible. Additionally, these war crimes prosecutors noted that such evidence could support findings of war crimes as well as crimes against humanity against the Assad regime.

In 2011, I was joined by Senators BOXER, CARDIN, and MENENDEZ on a letter to then-U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice urging that Assad be referred by the Security Council to the International Criminal Court. Now, 2½ years later, with so many further atrocities in Syria, the need for holding those accountable for war crimes is as strong as ever. We, and other concerned countries, have an interest in seeing justice served. Those who commit war crimes and crimes against humanity must be put on notice that the international community will strive to hold them accountable for their unlawful acts.

Unfortunately, establishing a Syrian war crimes tribunal may face opposition from other members of the U.N. Security Council, most notably Russia. Particularly given the widespread condemnation of Russia illegally violating the territorial integrity of another state, it seems that Russian President Putin does not care about the laws or views of the international community. The hypocrisy of Putin stating that other countries should not intervene in Syria where there is an undisputed humanitarian catastrophe, while he illegally annexes the territory of another state, in part on false humanitarian ground, is staggering.

Nevertheless, if Putin wants to block establishing a Syrian war crimes tribunal, let us have Russia go on the record to say why it opposes justice for those who have suffered so much in Syria. Let them explain how Russia, having suffered its own horrific siege of Leningrad during which 800,000 people—one-third of the city's population—died of starvation during the almost 900-day siege by the Nazis, continues to support the same brutal starvation techniques of its client autocrat in Syria, Bashar al-Assad. With these types of brazen actions and statements, Putin will never earn the global respect and credibility he so desperately demands by invading neighboring countries, while at the same time continuing to support and arm butchers such as Assad.

In February the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution, which Russia finally supported, demanding greater humanitarian access as well as calling on

all parties to immediately cease attacks against civilians and lift the siege of populated areas. Yet 1 month after the Security Council ordered all parties in Syria to allow aid workers into besieged areas and stop indiscriminate attacks on civilians, a soon-to-be-released U.N. report says that the Syrian Government has essentially ignored the Security Council. Food supplies have been held up at government checkpoints, medical supplies removed from aid convoys, visas stalled for U.N. officials, and key supply routes cynically kept closed. And Assad's forces persist in using brutal barrel bombs, causing horrific indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians. The international community should not let this obstruction stand and must enforce the Security Council resolution.

Ultimately, as President Obama has stated, this conflict needs to be resolved politically. Last year, I did support the limited use of military force when Assad broke a long-established global taboo against the use of chemical weapons but also agree that a political solution must ultimately be pursued in Syria. But for a long-term and stable political solution to the war there must also be justice for those who have suffered so much, and a Syrian war crimes tribunal would play a vital role in such a process.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent request at the present time relating to the nomination of Carolyn Hessler Radelet to be the Director of the Peace Corps.

I will object because I am inquiring into the circumstances related to the refusal of the Peace Corps to grant the Peace Corps inspector general full and timely access to records to which the inspector general is entitled under the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011 and the Inspector General Act of 1978.

At a hearing before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform convened on January 15, 2014, Peace Corps inspector general Kathy Buller detailed difficulties she has encountered in accessing records which she deemed were directly relevant to her review of Peace Corps' handling of reports from its volunteers who claim that they have been sexually assaulted.

According to Inspector General Buller's testimony, records were withheld based on reasoning that directly contravenes the Kate Puzey Act and the Inspector General Act.

In addition, Inspector General Buller testified that even when limited access to records was later granted, most of the relevant information was withheld under an overbroad interpretation of what constitutes "personally identifying information" under 22 U.S.C.

§ 2507a(f)(1)–(2). Inspector General Buller did clarify that, following objections from Congress, Peace Corps narrowed its interpretation of “personally identifying information” which allowed her to access slightly more information relating to the subject sexual assaults but not everything to which the inspector general is entitled.

In order to exercise the oversight function envisioned by the Kate Puzey Act and the Inspector General Act, it is critical for the Peace Corps inspector general to have full and timely access to all Peace Corps records which she deems relevant to her review.

The Peace Corps apparently withheld records from the inspector general during the nominee’s tenure as the Acting Director, and I would like the opportunity to understand the circumstances more fully.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SFC OLLEN HUNT

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to SFC retired Ollen Hunt for his exceptional dedication to duty and service to the U.S. Army and to the United States of America.

A native of McMoresville, TN, Sergeant Hunt was drafted into the U.S. Army in November of 1942. Sergeant Hunt was a part of the 92nd Infantry Division, which was also known as “The Buffalo Division.” Sergeant Hunt and his unit boarded troop ships at Camp Henry, VA, and survived the sea journey to their destination in Italy. The 92nd fought with distinction and divisiveness, and contributed to the eventual defeat of the Axis Powers.

After returning from his deployment, Sergeant Hunt returned home for a short time before returning to assignments throughout Europe. He was responsible for the food and logistics operations at various military installations. He continued his military service until retiring as a Sergeant First Class in 1963. A year after retirement, Sergeant Hunt accepted a position as a flight kitchen chef in Anchorage, AK. Sergeant Hunt and his wife Hanna owned many small businesses, including the Hof Brau and Sandwich Deck. He also served on several downtown merchant and municipal committees and councils, receiving numerous awards for his contributions to the Anchorage community. After his “second retirement”, Sergeant Hunt worked with the Veterans Administration’s Oral History project writers to create an autobiography of his life. His work formed what would later become his book *Buffalo Soldier: What I Did for My Country, What My Country Did for Me*.

Sergeant Hunt’s leadership throughout his career has positively influenced his peers and superiors, soldiers, and civilians alike. As a hardworking and

friendly man, he will be greatly missed by his family and those fortunate enough to have known him.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending SFC Ollen Hunt for his service to his country in the United States Army. We wish his wife, Hannelore, and their two children, Katherine and Ollen, all the best as they celebrate the life of this great man.●

REMEMBERING CLAUS-M. NASKE

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President. Dr. Claus-M. Naske, a giant in the field of history in Alaska, passed away on March 5, 2014. I would like to honor him and his accomplishments as an educator, historian and family man.

Claus emigrated to Alaska in 1954 and moved to Fairbanks in 1957 to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks, graduating with double majors in political science and history. He obtained his doctorate from Washington State University and joined the University of Alaska Fairbanks faculty in 1969, starting his long and illustrious career as a teacher, mentor, researcher, author and administrator.

Claus was a professor of history at the University of Alaska Fairbanks until 2001. He not only taught, researched and wrote, he was the director of the University of Alaska Press until 2004. Managing the university’s press office added to Dr. Naske’s workload, but it was evidence of his love for scholarly work.

Claus authored and co-authored over a dozen books, including ones on two prominent political Alaskan political figures, Bob Bartlett and Ernest Gruening and several on Alaska’s history. His book *Alaska: A History*, in its third edition, is considered the pre-eminent record of our great State. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Claus for his dedication and persistence as a historian, one who will long be remembered.

Claus received many well-deserved awards throughout his life, including the 2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award, the 2001 Usibelli Award for Research, the 1997 Alumni Award for Professional Excellence, and the 1995 Award of Merit by the Western History Association—to name a few.

Claus married Dinah in 1960 and had two children: Natalia-Michelle Nangeak and Nathaniel-Michael Noah. He and his wife have been generous to UAF, establishing a history scholarship and making regular donations to the campus public radio station.

Claus-M. Naske will go down in history with a sterling reputation as a scholar, teacher and father.●

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL B. OLDEN

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to advise the Senate of the ac-

complishments of a fellow Mississippian, Mr. Samuel B. Olden of Yazoo City, on the occasion of his 95th birthday.

Mr. Olden is from Yazoo City, the “Gateway to the Mississippi Delta,” where he was born in 1919, to a family of Mississippi planters. Throughout his youth, he read widely in the B.S. Ricks Memorial Library—the oldest privately-funded public library in the State—which greatly contributed to his personal development and admission into the University of Mississippi in Oxford. There, he received a B.A. and M.A., reportedly conversed with Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner, and was ultimately recruited to Washington, DC, to serve at the Department of State. Prior to American involvement in World War II, Mr. Olden was sent abroad as the Vice Consul at our embassy in Quito, Ecuador, from 1941 to 1943. Upon his return, Mr. Olden enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving from 1943 to 1946 at posts ranging from Shanghai, China, to Paris, France.

After the war Mr. Olden transited the North Atlantic on a Liberty ship. A fellow naval officer noted Mr. Olden’s fortitude during this stormy passage. While tending to his ailing father back in Mississippi, he received a letter from Washington asking him to consider defending our Nation’s freedom, in a third essential way. Mr. Olden returned to the District of Columbia, where he was invited to join the newly formed Central Intelligence Group. Commencing in 1947, Mr. Olden spent 2 years in the group’s Washington office, followed by 3 years in Vienna, Austria, where he defended freedom and democracy against Communist aggression.

Following a decade in public service, Mr. Olden entered the private sector, where he employed his experience abroad for a predecessor of Exxon Mobil. From 1952–1957, he was posted in East and West Nigeria, British and French Cameroon, the Congo, Chad, and Gabon. He joined Mobil’s government relations department in 1957 and returned to New York. There, he attained observer status at the United Nations and strode the halls with Adlai Stevenson and Eleanor Roosevelt. Later, he went abroad once more to serve as general manager of Mobil’s affiliates in Tunisia, Algeria, Peru, and Spain.

By 1974, Mr. Olden was fluent in English, French, German, and Spanish. He had connections around the world. And where did he go? He chose to retire to the finest place he had ever lived: Yazoo City. There, he owned and operated a cattle ranch for 15 years, while continuing to pursue his passion for the study of history. He was twice a board member and was elected president of the Mississippi Historical Society, served 15 years on the State committee for the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of

Mississippi, and founded the Yazoo Historical Society's remarkable museum—housed in the same Triangle Center building where he had attended elementary school. Even in his nineties, he established and helped to fund the Yazoo Memorial Literary Walkway, which stretches between the Triangle Center and the B.S. Ricks Library. The walkway memorializes more than 100 Yazooan authors to include former House Minority Leader and Senator John Sharp Williams, literary critic and editor Henry Herschel Brickell, Gov. Haley Reeves Barbour, beloved writers Willie Morris, Teresa Nicholas, and Ruth Williams, and educator Henry Mitchell Brickell. His large collection of pre-Columbian ceramics is now on display in the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson.

This remarkable man has served his Nation as a diplomat, military officer, and emissary, during wars hot and cold. He served the world in the energy industry as a global businessman of distinction. He returned to his hometown and has continued to serve his State, his university, and his community as a historian, educator and philanthropist even into the 10th decade of his life. His friends across the Nation and around the world celebrate with him today.●

TRIBUTE TO PETE BALLARD

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Pete Ballard, a dear friend and a truly remarkable West Virginian who is known throughout the Mountain State and far past our borders for his many talents, especially for his global recognition of his still life paintings and historic period doll creations.

A native of Welch, located in the southern-most part of our State in McDowell County, Pete currently resides in Peterstown, an idyllic small town in the rolling emerald hills of Monroe County. Although Pete's career in the arts has taken him across the country and around the world, including Saudi Arabia, China and Vietnam, there has never been a doubt that Pete's roots are truly imbedded in West Virginia.

After receiving a degree in education from Concord University, Pete began teaching. However, it wasn't long before Pete's propensities steered him far beyond just a career in education, leading him to partake in many more professional ventures.

Today, as an award-winning educator, celebrated artist, renowned painter, nationally acclaimed costume designer, curator, historian, and famous doll creator, Pete's passion for the arts and creativity know no bounds.

Many of Pete's paintings are now displayed in museums and art galleries across the country. Today, three of Pete's exceptional paintings are dis-

played among the most celebrated collection of American Still Life paintings at The Butler Institute, which is America's first museum to collect American art. His work will forever be a part of such an extraordinary collection of America's best artwork.

In addition to his distinguished paintings, Pete has most recently been recognized across the country for his unique creation of 19th century fashion dolls. Pete creates each doll based on meticulously researched and authentic period fashion. Made from head to toe in papier-mâché, the dolls' figures range from approximately 3 to 5 feet tall and wear costumes that are designed in period clothing.

Due to Pete's painstaking attention to detail along with his fashion expertise, hard work and brilliant vision, he is no stranger to receiving prestigious awards. As Governor, I was honored to name Pete as a Distinguished West Virginian. He has also received the Grand Groundhog Watcher Award. Both of these awards were created to honor those who have contributed significantly to West Virginia and those who have brought positive attention to our great State. He was also named Concord University's Golden Alumnus, is among the Outstanding Educators in America, and has received the Order of the Arts and Historical Letters from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. Pete's paintings and dolls have also been displayed in galas and exhibitions around West Virginia and across the country.

Despite his astounding success, Pete has never collected a dime for his work. After spending 12 hours a day, 7 days a week working on each piece of art, he merely donates every painting and every doll he doesn't hold for keepsake to charity or to art galleries.

It has been an honor and privilege to know such a gifted West Virginian. Pete Ballard's imprint will always be marked by his brilliant creations and his countless contributions to the State of West Virginia. I join all West Virginians in celebrating his vast achievements, which will live on in our history books, atop the same shelves as some of the most distinguished artwork of our time and mounted on the walls of esteemed museums.

After all these years, I continue to look forward to viewing many more paintings and doll creations because at the age of 83, Pete continues to work on his art every day.●

TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS RHODES

● Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to thank Phyllis Rhodes for her outstanding service to the Municipality of Anchorage, the Federal court system, and Identity, Inc. on the occasion of her retirement.

Born in Arizona and raised in Texas, Phyllis and her former husband moved

to Alaska in 1967 with their young daughter Anne, making their home in Anchorage. A second daughter, Emily, made her appearance after the family relocated to Alaska. Since her arrival in Alaska Phyllis' contributions to the cause of equality for the LGBTQ community, and all Alaskans, has become legendary.

Phyllis started out as the volunteer coordinator for Identity, Inc. but with her usual passion and commitment, she started picking up speed, eventually becoming the unpaid executive director of the organization. Over the course of her 10 years as executive director of Identity, Inc. Phyllis has taken the organization from obscurity to high visibility in Anchorage and across Alaska. During Phyllis' tenure, Identity, Inc. expanded its programs and began outreach to new audiences. The creation of an advocacy team has led to open dialogues with Alaska businesses, churches, educational institutions and other organizations. Within the LGBTQ community, Phyllis is the recognized heart and soul of Identity, Inc.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to Phyllis for her many years of advocating for equality. I wish the absolute best to her, her wife Pam, and her daughters Anne and Emily, as they begin this next stage in their lives.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL OLA LEE MIZE

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the passing of a great Alabamian, COL Ola Lee Mize, on March 12, 2014. Colonel Mize was a native of Marshall County and an American hero. He embodied the ideals of service and courage that make our State proud.

Colonel Mize was born on August 28, 1931, in Marshall County, and dropped out of high school after ninth grade to provide for his family. He was rejected for enlistment by the Army numerous times because he was blind in one eye and they claimed he was too small. Eventually he was accepted and joined the 82nd Airborne Division.

He is perhaps best remembered by his defense of Outpost Harry when it was attacked during the Korean war. Colonel Mize bravely protected injured comrades and held opposition forces at bay, valiantly risking his life for others. For this intrepid gallantry, Colonel Mize earned a Medal of Honor, which remains on display in the Guntersville Museum.

Colonel Mize went on to join the Special Forces and served 3½ tours in Vietnam with the Green Berets and then served as an Active-Duty advisor to National Guard Special Forces units. Throughout the course of his military career, he was awarded the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and, of course, the Medal of Honor. Colonel

Mize continued to be active in veterans' events and where he was known and honored by all. He retired in 1981 after 31 years of service.

Mary and I mourn his passing and send our condolences to his wife Betty, his daughter Teresa Peterson, and his six brothers and sisters. Alabama has lost a true hero and his legend will grow. I was honored to get to know him. He was a remarkable man whose courage on the battlefield extended to a determination to do the right thing in all aspects of life.●

REMEMBERING JOHN RICHARD MILLER, JR.

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the passing of a great Alabamian, John Richard Miller, Jr., who died on January 26, 2014. Mr. Miller was a native and longtime resident of Brewton, AL.

After graduating from Culver Military Academy in Culver, IN, he attended the University of Alabama. Mr. Miller served as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps, 8th Air Force, in the European Theatre of Operation during World War II, receiving the Air Medal, E.T.O. Medal, and a Presidential Citation, and was discharged with the rank of major.

After his military service, he returned to Brewton where, like his father and grandfather, was employed by T.R. Miller Mill Company where he held various positions including chairman of the board from 1986 to 2009, and chairman emeritus until his death. He also served on many other boards and was a founding member of the Bank of Mobile. He was the third generation patriarch of this family and its businesses. He was also very committed to his churches, the First United Methodist Church in Brewton and in Destin.

Mr. Miller was a lifelong member of the Brewton Rotary Club, served on the Brewton City School Board, the president's cabinet and the business school's Board of Visitors at the University of Alabama, and was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by the University of Alabama. He also received an honorary doctorate degree from Mobile College, now the University of Mobile. He was inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame, like his father before him, at the University of Alabama.

Mr. Miller was a great outdoorsman and excellent wing shot but also loved his fishing—particularly fishing Shipp Pond, Apalachicola Bay, and the Gulf of Mexico with family and friends.

Mr. Miller will always be remembered for his great humility, generosity, and love of his fellow man. He leaves behind his wife of 70 years, Virginia Earl Kersh Miller, and their four children, Nancy Miller Melton, John Richard Miller, III, David Earl Miller,

and Jean Miller Stimpson, as well as many other family members and friends. They have been given a great legacy indeed.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES D. MCCRARY

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, along with my fellow Alabama colleague JEFF SESSIONS, I wish to pay tribute to Charles D. McCrary, who retired this month from his position as the president and chief executive officer of Alabama Power Company.

Mr. McCrary's involvement with Alabama Power extends back to the summer of 1970, when he joined the company following his freshman year at Auburn University. During a long and distinguished career, he assumed positions of increasing responsibility, rising from vice president for Southern Nuclear Operating Company, to president of Southern Company Generation, chief production officer of Southern Company and president of Southern Power Company. On October 25, 2001, Mr. McCrary became the tenth president and CEO of Alabama Power, which generates electricity for over 1.4 million Alabama customers.

A Birmingham native, Mr. McCrary attended Shades Valley High School and received his bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Auburn University, followed by a juris doctor from Birmingham School of Law. He was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1979.

Mr. McCrary is married to the former Phyllis Brantley of Birmingham and is the father of two sons, Doug and Alex.

Throughout his tenure at Alabama Power, Mr. McCrary has served the company and its customers with the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. He also oversaw Alabama Power during some of our State's most severe natural disasters, including Hurricane Ivan in 2004, which caused 825,701 outages, the largest number of outages in company history; Hurricane Katrina in 2005 with 636,891 outages; and the tornado disaster on April 27, 2011 with 412,000 outages. In the wake of these disasters, Mr. McCrary initiated the policy of publicizing when customers could expect their power to be restored. This practice of announcing utility restoration commitments has since become an industry standard.

Mr. McCrary also pioneered "Target Zero," a program for ensuring that employees are properly trained and equipped to do their jobs safely. This practice too has become a touchstone within the utility industry.

Mr. McCrary is a dynamic leader both in his community and throughout the State of Alabama, and serves as chairman of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama and on the boards of Regions Financial Corporation, Mercedes-Benz U.S. Inter-

national Inc., Protective Life Corporation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Southern Research Institute, and the Auburn University Board of Trustees.

Committed to fostering economic development at both the regional and State levels, Mr. McCrary has advanced cooperative efforts between cities, counties, and business leaders in order to bring several industries, including automotive, aerospace, and steel manufacturers to Alabama.

Please join me and Senator SESSIONS in congratulating Charles on his retirement and in thanking him for his leadership at Alabama Power, for his dedication to improving his local community, and for his decades of service to the great State of Alabama. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1228. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building".

H.R. 1459. An act to ensure that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 applies to the declaration of national monuments, and for other purposes.

At 2:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4278. An act to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4302. An act to amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1228. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1459. An act to ensure that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 applies to the declaration of national monuments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5011. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustments to Civil Penalty Amounts" (16 CFR Part 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5012. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2013 Annual Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5013. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alternative Fuel Transportation Program; Alternative Fueled Vehicle Credit Program Modification and Other Amendments" (RIN1904-AB81) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5014. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Regulations, Areas of the National Park System, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Bicycling" (RIN1024-AE12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5015. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Academies Review of DOE's Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Activities"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5016. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Third Party Payment of Qualified Health Plan Premiums" (RIN0938-AS28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5017. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates" (Notice 2014-16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5018. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Correction to Revenue Procedure 2014-4" (Rev. Proc. 2014-19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5019. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled "Interim Guidance on Per Capita Distributions Made to Indian Tribe Members from Funds Held in Trust by the Secretary of the Interior" (Notice 2014-17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5020. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Information Reporting by Applicable Large Employers on Health Insurance Coverage Offered Under Employer-Sponsored Plans" (RIN1545-BL26) (TD 9661) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5021. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2013 report of the Department of Health and Human Services' Federal Coordinated Health Care Office; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5022. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Recovery Auditing in the Medicare and Medicaid Program for Fiscal Year 2012"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5023. A communication from the Board of Trustees, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual management report relative to its operations and financial condition; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5024. A communication from the Chair of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5025. A communication from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy"; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 994. A bill to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-139).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. LANDRIEU for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

*Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Gregg Jeffrey Costa, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Tanya S. Chutkan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

John Charles Cruden, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2164. A bill to prevent harassment at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2165. A bill to enhance consumer access to electricity information and allow for the adoption of innovative products and services to help consumers manage their energy usage; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2166. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify provisions relating to determinations of full-time equivalent employees for purposes of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2167. A bill to establish a grant program for career education in computer science; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. KING):

S. 2168. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of large employer for purposes of applying the employer mandate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2169. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax regarding the taxation of distilled spirits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2170. A bill to free the private sector to harness domestic energy resources to create jobs and generate economic growth by removing statutory and administrative barriers; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2171. A bill to address voluntary location tracking of electronic communications devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2172. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to improve nonretaliation provisions relating to equal pay requirements; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2173. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide a permanent path for the direct enrollment of individuals in qualified health plans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2174. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide greater flexibility in offering health insurance coverage across State lines; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2175. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to enhance access for independent agents and brokers to information regarding marketplace enrollment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2176. A bill to revise reporting requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to preserve the privacy of individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2177. A bill to establish an Office of Forensic Science and a Forensic Science Board, to strengthen and promote confidence in the criminal justice system by ensuring scientific validity, reliability, and accuracy in forensic testing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2178. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2179. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to waive the minimum period of continuous active duty in the Armed Forces for receipt of benefits for homeless veterans, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish benefits for homeless veterans to homeless veterans with discharges or releases from service in the Armed Forces under other than honorable conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2180. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend tax incentives to certain live theatrical performances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2181. A bill to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2182. A bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 2183. A bill entitled "United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions"; considered and passed.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. COATS):

S.J. Res. 35. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service of the Department of the Treasury relating to liability under section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the shared responsibility payment for not maintaining minimum essential coverage; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 400. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Great Alaska Earthquake, which struck the State of Alaska at 5:36 p.m. on Good Friday, March 27, 1964, honoring those who lost their lives in the Great Alaska Earthquake and associated tsunamis, and expressing continued support for research on earthquake and tsunami prediction and mitigation strategies; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 401. A resolution recognizing Easy Company, 2nd Battalion of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin):

S. Res. 402. A resolution expressing the regret of the Senate for the passage of section 3 of the Expatriation Act of 1907 (34 Stat. 1228) that revoked the United States citizenship of women who married foreign nationals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin):

S. Res. 403. A resolution condemning the actions of the Government of Turkey in restricting free expression and Internet freedom on social media; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr.

BENNET, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 404. A resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 15

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 15, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 84

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 84, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 526

At the request of Mr. BENNET, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 557

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 557, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 822

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 822, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA

testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 958

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 958, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level, and for other purposes.

S. 975

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 975, a bill to provide for the inclusion of court-appointed guardianship improvement and oversight activities under the Elder Justice Act of 2009.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1333

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1333, a bill to reinstate funding for the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan Program.

S. 1343

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1343, a bill to protect the information of livestock producers, and for other purposes.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 1737, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to limit the retrieval of data from vehicle event data recorders.

S. 1998

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1998, a bill to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to reserve funds for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Tribal College or University adult education and literacy.

S. 2048

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2048, a bill to include New Zealand in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E-1 and E-2 non-immigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of New Zealand.

S. 2069

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2069, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and modify the credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers.

S. 2075

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2075, a bill to prohibit a reduction in funding for the defense commissary system in fiscal year 2015 pending the report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits

under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2127

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2127, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 relative to the powers of the Department of Justice Inspector General.

S. RES. 361

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 361, a resolution recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression in the People's Republic of China and urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to take meaningful steps to improve freedom of expression as fitting of a responsible international stakeholder.

S. RES. 364

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 364, a resolution expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

S. RES. 369

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 369, a resolution to designate May 22, 2014 as "United States Foreign Service Day" in recognition of the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States, and to honor those in the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty.

S. RES. 377

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 377, a resolution recognizing the 193rd anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2164. A bill to prevent harassment at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, as many in this Chamber know, I am very proud of the many ways my home State of Washington is leading the

way. Our State is an economic leader. We are home to the American aerospace industry, we have a thriving agricultural sector, and dozens of companies creating new products and new jobs with cutting-edge technology. We are a leader in protecting the environment and educating our children. Washington State is also the place that tens of thousands of servicemembers and veterans call home.

Last, but not least, I could not be more proud of our State's history of protecting the rights of all of our citizens, including members of the LGBT community. We know in Washington State that it is wrong to discriminate against people. We know that a person's race, religion, or gender have nothing to do with their worth as a human being, and we know that actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity don't either. We get that in my home State of Washington, but we can't stop working until the same is true in all 50 States, and that is why I have come to the Senate floor today.

I want to share with everyone a story about a young man by the name of Kris. Kris will be the first to tell you he has not led the easiest of lives. After turning 18 years old and aging out of the foster care system in Texas, Kris found himself homeless at 18 years old in Houston and sleeping on whatever park bench or apartment roof was available to him that evening.

As luck would have it, one night while Kris was searching for a public restroom to use, he stumbled on an admissions fair for the University of Houston's downtown campus. Kris had always had ambitions to go to college, but because of his very unstable childhood and minimal income, pursuing higher education was never a priority. Once he learned that night that tuition for the school was waived for foster system alumni, this dream seemed more like a reality so Kris decided to enroll.

He went to school, declared his major in social work, and settled into college life. He made friends and participated in extracurricular activities on campus.

In fact, Kris got so involved that one of his good friends, Isaac, invited him to be his running mate for the upcoming student government election. Kris was very excited about that idea and realized it was his opportunity to make a real difference for many of the students on campus who had been through some of the same trying experiences he had.

Kris and Isaac kicked off their campaign and pursued elective office. Then 1 day—in fact 1 year ago this month—Kris was called into the dean of students office. Kris sat down and the dean reached into his briefcase and pulled out a stack of fliers with Kris's photo on each and every one of them

with a big X across his picture. In big, bold letters across the top of the flier, it read: "WANT AIDS?" Across the bottom of that flier it read: "Don't Support the Isaac and Kris Homosexual Agenda." On the back of the flier—unbelievably—was a copy of Kris's official private medical record displaying in plain view that Kris was HIV positive. Stunning. I am sure every one of you are as stunned as I was.

The dean then informed Kris that these had been found all over the campus. As if the situation couldn't get any worse, the dean told Kris that there is nothing the university or the administration could do about it—nothing.

At one point Kris said the administration even accused him of being responsible for these acts. Kris was told the administration's sole responsibility was to simply inform him this was going on and nothing more. They just had to make sure he knew about it.

Kris was told that words such as homosexual or AIDS were proper terms, protected speech, and not grounds for punishment.

As you can imagine, Kris was devastated. He didn't attend class for weeks after that. His friends, family, and loved ones started to seriously worry about his well-being.

In the meantime, the word of this and Kris's status as HIV positive, as you can imagine, spread like wildfire across the campus. While Kris had been out to a small group of friends, there was no going back once the local paper picked up on the story which eventually circulated in the national media.

Thankfully, there is a happy ending to this heartbreaking story. In yet another example of how the younger generation in our country is swiftly helping to turn the tide against intolerance, Kris and Isaac won that election, and Kris served a term as the student body vice president. Kris has now moved on to serve in a different but somewhat similar capacity, and that is as a congressional intern here in my office in Washington, DC. I am proud to say that Kris is here with us on the floor today. And just like the fate he found that one night in search of a public restroom, Kris now has another chance to be part of a life-changing experience because today I have come to the floor to reintroduce the Tyler Clemente Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act of 2014.

As many of you may remember, this legislation is named after Tyler Clemente. He was an 18-year-old freshman at Rutgers University. Back in 2010, without his knowledge, Tyler's roommate streamed video footage on the Internet of Tyler in his dorm room being intimate with another male. After his roommate and another student invaded his privacy in such a serious way and continued to harass him over the Internet, Tyler leapt off the

George Washington Bridge and sadly took his own life.

When I sat down and spoke with Kris about this recently, he told me how his story was very close to ending just like Tyler's story. He didn't have anyone on campus to turn to. Since the administration said they were unable to do anything about this hate crime, Kris felt he had no opportunity for closure.

Kris told me:

For most young people, when things like that happen, we have got to have people who are going to be proactive in helping them. And not someone telling them there's nothing we can do to help you.

Quite shockingly, despite statistics telling us that LGBT students are nearly twice as likely to experience harassment when compared to their heterosexual peers, there is no Federal requirement that colleges and universities have policies to protect their students from harassment.

That is why I feel so strongly about this legislation.

The legislation I am introducing will require colleges and universities that receive Federal aid to establish anti-harassment policies for students no matter who they are or what they identify with, and they will be required to have the language of those policies easily accessible. It will recognize cyber bullying of all kinds as serious means of harassment. Finally, the Tyler Clemente act authorizes competitive grants for schools to initiate or expand programs to prevent these kinds of things from happening, to provide counseling for victims of the accused, and to train everyone on campus about how to prevent this in the future.

When I was back home last week in Spokane, I told Kris's story, just as I did today, and talked about the desperate need for these kinds of protections. I am sure, as with many of those listening, most of my constituents were pretty surprised to learn these policies aren't already in place at all of our institutions of higher learning. I couldn't agree more. Why aren't colleges and universities across our country all being proactive in establishing these programs and points of contact for students such as Tyler or Kris who have experienced or could experience such a life-changing event?

While many schools currently have successful prevention and counseling programs in place, students shouldn't have to take their health and safety into account when they decide where they are going to study in this country.

Kris recounted for me how each day during this horrible experience he would awaken, and there were 5 or 6 seconds where he would feel normal again, as if nothing had happened. But then reality would set in, and it felt as though a ton of bricks had fallen on top of him. Fortunately for Kris, he was able to lean on the campus LGBT community for support during this very trying time. But he said:

If I hadn't reached out to the community, I probably wouldn't be here today. Every day going to school felt like a battlefield.

Unfortunately, there are others similar to Kris who don't have that point of contact on campus—a supportive parent or a tight-knit group of friends who help them get through these kinds of experiences.

I am very proud to be here today, with the support of my outstanding cosponsor, Senator BALDWIN, to take a major step to change this.

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to pay tribute to my friend Senator Frank Lautenberg and his staff for their tireless work to craft this original bill which serves as a tremendous honor to the life of Tyler Clementi. No student, whether they are gay or straight or Black or White or Christian or Muslim, should have to face discrimination and harassment in pursuit of their education. While I know it is impossible to eradicate all bad behavior from our society, we have to arm our campuses with the tools and resources necessary to not only efficiently and effectively support the victims but also to take action against those who have perpetrated such senseless crimes.

That is why I am here today. I am very proud to introduce this legislation.

I wish to thank Kris for his courage in speaking out and his ability to be here today to make sure no other student in our country ever has to go through what he did.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2177. A bill to establish an Office of Forensic Science and a Forensic Science Board, to strengthen and promote confidence in the criminal justice system by ensuring scientific validity, reliability, and accuracy in forensic testing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, from DNA to digital evidence, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges are becoming increasingly reliant on the collection and analysis of various forms of forensic evidence in a criminal investigation or prosecution. It is therefore all the more important that we strengthen our confidence in the criminal justice system, and the evidence it relies upon, by ensuring that forensic evidence and testimony is accurate, credible, and scientifically grounded.

I am proud to introduce today the Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act. This legislation represents a comprehensive and commonsense approach toward guaranteeing the effectiveness and scientific integrity of forensic evidence used in criminal cases, and in ensuring that Americans can have faith in their criminal justice system. The bill is also bipartisan, and I am pleased that Senator CORNYN has

agreed to be a cosponsor of this legislation.

Over the course of the past 5 years, my staff and I have spent countless hours talking to prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement officers, judges, forensic practitioners, academic experts, and many, many others to learn as much as we could about what is happening in the forensic sciences and what needs to be done. As this effort has progressed, I have been disturbed to learn about still more cases in which innocent people may have been convicted, and perhaps even executed, in part due to faulty forensic evidence or the lack of valid forensic evidence. Since the first post-conviction DNA exoneration in the United States in 1989, there have been 314 DNA exonerations. These exonerees spent an average of 13.5 years in prison, amounting to an astounding total of 4,202 years. It is a double tragedy when an innocent person is convicted. An innocent person suffers, and a guilty person remains free, leaving us all less safe. We must do everything we can to avoid that untenable outcome.

It has also become abundantly clear through the course of this inquiry that the men and women who test and analyze forensic evidence do tremendous work that is vital to our criminal justice system. I remember their important contributions and hard work from my days as a prosecutor in Vermont, and the rapid development and expansion of the forensic science disciplines since that time has been extraordinary. So their work is even more important today, and we need to strengthen the field of forensics, and the justice system's confidence in it, so that their hard work can be consistently relied upon, as it should be.

Everyone recognizes the need for forensic evidence that is accurate and reliable. Prosecutors and law enforcement officers want evidence that can be relied upon to determine guilt and prove it beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. Defense attorneys want strong evidence that can be used to exclude innocent people from suspicion. Forensic science practitioners want their work to have as much certainty as possible and to be able to testify in court with confidence and integrity. All scientists and all attorneys who care about these issues want the scientific analysis that is admitted as evidence in the courtroom to meet the same rigorous testing and research standards found in the laboratory.

There is general agreement that the forensic sciences can be improved through strong and unassailable research to test and establish the validity of the forensic disciplines, as well as the application of consistent and established standards in the field. There is also a dire need for well managed and appropriately directed funding for research, development, training, and

technical assistance. It is a good investment that will lead to fewer trials and appeals, and will reduce crime by ensuring that those who commit serious offenses are promptly captured and convicted. There is also broad consensus that all forensic laboratories should be required to meet rigorous accreditation standards and that forensic practitioners should be required to obtain meaningful certification.

Finally, there is wide acknowledgment about the need for comprehensive legislation to address all of these issues. I first introduced a version of this legislation in 2011, after an extensive process of consultation with experts and stakeholders that included three Judiciary Committee hearings, dozens of meetings with individuals and organizations, and multiple drafts and revisions of legislative proposals. We have continued to refine this bill over the past 3 years, and the legislation Senator CORNYN and I introduce today is the product of that ongoing conversation.

I have been encouraged by the efforts of the Department of Justice and National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, to implement administratively some of the basic structural reforms contained in our bill, pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding that led to the formation of the National Commission on Forensic Science. However, executive action is not enough. Congress must enact comprehensive forensic science reform legislation, and I look forward to working with the Department of Justice, NIST, the National Science Foundation, and others to make sure we implement the necessary reforms as expeditiously as possible.

This is not a partisan issue. Improving the reliability of forensic evidence does not advance the interests of just prosecutors or defendants, or of Democrats or Republicans. It is in the interest of justice. Senator CORNYN recognizes this, and I am proud to have him as a cosponsor of this important legislation. We will continue to work diligently with senators on both sides of the aisle, and I hope many other senators will join us to cosponsor this legislation, and work with me to ensure its passage.

I want to thank the forensic science practitioners, experts, advocates, law enforcement personnel, judges, and so many others whose input forms the basis for this legislation. Their passion for this issue and for getting it right gives me confidence that we will work together successfully to make much needed progress in implementing comprehensive forensic reform legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2177

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Purpose.

TITLE I—STRUCTURE AND OVERSIGHT

Sec. 101. Office of Forensic Science.

Sec. 102. Forensic Science Board.

Sec. 103. Committees.

Sec. 104. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—ACCREDITATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES

Sec. 201. Accreditation of forensic science laboratories.

Sec. 202. Standards for laboratory accreditation.

Sec. 203. Administration and enforcement of accreditation program.

TITLE III—CERTIFICATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE PERSONNEL

Sec. 301. Definitions.

Sec. 302. Certification of forensic science personnel.

Sec. 303. Standards for certification.

Sec. 304. Administration and review of certification program.

Sec. 305. Support and technical assistance for State and local laboratories.

TITLE IV—RESEARCH

Sec. 401. Research strategy and priorities.

Sec. 402. Research grants.

Sec. 403. Oversight and review.

Sec. 404. Public-private collaboration.

TITLE V—STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES

Sec. 501. Development of standards and best practices.

Sec. 502. Establishment and dissemination of standards and best practices.

Sec. 503. Review and oversight.

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE AND THE FORENSIC SCIENCE BOARD

Sec. 601. Forensic science training and education for judges, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel.

Sec. 602. Educational programs in the forensic sciences.

Sec. 603. Medicolegal death investigation.

Sec. 604. Intergovernmental coordination.

Sec. 605. Anonymous reporting.

Sec. 606. Interoperability of databases and technologies.

Sec. 607. Code of ethics.

Sec. 608. Needs assessment.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the Forensic Science Board established under section 102(a).

(2) **COMMITTEE.**—The term “Committee” means a committee established under section 103(a)(2).

(3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office.

(4) **FORENSIC SCIENCE DISCIPLINE.**—The term “forensic science discipline” shall have the meaning given that term by the Director in accordance with section 102(h).

(5) **FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY.**—The term “forensic science laboratory” shall

have the meaning given that term by the Director in accordance with section 201(c).

(6) **NIST.**—The term “NIST” means the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(7) **OFFICE.**—The term “Office” means the Office of Forensic Science established under section 101(a).

(8) **RELEVANT PERSONNEL.**—The term “relevant personnel” shall have the meaning given that term by the Director in accordance with section 301(b).

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to strengthen and promote confidence in the criminal justice system by promoting standards and best practices and ensuring scientific validity, reliability, and accuracy with respect to forensic testing, analysis, identification, and comparisons, the results of which may be interpreted, presented, or otherwise used during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding.

TITLE I—STRUCTURE AND OVERSIGHT**SEC. 101. OFFICE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established an Office of Forensic Science within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General in the Department of Justice.

(b) **OFFICERS AND STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Office shall include—

(A) a Director, who shall have a background in science and be appointed by the Attorney General; and

(B) such other officers and staff as the Deputy Attorney General and the Director determine appropriate.

(2) **LEADERSHIP ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR.**—The Director shall have primary responsibility for establishing and implementing national policy regarding forensic science as used in the criminal justice system.

(3) **DEADLINE.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the initial appointment and hiring under paragraph (1) shall be completed.

(c) **VACANCY.**—In the event of a vacancy in the position of Director—

(1) the Attorney General shall designate an acting Director; and

(2) during any period of vacancy before designation of an acting Director, the Deputy Attorney General shall serve as acting Director.

(d) **COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION WITH NIST.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the appointment of the Director, the Director and the Director of NIST shall establish a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure collaboration and coordination in the implementation of this Act.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Memorandum of Understanding required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) policies and procedures to ensure that, in implementing this Act, the Director and the Director of NIST—

(i) incorporate appropriately the priorities and expertise of law enforcement and forensic practitioners; and

(ii) establish structures designed to guarantee independent and objective scientific determinations; and

(B) agreements governing—

(i) selection of members of Committees and support by NIST of the Committees in accordance with section 103;

(ii) administration by NIST of grant programs described in section 402;

(iii) designation of a liaison at NIST to facilitate communication between the Office and NIST; and

(iv) any other appropriate collaboration or coordination.

(e) **LIAISON FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.**—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Director, shall designate a liaison at the National Science Foundation to—

(1) facilitate communication and collaboration between the Office and the National Science Foundation; and

(2) encourage participation by the National Science Foundation in implementing title IV of this Act.

(f) **DUTIES AND AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Office shall—

(A) assist the Board in carrying out all the functions of the Board under this Act and such other related functions as are necessary to perform the functions of the Board; and

(B) evaluate and act upon the recommendations of the Board in accordance with paragraph (3).

(2) **SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Director shall—

(A) establish, lead, and oversee implementation of accreditation and certification standards under titles II and III;

(B) establish a comprehensive strategy for scientific research in the forensic sciences under title IV;

(C) establish standards and best practices for forensic science disciplines under title V;

(D) define the term “forensic science discipline” for the purposes of this Act in accordance with section 102(h);

(E) establish and maintain a list of forensic science disciplines in accordance with section 102(h);

(F) establish Committees in accordance with section 103;

(G) define the term “forensic science laboratory” for the purposes of this Act in accordance with section 201(c);

(H) establish a code of ethics for the forensic science disciplines in accordance with section 607; and

(I) perform all other functions of the Office under this Act and such other related functions as are necessary to perform the functions of the Office described in this Act.

(3) **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon receiving a recommendation from the Board, the Director shall—

(i) give substantial deference to the recommendation; and

(ii) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director receives the recommendation, determine whether to adopt, modify, or reject the recommendation.

(B) **MODIFICATION.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Director determines to substantially modify a recommendation under subparagraph (A), the Director shall immediately notify the Board of the proposed modification.

(ii) **BOARD RECOMMENDATION.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director provides notice to the Board under clause (i), the Board shall submit to the Director a recommendation on whether the proposed modification should be adopted.

(iii) **ACCEPTANCE OF MODIFICATION.**—If the Board recommends that a proposed modification should be adopted under clause (ii), the Director may implement the modified recommendation.

(iv) **REJECTION OF MODIFICATION.**—If the Board recommends that a proposed modification should not be adopted under clause (ii), the Director shall, not later than 10 days after the date on which the Board makes the recommendation—

(I) provide notice and an explanation of the proposed modification to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the

Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives; and

(II) begin, with regard to the proposed modification, a rulemaking on the record after opportunity for an agency hearing.

(C) REJECTION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director determines to reject a recommendation under subparagraph (A), the Director shall—

(i) provide notice and an explanation of the decision to reject the recommendation to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) begin, with regard to the recommendation, a rulemaking on the record after opportunity for an agency hearing.

(g) WEB SITE.—The Director shall—

(1) establish a Web site that is publicly accessible; and

(2) publish and maintain on the Web site—

(A) a central repository of recommendations of the Board and all standards, best practices, protocols, definitions, and other materials established, accepted, or amended, by the Director under this Act; and

(B) a central repository of current and past forensic science research, which shall be—

(i) collected and catalogued in a manner that is easily accessible to the public; and

(ii) updated no less frequently than once every 2 years.

SEC. 102. FORENSIC SCIENCE BOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a Forensic Science Board to serve as an advisory board regarding forensic science in order to strengthen and promote confidence in the criminal justice system by promoting standards and best practices and ensuring scientific validity, reliability, and accuracy with respect to forensic testing, analysis, identification, and comparisons, the results of which may be interpreted, presented, or otherwise used during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding.

(b) APPOINTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall be composed of 17 members, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) come from professional communities that have expertise relevant to and significant interest in the field of forensic science.

(2) CONSIDERATION AND CONSULTATION.—In making an appointment under paragraph (1), the President shall—

(A) consider the need for the Board to exercise independent and objective scientific judgment; and

(B) consider, among other factors, membership on the National Commission on Forensic Science and recommendations from leading scientific organizations and leading professional organizations in the field of forensic science and other relevant fields.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The Board shall include—

(A) 11 voting members;

(B) 6 nonvoting members; and

(C) the exofficio members described in paragraph (7).

(4) VOTING MEMBER REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the 11 voting members—

(i) each shall have comprehensive scientific backgrounds;

(ii) not fewer than 6 shall have extensive experience and background in scientific research;

(iii) not fewer than 6 shall have extensive and current practical experience and background in forensic science; and

(iv) not less than 1 shall be a board-certified forensic pathologist.

(B) MULTIPLE REQUIREMENTS.—An individual voting member may meet more than 1 of the requirements described in clauses (ii) through (iv) of subparagraph (A).

(5) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—One nonvoting member shall come from each of the following categories:

(A) Judges.

(B) Prosecutors.

(C) State and local law enforcement officials.

(D) Criminal defense attorneys.

(E) Organizations that represent people who may have been wrongly convicted.

(F) State and local laboratory directors.

(6) FULFILLMENT OF MULTIPLE REQUIREMENTS.—An individual who fulfills the requirements described in paragraph (4) may serve as a voting member even if that individual also fulfills a requirement described in paragraph (5).

(7) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Director, the Deputy Attorney General, and the Directors of NIST and the National Science Foundation, or their designees, shall serve as ex officio members of the Board and shall not participate in voting.

(8) APPOINTMENT OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall designate a voting member of the Board to serve as Chairperson of the Board for the duration of that member's term.

(c) TERMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each voting and nonvoting member of the Board, excluding ex officio members, shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Of the members first appointed to the Board—

(A) 3 voting members and 2 nonvoting members shall serve a term of 2 years;

(B) 4 voting members and 2 nonvoting members shall serve a term of 4 years; and

(C) 4 voting members and 2 nonvoting members shall serve a term of 6 years.

(3) RENEWABLE TERM.—A voting or nonvoting member of the Board may be appointed for not more than a total of 2 terms, including an initial term described in paragraph (2).

(4) VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the event of a vacancy, the President may appoint a member to fill the remainder of the term.

(B) ADDITIONAL TERM.—A member appointed under subparagraph (A) may be reappointed for 1 additional term.

(5) HOLDOVERS.—If a successor has not been appointed at the conclusion of the term of a member of the Board, the member of the Board may continue to serve until—

(A) a successor is appointed; or

(B) the member of the Board is reappointed.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Board shall—

(1) make recommendations to the Director relating to research priorities and needs, accreditation and certification standards, standards and protocols for forensic science disciplines, and any other issue consistent with this Act;

(2) monitor and evaluate—

(A) the administration of accreditation, certification, and research programs and procedures established under this Act; and

(B) the operation of the Committees;

(3) review and update, as appropriate, any recommendations made under paragraph (1);

(4) identify, as appropriate, any additional issues that 1 or more Committees should consider; and

(5) perform all other functions of the Board under this Act and such other related functions as are necessary to perform the functions of the Board.

(e) CONSULTATION.—The Board shall consult as appropriate with the Deputy Attorney General, the Director of NIST, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the National Institute of Justice, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, senior officials from other relevant Federal agencies including the Department of Defense, and relevant officials of State and local governments.

(f) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall hold not fewer than 4 meetings of the full Board each year.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) NOTICE.—The Board shall provide public notice of any meeting of the Board in a reasonable period in advance of the meeting.

(B) OPEN MEETINGS.—A meeting of the Board shall be open to the public.

(C) QUORUM.—A majority of the voting members of the Board shall be present for a quorum to conduct business.

(g) VOTES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Decisions of the Board shall be made by an affirmative vote of not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members of the Board voting.

(2) VOTING PROCEDURES.—

(A) RECORDED.—All votes of the Board shall be recorded.

(B) REMOTE AND PROXY VOTING.—If necessary, a voting member of the Board may cast a vote—

(i) over the phone or through electronic mail or other electronic means if the vote is scheduled to take place during a time other than a full meeting of the Board; and

(ii) over the phone or by proxy if the vote is scheduled to take place during a full meeting of the Board.

(h) DEFINITION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE DISCIPLINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall—

(A) develop a recommended definition of the term “forensic science discipline” for purposes of this Act, which shall encompass disciplines with a sufficient scientific basis that involve forensic testing, analysis, identification, or comparisons, the results of which may be interpreted, presented, or otherwise used during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding;

(B) develop a recommended list of forensic science disciplines for purposes of this Act; and

(C) submit the recommended definition and proposed list of forensic science disciplines to the Director.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In developing a recommended list of forensic science disciplines under paragraph (1)(B), the Board shall—

(A) consider each field from which courts in criminal cases hear forensic testimony or admit forensic evidence; and

(B) consult with relevant practitioners, experts, and professional organizations.

(3) EXCLUSION FROM LIST.—If the Board recommends that a field should not be included on the list submitted under paragraph (1) because the field has insufficient scientific basis on the date of the recommendation of

the Board, the Board shall publish an explanation of the recommendation, which—

(A) shall be published on the Web site of the Board; and

(B) may include a finding that a field could be recognized as a forensic science discipline for purposes of this Act, based on additional research.

(4) ESTABLISHMENT.—After the Director receives the recommendations of the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), establish a definition for the term “forensic science discipline”, and shall establish a list of forensic science disciplines.

(5) ANNUAL EVALUATION.—On an annual basis, the Board shall—

(A) evaluate—

(i) whether any field should be added to the list of forensic science disciplines established under paragraph (4), including any field previously excluded; and

(ii) whether any field on the list of forensic science disciplines established under paragraph (4) should be modified or removed; and

(B) submit the evaluation conducted under subparagraph (A), including any recommendations, to the Director.

(i) STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate a staff director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Board to perform the duties of the Board.

(2) COMPENSATION.—The Board may fix the compensation of the staff director and other personnel appointed under paragraph (1) without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(3) PERSONNEL AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any personnel of the Board who are employees shall be employees under section 2105 of title 5, United States Code, for purposes of chapters 63, 81, 83, 84, 85, 87, 89, 89A, 89B, and 90 of that title.

(B) MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.—Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed to apply to members of the Board.

(4) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Board may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(5) VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Board may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services for the Board as the Board determines necessary.

(j) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to Congress a report describing the work of the Board and the work of each Committee, which shall include a description of any recommendations, decisions, and other significant materials generated during the 2-year period.

(k) APPLICABILITY OF THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) through (4), the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the Board.

(2) TERMINATION PROVISION.—Section 14(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee

Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Board.

(3) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Members of the Board shall serve without compensation for services performed for the Board.

(4) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Board shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Board.

(5) DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER.—In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), the Director shall—

(A) serve as the designated Federal officer (as described in section 10(e) of such Act); and

(B) designate an Advisory Committee Management Officer (as described in section 8(b) of such Act) for the Board.

(1) TRANSFER AND CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FORENSIC SCIENCE.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the first meeting of the Board occurs, the Attorney General or the Director of NIST, as the case may be, shall transfer to the Office, control, supervision, and any unobligated balances available for the operation of the National Commission on Forensic Science or any national commission that has a similar scope or responsibility to the Office.

SEC. 103. COMMITTEES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF COMMITTEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall issue recommendations to the Director relating to—

(A) the number of Committees that shall be established to examine research needs, standards and best practices, and certification standards for the forensic science disciplines, which shall be sufficient to—

(i) ensure that the Committees are representative of each forensic science discipline; and

(ii) allow the Committees to function effectively;

(B) the scope of responsibility for each Committee recommended to be established, which shall ensure that each forensic science discipline is addressed by a Committee;

(C) what the relationship should be between the Committees and any scientific working group, scientific area committee, guidance group, or technical working group that has a similar scope of responsibility; and

(D) whether any Committee should consider any field not recognized as a forensic science discipline for the purpose of determining whether there is research that could be conducted and used to form the basis for establishing the field as a forensic science discipline.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—After the Director receives the recommendations of the Board under paragraph (1), the Director, in consultation with the Director of NIST shall—

(A) consider how to adapt and incorporate any scientific working group, scientific area committee, guidance group, or technical working group operating under the Department of Justice or NIST into a Committee;

(B) in accordance with section 101(f)(3), establish—

(i) Committees to examine research needs, standards, best practices, and certification standards for the forensic science disciplines, which shall be not fewer than 1; and

(ii) a clear scope of responsibility for each Committee; and

(C) publish a list of the Committees and the scope of responsibility for each Committee on the Web site for the Office.

(3) ANNUAL EVALUATION.—The Board, on an annual basis, shall—

(A) evaluate whether—

(i) any new Committees should be established;

(ii) the scope of responsibility for any Committee should be modified; and

(iii) any Committee should be discontinued; and

(B) submit any recommendations relating to the evaluation conducted under subparagraph (A) to the Director.

(4) UPDATES.—Upon receipt of any recommendations from the Board under paragraph (3), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), determine whether to establish, modify the scope of, or discontinue any Committee.

(5) TRANSFER AND CONSOLIDATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the first meeting of a Committee occurs, the Attorney General or the Director of NIST, as the case may be, shall transfer to the Office, control, supervision, and any unobligated balances available for the operation of any scientific working group, scientific area committee, guidance group, or technical working group that has a similar scope or responsibility to the Committee.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Committee shall—

(A) consist of not more than 21 members—

(i) each of whom shall be a scientist with knowledge relevant to a forensic science discipline addressed by the Committee;

(ii) not less than 50 percent of whom shall have extensive experience and background in scientific research; and

(iii) not less than 50 percent of whom shall have extensive practical experience and background in the forensic sciences sufficient to ensure that the Committee has an adequate understanding of the factors and needs unique to the forensic sciences; and

(B) have a membership that represents a variety of scientific disciplines, including the forensic sciences.

(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “scientist” includes—

(A) a statistician with a scientific background; and

(B) a board certified physician or forensic pathologist with expertise in forensic sciences.

(c) APPOINTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIST, in close coordination with the Board and the Director and pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding required under section 101(d), shall appoint the members of each Committee.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In appointing members to a Committee under paragraph (1), the Director of NIST shall consider—

(A) the importance of analysis from scientists with academic research backgrounds in both basic and applied sciences; and

(B) the importance of input from experienced and actively practicing forensic practitioners, including individuals who participated in scientific working groups, scientific area committees, guidance groups, or technical working groups.

(3) VACANCIES.—In the event of a vacancy, the Director of NIST, in consultation with the Board and the Director, may appoint a member to fill the remainder of the term.

(4) HOLDOVERS.—If a successor has not been appointed at the conclusion of the term of a

member of the Committee, the member of the Committee may continue to serve until—

- (A) a successor is appointed; or
- (B) the member of the Committee is reappointed.

(d) TERMS.—A member of a Committee shall serve for renewable terms of 4 years.

(e) SUPPORT AND OVERSIGHT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding required under section 101(d), the Director of NIST, in consultation with the Director, shall provide support and staff for each Committee as needed.

(2) DUTIES AND OVERSIGHT.—The Director of NIST, in consultation with the Director, shall—

(A) perform periodic oversight of each Committee; and

(B) report any concerns about the performance or functioning of a Committee to the Board and the Director.

(3) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If a Committee fails to produce recommendations within the time periods required under this Act, the Director of NIST, in consultation with the Director, shall work with the Committee to assist the Committee in producing the required recommendations in a timely manner.

(f) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Committee shall have the duties and responsibilities set out in this Act, and shall perform any other functions determined appropriate by the Board.

(2) COMMITTEE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A Committee shall submit recommendations and all recommended standards, protocols, or other materials developed by the Committee to the Board for evaluation.

(B) PROHIBITION OF MODIFICATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Any recommendations of a Committee and any recommended standards, protocols, or other materials developed by a Committee may be approved or disapproved by the Board, but may not be modified by the Board.

(C) APPROVAL OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—If the Board approves a recommendation or recommended standard, protocol, or other material submitted by a Committee under subparagraph (A), the Board shall submit the recommendation or recommended standard, protocol, or other material as a recommendation of the Board, to the Director for consideration in accordance with section 101(f)(3).

(D) DISAPPROVAL OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—If the Board disapproves of any recommendation of a Committee or recommended standard, protocol, or other material developed by a Committee—

(i) the Board shall provide in writing the reason for the disapproval of the recommendation or recommended standard, protocol, or other material;

(ii) the Committee shall withdraw the recommendation or recommended standard, protocol, or other material; and

(iii) the Committee may submit a revised recommendation or recommended standard, protocol, or other material.

(g) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Committee shall hold not fewer than 4 meetings of the full Committee each year.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) NOTICE.—A Committee shall provide public notice of any meeting of the Committee a reasonable period in advance of the meeting.

(B) OPEN MEETINGS.—A meeting of a Committee shall be open to the public.

(C) QUORUM.—A majority of members of a Committee shall be present for a quorum to conduct business.

(h) VOTES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Decisions of a Committee shall be made by an affirmative vote of not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members of the Committee voting.

(2) VOTING PROCEDURES.—

(A) RECORDED.—All votes taken by a Committee shall be recorded.

(B) REMOTE AND PROXY VOTING.—If necessary, a member of a Committee may cast a vote—

(i) over the phone or through electronic mail if the vote is scheduled to take place during a time other than a full meeting of the Committee; and

(ii) over the phone or by proxy if the vote is scheduled to take place during a full meeting of the Committee.

(i) APPLICABILITY OF THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to a Committee.

(2) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Members of a Committee shall serve without compensation for services performed for the Committee.

(3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of a Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee.

SEC. 104. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated, including from any unobligated funds appropriated to the Department of Justice and the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the operation of a scientific working group, scientific area committee, guidance group, or technical working group transferred under section 103(a)(5), and including any unobligated funds appropriated to strengthen and enhance the practice of forensic sciences under any other provision of law, \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 for the operation and staffing of the Office, Board, and Committees.

TITLE II—ACCREDITATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES

SEC. 201. ACCREDITATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date established under subsection (b)(2)(E), a forensic science laboratory may not receive, directly or indirectly, any Federal funds, unless the Director has verified that the laboratory has been accredited in accordance with the standards and procedures established under this title.

(b) PROCEDURES FOR ACCREDITATION.—

(1) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director—

(A) a comprehensive strategy to enable forensic science laboratories to obtain and maintain accreditation;

(B) recommended procedures for the accreditation of forensic science laboratories that are consistent with the recommended standards developed by the Board under section 202;

(C) recommended procedures for the periodic review and updating of the accreditation status of forensic science laboratories;

(D) recommended procedures for the Director to verify that laboratories have been accredited in accordance with the standards and procedures established under this title,

which shall include procedures to implement, administer, and coordinate enforcement of the program for the accreditation of forensic science laboratories; and

(E) a recommendation regarding the dates by which forensic science laboratories should—

(i) begin the process of laboratory accreditation; and

(ii) obtain verification of laboratory accreditation to be eligible to receive Federal funds.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—After the Director receives the recommendations of the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), establish—

(A) procedures to implement a comprehensive strategy to enable forensic science laboratories to obtain and maintain accreditation;

(B) procedures for the accreditation of a forensic science laboratory;

(C) procedures for the Director to verify that laboratories have been accredited in accordance with the standards and procedures established under this title;

(D) the date by which a forensic science laboratory shall begin the process of accreditation; and

(E) the date by which a forensic science laboratory shall obtain verification of laboratory accreditation to be eligible to receive Federal funds.

(3) CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In determining, recommending, and establishing the dates under paragraphs (1) and (2), the Board and Director shall consider whether funding has been appropriated pursuant to section 305 and other relevant Federal grant programs to sufficiently assist and support laboratories in obtaining accreditation under this Act.

(c) DEFINITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall recommend to the Director a definition of the term “forensic science laboratory” for purposes of this Act, which shall include any laboratory that conducts forensic testing, analysis, identification, or comparisons, the results of which may be interpreted, presented, or otherwise used during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—After the Director receives the recommendation of the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), establish a definition for the term “forensic science laboratory”.

(d) APPLICABILITY TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.—On and after the date established by the Director under subsection (b)(2)(E), a Federal agency may not use any forensic science laboratory, including any services, products, analysis, opinions, or conclusions provided by the forensic science laboratory, during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding unless the forensic science laboratory meets the standards of accreditation and certification established by the Office under this Act.

SEC. 202. STANDARDS FOR LABORATORY ACCREDITATION.

(a) STANDARDS.—

(1) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with qualified professional organizations, submit to the Director recommendations regarding standards for the accreditation of forensic science laboratories, including quality assurance and quality control standards, to ensure the quality, integrity, and accuracy of

any testing, analysis, identification, or comparisons performed by a forensic science laboratory for use during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding.

(2) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—After the Director receives the recommendations of the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), establish standards for the accreditation of forensic science laboratories.

(3) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In recommending or establishing standards under paragraph (1) or (2) the Board and the Director shall—

(A) consider—

(i) whether any relevant national or international accreditation standards that were in effect before the date of enactment of this Act would be sufficient for the accreditation of forensic science laboratories under this Act;

(ii) whether any relevant national or international accreditation standards that were in effect before the date of enactment of this Act would be sufficient for the accreditation of forensic science laboratories under this Act with supplemental standards; and

(iii) the incorporation of relevant national or international accreditation standards that were in effect before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) include—

(i) educational and training requirements for relevant laboratory personnel;

(ii) proficiency and competency testing requirements for relevant laboratory personnel; and

(iii) maintenance and auditing requirements for accredited forensic science laboratories.

(b) **REVIEW OF STANDARDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not less frequently than once every 5 years—

(A) the Board shall—

(i) review the scope and effectiveness of the accreditation standards established under subsection (a);

(ii) submit recommendations to the Director relating to whether, and if so, how to update or supplement the standards as necessary to—

(I) account for developments in relevant scientific research, technological advances, and new forensic science disciplines;

(II) ensure adherence to the standards and best practices established under title V; and

(III) address any other issue identified during the course of the review conducted under clause (i); and

(B) the Director shall, as necessary and in accordance with section 101(f)(3), update the accreditation standards established under subsection (a).

(2) **PROCEDURES FOR OPEN AND TRANSPARENT REVIEW OF STANDARDS.**—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall establish procedures to ensure that the process for developing, reviewing, and updating accreditation standards under this section—

(A) is open and transparent to the public; and

(B) includes an opportunity for the public to comment on proposed standards with sufficient prior notice.

SEC. 203. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ACCREDITATION PROGRAM.

(a) **ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT OF ACCREDITATION PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall determine whether a forensic science laboratory is eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, Federal funds under section 201(a).

(2) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall, in consultation with the Board and as appro-

priate, identify 1 or more qualified accrediting bodies with significant expertise relevant to the accreditation of forensic science laboratories, the accreditation of a forensic science laboratory by which shall constitute accreditation for purposes of section 201(a).

(B) **OVERSIGHT.**—The Director shall periodically—

(i) reevaluate whether accreditation by a qualified accrediting body identified under subparagraph (A) is adequate to ensure compliance with the standards and procedures established under this title; and

(ii) recommend updates to the standards and procedures used by 1 or more qualified accrediting bodies, as necessary.

(C) **REPORTING.**—The Director shall provide to the Board, and publish on the Web site of the Office, regular reports regarding—

(i) the accreditation of forensic science laboratories by qualified accrediting bodies identified under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) reevaluations of accreditation by qualified accrediting bodies under subparagraph (B).

(b) **REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY.**—Not less frequently than once every 5 years, the Director shall evaluate whether a forensic science laboratory that has been determined to be eligible to receive Federal funds under section 201(a) remains eligible to receive Federal funds, including whether any accreditation of the forensic science laboratory by a qualified accrediting body identified under subparagraph (A) is still in effect.

(c) **WEB SITE.**—The Director shall develop and maintain on the Web site of the Office an updated list of—

(1) the forensic science laboratories that are eligible for Federal funds under section 201(a);

(2) the forensic science laboratories that have been determined to be ineligible to receive Federal funds under section 201(a); and

(3) the forensic science laboratories that are awaiting a determination regarding eligibility to receive Federal funds under section 201(a).

TITLE III—CERTIFICATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE PERSONNEL

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

(a) **COVERED ENTITY.**—In this title, the term “covered entity” means an entity that—

(1) is not a forensic science laboratory; and

(2) conducts forensic testing, analysis, investigation, identification, or comparisons, the results of which may be interpreted, presented, or otherwise used during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding.

(b) **RELEVANT PERSONNEL.**—

(1) **RECOMMENDATION.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director a recommended definition of the term “relevant personnel”, which shall include all individuals who—

(A) conduct forensic testing, analysis, investigation, identification, or comparisons, the results of which may be interpreted, presented, or otherwise used during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding; or

(B) testify about evidence prepared by an individual described in subparagraph (A).

(2) **DEFINITION.**—After the Director receives the recommendation of the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), define the term “relevant personnel” for purposes of this title.

SEC. 302. CERTIFICATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE PERSONNEL.

Except as provided in section 304(c)(2), on and after the date established under section 304(c)(1), a forensic science laboratory or covered entity may not receive, directly or indirectly, any Federal funds, unless all relevant personnel of the forensic science laboratory or covered entity are certified under this title.

SEC. 303. STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION.

(a) **RECOMMENDED STANDARDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which all members of a Committee have been appointed, the Committee shall make recommendations to the Board relating to standards for the certification of relevant personnel in each forensic science discipline addressed by the Committee.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In developing recommended standards under paragraph (1), a Committee shall—

(A) consult with qualified professional organizations, including qualified professional organizations that accredit forensic science certification programs;

(B) consider relevant certification standards and best practices developed by qualified professional or scientific organizations;

(C) consider whether successful completion of a certification program accredited by a qualified professional organization would be sufficient to meet the certification requirements for relevant personnel under this Act;

(D) consider whether and under what circumstances internal certification programs by accredited laboratories would be sufficient to meet the certification requirements for relevant personnel under this Act;

(E) consider any standards or best practices established under title V; and

(F) consider—

(i) whether certain minimum standards should be established for the education and training of relevant personnel;

(ii) whether there should be an alternative process to enable relevant personnel who were hired before the date established under section 304(c)(1), to obtain certifications, including—

(I) testing that demonstrates proficiency in a specific forensic science discipline that is equal to or greater than the level of proficiency required by the standards for certification; and

(II) a waiver of certain educational and training requirements;

(iii) whether and under what conditions relevant personnel should be allowed to perform an activity described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 301(b)(1) for a forensic science laboratory or covered entity while the individual obtains the training and education required for certification under the standards developed under this title; and

(iv) whether certification by recognized and relevant medical boards, or other recognized and relevant State professional boards, should be sufficient for relevant personnel to meet the standards developed under this title.

(b) **APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The Board shall approve or deny any recommendation submitted by a Committee under subsection (a) in accordance with section 103(f)(2).

(c) **ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.**—After the Director receives recommendations from the Board under subsection (b), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), establish standards for the certification of relevant personnel.

(d) **REVIEW OF STANDARDS.**—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once every 5 years, a Committee shall—

(A) review the standards for certification established under subsection (c) for each forensic science discipline within the responsibility of the Committee; and

(B) submit to the Board recommendations regarding updates, if any, to the standards for certification as necessary—

(i) to account for developments in relevant scientific research, technological advances, or changes in the law; and

(ii) to ensure adherence to the standards and best practices established under title V.

(2) BOARD REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a Committee submits recommendations under paragraph (1)(B), the Board shall, in accordance with section 103(f)(2)—

(A) consider the recommendations; and

(B) submit to the Director recommendations of standards and best practices for each forensic science discipline.

(3) UPDATES.—After the Director receives recommendations from the Board under paragraph (2), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), update the standards for certification of relevant personnel.

(e) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall establish procedures to ensure that the process for establishing, reviewing, and updating standards for certification of relevant personnel under this section—

(1) is open and transparent to the public; and

(2) includes an opportunity for the public to comment on proposed standards with sufficient prior notice.

SEC. 304. ADMINISTRATION AND REVIEW OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DETERMINATION.—The Director shall determine whether a forensic science laboratory or covered entity is eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, Federal funds under section 302.

(2) PROCEDURES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish policies and procedures to implement, administer, and coordinate enforcement of the certification requirements established under this title, including requiring the periodic recertification of relevant personnel.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After consultation with the Board, the Director may identify 1 or more qualified professional organizations with significant expertise relevant to the certification of individuals in a particular forensic science discipline, the certification of an individual by which shall constitute certification for purposes of section 302.

(2) OVERSIGHT.—The Director shall periodically reevaluate whether certification by a qualified professional organization identified under paragraph (1) is adequate to ensure compliance with the standards established under this title.

(3) REPORTING.—The Director shall provide regular reports to the Board regarding the certification of relevant personnel by qualified professional organizations identified under paragraph (1) and reevaluations of certification by qualified professional organizations under paragraph (2), which shall be published on the Web site of the Office.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After consultation with the Board, the Director shall establish the date by which forensic science laboratories and covered entities shall be in compliance

with the certification requirements of this title.

(2) GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director shall, in consultation with the Board and the relevant Committee, establish policies and procedures to enable the gradual implementation of the certification requirements that—

(A) include a reasonable schedule to allow relevant personnel to obtain certifications;

(B) allow for partial compliance with the requirements of section 302 for a reasonable period of time after the date established under paragraph (1); and

(C) allow for consideration of whether funding has been appropriated pursuant to section 305 and other relevant Federal grant programs to sufficiently assist and support forensic science laboratories and covered entities in complying with the certification requirements of this title.

(d) REVIEW OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The Director shall establish policies and procedures for the periodic review of the implementation, administration, and enforcement of the certification requirements established under this title.

SEC. 305. SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR STATE AND LOCAL LABORATORIES.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Justice, in consultation with the Director, shall develop a plan for assisting and supporting forensic science laboratories and covered entities in obtaining accreditation under title II and certifications for relevant personnel under this title.

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF COVERDELL AND BYRNE JAG GRANTS.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Director and the Director of the National Institute of Justice, and consistent with the implementation plan developed under subsection (a), may make grants under part BB of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797j et seq.) and subpart 1 of part E of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.), and provide technical assistance to forensic science laboratories and covered entities, to ensure that forensic science laboratories and covered entities are able to—

(1) obtain accreditation under title II;

(2) obtain certifications for relevant personnel under this title; and

(3) effectively fulfill their responsibilities during the process of obtaining accreditation under title II and certifications for relevant personnel under this title.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM.—Section 2804(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797m(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) To assist forensic science laboratories and covered entities, as those terms are defined in sections 2 and 301, respectively, of the Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act, in obtaining accreditation under title II of such Act and certifications for relevant personnel under title III of such Act, in accordance with section 305 of such Act.”

(2) EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 501(a)(1) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3751(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(H) Assistance to forensic science laboratories and covered entities, as those terms

are defined in sections 2 and 301, respectively, of the Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act, in obtaining accreditation under title II of such Act and certifications for relevant personnel under title III of such Act, in accordance with section 305 of such Act.”

TITLE IV—RESEARCH

SEC. 401. RESEARCH STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH STRATEGY AND AGENDA.—

(1) RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall recommend to the Director a comprehensive strategy for fostering and improving peer-reviewed scientific research relating to the forensic science disciplines, including research addressing issues of validity, reliability, and accuracy in the forensic science disciplines.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—After the Director receives recommendations from the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), establish a comprehensive strategy for fostering and improving peer-reviewed scientific research relating to the forensic science disciplines.

(3) REVIEW.—

(A) BOARD REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 5 years, the Board shall—

(i) review the comprehensive strategy established under paragraph (2); and

(ii) recommend any necessary updates to the comprehensive strategy.

(B) UPDATES.—After the Director receives recommendations from the Board under subparagraph (A), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), update the comprehensive strategy as necessary and appropriate.

(b) RESEARCH FUNDING PRIORITIES.—

(1) RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall recommend to the Director a list of priorities for forensic science research funding.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—After the Director receives the list from the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), establish a list of priorities for forensic science research funding.

(3) REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 2 years, the Board shall—

(A) review—

(i) the list of priorities established under paragraph (2); and

(ii) the findings of the relevant Committees made under subsection (c); and

(B) recommend any necessary updates to the list of priorities, incorporating, as appropriate, the findings of the Committees under subsection (c).

(4) UPDATES.—After the Director receives the recommendations under paragraph (3), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), update as necessary the list of research funding priorities.

(c) EVALUATION OF RESEARCH NEEDS.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which all members of a Committee have been appointed under section 103, and periodically thereafter, the Committee shall—

(1) examine and evaluate the scientific research in each forensic science discipline within the responsibility of the Committee;

(2) conduct comprehensive surveys of scientific research relating to each forensic science discipline within the responsibility of the Committee;

(3) examine the research needs in each forensic science discipline within the responsibility of the Committee and identify key areas in which further scientific research is needed; and

(4) develop and submit to the Board a list of research needs and priorities.

(d) **CONSIDERATION.**—In developing the initial research strategy, research priorities, and surveys required under this section, the Board and the Director shall consider any findings, surveys, and analyses relating to research in forensic science disciplines, including those made by the Subcommittee on Forensic Science of the National Science and Technology Council.

SEC. 402. RESEARCH GRANTS.

(a) **COMPETITIVE GRANTS.**—

(1) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a nonprofit academic or research institution;

(B) an accredited forensic science laboratory; and

(C) any other entity designated by the Director of NIST.

(2) **PEER-REVIEW RESEARCH GRANTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding required under section 101(d), the Director of NIST may, on a competitive basis and using funds appropriated to NIST for forensic science purposes, make grants to eligible entities to conduct peer-reviewed scientific research.

(B) **CONSIDERATION.**—In making grants under this paragraph, the Director of NIST shall—

(i) ensure that the grants are made for peer-reviewed scientific research in areas that are consistent with the research priorities established by the Director under section 401(b);

(ii) take into consideration the research needs identified by the Committees under section 401(c);

(iii) if made before the identification of research priorities under section 401(b) and research needs under section 401(c), consider any findings, surveys, and analyses relating to research in forensic science disciplines, including those made by the Subcommittee on Forensic Science of the National Science and Technology Council; and

(iv) encourage and, if appropriate, provide incentives for partnerships between nonprofit academic or research institutions and accredited forensic science laboratories.

(3) **DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES.**—Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding required under section 101(d), the Director of NIST may, on a competitive basis, make grants to eligible entities to conduct peer-reviewed scientific research to develop new technologies and processes to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and accuracy of forensic testing procedures.

(4) **COORDINATION WITH DIRECTOR.**—In making grants under this subsection, the Director of NIST shall coordinate with the Director to ensure implementation of the plan established under section 404.

(5) **COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.**—The Director of NIST shall consult and coordinate with the National Science Foundation to ensure—

(A) the integrity of the process for reviewing funding proposals and awarding grants under this subsection; and

(B) that the grant-making process is not subject to any undue bias or influence.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **SUBMISSION.**—The Director of NIST shall, on an annual basis, submit to the Board and the Director a report that describes—

(i) the application process for grants under this section;

(ii) each grant made under this section in the fiscal year before the report is submitted; and

(iii) as appropriate, the status and results of grants previously described in a report submitted under this subsection.

(B) **PUBLICATION.**—The Director shall publish the report submitted under subparagraph (A) on the Web site of the Office.

(2) **EVALUATION.**—The Board and the Director shall evaluate each report submitted under paragraph (1) and consider the information provided in each report in reviewing the research strategy and priorities established under section 401.

SEC. 403. OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the first grant is awarded under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 402(a), and not later than 2 years after the date on which the first report under section 402(b) is submitted, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice, in coordination with the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce, shall submit to Congress a report on the administration and effectiveness of the grant programs described in section 402(a).

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall evaluate—

(1) whether any undue biases or influences affected the integrity of the solicitation, award, or administration of research grants; and

(2) whether there was any unnecessary duplication, waste, fraud, or abuse in the grant-making process.

SEC. 404. PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION.

(a) **RECOMMENDATION.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director a recommended plan for encouraging collaboration among universities, nonprofit research institutions, State and local forensic science laboratories, private forensic science laboratories, private corporations, and the Federal Government to develop and perform cost-effective and reliable research in the forensic sciences, consistent with the research priorities established under section 401(b)(2).

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The plan recommended under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) incentives for nongovernmental entities to invest significant resources into conducting necessary research in the forensic sciences;

(2) procedures for ensuring the research described in paragraph (1) will be conducted with sufficient scientific rigor that the research can be relied upon by—

(A) the Committees in developing standards under this Act; and

(B) forensic science personnel; and

(3) clearly defined requirements for disclosure of the sources of funding by nongovernmental entities for forensic science research conducted in collaboration with governmental entities and safeguards to prevent conflicts of interest or undue bias or influence.

(c) **ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.**—After receiving the recommended plan of the Board under subsection (a), the Director shall establish, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), and implement a plan for encouraging collaboration among universities, nonprofit research institutions, State and local forensic science laboratories, private forensic science laboratories, private corporations, and the Federal Government to develop and perform cost-effective and reliable research in the forensic sciences, consistent with the research priorities established under section 401(b)(2).

(d) **OVERSIGHT.**—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall periodically evaluate and, as necessary, update the plan established under subsection (c).

TITLE V—STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES

SEC. 501. DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES.

(a) **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which all members of a Committee have been appointed under section 103, the Committee shall develop and recommend to the Board standards and best practices for each forensic science discipline addressed by the Committee, including—

(A) validated protocols;

(B) quality assurance standards; and

(C) standards to be applied in reporting, including reports of identifications, analyses, or comparisons of forensic evidence that may be used during a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In developing the standards and best practices under paragraph (1), a Committee shall—

(A) as appropriate, consult with qualified professional organizations;

(B) consider existing validated protocols and best practices;

(C) develop standards and best practices that are designed to ensure the quality and scientific integrity of data, results, conclusions, analyses, and reports that are generated for use in the criminal justice system; and

(D) develop standards and best practices that afford laboratories appropriate operational flexibility, including appropriate flexibility as to specific instruments, equipment, and methods.

(b) **BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a Committee submits recommended standards and best practices under subsection (a), the Board shall, in accordance with section 103(f)(2)—

(1) consider the recommendations; and

(2) submit to the Director recommendations of standards and best practices.

SEC. 502. ESTABLISHMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—After the Board submits standards or best practices for a forensic science discipline under section 501(b), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), establish and disseminate standards and best practices for the forensic science discipline.

(b) **PUBLICATION.**—The Director shall publish the standards and best practices established under subsection (a) on the Web site of the Office.

SEC. 503. REVIEW AND OVERSIGHT.

(a) **REVIEW BY COMMITTEES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not less frequently than once every 3 years, each Committee shall review and, as necessary, recommend to the Board updates to the standards and best practices established under section 502 for each forensic science discipline within the responsibility of the Committee.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In reviewing, and developing recommended updates to, the standards and best practices under paragraph (1), a Committee shall consider—

(A) input from qualified professional organizations;

(B) research published after the date on which the standards and best practices were established, including research conducted under title IV; and

(C) any changes to relevant law made after the date on which the standards and best practices were established.

(b) **BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a Committee submits recommended updates to the standards and best practices under subsection (a), the Board shall, in accordance with section 103(f)(2)—

(1) consider the recommendations; and

(2) recommend to the Director any updates, as necessary, to the standards and best practices established under section 502.

(c) **UPDATES.**—After the Director receives recommended updates, if any, under subsection (b), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), update and disseminate the standards and best practices for each forensic science discipline as necessary.

(d) **PROCEDURES.**—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall establish procedures to ensure that the process for developing, reviewing, and updating the standards and best practices—

(1) is open and transparent to the public; and

(2) includes an opportunity for the public to comment on proposed standards with sufficient prior notice.

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE AND THE FORENSIC SCIENCE BOARD

SEC. 601. FORENSIC SCIENCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **RECOMMENDATION.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director a recommended plan for—

(A) supporting the education and training of judges, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel in the forensic sciences and fundamental scientific principles, which shall include education on the competent use and evaluation of forensic science evidence; and

(B) developing a standardized curriculum for education and training described in subparagraph (A).

(2) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Upon receipt of the recommendation from the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall establish, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), and implement a plan for—

(A) supporting the education and training of judges, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel in the forensic sciences and fundamental scientific principles, which shall include education on the competent use and evaluation of forensic science evidence; and

(B) developing a standardized curriculum for education and training described in subparagraph (A).

(3) **OVERSIGHT.**—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall periodically evaluate and, as necessary, update the plan established under paragraph (2).

(b) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, AND EDUCATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Institute of Justice may, in consultation with the Director—

(A) provide technical assistance directly or indirectly to judges, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel in the forensic sciences and fundamental scientific principles, including the competent use and evaluation of forensic science evidence; and

(B) make grants to States and units of local government and nonprofit organizations or institutions to provide training to judges, attorneys, and law enforcement per-

sonnel about the forensic sciences and fundamental scientific principles, including the competent use and evaluation of forensic science evidence.

(2) **REQUIREMENT.**—On and after the date on which the Director establishes the plan for supporting the education and training of judges, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel in the forensic sciences and fundamental scientific principles under subsection (a)(2), the Director of the National Institute of Justice shall administer the grant program described in paragraph (1) in accordance with the plan.

SEC. 602. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN THE FORENSIC SCIENCES.

(a) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director—

(1) a recommended plan for supporting the development of undergraduate and graduate educational programs in the forensic science disciplines and related fields; and

(2) recommendations as to whether the development of standards or requirements for educational programs in the forensic science disciplines and related fields is appropriate.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.**—Upon receipt of the recommendation from the Board under subsection (a), the Director shall establish, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), and implement—

(1) a plan for supporting the development of undergraduate and graduate educational programs in the forensic science disciplines and related fields; and

(2) any standards or requirements for educational programs in the forensic science disciplines and related fields determined by the Director to be appropriate.

(c) **EXISTING QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.**—In recommending, establishing, and implementing the plan and standards described in subsections (a) and (b), the Board and the Director shall consider the role of qualified professional organizations that accredit forensic science education programs, and any standards developed by such qualified professional organizations.

(d) **OVERSIGHT.**—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall—

(1) oversee the implementation of any standards or requirements established under subsection (b); and

(2) periodically evaluate and, as necessary, update the plan, standards, or requirements established under subsection (b).

SEC. 603. MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION.

(a) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director—

(1) a recommended plan to encourage the Federal Government and State and local governments to implement systems to ensure that qualified individuals perform medicolegal death investigations and to encourage qualified individuals to enter the field of medicolegal death investigation; and

(2) recommendations on whether and how the requirements, standards and regulations established under this Act should apply to individuals who perform medicolegal death investigations.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.**—Upon receipt of the recommendations from the Board under subsection (a), the Director shall establish, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), and implement—

(1) a plan to encourage the Federal Government and State and local governments to implement systems to ensure that qualified individuals perform medicolegal death investigations and to encourage qualified individ-

uals to enter the field of medicolegal death investigation; and

(2) any specific or additional standards or requirements for individuals who perform medicolegal death investigations determined by the Director to be appropriate.

(c) **OVERSIGHT.**—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall—

(1) oversee the implementation of any standards or requirements established under subsection (b)(2); and

(2) periodically evaluate and, as necessary, update the plan, standards, and requirements established under subsection (b).

SEC. 604. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION.

The Board and the Director shall regularly—

(1) coordinate with relevant Federal agencies, including NIST, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health, as appropriate, to make efficient and appropriate use of research expertise and funding;

(2) coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security and other relevant Federal agencies to determine ways in which the forensic science disciplines may assist in homeland security and emergency preparedness; and

(3) coordinate with the United States intelligence community to make efficient and appropriate use of research and new technologies suitable for forensic science.

SEC. 605. ANONYMOUS REPORTING.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall develop a system for any individual to provide information relating to compliance, or lack of compliance, with the requirements, standards, and regulations established under this Act, which may include a hotline or Web site that has appropriate guarantees of anonymity and confidentiality and protections for whistleblowers.

SEC. 606. INTEROPERABILITY OF DATABASES AND TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director a recommended plan to require interoperability among databases and technologies in each of the forensic science disciplines among all levels of Government, in all States, and where permitted by law, with the private sector.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.**—Upon receipt of the recommendation from the Board under subsection (a), the Director shall establish, in accordance with section 101(f)(3), and implement a plan to encourage interoperability among databases and technologies in each of the forensic science disciplines among all levels of Government, in all States, and where permitted by law, with the private sector.

(c) **OVERSIGHT.**—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall evaluate and, as necessary, update the plan established under subsection (b).

SEC. 607. CODE OF ETHICS.

(a) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director a recommended code of ethics for the forensic science disciplines.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In developing a recommended code of ethics under paragraph (1), the Board shall—

(A) consult with relevant qualified professional organizations; and

(B) consider any recommendations relating to a code of ethics or code of professional responsibility developed by the Subcommittee

on Forensic Science of the National Science and Technology Council.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT AND INCORPORATION.**—Upon receipt of the recommendation from the Board under subsection (a), the Director shall—

(1) in accordance with section 101(f)(3), establish a code of ethics for the forensic science disciplines; and

(2) as appropriate, incorporate the code of ethics into the standards for accreditation of forensic science laboratories and certification of relevant personnel established under this Act.

(c) **OVERSIGHT.**—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall periodically evaluate and, as necessary, update the code of ethics established under subsection (b).

SEC. 608. NEEDS ASSESSMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall conduct a needs assessment of State and local forensic service providers, including law enforcement agencies and medicolegal death examiners, in order to evaluate the capacity and resource needs of those providers. Such a needs assessment shall address the technology, equipment, personnel, recruitment, training, education, and research needs of those State and local forensic service providers.

(b) **DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL STRATEGY.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall develop a national strategy for developing the capacity and resources of State and local forensic science providers and for addressing the needs identified in the assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) **UPDATE OF ASSESSMENT AND NATIONAL STRATEGY.**—Not less frequently than once every 5 years, the Director shall update the assessment conducted under subsection (a) and the national strategy developed under subsection (b).

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 2183. A bill entitled “United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions”; considered and passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2183

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

(a) Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The Russian Government has deliberately blocked the Ukrainian people’s access to uncensored sources of information and has provided alternative news and information that is both inaccurate and inflammatory.

(2) United States international programming exists to advance the United States interests and values by presenting accurate and comprehensive news and information, which is the foundation for democratic governance.

(3) The opinions and views of the Ukrainian people, especially those people located in the eastern regions and Crimea, are not being accurately represented in Russian dominated mass media.

(4) Russian forces have seized more than five television stations in Crimea and taken

over transmissions, switching to a 24/7 Russian propaganda format; this increase in programming augments the already robust pro-Russian programming to Ukraine.

(5) United States international programming has the potential to combat this anti-democratic propaganda.

(b) **PROGRAMMING.**—Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Incorporated, and the Voice of America service to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

(1) provide news and information that is accessible, credible, and accurate;

(2) emphasize investigative and analytical journalism to highlight inconsistencies and misinformation provided by Russian or pro-Russian media outlets;

(3) prioritize programming to areas where access to uncensored sources of information is limited or non-existent, especially populations serviced by Russian supported media outlets;

(4) increase the number of reporters and organizational presence in eastern Ukraine, especially in Crimea;

(5) promote democratic processes, respect for human rights, freedom of the press, and territorial sovereignty; and

(6) take necessary preparatory steps to continue and increase programming and content that promotes democracy and government transparency in Russia.

(c) **PROGRAMMING SURGE.**—RFE/RL, Incorporated, and Voice of America programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

(1) prioritize programming to eastern Ukraine, including Crimea, and Moldova, and to ethnic and linguistic Russian populations, as well as to Tatar minorities;

(2) prioritize news and information that directly contributes to the target audiences’ understanding of political and economic developments in Ukraine and Moldova, including countering misinformation that may originate from other news outlets, especially Russian supported news outlets;

(3) provide programming content 24 hours a day, seven days a week to target populations, using all available and effective distribution outlets, including—

(A) at least 8 weekly hours of total original television and video content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar languages, not inclusive of live video streaming coverage of breaking news, to be distributed on satellite, digital, and through regional television affiliates by the Voice of America; and

(B) at least 14 weekly hours the total audio content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar languages to be distributed on satellite, digital, and through regional radio affiliates of RFE/RL, Incorporated;

(4) expand the use, audience, and audience engagement of mobile news and multimedia platforms by RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, including through Internet-based social networking platforms; and

(5) partner with private sector broadcasters and affiliates to seek and start co-production for new, original content, when possible, to increase distribution.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014, in addition to funds otherwise made available for such purposes, up to \$10,000,000 to carry out programming in the Ukrainian, Balkan, Russian, and Tatar language services of RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, for the purpose of bolstering existing United States programming to the people of Ukraine and neighboring regions, and increasing programming capacity and jamming circumvention technology to overcome any disruptions to service.

(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Foreign Relations and Appropriations of the Senate a detailed report on plans to increase broadcasts pursuant to subsections (a) and (b).

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. COATS):

S.J. Res. 35. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service of the Department of the Treasury relating to liability under section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the shared responsibility payment for not maintaining minimum essential coverage; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 35

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service of the Department of the Treasury relating to liability under section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the shared responsibility payment for not maintaining minimum essential coverage (published at 78 Fed. Reg. 53646 (August 30, 2013)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 400—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT ALASKA EARTHQUAKE, WHICH STRUCK THE STATE OF ALASKA AT 5:36 P.M. ON GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1964, HONORING THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT ALASKA EARTHQUAKE AND ASSOCIATED TSUNAMIS, AND EXPRESSING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH ON EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI PREDICTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 400

Whereas on Good Friday, March 27, 1964, the Great Alaska Earthquake struck the State of Alaska;

Whereas the Great Alaska Earthquake measured 9.2 on the moment magnitude scale, making it the largest recorded earthquake in United States history and the second-largest earthquake ever recorded using modern instruments;

Whereas the Great Alaska Earthquake was felt as far away as Seattle and was registered by water-level recorders in 47 States;

Whereas the Great Alaska Earthquake spawned tsunamis that devastated communities in Alaska and impacted the States of Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii, as well as Canada and Japan;

Whereas the Great Alaska Earthquake and associated tsunamis resulted in 131 fatalities, including 4 fatalities in Oregon and 12 fatalities in California, and an estimated \$3,750,000,000 in property losses in today's dollars;

Whereas the wealth of data collected during the Great Alaska Earthquake led to major breakthroughs in the scientific understanding of subduction zone earthquakes and earthquake hazards, resulting in improved earthquake mitigation strategies;

Whereas the study of the tsunamis associated with the Great Alaska Earthquake resulted in improved tsunami prediction and warning capabilities; and

Whereas the Great Alaska Earthquake spurred the United States Geological Survey, in cooperation with earthquake-impacted States, to install extensive earthquake monitoring networks across the United States and establish the National Center for Earthquake Research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the lives lost due to the Great Alaska Earthquake and associated tsunamis that occurred on Good Friday, March 27, 1964;

(2) recognizes the improved understanding of earthquakes and tsunamis and the scientific and technological advancements that resulted from the study of data collected during the Great Alaska Earthquake;

(3) commends the efforts of scientists and engineers from the United States Geological Survey, as well as those in Alaska, California, and other earthquake-impacted States, to improve earthquake and tsunami prediction and hazard mitigation strategies and protect the well-being of United States citizens threatened by these hazards;

(4) supports continued research, education, and outreach about earthquakes and other natural hazards; and

(5) encourages participation in the Great Alaska ShakeOut earthquake drill scheduled to occur on March 27, 2014.

SENATE RESOLUTION 401—RECOGNIZING EASY COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION OF THE 506TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 401

Whereas Easy Company, 2nd Battalion comprised part of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army;

Whereas Easy Company was immortalized by the heroic actions of its soldiers during World War II;

Whereas the book and miniseries, "Band of Brothers", introduces a new generation of people of the United States to the valorous deeds of Easy Company;

Whereas Easy Company engaged in critical combat missions during World War II, including the Battle of Normandy, Operation Market Garden, the Battle of Bastogne, and the Allied capture of Hitler's Eagles Nest;

Whereas Easy Company was originally comprised of 140 soldiers, 12 of whom were natives of the State of Pennsylvania;

Whereas the Pennsylvania heroes who helped to form Easy Company were Richard D. "Dick" Winters, Thomas Meehan III, Harry F. Welsh, Jack Edward Foley, Joseph D. Toye, William J. Guarnere, Forrest L. Guth, Edward James Heffron, Albert Blithe, Carl L. Fenstermaker, Roderick G. Strohl, and Joseph A. Lesniewski;

Whereas Easy Company lost 49 soldiers, including Thomas Meehan III, who paid the ultimate price for freedom during World War II; and

Whereas with the passing of William J. Guarnere, also known as "Wild Bill", on March 8, 2014, all of the Pennsylvania natives who served in Easy Company, except for Roderick G. Strohl, have passed away: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—

(1) the impact of Easy Company and the bravery of all of the heroes who have served in the company; and

(2) the brave Pennsylvania natives who served in Easy Company.

SENATE RESOLUTION 402—EXPRESSING THE REGRET OF THE SENATE FOR THE PASSAGE OF SECTION 3 OF THE EXPATRIATION ACT OF 1907 (34 STAT. 1228) THAT REVOKED THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP OF WOMEN WHO MARRIED FOREIGN NATIONALS

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 402

Whereas throughout the history of the United States, women have made and continue to make invaluable contributions to society that strengthen the political, social, and economic fabric of the Nation and improve the lives of countless individuals;

Whereas women in the United States have been and continue to be leaders in promoting justice and equality during times of great difficulty for the Nation;

Whereas women in the United States have played a pivotal role in ensuring freedom and security in the United States;

Whereas section 3 of the Expatriation Act of 1907 (34 Stat. 1228) left thousands of women born in the United States, such as Elsie Knutson Moren from Minnesota and Theresa Rosella Schwan from Wisconsin, stateless and without a nationality after marrying a foreign national;

Whereas section 3 of the Expatriation Act of 1907 caused thousands of United States women, such as Lorella Martorana from Pennsylvania who lost her citizenship and was not able to vouch for her husband during his naturalization proceedings, and Lena Weide Demke from South Dakota who lost her citizenship and was almost deported during World War I, to have their loyalties questioned, face harassment, and be subject to deportation for various legal infractions;

Whereas section 3 of the Expatriation Act of 1907 affected numerous women, such as Florence Bain Gual, a New York City school teacher whose tenure was stripped after 15 years of teaching because she married a foreign national, causing them to face difficulties providing for their families because they

lost, or were not able to gain, public employment after marrying a foreign national;

Whereas section 3 of the Expatriation Act of 1907 prevented women in the United States, such as Ethel MacKenzie from California who was unable to register to vote because she married a foreign national, from participating in the political process and casting ballots in various elections;

Whereas section 3 of the Expatriation Act of 1907 is similar to discriminatory State laws that criminalized or nullified marriages between individuals of different races;

Whereas the revocation of citizenship restricted the ability of numerous women in the United States to own houses and real estate;

Whereas an acknowledgment of the actions of the Senate that have contributed to discrimination against women will not erase the past, but will highlight the injustices of the national experience and help build a better, stronger, and more equal Nation; and

Whereas the Senate recognizes the importance of addressing the error of section 3 of the Expatriation Act of 1907 in order to educate the public and future generations regarding the impact of this law on women and to prevent a similar law from being enacted in the future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that section 3 of the Expatriation Act of 1907 (34 Stat. 1228) is incompatible with and antithetical to the core principle that all persons, regardless of gender, race, religion, or ethnicity, are created equal;

(2) expresses sincere sympathy and regret to the descendants of individuals whose citizenship was revoked under section 3 of the Expatriation Act of 1907, who suffered injustice, humiliation, and inequality, and who were deprived of constitutional protections accorded to all citizens of the United States; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment to preserving civil rights and constitutional protections for all people of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 403—CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY IN RESTRICTING FREE EXPRESSION AND INTERNET FREEDOM ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 403

Whereas an independent, unfettered media and freedom of expression, including on the Internet and social media sites, are essential elements of democratic, open societies;

Whereas infringement of press freedom in Turkey is a serious concern, with more journalists currently imprisoned in Turkey than in any other country;

Whereas millions of people in Turkey, including senior members of the Government of Turkey, use Twitter and other social media sites to communicate on a daily basis;

Whereas the Government of Turkey imposed a country-wide ban on access to Twitter on March 20, 2014, blocking the use of the communications platform to engage in political speech;

Whereas respected nongovernmental organizations such as Amnesty International, Reporters Without Borders, and Freedom

House have condemned the decision to block Twitter as an attack on Internet freedom and freedom of expression in Turkey;

Whereas the President of Turkey, Abdullah Gul, defied the ban to send out a series of tweets questioning the government's actions;

Whereas the Turkish Bar Association argued that the ban is unconstitutional and in violation of Turkish and European human rights laws; and

Whereas, on March 26, 2014, the district court in Ankara, Turkey, blocked implementation of the ban because it may restrict the freedoms of expression and communication, which are protected by the Turkish Constitution and the European Convention of Human Rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Turkey's restrictions on freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and Internet freedom;

(2) recognizes the critical role that technology and social media sites play in helping independent journalists and the general public to communicate and access information;

(3) reaffirms the centrality of Internet freedom to efforts by the United States Government to support democracy and promote good governance around the world; and

(4) calls on the Government of Turkey to immediately end its restrictions on media freedom, including social media, and restore access to Twitter.

SENATE RESOLUTION 404—HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LEGACY OF CÉSAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 404

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez spent his early years on a family farm;

Whereas at the age of 10, César Estrada Chávez joined the thousands of migrant farm workers laboring in fields and vineyards throughout the Southwest after a bank foreclosure resulted in the loss of the family farm;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez, after attending more than 30 elementary and middle schools and achieving an eighth grade education, left school to work full-time as a farm worker to help support his family;

Whereas at the age of 17, César Estrada Chávez entered the United States Navy and served the United States with distinction for 2 years;

Whereas in 1948, César Estrada Chávez returned from military service to marry Helen Fabela, whom he had met while working in the vineyards of central California;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez and Helen Fabela had 8 children;

Whereas as early as 1949, César Estrada Chávez was committed to organizing farm workers to campaign for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, livable housing, and outlawing child labor;

Whereas in 1952, César Estrada Chávez joined the Community Service Organization,

a prominent Latino civil rights group, and worked with the organization to coordinate voter registration drives and conduct campaigns against discrimination in East Los Angeles;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez served as the national director of the Community Service Organization;

Whereas in 1962, César Estrada Chávez left the Community Service Organization to establish the National Farm Workers Association, which eventually became the United Farm Workers of America;

Whereas under the leadership of César Estrada Chávez, the United Farm Workers of America organized thousands of migrant farm workers to fight for fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, livable housing, and respect;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was a strong believer in the principles of non-violence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez effectively used peaceful tactics that included fasting for 25 days in 1968, 25 days in 1972, and 38 days in 1988 to call attention to the terrible working and living conditions of farm workers in the United States;

Whereas through his commitment to non-violence, César Estrada Chávez brought dignity and respect to organized farm workers and became an inspiration to and a resource for individuals engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world;

Whereas the influence of César Estrada Chávez extends far beyond agriculture and provides inspiration for individuals working to better human rights, empower workers, and advance the American Dream, which includes all individuals of the United States;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez died on April 23, 1993, at the age of 66 in San Luis, Arizona, only miles from his birthplace;

Whereas more than 50,000 people attended the funeral services of César Estrada Chávez in Delano, California;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was laid to rest at the headquarters of the United Farm Workers of America, known as Nuestra Señora de La Paz, located in the Tehachapi Mountains in Keene, California;

Whereas since the death of César Estrada Chávez, schools, parks, streets, libraries, and other public facilities, as well as awards and scholarships, have been named in his honor;

Whereas more than 10 States and dozens of communities across the United States honor the life and legacy of César Estrada Chávez each year on March 31;

Whereas March 31 is recognized as an official State holiday in California, Colorado, and Texas, and there is growing support to designate the birthday of César Estrada Chávez as a national day of service to memorialize his heroism;

Whereas during his lifetime, César Estrada Chávez was a recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize;

Whereas on August 8, 1994, César Estrada Chávez was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas on October 8, 2012, President Barack Obama authorized the Secretary of the Interior to establish a César Estrada Chávez National Monument in Keene, California;

Whereas President Barack Obama honored the life and service of César Estrada Chávez by proclaiming March 31, 2013, to be "César Chávez Day" and by asking all people of the United States to observe March 31 with service, community, and education programs to honor the enduring legacy of César Estrada Chávez; and

Whereas the United States should continue the efforts of César Estrada Chávez to ensure equality, justice, and dignity for all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the accomplishments and example of César Estrada Chávez, a great hero of the United States;

(2) pledges to promote the legacy of César Estrada Chávez; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to commemorate the legacy of César Estrada Chávez and to always remember his great rallying cry: "¡Sí, se puede!", which is Spanish for "Yes, we can!"

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2871. Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2872. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2867 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER)) to the bill H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2873. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2867 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER)) to the bill H.R. 4152, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2871. Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 5, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

(10) to support reform efforts by the Government of Ukraine to enact legislation related to greater accountability for government officials, procurement, protection of private property, protection of classified information and military equipment, and transparency of government funds;

On page 9, line 22, insert after "Ukraine" the following: " , including greater accountability for government officials, procurement, protection of private property, protection of classified information and military equipment, and transparency of government funds".

On page 13, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

(c) LIMITATION.—None of the amounts authorized to be appropriated under this section may be obligated or expended for assistance to the Government of Ukraine for fiscal years 2016 or 2017 until the Secretary of State certifies that the Government of Ukraine has made sufficient progress in enacting anti-corruption legislation relating to greater accountability for government officials, procurement, protection of private property, protection of classified information and military equipment, and transparency of government funds.

On page 15, lines 3 and 4, insert "or the Government of Ukraine" after "official of the Government of the Russian Federation".

SA 2872. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2867 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER)) to the bill H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 10 of the amendment, strike lines 5 through 9 and insert the following:

(4) assist in diversifying Ukraine's economy, trade, and energy supplies (including through the use of energy efficiency measures), including at the national, regional, and local levels;

(5) strengthen democratic institutions and political and civil society organizations in Ukraine, including through exchanges and collaborations with sister city and partner civil society organizations in the United States;

SA 2873. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2867 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER)) to the bill H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

SEC. 11. TERMINATION OF GLOBAL SECURITY THROUGH SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Global Security through Science Partnerships program of the Department of Energy is terminated.

(b) TRANSFER OF CRITICAL FUNCTIONS.—If, before the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, determines that any function of the Global Security through Science Partnerships program is critical to the national security of the United States, and the Comptroller General of the United States certifies that such function is critical and is not being carried out by any other agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government, the Secretary may transfer the responsibility for such function to another office within the Department of Energy.

(c) TERMINATION OF FUNCTIONS.—All functions of the Global Security through Science Partnerships program, other than any functions transferred pursuant to subsection (b), are terminated effective on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) RESCISSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all unobligated Federal funds available for the Global Security through Science Partnerships program in appropriated discretionary unexpired funds are rescinded.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Carolyn Hessler Radelet, to be the Director of the Peace Corps, dated March 27, 2014.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on April 1, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Access to Justice: Ensuring Equal Pay with the Paycheck Fairness Act."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Sarah Cupp of the committee staff on (202) 224-5363.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Indian Education Series: Indian Students in Public Schools—Cultivating the Next Generation."

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 27, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 27, 2014, at 9:45 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 27, 2014, at 9:45 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "MAP-21 Reauthorization: State and Local Perspectives on Transportation Priorities and Funding."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet

during the session of the Senate on March 27, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Strengthening the Federal Student Loan Program for Borrowers."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 27, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 27, 2014, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 27, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 27, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., to hold an African Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, "Powering Africa's Future: Examining the Power African Initiative."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT, FEDERAL RIGHTS, AND AGENCY ACTION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Oversight, Federal Rights, and Agency Action, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 27, 2014, at 3 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Access to Justice for Those Who Serve."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kristopher Sharp, a fellow in Senator MURRAY's office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Hope Jarkowski, a member of Senator CRAPO's staff.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION DISCHARGED

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN1059; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

KATHRYN B. THOMSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO UKRAINE AND NEIGHBORING REGIONS

Mr. KING. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2183, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2183) entitled "United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Senate has been asked to take up and pass by unanimous consent House legislation on U.S. international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions. This House bill directs the Broadcasting Board of Governors to increase programming in the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Ukrainian, Balkan, Russian, and Tatar language services, and authorizes up to an additional \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2014 for this purpose.

We all support Ukraine's democracy and territorial integrity, and want to provide credible news and information to people in Ukraine whose access to

uncensored information has been blocked by the Russian Government. I intend to ensure that current programming for Ukraine, Russia, and neighboring regions is not reduced in fiscal year 2014. But I want to remind Senators, as well as Members of the House of Representatives, that the Congress already enacted the fiscal year 2014 funding level for U.S. international broadcasting to Ukraine and other regions of the world.

The House bill we are adopting today does not appropriate additional funds. Nor does it provide offsets for the cost of additional broadcasting to Ukraine, Russia or the other regions specified. As drafted it is an unfunded mandate, which as a practical matter has no effect unless we are to reduce broadcasting to other critical countries or regions, such as Burma and Tibet, which I doubt Senators of either party would support.

Consequently, this bill should be interpreted as authorizing funds to be appropriated for the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty to Ukraine and neighboring countries, consistent with the role of the House authorizing committee from which it originated. As Chairman of the Department of State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee that funds international broadcasting programs, I will work with the Broadcasting Board of Governors to ensure that additional funds are appropriated for these language services in fiscal year 2015 to enable them to sustain and strengthen critical broadcasts and programming to Ukraine, Russia, and neighboring regions.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2183) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2183

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

(a) Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The Russian Government has deliberately blocked the Ukrainian people's access to uncensored sources of information and has provided alternative news and information that is both inaccurate and inflammatory;

(2) United States international programming exists to advance the United States interests and values by presenting accurate and comprehensive news and information, which is the foundation for democratic governance;

(3) The opinions and views of the Ukrainian people, especially those people located in the eastern regions and Crimea, are not being accurately represented in Russian dominated mass media;

(4) Russian forces have seized more than five television stations in Crimea and taken

over transmissions, switching to a 24/7 Russian propaganda format; this increase in programming augments the already robust pro-Russian programming to Ukraine;

(5) United States international programming has the potential to combat this anti-democratic propaganda.

(b) PROGRAMMING.—Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Incorporated, and the Voice of America service to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

(1) provide news and information that is accessible, credible, and accurate;

(2) emphasize investigative and analytical journalism to highlight inconsistencies and misinformation provided by Russian or pro-Russian media outlets;

(3) prioritize programming to areas where access to uncensored sources of information is limited or non-existent, especially populations serviced by Russian supported media outlets;

(4) increase the number of reporters and organizational presence in eastern Ukraine, especially in Crimea;

(5) promote democratic processes, respect for human rights, freedom of the press, and territorial sovereignty; and

(6) take necessary preparatory steps to continue and increase programming and content that promotes democracy and government transparency in Russia.

(c) PROGRAMMING SURGE.—RFE/RL, Incorporated, and Voice of America programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

(1) prioritize programming to eastern Ukraine, including Crimea, and Moldova, and to ethnic and linguistic Russian populations, as well as to Tatar minorities;

(2) prioritize news and information that directly contributes to the target audiences' understanding of political and economic developments in Ukraine and Moldova, including countering misinformation that may originate from other news outlets, especially Russian supported news outlets;

(3) provide programming content 24 hours a day, seven days a week to target populations, using all available and effective distribution outlets, including—

(A) at least 8 weekly hours of total original television and video content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar languages, not inclusive of live video streaming coverage of breaking news, to be distributed on satellite, digital, and through regional television affiliates by the Voice of America; and

(B) at least 14 weekly hours the total audio content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar languages to be distributed on satellite, digital, and through regional radio affiliates of RFE/RL, Incorporated;

(4) expand the use, audience, and audience engagement of mobile news and multimedia platforms by RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, including through Internet-based social networking platforms; and

(5) partner with private sector broadcasters and affiliates to seek and start co-production for new, original content, when possible, to increase distribution.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014, in addition to funds otherwise made available for such purposes, up to \$10,000,000 to carry out programming in the Ukrainian, Balkan, Russian, and Tatar language services of RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, for the purpose of bolstering existing United States programming to the people of Ukraine and neighboring regions, and increasing programming capacity and jamming circumvention technology to overcome any disruptions to service.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Foreign Relations and Appropriations of the Senate a detailed report on plans to increase broadcasts pursuant to subsections (a) and (b).

MILITARY AND VETERANS CAREGIVER MONTH

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 395.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 395) designating the month of April 2014 as “Military and Veterans Caregiver Month.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 395) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of Tuesday, March 25, 2014, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Republican leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, Public Law 107-228, and Public Law 112-75, appoints the following individuals to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Mary Ann Glendon of Massachusetts, and M. Zuhdi Jasser of Arizona.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m., Monday, March 31, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4302 under the previous order; that at 5 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the Owens nomination, with the time until 5:30 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. KING. Mr. President, there will be at least two rollcall votes on Monday at 5:30 p.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING. Mr. President, if there is no business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn following the remarks of the Senator from Alaska, Ms. MURKOWSKI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

GRID SECURITY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, first, I thank my friend from Maine and appreciate the conversations we have had in this past week. He has taken a journey to the north that most of us only dream about. He is engaged in issues I care deeply about as it relates to the Arctic. Although I know that was not the discussion my colleague was speaking to earlier, I just wanted to note while my friend from Maine was still on the floor that I look forward to working on these issues of great importance not only to my State but truly to our entire Nation and Arctic Nation.

I come to the floor this evening to speak very briefly about the physical security of our Nation's power grid, which is a very important subject. Recently, there were stories in the Wall Street Journal about an attack on the California Metcalf substation that happened last April and has drawn considerable attention. While those stories about that attack highlighted potential vulnerabilities, my principal focus will be to highlight not only the safeguards that are already in place to protect the Nation's bulk power system but also to announce a step that I believe is now necessary to prevent the undue release of sensitive nonpublic information.

First and foremost—and I think this is important for people to recognize—it is important to remember that during the Metcalf incident, the PG&E system did not lose power. In fact, it was an incident that many didn't know had taken place until months after because there was no loss of power. I think this fact emphasizes the grid's resiliency and the importance of building redundancy into the bulk power system.

As usual, the electric industry has learned from and responded to—appropriately responded—the California incident. At the end of last year the Departments of Energy and Homeland Security—along with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or

NERC, along with the Federal Regulatory Commission, or FERC, and the FBI began a cross-country tour of 10 cities in order to brief utility operators and local law enforcement on the lessons that were learned from Metcalf. Government officials discussed mitigation strategies and meeting participants were able to develop some pretty important relationships between first responders and the industry.

In fact, as a result of the mandatory requirements of the 2005 Energy Policy Act, the electric industry has invested significant resources to address both physical and cyber security threats and vulnerabilities. Through partnerships with various Federal agencies, the industry is keenly focused on preparation, prevention, response, and recovery.

For example, NERC holds yearly security conferences and a grid exercise which tests and prepares industry on physical and cyber security events. Yet former FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff was quoted in the Wall Street Journal calling the Metcalf incident “the most significant incident of domestic terrorism involving the grid that has ever occurred.”

In my view, comments such as these are certainly sensational. Depending on the factual context, they can actually be reckless.

Although the topic of physical security warrants discussion—absolutely warrants discussion and debate—we have to be prudent about information for the public sphere. Many government leaders are privy to confidential and sensitive information that if not treated carefully could provide a roadmap to terrorists or other bad actors about our vulnerabilities. At a minimum, government officials have a duty to safeguard sensitive information that they learn in their official capacity.

A story that appeared in the Wall Street Journal on March 13 was, I believe, shocking because it included sensitive information about the Nation's energy infrastructure that the newspaper said came from documents that were created at FERC. Although the Wall Street Journal did not name specific facilities at risk, it did detail the geographic regions and the number of facilities that if simultaneously disabled could cause serious harm. The March 13 article claimed the potential for a national blackout.

I want to commend FERC Chair Cheryl LaFleur for her statement regarding the publication of this information. I thank Commissioner Tony Clark as well for his statement about the matter.

I think it is fortunate our current FERC Commissioners are an independent lot. I understand that the Commission is looking into this matter, including the question of how sensitive internal FERC documents made

their way into a very high-profile news article. I urge FERC to be very diligent in this matter and truly leave no stone unturned.

I have grave questions about the irresponsible release of nonpublic information that unduly pinpoints potential vulnerabilities of our Nation's grid. If this conduct is not already illegal, I have suggested it should be. The source of the leaked information appears to be someone with access to highly sensitive, narrowly distributed FERC documents. Releasing this sensitive information for publication has put the Nation potentially at greater risk and potentially endangered lives, including those of the many good people who are faithfully working every day to maintain and to protect the grid.

In order to learn what has happened and to determine how better to safeguard critical information as steps are being taken to make the grid less vulnerable, my colleague, the chairman of the energy committee, Senator LANDRIEU, and I have written to the inspector general of the Department of Energy whose oversight includes FERC.

It is our understanding that the IG has already begun an inquiry into this matter. We have asked him to conclude his inquiry as soon as possible. We have also asked for his immediate assurance that if the inquiry must ripen into an investigation, that he will—as we have every confidence he would—follow the information he learns wherever it leads.

We are eager to receive recommendations to improve the safeguard of keeping sensitive information from disclosure. We have also asked the IG to look into the obligations of current and former FERC Commissioners and employees with respect to nonpublic information. I would certainly hope the inspector general's inquiry leads to the identification of the person or persons who provided this sensitive, nonpublic information to the media, but even if it does not, even if we learn the leak of this information could have been accomplished without the violation of any disclosure restrictions, we will consider introducing legislation to make sure that in the future the disclosure of nonpublic information about our energy infrastructure that puts our Nation at risk is a violation of Federal law. We must remember that the possibility of a physical attack that disables key parts of the grid has always been a risk. Again, in this instance, though, with the Metcalf instance, our system worked and no power was lost. Therefore, I urge a measured approach when evaluating our next steps in response to Metcalf. Erecting barriers at every transmission substation and surveillance of every inch of transmission is not feasible. I am concerned these types of measures will potentially cost billions of dollars with little impact. There must also be a balance between

the measures related to physical security and the costs that would likely be passed through to consumers.

On March 7, the FERC used the grid reliability framework that Congress established in the 2005 Energy Policy Act by directing NERC to establish standards addressing physical vulnerabilities to better protect our Nation's power grid. NERC has 90 days to develop its proposed standards through a collaborative process. The proposed standard will then be reviewed independently before it is submitted to the FERC.

Our Energy Policy Act standards are foundational. Constant information sharing between government and industry, coupled with alerts for rapid response, are also key tools for dealing with the changing state of security.

As policymakers we must include physical security as a key issue in our decisions. We must also take measured steps to protect the grid, but we shouldn't sensationalize the threat. I commend NERC and FERC for starting the standard-setting process, and I urge all of the participants to strike this balance between measures related to physical security and costs and benefits for electric customers and the broader public as a whole.

Again, I thank the chairman of the energy committee for her willingness to join me on this letter which again I feel is very important as we begin this review through the inspector general. I know the Presiding Officer, as a valued member of the energy committee, is very keenly aware of these issues when we talk about our grid reliability threats to not only the physical security of our infrastructure but most certainly the cyber security threats we face as well.

I appreciate the indulgence of the Chair this evening.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter I referenced in my remarks be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2014.

Hon. GREGORY FRIEDMAN,
Inspector General, Department of Energy,
Washington, DC.

DEAR INSPECTOR GENERAL FREIDMAN: The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is responsible for oversight of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the Commission, FERC) and has jurisdiction over the laws the Commission administers, including the Federal Power Act (FPA). In the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Congress amended the FPA, adding section 215, to establish the framework for ensuring that the nation's bulk power system (BPS or electric grid) is reliable.

Recent reports in The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) about grid security (see attached) were shocking in their detail and appear to have been based upon highly sensitive, narrowly distributed FERC documents that may

have pinpointed vulnerabilities of the BPS. In the wrong hands, such documents potentially could provide a roadmap for those who would seek to harm the nation by intentionally causing one or more power blackouts.

We are writing to respectfully request that the Department of Energy Office of Inspector General (OIG) conduct a full and thorough inquiry regarding the apparent leak to the WSJ of sensitive information regarding physical threats to the electric grid. As part of this effort we ask not only that the OIG review the past, but also provide recommendations regarding how to avoid a repeat of this very unfortunate incident in the future.

We understand that your office has initiated a preliminary review of this matter on its own initiative and we commend you for doing so. We are also aware that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is conducting its own investigation. We commend the FERC for this action, as well. However, we note that it can be difficult for agencies to effectively investigate their own actions which is why we are making this request to the OIG.

The internal FERC documents regarding grid security that appear to have been disclosed to the WSJ, are sufficiently sensitive and potentially harmful to grid security that we believe it would not be prudent to highlight specifically the issues they raise at this time as part of this letter. For the same reason, many of the questions that we request that OIG answer also should not be made public. Consequently, we will provide to OIG on a non-public basis associated questions.

We do not know if the FERC documents that apparently form the basis of the news reports are credible, but in any case, disclosing and sensationalizing them, as it appears was the work of the person who gave them to the newspaper, is highly irresponsible or worse.

Even if your inquiry does not lead to the identification of the person who provided this sensitive non-public information to the media (and we hope it will), if you conclude that the unauthorized disclosure of this information could have been accomplished without the violation of any disclosure restrictions, legislation could well be necessary. In that event, we will consider introducing legislation to make sure that the unauthorized disclosure of non-public information about energy infrastructure that puts our nation at risk is a violation of federal law.

We ask you to conclude your inquiry as soon as possible. We have every confidence that you will follow the information you uncover wherever it leads. Nevertheless, we seek your immediate assurance that if the results of your initial inquiry indicate that applicable Federal law and regulations may have been violated by any current or former Federal employee or official that you would then initiate a formal investigation using all the powers of your office.

We are eager to receive recommendations concerning the preparation, handling and proper treatment of the sensitive information that forms the basis of the news reports and any related information. We also ask you to examine the legal or regulatory obligations of current and former FERC commissioners and employees with respect to non-public information, especially of the type covered by this letter and the associated non-public attachment.

Thank you for your consideration. We intend to be fully supportive of your inquiry.

Again, we look forward to having the benefit of your findings as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

MARY LANDRIEU,
Chairwoman.
LISA MURKOWSKI,
Ranking Member.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
MARCH 31, 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate now stands in adjournment until Monday, March 31, 2014, at 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:19 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 31, 2014, at 2 p.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

KATHRYN B. THOMSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 27, 2014:

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MARIA CONTRERAS-SWEET, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MATTHEW H. TUELLER, OF UTAH, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

KATHRYN B. THOMSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXXONMOBIL RECEIVES 2014 W.O. LAWTON BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 31, the National Association of Workforce Boards will present its 2014 W.O. Lawton Business Leadership Award to ExxonMobil for its important contributions to our community. The W.O. Lawton Business Leadership Award aims to honor and recognize businesses that make valuable investments in a community to help meet its needs through workforce training, educational programs, and funding for similar services. ExxonMobil has long demonstrated its commitment to the greater Houston community but its particular work with the "Community College Petrochemical Initiative" deserves special recognition.

ExxonMobil is currently investing billions in capital investment to expand its petrochemical operations in the Houston area, including a new corporate 285-acre campus. This expansion will soon be home to 10,000 jobs. However, with the thousands of baby boomers within the petrochemical industry who are retiring, ExxonMobil recognized the need to proactively train and hire more skilled workers. Working with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board and the Texas Workforce Commission, ExxonMobil partnered with nine Houston-area community colleges to create a training and education initiative that will train and recruit new workers for high-paying jobs, helping to replace the continually increasing number of retirees from the industry. To do so, ExxonMobil committed \$500,000 to fund its Community College Petrochemical Initiative. In partnership with Lee College in Baytown, Texas, ExxonMobil leveraged equipment and provided volunteers to help the community college upgrade its labs with industry standard equipment. The company also served as a "gold sponsor" for the college's EnergyVenture Program, a 36-hour program or "camp" that teaches middle and high school students about careers within the energy industry. The company also provided paid internships to Lee College students. The results have been remarkable: 100 percent of the interns whom completed the program were hired by ExxonMobil.

Of course, in Texas we know that ExxonMobil's commitment to its community expands beyond this initiative. Last year, ExxonMobil also participated in a number of other community collaborations, including Partners in Education, a program that funds and provides volunteers to serve as tutors and mentors for students on STEM-related assignments; Introduce a Girl to Engineering, a pro-

gram that provides 180 middle school girls with hands-on activities to learn and get excited about careers in the STEM fields; Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID), a program that has helped more than 400 students achieve their dream of attending college by improving their academic and organizational skills; Science Day, a program that has taught over 350 eighth grade students about the many daily uses for chemical reactions; Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP), a program that has donated \$580,000 to schools or nonprofits where ExxonMobil employees volunteer; Student Essay Contest, a contest sponsored by ExxonMobil for high school students to write about energy awareness; and paying for internships for students at Lee College, Texas A&M University and The University of Texas.

In addition, ExxonMobil's management and employees participate and provide leadership to local community economic and workforce development entities, serving on the boards for economic development associations, chambers and workforce committees. They also work closely with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board's career offices to help recruit and hire new employees.

These accomplishments are impressive in and of themselves, but they are only indicative of the long-lasting impact that this company's community collaborations will have down the road. ExxonMobil is setting the standard in how employers today can make meaningful investments to help prepare tomorrow's workers and to benefit local communities. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MS. ROSA MARÍA PAYÁ ACEVEDO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Rosa María Payá Acevedo, an outstanding individual who has been a strong advocate for a democratic Cuba and an inspiration to women around the world.

Ms. Payá Acevedo was born on January 10, 1989 in Havana, Cuba. She graduated with a degree in physics and is an active member of El Cerro en La Habana, a Catholic parish where she participated in youth groups and parish activities in her childhood. Her parents, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas and Ofelia Acevedo Maura, were the leaders of the Christian Liberation Movement, and she soon became very involved in the organization herself.

Ms. Payá Acevedo collaborated with Harold Cepero Escalante to coordinate the younger members of the Christian Liberation Movement and eventually published "Somos

Liberación," a newsletter the group still continues to write. Unfortunately, her life took a tragic turn in July of 2012 when her father and Mr. Cepero Escalante were both killed in a car crash under suspicious circumstances. There is significant evidence, including statements from Angel Carromero, the Spanish politician who was driving the car, that the Castro regime is responsible for the deaths of Mr. Payá and Mr. Cepero Escalante.

After her eloquent speech before the U.N. in February 2013 about the need for a formal investigation of the accident, she returned to Cuba and began receiving death threats. This has forced her to live in exile in the United States, where her relentless journey to achieve justice for the death of her father and Mr. Cepero Escalante continues. Her courageous and determined spirit is truly inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Rosa María Payá Acevedo for her continued fight for democracy and truth against the murderous Castro regime, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, Women's History Month is a time for all Americans to pay tribute to the generations of women who have made our world a better place in which to live. Today, it is my great honor to recognize Kalamazoo, Michigan's Lucinda Hinsdale Stone for her efforts to advance education reform and women's rights.

Lucinda was born 200 years ago this year, at a time in our history when women did not share the same rights as men.

Upon moving to Michigan in 1843 with her husband, Dr. James Stone, Lucinda became the first principal of the Ladies Department at the Kalamazoo Branch of the University of Michigan, which would soon become Kalamazoo College. Together, Lucinda and James Stone helped shape the school's direction, in part by introducing coeducation and promoting abolitionism and women's rights.

Lucinda flourished in her role and assisted in the education of a variety of professions and skills for women who came through her school. When Lucinda was ultimately forced to resign her office because of her advocacy for women's rights, she devoted her life to women's education and founded the Women's Club Movement in Michigan. As our country faced a turning tide of abolition and women's suffrage, Lucinda took it upon herself to educate and lecture from in her own home and doubled her efforts to give women everywhere a better chance.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Lucinda quickly became one of the foremost individuals in the state promoting women's rights and soon her tireless battle to bring higher education to women spread her reputation from coast to coast. Susan B. Anthony would share the works of Lucinda Hinsdale Stone and affectionately gave her the title, the "Mother of Women's Clubs in Michigan."

In the more than 50 years that she served as a leader in Michigan, Lucinda watched her groups expand as the rest of the country caught on to the women's rights movement. Twenty years before areas in the Northeast formed associations for women, Lucinda was leading the Kalamazoo Ladies' Library Association as a model for the rest of the nation. That Association and its present members like Betty Lee Ongley—the first female mayor of neighboring Portage, Michigan—have continued to play a major role in keeping Lucinda's legacy alive today.

Lucinda would go on to work in social reform movements and women's organizations throughout the state and became a pillar for American women to turn to for strength and guidance. Her life's work was recognized in 1890, when the University of Michigan bestowed upon Lucinda their first honorary doctorate to a woman.

She lived to watch her very own pupil, Madelon Stockwell, become the first woman to be granted admission to the University of Michigan, and watched as Kalamazoo College granted its first academic degree to a female student. The legacy of her work for women and education remains evident today.

Throughout her extraordinary life, Lucinda became friends with other suffragist and abolitionist leaders including Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Lucy Stone, Antoinette Brown Blackwell, and the Grimké sisters. She was also a lifelong friend and admirer of Helen and Frederick Douglass, and even played host to Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Lucinda Hinsdale Stone represents the strength that we all hope to have in the face of oppression and inequality. Her lasting impacts have motivated women for generations and her name lives on in Michigan lore as one of the finest Americans to stand up for what they believe in.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS, INC.

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Homeless Solutions, Inc., located in Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

Homeless Solutions, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is "to offer shelter, services, and supportive housing to homeless and low-income people." They help those in need to rebuild their lives and become independent.

Homeless Solutions, Inc. began as an emergency men's shelter in Morristown, through

the help of local clergy and business people. Originally known as the Morris Shelter, the organization housed ten men in facilities at the First Presbyterian Church of Morristown. Today, Homeless Solutions, Inc. provides 85 emergency shelter beds for men, women, families, and the homeless that are mentally ill. Since its inception 30 years, Homeless Solutions, Inc. has not only increased the amount of beds offered, but has also created many support programs and services, established the Housing Development division, and opened the Furnishing Solutions store.

The Housing Development division was established in 2004 to provide permanent supportive housing. Housing Development works with various municipalities to create attractive and cost effective housing. Due to its non-profit status, the organization is able to reduce building and project costs through grants, donations, and government project subsidies. The staff within the Housing Development division is selected based on their extensive knowledge and experience. Two of the most important qualities of the staff are their knowledge of green building and neighborhood context.

Homeless Solutions, Inc. opened Furnishing Solutions in 2012. Furnishing Solutions is a resale furniture and design store located in Morris Plains. People donate items they no longer need, and those items will either go towards shelter services, or can be purchased at reduced prices. Since the opening of the store, there have been over 100 volunteers who have helped to sell more than 10,000 items.

Homeless Solutions, Inc. has grown significantly since its start 30 years ago. With the mission to provide shelter and housing to those in need, the organization has helped thousands through the good work of its volunteers and supporters. As Homeless Solutions, Inc. continues to grow and help the community, it looks forward to the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Homeless Solutions, Inc. as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOHN DI STASIO'S RETIREMENT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to Mr. John Di Stasio. On April 11, 2014, Mr. Di Stasio will retire from a long and distinguished career with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, where he has served for 32 years, the last six as General Manager and Chief Executive Officer. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this individual who has contributed so much to the Sacramento community.

SMUD—which is the nation's sixth-largest public electric utility, providing affordable and reliable power to 610,000 customers in my district and California's capital region—has been a leader in the public power community and in energy efficiency and clean resource development nationwide.

Mr. Di Stasio's commitment to the Sacramento community and to the environment, coupled with his business sense, people skills, and personal integrity, have added to SMUD's remarkable reputation during a transformative time in the energy industry. Hundreds of thousands of Californians' lives have greatly benefited from his leadership and vision.

Under Mr. Di Stasio's leadership, SMUD has consistently earned the top customer satisfaction scores of any California utility, and is regularly ranked among the top three utilities in the nation, in terms of residential and business customer satisfaction. Mr. Di Stasio also recently received Electric Power & Light magazine's CEO of the Year honors for large utilities.

Mr. Di Stasio, a native Californian, played a key role as SMUD became the first large utility in the state to have 20 percent of its power come from renewable resources such as wind, solar and biogas. And it is on track to increase its renewable portfolio to 33 percent by 2020, making it one of the greenest utilities in the country.

In 2009, SMUD received a smart grid infrastructure grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, the largest amount awarded to any public utility in the nation. SMUD used the smart grid grant money to augment its \$308 million SmartSacramento initiative that included a ground-breaking time-of-use pricing pilot program, and construction of a state-of-the-art control room in SMUD's new East Campus—Operations Center. The East Campus—Operations Center received LEED Platinum status from the U.S. Green Building Council.

In addition to his service in Sacramento, Mr. Di Stasio is active in national and international energy issues, serving as a delegate with the United States Energy Association, where he assisted in electrification operations in Bangladesh, Brazil, Botswana, India and Jordan. Mr. Di Stasio has also helped effectively communicate and advance important legislative policy issues by providing expert testimony to Congress in 2009 on protecting the electric grid from cyber attacks, as well as advocating on behalf of consumer-owned utilities on Capitol Hill and at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

My personal and professional respect and admiration for Mr. Di Stasio runs deep, and as his friend, colleague and a fellow Sacramento citizen, I wish him happiness and good health.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing John for his many years of service.

THE PASSING OF MRS. MARIELLA UKINA AMA HOLMAN

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a wonderful and beautiful spirit; Mrs. Mariella Ukina Ama Holman was a friend, mother, wife, teacher, activist, and trailblazer.

A woman of the world, Mariella Ukina Ama was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on

July 4, 1922 to Kiushu Amakaya and Ada Adams. Her father, an immigrant from Japan, changed his name to Frank Ama and worked as a cook and caterer, and her mother was a laundress. Mariella and her brothers—Charles, Lloyd, and Bobby—were expected to meet their parents' high standards and were determined to overcome all odds.

As a child of the Great Depression, she worked hard, stood strong, and held her head high as one of the few children of color at the historic Philadelphia High School for Girls. Mariella continued her education in Atlanta, where she graduated from Atlanta University Laboratory High School. She completed her formal education at the renowned Spelman College, where she truly found her voice. At Spelman, Mariella bloomed into a woman of culture and class—studying and excelling in French and the humanities—gradually becoming more socially and politically conscious and active.

While working at Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, she met her husband-to-be, M. Carl Holman. In 1945, Mariella and Carl married and returned to Atlanta to begin a family; they were proud to raise their children—Kerry, Karen, and Kent—in the heart of the Civil Rights Movement. Her husband, a professor at Clark College in Atlanta, helped co-found the Atlanta Committee for Cooperative Action (ACCA) and became the editor-in-chief of *The Atlanta Inquirer*, which developed into a leading, weekly journal and voice for equality and justice in our nation. In the 1960s when Carl joined the staff of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, the family moved to Washington, D.C., where he eventually served as the president of the National Urban Coalition.

Throughout their marriage, Mrs. Holman was the backbone of their beautiful family and home, while maintaining her own career as a skilled educator and an activist in her own right. She taught French at Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta, and continued to teach in Washington, D.C. at Hart Junior High School until her retirement in the 1980s. In her classroom, she opened the minds of countless young people to a global language and community beyond the United States; she brought Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean to their front door through her creative and passionate instruction.

For years, Mrs. Holman also provided wise counsel to the architects—the movers-and-shakers—of the Civil Rights Movement. She opened her home to organizers for strategy meetings, and her hospitality, cooking, and warmth fed stomachs and reignited spirits. When her beloved husband passed away in 1988, Mariella continued to be the grounding, central force of her family, friends, and community for 26 years. Last week, on March 17, 2014, Mrs. Mariella Holman passed away surrounded by loving family and friends. Although I know that she lived a long and full life, I was still heartbroken to hear the news.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to her children—Kwasi (Kerry) G. Holman, Kinshasha (Karen) Holman Conwill, and Kwame (Kent) Holman; grandchildren—Monifa, Kevin, Donovan, and Camille; seven great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchild; brother, Lloyd, and his wife,

Muriel, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and countless loving family members and friends. They were guided and grounded by this beautiful and strong matriarch, and today each and every one of them is in my thoughts and prayers.

Mella—as she was called by all who knew and loved her—will be truly missed. She touched so many with her warmth, her spirit, her cooking, and her timeless class, and I am proud to have known and loved this great and wonderful lady.

HONORING MS. YRIS TAMARA
PEREZ AGUILERA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Yris Tamara Perez Aguilera, an outstanding individual and someone who has been an inspiration to the Cuban community.

Ms. Aguilera was born in Cuba, and joined the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement in 1999. This organization was formed by families of Cuban political prisoners to fight for their freedom. Ms. Aguilera's brother, Mario Perez Aguilera, was a political prisoner at that moment.

In 2009, Ms. Aguilera helped found the Rosa Parks Feminine Civic Rights Movement, and is currently the leader of the group. This movement carries out weekly public demonstrations in different provinces of Cuba to pray for the martyrs of the Cuban dictatorship. The movement also performs humanitarian campaigns to help homeless women and children. Through Ms. Aguilera's endless efforts, tenacity, and spirit the movement is able to find these homeless people food and shelter, despite resistance from Cuban authorities.

During the public demonstrations of the group, Ms. Aguilera and other members of the Rosa Parks Movement have been brutally beaten and have suffered from arbitrary detentions and even death threats by the Castro regime. Ms. Aguilera herself has been threatened with sexual assault in Santa Clara by State Security agents. Ms. Aguilera has participated in conferences and meetings around the world in order to denounce human rights abuses on the island, and continues to work tirelessly for the freedom of its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Yris Tamara Perez Aguilera for her continued efforts against the regime in Cuba, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NANCY
ROBINSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize

Nancy Robinson. A native of Orlando, Mrs. Robinson has served on the Orange County School Board representing District 6 since 2008. As a School Board Member, she serves on the Communications and Legislative Committees. She also represents the Central Florida School Boards Coalition on the Congress of Regional Leaders through myregion.org. Mrs. Robinson became a Florida School Board Association (FSBA) Certified Board Member in June 2010, and serves on the FSBA Board of Directors and Legislative Committee.

Mrs. Robinson grew up in the district she represents and attended Orange County Public Schools. She graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations/Speech Communications. She is also a member of the inaugural class of the Orlando Business Force's Central Florida Political Leadership Institute.

Passionate about serving her community, Mrs. Robinson is on the Board of Directors for the Urban Think! Foundation, which supports literacy programs for inner-city Orlando students. She has also served on the Destiny Foundation's Greater Orlando Food Outreach Advisory Board, the Mayor's Education Action Council, Orange County Public School Foundation's "Count Me In" Steering Committee, and the Edgewater High School Task Force for Renovation. Mrs. Robinson has been involved in the schools that her children have attended for the past 19 years as both a PTA officer and mentor.

Mrs. Robinson's family lives in the College Park area of Orlando. She and her husband, Bill, have three children, one who recently graduated from the University of Georgia, one who attends Auburn University, and an Edgewater High School student.

I am happy to honor Nancy Robinson, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF KATHLEEN "KAT"
BUTLER GORDON

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Kathleen "Kat" Gordon. Mrs. Gordon is a former South Carolina and Orange County, Florida educator. She was elected to the Orange County School Board in November 2000 and became School Board Vice Chair in 2013.

Mrs. Gordon has been a resident of Orange County since 1968. She was a librarian and counselor in Orange County for 25 years. She has also taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Central Florida (UCF) and at Valencia College. In addition to her career in education, Mrs. Gordon worked full-time in the business world for six years as a licensed mortgage broker, life insurance agent, and a registered securities representative.

In 2005, she earned Board Member Certification from the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) and also served on FSBA's Board of Directors. Mrs. Gordon is a former Board Member of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Black Caucus and is the former Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Mrs. Gordon has been honored by numerous organizations. In 2006, she received the Junior Achievement's Educator of the Year Award. In addition, she received the Humanitarian Award at the 2006 Annual Scholarships

and Volunteers Awards Dinner sponsored by Orange County Mayor Richard T. Crotty and the Board of County Commissioners.

In 2007, Mrs. Gordon was named Teacher of the Year for the New Beginnings Education Center in Osceola County. She also received the Distinguished Dove Award for being selected Osceola County's Vocational Teacher of the Year, the Denn John MS Minority Educator of the Year award, and Osceola County's Ida S. Baker Minority Educator of the Year award. In October 2007, the College of Education at UCF named Mrs. Gordon as one of its "Alumni of the Decades" as part of its 40th anniversary celebration.

In 2008, Mrs. Gordon received an award from the Osceola Classroom Teachers Association for her dedication and service to cultural diversity within Osceola District Schools.

Mrs. Gordon has served on the Governor of Florida State Dropout Task Force. In 2009, President Obama appointed her to be a member of the Selective Service System Local Board in the state of Florida serving Region II. Also in 2009, Mrs. Gordon received the General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. Four Star Major Award for community service.

In addition, Mrs. Gordon has been awarded by her church, Saint Mark A.M.E., and by the Carter Tabernacle CME Church for her civic and social involvement.

Mrs. Gordon received her bachelor's degree in library science from South Carolina State University, and her master's degree in guidance and counseling and certification in administration and supervision from UCF. Mrs. Gordon is currently pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy in Education with a Specialization in Organizational Leadership.

Mrs. Gordon is the widow of the late Reverend James D. Gordon, Jr., and the mother of three Jones High School graduates.

I am happy to honor Kat Gordon, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TIFFANY MOORE RUSSELL

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Commissioner Tiffany Moore Russell. A native of Orlando, Florida and a product of Orange County's public school system, Commissioner Moore Russell is an alumna of Dr. Phillips High School. She received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of South Florida and a J.D. from Florida State University College of Law.

In November of 2006, she made history by becoming the youngest County Commissioner ever elected to serve on the Orange County Commission. In her role as the Commissioner for District 6, she oversees a budget of over \$5 billion and more than 8000 employees. Commissioner Moore Russell is committed to remaining accountable and accessible to each and every constituent, increasing recreational and career opportunities for youth, creating stable and viable neighborhoods, and strengthening Orange County's economy by increasing the availability of jobs and minority business opportunities.

Commissioner Moore Russell has been a community advocate for many years, both as an elected official and a private citizen. Prior to her role as Commissioner, she served on

the Orange County Community Action Board, where she was elected Chairman and Vice Chairman. She also accepted volunteer appointments to both the Orange County Board of Zoning and Adjustments and the Orange County Citizens Review Board. She has also served on numerous boards including Orange County's Commission on Aging, Value and Adjustment Board, Youth and Family Services Board, the Downtown Orlando CRA/DDB Board, African American Chamber of Commerce, 2008 Electoral Canvassing Board, International Drive Master Transit and Improvement District, METROPLAN, and the Florida Association of Counties.

Her love for the Central Florida community is evident through her desire to initiate local community programs. Family Hope Day is a program designed to promote community partnerships, neighborhood unity, and a safer, more caring community for the residents of the Washington Park neighborhood. The Annual Summer Safety Event was established to prepare students for a safe, positive, and productive summer vacation. The Pine Hills Clean Sweep is organized to remove debris and trash from the streets in an effort to make the Pine Hills neighborhood a better place to live. The Commissioner's W/MBE Townhall Meetings are citizen driven forums that allow local business owners to discuss topics related to doing business in Orange County. In addition, Commissioner Moore Russell initiated the E-Zone Workshop, "School Days Are Here Again" Back to School Rally, "Holiday Senior Brunch," and "Holiday Extravaganza" programs.

Commissioner Moore Russell is a member of the local chapter of the NAACP, the Florida Bar, the Orange County Bar Association, the Virgil Hawkins Chapter of the National Bar Association, the Paul C. Perkins Bar Association, the Central Florida Women's Lawyer Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Life Center Church of Eatonville, Florida. In addition to serving on the commission she is an Associate Counsel with the Law Offices of John DiMasi. Commissioner Russell is married to Anthony K. Russell, Jr. and they are the proud parents of Anthony K. Russell, III.

I am happy to honor Commissioner Tiffany Moore Russell, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NANCY CAROLA PLATTE JACOBSON

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Nancy Carola Platte Jacobson. Nancy was born at the end of World War II. Her father, William Neal Platte, a metallurgical research engineer, worked in the aircraft industry. She is a first-generation German-American, as her mother, Ursula Carola Brunhilt Bruck, was born in Germany. Her German grandparents were present in her life for many years. From them, Nancy acquired a deep appreciation for our democracy and America's place in history.

Growing up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Nancy received an excellent public education. She remains grateful to mentors like her world history teacher, Ronald Hoover, who recognized her capabilities and pushed her to achieve, and Frau Martha Rose, who taught Nancy her mother tongue, German, in high school.

Nancy went on to major in German, with minors in French and English, at the University of Pittsburgh, finishing Magna Cum Laude in 1966. It was her great good fortune and honor to be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Germany for the year following her graduation. World War II had ended barely 20 years earlier, and the Berlin Wall had been up for only a few years. During her time in Germany, Nancy spent a life-changing week in East Berlin.

Nancy lived and worked in the Washington, D.C. area in 1968, a tumultuous time in American history. After moving to Florida in 1969, she became a certified paralegal and managed a law office. In mid-life, Nancy returned to school and obtained her law degree from the University of Florida in 1984.

Although Nancy acknowledges the fortunate circumstances of her birth, she has often said she was less fortunate to be born female at a time when women's choices were restricted by law and social convention. Nancy believes that we as a country lose when society stereotypes and restricts any segment of our population based on race, gender, ethnicity, orientation, or other labels.

Now retired, Nancy has devoted the past decade of her life to civic activism and citizen lobbying to achieve social and economic justice for all and to restore and strengthen our democracy. Galvanized by the contentious election of 2000, Nancy worked with many others on election integrity and protection issues in Florida. She later worked to pass the "Fair Districts" amendment to Florida's state constitution in order to reduce the disenfranchisement of Florida's citizens through gerrymandering.

Nancy is also an elected member of the Democratic National Committee, representing Florida since 2008. Nancy has always been grateful to her husband, James R. Lussier, for his support of her civic and political activism. Without his support, Nancy would not have been able to accomplish a fraction of what she has achieved and what she hopes to achieve going forward.

I am happy to honor Nancy Carola Platte Jacobson, during Women's History Month, for her civic activism and efforts toward social and economic justice.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,555,984,029,917.02. We've added \$6,929,106,981,003.94 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DIRECT THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY TO ACCEPT A STATUE DEPICTING PIERRE L'ENFANT FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PERMANENT DISPLAY OF THE STATUE IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, in this month in which Pierre L'Enfant was hired to design the plan for the District of Columbia in 1791, I introduce a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Pierre L'Enfant from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in the United States Capitol.

Pierre L'Enfant was born in France in 1754. He was an engineer and an architect, and he traveled to the United States to serve with the United States in the Revolutionary War. In March 1791, L'Enfant was hired to develop the design for the District of Columbia. L'Enfant's design for the city was so remarkable that it remains and is cherished today in the nation's capital and throughout this country. L'Enfant's design envisioned a federal and residential city with diagonal streets propelling from Congress and the President's home, beautiful boulevards on local streets and neighborhoods, and open spaces for monuments, memorials and historical structures, all of which largely remain intact, protected as a historical treasure.

In 2006, the residents of the District of Columbia chose L'Enfant as one of the top ten people that have given distinguishable service to the District of Columbia and the selection committee created by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities chose L'Enfant as the second statute from D.C. to be placed in the United States Capitol. The District's first choice for a statute was Frederick Douglass, and I am pleased that the Douglass statue now sits in Emancipation Hall. Because the United States Capitol does not currently appropriately recognize the contributions of Pierre L'Enfant and because D.C. residents and stakeholders chose L'Enfant as a distinguishable Washingtonian, this bill would require the Joint Committee on the Library to place the Pierre L'Enfant statue in the United States Capitol.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MS. NORMA WRIGHT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN and Congressman SAM FARR to honor the life and contributions of our dear friend, Ms. Norma Wright, who recently passed away after a lifetime of serving her community.

Norma Wright dedicated her life to improving education and was respected by all who knew her. She initially became involved in the education system while raising her three children: Bill, Beth, and Nancy. Her passion for educating the children in her life inspired her to return to college to gain a teaching credential. Upon earning her credential, she served as a special education teacher in Gilroy, CA, and then became a Social Studies teacher. Not long after, her innovative and effective teaching style made her the Community Schools Director for the district.

After she married Mr. Kenneth D. Wright, she became more active in local politics and educational policy. For many years, both Norma and Kenneth were deeply involved in both the California Teachers Association and the National Education Association.

Eventually, Ms. Wright returned to school to obtain her Master's Degree in Public Education. With her degree, she became the Social Studies Coordinator at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. During her tenure, she established the Youth at Risk Program, a program that was recognized and replicated statewide. Soon after, she was asked to become the Assistant Director of the Community Juvenile Justice Program.

A few years later, Ms. Wright met two individuals who shaped the future of her career in education and politics. With Mr. Roy Erickson, she helped establish the Constitutional Rights Foundation's training programs. And with Mr. Chuck Quigley, she launched her career-long work with the Constitutional Rights Foundation, the Center for Civic Justice Education, and the Youth for Justice Network.

In 1990, Ms. Wright left her position as the Social Studies Coordinator at the Santa Clara County Office of Education and became the Director of Justice Programs at the Center for Civic Education. In this capacity, Norma worked to influence education programs across the country to include civic education and high quality social studies programs. She also traveled internationally to share her ideas about democracy, justice, fairness, and equality. The California Council for the Social Studies honored her with the Roy Erickson Award for her work.

Through her law-related education programs and work with the Constitutional Rights Foundation, Norma helped establish the Youth for Justice Network, a coordinated law-related education program that helped promote professional development through a consortium of the Constitutional Rights Foundation, the Public Education Division of the American Bar Association, Street Law, the Center for Civic Education, and the Constitutional Rights Foundation-Chicago.

Her political activism and work to improve social studies programs in the Bay Area made her an asset to many of California's elected officials, including ourselves, Representatives Don Edwards and Lynn Woolsey, U.S. Senators DIANNE FEINSTEIN and BARBARA BOXER, and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. Through her dedication to the promotion of civic education, she also forged relationships with several federal judges and state legislators.

It is in thanks for, and in admiration of, Ms. Norma Wright's commitment to civic education

that we offer these words today. We hope her commitment of public service continues to be an inspiration to the young people of generations to come. Thank you Norma, we will miss you.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE
KATHLEEN C. PASSIDOMO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Representative Kathleen Passidomo, an outstanding individual and someone who has been an inspiration in the South Florida community, specifically in Naples.

Representative Passidomo grew up in New Jersey and received her law degree from Stetson University College of Law in 1978. She has been a member of the Florida Bar since 1979, and is a Florida Bar Board Certified Real Estate Lawyer. Rep. Passidomo has had a distinguished career in law, receiving multiple Attorney of the Year Awards and the 2010 Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for providing free legal services to the disadvantaged. She is also a past President of the Board of Directors of the Collier County Bar Association and of the Collier County Women's Bar Association.

Rep. Passidomo has served in the Florida House of Representatives since November 2010, representing District 106. She is currently the Chairman of the Ethics and Elections Subcommittee of the State Affairs Committee, and also serves on the Judiciary Committee as well as the Select Committee on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. She is also a partner in the firm of Kelly, Passidomo & Alba LLP, and serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Collier County Foreclosure Task Force.

Rep. Passidomo has served in more than 60 leadership and membership roles in professional and community organizations and has been recognized with countless awards for her service within Collier County. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of Hodges University, and is a founding director of the Collier County Senior Resource Center, Inc. Rep. Passidomo has lived in Naples with her family for 34 years and in 2000 she, along with her husband were co-recipients of the Naples Daily News Collier County Citizen of the Year award.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Representative Kathleen Passidomo for her continued service to the Naples community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

CELEBRATING 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER MORRISTOWN YMCA

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Greater Morristown YMCA, located in Hanover Township, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 140th Anniversary.

The Greater Morristown YMCA was founded by Dr. Frederick Owen and Reverend Thomas Souper on Friday, January 2, 1874. The two founding fathers held their first meeting in the Baptist Church located on The Green of Morristown, lasting until midnight and resulting in the Morristown YMCA.

The original location for the YMCA was a rented second floor walkup. The organization moved in 1881 to provide better facilities. After the purchase of their new building, a night school was created for boys and men. The purpose of this school was to teach reading, spelling, and arithmetic. During this time, the YMCA was only open to males.

In 1883, Mrs. Jacob Sutphen began the Ladies Auxiliary to help raise funds for the facility. The group became an instrumental branch of the organization, both administrative and social, yet women were still not allowed membership. However, this changed around the time of World War I, when the organization decided to open its doors to women part time, offering classes and exclusive time in the gymnasium.

During this period, the gymnasium was described as one of the most complete gymnasiums in the country. Not only was the gym well ventilated and electrically illuminated, but it also offered adjoining bathrooms with hot and cold water for showers. At this time, the building also included classrooms, game rooms, and a bowling alley.

By 1888, the Board of Directors purchased a new lot and building due to the demands of growth. In 1909, the YMCA moved to its third home. Its fourth and current location opened in 1981, located in Cedar Knolls. This facility offers four locker rooms, four racquetball courts, a full gymnasium, an indoor track, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, and much more. In 2001, with the help of donations, the Morristown YMCA was able to increase the functional space from 37,000 square feet to 48,000 square feet. In 2002, YMCA purchased the property next door, increasing its size to 13 acres.

The Greater Morristown YMCA currently offers more than ninety free fitness classes, child care, an up-to-date fitness center, conference center and library, and much more. The employees and volunteers at The Greater Morristown YMCA continue to focus on growing and improving the Foundation to meet the needs of the community, today, and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Greater Morristown YMCA as it celebrates its 140th Anniversary.

WELCOMING JAMES W. WARHOLA

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Dr. James Warhola to the Capitol. Dr. Warhola is the Chair of the Political Science Department at the University of Maine, where he has taught for more than three decades.

Dr. Warhola is an accomplished scholar who has written extensively on the relationship between the United States and Russia. Today, Dr. Warhola will share his perspective on our nation's still-evolving relationship with Russia at a briefing hosted by the U.S. Commission on Security & Cooperation in Europe.

As Congress continues to weigh the implications of the unfolding situation in Crimea, Dr. Warhola's lecture will provide critical insight to Members of Congress and their staffs who are monitoring this situation.

As the Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Warhola for his service in the United States Air Force and the Ohio Air National Guard.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in welcoming James W. Warhola to Washington.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE BATTLE OF HORSESHOE BEND

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Horseshoe Bend National Military Park on the bicentennial of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend took place during the War of 1812 in what is now known as Daviston, Alabama. On March 27, 1814, General Andrew Jackson led American troops into a day-long battle against a faction of the Creek Indians. Although the battle was trying, General Jackson and his troops defeated the Red Sticks.

March 27, 2014, will mark the bicentennial of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. The area where the battle took place is now known as Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. From March 27th–29th, a celebration of the bicentennial of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend will be held. This event aims to recreate frontier life in the year 1814 and seeks to emphasize the importance of the battle in United States history. The Alabama Tourism Department named the event one of its Top Ten Events for 2014.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and the community of Daviston, Alabama, in celebrating the bicentennial of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people who are 65 or older, certain younger people with disabilities, and people with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a transplant).

For the past 11 years, the Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula has impeded stability in the Medicare program for providers and beneficiaries. Congress has to fix the SGR and not continue to do short term fixes every 3 or 6 or 12 months. Physicians should and deserve equitable reimbursement and not a lower reimbursement rate for the services they provide to our seniors. This is one of the leading reasons why physicians are leaving their practice. We should repeal SGR and establish a legislative fix with a minimum five-year period of payment stability for our doctors. This period will allow doctors to develop long-term strategic planning for their practice and time to invest in electronic health information technology and other medical systems to improve access and quality care for their patients.

Now is the time to capitalize on the lower offset now projected for the permanent repeal of the SGR formula otherwise failure to do so may cause problems for many providers to see Medicare patients. Ten thousand new enrollees enter Medicare each day. Access to physicians will suffer for the Medicare population as the gap between payments and practice costs continue to grow.

We needed to pass H.R. 4015 without any poison pill provisions that will attempt to take pot shots to diminish the efficacy of the Affordable Care Act.

HONORING MS. KAMELA PATTON

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Dr. Kamela Patton, an outstanding individual and someone who has been an inspiration to the South Florida community.

Dr. Patton received her degree in Elementary Education from Messiah College in 1985. She later received her Master of Science, Reading and Education from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, and her Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Leadership in 2003 from the University of Miami, Florida.

Dr. Patton had a 24 year career with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, one of the largest school districts in the country which serves over 300,000 students, before becoming Superintendent of Collier County Public Schools in 2011. Since becoming Superintendent, Dr. Patton has revised and improved existing programs by instituting new technological tools in

order to increase student achievement. As a champion of technology in the classroom, Dr. Patton was one of a select group of educators invited to Washington, D.C. to speak with the Federal Communications Commission chairman to discuss the transition to digital learning.

Dr. Patton was recently named an eSchool Learning 2014 National Tech-Savvy Superintendent Award Winner. She also received the 2013–2014 Sunshine State School Public Relations Association Outstanding Superintendent Communicator Award. She was named by Gulfshore Business as one of the 41 People with the Most Clout in Southwest Florida and a Power Woman by Florida Weekly Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. Kamela Patton for her continued service to the Collier County Public Schools, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

RECOGNIZING CHUCK LANZA

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Chuck Lanza, the outgoing Emergency Management Director for Broward County, Florida.

Mr. Lanza is one of the exemplary professionals responsible for safeguarding the lives of the residents of Broward County, and our community will miss him dearly.

The goal of the Broward County Emergency Management Division is to provide effective emergency management by coordination of public and private resources, development of response plans, implementation of emergency operations, and preparation through training and education.

Chuck Lanza has been a fearless leader in ensuring that our South Florida community is always well prepared and his 28-year career reflects the best of what an emergency management professional should be.

He began his career in 1978 with the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue Department where he rose to the rank of Deputy Fire Chief.

In 1995 Chuck was named Emergency Manager for Miami-Dade County and remained in that position until 2003.

From 2005 to 2007, Chuck served as the Fire Chief for the Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Fire Rescue, a dual service Fire and EMS Department responsible for regional services including Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue and Air Rescue.

Before taking over as Broward County's Emergency Management Director in 2008, Chuck spent a year as Fire Chief for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

I am particularly grateful for the years I had the opportunity to work directly with Chuck as he helped my constituents and South Floridians prepare for each new hurricane season through education, outreach and resources.

Chuck's commitment to his work and his community led him to the top of his profession. I thank him for his efforts to protect and

save the lives of countless Floridians, and for a career dedicated to helping people and strengthening our resolve and our response in the face of natural and man-made disasters. I'm sure I speak on behalf of all South Floridians in wishing him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING RABBI DANIEL MOSCOWITZ

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the friends and family of a great spiritual leader and someone I am proud to say was my cherished friend, Rabbi Daniel Moscovitz. Rabbi Moscovitz passed away earlier this month, and his absence leaves an enormous hole to fill in our community.

Rabbi Moscovitz was born on the north side of Chicago and settled in Northbrook to raise his family. The impact that the Rabbi had on our local community is enormous, and the ripples of his influence will continue to be felt for years to come. He founded what is known today as the Tannenbaum Chabad House, which serves Jewish students attending Northwestern University in my home town of Evanston, Illinois. While he served as the Regional Director for Chabad-Lubavitch for the state of Illinois, the organization saw enormous growth—today, it encompasses dozens of centers in over twenty cities all over the state. Rabbi Moscovitz's efforts have meaningfully improved the state of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement in Illinois, in the United States, and around the globe. I am sure that his tremendous leadership will inspire others to continue working to further his vision.

Rabbi Moscovitz distinguished himself time and time again. He served as head of the Chicago Rabbinical Council, and he was an important part of Chabad-Lubavitch's educational division. Rabbi Moscovitz accomplished a great deal in his 59 years, always with a contagious spirit of job, enthusiasm and optimism. In the end, he was taken from us much too soon—I know that he had so much more planned. Rabbi Moscovitz leaves behind a loving wife and nine children, in addition to his parents and siblings.

On behalf of myself and a grateful nation, I want to thank him for all that he's done for the Jewish Community in Illinois and elsewhere. We will miss you, Rabbi.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLENE DILL CAMPBELL

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the passing of one of my constituents—Charlene Dill Campbell. She was a remarkable person who, sadly, leaves behind

three beautiful children. Her passing is a tragedy that could have been avoided, and is one I wish I did not have to announce today.

Another one of my constituents, Kathleen Voss Woolrich, Charlene's best friend, wrote down some thoughts about Charlene. I'd like to submit them.

Born in Pennsylvania to a warm family, Charlene moved to Florida when she was 18 years old. She worked at fast food joints and Disney, cleaned houses and babysat, but through the years found herself as a single mother with 3 kids. She had heart issues that needed to be managed. Her teeth needed to be fixed and constantly had infections, but Charlene never complained. She made \$11,000 dollars last year—babysitting other peoples' children and cleaning other peoples' houses. She proudly paid her property taxes in February and took care of her little trailer, which she owned and took all three kids to school.

But, Charlene had no health insurance. Charlene was unable to get Obamacare, because she made too little to get the subsidies to purchase health insurance. She had no dental insurance. Her teeth hurt her at night and had so many cavities, but could not find a way to get the decay in her teeth fixed. She was denied Medicaid and when she went to get Obamacare she was told she could not get subsidies.

So she went to the emergency room in 2012. She had heart issues and was told to get on medicine and be monitored. But, had no health insurance to do so. 2012 Obama won and we all were so sure. . . NOW Charlene would have health insurance. But the Republican Party of Florida and Rick Scott turned down Medicaid expansion. In December Charlene went to the emergency room with abscesses in her legs. Her teeth hurt her constantly. Charlene never complained. She took her two older kids to school each day and reported for work at her various jobs. Recently she began selling vacuum cleaners in addition to the babysitting and house cleaning. She took antibiotics. She got her healthcare at Florida hospital emergency rooms.

On March 21st, she was supposed to come see me—on my first day off in a while. She was excited about seeing my daughter who she had raised since she was 3. The kids were all going to play together. She had only 2 short appointments in Osceola County, to show the vacuum to customers. At about 4 pm, that afternoon, I got a message from her niece that she had died at the customer's house. They rushed her to Poinciana Medical Center and worked on her. They could not bring my best friend back. She died. She was 32.

You see, the main argument Republicans use is that it's some lazy person who needs Medicaid expansion. That, those of us living without healthcare or dental care are lazy. But my friend, a single beautiful mother, worked 3 jobs. She paid taxes. She paid her house taxes. And now she's dead.

Please think of Charlene when you decide who you are going to vote for in August and December. Please vote for people who want people like Charlene and me to have healthcare—to have a fighting chance.

I am burying my best friend soon, because of Rick Scott and Will Weatherford. I am burying my best friend, because of the policies of the Republican Party. I am burying my best friend, because had Medicaid expansion passed her needs would have been met. She is one of the 7 people who will die each day, because the Florida House of Representatives, Republicans, and Tea Party decided

that we are not worth living. We are not worth healthcare. We were not worth Medicaid expansion.

Please vote for Charlene.

I'll never have her back. I'll never see my friend again. I'll never have another day with her.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize the month of March as Women's History Month. The contributions of women to our history and society are too often ignored in favor of narratives that honor men alone. We must highlight the work and accomplishments of our women pioneers such that the next generation aspires to emulate them.

One such instance is the efforts of Lily Ledbetter and her fight against pay discrimination that culminated in President Barack Obama signing the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 into law on January 29, 2009. The law changed the 180-day statute of limitations for filing a pay discrimination lawsuit to reset with each new paycheck in which pay discrimination is alleged. The bill was ultimately passed after the Supreme Court sided with Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Lily Ledbetter's pay discrimination suit against them. The act modified the law to clarify that pay discrimination occurs each time someone is subjected to pay discrimination, not just when the initial discriminatory decision is made. Lily Ledbetter's historic fight against pay discrimination ensured workers' would have a better chance to prove pay discrimination based on race, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, as we honor and recognize the month of March as Women's History Month, let us recognize the progress women have made and their myriad accomplishments. We must also rededicate ourselves to preserving and expanding this progress, as well as honoring our past and present female pioneers.

HONORING MS. CARRIE KERSKIE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Ms. Carrie Kerskie, an outstanding individual and someone who has continuously supported the South Florida community.

Ms. Kerskie is currently President of Marcone Investigations, Inc. and is a highly sought-after speaker, trainer and consultant specializing in identity theft protection, detection and restoration. Prior to her work with Marcone Investigations she worked for some of the top investment and insurance companies in the country. She is also an accom-

plished author, penning Your Public Identity: Because Nothing is Private Anymore.

On top of all this, Ms. Kerskie is the founder of the Association of Certified Identity Theft Investigators, and created the Certified Identity Theft Investigator Program. She developed this program after her years of experience working with identity theft victims had given her ample knowledge to develop procedures that greatly reduce the restoration process of these victims, saving them time and money.

Ms. Kerskie's expertise in the identity theft field has made her a featured guest on NBC News, ABC News, and Fox News. She has also written articles, and been highlighted, in Gulfshore Business, Southwest Florida Business Today, PI Magazine, and Adverse Witness. Her tireless efforts have also garnered her recognition, being given the 2010 American Business Women's Associations Neapolitan Chapter "Woman of the Year" award, the Harvey R. Morse Founder's Award given for outstanding service to the Florida Association of Private Investigators and the private investigation industry, and in 2009 was selected as one of Gulfshore Business' "Top 40 Under 40".

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Carrie Kerskie for her continued service to South Florida and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

PASSAGE OF H.R. 4278

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that I inadvertently voted "no" on H.R. 4278, the Ukraine Support Act. As such, my intention was to vote "yes." My "no" vote was made in error.

The United States has always stood for democracy, the rule of law and freedom. Passing actions such as H.R. 4278 sends a clear message to the rest of the world that we will not sit idly by and let Russian aggression go unchecked.

I support Ukraine's sovereignty during this turbulent time and sanction those who have sought to undermine its independence and stability. I support H.R. 4278.

HONORING ROBERT C. PENNY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert C. Penny upon his retirement as the Veterans Service Officer for Lake County, California, after nearly twenty years working in the Lake County Veterans Service Office. I thank Mr. Penny for his years of dedicated service to Lake County's veterans as well as their dependents and survivors. His commitment to advocating on behalf of our nation's veterans is both admirable and deserving of recognition.

A veteran himself, Mr. Penny served in the U.S. Navy between July, 1966, and January, 1969, before being disability retired due to injuries he sustained in combat while serving on a River Patrol Boat in Vietnam. For his service, Mr. Penny was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with Two Bronze Stars, the Presidential Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross Medal Color with Palm), the Combat Action Ribbon as well as a Purple Heart.

Mr. Penny's career with the Lake County Veterans Service Office began in September of 1994, when he was brought in as an office assistant. While working in the office, Mr. Penny pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Dominican University, which he received in 1997. It was then that Mr. Penny began to work full time in the Lake County Veterans Service Office, first as a Veterans Service Representative, and later as a Veterans Service Representative II, Assistant California Veterans Service Officer for Lake County and finally, as the Veterans Service Officer. His colleagues remember him as being not only extremely efficient, professional, and hard-working, but also as being unfailingly friendly and cheerful.

Outside of his official duties, Mr. Penny never ceased to serve the veteran community. He is the co-host of a bi-monthly radio show that aims to inform veterans about the benefits they are eligible to receive and to discuss veterans' issues. Mr. Penny also serves as the elected Commander for Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2015 and the Educational Committee Chair for the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers. A tireless public servant, Robert Penny has volunteered extensively with his community's youth, through both the Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Penny for his invaluable service to Lake County's veterans, their dependents, and survivors. Robert Penny's unyielding dedication to advocating on behalf of our veterans is greatly appreciated by the entire Lake County community and we wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CELES KING IV

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Celes King IV, who passed away in San Diego.

Celes King was an independent and steadfast man of great fortitude. He was the first son of the prolific Civil Rights leader and successful bail bondsman Celes King III, from whom he drew much inspiration. However, rather than merely live in the shadow of his father, his entrepreneurial spirit drove him around the country to start and operate businesses.

Upon his parents' passing, Celes returned to Los Angeles and passionately carried on his father's great work. Despite losing a leg to diabetes, Celes drove his car to Sacramento

every week during the state capitol's legislative sessions to advocate for the advancement for his hometown. His leadership abilities then led him to become the President and CEO of the King Central Development Foundation, and the Phoenix Alliance.

In 2003 he was appointed to Congress of Racial Equality of California, the organization his father started nearly forty years ago. Celes served there until his passing. It was an honor to have a significant Civil Rights leader like Celes King IV living in the City of Angels. His legacy lives on and continues to inspire.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the house, join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the life of Celes King IV.

HONORING MS. MARIA CORINA MACHADO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Maria Corina Machado, an outstanding individual and someone who has been an inspiration to the global community, and Venezuelans everywhere.

Ms. Machado was born on October 7th, 1967 in Caracas. She earned a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Universidad Catolica Andres Bello, where she graduated first in her class. She obtained her post-graduate degree in Finance from the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administracion. In 2009 she was invited to attend the Yale World Fellows public policy and leadership program in Connecticut. She was a professor of Human Resources Management at the Industrial Engineering Department of her alma mater and in 2005 received the Meritorious Achievement Award from the Ballenger Foundation.

Ms. Machado is currently a member of the National Assembly of Venezuela for the state of Miranda. She leads the Independent Parliamentary Faction and sits on the Interior Policy Committee. During her tenure as a Member of Parliament, she has been a firm critic of the Hugo Chavez-Nicolas Maduro regime and is a founding member of the opposition political movement, VENTE. She also co-founded SUMATE, Venezuela's leading watchdog for electoral transparency and civil rights. For her role in guiding SUMATE, she has been accused by the Chavez-Maduro government of conspiracy and treason, and was forbidden from leaving the country without judicial authorization for several years. In addition, Ms. Machado ran as an independent candidate in the 2012 Presidential Primaries and was subsequently named Chairwoman of National Movements for the campaign.

Most recently, Ms. Machado spoke at the Organization of American States detailing a firsthand account of the Venezuelan unrest. For this action she lost her seat in the legislature and is no longer immune from prosecution for her alleged role fomenting violence in anti-government protests.

Outside of her professional career, Ms. Machado was the co-founder of Funacion

Atenea, a center for the care and rehabilitation of orphaned and at-risk youths. It was the first non-profit organization in Venezuela to employ a model of public infrastructure and private sector management and financing. She also founded and directed Fundacion Oportunidades, a private organization that provides financing, technical and operational support to social development programs aimed at children in poverty. She has also sat on board of Siderurgica de Venezuela S.A., and is currently a member of the Venezuelan Chapter of the International Women's Forum.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Maria Corina Machado for her continued service to Venezuela. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual, and to continue to monitor the ongoing situation in Venezuela, and the tireless efforts of Ms. Machado.

31ST ANNUAL NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH—MARCH 2014

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor March 2014 as the 31st annual National Eye Donor Month, a month dedicated to recognizing the need for eye donations as well as honoring eye donors, corneal recipients and their families.

Corneal diseases hamper an individual's ability to see properly. Over time, eye diseases lead to vision impairment or, in the most severe of cases, total blindness. Unfortunately, due to higher medical expenses and lost hours of workforce productivity, eye disorders rank as the fifth costliest type of diseases in the United States.

Thankfully, since 1961 corneal transplants conducted by the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) have allowed over one million people to regain their vision—a success rate of more than 95%! In 2012 alone, 46,684 corneal transplants were performed.

Of the 97 EBAA eye banks, two—the Illinois Eye Bank—Chicago and Illinois Eye Bank—Watson-Gailey in Bloomington—are located in my home state. Because of their hard work, 2,632 corneal donations were made in Illinois in 2012.

One such individual I was made aware of is Caleb. When Caleb was 5 he was injured in an accident that caused him to lose sight out of his right eye. After working with an ophthalmologist, Caleb was able to undergo a corneal transplant that removed the traumatic cataract and restored sight to Caleb's right eye. According to Caleb's mom, "each new experience he encounters is special because someone had the courage to donate."

I encourage all Americans to register to become eye donors. Everyone is a universal corneal donor—regardless of age or blood type. Once registered as a corneal donor, one should notify their family of their wishes.

I also urge my colleagues to work with their local eye banks in order to promote the importance of eye donation.

During National Eye Donor Month all Americans should remember the sacrifices made by

corneal donors and their families while also celebrating the gifts their sacrifices made to thousands. Additionally, we should celebrate the work of the EBAA and its member banks as they continue to restore the sight of thousands more throughout the U.S.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. GAYLE GLENN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Gayle Glenn for her outstanding service as the 2013–2014 president of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO). She completes her term as president of AAO in May of this year.

Born, raised, and educated in Texas, Dr. Glenn earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery at The Dental School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and her Master of Science in Dentistry at Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas. She began practicing orthodontics in Dallas in 1984 and, today, treats patients at her Dallas practice she shares with two fellow Baylor College alumni who are pediatric dentists. Dr. Glenn's practice focus is pediatric orthodontics. Her effective communication, kindness, and ability to put nervous patients at ease are some of what has contributed to her success treating children and adolescents.

Dr. Glenn has dedicated countless hours to enhancing orthodontics in Dallas, throughout Texas, and across the country over the course of her nearly 30-year career. She has promoted membership in organized dentistry and orthodontics and has helped to transform orthodontics from the perspective of women.

She was recently elected the 2013–2014 president of the AAO, the oldest and largest dental specialty organization in the world. Dr. Glenn is the first female to hold the position of AAO president in the organization's 113-year history.

Dr. Glenn is also a member and past president of the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists and the Texas Association of Orthodontists, and is a member of the American Dental Association, the Greater Dallas Association of Orthodontists, the Texas Orthodontic Study Club, the Texas Dental Association, the Dallas County Dental Society, and the American Association of Women Dentists.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in commending Dr. Glenn for her service to her patients, her state, to the orthodontic, dental, and medical communities, and, specifically for her service as the first woman president of the AAO.

HONORING UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES ON ITS 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor UL on their anniversary of "making the world safer for 120 years." Based in Northbrook, Illinois, in the heart of the district I represent, and with more than 10,000 employees in 40 different countries, UL certifies, validates, tests, inspects, audits, advises and educates. Billions of products bear the universally recognized UL mark.

From humble beginnings in 1894, fire-testing non-combustible insulation materials, UL has grown to encompass seven distinct businesses that industries and governments around the world rely upon to enhance product safety and provide safer work places.

UL's has stayed true to its founding principle to "promote safe living and working environments" while achieving consistent growth through innovation and dedication to excellence. In 2013, UL evaluated over 20,000 types of products, produced by 70,000 manufacturers. UL supports approximately 1,500 published safety standards, and UL safety messages reach almost 700 million worldwide.

Through innovative testing, training, research, design, study and outreach, UL strives to make our world a little safer and give workers and families greater peace of mind.

UL works with stakeholders across an impressive breadth of industries, demonstrating the true extent of its reach in promoting and enhancing safety. I am proud that UL calls the Tenth District home and hope they continue to set the global standards for safety for another 120 years.

HONORING THE INCLUSION OF THE WORD "YOOPER" IN THE MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Parks and proud "yoopers" everywhere. Mr. Parks' tireless efforts in Michigan's First Congressional District recently culminated in the addition of the word "yooper" to the Merriam-Webster dictionary. A "yooper" is a nickname for a native or resident of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Mr. Parks started the campaign to have the word added to the dictionary back in 2002, and his 12 years of writing to the editors finally paid off this week.

Being from the U.P., or Upper Peninsula, I am proud to share in the history that is "yooper." The U.P. has a rich history of mining and logging. It accounts for 29% of the landmass in the state of Michigan and is the only part of Michigan's First Congressional District that has coastline on three of the five

Great Lakes. The beauty that is the U.P. can be found in the large number of state and national parks that make up the area, which is why many Michiganders have made it a vacation destination.

I want to thank Mr. Parks for his persistent efforts and local Upper Peninsula pride and congratulate him on having the word "yooper" officially added to the dictionary.

CONGRATULATING DR. FAY LOMAX COOK ON HER APPOINTMENT TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AS THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR THE DIRECTORATE FOR SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL & ECONOMIC SCIENCES

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Fay Lomax Cook on being selected by the National Science Foundation to serve as the assistant director for the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences. Dr. Cook will make an excellent addition to the National Science Foundation where she will help to promote the understanding of people and their lives by supporting research that reveals basic facets of human behavior and helps provide answers to important societal questions and problems.

Dr. Cook is a professor at Northwestern University, where she is a faculty fellow of the Institute for Policy Research and a professor of human development and social policy in the School of Education and Social Policy. From 1996 to 2012, she acted as the director of the Institute for Policy Research, one of America's leading centers of nonpartisan, interdisciplinary, policy-relevant research. Her research focuses on the interrelationships between public opinion and public policy, the politics of public policy, how Americans come together to discuss policy issues, and the dynamics of public support for Social Security and other social programs.

During her time at Northwestern University, Dr. Cook has published many scholarly articles in addition to authoring and co-authoring five books. While actively producing her original contributions to her field she has been the president of the Gerontological Society of America, a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, and a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of Dr. Fay Lomax Cook and to congratulate her on being selected to serve as the assistant director for NSF's Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences.

HONORING THE REV. CHARLES A. LETT, JR.

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the Rev. Charles A. Lett, Jr., an Alabama native and exemplary public servant who passed away on Sunday, March 23, 2014. While we mourn the loss of this passionate man of faith, we are comforted in knowing that his lasting contributions to the state of Alabama and this nation will resonate for generations to come.

Those in my home state will remember Rev. Lett for his role as a timeless pillar in the Selma, Alabama community. As one of our most visible figures, this man of God was a constant source of wisdom and guidance to those he served. Throughout the duration of his extraordinary life, he was forever guided by his faith and his call to ministry.

Rev. Lett was born on September 25, 1914 in Florida to Charles A. Lett Sr. and Mrs. Elizabeth Lett. He was the couple's eighth child and was affectionately known as "Little Charlie." He answered his call into ministry at an early age and went on to attend Selma University where he later earned a Doctorate of Divinity as he continued to grow in his faith and the word of God. He also obtained a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Divinity and a Doctor of Law at Selma University.

Rev. Lett was also a dynamic educator. He earned his teaching certificate from the Alabama State Teachers College before launching a successful career with Baldwin County schools that would span ten years. During that time, he also served as principal of Douglasville High School in Bay Minette, Alabama. He later taught at his beloved Alma Mater, Selma University and was eventually named chairman of the school's board of trustees. He was also a past member and president of the Selma City School Board.

Rev. Lett never relinquished his passion for ministry. Over the course of his influential lifetime, Rev. Lett served as pastor to churches in Baldwin, Monroe and Escambia counties before his journey led him to Green Street Baptist Church in Selma. At the time of his death, he was Pastor Emeritus of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Selma where he spent many years growing and nurturing his congregation and his lifelong ministry. His commitment to faith and service allowed him to ascend to various leadership positions. He served as president of the Southwest District State Convention for more than 48 years and was past executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Beyond the walls of the church, Rev. Lett contributed greatly to his community through his work as chaplain of the Selma City Council, president of the Selma Interracial Alliance, and a lifetime member of the local chapter of the NAACP. Rev. Lett was also a member of the board of directors and vice president of Citizens Federal Bank in Birmingham, Alabama.

As we honor this American hero we are reminded of the indelible mark he has left on

this nation. We pay homage to his legacy by saluting his notable contributions. This trailblazer taught us that leadership through faith and service can leave a lasting impact. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of the Rev. Charles A. Lett, Jr.

A TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH GARO—
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding

women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Elizabeth Garo of Echo Park.

For more than two decades, Elizabeth Garo has worked both inside and outside of the music industry. Her love, curiosity and interest in music have been a focus throughout her career, where she has held positions as a band manager and tour manager. Since 2002, she has been a Senior Talent Buyer for the venues Echo and Echoplex in Echo Park and Spaceland Presents. Ms. Garo also curates the music programming for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County's First Fridays series, the Getty Center's Saturdays Off the 405 Series and is part of the booking team for the Santa Monica Pier's Twilight Concerts series.

In 2008, Elizabeth and her business partner opened Stories Books and Café in Echo Park, where they sell new, used and rare books.

Since then, it has become a central gathering spot for the Echo Park community. In addition to literature and fiction, they have strong sections in music, poetry, non-fiction and astrology. They also hold launch parties for small literary publications, storytelling events every month, and showcase art by local artists.

In 2011, Elizabeth and others started the neighborhood festival, Echo Park Rising. Echo Park Rising is launching its fourth year with a strong sense of celebrating the Echo Park neighborhood, its people, music, art and small businesses. Ms. Garo is a member of the Echo Park Chamber of Commerce, and also serves on the Board for Dublab, which is a non-profit web radio collective, devoted to the growth of positive music, culture and arts.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Elizabeth Garo.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, March 28, 2014

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 28, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and with thankful hearts we express our gratitude. You have created us with opportunities to serve other people in their need, to share together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities we have been given.

In this moment of prayer, please grant to the Members of this people's House, as they meet with their respective constituents, the gifts of wisdom and discernment that, in their words and actions, they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

In so many places in our world, there are people living with unrest and uncertainty. Bring comfort to their souls and success to the work of those seeking to be of greatest assistance.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on March 27, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 4275. To amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon on Tuesday, April 1, 2014, for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5117. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Evansville Area; 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Maintenance Plan Revision to Approved Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets [EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0415; FRL-9908-16-Region 5] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5118. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0510; FRL-9908-04-Region 3] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5119. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Approval of Redesignation Requests of the West Virginia Portion of the Steubenville-Weirton, OH-WV Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standards

[EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0498; FRL-9908-05-Region 3] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5120. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans, State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants, and Operating Permits Program; State of Missouri [EPA-R07-OAR-2013-0724; FRL-9907-79-Region 7] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5121. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California San Francisco Bay Area and Chino Nonattainment Areas; Fine Particulate Matter Emissions Inventories [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0599; FRL-9906-92-Region 9] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5122. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to Permit Delayed Submission of Certain Requirements for Prioritized Examination [Docket No.: PTO-P-2014-0003] (RIN: 0651-AC93) received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5123. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the Public Assistance Program's Simplified Procedures Project Thresholds [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0009] (RIN: 1660-AA81) received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5124. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; DORNIER LUFTFAHRT GmbH Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0962; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-028-AD; Amendment 39-17760; AD 2014-04-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5125. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0705; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-052-AD; Amendment 39-17742; AD 2014-03-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5126. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; B-N Group Ltd. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0924; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-0321-AD; Amendment 39-17755; AD 2014-03-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII,

Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL) introduced a bill (H.R. 4347) to require the Secretary of State to provide an annual report to Congress regarding United States Government efforts to survey and secure the return, protection, and restoration of stolen, confiscated, or otherwise unreturned Christian properties in the Republic of Turkey and in those areas currently occupied by the Turkish military in northern Cyprus; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 4347.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 184: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 543: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 718: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. CASSIDY.
H.R. 1148: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1333: Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 1465: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1830: Mr. BARROW of Georgia.
H.R. 1916: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2429: Mr. GOWDY.
H.R. 2870: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 3383: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 3461: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 3481: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 3581: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 3717: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 3930: Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. BARROW of Georgia.

H.R. 3978: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 3992: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4040: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 4068: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.

H.R. 4069: Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 4188: Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 4200: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 4221: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 4303: Mr. VEASEY.

H.J. Res. 47: Mr. JONES and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H. Res. 417: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H. Res. 422: Mr. KING of Iowa.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 9, March 26, 2014, by Mr. JOE GARCIA on the bill (H.R. 15), was signed by the following Members: Joe Garcia, Joseph Crowley, Ben Ray Lujan, Joaquin Castro, Carolyn B. Maloney, Tony Cardenas, Jared Polis, Lois Capps, John A. Yarmuth, Robin L. Kelly, Judy Chu, Lois Frankel, Nancy Pelosi, Janice D. Schakowsky, Beto O'Rourke, Grace F. Napolitano, Zoe Lofgren, Juan Vargas, José E. Serrano, Steven A. Horsford, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., Doris O. Matsui, Xavier Becerra, Pete P. Gallego, Jerry McNerney, Steve Cohen, Gene Green, Linda T. Sánchez, Mike Quigley, Timothy J. Walz, Denny Heck, William L. Owens, James P. McGovern, Janice Hahn, Elizabeth H. Esty, Frank Pallone, Jr., Lloyd Doggett, David N. Cicilline, Hakeem S. Jeffries, Timothy H. Bishop, Loretta Sanchez, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Jim McDermott, Brian Higgins, Wm. Lacy Clay, Jim Cooper, Robert A. Brady, Joseph P. Kennedy III, Colleen W. Hanabusa, Alcee L. Hastings, Peter A. DeFazio, Adam Smith, Daniel T. Kildee, Mark Takano, Scott H. Peters, Jim Costa, Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Kathy Castor, Frederica S. Wilson, Donna F. Edwards, Julia Brownley, Chellie Pingree, Marcia L. Fudge, Sam Farr, Patrick Murphy, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Paul Tonko,

Jackie Speier, Ron Kind, John Garamendi, Luis V. Gutiérrez, Susan A. Davis, Ann Kirkpatrick, Bradley S. Schneider, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Gwen Moore, Al Green, Danny K. Davis, Niki Tsongas, Dina Titus, Bobby L. Rush, Stephen F. Lynch, James R. Langevin, Nydia M. Velázquez, Kyrsten Sinema, Eric Swalwell, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Derek Kilmer, Matt Cartwright, Adam B. Schiff, Joyce Beatty, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Cheri Bustos, Alan S. Lowenthal, Grace Meng, Tulsi Gabbard, Ann M. Kuster, John Lewis, James E. Clyburn, Henry Cuellar, Elijah E. Cummings, Daniel B. Maffei, Marc A. Veasey, Gerald E. Connolly, John C. Carney, Jr., Yvette D. Clarke, Michael F. Doyle, Michael E. Capuano, Jared Huffman, Betty McCollum, Katherine M. Clark, Ron Barber, Albio Sires, Ami Bera, John D. Dingell, Charles B. Rangel, Suzanne Bonamici, Kurt Schrader, Sean Patrick Maloney, Michael M. Honda, Bruce L. Braley, Diana DeGette, James P. Moran, Eddie Bernice Johnson, David E. Price, Mike Thompson, Sheila Jackson Lee, David Loebsack, Gregory W. Meeks, Steny H. Hoyer, Nita M. Lowey, Jerrold Nadler, George Miller, Chaka Fattah, Anna G. Eshoo, Ed Perlmutter, John P. Sarbanes, Chris Van Hollen, Raúl M. Grijalva, Corrine Brown, Rick Larsen, Joe Courtney, Gary C. Peters, Rush Holt, Michael H. Michaud, Mark Pocan, Peter Welch, Bill Foster, John F. Tierney, Bill Pascrell, Jr., Tammy Duckworth, James A. Himes, John K. Delaney, Cedric L. Richmond, Richard M. Nolan, Raul Ruiz, Barbara Lee, Keith Ellison, Rubén Hinojosa, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Karen Bass, Maxine Waters, Richard E. Neal, Marcy Kaptur, Carol Shea-Porter, Ed Pastor, Earl Blumenauer, Alan Grayson, Steve Israel, and Sander M. Levin.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS— ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petition:

Petition 8 by Mr. SCHNEIDER on House Resolution 490: John D. Dingell and Pete P. Gallego.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MARIAN BUSEY ON THE OCCASION OF HER 102ND BIRTHDAY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 28, 2014

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colorado Springs artist and businesswoman Marian Busey on the occasion of her 102nd birthday.

For a century, since the age of 2, Mrs. Busey has been an artist. As a co-founder of Arati Artists Gallery in Old Colorado City, Mrs. Busey has helped ensure that art in the Fifth Congressional District will live on for centuries to come. It can be argued that Mrs. Busey helped start the vibrant arts scene that now exists in Old Colorado City and the Westside by taking a chance on opening the Arati Gallery back in 1977.

Mrs. Busey has been quoted as saying that she enjoys watercolor painting because, "once you put the brush on the canvas, you're done quickly, you can't complicate the painting." I know I speak on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District when I wish Mrs. Busey a very happy birthday and many more years of complication-free painting.

RECOGNIZING THE CARTER FAMILY AS THE 2013 ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 28, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Carter Family for being selected as the 2013 Escambia County, Florida, Farm Family of the Year.

Matt Carter discovered his love of both farming and quality produce at an early age while working alongside his father, Lance, at Crary Dairy. Matt also gained additional agricultural knowledge and experience as a member of the Northview Chapter of Future Farmers of America, where he served as chapter president.

In 2008, Matt established his own farming business to provide fresh and high quality vegetables to the Northwest Florida community. As a result of the Carter Family's dedication, their farming operation experienced great success and expanded from their first farmstand on Byrneville Road to a larger venue at the Palafox Farmer's Market.

Matt, his wife of nine years, Dawn, along with their daughters, Emily and Jayden, all contribute to the Carter family farming operation to help sell fresh vegetables at their farmstand, Matt's Produce. The variety of produce at the Carter Farm has grown over the years and now boasts a bountiful collection including: peppers, tomatoes, squash, potatoes, onions, zucchini, turnips, mustards, collards, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, peas, and butter beans. For the past five years, the Carter Family Farm has increased in acreage, new crops have been added, and plans for certifying their farmstand's kitchen are in place. There is no question that the success of the Carter Family Farm and its expansion is largely attributed to the family's hard work and joint effort.

In addition to overseeing the family's farming operation, Matt continues to play an active role in the agricultural community as a member of the EscaRosa Young Farmers and Ranchers.

Mr. Speaker, our great Nation was built in part by the tireless work of farmers and their families. The Escambia County Farm Family of the Year Award is a true reflection of the Carter family's devotion to both farming and family. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Carter family for this great accomplishment. My wife Vicki and I wish them the best for continued success.

IN HONOR OF MR. AND MRS. BILL AND JUDY GRESSER AND DR. AND MRS. ADALBERTO AND MARIA ROBLES

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 28, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Judy Gresser on the recent sale of their restaurant, the Papa-San Rice Bowl in Yuma, Arizona, and to its new owners, Dr. and Mrs. Adalberto and Maria Robles.

Mr. and Mrs. Gresser opened Papa-San on February 27, 1993 and sold it on February 28, 2014, making them the owners of the restaurant for 21 years and one day. The Gressers were eager to sell the restaurant so they could retire, but they wanted to ensure that the new owners would keep all the restaurant's employees. They chose the Robleses' offer over the various other offers they received because the Robles family agreed to keep the restaurant's employees so that the staff would not lose their jobs during the change in ownership.

I am proud to represent people such as these, who are concerned not only about their bottom line, but also about the people who work for them. Entrepreneurs like the Gresser and Robles families make such a significant contribution to our communities. After all, it is small businesses like theirs that will lead us out of our current economic problems.

Congratulations to Bill and Judy Gresser on 21 years of success and to Adalberto and Maria Robles; may Papa-San have many years of continued success under their ownership.

THE FIRST ONE THOUSAND DAYS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 28, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week I convened a subcommittee hearing entitled The First One Thousand Days: Development Aid Programs to Bolster Health and Nutrition.

There is perhaps no wiser investment that we could make in the human person than to concentrate on ensuring that sufficient nutrition and health assistance is given during the first one thousand days of life: A thousand days that begins with conception, continues throughout pregnancy, includes the milestone of birth and then finishes at roughly the second birthday of the child.

Consider this: According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 6.6 million children died before reaching their fifth birthday in 2012; an average of roughly 18,000 daily deaths among children under five years old. Among the factors contributing to such a grim tally are malnutrition, obstructed newborn breathing, pneumonia, and diarrhea. All these, and other causes, are ones which we are capable of addressing, if we apply resources and political will to the problem.

The hearing I held complements various hearings our Global Health Subcommittee has held over the past several years. It was inspired in part by what I experienced at the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit in New York in September 2010.

There I had the privilege of participating in an extraordinary roundtable meeting of First Ladies of African nations that concluded with the signing of a declaration to end maternal and child malnutrition, with particular emphasis on "the first 1000 days in the life of a child from the moment of conception." The roundtable focused on that great killer of children, malnutrition.

The roundtable concluded that undernutrition alone remains "one of the world's most

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

serious, but least-addressed problems—killing an estimated 3.5 million children annually.” In other words, food insecurity is a plague which ravages our future, ending the lives of little boys and little girls throughout the developing world well before their time. The roundtable also pointed out that 60 percent of the world’s chronically hungry are women.

According to the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, or GAIN, cosponsor of the roundtable, malnutrition’s most devastating impact is actually in the womb, often causing death or significant mental and physical disability to the precious life of an unborn child.

Children who do not receive adequate nutrition in utero are more likely to experience life-long cognitive and physical deficiencies, such as stunting. UNICEF estimates that one in four children worldwide is stunted due to lack of adequate nutrition.

Children who are chronically undernourished within the first two years of their lives also often have impaired immune systems that are incapable of protecting them against life-threatening ailments, such as pneumonia and malaria. Adults who were stunted as children face increased risk of developing chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. Mothers who were malnourished as girls are 40% more likely to die during childbirth, experience debilitating complications like obstetric fistula, and deliver children who perish before reaching age five.

We must take a holistic, mother-and-child approach to the problem.

By helping women throughout pregnancy receive adequate nutrition and supplemental micronutrients—such as iodine, Vitamin A, and folic acid—and ensuring that they are well-fed while nursing, both children and mothers thrive.

In addition to addressing undernutrition, there are a number of other interventions that can make an impact. About 44% of all under-five deaths occur within the first month of life, during the neonatal period. Among newborns the greatest threats to survival are prematurity and failure to breathe at birth, known as birth asphyxia. Following the neonatal period through the first five years of life, child survival is imperiled primarily by pneumonia and diarrhea.

The solutions are often readily at hand. Most neonatal deaths can be prevented at little to no expense with neonatal resuscitation, prompt administration of antibiotics, and nutrition supplementation. Inexpensive interventions like oral rehydration salts (ORS), which cost \$0.05–0.10 per dose, are also effective in curbing diarrheal deaths.

Nor must we ever pit the survival of the child against that of the mother, as both are complementary objectives. Curbing child mortality in the womb and at birth also goes hand-in-hand with reducing maternal mortality.

Best practices to radically reduce maternal mortality can and must be life-affirming—protecting from harm both patients, the mother and the child in the womb. Of course, we have known for more than 60 years what actually saves women’s lives: skilled birth attendants, treatment to stop hemorrhages, access to safe blood, emergency obstetric care, antibiotics, repair of fistulas, adequate nutrition, and pre- and post-natal care.

Political will is absolutely essential to address this problem and to make sure it is adequately resourced. It is one thing that I hope this hearing will bring to light, that such interventions in the first 1000 days of life is not only morally imperative but also cost effective.

One group of Nobel Laureate economic experts ranked efforts to address undernutrition as the single most cost-effective investment in foreign aid. The economists concluded that each dollar spent on reducing undernutrition could yield a \$30 benefit.

One other thing I hope this hearing will highlight is the importance of Faith Based Organizations in fighting this battle, and to underscore the need for our aid programs to work with such organizations. We will hear from representatives from two such organizations, Food for the Hungry and World Vision, to discuss their insights.

Faith Based Organizations play an absolutely critical role in places such as Africa, which one can say is a Faith Based Continent. Matthew 25—“when I was hungry, you gave me food, when I was thirsty, you gave me drink, when I was naked, you clothed me”—inspires these and other great organizations such as Catholic Relief Services, just as it inspires the work of this subcommittee.

For example, in 2004, along with my colleague on the Foreign Affairs Committee, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, I sponsored an obstetric fistula resolution, seeking to address one debilitating factor that wreaks havoc on the lives of mothers and their children. The following year I was able to amend the Foreign Relations Authorization Act to fund twelve centers in the developing world to treat and prevent obstetric fistula, as well as to provide funding for skilled-birth attendants. Importantly, I was also able to remove restrictive language from the original bill that would have prohibited faith-based hospitals in the developing world from receiving funding. Again, I must stress, that it is these faith based organizations that are doing yeoman’s work on the ground to address child and mother mortality, and they must be supported.

In this Congress I introduced H.R. 3525, the International Hydrocephalus Treatment and Training Act. Hydrocephalus, or “water on the brain,” is a disease which affects three to five out of every 1000 newborns in developing countries, who are either born with it or acquire it due to neonatal infections in the first few months of life. For such children, it is often a death sentence. Doctors—assuming there is even a doctor around—often do not know how to treat it.

Moreover, if they do treat and use the traditional surgical procedure which requires the life-long use of a shunt, such shunts often become infected, leading to death a few years later.

Our bill would train doctors in Africa in a new and proven technique which does not require a shunt and is effective in at least two thirds of the cases of infants with hydrocephalus. It is ideally suited to conditions in the developing world. The amount required to make a difference in the lives of these children and their parents is relatively little—an estimated \$15 million over 5 years. I invite my colleagues who are present here to join in co-sponsoring this legislation, as one way to address the problem of child mortality.

Initiatives such as these are ones which should gather support across the political aisle—they are life-affirming, and can save the life of both mother and child. We have common ground here.

By addressing health during the first 1000 days of life, beginning at conception, we help ensure that over the next 25,000 days—or whatever the number is that our Creator has allotted—our brothers and sisters the world over can best reach their potential, leading fulfilled lives of health, vigor, and dignity.

IN RECOGNITION OF VICKI
KALABOKES FOR RAISING
AWARENESS OF ALOPECIA
AREATA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 28, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of alopecia areata and the contributions of devoted individuals working to improve the lives of patients affected by this condition.

I am proud to represent the foremost organizations working exclusively to better the lives of individuals and families affected by alopecia areata, the National Alopecia Areata Foundation. President and Chief Executive Officer Vicki Kalabokes recently announced that she will be stepping down after 27 years of service at the foundation. Her leadership in the field will be missed and I congratulate her on behalf of the alopecia areata community as well as the dermatology and autoimmune disease communities for an impressive, productive and meaningful career.

Ms. Kalabokes has been both a scientific resource for medical experts at the National Institutes of Health and a compassionate champion for children struggling with the impact of alopecia areata. Her dedication led to the establishment of the Alopecia Areata Treatment Development Program, which should generate some of the first Food and Drug Administration-indicated treatment options for the community. While there is still a great distance to go before a cure is discovered, Ms. Kalabokes should be acknowledged for how far she has advanced this effort.

The foundation’s research program is committed to piecing together the puzzle presented by alopecia areata. Part of NAAF’s mission is to encourage research in alopecia areata, striving to find a cure or acceptable treatment. NAAF accomplishes the research mission by funding an acclaimed research grant program, and seeking out investigators worldwide in the areas of genetics, immunology and clinical research.

Under Ms. Kalaboke’s leadership, NAAF has been at the forefront of many fruitful studies that yielded answers to some of the largest questions surrounding the autoimmune disease. The organization’s commitment to continuing this search until all of the questions about alopecia areata are answered and the

mechanisms of this disease are clearly understood is an inspiration to those who struggle with the condition.

Ms. Kalabokes' helped to transform the foundation from a small national support group into an international research, support and

awareness organization. She is leaving the foundation in the most sound financial condition in its history.

After 27 years, Ms. Kalabokes is ready to leave her stable NAAF family to be with her growing personal family.

I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Vicki Kalabokes and to call attention to the need to continue to advance research in the area of alopecia areata and to improve patient care.

SENATE—Monday, March 31, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, You have withheld nothing we need. Today, continue to meet the needs of our lawmakers. Give them so much more than they expect or merit that they will sing praises for Your goodness. In these days of challenges and opportunities, empower them with faith, courage, and goodwill to make the world a better place. Lord, use them as Your servants to bring healing to our Nation and world. Today, we also pray for the ill, the bereaved, the infirm, the discouraged, the lonely and the homeless.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 31, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Repub-

lican leader, we will proceed to H.R. 4302, Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, with the time until 5 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 5 p.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of John Owens to be U.S. circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit, postcloture.

At 5:30 p.m. there could be up to four rollcall votes: First, on confirmation of the Owens nomination; then, if a Budget Act point of order is raised on the SGR bill, there will be a vote on the motion to waive the point of order; then passage of the SGR bill; and finally, on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3979, the legislative vehicle for the unemployment insurance bill.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish a happy baseball opening day to everyone. Actually, it started last night, not today, but it sounds better to do it during the daytime.

Although it is opening day for Major League Baseball, it also happens to be the last day for Americans to sign up for ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act.

To date there are over 10 million newly-insured Americans benefiting from the health care law now in effect, and there are millions more who have changed their insurance because of this legislation. So it is clear Americans are signing up for this quality health care in record numbers—and that is an understatement.

I also am very happy we have been able to come to an agreement on the Medicare physician payment system. It is a 12-month fix. We need to take action on this to ensure that Medicare patients will be able to see their doctors. But the fact remains this legislation is not perfect. It is not ideal. I wish we could have followed the chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator WYDEN, who came in kind of late. Most of the work was done by Ambassador Baucus before he came in. But he worked really hard, and he wants to pay for it in a way I think is appropriate—to use the unspent money we have from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, called OCO, the Overseas Contingency Operations fund. But at this stage it doesn't appear it is now going to happen.

This legislation wasn't some last-minute deal. Senator Baucus worked on this for months, and it is the basis for what we are going to do here today. There were tough negotiations. Unfor-

tunately, the parties could not come to an agreement on what a permanent fix should be. I said that I believe a permanent fix should be what Chairman WYDEN suggested and continues to suggest.

But House Republicans, though, chose to pass a partisan bill and increase the number of uninsured Americans and raised the cost of premiums. I believe we should repeal the defective payment system without increasing costs and without limiting access to quality health care. We need to restore sanity to the Medicare payment system without cutting benefits to seniors and without shifting the financial burden to hospital and other providers. We have done enough of that already. But right now we don't have the votes to do what would be the better thing to do.

So for millions of elderly Americans and their doctors, this fix is good news. It means the promise of accessible, quality health care to our Nation's seniors is being honored again—this time for another year. So while I am pleased with this temporary patch, I hope it is our last patch.

In the meantime, I extend my appreciation to Senator WYDEN, the chairman of the Finance Committee, for his work to bring stability to the Medicare payment system. From the moment he assumed the gavel to become chairman of that committee, he hit the ground running on this issue, as well as reforming the entire Tax Code. As we speak he is also doing some good work on the so-called tax extenders. It is my understanding he is meeting with his committee members today.

UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENSION

After confirming this long-awaited judge for the Ninth Circuit and approving a patch for the Medicare payment program, the Senate will turn to a long overdue extension of benefits for the long-term unemployed. This is a matter of really significant importance to millions of Americans. We have waited 3 months since Republicans first filibustered a bill to restore emergency benefits. More importantly, unemployed Americans have waited even longer. Since that filibuster, nearly 1 million more Americans have lost their benefits. That is 300,000 people a month who have been thrust into poverty not knowing how they will pay their bills.

I received a letter recently from a Nevadan named Jane who pleaded for Congress to extend benefits for the long-term unemployed. She is what we would call an older American, an older Nevadan. She didn't make the plea for herself. It was for her son. She said:

Please do all in your power to get this matter resolved. . . . My son has been looking since May of last year. He held his last job for 26 years and doesn't have a lot of experience in other fields. I cannot continue to help him. I lost my husband last July and lost his Social Security. I only have mine now. Please do what you can to help those who are in this position.

So imagine an elderly woman, a widow, so desperate to assist her middle-aged son that she is using her meager Social Security check to help him get by. Now her own financial situation is in jeopardy.

Jane and her son have already seen what happens when much-needed unemployment benefits don't get extended. For Nevadans struggling to pay their rent, to keep the lights on or to feed the kids, they have waited long enough. But we know why Republicans prefer to wait. For many of my colleagues across the aisle, waiting means doing nothing. So the fact is the majority of Republicans here in Congress are simply opposed to helping the long-term unemployed. Most won't say so, but that is the truth.

One GOP Congressman from California even said that an extension of unemployment benefits "will encourage unemployment." That is a tough one to follow. This elected Congressman believes that the half million people in the State of California who had their unemployment benefits terminated actually prefer to be jobless. I don't think so.

Here in the Senate last Thursday only 10 out of 45 Republicans voted to help Democrats break the 3-month filibuster. In fact, the GOP Senators from the State with the third-highest population of eligible long-term unemployed—Texas—both voted to block an extension of benefits. It is as if they simply don't care that some of their own constituents are teetering on the verge of indigence.

Notwithstanding this opposition to extending unemployment benefits, I am confident we will pass this bipartisan legislation in the Senate this week here. Then, hopefully, the Republicans in the House will have soft hearts and strong minds and allow this to pass over there. It is in their hands.

We hope they will be considerate to the roughly 2.8 million long-term unemployed across the country. Perhaps then these struggling Americans will finally get the relief they deserve.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO MEDICARE ACT OF 2014

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will proceed to consideration of H.R. 4302, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4302) to amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order the time until 5 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I would now suggest the absence of a quorum and have the time divided equally between both sides.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, America's top priority is the same today as it was last year, the year before that, and the year before that: unemployment, jobs, and how to get this economy growing again.

Of course, these are concerns which transcend any kind of partisan affiliation. They transcend geographic and demographic boundaries. They are shared, of course, by Republicans, Democrats, Independents—everyone—people from all parts of our country.

But the sad fact is it has been almost 5 years since America's official economic recovery began and still too many people who want to work can't find a job. There are still 3.8 million people who have been unemployed for more than 6 months, and the labor force participation rate remains stuck at 63 percent. Of course, those are the people who don't even show up on the unemployment statistics because they have given up looking for work. This is what we talk about when we are talking about the labor participation rate—the lowest number since 30 years ago.

Since the current President took office, the average amount of time the unemployed have been without a job has almost doubled, from less than 20 weeks to more than 37 weeks. This is a shocking statistic.

So since President Obama has been in office, the average time people have been unemployed—have been out of work—went from less than 20 weeks to now 37 weeks, and the number of people on food stamps has increased from 32.2 million to nearly 46.8 million people.

As for median household income, it is now more than \$2,400 lower than it was at the end of the recession in June of 2009. The President talks a lot about income inequality, but the problem is, it has gotten worse since he has been in office, not better.

We should be focused like a laser on things we might be able to do to set the stage to help the economy start growing again, because only when the economy grows do we see the unemployment numbers go down, do we see the labor participation rate go up, and we see regular American families have the opportunity to provide for themselves and to pursue their dreams. But right now that American dream is somewhat cloudy. Many people feel as though it is starting to pass them by, and that is the American tragedy. So you would think that at a time when there is a bipartisan consensus we need to get the economy moving again, we need to get people back to work so they can provide for their families, that there would be bipartisan agreement here in the Senate that anybody with a good idea ought to step up, offer it, debate it, and let's vote on it.

Well, unfortunately, the majority leader has a different point of view. He is refusing to let anyone on this side of the aisle offer any suggestions in the form of amendments that actually might have a chance of improving the situation for people who are out of work or people looking for jobs. Not only is the majority leader blocking votes on bills that would make it easier for Americans to find work, he is also promoting and defending policies that would actually discourage work. For example, both the majority leader and President Obama are advocating a minimum wage increase of 40 percent, while the Congressional Budget Office has told us it could destroy up to 1 million jobs.

Now the majority leader and the President may not agree with that estimate, but I will remind them of what Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellin said; she is President Obama's own appointee as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. She said she wouldn't want to argue with the Congressional Budget Office's assessment about the number of people who would be put out of work if you raised the minimum wage by 40 percent. For that matter, the evidence suggests that any increase in the minimum wage would destroy jobs and do very little, if anything, to reduce poverty rates. The best thing we could do is to get out of the way and let the economy grow again by making the environment

more conducive to the people who invest, take risks, and start businesses or grow small businesses. That is the thing we could do that would help people the most.

But in addition to the minimum wage increase, the majority leader and President Obama are pushing for yet another extension of long-term unemployment benefits, even though President Obama's own former chief White House economist has said that "job search is inversely related to the generosity of unemployment benefits." So, in other words, people react in situ, and when the government continues to pay unemployment benefits for people who are out of work, human nature is such that people are disincentivized to go back to work and look for work on occasion.

We all recognize the importance of this safety net program, and the truth is under the current law 26 weeks or 6 months are available for unemployment benefits. But under this administration we have seen unemployment benefits go from 6 months to 2 years. Two years after people have been out of work and those benefits lapsed, we have done nothing to improve job training programs that would help match the skills of out-of-work Americans to the jobs that are out there which pay good money—and I have seen many of them in my State, and I am sure the Presiding Officer has as well. We have seen a lot of good jobs go wanting for lack of a skilled workforce to be able to perform those jobs. So what we ought to be doing instead of extending unemployment benefits is we ought to be focusing on how we can train workers and provide them with the skills they need in order to qualify for those good, high-paying jobs.

At a time when the American people are desperate for more jobs and more work, the majority leader is steadfastly determined to pass legislation which would disincentivize people from going back and looking for work and would in fact discourage work and discourage job creation. That is before we even get to ObamaCare, a law the Congressional Budget Office has estimated would effectively reduce the size of America's labor force by 2.5 million people over the next decade. Remarkably, I guess trying to spin it any way they could, the White House actually took the position that was actually a good thing because people would have more time off.

Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised. After all, this is the same administration that unilaterally gutted the work requirements in the 1996 welfare reform law, one of the most successful welfare reform laws ever passed. It is the same administration that refuses to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, a project that would directly create thousands of new jobs right here in the United States, and it is the same administra-

tion that refuses to embrace progrowth tax reform.

America's corporate tax rate is the highest in the world, and yet the President said he won't enter negotiations to reduce those rates, to eliminate double taxation so people will bring the money they earn overseas back here to hire more Americans and to build their businesses here. The President won't do that without an agreement on this side of the aisle to raise taxes, to raise revenue by \$1 trillion. That is not a bargain we are interested in negotiating. This is the same administration that refuses to support energy, the energy renaissance we have seen, and continues to support regulations which actually threaten jobs and hurt families in return for meager or non-existent benefits.

As I have said before, this administration and its policies have become nothing less than a war on the American worker. I am not suggesting that is their intention, but I am suggesting that is the result.

If there is one thing we ought to all be able to agree upon it is that work is about basic human dignity. It is about self-worth and self-reliance; it is about giving people the opportunity to reach their full potential and to support their families. When the policies of the Federal Government actually discourage people from working, it makes it harder for teenagers to learn basic social skills and professional skills. It makes it harder for college graduates to utilize their education and pay off their student loan debt. It makes it harder for people of all backgrounds to start families. It makes it harder for mothers and fathers to gain the self-respect that comes from providing for your own children.

It is bad enough that the President and the majority leader have embraced an agenda that is fundamentally antiwork. What makes it even more outrageous is that this week the majority leader will deny the opportunity for anyone on this side of the aisle to offer any sort of constructive suggestions about how to deal with that problem. He is refusing to allow proposals that would actually encourage work and encourage job creation.

Here are just a few examples of the amendments and proposals that would come from this side of the aisle if the majority leader—it is his sole prerogative—would allow those amendments to be debated and voted on by the Senate:

For example, the senior Senator from Maine has a bill that would relieve the burden of ObamaCare on workers and businesses alike and restore the traditional 40-hour workweek. This has been one of the primary complaints of organized labor, some of the biggest supporters of ObamaCare. They said that in order to avoid the penalties that go along with ObamaCare, many employ-

ers are moving people from full-time work to part-time work. The amendment from the senior Senator from Maine, Senator COLLINS, would address that problem and fix it.

The senior Senator from Utah, Senator HATCH, has a bill that would abolish the job-killing tax on medical innovation.

The junior Senator from Missouri has a bill that would exempt military veterans from ObamaCare's employer mandate.

The junior Senator from Kentucky has a bill that would make it easier for Congress to block regulations that do not pass a simple cost-benefit test.

The junior Senator from South Carolina has a bill that would modernize workforce training and eliminate duplicative government programs—something I was just talking about a moment ago.

The senior Senator from North Dakota has a bill that would singlehandedly create thousands of jobs by approving the Keystone XL Pipeline.

If and when these bills are offered as amendments to the pending legislation, they deserve a vote, but if the majority leader denies them a vote, he is effectively denying us a chance to expand our economy, create more jobs, and get people back to work. I used to think this was something Republicans and Democrats both agreed was a good thing. I thought we all agreed that job creation and work promotion should be the cornerstones of our economic agenda. With an agenda such as that, perhaps we could finally have a recovery of our economy worthy of its name.

So I hope the majority leader reconsiders his decision to deny an opportunity for a full debate and vote on these constructive suggestions. None of these are nongermane. All of these are directly on point and would actually help improve the underlying legislation and actually do something about the underlying symptom that necessitates in some people's minds this long-term extension of unemployment benefits.

We are not helping people out by continuing to pay unemployment benefits for 2 years and then leaving them hanging without the skills they need in order to reestablish themselves in the workforce. Unfortunately, the only conclusion I could draw is if the majority leader is not interested in having an honest and open debate about how do we solve the problems, then something else must be driving his agenda. I think we should get back to the day when collectively we were more concerned about solving problems than trying to beat on an issue and gain political advantage, but that seems to be the road we are headed down based on the majority leader's decision not to allow any votes on amendments.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JEREMIAH DENTON

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise to mourn the passage of a friend and to pay tribute to a remarkable man. Jeremiah Denton once served his country as a pilot, a prisoner of war, a rear admiral in the Navy, and a Senator of the United States. He passed away Friday morning at the age of 89, having been active until near the end.

From time to time men and women are born into this world who are made of something special, individuals who seem to have an unlimited reservoir of strength and courage, who are made of sterner stuff. These people carry themselves with grace and dignity even as the world's weight rests upon their shoulders. Jeremiah Denton was such a man.

A proud son of Mobile, AL, he attended local Spring Hill College and the local Catholic schools and McGill-Toolen in Mobile, and he graduated later from the U.S. Naval Academy, becoming a pilot and commander. What happened next would etch his name into the annals of American history.

On July 18, 1965, Denton led a squadron of 28 jets on a bombing raid when he was shot down over North Vietnam. It was his 12th flight. Captured by the North Vietnamese, he would be a captive in prison camps for the next 7 years and 7 months. During his time as a prisoner of war, he endured virtually constant and excruciating torture. He was held captive at prisons the POWs called Hanoi Hilton, the zoo, and Alcatraz. He endured merciless beatings as well as solitary confinement for 4 years.

As a senior officer, he was a leader among the prisoners and rebelled against their brutal efforts to extract propaganda. Denton refused. Denton explained in an interview to the New York Times:

I put out the policy that they were not to succumb to threats, but must stand up and say no. We forced them to be brutal to us.

Denton wrote a memoir, "When Hell Was in Session"—which is a fabulous book and too little appreciated, really—recounting his time as a POW. He describes a torture session in which his captors placed a 9-foot, cement-filled bar across his shins. He wrote that his captors "stood on it and . . . took turns jumping up and down and rolling it across my legs. Then they lifted my arms behind my back by the cuffs, raising the top part of my body off the floor and dragging me around and around. This went on for hours . . .

They were in a frenzy alternating the treatment to increase the pain until I was unable to control myself. I began crying hysterically, blood and tears mingling and running down my cheeks."

In May 1966, Denton would defy and outsmart his Communist captors and display to the whole world the depth of American courage and ingenuity. His captors interrogated Denton for a propaganda interview. While answering their questions at this interview, filmed by a Japanese film company, Denton was simultaneously and repeatedly blinking out a message, letter by letter, in Morse code. The message was "torture." It was the first official message informing Americans and the world that American POWs were being tortured by the North Vietnamese.

During the interview, he further displayed his unshakeable resolve by boldly declaring to his captors:

Whatever the position of my government is, I support it fully . . . I am a member of that government, and it is my job to support it, and I will as long as I live.

North Vietnam's most ruthless interrogators couldn't break the will of this rock-ribbed American and Alabama native.

More than 7 long years later, on February 12, 1973, Denton would be freed as part of "Operation Homecoming" following the signing of the Paris Peace Accords. He was the senior officer of the first planeload of released POWs at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. Denton brought tears to the eyes of the entire Nation at that moment as he walked from the plane. It was reported that he wasn't told to make any official remarks or make a speech, but he got off the plane and these were his powerful words:

We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our commander-in-chief and to our nation for this day. God bless America.

Millions of Americans remember that day.

Denton earned the Navy Cross, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, three Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, five Bronze Stars, two Air Medals, two Purple Hearts, and numerous other campaign awards. He rose to the rank of rear admiral and retired from the Navy in 1977.

In 1980 the proud and grateful State of Alabama would send our native son to the U.S. Senate. A man of deep faith, Denton believed in the dignity of public service and the selflessness required of those of us who serve. He believed that and he demonstrated it in his life.

He fought alongside Ronald Reagan to rebuild America's defenses and to fight the spread of communism and to help bring about the end of the Cold War. He was a firm believer in peace

through strength. President Reagan recognized Senator Denton during his 1982 State of the Union Address. Many remember this. President Reagan said:

We don't have to turn to our history books for heroes. They are all around us. One who sits among you here tonight epitomizes that heroism at the end of the longest imprisonment ever inflicted on men of our armed forces. Who will ever forget that night when we waited for the television to bring us the scene of that first plane landing at Clark Field in the Philippines, bringing our POWs home? The plane door opened and Jeremiah Denton came slowly down the ramp. He caught sight of our flag, saluted, and said, "God bless America." Then he thanked us for bringing him home.

So said Ronald Reagan.

I had the privilege of getting to know Jeremiah Denton. He was a very special man. His word was his bond and his loyalty was unshakeable. He was modest. While he was a fierce advocate for his profound beliefs, it was never about him. In fact, he was very uncomfortable with the term "hero" being applied to him. His comeback was always: "We were only doing our duty."

They said, after his time in Communist prison, that he was out of touch; he didn't know the 1960s had occurred. Perhaps so. In fact, it was so. In plain fact much had occurred while he was in prison and being tortured. It was, among other things, a culturally momentous time. Many of those changes he did not like. He said so in plain language. He didn't like the surge of crime and drugs. He believed in loyalty to one's spouse. He opposed abortion. He lamented the consistent weakening of family bonds, sexual promiscuity, the decline in decency. He cared enough to speak out and again give of himself for his faith and his country.

He represented the best America has to offer. His grit and bravery shined through from his dark prison cell deep in Vietnam, and it lit up the world. He loved his country. He loved his God. He loved his family.

In 1996, when I was considering running for the U.S. Senate, I sought his counsel. He graciously agreed to come by my house in Mobile. It was a very valuable discussion. Near the end, we talked of his service. He told me a story—and I think it may be appropriate to tell it now—of his time in prison that he had not put in his fine book. After President Nixon's bombing and strong military action had brought the North Vietnamese to the conference table, Denton was firmly of the belief that the Vietnamese were defeated and they knew they were defeated. Concerned over possible war crime trials, one of the prison officials demanded that Denton tell them all what he would say to the world about his treatment if he were to be released. Senator Denton sought to avoid the question, saying: Why are you asking me? I am not the senior officer in the camp.

But they pressed him again and again, and he kept saying: Why me? I am not the senior official.

Finally, the prison official looked at him and said: "Because you are incredible, Denton."

That is the flat truth. He was incredible.

When he told the world and his captors during that "show" press conference before the Japanese television where he blinked the word "torture" that "whatever the position of my government is, I support it fully . . . I am a member of that government, and it is my job to support it, and I will as long as I live," it was a moment of great courage, historical significance, and fidelity to duty that few in this Nation would be able to match. He knew the captors would not like it, and they did not like it. They beat him brutally for the disrespect he showed by telling that truth, and they even did so before they knew he had blinked out "torture."

His family was his life. He was married to the late Kathryn Jane Maury for 61 years, with whom he had seven children. He is survived by his second wife Mary Belle Bordone and his children: Jeremiah, William, Donald, James, Michael, Madeleine Doak, and Mary Lewis.

The entire Senate sends our prayers to his loved ones, and we send our promise that Jeremiah Denton will not be forgotten.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, every Senator in this body represents smalltown America. There are small towns across this country, from Connecticut, to Texas, to small towns in my State of Montana. In fact, I grew up and still live outside one of those small towns—a town by the name of Big Sandy, MT, which is home to 600 people. There are no stoplights. The high school has about 60 students.

What makes America great is that we believe and we cherish the idea that whether a person grows up in a town such as Big Sandy or a town as big as New York City, a person gets a fair shot in life. That fair shot includes the basic freedoms we enjoy as Americans. It includes the right to a good education. It includes the right to high-quality, affordable health care no matter where we live.

As a resident of Big Sandy and as a Senator from Montana, it is my job to not only represent the entirety of America but to point out when our Nation is not living up to its ideals when it comes to rural America. Right now Washington is tying the hands of rural hospitals and smalltown physicians and threatening the health care of Americans in all of rural America.

The bill we are voting on tonight is a good and important bill. It prevents a

24-percent reimbursement cut to physicians under Medicare and TRICARE.

Many folks don't realize that this bill affects retired military and National Guardsmen who have bought into TRICARE. This bill is critically important to them as well.

Above all, it makes sure that doctors can keep treating patients and that folks can still keep getting emergency services. It may be a temporary solution and one we have reached too many times, but it is a necessary solution to keep our health care system working.

I appreciate Leader REID bringing it to the floor. However, this bill could be stronger, especially for folks in rural America. I pushed to include two provisions in the bill to strengthen rural health care, but despite my best efforts, they are not going to be a part of the measure we vote on this evening.

The first provision, which I introduced with Senator ROBERTS, removes the requirement that physicians at critical access hospitals certify that a patient will be discharged or transferred in less than 96 hours in order for that hospital to be reimbursed for services.

Critical access hospitals are treatment centers in rural areas that have no more than 25 inpatient beds. They play a vital role in providing quality, affordable health care in rural and frontier communities across this country. Without them, folks would have to travel long distances to get care, and many would not get treatment at all.

But imagine being a rural physician and having to determine exactly how long a patient will stay as they are admitted. What if the patient develops a secondary condition such as pneumonia? You would have to decide whether to discharge the patient, keep them in and risk losing reimbursement, or transfer them to another facility at cost.

Now, how is that good health care? How is that fair to rural America?

Hospitals should not have to choose between caring for their patients and getting paid. This is a choice no one should have to make, and it is certainly not one the government should be forcing on rural physicians who already have their hands full.

The second provision, which Senator MORAN and I introduced, prevents the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services from enforcing a new rule that requires direct physician supervision of outpatient therapeutic services—such as drug infusions—at critical access hospitals and other small hospitals.

If this rule is enforced, it will severely limit the ability of rural Americans to get much-needed care in their local communities, where the community's one physician may be out of town when the call comes in.

Should a patient be denied basic blood work because the doctor is not available?

When folks in small towns get sick, the last thing they need is the added burden of traveling to another town to get the care they need. That is why Senator MORAN and I introduced this bill, because Washington's one-size-fits-all solutions sometimes just simply do not work for rural America.

Our bill passed the Senate, but there is no companion bill in the House of Representatives. So we sought to include it in tonight's fix. Despite the fact that there is no stated opposition—and that both of these bills will not cost the American taxpayer one dime—we were unsuccessful in our efforts.

I am not asking for much. These two bills are widely supported. They are bipartisan, and they will not add to the deficit. And they offer much-needed flexibility for rural hospitals seeking to provide high-quality health care while making ends meet.

I know Senator WYDEN supports them. So does Senator HATCH. I appreciate their support. But the House of Representatives, for whatever reason, chose to leave these important proposals out. They are exactly the kind of bills we should be approving—bills that offer support for the thousands of hospitals that provide critical care across rural America, hospitals that should not have to have their hands tied by regulations that work better in urban communities. We should be making sure they have the flexibility they need to meet the needs of their communities.

Mr. President, if you or I need emergency care here in the Senate, there are multiple large hospitals nearby where we can get the treatment we need. But that is not the case in rural America. Distances in rural America are measured not in city blocks but in miles. We need to make sure the regulations coming out of the Department of Health and Human Services reflect that.

Montanans elected me to bring a little more common sense to Washington. Often this is not an easy job. But these are two straightforward, commonsense provisions to prove to Montanans that politicians in Washington get it and they get their concerns. And we hope that all Americans get a fair shot at the opportunities promised to us, regardless of their ZIP Code. I will keep fighting for these provisions and other measures that strengthen and support rural America.

With that, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as the new chairman of the Senate Finance Committee—16 working days on the job—it is humbling to be parachuted late into the issue of reimbursing doctors for Medicare services, and I intend to be brief here at the outset of this debate.

All sides agree that the current system for paying doctors, known as the SGR, does not work well for seniors, the many gifted physicians who serve them, or taxpayers. Devised in 1997, the SGR sets an annual cost target for Medicare physician payments, and it is honored more in the breach than in the observance. When the SGR is not met, the Congress says that is OK, we will just apply a patch and we will punt. Patch it up and let that SGR limp along, just as it has year after year after year.

Mr. President and colleagues, there have now been 16 of these patches—16—and every Senator who I talk to says that just defies common sense and it seems bizarre even by Beltway standards. The cost of the patches now resembles the cost of the full repeal.

To his great credit, the majority leader, Senator REID, has repeatedly said his first choice for dealing with this issue is to finally repeal the SGR. Now is the ideal time for repealing SGR. The cost of full repeal is far less than anticipated. Thoughtful, bipartisan work has been done in the House and the Senate on repeal and replace, and leading advocates for seniors and their doctors want to replace the status quo with real reform.

So as an alternative to the flawed status quo—an SGR patch No. 17—this afternoon I will make two unanimous consent requests so that the Senate is allowed to have a choice; specifically, a vote on a proposal to permanently repeal and replace the SGR and also to fund the health care extenders.

I will wrap up by briefly describing this proposal. Its essence is to close two chapters of Federal budget fiction. Since the SGR is just pretending that Congress will hold the line on Medicare spending, I believe it is time to end this fiction and wipe SGR off the books. And for balance, I am going to propose ending another piece of budget fiction, specifically the Overseas Contingency Operations, known as OCO, and the spending on wars that are winding down. This too is fiction.

As former Republican Senator Jon Kyl said—a conservative by anybody's calculation—during a previous SGR debate, let's use war savings for one last time to wipe out the debt Congress has built up by overriding reductions in payments to doctors, and from that point on war savings would only be used for defense.

So there you have my proposal: truth in budgeting all around. Wipe the slate clean on Medicare so you can support seniors and their doctors and move forward with real reforms along the bipartisan lines the House and Senate have already agreed to.

I would add that if Congress took the action I just proposed, it could go farther and address the health extenders. Unlike the SGR, these are real programs helping, for example, vulnerable

low-income seniors, rural communities, and seniors who need a variety of therapies. Each one of those has strong bipartisan support.

This, too, could be addressed in a fiscally responsible manner. A big chunk of the cost of 10 years' worth of these extenders could be addressed with the savings of the 1-year patch.

So here is my closing: A lot of good work has gone into a bipartisan, bicameral reform plan that finally repeals and replaces the SGR. I would just say to my colleagues, doesn't that deserve a vote? If my unanimous consent request is accepted, we would have that vote.

At this time, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the previous order with respect to H.R. 4302, following disposition of the Owens nomination, when the Senate resumes legislative session, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 336, S. 2157; that following the reporting of the bill, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate; and that upon disposition of the bill, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4302, as provided under the previous order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I want to express my appreciation to Senator WYDEN for his leadership. He is going to do a great job as chairman of the very important Finance Committee. He is active in all the issues before our Senate. But, regrettably, a number of Members on this side object to proceeding with his legislation at this point.

I would note that budget experts tell us that paying for this through OCO is the mother of all gimmicks. I just spoke about the passing of Senator Jeremiah Denton, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam. We could use the savings from the Vietnam war that we are not spending today to pay for this bill.

So I would object, Mr. President. Hopefully, we can figure out another way to make this happen because Senator WYDEN is correct, it is time to get a permanent fix of this matter done.

I would ask consent that S. 2122, Calendar No. 330, be proceeded to for immediate consideration. It would repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate offset by repealing the ObamaCare individual mandate. I ask consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The unanimous consent request from the Senator from Oregon is on the table. Is there an objection?

Mr. SESSIONS. I did object, yes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 330, S. 2122, a bill to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate offset by repealing the ObamaCare individual mandate. This is proposed by Senators HATCH and MCCONNELL and CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. I object, Mr. President. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Oregon for his leadership and hopefully something can be worked out on this because it is important. But it is frustrating that there is no intention, it appears, to allow this provision, this fix to be brought up. Therefore, without that kind of consent, I think it is unlikely we will get a unanimous consent to move forward with Senator WYDEN's fix.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, before my friend from Alabama leaves the floor—just to highlight where we are—I think he knows how strongly I feel about always trying to tackle these issues in a bipartisan fashion. I would just assure the Senator from Alabama, the reason we took as our underlying repeal-and-replace bill the good work that was done by Senator HATCH and Chairman CAMP and Chairman UPTON is I felt that extended the olive branch in trying to bring the parties together. I intend to do that consistently on the Finance Committee—pretty much just the way I did when I supported George W. Bush on Part D of Medicare.

The challenge, of course, here is that this would be the 51st attempt to essentially try to make changes in the ACA that would end up particularly shifting costs to so many vulnerable people.

It seems to me, particularly today as we have thousands and thousands of people still trying to sign up—I noticed the Wall Street Journal, Saturday, stated that the CBO said the original target for the Affordable Care Act had been met. I think it would be particularly unfortunate to go forward with what would be the 51st effort to try the same kind of approach that particularly would cause so much cost shifting in American health care onto the books of a lot of folks who are already walking an economic tightrope.

I know a number of my colleagues want to speak. As the manager of the time, it is my intention to try to alternate with colleagues of various points

of view with respect to this issue. I am sure that will be done as well on the other side.

I note my friend from Virginia on the floor. He is going to be the new chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility. I think he brings extraordinarily important credentials to this job. His support of the kind of approach I have advocated this afternoon highlights that this will have support in both political parties from Members who have strong credentials in terms of promoting fiscal responsibility.

I would yield to him and look forward to my colleague's remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, first of all, I thank the chairman of the Finance Committee for his efforts in this endeavor. I am disappointed there was an unwillingness to at least have a vote on this important issue. I have been a very lucky individual. I have had the opportunity to have a career in business, and I have had a career as a Governor. In each of those cases, I had to learn business practices and accounting practices. Business accounting practices are different than government accounting practices. State accounting practices are somewhat different as well.

But I have to tell you, what takes the cake is what passes for rational accounting and scoring practices in the Federal Government and how we maintain these fictions about what are costs, what are expenses in a way where the vast majority of Americans do not have the slightest idea what we are talking about: SGR, OCO, terms we throw around in this body that have no relationship to the bottom line but prevent us from taking action to at least start the process of getting our balance sheet right, a balance sheet that right now is \$17 trillion in debt, that goes up 4 billion a night.

The chairman of the Finance Committee outlined very well how this process came to be, the sustainable growth rate, where Congress 17 years ago said they saw at that point that the cost of Medicare would rise and the cost of our entitlement programs was rising. They put in place at that point what they thought was a rational solution to slowly slow the rate of growth.

The challenge was Congress immediately punted. As opposed to resolving it at that point, we have maintained this legal fiction and this accounting fiction that no one under any kind of traditional standards of accounting would accept, where we built in this cost increase, and then each year we come back and so-call patch it.

Each year we go through a fire drill where lobbyists across town harangue and harass Members of both parties on a universal basis and say: Oh, my gosh. We cannot allow this to happen. Hos-

pitals and doctors who should be spending time providing health care or finding cheaper and better ways to deliver health care storm the halls of the Capitol to make sure we do not provide what would now be an unsustainable cut in their reimbursement rates.

But it appears to me we are now about to go, for the 17th time, one more year on a short-term patch and will one more time kick this can down the road. What we are avoiding, if we take this vote this afternoon and simply patch over an effort that was brought over from the House, an effort in the House that I would remind my colleagues never came to a rollcall vote, we will once again avoid the opportunity to start to, in effect, clear our balance sheet, to make the size of our debt and deficit—and for those of us who have been involved in this issue, to go ahead and get rid of some of the budgetary fakery that quite honestly makes so many of our other efforts that may be legitimate seem illegitimate because we cannot even clean up our books.

The chairman of the Finance Committee went through how this SGR was created in 1997 and how we have gone through annual patches. It is remarkable that the total cost of these patches actually exceeds—what we have already spent exceeds the cost of repeal. The repeal of SGR at this point is roughly \$135 billion. Based upon previous budget estimates, this is the year to take this action.

What has been the challenge in the past, while there has been agreement—we heard from the Senator from Alabama, and others will come and bemoan the fact that SGR is a fakery, SGR is budget gimmickry. We have this action that is taken on every year, where doctors, hospitals, others storm the Congress and say please do not do this, and then at the eleventh hour we extend.

What has avoided opportunities in the past to get rid of this issue is that there has not been a solution, not been a bipartisan solution. But this year, due to the good work of the chairman, the ranking member of the Finance Committee and their equivalents in the House, there is agreement on what a replacement to the SGR would look like. We would move to a system that would actually fix the problem but also improve the quality of service covered under Medicare.

We would move to a payment system which would reward doctors for focusing on providing high-quality care. Doctors would actually be rewarded for talking to each other, to make sure tests and services are not unnecessarily duplicated. Doctors would be rewarded for ensuring patients have access to care when they need it, such as same-day appointments. Doctors would be rewarded for spending more time with patients and genuinely talking

about the patient's priorities and concerns rather than running off to their next appointment.

These are all goals—regardless of what some of our colleagues may feel about the Affordable Care Act, these are all goals that almost all of us would agree would actually improve the quality of health care in America, and for Medicare start to help drive that cost curve back in the right direction.

If we would act on this bipartisan solution, we could make a real demonstration, even in an election year, that Congress is actually working together to solve the problem.

The chairman of the Finance Committee noted that in the 5 years I have had the honor of representing Virginia, there is no issue I have been more passionate about, involved with, than trying to find that common ground around our debt and deficit, sometimes to the chagrin of my own colleagues on this side of the aisle.

I believe getting our fiscal house in order is absolutely the top priority that this Congress and our Nation face. I believe failure to do that will squeeze out any investment in education, infrastructure, military, whatever our other priorities are. Part of that is getting our entitlement costs under control. But if we are going to get our entitlement costs under control, we have to eliminate the budget gimmicks and fakery that now are part of the process.

The primary one on the entitlement side is the SGR. We have a remarkable opportunity to get rid of this peace of budget fakery, to clear the books, to put in place a better system. I know there have been questions about the cost. I believe the chairman of the Finance Committee will soon put up a chart which will quote a periodical that does not often say good things about those of us on this side of the aisle; that is, the Wall Street Journal, which has called the SGR a "book-keeping gimmick which merely hides Medicare's true cost by moving future spending off the balance sheet."

Again, we have a chance to get rid of that today. What I think the chairman of Finance Committee has offered is we could actually get a two-for. We could get rid of repealing and replacing the SGR and at the same time eliminate another budget gimmickry tool, the OCO account.

I cannot understand why we would not take advantage of this opportunity to start down the path of cleaning up our balance sheet. At the end of the day, the actions we take today will not get rid of that \$17 trillion in debt. It will not bring down our deficit in itself, but it will allow future actions to be dealing with an accounting system and a budget that is much truer to reality.

The chairman of the Finance Committee has called this the Medicare migraine. I think it is time for this Congress, this Senate, to actually take two aspirin, pass this replace and repeal, get rid of this migraine, and at the same time show the American people we can act in a bipartisan fashion, even in an election year.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, before he yields the floor, through the Chair, I would pose a question to the distinguished Senator from Virginia.

The Senator from Virginia has, as usual, gotten right to the heart of the long-term challenge with respect to entitlements. I have always tried to describe it as the challenge of protecting the Medicare guarantee because what seniors have is a guarantee. It is not something that is up for grabs. It is a guarantee. It is inviolate. Protecting their guarantee means that in the days ahead we are going to have to figure out new ways to hold down costs.

What I have heard the Senator from Virginia talk about very eloquently is one of the key ways to do that is what the Senator from Virginia and I have sought to do, which is to start having Medicare—start having Medicare pay for value rather than just staying with this volume-driven fee-for-service system, which largely rewards inefficiency. I think it is my sense that the Senator from Virginia believes it is very hard to start the kind of real entitlement reform we need, where we protect the Medicare guarantee and hold down costs, unless we make the kind of approach we are advocating in this repeal-and-replace strategy with SGR.

We better get to it, because until we have those changes, we cannot begin to get on with another area that the Senator from Virginia feels very strongly about; that is, chronic diseases—diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and stroke—which consume more than 80 percent of the Medicare budget. By my calculation we cannot get on that or any of the structural entitlement challenges until we do what the Senator from Virginia is talking about: Is that pretty much the way the Senator from Virginia sees it?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would agree with the comments made by the chairman of the Finance Committee. In the repeal-and-replace proposal we have laid out ideas that again I think across the aisle there is going to be common agreement on. I know we have been joined by my good friend the Senator from Oklahoma. No one knows more about health care and has been a stronger voice on entitlement reform than the Senator from Oklahoma.

We have spent an awful lot of time wrestling with how we get to that common cause. These commonsense re-

forms that move us closer to quality rather than quantity are a first step.

Also, a first step is trying to relieve the annual or sometimes every-6-month fire drill we go through where health care providers across the country have to rush to Congress to try to get a patch in place, which at the end of the day we know we will put in place. The way we put the patch in place more often than not is simply passing more cost to the providers in an outyear. This is the kind of budget gimmickry that quite honestly we tried to address in our so-called Gang of 6 that would have had more constraints. We didn't get it done.

We have another opportunity today—not to solve the whole problem, but by getting rid of SGR, by getting rid of OCO, we are moving two of the accounting and gimmickry obstacles, which would help clear the decks toward the ultimate debate we are going to have about tax reform and about retirement reform. But the value is that by repealing the SGR, we would also put in place reforms that move us toward a better quality health care system for our seniors.

I know the consensus and conventional wisdom is that at moments such as these we will always punt. We will have a chance this afternoon to see whether we will punt one more time or whether we will actually—if it takes a few more days—wrestle this to the ground and come up with a common cause where we could repeal SGR, replace it with a better system, and perhaps at the end of the day get rid of not one but two gimmicks that have made our budgeting so much more difficult.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. I would like to spend some time talking about the bill that is on the floor.

I thank my colleagues from Oregon and Virginia. I have enjoyed working with them.

The bill we have on the floor is one of the reasons I am leaving Congress at the end of this year. This is why the American people are disgusted with us. We are going to put off until tomorrow what we should be doing today. We should be fixing this problem instead of delaying the problem. I concur a lot with what my colleague from Virginia said. But the fact is that there is no courage, there are no guts, and there are no intentioned actions to do what is the best thing in the long term for this country in this body anymore.

We have a bill that came to us—and I appreciate the fact that the chairman wants to try to fix it. But if they vote for this bill that is on the floor today, they are part of the problem. They are not part of the solution; they are part of the problem.

There are four budget points of order that lie against this bill. Why in the

world would there be four points of order lying against this bill? We are only going to vote on one of them. It is because it is a sham. It is a lie. The pay-fors aren't true. They are nothing but gimmicks. It is corruptible. There is no integrity in what we are getting ready to vote on in terms of being truthful with the American public and in terms of being truthful with the people who are providing the care for Medicare patients.

I have a little bit of experience—25 years of practicing medicine. I can tell you what is wrong with the payment system. We have a payment system both from the insurance industry and from Medicare and Medicaid that says: See as many patients as you can if you want to pay your overhead because we are going to pay you based upon a code rather than how much time you spend with a patient.

The first thing a doctor is taught in medical school is sit down and listen to the patient. If we spend time with the patient, the patient will tell us what is wrong with them. We know that is true because we have two of the sets of data now—both on the concierge medicine that has come up in the past few years as well as what we have seen in one of the great HMOs on the west coast. They order 62 percent fewer tests when they are listening to the patient.

One of the biggest costs for Medicare, one of the biggest wastes for Medicare is tests. Why do doctors order tests? Because they didn't spend the time figuring out what is really wrong with the patient, so they order a bunch of tests to try to help them; whereas, if they had spent an additional 15 or 30 minutes with the patient, most of those tests—and most are not without risk—would never have been performed.

We have the Senate doing what we usually do: We are putting this off until tomorrow when we can actually fix the real problem now.

It comes to another principle of medicine. The principle of medicine is that we don't treat symptoms, we treat disease. When we treat the disease, the symptoms go away. If we just treat the symptoms, we will never find the disease. We will cover up the disease. That is exactly what we are doing.

The SGR was a great idea. It started in 1995 in the Ways and Means Committee in the House under former chairman Bill Archer. Had we followed it, we would have seen some significant reining in of the costs of care and Medicare. But what happened? We cut spending and we cut reimbursement rates one time. Instead of responding to the political clamor of the provider group, we fixed it—a short-term fix. We have been doing that ever since 1999, short-term fixes.

We are not fixing this problem today. What we are doing is taking a big old can and kicking it down the road. Worse than that, we are not even being truthful about what we are doing.

One of the little gimmicks is to shift \$5 billion of sequester from 2025 to 2024 and say you saved money. But we all know this little red area on this side will go over to the other side and we will spend that money. Nobody believes it. It is kind of the wink and the nod to the American public: Oh, look at us.

There is no truth, there is no honesty about what we are doing. And that is only one. This is the other offset. The sequester was the one I just showed. Savings from future Medicare cuts: \$2.3 billion. They will never occur. If you think they will occur, you obviously think—if they will occur, then we should have fixed the real problem, the real disease of Medicare today. But we didn't. So the actions will continue to be exactly the same. That \$2.3 billion will never be materialized whatsoever. It is a falsehood—\$4.4 billion to Medicaid. It will not ever come about. That is in the future, but we will take the money now to pay for it.

In this bill of approximately \$20 billion, half of the savings we say are there aren't there. Every Member of this body knows that. So when they vote for this fix today and vote against the budget point of order, what they are saying is: I am dishonest, I am playing the game, and I will not stand up for truth so the American people actually know what we are doing. I do not believe in transparency. I do not believe that we ought to have to live within our means, that we ought to make hard choices, just as every American family out there does today.

Finally, some of this is very unfair to the very people who worked on this with the committees because they made some commitments for real cuts to them to get a long-term fix. Guess what. The real cuts—the portion that is actually paid for—pay for it for only 1 year. So not only are we dishonest with the American people, we are dishonest with the stakeholders who negotiated this for a 10-year elimination.

The budget points of order against this bill—just so we know what we are talking about, it violates pay-go. Plain and simple, it violates pay-go. This bill increases the on-budget deficit. I dare somebody to come down to the floor and tell me it does not. It does.

It violates the Ryan-Murray 2014 congressional Budget Act because it violates the top line. Nobody is going to come to the floor and say it doesn't. We won't hear one speaker come to the floor and say it doesn't violate that. It does. They know it does, but they won't speak the truth.

This bill also spends money in excess of the Finance Committee's allocation—another point of order against the Budget Act. Everybody knows that is true, but they won't come down and say it doesn't; they will just vote for it.

It also has language in it within the Budget Committee's jurisdiction that has not been reported or discharged. So

we are totally ignoring the process the chairman of the Finance Committee would like to have so we can do the expedient political thing to take some pressure away, just as we did on the flood insurance bill. It got a little hot in the kitchen. Instead of actually cooking the omelet, we threw the eggs in the trash can and ran out of the room, and that is exactly what is going to happen in the Senate. We are again putting off the hard choices.

Let me tell you why this is important. The Senator from Virginia outlined this a little bit. When I came to the Senate, which was 9 years ago, the individual debt each one of us held on the national debt was under \$32,000. Today it sits at 54,800-and-some-odd dollars. We can kind of get lost in that. What we have to think is this: Well, what is my family's obligation for what we haven't paid for in the Federal Government?

Let me tell you what it is. For every family in America, whose average income is \$53,000 per year—the same as it was in 1988 in terms of real dollars; we have gone backward—your obligation is now \$1.1 million per family.

And we are going to play this game again and we are going to add another \$10 to \$12 billion between now and April? We are going to say and claim it doesn't add anything, but we are going to add another \$10 billion so we can get away from the heat, so we can get out of the kitchen, so we won't be responsible.

Which is more responsible—to tell the truth about where we really are or to actually profess an untruth to your constituents in this vote this evening? Because that is what it is. Mark my words: Every Senator who votes for this bill that came out of the House will be telling an untruth to the American people. They know it is not paid for. They know it violates all sorts of rules in the Senate. They even violated the House rules as they passed it—all to meet a deadline?

To give a little history, we have missed the deadline before on SGR fixes. Does it cause additional work for providers, doctors, hospitals, and doctors' offices? Yes. Does it provide additional work for CMS? Yes. Do we eventually catch up on it? Yes. So what is the hurry? Why not really treat the real disease? The real disease is that we have a payment system that is not good for patients and is not good for providers. We can't fix it over a weekend, but we can fix it. If we don't fix it, as the chairman would like to see a long-term fix—I don't necessarily agree with everything he wants to do, but I applaud his effort to get a long-term fix. If we don't fix it, we don't deserve to be in the Senate.

There will be no credibility left and there will be no legitimacy left if we pass this bill. It is all a pack of untruths—untruths to the stake-

holders, untruths to the American public and, most importantly, untruths to the generation coming up that is going to pay the bill for our untruths. This isn't an unfixable problem. It is a problem that hasn't gotten the attention and the time it needs, and it reflects poor leadership of the Congress and the committees. We knew this was coming up 1 year ago. The Senator from Oregon can totally be forgiven because he wasn't in charge of the Finance Committee until 1 month ago. But there is no denying the fact this problem was there.

Doing a patch—and even doing some of what Senator WYDEN wants to do—won't fix the ultimate problem. Think about the interaction you have with your caregiver. The average time in a doctor's office when you go in, before you are interrupted by your physician, is now 6 seconds. You go in, sit down, and the doctor asks: Why are you here today? You start to say something, and the first thing you know, you get interrupted. Why? Because that physician knows he needs to get to the next patient to pay the bills because we are paying bills based on CPT cuts rather than paying the physician based on the amount of time they spend with the patient, including outcome measures.

We have a system that is designed to be defrauded and creates overutilization. We designed it. We can fix it. Voting for this bill doesn't fix anything except a little heat in the kitchen. When we come back the next time, the heat is going to be hotter, and hotter, and hotter. This bill is a cowardly response to the real problem that we have. It is time we quit being cowards.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Before he leaves the floor, I want to say to the Senator from Oklahoma, who says—and always with a smile—that he and I certainly don't agree on everything in this debate, that the concept of what he is talking about—that physicians spend time with their patients—is certainly a concept that ought to be incorporated into how we proceed in the days ahead.

The other aspect of this that people ought to focus on, with respect to what the Senator from Oklahoma is talking about, is that time that the physician spends with the patient in the office presents a pretty good chance that some of those discussions they have there in the office are going to help keep that patient out of the hospital, and all sides ought to see that as a constructive goal.

So I want my colleague from Oklahoma to know that in the discussions he and I have had—and I appreciated the way my colleague said with a smile we don't agree on everything—the concept he is talking about with respect to doctors and time in the office—is something that ought to be incorporated

into this, and it is my intention to work with my colleague on that.

Mr. COBURN. I thank the chairman.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to pick up on another aspect of what both the Senator from Virginia and the Senator from Oklahoma have talked about, and that is that at this rate we have to be concerned that after patch 17 there will be patch 18, and after 18 there will be patch 19. I am sure there are some young people up in the galleries who are light years away from Medicare. In fact, the distinguished Presiding Officer of the Senate is a number of years away from the program, and I don't want to see him looking at patch 30 or 31 or 32. But the reality is if all we do is to take what we have and extend it, we are not going to turn this situation around.

My colleague from Virginia and I started talking about one of the key concepts in our repeal and replace strategy, and that is making sure we have a hard date—really, for the first time—to start paying for value in health care. Repeal and replace has that hard date. This is long, long overdo. Until then, in much of our country, we will still have volume-driven, fee-for-service medicine still driving health care in those communities from one end of the country to another.

I heard one observer say what they hoped for is that somebody in Washington would take a machete to fee-for-service. At a minimum, we ought to do what repeal and replace does, which is to reward for the first time quality, and ensure the message goes out to every corner of the country. I have heard the distinguished Presiding Officer of the Senate say with respect to his important health care reform efforts that instead of just paying for volume, we should actually pay for results, and results mean patients have a higher quality of life. What we know, in many instances, is that kind of care also costs less because we don't have people sicker and needing more expensive services and possibly institutional care.

So now, while I wait for additional colleagues to come and speak, I want to take a few minutes to describe some of the other opportunities we are missing out on by not going forward with full repeal and replace, as I and Senator WARNER and others would like to see.

In particular, it is very clear that Medicare in 2014 is remarkably different than Medicare back when it began in 1965. Medicare in 2014 is now dominated by chronic disease. Cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke is more than 80 percent of the Medicare spent. I believe we have some opportunities for some very important breakthroughs.

The Senator from Georgia, Mr. ISAKSON, has joined me in a bipartisan bill here—the Better Care, Lower Cost Act.

It is bipartisan in the other body with Congressman PETER WELCH and Congressman ERIK PAULSEN. That would give both parties an opportunity for the first time to provide the real financial incentives for the long term to reward the kind of coordinated care we are not getting in this country for seniors.

For many seniors, after the free physical they now get under Medicare, their care is so fragmented, so poorly coordinated that until they land in a hospital emergency room, perhaps with a \$1,100 deductible and can't figure out all the doctors they have seen during their odyssey through chronic care treatment, we have virtually no system that responsibly manages and is accountable for that senior's care.

In repeal and replace, we take the first steps toward building a chronic care policy for our country. We take the chronic special needs plans—what are called the CSNPs—that haven't worked out as hoped and initiate reforms for those particular plans to ensure that all of the individuals who are part of that program would, for the first time, have an individual care plan. That is something many seniors—certainly a majority of seniors—lack, particularly if they are part of traditional fee-for-service medicine. They don't have an individual care plan. They might have two or more kinds of chronic conditions.

A senior might think they can manage their own medicines and manage their own nutrition, but there would be an alternative. That would be what Senator ISAKSON and I have talked about for the long term and what we would begin with in a true repeal and replace program for SGR. With SGR, we would start finally looking at those chronic care patients in a way that ensured they got coordinated care from the first time they saw a physician, who, under our approach for the long term, would have a pharmacist and a physician assistant and maybe a nurse. They would be able to have one person accountable for their care.

The irony is that all over the country there are programs that are now doing this and reaping dramatic savings. For example, in rural Pennsylvania there is a particularly promising program where the savings have exceeded more than 20 percent on some of the sickest patients with the kind of approach that Senator ISAKSON and I are advocating for the long term, and which we would at least begin with these chronic special needs patients under full repeal and replace of the SGR.

Now, I want to close with one other point before I yield the floor to colleagues. The full repeal and replace of Medicare would also contain an idea that Senator GRASSLEY and I have worked on for over 3 years, which is to open the Medicare database. The Medicare database is really a treasure trove

of the most useful information about Medicare claims and payments around this country. It holds the record of all payments from taxpayers to physicians and other providers for seniors' health care.

Right now, access to this Medicare database is very limited. If the public or seniors or others want to get access to this information, they have to wade through the bureaucracy, and there are simply very substantial obstacles. We know this kind of information can often produce better quality for lower prices because providers who do well when that information gets out will see they are rewarded for their work, and those that are not measuring up to those standards will either have to change their practices or simply find it hard to keep their doors open. The markets work best when information is transparent for all parties.

Today, most patients lack any comparative information and usually don't find out the cost of their care until after the fact, if at all. So Senator GRASSLEY and I have proposed there be a free and searchable database, one that would allow seniors to find and choose doctors and other health care professionals enrolled in the Medicare program, adding the actual services that are performed and what price Medicare pays for those services.

Americans would finally be able to compare what Medicare pays for particular services in different parts of the country. Opening the Medicare claims database in this way would help us hold down health care costs, would also improve the quality of Medicare services, be a tool in fighting fraud, and would be useful in helping individuals with private health plans—private plans, HSAs and employer-based insurance.

What is going to happen there is, if you have an employer plan in Hartford, CT, or an HSA in Connecticut, the first thing you are going to say is, this is what Medicare pays for a particular service; why can't I, with my employer plan or my HSA have the same price? If I am not getting it, that probably means I am getting less pay, and I would rather see health care costs held down so I could get more in my paycheck.

So opening the record—from a quality standpoint—of Medicare-paid services would be a very powerful tool for measuring hospital and doctor performance. The claims data, with full protection of patient privacy, would open how doctors and hospitals are treating patients. It would also provide a full accounting of areas which lack access to doctors, specialists, treatment, and procedures. Making this information readily available would also allow doctors to collaborate on improved care management, and make sure the highest quality services are delivered to patients at lower costs.

Finally, the transparency we would get from the efforts Senator GRASSLEY and I have teamed up on, which was part of the full repeal-and-replace strategy, would help us have a powerful new tool against fraud and waste.

We look at the Medicare Program. The Wall Street Journal and the Center for Public Integrity have been able to, even with limited access to Medicare claims data, look at that information and expose through a series of articles how doctors and medical practitioners game Medicare to increase their profits. If we made the system more transparent, as Senator GRASSLEY and I have sought to do and is in the full repeal-and-replace proposal, we would have a significant new tool to root out those—and they are a relatively small number, fortunately—who truly fleece seniors and taxpayers and allow us to get more value for the Medicare dollars.

In 2012 the Medicare Program cost about \$580 billion. In a few years, given the demographics and technology, this bill is going to go over \$1 trillion.

Often when I go to a high school and meet with young people—as I am sure does the distinguished Presiding Officer—16-, 17-, and 18-year-olds, we talk about matters which concern them, student scholarships, parks, transportation. Toward the end of the meeting I often say: So you all are 16, 17, and 18. My guess is, given your age, you probably tweet your friends when you get up in the morning about Medicare.

These students smile: Well, there is another person from Washington, DC, who doesn't get it.

I kid with them a little bit. Finally, I say: I just want you to know I am kidding, but not really. Because if we don't figure out how to protect the Medicare guarantee and hold down the costs for all you students who care about scholarships and parks and roads and the like, guess what. There is not going to be any money for the concerns which are first and foremost to you.

At this point, of course, the students jump right in, and they want to know about preventive medicine and how to root out waste and some of the things we are talking about. But we can't get to a lot of those important Medicare reform issues which Senator WARNER articulated so well when he began his remarks if we can't get full repeal-and-replace of the badly flawed Medicare SGR Program.

I have spent a few minutes talking about how Senator ISAKSON has an approach which is bipartisan in both the Senate and the House on how to deal with chronic disease; I have talked about opening the Medicare database which is in full Medicare repeal and replace; I have talked about some broad reforms. Of course, at the center is paying for value, which is in full repeal and replace starting in 2018, and we may not get for a while if the Congress

just keeps reupping from the 17th patch to 18th patch to the 19th patch.

So what we are going to have to do here in this body—and I know the distinguished Presiding Officer has a great interest in the question and the budget and the future particularly of entitlement costs, which I would say puts the Medicare guarantee and holding down costs front and center—we are going to have to speed up, we are going to have to accelerate the drive to actually get full repeal and replace, rather than patch 17, patch 18, patch 19, patch 20, and up. My view is we ought to be doing it now.

I recognize the objection from the other side. But I have talked to a lot of Senators over the last 3 days of both political parties, and I think there is a growing awareness that simply extending what we already have and punting on the need to fix the urgent structural problems with what we have—which is what some Senators and House Members sought to do—can't be ducked much longer.

Mr. President, I reserve the remainder of my time for closing.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Virginia.

AFGHAN DEMOCRACY

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to voice my support for the people of Afghanistan who this week on Saturday will be in the midst of a Presidential election pursuing the first Democratic transfer of power in that nation's history. April 5 will be a momentous day, a Presidential election where millions of Afghans will head to the polls to determine their destiny by a peaceful means. As we know much is going on in the world in Ukraine, Syria, and Iran. It is easy to miss this milestone, but it is a milestone I think should have some significance to us as Americans.

Americans should be proud of the role we have played in bringing the Afghan people to this point, given the significant sacrifice members of our country have made. There have been nearly 2,300 servicemembers who have given their lives in Afghanistan—2,299. The United States has spent \$600 billion in Afghanistan since September of 2011. While we cannot gloss over the challenges that remain in Afghanistan today and tomorrow, we should remember the progress that has been achieved in 13 years since the Taliban fell in October of 2001, progress that has been made possible because of the sacrifices of American service men and women, our diplomats, the American people,

and the grit and determination of the Afghan people.

On April 5 Afghans will defy those who seek to intimidate them through violence and terrorism because it is a fundamental choice: Does Afghanistan want to move forward or go backward to horrific days. The ink-stained finger of an Afghan voter will send a far more powerful message than any terrorist gun or bomb. I think Afghan men and women will be thinking of their children as they vote on Saturday, the promise of the next generation as they head to the ballot box. An Afghan girl born in October of 2001 when the Taliban fell is now 13 years old. She has no doubt faced hardship and will continue to, but she now has before her unprecedented opportunities.

Sometimes we get into a little bit of a mode where we say things haven't gone well in Afghanistan or the investment of blood, treasure, and energy by the United States hasn't made a difference. I wish to put on the record 13 very real indicators of a transformation in an Afghan's life in the last 13 years.

No. 1, two-thirds of Afghans today have and are able to use cell phones compared to 5 percent before 2001. Before 2001 Taliban-controlled radio was the only news source in Afghanistan. Today Afghans can choose from 75 television stations and 170 radio stations.

The Afghan national gross domestic product has grown nearly tenfold since 2001. One in three Afghans has access to electricity. Kabul enjoys a power supply 24 hours a day.

In 2001 in Afghanistan there were only 30 miles of paved roads, which had a direct impact on their economy. Today nearly 10,000 miles of paved roads—nearly 300 times the amount in 2001. Over 50 percent of the population now has safe drinking water, nearly double from 2004.

The number of teachers in Afghanistan was only 20,000 in 2001. Today it is 175,000, 30 percent of whom are women. Three million Afghan girls are enrolled in schools compared to only 5,000 in 2001, a nearly 600-fold increase. Overall school enrollment in Afghanistan has increased to more than 8 million.

There are 168 female judges across Afghanistan and 68 women members of the National Assembly. Eighty-five percent of Afghans now live in districts with health care providers. Infant mortality has been reduced to 327 per 100,000 live births, which would still be high for the United States, but in 2002 that number was 1,600. So it has been reduced to one-quarter or one-fifth.

The number that is the most powerful is this: Afghan women now have access to more health care than before. Female life expectancy has increased since 2001 from 44 years to 64 years—from 44 years to 64 years. So just think about what 20 extra years of life is like for a woman and then multiply that by

every woman and girl in Afghanistan. Male life expectancy has improved as well because of improvements in infant mortality. This is a significant change, a real transformation in Afghan life.

We cannot discount remaining challenges to combat corruption and strengthen civil society and to further advance women's rights. The recent attacks by the Taliban on the electoral process at an NGO guesthouse in Kabul at the Serena Hotel and over the weekend at the Afghan election commission remind us that security is a problem. Our condolences go out to the victims. The attacks show a cowardly desperation.

The ballot box represents the largest threat to the Taliban and any terrorist affiliate and they are resorting to indiscriminate attacks because they know a ballot box and electoral democracy will be their demise. By killing Afghans on the threshold of an election, the Taliban is only sowing the seeds of their own demise. They recognize the tide of history is against them.

A word about the Afghan National Security Forces who are working together with the United States and other partners going forward, especially on these elections this week: More than 350,000 Afghan soldiers and policemen are the security lead now throughout the country. They bear the brunt of the casualties of these attacks. More than 13,000 Afghan security force members have been killed in the line of duty, but they are determined, with the support of our country and the training we have provided them and that others have provided them—they are determined to protect their homeland and they have proven capable of securing their homeland. Our servicemembers and diplomats have for years trained and assisted, and that training is paying off as is shown every day. We also have numerous examples of Afghan interpreters who have assisted our servicemembers in that training, and we cannot forget them.

The Afghan forces will not face the challenges of this week, the electoral challenge, or the challenges beyond alone. The future of Afghanistan is not a military challenge alone. It rests upon security throughout civil society, and these elections are a pivotal moment but not the only pivotal moment.

The commitment of the United States to Afghanistan continues. In 2011 we signed a strategic partnership agreement. We designated Afghanistan as a major non-NATO ally of our country. There is a text that is complete of a bilateral security agreement outlining our willingness to train, advise, and assist in this mission beyond 2014. I am confident it will be signed once the new government takes place.

One of the reasons I am confident is that all of the candidates for the President of Afghanistan are engaged in a

civil debate, and they are being asked what they think about the role of the United States, and they are all committed to the United States playing this new role as they transition their democracy with this peaceful transfer of power.

Finally, a word about what is at stake because it is not just about the statistic, it is also and most importantly about individual lives.

Just 3 months ago in January, Colonel Jamila Bayaz, a 55-year-old mother of five, became the first woman to be appointed a police chief in Afghanistan. At her promotion ceremony she said she would not have achieved her position but for the efforts of the United States and the international community.

In a letter that same month to President Obama, over three dozen civil society Afghan leaders stated as follows:

Over the coming years, Afghanistan will be completing its political and security transitions as the foundation for the future that we seek. It is our sincere hope that the people of the United States, who were with us during difficult years, will remain with us as we complete the challenging transition period and become more self-reliant.

Hengama Anwari is the woman who is the current head of the Afghan human rights commission. Last week she stated: "10 years is only a drop in the ocean in the process of changing a society." But Ms. Anwari is still hopeful about the future of her country and is relentless in her effort to advance women's rights.

When George Washington stepped down as President during America's first Democratic transition, it was a pivotal moment for our young Republic. This transition, the first peaceful transition in Afghanistan's history, is equally pivotal. We stand shoulder to shoulder with Afghans, but this is an Afghan moment. Every candidate, every soldier, every election monitor, every citizen must do their part to ensure the success of this transition.

Finally, as the Afghans transition, so do we—so do we. The congressional action that authorized our military presence in Afghanistan was passed in this body on September 14, 2001, nearly 13 years ago. With our combat mission in Afghanistan coming to an end with this election and a peaceful transition, with the transition of American military participation to a train, assist, and advise role, this 13-year effort is now transitioning to something new that will be the subject of that bilateral security agreement.

We haven't been able to have a welcome home party for all of our American service men and women who served in Afghanistan because the operation was ongoing. It is my hope this transition in Afghanistan, which will also transition our role, will enable us to have one of those pivotal expressions of American pride. We have all seen the pictures of V-E Day and V-J

Day, when the American Republic celebrated the end of a period of sacrifice of our service men and women. This is a period of sacrifice that has been going on longer than any war in the history of this country. It is my hope that while we will continue to work together with the Afghans, we may reach a moment where we can celebrate, we can acknowledge this transition, and say welcome home and thank you to all the American service men and women who along with their families have given so much in the last 13 years.

With that, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would ask to proceed on my leader time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right. The Republican leader is recognized.

FINAL FOUR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, we all know a huge percentage of Americans across the country filled out their brackets a couple of weeks ago to get ready for March Madness. Now it is down to the final four, and once again the University of Kentucky is in the final four. It has become something we are quite accustomed to after having won the championship at UK in 2012. We kept the championship in our State for 2013 with the University of Louisville. Now we intend to further underscore that the college basketball capital of the world is indeed in the Commonwealth, and we look forward to watching in Dallas the final four next weekend.

ACA SIGNUP DEADLINE

Mr. President, today is the normal deadline for most people to sign up for ObamaCare, and while one Senator on the other side of the aisle said yesterday there is no such thing as ObamaCare, that will come as news to millions of our constituents—the millions of Americans facing higher premiums, canceled plans, and the loss of doctors and hospitals they like as a result of this law.

ObamaCare is definitely real to middle-class families whom we represent. If our friends on the other side want to make the pain of this law go away, they can work with us to replace it with smart, bipartisan reforms. They are trying to wish away their own ObamaCare law or are simply pretending it is not there. That is not going to work. The American people deserve a law better than that.

INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY

We will be having a vigorous debate this week in the Senate about how to create jobs and rebuild the middle class. On the one side our good friends the Democrats will be offering more of the same. They will propose treating the symptoms instead of meaningfully improving the prospects of people who are struggling out there.

On the other side Republicans will be proposing concrete ways to break the cycle of unemployment and hopelessness that pervades the Obama economy, ideas aimed at helping people reach their true potential and build a better life for themselves. The Republican message is all about innovation and opportunity and making it easier for more people to join the ranks of the middle class. It is about reforming the underlying causes of unemployment instead of just perpetually treating the symptoms. It is about how we create jobs for the future that will allow Americans to do a lot more than simply pay their bills. Republicans will offer a series of jobs amendments this week that underline our determination to reorient America's economic trajectory. We want to lift our country from stagnation to growth, from hostility toward enterprise to an embrace of innovation, and from a system rigged by government elites for their own benefit to one that can actually work for the middle class again.

Americans will hear two competing agendas this week: on the one hand, a tired, government-centered Democratic agenda designed by and for ideologues of the left; on the other, a modern, enterprise-oriented Republican agenda designed around the hopes and potential of the middle class.

This is a debate Republicans welcome. It is one we have been waiting to have for a very long time, and we hope Washington Democrats will actually be serious this time when they say they want to focus on jobs because every time they say that, they keep getting distracted and pivot to other issues.

Here is something else we need to expect from the majority: votes on amendments for positive reform. The American people deserve at least that much. After so many years of failure, the middle class deserves the chance for something better. Remember, there are nearly 4 million Americans who have been unemployed for 6 months or longer. These Americans deserve to have a Congress that is committed to making it easier, not harder, to create jobs.

Let's have this debate. Let's vote on Republican jobs amendments, and let's give some hope again to the middle-class families who have suffered for entirely too long.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to respond to the Senator from Kentucky by again making it clear that it is my interest to work very closely with colleagues on the other side of the aisle on these health care issues, and that is why we took the proposal Senator HATCH had for repeal and replace on Medicare as the base bill. It is why I spent a lot of time working with colleagues on the other

side of the aisle on Medicare Part D and trying to make sure it could be implemented well.

What was striking was that a lot of the stories about Medicare Part D in the first couple of months resembled the stories we are now seeing about the Affordable Care Act. The Congressional Budget Office has made the comment that Part D has come in more than 25 percent less in terms of projected costs than what CBO saw years ago.

We are going to work in a constructive way. I hope we will not see a push, for example, to repeal the Affordable Care Act because if you do that, you will go back to the days when health care in America was for the healthy and the wealthy because you would again allow discrimination against those with a preexisting condition. The Affordable Care Act has air-tight protection for those who have a preexisting condition, and if you repeal the Affordable Care Act, you would simply go back to those days.

Working with colleagues in a bipartisan way on strengthening the health care system and our economy—absolutely. But turning back the clock on vital consumer protections, such as protecting our people from discrimination against preexisting conditions, is something that I think would be a huge mistake.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article that appeared in the Wall Street Journal last weekend. It is entitled "Health Insurers Make Late Push to Enroll Young People" with respect to the Affordable Care Act. The signups topped the Congressional Budget Office's target ahead of the March 31 deadline.

I was particularly pleased by the comments from insurance executives in Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Florida. They all talked about how more younger people are signing up, which, of course, is key to what we all want to do in terms of bipartisan approaches that strengthen the role of private health care in America.

I would like to have this article printed in the RECORD so my colleagues can read the remarks of Highmark, Inc., a major health plan based in Pittsburgh. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island said their fastest rising segment in March was people ages 22 to 40. Florida Blue senior vice president Jon Urbanek said, "Younger people are signing up."

I think all of this indicates—as far as private sector health care is concerned, which we all sought to promote in connection with this—that more younger people are signing up for these plans.

Also, in response to my friend from Kentucky who asked about the jobs agenda, Senator HATCH and I have been working very constructively together on efforts to go forward in the Finance Committee—which could even begin

this week—to deal with the tax extenders. Tax extenders are particularly important for the jobs Senator McCONNELL seeks—as he mentioned in his remarks—to get some traction. We will be talking about an extension for the research and development tax credit, which is key for innovation. We will be talking about jobs and renewable energy and jobs for veterans. This is the kind of jobs agenda we are pursuing in the Finance Committee.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal]

HEALTH INSURERS MAKE LATE PUSH TO ENROLL YOUNG PEOPLE

(By Anna Wilde Mathews and Christopher Weaver)

Insurers are pressing ahead with a final marketing push to bring as many young, healthy customers as possible onto their rolls and buttress a recent surge in health-law enrollments.

The flood of late sign-ups that helped boost the marketplace total to six million enrollees, a key milestone for the Obama administration, has also brought some insurers an uptick among younger people. But it isn't clear if the trend is broad enough to balance out an earlier skew toward older enrollees, who are more likely to have costly ailments.

"We are seeing our average age come down every week, so it's clear that younger people are starting to come into the pool," said Wayne DeVeydt, the chief financial officer of WellPoint Inc. "What isn't clear yet, though, is, did it come down enough." WellPoint has said the demographics of its sign-ups have generally matched its projections.

Highmark Inc., a major health plan based in Pittsburgh, said in recent weeks that it had seen a "marked increase" in enrollees younger than 34. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island said its fastest-rising segment in March has been people ages 22 to 40.

Florida Blue Senior Vice President Jon Urbanek said "younger people are signing up," but the insurer doesn't know if that will move the dial in a customer pool that had been "skewing older than we anticipated."

Medical Mutual of Ohio said its enrollment through the health-care marketplace has gotten younger each week, and the average age is now a decade below where it was when enrollment kicked off in October. But, the company said, the average is still eight years older than the company projected when it set prices for 2014.

Insurance officials also caution that age doesn't always indicate health status—younger people may have serious, expensive conditions, while some older people rarely need medical services. Age is a "pretty good predictor," said Tom Snook, an actuary with Milliman Inc. who works with insurers offering plans on public exchanges, but "it's not even close to a perfect measure."

So far, insurance carriers have limited insight into the health needs of their new enrollees. Under the law, insurers can't deny coverage or charge higher prices based on health status, and enrollees need to provide only limited information, including age, when they sign up through the marketplaces. Enrollees must start the process of choosing a plan by March 31 to avoid penalties. The Obama administration has extended a grace period to complete enrollment even after the deadline.

As the deadline looms, it isn't clear just how broad the uptick in youth sign-ups has

been. HealthMarkets Inc., a health-insurance agency, said its age balance for enrollees hasn't changed in recent weeks. EHealth Inc., which tracks the average age of individual purchasers of nonmarketplace plans through its site, shows it flat in recent weeks. GoHealth LLC, another major health-insurance site, said it had seen an increase in young customers.

To prod a big final wave, insurers, exchanges, health-care providers and others are amping up their enrollment push with a blitz of countdown ads and events. Blue Shield of California is sponsoring events across the state, including sign-ups this weekend at all 42 stores of a Southern California grocery chain with many Hispanic customers. Land of Lincoln Mutual Health Insurance Co. in Illinois parked a tractor-trailer emblazoned with its orange logo outside a hospital sign-up event on Friday.

Health plans are particularly hoping to reach "young invincibles" like Trevor Dawes, a 23-year-old apprentice plumber from the Queens borough of New York City who said he is planning to shop for a plan through New York's insurance marketplace this weekend, ahead of the deadline. He learned recently from a video on Facebook that he could face penalties for going without insurance, which he hasn't had for about a year. "I'm healthy, and I didn't even know it was important," he said.

Arches Health Plan in Utah plans to keep up its push past March 31 to capture late finishers. "We're going right up to the bell," said Shaun Greene, the company's chief operating officer.

Independence Blue Cross, which sponsored a contest to create short digital films about health insurance, is turning the lobby of its downtown Philadelphia headquarters into an enrollment site this weekend and Monday. The insurer said the average age of its enrollees has dropped by 1.5 years since January.

Arches will sport sign-up tables at three Utah Jazz basketball games in the first weeks of April. Mr. Greene has enlisted his 17-year-old son and some of his son's football teammates to blanket cars in Wal-Mart parking lots Friday with fliers bearing slogans such as "Peace of Mind Is Priceless."

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic time has expired.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN BRUCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment to thank a longtime member of my staff who is leaving the Senate after 27 years of service to Congress. Alan Bruce is not technically from Illinois, but he is from Indiana—in this case, close enough. The fact is that he served the people of Illinois in an extraordinary way during his time on Capitol Hill.

For the last 22 years Alan has been my systems administrator. He joined my staff in 1992 when I was a Member of the House and moved with me to the Senate in 1997. He is the person most responsible for keeping my offices in Illinois and Washington connected electronically to each other and to the world outside the Senate. He oversees

our network of desktop and laptop computers, BlackBerrys, cell phones, and all the rest.

Over the years, he taught me a lot of things, and there was a lot to learn, everything from how to make my computer work, dealing with email, saving a digital photo, and how to Skype. He has been a good teacher and a hard-working, loyal member of my staff.

In an age when most people change employers and even careers repeatedly, Alan is unusual. The U.S. Congress is the only employer he has had since he graduated from Cumberlands College—now the University of the Cumberlands—in Williamsburg, KY, in 1986. He didn't plan to come to work on Capitol Hill. Six weeks after he graduated from college, he was getting ready for an interview to become a manager of a Radio Shack in Fort Wayne, IN.

On the morning of the interview, his mom said: You don't really want to do this, do you?

Alan said: No, I really don't. My heart is not in it.

Well, that day happened to be Saturday. It was also the day of the annual Circus City Days parade in Alan's hometown of Peru, IN. Alan canceled his interview at Radio Shack, and he and his mom instead went to the parade. Working the parade line that day was a new candidate for the House of Representatives—a man who would later become a friend of mine when we served together. His name was Jim Jontz. Jim introduced himself to Alan and Alan's mother and learned that Alan just graduated from college and, in fact, was looking for a job. Radio Shack's loss was Congressman Jontz's gain—and my gain as well. A few days after that parade Alan was working as a volunteer driver for Jim's campaign.

When Jim won his election, he hired Alan to work in his Kokomo, IN, office helping constituents on matters related to military and veterans affairs. It was a good fit. Alan grew up in a military family. His dad, Phillip "Bud" Bruce, was a career Air Force man. In 1989 Alan moved to Washington to work in Congressman Jontz's DC office as system administrator. Managing a congressional computer network in those days was a lot different. The Internet was still an obscure tool used mostly by elite researchers. People didn't have email. Back then, high-tech communications meant fax machines. Computers were used mainly for keeping lists—data entry. Cell phones were a perk of just the wealthy few. Almost no one had ever heard of Web sites, and smart phones, YouTube, Twitter, and Flickr—nobody even imagined what that meant.

Alan joined my staff as systems administrator in 1992. To give a sense of how dramatically his world changed, consider this: In 1997, my first year in the Senate, I received 30,000 pieces of mail—that is real mail—through the

U.S. Postal Service. Last year my office received 600,000 pieces of mail, and only about 2 to 3 percent went through the post office; the rest were emails. However constituents reach out—whether by the postal service or email—Alan works with the rest of my staff to make sure their letters are answered.

The technological revolution is only one of the big societal changes Alan has taken part in in the last 25 years on Capitol Hill. Alan was an early leader in Congress among staff to end workplace discrimination against lesbian and gay congressional staffers. In the early- to mid-1990s, he was an early board member of what was then called Lesbian and Gay Congressional Staffers Association. The association held frequent brown-bag lunches to brief other staffers on issues of importance to lesbian and gay Americans, including the don't ask, don't tell policy and the Federal Defense of Marriage Act. Today, both don't ask, don't tell and DOMA are history. Federal employees who are legally married to same-sex spouses receive the same Federal privileges and responsibilities as other married Federal workers.

As Alan prepares to start the next phase of his life in sunny Tampa, FL, I want to thank him again both for keeping my office connected to the larger world and, of course, to the State of Illinois and for keeping the U.S. Congress as an employer, moving toward the American ideal of equality and justice for all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, approximately one in four adults suffers from a diagnosable mental health disorder that could be treated if diagnosed and treated properly. The bill the chairman brings to the floor today—the bill that establishes the so-called doc fix, the repair and reimbursement issue—has an important provision in it that allows us to look at those individuals who have these mental health behavioral illnesses and begin to treat them, in eight pilot States, like any other illness.

When Senator STABENOW and I introduced the Excellence in Mental Health Act in February 2013, our goal was to be sure that federally qualified centers, such as behavioral and mental health clinics, which met the proper standards could offer mental health treatment like any other kind of health treatment.

This bill, which we will vote on later today, includes a provision which allows the country to have a 2-year pilot in eight States. Those eight States aren't designated in the legislation. The States themselves would step forward and say if they want to be a part of this.

Certainly when we introduced this legislation in February 2013—supported from the very start by Chairman WYDEN, who has just become chairman of this critically important Finance Committee—we did it looking at the reality that people's lives have changed and the people they impact have changed.

One of the things that moved the Senate toward talking about mental health was some of the violent tragedies we have had in the country in recent years. In fact, after the Sandy Hook tragedy in December—a year ago—the committee that deals with these issues had a hearing on mental health in January 2013. It was the first hearing on mental health since 2007. For whatever reason, these are issues that, as a society, we have not wanted to deal with in a way we could.

As I mention these violent tragedies, I want to be sure to say that people who have a behavioral illness are much more likely to be the victim of the crime than the perpetrator of the crime. Even when saying that, we know that the one consistent issue in these tragedies over and over in this country and other countries is that somebody has a behavioral illness that has not been dealt with, somebody has a clear need, and no one has reached out to meet that need.

In pursuing the Excellence in Mental Health Act and now pursuing this pilot project for eight States, the law enforcement community has been widely supportive of dealing with these challenges when we can deal with these challenges at locations that people want to go to create maximum accessibility and fully qualified locations.

The veterans community—unbelievably responsive. The Iraq and Afghanistan veterans community was in Washington last week dealing with mental health challenges. This was their No. 1 priority. We just had a news conference here in the building and somebody from that group was once again with us, as they have been since February of 2013. The community that supports mental health and looking for mental health solutions has been widely supportive of what we are trying to do.

The House passed this legislation. It is legislation we worked on—House Members, Senate Members, bipartisan. One of the House Members, Dr. TIM MURPHY, a psychiatrist who understands these issues, not only was supportive of what we were doing but we became supportive of what he was doing when he was advocating for people who have a behavioral illness—people having mental illness who are involved in a nonviolent crime—that dealing with their illness rather than incarcerating the individual is the better approach that should be available to law enforcement, to judges. That is an important part of what we are doing.

The Excellence in Mental Health Act was originally cosponsored by a bipartisan group of 25 Senators. It has been supported by 50 mental health organizations, veterans organizations, law enforcement organizations. It creates a place where people's needs are met. The demonstration project would allow community mental health centers an opportunity to increase the types of services they provide within and to their local communities by providing a similar rate under Medicaid that federally qualified centers receive for primary care services. This is something we have been talking about for a long time. It allows government to begin to treat these behavioral challenges exactly as we treat other challenges—to have a healthy body, a healthy mind, all in one person, all in one spirit, all treatable.

This provision in this bill that comes before us today I think is the beginning of a significant change in how we look at helping people change their lives. It is the beginning of a significant change in looking at mental illness as though it is any other illness. I believe we are going to see a good response to this on the floor today as we vote. More importantly, I think we are going to see a number of States that are incredibly interested in being one of these eight pilot States that will allow that to happen. I certainly hope Missouri turns out to be one of those States. Clearly, our State has been a leader in so much, including mental health, first aid. Many of our federally qualified clinics have added behavioral help. Many of our community clinics have added a level of service that this law would anticipate we need to have to meet community needs. I certainly have worked closely with the Missouri Coalition of Community Health Centers. They just celebrated their 35th anniversary and they are very excited about this legislation.

Senator STABENOW and I were on the floor the last day of October, the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy signing the Community Mental Health Act. Many of the goals of that act have not been achieved in the way I believe the country 50 years ago had hoped to see them achieved. But this legislation today includes a significant step toward that goal set half a century ago—still unrealized—that allows us to do things as a country we wouldn't otherwise be able to do.

Senator STABENOW has been a great partner in this legislative effort, a great advocate for this effort. Our bipartisan friends in the House have as well. I look forward to a successful vote today so we can see this important step move forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. I ask unanimous consent that Senator CARDIN be yielded 5

minutes at this time to address the SGR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator WYDEN for his leadership in fixing this reimbursement structure under Medicare. I thank Senator BLUNT and Senator STABENOW for their leadership on the mental health demonstration program that is in this—whatever bill we pass it will be in—because it is absolutely essential we address the growing problems in our community health networks. So I thank both of them for their bipartisan leadership.

The current way we reimburse physicians under Medicare is broken. The SGR system has been broken since it was passed in 1997 as part of the Balanced Budget Act. We have had 16 temporary patches to the SGR system, and it has created uncertainty not just among the medical community as to what the reimbursement rate will be for Medicare patients, but it has caused uncertainty among Medicare patients as to whether they know their doctor will be there to treat them for their illnesses. If we don't fix the problem and let it go off the cliff, we will see a 24-percent cut in reimbursements to physicians under Medicare. That is not sustainable. As we know, it would affect access for our seniors and the disabled to their doctors. We have to fix this problem. It expires today, March 31. So we have to take action.

We have two choices. One is we could take advantage of the opportunity to not just make sure we don't go off the cliff but to actually fix the problem. That is what Senator WYDEN has been able to put together, with Senator HATCH and with our colleagues in the House—a replacement that will actually work, that will actually reward physicians for taking good care of their patients by managing their care, by bringing down the costs of health care, by managing our delivery system, taking high-cost patients, treating them so their illnesses are treated, but also done in a more cost-effective way. That is what the replacement would do if we could pass a permanent fix to the SGR physician reimbursement structure in Medicare. We have a bipartisan proposal. That bipartisan proposal will reward proper delivery of care.

It also takes care of the therapy caps and others of the health care extenders. I mention that because Senator COLLINS and I have been working for a long time to try to get a permanent replacement to the arbitrary cap on therapy services. That was also put in the 1997 BBA—Balanced Budget Act. That put an arbitrary cap on therapy services, so the more severely a person is injured, the more severe a person's illness, the less services they will be able to get that they need in order to be

able to take care of the illness or injury. That makes absolutely no sense at all. So we fixed it.

Why are we debating this, with strong bipartisan support? Because there are two proposals out there. One is the proposal Senator WYDEN brought forward that fixes the problem, that substitutes a rational system, and it is paid for. I could argue it has been paid for many times over. It has been paid for because we have already passed patches that have been paid for—\$153 billion. That is more than this permanent fix costs. Who has paid that \$153 billion? It has been clinical labs; it has been skilled nursing facilities; it has been community health. All have paid for a problem they didn't create within the Medicare system. This has been paid for already. It has been paid for already many times. It is current policy.

No one expects us to go off the cliff. Senator WYDEN, in an effort to try to deal with this in an upfront way—CBO is now scoring this proposal to be a little over \$118 billion. That is a bargain considering just a couple of years ago it was \$300 billion over a 10-year period. I remember in 2005, I filed a fix of this bill with then-Congressman Clay Shaw—bipartisan bill. It scored at \$50 billion. This has been paid for many times over.

I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. I thank the Chair.

Senator WYDEN, in an effort to try to accommodate everyone here, said, OK, we will take the cost savings that are already in the House bill—I could argue that really has nothing to do with the physician problem, but it is one I think we could agree on so we have real cost savings of over \$20 billion that Senator WYDEN has put in this bill. He said, we have these scored savings under the contingency operations; let's use that if people feel we have to have an offset, even though we have already paid for it over and over again.

So we have two options: Another temporary fix with continuing uncertainty, continuing this problem down the road, asking those who didn't cause it to pay for it, even though it has already been paid for before or we could really take care of it and tell our medical community: Let's work on other issues to improve our health care system rather than coming here every year and asking for a temporary extension of the Medicare physician reimbursement structure and not allowing the SGR system to take effect. Those are the two options we have.

So I come here to thank Senator WYDEN for putting forward a proposal that would fix it, that would really do it, so we wouldn't have to come back again next year, so Congress could really get something done. It is bipar-

tisan, bicameral. The fix has already been signed off by the House and the Senate. Senator WYDEN has come up with a plan that allows us to be fiscally responsible.

I urge my colleagues to go down the path of fixing the physician reimbursement structure so we can take that uncertainty out of the Medicare law, do what is right for our Medicare beneficiaries so they have the certainty of their care under Medicare, and do it in a fiscally responsible way.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I appreciate the work of Senator WYDEN and others on this problem. It is a matter we need to fix.

The Senator from Maryland said the fix is signed off by the House too, so I guess we are supposed to know the fix is in. We are just going to take care of the doctors who need their money and we are not going to pay for it. We are not going to do it within the budget, again.

As ranking member of the Budget Committee, I feel I have a responsibility to report to this body the plain financial truth about the legislation that comes before us. The bill offered by our Democratic colleagues is worse than this one. I guess this is a Reid-Boehner bill that is before us now. But the Democrats' bill would claim to pay for it with OCO—the Overseas Contingency Operation—which couldn't be anything worse than the pay-for in this bill.

The Reid-Boehner doc fix legislation we are about to consider violates the spending limits we passed in December, the Ryan-Murray-raised spending limits—by \$6 billion only 3 months after those limits were signed into law. Think about that. Bloomberg News released an analysis today concluding that:

Since December 2013, the Republican House and the Democratic Senate have approved more than \$40 billion worth of spending “offsets” in the form of cuts that would take place in 2023 at the earliest or timing shifts in policy to bring savings into the 10-year window.

In other words, Congress has gimmicked an additional \$40 billion in new spending in just a few months since Ryan-Murray was passed. That is just what it is. The Budget Committee and Chairman MURRAY, our Democratic chairman, has already ruled it violates the budget. It spends money we don't have. It is not a legitimate pay-for. So here we are again, proposing to bust the spending limits. This is the behavior of a profligate Congress.

How many of our Members were running for office 2 years ago, 4 years ago, 6 years ago, and they were talking to their constituents and they said that Congress is spending us into bank-

ruptcy; they are irresponsible; they won't even write a budget; they spend, spend, spend; they don't worry about the deficit. The country is going into too much debt.

How many have said that in their campaigns—when I get there, I am going to do something about it. And what do they do when they get here? Some of our Members say, Oh, we have to take care of the doctors. And we do need to do that. But there is waste, fraud, and abuse and savings throughout this \$4 trillion budget of ours that we could use to reduce that spending legitimately to pay for what we need to do for our doctors.

That is what we agreed to do when we passed the Budget Control Act. That is what the Budget Control Act did. The Budget Control Act in 2011 said this. The President signed it. It passed both Houses of Congress. It had Democratic and Republican support. The Budget Control Act says over the next 10 years we are projected to increase spending by \$10 trillion; but we are going to be more frugal than that, we are only going to increase spending by \$8 trillion. So spending would increase by \$8 trillion.

What happens? As soon as it begins to bite a little bit, and we are challenged to make some priorities and to decide, for example, how we are going to help our doctor friends—who do need some relief—what do we do? We just violate the agreement, we spend money we do not have, and we say somehow it is paid for. That is what brought us the Ryan-Murray deal and now we are rewriting that agreement. Senator MURRAY agrees that this legislation currently before us violates the budget and is not paid for.

So last year we borrowed—think about this—\$221 billion just to pay the interest on our debt. We have a debt of \$17 trillion. We have to pay interest on it, colleagues—surely we all know that—and it was \$221 billion last year.

Federal aid to education is \$100 billion. The Federal highway bill is \$40 billion. We spent that much on interest last year alone. But the worst news is, the Congressional Budget Office tells us that 10 years from today our interest cost will surge to \$880 billion a year annually. That is more than \$5,000 in interest payments for every American worker—\$880 billion. Can you imagine that? That is over \$400 a month for the average worker that pays taxes in America. That is how much their share is going to have to be raised in taxes to pay the interest in 1 year.

What do I say about that? This assumes, colleagues—this \$880 billion in interest and the surge in our debt—this assumes that we will adhere to the Budget Control Act and the Ryan-Murray agreement, which this bill busts and violates. It is not the first time, and it will not be the last. They are going to come back again and again

and again with gimmicks and violations because people in our Congress are unwilling to take the heat to find real offsets.

So we should keep that in mind as we consider this or any other legislation that will increase the amount of money we have to borrow.

I would like to call attention to three specific ways the proposed legislation violates spending and deficit limits. Each of these are points of order that lie against the bill confirmed by the majority on the Budget Committee. What I am saying is, each of these three points I am raising now represent points of order; in other words, the Budget Committee has ascertained that they violate the budget. We spend more than we are allowed to spend.

So No. 1, a \$17.6 billion increase in the on-budget deficit over the 5-year period from fiscal year 2014 through 2018; and a \$9.5 billion increase in the on-budget deficit over the 10-year period of 2014 through 2023—\$9.5 billion.

No. 2, spending in excess of the top line total in the Ryan-Murray levels for fiscal year 2014. We just passed Ryan-Murray in December. The President signed it in January. This is going to add \$6.1 billion more than we just agreed to spend in fiscal year 2014.

Oh, well, that is not a problem. I say it is a problem. I say it is the way a nation goes broke.

How about this? Spending in excess of the Finance Committee's allocation. The committees are allocated so much money. They are not entitled to spend above the allocated amount. So this spends \$6.1 billion in budget authority and outlays in fiscal year 2014—this year we are in—above the Finance Committee's allocation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. Was there a time agreement, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is an order to go to executive session at 5 o'clock. Would the Senator like to ask a unanimous consent request?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes, and I will wrap up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Hearing none, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank my courteous colleagues.

Maya MacGuineas, at the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget—a well-respected group—was quoted as saying, “We are disheartened that, even in a 12-month ‘doc fix,’ the legislation under consideration would use a budget gimmick to offset a portion of its costs. . . . Specifically, a portion of the bill’s ‘savings’ are achieved by simply shifting sequester savings set to occur in 2025 into 2024, within the Congressional Budget Office’s scoring window, but this has zero actual impact on the debt. . . . Congress should remove

the phony savings in this bill and replace them with real cuts or shorten the duration of the ‘doc fix.’”

That was an objective analysis of it.

So, Mr. President, that being the case, the pending measure, H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act, would violate the Senate pay-go rule and increase the deficit. Therefore, I raise a point of order against this measure pursuant to section 201(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of the pending bill, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent to make a unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Hearing none, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the previous order with respect to H.R. 4302, following disposition of the Owens nomination, when the Senate resumes legislative session, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 336, S. 2157; that the substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate; and that upon disposition of the bill, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4302 as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I have to raise some objections, so I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 330, S. 2122, a bill to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate offset by repealing the ObamaCare individual mandate. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. STABENOW. Thank you, Mr. President. I am thrilled to be here today as the Senate gets ready to send a proposal that I have been working on for several years now to the President for signature. The proposal, which is based on my bill, the Excellence in Mental Health Act, will improve quality, expand access, and ensure greater coordination in the delivery of mental health services through community mental health providers, creating an important leap forward in ensuring mental health parity.

Specifically, this proposal establishes an eight-State demonstration program where the appropriate State agencies in the States that participate will certify that community mental health providers meet new high standards and offer a broad range of mental health services like 24-hour crisis psychiatric services. These services can then be adequately reimbursed under Medicaid just as Federally Qualified Community Health Centers are reimbursed for comprehensive primary care services.

Now, I was incredibly fortunate to work closely with several of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle on this bill. But no one played a more important role than my friend from Missouri, Senator BLUNT. Whether it was fighting on behalf of his constituents struggling with mental illness or working with our Republican colleagues in both the Senate and House to garner support, he was there every step of the way.

I would like to yield to my colleague from Missouri for a question. Specifically, I would like to hear what role he believes the community, meaning community behavioral health clinics, advocacy groups, and families with loved ones struggling with mental illness, will—and should play—in the development of this demonstration project.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the Senator for her work on behalf of her constituents in Michigan and all people struggling with mental illness. She is a strong advocate and I am very pleased we were able to work together on this important issue. As she mentioned, this demonstration program will allow communities to improve the amount and quality of mental health services available to those suffering from mental illness.

As Senator STABENOW and I have constructed this program, it is our strong and clear intent to ensure this demonstration project is driven by the community. Our local community mental centers are the best source for learning what the needs are in communities across our States and the country. It is critical States work not only with these centers, but with groups that advocate on behalf of those struggling with mental illness, and the patients themselves—and their families—who can explain the difference that access to quality mental health services makes in the lives of people struggling with mental disease.

For example, in Missouri, many current community mental health centers have partnered with community health centers in their area. This has worked well for Missouri providers and allows patients an excellent opportunity to receive coordinated care. If these pilot projects prove successful, which I believe they will, it is my hope we would see these programs continue and expand to other States, so other patients can benefit from higher quality services in their communities.

I would like to yield back to Senator STABENOW to ask her to talk about the role she envisions States should play in the application process.

Ms. STABENOW. I thank Senator BLUNT for his thoughtful response and for his question. I could not agree with him more. From the earliest iterations of our bill and through our conversion to a demonstration project, we have fought to make sure that this is a ground-up approach where the local communities, advocates, and patients work with the appropriate State agencies to explain what the needs are and where the needs are, and then to have these groups come together to construct a State-specific approach to providing for those needs.

What our demonstration project does not intend to do is to create a top-down approach where States draft proposals without comprehensive input from local communities to create a partnership with community mental health clinics, federally qualified health clinics, and VA outpatient centers, nor does our approach intend to permit State legislatures to put obstacles in the way of communities receiving the care and services they know they need. That type of approach simply adds more bureaucracy between patients and the care they need. If we are to achieve the true aim of our demonstration project, it is simply critical that communities be intimately involved in the planning and application process.

Which leads me to my final question for my friend. Our proposal lays out a demonstration project that happens in phases. First, no later than September 1, 2015, Health and Human Services must publish criteria for a clinic to be certified as a community behavior health center and it must issue regulations describing how the program will work for States selected to participate. Then, no later than January 1, 2016, planning grants will be issued to States interested in exploring participation in the demonstration project. States are selected for participation in the program no later than September 1, 2017. Finally, the recommendations are due to Congress no later than December 31, 2021. The theme here is “no later than.”

I ask the Senator, should we encourage—even expect—the administration to move more swiftly than the timeframe allotted?

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the Senator for this important question. And I can answer it quickly. Yes.

After hearing from countless people in our home States, we know that the time to act is now. We have a model that works and this demonstration project allows States the opportunity to try it in their communities. The dates and timeframes you mentioned for getting this program started should be viewed as absolute deadlines. I would like to see things move even quicker, if possible. We firmly believe—and expect—that the administration will work quickly to get this program off the ground. There are people around the country who will benefit from these services. The sooner we enact these pilot programs, the sooner we can test the effectiveness of this model. As I mentioned, I believe this model will work and am eager to see it put into place not only in eight States, but all 50.

Ms. STABENOW. I completely agree. People are suffering now. Families are suffering now. While we understand that the administration needs time to implement this demonstration project in a sound and effective way, we are in absolute agreement that the expectation is that the administration will work expeditiously to ensure that actions are taken well in advance of deadlines.

I thank the Senator for his tireless work on behalf of Missourians and all Americans suffering with mental illness. I thank him for fighting beside me to get us here today. I know we would not have crossed the finish line without his efforts and for that I am grateful.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary, the Aurora movie theater, and the Washington Navy Yard served as wake-up calls to our Nation that action must be taken to provide better care and support for Americans living with mental illness and their families.

As an original cosponsor of the bipartisan Excellence in Mental Health Act, I am pleased that the bill before us today includes a provision, based on our legislation, to establish pilot programs in eight States to strengthen and improve access to quality community mental health services.

Unfortunately, patients with serious mental conditions all too often lack access to care and experience difficulties obtaining appropriate and sustained treatment for their illness. Over the course of a year, fewer than half of those with severe mental disorders receive any treatment at all. Treatment rates are even worse for children, adolescents and young people between the ages of 16 and 24. This is especially troubling given that nearly half of all lifetime cases of psychiatric conditions begin by the age of 14, and 75 percent by the age of 24.

Of the 20 percent of Americans who will suffer from mental illness at some point in their lives, just one in five will receive professional care. These kinds of numbers would be totally unacceptable for patients afflicted with cancer, diabetes, heart disease or any other physical disorder. They therefore should not be accepted for schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, severe depression, or any other serious mental illness.

I am particularly concerned about the high rates of suicide among our active duty military and returning veterans. The number of reported suicide deaths in the U.S. military surged to a record 349 in 2012, which is more than the number of servicemembers who lost their lives in combat in Afghanistan during the same period of time.

The number of suicides among veterans has reached an astounding rate of 22 a day according to some studies. These losses are simply unacceptable. With at least 25 percent of returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan experiencing some type of mental health condition, it is even more urgent that comprehensive mental health services be available in communities across the country. This is particularly true in rural states like Maine, where mental health services may not be easily accessible through the VA.

We know that people suffering from mental illness are more likely to be the victims of violence than the perpetrators. However, we also have seen too many tragic examples of what happens when people with serious mental illness do not get the treatment and services they need.

The legislation that we are considering today has been endorsed by more than 50 mental health organizations, veterans organizations and law enforcement organizations. It takes an important first step toward expanding access to care and improving quality of care so that more people living with mental illness can get the treatment they need in their communities.

In closing, I want to commend my colleagues from Michigan and Missouri for their tireless work to increase access to community mental health services and to improve the quality of care for those living with mental illness.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am disappointed that we were unable to come together to permanently repeal the Sustainable Growth Rate formula, and instead passed a 1-year patch to prevent reimbursement cuts for physicians from going into effect in April.

The bill the Senate passed tonight averts a 24 percent cut to Medicare payments that would start tomorrow, April 1. Given the potential impact of such a large cut to Medicare patients and to their physicians, I supported this measure.

While a patch is not the permanent solution many of us have sought, I

voted for it because we must act to prevent these cuts from taking place. Having averted these cuts, I will continue to work for a bipartisan solution to permanently repeal the SGR.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to achieve this goal.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOHN B. OWENS TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John B. Owens, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Utah.

SGR PATCH

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote on H.R. 4302. This is a bill that will extend for 1 year the so-called doc fix relating to the sustainable growth rate—or SGR—formula.

Patching the SGR has become a regular item of business here in the Congress. Indeed, it is basically an annual ritual that we have to go through.

From the first day the SGR went into effect in 2002, Congress has acted to prevent its reimbursement cuts to physicians from going into effect in order to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries continue to have access to quality care.

More often than not, SGR patches have been cobbled together at the last minute between the leadership offices of both parties. They are usually tacked on to larger pieces of legislation without the input of Members and without the benefit of going through a committee.

For years this process has bothered Members of Congress who, like me, want to see transparency and regular order returned to the legislative process.

It has also bothered seniors and physicians who are constantly worried about whether the gridlock in Congress is going to finally send them over the SGR cliff.

There is bipartisan support for repealing and replacing the SGR, or the sustainable growth rate, and, to the surprise of many, progress has been made to do just that. For more than a year, a bipartisan, bicameral group of Members of Congress worked to fully repeal the SGR and replace it with more reasonable reforms that move Medicare's antiquated fee-for-service

reimbursement system for physicians toward a system that rewards doctors for providing quality care based on health outcomes.

I was part of that group, as was former Senator Max Baucus.

Chairman Baucus and I worked for months to produce an SGR repeal bill here in the Senate. Eventually, that bill sailed through the Finance Committee with broad, bipartisan support.

At the same time, the two relevant House committees—the Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee—also reported a bill to repeal the SGR. That, in and of itself, would have been quite a feat. However, we were not done yet.

Realizing that we were close to achieving our goal, the chairmen and ranking members of all three relevant committees—that is three Republicans and three Democrats—decided to come together to find a single unified approach that both parties in both Chambers could support.

At the time there were a lot of naysayers. Indeed, given Congress's recent track record, there were reasons to be skeptical.

However, by consulting with all the relevant stakeholders and hearing their recommendations and concerns, we were able to craft a policy that has near unanimous support across the health care community.

That is right. For the first time since the SGR was enacted in 1997, Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate are united behind a policy that gets rid of this flawed system once and for all.

However, we cannot get ahead of ourselves. From the outset of this process, Chairman Baucus and I, along with our House counterparts, agreed that any legislation to repeal and replace the SGR must be fiscally responsible.

Without any offsets, this policy would add roughly \$180 billion to the deficit—if we do not have offsets. If it is going to pass in both the Senate and the House of Representatives—and if we are going to maintain the same level of bipartisan support for the package—we need to find offsets that both parties can support. It is kind of miraculous we have come together, but both the bilateral and bipartisan people who have worked on this have agreed that we have to have solid offsets.

In the months since we reached an agreement on the underlying policy, all the parties involved have been working to find suitable offsets.

I am not going to disparage anything. This is a difficult process. But it has to be done.

Despite the bipartisan good will this process has engendered, there have been some who were not satisfied with our progress. With today's SGR deadline looming, there was an effort to hijack this bipartisan process and turn it into yet another partisan sideshow.

With an agreement in place and with parties still at the negotiating table, some of my friends on the other side of the aisle thought it would be preferable to simply bring our bill to the floor and demand a vote either without offsets or with offsets they knew Republicans would not be able to support. In other words, they wanted to force our bipartisan policy through the Senate on a partisan basis and then jam the House with it.

This was, to say the least, disappointing to me. Here we have a historic opportunity to do something that will help people throughout this country and do it with the type of broad, bipartisan consensus that is all too rare in Washington these days. Yet there were still some who would prefer to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory and set up yet another political showdown destined to end in a partisan stalemate.

Needless to say, I am glad that eventually cooler heads prevailed, which brings us to today's vote. The SGR patch that we will be voting on today is not perfect. However, I am not going to make the perfect the enemy of the good. The bill before us today is a good-faith effort to move the ball forward, thanks to the good work of Speaker BOEHNER and Majority Leader REID.

What we need now is time to get this done in the right way. This bill will give us that. So for these reasons, I plan to vote in favor of the SGR bill before us today. I urge my Senate colleagues to do the same. Once this legislation is signed into law, we need to get back at the negotiating table. I have no doubt that my friend, the distinguished Senator from Oregon, as he always has, will work with me and others in order to resolve these problems that have arisen.

Like I said, there are three committees with jurisdiction over the SGR issue. We all need to work together to find a responsible path forward. Hopefully, the bill that we will vote on today will put an end to the unnecessary distractions and roadblocks that have been thrown in our path. This is an important vote today. I am very grateful for those who are willing to support what we are at least trying to do. I want to thank all concerned.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, before he leaves the floor, I thank my partner from Utah for his exceptional work in terms of putting together a repeal and replace program and say, as I have in the course of the afternoon, that essentially the proposal I have talked about here today could more properly be called the Hatch-Kyl plan because the underlying bill is essentially the outstanding work done by the Senator from Utah, Chairman CAMP, Chairman

UPTON, a number of Democrats, and essentially takes as a pay-for what our former colleague, Senator Kyl, a conservative by anybody's calculation had in mind.

We are going to be doing a lot of bipartisan work in the Senate Finance Committee. Senator HATCH and I, as I touched on earlier, are already working on the tax extenders. I simply thought that the ideas of Senator HATCH and Senator Kyl, two conservatives who I admire, fit quite well with the kind of bipartisan approach that you heard many Senators on this side of the aisle talk about this afternoon, such as Senator CARDIN and Senator WARNER.

At the end of the day, I guess I will put my final remarks in the context of what Senator COBURN, our friend from Oklahoma, said. He essentially said: Do not put off until tomorrow what you can do today. The good work that Senator HATCH has done on this—I was not the point person for the Democrats at that time; it was Chairman Baucus—I think highlights what we could be moving on today.

The pay-for that our former colleague Senator Kyl from Arizona put forward several years ago is just as valid as it once was. So we will continue, as Senator HATCH has described this afternoon, to work very closely together. I am hopeful that here in the next couple of days colleagues will also see it on a vital matter relating to jobs because the two of us are working together on tax extenders, which is for promoting innovation in our economy: the research and development credit, renewable energy, jobs for veterans.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I want to talk about John Owens, who is the first vote, for a judgeship, particularly one for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. No one questions his qualifications. I spoke on the floor about him before. I was proud to nominate him to the President. He has a sterling background and would be an excellent circuit court judge. The question that arose was because of the previous judge, a man by the name of Stephen Trott. He spent his entire legal career in California before joining the Reagan administration. He was licensed to practice law in California. He

was supported by two Republican Senators from California for various federal appointments. Blue slips for his nomination were sent to California senators.

Now what am I trying to do? I am trying to say, this was a California judge for the Ninth Circuit. What has happened since then is because he moved his home to Idaho once he was a judge, Idaho or some of the representatives from Idaho tend to believe that, voila, this is now an Idaho seat. It is not an Idaho seat. I explained last week that California has less than its proportional share of Ninth Circuit Court judgeships.

Idaho has its fair share. Senator CRAPO, who came to the floor and spoke about this, said nothing about population or caseload to illustrate why this judgeship should move to Idaho. This has been a long-standing attempt to take this seat away from California. When I came to the floor before, I outlined the whole process of how historically this is, in fact, a California seat.

I urge my Republican colleagues to consider the precedent they would be endorsing if they vote against this nominee because of this seat's history; and that is, if a circuit court judge in your State decides to move to another State in the circuit, then your State has lost that judgeship. That is the precedent that not approving this judge would set.

I urge my colleagues to continue to support this nominee, notwithstanding the opposition of the Senators from Idaho.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last Thursday the Senate voted to end the filibuster on the nomination of John Owens of California to a judicial emergency vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. This is the longest running vacancy in our entire Federal court system. Today the Senate will finally vote to confirm this outstanding nominee to a court that is in desperate need of judges.

The Ninth Circuit is the busiest circuit court in the country, and yet it has not been operating at full strength for more than nine years. It has the highest number of appeals filed, the highest pending appeals per panel and the highest pending appeals per active judge. It also takes far longer than any other circuit court to resolve an appeal. The delay in resolving these appeals hurts the American people. After confirming John Owens, the Senate should proceed to Michelle Friedland's nomination to the Ninth Circuit as soon as possible.

The nomination of John Owens is an example of how the process of judicial nominations and consultation with home State senators should work. Under Article II of the Constitution, the Senate has a significant role to play regarding our independent judici-

ary. We are called upon to work with the President by providing advice and consent for Federal judicial appointments.

Some have recently questioned the rationale behind the so-called "blue slip" process that solicits the views of the home State senators before a judicial nomination moves in the Senate. I have explained that this blue piece of paper reflects the "advice" prong of the Senate's role. If an administration does not consult with home State senators to seek their advice on a nominee, it is far less likely the nominee will receive their support. This support is crucial to the successful confirmation of judicial nominees. In the almost four decades I have served in the Senate, I cannot recall a single judicial nominee confirmed over the objection of his or her home State senators. Today's confirmation to the Ninth Circuit is yet another example of that reality.

In the prior administration, rather than working with the California senators to fill this seat on the Ninth Circuit, President Bush unnecessarily complicated and delayed filling this vacancy by nominating Judge Randy Smith of Idaho. In doing so, President Bush attempted an end run around home State Senators FEINSTEIN and BOXER. Instead, he consulted with the senators from Idaho—both of whom were Republican senators. Judge Smith was not a Californian and did not receive support from the California Senators. When President Bush took my advice and re-nominated Judge Smith to fill an Idaho vacancy on the Ninth Circuit at the beginning of 2007, Judge Smith received the support of both Idaho Senators and was confirmed quickly.

The Bush administration also tried to get around home State senators in Maryland to fill a vacancy on the Fourth Circuit. President Bush chose to nominate Claude Allen of Virginia, a controversial nominee with limited experience who received a partial "not qualified" rating from the American Bar Association, and the Maryland Senators understandably objected. Mr. Allen's nomination did not move forward due to the objection of the proper home State Senators from Maryland. Meaningful consultation and support of the appropriate home State Senators continues to be important to the confirmation of nominees, and the vote we are taking today on John Owens is proof of that.

President Obama nominated Mr. Owens last August, and his early October hearing date had to be moved after Republicans forced a shutdown of our government. A hearing on his nomination was finally held in late October. Mr. Owens could and should have been confirmed before we adjourned last year. Instead, because Republicans refused to consent to hold any nominations in the Senate, every single one

had to be returned to the President at the end of last year. They then had to be renominated and reprocessed through committee this year. Mr. Owens was voted out of committee on a voice vote, without dissent, on January 16, 2014.

Born in Washington, DC, Mr. Owens earned his B.A., with high distinction, from the University of California, Berkeley, and his J.D., with distinction, Order of the Coif, from Stanford Law School. At Stanford, he was the Nathan Abbott Scholar, an award given to the student with the highest cumulative point average in the class. Mr. Owens served as executive editor of the Stanford Law Review, where he earned the Stanford Law Review Board of Editors Award.

After law school, Mr. Owens served as a law clerk to Judge J. Clifford Wallace of the Ninth Circuit and for Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the United States Supreme Court. He has been a litigator in both public and private practice. In 1998, he joined the U.S. Department of Justice, where he would later serve as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California and the Southern District of California. In 2008, Mr. Owens was promoted to serve as the Deputy Chief of Major Frauds and later the chief of the criminal division. In 2012, he rejoined private practice as a partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson where he presently works. Over the course of his legal career, he has been counsel of record in more than 20 cases before the court on which he is nominated to serve.

Mr. Owens has the support of his home State senators—Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER. I hope my fellow Senators will join me today to confirm Mr. Owen's nomination to the Ninth Circuit so that he can get to work for the American people.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHANNES. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is considered expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John B. Owens, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit?

Mr. JOHANNES. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 91 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Isakson	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Chambliss	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—43

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Coburn	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Johanns	Shelby
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Corker	Kirk	Toomey
Cornyn	Lee	Vitter
Crapo	McCain	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	
Enzi	Moran	

NOT VOTING—1

Heitkamp

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROTECTING ACCESS TO
MEDICARE ACT OF 2014—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and resume consideration of H.R. 4302.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the next votes tonight be 10 minutes in duration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the motion to waive.

The yeas and nays were previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 64, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 92 Leg.]

YEAS—64

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Hatch	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heller	Reed
Blunt	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Burr	Kirk	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Landrieu	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Collins	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Markey	Vitter
Cornyn	McCaskill	Walsh
Donnelly	McConnell	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murkowski	
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—35

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Ayotte	Flake	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Coburn	Isakson	Sessions
Cochran	Johanns	Shelby
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	

NOT VOTING—1

Heitkamp

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 64, the nays are 35. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 4302) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to have a vote now on SGR, and if all things work out as anticipated, that will be the last vote tonight.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, under the previous order the question is, Shall it pass?

Mr. JOHANNES. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 93 Leg.]

YEAS—64

Ayotte	Boxer	Chambliss
Begich	Brown	Cochran
Bennet	Burr	Collins
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Coons
Blunt	Cardin	Cornyn
Booker	Casey	Donnelly

Durbin	Leahy	Rockefeller
Feinstein	Levin	Sanders
Gillibrand	Manchin	Schatz
Hagan	Markey	Schumer
Harkin	McCaskill	Shaheen
Hatch	McConnell	Stabenow
Heinrich	Menendez	Tester
Heller	Merkley	Udall (CO)
Hirono	Mikulski	Udall (NM)
Hoeben	Murkowski	Vitter
Isakson	Murphy	Walsh
Johnson (SD)	Murray	Warren
Kaine	Nelson	Whitehouse
King	Pryor	Wicker
Kirk	Reed	
Landrieu	Reid	

NAYS—35

Alexander	Flake	Portman
Baldwin	Franken	Risch
Barrasso	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Rubio
Carper	Inhofe	Scott
Coats	Johanns	Sessions
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Corker	Klobuchar	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Warner
Enzi	Moran	Wyden
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Heitkamp

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 64, the nays are 35.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill (H.R. 4302) is passed.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3979, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 333, H.R. 3979, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is considered expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 2874

(Purpose: To provide for a perfecting amendment)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a substitute amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. REED, for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK, proposes an amendment numbered 2874.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2875 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2874

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a first-degree amendment to the substitute. It is already at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2875 to amendment No. 2874.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2876 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2875

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment to the substitute which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2876 to amendment No. 2875.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the substitute amendment No. 2874 to H.R. 3979, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers

are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Harry Reid, Jack Reed, Patrick J. Leahy, Thomas R. Carper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Harkin, Cory A. Booker, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Barbara Boxer, Angus S. King, Jr., Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Bernard Sanders.

AMENDMENT NO. 2877

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the bill at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2877 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2874.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2878 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2877

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2878 to amendment No. 2877.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2879

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit H.R. 3979, but it also has instructions, and that is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report back forthwith with the following amendment numbered 2879.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 4 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2880

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2880 to the instructions of the motion to commit H.R. 3979.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "4 days" and insert "5 days".

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2881 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2880

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2881 to amendment No. 2880.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "5 days" and insert "6 days".

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk, and I ask that the Chair order it reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 3979, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Harry Reid, Jack Reed, Patrick J. Leahy, Thomas R. Carper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Harkin, Cory A. Booker, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Barbara Boxer, Angus S. King, Jr., Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on the matter before the body before the quorum call was ordered, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorums required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 250, S. 1737, the Minimum Wage Fairness Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 250, S. 1737, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 404

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I shortly am going to make a unanimous consent request on S. Res. 404, a resolution I submitted honoring the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez. This resolution has been blocked by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle every time it has come up for the last 7 consecutive years—every time.

Now, today, on what would have been Cesar Chavez's 87th birthday, I ask my Republican colleagues to find it in their hearts to honor a man who really made a difference in our country. Frankly, I do not understand their reluctance. I do not understand their obstructionism. I do not understand how they can look back at that time in history, at the sacrifices Cesar Chavez made for our country, asking for nothing more than fair treatment and justice.

I realize it is uncommon to make a live unanimous consent request for a commemorative resolution, but if Republicans are going to object yet again—for an eighth year in a row—to honoring, in my view, a great American hero, I really want it to be on the record. I think Republicans need to answer to the American people as to why, as a party, they can agree to passing resolutions honoring World Plumbing Day or congratulating the Penn State Dance Marathon—both Senate resolutions that were adopted this month by unanimous consent—but insist on standing in the way of honoring a civil rights trailblazer who changed the course of our Nation's history.

Cesar Chavez was a man before his time, and he deserves proper recognition. He dedicated his life to fighting for equality, justice, and dignity—not only for Hispanic farm workers but for all workers in the United States. Yet our friends on the other side cannot find it in their hearts to honor him. I have to ask why. Why can't they simply say yes, he was an extraordinary man who gave of himself for his cause and deserves to be remembered and honored by the U.S. Senate?

The President of the United States proclaimed today, March 31, 2014, as Cesar Chavez Day. Over 10 States honor his life and legacy each year on this

day. The Secretary of the Interior established a national monument in his honor, and across the country you will find schools, parks, streets, libraries, and other public facilities named after Cesar Chavez as well.

So I implore Senate Republicans to reconsider denying Cesar Chavez's legacy for an eighth year in a row. Adopt this commemorative resolution by unanimous consent. Give Cesar Chavez the recognition he so deserves. That is all we ask—nothing more.

This year there is a new movie chronicling the life of Cesar Chavez—a life lived with honor and dignity and decency for the betterment of all of us. The film is long overdue. That life, that dedication, that spirit will always be missed.

He was born near his family's farm in Yuma, AZ. When he was 10, in the hard times of the Depression, the family lost their farm, like millions of Americans, and they became migrant farm workers, laboring in vineyards across the Southwest, where he learned of the injustice and hardship of a farm worker's life. He never left those fields. He never left the land. He never turned his back on the people who worked it. And the rest is history.

Robert Kennedy called him one of the most heroic figures of our time. I think it is because Cesar Chavez understood and believed in one fundamental truth. He always said: "The fight is never about grapes or lettuce; it's always about people."

He was right. And that fight continues today. The struggle for fairness and dignity for every American goes on, and Cesar Chavez was and is its inspiration. He certainly is an American hero but most definitely a hero to the Hispanic community. He paved the way for the contributions of Hispanic Americans—for innovative progress and social improvements. If there is one man who redefined leadership, it is Cesar Chavez.

I think my colleagues need to know that the community stands with me today and stands firmly behind my resolution honoring the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez.

Mr. President, I have a list—and in the interest of time, I will not read it—of 37 national Hispanic and labor organizations that all support the resolution. I ask unanimous consent to have that list printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

2014 CESAR CHAVEZ RESOLUTION

(S. RES. 404)

ENDORSEMENTS

(LIST IN PROGRESS)

LATINO ORGANIZATIONS

1. Aspira
2. Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
3. Cuban American National Council, Inc. (CNC)

4. Farmworker Justice
 5. Friends of the American Latino Museum
 6. Hispanic Federation
 7. Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
 8. Latino Justice PRLDEF
 9. Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)
 10. League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
 11. Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
 12. MANA, A National Latina Organization
 13. National Alliance of Latin American & Caribbean Communities (NALACC)
 14. National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund
 15. National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives (NAHFE)
 16. National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
 17. National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC)
 18. National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL)
 19. National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLLA)
 20. National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC)
 21. National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)
 22. National Institute for Latino Policy (NILP)
 23. National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH)
 24. SER Jobs for Progress National, Inc.
 25. Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP)
 26. U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI)
 27. US Mexico Foundation
 28. National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
 29. Minority Business RoundTable
- LABOR GROUPS
1. AFL-CIO
 2. American Federation of Government Employees
 3. American Federation of Teachers
 4. Communications Workers of America (CWA)
 5. International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
 6. International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
 7. International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)
 8. Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association.

9. Farmworker Justice
10. Friends of the American Latino Museum
11. Hispanic Federation
12. Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
13. Latino Justice PRLDEF
14. Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)
15. League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
16. Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
17. MANA, A National Latina Organization
18. National Alliance of Latin American & Caribbean Communities (NALACC)
19. National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund
20. National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives (NAHFE)
21. National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
22. National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC)
23. National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL)
24. National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLLA)
25. National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC)
26. National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)
27. National Institute for Latino Policy (NILP)
28. National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH)
29. SER Jobs for Progress National, Inc.
30. Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP)
31. U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI)
32. US Mexico Foundation
33. National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
34. Minority Business RoundTable

Mr. MENENDEZ. We all eagerly await the day when politics will no longer preclude its passage.

Cesar Chavez's profound legacy and lasting influence can be reduced to three words—the motto of the United Farm Workers—that recall his fight for justice and have echoed from the fields of Delano, CA, across America all the way to the White House: “Si se puede.” These three words, while simple in nature, harbored the power to move entire communities from the dark shadows of injustice toward a brighter light of hope. These three words represent at their very core the spirit that breathes life into Americans' struggle for a better life.

As the leader of the first successful farm workers union in the United States, he fought to ensure those work-

ing tirelessly to provide Americans with food received the benefits they deserved. Nonetheless, his service extends far beyond our agricultural fields and provides inspiration to those working to improve human rights, empowering workers, regardless of race or ethnicity. His countless efforts to ensure equality, justice, and dignity for all people in the United States are a testament of his leadership and success—a success that can only be measured by the lasting impact he has made toward ending workplace discrimination, unsafe and unfair working conditions, low wages, and child labor. He was more than just a farmer with a vision. He was a civil rights leader who embodied the pursuit of justice that continues to inspire millions of Americans today.

So I come to the floor today to honor the life and achievements of Cesar Chavez, to ask my Republican colleagues to put aside their politics and do what is right by a man whose life and legacy deserve the recognition of this Nation—one Nation and one Congress.

Let's stand together and recognize the accomplishments of a great American hero but, most importantly, let's honor the values that make our country great—the values of tolerance, hope, and freedom, upon which this country was founded. And let's always remember, as Chavez said, the fight is always about the people.

With that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 404, the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would note that the resolution has not come out of the Judiciary Committee and that Senator VITTER, who has filed an amendment to the resolution, asks that that amendment be accepted or voted on, which has been not agreed to. The amendment would say a couple things.

One:

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez strongly believed in enforcing immigration laws, thereby reducing the deleterious effects of inexpensive labor on the wages of farm workers in the United States, as recognized by the Congressional Budget Office in the June 2013 report entitled “The Economic Impact of S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act.

And he offers this “whereas,” a second one:

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez recognized the importance of a secure southern border with Mexico, through citizen participation in the enforcement of immigration laws, by encouraging members of the United Farm Workers of America to contact the Immigra-

tion and Naturalization Service to report instances of illegal labor. . . .

So that not having been accepted, I would ask that be accepted. It is at the desk. I ask it be agreed to prior to adoption of this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from New Jersey so modify his request?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Reserving the right to object, this is not about Cesar Chavez. This is about immigration. I know my distinguished colleague has a different view about immigration than I do. I know Senator VITTER, for whom he is offering this amendment, also has a different view.

The Senate has spoken on the question of immigration. Sixty-seven Senators, two-thirds of the Senate has already sent an immigration reform bill to the House of Representatives. So while we may have different views, that is not the issue of Cesar Chavez. In my view it is an injustice to his memory to offer such an amendment. That is why I will have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. SESSIONS. I would object and would note I do have a different view on these issues. With regard to the impact of S. 744, had it passed, it would have been adverse to farmworkers who are in this country working hard, need pay raises, and need better job opportunities. I think these are important parts of Mr. Chavez's career. It seems to me that the Senator would be pleased to accept that, but I understand we have a disagreement. I express my respect for Senator MENENDEZ and his leadership on the Foreign Relations Committee, but we disagree on this subject.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I have a deep respect for Senator SESSIONS. But I will just simply say this is the 8th year, the 8th year in which under some figleaf—before they could hide through their objections. But this is really a fig leaf. The Senate has expressed itself on immigration reform. This is not about immigration reform. This is about Cesar Chavez. This is about a man who led boycotts across the country to bring to justice the rights of farmworkers and of all workers across the land.

There is no bigger supporter, by the way, than the United Farm Workers, which he helped build, create, and today is one of the strongest voices for that immigration reform.

It is, from my view, shameful that we can pass commemorative resolutions on some of the most insignificant issues, but on the life of someone who changed the course of this country for millions of Latinos who understand that life and history and would want to see that life commemorated, that there

can be a continuing objection for 8 years. I will keep coming each year to the floor to make this happen. At some point it will.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Before the distinguished Senator from New Jersey leaves, I wish to thank him for his diligence and advocacy on behalf of a distinguished American. I can say, as chair of the agriculture committee, without the work of Cesar Chavez, without those who toiled in the fields picking the fruits and vegetables and providing the backbone of the agricultural workforce, we would not have an agricultural economy in many places in this country.

To say on the date of his birth that we recognize Cesar Chavez is something that is straightforward and ought to be happening and should have happened 8 years ago.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Mr. President, today marks the culmination of a long fight to improve community mental health care in our country. Last Thursday the House of Representatives passed the Protecting Access to Medicare Act, which includes a demonstration project based on the Excellence in Mental Health Act that my friend and partner from Missouri ROY BLUNT and I authored.

I wish to recognize Senator MARIA CANTWELL, who is one of our cosponsors who is on the floor, for her wonderful, passionate support and voice helping us get this done. I wish to thank our House sponsors. This is a House-Senate Republican-Democratic initiative. Who says we cannot work together when we want to get things done?

Congresswoman MATSUI, a Democrat from Hawaii; Congressman LANCE, a Republican from New Jersey, were our sponsors. We also had significant partnership and advocacy from Congressman TIM MURPHY, a leader in mental health in the Congress, a Republican from Pennsylvania.

I wish to thank SUSAN COLLINS who, as a Senator from Maine, has been a passionate advocate as well and Senator JACK REED, who has worked with me for years on this legislation. He and I were partners for a long time to get this done. I wish to thank the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in the House, Chairman CAMP, and Chairman UPTON for working with us, both from my home State of Michigan—for working and partnering with us.

I wish to thank the Speaker and Majority Leader REID, who put together a proposal, not what most of us would have liked to have seen in terms of permanently fixing this issue of the SGR or Medicare reimbursement for physicians, but even in looking at a fix for just 1 year, they came together and

supported our vision for positively moving forward on a demonstration project to increase community mental health services.

Certainly, last but not least, I wish to thank Senator RON WYDEN, who has been there since day one and now as chairman of the Finance Committee has been unequivocal in his passionate support for what we are doing. I wish to thank Chairman WYDEN for his leadership and support.

Our legislation is a landmark step forward for community mental health funding, one of the most significant advances we have seen in decades. This bill will improve the lives of people all across the country by providing funding to create 24-hour emergency psychiatric services and higher standards and funding for community care.

We authored this bill because mental illness touches all of our families in some way, one out of four Americans. For me, it was my father who suffered from bipolar disorder and was not diagnosed for at least 10 years when I was growing up. I saw the impact on my dad, the most loving, wonderful father someone could have, on my mom, on my brothers, our whole family, as we struggled to figure out what was going on and get him the help and support he needed.

When he finally was accurately diagnosed and received the right treatment and support, got the right tools to manage this disease, he was able to go back to work and live a happy and rewarding life for the rest of his life. Similar to my dad, too many people who need treatment do not get it, including one-third of all people living with mood disorders and more than half of those with severe mental diseases.

That is because in this country we treat mental health and physical health differently. If you have diabetes, you monitor your sugar levels, you take insulin to manage your disease. You go on with your life as you are managing your disease. If you are bipolar, meaning you have a chemical imbalance in the brain, you may receive zero treatment, maybe lose your job or worse your family, maybe end up in jail or on the streets.

Diabetes and bipolar disorders are both chemical imbalances in different parts of the body. Both deserve treatment. People deserve to be able to get effective treatment for both. Both are treatable—both are treatable. The same is true for schizophrenia and many other behavioral diseases. There is hope when people get help.

There is treatment available and from that the ability to manage diseases, as we do for so many physical diseases that people have. This bill which we just passed in the Senate will make it more likely to happen that people can get the treatment and support they need. This bill makes great

improvements in the way we treat mental health care as well. It will expand access, make sure people get treatment at a higher quality level, because just as we do with federally qualified health centers, we are now creating federally qualified behavioral health clinics.

If you meet higher standards, you get higher reimbursements and therefore more services available. This legislation authorizes eight States to be designated to receive enhanced funding for community mental health services, based on meeting high-quality standards for services, as I said before, for the designation of federally qualified behavioral health clinics.

This is voluntary. States will compete to be designated as one of the eight demonstration States. I expect many States and communities across the country to be working together to do that. I fully expect this demonstration project will save lives and save money to communities in every State that is housing people in jails who should be getting the treatment they need in the community in order to manage their diseases and live productive lives.

It has taken a long time to get here. The fight began 50 years ago, when President John F. Kennedy called on Congress to create a new type of health care facility that would improve the quality of mental health care in the community—in the community—and reduce stigma. He pushed Congress to take action on mental health care because he had a vision to bring mental health treatment out of institutions and into communities across America.

Following his lead, Congress sent him the Community Mental Health Act. It was the last bill he signed before he was murdered in Dallas. It is one of the most important bills that he signed. Senator BLUNT and I spoke on the Senate floor last fall to commemorate the 50th anniversary of that bill's signing because it marked a major change in the way we treat mental health.

Unfortunately, over the past few decades, instead of increasing funding for mental health services, we have seen cut after cut after cut. We are seeing the consequences. Inpatient facilities all across the country have closed their doors, but they have not been replaced by services in the community. Too often we are turning the emergency room or worse to jails or prisons as our primary mental health treatment facilities.

As Cook County, IL, Sheriff Tom Dart testified in the House of Representatives just last week, "The unfortunate and undeniable conclusion is, that because of dramatic and sustained cuts in mental health funding, we have criminalized mental illness in this country."

The ER and the jails are not the place to treat mental illness. We can do

better than that in this country. We have now taken a major step to do that. Our families deserve better. That is why our former colleagues Senator Pete Domenici and Senator Paul Wellstone, a dear friend to so many of us and whom we miss dearly, and later another dear friend, Senator Ted Kennedy, whom we also miss dearly, a towering figure on so many issues, joined together with Senator Kennedy's son, Representative PATRICK KENNEDY, and wrote the bipartisan Mental Health Parity and Addiction Act. They wanted to make sure we had parity in how insurance companies treat mental and physical health. That bill became law finally in 2008. It was a huge step forward.

I was proud to offer mental health parity in the Affordable Care Act, which was the next big step forward. Today we voted on the final step in mental health parity in the community, the ability to get funding for quality mental health care services the same way we fund quality community health services.

I have met and heard from so many people who personally felt the effects of mental illness and who wanted us to pass this bill so they and others could get the treatment they need.

One of those people who joined us—in fact, today at a press conference, flew in from Michigan—is Malkia Newman, who lived for over 30 years with undiagnosed bipolar disorder. She finally got the treatment she needed through the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority in the Detroit suburbs.

She recovered, is now managing her illness, and is the board chair of the very same mental health board community she turned to for help so she can help others. Her message to Congress is: "Please pass this bill so everyone can get the mental health help they need."

Not everyone is as lucky as Malkia, though. There are many who still need our help, which is why what we have done today is so important.

Today, one in four returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan is in some need of some form of mental health care treatment. I recently heard from Marcia in Dearborn about her friend.

She said:

My friend bravely served two tours in Iraq for this country. Before he left for war, he was so outgoing and all he wanted was to put a smile on everyone's face. He had the biggest heart of anyone I know.

But when he came home from war with PTSD, her friend was in trouble.

Marcia writes:

What is done for these men and women when they come home? They go to war, they see things no one should ever see and do things no one should ever do, and they're expected to return home and live normally?

Her friend killed himself after suffering from PTSD for 8 years. Marcia's

friend is only 1 of the 22 veterans who take their own lives every single day in America. This is where our bill comes in. This bipartisan bill expands access to mental health care, working with outpatient VA clinics, working with community mental health centers, and federally qualified mental health centers, all working together. I thank so much the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans for being with us every step of the way, advocating, all of the veterans organizations that have been so supportive. This bill will create a broad range of mental health services, such as 24-hour crisis psychiatric services in communities that are selected, integrated preventive screenings, integrated treatment for mental illness and substance abuse, and expanded peer support and counseling for families and patients alike.

It allows community mental health centers to finally be reimbursed the same as physical health providers. We are finally saying that as a country we are going to treat illnesses from the neck up, the same way we treat illnesses from the neck down.

Instead of merely talking about mental health in the wake of tragedies such as the Navy Yard in Washington last fall that took 13 lives or the tragedy at Sandy Hook, we have taken action this evening.

Mental health isn't a partisan issue. Senators Domenici and Wellstone understood it just as Senator BLUNT, Senator CANTWELL, Senator COLLINS, and I understand.

Senator Wellstone isn't here to see the progress we have made, but he once said:

Politics is not about power. Politics is not about money. Politics is not about winning for the sake of winning. Politics is about the improvement of people's lives.

That is exactly what we are doing, improving people's lives and creating hope and opportunity for people to get the help they need to live long, successful lives.

I thank all of our colleagues for working together to get this done. It will be something, as we move forward, of which we can all be proud.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business for less than 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, first I wish to address legislation that passed the Senate earlier this evening. The sustainable growth rate is such an important issue to the people from the State of Kansas. I come from a State in which senior citizens are a very prevalent portion of our population, and access to health care is so dependent upon whether Medicare reimburses a physician, a hospital, a home health care agency or a nursing home in an

adequate amount. I fear that in the absence of that adequate Medicare reimbursement we will see a lot fewer doctors, and hospital doors will close.

I have been an advocate of and in fact I never voted to create the sustainable growth rate, and I suppose I should explain what that is. In the broadest of terms it means there is a formula that ultimately reduces the reimbursement a physician receives under Medicare. It has become a very dramatic issue. This year I believe it is around a 24 percent reduction that will occur April 1, tomorrow, if the sustainable growth rate formula is not altered.

The reality is that Congress has altered that formula to avoid those reductions, because we know when a health care provider is not compensated in a way that covers the cost of providing the service, most likely we are going to have fewer health care providers. Hospitals will not be there, physicians will no longer be in practice, and, particularly in areas of our country that are rural where, again, a significant portion of the population is senior citizens whose medical bills are paid, in part, through Medicare.

My discouragement, my dissatisfaction, is once again the Senate has demonstrated its dysfunction by passing a very short-term fix to this long-term problem. If history is any indication, we will be back 1 year from now in the same predicament. We have made alterations 16 times previously. This is the 17th time in which we have done a short-term fix to a long-term problem. To me, it is one more symptom of our inability as a Senate to function in a way that benefits the American people: in this case, patients who are served by physicians who will be harmed.

In instances across Kansas, our hospitals are now employers of physicians, and so they have entered into a contract with a physician. When the reimbursement rate for the physician is reduced, it means less revenue to the hospital and a tighter squeeze to the many hospitals that barely hang on by a thread.

I express my appreciation to Senator WYDEN, the chairman of the Finance Committee, for his efforts to find a long-term solution, a permanent repeal of the SGR and again express my willingness to him and to others to work with Democrats in the Senate, to work with Republicans in the Senate, to find the necessary numbers of us who will come together to support legislation that would permanently end the SGR, and that we would not be then asked a few months from now to come back once again to solve the problem.

We know the problem is there. We know we will have to find a solution. The consequences of failing are so great, but we were unwilling to take the necessary steps today to pass a permanent repeal and an elimination of the SGR formula.

Again, to Senator WYDEN, he and I have had conversations since last Thursday about my willingness to have conversations with Republican Members of the Senate to find the necessary votes to pass legislation for a permanent repeal. I expressed that offer again to Senator WYDEN, that we are still interested in doing that, and that the country, its health care providers and their patients, deserve better than what we were able to do today.

REMEMBERING THE MULL FAMILY

I turn to a story about a very special Kansas family. Unfortunately, it is a sad story.

I often describe to my friends and colleagues in Washington, DC, how special Kansas is and in a special way how we live our lives there.

Families are important. The values of family run deep in our communities. We have neighbors who care for each other and we all know each other one on one, name by name, family by family. We know where they go to church, we know what schools their kids are in, and we know how their families are doing. When tragedy strikes, the entire community is shaken.

I pay tribute today to a family from north central Kansas, the Mulls. Glenn Mull and his wife Elaine, their daughter Amy Harter and their granddaughter Samantha Harter were traveling to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association trade show in Nashville on February 3 when the plane they were in crashed during its second landing attempt. The jet went down about 10 miles from the airport in Bellevue, TN.

I saw on the Internet a Bellevue resident, who I don't know. She wrote this tribute to Glenn Mull, the pilot.

She said:

Glenn had reached the most bustling section of our community at the busiest time of the day. . . . He would have seen hundreds of homes with cars in the driveway. A Kroger packed with shoppers. An assisted living community. And an enormous YMCA, where hundreds of families were streaming in and out to swim in the indoor pool, exercise and take classes. Glenn didn't know this, but school was cancelled for our kids . . . so a larger number than usual were at the Y with their parents. Some experts are saying now that the last-second sharp turn Glenn made in the seconds before the plane crashed indicates that he made a heroic decision to hit the one spot in the immediate vicinity where no one on the ground would be hurt. . . . Glenn managed to spare all of their lives.

The Bellevue resident went on to describe her own community as one which is "filled with people who shared Glenn's obvious affinity for family." She said that Bellevue residents:

. . . are all talking about Glenn Mull, the hero, who we believe had the extraordinary courage and presence of mind to save our families, even as he realized he couldn't save his own.

Glenn was born in Great Bend and raised on his family farm near there, where his parents instilled in him a strong work ethic and a sense of integ-

rity. He went on to graduate from Kansas State University with a business degree, and K-State is where he met his wife Elaine. They moved back to north central Kansas to grow the three-generation family farm and eventually to raise their three children. He promoted his life's work through representation of Kansas farmers and ranchers in organizations such as the Kansas Livestock Association and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Glenn and Elaine were well respected not only in the cattle industry but also in their community for their generous commitment to improving the lives of their neighbors. As a founding board member of Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation, one of Glenn's top priorities was improving health care in Larned, KS. Their hospital was faced with potential closure in 2009 until efforts were made by the city of Larned and community members such as Glenn to solve the problem and to keep the hospital doors open. For rural communities such as Larned, access to the types of health care facilities offered by Pawnee Valley Community Hospital is essential to their community's future.

Elaine, his wife, had a tireless heart for service and volunteered in a number of organizations, including the Fort Larned Historical Society, the Larned Hospital Auxiliary, the Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned Music Club, 4-H, Girl Scouts, and was a K-State trustee, just to name a few of her activities.

She played the piano and taught Bible study classes at Grace Community Church in Great Bend where the pastor said that he loved to talk with Glenn about the weather, which is a very common Kansas conversation, and that he always used the farmer's expertise to analyze the day.

The pastor said:

He knew exactly how much moisture we had and what we needed, whether this was good for the wheat versus the milo and how it might affect the feed yards.

The pastor continued:

There has been talk that Glenn behaved in a very heroic way. I have no idea whether that is true, but I will tell you that he is the kind of guy who would absolutely have done the right thing.

Glenn and Elaine's legacies of selflessness, philanthropy, and leadership undoubtedly live on. I have met many people in my life, and I don't know that I have ever met a couple with more optimism, with more care and concern for other people, with a sense that things will be better tomorrow, and that the idea that hard work and living your life with integrity and as a companion to your Creator, would mean that good things would happen for you and your family.

Amy Harter, their daughter, and her family lived in a house on the Mulls' land and worked in the family business, while she and her husband Doug

raised their children, Chase and Samantha.

Sixteen-year-old Samantha, the granddaughter, was killed in that plane crash. She was described by one of her classmates at Larned High School, which has a student body of about 300, as a silly girl but a serious enough one to be a member of the honor choir. She would have the most energy in the honor choir practice at 7 in the morning. She would either be there—tired—with caramel rolls her mom had made or laughing and having fun.

Kansans know what it means to persevere, and certainly the Mull family has persevered through many difficulties. No farmer or rancher escapes that in our State. We embrace our State's motto—"Ad astra per aspera"—"To the stars through difficulties." During difficult times we often see the very best in people—as in Glenn's decision to save lives in Tennessee when he couldn't save himself or his family.

Amidst the loss of Glenn and Elaine, their daughter and granddaughter, and the suffering of this Kansas community, what stands out is the outpouring in Larned and Great Bend in central Kansas of care and compassion shown by their friends and neighbors but also by the residents of Bellevue, NE, who were united in their care and concern for this family they never knew.

Glenn, Elaine, their daughter Amy, and granddaughter Samantha will be greatly missed, and all we can do now is model our lives after the lives they led and ask that God comfort them, their families and be a source of support for all who knew them as we go through this continued time of grief.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kansas for his remarks and extend my sympathies to the family. I thank the Senator for his rendition of his State's fortitude. My State is working with fortitude right now too in the Oso-Darrington mudslides, and perseverance is a good word.

So I thank him.

Mr. MORAN. I thank my colleague.

EXCELLENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH ACT

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, we took an important step today to improve the lives of millions of Americans who deal with mental illness. I am talking about the Excellence in Mental Health Act, which was included in the provisions of the legislation we just passed this evening.

I thank my colleagues, Senators STABENOW and BLUNT, for their leadership on this bill. Senator STABENOW just gave a very passionate history of why she has been so involved with this issue. People may not realize that she has been working on this since 2005. So I thank her for that leadership because around here it takes time to get things

done, and she has never forgotten how important this is for those with mental illness and the loved ones and family members who care about them.

This legislation was bipartisan legislation, and that certainly helped us get the bill passed. It was something I was happy to cosponsor with Senator STABENOW when we worked it through the committee and then also when we tried to get it included in this latest package. So I am proud to be here tonight to thank her and Senator BLUNT for their leadership in getting this done.

This legislation improves access to community health centers and leads to better quality of care. It will give access to those participating States that are fortunate enough to be in this first phase of a pilot program, and it will help local governments and health care systems that are all plagued by these challenges. Most importantly, it will help save lives.

Community mental health treatment centers are struggling because they are trying to meet the demand and do so within the balance of their budgets. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, States have cut more than \$1.6 billion in mental health funds since 2009. So here we are with a very pervasive problem and budget tightening, which, obviously, causes big challenges. What are those challenges? Basically too many people falling through the cracks.

Nationally, more than half of those with serious mental disorders don't get the treatment they need to lead productive healthy lives. In my State, the State of Washington, 55 percent of those with mental illness are not getting treatment. That translates to 500,000 people who are not getting the help they need, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration. When they reach a crisis point, it is not just a burden on them and their families but on our communities, our hospitals, and our criminal justice systems. As a result, our jails and our emergency rooms have become the mental health clinic of last resort.

As the Tacoma News Tribune wrote in a recent editorial, "Jails and prisons have become our de facto mental institutions."

Not only is that approach ineffective, it is also extremely expensive. It means local governments spend more for housing and court services and medication and treatment of the mentally ill while in their custody. For emergency rooms it means they fill up with mentally ill patients they are often ill equipped to deal with.

In Washington we have seen a dramatic rise in psychiatric boarding—or warehousing. Boarding happens when involuntarily committed patients must wait for hours in a hospital emergency room because psychiatric facilities have no open beds.

A recent investigation by the Seattle Times found that boarding has become routine in our State, "traumatizing thousands of mentally ill residents, wreaking havoc on hospitals, and wasting millions [in] taxpayer dollars." Patients are "frequently parked in hallways or bound to beds, usually given medication but otherwise no psychiatric care."

This report is the basis of why this legislation is so important. The report also talked about financial costs. Boarding costs Washington State's health care system \$10.5 million a year, according to the State.

I believe we can do better, and this legislation helps us do that. We can support proven models that improve efficiency and reduce spending. One such model is this legislation we just passed—community-based care that focuses on prevention, early intervention, and coordination between providers. All of that is why the legislation is so important. It helps increase efficiency while bolstering the community health centers with increased Medicaid support.

It will also enable the State to improve the quality and range of services. It requires the State to certify community mental health centers and meet higher standards. Some of those services would be things such as 24-hour crisis management, screening assessments and diagnosis, outpatient mental health substance abuse services, outpatient primary care screenings to monitor the indicators of health conditions, peer support and counseling, better coordination with veterans' clinics, acute care hospitals, and inpatient psychiatric and substance abuse services.

All of these are missing in our communities, and oftentimes those individuals end up, as I just said, in either the emergency room of a hospital or in a jail. Currently, there are no standards for mental health services in community health facilities. States that will participate in this program will be able to get a Medicaid reimbursement equal to what federally qualified health centers receive for primary care services.

This is so important, and something Senator STABENOW mentioned—putting this on equal footing. More than 50 mental health, medical, and law enforcement groups and organizations supported this important legislation because it is what they need to help do their job in these communities. Some of those organizations that supported this legislation are the National Sheriffs' Association, the National Association of Police Organizations, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

In Washington we have seen how some of these community-based services are paying off. In rural central Washington, the counties of Yakima,

Kittitas, and Klickitat have reduced their hospitalization through strengthening outpatient services and investing in early intervention programs, such as community treatment teams that meet with patients in their homes.

This region in my State now has the lowest per capita psychiatric hospitalizations, according to an editorial in the Seattle Times just last week. This demonstration project builds on what we already know can be successes.

Clearly, we have a lot of work to do, but this important legislation will help us be smarter about community-based care that will keep people out of the emergency rooms and out of our jails, keeping them from becoming the mental health clinics of last resort.

As Chris Imhoff, an official with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, remarked:

It's exciting for a community when something like this happens. . . . It helps us not strand people with psychiatric emergencies in emergency rooms, which is a good thing.

That is why this legislation is taking us in the right direction. So again, I thank the Senators from Michigan and Missouri for their leadership on this legislation. It is so important we got it passed, and, hopefully, now it will move towards the President's desk and implementation.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORLD WATER DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, March 21 was the 21st anniversary of World Water Day. On this day, we call attention to the centrality of water in our lives and communities, and we recognize the vital work that must continue to ensure that every person has access to clean water and sanitation.

The acute challenges in improving access to clean water and sanitation in developing countries are well known. Nearly 800 million people lack clean water and more than 2 billion people are without basic sanitation. In a world of increasing water scarcity and climate unpredictability, the risks associated with an unstable water supply will only intensify. A wide assortment of global health and development challenges can be traced directly, or indirectly, to a lack of access to clean water and integrated water resource management.

In recent years, the depth and pervasiveness of these problems have gained increasing attention. In 2000, the U.S. signed the Millennium Development

Goals, one of which seeks to halve the number of people without access to clean water and basic sanitation by 2015. This attention has also led to the formation of international partnerships such as Water and Sanitation for All in 2012, of which the United States is an active member. As projections stand now, the MDG clean water target has already been met while there is still a long way to go in reaching the sanitation goal by 2015.

The United States has long been a leader in supporting efforts to improve global access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and water resource management. The Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, a bill which I strongly supported, was the first major legislation enacted to make access to clean water and sanitation a U.S. foreign policy priority. Each year, as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of State and Foreign Operations, I have included increasing amounts of funding to implement the Paul Simon Act.

We should reflect on the legacy of the late Senator Simon and take a moment to recognize and appreciate his contributions to making clean water a development priority. His work is carried on through the programs and policies of the legislation that bears his name.

On World Water Day, we should also recognize the indispensable work that has been done by governments, NGO's, and private companies to provide access to clean water and sanitation. I have visited Haiti three times in recent years to inspect the work of rebuilding crucial infrastructure, shattered by the earthquake. My wife Marcelle worked for many years as a registered nurse. In 2012 she saw, firsthand, some of these vital clean water and sanitation initiatives. A nonprofit organization, Pure Water for the World, based in Rutland, VT, implements a sustainable model for clean water programs in developing countries by building low-cost water filtration systems, installing latrines to improve sanitation, and providing hygiene education in local communities.

We must also realize how much work is still left to do in this area of development, and understand that to tackle 21st century problems we need innovative solutions. The release of the U.S. Agency for International Development's new water strategy last year was an important step, especially with its focus on sustainability and enhanced monitoring and evaluation of projects.

I will continue to support USAID's work to carry out its mission and the strategic objectives in the water strategy. More than \$365 million was included for WASH programs in the 2014 omnibus appropriations bill that was signed into law on January 17. Congress should also pass the Water for the World Act, which would give USAID

additional tools to address these critical issues.

Lastly, I want to highlight the theme of this year's World Water Day, which is "water and energy." The links between water and energy cannot be ignored. Nearly eight percent of all global energy is used to transport, pump, and treat water for a variety of consumers, while energy generation and transmission also requires massive water resources. With more than a billion people also lacking access to electricity, we need to address both these issues together.

World Water Day reminds us how fortunate we are in the United States to be able to turn on a faucet and have clean water, because for many hundreds of millions of people this luxury is not close to a reality. While we have made progress in bringing clean water and sanitation to millions across the world, there is still much work to be done.

GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on March 14, 2014, a popular teacher named Michelle Wilcox got into an argument. People get into arguments all the time. It is part of life. But this argument ended, as all too many do around our Nation, in tragedy: suddenly, the man with whom Ms. Wilcox had been arguing pulled out a firearm, chased after her, shot her, and left her body in a grassy patch near a preschool.

In this case, as in so many others, the presence of a gun turned an ordinary altercation into a horrific murder. Had a firearm not been present, Ms. Wilcox might have been able to walk away that fateful morning—frustrated, angry, but alive. Instead, she was murdered, her husband of 12 years now awaits trial, and their child has lost its mother. A momentary bad decision ended one life and has irrevocably changed so many more.

We may not know if anything could have prevented this tragedy, but we do know that this grim scene repeats itself all around our Nation, almost every day. Statistics compiled by the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence show an indisputable correlation between domestic violence incidents and firearms: that, for instance, abused women are "five times more likely to be killed by their abuser if the abuser owns a firearm." Other statistics indicate that domestic violence assaults involving a gun are "23 times more likely to result in death" than those involving other weapons, and that over "two-thirds of spouse and ex-spouse homicide victims in a 28-year span were killed with firearms." And in 2011, almost two-thirds of women killed with guns were killed by their intimate partners.

These sad figures show the importance of keeping firearms out of the

hands of domestic abusers. But all too often, our Nation's system to prevent such dangerous individuals from getting guns fails. It failed in the case of Christen Naujoks, a student at the University of North Carolina. For a brief time in 2004, Ms. Naujoks dated another student, John Peck, before ending the relationship. Mr. Peck had previously been convicted of sexually assaulting another woman, and as a result was legally prohibited from purchasing a gun. This didn't stop him, however, from exploiting a loophole in current law that allows individuals to purchase guns from private sellers' without undergoing a background check. Mr. Peck bought an assault rifle from a private seller, and on June 4, 2004, murdered Ms. Naujoks by shooting her 11 times in front of her apartment building. Three days later, Mr. Peck committed suicide during a police shootout.

There is legislation pending before the Senate that, if enacted, could prevent future convicted domestic abusers from evading background checks to buy murder weapons. These bills could be the critical difference in preventing another domestic argument from becoming something so much worse. We owe it to the memory of victims of domestic violence around this country to take every step possible to prevent similar incidents in the future. I urge my colleagues to pass gun safety legislation that closes the gun show loophole.

2014 OLYMPIANS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, every 4 years elite athletes from across the globe gather together to share their prodigious talent and skill with a world audience through friendly competition. This year's Winter Games in Sochi, Russia was no different. Indeed, it is a tradition families across the Nation have gathered together to watch on TV and shared for generations.

We are transfixed by the Winter Olympics and the athletes who take part for many reasons. We enjoy the intense competition that is the hallmark of the games. We enjoy the gravity-defying athletes who only seem to get more daring with each passing year. And, we enjoy the speed and precision that is required to excel at the Olympic level. There are also many personal and heartwarming stories of triumph and perseverance that are highlighted at the games. They remind us of what is possible. We witness athletes both in victory and defeat, but always at their best. We admire their journey and the Olympic spirit that is embodied by each of them.

To become an Olympian is no easy task. Each athlete has sacrificed much to earn a spot at the Olympics. These games and the performances we bear witness to are often the capstone of careers that have spanned many years

and are the product of an enormous amount of training, dedication, and focus. This year, as in years past, we glimpsed into the lives of these athletes, which includes parents, coaches and family members who shaped these athletes from the very beginning, spending countless hours and effort in training, travelling from competition to competition, and molding young athletes into the competitors we see before us.

The Winter Olympics seamlessly blends the events and traditions we have come to enjoy for many years with newer, fresher disciplines that leave us in awe and bravely test our limits. Young people are shaped by these moments. Some will even grow up and follow this impressive path.

Michigan was well-represented at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. One area where Michigan shined was in ice dancing. Impressively, 15 of the 24 teams participating in the ice dancing trained in metro Detroit in one of three rinks: the Detroit Skating Club, Novi Ice Arena, and Arctic Edge in Canton, which is where the Gold and Silver Medal teams trained. This reflects the level of coaching and talent that resides in Michigan.

There were many inspired performances at these games. Fittingly, the couple that captured our imagination for the second straight Olympic Games, Meryl Davis and Charlie White, capped their Olympic career with a captivating, Gold Medal performance in ice dancing, adding this to their Silver Medal performance in 2010 and their team Bronze in Sochi. The list of ice dancers with strong ties to Michigan is long and includes Maia Shibutani, Alex Shibutani, Evan Bates, Madison Chock, Tessa Virtue, Scott Moir, Kaitlyn Weaver, Andrew Poje, Alexandra Paul, Mitch Islam, Anna Cappellini, Luca Lanotte, Charlene Guignard, Marco Fabbri, Nathalie Pechalat, Fabian Bourzat, Pernelle Carron, Lloyd Jones, Nelli Zhigantshina, Alexander Gazsi, Julia Zlobina, Alexei Sitnikov, Isabella Tobias, Deividas Stagniunas, Danielle O'Brien, Greg Merrian, Cathy Reed and Chris Reed.

Olympic hockey also showcased the talent Michigan has to offer. Players with ties to Michigan represented a number of different countries. They included Americans Ryan Miller, Ryan Kessler, Cam Fowler, Jimmy Howard, Patrick Kane, Phil Kessel, Justin Faulk, Kevin Shattenkirk, Ryan Suter, James van Riemsdyk, Max Pacioretty and Dan Bylsma. Those who skated for other countries included Henrik Zetterberg, Daniel Alfredsson, Niklas Kronwall, Jonathon Ericsson, Johan Franzen, Jonas Gustavsson, Pavel Datsyuk, Tomas Tatar, Tomas Jurco, Duncan Keith, Chris Kunitz, Mike Babcock and Brian Lebler. Each made a significant contribution and provided us ample reason to be proud.

In addition to these incredible athletes are Narumi Takahashi, Ryuichi Kihara, Jeremy Abbott, Valentina Marchei and Patrick Chan who competed admirably in figure skating. Jessica Smith, Jilleanne Rookard, Shani Davis, Jordan Malone, Kyle Carr, Chris Creveling and Anthony Lobello graced the speed skating track. And there were snowboarders Karly Shorr, Danny Davis and Nick Bumgartner whose style and flair was unmistakable.

Rounding out Michigan's contribution in Sochi was Lauryn Williams, a Summer Olympic star who became the first woman, and fifth person overall, to medal in both the Summer and Winter Olympics. Her Silver as part of a two-person bobsled team was one of the most memorable moments of the games.

I join many across Michigan in congratulating each of these athletes. It was gratifying to watch and reminds us all, especially young people across Michigan, that reaching for the stars, or in this case the Olympics, is firmly within their grasp. As one Olympic figure skater so aptly put it, "To be able to come up here and feel stiff and white as a ghost but stare fear in the face is what I'm all about." That's the true Olympic spirit we tune in to watch, and that is a fitting way to describe the grit, grace, and athletic prowess we witnessed day after day in Sochi. This is why I am delighted to honor these athletes here today by placing their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO CATHY MYERS

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and thank Cathy Myers—a valued member of my staff who left Senate service today after 35 years on Capitol Hill.

Cathy has worked in Congress since 1979 when she was hired to serve as a secretary in the office of Congressman Samuel Devine of Ohio. She subsequently held the same position in the office of Congressman Gene Snyder of Kentucky, and first came to the Senate in 1983, when she took a job as secretary to Senator Bob Kasten of Wisconsin.

In 1993, Cathy went to work for New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg, serving as his executive assistant for 18 years. Senator Gregg is well-known in the Granite State for his service to constituents, and Cathy played an indispensable role in helping him stay in close contact with the people of New Hampshire.

When Senator Gregg retired, I was so pleased that she agreed to continue serving the people of New Hampshire as a member of my Washington staff. Cathy has been so helpful to me as I have gotten my Senate office up and running. She does a tremendous job keeping the trains running on time, and I have been so deeply grateful for her dedicated service.

During the 3 years Cathy worked as a member of my staff, I have also appreciated her personal warmth and generous spirit. Cathy is perhaps best known in my office for the candy dish she keeps on her desk, which is always stocked with chocolates. It is no secret that Cathy has a sweet tooth, and she has been so kind to share her candy with the rest of the office.

Cathy Myers has served the people of New Hampshire and the Senate with honor and distinction. On behalf of all those whose lives Cathy has touched in the Granite State and on Capitol Hill, I wish her the very best as she starts this new chapter in her life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Zev Yaroslavsky, who is retiring at the end of this year, after a distinguished and illustrious career spanning 40 years as a public servant in the State of California. We wish to extend to Mr. Yaroslavsky our sincere congratulations for the decades of dedicated service that he has given to his Nation, his State, his city, and his county.

Mr. Yaroslavsky was first elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1994 and is in the final year of his fifth term on the Board. He has served as chair of the Board, which is rotated annually among the supervisors, four times. For the past 20 years, he has represented the Third Supervisorial District, where he will be remembered as a devoted public servant who amassed numerous accomplishments and innumerable awards.

Mr. Yaroslavsky represents nearly 2 million residents in his district. His efforts primarily have focused on fiscal, health care, transportation, the environment, veterans affairs, homelessness, and the arts. Prior to representing the Third Supervisorial District, he served on the Los Angeles City Council from 1975 to 1994 to which he was elected and re-elected six times.

As a Los Angeles City councilman, Mr. Yaroslavsky honed his fiscal skills as the respected chair of the Council's Finance Committee, and he also earned a reputation as a politician who was willing to take on issues that others would not, including the highly controversial excessive use of force and intelligence gathering policies of the Los Angeles Police Department. As councilman, he also co-authored two landmark initiatives with his colleague, the late Councilman Marvin Braude: Proposition U (1986) which cut by half the commercial development rights adjacent to residential neighborhoods, and Proposition O (1988) which repealed a drilling permit previously issued to the Occidental Petroleum Company.

Most notably, a few of his major accomplishments as supervisor include authoring the 1996 Proposition 'A' park bond that resulted in the preservation of rural open space and the development of urban parks throughout the county. He also authored the 2002 Proposition 'B' trauma tax, approved by over 73 percent of county voters, which is largely credited with stabilizing the county's health care finances.

Mr. Yaroslavsky was the driving force behind the Orange Line busway across the San Fernando Valley which opened in 2005 to record ridership (22,000 daily boardings). He led the effort to rebuild and modernize the world famous Hollywood Bowl amphitheater which re-opened in 2004, and he was instrumental in the development of Walt Disney Concert Hall, the home of the L.A. Philharmonic Orchestra, which opened in 2003. He has also helped fund major investments in the L.A. County Museum of Art and the County's Museum of Natural History. He is regarded as the county's fiscal watchdog, insisting that it live within its means.

Since 1991, Mr. Yaroslavsky has also been associated with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, NDI, a non-governmental organization headquartered in Washington, DC, that promotes the development of democratic institutions in burgeoning democracies. He has monitored three international elections for NDI: Romania (1990), Mexico (2000), and Ukraine (2004). He also has conducted seminars on democratic institution-building in Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

While these are just some of Zev Yaroslavsky's significant accomplishments, on behalf of the U.S. Senate and the State of California, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his inestimable contributions throughout his renowned career. With sincere best wishes, we congratulate Mr. Yaroslavsky upon his retirement from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. We are pleased to join his many co-workers, family, friends, and associates in wishing him health, happiness, and continued good fortune in his future endeavors.●

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH AGING SERVICES

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an important meeting taking place in Jacksonville, FL. The Association of Jewish Aging Services—AJAS—is holding its 54th annual conference this week.

The theme of this year's conference is "Bringing the Future Home." AJAS has set itself apart as the central address for Jewish eldercare. This theme reflects AJAS's commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of seniors and emphasizes the importance of keeping seniors in their homes. It also indicates the growing importance

of continuing to plan for the future and demonstrate the value of and necessity for providing resources for Jewish aging services.

As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am well aware of the need to make sure our long-term care system is meeting the needs of our aging population. As our Nation's seniors continue to age in to the need for greater supports and services, we must evolve to meet the cultural, social, and physical needs of Jewish seniors. In fact, we have shined a spotlight on this issue in the Aging Committee.

Conversations such as those at AJAS's conference this week are evermore critical to ensure that as a Nation we continue to innovate and adapt our existing system to meet the demands of America's seniors.●

REMEMBERING JOAB L. THOMAS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate and celebrate the life and contributions of Dr. Joab Langston Thomas of Tuscaloosa, AL, who served as chief executive officer of three of the country's well established public universities, including the University of Alabama, Pennsylvania State University, and North Carolina State University. We too often fail to appreciate the contributions our university leaders make to our State's and Nation's progress. We often think of these leaders as people unconnected to our States and constituents. But as I have known our university leaders in Alabama, such is not the case. They are men and women of stability, common sense, and management skills. Dr. Thomas was no exception.

Dr. Thomas was a native of the wonderful small Alabama town of Russellville. His integrity, work ethic, and native ability were outstanding, and he translated those qualities into three degrees in biological science from Harvard University, where he was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi academic honor societies. In 1961, he became a member of the biology faculty at the University of Alabama.

In 1981, Dr. Thomas became the president of the University of Alabama. Dr. Thomas is credited with tripling UA's research funding, leading a major fundraising campaign, raising admission and curriculum standards, building economic development initiatives that saved local jobs and improving relations with the State legislature, resulting in increased State funding for the university. He also established a university-wide honors program and initiated the highly successful Presidential Scholars program to help recruit top students to University of Alabama.

In the words of University of Alabama's current chancellor, Robert Witt, "From his days as a teaching fellow at Harvard to his tenure at the helm of three of America's premier

public universities, Joab Thomas was at the forefront as a leader in higher education. His research focus and emphasis on excellence inspired all of us who were fortunate to follow in his footsteps."

Dr. Thomas was an outstanding university president and was held in the highest esteem and affection by the many people he served so ably. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Thomas for his dedication and many contributions to public universities.●

TRIBUTE TO EDITH MILDRED TAYLOR

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize the 102nd birthday of an incredible Virginian, Edith Mildred Taylor. Edith was born on April Fools' Day in 1912, which could help explain her lifelong good nature and reputation for well-executed pranks, including once wrapping a live mouse as a birthday gift for her teenaged sister.

Edith was born on a farm in Culpeper and has lived there for all of her 102 years. As a young widow, she raised Sarah Ellen Taylor while working at the Culpeper Baptist Nursing Home, caring for seniors and undoubtedly brightening the days of many. After many decades of service to Virginia seniors, she retired to care for her 90-year-old father, who also lived into his 100th year.

Edith loves animals and plants, and is a vegetarian, although I have been told she refuses to admit it. If there is any connection between eating beans and longevity, she is living proof. She does not take any medications, and has only visited a doctor two times in more than 100 years.

Edith lives at home with her daughter but even at 102, still cares for herself. Her daughter provides care for other elders less blessed with good health than her 102-year-old mother.

I would like to thank Edith for her service to the Commonwealth's seniors, and wish her a very happy birthday.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5026. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-181); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5027. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-014); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5028. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-167); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5029. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-184); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5030. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-162); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5031. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-185); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5032. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5033. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the elimination of the danger pay allowance for Cote d'Ivoire; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5034. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a semiannual report detailing telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba pursuant to Department of the Treasury licenses; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5035. A communication from the Acting Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014-0014-2014-0019); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5036. A communication from the Prime Minister, Kurdistan Regional Government, transmitting, a request that the Obama Administration remove the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) from the Foreign Terrorist Organizations list; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5037. A communication from the General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Access

to NEH Records Under the Freedom of Information Act" (RIN3136-AA32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5038. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Benzoic Acid" (Docket No. FDA-2012-F-1100) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 14, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5039. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Animal Drug Applications; Confidentiality of Data and Information in a New Animal Drug Application File" (Docket No. FDA-2014-N-0108) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5040. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Basic Health Program: State Administration of Basic Health Programs . . . Trust Fund and Financial Integrity" (RIN0938-AR93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5041. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Evaluation of the Medicare Care Management Performance (MCPM) Demonstration"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5042. A communication from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2015" (RIN0938-AR89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5043. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Olives Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0002; FV14-932-1 IR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5044. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Potatoes From Mexico" (RIN0579-AD78) (Docket No. APHIS-2013-0037) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5045. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Agency's proposed fiscal year 2015 budget; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5046. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Performance Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5047. A communication from the Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2014-2018 and the Annual Performance Plan for fiscal year 2013 and Annual Performance Plan for fiscal years 2014-2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5048. A communication from the Chief Human Resources Officer, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Service's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5049. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the Commission's Strategic Plan for 2014-2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5050. A communication from the Human Resources Specialist, Office of the Executive Director, Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the No FEAR Act for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5051. A communication from the Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2013 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5052. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress and the Director's Semiannual Report to Congress on Management Decisions for the periods from April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, October 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013, and April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5053. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Understandings Reached at the June 2013 Australia Group (AG) Plenary Meeting and the December 2012 AG Interseasonal Decisions" (RIN0694-AG04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5054. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Wyoming Regulatory Program" (Docket No. WY-044-FOR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5055. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties" (RIN 1029-AC67) received in the Office

of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5056. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3366-EM in the State of West Virginia having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5057. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-291, "Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Support Technical Clarification Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5058. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-292, "Vending Regulations Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5059. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-300, "Classroom Animal for Education Purposes Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5060. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5061. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5062. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5063. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5064. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5065. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5066. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Conforming Amendment to the Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program Regulations" (RIN2577-AC91) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2014; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5067. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the compliance of federal district courts with documentation submission requirements; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5068. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the third quarter of fiscal year 2013 quarterly report of the Department of Justice's Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5069. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Arms, Ammunition and Defense Articles—Removal of Certain Defense Articles Currently on the U.S. Munitions Import List That No Longer Warrant Import Control Under the Arms Export Control Act" (RIN1140-AA45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5070. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2014 through 2019; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-5071. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VA Dental Insurance Program—Federalism" (RIN2900-AO85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5072. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program: Changes Related to the Honoring

America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012" (RIN2900-AO87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 404. A bill to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (Rept. No. 113-140).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1044. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on D-Day, June 6, 1944 (Rept. No. 113-141).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2184. A bill to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in The Dalles, Oregon, as the "Loren R. Kaufman Memorial Veterans' Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2185. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2186. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a minimum Medicare payment rate for primary care services furnished by primary care physicians; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2187. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WALSH):

S. 2188. A bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. Res. 405. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of March 31 through April 4, 2014, as "National Assistant Principals Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. PRYOR):

S. Res. 406. A resolution designating April 4, 2014, as "National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 407. A resolution honoring former Senator and Rear Admiral Jeremiah Andrew Denton, Jr; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 84

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 84, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 113

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 113, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require certain creditors to obtain certifications from institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cospon-

sors of S. 192, a bill to enhance the energy security of United States allies, and for other purposes.

S. 231

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 231, a bill to reauthorize the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 822

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 822, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 917

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 917, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

S. 945

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 945, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by authorizing certified diabetes educators to provide diabetes self-management training services, including as part of telehealth services, under part B of the Medicare program.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1116

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1116, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the exclusion from gross income of parking and transportation fringe benefits and to provide for a common cost-of-living adjustment, and for other purposes.

S. 1155

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1155, a bill to provide for advance appropriations for certain information technology accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to include mental health professionals in training programs of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1405

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1405, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of certain ambulance add-on payments under the Medicare program.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1468

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1468, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation and for other purposes.

S. 1803

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1803, a bill to require certain protections for student loan borrowers, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 1961

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1961, a bill to protect surface water from contamination by chemical storage facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 2008

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2008, a bill to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

S. 2094

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2094, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2121

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2121, a bill to repeal title II of the REAL ID Act of 2005.

S. 2122

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2122, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2122, *supra*.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2125, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 2153

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2153, a bill to establish a National Regulatory Budget, and for other purposes.

S. 2157

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2157, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes.

S. 2161

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2161, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing any final rule under the Clean Air Act until the date on which the Administrator improves certain employment effect analyses under that Act.

S. 2182

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2182, a bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 384

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 384, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, resulting humanitarian and development challenges, and the urgent need for a political solution to the crisis.

S. RES. 403

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 403, a resolution condemning the actions of the Government of Turkey in restricting free expression and Internet freedom on social media.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WALSH):

S. 2188. A bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to correct a historical wrong.

My legislation is a necessary amendment to the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934. It addresses a Supreme Court ruling that was, in my opinion, wrong.

On February 24, 2009, the Supreme Court issued its decision in the *Carcieri v. Salazar* case. In that decision the Supreme Court held that the Secretary of the Interior exceeded his authority in taking land into trust for a tribe that was not under Federal jurisdiction, or recognized, at the time the Indian Reorganization Act was enacted in 1934.

It has now been 5 years since that decision. This decision has had a significant impact on tribes in every part of this country, whether it is the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, which is facing spurious litigation over its status as a tribe; the Samish Tribe of Washington, which has been waiting 4 years for a *Carcieri* determination; or the Little Shell Tribe of my home State of Montana, who could be affected by this ruling if they are granted Federal recognition, as they should be.

Moreover, the *Carcieri* decision has spawned more harmful litigation, including *Salazar v. Patchak*, where the Supreme Court ruled that individuals have 6 years to challenge a tribe's trust land acquisition, and *Big Lagoon Rancheria v. California*, where the Ninth Circuit essentially ruled that there is no time limit on challenging a tribe's status or its trust land acquisitions.

The legislation I am introducing today is a necessary step in the process to reaffirm the Secretary's authority to take land into trust for tribes, regardless of when they were recognized by the Federal Government. The amendment ratifies the prior trust acquisitions of the Secretary, who, for the past 75 years, has been exercising the authority to take lands into trust, as intended by the Indian Reorganization Act.

Perhaps the most serious impact for tribes if Congress lets this decision stand is the creation of two classes of tribes—those who were recognized as of 1934, whose rights and status are secure, and those who were recognized after 1934, whose rights and status can be perpetually challenged. Allowing two classes of tribes is unacceptable and is contrary to prior Acts of this Congress. In 1994, Congress passed the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act to ensure that all tribes are treated equally, regardless of their date of recognition.

Finally, I know that there are a number of my colleagues who have an interest in this legislation and would like to see changes to this bill. I want to let you know that I stand ready to work with each of you to craft a bill that the Senate can enact and that will end this problem of two classes of tribes forever.

I want to thank Senators MORAN, UDALL of New Mexico, BEGICH, HEITKAMP, MURRAY, HEINRICH, and my fellow Montana Senator WALSH, for their support on this legislation. My cosponsors are well aware of the impact this decision has had on our tribal communities. Affected tribes deserve our timely consideration of this bill. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2188

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REAFFIRMATION OF AUTHORITY.

(a) MODIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of section 19 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (25 U.S.C. 479), is amended—

(A) by striking “The term” and inserting “Effective beginning on June 18, 1934, the term”; and

(B) by striking “any recognized Indian tribe now under Federal jurisdiction” and inserting “any federally recognized Indian tribe”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if included in the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (25 U.S.C. 479), on the date of enactment of that Act.

(b) RATIFICATION AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS.—Any action taken by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), for any Indian tribe that was federally recognized on the date of that action is ratified and confirmed, to the extent such action is subjected to challenge based on whether the Indian tribe was federally recognized or under Federal jurisdiction on June 18, 1934, as if the action had, by prior Act of Congress, been specifically authorized and directed.

(c) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall affect—

(A) the application or effect of any Federal law other than the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), as amended by subsection (a); or

(B) any limitation on the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under any Federal law or regulation other than the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), as so amended.

(2) REFERENCES IN OTHER LAWS.—An express reference to the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), contained in any other Federal law shall be considered to be a reference to that Act as amended by subsection (a).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 405—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF MARCH 31 THROUGH APRIL 4, 2014, AS “NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK”

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 405

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have designated the week of March 31 through April 4, 2014, as “National Assistant Principals Week”;

Whereas an assistant principal, as a member of the school administration, interacts with many sectors of the school community, including support staff, instructional staff, students, and parents;

Whereas assistant principals are responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong relationships between school and community;

Whereas assistant principals play a pivotal role in the instructional leadership of their schools by supervising student instruction, mentoring teachers, recognizing the achievements of staff, encouraging collaboration among staff, ensuring the implementation of best practices, monitoring student achievement and progress, facilitating and modeling data-driven decision-making to inform instruction, and guiding the direction of targeted intervention and school improvement;

Whereas the day-to-day logistical operations of schools require assistant principals to monitor and address facility needs, attendance, transportation issues, and scheduling challenges, as well as supervise extra- and co-curricular events;

Whereas assistant principals are entrusted with maintaining an inviting, safe, and orderly school environment that supports the growth and achievement of each and every student by nurturing positive peer relationships, recognizing student achievement, mediating conflicts, analyzing behavior patterns, providing interventions, and, when necessary, taking disciplinary actions;

Whereas since its establishment in 2004, the NASSP/Virco National Assistant Principal of the Year Program recognizes outstanding middle and high school assistant principals who demonstrate success in leadership, curriculum, and personalization; and

Whereas the week of March 31 through April 4, 2014, is an appropriate week to designate as National Assistant Principals Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of March 31 through April 4, 2014, as “National Assistant Principals Week”;;

(2) honors the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Assistant Principals Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role played by assistant principals in school leadership and ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 406—DESIGNATING APRIL 4, 2014, AS “NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR AUXILIARIES DAY”

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 406

Whereas the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries and the members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries provide valuable service and leadership opportunities for women who wish to take an active role in their communities;

Whereas the mission of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries is to encourage member chapters to render charitable services that—

(1) are beneficial to the general public; and
(2) place a particular emphasis on providing for the needs of children; and

Whereas since the founding of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries in 1941, the organization has provided strength and inspiration to women who want to effect positive change in their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 4, 2014, as “National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Day”;;

(2) recognizes the great contributions made by members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries to their communities and to the people of the United States; and

(3) especially commends the work of the members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries to better the lives of children in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 407—HONORING FORMER SENATOR AND REAR ADMIRAL JEREMIAH ANDREW DENTON, JR

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER,

Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 407

Whereas Jeremiah Andrew Denton, Jr. (referred to in this preamble as “Senator Denton”) was born in Mobile, Alabama, on July 15, 1924, and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1946;

Whereas Senator Denton married Kathryn Jane Maury in 1946 and had 7 children with her before she passed away in 2007;

Whereas Senator Denton is survived by his second wife, Mary Belle Bordone, and his children, Jeremiah A. Denton III, William C. Denton, Donald A. Denton, James S. Denton, Michael C. Denton, Madeleine D. Doak, and Mary D. Lewis;

Whereas Senator Denton had a distinguished military career as a Naval Aviator—

(1) receiving credit in 1957 as the architect of the “Haystack Concept”, which revolutionized the way in which the Navy deployed ships to ensure that a single Russian nuclear attack could not destroy an entire fleet;

(2) serving in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War;

(3) providing significant support during the Cuban Missile Crisis as the Commander of the Guantanamo Defense Force;

(4) receiving awards that include the Navy Cross, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, 3 Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, 5 Bronze Stars, 2 Air Medals, 2 Purple Hearts, and numerous combat theater and campaign awards;

(5) retiring in 1977 at the rank of Rear Admiral after serving as Commandant of the Armed Forces Staff College; and

(6) being inducted into the Alabama Military Hall of Honor in 2003;

Whereas Senator Denton was shot down on July 18, 1965, while leading a squadron of 28 A-6 Intruders on his twelfth mission over North Vietnam and spent the next 7 years and 7 months as a prisoner of war in North Vietnamese prison camps, including the “Hanoi Hilton”, where he suffered torture, beatings, and starvation, and spent 4 years in solitary confinement until his release in 1973;

Whereas despite extreme hardship, Senator Denton was revered by his fellow prisoners and maintained a chain of command that lasted throughout his imprisonment and helped prisoners of war stick together in resistance against abuse from their captors;

Whereas in a televised propaganda interview released by the North Vietnamese in 1966, Senator Denton became a national hero when he answered the questions of his interviewer and simultaneously blinked the letters “T-O-R-T-U-R-E” in Morse code, confirming to the world the harsh and inhumane treatment of United States prisoners of war by the North Vietnamese;

Whereas after returning to the United States, Senator Denton had a successful legislative career, becoming in 1980 the first Republican elected to the Senate from Alabama since the Reconstruction Era, maintaining a strong conservative record, and working tirelessly with President Ronald Reagan to combat the rise of Communism in Latin America;

Whereas Senator Denton was particularly proud of the “Denton Program”, authorizing the United States military to carry humani-

tarian aid on a space-available basis to countries in need at no cost to the donor and providing humanitarian aid for almost 30 years;

Whereas in 2007, the National Archives designated Senator Denton as 1 of the 25 most influential men in United States history; and

Whereas the life of service of Senator Denton should serve as an example to all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Jeremiah Andrew Denton, Jr., former member of the Senate;

(B) honors the legacy and service of the former Senator and retired Rear Admiral, Jeremiah Andrew Denton Jr. (referred to in this resolution as “Senator Denton”), for his life of loyalty, duty, integrity, and moral sincerity;

(C) extends its deepest condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of Senator Denton who have lost an inspiring leader and confidant;

(D) honors the dauntless valor of Senator Denton, beloved son of Alabama, for his dedication and life of selfless service to the people of the United States;

(E) recognizes that Senator Denton was a champion for humanitarian aid and international assistance programs through his legislative work and initiatives;

(F) reiterates the resolute character of Senator Denton as a paragon of bravery who lived a life of honor guided by his values and commitment to the defense of the United States;

(G) expresses admiration and profound respect for the legacy of Senator Denton as a truly courageous and inspirational leader; and

(H) directs the Secretary of the Senate to communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it will stand adjourned as a further mark of respect for the memory of the Honorable Jeremiah Andrew Denton, Jr.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2874. Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

SA 2875. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra.

SA 2876. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2875 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra.

SA 2877. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3979, supra.

SA 2878. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2877 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 3979, supra.

SA 2879. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3979, supra.

SA 2880. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2879 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 3979, supra.

SA 2881. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2880 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2879 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 3979, supra.

SA 2882. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2883. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 404, honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2884. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2874. Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

Strike all after the first word and insert the following:

1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Extension of emergency unemployment compensation program.
- Sec. 3. Temporary extension of extended benefit provisions.
- Sec. 4. Extension of funding for reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities.
- Sec. 5. Additional extended unemployment benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.
- Sec. 6. Flexibility for unemployment program agreements.
- Sec. 7. Ending unemployment payments to jobless millionaires and billionaires.
- Sec. 8. GAO study on the use of work suitability requirements in unemployment insurance programs.
- Sec. 9. Funding stabilization.
- Sec. 10. Prepayment of certain PBGC premiums.
- Sec. 11. Extension of customs user fees.
- Sec. 12. Emergency services, government, and certain nonprofit volunteers.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Section 4007(a)(2) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “January 1, 2014” and inserting “June 1, 2014”.

(b) **FUNDING.**—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (J), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

“(K) the amendment made by section 2(a) of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014;”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 3. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF EXTENDED BENEFIT PROVISIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111-5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note), is amended—

(1) by striking “December 31, 2013” each place it appears and inserting “May 31, 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “June 30, 2014” and inserting “November 30, 2014”.

(b) **EXTENSION OF MATCHING FOR STATES WITH NO WAITING WEEK.**—Section 5 of the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-449; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “June 30, 2014” and inserting “November 30, 2014”.

(c) **EXTENSION OF MODIFICATION OF INDICATORS UNDER THE EXTENDED BENEFIT PROGRAM.**—Section 203 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “May 31, 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “May 31, 2014”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND REEMPLOYMENT AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4004(c)(2)(A) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2014” and inserting “through the first five months of fiscal year 2015”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this subsection shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

(b) **TIMING FOR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4001(i)(1)(A) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence:

“At a minimum, such reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities shall be provided to an individual within a time period (determined appropriate by the Secretary) after the date the individual begins to receive amounts

under section 4002(b) (first tier benefits) and, if applicable, again within a time period (determined appropriate by the Secretary) after the date the individual begins to receive amounts under section 4002(d) (third tier benefits).”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply on and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **PURPOSES OF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.**—The purposes of the reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities under section 4001(i) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) are—

(1) to better link the unemployed with the overall workforce system by bringing individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits in for personalized assessments and referrals to reemployment services; and

(2) to provide individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits with early access to specific strategies that can help get them back into the workforce faster, including through—

(A) the development of a reemployment plan;

(B) the provision of access to relevant labor market information;

(C) the provision of access to information about industry-recognized credentials that are regionally relevant or nationally portable;

(D) the provision of referrals to reemployment services and training; and

(E) an assessment of the individual’s ongoing eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits.

SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS UNDER THE RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Section 2(c)(2)(D)(iii) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 352(c)(2)(D)(iii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “June 30, 2013” and inserting “November 30, 2013”; and

(2) by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “May 31, 2014”.

(b) **CLARIFICATION ON AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS.**—Funds appropriated under either the first or second sentence of clause (iv) of section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act shall be available to cover the cost of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D) by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a) as well as to cover the cost of such benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) **FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATION.**—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Railroad Retirement Board \$105,000 for administrative expenses associated with the payment of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a), to remain available until expended.

SEC. 6. FLEXIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENTS.

(a) **FLEXIBILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (g) of section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall not apply with respect to a State that has enacted a law before December 1, 2013, that, upon taking effect, would violate such subsection.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Paragraph (1) is effective with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after December 29, 2013.

(b) **PERMITTING A SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT.**—Nothing in title IV of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall preclude a State whose agreement under such title was terminated from entering into a subsequent agreement under such title on or after the date of the enactment of this Act if the State, taking into account the application of subsection (a), would otherwise meet the requirements for an agreement under such title.

SEC. 7. ENDING UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS TO JOBLESS MILLIONAIRES AND BILLIONAIRES.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds may be used for payments of unemployment compensation under the emergency unemployment compensation program under title IV of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) to an individual whose adjusted gross income in the preceding year was equal to or greater than \$1,000,000.

(b) **COMPLIANCE.**—Unemployment Insurance applications shall include a form or procedure for an individual applicant to certify the individual’s adjusted gross income was not equal to or greater than \$1,000,000 in the preceding year.

(c) **AUDITS.**—The certifications required by subsection (b) shall be auditable by the U.S. Department of Labor or the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

(d) **STATUS OF APPLICANTS.**—It is the duty of the States to verify the residency, employment, legal, and income status of applicants for Unemployment Insurance and no Federal funds may be expended for purposes of determining whether or not the prohibition under subsection (a) applies with respect to an individual.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall apply to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. GAO STUDY ON THE USE OF WORK SUITABILITY REQUIREMENTS IN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the use of work suitability requirements to strengthen requirements to ensure that unemployment insurance benefits are being provided to individuals who are actively looking for work and who truly want to return to the labor force. Such study shall include an analysis of—

(1) how work suitability requirements work under both State and Federal unemployment insurance programs; and

(2) how to incorporate and improve such requirements under Federal unemployment insurance programs; and

(3) other items determined appropriate by the Comptroller General.

(b) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall brief Congress on the ongoing study required under subsection (a). Such briefing shall include preliminary recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SEC. 9. FUNDING STABILIZATION.

(a) **FUNDING STABILIZATION UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.**—The table in subclause (II) of section 430(h)(2)(C)(iv) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"If the calendar year is:	The applicable minimum percentage is:	The applicable maximum percentage is:
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, or 2017	90%	110%
2018	85%	115%
2019	80%	120%
2020	75%	125%
After 2020	70%	130%".

(b) FUNDING STABILIZATION UNDER (1) IN GENERAL.—The table in subclause (II) of section 303(h)(2)(C)(iv) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended to read as follows:

"If the calendar year is:	The applicable minimum percentage is:	The applicable maximum percentage is:
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, or 2017	90%	110%
2018	85%	115%
2019	80%	120%
2020	75%	125%
After 2020	70%	130%".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Clause (ii) of section 101(f)(2)(D) of such Act is amended by striking "2015" and inserting "2020".

(B) STATEMENTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall modify the statements required under subclauses (I) and (II) of section 101(f)(2)(D)(i) of such Act to conform to the amendments made by this section.

(C) STABILIZATION NOT TO APPLY FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN ACCELERATED BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION RULES.—

(1) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—The second sentence of paragraph (2) of section 436(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "of such plan" and inserting "of such plan (determined by not taking into account any adjustment of segment rates under section 430(h)(2)(C)(iv))".

(2) EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—The second sentence of subparagraph (B) of section 206(g)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1056(g)(3)(B)) is amended by striking "of such plan" and inserting "of such plan (determined by not taking into account any adjustment of segment rates under section 303(h)(2)(C)(iv))".

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2014.

(B) COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED PLANS.—In the case of a plan maintained pursuant to 1 or more collective bargaining agreements, the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2015.

(4) PROVISIONS RELATING TO PLAN AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If this paragraph applies to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract, such plan or contract shall be treated as being operated in accordance with the terms of the plan during the period described in subparagraph (B)(ii).

(B) AMENDMENTS TO WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—This paragraph shall apply to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract which is made—

(I) pursuant to the amendments made by this subsection, or pursuant to any regulation issued by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of Labor under any provision as so amended, and

(II) on or before the last day of the first plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2016, or such later date as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

(ii) CONDITIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to any amendment unless, during the period—

(I) beginning on the date that the amendments made by this subsection or the regulation described in clause (i)(I) takes effect (or in the case of a plan or contract amendment not required by such amendments or such regulation, the effective date specified by the plan), and

(II) ending on the date described in clause (i)(II) (or, if earlier, the date the plan or contract amendment is adopted),

the plan or contract is operated as if such plan or contract amendment were in effect, and such plan or contract amendment applies retroactively for such period.

(C) ANTI-CUTBACK RELIEF.—A plan shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements of section 204(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 411(d)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 solely by reason of a plan amendment to which this paragraph applies.

(d) MODIFICATION OF FUNDING TARGET DETERMINATION PERIODS.—

(1) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Clause (i) of section 430(h)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "the first day of the plan year" and inserting "the valuation date for the plan year".

(2) EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—Clause (i) of section 303(h)(2)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1083(h)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by striking "the first day of the plan year" and inserting "the valuation date for the plan year".

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (d) shall apply with respect to plan years beginning after December 31, 2012.

(2) ELECTIONS.—A plan sponsor may elect not to have the amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (d) apply to any plan year beginning before January 1, 2014, either (as specified in the election)—

(A) for all purposes for which such amendments apply, or

(B) solely for purposes of determining the adjusted funding target attainment percentage under sections 436 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and 206(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 for such plan year.

A plan shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements of section 204(g) of such Act and section 411(d)(6) of such Code solely by reason of an election under this paragraph.

SEC. 10. PREPAYMENT OF CERTAIN PBGC PREMIUMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4007 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1307) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) ELECTION TO PREPAY FLAT DOLLAR PREMIUMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The designated payor may elect to prepay during any plan year the premiums due under clause (i) or (v), whichever is applicable, of section 4006(a)(3)(A) for the number of consecutive subsequent plan years (not greater than 5) specified in the election.

“(2) AMOUNT OF PREPAYMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the prepayment for any subsequent plan year under paragraph (1) shall be equal to the amount of the premium determined under clause (i) or (v), whichever is applicable, of section 4006(a)(3)(A) for the plan year in which the prepayment is made.

“(B) ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS.—If there is an increase in the number of participants in the plan during any plan year with respect to which a prepayment has been made, the designated payor shall pay a premium for such additional participants at the premium rate in effect under clause (i) or (v), whichever is applicable, of section 4006(a)(3)(A) for such plan year. No credit or other refund shall be granted in the case of a plan that has a decrease in number of participants during a plan year with respect to which a prepayment has been made.

“(C) COORDINATION WITH PREMIUM FOR UNFUNDED VESTED BENEFITS.—The amount of the premium determined under section 4006(a)(3)(A)(i) for the purpose of determining the prepayment amount for any plan year shall be determined without regard to the increase in such premium under section 4006(a)(3)(E). Such increase shall be paid in the same amount and at the same time as it would otherwise be paid without regard to this subsection.

“(3) ELECTION.—The election under this subsection shall be made at such time and in such manner as the corporation may prescribe.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The second sentence of subsection (a) of section 4007 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1307) is amended by striking "Premiums" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (f), premiums".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 11. EXTENSION OF CUSTOMS USER FEES.

Section 13031(j)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “September 30, 2024”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “September 30, 2024”.

SEC. 12. EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(A) EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms ‘qualified services’, ‘bona fide volunteer’, and ‘eligible employer’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

“(B) CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

“(ii) BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘bona fide volunteer’ means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

“(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

“(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, customarily paid by similar entities in connection with the performance of services by volunteers.

“(iii) SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified employer’ means—

“(I) any government entity, and

“(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

“(iv) COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).—This subparagraph shall not fail to apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(1)(C)).”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2875. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

SA 2876. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2875 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

SA 2877. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

SA 2878. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2877 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

SA 2879. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 4 days after enactment.

SA 2880. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2879 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “4 days” and insert “5 days”.

SA 2881. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2880 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2879 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that

emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “5 days” and insert “6 days”.

SA 2882. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike sections 2 through 6 and insert the following:

SEC. 2. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF THE EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 4007 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “January 1, 2014” and inserting “January 1, 2015”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS REMAINING IN ACCOUNT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in the case of an individual who has amounts remaining in an account established under section 4002 as of the last day of the last week (as determined in accordance with the applicable State law) ending on or before January 1, 2015, the following rules shall apply:

“(A) Taking into account any augmentation under subparagraph (B), emergency unemployment compensation shall continue to be payable to such individual under this title for any week beginning after such last day as long as the individual meets the eligibility requirements of this title.

“(B) Augmentation under subsection (c), (d), and (e) of section 4002 may occur after such date as long as the requirements for such augmentation are otherwise met.

“(2) LIMIT ON COMPENSATION.—No compensation under this title shall be payable for any week beginning after October 3, 2015.”

(b) MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO WEEKS OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—

(1) FIRST TIER.—Section 4002(b) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; Public Law 110-252) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount established in an account under subsection (a) shall be equal to—

“(A) for an account established after December 28, 2013, and before March 30, 2014, the lesser of—

“(i) 54 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents’ allowances) payable to the individual during the individual’s benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 14 times the individual’s average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year;

“(B) for an account established after March 29, 2014, and before June 29, 2014, the lesser of—

“(i) 43 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents’ allowances) payable to the individual during

the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 11 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year;

“(C) for an account established after June 28, 2014, and before September 27, 2014, the lesser of—

“(i) 27 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 7 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year; or

“(D) for an account established after September 26, 2014, and before January 1, 2015, the lesser of—

“(i) 16 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 4 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year.”;

(B) by striking paragraph (3); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(2) **SECOND TIER.**—Section 4002(c)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; Public Law 110-252) is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) for an account established under subsection (a) after December 28, 2013, and before March 30, 2014, the lesser of—

“(i) 54 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 14 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year;

“(B) for an account established under subsection (a) after March 29, 2014, and before June 29, 2014, the lesser of—

“(i) 43 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 11 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year;

“(C) for an account established under subsection (a) after June 28, 2014, and before September 27, 2014, the lesser of—

“(i) 27 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 7 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year; or

“(D) for an account established under subsection (a) after September 26, 2014, and before January 1, 2015, the lesser of—

“(i) 16 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 4 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year.”.

(3) **THIRD TIER.**—Section 4002(d) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; Public Law 110-252) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) for an account established under subsection (a) after December 28, 2013, and before March 30, 2014, the lesser of—

“(i) 35 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during

the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 9 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year;

“(B) for an account established under subsection (a) after March 29, 2014, and before June 29, 2014, the lesser of—

“(i) 27 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 7 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year;

“(C) for an account established under subsection (a) after June 28, 2014, and before September 27, 2014, the lesser of—

“(i) 20 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 5 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year;

“(D) for an account established under subsection (a) after September 26, 2014, and before January 1, 2015, the lesser of—

“(i) 12 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 3 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year.”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5).

(4) **FOURTH TIER.**—Section 4002(e) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; Public Law 110-252) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) for an account established under subsection (a) after December 28, 2013, and before March 30, 2014, the lesser of—

“(i) 39 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 10 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year;

“(B) for an account established under subsection (a) after March 29, 2014, and before June 29, 2014, the lesser of—

“(i) 27 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 7 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year;

“(C) for an account established under subsection (a) after June 28, 2014, and before September 27, 2014, the lesser of—

“(i) 20 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 5 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year; or

“(D) for an account established after September 26, 2014, and before January 1, 2015, the lesser of—

“(i) 12 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual during the individual's benefit year under such law; or

“(ii) 3 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year.”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5).

(C) **FUNDING.**—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (J), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

“(K) the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) of section 2 of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act.”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after December 29, 2013.

SEC. 3. FLEXIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENTS.

(a) **FLEXIBILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (g) of section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall not apply with respect to a State that has enacted a law before December 1, 2013, that, upon taking effect, would violate such subsection.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Paragraph (1) is effective with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after December 29, 2013.

(b) **PERMITTING A SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT.**—Nothing in title IV of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall preclude a State whose agreement under such title was terminated from entering into a subsequent agreement under such title on or after the date of the enactment of this Act if the State, taking into account the application of subsection (a), would otherwise meet the requirements for an agreement under such title.

SEC. 4. DISQUALIFICATION ON RECEIPT OF DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS IN A MONTH FOR WHICH UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION IS RECEIVED.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 223(d)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(d)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C)(i) If for any month an individual is entitled to unemployment compensation, such individual shall be deemed to have engaged in substantial gainful activity for such month.

“(ii) For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘unemployment compensation’ means—

“(I) ‘regular compensation’, ‘extended compensation’, and ‘additional compensation’ (as such terms are defined by section 205 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act (26 U.S.C. 3304 note)); and

“(II) trade adjustment assistance under title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251 et seq.).”.

(b) **TRIAL WORK PERIOD.**—Section 222(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 422(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6)(A) For purposes of this subsection, an individual shall be deemed to have rendered services in a month if the individual is entitled to unemployment compensation for such month.

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘unemployment compensation’ means—

“(i) ‘regular compensation’, ‘extended compensation’, and ‘additional compensation’ (as such terms are defined by section 205 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act (26 U.S.C. 3304 note)); and

“(ii) trade adjustment assistance under title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251 et seq.).”.

(c) **DATA MATCHING.**—The Commissioner of Social Security shall implement the amendments made by this section using appropriate electronic data.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to months after December 2013.

SEC. 5. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REQUIRED TO CLAIM THE REFUNDABLE PORTION OF THE CHILD TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO TAXPAYER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any taxpayer for any taxable year unless the taxpayer includes the taxpayer's Social Security number on the return of tax for such taxable year.

“(B) JOINT RETURNS.—In the case of a joint return, the requirement of subparagraph (A) shall be treated as met if the Social Security number of either spouse is included on such return.”.

(b) OMISSION TREATED AS MATHEMATICAL OR CLERICAL ERROR.—Subparagraph (I) of section 6213(g)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(I) an omission of a correct Social Security number required under section 24(d)(5) (relating to refundable portion of child tax credit), or a correct TIN under section 24(e) (relating to child tax credit), to be included on a return.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (e) of section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “With Respect to Qualifying Children” after “Identification Requirement” in the heading thereof.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON PAYMENT OF PORTION OF PREMIUM BY FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION.

Section 508(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) LIMITATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the total amount of premium paid by the Corporation on behalf of a person or legal entity, directly or indirectly, with respect to all policies issued to the person or legal entity under this title for a crop year shall be limited to a maximum of \$50,000.

“(B) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Corporation shall carry out this paragraph in accordance with sections 1001 through 1001F of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308 et seq.).”.

SA 2883. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 404, honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after the fourteenth whereas clause of the preamble the following:

Whereas César Estrada Chávez strongly believed in enforcing immigration laws, thereby reducing the deleterious effects of inexpensive labor on the wages of farm workers in the United States, as recognized by the Congressional Budget Office in the June 2013 report entitled “The Economic Impact of S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act”;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez recognized the importance of a secure southern border with Mexico, through citizen participation in the enforcement of immigration laws, by encouraging members of the United Farm

Workers of America to contact the Immigration and Naturalization Service to report instances of illegal labor;

SA 2884. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DISQUALIFICATION ON RECEIPT OF DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS IN A MONTH FOR WHICH UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION IS RECEIVED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(d)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(d)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C)(i) If for any month an individual is entitled to unemployment compensation, such individual shall be deemed to have engaged in substantial gainful activity for such month.

“(ii) For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘unemployment compensation’ means—

“(I) ‘regular compensation’, ‘extended compensation’, and ‘additional compensation’ (as such terms are defined by section 205 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act (26 U.S.C. 3304 note)); and

“(II) trade adjustment assistance under title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251 et seq.).”.

(b) TRIAL WORK PERIOD.—Section 222(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 422(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6)(A) For purposes of this subsection, an individual shall be deemed to have rendered services in a month if the individual is entitled to unemployment compensation for such month.

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘unemployment compensation’ means—

“(i) ‘regular compensation’, ‘extended compensation’, and ‘additional compensation’ (as such terms are defined by section 205 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act (26 U.S.C. 3304 note)); and

“(ii) trade adjustment assistance under title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251 et seq.).”.

(c) DATA MATCHING.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall implement the amendments made by this section using appropriate electronic data.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to months beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting to consider the following legislation: H.R. 841, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical correc-

tions, and for other purposes; S. 161, to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes; S. 1074, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; and S. 1219, to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement, and for other purposes.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 202-224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 31, 2014, at 3 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Management Matters: Creating a 21st Century Government—Part II, Outside Views.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Anne Dwyer, a staff member on the Finance Committee, have floor privileges for the 113th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, and 728, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be made in order to any of these nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the

grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Anthony J. Rock

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Trask

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Andrew J. Toth

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Darren W. McDew

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Heithold

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Robert I. Miller

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. William B. Garrett, III

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Herbert R. McMaster, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Medical Service Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624 and 3064:

To be brigadier general

Col. Robert D. Tenhet

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Medical Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624 and 3064:

To be brigadier general

Col. Bertram C. Providence

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Bennet S. Sacolick

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of im-

portance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Michael S. Rogers

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. John W. Miller

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. David A. Lane

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Brian D. Beaudreault
Brig. Gen. Vincent A. Coglianese
Brig. Gen. James W. Lukeman
Brig. Gen. Carl E. Mundy, III
Brig. Gen. Daniel J. ODonohue
Brig. Gen. Richard L. Simcock, II
Brig. Gen. Gary L. Thomas

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1481 AIR FORCE nomination of Darwin E. Winters, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2014.

PN1482 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning BRUCE E. STERNKE, and ending ELIZABETH M. F. LIBAO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2014.

PN1513 AIR FORCE nomination of Jose A. Sanchez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2014.

IN THE ARMY

PN1483 ARMY nomination of Jeffrey A. Uherka, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2014.

PN1484 ARMY nomination of Steven K. White, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2014.

PN1485 ARMY nominations (6) beginning DANIEL B. THOMPSON, and ending TODD A. MORRIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2014.

PN1514 ARMY nominations (63) beginning PETER P. ALERIA, and ending SHAY L. D. WORTHY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2014.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1486 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jason K. Fettig, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2014.

PN1487 MARINE CORPS nomination of Michelle A. Rakers, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2014.

IN THE NAVY

PN1488 NAVY nomination of Ogwo U. Ogwo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2014.

PN1489 NAVY nomination of William Rabchenia, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2014.

PN1490 NAVY nominations (45) beginning MATTHEW M. ANTHONY, and ending THOMAS A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2014.

NOMINATION DISCHARGED

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN1058; that the Senate proceed to vote on the nomination; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Nomination of Kelly R. Welsh, of Illinois, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Kelly R. Walsh to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce?

The nomination was confirmed.

OWENS NOMINATION

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Owens nomination confirmed today, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 405, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 405) expressing support for the designation of the week of

March 31 through April 4, 2014, as “National Assistant Principals Week.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 405) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR AUXILIARIES DAY

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 406, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 406) designating April 4, 2014, as “National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Day.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 406) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

HONORING FORMER SENATOR AND REAR ADMIRAL JEREMIAH ANDREW DENTON, JR.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 407, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 407) honoring former Senator and Rear Admiral Jeremiah Andrew Denton, Jr.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 407) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2014

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 1, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; and that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3979, the vehicle for the unemployment insurance extension; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucuses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 407, as a further mark of respect in memory of the late Senator Jeremiah Denton of Alabama.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:02 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

ELLIOT F. KAYE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2013, VICE INEZ MOORE TENENBAUM, RESIGNED.

ELLIOT F. KAYE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, VICE INEZ MOORE TENENBAUM, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ALFONSO E. LENHARDT, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE DONALD KENNETH STEINBERG.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

LINDA STRUYK MILLSAPS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2018, VICE PAUL JONES, TERM EXPIRED.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

DEAN A. REUTER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2016, VICE JULIE FISHER CUMMINGS, TERM EXPIRED.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

ELIZABETH SEMBLER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2020. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WENDY M. MASIELLO

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. SEAN A. PYBUS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KATHLEEN M. CREIGHTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPTAIN BRIAN J. BRAKKE
CAPTAIN RICHARD A. BROWN
CAPTAIN JAMES S. BYNUM
CAPTAIN PETER J. CLARKE
CAPTAIN SCOTT D. CONN
CAPTAIN BRIAN K. COREY
CAPTAIN RICHARD A. CORRELL
CAPTAIN MARC H. DALTON
CAPTAIN COLLIN P. GREEN
CAPTAIN DALE E. HORAN
CAPTAIN MARY M. JACKSON
CAPTAIN JAMES W. KILBY
CAPTAIN ROY I. KITCHENER
CAPTAIN JAMES J. MALLOY
CAPTAIN ROSS A. MYERS
CAPTAIN JEFFREY S. RUTH
CAPTAIN LORIN C. SELBY
CAPTAIN JOHN W. TAMMEN, JR.
CAPTAIN KENT D. WHALEN
CAPTAIN KENNETH R. WHITESSELL
CAPTAIN CHARLES F. WILLIAMS
CAPTAIN JESSE A. WILSON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. SHANE G. GAHAGAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. TIMOTHY C. GALLAUDET

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. STEVEN L. PARODE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. TODD J. SQUIRE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. JOHNNY R. WOLFE, JR.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. THOMAS P. OSTREBO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. WILLIAM D. LEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. CHARLES W. RAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. CHARLES D. MICHEL

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

KELLY R. WELSH, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 31, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

JOHN B. OWENS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ANTHONY J. ROCK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. THOMAS J. TRASK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. ANDREW J. TOTH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. DARREN W. MCDEW

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. BRADLEY A. HEITHOLD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROBERT I. MILLER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. WILLIAM B. GARRETT III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. HERBERT R. MCMASTER, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROBERT D. TENHET

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. BERTRAM C. PROVIDENCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BENNET S. SACOLICK

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. MICHAEL S. ROGERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. JOHN W. MILLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. DAVID A. LANE

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BRIAN D. BEAUDREAULT
BRIG. GEN. VINCENT A. COGLIANESE
BRIG. GEN. JAMES W. LUKEMAN
BRIG. GEN. CARL E. MUNDY III
BRIG. GEN. DANIEL J. ODOHUE
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD L. SIMCOCK II
BRIG. GEN. GARY L. THOMAS

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DARVIN E. WINTERS, JR., TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRUCE E. STERNKE AND ENDING WITH ELIZABETH M. F. LIBAO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOSE A. SANCHEZ, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF JEFFREY A. UHERKA, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STEVEN K. WHITE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL B. THOMPSON AND ENDING WITH TODD A. MORRIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PETER P. ALERIA AND ENDING WITH SHAY L. D. WORTHY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 10, 2014.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JASON K. FETTIG, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF MICHELLE A. RAKERS, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF OGWO U. OGWO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM RABCHENIA, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW M. ANTHONY AND ENDING WITH THOMAS A. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2014.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

KELLY R. WELSH, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

April 2

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland

To hold hearings to examine tactical aircraft programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-562

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine military construction, environmental, energy, and base closure programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

To hold hearings to examine Marine Corps modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Air Force.

SD-106

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the National Institutes of Health.

SD-192

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-138

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance

To hold hearings to examine the General Motors (GM) recall and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) defect investigation process.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine data breach on the rise, focusing on protecting personal information from harm.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence and its administration and enforcement of sanctions.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior.

SD-192

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense policies and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider H.R. 841, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, S. 161, to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, S. 1074, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Easter Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe, and S. 1219, to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 1474, to encourage the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in the State relating to the enforce-

ment of certain State laws by Indian tribes, to improve the quality of life in rural Alaska, to reduce alcohol and drug abuse, S. 1570, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service by providing 2-fiscal-year budget authority, S. 1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S. 1622, to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and an original bill entitled, "The Native American Children's Safety Act".

SD-628

3 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Defense and the Department of the Army.

SD-124

April 3

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Food and Drug Administration.

SD-138

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Justice.

SD-192

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider S. 491, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to modify provisions relating to grants, S. 1961, to protect surface water from contamination by chemical storage facilities, S. 224, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay, S. 2080, to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, enhance fish and wildlife-dependent recreation, S. 2042, to

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

- amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, S. 1934, to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse back to Teton County, Wyoming, S. 2055, to allow for the collection of certain user fees by non-Federal entities, Corps Study Resolution: Point Judith, Rhode Island, and GSA Resolutions.
SD-406
- Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs
To hold hearings to examine evaluating United States policy on Taiwan on the 35th anniversary of the "Taiwan Relations Act" (TRA).
SD-419
- Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 1720, to promote transparency in patent ownership and make other improvements to the patent system, and the nominations of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Richard Franklin Boulware II, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, Salvador Mendoza, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Staci Michelle Yandle, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, and Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.
SD-226
- 2 p.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's 2014 Trade Policy Agenda.
SD-215
- Committee on Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing on Russia.
SVC-217
- 2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH-219
- April 4
- 9:30 a.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for March 2014.
SH-216
- April 8
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed international affairs budget request for fiscal year 2015 for national security and foreign policy priorities.
SD-419
- April 9
- 10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger and the impact on consumers.
SD-226
- Committee on Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine election administration, focusing on making voter rolls more complete and more accurate.
SR-301
- Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine Ukraine, focusing on confronting internal challenges and external threats, including Russia's seizure of Crimea.
SD-215
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on Indian students in public schools, and cultivating the next generation.
SD-628
- Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Small Business Administration.
SR-428A
- April 10
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD-106
- Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for international development priorities.
SD-419
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
To hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR-222
- May 20
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD-G50
- 11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222
- 2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222
- 3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD-G50
- 5 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD-G50
- May 21
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD-G50
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222
- May 22
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222
- May 23
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222

SENATE—Tuesday, April 1, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy God, all Your works do praise Your Name on the Earth, in the sky, and on the sea. Great is Your faithfulness. Stir Your edifying spirit among our Senators, liberating them from shortsightedness, as they work diligently for the freedom and justice of all. Lord, make them citizens of Your kingdom, so that Your will may be done on Earth even as it is done in Heaven. Help them to draw near to You with true hearts and the full assurance that their times are in Your hands. Thank You for the liberties You have given America and help us to remember that eternal vigilance is the price for freedom.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

**MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT—
MOTION TO PROCEED**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 250.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 250, S. 1737, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3979, the legislative vehicle for the un-

employment insurance extension legislation.

The Senate will recess, as we do every Tuesday, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

KOCH BROTHERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as I went about my business in the Senate yesterday, I was informed the Koch brothers are at it again. We know they are at it, but now they are at it in Nevada, among other places.

I am told one of their puppet organizations is going to run commercials against me in Nevada. That is quite interesting. As I understand it, they had focused on places where there is an election. They may not know it, but I am not running for anything for a few years, until my 6-year term is up.

What issues will they raise in those ads they say they are going to run in Nevada? That by my criticizing the Koch brothers, I have attacked their freedom of speech. The gall of these two brothers is staggering.

Keep in mind, they are the fifth richest people not in whatever State they live in—they have lots of different homes in America—but they are the fifth richest people in the world. These two mogul multibillionaires are so eager to force their will on the American people that they will do it even in the face of their own hypocrisy, which we have already established some time ago.

I am beginning to think April Fools' Day arrived 1 day early. See, it is a fool's errand for the Koch brothers to think they can use their money to frighten me or to brainwash Nevadans or the rest of the country. They are spending lots of money to try to do that. People of this Nation trace their freedom of speech back to the Constitution, not a bank account which has lots and lots of zeros at the end.

The Koch brothers are trying to use their immense wealth to buy their way around the laws and regulations of this Nation to make themselves even richer. Everything they do is so selfish, so self-centered in an effort to make them—I guess the sixth richest is not good enough, the fifth richest isn't good enough. They want to be the richest because they are into making money and as much as they can. There is nothing wrong with that, except what they are doing with their money.

I know they say: Well, we gave money in—I think—New York City to cancer research. But what they have done to damage the National Institutes of Health is not possible to measure.

Here are the rules the multibillionaire Koch brothers want to play by:

They should be allowed to say false and misleading statements about the Affordable Care Act, but we are not allowed to criticize them for it.

Just listening to the news, and I haven't heard anything from the White House directly, but I am told that yesterday, in 1 day, more people signed up for ObamaCare than the previous 3 months. People are anxious to have health insurance. They are anxious to have health insurance. I have been very satisfied that I and Members of my caucus and people around the country have been standing up to these moguls and their false, misleading, fearmongering ways.

It should be no surprise that these multimillionaire, billionaires, very, very rich, fifth richest people in the world have decided: What we will do is try to frighten REID. There have been times in my life when I have been a little afraid, but I am not afraid of them. I understand they have spent \$30,000. Let them spend \$300,000 in Nevada. I don't care—and I truly don't.

These oil barons have commissioned a group—one of their many organizations. As I have said on the floor, most of the ads we see we think have come from Americans for Prosperity. That is their name. But they funnel money through many organizations—the chamber of commerce. What does the chamber do with those ads? Run ads against Democratic Senators because the chamber of commerce is a Republican-oriented organization, and it is good to get money from the Koch brothers because they can hide under the chamber of commerce.

This organization they are now floating around that is going to run these ads, against me I am told, is called American Encore. It was previously called the Center to Protect Patient Rights. I guess that didn't work so well, as well more than 10 million people have now signed up for ObamaCare, people who didn't have the opportunity before. I guess they decided running ads against me is more important than protecting patients' rights, so now they came up with another catchy name, American Encore.

No matter what they call their organization or the myriad of organizations, they all have one stated purpose, to make these oil barons even richer. If anyone needs further proof—and I am not sure anyone does—take a look at the legislation they have influenced with their money. In recent years, the tea party-driven House of Representatives has never missed a chance to funnel more tax cuts to the wealthy by raising taxes on the middle class.

The vast majority of wealthy people in America are willing to do more. They have spoken to my friend the Presiding Officer. There are a lot of rich people in the State of New Jersey. Even though the Presiding Officer has worked with people who are badly in need of help, people in New Jersey have walked up to the Presiding Officer and said: I am willing to pay more—and the same in Nevada. But every time we try to do something to get a few more resources to build roads, bridges, highways, dams, water systems, sewer systems, Republicans in the Congress say no.

The Republicans in Congress do not represent mainstream Republicans in America today. They don't even represent mainstream rich Republicans around the country. They are driven by and they are afraid of the tea party.

We have a budget proposal coming out today from the House of Representatives. The person who ran for Vice President the last go-around on the Republican ticket is the chairman of the Budget Committee and he is coming out with a budget. It is a blueprint for a modern "Kochtopia." In fact, call it whatever one wants. We might as well call it the Koch budget because that is whom they are protecting, the Koch brothers.

I am fascinated by this. These proposals are called the Path to Prosperity. It is a path to prosperity for some people—the rich—because that budget would end Medicare as we know it. Similar to the last budget the chairman of the Budget Committee in the House came out with, it would slash education funding while expanding tax loopholes for the megarich.

Whose prosperity is being plotted in these schemes? Today, as we get closer to the new Ryan budget, we will have to see how much of the Koch brothers' agenda is reflected in this year's budget. We don't have to be a fortune teller to know the similarities are extensive.

To any and all groups that wish to attack me on behalf of multibillionaires, fire away. I am very happy—I am even proud—to be targeted by those attacks and will gladly endure them in order to call attention to the unscrupulous acts of these two barons. But don't expect Americans to go along with their attempt to rig our democracy and hand it over to a couple of power-hungry tycoons—I guess from Kansas. I know they have homes in New York, and one of them lives near here.

The country will be watching but not fooled by the Koch brothers' attempts to purchase influence for whom—for the Koch brothers.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Republican leader.

IGNITING THE ECONOMY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, Washington Democrats have controlled the White House and the Senate for years now. They have tried just about

every tool in the liberal toolbox to turn the economy around. Yet according to the latest Gallup tracking poll, just 19 percent of Americans think the economy is doing well. Millions are out of work, and close to 60 percent of Americans say things are getting even worse.

By basically any objective standard, we would have to say the Washington Democratic approach hasn't worked. We would have to say it is time for a change, to do something that can work, and that is what Republicans are proposing again this week.

While Senate Democrats dust off the same poll-tested ideas for papering over the symptoms of malaise, Republicans are proposing concrete ideas aimed at igniting the economy and giving people real hope for something more, something better than what they have been getting for the last 5 years, something which speaks to their hopes and their potential. In other words, the other side is doubling down on the status quo while Republicans are offering change.

Specifically, we will be proposing numerous jobs-related amendments which have one unifying purpose; that is, to break through the stagnation of the Obama economy and kick domestic job creation into high gear.

Our approach is simple: Let's give free enterprise and private initiative a chance. Let's use the tools we know can lead to the creation of the stable, well-paying 21st century jobs our constituents want and deserve.

Too often it seems our friends on the other side are single-mindedly focused on treating the symptoms of a down economy rather than actually providing struggling Americans with positive, meaningful paths to a better life. They can't seem to get their minds around any legislative proposal that puts ordinary Americans and private initiative in the driver's seat instead of the government. To me that largely sums up the difference between the parties. But it goes even further than that, because Washington Democrats are not just reluctant to embrace any idea that doesn't emanate from Washington; they don't even want to hear about it.

If we are going to get this country back on track, that needs to change, and that is what Republicans are arguing for this week. What we are saying is, if all you want is subsistence-level relief, then that is what the party of government is going to give you. But if your goal is to help those who want to truly aspire to join the middle class, if you want to really help people maximize their potential and build a better life, it is time to start looking beyond Washington.

Deep down I think our Democratic friends understand this too. I think they understand that pushing big government legislation with words such as

"jobs" or "affordable" in the title isn't the same as actually creating jobs or actually making things more affordable. It is like handing someone a menu instead of serving them a meal. The tragic effects to this approach are clear: from an Affordable Care Act that turned out to be anything but, to a stimulus bill that seemed better at stimulating late-night punch lines than good paying jobs. But despite all the evidence, Washington Democrats remain stubbornly attached to the same old playbook. If you need proof, just take a look at the poll-tested, campaign-crafted agenda they rolled out this week—an agenda packed to the brim with base-pleasing show votes and few if any real solutions for the middle class. In fact, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office tells us that one of their proposals could cost up to a million jobs—cost jobs, not create jobs.

Look, this prioritization of party-pleasing show votes over actually helping grow the middle class is a tragedy for our country. The American people really deserve two national parties that are serious, and it is long past time for Democrats to start engaging with us in a serious effort to help Americans who struggle so much in the Obama economy.

The good news is they will have their chance this week. The Republicans are filing amendments on a whole range of job-centered policies, amendments that deserve not just a vote but bipartisan support. For example, an amendment from the junior Senator from South Carolina would eliminate ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek rule, which is hurting Americans' take-home pay in our already depressed economy.

One of our Members from Utah is putting forward an amendment to repeal ObamaCare's job-destroying medical device tax. A good number of Democratic Senators have joined us in the past to get rid of this job killer, and they deserve the opportunity to help us eliminate it once and for all.

The senior Senator from North Dakota has an amendment that would speed approval of the Keystone Pipeline. This is a project that would create thousands of jobs right away, and it is just a no-brainer. Senate Democrats need to join Democrats across the country who have already endorsed this commonsense initiative and help us pass it.

I personally plan to file an amendment that would give Congress the ability to stop EPA's back-door national energy tax and would also keep unelected bureaucrats from blocking desperately needed jobs in Kentucky by sitting on surface mining permitting. Remember, this administration's anti-Kentucky policies have helped bring about a depression—that is a depression with a capital D—in many Kentucky coal counties. It is about time

they started having a little compassion for the coal families who just want to put food on the table, and that is exactly what my amendment aims to do.

So these are just a few of the many proposals Republican Senators will be putting forward this week. They represent the kind of solutions our country needs right now to finally emerge from this awful economy—real solutions that focus on creating well-paying jobs, increasing take-home pay, training a world-class workforce, and breaking a seemingly endless cycle of chronic high unemployment.

As I have indicated, we have tried the Washington Democratic approach for years now. We know that it just hasn't worked. We know their new agenda isn't serious, that it is nothing more than an ObamaCare distraction strategy. We know this because Democrats actually told us it was created by their campaign committee, that it was designed to appeal to their base.

So if the Democratic majority is finally ready to get down to business and create jobs, this is a moment to prove it. This is the moment to drop the endless campaigning. This is the moment to work with us to actually create jobs and help the middle class, and this is the moment for legislation that would do just that.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be a period of morning business for one hour. Senators are permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, and the majority controlling the first half of the time.

The Senator from Illinois.

FILING DEADLINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the filing deadline for first degree amendments to H.R. 3979, which is the legislative vehicle for the unemployment insurance extension, be at 2:30 p.m. today, April 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. DURBIN. I listened carefully to the statement just made by the Republican leader, Senator McCONNELL of Kentucky, in which he promised concrete ideas, real hope, change, job-related approaches, free enterprise—giv-

ing free enterprise a chance, trying to deal with putting America back to work. Then he gave us three examples.

I might say to the Senator that I am familiar with all three because none of these are new. We have heard them over and over from the Republican side of the aisle. I will not go through each one of them. A couple of them relate to the Affordable Care Act. It is interesting to me that the House of Representatives has voted—I believe 45 times—to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The Senator from Kentucky said we have to get back to free enterprise ideas.

Let me tell you about the free enterprise idea when it came to health care. Before the passage of the Affordable Care Act, the free enterprise idea was this: If you and your family were unfortunate enough to have a sick baby, if your wife was a cancer survivor, if your child had diabetes, the free enterprise answer was: We will raise the cost of health insurance to the point that you cannot afford it or we won't even offer it. That was the free enterprise idea on health insurance for millions of American families.

There was another free enterprise idea out there in health care as well. It said: We are going to sell you health insurance policies that just protect you up to a certain amount of money. If tomorrow you are in a terrible auto accident, if the day after tomorrow you are diagnosed with cancer and face millions of dollars of radiation, surgery, and care before you can get your life back together again, be my guest to pay for it yourselves. That is why medical bills are the number one driver of bankruptcy in America today. That is free enterprise at work. But we said, let's put some sensible rules for the road in here, so that families who buy health insurance have the promise that they will have peace of mind when they face these life threatening struggles which families face every day.

So we passed the Affordable Care Act and not a single Republican—not one—not a single Republican would join us in that effort. We rejected the free enterprise approach to health care and said let's have something that basically respects families, basically respects the needs we all have to have protection when somebody in the house is sick. Not a single Republican would support us, and they never have since.

The bill we passed isn't perfect. Changes will have to be made. I have said that from the start, although I supported it. But not a single Republican has been willing to sit down and work on bipartisan compromises and changes—not one. It is take it or leave it, and they want to walk away from it.

We are not going back to those old days. I can guarantee them that the American people will never return to their idea of health insurance because it was fundamentally unfair, it was too

expensive, and a lot of Americans didn't have a fighting chance to ever have health insurance once in their lives. Things have changed. The reports are in, and the reports are telling us that dramatic things are occurring. As the Affordable Care Act's initial enrollment period closes, at least 9.5 million previously uninsured people have gained coverage. Some have done so through the marketplaces created by law, some through private insurance, others through an expanded Medicaid. Incidentally, Medicaid has been expanded in about half of the States.

Listen to this: The increased coverage from the Affordable Care Act so far amounts to substantial progress toward one of the law's principal goals. It is the most significant expansion of health care coverage since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid 49 years ago.

The Republicans want to return to the "good old days," and they want to tell these people being uninsured is really better for you. It is the free enterprise system.

That is not good enough, I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle. What we have here is an opportunity for families for the first time in their lives to have health insurance coverage.

Has there ever been a moment in your life where you had a sick baby and you were in the hospital waiting room and you had no health insurance? I have. It happened when I was in law school. I remember it to this day, sitting there with my wife and baby with a number in my hand waiting to see who would walk through that door and be the doctor for my baby. You will never forget that as long as you live. That shouldn't happen to anybody. Everyone should have the peace of mind of health insurance coverage, and that is what this bill does. If the Senators on the other side want to return to the "good old days" of no coverage, I can just tell you, America is not going back.

We are not going back to the days when families with kids graduating from college had no health insurance while they looked for a job. We protect those families until the kids reach the age of 26. We are not going back to the days when struggling senior citizens can't afford to pay for their prescription drugs because of the so-called doughnut hole. We are not going back to that day. We are going to move forward as a Nation.

Is this bill perfect? Of course not. Should it be changed for the better? Yes. But let's not lose sight of what we have achieved and what we can achieve if we work together.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

When it comes to the creation of jobs, there is something else I want to say. I believe that people who get up and go to work every single day, who work hard for a living and are not lazy

at all, should not be living in poverty. That is it—a basic statement. If you want to go to work, work hard 40 hours a week, you should not be living in poverty in America, and that is happening because the minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. Do the math. It is less than \$16,000 a year to live on. Who could do it? Well, some people try and struggle paycheck to paycheck.

Yesterday in Chicago, IL, Gloria came to the microphone in the Federal Plaza and told the story of working a minimum-wage job. She has two kids and lives in a homeless shelter—40 hours a week on minimum wage and living in a homeless shelter. Come on. This is a better Nation.

Would I pay 10 cents more for a hamburger so Gloria would have enough money to have the dignity to live in her own place with her children? You bet I would, and I wouldn't think twice about it. We ought to have respect for people who work in this country. Raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour is our show of respect for the people who get up and go to work every darn day. They are on the buses of New Jersey in the morning. They are on the trains of Chicago in the morning. They just dropped the kids off, and they are hoping that they are going to be safe because it is a neighbor and it is the best they can do for daycare. There wasn't a lot in the refrigerator when they left their house. They are hoping to pick up something before they get home. They go to work every day, and they know that struggle is going to be repeated over and over.

The free enterprise system is the best system in the world, but there are moments when we need to step in as the American family and set some standards, set some goals.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS

The same thing is true for unemployment compensation. We finally have a bipartisan approach to this in the Senate—five Democrats and five Republicans. We have worked out a plan we are going to pass, I think—let's keep our fingers crossed. We are going to pass an extension of unemployment benefits.

What do these benefits mean? It means if you are out of work—some people who work for 20 years in the same place, lost their jobs, now they are trying to find another job—we are going to help you keep your family together while you are looking for that job. How much money are we talking about here? The average is \$300 a week.

How long could you get by on \$300 a week? It would be tough, wouldn't it, to pay the rent, mortgage, utility bills, food, clothes, shoes for the kids, cell phone—you need that to find a job, don't you—300 bucks a week. Well, we have a chance to pass a bipartisan bill on unemployment compensation for a 5-month period to cover these folks, and the Speaker of the House of Rep-

resentatives, Republican JOHN BOEHNER, says: Forget it—dead on arrival. Won't even take it up; won't consider it. I think he's wrong, and I think it is unfair, and I think these people deserve a fighting chance. They want to become part of the free enterprise system again, and our giving them a helping hand in time of need is what every family expects and what they usually offer when asked to help. But instead, what Speaker BOEHNER has said is: No way, you are out of it. You are out of work. You are out of luck. I don't buy it.

There have been times in my life and in the lives of most people when neighbors, friends and relatives, and even the government came in to give a helping hand. For me it was government loans when I went to school. I couldn't have done it without it. I think it has paid off. It sure has in my life. Ultimately the voters have the last word about whether Speaker BOEHNER's approach against unemployment compensation is the right way to do it.

There is another bill we are going to take up next week—pay equity. My wife and I have been blessed with a daughter and a son. They are both in the marketplace and both are talented. We are so proud of them. There is no reason why a daughter should be paid less than a son for the same work, but it happens every single day.

We have to establish a standard in America of equal opportunity and mean it, equal opportunity when it comes to daughters and sons and women and men in the workplace. It is not too much to ask.

The first bill President Obama signed into law as President was the Lilly Ledbetter Act. I remember this woman. She worked in Alabama in a tire factory. After she had been there more than 10 years, she finally realized she was doing the same job as the man standing next to her but paid less every single day. She had enough of it so she brought a lawsuit against the company. The Supreme Court turned her away so we had to change the law, and the President signed the Lilly Ledbetter Act into law to make sure women had a fighting chance.

We now want to move it to a new level and make sure that pay equity for those in the workplace is an American dream come true. We can do that. The free enterprise system is good, but, listen—let's be honest about it—in some aspects it doesn't reach the goals we want in terms of equal opportunity in this country.

I also want to make a point about the whole question of affordable care. I happened to have met a man by the name of Ray Romanowski. He was in a health care clinic in Chicago. He is 62 years old and has been a part-time worker and musician most of his life. For the first time in his life Ray Romanowski has health insurance. He has a Medicaid card. He was patting his

wallet, and he said: I can't tell you how good I feel now that I finally got this health insurance.

There are some people who don't understand Medicaid. Medicaid is health insurance for low-income people in America, and millions depend on it every single day. Recently some Republicans made statements discrediting the Medicaid Program. Let me set the record straight: Medicaid is successful. It has been a lifeline for millions of people, and especially for children. My friends on the other side of the aisle find it easy to discredit a government program. As Senator McCONNELL said earlier, we tend to look to the government. Well, we do when there is no place else to look. In this case, these individuals had no chance for health insurance without government's help. Over 54 million people benefit from Medicaid, and it is not surprising that interest in this program grows when our economy is struggling.

Before the Affordable Care Act, two out of three people on Medicaid were pregnant women and children—36 million of our most vulnerable citizens. Medicaid also serves the disabled. It has been a lifeline for those who have a low income and are disabled. Before the Affordable Care Act, almost 3 million people were covered by Medicaid in Illinois and over 50 percent of all births were covered by Medicaid. Since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law, over 210,000 people in Illinois have signed up for Medicaid, and thousands more who are eligible are in the process of finishing up their paperwork, and that is a success.

According to 2011 data, 65 percent of all office space physicians in Illinois would take Medicaid patients. Nationwide the number is 70 percent. This argument that new Medicaid patients won't have a place to go for care is wrong.

I see that Senator HARKIN from Iowa, chairman of our HELP Committee, is on the floor. He was one of the real leaders when it came to the determination of the Affordable Care Act and how many people would be covered. I will yield the floor to him in 1 minute, but before I yield, let me say this: The Affordable Care Act is making a difference. For people in the low-income category, Medicaid means when they walk into a hospital facing a medical emergency or need for care, they will not walk away leaving bills behind them. Their bills will be paid by the Medicaid system, and that is part of what we are trying to achieve—the personal responsibility that every person, every family, and every business will have a responsibility to have health insurance and an opportunity for an affordable alternative.

The free enterprise system is a strong system. The free enterprise system created unfairness and injustice

when it came to health care, which we are addressing with this Affordable Care Act.

I yield the floor for Senator HARKIN and thank him for his leadership on this issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I want to thank our majority whip again for telling it like it is and what is happening with health care in America today. We have come too far to turn back. We have made tremendous changes in the way people are going to access the health care system in America because of the Affordable Care Act.

Look, we all admit there were mistakes made. Were there glitches? Yes. But we went from a system where people were excluded from getting health care, and Senator DURBIN talked about them. There are various people with preexisting conditions, kids and people who had no access to health care whatsoever, and now they are covered. That is a huge leap in this country. We made some mistakes, had a few glitches, and we worked those out.

Our friends on the other side say: No, ditch the whole thing. Get rid of everything. Turn the clock back. I agree with the Senator from Illinois, people don't want to turn the clock back. They want to move ahead. They are getting covered more than ever before with affordable coverage they have never had before and we are not going to turn the clock back. I thank the Senator.

MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I want to take the time this morning to talk about an issue that has been brewing for a long time and is going to come to a head in the Senate sometime in the next several days, I hope, and it is one which compels us to do something, and that is to raise the minimum wage in the United States of America. We have waited too long to do this, and so we have to act on it as soon as possible.

I wish to point out some of the data and some of the statistics confronting us right now. First of all, why should anyone be afraid of voting to raise the minimum wage? The American people are way ahead of us on this. Let's look at the polling data.

This chart shows the results of a poll to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. It shows that 73 percent of all voters want to raise the minimum wage, and that 90 percent of Democrats, 71 percent of Independents, and even 53 percent of Republicans say we ought to raise the minimum wage. The vast majority of American people want to do this.

This is again a chart from across the country. We have Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, my State of Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Wisconsin—52 percent, 73

percent, 61 percent, and 54 percent. The vast majority of Americans in these States say: Yes, we need to raise the minimum wage, so it is not just one part of the country.

Small business owners support raising the minimum wage. A poll done of small business owners shows that 57 percent say we should raise the minimum wage as opposed to 43 percent. Small businesses get it.

The voters say that raising the minimum wage will help the economy. This comports with over 600 economists—including what several Nobel prize economists have said—who say that raising the minimum wage will boost aggregate demand and raise the GDP in America. The economy will benefit.

Well, you know what. The American people get it. They may not understand all of the intricacies of economics and economic analysis, but they get it. Of those who were polled, 56 percent believe it will help the economy, 22 percent said they don't know, and only 21 percent say it will hurt the economy. The vast majority of Americans understand in their bones that raising the minimum wage is going to help the economy. Why? Because they know it will put more spending power in their pockets.

When people in lower wage jobs get more money, what do they do? They don't go to Europe, they don't buy private islands and private jets, they spend it in the local economy, such as Main Street, where the small businesses are. Again, the American people get it.

Why should we be concerned about this right now? The minimum wage has not kept up with average wages. In 1968, the minimum wage was 53 percent of the average wage in America. Today it is 36 percent of the average wage in America, which is a tremendous decline between those who get the minimum wage and what the average wages are in America.

Since 2009, the last time we had an increase in the minimum wage, let's look at what happened to the things that low-income people have to spend their money on. As I said, they are not renting private jets and they are not going to fancy restaurants to eat, but they do have to spend money on electricity, rent, auto repair, food at home, childcare, and mass transit. So the minimum wage has gone up 0 percent since 2009. Electricity has gone up 4.2 percent, rent has gone up 7.3 percent, auto repair has gone up 7.6 percent, food at home has gone up 8.8 percent, childcare has gone up 11.7 percent, and mass transit has had a 18-percent increase. If you are a minimum wage worker, all of your costs have gone up, but your income has basically stayed the same.

Here is another thing the American people get; they understand this. CEOs

get big raises. Since 2009, the last time we had an increase in the minimum wage, CEO raises have gone up 23 percent, 14 percent, and 5 percent, which is about 40-some percent. Minimum wage has stayed the same. Those at the top keep getting more and more and more, but low-income workers get nothing. They keep falling further and further behind.

How are we doing compared to other countries? We always say, we are doing all right. What are we doing compared to other countries? Here is an example of the national minimum wage rate in nominal U.S. dollars. Right now the United States is third from the bottom. There is Portugal, Spain, and there is the United States. Look at who is ahead of us: Austria, Japan, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Ireland, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, and Australia. Australia's minimum wage is \$16.34 an hour in U.S. dollars. France's minimum wage is \$11.98, Ireland is \$11.16; New Zealand is at \$10.96 an hour. We are way behind other countries in what the minimum wage is.

Here is who benefits: Twenty-eight million workers will get a raise if we raise the minimum wage. Fifteen million women, thirteen million men, four million African-American workers—I will have more to say about that—7 million Hispanic workers, and 7 million parents will get a raise. Again, that is not just minimum wage workers. Almost everyone who makes less than \$10.10 an hour—and many who earn just above \$10.10—will get a raise. It will not just be those who are making \$7.25, there will be a lot of other people who will also get a raise.

That is another thing I have heard from my Republican friends. They say: Well, there are a lot of people who are making up to \$40,000 a year and families will make more money. That is true. Raising the minimum wage will not just help people who are in poverty. It is true that it helps to get them out of poverty, but it also helps low-income families. Let's say there are two workers in the family and they are both low-income workers. They are making above the minimum wage, but they are low income. Perhaps you have a family with three kids and the breadwinner makes a decent income of \$30,000 and the other makes minimum wage; that family too will get an increase.

Here is what happens: About 21 percent of workers in America will get a raise, and almost everyone has family income of less than \$60,000 a year. Eighty-three percent of workers who will get a raise under my bill are in American families making less than \$60,000 a year; that is middle America. There are a few workers—17 percent—that economists tell us have family income over \$60,000, that will also get a boost. But the majority are families

making less than \$60,000 a year. It is a middle-class bill.

Raising the minimum wage helps middle-class families, and it also does one other important thing—it helps kids. We don't think about this a lot. There are 14 million kids who will benefit from raising the minimum wage—14 million kids who are now in low-income families and struggling to get by.

I thought it was interesting that the American Pediatric Association—the folks you take your babies to to see the doctor and stuff—says raising the minimum wage will help our kids. It will help them to develop better, have better oral health, better immunization rates, and decrease the rate of obesity and its complications. The American Pediatric Association Task Force on Child Poverty supports raising the minimum wage. They get it. They see these kids in poverty and low income. They know what is happening to them. By raising the minimum wage, you will help kids have a better life and a better start in life.

I will talk a little bit about the basics of this bill. First of all, our bill, the Minimum Wage Fairness Act, would raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour—where it has been since 2009—to \$10.10 an hour in three steps: 95 cents, 95 cents, and 95 cents over 3 years. We then index it to inflation in the future, so no longer will people who make the minimum wage fall below the poverty line. We keep it above the poverty line.

The third thing our bill does is raise the minimum wage for tipped workers. Can my colleagues believe this? When I tell people this, they say: No, you must be wrong, HARKIN.

Tipped workers in America today have a minimum wage of \$2.13 an hour. People say that can't be right. It is. It has been at \$2.13 an hour since 1991. Imagine that—\$2.13. Our bill would raise that from \$2.13 an hour, over about a 6-year period of time, to 70 percent of the minimum wage, which is much closer to what it was historically, before 1991. So it raises it to 70 percent of the minimum wage over 6 years and then indexes that also in the future.

So, again, why did we settle on \$10.10 an hour? Why not \$9? I have heard that bandied about a lot. Well, here is why we raised it: because we know where the poverty line is. Back in 1968 the minimum wage was 120 percent of poverty. So we said: If we raise the minimum wage and we want to get it just above the poverty line and index it for the future so we wouldn't fall below, where would that be? Well, to get to 107 percent of the poverty line—just above the poverty line—it would be \$10.10. So, again, in 1968 the minimum wage was 120 percent of the poverty line. Now it is at 81 percent of the poverty line, and our bill would raise it to 107 percent of the above line for a family of three.

That is why we raise it to \$10.10—because it hits above the poverty line—and then we index it in the future.

Let's look at the historic average on this. People say: Isn't that a big increase?

Well, historically, whenever we have raised the minimum wage, the percent increase has been about 41 percent. Our bill raises it 39 percent. So we wanted to keep it also within the boundaries of what we have done in the past. Going clear back to 1939, the average has been about 41 percent.

My colleagues might notice that in the 1990s there was a 27 percent and a 21 percent increase. That is because for some odd reason we raised it twice in the 1990s.

So we looked at the decades. Historically, we have raised the minimum wage about once every decade. If we look at it in the decades, we are again right about average: 150 percent, 33, 60, 81; in the 1980s it was only 16; then in the 1990s we had two steps, 54 percent. In 2007 when we passed it we raised it 41 percent. By the way, that was signed into law by a Republican President, not a Democratic President.

So we wanted to get it above the poverty line, index it there but keep it within the boundaries of sort of what we have done in the past, and that is what this bill does. So it is critical to get it above the poverty line.

The minimum wage has lost 32 percent of its purchasing power. So 1968—if we had kept the minimum wage at the same relative status from 1968 to now, the minimum wage would be \$10.71 an hour. It is now \$7.25. So in those years 32 percent of its purchasing power has been lost by minimum wage workers.

Again, I want to cover tipped wages a little bit because that is another important part of our bill.

People say: Well, tipped wages—people make tips and all that.

We keep hearing from some entities that if we raise the tipped wage, it is going to hurt the economy and it is going to hurt the restaurant business. That is just not so. Look at the poverty rates.

This chart shows restaurant servers, right here. If we take a State that has a \$2.13 minimum wage, which is the Federal minimum wage for tipped workers—the poverty rate among tipped restaurant workers is 19.4 percent. Some States have already said they are going to have their tipped wages the same as the minimum wage. They have done that. Where we have a full State minimum wage for tipped workers the same as everybody else, the poverty rate just among restaurant workers falls to 13.6 percent.

If we look at all tipped workers—and a lot of people think that with tipped workers, we are only talking about people who wait on tables. That is not so. Forty percent of all tipped workers

are not restaurant workers. Right now, we are talking about pizza delivery people, parking lot attendants, people who work in hair salons, including manicurists—that is about 40 percent of tipped workers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent for another 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Senator for allowing me a few more minutes.

The point being, if we look at all tipped workers in States with a \$2.13 minimum wage, the poverty rate is 16.1 percent. Where a State has a minimum wage the same for tipped and not tipped, the poverty rate is 12.1 percent.

We also hear that job growth will be lost if we increase the minimum wage. Well, again, we have done some data-taking. If we look at tipped restaurant worker job growth, just from 2009 to 2012, in States that have a \$2.13 minimum wage—tipped wage, the same as Federal—the job growth among restaurant workers has been 2 percent. In a State that has a minimum wage for tipped workers the same as everybody else, the job growth has been twice as much—4 percent. This is just among tipped restaurant workers.

Look over here at sales per capita in restaurants. This is sales per capita in the State. In those States with a \$2.13 minimum wage, \$1.42 per capita; in States with a full minimum wage, \$1.68 per capita. That is why economists are saying raising the minimum wage and raising the tipped minimum wage is good for the economy. It increases aggregate demand.

People say: Why would this job growth be more? Why would the sales be more in a State with a higher minimum wage for restaurant workers?

Easy. If the restaurant workers themselves are making enough money to go out and eat or to do other things, they increase the wages for all of the other restaurant workers in the State. That is true. How many times have I heard from people who wait on tables, restaurant workers, say: I wish I could make some more money. I would like to go out to eat sometimes too.

But they don't make enough money to do that. But in the States where they have a full State minimum wage, both job growth and sales per capita are much greater.

Lastly, this is what is unconscionable. This is a restaurant worker in the District of Columbia. She got a paycheck, and her paycheck is for zero dollars and zero cents. Have my colleagues ever seen a paycheck for zero dollars? Why is that? Because she is a tipped worker making \$2.77, and after they took out her FICA taxes and other taxes and things such as that, she got zero dollars. So therefore she had to rely upon only her tips.

But what are tips? Here is what a lot of people don't understand. How do we classify a tipped worker? How do we do that? If a person makes more than \$30 a month in tips, a person can be classified as a tipped worker. Think about that—if a person makes more than \$30 a month. So if a person works 5 days a week for a month, that is \$1.50 a day. If a person makes more than \$1.50 a day in tips, a person can be classified as a tipped worker and be paid \$2.13 an hour. We look at that and say that can't be right. But it is right. That is exactly what is happening.

Tipped workers are getting to be at the bottom of the barrel. Yet we rely upon them for so many things—people pushing wheelchairs in the airport, valet attendants, parking attendants. There are a lot of people who are classified as tipped workers if they make more than \$30 a month in tips—\$1.50 a day. Think about that—\$1.50 a day. They get that, they get classified as a tipped worker, and they can be paid \$2.13 an hour.

So, again, the time has come. The people of America understand this. Working families understand it. This is a civil rights bill. It is a women's issue bill. I say it is a civil rights bill because if we look at the people who are going to get benefits—13 million people—28 percent of African-American workers, 32 percent of Hispanic workers, 19 percent of Asian and other workers will get a raise. This is a civil rights bill. It is a women's issue bill because 55 percent of the people in America making low wages who will get a raise are women. It is a children's issue. Kids who aren't getting adequate health care and nutrition and childcare are the kids of people making the minimum wage or tipped wages, even less. So it is a civil rights issue, it is a women's issue, it is a kids issue, and it is an economic issue for America.

It is time to give America a raise and raise the minimum wage.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

JOBS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about jobs. Once again, this week the Senate is taking up an extension of unemployment benefits, which will be the 13th such extension since 2008.

Arguably, of course, we came out of an economic downturn and a lot of people were hurt by that; a lot of people were in need of help and assistance. Yet here we are, 6 years later, and we are still talking about extending unemployment benefits. Why? Because we haven't created enough jobs necessary to get the people who have been unemployed for a period of time back to work. Once again we have Senate Democrats ignoring the real issue,

which is the lack of jobs that has left so many Americans struggling to find work.

The solution to years of high unemployment is not perpetual extensions of unemployment benefits but the creation of new jobs—steady, good-paying jobs with the opportunity for advancement. Workers don't want to spend years on meager government benefits; they want to return to work. But in order for that to happen, there have to be jobs available, and there haven't been too many jobs over the past 5 years.

That is why Republicans have proposed a number of amendments to the unemployment insurance legislation that would remove obstacles to job creation and encourage businesses to expand and hire new workers. Unfortunately, Democrats have shown little interest in job creation over the past 5 years, so they are happy to extend unemployment benefits 13 times in 6 years, but they are unwilling to actually do anything to treat the causes of unemployment and to help hurting workers get the jobs they are looking for.

In fact, Democrats' record on job creation has been pretty dismal.

There was the stimulus bill, which completely failed to bring about the economic growth the President promised.

There are thousands of new regulations the administration has placed on businesses which stifle job creation.

The backdoor national energy tax which the EPA is trying to put on power companies in this country is going to be passed on. People across this country who can least afford it are going to be looking at much higher utility bills.

We have the Keystone Pipeline, which has generated open hostility from Members on the other side, and of course we know that has immediate job creation potential. The Keystone Pipeline, according to the President's own State Department, would create 22,000 shovel-ready jobs, which could become available as soon as we get the pipeline approved.

Of course, there is the ObamaCare legislation, passed several years ago, which continues to wreak havoc on job creation in this country. Chief among the burdens ObamaCare places on business is the employer mandate, which requires all businesses with 50 or more full-time workers, which the administration defines as 30 hours or more a week, to provide government-approved health insurance or to pay a fine.

That is financially impossible for thousands of nonprofits and businesses with small profit margins such as restaurants. As a result, many of these businesses are being forced to cut workers' hours below 30 hours a week to reduce the number of full-time employees on their books. And when they

hire new workers, they are hiring part-time—not full-time—employees.

The employer mandate is also discouraging a lot of small businesses from hiring at all. Businesses that planned to expand are now deciding they will be safer financially if they keep their businesses below 50 employees. As a result, many new jobs are simply not being created.

Then there is the costly tax on life-saving medical devices such as pacemakers and insulin pumps. This ObamaCare tax, which is so economically damaging that it is opposed by many Democrats as well as Republicans, has already affected more than 300,000 jobs in the medical device industry. If the tax is not repealed soon, many more jobs in the industry will be lost entirely or sent overseas.

Ultimately, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that ObamaCare will result in up to 2.5 million fewer full-time workers. On top of that, the Budget Committee estimates the law will reduce wages by more than \$1 trillion.

Right now more than 10 million Americans are unemployed. Nearly 4 million of them have been unemployed for more than 6 months. Perpetually extending unemployment benefits does not fix that problem. We need to start creating jobs.

I have an amendment to the legislation before us. It is called the Solutions to Long-Term Unemployment Act. It includes four commonsense measures that would support the unemployed and make it easier and cheaper for employers to hire new workers.

For starters, my amendment would provide direct support to unemployed workers by offering a one-time, low-interest loan of up to \$10,000 to allow an individual who has been out of work for 6 months or longer to relocate to a city or State that has a lower unemployment rate.

Unemployment rates vary substantially across the United States. My home State of South Dakota, for example, has an unemployment rate of 3.6 percent, which is far below the national average. We have a hard time in my State of South Dakota, believe it or not, in actually finding workers to fill the jobs. I talk to employers all the time in my State who are trying to find people to fill the jobs that are available in South Dakota.

So moving to a State with a low unemployment rate can substantially increase workers' chances of getting a job. Unfortunately, most long-term unemployed Americans lack the means to pack up and move to a new city or State.

My amendment would help ensure that lack of resources does not prevent Americans from heading out to where the jobs are.

My amendment also would support workers by cleaning up the mess that

is Federal worker training programs. Currently, there are more than 50—50—worker training programs spread across nine different Federal bureaucracies. Needless to say, that leads to a lot of duplication. And worse, a majority of these programs have never been evaluated to see if they actually work.

My amendment would consolidate 35 of these programs into one streamlined program and move control to the States. With every State facing different unemployment challenges, trying to administer a one-size-fits-all program from Washington makes absolutely no sense. Putting States in control would allow each State to tailor its workforce training programs to the needs of its own citizens.

My amendment would also provide two incentives to encourage businesses to hire the long-term unemployed.

First, my amendment would permanently exempt long-term unemployed workers from ObamaCare's requirement that businesses with 50 or more workers provide government-approved health care to their employees or pay a fine.

Many employers want to hire more workers but they are afraid. They are afraid of the financial hit their businesses will take if they end up subject to ObamaCare's costly mandate. My amendment would allow businesses to hire those new workers without that fear.

This idea recently gained broad bipartisan support in the House of Representatives. The House has acted on a similar measure to exempt veterans from the ObamaCare employer mandate headcount. That measure passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 406 to 1. That is a strong indication that we need to provide relief from ObamaCare's costly mandates to ensure those who need and want to work are able to find good jobs.

I am confident that if the majority leader would allow this provision to get a vote on the Senate floor, we would see a similar outcome that would benefit long-term unemployed individuals.

Finally, my amendment would provide another hiring incentive by granting a 6-month payroll tax holiday for each long-term unemployed worker that a business hires. For an employer hiring a worker that is making \$40,000, that 6-month payroll holiday means a savings of \$1,240.

If it is the Senate's will to extend these benefits, Republicans want to ensure this extension is paired with the kind of help that will actually ensure we do not have to extend unemployment benefits a 14th or a 15th time. That is why we are here offering measures to address the root cause of unemployment—the lack of jobs.

It is vital that we stop putting band-aids over the problem and start focusing on solutions. Democrats may not have made job creation a priority

for the last 5 years, but they can start making it a priority today. And they can do that by the majority leader allowing votes on Republican proposals to make it easier and less expensive to create jobs.

We just heard—we keep hearing—proposals that are being brought to the floor by Democrats that will drive up the cost of doing business, make it harder, create more obstacles to hiring people and to creating jobs. The proposed 40-percent increase in the minimum wage, for example—I have visited with employers in my State of South Dakota, small employers. I had a meeting with employers, where the size of their businesses range from 30 employees up to about 200 employees, all of whom concluded that an increase of that magnitude in the minimum wage would make it much harder for them to grow their businesses and to create jobs.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that raising the minimum wage would cost our economy up to 1 million jobs. Why? Because it makes it more expensive, more difficult for employers to create those jobs and to hire new workers. As a consequence, there are fewer jobs that get created in our economy.

Well, if the goal is to lift people into the middle class, to get more people to work, I do not know why we would look at policies that have proven in the past to make it more difficult to create jobs and cost us jobs in our economy. And we have the Congressional Budget Office saying it would cost us up to 1 million jobs and also raise costs for people in this country; in other words, the things people have to buy. It would raise prices for the things people have to rely on in their daily lives.

Those are the types of things we continue to hear from the other side—proposals that, frankly, sound good and maybe poll well but when you really get down to brass tacks do not get the job done. And clearly, the object is creating jobs—something we have not done here now for 5 years because we consistently get policies from our Democratic colleagues and from the President that drive up the cost of doing business, drive up the cost of hiring new employees, put more obstacles in the way of job creation, instead of putting policies in place that we know—that we know—will create jobs, good-paying jobs, and give people an opportunity for advancement that will help lift them into the middle class.

We can do it. It is high time we did it. I hope, again, that the majority leader will allow votes this week on Republican proposals—and there are many of them here—that actually will make it easier and less expensive to create jobs in this country. It is long past time that we start providing real help for the unemployed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator from Indiana.

UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENSION

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I would like to discuss the legislation currently under consideration. But I want to begin by briefly discussing how we arrived at this point.

In January, I was one of a few on our side of the aisle who voted to begin debate on the bill to extend unemployment insurance benefits. I said at the time—and I still believe today—that the Senate should have a full and open debate on this important issue, a debate that includes consideration of modifications and changes to the program.

The President, after all, said the program needs reforms. This is an opportunity to implement those reforms.

Members on both sides of the aisle—Republicans and Democrats—have acknowledged the need for reforms. So my vote to consider this legislation early on, when it came up, was not about supporting or opposing an extension of the emergency unemployment insurance program, but it was about initiating a debate on this important topic and setting the stage for both sides to work together to find a credible way of paying for this extension, if it was granted, and having responsible reforms in terms of amending or changing the current law so we could avoid some of the duplication and some of the misuse of funds that go into this particular program.

So those two things—a responsible pay-for and measures to reform the program—were critical. I felt that was the debate we needed and, in fact, we did have a bipartisan discussion back and forth with the caucus on our side of the aisle and the caucus on the other side.

It is clear that we have gotten to the point where not all of us are happy with the result that came forward. I see my colleague from Nevada Senator HELLER on the floor. No one could have been a better leader in terms of pulling the group together, working to find a sensible solution to this issue. I commend him for the efforts he has made.

However, I am disappointed in not having the ability to offer amendments when a bill comes to the floor, and being shut down by the majority leader who simply says: I am going to use Senate procedures—some of them arcane procedures—to deny the opposing party any opportunity to include their ideas, their thoughts, their amendments in the process.

Throughout the discussion we have had with our colleagues across the aisle in trying to form a consensus and bring the bill forward, some of us were disappointed that those items that we offered, that we thought were reasonable, were not included in the final version.

You do not always get everything you want. But nevertheless, at least around here you used to be able to go down to the floor and say: I want to give my colleagues a shot at hearing what my amendment tries to accomplish, and allow it a vote. And if you win, you win; if you lose, you lose. In the end, you look at the total package, as amended—or at least as attempted to be amended—and make a decision: Do I want to support this or not support this?

That is the position we were in, and I had what I thought were two reasonable requests. One was prohibiting the simultaneous collection of Social Security disability insurance and receiving unemployment insurance.

Look, the law is basic and it is common sense. If you are eligible to receive unemployment benefits, you have to be determined as someone capable of performing suitable work. I had an amendment to incorporate this proposal into the language of the final bill that is going to come before us. The amendment language is identical to the language previously proposed by Senate Democrats that would offset Social Security disability benefits by the amount of unemployment insurance received.

So, as I said, by law, a person has to be able to work to qualify for unemployment benefits. Yet, as we have found, some people claiming those benefits also are claiming Social Security disability benefits. The law provides that in order to claim disability payments, you have to prove that you are not capable of working, that there are basic medical reasons why you cannot work.

But here we have, documented by agencies of the government, people who are getting checks for both programs. All we were trying to do—all I am trying to do is put forth a provision that says you cannot do both; you either are able to work or you are not able to work. If you are not able to work, you can qualify for disability payments. But if you are able to work, you may qualify for unemployment benefits if there is no work available, but you should not be able to qualify for both.

While some adjustments have been made, there still are several billions of dollars of costs to the taxpayers because of this duplication.

Secondly, I offered a provision that gave the States the flexibility to make decisions as to how people would qualify for these benefits. I hear frustration from employers all across Indiana that are basically being told by people who are looking for work: I would rather keep collecting unemployment than accept the job you are offering to me.

In this time of slow economic growth, as we come out of the recession very slowly, some people, as has been documented to me by many employers across the State of Indiana, are

basically saying people would rather collect the benefits.

So we put in what was called a suitability provision that would prohibit individuals from receiving emergency unemployment compensation if they fail to accept any offer of suitable work. That is defined as work within their capabilities or suitable work referred to them by the State employment agency. Unfortunately I thought we had bipartisan support. Instead they said let's study this. It has been studied. It has been documented. We do not need to study. "Study" is a way for—let's take this decision out of the process and it will put it down some dark, deep hole and maybe some study will come out later on.

So the bottom line is that the two amendments I had hoped would be part of this final package have not been incorporated. What I am asking for, what I have been asking for now, is the opportunity to bring those two proposals forward, debate it on this floor, call for a vote. I am not going to filibuster it. I am not going to delay it. I am not going to throw a monkey wrench into the process. Let's have a time-limited, straightforward debate and give Members the opportunity to vote their yes or vote their no.

Then, at the end, when this process has been worked through, as the Senate was designed to do but under the leadership of the current majority leader has not been able to do, once again—once again—the very function, the design of the Senate has been thwarted by the leadership or lack of leadership of the majority leader who simply said: I will use procedural measures to keep you from offering any amendment to this bill.

I do appreciate the work that went on behind the scenes to try to come up with a consensus bill. I think that fell short of where I would like to go. I would at least like to have the opportunity as a Senator to offer on the floor an amendment to the bill and then accept the results, yea or nay.

Since both of these things that I have mentioned have had bipartisan support, why are we not allowed to vote for it or against it. Why are we not allowed to have the opportunity to do what the Senate is supposed to do on behalf of the constituents whom we all represent? That was the basis for my decision to go forward with this. A lot of people misunderstood that, but it was simply a decision I made that we ought to return to some form of regular order.

The reason we come to the Senate is to be able to be a participant in fashioning legislation. Our majority leader Senator REID has disallowed that opportunity, meaning essentially robbing the soul of the Senate, the purpose of the Senate, the purpose of Senators, turning us into robots, rubberstamping whatever the majority leader wants us

to pass or not pass, telling us that the 200-and-some years of tradition, of debate and vote in the Senate, the ability to offer an amendment has been denied us.

Once again here we are back in the same situation because we have one individual who has made a decision that the minority does not count, that Senators—even some in the majority—do not count. They do not get to offer amendments either. We are going to do it his way and not the way it has been done for more than 200 years.

With that in mind, having the ability to bring forward something that I think has bipartisan support, is responsible, will address the reforms the President called for has been once again denied. With that, I simply cannot support going forward with this, even though there are people out there who are legitimately looking for work, making every possible effort, should be able to qualify for an unemployment program. But the most basic of reforms that ought to be debated and voted on—we ought to have the courage to put our yes or our no to it so people back home know where we stand—that has been denied us yet once again.

This is a dysfunctional body, led by a dysfunctional leader. It is not operating as the Constitution has put forth, as the tradition of the Senate has required. It is a shame. It is a shame on us that we are not even allowing debate and the opportunity to offer reforms, even when they have bipartisan support.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to begin by thanking the two previous speakers for their comments and their dedication to their particular cause. My friend from Indiana knows both of his amendments are something I would have supported if given the opportunity to actually vote on them, but the important point is this, we are moving forward. The Senate is moving forward with a debate on a bipartisan proposal to responsibly extend unemployment benefits. I am encouraged by our progress so far. I hope we can continue to work with our colleagues to pass this piece of legislation.

In speaking on this bill, I would be remiss not to again thank my friend from Rhode Island for his tireless efforts to help unemployed Americans by temporarily extending unemployment insurance benefits. I admire his dedication. I am greatly pleased we are here today to support a bipartisan effort and to help all Americans keep American families on their feet in a very difficult economic climate.

I also wish to thank Senators COLLINS, PORTMAN, MURKOWSKI, and KIRK for their continued willingness to come to the table to craft a bill that would garner enough support to pass in the

Senate. I also, as I just mentioned, wish to acknowledge the contributions of both Senator COATS and Senator AYOTTE, who though not cosponsors of this particular version of the bill have been essential in these negotiations, as well as Senator ISAKSON and Senator HOEVEN, who have also been engaged in this matter in recent months.

Last December the Federal unemployment insurance benefits were allowed to expire, leaving millions of job-seeking Americans wondering how they would cover their mortgage, pay the utilities, fill their car with gas, put food on the table for their families. My constituents who have written to me, who have called my office, and the people I have spoken with when I am home in Nevada have shared many heart-breaking stories with me.

I have heard from individuals all across the spectrum, from every sector, from every industry. I would like to share one of those letters from Michael in Carson City, NV, who wrote to me several weeks ago. After Michael and his friend moved to Nevada from California just a few years ago, they needed unemployment insurance benefits to help them bridge the gap between jobs. Sometimes they had to visit the local food pantry to keep food on their table, but Michael kept looking for a job.

Eventually he found some work as a substitute teacher. He also found another part-time job working nights and even weekends. Through perseverance, Michael ended up finding a full-time job, and now he and his wife and their young daughter are enjoying some financial stability that they did not have just a few years ago.

I think Michael's story is a great example of how valuable unemployment insurance is to American families who have fallen on some hard times. I thank Michael for taking the time to share that story with me. I am very glad his family is doing well in Carson City.

I have another letter from John from Henderson. John lost his job last April. He has been looking for work for nearly 1 year now. Unemployment insurance has helped him keep a roof over his head. It also helped him keep the power on. John is doing everything he can to make ends meet while he continues to search for a job, but it is getting tougher and tougher to put food on the table and provide for his young family.

Without any help, John and his family may lose their home. They are worried about where to go and they are worried about what options they have left. I have a stack of letters just like these, Nevadans sharing their individual experiences with me. Those stories are why I am here today and I have fought so hard to find a way to temporarily extend these benefits in a responsible way.

These are real American families trying to make ends meet. They are peo-

ple who want to get back to work, want to be self-sufficient, want to provide for their families. Without unemployment insurance, many of them would have lost their homes, been forced to search and seek out additional government services. Unemployment insurance helps people before things go from bad to worse and does make a difference for millions of Americans.

Last week I spoke briefly on the need to extend these benefits. I want to reiterate an important point that I think is often misunderstood. Unemployment insurance benefits go to unemployed individuals who are actively seeking employment. I share the desire of my colleagues and constituents to rein in out-of-control Federal spending and reduce the dependence on Federal aid, but I believe unemployment insurance is a critical safety net for American families, especially during periods of high unemployment such as we are currently experiencing.

Further, additional benefit tiers are only available to States that meet certain unemployment rate thresholds, meaning that the duration of benefits decreases as the State recovers. This ensures that job seekers in the hardest hit States have access to critical resources when they need it the most. Nowhere is this more apparent and important than in my home State of Nevada, which has the unfortunate distinction of carrying the Nation's highest unemployment rate for nearly 5 years—nearly 14 percent unemployment at the highest.

Nevada's current unemployment rate at 8.5 percent remains still one of the highest in the country, high above the national average and far from where we need to be as a State. What concerns me even more is the fact that thousands of Nevadans have dropped out of the workforce entirely, people who lost their jobs, exhausted both their State and Federal unemployment insurance benefits and were still unable to find work in this tough economy.

Nevada is now trending in the right direction, thanks in large part to the vision of our Governor, Governor Sandoval. But again, we still have a long way to go. That is why we need to temporarily extend unemployment insurance benefits to give the people of Nevada, Rhode Island, and many other States some financial certainty as our country's economy recovers.

As we continue to push forward to restore our economy, the need for these benefits will naturally diminish. This brings me to another important point I wish to highlight about this bill. There is a temporary extension of unemployment insurance benefits, 5 months to be exact. Temporary extensions of these programs during high periods of unemployment have found bipartisan support in the past. I think they merit bipartisan support. I agree we should not indefinitely extend these programs.

I would also like to see additional reforms. We should continue that discussion.

I strongly agree with my colleagues on this side of the aisle that the key to our economic recovery is through the creation of new jobs. Under this administration, there are still three workers for every available job, leaving far too many qualified workers out of a job simply because there are not enough opportunities available.

My Republican colleagues, including Senators HOEVEN, THUNE, LEE, and many others, have introduced more than a dozen bills to spur job creation by reducing governmental burdens and making it easier for businesses to grow and create new jobs—bills that will help reduce the need for unemployment insurance benefits, strengthen our economy, and improve the financial security of millions of Americans.

I hope that as we are debating this bill before us today, we have the opportunity to debate and vote on these important job creation measures.

I know there are some questions regarding how State workforce agencies might administer retroactive benefits and enforce some of the new requirements provided in this bill. These concerns are not unreasonable. However, I firmly believe that not only can Congress work with States to overcome any of these challenges, but Congress has the responsibility to overcome these challenges. No bill is perfect, and the varying capabilities of State systems compound the difficulty of the task at hand.

This isn't a new obstacle for Congress. Every person in this Chamber is familiar with the challenges involved in finding a balance between Federal and State laws and ensuring that what we do in Washington isn't an undue burden back home. We deal with that problem every single day. Additionally, the Department of Labor has provided \$345 million to States over the past 5 years to help States modernize their systems so that they are more responsive and efficient.

I know we can find a way to work with our State agencies to find a way to reduce the burden of administering these benefits. In fact, Department of Labor Secretary Thomas Perez wrote a letter last week in response to some of these very concerns and believes that the challenges are not—I repeat, are not—insurmountable. As a former labor secretary for Maryland and now Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor, Mr. Perez has hands-on experience with unemployment insurance at both the Federal and State levels. In his letter, Secretary Perez indicated that the Department of Labor already has guidance on how to administer retroactive benefits. This is not the first time there has been a gap in UI extensions. Although this gap may be a little longer than usual, Secretary Perez

states that “we are confident that we could successfully address this challenge again.”

It may also be difficult to implement measures in our UI systems to determine whether someone is a millionaire, but I think most of us would agree that jobless millionaires and billionaires should not be receiving unemployment benefits. The limited resources we have to provide for this social safety net ought to be reserved for Americans who need this help the most. Some State systems may not be responsive or responsible enough to get this done by the time these benefits expire again. I recognize that. But if we continue to provide a series of short-term extensions without any reforms, we will never fix the underlying issues. We have known for years that there are some well-off individuals abusing the UI system, and it is long past time that we do something about it.

We should not be content to just extend Federal programs if we know there are inefficiencies. We need to do something to make these programs run more efficiently, effectively, and ensure that our hard-earned taxpayer dollars are used in a responsible fashion.

I am proud to have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this legislation. It hasn't always been easy, but I thank my colleagues for their patience and their continued hard work to help the American people find some stability as they look to get back to work. I look forward to moving to this bill, passing it, and working with the House to restore unemployment insurance benefits as we continue working to improve the health of the American economy.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HELLER. I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until the Senate recesses at 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HELLER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that after the completion of my remarks, the distinguished Senator from Kansas then be able to give his remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014. In my view, this legislation is flawed in many respects, and that being the case, I intend to vote against it.

First and foremost, it needs to be said that the fact that we are even having a debate about extending unemployment benefits is unfortunate. Throughout the Obama administration, our Nation has been plagued with lackluster job growth, lower and lower rates of labor force participation, and high levels of long-term unemployment. Indeed, under this President it has been harder to find a job than at any other point in our Nation's recent history.

But, as has been said before, these are just symptoms of a much larger problem. The plight of the long-term unemployed—which this bill is supposed to address—is not the major problem facing America today. Instead, the major problem is that despite the best efforts of many of us in Congress, our government hasn't done enough to foster economic growth. In fact, more often than not in recent years government has stood in the way. It has been an impediment.

We are now more than 5 years into this administration, and it is becoming increasingly clear that President Obama does not have a plan to address these problems. True enough, he has proposals that would expand the government and redistribute income but nothing resembling a plan to promote growth in the private sector or to actually put people back to work. Many of the President's redistribution schemes end up costing labor supply and jobs, as the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has made clear with respect to ObamaCare and the President's proposed minimum wage hike.

Growth is what we should be debating, ideas and proposals that would actually grow our economy and help people find jobs. But instead we are here once again to debate an extension of the emergency unemployment compensation program, or EUC.

Let's talk about the EUC program for just a few minutes.

The proponents of this legislation have told us that extending “tem-

porary” unemployment benefits is vital to our economy, but I think the facts tell a much different story. Between July 2008 when the program started and December 2013 when it expired, we spent roughly \$265 billion on EUC benefits. That is more than a quarter of a trillion dollars on a temporary Federal benefit program. For much of that time the program paid up to 73 weeks of Federal benefits, amounting to a record total of 99 available weeks of unemployment benefits when you add the State and Federal benefits together. All told, we have paid EUC benefits for 66 months, which is 2½ years longer than any similar emergency unemployment program in U.S. history.

In other words, EUC is a program with a long track record, and when we look at the record, we see that it hasn't had the positive economic impact proponents of the program often claim it has. Indeed, despite the hundreds of billions of dollars in benefits we have already paid under this program, we have suffered through the worst jobs recovery in our Nation's history, and the long-term unemployed have suffered the most.

There is evidence to suggest this program has actually made the recovery worse. For example, according to recent research published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, “unemployment benefit extensions can account for most of the persistently high unemployment after the Great Recession.”

So while some Democrats have claimed that extending unemployment benefits is the best way to create jobs, the facts certainly tell a different story.

I am not going to condemn anyone for wanting to extend a helping hand to those who continue to face difficulties under the Obama economy, but if we are going to debate yet another extension of Federal unemployment benefits, we should at the very least get our facts straight.

So with all this in mind—the cost of the EUC program and the questionable benefits—let's take a look at the legislation before us now.

One thing I would like to point out is that with this legislation we have once again abandoned regular order and bypassed the committee process entirely. I have remarked on this problem here on the floor several times before. When we ignore the traditional role of the Senate committees, we short-circuit the legislative process, and more often than not we end up with an inferior product. This bill is certainly no exception.

We learned this last month when the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, NASWA, sent a letter to the Senate outlining its concern with this bill. Chief among these concerns was that it would be extremely

difficult for States to retroactively pay unemployment insurance claims, as this bill would require. Indeed, according to NASWA, backdating EUC claims “would make it nearly impossible” to apply individual State work search requirements, which is a key factor in determining eligibility for unemployment insurance. In addition, the letter indicated that there would likely be a large increase in new EUC overpayments as a result of this retroactivity requirement.

Due to these concerns and others, NASWA concluded that it would take States up to 3 months to implement this legislation, which is problematic because although the bill before us is technically for a 5-month extension, only 2 months of benefits would be paid prospectively. In other words, many States would not be ready to implement this legislation by the time it expires.

This is more than a glitch or a bump in the road; it is State workforce agencies—the very people who will have to implement this legislation on a day-to-day basis—telling the Senate that this bill is unworkable. According to the NASWA letter, there are a number of States that would consider not participating in the program due to these problems and the short time available to address them.

Labor Secretary Perez sent his own letter in response to NASWA’s statement, promising to help States address these concerns. Oddly enough, however, this letter was very short on actual details as to how that assistance would be offered.

All of that said, these are the kinds of problems I was talking about—problems which can be addressed if committees are given an opportunity to operate. Had the committee had an opportunity to vet this legislation, we could have also fully examined the offsets my colleagues are using to pay for this EUC extension. These are also problematic.

The main pay-for in this bill is the use of what is called pension smoothing, which is little more than a budget gimmick but an especially pernicious budget gimmick when repeated. It has the potential to do real harm to pension plan funding levels, threatening the future retirement security of American workers.

Since the great recession of 2008, pension plans have struggled to regain their footing financially. The drastic drop in interest rates forced many plans to dramatically increase their pension contributions to keep pace. In 2012, at the historic low point for interest rates, Congress essentially gave pension plans 4 years of funding relief to get through the worst period of low interest rates. Congress did this by allowing pensions to fund their plans as if interest rates were higher than they really were.

But we can’t indefinitely pretend that interest rates are artificially high and contribution levels artificially low. Reality still matters. The reality is that, although still low by historical standards, interest rates are no longer at rock bottom and pension funding needs to gradually adjust to market rates just as current law provides.

Put simply, we should avoid additional pension smoothing because it permits lower pension funding, and poor pension funding is bad pension policy. Pension funding remains a serious concern, and this is not the time to make it easier to underfund pensions. Doing so is worse than just kicking a can down the road. This can of pension underfunding will explode on American workers in the form of underfunded pensions that will somehow have to be rescued either through painful cuts in benefits, much higher PBGC premiums, or taxpayer-funded bailouts. There is no other way around it.

The other major offset in this bill is the extension of customs user fees. This is also problematic. Traditionally speaking, offsets in the trade space are reserved for legislation that actually extends trade programs, such as the Generalized System of Preferences or the African Growth and Opportunity Act. If we start using these offsets in other areas, we won’t have anything left over when it comes to extending these important programs.

Both of these offsets—pension smoothing and customs user fees—fall under the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee, just like the underlying UI extension. Once again, had the committee been given an opportunity to consider these issues, it is likely that these offsets would not have been used.

As we can see, there are a number of problems with this bill that could have been considered and addressed had the Finance Committee been allowed to do its work. And it should have been allowed to do its work. Other problems could be addressed if there were a fair and open amendment process here on the floor. Sadly, it doesn’t appear that we are going to get that either as the Senate Democratic leadership appears poised to once again try to force a major piece of legislation through the Senate without giving the minority an opportunity to offer amendments.

Before our next vote on this legislation, I think we will see a number of amendments filed, many of which would likely improve the bill. Others would address the more pressing need to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

I personally have amendments that would do both. For example, I have an amendment that would repeal the ObamaCare tax on medical devices, which enjoys bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate and would prevent further job losses in one of our most important U.S. industries.

I have another amendment that would repeal the ObamaCare employer mandate. I am sure my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would deem this out of bounds, but they shouldn’t. After all, the Obama administration seems pretty intent on delaying the employer mandate; it has already been delayed for 2 years. If the mandate is that harmful to implement, why don’t we do away with it altogether and ensure that it doesn’t cost us any more jobs and further requests for unemployment benefits?

One amendment I have would help to ensure that the retroactive EUC benefits do not threaten program integrity. Specifically, it would require States, as part of their EUC agreements, to certify that paying retroactive benefits will not lead to an increase in fraud or overpayments.

These are just some of the amendments I may offer to this bill, and all of them, in my opinion, would be improvements. But it doesn’t look as though we are going to be able to offer amendments in the greatest deliberative body in the world—and I am saying that pretty sarcastically at this time. I know many of my Republican colleagues have amendments they would like to offer as well. Yet my friends on the other side of the aisle don’t want to have a real debate about these issues. Instead, they are content to let the majority leader fill the tree and block any and all Republican amendments from coming up for a vote. One can only wonder what they are afraid of. Presumably the majority has the votes to defeat any amendments the minority wants to offer. Where is the harm in having a real debate? Where is the harm in having an open amendment process? I can only conclude they are worried that some of the votes they would have to take would be difficult politically. Indeed, preventing difficult votes seems to be priority No. 1 for the current Senate majority.

At this point, it appears they have the votes to pass the bill. I assume we will be through with this process this week. Yet, while the Senate debate over unemployment insurance may be coming to an end, I can only conclude that the process failures we are seeing in this Chamber will continue as we move on to the next item of business, which is, in my opinion, very unfortunate.

This week’s debate over EUC is just the latest example of what is wrong with the Senate these days. Sadly, it doesn’t look as if things are going to get better under the current leadership. These are important issues. We really need to let the Senate operate the way it always has, and let’s quit playing these games of power play.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Kansas.

(The remarks of Mr. ROBERTS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2191 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise today to speak about an issue which should be under the category of "unfinished business," and is a priority for the American people, and that is unemployment insurance. In this case it is emergency unemployment compensation and the trauma so many people have lived through—not just over weeks—over the last few months, and which, of course, was preceded by a very difficult economy.

The bill that is before the Senate is bipartisan, and that is good news and the way it should be. It is a bipartisan bill to provide what can only be described as an essential lifeline for individuals who have been out of work. Millions of people have been out of work in the so-called long-term unemployment category. This lifeline is often directly connected to the life and daily struggles of middle-class families who rely upon this program to stay afloat as they seek work.

Sometimes I think there is a misconception—or some may want to make this argument in a deliberate way—that somehow emergency unemployment compensation is for people who are out of work but not looking for work. In fact, these are folks who are looking for work day after day and week after week. I would have preferred a longer-term agreement rather than just the 5 months that are proposed in the agreement. It is very important that we have finally reached a point where we can pass a measure that will provide protection and support for folks as they look for work.

Thursday we had a procedural vote which was bipartisan to move the bill forward. Thankfully, this week the Senate will be voting on the bill itself. We hope the House will follow suit and provide this kind of much-needed boost for those who are out of work.

The numbers are staggering. For example, when we look at the numbers in Pennsylvania, almost 75,000 people immediately stopped receiving unemployment benefits when the emergency unemployment compensation expired on December 28. I can't even imagine what that was like for an individual or for

an individual and his or her family—3 days after Christmas, right in the middle of the holiday season. It is supposed to be a time of joy. It is a time when families are spending lots of time together in ways they cannot often do during the year. To have their unemployment run out on December 28 had to be horrific for those individuals.

Between December 28 and March 15—in addition to the 75,000 I mentioned for Pennsylvania—over 110,000 Pennsylvanians lost their benefits. Through May—the bill would go to June 1 and be retroactive to December 28—it is estimated that 158,400 Pennsylvanians and almost 2.8 million Americans will have lost their emergency unemployment compensation. They are the folks who have been hurting and will be hurting unless we take action, and they are the ones, of course, who will benefit if we take action.

Unemployment insurance doesn't just provide an economic relief to that individual and his or her family. It is also an economic jump-starter. For example, in 2012, Mark Zandi, a respected economist—I will say for the record he has roots in Pennsylvania, but he is respected across the board—said that for every dollar of emergency unemployment compensation, there is \$1.52 in new economic activity. It is that old "spend a buck," and what do you get for a buck? In the case of emergency unemployment insurance, you spend a buck and you get a buck fifty-two in return. I don't care what market you are in. That is a pretty good return—especially when it is helping people so substantially. This is about providing that lifeline for those families at a time when they really need it, and it is also about the economic benefits for the rest of us. A lot of people have heard these numbers as well—analyses that specifically focus on the extension of benefits in 2014. They have also indicated—by using other data—the impact it has on the economy.

I will give an example. The Economic Policy Institute has estimated that extending unemployment benefits in 2014 would generate \$37.8 billion in economic activity. That is the impact for this year as found by the Economic Policy Institute—\$37.8 billion.

This is about all of us. This is not about a group of people over here we hope to help. That is a wonderful sentiment. This is about whether they are going to have an opportunity—just a fair shot—to have a chance to get back into the economy and back into work. It is also about the rest of us in another way as well. It is about whether we are going to make sure everyone has an opportunity for that fair shot. Of course, it is also about the rest of us because we benefit when this program continues because of the economic boost and the \$1.52 for the buck you spend on it, as well as the \$37.8 billion of activity.

We have heard about the numbers and the rationale for continuing this program, both of which I would argue are not just compelling but urgent. But what about the real people. There are two people in my hometown—one I had spoken to in the past and the second person was someone I had never met before. I just want to give an example of these two individuals and their lives in Scranton, PA, where I live—Lackawanna County—which has a very high unemployment rate.

The first person is Joe Walsh. Joe has lived in my hometown all of his life. He was a tradesman for 40 years, so he had a very specific skill that allowed him to work and support his family. He worked as a superintendent for 14 years, and in 2008 the company he worked for needed to downsize, and he lost his position and immediately went on unemployment insurance. He worked on and off over the years for contractors who needed temporary workers, but he was unable to find anything steady, which is a story we have heard too often.

On December 28 of 2013—the day I mentioned before—Joe exceeded his unemployment insurance benefits and has not received any support since then, but he continues to look for work and file his claims. Joe is married and has three grown children. He says he feels "lucky" because his wife works and is able to keep their household afloat during a very difficult time.

Joe is 63 years old, and for all of those years and all of those decades he has had a skill and work ethic that allowed him to work. He said that if he had a mortgage now, he would not be able to survive. He finds it difficult to find the kind of work he had before—tradesman work, which requires a skill.

The second person we had a press conference with is someone I met in our neighborhood—we go to the same church—Vera Radice. Vera has spoken to me before about her circumstances. Over the years she was with several banking institutions. She was employed steadily from February of 1995 until July of 2014. She was doing good work for all of those years for two different banking institutions.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Cookstown University and an associate's degree from Luzerne County Community College. She has the education you often need to find the job you want, and she has almost 20 years of experience. Now she is left with volunteering and looking for work. She has attended all of the CareerLink workshops in Lackawanna County. She spends at least 3 days a week at CareerLink searching for work over and over.

These are the people—and not just tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands, but literally millions of others across the country—who are in the

same situation as they are. It is time we did the job we were elected to do and put this emergency unemployment compensation program back into place and give people a fair shot—nothing else. They are just asking for a fair shot to find work so they can support their families, be a part of the economy, a part of this country, and the world of work they were so much a part of for most of their lives.

I would like to see all of us come together in a bipartisan fashion and get this passed and get it to the House. I hope our House colleagues are listening not just to my voice but, more importantly, I hope they are listening to the voices of people who they represent—the Veras and Joes of the world.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that today at 2:15 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 532 and 683; that there be 15 minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote with no intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed, with 2 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form between the votes; that all after the first vote be 10 minutes in length; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we also hope to reach agreement on another nomination, and hopefully we can do that during the break we are going to have now.

I have nothing further.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:46 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of Executive Calendar No. 532, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 687, without intervening action or debate on the nomination, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF KEVIN WHITAKER TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER P. LU TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF LABOR

NOMINATION OF JOHN P. CARLIN TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Kevin Whitaker, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia; Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor; John P. Carlin, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 15 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to a vote on the Whitaker nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. REED. Madam President, yesterday my colleagues agreed by a voice vote to proceed to a debate on the bipartisan agreement to restore emergency unemployment insurance to 2.7 million Americans. This is great progress from where we have been the last few months, as I have made the case to renew these benefits.

I wish to thank my colleagues for their support and urge them to continue to move this compromise to passage, as it represents our best path forward to quickly provide aid to our con-

stituents and supporting our economic recovery. I hope the voice vote yesterday is indicative of broad support going forward, and that this agreement will not be bogged down by unnecessary roadblocks.

Millions of Americans who have worked hard, who were laid off through no fault of their own, and are searching for work are looking to us to get this commonsense extension done and done promptly. I would again like to thank my colleagues who have joined in this effort. They recognize this is the right thing to do for our workers and it is the right thing to do for our economy.

I would also like to particularly thank my Republican cosponsors who have brought constructive thoughts and ideas to the table, helping bring us here to this point. Senator HELLER has been a stalwart in extending these emergency benefits. Senator COLLINS, Senator PORTMAN, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator KIRK have all contributed valuable thoughts, along with Senator COATS and Senator AYOTTE. This has been an effort that has truly been bipartisan. I think it represents a coming together of proposals from both sides, but ultimately to serve the best interests of our constituents who again are looking for work in a very difficult market.

We have been working together since literally last year before these benefits expired on December 28. We know how important it is to provide this assistance to families throughout this Nation. We also understand that we have to go ahead and not only provide support for the families but also to support the local economy. This will do it. It will provide resources that will immediately go back into the economy and stimulate demand and stimulate growth.

I want to also thank my colleagues for the way they have thoughtfully approached some of the issues. Senator COLLINS has helped build upon this important reform to provide a mechanism which we hope will get people back to work sooner. We have incorporated another assessment in the process. It is fully paid for. People will get, in the course of their extended benefits, the opportunity and also the obligation to come back in, be assessed, be given advice, be given some coaching. We think, and some data suggest, this is one of the most effective ways to get people back into a job in a difficult market.

Senator PORTMAN is a former Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and one of the real experts, who has been key to identifying appropriate pay-fors which are critical.

Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator KIRK worked to include an examination of the work suitability and work search standards across the States so we can be better informed and better prepared when we have to deal with

further reforms to our unemployment compensation system.

This agreement incorporates many good ideas of my colleagues. It is important we build upon the historic reforms Congress undertook in 2012. I will try to discuss those reforms in more detail later in the week. But as I said again, most importantly, it will help people who have worked, who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, who are desperately searching for work and must search for work in a difficult economy. It will help our economy overall.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Kevin Whitaker, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 94 Ex.]

YEAS—99

Alexander	Coons	Inhofe
Ayotte	Corker	Isakson
Baldwin	Cornyn	Johanns
Barrasso	Crapo	Johnson (SD)
Begich	Cruz	Johnson (WI)
Bennet	Donnelly	Kaine
Blumenthal	Durbin	King
Blunt	Feinstein	Kirk
Booker	Fischer	Klobuchar
Boozman	Flake	Landrieu
Boxer	Franken	Leahy
Brown	Gillibrand	Lee
Burr	Graham	Levin
Cantwell	Grassley	Manchin
Cardin	Hagan	Markey
Carper	Harkin	McCain
Casey	Hatch	McCaskill
Chambliss	Heinrich	McConnell
Coats	Heitkamp	Menendez
Coburn	Heller	Merkley
Cochran	Hirono	Mikulski
Collins	Hoeven	Moran

Murkowski
Murphy
Murray
Nelson
Paul
Portman
Pryor
Reed
Reid
Risch
Roberts

Rockefeller
Rubio
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Scott
Sessions
Shaheen
Shelby
Stabenow
Tester

Thune
Toomey
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Vitter
Walsh
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden

Walsh
Warner

Warren
Whitehouse

Wicker
Wyden

NAYS—1

Heller

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON LU NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on the Lu nomination.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3979, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Pending:

Reid (for Reed) amendment No. 2874, of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 2875 (to amendment No. 2874), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 2876 (to amendment No. 2875), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 2877 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2874), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 2878 (to amendment No. 2877), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance, with instructions, Reid amendment No. 2879, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 2880 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 2879), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 2881 (to amendment No. 2880), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

NOT VOTING—1

Enzi

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CARLIN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on the Carlin nomination.

Who yields time?

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we hope this is the last vote of the day—at least the next vote we hope will be by voice. There could be other votes procedural in nature this afternoon. We hope not, but you never know. I am not going to agree to anything.

I yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time for debate has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John P. Carlin, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General?

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second. There is a sufficient second. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 95 Ex.]

YEAS—99

Alexander	Fischer	Menendez
Ayotte	Flake	Merkley
Baldwin	Franken	Mikulski
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Moran
Begich	Graham	Murkowski
Bennet	Grassley	Murphy
Blumenthal	Hagan	Murray
Blunt	Harkin	Nelson
Booker	Hatch	Paul
Boozman	Heinrich	Portman
Boxer	Heitkamp	Pryor
Brown	Hirono	Reed
Burr	Hoeven	Reid
Cantwell	Inhofe	Risch
Cardin	Isakson	Roberts
Carper	Johanns	Rockefeller
Casey	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Chambliss	Johnson (WI)	Sanders
Coats	Kaine	Schatz
Coburn	King	Schumer
Cochran	Kirk	Scott
Collins	Klobuchar	Sessions
Coons	Landrieu	Shaheen
Corker	Leahy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Stabenow
Crapo	Levin	Tester
Cruz	Manchin	Thune
Donnelly	Markey	Toomey
Durbin	McCain	Udall (CO)
Enzi	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	McConnell	Vitter

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I rise to talk about a whole series of issues—including unemployment insurance and the minimum wage—that are designed to help Americans attain economic mobility and get a fair shot to move up in the way our economy is designed to work.

This morning the Budget Committee had a hearing entitled “Opportunity, Mobility, and Inequality in Today’s Economy.” We heard from three very strong witnesses, including Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz. We talked about important topics central to understanding the long-held American dream: If you work hard and play by the rules, you should be able to support your family, provide an opportunity for your kids, and have a fair retirement. But for too many—as the Presiding Officer knows—opportunity and mobility are especially hard to find and income inequality is growing.

I am an optimist. I know the solutions are here if we work to find them, and I want to take a couple of minutes to talk about some of the solutions. First, let’s try to put a human face on the problem of inequality in our economy.

Income inequality in the United States is at a record level. It is higher in the United States than virtually any other developed country. President Obama has called income equality the central challenge of our times. The Presiding Officer and I share a Roman Catholic background. Last week the President was talking to Pope Francis in the Vatican, and they talked about how this is not just an American challenge but a global challenge.

According to the CBO, the average income of a household in the richest 1 percent in this country was nearly 180 percent higher in 2010 than it was in 1979 in real dollars. By comparison, the average income for a household in the middle 20 percent of the income distribution had only grown by about 25 percent—about one in seven—of what the households in the highest income levels had grown.

Since 1979, the top 1 percent of our population’s share of national income grew from 8.9 percent to 14.9 percent. So 1 percent has 15 percent of the national income by 2010, but at the same time the bottom 80 percent of our American population saw their share of national income significantly shrink.

For me the issue is not just inequality because there will always be some inequality. Fate, luck, and health will produce some unequal outcomes. But what I think is great about this country is that while we can see inequality and tolerate some degree of it, what we will not tolerate is people being locked into unequal situations.

We want to have a society where people may be born poor or may have an accident or a fate that will have them in a lower economic status but they

can still raise their ceiling and achieve all they can. But in the case of social mobility, the United States is now one of the poorest performing of the developed countries.

Today a child born into the bottom quintile in the American economic life only has a 7.5-percent chance of ever being in the top quintile. In a country such as Denmark in Europe—and we think of Europe as a more stratified society—that number is nearly double what the number is in the United States.

It is not just inequality, it is mobility. We are not giving people a fair shot, to use the words of the great American singer Curtis Mayfield, “to move on up” to their destination and that place where their dreams can take them if they work hard enough.

What we need to do is embrace strategies that let people move on up and have a fair shot to achieve. We don’t only need to embrace strategies for success, we have to eliminate structures and eliminate barriers that lock people out of economic opportunities that they should be able to achieve similar to anyone else.

One solution is the minimum wage bill that we will start to talk about soon. It is about working Americans who are earning minimum wage or just above minimum wage and how this will affect them.

I think I can safely say the vast majority of Virginians would agree with this proposition: No one who works full time—8 hours a day, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year—should live in poverty. But today someone making the minimum wage earns about \$15,000 a year, which is \$3,000 below the poverty level for a family of three. If you are a single mom with a couple of kids—and so many people are raising children on their own—and work full time at the minimum wage, you are below the poverty level.

The minimum wage today is at a historic low. The minimum wage has lost 33 percent of its buying power since its peak in 1968. If the minimum wage in 1968 had just kept pace with inflation, it would be \$10.71 per hour today and not in the \$7 range.

Workers who regularly receive tips are treated even worse. They get paid a subminimum wage—what is called a tipped minimum wage—of \$2.13 an hour. As long as you make \$30 in tips a month, your company can pay you \$2.13 an hour. Overwhelmingly these workers work in restaurants but not exclusively, and similar to other minimum wage workers they are predominately women.

Twenty-eight million Americans will receive an increase in pay if we raise the minimum wage under the bill that is currently before the Senate. It has been reported out of the HELP Committee, and we will take it up soon. More than half of those who will re-

ceive a raise are women. The vast majority are adult workers. Over 14 million American children have a parent who will receive a raise if we increase the minimum wage.

The Minimum Wage Fairness Act will boost the minimum wage to about \$21,000, lifting families above the poverty line. In total—get this—the bill we will hopefully debate and vote on soon is estimated to lift nearly 7 million Americans out of poverty and above the poverty level. What could we do, as we debate, that would have more effect on people’s lives than lifting 7 million people above the poverty level, which we would do if we pass the bill.

Increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour will increase GDP by nearly \$22 billion as workers spend their raises in local businesses and communities. In Virginia about 744,000 of my fellow citizens will receive a raise. For this reason, business owners whom I talk to—not all but a huge number and especially small business owners—know that the minimum wage increase makes good business sense.

Yesterday I visited a supermarket just across the Potomac in Alexandria. It is called MOM’s Organic Market. They have 11 locations in the DC metropolitan area and Philadelphia. They are contemplating opening another store in New York City. I met with the owner Scott Nash, and I talked to his employees. I asked the employees: How long have you worked here? The answer I got back was 7 years, 8 years, 10 years. They made it their practice to pay their employees a \$10 minimum wage now, and they are going to increase it. They fully support the bill currently pending before the Senate to increase the minimum wage.

Scott Nash is not alone. We are celebrating a very important centennial this year. It is a centennial of one of the smartest things an American employer ever did. I will read a quote.

After the success of the moving assembly line, Henry Ford had another transformative idea. In January of 1914, he startled the world by announcing that the Ford Motor Company would pay \$5 a day to its workers. The pay increase would be accompanied with a shorter workday—from 9 to 8 hours. While this rate did not automatically apply to every worker, it more than doubled the average auto-worker’s wage. While Henry’s primary objective was to reduce worker attrition, newspapers from all over the world reported the story as an extraordinary gesture of good will.

Here is the important part:

Henry Ford had reasoned that since it was now possible to build inexpensive cars in volume, more of them could be sold if employees could afford to buy them. The \$5 day helped better the lot of all American workers and contributed to the emergence of the American middle class. In the process, Henry Ford had changed manufacturing forever.

This quote is not from some Democratic talking point. This quote is from

the Web site of the Ford Motor Company—a press release they issued in January to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Henry Ford's novel decision.

There was an employer who knew the American economy was based on consumer demand and if workers could be paid more, they would buy more, it would help his company, and it would help America. The Senate can take action in this way, and the Senate can take action in other ways to give people a fair shot to move on up in American society.

In fact, we have already acted on a couple of bills I hope the House will pick up. We acted on immigration reform, which strengthens border security, creates a pathway to legal status and citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants, and helps businesses and families. This eliminates a barrier that keeps people from moving up, and the CBO estimates it will significantly improve the American economy. Immigration reform is about a fair shot. Immigration reform is about moving up.

We also acted on ENDA, legislation to end discrimination in the workplace against folks based on sexual orientation. A person can't move on up and achieve their economic dreams if folks can fire someone at will if they don't like the kind of person someone is or who they love. So ENDA, which awaits action in the House, is also a bill about making sure people have a fair shot and can move on up.

We can act this week. We are now on the bill to provide unemployment insurance to those who are still struggling in the economy. Soon we will consider paycheck fairness for women. A person can't achieve all they can if they are going to be paid significantly less than their colleagues just because of gender.

In coming weeks we will also consider jobs skills and education legislation, which are real keys to economic opportunity for so many.

What we need to do is pretty simple. What the Presiding Officer did and what so many others in this Chamber did when we were Governors was to try to give individuals the tools to create their own opportunity, to create their own mobility, as well as to take the steps we could when there were barriers or structures in the way to move those out of the way so people had a fair shot to succeed.

With that, I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today marks the beginning of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. It comes at a time when Congress is about ready to take up reauthorization of the Justice For All Act—a law that has im-

proved public safety, strengthened victims' rights, and delivered justice all across this country. I am proud to be the lead Republican sponsor of this bill, and I am even prouder of what it has accomplished and what it will continue to accomplish.

Thanks to the Justice For All Act and similar initiatives, law enforcement agencies across America now have greater resources to reduce the rape kit backlog. I might just explain. A rape kit is, as it sounds, a forensic collection of evidence collected at the scene of a sexual assault. Much to our chagrin, we have learned over time that many of these rape kits—this forensic evidence—is not forwarded to a lab for testing and, thus, the DNA of the assailant is not identified. So we realized that local jurisdictions needed more resources and more guidance and more expertise when it came to testing these untested rape kits because of the incredible evidence it provides, both to acquit people who have been falsely accused of crimes, as well as to identify, indict, and convict serial sexual assailants.

This is sort of unique in many ways because people who commit rape don't just do it one time. Many times they will do it time and time again until they are caught. Worse yet, this is a crime of opportunity. Many times it involves children as well, as we know. So now we know that thanks to the Justice For All Act and similar initiatives which have allowed these rape kits to be taken off the evidence locker shelf and tested, that what has been a national scandal, which has allowed violent criminals to remain on the streets, is now being addressed more and more.

I am not here to suggest that everything that can be done has been done, but it is important for us to make sure these rape kits are tested and to get these serial sexual assailants off the streets and brought before a court of law and justice.

Even a relatively small reduction in the backlog can lead to major gains in public safety and peace of mind. In the city of Detroit, for example, the processing of 1,600 old sexual assault kits, including some from the 1980s, allowed authorities to identify 100 different serial rapists, ten of whom were convicted rapists already. So this is powerful evidence. Incredibly, police sometimes keep this forensic evidence for 20 or 30 years, and it is still susceptible to being tested, and for the rapist to be identified and to be taken out of circulation.

In the city of Houston, meanwhile, a backlog that once reached 6,600 untested rape kits is now in the process of being completely eliminated—thanks, in large part, to the support provided by this legislation.

I wish to take a second to highlight the SAFER Act, which was included in the Violence Against Women Act and

which passed just this last year, and the fact that it funded a provision of the Justice For All Act known as the Debbie Smith Act. I have had the pleasure of meeting Debbie Smith for whom this legislation was named, and she has become a tireless advocate for the sorts of reforms and improved funding that are contained in the SAFER Act and in the Justice For All reauthorization.

The SAFER Act mandated that more of the money the Federal Government granted must be used to actually test old rape kits as well as dedicate a portion of that money to inventory—evidence that had been sitting on police evidence locker shelves or had been sent to laboratories but had not yet been tested. This law, passed in 2013, has already played a crucial role in making Federal support available for tackling the rape kit backlog.

I was proud to introduce that legislation and I am proud to sponsor reauthorization of the Justice For All Act. As I said a moment ago, I am enormously gratified and proud of what these laws have helped us accomplish. Upholding victims' rights and keeping dangerous predators off the street are two of the most solemn obligations the government has, and we should never forget it.

With hundreds of thousands of rape kits still untested, we have a long way to go; there is no question about it. It is encouraging to see the progress that has been made. Hopefully, this will encourage us to take even further steps to make sure these untested rape kits are tested and the people who are innocent are vindicated from any charges. But the people who commit serial sexual assault, both against other adults and minors, should be and will be brought to justice.

THE ECONOMY

Shifting gears to the economy, I wish to repeat a call I made yesterday and once again urge the majority leader in the context of the legislation we are currently considering to allow Republican ideas for economic growth and job creation to come to the floor for a vote.

I realize President Obama has stubbornly chosen to stick with the same policies that have given us the weakest economic recovery following a recession since World War II. It is also the highest—the longest period of high unemployment since the Great Depression. Indeed, after promoting the same fiscal and economic strategy for the last 5 years—a strategy that involves higher taxes, more Federal spending, and more debt—the President and his allies seem to see no reason to change course. His proposed budget for 2015, for example, would increase Federal spending by \$791 billion. It would also increase taxes by \$1.8 trillion over 10 years, and increase our national debt by \$8.3 trillion. That is on top of the \$17

trillion already—about \$56,000 for every man, woman, and child in America.

For those keeping score, the President has already raised taxes by \$1.7 trillion during his presidency and increased our national debt by four times that much. In other words, if more taxes and more spending were the path to prosperity for this great Nation, America would be booming, unemployment would be at zero, and our economy would be chugging along, creating new jobs right and left. Instead, the evidence is in. We are experiencing stagnation and mass unemployment. It is said that insanity is defined as doing the same thing over and over but somehow expecting a different result. If that is the definition of insanity, then maintaining the current policies of spending, tax, and debt are the definition of insanity.

There has to be a better way, and there is, if only the majority leader would allow the Senate to do what it is supposed to do. This body used to once be known as the world's greatest deliberative body, where we had the great debates on the issues of the time, and then we had a vote, and we all accepted the majority vote in those instances. But now, the new tactic by the majority leader seems to be to bring a bill to the floor without going through a committee where members of that legislative committee are allowed to offer amendments and to get votes on those amendments to help shape the committee product. We don't even do that anymore, and we didn't do that on this underlying unemployment insurance extension bill we will be voting on this week.

So Members of the Republican Conference—the Republican Members of the Senate—have offered 45 amendments, all of which are designed to improve the underlying piece of legislation and not just kick the can down the road. I would think the majority leader and the President of the United States would welcome our efforts to try to improve the underlying legislation—but apparently not.

For example, can't we do a better job, let's say, of directing Federal dollars for workforce training efforts in places such as West Virginia and Texas so that for the good jobs that do exist, we could match the skills of these people who have been unemployed for a long time to those good jobs that pay very well and do exist in abundance. So we have 45 different suggestions and ideas we would like to offer in the spirit of cooperation and trying to do our jobs as Members of the Senate. However, so far, the majority leader has steadfastly and, I might add, stubbornly, pushed for another extension of unemployment insurance without anything else attached that would actually improve workforce training and programs that would upgrade stale skills for people who have been unemployed

for a long period of time so they can qualify to do the good-paying jobs that exist.

One of the favorite parlor games here in Washington, DC, is to spin various narratives to explain what is happening in Washington. Sometimes I have heard the majority leader and others say the Republican Party is the party of no. Well, that is a false narrative. We have 45 different amendments that would improve this underlying legislation. We have been shut out and, more importantly, the 26 million people I represent in the State of Texas have been shut out of this debate and this discussion and this effort to come forward with a better product. Isn't that what we are here for?

I mentioned some of these ideas that have been proposed yesterday. For example, I mentioned a bill, sponsored in different forms, by the senior Senator from Maine and the junior Senator from South Carolina that would relieve the burden of ObamaCare, which has been complained about mightily by organized labor and others, that has compelled—or induced, I should say—employers to take 40-hour workweeks and shrink them to 30 hours or less in order to avoid ObamaCare penalties. So this amendment would relieve that burden on workers and businesses by restoring the traditional 40-hour work week. Why wouldn't that be a subject worthy of debate and a vote in the Senate?

I mentioned a separate bill introduced by the junior Senator from South Carolina that would modernize workforce training and eliminate duplicative governmental programs. There are more than 40 different government programs that purport to train people to improve their job skills all across the country.

I have had the chance to visit some of those locations in Texas, and they do a very good job. But rather than have 40-plus different programs, why don't we have 1 or 2 and use the extra money from all that duplication in order to put more money into these programs so they can train more people and get them back to work faster? That is another of the amendments that have been shut out of this process so far.

I also mention legislation sponsored by the senior Senator from Utah and the junior Senator from Kentucky respectively that would eliminate ObamaCare's job-killing tax on medical innovation—something that I believe, if allowed to come for a vote, would receive an overwhelming majority vote on a bipartisan basis in the Senate.

Also, the junior Senator from Kentucky has a piece of legislation that would make it easier for Congress to block major regulations that cannot pass a simple cost-benefit analysis.

Meanwhile, the junior Senator from Wyoming and the senior Senator from North Dakota, whom I see on the floor,

have a bill that would expedite the approval of natural gas exports to our NATO partners in Europe and to Ukraine and help relieve that stranglehold Vladimir Putin and Russia have on Europe because they control most of their energy supply. It would also approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, thereby creating thousands of well-paying American jobs and would transport North Dakota oil and Canadian oil all the way down to Texas, where it would be refined into gasoline and jet fuel and create thousands of jobs in the process.

In addition, another amendment that has been offered on this underlying legislation that would help the economy grow and help get people back to work and rein in excessive Federal regulation that is killing jobs—the senior Senator from Oklahoma has a bill that would stop new EPA regulations until—until—the Agency could tell us exactly what the impact of those regulations would be on jobs and the economy.

So most of the ideas I have listed have been submitted as one of these 45 amendments to the underlying unemployment insurance bill. Yet the majority leader, who is the traffic cop on the Senate floor—the rules of the Senate give him complete, 100-percent discretion to decide which amendments are going to get a vote and which will not—the majority leader seems determined to prevent any votes on any of these ideas.

If we are truly serious about job creation and if we are truly serious about doing everything possible to get America back to work—because of the dignity work provides and the means it provides people to provide for their own families and to pursue their dreams—why on Earth would we deny Members a chance to vote on these job-creating pieces of legislation? Well, unfortunately, I think we got a little bit of a peek into the majority leader's playbook last week when he and others had a press conference upstairs and talked about this agenda they had for the time from the present through the election. And they were pretty candid about it. This is an agenda they dreamed up in conjunction with the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. The majority leader said as much in his announcement. In other words, this is a political plan by the political arm of the Democratic Senators' campaign committee. So this is not about finding solutions or else the majority leader would welcome these suggestions we have offered.

I would say to the majority leader, do not allow votes on these amendments simply to placate me and others of my political party. Do not do it for us. Do it for the 3.8 million people who have been unemployed for more than 6 months. Do it for them. Do it for the untold numbers of people who have simply given up looking for work. Our

labor participation rate—the percentage of Americans actually in the workforce—is at a 40-year low. So it is not only the tragedy of the unemployment numbers that we see reported, it is people who are not reflected in those unemployment numbers because those statistics do not count people who have given up. And that is what the low labor participation rate indicates. These are the people who need our help, and they are the ones who deserve a vote on these constructive suggestions to the underlying piece of legislation. I hope the majority leader will reconsider.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, in January of this year, I came to the floor to talk about and honor one of my constituents, Javier Martinez, who was killed on December 28 of last year, just as 2013 was ending. He was shot while walking to a friend's house in New Haven. He was 18 years old.

In the aftermath of that tragedy, I have spoken with Javier's family and his friends about his life and legacy. As I said on the Senate floor a few months ago, Javier was a kind and intelligent young man, well on his way to becoming a leader in his community. He cared a lot about the environment. He worked with the Nature Conservancy and the New Haven Urban Resources Initiative to plant trees and protect endangered species. His classmates at the Common Ground High School in New Haven would like to plant a tree at the site of his death and dedicate a garden in his honor because of his interest in the outdoors and the natural resources that enhance the beauty of our world, which he loved so much.

Yesterday morning I visited some of Javier's classmates at the Common Ground High School in New Haven. I spoke to a group of young people who were serious about ending gun violence because it is such a serious cause of heartbreak, grief, loss, and sacrifice—not just in New Haven, not just in Sandy Hook, but throughout our country in big and small towns, rural and urban neighborhoods, people from all backgrounds and different walks of life. I spoke to the Common Ground AP U.S. Government class, where the students and their teacher, Brian Kelahan, were kind enough to welcome me and share with me some of their views on gun violence and the justice system in this country. I told them what I firmly believe: that I have a duty to listen to them and to all people who live in Connecticut because they have a unique insight and a depth of understanding and perspective that should be shared here in Washington, DC, in this body and around the country.

It is my job to bring that perspective, those insights back to Washington. So

I want to begin by showing my colleagues a picture of those Common Ground students who were Javier's classmates. This photograph was taken at the top of East Rock. Unfortunately, it is somewhat indistinct as to who is pictured here. But it is overlooking a scene that Javier knew well with people who were his friends. They are dedicated to ending gun violence in this country because they know firsthand the toll it takes. They have been no stranger to gun violence in their neighborhoods. Many of them have to travel long distances to come to this school—the Common Ground High School in New Haven—from neighborhoods that are afflicted with gun violence, and they suffer the traumatic, emotional, sometimes physical threats that come with that exposure to violence.

Connecticut also has been no stranger to gun violence over the last year and a half, and I have come to the floor many times with my colleague Senator MURPHY to commemorate the courageous and strong people of New Town and in particular the families who suffered the loss of 20 beautiful children and 6 great educators.

What the students who met with me yesterday morning wanted me to hear bears telling and repeating here. They were speaking truth to power. What they wanted all of my colleagues to hear and what I strongly believe is that as tragic as the mass slayings are in this country, no less tragic, no less horrific, no less important is the shooting of one innocent 18-year-old young man like Javier while walking to a friend's house. It may not make the national news. It rarely does anymore because we have come to regard gun violence, in a way, like the background noise of our society. It may not feature prominently in the headlines. Individual gun violence is a plague, still, that affects all of us as it affects any one of us. We cannot let these shootings continue in our urban communities. Many of them are committed with handguns. Many are the result of illegal gun trafficking and straw purchases. Far too many are ignored by the news media—simply disregarded background noise.

Gun violence affects all of us wherever we live in Connecticut and the country. If anything positive is to come of these tragedies in New Town and New Haven—and in the 30,000 other deaths that have happened since New Town—as a result of gun violence, it should be the uniting and bringing together of all who have been touched by gun violence, which is all of us. That goal is one that will drive me, and I am sure others here, to seek an end to gun violence with commonsense, sensible measures, such as the ones we considered—background checks, mental health initiatives, school safety.

The Presiding Officer helped to craft a very sensible and commonsense ap-

proach to background checks. We prohibit felons, criminals, mentally deranged people, and addicts from having these firearms, but we have no universal background check system to make sure they do not purchase them. How effective can enforcement be if there is no real way of checking who is buying these firearms?

A young woman who is a senior at Common Ground, in fact, asked me what laws can be effective when people are willing to break them, buy firearms even though they are prohibited from doing so. That is an important question. The answer is that no law is perfect, none can be absolutely perfectly enforced, but regulations and restrictions on dangerous people having firearms can reduce the level of gun violence in our society, reduce the number of criminals buying weapons. Background checks especially have been shown—there is empirical evidence—to reduce the number of guns that get into the wrong hands.

Students and teachers asked me about the way our country deals with criminal justice. Systematic disparities continue to plague our justice system, resulting in severely disproportionate rates of incarceration for young men and women of color. They spoke about the overlapping cultures of law enforcement and school discipline and about the need to reduce prison populations and bring about much needed reform in the way sentences are calculated, not only as a matter of fairness but also to reduce the cost in our society of incarceration.

These young people are thinking about where our society should be going. What is our plan and our strategy for making our neighborhoods and communities better places and safer places to live?

I made a commitment to those students pictured here in this picture that I would come back again. And I will. I made a commitment that I would tell their story, which is really Javier's story—a story of hope and promise, dreams and aspirations, cut short by gun violence because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time and murdered.

That investigation may be ongoing, but we already know the answer to the fundamental question: Can we do something to reduce gun violence? The answer is yes, in his name, in the name of 30,000 people who have perished along with him from gun violence, needless and senseless deaths that are all our responsibility.

I respect the Second Amendment, as I know the Presiding Officer does. I respect the right of people under the Constitution and the Second Amendment to own and possess firearms and use them for hunting, for recreation, target practice. I will continue to honor the memory of Javier Martinez and the lives and aspirations and homes of the

students at Common Ground, and work not only to build that garden but to make the neighborhood around it safer and the community around it a more nurturing and better place to live.

I have made no secret of the fact that I believe this body has a responsibility to act, and its failure to do so is shameful and disgraceful. The students of Common Ground agree. If their aspirations include organizing to make more people aware of the need for this action, I commend them. In fact, I urge them to participate in this effort.

I wish to close with the words from a card they sent me with this photograph. The card read:

Senator Blumenthal, we are so grateful for your help in remembering Javier Martinez, supporting our Common Ground community and taking action to stop gun violence. It means so much to have you by our side as we recover and make meaning in this incredibly difficult time. Know that we will stay with you in the struggle to build a safe and peaceful community.

I know it sounds more like rhetoric than reality. But I will tell my colleagues in the Senate that as long as the young people of Common Ground and others like them are at our side, we will prevail in commonsense measures to reduce gun violence, and we will prevail in the fight to make America a better, safer place to live.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise to offer an amendment to the unemployment insurance legislation we are currently considering. While we all want to help those who are unemployed, the real solution is to get them a job, is to create a growing economy and more jobs. We need to get this economy going. One way we can do it is by empowering our energy sector.

That does not mean spending more government money. What it means is taking the shackles off billions in private investment that is ready to go into energy development in this country. In 2011, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce commissioned a study. The study took a look at the energy projects that are stalled in this country due to government bureaucracy and redtape.

That study found there are more than 350 energy projects, projects that will both produce renewable energy as well as projects that will produce traditional energy that are stalled at a cost of \$1.1 trillion to the American economy, at a cost of almost 2 million jobs for the American people.

I want to take a minute to read from that report:

In aggregate, planning and construction of the subject projects would generate \$577 billion in direct investments, calculated in current dollars. The indirect and induced effect, where we apply the multiplier, would generate an approximate \$1.1 trillion increase in U.S. Gross Domestic Product, GDP, includ-

ing \$352 billion in employment earnings based on present discounted value over an average construction period of 7 years.

Furthermore, we estimate that as many as 1.9 million jobs would be required during each year of construction.

Two million jobs. Many of these projects are still blocked by government redtape and the permitting process. That is why I have introduced a States First All-of-the Above Energy Plan for our country to get these projects going. If you think about it, it just makes sense. The States, after all, are the laboratories of democracy. Let's make them the laboratories of energy for our country.

The right energy plan is about much more than just energy. It means economic growth, it means national security, and it means jobs—jobs for those who are currently unemployed and jobs at a good wage. Today I am offering amendments to the unemployment insurance legislation that will do all of those things.

The first one I wish to talk about for a minute is the Energy Security Act. I am pleased to join with the senior Senator from Wyoming Mr. BARRASSO and also our ranking member on the Energy Committee, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI from Alaska, as well as other cosponsors on the legislation, Senator JOHN CORNYN of Texas, obviously a big energy-producing State, Senator JAMES INHOFE of Oklahoma, and Senator DAVID VITTER of Louisiana.

What the Energy Security Act does, quite simply, is first it approves the Keystone XL project. This is a more than \$5 billion pipeline that has been in the permitting process now for more than 5 years. We are now in the sixth year of the permitting process trying to get a permit from the administration. We have thousands of pipelines all across this country, millions of miles of pipeline, and here is a project that for 6 years the administration has held in limbo.

The latest greatest technology moves Canadian oil, our closest ally, Canada, moves oil from Canada as well as oil from my State, North Dakota, and Montana to refineries across the United States. We import 50 percent of our oil. Do Americans want to get that from the Middle East or do they want to produce it here in our country and get it from our closest friend and ally, Canada? That is an obvious answer. That is why in poll after poll, 3 to 1, Americans want this project approved. But it remains in limbo, now in its sixth year of the permitting process on the part of the administration.

So when I talk about those 350 projects, when I talk about \$1.1 trillion in GDP, when we talk about almost 2 million American jobs that study performed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce identified, you can see what they are talking about when you talk about this project that has been held up now into the sixth year.

The legislation, the Energy Security Act, would approve that project, but it would also approve the 24 pending applications that would allow us to export LNG, liquefied natural gas, to our allies who need that help. Right now in this country we produce 30 trillion cubic feet of natural gas a year. We consume about 26 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. That is growing rapidly. Believe me, I know. We are flaring off natural gas in our State that we want to get to market. We need a market for that product. But right now we are not allowed to export liquefied natural gas to countries such as the NATO countries.

Look what is going on in Eastern Europe, such as what Russia is doing in Ukraine. What is next? One of the reasons Russia is able to take that kind of action and the European Union is reluctant to put sanctions in place as a response is because Europe, Ukraine, are dependent on Russia for natural gas for energy. Over one-third of the supply of the EU's energy comes from Russia.

So we have an opportunity here. We can create economic activity. We can create jobs. We can use that natural gas we produce beyond what we need here at home to help our allies and at the same time stand up to Russian aggression. That is why I say this is about jobs. This is about getting our economy growing. But this is also very much about national security, our national security here at home, energy security for our country, but also security working with our allies to stand up against the kind of aggression we see from Russia and from President Putin right now.

In terms of jobs, the Obama administration's State Department, their own State Department, has estimated the Keystone XL Pipeline during the construction phase will create more than 40,000 jobs. That is just that one project, more than 40,000 jobs. If you look at some of the studies, very conservative studies on job creation that will occur by approving these LNG applications, the National Economic Research Associates identifies more than 45,000 jobs that would be created by expediting approval of those permits.

Let me give you two examples so you understand the magnitude of what we are dealing with here. Cheniere Energy wants to invest \$11 billion in an export facility at Corpus Cristi, TX. That is not one penny of government spending—not one penny. We have a huge deficit and we have a huge debt. We have got to get on top of it. That means controlling our spending, but that means we have to have economic growth.

So here are companies willing to invest and create jobs and create economic growth and create tax revenues—not raising taxes, creating tax revenue. Why in the world do we hold

them up? How does that make sense? How is that common sense? Here we are on an unemployment insurance bill where we are going to spend more government money to pay people who remain unemployed when we could approve these projects and put them back to work at good-paying jobs. Instead of growing the deficit, we could actually create tax revenues from a growing economy—again, not higher taxes, from a growing economy that helps reduce our deficit and debt.

So the Cheniere Energy project, \$1 billion investment facility in Corpus Christi, creates a market for some of the natural gas that is now being flared off, according to the Perryman Group, 3,000 direct construction jobs, far more indirect jobs during the construction phase. Here is another project. Exxon wants to build the Golden Pass LNG facility at Sabine, TX, which is on the border between Texas and Louisiana. That is a \$10 billion investment. Perryman Group estimates that between both the direct construction jobs and indirect jobs, on the order of 45,000 jobs for that project during construction, almost 4,000 permanent jobs.

So you can see when we talk about NERA, the National Economic Research Associates, saying, hey, there are going to be 45,000 jobs for these projects, that is a very conservative estimate. It creates so much more—not just good-paying jobs but also a growing economy, cash revenues to help with the deficit and national security, and security working with our allies at a critical time, a critical time in Eastern Europe.

In addition, I have offered other legislation I filed, that I am now offering as an amendment to this unemployment insurance bill—again, legislation that will create jobs and help people get back to work.

The second one I want to mention is the Empower States Act. The Empower States Act gives primary regulatory responsibility to the States when it comes to regulating hydraulic fracturing. The reality is, a Federal one-size-fits-all approach does not work for hydraulic fracturing, because the way hydraulic fracturing is done across this country is different in different States. The way they hydraulically fracture in States, for example, in West Virginia, where they are going after natural gas is very different than the way they do it in North Dakota where we are going after oil. We drill down 2 miles, 2 miles vertical drill bore to reach the oil, and then we drill out for miles at that level.

We produce primarily oil and natural gas—huge amounts of natural gas and gas liquids as a byproduct—but we are miles away from any potable water, which is much closer to the surface, so it is very safe. The water that is produced—both the frack water as well as the water that comes up with that oil

and natural gas—we put back downhole through saltwater disposal wells, in essence recycling the water. Anything that can't be reused goes back downhole and that creates a recycling process.

That is different than the way it is done in the Marcellus shale in places such as New York, Pennsylvania, and it is different than the way it is done in West Virginia and different than the way it is done in the Utica shale in Ohio. There are some similarities with the way it is done in Texas in the Eagle Ford, where they also drill for oil.

But the point is, the way this is done, the technologies that are used, even the product we are going after—and certainly the formations are different across the country.

When we put a Federal one-size-fits-all approach in place, it doesn't work. Not only does it not do the job in terms of making sure we have the right kind of regulation, it holds up projects. It prevents job creation. It doesn't allow our economy to grow. It doesn't empower us to produce the energy that could be produced across this country with the right approach, with the right energy plan.

As far as job creation, our State is now the fastest growing State. We have the lowest unemployment, and we have the fastest growing economy, 7.6 percent in the most recent statistic versus a 2.6-percent average for the other States. Again, this is about creating a growing economy. It is about creating jobs.

Also, I am offering the Domestic Energy and Jobs Act legislation I filed as an amendment to this bill. DEJA is a series of bills that has already passed the House. This is all legislation that has already passed the House. So we know if we can get a vote in the Senate, the legislation we can pass in the Senate has already gone through the House. We are already a huge distance on the journey to getting this done.

What does the Domestic Energy and Jobs Act do? It does exactly what the title says. It reduces the regulatory burden, it sets goals, it helps us produce more energy and create jobs.

For example, we establish an American energy development plan for Federal lands. We have all of these Federal lands—millions and millions of acres of Federal land both onshore and offshore. The Department of Interior should have a plan to develop energy on those public lands, and they should set goals to do so. This legislation would require them to do just that.

We freeze and study the impact of EPA rules on gasoline regulations. That benefits all Americans at the pump, not only small businesses that are looking to hire people but families, all consumers.

We provide onshore oil and gas leasing certainty, meaning that the Department of Interior has to approve the

permits within a stipulated, reasonable period of time. It advances offshore wind production. This is about producing renewable energy as well as traditional energy. It streamlines the permitting process. It provides access to the National Petroleum Reserve for development in Alaska. It requires the BLM to hold live Internet auctions. Let's use this new technology to encourage investment in job creation and energy development in new and creative ways.

It establishes rules on surface mining that make sense, commonsense rules. It increases States' revenue sharing for Outer Continental Shelf drilling, offshore drilling, and it also offers lease sales off the Virginia coast.

Clearly, developing these new areas creates revenue for the States, creates revenues for the Federal Government, creates more energy for our country, and creates more jobs—not spending Federal money, investing hundreds of billions of private dollars that are currently sidelined in these new and exciting projects.

Finally, I am offering the stream buffer rule legislation that I filed as a stand-alone bill. I am offering that as an amendment as well to this UI bill. The Department of Interior wants to implement a Federal one-size-fits-all rule for stream buffer zones, meaning mining proximity to rivers and streams. Again, a one-size-fits-all, one-size Federal approach for every situation does not work. Allow the States to take the primary role in regulating the stream buffer zones and let them do what makes sense.

With all of this legislation, we can empower hundreds of billions in private investment. We can put that investment in good old-fashioned American ingenuity into getting our country going, getting our economy growing, and getting our people back to work.

We can do it. The way we can get started is simply by voting. That is what we do in the Senate. That is what we do in this Senate forum. Let us put forward our ideas and let's have a vote. If it passes, we can do these things. But why in the world wouldn't we get a vote? That is what this body is all about. Let's have the debate. Come to the floor and let's have a debate. Let's debate each one of these and a lot more. That is what we do. Then let's vote. That is how we will decide. That is what the American people expect us to do. They sent us to the Senate to do just that.

The question I have is why aren't we voting on these amendments and a lot more if we are serious about getting people back to work? If somebody wants to come down and refute this, come on down, do it, and then let's vote.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I commend my colleague, the Senator from North Dakota, not only for his leadership on so many energy initiatives, but for the proposal he has put forth this afternoon.

I am pleased to be able to join him in support of those various measures—measures that, as he has outlined, will not only as a nation allow us to move forward and take that leadership role, which we so rightly have and should use as something to benefit not only ourselves and our economy, jobs within the Nation, but to benefit other nations. The proposal he has advanced—again, that I am pleased to join him on—is one that allows for incredible jobs and opportunities with the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, provisions that will allow for expedited processing of our LNG exports.

It recognizes, again, that when we produce more in this country—when we produce more of a resource that not only allows us to be more energy secure, but that also helps our friends and allies around the world, it also helps to truly effectively reduce the cost of that energy to American consumers.

How can this possibly be a negative? How can this possibly be bad when it adds to jobs, when it strengthens our economy, and when it makes us more secure as a nation.

There are many win/wins that we see in these energy proposals we have in front of us that Senator HOEVEN has offered. But, again, if we only have an opportunity to kind of talk aloud about them but never actually have the chance to move them forward through a legislative process so they can actually become law so we can actually see those benefits play out, it doesn't do us much good.

I appreciate what my colleague has outlined this afternoon through his proposals. I know we will have an opportunity to speak further to them tomorrow, and I look forward to doing that as well.

KING COVE

I want to take 5 minutes in this late afternoon to continue to educate not only my colleagues but folks within this administration and around the country about an injustice that continues to unfold in a small corner of my State, a very remote part of my State in southwestern Alaska for the small community of King Cove. There are about 950 people who live in King Cove.

I have been fighting since I came to the Senate, and before I came my father took up this fight, in an effort to get a small connector road, a small 10-mile, one-lane gravel, noncommercial-use road that will allow the people of King Cove access to an all-weather airport so they can get out in the event of medical emergencies.

We had another one last night. I had an email saying the weather had com-

pletely taken over in the gulf in King Cove, and there was an emergency call that went out. It was for a 58-year-old fisherman who had been injured. He had been out on a Seattle-based processor called the M/V Golden Alaska.

This fisherman happened to live in Seattle, and he was onboard this boat. They were out near Unimak Island, which is out toward the chain in the North Pacific, when this fisherman was accidentally sprayed with a high-pressure hose and it severely injured his eye. It was 1 a.m. when this incident happened.

We have this big vessel, a big processing vessel of 305 feet, heading from Dutch Harbor to Seattle when the accident happened. I don't have a map with me, but if we can envision, there is a lot of big, wide-open ocean, and medical care is a long way away. This fisherman couldn't wait for that medical care. The closest deepwater port was King Cove.

King Cove got the word that they had an injured fisherman onboard and they said: Look, our clinic can't handle somebody who has critical needs. See if you can take the boat over to Cold Bay so that not necessarily he can get medical care, he could get on an aircraft out of Cold Bay that could fly him the 600 miles or thereabouts to Anchorage for the medical care he needed. But the problem they faced was they had wind gusts of up to 60 miles per hour. They had rough seas, very rough seas.

The ship's captain said: I am not going into Cold Bay. I am not going to try to hoist a man who has been severely injured in his eye—I am not going to try to hoist him up a 20-foot ladder at the Cold Bay dock. We are not going to do that.

So they went into King Cove, a safer, more protected cove, and they were able to get the gentleman there at 11:30 a.m. The physician's assistant—we don't have a doctor in King Cove, we have a PA, somebody who basically does a good job in stabilizing folks. She contacted the emergency room in Anchorage.

The ER folks said: Look, you have to get this guy to an ophthalmologist as soon as you possibly can in order to preserve as much of his eyesight as possible.

As I mentioned, not only does King Cove not have a doctor, they don't have any kind of an eye specialist. The nearest ophthalmologist is in Anchorage, more than 600 miles away.

The PA, Katie Eby, did what health professionals at the clinic always do in an emergency like this. She calls for help to our Coast Guard. She begs the Coast Guard to come. The Coast Guard says they will come, but they can't come now. They can't chance the weather to get in there. They are not going to risk a pilot and his crew to get into this situation where we unnecessarily put even more lives at risk. They

said: Look, we are going to have to wait until the conditions improve and the winds die down. So the physician's assistant tries to stabilize the fisherman, manage his pain as best she can and basically she waits, holding the hand of a man and telling him the Coast Guard will come.

The Coast Guard did finally make it in around 3 in the afternoon the next day. So this injured fisherman waited 13 hours for the winds to settle.

The problem with this story, of course, is there were other alternatives for this fisherman who had been injured, who had to wait in pain wondering if he was going to go blind, if he was going to completely lose his eyesight while he was waiting for the Coast Guard helicopter to come in, to pluck him out, to fly him over to Cold Bay, and have a flight take him to Anchorage. The other alternative—the safe, reliable, affordable way out is a 10-mile, one-lane, gravel, noncommercial-use road. If that fisherman could have been put in an ambulance and taken across that road, a dozen hours could have been spared.

Yesterday's medevac marks the fifth medevac by the Coast Guard in this current year. In 2014, we have had five Coast Guard medevacs. Keep in mind, each one of these medevacs costs around \$210,000 per flight. So for those who are saying we can't have a road in King Cove because it is going to cost the taxpayers money, it is costing the taxpayers money because we are footing the bill for the Coast Guard.

Thank goodness the Coast Guard is there. But we are also putting the lives of these men and women—our fine coasties—at risk when we are doing this. If we had a road, who is building the road? It is the State of Alaska. Who is maintaining the road? It is the Aleutians East Borough. This is not the U.S. taxpayer who is paying for this, again, 10-mile, one-lane, gravel, noncommercial-use road.

There are options here. But the Secretary of the Interior has determined she wants to look at other options. She wants to find other alternatives. The fact of the matter is we have been looking at alternatives for a long time now, and those alternatives have been tried and failed or studied and reviewed and discarded.

But the one thing we are pretty sure of is that this fisherman from Seattle who was injured and had to wait 13 hours to get out—we are pretty sure we could have put him on an ambulance across that road—if one existed—and he would not have had to wait for 12 hours.

We are pretty sure that the 63-year-old woman who suffered heart issues on Valentine's Day and had to wait hours and hours for the Coast Guard to pluck her out of King Cove before she was able to safely make it to the hospital in Anchorage, we are pretty sure she

could have been spared some of that agony.

We are pretty sure that a couple of weeks ago when a father who had been crushed by a 600-pound crab pot—his pelvis crushed and his legs broken—that for hours and hours and hours he waited in the King Cove clinic to get medevaced out, and of the fact that his infant son, a 1-month old baby named Wyatt who was there in respiratory distress also had to be medevaced out on the same day, only that baby had to make it through the night in the arms of the physician's assistant, and the PA knowing and feeling the infant was in distress and actually feeling him stop breathing.

If we had a road in place, with the agony of not only the individuals who have been injured but the loved ones who care about them, there are better alternatives, and, it is very clear to me, alternatives that work for the people who live there and the people who are in the area—the fishermen.

Maybe I am taking this a little too personally because my oldest son crabbed in the Bering Sea this winter. He was out in those waters. He was out in that foul weather. He was working in a very dangerous industry. Anybody who has ever watched "Deadliest Catch" knows what I am talking about. Both my sons fish in these areas. They go through the Gulf of Alaska. They go through Nunivak Pass every year as fishermen. If something should happen to them or to somebody else on their crew, and the closest deepwater port for them happened to be King Cove but the weather was to the ground, I want a road for them.

I want a road for the people in King Cove. I want a road for the Seattle fisherman who is transiting back. It is a lifeline. It is a way to get to help. Right now, the one thing keeping these people from getting help is the Secretary of the Interior because she has concluded that we cannot build a 10-mile, one-lane, gravel, noncommercial-use road without disturbing the waterfowl, the black brant, and the geese that go through the Izembek.

We have all heard my story on this many times before. We know we can build this small road and have it coexist peacefully with the birds that go through there. We know the people who live there will continue to care for the waterfowl and the wildlife just as they have for thousands of years.

I don't want to keep coming to the floor and ranting about why we need this road. I don't want to make it appear we are sensationalizing the injuries of men, women, and children for the purpose of winning this fight. But I am not going to have somebody die out there when we could have found a safer and saner path forward.

So I am going to keep coming to the floor. I hope the Secretary of the Interior is listening, that folks in the ad-

ministration are listening, and that they understand we in Alaska can be responsible for the lands where we live, and we can provide for the health and safety of those who are out there and those who are transiting through. But we need this Secretary to do the right thing for the people of the State of Alaska and provide for a life-saving road.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask to be recognized for a few minutes, if I could, as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

IRAN U.N. AMBASSADOR

Mr. GRAHAM. There is an issue facing this country that needs to be addressed firmly and decisively. I am encouraged there is a bipartisan effort to deal with this issue, and the issue is very simple. The person who has been nominated to be the U.N. Ambassador for Iran is a gentleman who participated in the takeover of our Embassy in Tehran, holding hostage 52 U.S. personnel for 444 days.

This is a slap in the face by the Iranian Government to the American people, to the hostages, and it should not be allowed to stand. Senator CRUZ, I believe, will be offering a unanimous consent request potentially dealing with this issue, but I just wanted to rise for a few minutes and speak in support of what he is trying to accomplish in the Senate. I am somewhat encouraged that there is a bipartisan effort forming among our intel folks to deal with this affront to the American people, to all those held hostage, and basically to human dignity. The idea that the Iranians would be appointing someone connected in such an apparently direct way with the Embassy takeover back in 1979 to represent their nation in the U.N. tells us all we need to know about Iran.

This hardline-moderate divide doesn't exist. This is all a game. President Rouhani, when he was the nuclear negotiator for Iran, bragged about how much progress they made when the heat was off. If he were truly moderate he wouldn't have been on the ballot and wouldn't be serving today at the pleasure of the Ayatollah. Nobody serves in a high position in Iran without the blessing of the Supreme Leader.

So the idea of making this gentleman—I don't want to butcher his name—the Ambassador to the United

Nations from Iran when he has actively participated in violating every diplomatic principle involved, the idea of invading a consulate or embassy and taking hostages runs afoul of every principle of international law and diplomatic behavior.

It would be different if in the last 30 or so years the Iranian regime had changed. We have relationships with people today who are some of our strongest allies who used to be our enemies. There is nothing changing in Iran since the Embassy takeover that would place Iran in the column of a friend of America. This regime has been actively involved in worldwide terrorism plots. They have provided equipment to those who were fighting in Iraq to kill our soldiers. They support Hamas and Hezbollah, terrorist organizations. They have been designated by the State Department as a state sponsor of terrorism. They are trying to build a nuclear weapon, not a powerplant. So they have actually been no good for a very long time. I hope this body will send a signal to the Iranians that we will not accept on U.S. soil the person who has been designated, because this person was actively engaged in holding 52 Americans hostage for 444 days, in contravention of every law on the books and human decency. If Iran wants a new relationship with the United States, this is not a good way to start it.

I think there will be a lot of bipartisan objection to allowing this person to come to New York. We have provisions in our laws that give us the right as the host nation to exclude people who have been involved in acts of terrorism against the United States or their neighbors and any security threat. Again, the idea of doing business with former enemies is the way of life. The idea of accepting that the Ambassador to the United Nations from Iran as one of the people intricately involved in the takeover of our Embassy and holding Americans hostage for 444 days is an affront to us as a people and to the United Nations as a whole. He has served in other posts in Europe. That is not the issue. It is our Embassy that was taken over; it was our people who were held hostage, and the surviving hostages are very upset, as they should be. We don't want to reward people for doing bad things. This would be the ultimate reward for somebody who did a very bad thing.

It would be a mistake to engage Iran in this way and not push back. If there is to be a better relationship with Iran, it is worth fighting for. We are going to have to stand up to these people because they will take advantage of us if we allow it.

I look forward to supporting Senator CRUZ and others who want to join in the effort to stop this appointment because it is wrong.

With that, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. CRUZ pertaining to the introduction of S. 2195 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEA'S FINAL RULE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to urge the Drug Enforcement Administration to issue the final rule necessary to implement the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010. I note that year—2010—because that is the year this bipartisan bill was passed.

What it does is it provides consumers with safe and responsible ways to dispose of unused prescription medications and controlled substances.

I thank Senator CORNYN, who was the lead cosponsor on the Republican side of this legislation, as well as Senator GRASSLEY and Senator BROWN, for working with me on the legislation.

The important law expands safe disposal options for individuals and for long-term care facilities, and it promotes the development and expansion of prescription drug take-back programs.

As the Presiding Officer knows, this simply means that when you get prescription drugs and you do not use all of them—or your doctor prescribes something else—you do not just leave them in your medicine cabinet, where someone else might be taking them. Instead, you find a safe place to dispose of them, so someone else does not start taking them and potentially get hooked on the drug.

Why did I mention 2010? Well, 2010 was the year President Obama signed this bill into law. It has now been 4 years—4 years—as we have awaited the rules. I will describe why, but I think it is time to put this law into action.

The DEA issued a proposed rule in December 2012. Unfortunately, that took 2 years. There were some comments then about making sure the rules worked for our long-term care facilities—you can imagine, there are a

lot of prescription drugs at long-term facilities—and the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. But these issues should be addressed in the final rule. It is time now to get this rule done so we have more options to easily and safely dispose of our prescription drugs.

I know the final rule is now at the Office of Management and Budget for their approval. I have spoken to them about this rule. I am also aware they have only had the rule for 35 days. So they are not really the ones who have been holding this up. They have 90 days to get this out, and they have pledged that they hope to get that done.

We need to get the rule done, and let me tell you why. As a former prosecutor, I have seen firsthand the devastating impact that drug addiction has on families and communities. During my 8 years as chief prosecutor in Hennepin County—the largest county in our State—drug cases made up about one-third of the caseload.

Most Americans know that we have a problem with serious drugs. But what most Americans may not know is that one of our most serious drug problems is, in fact, drugs that are in the medicine cabinet—drugs that are prescribed legally.

Within those cabinets are some of the most addictive prescription drugs out there—like pain killers and beta blockers. Prescription drugs such as these are some of the most commonly abused drugs—and people are surprised by this, but they are ahead of cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamines in many States.

Teenagers now abuse prescription drugs more than almost any other drug, and the majority of teens who abuse these drugs get them for free. They get them in that medicine cabinet or, more likely, a friend of theirs gets them from their mom's or dad's medicine cabinet—often without the knowledge of the person who has it.

I think we all know that many leftover drugs are lying around. You go to see the dentist for surgery, and they prescribe you something for pain. You feel OK. You only take 1 or 2, and then you have 10 left, and they are just sitting in the medicine cabinet.

We used to tell people to flush these drugs down the toilet. This is not a good idea for our water supply, and I think most people know that. Some people will tell you that the proper way to dispose of your drugs is to crush up your extra pills, then mix them with—and this is what they say—kitty litter or coffee grounds.

We need to do all we can to keep these dangerous drugs out of the hands of teens, but I am just not sure—especially if someone does not have a cat—that kitty litter is a realistic solution. Not everyone these days makes their own coffee nor has coffee grounds. We are dealing here with a very serious

problem, and all we are hearing about is kitty litter and coffee grounds. That is why we passed this bill.

One option parents have is to dispose of leftover drugs at a National Take-Back Day. Listen to this. Over 3 million pounds of prescription medications have been removed from circulation through seven National Take-Back Days that have been held since 2010. I participated in one of those days in Brooklyn Park, MN, last fall.

While these events have been incredibly successful, one-day events that are held a few times each year do not fully address the problem of how we are going to dispose of our drugs safely.

For instance, let's say you heard about a Take-Back Day right after you had your dental surgery. Great, you can bring over those pills and safely dispose of them, but then you remember your kid has a soccer tournament, and you cannot make it that day to dispose of the drugs. It looks like those pills are going to stay sitting right where they are in the medicine cabinet. I doubt many people have the time right then and there to call and ask when the next Take-Back Day might be and put it on their calendar in a red pen.

We have to be realistic. These Take-Back Days are great. In my State, especially in the metropolitan area, under the leadership of our sheriff Rich Stanek we actually have some permanent facilities in places where they can be brought permanently—the drugs—in the libraries and places like that, but we really have gone the extra step. The reason our law enforcement is such a big fan of this law is they know we could take so many more drugs in if, for instance, long-term care facilities were able to simply bring the drugs to one location each and every day.

If, for instance—and some of our drug stores have been open to this, some of these national chains—imagine how good this would be if they would just be willing to take these back and then they bring them somewhere. But to do that they need certain legal protections. They need protections about how they transport them. That is why we have been awaiting these rules.

Given the Food and Drug Administration's recent approval of some very powerful drugs, I think it is even more important that we make sure when these drugs are out there that they are able to be disposed of.

Offering more ways for people to dispose of their unneeded prescription drugs is also a crucial component of stopping the recent rise we have seen in heroin. Now, that might seem counterintuitive. You might say: Why would that help with heroin? That is not a prescription drug. How could that reduce the amount of heroin out there when we know we have seen huge increases in the amount of heroin. We have seen it in our State.

The heroin epidemic in Minnesota and all across the country is deadly. In the first half of 2013, 91 people died of opiate-related overdoses in the Twin Cities—in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties—compared to 129 for all of 2012—just to give you a sense of 6 months compared to a year. Hospital emergency department visits for heroin nearly tripled from 2004 to 2011.

In the 7,000-person community of St. Francis, MN, three young people have died of opiate overdoses since May. Another three young people have been hospitalized for heroin overdoses. One was only 15 years old.

Experts blame this rise in heroin use to, first of all, some pure heroin coming from Mexico, but, secondly, an increased use of prescription drugs like OxyContin and Vicodin. That is because, according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as many as 4 out of 5 heroin users got their start by abusing prescription drugs. That is a pretty phenomenal number.

I think people think of heroin like from the 1970s and people shooting up. Well, it is not like that anymore. They can take it by pills. They can take it different ways. What happens is, when they start with these prescription drugs, and they have access to them, they get hooked, they get addicted; and then, when they cannot get the prescription drugs—which does happen—then they turn to heroin, and heroin right now is much easier to obtain.

So the answer here—because those drugs are similar in how they make them feel—the answer is to stop them from getting addicted in the first place. I think often times, when people just see a drug in the medicine cabinet or know that it is OK to take one of these types of drugs—OxyContin and other things for pain—they actually do not intend to get addicted. These are many of the people I just had a roundtable with at Hazelden, one of the Nation's premier drug treatment centers, talking about this. A lot of times the people who end up dying from a heroin overdose actually may even be casual heroin users. They are not doing it every single day. But that is because the heroin was a replacement for the prescription drugs they started getting addicted to when they got them out of a medicine cabinet or maybe they were prescribed them.

We know this is not going to fix everything. But certainly making it easier and empowering people to dispose of these drugs will, No. 1, clearly cut down on the use of these prescription drugs, and then, we believe, lead to less heroin use in the long term.

Americans all across the country—in cities, suburbs, and small towns—need options to get rid of leftover pills before they fuel addictions and claim the lives of their loved ones.

The Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act provides these options.

But we cannot take these crucial steps in the fight against drug abuse until the DEA issues its final rule.

After 4 years, it is time to make these rules official—4 years that families and long-term facilities have lost out on safe and easy options to get rid of unused prescription drugs; 4 years that those plastic amber bottles have piled up in medicine cabinets across America; 4 years that dangerous pills have been left vulnerable to misuse, potentially falling into the hands of our loved ones fighting addiction or criminals or being accidentally consumed by an innocent child.

We need the final rules. We must get them done right. But with so much at stake, we must get them done now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, it is April Fools' Day, but it sure feels more like "Groundhog Day" because we are once again here considering an extension of unemployment benefits for the millions of Americans who have been out of work for months, and some of them even for years.

While assistance to those without work serves an important purpose in helping Americans transition, we are failing to address the underlying and more important issue: How do we grow the economy and create jobs for all of our citizens?

A growing economy creates new opportunities for Americans to find meaningful work, and with meaningful work comes an opportunity for Americans to improve their economic security and advance up that economic ladder.

It is one of the reasons Senator WYDEN and I started the Economic Mobility Caucus. We wanted to study the facts and explore policy improvements that can make a difference to increase the likelihood that all Americans can do just that—improve their standard of living and move up that economic ladder to a better life.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, their monthly report indicates that 10.5 million Americans are unemployed; 7.2 million Americans are working part time because they cannot find full-time work; 2.4 million Americans want to work but have stopped searching. What a sad circumstance that is for those folks.

Our labor participation rate is hovering around its 35-year low at 63 percent. While those statistics and the lives these numbers represent are pretty discouraging, I want to talk about a piece of good news. We know we can create jobs and we can create a growing economy, and we know from the facts, from the studies, that entrepreneurship, starting a business, giving Americans a chance to pursue the American dream, is the key.

The Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City has studied entrepreneurship.

They make clear that most new jobs come from young companies created by entrepreneurs. In fact, since 1980, nearly all of the net new jobs that have been created in our country have been created by companies less than 5 years old. It kind of makes sense. Big businesses often are looking for ways to cut costs, reduce their workforce. New businesses wanting to succeed increase their workforce. In fact, these new businesses create, on average, 3 million jobs each year.

Unfortunately, the number of new business startups, those business formed each year, are around their lowest total since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began keeping track over 40 years ago. So while we know that startup companies have a great opportunity to create jobs, we are creating the fewest number of startup businesses in nearly 40 years.

A couple of authors, John Dearie and Courtney Geduldig—they are authors of a book called "Where the Jobs Are"—point out in that book that "the vital signs of America's job-creating entrepreneurial economy are flashing red alert." John and Courtney spent an entire summer traveling the United States. They met with more than 200 entrepreneurs in dozens of cities to learn about the challenges those entrepreneurs are facing.

What they found is no surprise to anybody in this Chamber. They are the same issues I hear when I am back in Kansas. Those who start a business struggle with access to money, the capital to start that business; a lack of skilled talent; a complex Tax Code; a regulatory burden; and, boy, a lot of uncertainty, most of it, much of it, resulting from the action or lack of action here in Washington, DC.

A few years back I set out with a bipartisan group of Senators to address the challenges entrepreneurs face. Together we developed legislation that is now called Startup Act 3.0 to help create a better environment for those whose dream it is to start a new business. The Senate majority leader is frequently talking about allowing votes on legislation that has bipartisan support. This bill, Startup 3.0, is such a bill.

I spent time working with Senator WARNER and Senator COONS, Senator KING and Senator KLOBUCHAR, as well as Senator BLUNT and Senator RUBIO. We introduced what I would say is a very commonsense approach to addressing factors that influence an entrepreneur's chance of success: taxes, regulations, access to capital, access to talent.

This legislation has been introduced as an amendment to the unemployment insurance extension bill the Senate is now considering. Unfortunately, at least so far, we have been denied having a vote on what is clearly a job-creating measure. I have offered this as

an amendment to other bills on the Senate floor, but if the past is any example of what will happen on this bill, the chances of us being able to offer the amendment, have it considered and voted on, do not look very probable.

Startup 3.0 makes changes to the Tax Code to encourage investment in startups and provides more capital for those who are ready to grow and hire. To address burdensome government regulations, this legislation, now this amendment, requires Federal agencies to determine whether the cost of new regulations outweighs the benefits, and it encourages Federal agencies to give special consideration of the impact proposed regulations would have on a startup business.

As any entrepreneur knows, a good idea is essential to starting a successful business. So Startup 3.0, an amendment now to this bill, improves the process by which information that is funded by Federal research, information that is garnered by Federal research, is more readily available to those who want to start a business, so that tax-funded innovations can be turned into companies that spur economic growth.

Finally, Startup 3.0 provides new opportunities for highly educated entrepreneurial immigrants to stay in the United States where their talent and new ideas can fuel economic growth and create jobs in America.

For more than 2 years, Startup Act 3.0 has earned praise from business owners, from chambers of commerce, from economic development officials, from entrepreneurs, from economists, and elected officials. Recently, the California State Senate passed a resolution calling on Congress to pass Startup Act 3.0. The President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, when it was in existence, had voiced strong support for several of the bill's provisions.

Unfortunately, none of that support from across the country has progressed in the Halls of Congress to see this legislation seriously considered. I can tell you that the reason Congress has not been able to address our economic challenges is not for lack of good ideas. In my view, it is a lack of leadership in the Senate and within the administration, within Washington, DC, to address the challenges Americans face.

There are plenty of good ideas that can provide immediate relief to Americans, many ideas in addition to Startup 3.0. Some of those examples are a 40-hour workweek. The House is poised to pass legislation. Some of my colleagues are proposing amendments here in the Senate to change full-time employment from 30 hours, as outlined in the Affordable Care Act, back to 40 hours.

Small businesses, restaurants, school districts, and community colleges across Kansas and around the country are already cutting hours to comply

with the employer mandate of the Affordable Care Act. By fixing this provision, we can make certain that hard-working Americans have the opportunity to work more hours, earn a bigger paycheck, or find full-time employment.

Many of us believe—in fact, a large majority of the Senate in a bipartisan way believes—that approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline will help us in two ways: reduce energy costs in the United States, a very important factor in new jobs and expanding the economy, as well as increasing employment during the construction of that pipeline.

A recent poll by Washington Post and ABC News shows that Americans support this 3 to 1. Again 80-some Senators voted in moving forward with the Keystone Pipeline. Yet it has not happened. The President has not made a decision in regard to Keystone Pipeline, has stalled this issue. Nothing in the Senate would suggest the leadership of the Senate is ready to move this ball forward.

The President talks about trade promotion authority, spoke about it in one of his State of the Union Addresses. Yet that is another issue that has not been considered by the Senate. The President apparently has backed off of this issue out of deference to politics. Yet we know—we certainly know this in Kansas—that the airplanes we make in south central Kansas, the wheat we grow in western Kansas, the cattle we grow in our State, that we raise in our State, clearly much of the economic activity that comes from those activities occurs because we are able to sell those agricultural commodities, those manufactured goods around the globe.

Millions of Americans can be better off if there is greater opportunity for what we manufacture, the agricultural products we grow, if they have a wider market. The President and this Congress, particularly the Senate—not this Congress, the Democratic majority here—have focused much of their attention on, for example, the bill we are on, extending the unemployment insurance timeframe, apparently in the near future increasing minimum wage.

Consider these facts. There are 3.6 million Americans at or below the minimum wage level. Minimum wage workers make up 2.5 percent of all workers, and 55 percent are 25 years old or younger. So it is a relatively small portion of the workforce and a young portion of the workforce. I am certainly willing, happy to have a debate about the need to increase the minimum wage, to extend unemployment benefits, in part because I want the Senate to operate.

One of my greatest complaints since my arrival in the Senate is the Senate no longer functions as it has historically, in which issues of importance to the country, whether they are Repub-

lican issues, Democratic issues, American issues, middle of the road—this place takes up those issues very rarely. I am willing to have a debate about what is proposed here.

But what I am thinking we are doing is we are missing the real issues if we only deal with those. The minimum wage and extension of unemployment benefits is a symptom of a larger problem. It is that Americans want and need jobs. In my view, this Senate and this President have done nothing to increase the chances that Americans have a better shot at finding a better job.

We have to grow the economy. By growing the economy—I think that sounds like something that is far removed from the everyday lives of Americans. But growing the economy simply means we are creating greater opportunities for American men and women, for husbands and wives, for sons and daughters, for families to have the opportunity to pursue a career they feel comfortable in, that is satisfactory to their economic needs, and gives them the hope they can improve their lives financially.

So growing the economy is about creating a greater opportunity for every American to pursue what we all have grown up calling the American dream. Unfortunately, the facts, if you believe the Congressional Budget Office, indicate that raising the minimum wage will increase unemployment. In fact, the numbers I saw—this was not the CBO score, but a Texas university study indicated that raising the minimum wage to \$10 an hour or more would reduce jobs in my home State by 27,300 jobs.

I doubt that voters care much about CBO reports or about a Texas university study, but they are acutely aware—they see it every day in their own lives—of the lack of opportunity, the dearth of jobs, the reduction in hours, the reduction in opportunity. These reports make clear they are happening because of failed policies and the refusal of the Senate and the President to address the broader issue of what can we do to create jobs for Americans.

I thought the message of the 2010 election, the election where I was brought to the Senate on behalf of Kansans—I thought the message that we all would have, should have received, the message of the election, was the desire for every American to have the chance to improve their lives through a job, through a better job, and through a secure job. In my view, it is time for us to focus on growing the opportunities for all workers everywhere.

With a willing Congress, including leaders who understand these challenges and are willing to address them, I am certain we can create greater opportunities for millions of Americans,

including those who no longer or who currently have no meaningful work. The lack of a job is terrible. I think there is a certain moral component, a sense of well-being, a sense of who we are as human beings when we have a job that not only fulfills us financially but gives us a sense of purpose in our daily lives.

As the Senate considers a short-term extension of unemployment insurance, we must not lose sight of that longer term goal of creating an environment for job creation. Again, I would offer Startup Act 3.0, a bipartisan amendment, a bipartisan piece of legislation offered as an amendment, as an opportunity to do that, as part of the consideration of the extension of unemployment benefits. There is no better way to create jobs than to support entrepreneurs and to foster the development of new businesses.

Small business is, as we always say, the backbone of American jobs. So let's stop having this "groundhog day" moment every few months and let's start tackling the challenges that entrepreneurs across the country are telling us about, that Americans are telling us about, that we learned in the 2010 election mean so much to every American.

Unfortunately, this President and this Senate have done nothing to improve the chances that every American has a better job and a brighter future. Please, this is so important. There is so much we can do. Too many times we focus on what we are unable to agree upon. But there is so much we can agree upon, so many things we can do. The American dream depends upon us doing so and doing so now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am on the floor for the 63rd consecutive week we have been in session to ask my colleagues to finally wake up to the threat of climate change. The evidence mounts of unprecedented and dangerous changes, from the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report to the recent warning from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The American people demand action in ever-greater numbers. Yet Congress continues to sleepwalk, lulled by special interest influence and polluter propaganda. The influence and propaganda are spread through an apparatus of denial. This apparatus is big and artfully constructed—phony-baloney organizations designed to look and sound as if they are real, messages honed by public relations experts to sound as if they are truthful, payroll scientists whom polluters can trot out when they need them. The whole thing is big and complicated enough that when we see its parts, we could be fooled into thinking it is not all connected. But it is

just like the mythological Hydra: many heads, same beast. And this denial beast pollutes our democracy just as surely as its sponsors pollute our atmosphere and oceans. Some editorial pages spread the polluter party line so consistently that it appears they have gone over and actually joined the apparatus.

The climate denial network controls the political arm of the multinational corporations, the so-called U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Polluter-funded super PACs target officials who don't fall in line—interestingly, often Republicans, in an effort to purify the party in a coal-fired crucible.

The whole deniers' castle can look pretty daunting, but it is based on rejecting science and ignoring empirical evidence. That is a weak foundation. It won't stand. The castle is built on sand and its fall is inevitable. Remember from Apocrypha: "But above all things Truth beareth away the victory." And it will.

There are cracks in the foundation already. Some leading news sources have begun to put climate denial into their policy against printing misinformation and discredited theories. They just won't print that nonsense. Many executives recognize the significance of climate change and are distancing their companies from the policies and politics of climate denial. They don't want any part of that nonsense. Many local officials are doing all they can to protect their communities from the effects of climate change. They know climate denial is nonsense.

It has been wrong that the climate change denial campaign has been so ignored by major media outlets. Media Matters found that all the major network Sunday TV talk shows in all of 2013 discussed climate change for a grand total, all combined, of 27 minutes. NBC News's "Meet the Press" mentioned climate change once. When several of the Sunday shows discussed climate change on February 16 of this year for a grand total of 46 minutes combined, it was more climate coverage than in the past 3 years.

It has been wrong that polluters so often got their way on the editorial page. Whether through a desire to appear fair and balanced or a willful effort to help polluters, newspapers still publish editorials or letters to the editor that dispute consensus science, disparage scientists or journalists who report the truth about climate change, and exaggerate the costs of taking action to stop it. Often, their authors have direct ties to coal and oil interests, and rarely is the connection disclosed.

As we can see from this chart, some papers do it more than others. The denier champ is the Wall Street Journal editorial page, with eight denier letters in the first 10 months of 2013. That is

one every 5 weeks. I think they have actually joined the denier apparatus and are now a part of the scheme, but they are on the wrong side of history.

On the right side is the Los Angeles Times, whose editorial page last year released a note from editor Paul Thornton announcing they would no longer print climate denial letters.

Thornton's note read:

I do my best to keep errors of fact off the letters page; when one does run, a correction is published. Saying "there's no sign humans have caused climate change" is not stating an opinion; it's asserting a factual inaccuracy.

Reddit is one of the Internet's most popular social and news Web sites, "the front page of the Internet." According to the Pew Research Center, 1 in every 17 American adults uses Reddit. Reddit science has 4 million subscribers. That is about twice the circulation of the New York Times. Reddit Science has banned posts on climate denial because, as its moderator, Dr. Nathan Allen, explained, "We require submissions to [Reddit Science] to be related to recent publications in reputable peer-reviewed journals, which effectively excludes any climate denial."

The L.A. Times and Reddit Science are not alone in seeing that the climate denier castle is built on lies. More and more American corporations are responding to the facts, understanding that they are ultimately responsible to their shareholders and customers. Major utilities—for example, PG&E, the Public Service Company of New Mexico, and Exelon—all quit the U.S. Chamber of Commerce after a chamber official called for putting climate science on trial like the Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925. The chamber may have been infiltrated and captured by the polluters, but major corporations get it: Coke and Pepsi, UPS and FedEx, GM and Ford, Google and Apple, Walmart—we can go on and on. The denier castle is crumbling.

Many of the businesses getting serious about reducing carbon pollution are actually based in States that are represented in Congress by Members who won't take the problem seriously at all. Coca-Cola, headquartered in Georgia, says:

We recognize climate change is a critical challenge facing our planet, with potential impacts on biodiversity, water resources, public health and agriculture. . . . Beyond the effects on the communities we serve, we view climate change as a potential business risk, understanding that it could likely have direct and indirect effects on our business.

Texas- and Maryland-based Lockheed Martin states:

From 2007 through 2011, Lockheed Martin reduced its absolute carbon emissions by 30 percent, and continues to focus on carbon emission reductions by championing energy conservation and efficiency measures in our facilities.

Sprint, the mobile carrier headquartered in Kansas, gets it.

We understand that climate change is a critical issue and that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is an important goal. Because Sprint is a large corporation with thousands of locations, millions of customers and billions of dollars in operating costs, we have many opportunities to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

The denier castle is crumbling at the local level too. Scores of locally elected officials are fighting to slow climate change and protect their residents, even if in Congress their Congressman won't listen. One of those local leaders is Mayor Frank Cownie of Des Moines, whom I met on my recent trip to Iowa. Iowans are taking climate change seriously, and Mayor Cownie is one of over 1,000 mayors represented on this map all across the country who have signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Their pledge is to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol emission reduction targets in their own cities and press their State governments and the Federal Government to enact meaningful greenhouse gas reduction policies.

Seventy-eight current and former mayors from Florida have signed on. With over 1,000 miles of coastline, Florida is at serious risk from sea-level rise. According to the World Resources Institute, of all the people and all the housing in America threatened by sea-level rise, 40 percent is in Florida.

Thirty-one former and current mayors from Texas have also signed on to the climate agreement. Texans are waking up to the threat of climate change. A recent poll showed that roughly 55 percent of Texans say the United States should reduce greenhouse gas emissions regardless of whether other countries do the same.

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, our former Republican colleague from this Chamber, understands the benefits of cleaner energy. He fought to keep in Kansas his State's renewable portfolio standard, which encourages utilities to ramp up generation of renewable electricity. The standard has already helped create thousands of Kansas jobs.

Governor Steve Beshear of Kentucky, a coal-producing State, has taken a commonsense stance on climate change that defends the well-being of his State. He said:

[W]e have to acknowledge our commitment to address greenhouse gas emissions, while stressing the need for a rational, flexible regulatory approach.

I have to say I agree with him. I stand ready and many of us stand ready on this side to work with coal-State colleagues to ease their transition away from a polluting fossil fuel economy.

When we think of what the costs are going to be to all of us of failing to address this problem, the cost of easing the transition for those who will suffer from it is easily worth undertaking. But to do any of that, we first have to break through the barricade of lies

built around Congress in Washington. We can't keep pretending this isn't real. That is why once a week for over 60 weeks I have come to the floor to press this point. It is real. It is happening. It is not going to go away if we ignore it.

There is one thing and one thing only that prevents our action, and that one thing is the politics of the Republican Party. There is one thing and one thing only that makes this the politics of the Republican Party, and that one thing is the special influence of the polluters. But against the relentless facts and science, against Mother Nature's relentless truth, that castle is built on sand and will fall. But above all things, truth beareth away victory.

For the sake of our democracy, for the sake of our future, for the sake of our honor, it is time for us to wake up.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, we are in the midst of a debate about extending unemployment insurance for millions of Americans who are unemployed, some of whom have been out of work for some time. It is a problem for the country.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of Americans who want to work but who have stopped looking for a job is 3.1 million. Over 91 million Americans are outside the labor force entirely. According to a recent report in CNN Money:

Only about 63 percent of Americans over the age of 16 participate in the job market, meaning they either have a job or are just looking for one. That is nearly the lowest level since 1978, driven partly by baby boomers retiring but also by workers who had simply given up hope after long and fruitless job searches.

As a matter of fact, we saw at our budget hearing this morning a chart which showed the decline in workers by age group, and it was interesting. The younger workers had the biggest decline in percentage working, and the older, 62 and above, are working at a greater rate than they were in previous years. So that is an interesting statistic. But we do have a problem, particularly among a lot of our younger people finding work.

At the same time we are having these difficulties, this administration has engaged in a systematic dismantling of the protections our immigration laws provide for American workers, producing for them—our workers—lower wages and higher unemployment. That is just a fact. Why are wages down? And wages are down, as we heard from

all witnesses, Republican and Democratic, in the Budget Committee this morning. Wages have declined significantly in the last 5 years. They have been declining, just at a lesser rate, since 1999.

In fact, our review of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement published statistics for 2013 reveals that under the guise of setting priorities for enforcement of our laws, this administration has determined that almost anyone in the world who can enter the United States then becomes free to illegally live, work, and claim benefits here as long as they are not caught committing some felony or serious crime.

Based on what the President has said, and what the Vice President has said, it would appear an individual could come to America on a work visa, and 1 day after the visa has expired just continue to stay in America and be able to work and could be confident that they will not be deported because the policy of this government is not to deport people unless they catch them at the border entering illegally or they have committed a serious crime.

A recent report this week shows that even the serious crime issue is cloudy. An independent report earlier this week said one-third of those—68,000—who had been involved in criminal activity in some way are not being deported. So this applies not only to those who unlawfully enter our borders but also those who enter on a legal visa and don't leave when that visa expires.

The President and Members of Congress are arguing, it appears, based on the bill that cleared the Senate, for a historic surge in the amount of legal immigration into our country at a time of high unemployment. The White House has preposterously claimed, amazingly, that an influx of new, mostly lower skilled workers will raise wages. This is a conclusion not supported by any credible academic evidence or even the Congressional Budget Office's own report analyzing the massive Senate immigration bill. The CBO concluded the bill would add 46 million mostly lesser skilled legal immigrants by 2033 and that average wages would fall for one dozen years if it were to become law and unemployment would increase and per capita GDP—growth in America—would decline, I think for 20 years.

And, apparently the House of Representatives is considering proposals to bring in hundreds of thousands of guest workers at a time when we are talking about extending unemployment for Americans who can't get jobs.

Dr. George Borjas at Harvard has found that high immigration levels from 1980 to 2000 resulted in an 8-percent drop in wages for American workers without a high school degree. Let me repeat that. This is Professor Borjas at Harvard, raised in Cuba and

immigrated to America. He is perhaps the most authoritative academic in the world on immigration and its effect on wages and the labor force. He found that high immigration levels from 1980 to 2000—and he studied that carefully, using census and other data—resulted in an 8-percent drop in wages for American workers without a high school degree. Eight percent is a lot. It is several hundred dollars a month for a person who didn't graduate from high school. Actually, it is about \$250 a month. So there is a reason workers who are earning \$30,000 and less support a reduction in net immigration levels by a 3-to-1 margin. Working people know what is happening out there. They know their wages are going down. They know particularly lower skilled people, some young people who didn't get to graduate from high school or who got in trouble, are not having much success at all.

Average household income has fallen steadily since 1999, and only 59 percent of U.S. adults are now working. African-American youth looking for work cannot find jobs. We don't have a shortage of workers in this country—we do not have a shortage of workers in this country. We have a shortage of jobs. That is a fact.

Some might ask: How can you be so sure of that, Senator? I believe in the free market, and I tell the chamber of commerce and the big hotel magnates, if we have a shortage of workers, why aren't wages going up? Wages are going down. We don't have a tight labor market. We have a loose labor market, and it is impacting adversely American workers.

The idea that we ought to double the number of guest workers who come into the country legally when the President of the United States is not going to enforce immigration laws and we will not use comprehensively the E-Verify system indicates we are going to see a decline in wages for average Americans out looking for jobs.

The President's own economic adviser, Gene Sperling, former Director of the National Economic Council, recognized this, saying recently that "our economy still has three people looking for every job," three people for every job. Majority Leader REID has cited that statistic on the Senate floor as well.

So this Senate passes a comprehensive immigration bill that doubles the number of guest workers. Don't think these are workers who are going to work seasonal jobs in agriculture. They will be able to move throughout this country and take jobs from wherever, providing businesses with a ready source, a new source of additional labor that helps keep the labor market loose.

My amendment, the Accountability through Electronic Verification Act, is a proven way to help out-of-work Americans. This legislation was intro-

duced in this Congress by Senator GRASSLEY and cosponsored by myself and Senators BOOZMAN, CORKER, ENZI, FISCHER, HATCH, JOHANNES, LEE, VITTER, and WICKER. So we have offered legislation to deal with this, and I have offered it as an amendment to this unemployment insurance legislation, but I have been told it will be blocked. We will not get a vote. The leader has filled the tree.

What this proposal would do is it would create some jobs for Americans who are out of work. It absolutely would. It would work, and it would immediately help create jobs. That is why the establishment doesn't want to see it happen, if you want to know the truth.

The legislation would permanently authorize and expand the E-Verify Program. That is a simple Web-based tool that allows employers to maintain a legal workforce by verifying the work eligibility of employees. E-Verify works by checking data against records maintained by the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration. It is quick and easy. An employer simply puts in a Social Security number, it runs against the Social Security database, and an employer receives an answer as to whether this person is a lawful applicant for a job.

Although in 1986 Congress made it unlawful—in 1986—for an employer to knowingly hire or employ illegal aliens, these laws have never been effectively enforced. They just have not. They have gotten comfortable with this, not having it enforced. Under current law, if the documents provided by an applicant for a job to an employer reasonably appeared to be genuine, then the employer has met its obligation.

Incidentally, shortly after the 1986 amnesty law was passed, when it was promised amnesty would not be granted again, the now-assistant to President Obama and the Director of the Domestic Policy Council, Cecilia Munoz, who was then a senior policy analyst of La Raza, led the charge to undo these enforcement provisions. So the person chosen by President Obama to be the Director of the Domestic Policy Council and who has been given the responsibility to deal with immigration, use to work for La Raza where she sought to undo enforcement.

Ms. Munoz authored a report for La Raza entitled "Unfinished Business: The Immigration Reform & Control Act of 1986." In that report she argued that Congress had a moral obligation to "repeal employer sanctions" and that workplace enforcement is "inherently discriminatory."

Now think about that. The person the President has chosen, who is supposed to be helping us create a lawful system of immigration in the United States, has as her prior effort written a

paper that says basically it is a moral requirement of America to repeal any employer sanctions. This is the mentality running our government today; that it is morally wrong to say to employers they should only hire people lawfully in our country. She went on to say that any kind of workplace enforcement—apparently in which our employers would be disciplined or punished if they violate the law—is inherently discriminatory.

Because identity theft and counterfeit documents became a thriving industry after the 1986 amnesty, Congress created an E-Verify program in 1996.

In 1996, after realizing this was turning into a joke—nobody was following the intent of Congress and anybody could produce false documents—Congress passed a law which said we would end this game and create a system that would work. Employers required to use E-Verify today include the Federal government, certain Federal contractors and employers of certain immigrant students. The program for other employers is voluntary and free for them to use, and it has been very successful throughout the country by any who use it.

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, in fiscal year 2012, 98 percent of queries resulted in a confirmation of work eligibility immediately or within 24 hours. So most of them overwhelmingly immediately access the computer system, put in a Social Security number and other data they require, hit the computer button, and it quickly comes back. On a few occasions there is a question and it may take up to 24 hours.

It is not slowing down employment, it is not a big burden on employers, and it protects them from being accused of deliberately hiring illegal aliens if the report comes back that the Social Security number matches. According to a January 2013 USCIS customer satisfaction survey, E-Verify received an 86 out of 100 in the American customer satisfaction index scale—19 points higher than the customer satisfaction rating for the overall Federal Government.

There is no objection to this. The only objection to it is by certain business lobbyist groups and certain activist immigration groups who don't want it to work, and they want to keep other businesses from using it because it does in fact identify people in the country who are not allowed to take jobs and it would keep them from receiving these jobs.

This legislation would make the program mandatory for all employers within 1 year of enactment of the law. This legislation would also increase penalties for employers who do not use the system when it is mandated or continue to illegally hire undocumented workers.

Employers would be required to check the status of current employees—but within 3 years—and would be permitted to run a check prior to offering someone a job. In other words, they can run a check before they actually offered a job and determine whether the person was lawfully able to take the job. This could help them a lot.

Employers would also be required to recheck those workers whose authorization is about to expire, such as those who come to the United States on temporary work visas.

This legislation would require employers to terminate the employment of those found unauthorized to work due to a check through E-Verify, and would reduce employers' potential liability for wrongful terminations if they participated in E-Verify.

The legislation would establish a demonstration project in a rural area or an area without substantial Internet capabilities—although there are not many left—to assist small businesses in complying.

The legislation also addresses identity theft concerns by ensuring that the Social Security Administration catches multiple uses of Social Security numbers—different people using the same social number to get jobs with a fake document and a false Social Security number.

And for victims of identity theft, this legislation would amend the Federal criminal code to clarify that identity fraud is punishable regardless of whether the defendant had knowledge of the victim. So this provision addresses a 2009 Supreme Court decision holding that identity theft requires proof that the individual knew the number being used belonged to an actual person.

E-Verify has been proven to deter employers from hiring illegal workers and will help put Americans back on the payrolls.

Since I have seen legislation move through Congress—comprehensive reform legislation that is going to fix our immigration policies—one of the things I have observed is that whatever works is what gets objected to. If someone offers a bill which appears to work but doesn't work, that will pass. E-Verify has been proven and will work to deter employers from hiring illegal workers, and will help put Americans back to work. That is why we apparently don't have any ability to get it up for a vote. A number of States have enacted E-Verify laws, and it is working in those States with great results.

According to a 2013 Bloomberg government study entitled "Early Evidence Suggests E-Verify Laws Deter Hiring of Unauthorized Workers":

Soon after E-Verify laws were signed in Arizona, Mississippi, Alabama, and South Carolina, unauthorized workers in specific industries appeared to drop off employer payrolls. This prompted employers in many cases to

fill positions with authorized workers, American workers who are here lawfully, maybe a young 22-year-old African American who needs a job, would like to get married, maybe raise a family.

With respect to my State of Alabama, the Bloomberg study says:

Employment trended lower immediately after the law was enacted. Employers then added more crop production workers in the months before [the law] took effect, when compared with the same period the year before. That growth in production jobs was among the largest in the nation. This study hypothesizes that authorized hires probably filled the jobs of unauthorized workers who had left the state.

Isn't that what we would like to see? Wouldn't we ask people to come to the country lawfully? We admit 1 million people a year for permanent residence on a guaranteed path to citizenship absent serious criminal activity. We are generous about immigration. Make no mistake about it. But we do need to make sure that people who don't follow the law, don't wait their turn, don't meet the requirements of American immigration law—they shouldn't be able to come unlawfully and take jobs when Americans are out of work in record numbers.

Regarding South Carolina's law, the study found this:

The number of crop production workers fell. . . . And then hiring surged as the law took effect in 2012. Farmers say they added workers because their normal labor supply vanished.

The study also found that:

[t]he state's commercial bakery industry had been losing workers, then gained them as E-Verify took effect.

So people who were unlawfully there couldn't get past E-Verify. It exposed them as being unlawful, and the businesses lost workers. But then they hired people back, and the people they hired back were lawful workers—either here as immigrants lawfully or native born.

The study, which is based on research from the Pew Hispanic Center, goes on to say this:

[t]he abrupt shifts in employment across multiple industries convey a similar narrative: soon after E-Verify laws are adopted, workers drop off employer payrolls and, in a number of industries, new hires fill those vacant positions. The robustness of this effect reinforces the likelihood that this phenomenon is due to something other than chance.

Our goal must be to help struggling Americans move from dependency to independence, to help them find steady jobs with rising pay, not falling pay. Making E-Verify permanent and requiring all employers to use it is one simple thing we can do to work towards that goal.

Let me just say, the E-Verify system is already established. The system is in place. It can accommodate the increase in inquiries. It is all a computer system. It is all done virtually instantly. It is not as if we have to create a new

system or add tens of thousands of people to make it work. The system is already working and it can handle larger numbers.

Our policy cannot be to simply relegate more and more of our citizens to dependence on the government for assistance while importing a steady stream of foreign workers to fill available jobs. That is not in the interest of this country or our people.

I would just like to add that Senators GRASSLEY, LEE, VITTER, ENZI, BOOZMAN, and HATCH are cosponsors of this amendment. We know what is being said out there. We are being told that Americans won't work, they are not looking for jobs, and that businesses can't hire. The Bloomberg study on how the E-Verify system has been implemented indicates quite different.

According to a report on Syracuse.com on January 8, 2014:

In Syracuse [New York], thousands showed up for the Destiny USA job fair on June 14, 2012. More than 50 employers interviewed candidates for roughly 1,600 jobs.

On January 29, 2013, a Fox affiliate in Atlanta reported:

Northside Hospital held a job fair Wednesday, but had to call it off early due to the overwhelming number of people that showed up looking for work. The hospital was hoping to fill 500 jobs.

On May 17, 2013, news outlets in Philadelphia reported:

More than 3,700 job seekers overwhelmed the Municipal Services Building in Center City for a job fair Friday morning intended for ex-offenders. . . . The city anticipated a big crowd and therefore doubled the staff to handle the responses, but the crowd was still too big to handle, forcing the event to be cancelled and leaving hundreds on the plaza outside.

We need to help ex-offenders find jobs. I am aware of a major corporation in Alabama, in talking to a Federal judge recently, which said they will start taking a chance on former offenders. Properly examined and picking the right ones, they found out they are doing fine. We shouldn't be denying young people—particularly young men—who may have gotten in trouble at a younger age ever being able to have a job. One of the goals this country has to have is to help our ex-offenders in employment.

On May 20, 2013, the New York Times reported in an article entitled, "Camping out for five days, in hopes of a union job," the following:

The men began arriving last Wednesday, first a trickle, then dozens. By Friday there were hundreds of them, along with a few women. They set up their tents and mattresses on the sidewalk in Long Island City, Queens . . . and settled in to wait as long as five days and nights for a slender chance at a union job as an elevator mechanic. . . . There were more than 800 by sun-up Monday. . . . The union accepts 750 applications for the 150 to 200 spots in its four-year apprenticeship program.

There are more examples, and I could go on. But I do believe this idea that

Americans won't work is not correct. If we take a person who has been unemployed for a while and place them in a position where the labor is physical, it takes a while to get in shape. If you are going to play ball, it takes a while to get in physical condition. People going into the Army are not expected to meet the physical fitness test the first week. They build up to it.

Businesses have to participate in this effort, too. Businesses need to understand they are not entitled and cannot expect—for the government of the United States to produce perfectly fit, well-trained people for every single job they would like to fill. Sometimes they have to hire people, train them on the job, let them work into it and learn the skills on the job. It is some new idea, apparently, that businesses have to have so much training. We certainly need to use the job-training programs in this country to more effectively train workers for real jobs out there. It is a valid criticism of our trade schools and some of our community colleges that they are not focusing on reality. But my State has done a great job—a far better job than in most States—and I saw a report recently about how Mississippi is doing an excellent job. I believe our program is at least as effective, if not better. So we are doing better. But businesses have always had to bring people into their workplaces and train them to handle the physical challenges that some jobs require.

Madam President, I thank the Chair for an opportunity to share these remarks. I am disappointed that when we are talking about unemployment in America, we have a Congress and a Senate refusing to even allow this amendment to come up for a vote. Without a doubt it would work, be fair, and would simply make it more difficult for people who are not here lawfully, who shouldn't be able to get jobs in America—would make it more difficult for them to get that job, freeing that position up for unemployed Americans who need to get in the workforce and off the welfare rolls. That is the goal.

We have a huge number of welfare programs. We spend \$750 billion a year on means-tested programs to help people who are lower income, and that is 50 percent more than the defense budget, more than Social Security, and more than Medicare. Those programs are not working well. They need to come together in a coherent whole with a unified vision. The vision should be to help people who are in stressful circumstances; help them aggressively, in a practical, realistic way; put them in a job-training program that would allow them to take a job. We could easily do that with the money we are spending now. We would have more Americans working and off the welfare rolls. We would save billions of dollars at the same time. They would make

more money, be more fulfilled, have more self-respect, and reduce the budget deficit at the same time.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUSTICE FOR ALL REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week, I called on members of the Senate to come together and support reauthorization of the Justice for All Act, a bipartisan law that increased resources devoted to DNA and other forensic technology, established safeguards to prevent wrongful convictions, and enhanced protections for crime victims. The bipartisan bill to reauthorize this historic law was reported unanimously by the Senate Judiciary Committee last fall. Every Senate Democrat has cleared the way for passage of this important measure, and I hope Senate Republicans will soon follow suit so that we can take one step closer to reauthorizing this law that protects and supports victims of crime.

The programs created by the Justice for All Act have had an enormous impact, and it is crucial that we reauthorize them. The legislation strengthens important rights for crime victims, reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, seeks to improve the quality of indigent defense, and increases access to post-conviction DNA testing to help protect the innocent.

The reauthorization legislation also strengthens the Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program. Kirk Bloodsworth was the first person in the United States to be exonerated from a death row crime through the use of DNA evidence. The program named for Mr. Bloodsworth provides grants to States for testing in those criminal cases like Mr. Bloodsworth's where someone has been convicted but where significant DNA evidence was not tested. The Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2013 expands State access to post-conviction DNA testing funds by restricting the evidence pres-

ervation conditions set for this program to felony cases, which is a more attainable goal for States.

This legislation also takes important steps to ensure that all criminal defendants, including those who cannot afford a lawyer, receive effective representation. It requires the Department of Justice to assist States in developing an effective and efficient system of indigent defense. I know as a former prosecutor that the system only works as it should when each side is well represented by competent and well-trained counsel.

The bill also asks States to produce comprehensive plans for their criminal justice systems, which will help to ensure that criminal justice systems operate effectively as a whole and that all parts of the system work together and receive the resources they need.

The bill reauthorizes and improves key grant programs in a variety of areas throughout the criminal justice system. Importantly, it increases authorized funding for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant program, which is a vital program to assist forensic laboratories in performing the many forensic tests that are essential to solving crimes and prosecuting perpetrators.

We need to continue the bipartisan work that has been done. During the Judiciary Committee mark-up we unanimously adopted amendments before passing the bill, one from Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, and one from Senator JEFF FLAKE. Both amendments strengthened rights for crime victims, and added to the comprehensive improvements contained in the bill.

I thank Senators COONS, UDALL of New Mexico, MCCONNELL, KLOBUCHAR, FRANKEN, PORTMAN, FEINSTEIN, HATCH, SCHUMER, LANDRIEU, BURR, COLLINS, BENNET, and SHAHEEN for their support as cosponsors of this bill.

I am glad to be partnering with Senator JOHN CORNYN on this legislation. We have done important work in the Judiciary Committee to support law enforcement and victims of crime. Last week, he and I introduced sweeping legislation to improve the use of forensic evidence in criminal cases. The Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act helps ensure that forensic labs throughout the Nation operate according to the highest standards, and that State and local labs have the resources they need. Both that measure and the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2013 are important priorities to support our criminal justice system and law enforcement.

We must stand behind these bipartisan efforts, and I urge Senate Republicans to join all Senate Democrats in supporting passage of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2013.

COVINGTON CATHOLIC COLONELS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I believe my Senate colleagues are well aware of how seriously we take our college basketball in my home State of Kentucky. The Kentucky High School Athletic Association, KHSAA, State Basketball Championship has been played every year since 1918 and is truly a special event.

Kentucky is one of three States that does not divide its schools into classes based on size—that means one State, one tournament, and only one champion. Teams that advance out of their district tournaments play in one of sixteen regional tournaments—the winners of which advance to play in the KHSAA Sweet Sixteen in Lexington's legendary Rupp Arena.

This year, over 14,000 fans packed the stands for the championship game and watched Covington Catholic High School defeat Scott County in an overtime thriller. I rise today to pay tribute to the players, coaches and fans of the 2014 champions—the Covington Catholic Colonels.

For the Colonels, led by head coach Scott Ruthsatz, the road to the school's first-ever title was not easy—it seldom is in this grueling, statewide tournament. Covington Catholic found themselves down in the second half in three out of their four Sweet Sixteen games—including the championship. The players never gave up hope, though. On his team's 27 to 18 halftime deficit in the championship game, tournament MVP Nick Ruthsatz—Scott's son—said coolly, "We've been in this position before and we knew we could pull through."

As it turned out, Nick's confidence was not misplaced. The Colonels stormed back, tying the game at 47 with only 50 seconds to go, and sending the game into overtime. In the extra period, it was the Colonels' staunch defense and clutch free throws that propelled them to a 59 to 51 victory.

The 97th KHSAA Basketball Championship, like so many before it, was an excellent display of athletic ability as well as sportsmanship. This tournament would not be what it is without the efforts of the players, coaches, fans, and teachers of all the participating schools. They are all worthy of our praise.

However, in Kentucky, there can only be one champion. Thus, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating the Covington Catholic Colonels on winning the 2014 KHSAA State Basketball Championship.

An article was recently published in the Cincinnati Enquirer chronicling Covington Catholic High School's championship win. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objections, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer,
Mar. 24, 2014]

COVINGTON CATHOLIC REJOICES IN HISTORIC
BASKETBALL TITLE
(By James Weber)

LEXINGTON.—Ben Heppler stood at center court on the Rupp Arena floor and kept looking around at all the chaos and celebration around him.

Chaos, celebration and cheer, same first letters as Covington Catholic Colonels, who were celebrating their first state basketball championship March 23.

"I'm trying to soak it all in," Heppler said. "I'll remember this for the rest of my life."

Cov Cath outlasted Scott County in overtime, 59-51 Sunday afternoon, March 23, at the University of Kentucky's historic basketball arena. It was the third title in Northern Kentucky history, and the second in the past six tournaments by a Ninth Region team (Holmes, 2009). It was also the first in Cov Cath history in its ninth trip to the Sweet 16.

"It's incredible," said senior forward Mark Schult. "You dream of it, as a little kid, going out and winning your last game, and it's hard to believe we actually did it."

The Colonels finished with a 33-2 record. After losing to Holmes in the 35th District final, the Colonels won seven straight games. They trailed in the second half in three of the four state tourney games.

With a veteran team and most of the student body in attendance as the Colonel Crazies, it was a great day for Covington Catholic.

"It's so special," said head coach Scott Ruthsatz. "You have to look at the administration on down, what they're doing at Covington Catholic. You have to give so much credit to the Crazies. Our Colonel Nation really supported us, and not just this game, all season long. Being the first winner of it, it feels fantastic."

Said Heppler: "It's really special to be the first ones and hang that first banner up there. We've always had that empty spot and since Coach Ruthsatz's first day we said we would be the ones to put it up there. The 6 a.m. workouts in the summer, playing in the gym all those times, it paid off."

Cov Cath's fitness and toughness in adversity paid off against the experienced Cardinals, who were seeking their third state title (35-4). After an early 9-3 lead, Cov Cath was on the wrong end of a 22-4 run and trailed 27-18 at halftime. Scott had three 3-pointers in a 70-second span by junior Hines Jones, who averaged four points a game for the year. Forward Tony Martini had Scott's first five points and posted 17 points and 16 rebounds for the game. Cov Cath shot just 6-of-22 in the first half, several of those misses coming from around the rim.

"We've been in this situation before and we knew we could pull through," Nick Ruthsatz said. "We knew eventually we would start hitting some, and the fourth quarter we just buckled down. All the conditioning through the summer pulled us through."

Cov Cath trailed by four points, 47-43, with 1:33 to go. Ruthsatz tied the game with a pair of foul shots with 51 seconds to play.

Ruthsatz gave Cov Cath its first lead since 9-8 early in OT, then tied the game at 51 with 2:16 to play. A tip-in by junior Bo Schuh gave the Colonels the lead for good with 1:46 to play.

After three missed shots by the Cardinals on their next possession, Ruthsatz grabbed the rebound and made two foul shots with 57 seconds to play to make it 55-51. Following

another missed shot, CCH senior Parker Keller made two free throws, then Heppler scored the final points of the season on a fast-break layup.

"We just played better defense, tried to lock them down," Heppler said. "That's the experience of this team with three senior starters and Parker hitting those huge free throws at the end. It's a team game. Everybody can score. Most teams around the state don't have five guys who can guard everybody, so that works to our advantage."

Ruthsatz had 25 points and five assists. Schult had 12 points and six rebounds. Heppler scored eight with a pair of treys. Freshman guard Cole VonHandorf had nine points, and Schuh posted 12 rebounds.

One of VonHandorf's chief tasks was guarding Scott County star guard Trent Gilbert, who came in averaging 26 points per game. The Mr. Basketball finalist, who is getting interest from several Division I schools, only scored 10 points on 4-of-25 shooting. Cov Cath rotated several defenders on him and often double-teamed him in the backcourt.

"We just tried to pressure him as much as possible, because we knew he's a great shooter," Scott Ruthsatz said. "You can never leave him open. We had a hint of the way he likes to go and shoot, and we tried to keep fresh guys on him."

The fatigue may have hand in two crucial foul-shot misses by Gilbert. A 91-percent shooter for the year, Gilbert made 28 in a row in the Sweet 16. However, he missed the front ends of two one-and-one situations late in regulation.

"I love stepping up and being able to shut him down," VonHandorf said. "They told me if I shut him down, we win. I tried my best. He's a great player; I'll give him so many props. I can't wait to see where he goes next year. (Assistant coach) Joe Fredrick told me all of his moves, I had them all down, I felt I could play him fairly well."

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, section 114(d) of H.J. Res. 59, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, allows the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and levels filed on January 14, 2014, pursuant to section 111 of H.J. Res. 59, for a number of deficit-neutral reserve funds. These reserve funds were incorporated into the Bipartisan Budget Act by reference to sections of S. Con. Res. 8, the Senate-passed budget resolution for 2014. Among these sections is a reference to section 302 of S. Con. Res. 8, which, in subsection (c), establishes a deficit-neutral reserve fund for unemployment relief. The authority to adjust enforceable levels in the Senate for unemployment relief is contingent on that legislation not increasing the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2013 through 2018 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2013 through 2023.

I find that amendment 2874, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014, to H.R. 3979 fulfills the conditions of the deficit-neutral reserve fund for unemployment relief, including not increasing the deficit over either of the 2013 through 2018 or 2013 through 2023 budget windows.

Therefore, pursuant to section 114(d) of H.J. Res. 59, I am adjusting the budgetary aggregates, as well as the allocation to the Committee on Finance.

I ask unanimous consent that the following tables detailing the revisions be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BUDGETARY AGGREGATES

[Pursuant to section 111 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974]

\$s in millions	2014	2014-18	2014-23
Current Budgetary Aggregates:			
Spending:			
Budget Authority	2,928,080	n/a	n/a
Outlays	2,939,218	n/a	n/a
Revenue	2,311,031	13,699,529	31,095,846
Adjustments Made Pursuant to section 114(d) of the Bipartisan Budget Act:			
Spending:			
Budget Authority	9,875	n/a	n/a
Outlays	9,875	n/a	n/a
Revenue	1,632	15,668	8,469
Revised Budgetary Aggregates:			
Spending:			
Budget Authority	2,937,955	n/a	n/a
Outlays	2,949,093	n/a	n/a
Revenue	2,312,663	13,715,197	31,104,315

n/a = Not applicable. Appropriations for fiscal years 2015–2023 will be determined by future sessions of Congress and enforced through future Congressional budget resolutions.

*The budgetary aggregates were previously adjusted on January 30, 2014, for H.R. 2642, the Agriculture Act of 2014.

**Adjustments made pursuant to section 114(d) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, which incorporates by reference section 302 of S. Con. Res. 8, as passed by the Senate. Section 302(c) establishes a deficit-neutral reserve fund for Unemployment Relief.

REVISIONS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

[Pursuant to section 111 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974]

\$s in millions	Committee on Finance		
	Current allocation	Adjustments*	Revised allocation
Fiscal Year 2014:			
Budget Authority	1,311,988	9,875	1,321,863
Outlays	1,304,815	9,875	1,314,690
Fiscal Years 2014–2018:			
Budget Authority	7,664,235	9,875	7,674,110
Outlays	7,646,654	9,245	7,655,899
Fiscal Years 2014–2023:			
Budget Authority	19,084,627	9,875	19,094,502
Outlays	19,067,886	8,425	19,076,311

*Adjustments made pursuant to section 114(d) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, which incorporates by reference section 302 of S. Con. Res. 8, as passed by the Senate. Section 302(c) establishes a deficit-neutral reserve fund for Unemployment Relief.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent request at the present time relating to the nomination of Katherine M. O'Regan to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Every year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development provides billions of dollars to public housing authorities but provides little oversight for how the money is spent. Many housing authority directors are more concerned with padding their own nests instead of providing safe, affordable housing for people in need. One way to change this is to make detailed spending information available to the general public.

I will object to Ms. O'Regan's nomination because I have not yet received

a response to my February 14, 2014 letter to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan regarding HUD's effort to collect Public Housing Authority salary and compensation data for calendar year 2013. Specifically, I asked when the data would be available to the general public on the HUD website and whether it would be available in a searchable, standard electronic format.

This is the second time HUD has requested salary and compensation data from the 3100 housing authorities across the United States. HUD first requested data for the top five wage earners in August 2011. At that time, I requested that this data be made available to the general public. HUD stated in a December 2011 letter:

This information will be posted on a HUD website, consistent with applicable law. We are now in the process of collecting this information for the first time, and expect that it will be posted during the first quarter of the year.

Despite HUD's pledge, the full set of data has never been posted on the Department website. Instead, it only posted three pages of aggregate data in June 2012, and HUD didn't provide the full set of data to my office until May 2013, nearly 2 years after the data collection process was initiated.

HUD is aware of the impact this data can have when made available to the public. Shortly after the compensation information was requested in 2011, Congress imposed a 1 year salary cap for all housing authority executives. Housing authorities are now using Federal funding not covered by the salary cap to continue paying large salaries and compensation packages. The compensation data currently being collected would shed light on this practice and should be posted on the HUD website as soon as possible.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GME SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise on behalf of my colleagues, Senators HARKIN, ALEXANDER, CASEY and ISAKSON to submit the following statement for the RECORD.

On October 30, 2013, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee unanimously reported the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013, S. 1557, out of Committee. On November 12, 2013, the Senate passed S. 1557 by unanimous consent.

This legislation is the product of years of bipartisan negotiation, a process which resulted in broad Senate support for the Act. The list of original Senate cosponsors for S. 1557 demonstrates this point. This list includes Senators CASEY, ISAKSON, HARKIN, ALEXANDER, BLUMENTHAL, BLUNT, BROWN, KIRK, MURPHY, REED, ROBERTS, WARREN, and WHITEHOUSE.

Prior to the enactment of the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Edu-

cation, CHGME, Payment Program, there was significant disparity in federal graduate medical education, GME, support between adult teaching hospitals and children's teaching hospitals. In 1998, children's hospitals received less than 0.5 percent of the level of federal GME support that adult teaching hospitals received. In the 2001 final rule for the CHGME Payment Program, the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, wrote, "The intent of the CHGME Act is to create parity in GME payments among all hospitals providing GME. It is clear that primarily two factors cause this disparity in children's hospitals: (1) low Medicare utilization; and (2) Prospective Payment System (PPS)-exempt status."

The CHGME Payment Program has made considerable progress in achieving parity in GME payments, increasing the number of pediatric training positions at participating children's hospitals. However, a small number of freestanding children's teaching hospitals remain ineligible for the program. In 2003, Senate Committee on Appropriations noted the following:

It has come to the Committee's attention that a limited number of freestanding perinatal hospitals and children's psychiatric hospitals have been excluded from participation in this program despite the fact that these teaching institutions are not eligible for Graduate Medical Education funding under Medicare. The Committee expects [the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)] to explore the appropriateness of including these hospitals in the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program and to offer recommendations that might allow for their inclusion.

Senate Report 108–81.

HRSA responded in a 2004 report to Congress which concluded that addressing this eligibility issue would require Congress to amend the statute governing the CHGME Payment Program. S. 1557 addresses this long-standing issue. The reauthorization legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, to make available up to 25 percent of CHGME appropriations that exceed \$245 million for "qualified hospitals" that: (1) have a Medicare payment agreement and are excluded from Medicare inpatient hospital prospective payment system; (2) have inpatients that are predominantly individuals under 18 years of age; (3) have an approved medical residency training program; and (4) are not otherwise eligible to receive payments from the CHGME Payment Program or the Medicare program. The total amount the Secretary can make available for these purposes in any fiscal year is limited to \$7 million, thus ensuring that adequate resources remain available for the children's hospitals that currently participate in the program.

The Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act provides the

Secretary with the necessary authority to address the disparity in GME payment facing certain children's teaching hospitals. These changes are in keeping with the intent of the CHGME Payment Program. As such, these hospitals should have the opportunity to apply for support through the CHGME Payment Program in order to sustain and build their teaching programs, and ultimately increase the supply of much-needed pediatricians and pediatric specialists. We urge the Secretary to weigh these benefits in using the new authority under S. 1557 should funding be available.

HIGH-FREQUENCY TRADING

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, after the financial crisis in 2008, its root causes and the resulting taxpayer-funded bailout; increasingly opaque trading activities that now dominate all stock-trading volume in the U.S.; a string of high-profile convictions of hedge-fund managers and equity analysts; and global settlements with investment banks involving every assortment of "whale" and dodgy tax-avoidance scheme, many Americans are now of the view that Wall Street is no longer a vehicle for the creation of investment capital or a reliable engine of entrepreneurialism and economic growth that it has become the province of high-frequency and automated traders. As billionaire investor and longtime HFT critic Mark Cuban admonished a few years ago, it has become a platform to be exploited by every technological and intellectual means possible by whoever can afford them.

At least that is the perception.

It is exactly that perception that has fueled major public concern about revelations contained in Michael Lewis' new book, "Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt". Lewis's book tells the story of the computer-driven world of high-frequency trading, HFT, co-location and customized data. Indeed, Lewis' narrative appears to have struck a raw nerve among consumers, by confirming a latent belief and skepticism that Wall Street is indeed an insider's game and that the public's best interests are, at most, an afterthought.

If true, Lewis' claim that the market is rigged through variations of HFT could potentially affect everyone from institutional investors to any individual who pays into a pension or mutual fund.

On HFT, one big issue is: how fair is it for certain firms to line their trading systems up with data centers used by exchanges to let them shave-off millionths of a second from every transaction, front-run the market, drive-up prices and profit accordingly, at the expense of average investors who do not enjoy that same capability. Another is: to what extent does HFT and so-called quick-draw trading expose the market

to undue risk-taking and potential instability like the 2010 "flash crash", in which the Dow Jones dropped 9% in 20 minutes, temporarily erasing \$1 trillion in market value?

These are questions that must be taken seriously by policymakers; regulators; and, where warranted, law enforcement officials. Indeed, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, CFTC, is rightly examining arrangements between HFT firms and exchanges to determine whether insiders are receiving competitive perks, such as reduced rates, that could harm smaller investors. The Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, is similarly looking into potentially improper relationships between exchanges and HFT firms. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has labeled certain pernicious HFT practices as "Insider Trading 2.0" and launched investigations into practices such as co-location, which permits trading firms to be geographically advantaged over competitors, and other arrangements that permit early access to market-moving information. Just yesterday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, disclosed that it was also looking into related matters.

Congress, as well as regulators at the SEC and CFTC should fully investigate these issues and pursue proposals that can minimize systemic risk and bolster trust in our markets. But we cannot ignore the inherent limitations that exist in regulating an issue as complex as HFT. The technology and resources readily available to trading firms easily dwarf those available to our government's primary regulators. High-frequency traders have huge incentives to gain even the slightest edge through speed and technology because the pay-offs can be exorbitant. For example, a company called Spread Networks reportedly spent \$300 million to lay a fiber-optic cable between Chicago and New Jersey to increase the time it took for information to make it from the futures market to the exchanges by 3 milliseconds. That amount nearly matches the entire operating budget of the CFTC for 2013. Policymakers, therefore, face an uphill battle in which regulatory fixes quickly become obsolete as the trading firms' approaches and algorithms adapt almost as rapidly as information travels on their fiber-optic cables.

Against this backdrop, industry must see for itself an opportunity to self-regulate. Rather than hide behind self-serving, arcane arguments that support a status quo that allows for front-running and other unethical trading practices, industry must gather-around strong self-imposed, market-based solutions to the uncertainty and potential harm created by HFT that ensure fundamental fairness and transparency in markets that are technologically evolving at break-neck speed. Indeed,

industry can either sit back and wait for regulators or Congress to address these issues with a possibly detrimental outcome for all concerned, or it can be proactive in developing meaningful approaches that not only address the instant problem but also help restore much-needed, long-overdue confidence in the integrity of the financial markets.

Some leaders in industry have recently expressed support for reforms aimed at minimizing unfairness that stems from the "fragmentation and complexity" of trading. But more needs to be done: key exchanges, trading firms, investors, banks, and self-regulatory bodies such as the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, FINRA, should explore potential solutions that would ensure technology is employed in a way that encourages competition and innovation, while also increasing the transparency and integrity of the markets.

Congress should keep a watchful eye on developments in this field—I certainly will. Federal regulators and law enforcement should continue to hold accountable those actors and institutions that cross the line into illegality, market-manipulation, and acting on non-public information. Whatever policy solutions are pursued, they must both enhance the functionality of the market and restore public trust and confidence in Wall Street. Industry, specifically traders and exchanges, must focus on cooperation instead of clamoring for speed in a race to the bottom, which would only leave investors in the dust and force consumers to shoulder the burden of another financial crisis.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the outstanding military service of a group of incredible Coloradans. At critical times in our Nation's history, these veterans each played a role in defending the world from tyranny, truly earning their reputation as guardians of peace and democracy through their service and sacrifice. Now, thanks to Honor Flight, these combat veterans came to Washington, DC to visit the national memorials built to honor those who served and those who fell. They have also come to share their experiences with later generations and to pay tribute to those who gave their lives. I am proud to welcome them here, and I join with all Coloradans in thanking them for all they have done for us.

I also want to thank the volunteers from Honor Flight of Northern Colorado who made this trip possible. These volunteers are great Coloradans in their own right, and their mission to bring our veterans to Washington, DC, is truly commendable.

I wish to publicly recognize the veterans who visited our Nation's capital, many seeing for the first time the memorials built as a tribute to their selfless service. Today, I honor these Colorado veterans on their visit to Washington, DC, and I join them in paying tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of liberty.

Veterans from World War II include: Donald Benson, Joe Blossom, Hobert Bodkins, Robert Bueker, George Carlson, Wayne Clausen, Maurice Dragoo, Homer Dye, Karl Easterly, George Flaig, Stuart Gordon, Dale Gruber, Frank Gunter, Vern Hammond, Robert Henderson, Otto Hindman, Lawrence Jackson, John Jobson, Elvin Kahl, Doward Kilmer, Thomas Kokjer, Edward Kooper, Raymond Kusmirek, Ralph Leckler, George Lichter, Lyle Lukas, Alfred Marez, Richard Marquart, Maregito Martinez, LeRoy Marx, Hugh McGinty, Damon McMahan, Robert Minnick, Allen Oakley, Gerald Oakley, Vernon Rand, Gerald Rennels, Carol Rhoades, Elmer Rose, Donald Smith, Walter Sparrow, George Stager, Clarence Streit, Richard Tedesco Sr., Rueben Ulrich, Howard Walter, Raymond Yost, Robert Yost, Thomas Youree, and Joseph Zito.

Veterans from the Korean war include: Charles Adams, Joseph Beaulieu, David Beldus, John Bevins, James Blue, William Cecil, Thomas Clements, Clifford Closson, Donald Dalton, Stanley Davies, Jerry Delcamp, Leonard Dickey Jr., Robert Eddy, Dale Erickson, Ann Evans, Lemuel Evans, Frank Faucett, Byron Foster, Kent Foutz, Jerry Galpern, Wayne Gibb, Thomas Gordon, Oscar Haake, Doyle Hall, William Harte, William Hitchcock, Claire Hoffman, Raymond Horton, Carl Houkom, Bennett Houston, Eugene Johnson, Richard Kekar, Marvin Kembel, Ralph Knoll, Tom Mandis, George Mason, Alvin Mosch, Doyle Myers, Richard Oversteg, David Owen, Johnnie Prock, Duane Purcell, Herbert Reimer, John Rinne, John Rust Jr., Darrel Schafer, Leonard Schmitz, Virgil Scott, Robert Scott, Herbert Shevins, Wayne Small, Frank Stiver, Robert Stoll, Bernard Streit, Ernest Stumpf, Walter Sutton, Norman Swanson, Arthur Trevarton, Junior Weisshaar, Raymond Williams, George Willson, and Harry Wisell.

Veterans from the Vietnam war include: Jerol Arguello, William Frank, Allen Laible, Dennis Lee, Lonnie Sebold, Allan Silk, Saxton Wiley, and Salvador Velasquez.

Veterans from the war in Afghanistan include: Zachary Dinsmore.

Our Nation asked a great deal of these individuals—to leave their families to fight in unknown lands and put their lives on the line. Each one of these brave Coloradans bravely answered the call. They served our country with courage, and in return, let us ensure they are shown the honor and

appreciation they deserve. Please join me in thanking these Colorado veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Northern Colorado for their tremendous service.

TRIBUTE TO MYLES ECKERT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I wish today to honor Myles Eckert, an 8-year-old boy from Waterville, OH, whose simple act of generosity has led to national attention. Myles found a \$20 bill in a restaurant parking lot and, rather than save it for himself, gave it to Ohio National Guard Airman Lt. Frank Dailey, who was there having dinner with his family.

Myles wrote a heartfelt note about his father, Army SGT Andy Eckert, who was killed in Iraq just 5 weeks after Myles was born. The note read:

Dear Soldier, My dad was a soldier. He's in heaven now. I found this 20 dollars in the parking lot when we got here. We like to pay it forward in my family. It's your lucky day! Thank you for your service, Myles Eckert, a Gold Star kid.

This story of Myles Eckert's thoughtfulness was covered by news organizations across the country. Myles was a guest on a national talk show and asked that any donations be given to the Snowball Express, a national military children's charity that hosts a weeklong vacation around the holidays for Gold Star children—the military name for children who have lost a parent in the line of duty. An initial \$20,000 donation to the Snowball Express was made in Myles' name, and a Dallas, TX, company offered to match every donation up to \$1 million made through Memorial Day, 2014.

Myles Eckert did a simple act of kindness and found out just how far "paying it forward" can go. Today, I would like to recognize him for his heartfelt and noble act.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING STANLEY GRINSTEIN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Stanley Grinstein, a successful businessman, a patron of the arts, a philanthropist, and a social activist. He was also a great friend of mine, and I will miss him dearly.

Born in Seattle in 1927, Stanley moved to Los Angeles with his family and graduated from the University of Southern California. He and his father started what would become a thriving forklift business that Stanley ran until he sold the company in 2000.

In 1952, Stanley married Elyse, the love of his life. The couple began collecting art and soon became well-known patrons of modern artists.

In January 1966, Stanley joined fellow art patrons Sidney Felsen and Ken

Tyler to establish Gemini G.E.L., an artists' workshop and art print publisher. The first facility of its kind on the West Coast, Gemini quickly became a magnet not only for emerging Los Angeles artists but also for leading New York artists.

Among the many artists who worked and published at Gemini were Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, David Hockney, and Frank Stella. In 1981, Gemini donated its archives—containing works by these and other modern masters—to the National Gallery of Art. By this time, Stanley had begun his 26-year tenure as a trustee of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LACMA. Over the years, he and Elyse made many major gifts to LACMA, including a seminal work by Marcel Duchamp and all 124 of Robert Rauschenberg's posters.

Beyond the art world, Stanley was a deeply committed social activist who generously gave his time and resources in support of human rights, free speech, justice, and equality.

Stanley was also a longtime benefactor of the Cedars Sinai Medical Center, where he served on the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Advisory Council for the Arts. A passionate believer in the role that art can play in the healing process, Stanley helped fill Cedars Sinai with art and brought joy to countless patients.

Stanley Grinstein believed in living every moment to the fullest and inspiring others to enjoy what he called "the party of life."

I send my deepest condolences to Stanley's beloved wife Elyse; their daughters Ayn Grinstein, Ellen Grinstein Perliter, and Nancy Grinstein; sons-in-law Chuck Perliter and Neal Rabin; and six grandchildren Amanda, Joe, Alex, Willie, Tess, and Dia. I know they will truly miss this marvelous man, as will I.●

TRIBUTE TO GLORIA MOLINA

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to pay tribute to my good friend Gloria Molina, who is serving her 24th and final year on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Gloria is a trailblazer who has inspired countless young women to pursue public service, and she is retiring from office at the end of this year after more than three decades of extraordinary service on behalf of the people of California.

Gloria Molina was raised in Pico Rivera, the eldest of ten children born to a Mexican mother and Mexican-American father. A graduate of El Rancho High School, she worked full time as a legal secretary while attending college and becoming certified as an adult education instructor, teaching clerical skills to adults at the East Los Angeles Skills Center.

Gloria entered government service as a staff member, first for Assemblymember Art Torres and later for Assembly Speaker Willie Brown. In 1982, after serving in the Carter White House and with the San Francisco Department of Health and Human Services, she made history as the first Latina ever elected to the California State Assembly.

Gloria was elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 1987 and the County Board of Supervisors in 1991, making headlines each time for becoming the first Latina to serve in those positions.

Since 1991, Supervisor Molina has represented nearly 2 million residents in the First District of our Nation's largest county, where she has focused on making services more effective and on completing major capital projects that improve the quality of life for residents of her district and the entire county. Among the initiatives she championed are the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, a six-mile light rail line connecting East L.A. to downtown and the rest of the county's mass transit network; the state-of-the-art LAC-USC Medical Center in Boyle Heights; the Plaza de Cultura y Artes at El Pueblo Historic Monument, a museum dedicated to showcasing and preserving the history of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans in Los Angeles; the Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River Master Plans, both of which serve as blueprints for "greening" local rivers and their tributaries; and the construction of more than 1,100 new affordable housing units in the First District.

I have known Gloria for many years, and I am honored to salute her as she prepares to retire from elective office. I am pleased to join Gloria's many friends, family members, associates, admirers, and grateful constituents in wishing her health, happiness, and all the best as she embarks on the next phase of her life.●

RECOGNIZING ONCOLOGY NURSES

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the Columbus Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society, or CCONS, on a legacy of excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. CCONS' 25th Annual Spring Conference, "Kaleidoscope of Oncology Care," will be held on April 3, and in May, during Oncology Nursing Month, the society will celebrate its 30th anniversary. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the work and achievements of this valued organization and to especially recognize CCONS' president, Bertie Ford, for her leadership.

Since 1984, CCONS has worked to lead the transformation of cancer care. Its members are leaders in their communities and represent the most effective cancer care advocates in their workplaces. These oncology nurses are vital

supports of patient-centered interventions, leveraging clinical knowledge and technology every day to provide the highest quality cancer care to patients not only in Columbus but across Ohio.

We are making progress in the fight against cancer. The 5-year survival rate for all cancers among adults is 68 percent—a marked improvement over the mid-1970s when it was 50 percent. But as cancer treatment becomes more complex, the health care system demands higher quality and more efficient care. As Congress works to increase patient access to quality health care, I praise the commitment of CCONS in fostering excellence in oncology nursing and in the care of cancer patients.

My mother passed away in 2009 while in hospice care. I will never forget the nurses who took care of her in such a loving way when they didn't know her personally until those last few weeks. It made all the difference in the world to her and our family. For that, I always thank nurses and others who care for those in need.

Congratulations to CCONS on its 30th anniversary and for the important work its members do in Ohio's communities every day.●

TRIBUTE TO SHAUN CAREY

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the service of Sparks City Manager Shaun Carey on the occasion of his retirement. I commend Mr. Carey's career and offer my sincerest thanks for his years of service to the city of Sparks.

Mr. Carey grew up in Sparks and graduated from Sparks High School in 1975. He started his professional career in 1981 as a civil engineer, working in Arizona, Colorado, and California before returning home to Sparks. In 1992, Mr. Carey was named public works director for the city of Sparks. He was later named assistant city manager in 1999 and then city manager in 2000.

Under Mr. Carey's stewardship, Sparks has experienced continued growth through the economic challenges of recent years. He has streamlined city services and kept debt the lowest in the region despite economic challenges. Through his management, Sparks remains a full service city and continues to be responsive to its citizens.

Mr. Carey's leadership was instrumental in the development of the Sparks Marina, and his guidance has been vital in coordinating the local area's continuing development. Under Mr. Carey's tenure, Sparks now boasts a whitewater recreation center, a new community center, and one of the largest artificial turf sports complexes in the world. Thanks to Mr. Carey, Sparks has become known as the premier event center for the region and is the fifth largest city in the State.

I offer Mr. Carey my warmest congratulations and hope he enjoys a rich and rewarding retirement, knowing that his years of service will not be forgotten by the grateful residents of Sparks.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID RATCLIFFE

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. David Ratcliffe, the former chairman, president, and CEO of Southern Company Energy Solutions, LLC, until his retirement in 2010. He is the very definition of a leader.

On May 2, 2014, Senior Connections, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide essential home and community-based care that maximizes independence, will award David Ratcliffe with its 2014 Community Connections Award. The Community Connection Award was established in 2009 and recognizes older adults who have been and continue to be outstanding business and community leaders and who have given back significantly to the communities in which they live and work. I congratulate David for this award and thank Senior Connections for recognizing his outstanding achievements.

David's long career is impressive in itself. Prior to his final leadership positions at Southern Company, he served as president and chief executive officer of Georgia Power Company from June 1999 to January 2004 and also as its chairman and chief executive officer from January 2004 to April 2004. He served as an executive vice president of Southern Company, a subsidiary of Gulf Power Co., from 1999 until 2004. He served as an executive vice president, treasurer, and chief financial officer of Georgia Power Co. from 1998 to 1999. He served as senior vice president, external affairs of Southern Company for 3 years and served as chairman of Georgia Power Co. and director since June 1999. He served as the chairman of the board of Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and chairman of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. He also served as the chairman of the board and director at Edison Electric Institute, Inc., and previously served as its vice chairman. Additionally, David has been a director of CSX Corp. since 2003 and SunTrust Banks, Inc., since 2011. He has been a director at CSX Transportation, Inc., for more than 11 years. He serves as a director of GRA Venture Fund, LLC.

David Ratcliffe is a trusted friend and one upon whom I call regularly. A native of Tifton, GA, he continues to support his community, our State, and the world in his retirement through his work on the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce Board, as well as the boards of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights and the Centers for Disease Control Foundation. He serves as

a trustee of Georgia Research Alliance, Inc., and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Inc.

David and his wife Cecilia Chandler and their two grown children, Andrew and Elizabeth, deserve our great thanks for their generosity in so many areas.●

REMEMBERING FIRST LIEUTENANT DONALD K. SCHWAB

● Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the life and service of a brave and patriotic Nebraskan. First Lieutenant Donald K. Schwab was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for going above and beyond the call of duty during his service in World War II. First Lieutenant Schwab was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts for his valor, and I applaud the upgrading of his Distinguished Service Cross to the Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest military honor.

Schwab was born in Hooper, NE, in 1918 and enlisted in the U.S. Army upon graduating from high school. In World War II, his tour of duty included posts in North Africa, Italy, and France. On September 17, 1944, near Lure, France, First Lieutenant Schwab showed tremendous bravery and valor through his actions in combat. Ordered to overwhelm the enemy line, Schwab led his men twice toward the Germans amidst heavy gunfire. He rallied his decimated force for a third charge on the hostile strong-point, working their way to within 50 yards of the Germans. He then stormed a line of German foxholes alone, reaching a key machine pistol nest which had caused heavy casualties among his men. After ripping off the cover of the firing pit, Schwab forced the German soldier inside to accompany him back behind friendly lines, surviving a barrage of gunfire. His actions so disorganized the hostile infantry resistance that the enemy withdrew. This episode of selfless heroism dismantled a strong German position, aiding the Allied front.

First Lieutenant Schwab was wounded three times in Active Duty but continued to serve in the U.S. Army until October 26, 1945. Schwab returned to the family farm in Hooper and later worked as a rural mail carrier. His service continued in civilian life through his involvement in his church council, the Hooper and Logan View school boards, and other organizations. Schwab's commitment and connection remained strong in part through his membership in the Cornelius Tillman American Legion Post 18 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10535 in Hooper.

First Lieutenant Schwab died at age 86 in 2005. Although the Medal of Honor comes 9 years after his death, the bravery and heroism he showed in 1944 is now rightly recognized. I congratulate

his wife Maralee, his children, and his grandchildren, who accepted this award in his memory. Nebraskans have a long and proud tradition of military service. Schwab's actions exemplify selflessness and courage, setting a worthy example for many others who would follow.

First Lieutenant Schwab's commitment to community and country is truly inspiring. I ask my colleagues, my fellow Nebraskans, and all Americans to join me in honoring his service, recognizing the valor for which the Medal of Honor was awarded.●

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CONGRESS RELATIVE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE FISHERMAN'S PROTECTIVE ACT OF 1967, AS AMENDED (THE "PELLE AMENDMENT") (22 U.S.C. 1978) THAT NATIONALS OF ICELAND HAVE CONDUCTED WHALING ACTIVITIES THAT DIMINISH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES)—PM 37

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

To the Congress of the United States:

On January 31, 2014, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell certified under section 8 of the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967 (the "Pelly Amendment") (22 U.S.C. 1978), that nationals of Iceland are conducting trade in whale meat and products that diminishes the effectiveness of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This message constitutes my notification to the Congress consistent with subsection (b) of the Pelly Amendment.

This is the third certification by United States Government agencies of Iceland for their continued whaling activities. In 2004, Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans made a certification regarding Iceland under the Pelly Amendment because its scientific whaling program diminished the effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). When Iceland resumed commercial whaling in 2006, Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez continued Iceland's certification. In 2011, Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke increased actions to be taken by members of the Cabinet, Federal departments and agencies, and U.S. delegations by again certifying Iceland for diminishing the effectiveness of the IWC.

A single Icelandic company, Hvalur hf, conducts fin whaling. Iceland does

not consume most of these fin whales; rather, they are exported, mainly to Japan. Iceland's commercial harvest of fin whales escalated dramatically in 2009 and 2010, was suspended in 2011 and 2012 due to difficulties in the Japanese market after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and resumed in 2013. Between 1987 and 2008, Iceland hunted a total of 7 fin whales. In 2009, Iceland hunted 125 fin whales, followed by 148 in 2010, zero in the years 2011–2012, and 134 fin whales in 2013. On December 16, 2013, Iceland set its 2014–2019 fin whale quota at 154 fin whales per year, an increase in its previous yearly whaling quota. According to the IWC, a harvest of 46 fin whales in the North Atlantic is biologically sustainable.

Iceland's actions jeopardize the survival of the fin whale, which is listed in CITES among the species most threatened with extinction, and they undermine multilateral efforts to ensure greater worldwide protection for whales. Specifically, Iceland's continued commercial whaling and recent trade in whale products diminish the effectiveness of CITES because: (1) Iceland's commercial harvest of fin whales undermines the goal of CITES to ensure that international trade in species of animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild; and (2) Iceland's current fin whale harvest and quota exceeds catch levels that the IWC's scientific body advised were sustainable.

In her letter of January 31, 2014, Secretary Jewell expressed her concern for Iceland's actions, and I share these concerns. Just as the United States made the transition from a commercial whaling nation to a whale watching nation, we must enhance our engagement to facilitate this change by Iceland.

To ensure that this issue continues to receive the highest level of attention, I have directed: (1) relevant U.S. agencies to raise concerns with Iceland's trade in whale parts and products in appropriate CITES fora and processes, and, in consultation with other international actors, to seek additional measures to reduce such trade and enhance the effectiveness of CITES; (2) relevant senior Administration officials and U.S. delegations meeting with Icelandic officials to raise U.S. objections to commercial whaling and Iceland's ongoing trade in fin whale parts and products and to urge a halt to such action, including immediate notification of this position to the Government of Iceland; (3) the Department of State and other relevant agencies to encourage Iceland to develop and expand measures that increase economic opportunities for the nonlethal uses of whales in Iceland, such as responsible whale watching activities and educational and scientific research activities that contribute to the conservation of whales; (4) the Department of State to re-examine bilateral cooperation projects, and where

appropriate, to base U.S. cooperation with Iceland on the Icelandic government changing its whaling policy, abiding by the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling, and not engaging in trade in whale parts and products in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of CITES; (5) the Department of State to inform the Government of Iceland that the United States will continue to monitor the activities of Icelandic companies that engage in commercial whaling and international trade in whale parts and products; (6) Cabinet secretaries and other senior Administration officials to evaluate the appropriateness of visits to Iceland in light of Iceland's resumption of fin whaling and ongoing trade in fin whale parts and products; (7) relevant departments and agencies to examine other options for responding to continued whaling by Iceland; and (8) all relevant departments and agencies to report on their actions, within 6 months of certification, and any updates as needed beyond, through the Departments of State and the Interior. In addition, previous Pelly certifications of Iceland, and the direction to take actions pursuant to those certifications, remain in effect. I concur with the recommendation, as presented by the Secretary of the Interior, to pursue the use of non-trade measures and that the actions outlined above are the appropriate course of action to address this issue. Accordingly, I am not directing the Secretary of the Treasury to impose trade measures on Icelandic products for the whaling activities that led to the certification by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Departments of State, Commerce, and the Interior will continue to monitor and encourage Iceland to revise its policies regarding commercial whaling. Further, within 6 months, I have directed relevant departments and agencies to report to me through the Departments of State, Commerce, and the Interior on their actions. I believe that continuing focus on Icelandic whaling activities is needed to encourage Iceland to halt commercial whaling and support international conservation efforts.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 1, 2014.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4302. An act to amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2198. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies and disaster assistance to the State of California and other Western States due to drought, and for other purposes.

S. 2199. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5073. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Closed Captioning of Video Programming; Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Petition for Rulemaking" (FCC 13-118) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5074. A communication from the General Attorney, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Supplemental Definition of 'Strong Sensitizer'" (Docket No. CPSC-2013-0010) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5075. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to U.S. Air Force Launches, Aircraft and Helicopter Operations, and Harbor Activities Related to Launch Vehicles From Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB), California" (RIN0648-BD62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5076. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Stage 3 Helicopter Noise Certification Standards" ((RIN2120-AJ96) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0948)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5077. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Helicopter Air Ambulance, Commercial Helicopter, and Part 91 Helicopter"

((RIN2120-AJ53) (Docket No. FAA-2010-0982)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5078. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (93); Amdt. No. 3578" ((RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5079. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (16); Amdt. No. 3575" ((RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5080. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (10); Amdt. No. 3576" ((RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5081. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (35); Amdt. No. 3577" ((RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5082. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Wheeling, IL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0955)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5083. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D Airspace; St. Paul, MN" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0954)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5084. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D Airspace; St. Joseph, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0917)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5085. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,

EC-5110. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation.

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters)" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0770)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5111. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0687)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5112. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0562)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5113. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0466)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5114. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0937)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5115. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0694)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5116. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; 328 Support Services GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0702)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5117. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-1226)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5118. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0125)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5119. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0866)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5120. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0830)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5121. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0547)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5122. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turbohaft Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0381)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5123. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0035)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5124. A communication from the Attorney, General Affairs Division, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Standard for Bedside Sleepers" (Docket No. CPSC-2012-0067) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5125. A communication from the Attorney, General Affairs Division, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Standard for Carriages and Strollers" (Docket No. CPSC-2013-0019) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5126. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Freedom of Information Act; Miscellaneous Rules" (16 CFR Part 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5127. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Adjustment of Georges Bank and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder Annual Catch Limits" (RIN0648-XD081) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5128. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Golden Tilefish Longline Component" (RIN0648-XD118) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5129. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2014 and 2015 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish; Final Rule" (RIN0648-XC895) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5130. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Commercial, Limited Entry Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Program Improvement and Enhancement; Correction" (RIN0648-BD31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5131. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD133) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5132. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Amendment 14" (RIN0648-AY26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5133. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD116) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5134. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD160) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5135. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD148) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5136. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD157) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5137. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish Managed Under the Individual Fishing Quota Program" (RIN0648-XD159) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5138. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction" (RIN0648-XD117) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5139. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XD158) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-204. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota petitioning the United States Congress to reauthorize federally provided terrorism reinsurance for insurers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 1019

Whereas, insurance protects the United States economy from the adverse effects of

the risks inherent in economic growth and development while also providing the resources necessary to rebuild physical and economic infrastructure, offer indemnification for business disruption, and provide coverage for medical and liability costs from injuries and loss of life in the event of catastrophic losses to persons or property; and

Whereas, the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, produced insured losses larger than any other man-made event in United States history, with claims paid by insurers to their policyholders eventually totaling some \$32.5 billion, making this the second most costly insurance event in United States history; and

Whereas, the sheer enormity of the terrorist-induced loss, combined with the possibility of future attacks, produced financial shockwaves that shook insurance markets causing insurers and reinsurers to exclude coverage arising from acts of terrorism from virtually all commercial property and liability policies; and

Whereas, the lack of terrorism risk insurance contributed to a paralysis in the economy, especially in construction, tourism, business travel, and real estate finance; and

Whereas, the United States Congress originally passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-297 (TRIA), in which the federal government agreed to provide terrorism reinsurance to insurers and reauthorized this arrangement via the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-144, and the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007, Pub. L. 110-160 (TRIPRA); and

Whereas, under TRIPRA the federal government provides such reinsurance after industry-wide losses attributable to annual certified terrorism events exceed one hundred million dollars; and

Whereas, coverage under TRIPRA is provided to an individual insurer after the insurer has incurred losses related to terrorism equal to twenty percent of the insurer's previous year earned premium for property-casualty lines; and

Whereas, after an individual insurer has reached such a threshold, the insurer pays fifteen percent of residual losses and the federal government pays the remaining eighty-five percent; and

Whereas, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program has an annual cap of one hundred billion dollars of aggregate insured losses, beyond which the federal program does not provide coverage; and

Whereas, TRIPRA requires the federal government to recoup one hundred percent of the benefits provided under the program via policy holder surcharges to the extent the aggregate insured losses are less than twenty-seven billion five hundred million dollars and enables the government to recoup expenditures beyond that mandatory recoupment amount; and

Whereas, without question, TRIA and its successors are the principal reason for the continued stability in the insurance and reinsurance market for terrorism insurance to the benefit of our overall economy; and

Whereas, the presence of a robust private and public partnership has provided stability and predictability and has allowed insurers to actively participate in the market in a meaningful way; and

Whereas, without a program such as TRIPRA, many of our citizens who want and need terrorism coverage to operate their businesses all across the nation would be either unable to get insurance or unable to afford the limited coverage that would be available; and

Whereas, without federally provided reinsurance, property and casualty insurers will face less availability of terrorism reinsurance and will therefore be severely restricted in their ability to provide sufficient coverage for acts of terrorism to support our economy; and

Whereas, unfortunately, despite the hard work and dedication of this nation's counterterrorism agencies and the bravery of the men and women in uniform who fought and continue to fight battles abroad to keep us safe here at home, the threat from terrorist attacks in the United States is both real and substantial and will remain as such for the foreseeable future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-Ninth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the United States Congress and the President of the United States reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program.

POM-205. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to provide full, sustainable funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for fiscal year 2015 and into the future; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL No. 1006

Whereas, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program was established in 1976 to offset costs incurred by counties for services provided to the federal government and to the users of federal lands located within a county; and

Whereas, the State of Arizona is composed of 113,417 square miles of land, of which 42% is federally owned, nontribal land that is unavailable for economic development and not part of the property tax base. Less than 17% of the land in Arizona is private land; and

Whereas, the national average PILT payment in fiscal year 2013 was \$0.66 per acre, which is far below the amount that federal lands would return through both value-based taxation and economic development; and

Whereas, counties are required to provide law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency services, road building and maintenance, and other community services on, or associated with, tax-exempt federal public lands; and

Whereas, Congress failed to provide funding for the PILT program in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, jeopardizing \$32 million in PILT funding for Arizona counties and causing great uncertainty about county finances and services in fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015; and

Whereas, a one-year extension of PILT funding for fiscal year 2014 was included in the farm bill conference report, but the fate of fiscal year 2015 funding is still unknown; and

Whereas, a lack of PILT funding places the large, unsustainable burden of providing services on federal lands squarely on the backs of local county taxpayers, while the presence of that federal land creates barriers to further economic opportunities; and

Whereas, failure to secure PILT funding for fiscal year 2015 and into the future for Arizona counties in a timely manner will critically impact the budget process and structural solvency of counties and will substantially compromise their ability to provide essential services; and

Whereas, the federal government has the duty to reimburse local jurisdictions for the presence of federal public lands.

Wherefore, Your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress provide full, sustainable funding for the PILT program for fiscal year 2015 and into the future to help create financial stability within Arizona's counties.

2. That the United States Congress work with the State of Arizona and county governments to identify and implement policies to promote economic development on, or associated with, public lands.

3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-206. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio commending Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and Ohio and supporting Israel in its legal, historical, and moral right of self-governance and self-defense on the entirety of its own lands; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 340

Whereas, Israel has been granted its lands under and through the oldest recorded deed, the Old Testament, a tome of scripture held sacred and revered by Jews and Christians. The claim and presence of the Jewish people in Israel have remained constant throughout the past 4,000 years of history; and

Whereas, The legal basis for the establishment of the modern State of Israel was a binding act of international law established in the San Remo Resolution, which was unanimously adopted by the League of Nations in 1922 and subsequently affirmed by both houses of the United States Congress. This resolution affirmed the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in the historical region of the Land of Israel. In addition, Article 80 of the United Nations charter recognized the continued validity of the rights granted to states or peoples that already existed under international instruments. Thus, the San Remo Resolution remains valid, and the 650,000 Jews currently residing in the areas of Judea, Samaria, and eastern Jerusalem reside there legitimately; and

Whereas, Israel declared its independence and self-governance on May 14, 1948, with the goal of reestablishing its God-given and legally recognized lands as a homeland for the Jewish people; and

Whereas, The United States, having been the first to recognize Israel as an independent nation and as Israel's principal ally, has enjoyed a close and mutually beneficial relationship with Israel and its people. Israel is the greatest friend and ally of our country in the Middle East, and the values of our two nations are so intertwined that it is impossible to separate one from the other; and

Whereas, There are those in the Middle East who have continually sought to destroy Israel from the time of its inception as a state, and those same enemies of Israel also hate and seek to destroy the United States; and

Whereas, The State of Ohio and Israel have enjoyed cordial and mutually beneficial relations since 1948, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the 130th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, commend Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and Ohio

and support Israel in its legal, historical, and moral right of self-governance and self-defense on the entirety of its own lands, thus recognizing that Israel is neither an attacking force nor an occupier of the lands of others and that peace can be afforded the region only through a whole and united Israel; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives send duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, to the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and to the news media of Ohio.

POM-207. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the Congress of the United States and the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs to take a stronger role in investigating and eliminating delays in veterans' health care; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 300

Whereas, The men and women who serve our country deserve our utmost respect and appreciation. Many of them are injured in the line of duty and come home to face challenging physical disabilities and other health issues. These veterans need our continued support after they have left active service. All veterans are entitled to the best health care we can give them; and

Whereas, Several VA facilities have a backlog of patients waiting for colonoscopies or endoscopies, necessary procedures for diagnosing cancers of the colon and digestive tract. As many as 7,000 veterans have been on the backlog list, often waiting over a year while experiencing pain and other symptoms that could not be properly treated without proper diagnosis; and

Whereas, At least 19 veterans have died due to delays in commonly used medical screenings, such as colonoscopies. Although the backlog problem was uncovered as early as July of 2011, little progress has been made in increasing the numbers of veterans who receive the necessary medical procedures: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to take a stronger role in investigating and eliminating delays in veterans' health care; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-208. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Butler, New Jersey, requesting the investment of additional funding to maintain highways and improve the transportation infrastructure in the State of New Jersey; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 864. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assist-

ance to small public water systems, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-142).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment:

S. 970. A bill to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under the Act (Rept. No. 113-143).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

H.R. 724. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles (Rept. No. 113-144).

H.R. 1206. A bill to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-145).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2189. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and extend the deduction for new and existing energy-efficient commercial buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BURR, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2190. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 2191. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2192. A bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2193. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to provide increased protection for horses participating in shows, exhibitions, or sales, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REED, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2194. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2195. A bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has engaged in espionage activities against the United States, poses a threat to United States national security interests, or has engaged in a terrorist activity against the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2196. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to limit the liability of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health care services in response to a disaster; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2197. A bill to repeal certain requirements regarding newspaper advertising of Senate stationery contracts; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REID, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2198. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies and disaster assistance to the State of California and other Western States due to drought, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Ms. MIKULSKI:

S. 2199. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. JOHANNES, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 408. A resolution supporting the designation of April as "Parkinson's Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 104

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 104, a bill to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments.

S. 289

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr.

NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 289, a bill to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act relating to lead-based paint renovation and remodeling activities.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 945

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 945, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by authorizing certified diabetes educators to provide diabetes self-management training services, including as part of telehealth services, under part B of the Medicare program.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1116

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1116, a bill to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the exclusion from gross income of parking and transportation fringe benefits and to provide for a common cost-of-living adjustment, and for other purposes.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1133, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1150

At the request of Mr. KAINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1150, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1349, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1422

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1422, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings.

S. 1462

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1462, a bill to extend the positive train control system implementation deadline, and for other purposes.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 1733

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S.

1733, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1737, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1738, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 1923

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1923, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1999

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1999, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to require the consent of parties to contracts for the use of arbitration to resolve controversies arising under the contracts and subject to provisions of such Act and to preserve the rights of servicemembers to bring class actions under such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2000

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2000, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and improve Medicare payments for physicians and other professionals, and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2004, a bill to ensure the safety of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, as they travel on and across federally funded streets and highways.

S. 2021

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2021, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the incentives for the production of biodiesel.

S. 2055

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2055, a bill to allow for the collection of certain user fees by non-Federal entities.

S. 2075

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2075, a bill to prohibit a reduction in funding for the defense commissary system in fiscal year 2015 pending the report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

S. 2087

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2087, a bill to protect the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to reconciliation involving changes to the Medicare program.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2109

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2109, a bill to eliminate duplicative, outdated, or unnecessary Congressionally mandated Federal agency reporting.

S. 2163

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2163, a bill to establish an emergency watershed protection disaster assistance fund to be available to the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance for any natural disaster.

S. 2176

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2176, a bill to revise reporting requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to preserve the privacy of individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2178

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2178, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. RES. 384

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 384, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, resulting humanitarian and development challenges, and the urgent need for a political solution to the crisis.

S. RES. 404

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 404, a resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2189. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and extend the deduction for new and existing energy-efficient commercial buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise with my colleagues Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator SCHATZ to introduce the Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives Act.

Encouraging energy efficiency improvements is a smart and cost-effective way to reduce pollution, increase the competitiveness of our employers, and to create jobs in both our construction and manufacturing sectors.

As I have discussed previously on the floor of the Senate, our energy problem in this country can be primarily attributed to a waste problem. Recently, the Department of Energy calculated that we waste 57 percent of all energy produced.

Our goal in introducing this bill is to prevent that waste by providing focused incentives that encourage significant improvements in energy efficiency and truly innovative energy efficiency technologies.

While my colleagues will explain how the bill does this for our homes and the industrial sector, I would like to focus on how our bill improves energy efficiency outcomes for commercial and multifamily buildings.

About 40 percent of energy consumption in the United States comes from our buildings, and up to 80 percent of the buildings standing today will still be here in 2050. Encouraging efficiency in new construction, and making these existing buildings more efficient, would generate billions of dollars in energy savings, spur job creation, and reduce carbon emissions.

Until January 1, 2014, Section 179D of the Internal Revenue Code provided a tax deduction that allowed for cost recovery regarding energy efficient energy efficiency improvements to a building's lighting, HVAC, and envelope.

Typically, the cost of energy consumption is part of a business's expenses and thus immediately deductible. Section 179D was an important provision because it aligned the Internal Revenue Code to similarly incentivize energy savings through efficiency improvements. In terms of meeting our energy demands, some of the cheapest and cleanest energy we have is the energy we don't use because of these improvements.

Unfortunately, the 179D deduction expired at the end of 2013. As we move forward with tax extenders, it is critical that this provision be restored.

Our bill restores the 179D deduction by extending it through 2016. In addition, our bill makes commonsense reforms to that section.

We update the energy efficiency standards that must be met to qualify for the 179D deduction, including by providing automatic standard updates for the years the deduction is available. We want to be sure that this incentive is going to technologies that meet truly efficient standards.

We also make the deduction more accessible to all real estate owners and those involved in implementing energy efficiency improvements, including through updated partial deduction standards and allocation provisions.

Finally, the bill recognizes that, in the same way we encourage new construction to meet these standards, we should encourage energy efficiency retrofits.

Our current tax policies do not yet provide an effective incentive for retrofitting our existing building stock. For example, the Empire State Building retrofit project, which will reduce that building's energy consumption by 40 percent, did not qualify for a section 179D deduction under its current structure.

Our bill would provide a deduction for retrofits of existing commercial and multifamily buildings to further encourage retrofit projects. Like section 179D, the deduction would be performance-based to encourage ambitious improvements and make the credit more accessible to building owners.

Before turning to my colleagues, I would like to reiterate that America's

energy and economic future requires a focus on these energy incentives. Initiatives like our bill are needed not only to generate jobs, and savings for businesses and taxpayers, but also to improve our environment and make our nation more energy secure.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2189

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives Act”.

(b) **AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; amendment of 1986 Code; table of contents.

TITLE I—COMMERCIAL BUILDING MODERNIZATION

Sec. 101. Extension and modification of deduction for energy-efficient commercial buildings.

Sec. 102. Deduction for retrofits of existing commercial and multifamily buildings.

TITLE II—HOME ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 201. Performance based home energy improvements.

TITLE III—INDUSTRIAL ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY

Sec. 301. Modifications in credit for combined heat and power system property.

Sec. 302. Investment tax credit for biomass heating property.

Sec. 303. Investment tax credit for waste heat to power property.

Sec. 304. Motor energy efficiency improvement tax credit.

Sec. 305. Credit for replacement of CFC refrigerant chiller.

Sec. 306. Qualifying efficient industrial process water use project credit.

TITLE I—COMMERCIAL BUILDING MODERNIZATION

SEC. 101. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF DEDUCTION FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—

(1) **THROUGH 2016.**—Section 179D(h) is amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(2) **INCLUSION OF MULTIFAMILY BUILDINGS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subparagraph (B) of section 179D(c)(1) is amended by striking “building” and inserting “commercial building or multifamily building”.

(B) **DEFINITIONS.**—Subsection (c) of section 179D is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(3) **COMMERCIAL BUILDING.**—The term ‘commercial building’ means a building with a primary use or purpose other than as residential housing.

“(4) **MULTIFAMILY BUILDING.**—The term ‘multifamily building’ means a structure of 5 or more dwelling units with a primary use as residential housing, and includes such buildings owned and operated as a condominium, cooperative, or other common interest community.”.

(b) **INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF DEDUCTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subparagraph (A) of section 179D(b)(1) is amended by striking “\$1.80” and inserting “\$3.00”.

(2) **PARTIAL ALLOWANCE.**—Paragraph (1) of section 179D(d) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) **PARTIAL ALLOWANCE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (f), if—

“(i) the requirement of subsection (c)(1)(D) is not met, but

“(ii) there is a certification in accordance with paragraph (6) that—

“(I) any system referred to in subsection (c)(1)(C) satisfies the energy-savings targets established by the Secretary under subparagraph (B) with respect to such system, or

“(II) the systems referred to in subsection (c)(1)(C)(ii) and subsection (c)(1)(C)(iii) together satisfy the energy-savings targets established by the Secretary under subparagraph (B) with respect to such systems,

then the requirement of subsection (c)(1)(D) shall be treated as met with respect to such system or systems, and the deduction under subsection (a) shall be allowed with respect to energy-efficient commercial building property installed as part of such system and as part of a plan to meet such targets, except that subsection (b) shall be applied to such property described in clause (ii)(I) by substituting ‘\$1.00’ for ‘\$3.00’ and to such property described in clause (ii)(II) by substituting ‘\$2.20’ for ‘\$3.00’.

“(B) **REGULATIONS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall promulgate regulations establishing a target for each system described in subsection (c)(1)(C) which, if such targets were met for all such systems, the property would meet the requirements of subsection (c)(1)(D).

“(ii) **SAFE HARBOR FOR COMBINED SYSTEMS.**—The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, and not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of the Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives Act, shall promulgate regulations regarding combined envelope and mechanical system performance that detail appropriate components, efficiency levels, or other relevant information for the systems referred to in subsection (c)(1)(C)(ii) and subsection (c)(1)(C)(iii) together to be deemed to have achieved two-thirds of the requirements of subsection (c)(1)(D).”.

(c) **DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT RULES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 179D is amended by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i) and by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

“(h) **TAX INCENTIVES NOT AVAILABLE.**—Energy-efficient measures for which a deduction is allowed under this section shall not be eligible for a deduction under section 179F.”.

(2) **LOW-INCOME HOUSING EXCEPTION TO BASIS REDUCTION.**—Subsection (e) of section 179D is amended by inserting “(other than property placed in service in a qualified low-income building (within the meaning of section 42))” after “building property”.

(d) **ALLOCATION OF DEDUCTION.**—Paragraph (4) of section 179D(d) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) **ALLOCATION OF DEDUCTION.**—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall promulgate a regulation to allow the owner of a commercial or multifamily building, including a government, tribal, or non-profit owner, to allocate any deduction allowed under this section, or a portion thereof, to the person primarily responsible for designing the property in lieu of the owner or to a commercial tenant that leases or otherwise occupies space in such building pursuant to a written agreement. Such person shall be treated as the taxpayer for purposes of this section.

“(B) FORM OF ALLOCATION.—An allocation made under this paragraph shall be in writing and in a form that meets the form of allocation requirements in Notice 2008-40 of the Internal Revenue Service.

“(C) PROVISION OF ALLOCATION.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of a written request from a person eligible to receive an allocation under this paragraph, the owner of a building that makes an allocation under this paragraph shall provide the form of allocation (as described in subparagraph (B)) to such person.

“(D) ALLOCATION FROM PUBLIC OWNER OF BUILDING.—In the case of a commercial building or multifamily building that is owned by a Federal, State, or local government or a subdivision thereof, Notice 2006-52 of the Internal Revenue Service, as amplified by Notice 2008-40, shall apply to any allocation.”.

(e) TREATMENT OF BASIS IN CONTEXT OF ALLOCATION.—Subsection (e) of section 179D, as amended by subsection (c)(2), is amended by inserting “or so allocated” after “so allowed”.

(f) EARNINGS AND PROFITS CONFORMITY FOR REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS.—Subparagraph (B) of section 312(k)(3) is amended—

(1) by striking “—For purposes of” and inserting “—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), for purposes of”, and

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(ii) EARNINGS AND PROFITS CONFORMITY FOR REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of computing the earnings and profits of a real estate investment trust (other than a captive real estate investment trust), the entire amount deductible under section 179D shall be allowed as deductions in the taxable years for which such amounts are claimed under such section.

“(II) CAPTIVE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST.—The term ‘captive real estate investment trust’ means a real estate investment trust the shares or beneficial interests of which are not regularly traded on an established securities market and more than 50 percent of the voting power or value of the beneficial interests or shares of which are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, or constructively, by a single entity that is treated as an association taxable as a corporation under this title and is not exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of section 501(a).

“(III) RULES OF APPLICATION.—For purposes of this clause, the constructive ownership rules of section 318(a), as modified by section 856(d)(5), shall apply in determining the ownership of stock, assets, or net profits of any person, and the following entities are not considered an association taxable as a corporation:

“(aa) Any real estate investment trust other than a captive real estate investment trust.

“(bb) Any qualified real estate investment trust subsidiary under section 856, other than a qualified REIT subsidiary of a captive real estate investment trust.

“(cc) Any Listed Australian Property Trust (meaning an Australian unit trust registered as a ‘Managed Investment Scheme’ under the Australian Corporations Act in which the principal class of units is listed on a recognized stock exchange in Australia and is regularly traded on an established securities market), or an entity organized as a trust, provided that a Listed Australian Property Trust owns or controls, directly or indirectly, 75 percent or more of the voting power or value of the beneficial interests or shares of such trust.

“(dd) Any corporation, trust, association, or partnership organized outside the laws of the United States and which satisfies the criteria described in subclause (IV).

“(IV) CRITERIA.—The criteria described in this subclause are as follows:

“(aa) At least 75 percent of the entity’s total asset value at the close of its taxable year is represented by real estate assets (as defined in section 856(c)(5)(B)), cash and cash equivalents, and United States Government securities.

“(bb) The entity is not subject to tax on amounts distributed to its beneficial owners, or is exempt from entity-level taxation.

“(cc) The entity distributes at least 85 percent of its taxable income (as computed in the jurisdiction in which it is organized) to the holders of its shares or certificates of beneficial interest on an annual basis.

“(dd) Not more than 10 percent of the voting power or value in such entity is held directly or indirectly or constructively by a single entity or individual, or the shares or beneficial interests of such entity are regularly traded on an established securities market.

“(ee) The entity is organized in a country which has a tax treaty with the United States.”.

(g) RULES FOR LIGHTING SYSTEMS.—Subsection (f) of section 179D is amended to read as follows:

“(f) RULES FOR LIGHTING SYSTEMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to property that is part of a lighting system, the deduction allowed under subsection (a) shall be equal to—

“(A) for a lighting system that includes installation of a lighting control described in paragraph (2)(A), the applicable amount determined under paragraph (3)(A),

“(B) for a lighting system that includes installation of a lighting control described in paragraph (2)(B), the applicable amount determined under paragraph (3)(B), or

“(C) for a lighting system that does not include installation of any lighting controls described in subparagraphs (A) or (B) of paragraph (2), the applicable amount determined under paragraph (3)(C).

“(2) ENERGY SAVING CONTROLS.—

“(A) LIGHTING CONTROLS IN CERTAIN SPACES.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), the lighting controls described in this subparagraph are the following:

“(i) Occupancy sensors (as described in paragraph (4)(I)) in spaces not greater than 800 square feet.

“(ii) Bi-level controls (as described in paragraph (4)(A)).

“(iii) Continuous or step dimming controls (as described in subparagraphs (B) and (K) of paragraph (4)).

“(iv) Daylight dimming where sufficient daylight is available (as described in paragraph (4)(C)).

“(v) A multi-scene controller (as described in paragraph (4)(H)).

“(vi) Time scheduling controls (as described in paragraph (4)(L)), provided that such controls are not required by Standard 90.1-2010.

“(vii) Such other lighting controls as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, determines appropriate.

“(B) OTHER CONTROL TYPES.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), the lighting controls described in this subparagraph are the following:

“(i) Occupancy sensors (as described in paragraph (4)(I)) in spaces greater than 800 square feet.

“(ii) Demand responsive controls (as described in paragraph (4)(D)).

“(iii) Lumen maintenance controls (as described in paragraph (4)(F)) where solid state lighting is used.

“(iv) Such other lighting controls as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, determines appropriate.

“(3) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—

“(A) LIGHTING CONTROLS IN CERTAIN SPACES.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), the applicable amount shall be determined in accordance with the following table:

If the percentage of reduction in lighting power density is not less than:	The amount of the deduction per square foot is:
15 percent	\$0.30
20 percent	\$0.44
25 percent	\$0.58
30 percent	\$0.72
35 percent	\$0.86
40 percent	\$1.00

“(B) LIGHTING CONTROLS IN LARGER SPACES AND WHERE SOLID LIGHTING IS USED.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), the applicable amount shall be determined in accordance with the following table:

If the percentage of reduction in lighting power density is not less than:	The amount of the deduction per square foot is:
20 percent	\$0.30
25 percent	\$0.44
30 percent	\$0.58
35 percent	\$0.72
40 percent	\$0.86
45 percent	\$1.00

“(C) NO QUALIFIED LIGHTING CONTROLS.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(C), the applicable amount shall be determined in accordance with the following table:

If the percentage of reduction in lighting power density is not less than:	The amount of the deduction per square foot is:
25 percent	\$0.30
30 percent	\$0.44
35 percent	\$0.58
40 percent	\$0.72
45 percent	\$0.86
50 percent	\$1.00

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

“(A) BI-LEVEL CONTROL.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the term ‘bi-level control’ means a lighting control strategy that provides for 2 different levels of lighting.

“(ii) FULL-OFF SETTING.—For purposes of clause (i), a bi-level control shall also provide for a full-off setting.

“(B) CONTINUOUS DIMMING.—The term ‘continuous dimming’ means a lighting control strategy that adjusts the light output of a lighting system between minimum and maximum light output in a manner that is not perceptible.

“(C) DAYLIGHT DIMMING; SUFFICIENT DAYLIGHT.—

“(i) DAYLIGHT DIMMING.—The term ‘daylight dimming’ means any device that—

“(I) adjusts electric lighting power in response to the amount of daylight that is present in an area, and

“(II) provides for separate control of the lamps for general lighting in the daylight area by not less than 1 multi-level photocontrol, including continuous dimming devices, that satisfies the following requirements:

“(aa) The light sensor for the multi-level photocontrol is remote from where calibration adjustments are made.

“(bb) The calibration adjustments are readily accessible.

“(cc) The multi-level photocontrol reduces electric lighting power in response to the amount of daylight with—

“(AA) not less than 1 control step that is between 50 percent and 70 percent of design lighting power, and

“(BB) not less than 1 control step that is not less than 35 percent of design lighting power.

“(ii) SUFFICIENT DAYLIGHT.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘sufficient daylight’ means—

“(aa) in the case of top-lighted areas, when the total daylight area under skylights plus the total daylight area under rooftop monitors in an enclosed space is greater than 900 square feet (as defined in Standard 90.1-2010), and

“(bb) in the case of sidelighted areas, when the combined primary sidelight area in an enclosed space is not less than 250 square feet (as defined in Standard 90.1-2010).

“(II) EXCEPTIONS.—Sufficient daylight shall be deemed to not be available if—

“(aa) in the case of areas described in subclause (I)(aa)—

“(AA) for daylighted areas under skylights, it is documented that existing adjacent structures or natural objects block direct beam sunlight for more than 1500 daylight hours (after 8 a.m. and before 4 p.m., local time) per year,

“(BB) for daylighted areas, the skylight effective aperture is less than 0.006, or

“(CC) for buildings in climate zone 8, as defined under Standard 90.1-2010, the daylight areas total less than 1500 square feet in an enclosed space, and

“(bb) in the case of primary sidelighted areas described in subclause (I)(bb)—

“(AA) the top of the existing adjacent structures are at least twice as high above the windows as the distance from the window, or

“(BB) the sidelighting effective aperture is less than 0.1.

“(iii) DAYLIGHT, SIDELIGHTING, AND OTHER RELATED TERMS.—The terms ‘daylight area’, ‘daylight area under skylights’, ‘daylight area under rooftop monitors’, ‘daylighted area’, ‘enclosed space’, ‘primary sidelighted areas’, ‘sidelighting effective aperture’, and ‘skylight effective aperture’ have the same meaning given such terms under Standard 90.1-2010.

“(D) DEMAND RESPONSIVE CONTROL.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘demand responsive control’ means a control device that receives and automatically responds to a demand response signal and—

“(I) in the case of space-conditioning systems, conducts a centralized demand shed for non-critical zones during a demand response period and that has the capability to, on a signal from a centralized contract or software point within an Energy Management Control System—

“(aa) remotely increase the operating cooling temperature set points in such zones by not less than 4 degrees,

“(bb) remotely decrease the operating heating temperature set points in such zones by not less than 4 degrees,

“(cc) remotely reset temperatures in such zones to originating operating levels, and

“(dd) provide an adjustable rate of change for any temperature adjustment and reset, and

“(II) in the case of lighting power, has the capability to reduce lighting power by not less than 30 percent during a demand response period.

“(ii) DEMAND RESPONSE PERIOD.—The term ‘demand response period’ means a period in which short-term adjustments in electricity usage are made by end-use customers from normal electricity consumption patterns, including adjustments in response to—

“(I) the price of electricity, and

“(II) participation in programs or services that are designed to modify electricity usage in response to wholesale market prices for electricity or when reliability of the electrical system is in jeopardy.

“(iii) DEMAND RESPONSE SIGNAL.—The term ‘demand response signal’ means a signal sent to an end-use customer by a local utility, independent system operator, or designated curtailment service provider or aggregator that—

“(I) indicates an adjustment in the price of electricity, or

“(II) is a request to modify electricity consumption.

“(E) LAMP.—The term ‘lamp’ means an artificial light source that produces optical radiation (including ultraviolet and infrared radiation).

“(F) LUMEN MAINTENANCE CONTROL.—The term ‘lumen maintenance control’ means a lighting control strategy that maintains constant light output by adjusting lamp power to compensate for age and cleanliness of luminaires.

“(G) LUMINAIRE.—The term ‘luminaire’ means a complete lighting unit for the production, control, and distribution of light that consists of—

“(i) not less than 1 lamp, and

“(ii) any of the following items:

“(I) Optical control devices designed to distribute light.

“(II) Sockets or mountings for the positioning, protection, and operation of the lamps.

“(III) Mechanical components for support or attachment.

“(IV) Electrical and electronic components for operation and control of the lamps.

“(H) MULTI-SCENE CONTROL.—The term ‘multi-scene control’ means a lighting control device or system that allows for—

“(i) not less than 2 predetermined lighting settings,

“(ii) a setting that turns off all luminaires in an area, and

“(iii) a recall of the settings described in clauses (i) and (ii) for any luminaires or groups of luminaires to adjust to multiple activities within the area.

“(I) OCCUPANCY SENSOR.—The term ‘occupancy sensor’ means a control device that—

“(i) detects the presence or absence of individuals within an area and regulates lighting, equipment, or appliances according to a required sequence of operation,

“(ii) shuts off lighting when an area is unoccupied,

“(iii) except in areas designated as emergency egress and using less than 0.2 watts per square foot of floor area, provides for

manual shut-off of all luminaires regardless of the status of the sensor and allows for—

“(I) independent control in each area enclosed by ceiling-height partitions,

“(II) controls that are readily accessible, and

“(III) operation by a manual switch that is located in the same area as the lighting that is subject to the control device.

“(J) STANDARD 90.1-2010.—The term ‘Standard 90.1-2010’ means Standard 90.1-2010 of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America.

“(K) STEP DIMMING.—The term ‘step dimming’ means a lighting control strategy that adjusts the light output of a lighting system by 1 or more predetermined amounts of greater than 1 percent of full output in a manner that may be perceptible.

“(L) TIME SCHEDULING CONTROL.—The term ‘time scheduling control’ means a control strategy that automatically controls lighting, equipment, or systems based on a particular time of day or other daily event (including sunrise and sunset).”.

(h) UPDATED STANDARDS.—

(1) INITIAL UPDATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 179D(c) is amended by striking “90.1-2001” each place it appears and inserting “90.1-2004”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (2) of section 179D(c) is amended by striking “(as in effect on April 2, 2003)”.

(2) SECOND UPDATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 179D is amended by striking “90.1-2004” each place it appears in subsections (c) and (f) and inserting “90.1-2007”.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subparagraph (A) shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

(i) TREATMENT OF LIGHTING SYSTEMS.—Section 179D(c)(1) is amended by striking “interior” each place it appears.

(j) REPORTING PROGRAM.—Section 179D, as amended by subsection (c)(1), is amended by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (j) and by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection:

“(i) REPORTING PROGRAM.—For purposes of the report required under section 179F(l), the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall—

“(1) develop a program to collect a statistically valid sample of energy consumption data from taxpayers that received full deductions under this section, regardless of whether such taxpayers allocated all or a portion of such deduction, and

“(2) include such data in the report, with such redactions as deemed necessary to protect the personally identifiable information of such taxpayers.”.

(k) SPECIAL RULE FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND S CORPORATIONS.—Section 179D, as amended by subsection (j), is amended by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (k) and by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsection:

“(j) SPECIAL RULE FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND S CORPORATIONS.—In the case of a partnership or S corporation, this section shall be applied at the partner or shareholder level, subject to such reporting requirements as are determined appropriate by the Secretary.”.

(l) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as otherwise provided, the amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service in taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 102. DEDUCTION FOR RETROFITS OF EXISTING COMMERCIAL AND MULTIFAMILY BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part VI of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 179E the following new section:

“SEC. 179F. DEDUCTION FOR RETROFITS OF EXISTING COMMERCIAL AND MULTIFAMILY BUILDINGS.

“(a) ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each certified retrofit plan, there shall be allowed as a deduction an amount equal to the lesser of—

“(A) the sum of—

“(i) the design deduction, and

“(ii) the realized deduction, or

“(B) the total cost to develop and implement such certified retrofit plan.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—For purposes of the amount described in paragraph (1)(B), if such amount is taken as a design deduction, no realized deduction shall be allowed.

“(b) DEDUCTION AMOUNTS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) DESIGN DEDUCTION.—A design deduction shall be—

“(A) based on projected source energy savings as calculated in accordance with subsection (c)(3)(B),

“(B) correlated to the percent of source energy savings set forth in the general scale in paragraph (3)(A) that a certified retrofit plan is projected to achieve when energy-efficient measures are placed in service, and

“(C) equal to 60 percent of the amount allowed under the general scale.

“(2) REALIZED DEDUCTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A realized deduction shall be—

“(i) based on realized source energy savings as calculated in accordance with subsection (c)(3)(C),

“(ii) correlated to the percent of source energy savings set forth in the general scale in paragraph (3)(A) as realized by a certified retrofit plan, and

“(iii) equal to 40 percent of the amount allowed under the general scale.

“(B) ADJUSTMENT OF SOURCE ENERGY SAVINGS.—The percent of source energy savings for purposes of any realized deduction may vary from such savings projected when energy-efficient measures were placed in service for purposes of a design deduction under paragraph (1).

“(C) NO RECAPTURE OF DESIGN DEDUCTION.—Notwithstanding the regulations prescribed under subsection (f), no recapture of a design deduction shall be required where the owner of the commercial or multifamily building—

“(i) claims or allocates a design deduction when energy-efficient measures are placed into service pursuant to the terms and conditions of a certified retrofit plan, and

“(ii) is not eligible for or does not subsequently claim or allocate a realized deduction.

“(3) GENERAL SCALE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The scale for deductions allowed under this section shall be—

“(i) \$1.00 per square foot of retrofit floor area for 20 to 24 percent source energy savings,

“(ii) \$1.50 per square foot of retrofit floor area for 25 to 29 percent source energy savings,

“(iii) \$2.00 per square foot of retrofit floor area for 30 to 34 percent source energy savings,

“(iv) \$2.50 per square foot of retrofit floor area for 35 to 39 percent source energy savings,

“(v) \$3.00 per square foot of retrofit floor area for 40 to 44 percent source energy savings,

“(vi) \$3.50 per square foot of retrofit floor area for 45 to 49 percent source energy savings, and

“(vii) \$4.00 per square foot of retrofit floor area for 50 percent or more source energy savings.

“(B) HISTORIC BUILDINGS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to energy-efficient measures placed in service as part of a certified retrofit plan in a commercial building or multifamily building on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the respective dollar amounts set forth in the general scale under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(I) each be increased by 20 percent, for the purposes of calculating any applicable design deduction and realized deduction, and

“(II) not exceed the total cost to develop and implement such certified retrofit plan.

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—If the amount described in clause (i)(II) is taken as a design deduction, then no realized deduction shall be allowed.

“(c) CALCULATION OF ENERGY SAVINGS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the design deduction and the realized deduction, source energy savings shall be calculated with reference to a baseline of the annual source energy consumption of the commercial or multifamily building before energy-efficient measures were placed in service.

“(2) BASELINE BENCHMARK.—The baseline under paragraph (1) shall be determined using a building energy performance benchmarking tool designated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and based upon 1 year of source energy consumption data prior to the date upon which the energy-efficient measures are placed in service.

“(3) DESIGN AND REALIZED SOURCE ENERGY SAVINGS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In certifying a retrofit plan as a certified retrofit plan, a licensed engineer or architect shall calculate source energy savings by utilizing the baseline benchmark defined in paragraph (2) and determining percent improvements from such baseline.

“(B) DESIGN DEDUCTION.—For purposes of claiming a design deduction, the regulations issued under subsection (f)(1) shall prescribe the standards and process for a licensed engineer or architect to calculate and certify source energy savings projected from the design of a certified retrofit plan as of the date energy-efficient measures are placed in service.

“(C) REALIZED DEDUCTION.—For purposes of claiming a realized deduction, a licensed engineer or architect shall calculate and certify source energy savings realized by a certified retrofit plan 2 years after a design deduction is allowed by utilizing energy consumption data after energy-efficient measures are placed in service, and adjusting for climate, building occupancy hours, density, or other factors deemed appropriate in the benchmarking tool designated under paragraph (2).

“(d) CERTIFIED RETROFIT PLAN AND OTHER DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) CERTIFIED RETROFIT PLAN.—The term ‘certified retrofit plan’ means a plan that—

“(A) is designed to reduce the annual source energy costs of a commercial building, or a multifamily building, through the installation of energy-efficient measures,

“(B) is certified under penalty of perjury by a licensed engineer or architect, who is

not a direct employee of the owner of the commercial building or multifamily building that is the subject of the plan, and is licensed in the State in which such building is located,

“(C) describes the square footage of retrofit floor area covered by such a plan,

“(D) specifies that it is designed to achieve a final source energy usage intensity after energy-efficient measures are placed in service in a commercial building or a multifamily building that does not exceed on a square foot basis the average level of energy usage intensity of other similar buildings, as described in paragraph (2),

“(E) requires that after the energy-efficient measures are placed in service, the commercial building or multifamily building meets the applicable State and local building code requirements for the area in which such building is located,

“(F) satisfies the regulations prescribed under subsection (f), and

“(G) is submitted to the Secretary of Energy after energy-efficient measures are placed in service, for the purpose of informing the report to Congress required by subsection (l).

“(2) AVERAGE LEVEL OF ENERGY USAGE INTENSITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The maximum average level of energy usage intensity under paragraph (1)(D) shall not exceed 300,000 British thermal units per square foot.

“(B) REGULATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall develop distinct standards for categories and subcategories of buildings with respect to maximum average level of energy usage intensity based on the best available information used by the ENERGY STAR program.

“(ii) REVIEW.—The standards developed pursuant to clause (i) shall be reviewed and updated by the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, not later than every 3 years.

“(3) COMMERCIAL BUILDING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘commercial building’ means a building located in the United States—

“(i) that is in existence and occupied on the date of the enactment of this section,

“(ii) for which a certificate of occupancy has been issued at least 10 years before energy efficiency measures are placed in service, and

“(iii) with a primary use or purpose other than as residential housing.

“(B) SHOPPING CENTERS.—In the case of a retail shopping center, the term ‘commercial building’ shall include an area within such building that is—

“(i) 50,000 square feet or larger that is covered by a separate utility grade meter to record energy consumption in such area, and

“(ii) under the day-to-day management and operation of—

“(I) the owner of such building as common space areas, or

“(II) a retail tenant, lessee, or other occupant.

“(4) ENERGY-EFFICIENT MEASURES.—The term ‘energy-efficient measures’ means a measure, or combination of measures, placed in service through a certified retrofit plan—

“(A) on or in a commercial building or multifamily building,

“(B) as part of—

“(i) the lighting systems,

“(ii) the heating, cooling, ventilation, refrigeration, or hot water systems,

“(iii) building transportation systems, such as elevators and escalators,

“(iv) the building envelope, which may include an energy-efficient cool roof,

“(v) a continuous commissioning contract under the supervision of a licensed engineer or architect, or

“(vi) building operations or monitoring systems, including utility-grade meters and submeters, and

“(C) including equipment, materials, and systems within subparagraph (B) with respect to which depreciation (or amortization in lieu of depreciation) is allowed.

“(5) ENERGY SAVINGS.—The term ‘energy savings’ means source energy usage intensity reduced on a per square foot basis through design and implementation of a certified retrofit plan.

“(6) MULTIFAMILY BUILDING.—The term ‘multifamily building’—

“(A) means—

“(i) a structure of 5 or more dwelling units located in the United States—

“(I) that is in existence and occupied on the date of the enactment of this section,

“(II) for which a certificate of occupancy has been issued at least 10 years before energy efficiency measures are placed in service, and

“(III) with a primary use as residential housing, and

“(B) includes such buildings owned and operated as a condominium, cooperative, or other common interest community.

“(7) SOURCE ENERGY.—The term ‘source energy’ means the total amount of raw fuel that is required to operate a commercial building or multifamily building, and accounts for losses that are incurred in the generation, storage, transport, and delivery of fuel to such a building.

“(e) TIMING OF CLAIMING DEDUCTIONS.—Deductions allowed under this section may be claimed as follows:

“(1) DESIGN DEDUCTION.—In the case of a design deduction, in the taxable year that energy efficiency measures are placed in service.

“(2) REALIZED DEDUCTION.—In the case of a realized deduction, in the second taxable year following the taxable year described in paragraph (1).

“(f) REGULATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and after notice and opportunity for public comment, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall prescribe regulations—

“(A) for the manner and method for a licensed engineer or architect to certify retrofit plans, model projected energy savings, and calculate realized energy savings, and

“(B) notwithstanding subsection (b)(2)(C), to provide, as appropriate, for a recapture of the deductions allowed under this section if a retrofit plan is not fully implemented, or a retrofit plan and energy savings are not certified or verified in accordance with regulations prescribed under this subsection.

“(2) RELIANCE ON ESTABLISHED PROTOCOLS, ETC.—To the maximum extent practicable and available, such regulations shall rely upon established protocols and documents used in the ENERGY STAR program, and industry best practices and existing guidelines, such as the Building Energy Modeling Guidelines of the Commercial Energy Services Network (COMNET).

“(3) ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTIONS PENDING ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Pending issuance of the regulations under paragraph (1), the

owner of a commercial building or a multifamily building shall be allowed to claim or allocate a deduction allowed under this section.

“(g) NOTICE TO OWNER.—Each certification of a retrofit plan and calculation of energy savings required under this section shall include an explanation to the owner of a commercial building or a multifamily building regarding the energy-efficient measures placed in service and their projected and realized annual energy costs.

“(h) ALLOCATION OF DEDUCTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall promulgate a regulation to allow the owner of a commercial building or a multifamily building, including a government, tribal, or non-profit owner, to allocate any deduction allowed under this section, or a portion thereof, to the person primarily responsible for funding, financing, designing, leasing, operating, or placing in service energy-efficient measures. Such person shall be treated as the taxpayer for purposes of this section and shall include a building tenant, financier, architect, professional engineer, licensed contractor, energy services company, or other building professional.

“(2) FORM OF ALLOCATION.—An allocation made under this paragraph shall be in writing and in a form that meets the form of allocation requirements in Notice 2008-40 of the Internal Revenue Service.

“(3) PROVISION OF ALLOCATION.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of a written request from a person eligible to receive an allocation under this paragraph, the owner of a building that makes an allocation under this paragraph shall provide the form of allocation (as described in paragraph (2)) to such person.

“(4) ALLOCATION FROM PUBLIC OWNER OF BUILDING.—In the case of a commercial building or a multifamily building that is owned by a Federal, State, or local government or a subdivision thereof, Notice 2006-52 of the Internal Revenue Service, as amplified by Notice 2008-40, shall apply to any allocation.

“(i) BASIS REDUCTION.—For purposes of this subtitle, if a deduction is allowed under this section with respect to any energy-efficient measures placed in service under a certified retrofit plan other than in a qualified low-income building (within the meaning of section 42), the basis of such measures shall be reduced by the amount of the deduction so allowed or so allocated.

“(j) SPECIAL RULE FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND S CORPORATIONS.—In the case of a partnership or S corporation, this section shall be applied at the partner or shareholder level, subject to such reporting requirements as are determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(k) TAX INCENTIVES NOT AVAILABLE.—

“(1) ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS DEDUCTION.—Energy-efficient measures for which a deduction is allowed under this section shall not be eligible for a deduction under section 179D.

“(2) NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME CREDIT.—No deduction shall be allowed under this section with respect to any building or dwelling unit with respect to which a credit under section 45L was allowed.

“(l) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Biennially, beginning with the first year after the enactment of this section, the Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of Energy, shall submit a report to Congress that—

“(A) explains the energy saved, the energy-efficient measures implemented, the realiza-

tion of energy savings projected, and records the amounts and types of deductions allowed under this section,

“(B) explains the energy saved, the energy efficient measures implemented, and records the amount of deductions allowed under section 179D, based on the data collected pursuant to subsection (i) of such section,

“(C) determines the number of jobs created as a result of the deduction allowed under this section,

“(D) determines how the use of any deduction allowed under this section may be improved, based on the information provided to the Secretary of Energy,

“(E) provides aggregated data with respect to the information described in subparagraphs (A) through (D), and

“(F) provides statutory recommendations to Congress that would reduce energy consumption in new and existing commercial buildings located in the United States, including recommendations on providing energy-efficient tax incentives for subsections of buildings that operate with specific utility-grade metering.

“(2) PROTECTION OF TAXPAYER INFORMATION.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Energy shall share information on deductions allowed under this section and related reports submitted, as requested by each agency to fulfill its obligations under this section, with such redactions as deemed necessary to protect the personally identifiable financial information of a taxpayer.

“(3) INCORPORATION INTO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Energy shall, to the maximum extent practicable, incorporate conclusions of the report under this subsection into current Department of Energy building performance and energy efficiency data collection and other reporting programs.

“(m) TERMINATION.—This section shall not apply to any property placed in service after December 31, 2016.”.

(b) EFFECT ON DEPRECIATION ON EARNINGS AND PROFITS.—Subparagraph (B) of section 312(k)(3), as amended by this title, is amended—

(1) by striking “or 179E” both places it appears in clause (i) and inserting “179E, or 179F”;

(2) by striking “OR 179E” in the heading and inserting “179E, OR 179F”;

(3) by inserting “or 179F” after “section 179D” in clause (ii)(I).

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part VI of subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 179E the following new item:

“Sec. 179F. Deduction for retrofits of existing commercial and multifamily buildings.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as otherwise provided, the amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service in taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—HOME ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 201. PERFORMANCE BASED HOME ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 25E. PERFORMANCE BASED ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year for a qualified whole home energy efficiency retrofit an amount determined under subsection (b).

“(b) AMOUNT DETERMINED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (4), the amount determined under this subsection is equal to—

“(A) the base amount under paragraph (2), increased by

“(B) the amount determined under paragraph (3).

“(2) BASE AMOUNT.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), the base amount is \$2,000, but only if the energy use for the residence is reduced by at least 20 percent below the baseline energy use for such residence as calculated according to paragraph (5).

“(3) INCREASE AMOUNT.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), the amount determined under this paragraph is \$500 for each additional 5 percentage point reduction in energy use.

“(4) LIMITATION.—In no event shall the amount determined under this subsection exceed the lesser of—

“(A) \$5,000 with respect to any residence, or

“(B) 30 percent of the qualified home energy efficiency expenditures paid or incurred by the taxpayer under subsection (c) with respect to such residence.

“(5) DETERMINATION OF ENERGY USE REDUCTION.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The reduction in energy use for any residence shall be determined by modeling the annual predicted percentage reduction in total energy costs for heating, cooling, hot water, and permanent lighting. It shall be modeled using computer modeling software approved under subsection (d)(2) and a baseline energy use calculated according to subsection (d)(1)(C).

“(B) ENERGY COSTS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the energy cost per unit of fuel for each fuel type shall be determined by dividing the total actual energy bill for the residence for that fuel type for the most recent available 12-month period by the total energy units of that fuel type used over the same period.

“(C) QUALIFIED HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified home energy efficiency expenditures’—

“(1) means any amount paid or incurred by the taxpayer during the taxable year for a qualified whole home energy efficiency retrofit, including the cost of diagnostic procedures, labor, and modeling,

“(2) includes only measures that have an average estimated life of 5 years or more as determined by the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, and

“(3) does not include any amount which is paid or incurred in connection with any expansion of the building envelope of the residence.

“(d) QUALIFIED WHOLE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified whole home energy efficiency retrofit’ means the implementation of measures placed in service during the taxable year intended to reduce the energy use of the principal residence of the taxpayer which is located in the United States. A qualified whole home energy efficiency retrofit shall—

“(A) subject to paragraph (4), be designed, implemented, and installed by a contractor which is—

“(i) accredited by the Building Performance Institute (hereafter in this section referred to as ‘BPI’) or a preexisting BPI accreditation-based State certification program with enhancements to achieve State energy policy,

“(ii) a Residential Energy Services Network (hereafter in this section referred to as ‘RESNET’) accredited Energy Smart Home Performance Team, or

“(iii) accredited by an equivalent certification program approved by the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, for this purpose,

“(B) install a set of measures modeled to achieve a reduction in energy use of at least 20 percent below the baseline energy use established in subparagraph (C), using computer modeling software approved under paragraph (2),

“(C) establish the baseline energy use by calibrating the model using sections 3 and 4 and Annex D of BPI Standard BPI-2400-S-2011: Standardized Qualification of Whole House Energy Savings Estimates, or an equivalent standard approved by the Secretary, after consultation with Secretary of Energy, for this purpose,

“(D) document the measures implemented in the residence through photographs taken before and after the retrofit, including photographs of its visible energy systems and envelope as relevant, and

“(E) implement a test-out procedure, following guidelines of the applicable certification program specified under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A), or equivalent guidelines approved by the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, for this purpose, to ensure—

“(i) the safe operation of all systems post retrofit, and

“(ii) that all improvements are included in, and have been installed according to, standards of the applicable certification program specified under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A), or equivalent standards approved by the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, for this purpose.

For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii), an organization or State may submit an equivalent certification program for approval by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy. The Secretary shall approve or deny such submission not later than 180 days after receipt, and, if the Secretary fails to respond in that time period, the submitted equivalent certification program shall be considered approved.

“(2) APPROVED MODELING SOFTWARE.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), the contractor (or, if applicable, the person described in paragraph (4)) shall use modeling software certified by RESNET as following the software verification test suites in section 4.2.1 of RESNET Publication No. 06-001 or certified by an alternative organization as following an equivalent standard, as approved by the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, for this purpose.

“(3) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall prescribe regulations directing what specific documentation is required to be retained or submitted by the taxpayer in order to claim the credit under this section, which shall include, in addition to the photographs under paragraph (1)(D), a form approved by the Secretary that is completed and signed by the qualified whole home energy efficiency retrofit contractor under penalties of perjury. Such form shall include—

“(A) a statement that the contractor (or, if applicable, the person described in paragraph (4)) followed the specified procedures for establishing baseline energy use and estimating reduction in energy use,

“(B) the name of the software used for calculating the baseline energy use and reduc-

tion in energy use, the percentage reduction in projected energy savings achieved, and a statement that such software was certified for this program by the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy,

“(C) a statement that the contractor (or, if applicable, the person described in paragraph (4)) will retain the details of the calculations and underlying energy bills for 5 years and will make such details available for inspection by the Secretary or the Secretary of Energy, if so requested,

“(D) a list of measures installed and a statement that all measures included in the reduction in energy use estimate are included in, and installed according to, standards of the applicable certification program specified under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A), or equivalent standards approved by the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy,

“(E) a statement that the contractor (or, if applicable, the person described in paragraph (4)) meets the requirements of paragraph (1)(A), and

“(F) documentation of the total cost of the project in order to comply with the limitation under subsection (b)(4)(B).

“(4) CERTIFIED HOME ENERGY RATER.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), a contractor shall be deemed to have satisfied the accreditation requirement under such paragraph if the contractor enters into a contract with a person that satisfies such accreditation requirement for purposes of modeling the energy use reduction described in paragraph (1)(B).

“(e) ADDITIONAL RULES.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) NO DOUBLE BENEFIT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any residence, no credit shall be allowed under this section for any taxable year in which the taxpayer claims a credit under section 25C.

“(B) RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES.—In the case of a renewable energy system or appliance that qualifies for another credit under this chapter, the resulting reduction in energy use shall not be taken into account in determining the percentage energy use reductions under subsection (b).

“(C) NO DOUBLE BENEFIT FOR CERTAIN EXPENDITURES.—The term ‘qualified home energy efficiency expenditures’ shall not include any expenditure for which a deduction or credit is claimed by the taxpayer under this chapter for the taxable year or with respect to which the taxpayer receives any Federal energy efficiency rebate.

“(2) PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.—The term ‘principal residence’ has the same meaning as when used in section 121.

“(3) SPECIAL RULES.—Rules similar to the rules under paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8) of section 25D(e) and section 25C(e)(2) shall apply, as determined by the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy.

“(4) BASIS ADJUSTMENTS.—For purposes of this subtitle, if a credit is allowed under this section with respect to any expenditure with respect to any property, the increase in the basis of such property which would (but for this paragraph) result from such expenditure shall be reduced by the amount of the credit so allowed.

“(5) ELECTION NOT TO CLAIM CREDIT.—No credit shall be determined under subsection (a) for the taxable year if the taxpayer elects not to have subsection (a) apply to such taxable year.

“(6) MULTIPLE YEAR RETROFITS.—If the taxpayer has claimed a credit under this section

in a previous taxable year, the baseline energy use for the calculation of reduced energy use must be established after the previous retrofit has been placed in service.

“(f) **TERMINATION.**—This section shall not apply with respect to any costs paid or incurred after December 31, 2016.

“(g) **SECRETARY REVIEW.**—The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall establish a review process for the retrofits performed, including an estimate of the usage of the credit and a statistically valid analysis of the average actual energy use reductions, utilizing utility bill data collected on a voluntary basis, and report to Congress not later than June 30, 2014, any findings and recommendations for—

“(1) improvements to the effectiveness of the credit under this section, and

“(2) expansion of the credit under this section to rental units.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 1016(a) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (36),

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (37) and inserting “, and”, and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(38) to the extent provided in section 25E(e)(4), in the case of amounts with respect to which a credit has been allowed under section 25E.”.

(2) Section 6501(m) is amended by inserting “25E(e)(5),” after “section”.

(3) The table of sections for subpart A of part IV of subchapter A chapter 1 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 25D the following new item:

“Sec. 25E. Performance based energy improvements.”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred for a qualified whole home energy efficiency retrofit placed in service after December 31, 2013.

TITLE III—INDUSTRIAL ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY

SEC. 301. MODIFICATIONS IN CREDIT FOR COMBINED HEAT AND POWER SYSTEM PROPERTY.

(a) **MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN CAPACITY LIMITATIONS.**—Section 48(c)(3)(B) is amended—

(1) by striking “15 megawatts” in clause (ii) and inserting “25 megawatts”,

(2) by striking “20,000 horsepower” in clause (ii) and inserting “34,000 horsepower”, and

(3) by striking clause (iii).

(b) **INCREASE IN CREDIT PERCENTAGE FOR SYSTEMS WITH GREATER EFFICIENCY.**—Subparagraph (A) of section 48(a)(2) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subclause (III) of clause (i),

(2) by adding at the end of clause (i) the following new subclause:

“(V) combined heat and power system property the energy efficiency percentage of which (as defined in subsection (c)(3)(C)(i)) is equal to or greater than 85 percent.”,

(3) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii),

(4) by striking “clause (i)” in clause (iii), as so redesignated, and inserting “clause (i) or (ii)”, and

(5) by inserting after clause (i) the following new clause:

“(ii) 20 percent in the case of combined heat and power system property the energy percentage of which (as defined in subsection (c)(3)(C)(i)) is equal to or greater than 75 percent and less than 85 percent, and”.

(c) **EXTENSION.**—Clause (iv) of section 48(c)(3)(A) is amended by striking “January 1, 2017” and inserting “January 1, 2019”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to periods after the date of the enactment of this Act, under rules similar to the rules of section 48(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990).

SEC. 302. INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT FOR BIOMASS HEATING PROPERTY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subparagraph (A) of section 48(a)(3) is amended by striking “or” at the end of clause (vi), by inserting “or” at the end of clause (vii), and by inserting after clause (vii) the following new clause:

“(viii) open-loop biomass (within the meaning of section 45(c)(3)) heating property, including boilers or furnaces which operate at output efficiencies of not less than 65 percent (measured by the higher heating value of the fuel) and which provide thermal energy in the form of heat, hot water, or steam for space heating, air conditioning, domestic hot water, or industrial process heat, but only with respect to periods ending before January 1, 2016.”.

(b) **30 PERCENT AND 15 PERCENT CREDITS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subparagraph (A) of section 48(a)(2), as amended by this title, is amended—

(A) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv),

(B) by striking “and” at the end of clause (ii),

(C) by striking “clause (i) or (ii)” in clause (iv), as so redesignated, and inserting “clause (i), (ii), or (iii)”, and

(D) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

“(iii) 15 percent in the case of energy property described in paragraph (3)(A)(viii) to which clause (i)(VI) does not apply, and”.

(2) **INCREASED CREDIT FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY.**—Clause (i) of section 48(a)(2)(A), as amended by this title, is amended by striking “and” at the end of subclause (IV), by striking the comma at the end of subclause (V) and inserting “, and”, and by inserting after subclause (V) the following new subclause:

“(VI) energy property described in paragraph (3)(A)(viii) which operates at an output efficiency of not less than 80 percent (measured by the higher heating value of the fuel).”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to periods after the date of the enactment of this Act, in taxable years ending after such date, under rules similar to the rules of section 48(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990).

SEC. 303. INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT FOR WASTE HEAT TO POWER PROPERTY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subparagraph (A) of section 48(a)(3), as amended by this title, is amended by striking “or” at the end of clause (vii), by striking the comma at the end of clause (viii) and inserting “, or”, and by inserting after clause (viii) the following new clause:

“(ix) waste heat to power property.”.

(b) **30-PERCENT CREDIT.**—Clause (i) of section 48(a)(2)(A), as amended by this title, is amended by striking “and” at the end of subclause (V), by striking the comma at the end of subclause (VI) and inserting “, and”, and by inserting after subclause (VI) the following new subclause:

“(VII) waste heat to power property.”.

(c) **WASTE HEAT TO POWER PROPERTY.**—Subsection (c) of section 48 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) **WASTE HEAT TO POWER PROPERTY.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘waste heat to power property’ means property—

“(i) comprising a system which generates electricity through the recovery of a qualified waste heat resource, and

“(ii) which is placed in service before January 1, 2019.

“(B) **QUALIFIED WASTE HEAT RESOURCE.**—The term ‘qualified waste heat resource’ means—

“(i) exhaust heat or flared gas from an industrial process,

“(ii) waste gas or industrial tail gas that would otherwise be flared, incinerated, or vented,

“(iii) a pressure drop in any gas for an industrial or commercial process, or

“(iv) such other forms of waste heat resources as the Secretary may determine.

“(C) **EXCEPTION.**—The term ‘qualified waste heat resource’ does not include any heat resource from a process whose primary purpose is the generation of electricity utilizing a fossil fuel or the production of oil, natural gas, or other fossil fuels.”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to periods after the date of the enactment of this Act, in taxable years ending after such date, under rules similar to the rules of section 48(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990).

SEC. 304. MOTOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 45S. MOTOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of section 38, the motor energy efficiency improvement tax credit determined under this section for the taxable year is an amount equal to \$120 multiplied by the motor horsepower of an appliance, machine, or equipment—

“(1) manufactured in such taxable year by a manufacturer which incorporates an advanced motor and drive system into a newly designed appliance, machine, or equipment or into a redesigned appliance, machine, or equipment which did not previously make use of the advanced motor and drive system, or

“(2) placed back into service in such taxable year by an end user which upgrades an existing appliance, machine, or equipment with an advanced motor and drive system.

For any advanced motor and drive system with a total horsepower of less than 10, such motor energy efficiency improvement tax credit is an amount which bears the same ratio to \$120 as such total horsepower bears to 1 horsepower.

“(b) **ADVANCED MOTOR AND DRIVE SYSTEM.**—For purposes of this section, the term ‘advanced motor and drive system’ means a motor and any required associated electronic control which—

“(1) offers variable or multiple speed operation, and

“(2) uses permanent magnet technology, electronically commutated motor technology, switched reluctance motor technology, synchronous reluctance, or such other motor and drive systems technologies as determined by the Secretary of Energy.

“(c) AGGREGATE PER TAXPAYER LIMITATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the credit determined under this section for any taxpayer for any taxable year shall not exceed the excess (if any) of \$2,000,000 over the aggregate credits allowed under this section with respect to such taxpayer for all prior taxable years.

“(2) AGGREGATION RULES.—For purposes of this section, all persons treated as a single employer under subsections (a) and (b) of section 52 shall be treated as 1 taxpayer.

“(d) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(1) BASIS REDUCTION.—For purposes of this subtitle, the basis of any property for which a credit is allowable under subsection (a) shall be reduced by the amount of such credit so allowed.

“(2) NO DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No other credit shall be allowable under this chapter for property with respect to which a credit is allowed under this section.

“(3) PROPERTY USED OUTSIDE UNITED STATES NOT QUALIFIED.—No credit shall be allowable under subsection (a) with respect to any property referred to in section 50(b)(1).

“(e) APPLICATION.—This section shall not apply to property manufactured or placed back into service before the date which is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section or after December 31, 2016.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 38(b) is amended by striking “plus” at the end of paragraph (35), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (36) and inserting “, plus”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(37) the motor energy efficiency improvement tax credit determined under section 45S.”.

(2) Section 1016(a) is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (36), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (37) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(38) to the extent provided in section 45S(d)(1).”.

(3) The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 45S. Motor energy efficiency improvement tax credit.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property manufactured or placed back into service after the date which is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 305. CREDIT FOR REPLACEMENT OF CFC REFRIGERANT CHILLER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1, as amended by this title, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 45T. CFC CHILLER REPLACEMENT CREDIT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 38, the CFC chiller replacement credit determined under this section for the taxable year is an amount equal to—

“(1) \$150 multiplied by the tonnage rating of a CFC chiller replaced with a new efficient chiller that is placed in service by the taxpayer during the taxable year, plus

“(2) if all chilled water distribution pumps connected to the new efficient chiller include variable frequency drives, \$100 multiplied by any tonnage downsizing.

“(b) CFC CHILLER.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘CFC chiller’ includes property which—

“(1) was installed after 1980 and before 1993,

“(2) utilizes chlorofluorocarbon refrigerant, and

“(3) until replaced by a new efficient chiller, has remained in operation and utilized for cooling a commercial building.

“(c) NEW EFFICIENT CHILLER.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘new efficient chiller’ includes a water-cooled chiller which is certified to meet efficiency standards effective on January 1, 2015, as defined in table 6.8 in Standard 90.1-2013 of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers.

“(d) TONNAGE DOWNSIZING.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘tonnage downsizing’ means the amount by which the tonnage rating of the CFC chiller exceeds the tonnage rating of the new efficient chiller.

“(e) ENERGY AUDIT.—As a condition of receiving a tax credit under this section, an energy audit shall be performed on the building prior to installation of the new efficient chiller, identifying cost-effective energy-saving measures, particularly measures that could contribute to chiller downsizing. The audit shall satisfy criteria that shall be issued by the Secretary of Energy.

“(f) PROPERTY USED BY TAX-EXEMPT ENTITY.—In the case of a CFC chiller replaced by a new efficient chiller the use of which is described in paragraph (3) or (4) of section 50(b), the person who sold such new efficient chiller to the entity shall be treated as the taxpayer that placed in service the new efficient chiller that replaced the CFC chiller, but only if such person clearly discloses to such entity in a document the amount of any credit allowable under subsection (a) and the person certifies to the Secretary that the person reduced the price the entity paid for such new efficient chiller by the entire amount of such credit.

“(g) TERMINATION.—This section shall not apply to replacements made after December 31, 2017.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 38(b), as amended by this title, is amended by striking “plus” at the end of paragraph (36), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (37) and inserting “, plus”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(38) the CFC chiller replacement credit determined under section 45T.”.

(2) The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1, as amended by this title, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 45T. CFC chiller replacement credit.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to replacements made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 306. QUALIFYING EFFICIENT INDUSTRIAL PROCESS WATER USE PROJECT CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 46 is amended by inserting a comma at the end of paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) the qualifying efficient industrial process water use project credit.”.

(b) AMOUNT OF CREDIT.—Subpart E of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by inserting after section 48D the following new section:

“SEC. 48E. QUALIFYING EFFICIENT INDUSTRIAL PROCESS WATER USE PROJECT CREDIT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—For purposes of section 46, the qualifying efficient industrial process water use project credit for any

taxable year is an amount equal to the applicable percentage of the qualified investment for such taxable year with respect to any qualifying efficient industrial process water use project of the taxpayer.

“(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of subsection (a)—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The applicable percentage is—

“(i) 10 percent in the case of a qualifying efficient industrial process water use project which achieves a 25 percent or greater (but less than 50 percent) reduction in water use for industrial purposes,

“(ii) 20 percent in the case of a qualifying efficient industrial process water use project which achieves a 50 percent or greater (but less than 75 percent) reduction in water use for industrial purposes, and

“(iii) 30 percent in the case of a qualifying efficient industrial process water use project which achieves a 75 percent or greater reduction in water use for industrial purposes.

“(B) WATER USE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)—

“(i) MEASUREMENT OF REDUCTION IN WATER USE.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The taxpayer shall elect one of the methods specified in clause (ii) for measuring the reduction in water use achieved by a qualifying efficient industrial process water use project.

“(II) IRREVOCABLE ELECTION.—An election under subclause (I), once made with respect to a qualifying efficient industrial process water use project, shall apply to the taxable year for which made and all subsequent taxable years, and may not be revoked.

“(III) PROJECTED SAVINGS.—The credit under subsection (a) may be claimed on the basis of a reduction in water use which is projected, by a registered professional engineer who is not a related person (within the meaning of section 144(a)(3)(A)) to the taxpayer or the installer of eligible property, to be achieved by a qualifying efficient industrial process water use project. Such projection, if used as a basis for determining the credit under subsection (a), shall be included with the return of tax.

“(ii) METHODS SPECIFIED.—The methods specified in this clause are—

“(I) a measurement of the percentage reduction in water use per unit of product manufactured by the taxpayer, and

“(II) a measurement of the percentage reduction in water use per pound of product manufactured by the taxpayer.

“(b) QUALIFIED INVESTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a), the qualified investment for any taxable year is the basis of eligible property placed in service by the taxpayer during such taxable year which is part of a qualifying efficient industrial process water use project.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Such term shall not include any portion of the basis related to—

“(A) permitting,

“(B) land acquisition, or

“(C) infrastructure not directly associated with the implementation of the technology or process improvements of the qualifying efficient industrial process water use project.

“(3) CERTAIN QUALIFIED PROGRESS EXPENDITURES RULES MADE APPLICABLE.—Rules similar to the rules of subsections (c)(4) and (d) of section 46 (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990) shall apply for purposes of this section.

“(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR SUBSIDIZED ENERGY FINANCING.—Rules similar to the rules of section 48(a)(4) (without regard to subparagraph

(D) thereof) shall apply for purposes of this section.

“(5) LIMITATION.—The amount which is treated for all taxable years with respect to any qualifying efficient industrial process water use project with respect to any site shall not exceed \$10,000,000.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) QUALIFYING EFFICIENT INDUSTRIAL PROCESS WATER USE PROJECT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualifying efficient industrial process water use project’ means, with respect to any site, a project which retrofits or expands an existing facility to implement technology or process improvements which are designed to reduce water use for systems that use any form of water in the production of goods in the manufacturing sector (as defined in North American Industrial Classification System codes 31, 32, and 33), including any system that uses water for heating, cooling, or energy production for the production of goods in the trade or business of manufacturing (other than extraction of fossil fuels). Such term shall not include a project which alters an existing facility to change the type of goods produced by such facility.

“(B) SYSTEMS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘system’ does not include any system which does not encompass 1 or more complete processes.

“(2) ELIGIBLE PROPERTY.—The term ‘eligible property’ means any property—

“(A) which is part of a qualifying efficient industrial process water use project and which is necessary for the reduction in water use described in paragraph (1),

“(B)(i) the construction, reconstruction, or erection of which is completed by the taxpayer, or

“(ii) which is acquired by the taxpayer if the original use of such property commences with the taxpayer, and

“(C) with respect to which depreciation (or amortization in lieu of depreciation) is allowable.

“(3) WATER USE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘water use’ means all water taken for use at the site directly from ground and surface water sources together with any water supplied to the site by a regulated water system.

“(B) REGULATED WATER SYSTEM.—The term ‘regulated water system’ means a system that supplies water that has been treated to potable standards.

“(d) TERMINATION.—This section shall not apply to periods after December 31, 2017, under rules similar to the rules of section 48(m) (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990).”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 49(a)(1)(C) is amended by striking “and” at the end of clause (v), by striking the period at the end of clause (vi) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(vii) the basis of any property which is part of a qualifying efficient industrial use water project under section 48E.”.

(2) The table of sections for subpart E of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 48D the following new item:

“Sec. 48E. Qualifying efficient industrial process water use project credit.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to periods after the date of the enactment of this Act, under rules similar to the rules of section

48(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990).

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to join Senators CARDIN and SCHATZ in introducing the Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives Act.

This bill has been drafted cooperatively, and my colleagues have been especially accommodating of changes requested by California’s experts. I thank them for their hard work on this bill.

This legislation revises and extends energy efficiency tax incentives for homes, commercial buildings, and industrial facilities.

The bill continues the effort for energy efficiency improvements that I began with Senator Bob Smith of New Hampshire in 2001. I was proud to pass that legislation with Senator Snowe in 2005.

The Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives Act builds on that law by reforming tax code incentives to implement a performance-based regime in which incentives grow larger as energy efficiency increases.

The policy improvements in this bill were recommended by energy efficiency experts.

This bill establishes energy and water efficiency incentives for commercial buildings and industrial facilities, about which Senator CARDIN and Senator SCHATZ have focused their remarks.

I would like to focus on a different provision in the bill: tax credits for home renovations that will increase energy efficiency of homes by at least 20 percent.

The tax credit would increase in size with every 5 percent of additional energy efficiency improvement achieved.

Homeowners who improve the efficiency of their home by more than 50 percent will qualify for a maximum credit of \$5,000.

In addition to increased energy efficiency, this bill helps address the continued double digit unemployment in the construction sector.

It is clear that we need policies that will help put the construction industry back to work, but with 10 percent of homes still vacant, any stimulation of new-home construction could make the situation worse.

That is why this bill is so creative—it stimulates the construction industry by incentivizing the renovation of existing homes.

This bill creates tax incentives for energy efficiency home renovation based on the energy performance of the home, rather than just the cost of the equipment.

Current policy allows homeowners to claim credits for the purchase of energy efficient insulation, windows, doors, heaters, air conditioners and water heaters. That approach is expensive, costing about \$2 billion per year.

By restructuring the credit to apply to whole-home energy renovations that reward energy efficiency performance, this proposal has the potential to increase effectiveness while substantially lowering the cost to the U.S. Treasury.

This legislation also includes provisions to promote effectiveness and prevent abuse. The contractor carrying out the work must sign an affidavit certifying the work was done, as well as submit photographs of the work. Additionally, the contractor must use certified, computer-based energy efficiency measurement tools.

The credit would be limited to renovations of primary residences that do not increase the size of the home. The credit would be capped at 30 percent of the cost of renovation in order to prevent homeowners from making large claims for relatively inexpensive renovations.

Since it is a tax credit, all claims would be subject to IRS audits.

In addition to incentivizing energy efficiency improvements, the bill also creates an Industrial Process Water Use Project Credit.

This is a technology-neutral, performance-based tax credit for implementing efficiency measures to reduce the use of water in the manufacturing sector.

In a state like California, which frequently faces very dry conditions, rewarding water conservation and efficiency measures is beneficial.

Much like the energy provisions, the bill increases the tax incentives as water savings grow.

The incentive begins with a 10 percent tax credit for implementing efficiency measures that achieve at least 25 percent reduction in water use. The tax credit then increases by 10 percent for each 25 percent additional water savings, with a 30 percent maximum.

This bill is important because it will help incentivize the construction industry to upgrade buildings across the country.

The 113 million homes in America account for 22 percent of the U.S. energy use, according to the Department of Energy. And 4.8 million commercial and 350,000 industrial facilities account for an additional 18 percent.

These buildings also account for 27 percent of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States, according to the Energy Information Administration.

Experts and scientists believe improving energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective ways to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

A recent McKinsey & Co. study concluded that maximizing energy efficiency for homes and commercial buildings could help reduce U.S. energy consumption by 23 percent by 2020.

This is a jobs bill that also rewards energy and water efficiency renovations. It will lead to more jobs in the

construction sector, an increase in energy efficiency, a reduction in pollution, and an expansion of the market for efficient technology and products.

This bill is supported by the Alliance to Save Energy, Efficiency First, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, and the Natural Resource Defense Council.

This sort of investment—putting Americans back to work to upgrade the country's infrastructure—is the type of legislation on which Congress should be spending more time.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the important role that energy efficiency plays in our transition to a clean energy economy, and the importance of supporting energy efficiency efforts with strong Federal policy. Today, Senators CARDIN, FEINSTEIN, and I introduced comprehensive legislation, called the Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives Act of 2014, to reform, improve, and extend crucial tax incentives for energy efficiency. Our legislation focuses on three key sectors: commercial buildings, homes, and industry and manufacturing. My colleagues have spoken ably about the first two already today, and I would like to spend a few moments discussing the third title of this bill.

This bill would create targeted, non-permanent incentives to help the U.S. industrial sector become more globally competitive by employing smart technological improvements to reduce energy use and encourage water reuse.

We have continually seen the eagerness of U.S. industries to innovate and improve the processes by which they produce countless high-quality goods. This set of incentives will help U.S. manufacturers accelerate and expand cutting-edge ideas while also reducing costs.

Industrial and manufacturing facilities have processes specific to each industry and even to each facility. Therefore, industrial efficiency improvements must be focused on these processes, not building retrofits like we see in commercial and residential efficiency measures. My colleagues and I have worked to develop incentives that target energy-intensive processes common to the industrial sector. They include advanced motors, water reuse, combined heat and power and waste heat recovery, thermal biomass, and efficient chillers. I would like to take a few moments to describe the various sections of the industrial efficiency title of the bill.

On average, motors account for over 65 percent of an industrial energy user's electricity use, according to analysis by the International Energy Agency. This bill creates a credit for advanced industrial use motors, including variable speed motors. New advances in power electronics and controls over the past 5 years have advanced the potential for new smart

motor technologies to provide a significant energy savings potential if these new motors are placed widely into service.

According to the National Water Reuse Association, the U.S. currently reuses only 7.3 percent of its water, and there is significant potential for gains in this area. The industrial sector, which is responsible for 62.5 percent of domestic freshwater withdrawals, is an ideal place to introduce transformative water reuse and water saving technologies. The bill would create a technology-neutral, performance-based investment tax credit for reuse, recycling, and/or efficiency measures related to industrial water reuse in the manufacturing sector.

A recent Department of Energy study estimates that achieving the President's goal of 40 gigawatts of Combined Heat and Power, also known as CHP, would save energy users \$10 billion a year compared to current energy use. In 2008, Congress enacted a 10 percent investment tax credit for combined heat and power systems. The bill would expand that credit's applicability, from the first 15 megawatts to the first 25 megawatts of system capacity. The bill would also remove the existing overall system size cap of 50 megawatts, allowing a greater number of combined heat and power projects to be financially viable and move forward. Finally, the bill would create two new tiers of the credit for CHP systems that achieve especially high efficiency levels. By encouraging adoption of CHP and waste heat recovery technologies, this bill is a common-sense set of incentives that will help manufacturers to become more efficient, reduce energy costs, create highly skilled jobs, and ensure the delivery of reliable power.

New technologies have developed recently that can take advantage of low-grade heat sources. Called Waste Heat to Power, these systems can achieve even greater levels of efficiency from industrial and manufacturing applications.

Currently no incentives exist to promote thermal-only biomass use for commercial and industrial applications. Using biomass for thermal applications has numerous advantages over using biomass to produce electricity. Thermal use is significantly more efficient, less polluting, and more appropriately-scaled to biomass resources.

Finally, large water-cooled chillers are the engines of air-conditioning systems for almost all large buildings. This bill would establish a tax credit that incentivizes the replacement of older chillers that still use environmentally harmful CFC refrigerants with chillers that are both more efficient and use fewer harmful chemicals.

Recent years have seen a resurgence in American industry and manufacturing. As we work to get our economy back on track, become more competi-

tive globally, and fight climate change, we should consider robust efficiency incentives for our industrial sector as a crucial tool in achieving those goals.

I would like to commend my colleagues Senator CARDIN and Senator FEINSTEIN for their hard work on this bill. It represents the latest thinking in terms of straightforward, performance-based technology-neutral, non-permanent efficiency incentives. As we aim to improve efficiency in the industrial, commercial building, and residential sectors, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to support this critical bill.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 2191. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak about ObamaCare and what I have long believed is a march to rationing of health care.

The ObamaCare bill and the accompanying regulations now tower over 7 feet—1 foot above where I stand—when stacked together, and they have provision after provision that will deny patients the care they want, the care they need to ensure they get the life-sustaining and lifesaving treatments that are best for them.

These rationing elements in ObamaCare have been documented by a recent report of the National Right to Life Committee's Powell Center for Medical Ethics. This study is entitled "The Affordable Health Care Act and Health Care Access in the United States."

Perhaps most egregious about ObamaCare is that it directly inserts the Federal Government into the personal lives of Americans, their families, and their doctors.

We all know about the individual mandate that coerces people into purchasing a product they may not want by threatening to tax them. And I have often spoken about my personal nemesis in the rationing board that I am going to bring up—the Independent Payment Advisory Board, IPAB. This is a board made up of 18—15 voting and 3 nonvoting—all unelected bureaucrats who will decide what gets to stay and what must go in Medicare coverage. They will decide which treatments and services will be covered and which will not. And there is no accountability whatsoever. It would, in fact, take a two-thirds majority of the U.S. Senate to undo any of their actions. As a result, this board diminishes our constitutional responsibility.

This President has already raided half a trillion dollars from Medicare to

pay for ObamaCare, and then he gave himself the ability to go after even more Medicare dollars without any accountability. This, my friends, is frightening. It is irresponsible. But there is more.

It is conceivable that the Independent Payment Advisory Board won't just limit Medicare access; it will also propose ways for the Federal Government to limit what Americans of all ages are allowed to spend out of their own private money—not taxpayer funds—to save the lives and health of their families.

Shocking but true: ObamaCare tells bureaucrats on the board to make sure we are not even allowed to keep up with medical inflation. Further, it is conceivable that the board will suggest ways for the Federal Government to impose so-called quality and efficiency standards on doctors and hospitals with the purpose of limiting the health care we can get.

So here is the deal: If a doctor dares to give her patient treatment beyond what those standards allow, the doctor will be punished. That doctor will be excluded from all of the health insurance plans qualified under ObamaCare. Unbelievably, under ObamaCare, Washington bureaucrats can dictate one uniform standard of health care that is designed to limit what private citizens are allowed to spend out of their own money to save their own lives.

But the Independent Payment Advisory Board isn't the only rationing provision in the ObamaCare or Affordable Healthcare Act. If only. ObamaCare also has a Cadillac tax for having too much health care coverage. Patients all across America need to know there is a provision of ObamaCare that punishes them and their employer if they provide coverage that is above the arbitrary limits imposed by the Federal Government. This is an additional 40-percent tax on individuals who need more expensive treatments and coverage oftentimes essential to battle life-threatening illnesses. Even worse, these ObamaCare limits were drafted in a way they will never be able to keep up with medical inflation. This means insurance companies will have to cut back even more on patient treatments and services or people will be forced to pay an incredibly higher tax.

What about those individuals who are already suffering from life-threatening illnesses who really need the care? This is why we should pass the legislation I am offering.

Do Americans know that there is a provision in ObamaCare that lets the Federal Government—not them and not their employer—decide if coverage is “excessive or unjustified”? This isn't government-subsidized coverage in the exchanges, nor is it the federally funded Medicare and Medicaid coverage. This is their own and their employees' private money—their money. The Fed-

eral Government is given the authority to decide if the way it is being spent is excessive or unjustified, and they are going to do it through the provision of ObamaCare that allows the Obama administration to review premiums by pressuring private insurance companies to stop offering coverage or face adverse government consequences.

So far we have talked about the private coverage, but there are also similar provisions for seniors' coverage. It wasn't bad enough that the President diverted one-half trillion dollars from Medicare to pay for ObamaCare to begin with, he also granted the Department of Health and Human Services the authority to deny private market-offered coverage for services and treatments that could save your life. Before ObamaCare these private market programs such as the prescription drug program and Medicare Advantage could allow seniors to add their own money to purchase coverage they want and need beyond what the government will pay. ObamaCare allows Washington bureaucrats to deny that choice.

Folks, this isn't how we should be treating our seniors. It isn't how we should be treating people who need access to life-saving treatment and services. This isn't how we should be treating anybody.

That is why today I come to the floor to introduce the Repeal Rationing in Support of Life Act of 2014. My legislation repeals these provisions that allow the Federal Government to intercede on very personal decisions. It repeals the provisions that authorize rationing boards to deny patients the ability to access the care that may save their lives.

This legislation is relatively simple and should be supported by all of my colleagues to address some of the egregious changes from the Affordable Care Act that patients should be aware of but that many don't even know exist. This is down the road. We are trying to stay ahead of the curve. That is why I am introducing this legislation.

This legislation builds upon my Restoring Access to Medication Act. This bill repeals the provision of ObamaCare limiting a patient's right to purchase over-the-counter products with their own money. It is also a continuation of my efforts that I discussed when introducing the Four Rationers Repeal Act many times on this floor. It repeals the Independent Payment Advisory Board. It repeals the euphemistically but misleadingly named Innovation Center. It repeals the changes made to the Preventive Services Task Force and makes sure any comparative effectiveness research is used by the doctor and the patient, not coverage providers or CMS, to determine the best care for patients, not simply try to lower costs.

I really believe that in order to protect this all-important doctor-patient

relationship we need to repeal and most importantly to replace ObamaCare with the real reforms that work for Kansans and all Americans. However, until we can accomplish full repeal we at least need to ensure we are protecting the life-saving care and treatment that Americans need by attacking the elements of ObamaCare that ration care, and passing the Repeal Rationing and Support of Life Act of 2014. I urge my colleagues to support this proposal and take the steps necessary to protect the lives of their constituents.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2193. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to provide increased protection for horses participating in shows, exhibitions, or sales, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill with Senators McConnell, Isakson and Paul that will preserve the Tennessee Walking Horse tradition while stopping the contemptible practice of illegal soring.

The Horse Protection Act Amendments Act of 2014, will preserve the century-old Tennessee Walking Horse tradition and stop the contemptible practice of illegal soring.

This legislation builds upon a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman MARSHA BLACKBURN that has support of 11 other congressmen and the American Farm Bureau. The Tennessee Farm Bureau commented about Congressman BLACKBURN's bill in a letter to me that said her legislation would “allow the vast majority of horse owners, trainers and breeders and those who play by the rules to confidently participate in the horse shows.”

A competing bill, advocated by the Humane Society of the United States, has also been introduced in the Senate and would ban many industry-standard training and show devices. This legislation has been described by the Performance Show Horse Association as legislation that would “do little more than create another layer of bureaucracy at the USDA while denying horse enthusiasts the opportunity” to participate in competitions that are the basis of the Tennessee Walking Horse industry.

The Humane Society Bill goes too far. In baseball, if a player illegally uses steroids, you punish the player—you don't shut down America's national pastime. With Tennessee Walking Horse shows, when trainers, owners or riders illegally sore a horse, we should find a more effective way to punish and stop them—not shut down one of Tennessee's most treasured traditions. The problem with the Humane

Society bill is that it destroys a Tennessee tradition known around the world.

Julius Johnson, Commissioner of Agriculture for Tennessee, said that the Humane Society legislation will, “damage the industry significantly and potentially eliminate the performance horse all together.”

When I first went to Japan in 1979 to recruit Nissan, the Tennessee Walking Horse was one of the things the Japanese knew best about our state. In fact, the emperor had his own Walking Horse because it has an enjoyable gait that makes riding a more pleasurable experience. When the first major supplier of Nissan, Calsonic, came to Shelbyville, the company's gift to Tennessee was Calsonic Arena, where the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is held.

In 2013 the Tennessee Walking Horse tradition included more than 360 affiliated shows, and it featured more than 220,000 registered horses nationwide, including more than 55,000 in Tennessee, according to the Tennessee Walking Horse Association.

Our goal is to find a way to preserve the Tennessee Walking Horse tradition and stop the cruelty to horses. We need a balanced approach, and that is what this bill provides.

This legislation takes four primary steps to preserve the Tennessee Walking Horse tradition while ending the illegal practice of soring. The bill would create consistent oversight by consolidating the numerous “horse industry organizations” that currently handle inspections into one organization overseeing inspections, governed by a board. The board would be composed of appointees by the States of Tennessee and Kentucky, as well as experts in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry.

Next the bill requires the use of objective, scientific testing to determine whether trainers, riders or owners are using soring techniques. Examples of this objective testing include blood samples and swabbing the horse for chemicals used to sore a horse.

Lastly, the legislation would ensure the integrity of horse inspectors by instructing the horse industry organization to establish requirements to prevent conflicts of interest with trainers, breeders and owners involved in showing the Tennessee Walking Horse.

We have proposed three improvements to the legislation introduced in the House. First, the new consolidated horse industry organization would be required to identify and contract with equine veterinary experts to advise the horse industry organization on testing methods and procedures, as well as the certification of test results.

Next the legislation creates a suspension period for horses that are found to be sore. Owners whose horses are found to be sore will have their horses suspended from showing for 30-days for the

first offense, with additional offenses requiring 90-day suspensions. This is on top of existing penalties already in the Horse Protection Act. For a first time offense a person could spend one-year in jail and also pay a \$3000 fine. For a second or future offense a person could spend two-years in jail and also pay a fine of \$5000.

Lastly, the legislation creates four-year term limits for board members of the horse industry organization that would oversee inspections.

We can end the contemptible practice of illegal soring without shutting down the century-old tradition of the Tennessee Walking Horse. I urge my colleagues to carefully consider this legislation and the balanced approach it provides.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2195. A bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has engaged in espionage activities against the United States, poses a threat to United States national security interests, or has engaged in a terrorist activity against the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to an extraordinarily dangerous situation that our country faces under current law, which allows no terrorists to be granted visas to the United States under the cover of being ambassadors to the United Nations.

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hasan Rouhani, has recently announced that Hamid Aboutalebi is his new ambassador to the U.N., which is, of course, headquartered in Manhattan, NY, and a visa application has been duly filed. In most cases—indeed, until now, in all cases—such applications for ambassadors have been granted in accordance with article 13 of the United Nations charter, but Mr. Aboutalebi is a special case, as he was a member of The Muslim Students following the Imam's Line, the group who held 52 Americans hostage in Tehran for 444 days from 1979 to 1981. He protests that his involvement was limited to translation and negotiation, but he was sufficiently involved for the Muslim Students organization, which is still active, to feature to this day his photo on their official Web site celebrating that historic outrage against the United States of America. Now the Obama administration is considering granting this person a visa to come to the United States. I have to wonder—as did CIA Director Stansfield Turner in the movie “Argo”—you don't have a better bad idea than this?

It is unconscionable that in the name of international diplomatic protocol, the United States would be forced to host a foreign national who showed a brutal disregard of the status of diplomats when they were stationed in his

country. This person is an acknowledged terrorist.

In his January 23, 1980, State of the Union Address, then-President Jimmy Carter called the hostages “innocent victims of terrorism” and their captivity an act of “international terrorism.” I do not believe that anyone—beyond perhaps the Supreme Leader in Tehran—has debated President Carter's characterization since then, nor do I think I have ever agreed more emphatically with President Carter.

It is therefore necessary to amend the statute that currently gives the President the discretion to reject an applicant on the ground that he or she, as it currently states, has engaged in espionage against the United States and poses a national security threat.

The legislation I am introducing, S. 2195, will require the President to deny a U.N.-related applicant a visa if the President determines the applicant has engaged in terrorist activity against the United States, has engaged in espionage against the United States, or poses a national security threat to the United States.

I will note that I very much appreciated the kind comments and the impassioned support for this legislation from the senior Senator from South Carolina.

This legislation speaks to the larger issue of whom we have to let into this country. How would we feel, for example, if the Taliban had sent Osama bin Laden to be an ambassador to the United Nations from Afghanistan or how would we feel if some other country sent an ambassador who was complicit in the terrorist attack that murdered 220 marines, 18 sailors, and 3 soldiers in Beirut in 1983 or how would we feel if another country sent as an ambassador someone who was complicit in the terrorist attack on Khobar Towers that murdered 19 airmen in 1996, to name but a few potential examples? None of these examples would necessarily meet the current statutory requirement of having engaged in espionage. They murdered or kidnapped or tortured innocent Americans, but they didn't necessarily engage in a specific act of espionage. But all unequivocally should be excluded. This legislation would ensure that such people can never use the United Nations to gain entry into the United States.

I had intended this afternoon to ask the Senate for unanimous consent to pass this legislation to change the standard so that we could exclude a known terrorist from entry into this country. However, I am pleased to report that I have been told there is a real possibility of bipartisan cooperation on this—a real possibility that both sides of the aisle will work together to expeditiously change this law so we can keep this known terrorist out of the United States. I am encouraged by that possibility of cooperation.

I hope it comes to fruition. And I hope this week we see the Senate act in a bipartisan way and in a unanimous way to change this law to exclude this known terrorist.

I wish to make a broader point. This nomination is willfully, deliberately insulting and contemptuous. It is not an accident that Rouhani picked a known terrorist who held Americans hostage to send to our country. I would suggest that this action should serve as a wake-up call that the regime in Tehran is directed by the same policies that resulted in the hostage crisis in the first place.

There has been considerable optimism expressed by the Obama administration in the months following the election of President Rouhani that Iran is somehow softening its position toward the West, that Rouhani is somehow a moderate and is acting as a good-faith partner in its negotiations over its nuclear program. This nomination should dispel those illusions. And the professed optimism of this administration flies in the face of reason.

On the eve of the first round of these talks in November, the Revolutionary Guard transferred American pastor Saeed Abedini, unjustly incarcerated simply for professing his Christian faith, from the Evan Prison to the even more brutal Rajai Shahr Prison, carefully selecting the date of that transfer to be the anniversary of the hostage crisis—what they call “Death to America” day in Iran.

After the joint plan of action was agreed to in late November, which one of our closest allies has rightly assessed as a “very, very bad deal”—a historic mistake—President Rouhani triumphantly tweeted—in English, no less—that in the Geneva agreement, “world powers had surrendered to Iran’s will.” These are hardly the words of a friend.

Last February the Iranian Government released a statement declaring that the Nation of Israel is “a cancerous tumor that must be removed.” These are not the words of a rational negotiating partner.

The choice of Mr. Aboutalebi for ambassador to the United Nations once again demonstrates that the same militant hatred of America that has dominated Iran’s foreign policy since the revolution continues to flourish unabated. Indeed, there is a reason Iran refers to Israel as the “Little Satan” and America as the “Great Satan.”

It is astonishing, it is dismaying, it is dangerous that the administration continues to engage in these talks given the clear and consistent message of hostility coming out of Tehran.

The legislation I am introducing will take the first step by establishing that there are no circumstances under which the perpetrators of the hostage crisis—those who have committed overt acts of war against America—will

be welcomed into the United States. This action should be followed by the President suspending the Geneva negotiations unless and until Iran not only ceases this behavior but also ceases all enrichment activities and dismantles their nuclear program in its entirety. Then and only then should there be meaningful dialogue between our two countries.

In 1979 our citizens had to wait more than a year—during which they were tortured by their captors—before they were finally released on January 20, 1981—not coincidentally on the very day on which Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as President.

I am encouraged at the prospect of bipartisan cooperation so that we can stand together as a unanimous Senate against allowing a known terrorist into the United States who has participated in acts of war against our Nation. We should not extend the ordeal of those hostages even further by tolerating this most recent outrage on the part of Iran.

One of the former hostages, Barry Rosen, called the possibility that the United States might grant the visa application a “disgrace,” and he said, “It may be [setting] a precedent but if the President and Congress don’t condemn this act by the Islamic Republic, then our captivity and suffering at the hands of Iran was for nothing.”

I believe it is well worth setting a precedent to show the world that whatever smiling mask is on the other side of the table in Geneva, the true face of Tehran remains the terrorist who took our people hostage 35 years ago, whom they are now attempting to send to America under the auspices of being an ambassador. Instead, I believe we should stand together in saying that a known terrorist who has carried out acts of war against America will, in Mr. Rosen’s words, “never set foot on American soil.” I hope we can stand together behind this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 408—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL AS “PARKINSON’S AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. JOHANNES, and Ms. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 408

Whereas Parkinson’s disease is a chronic, progressive, and neurological disease and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States;

Whereas there is inadequate data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson’s disease, but the disease affects an estimated 500,000 to 1,500,000 individuals in the United States and the prevalence of such disease is estimated to more than double by 2040;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parkinson’s disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States and the age-adjusted death rate for individuals with Parkinson’s disease increased 2.9 percent from 2010 to 2011;

Whereas every day, Parkinson’s disease greatly impacts millions of individuals in the United States who are caregivers, family members, and friends of individuals with Parkinson’s disease;

Whereas the economic burden of Parkinson’s disease is an estimated \$14,400,000,000 each year, including indirect costs to patients and family members of \$6,300,000,000 each year;

Whereas although research suggests that the cause of Parkinson’s disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and the exact progression of the disease remain unknown;

Whereas an objective test or biomarker for diagnosing Parkinson’s disease does not exist, and the rate of misdiagnosis for the disease is high;

Whereas the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease vary from person to person and include tremors, slowness of movement, rigidity, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, and speaking, cognitive impairment, dementia, mood disorders (such as depression and anxiety), constipation, skin complications, and sleep difficulties;

Whereas a cure, therapy, or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson’s disease does not exist;

Whereas medications mask some symptoms of Parkinson’s disease for a limited amount of time each day, often with dose-limiting side effects, and such medications ultimately lose effectiveness, leaving the patient unable to move, speak, or swallow; and

Whereas developing more effective treatments for Parkinson’s disease with fewer side effects and ultimately finding a cure for the disease require increased education and research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April as “Parkinson’s Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of “Parkinson’s Awareness Month”;

(3) continues to support research to develop more effective treatments for Parkinson’s disease and to ultimately find a cure for the disease; and

(4) commends the dedication of State, local, regional, and national organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals in the United States working to improve the quality of life for individuals with Parkinson’s disease and the families of such individuals.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2885. Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2886. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2887. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2888. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2889. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2890. Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2149, to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2891. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2892. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2893. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2894. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2895. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2896. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2897. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2898. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2899. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2900. Mr. COATS (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be pro-

posed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2901. Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2902. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2903. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2904. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2905. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2906. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2907. Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2908. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2909. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2910. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2911. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2912. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2913. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2914. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2915. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2916. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2917. Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. HATCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2918. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2922 submitted by Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2919. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2922 submitted by Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2920. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2921. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2922. Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2923. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2924. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2925. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2926. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2927. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2928. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2929. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2930. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2931. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2932. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2933. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2934. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2935. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2936. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2937. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2938. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2939. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2940. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2941. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2942. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2943. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2944. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2945. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2946. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2947. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2948. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2949. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2950. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2951. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2952. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2953. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2954. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2955. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2956. Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 371, honoring the legacy and accomplishments of Jan Karski on the centennial of his birth.

SA 2957. Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 371, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2885. Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CREATE A TAX OR FEE ON CARBON EMISSIONS.

(a) **POINT OF ORDER.**—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, or conference report that includes a Federal tax or fee imposed on carbon emissions from any product or entity that is a direct or indirect source of the emissions.

(b) **WAIVER AND APPEAL.**—

(1) **WAIVER.**—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) **APPEAL.**—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

SA 2886. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.

(a) **FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS.**—Paragraph (2)(E) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “by 120” and inserting “by 174”.

(b) **FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.**—Paragraph (4)(A) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “30 hours” and inserting “40 hours”.

SA 2887. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITING FEDERAL PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION WITH RESPECT TO COSTS FOR OFFICE FURNISHINGS AND MURALS, PORTRAITS, AND OTHER ARTWORK.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 302 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 501) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) No portion of the cost of office furnishings or murals, portraits, or other artwork shall be treated as being a cost for the proper and efficient administration of the State unemployment compensation law.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to costs incurred on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2888. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT OF BENEFITS BASED ON RECEIPT OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 224 the following new section:

“PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT OF BENEFITS BASED ON RECEIPT OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

“SEC. 224A. (a) If for any month prior to the month in which an individual attains retirement age (as defined in section 216(l)(1))—

“(1) such individual is entitled to benefits under section 223, and

“(2) such individual is entitled for such month to unemployment compensation, the total of the individual's benefits under section 223 for such month and of any benefits under subsections (b) through (h) of section 202 for such month based on the individual's wages and self-employment income shall be reduced to zero.

“(b)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of any Federal agency shall provide such information within its possession as the Commissioner may require for purposes of making a timely determination under this section for reduction of benefits payable under this title, or verifying other information necessary in carrying out the provisions of this section.

“(2) The Commissioner is authorized to enter into agreements with States, political subdivisions, and other organizations that administer unemployment compensation, in order to obtain such information as the Commissioner may require to carry out the provisions of this section.

“(3) Any determination by the Commissioner pursuant to this section shall be subject to the requirements described in section 205(b)(1), including provision of reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing.

“(c) For purposes of this section, the term ‘unemployment compensation’ has the meaning given that term in section 85(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to benefits payable for months beginning after 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2889. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE ____—SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS

SEC. ____01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act” or the “SKILLS Act”.

SEC. ____02. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the amendment or repeal shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

SEC. ____03. APPLICATION TO FISCAL YEARS.

Except as otherwise provided, this title and the amendments made by this title shall

apply with respect to fiscal year 2015 and succeeding fiscal years.

Subtitle A—Amendments to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998

CHAPTER 1—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DEFINITIONS

SEC. ____06. DEFINITIONS.

Section 101 (29 U.S.C. 2801) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.—The term ‘adult education and family literacy education activities’ has the meaning given the term in section 203.”;

(2) by striking paragraphs (13) and (24);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (12) as paragraphs (3) through (14), and paragraphs (14) through (23) as paragraphs (15) through (24), respectively;

(4) by striking paragraphs (52) and (53);

(5) by inserting after “In this title:” the following new paragraphs:

“(1) ACCRUED EXPENDITURES.—The term ‘accrued expenditures’ means—

“(A) charges incurred by recipients of funds under this title for a given period requiring the provision of funds for goods or other tangible property received;

“(B) charges incurred for services performed by employees, contractors, subgrantees, subcontractors, and other payees; and

“(C) other amounts becoming owed, under programs assisted under this title, for which no current services or performance is required, such as amounts for annuities, insurance claims, and other benefit payments.

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The term ‘administrative costs’ means expenditures incurred by State boards and local boards, direct recipients (including State grant recipients under subtitle B and recipients of awards under subtitles C and D), local grant recipients, local fiscal agents or local grant subrecipients, and one-stop operators in the performance of administrative functions and in carrying out activities under this title that are not related to the direct provision of workforce investment activities (including services to participants and employers). Such costs include both personnel and non-personnel expenditures and both direct and indirect expenditures.”;

(6) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “Except in sections 127 and 132, the” and inserting “The”;

(7) by amending paragraph (5) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

“(5) AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.—The term ‘area career and technical education school’ has the meaning given the term in section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3)).”;

(8) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by inserting “(or such other level as the Governor may establish)” after “8th grade level”;

(9) in paragraph (10)(C) (as so redesignated), by striking “not less than 50 percent of the cost of the training” and inserting “a significant portion of the cost of training, as determined by the local board involved (or, in the case of an employer in multiple local areas in the State, as determined by the Governor), taking into account the size of the employer and such other factors as the local board or Governor, respectively, determines to be appropriate”;

(10) in paragraph (11) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II), by striking “section 134(c)” and inserting “section 121(e)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)(iii)—

(i) by striking “134(d)(4)” and inserting “134(c)(4)”; and

(ii) by striking “intensive services described in section 134(d)(3)” and inserting “work ready services described in section 134(c)(2)”;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(D) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(E)(i) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days (as defined in section 101(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code) who has experienced a loss of employment as a direct result of relocation to accommodate a permanent change in duty station of such member; or

“(ii) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code) who meets the criteria described in paragraph (12)(B).”;

(11) in paragraph (12)(A) (as redesignated)—

(A) by striking “and” after the semicolon and inserting “or”;

(B) by striking “(A)” and inserting “(A)(i)”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days (as defined in section 101(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code) whose family income is significantly reduced because of a deployment (as defined in section 991(b) of title 10, United States Code, or pursuant to paragraph (4) of such section), a call or order to active duty pursuant to a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code, a permanent change of station, or the service-connected (as defined in section 101(16) of title 38, United States Code) death or disability of the member; and”;

(12) in paragraph (13) (as so redesignated), by inserting “or regional” after “local” each place it appears;

(13) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “section 122(e)(3)” and inserting “section 122”;

(B) by striking subparagraph (B), and inserting the following:

“(B) work ready services, means a provider who is identified or awarded a contract as described in section 117(d)(5)(C); or”;

(C) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C);

(14) in paragraph (15) (as so redesignated), by striking “adult or dislocated worker” and inserting “individual”;

(15) in paragraph (20), by striking “The” and inserting “Subject to section 116(a)(1)(E), the”;

(16) in paragraph (25)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “higher of—” and all that follows through clause (ii) and inserting “poverty line for an equivalent period;”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (F) as subparagraphs (E) through (G), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);”;

(17) in paragraph (32), by striking “the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia,”;

(18) by amending paragraph (33) to read as follows:

“(33) OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.—The term ‘out-of-school youth’ means—

“(A) an at-risk youth who is a school dropout; or

“(B) an at-risk youth who has received a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent but is basic skills deficient, unemployed, or underemployed.”;

(19) in paragraph (38), by striking “134(a)(1)(A)” and inserting “134(a)(1)(B)”;

(20) in paragraph (41), by striking “, and the term means such Secretary for purposes of section 503”;

(21) in paragraph (43), by striking “clause (iii) or (v) of section 136(b)(3)(A)” and inserting “section 136(b)(3)(A)(iii)”;

(22) by amending paragraph (49) to read as follows:

“(49) VETERAN.—The term ‘veteran’ has the same meaning given the term in section 2108(1) of title 5, United States Code.”;

(23) by amending paragraph (50) to read as follows:

“(50) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The term ‘career and technical education’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).”;

(24) in paragraph (51), by striking “, and a youth activity”; and

(25) by adding at the end the following:

“(52) AT-RISK YOUTH.—Except as provided in subtitle C, the term ‘at-risk youth’ means an individual who—

“(A) is not less than age 16 and not more than age 24;

“(B) is a low-income individual; and

“(C) is an individual who is one or more of the following:

“(i) A secondary school dropout.

“(ii) A youth in foster care (including youth aging out of foster care).

“(iii) A youth offender.

“(iv) A youth who is an individual with a disability.

“(v) A migrant youth.

“(53) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ means a partnership of—

“(A) a State board or local board; and

“(B) one or more industry or sector organizations, and other entities, that have the capability to help the State board or local board determine the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries or sectors and other occupations important to the State or local economy, respectively.

“(54) INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL.—The term ‘industry-recognized credential’ means a credential that is sought or accepted by companies within the industry sector involved, across multiple States, as recognized, preferred, or required for recruitment, screening, or hiring and is awarded for completion of a program listed or identified under subsection (d) or (i) of section 122, for the local area involved.

“(55) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGY.—The term ‘pay-for-performance contract strategy’ means a strategy in which a pay-for-performance contract to provide a program of employment and training activities incorporates provisions regarding—

“(A) the core indicators of performance described in subclauses (I) through (IV) and (VI) of section 136(b)(2)(A)(i);

“(B) a fixed amount that will be paid to an eligible provider of such employment and training activities for each program participant who, within a defined timetable, achieves the agreed-to levels of performance based upon the core indicators of performance described in subparagraph (A), and may

include a bonus payment to such provider, which may be used to expand the capacity of such provider;

“(C) the ability for an eligible provider to recoup the costs of providing the activities for a program participant who has not achieved those levels, but for whom the provider is able to demonstrate that such participant gained specific competencies required for education and career advancement that are, where feasible, tied to industry-recognized credentials and related standards, or State licensing requirements; and

“(D) the ability for an eligible provider that does not meet the requirements under section 122(a)(2) to participate in such pay-for-performance contract and to not be required to report on the performance and cost information required under section 122(d).

“(56) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.—The term ‘recognized postsecondary credential’ means a credential awarded by a provider of training services or postsecondary educational institution based on completion of all requirements for a program of study, including coursework or tests or other performance evaluations. The term means an industry-recognized credential, a certificate of completion of a registered apprenticeship program, or an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution described in section 122(a)(2)(A)(i).

“(57) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term ‘registered apprenticeship program’ means a program described in section 122(a)(2)(B).”.

CHAPTER 2—STATEWIDE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS

SEC. 11. PURPOSE.

Section 106 (29 U.S.C. 2811) is amended by adding at the end the following: “It is also the purpose of this subtitle to provide workforce investment activities in a manner that enhances employer engagement, promotes customer choices in the selection of training services, and ensures accountability in the use of taxpayer funds.”.

SEC. 12. STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

Section 111 (29 U.S.C. 2821) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (B);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B); and

(iii) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated)—

(I) by amending clause (i)(I), by striking “section 117(b)(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “section 117(b)(2)(A)”;

(II) by amending clause (i)(II) to read as follows:

“(II) represent businesses, including large and small businesses, each of which has immediate and long-term employment opportunities in an in-demand industry or other occupation important to the State economy; and”;

(III) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) a State agency official responsible for economic development; and”;

(IV) by striking clauses (iv) through (vi);

(V) by amending clause (vii) to read as follows:

“(vii) such other representatives and State agency officials as the Governor may designate, including—

“(I) members of the State legislature;

“(II) representatives of individuals and organizations that have experience with respect to youth activities;

“(III) representatives of individuals and organizations that have experience and exper-

tise in the delivery of workforce investment activities, including chief executive officers of community colleges and community-based organizations within the State;

“(IV) representatives of the lead State agency officials with responsibility for the programs and activities that are described in section 121(b) and carried out by one-stop partners; or

“(V) representatives of veterans service organizations.”; and

(VI) by redesignating clause (vii) (as so amended) as clause (iv); and

(B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) MAJORITY.—A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the members of the board shall be representatives described in paragraph (1)(B)(i).”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “(b)(1)(C)(i)” and inserting “(b)(1)(B)(i)”;

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) FUNCTIONS.—The State board shall assist the Governor of the State as follows:

“(1) STATE PLAN.—Consistent with section 112, the State board shall develop a State plan.

“(2) STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.—The State board shall review and develop statewide policies and programs in the State in a manner that supports a comprehensive statewide workforce development system that will result in meeting the workforce needs of the State and its local areas. Such review shall include determining whether the State should consolidate additional amounts for additional activities or programs into the Workforce Investment Fund in accordance with section 501(e).

“(3) WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The State board shall develop a statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(e)), which may include using information collected under Federal law other than this Act by the State economic development entity or a related entity in developing such system.

“(4) EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT.—The State board shall develop strategies, across local areas, that meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the State by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers.

“(5) DESIGNATION OF LOCAL AREAS.—The State board shall designate local areas as required under section 116.

“(6) ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.—The State board shall identify and disseminate information on best practices for effective operation of one-stop centers, including use of innovative business outreach, partnerships, and service delivery strategies.

“(7) PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.—The State board shall conduct the following program oversight:

“(A) Reviewing and approving local plans under section 118.

“(B) Ensuring the appropriate use and management of the funds provided for State employment and training activities authorized under section 134.

“(C) Preparing an annual report to the Secretary described in section 136(d).

“(8) DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The State board shall develop and ensure continuous improvement of comprehensive State performance measures, including State adjusted levels of performance, as described under section 136(b).”;

(4) by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e);

(5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by inserting “or participate in any action taken” after “vote”;

(6) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so redesignated), the following:

“(f) STAFF.—The State board may employ staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in subsection (d).”; and

(7) in subsection (g), by inserting “electronic means and” after “on a regular basis through”.

SEC. 13. STATE PLAN.

Section 112 (29 U.S.C. 2822)—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “127 or”; and

(B) by striking “5-year strategy” and inserting “3-year strategy”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) information describing—

“(A) the economic conditions in the State;

“(B) the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the State economy;

“(C) the knowledge and skills of the workforce in the State; and

“(D) workforce development activities (including education and training) in the State.”;

(B) by amending paragraph (7) to read as follows:

“(7) a description of the State criteria for determining the eligibility of training services providers in accordance with section 122, including how the State will take into account the performance of providers and whether the training services relate to in-demand industries and other occupations important to the State economy.”;

(C) by amending paragraph (8) to read as follows:

“(8)(A) a description of the procedures that will be taken by the State to assure coordination of, and avoid duplication among, the programs and activities identified under section 501(b)(2); and

“(B) a description of and an assurance regarding common data collection and reporting processes used for the programs and activities described in subparagraph (A), which are carried out by one-stop partners, including—

“(i) an assurance that such processes use quarterly wage records for performance measures described in section 136(b)(2)(A) that are applicable to such programs or activities; or

“(ii) if such wage records are not being used for the performance measures, an identification of the barriers to using such wage records and a description of how the State will address such barriers within 1 year of the approval of the plan.”;

(D) in paragraph (9), by striking “, including comment by representatives of businesses and representatives of labor organizations.”;

(E) in paragraph (11), by striking “under sections 127 and 132” and inserting “under section 132”;

(F) by striking paragraph (12);

(G) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through (18) as paragraphs (12) through (17), respectively;

(H) in paragraph (12) (as so redesignated), by striking “111(f)” and inserting “111(e)”;

(I) in paragraph (13) (as so redesignated), by striking “134(c)” and inserting “121(e)”;

(J) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated), by striking “116(a)(5)” and inserting “116(a)(3)”;

(K) in paragraph (16) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “to dislocated workers”; and

(bb) by inserting “and additional assistance” after “rapid response activities”;

(II) in clause (iii), by striking “134(d)(4)” and inserting “134(c)(4)”;

(III) by striking “and” at the end of clause (iii);

(IV) by amending clause (iv) to read as follows:

“(iv) how the State will serve the employment and training needs of dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), low-income individuals (including recipients of public assistance such as supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)), long-term unemployed individuals (including individuals who have exhausted entitlement to Federal and State unemployment compensation), English learners, homeless individuals, individuals training for nontraditional employment, youth (including out-of-school youth and at-risk youth), older workers, ex-offenders, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, refugees and entrants, veterans (including disabled and homeless veterans), and Native Americans; and”;

(V) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(v) how the State will—

“(I) consistent with section 188 and Executive Order No. 13217 (42 U.S.C. 12131 note), serve the employment and training needs of individuals with disabilities; and

“(II) consistent with sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794, 794d), include the provision of outreach, intake, assessments, and service delivery, the development of performance measures, the training of staff, and other aspects of accessibility for individuals with disabilities to programs and services under this subtitle.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “to the extent practicable” and inserting “in accordance with the requirements of the Jobs for Veterans Act (Public Law 107-288) and the amendments made by such Act”;

(L) by striking paragraph (17) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

“(17) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the State—

“(A) to more fully engage employers, including small businesses and employers in in-demand industries and occupations important to the State economy;

“(B) to meet the needs of employers in the State; and

“(C) to better coordinate workforce development programs with economic development activities;

“(18) a description of how the State board will convene (or help to convene) industry or sector partnerships that lead to collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across a targeted cluster of multiple firms for a range of workers employed or potentially employed by the industry or sector—

“(A) to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement in the industry or sector;

“(B) to address the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the State economy; and

“(C) to address critical skill gaps within and across industries and sectors;

“(19) a description of how the State will utilize technology, to facilitate access to

services in remote areas, which may be used throughout the State;

“(20) a description of the State strategy and assistance to be provided by the State for encouraging regional cooperation within the State and across State borders, as appropriate;

“(21) a description of the actions that will be taken by the State to foster communication, coordination, and partnerships with nonprofit organizations (including public libraries, community, faith-based, and philanthropic organizations) that provide employment-related, training, and complementary services, to enhance the quality and comprehensiveness of services available to participants under this title;

“(22) a description of the process and methodology for determining—

“(A) one-stop partner program contributions for the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers under section 121(h)(1); and

“(B) the formula for allocating such infrastructure funds to local areas under section 121(h)(3);

“(23) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, credentials (including recognized postsecondary credentials), such as industry-recognized credentials, and employment experience to succeed in the labor market, including—

“(A) training and internships in in-demand industries or occupations important to the State and local economy;

“(B) dropout recovery activities that are designed to lead to the attainment of a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or other State-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities); and

“(C) activities combining remediation of academic skills, work readiness training, and work experience, and including linkages to postsecondary education and training and career-ladder employment; and

“(24) a description of—

“(A) how the State will furnish employment, training, including training in advanced manufacturing, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans;

“(B) the strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist in and expedite reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force; and

“(C) the veterans population to be served in the State.”;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “period, that—” and all that follows through paragraph (2) and inserting “period, that the plan is inconsistent with the provisions of this title.”; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking “5-year” and inserting “3-year”.

SEC. 14. LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS.

Section 116 (29 U.S.C. 2831) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) PROCESS.—In order to receive an allotment under section 132, a State, through the State board, shall establish a process to designate local workforce investment areas within the State. Such process shall—

“(i) support the statewide workforce development system developed under section 111(d)(2), enabling the system to meet the workforce needs of the State and its local areas;

“(ii) include consultation, prior to the designation, with chief elected officials;

“(iii) include consideration of comments received on the designation through the public comment process as described in section 112(b)(9); and

“(iv) require the submission of an application for approval under subparagraph (B).

“(B) APPLICATION.—To obtain designation of a local area under this paragraph, a local or regional board (or consortia of local or regional boards) seeking to take responsibility for the area under this Act shall submit an application to a State board at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State board may require, including—

“(i) a description of the local area, including the population that will be served by the local area, and the education and training needs of its employers and workers;

“(ii) a description of how the local area is consistent or aligned with—

“(I) service delivery areas (as determined by the State);

“(II) labor market areas; and

“(III) economic development regions;

“(iii) a description of the eligible providers of education and training, including postsecondary educational institutions such as community colleges, located in the local area and available to meet the needs of the local workforce;

“(iv) a description of the distance that individuals will need to travel to receive services provided in such local area; and

“(v) any other criteria that the State board may require.

“(C) PRIORITY.—In designating local areas under this paragraph, a State board shall give priority consideration to an area proposed by an applicant demonstrating that a designation as a local area under this paragraph will result in the reduction of overlapping service delivery areas, local market areas, or economic development regions.

“(D) ALIGNMENT WITH LOCAL PLAN.—A State may designate an area proposed by an applicant as a local area under this paragraph for a period not to exceed 3 years.

“(E) REFERENCES.—For purposes of this Act, a reference to a local area—

“(i) used with respect to a geographic area, refers to an area designated under this paragraph; and

“(ii) used with respect to an entity, refers to the applicant.”;

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall, if requested by the Governor of a State, provide the State with technical assistance in making the determinations required under paragraph (1). The Secretary shall not issue regulations governing determinations to be made under paragraph (1).”;

(C) by striking paragraph (3);

(D) by striking paragraph (4);

(E) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3); and

(F) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “(2) or (3)” both places it appears and inserting “(1)”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) SINGLE STATES.—Consistent with subsection (a), the State board of a State may designate the State as a single State local area for the purposes of this title.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: “The State may require the local boards for the designated region to prepare a single regional plan that incorporates

the elements of the local plan under section 118 and that is submitted and approved in lieu of separate local plans under such section.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “employment statistics” and inserting “workforce and labor market information”.

SEC. 15. LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

Section 117 (29 U.S.C. 2832) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “include—” and all that follows through “representatives” and inserting “include representatives”;

(II) by striking clauses (ii) through (vi);

(III) by redesignating subclauses (I) through (III) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively (and by moving the margins of such clauses 2 ems to the left);

(IV) by striking clause (ii) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

“(ii) represent businesses, including large and small businesses, each of which has immediate and long-term employment opportunities in an in-demand industry or other occupation important to the local economy; and”;

(V) by striking the semicolon at the end of clause (iii) (as so redesignated) and inserting “; and”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) may include such other individuals or representatives of entities as the chief elected official in the local area may determine to be appropriate, including—

“(i) the superintendent or other employee of the local educational agency who has primary responsibility for secondary education, the presidents or chief executive officers of postsecondary educational institutions (including a community college, where such an entity exists), or administrators of local entities providing adult education and family literacy education activities;

“(ii) representatives of community-based organizations (including organizations representing individuals with disabilities and veterans, for a local area in which such organizations are present); or

“(iii) representatives of veterans service organizations.”;

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “A majority” and inserting “A ¾ majority”;

(ii) by striking “(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “(2)(A)”;

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “(2)(A)”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (C); and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by striking “paragraphs (1) through (7)” and inserting “paragraphs (1) through (8)”;

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL BOARD.—The functions of the local board shall include the following:

“(1) LOCAL PLAN.—Consistent with section 118, each local board, in partnership with the chief elected official for the local area involved, shall develop and submit a local plan to the Governor.

“(2) WORKFORCE RESEARCH AND REGIONAL LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The local board shall—

“(i) conduct, and regularly update, an analysis of—

“(I) the economic conditions in the local area;

“(II) the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries and other occupations important to the local economy;

“(III) the knowledge and skills of the workforce in the local area; and

“(IV) workforce development activities (including education and training) in the local area; and

“(ii) assist the Governor in developing the statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491–2(e)).

“(B) EXISTING ANALYSIS.—In carrying out requirements of subparagraph (A)(i), a local board shall use an existing analysis, if any, by the local economic development entity or related entity.

“(3) EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT.—The local board shall meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the local area by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers.

“(4) BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) BUDGET.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The local board shall develop a budget for the activities of the local board in the local area, consistent with the requirements of this subsection.

“(ii) TRAINING RESERVATION.—In developing a budget under clause (i), the local board shall reserve a percentage of funds to carry out the activities specified in section 134(c)(4). The local board shall use the analysis conducted under paragraph (2)(A)(i) to determine the appropriate percentage of funds to reserve under this clause.

“(B) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(i) GRANT RECIPIENT.—The chief elected official in a local area shall serve as the local grant recipient for, and shall be liable for any misuse of, the grant funds allocated to the local area under section 133, unless the chief elected official reaches an agreement with the Governor for the Governor to act as the local grant recipient and bear such liability.

“(ii) DESIGNATION.—In order to assist in administration of the grant funds, the chief elected official or the Governor, where the Governor serves as the local grant recipient for a local area, may designate an entity to serve as a local grant subrecipient for such funds or as a local fiscal agent. Such designation shall not relieve the chief elected official or the Governor of the liability for any misuse of grant funds as described in clause (i).

“(iii) DISBURSAL.—The local grant recipient or an entity designated under clause (ii) shall disburse the grant funds for workforce investment activities at the direction of the local board, pursuant to the requirements of this title. The local grant recipient or entity designated under clause (ii) shall disburse the funds immediately on receiving such direction from the local board.

“(C) STAFF.—The local board may employ staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in this subsection.

“(D) GRANTS AND DONATIONS.—The local board may solicit and accept grants and donations from sources other than Federal funds made available under this Act.

“(5) SELECTION OF OPERATORS AND PROVIDERS.—

“(A) SELECTION OF ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—Consistent with section 121(d), the local board, with the agreement of the chief elected official—

“(i) shall designate or certify one-stop operators as described in section 121(d)(2)(A); and

“(ii) may terminate for cause the eligibility of such operators.

“(B) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE TRAINING SERVICE PROVIDERS.—Consistent with this subtitle, the local board shall identify eligible providers of training services described in section 134(c)(4) in the local area, annually review the outcomes of such eligible providers using the criteria under section 122(b)(2), and designate such eligible providers in the local area who have demonstrated the highest level of success with respect to such criteria as priority eligible providers for the program year following the review.

“(C) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF WORK READY SERVICES.—If the one-stop operator does not provide the services described in section 134(c)(2) in the local area, the local board shall identify eligible providers of such services in the local area by awarding contracts.

“(6) PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.—The local board, in partnership with the chief elected official, shall be responsible for—

“(A) ensuring the appropriate use and management of the funds provided for local employment and training activities authorized under section 134(b); and

“(B) conducting oversight of the one-stop delivery system, in the local area, authorized under section 121.

“(7) NEGOTIATION OF LOCAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall negotiate and reach agreement on local performance measures as described in section 136(c).

“(8) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—The local board shall develop strategies for technology improvements to facilitate access to services authorized under this subtitle and carried out in the local area, including access in remote areas.”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by inserting “electronic means and” after “regular basis through”; and

(B) by striking “and the award of grants or contracts to eligible providers of youth activities.”;

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “section 134(d)(4)” and inserting “section 134(c)(4)”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) WORK READY SERVICES; DESIGNATION OR CERTIFICATION AS ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—A local board may provide work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) through a one-stop delivery system described in section 121 or be designated or certified as a one-stop operator only with the agreement of the chief elected official and the Governor.”;

(6) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “or participate in any action taken” after “vote”; and

(7) by striking subsections (h) and (i).

SEC. 16. LOCAL PLAN.

Section 118 (29 U.S.C. 2833) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “5-year” and inserting “3-year”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) CONTENTS.—The local plan shall include—

“(1) a description of the analysis of the local area’s economic and workforce conditions conducted under subclauses (I) through (IV) of section 117(d)(2)(A)(i), and an assurance that the local board will use such analysis to carry out the activities under this subtitle;

“(2) a description of the one-stop delivery system in the local area, including—

“(A) a description of how the local board will ensure—

“(i) the continuous improvement of eligible providers of services through the system; and

“(ii) that such providers meet the employment needs of local businesses and participants; and

“(B) a description of how the local board will facilitate access to services described in section 117(d)(8) and provided through the one-stop delivery system consistent with section 117(d)(8);

“(3) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area—

“(A) to more fully engage employers, including small businesses and employers in in-demand industries and occupations important to the local economy;

“(B) to meet the needs of employers in the local area;

“(C) to better coordinate workforce development programs with economic development activities; and

“(D) to better coordinate workforce development programs with employment, training, and literacy services carried out by non-profit organizations, including public libraries, as appropriate;

“(4) a description of how the local board will convene (or help to convene) industry or sector partnerships that lead to collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across multiple firms for a range of workers employed or potentially employed by a targeted industry or sector—

“(A) to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement in the targeted industry or sector;

“(B) to address the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the local economy; and

“(C) to address critical skill gaps within and across industries and sectors;

“(5) a description of how the funds reserved under section 117(d)(4)(A)(ii) will be used to carry out activities described in section 134(c)(4);

“(6) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with statewide workforce investment activities, as appropriate;

“(7) a description of how the local area will—

“(A) coordinate activities with the local area’s disability community, and with transition services (as defined under section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401)) provided under that Act by local educational agencies serving such local area, to make available comprehensive, high-quality services to individuals with disabilities;

“(B) consistent with section 188 and Executive Order No. 13217 (42 U.S.C. 12131 note), serve the employment and training needs of individuals with disabilities, with a focus on employment that fosters independence and integration into the workplace; and

“(C) consistent with sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794, 794d), include the provision of outreach, intake, assessments, and service delivery, the development of performance measures, the training of staff, and other aspects of accessibility for individuals with disabilities to programs and services under this subtitle;

“(8) a description of the local levels of performance negotiated with the Governor and chief elected official pursuant to section 136(c), to be—

“(A) used to measure the performance of the local area; and

“(B) used by the local board for measuring performance of the local fiscal agent (where appropriate), eligible providers, and the one-stop delivery system, in the local area;

“(9) a description of the process used by the local board, consistent with subsection (c), to provide an opportunity for public comment prior to submission of the plan;

“(10) a description of how the local area will serve the employment and training needs of dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), low-income individuals (including recipients of public assistance such as supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)), long-term unemployed individuals (including individuals who have exhausted entitlement to Federal and State unemployment compensation), English learners, homeless individuals, individuals training for nontraditional employment, youth (including out-of-school youth and at-risk youth), older workers, ex-offenders, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, refugees and entrants, veterans (including disabled veterans and homeless veterans), and Native Americans;

“(11) an identification of the entity responsible for the disbursement of grant funds described in section 117(d)(4)(B)(iii), as determined by the chief elected official or the Governor under such section;

“(12) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, credentials (including recognized postsecondary credentials, such as industry-recognized credentials), and employment experience to succeed in the labor market, including—

“(A) training and internships in in-demand industries or occupations important to the local economy;

“(B) dropout recovery activities that are designed to lead to the attainment of a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or other State-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities); and

“(C) activities combining remediation of academic skills, work readiness training, and work experience, and including linkages to postsecondary education and training and career-ladder employment;

“(13) a description of—

“(A) how the local area will furnish employment, training, including training in advanced manufacturing, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans;

“(B) the strategies and services that will be used in the local area to assist in and expedite reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force; and

“(C) the veteran population to be served in the local area;

“(14) a description of—

“(A) the duties assigned to the veteran employment specialist consistent with the requirements of section 134(f);

“(B) the manner in which the veteran employment specialist is integrated into the one-stop career system described in section 121;

“(C) the date on which the veteran employment specialist was assigned; and

“(D) whether the veteran employment specialist has satisfactorily completed related training by the National Veterans’ Employment and Training Services Institute; and

“(15) such other information as the Governor may require.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “such means” and inserting “electronic means and such means”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “, including representatives of business and representatives of labor organizations,”.

SEC. 17. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.

Section 121 (29 U.S.C. 2841) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(A) **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ONE-STOP PARTNERS.**—Each entity that carries out a program or activities described in subparagraph (B) shall—

“(i) provide access through a one-stop delivery system to the program or activities carried out by the entity, including making the work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) that are applicable to the program or activities of the entity available at one-stop centers (in addition to any other appropriate locations);

“(ii) use a portion of the funds available to the program or activities of the entity to maintain the one-stop delivery system, including payment of the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

“(iii) enter into a local memorandum of understanding with the local board, relating to the operation of the one-stop delivery system, that meets the requirements of subsection (c); and

“(iv) participate in the operation of the one-stop delivery system consistent with the terms of the memorandum of understanding, the requirements of this title, and the requirements of the Federal laws authorizing the program or activities carried out by the entity.”;

(B) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(i) by striking clauses (ii), (v), and (vi);

(ii) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

(iii) by redesignating clauses (vii) through (xii) as clauses (iv) through (ix), respectively;

(iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, by striking “adult education and literacy activities” and inserting “adult education and family literacy education activities”

(v) in clause (viii), as so redesignated, by striking “and” at the end;

(vi) in clause (ix), as so redesignated, by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(vii) by adding at the end the following:

“(x) subject to subparagraph (C), programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).”;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1)(B) the following:

“(C) **DETERMINATION BY THE GOVERNOR.**—Each entity carrying out a program described in subparagraph (B)(x) shall be considered to be a one-stop partner under this title and carry out the required partner activities described in subparagraph (A) unless the Governor of the State in which the local area is located provides the Secretary and Secretary of Health and Human Services written notice of a determination by the Governor that such an entity shall not be considered to be such a partner and shall not carry out such required partner activities.”; and

(D) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “section 134(d)(2)” and inserting “section 134(c)(2)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking clauses (i), (ii), and (v);

(II) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) employment and training programs administered by the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration;

“(iv) employment and training programs carried out by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;

“(v) employment, training, and literacy services carried out by public libraries; and

“(vi) other appropriate Federal, State, or local programs, including programs in the private sector.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) provisions describing—

“(i) the services to be provided through the one-stop delivery system consistent with the requirements of this section, including the manner in which the services will be coordinated through such system;

“(ii) how the costs of such services and the operating costs of such system will be funded, through cash and in-kind contributions, to provide a stable and equitable funding stream for ongoing one-stop system operations, including the funding of the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

“(iii) methods of referral of individuals between the one-stop operator and the one-stop partners for appropriate services and activities, including referrals for training for non-traditional employment; and

“(iv) the duration of the memorandum of understanding and the procedures for amending the memorandum during the term of the memorandum, and assurances that such memorandum shall be reviewed not less than once every 3-year period to ensure appropriate funding and delivery of services under the memorandum; and”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the heading for paragraph (1), by striking “DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATION” and inserting “LOCAL DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATION”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “section 134(c)” and inserting “subsection (e)”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) shall be designated or certified as a one-stop operator through a competitive process; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking clause (ii) and redesignating clauses (iii) through (vi) as clauses (ii) through (v), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical”;

(4) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

“(e) **ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There shall be established in a State that receives an allotment under section 132(b) a one-stop delivery system, which shall—

“(A) provide the work ready services described in section 134(c)(2);

“(B) provide access to training services as described in paragraph (4) of section 134(c), including serving as the point of access to career enhancement accounts for training services to participants in accordance with paragraph (4)(F) of such section;

“(C) provide access to the activities carried out under section 134(d), if any;

“(D) provide access to programs and activities carried out by one-stop partners that are described in subsection (b); and

“(E) provide access to the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 15(a)(1) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(a)(1)).

“(2) **ONE-STOP DELIVERY.**—At a minimum, the one-stop delivery system—

“(A) shall make each of the programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) accessible at not less than one physical center in each local area of the State; and

“(B) may also make programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) available—

“(i) through a network of affiliated sites that can provide one or more of the programs, services, and activities to individuals; and

“(ii) through a network of eligible one-stop partners—

“(I) in which each partner provides one or more of the programs, services, and activities to such individuals and is accessible at an affiliated site that consists of a physical location or an electronically- or technologically-linked access point; and

“(II) that assures individuals that information on the availability of the work ready services will be available regardless of where the individuals initially enter the statewide workforce investment system, including information made available through an access point described in subclause (I).

“(3) **SPECIALIZED CENTERS.**—The centers and sites described in paragraph (2) may have a specialization in addressing special needs.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **CERTIFICATION OF ONE-STOP CENTERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The State board shall establish objective procedures and criteria for certifying, at least once every 3 years, one-stop centers for the purpose of awarding the one-stop infrastructure funding described in subsection (h).

“(B) **CRITERIA.**—The criteria for certification of a one-stop center under this subsection shall include—

“(i) meeting the expected levels of performance for each of the corresponding core indicators of performance as outlined in the State plan under section 112;

“(ii) meeting minimum standards relating to the scope and degree of service integration achieved by the center, involving the programs provided by the one-stop partners; and

“(iii) meeting minimum standards relating to how the center ensures that eligible providers meet the employment needs of local employers and participants.

“(C) **EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION.**—One-stop centers certified under this subsection shall be eligible to receive the infrastructure funding authorized under subsection (h).

“(2) **LOCAL BOARDS.**—Consistent with the criteria developed by the State, the local board may develop, for certification referred to in paragraph (1)(A), additional criteria or higher standards on the criteria referred to in paragraph (1)(B) to respond to local labor market and demographic conditions and trends.

“(h) **ONE-STOP INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING.**—

“(1) **PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS.**—

“(A) **PROVISION OF FUNDS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as determined under subparagraph (B), a portion of the Federal funds provided to the State

and areas within the State under the Federal laws authorizing the one-stop partner programs described in subsection (b)(1)(B) and participating additional partner programs described in subsection (b)(2)(B), for a fiscal year shall be provided to the Governor by such partners to carry out this subsection.

“(B) DETERMINATION OF GOVERNOR.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Governor, in consultation with the State board, shall determine the portion of funds to be provided under subparagraph (A) by each one-stop partner and in making such determination shall consider the proportionate use of the one-stop centers in the State by each such partner, the costs of administration for purposes not related to one-stop centers for each such partner, and other relevant factors described in paragraph (3).

“(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—In those States where the State constitution places policy-making authority that is independent of the authority of the Governor in an entity or official with respect to the funds provided for adult education and family literacy education activities authorized under title II and for postsecondary career and technical education activities authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), the determination described in clause (i) with respect to the corresponding 2 programs shall be made by the Governor with the appropriate entity or official with such independent policy-making authority.

“(iii) APPEAL BY ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—The Governor shall establish a procedure for the one-stop partner administering a program described in subsection (b) and subparagraph (A) to appeal a determination regarding the portion of funds to be provided under this paragraph on the basis that such determination is inconsistent with the requirements described in the State plan for the program or with the requirements of this paragraph. Such procedure shall ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

“(C) LIMITATIONS.—

“(i) PROVISION FROM ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.—The funds provided under this paragraph by a one-stop partner shall be provided only from funds available for the costs of administration under the program administered by such partner, and shall be subject to the limitations with respect to the portion of funds under such program that may be used for administration.

“(ii) FEDERAL DIRECT SPENDING PROGRAMS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—A program that provides Federal direct spending under section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)(8)) shall not, for purposes of this paragraph, be required to provide more than the maximum amount determined under subclause (II).

“(II) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum amount for the program is the amount that bears the same relationship to the costs referred to in paragraph (2) for the State as the use of the one-stop centers by such program bears to the use of such centers by all one-stop partner programs in the State.

“(2) ALLOCATION BY GOVERNOR.—From the funds provided under paragraph (1), the Governor shall allocate funds to local areas in accordance with the formula established under paragraph (3) for the purposes of assisting in paying the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers certified under subsection (g).

“(3) ALLOCATION FORMULA.—The State board shall develop a formula to be used by

the Governor to allocate the funds provided under paragraph (1) to local areas. The formula shall include such factors as the State board determines are appropriate, which may include factors such as the number of centers in a local area that have been certified, the population served by such centers, and the performance of such centers.

“(4) COSTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘costs of infrastructure’ means the nonpersonnel costs that are necessary for the general operation of a one-stop center, including the rental costs of the facilities involved, and the costs of utilities and maintenance, and equipment (including assistive technology for individuals with disabilities).

“(i) OTHER FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the funds provided under subsection (h), a portion of funds made available under Federal law authorizing the one-stop partner programs described in subsection (b)(1)(B) and participating additional partner programs described in subsection (b)(2)(B), or the noncash resources available under such 2 types of programs, shall be used to pay the costs relating to the operation of the one-stop delivery system that are not paid for from the funds provided under subsection (h), to the extent not inconsistent with the Federal law involved. Such portion shall be used to pay for costs including—

“(A) costs of infrastructure (as defined in subsection (h)) that are in excess of the funds provided under subsection (h);

“(B) common costs that are in addition to the costs of infrastructure (as so defined); and

“(C) the costs of the provision of work ready services applicable to each program.

“(2) DETERMINATION AND STANDARDS.—The method for determining the appropriate portion of funds and noncash resources to be provided by each program under paragraph (1) shall be determined as part of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c). The State board shall provide standards to facilitate the determination of appropriate allocation of the funds and noncash resources to local areas.”

SEC. 18. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

Section 122 (29 U.S.C. 2842) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 122. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

“(a) ELIGIBILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor, after consultation with the State board, shall establish criteria and procedures regarding the eligibility of providers of training services described in section 134(c)(4) to receive funds provided under section 133(b) for the provision of such training services and be included on the list of eligible providers of training services described in subsection (d).

“(2) PROVIDERS.—Subject to the provisions of this section, to be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list, the provider shall be—

“(A) a postsecondary educational institution that—

“(i) is eligible to receive Federal funds under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

“(ii) provides a program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential;

“(B) an entity that carries out programs under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the ‘National Apprenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.); or

“(C) another public or private provider of a program of training services.

“(3) INCLUSION IN LIST OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.—A provider described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of paragraph (2) shall comply with the criteria and procedures established under this subsection to be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list. A provider described in paragraph (2)(B) shall be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list with respect to programs described in paragraph (2)(B) for so long as the provider remains certified by the Secretary of Labor to carry out the programs.

“(b) CRITERIA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The criteria established by the Governor pursuant to subsection (a) shall take into account—

“(A) the performance of providers of training services with respect to the performance measures described in section 136, measures for other matters for which information is required under paragraph (2), and other appropriate measures of performance outcomes for those participants receiving training services under this subtitle;

“(B) whether the training programs of such providers relate to in-demand industries or occupations important to the local economy;

“(C) the need to ensure access to training services throughout the State, including in rural areas;

“(D) the ability of the providers to offer programs that lead to a recognized postsecondary credential, and the quality of such programs;

“(E) the performance of the providers as reflected in the information such providers are required to report to State agencies with respect to other Federal and State programs (other than the program carried out under this subtitle), including one-stop partner programs; and

“(F) such other factors as the Governor determines are appropriate.

“(2) INFORMATION.—The criteria established by the Governor shall require that a provider of training services submit appropriate, accurate, and timely information to the State for purposes of carrying out subsection (d), with respect to participants receiving training services under this subtitle in the applicable program, including—

“(A) information on recognized postsecondary credentials received by such participants;

“(B) information on costs of attendance for such participants;

“(C) information on the program completion rate for such participants; and

“(D) information on the performance of the provider with respect to the performance measures described in section 136 for such participants.

“(3) RENEWAL.—The criteria established by the Governor shall also provide for a review on the criteria every 3 years and renewal of eligibility under this section for providers of training services.

“(4) LOCAL CRITERIA.—A local board in the State may establish criteria in addition to the criteria established by the Governor, or may require higher levels of performance than required on the criteria established by the Governor, for purposes of determining the eligibility of providers of training services under this section in the local area involved.

“(5) LIMITATION.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, no entity may disclose personally identifiable information regarding a student, including a Social Security number, student identification number, or other identifier, without the prior written consent of the parent or student in compliance with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

“(c) PROCEDURES.—The procedures established under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) identify—

“(A) the application process for a provider of training services to become eligible under this section; and

“(B) the respective roles of the State and local areas in receiving and reviewing applications and in making determinations of eligibility based on the criteria established under this section; and

“(2) establish a process, for a provider of training services to appeal a denial or termination of eligibility under this section, that includes an opportunity for a hearing and prescribes appropriate time limits to ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

“(d) INFORMATION TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS IN CHOOSING PROVIDERS.—In order to facilitate and assist participants under chapter 5 in choosing providers of training services, the Governor shall ensure that an appropriate list of providers determined eligible under this section in the State, including information provided under subsection (b)(2) with respect to such providers, is provided to the local boards in the State and is made available to such participants and to members of the public through the one-stop delivery system in the State.

“(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The procedures established under this section shall provide the following:

“(A) INTENTIONALLY SUPPLYING INACCURATE INFORMATION.—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services, or individual providing information on behalf of the provider, intentionally supplied inaccurate information under this section, the eligibility of such provider under this section shall be terminated for a period of time that is not less than 2 years.

“(B) SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATIONS.—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services substantially violated any requirement under this title, the eligibility of such provider under this section shall be terminated for a period of time that is not less than 10 years.

“(C) REPAYMENT.—A provider of training services whose eligibility is terminated under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be liable for the repayment of funds received under chapter 5 during a period of noncompliance described in such subparagraph. For purposes of subparagraph (A), that period shall be considered to be the period beginning on the date on which the inaccurate information described in subparagraph (A) was supplied, and ending on the date of the termination described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1) shall be construed to provide remedies and penalties that supplement, but do not supplant, other civil and criminal remedies and penalties.

“(f) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES.—A State may enter into an agreement with another State, on a reciprocal basis, to permit eligible providers of training services to accept career enhancement accounts provided in the other State.

“(g) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In developing the criteria (including requirements for related information) and procedures required under this section, the Governor shall solicit and take into consideration the recommendations of local boards and providers of training services within the State.

“(h) OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT COMMENTS.—During the development of the criteria and procedures, and the list of eligible providers

required under this section, the Governor shall provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to submit comments regarding such criteria, procedures, and list.

“(i) ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OR CUSTOMIZED TRAINING EXCEPTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Providers of on-the-job training or customized training shall not be subject to the requirements of subsections (a) through (d).

“(2) COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—A one-stop operator in a local area shall collect such performance information from on-the-job training and customized training providers as the Governor may require, determine whether the providers meet such performance criteria as the Governor may require, and disseminate information identifying providers that meet the criteria as eligible providers, and the performance information, through the one-stop delivery system. Providers determined to meet the criteria shall be considered to be identified as eligible under this section, to be providers of the training services involved.”.

SEC. 19. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.

Chapter 5 of subtitle B of title I is amended—

(1) by striking the heading for chapter 5 and inserting the following: “**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES**”; and

(2) in section 131 (29 U.S.C. 2861)—

(A) by striking “paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of”; and

(B) by striking “adults, and dislocated workers,” and inserting “individuals”.

SEC. 20. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

Section 132 (29 U.S.C. 2862) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) reserve $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year, of which—

“(A) 50 percent shall be used to provide technical assistance under section 170; and

“(B) 50 percent shall be used for evaluations under section 172;

“(2) reserve 1 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to make grants to, and enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native entities, Indian-controlled organizations serving Indians, or Native Hawaiian organizations to carry out employment and training activities;

“(3) reserve not more than 25 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to carry out the Jobs Corps program under subtitle C;

“(4) reserve not more than 3.5 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to—

“(A) make grants to State boards or local boards to provide employment and training assistance to workers affected by major economic dislocations, such as plant closures, mass layoffs, or closures and realignments of military installations; and

“(B) provide assistance to Governors of States with an area that has suffered an emergency or a major disaster (as such terms are defined in paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, of section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)) to provide disaster relief employment in the area; and

“(5) from the remaining amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year (after reserving funds under paragraphs (1) through (4)), make allotments in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.”; and

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND.—

“(1) RESERVATION FOR OUTLYING AREAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount made available under subsection (a)(5) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent to provide assistance to the outlying areas.

“(B) RESTRICTION.—The Republic of Palau shall cease to be eligible to receive funding under this paragraph upon entering into an agreement for extension of United States educational assistance under the Compact of Free Association (approved by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188) after the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act.

“(2) STATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—After determining the amount to be reserved under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall allot the remainder of the amount referred to in subsection (a)(5) for a fiscal year to the States pursuant to subparagraph (B) for employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

“(B) FORMULA.—Subject to subparagraphs (C) and (D), of the remainder—

“(i) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in each State, compared to the total number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in all States;

“(ii) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in the civilian labor force in each State, compared to the total number of such individuals in all States;

“(iii) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in each State who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more, compared to the total number of individuals in all States who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more; and

“(iv) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of disadvantaged youth in each State, compared to the total number of disadvantaged youth in all States.

“(C) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES.—

“(i) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is less than 100 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is less than 90 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(ii) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Subject to clause (i), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(D) SMALL STATE MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for a fiscal year that is less than $\frac{1}{5}$ of 1 percent of the remainder described in subparagraph (A) for the fiscal year.

“(E) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of the formula specified in this paragraph:

“(i) ALLOTMENT PERCENTAGE.—The term ‘allotment percentage’—

“(I) used with respect to fiscal year 2013, means the percentage of the amounts allotted to States under title I of this Act, title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.), the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code, and sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), as such provisions were in effect for fiscal year 2013, that is received under such provisions by the State involved for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) used with respect to fiscal year 2017 or a succeeding fiscal year, means the percentage of the amounts allotted to States under this paragraph for the fiscal year, that is received under this paragraph by the State involved for the fiscal year.

“(ii) AREA OF SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT.—The term ‘area of substantial unemployment’ means any area that is of sufficient size and scope to sustain a program of workforce investment activities carried out under this subtitle and that has an average rate of unemployment of at least 7 percent for the most recent 12 months, as determined by the Secretary. For purposes of this clause, determinations of areas of substantial unemployment shall be made once each fiscal year.

“(iii) DISADVANTAGED YOUTH.—The term ‘disadvantaged youth’ means an individual who is not less than age 16 and not more than age 24 who receives an income, or is a member of a family that receives a total family income, that in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of—

“(I) the poverty line; or

“(II) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level.

“(iv) INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘individual’ means an individual who is age 16 or older.”.

SEC. 21. WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.

Section 133 (29 U.S.C. 2863) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) RESERVATIONS FOR STATEWIDE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The Governor of a State shall reserve not more than 15 percent of the total amount allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) for a fiscal year to carry out the statewide activities described in section 134(a).

“(2) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amount reserved under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Governor of the State shall reserve not more than 25 percent for statewide rapid response activities and additional assistance described in section 134(a)(4).

“(3) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—Of the amount reserved under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Governor of the State shall reserve 15 percent to carry out statewide activities described in section 134(a)(5).

“(4) STATE ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—Not more than 5 percent of the funds reserved under paragraph (1) may be used by the Governor of the State for administrative costs of carrying out the statewide activities described in section 134(a).”.

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATION.—

“(1) METHODS.—The Governor, acting in accordance with the State plan, and after consulting with chief elected officials in the local areas in the State, shall—

“(A) allocate the funds that are allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) and not reserved under subsection (a), in accordance with paragraph (2)(A); and

“(B) award the funds that are reserved by the State under subsection (a)(3) through competitive grants to eligible entities, in accordance with section 134(a)(1)(C).

“(2) FORMULA ALLOCATIONS FOR THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND.—

“(A) ALLOCATION.—In allocating the funds described in paragraph (1)(A) to local areas, a State shall allocate—

“(i) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(i);

“(ii) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(ii);

“(iii) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(iii); and

“(iv) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(iv),

except that a reference in a section specified in any of clauses (i) through (iv) to ‘each State’ shall be considered to refer to each local area, and to ‘all States’ shall be considered to refer to all local areas.

“(B) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES.—

“(i) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The State shall ensure that no local area shall receive an allocation under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is less than 100 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is less than 90 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(ii) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Subject to clause (i), the State shall ensure that no local area shall receive an allocation for a fiscal year under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is more than 130 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is more than 130 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(C) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of the formula specified in this paragraph, the term ‘allocation percentage’—

“(i) used with respect to fiscal year 2013, means the percentage of the amounts allocated to local areas under title I of this Act, title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.), the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code, and sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), as such provisions were in effect for fiscal year 2013, that is received under such provisions by the local area involved for fiscal year 2013; and

“(ii) used with respect to fiscal year 2017 or a succeeding fiscal year, means the percentage of the amounts allocated to local areas under this paragraph for the fiscal year, that is received under this paragraph by the local area involved for the fiscal year.”.

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor may, in accordance with this subsection, reallocate to eligible local areas within the State amounts that are allocated under subsection (b) for employment and training activities and that are available for reallocation.”.

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b) for such activities” and inserting “subsection (b) for such activities”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) REALLOCATIONS.—In making reallocations to eligible local areas of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Governor shall allocate to each eligible local area within the State an amount based on the relative amount allocated to such local area under subsection (b)(2) for such activities for such prior program year, as compared to the total amount allocated to all eligible local areas in the State under subsection (b)(2) for such activities for such prior program year.”; and

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—Of the amount allocated to a local area under this section for a fiscal year, not more than 10 percent of the amount may be used by the local board involved for the administrative costs of carrying out local workforce investment activities in the local area under this chapter.”.

SEC. 22. USE OF FUNDS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

Section 134 (29 U.S.C. 2864) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) DISTRIBUTION OF STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(1) and not reserved under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 133(a)—

“(i) shall be used to carry out the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (2); and

“(ii) may be used to carry out any of the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (3).

“(B) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(2) shall be used to provide the statewide rapid response activities and additional assistance described in paragraph (4).

“(C) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(3) shall be used to award statewide grants for individuals with barriers to employment on a competitive basis, and carry out other activities, as described in paragraph (5).

“(2) REQUIRED STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—A State shall use funds referred to in paragraph (1)(A) to carry out statewide employment and training activities, which shall include—

“(A) disseminating the State list of eligible providers of training services described in section 122(d), information identifying eligible providers of on-the-job training and customized training described in section 122(i), and performance information and program cost information described in section 122(b)(2);

“(B) supporting the provision of work ready services described in subsection (c)(2) in the one-stop delivery system;

“(C) implementing strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, recognized postsecondary credentials, and employment experience to succeed in the labor market;

“(D) conducting evaluations under section 136(e) of activities authorized under this chapter in coordination with evaluations carried out by the Secretary under section 172;

“(E) providing technical assistance to local areas that fail to meet local performance measures;

“(F) operating a fiscal and management accountability system under section 136(f); and

“(G) carrying out monitoring and oversight of activities carried out under this chapter.

“(3) ALLOWABLE STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—A State may use funds referred to in paragraph (1)(A) to carry out statewide employment and training activities which may include—

“(A) implementing innovative programs and strategies designed to meet the needs of all employers in the State, including small employers, which may include incumbent worker training programs, sectoral and industry cluster strategies and partnership initiatives, career ladder programs, micro-enterprise and entrepreneurial training and support programs, utilization of effective business intermediaries, activities to improve linkages between the one-stop delivery system in the State and all employers (including small employers) in the State, and other business services and strategies that better engage employers in workforce investment activities and make the workforce investment system more relevant to the needs of State and local businesses, consistent with the objectives of this title;

“(B) providing incentive grants to local areas—

“(i) for regional cooperation among local boards (including local boards in a designated region as described in section 116(c));

“(ii) for local coordination of activities carried out under this Act; and

“(iii) for exemplary performance by local areas on the local performance measures;

“(C) developing strategies for effectively integrating programs and services among one-stop partners;

“(D) carrying out activities to facilitate remote access to services provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology;

“(E) incorporating pay-for-performance contract strategies as an element in funding activities under this section and providing technical support to local areas and eligible providers in order to carry out such a strategy, which may involve providing assistance with data collection and data entry requirements;

“(F) carrying out the State option under subsection (f)(8); and

“(G) carrying out other activities authorized under this section that the State determines to be necessary to assist local areas in carrying out activities described in subsection (c) or (d) through the statewide workforce investment system.

“(4) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—A State shall use funds reserved as described in section 133(a)(2)—

“(A) to carry out statewide rapid response activities, which shall include provision of rapid response activities, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials in the local areas; and

“(B) to provide additional assistance to local areas that experience disasters, mass layoffs, or plant closings, or other events

that precipitate substantial increases in the number of unemployed individuals, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials in the local areas.

“(5) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds reserved as described in section 133(a)(3), the Governor of a State—

“(i) may reserve up to 5 percent to provide technical assistance for, and conduct evaluations as described in section 136(e) of, the programs carried out under this paragraph; and

“(ii) using the remainder, shall award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities (that meet specific performance outcomes and criteria established by the Governor) described in subparagraph (B) to carry out employment and training programs authorized under this paragraph for individuals with barriers to employment.

“(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity that—

“(i) is a—

“(I) local board or a consortium of local boards;

“(II) nonprofit entity, for-profit entity, or a consortium of nonprofit or for-profit entities; or

“(III) consortium of the entities described in subclauses (I) and (II);

“(ii) has a demonstrated record of placing individuals into unsubsidized employment and serving hard-to-serve individuals; and

“(iii) agrees to be reimbursed primarily on the basis of meeting specified performance outcomes and criteria established by the Governor.

“(C) GRANT PERIOD.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this paragraph shall be awarded for a period of 1 year.

“(ii) GRANT RENEWAL.—A Governor of a State may renew, for up to 4 additional 1-year periods, a grant awarded under this paragraph.

“(D) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—To be eligible to participate in activities under this paragraph, an individual shall be a low-income individual age 16 or older.

“(E) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this paragraph shall use the grant funds for programs of activities that are designed to assist eligible participants in obtaining employment and acquiring the education and skills necessary to succeed in the labor market. To be eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph for an employment and training program, an eligible entity shall submit an application to a State at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State may require, including—

“(i) a description of how the strategies and activities of the program will be aligned with the State plan submitted under section 112 and the local plan submitted under section 118, with respect to the area of the State that will be the focus of the program under this paragraph;

“(ii) a description of the educational and skills training programs and activities the eligible entity will provide to eligible participants under this paragraph;

“(iii) how the eligible entity will collaborate with State and local workforce investment systems established under this title in the provision of such programs and activities;

“(iv) a description of the programs of demonstrated effectiveness on which the provi-

sion of such educational and skills training programs and activities are based, and a description of how such programs and activities will improve education and skills training for eligible participants;

“(v) a description of the populations to be served and the skill needs of those populations, and the manner in which eligible participants will be recruited and selected as participants;

“(vi) a description of the private, public, local, and State resources that will be leveraged, with the grant funds provided, for the program under this paragraph, and how the entity will ensure the sustainability of such program after grant funds are no longer available;

“(vii) a description of the extent of the involvement of employers in such program;

“(viii) a description of the levels of performance the eligible entity expects to achieve with respect to the indicators of performance for all individuals specified in section 136(b)(2);

“(ix) a detailed budget and a description of the system of fiscal controls, and auditing and accountability procedures, that will be used to ensure fiscal soundness for the program provided under this paragraph; and

“(x) any other criteria the Governor may require.”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)—

“(1) shall be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (c); and

“(2) may be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (d).”;

(3) by striking subsection (c);

(4) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e), as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(5) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b) shall be used—

“(A) to establish a one-stop delivery system as described in section 121(e);

“(B) to provide the work ready services described in paragraph (2) through the one-stop delivery system in accordance with such paragraph; and

“(C) to provide training services described in paragraph (4) in accordance with such paragraph.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “CORE SERVICES” and inserting “WORK READY SERVICES”;

(ii) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “(1)(A)” and inserting “(1)”;

(II) by striking “core services” and inserting “work ready services”; and

(III) by striking “who are adults or displaced workers”;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (K) as subparagraph (V);

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (J) as subparagraphs (C) through (K), respectively;

(v) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) assistance in obtaining eligibility determinations under the other one-stop partner programs through activities, where appropriate and consistent with the authorizing statute of the one-stop partner program involved, such as assisting in—

“(i) the submission of applications;

“(ii) the provision of information on the results of such applications; and

“(iii) the provision of intake services and information;”;

(vi) by amending subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(E) labor exchange services, including—

“(i) job search and placement assistance, and where appropriate, career counseling;

“(ii) appropriate recruitment services for employers, including small employers, in the local area, which may include services described in this subsection, including provision of information and referral to specialized business services not traditionally offered through the one-stop delivery system; and

“(iii) reemployment services provided to unemployment claimants, including claimants identified as in need of such services under the worker profiling system established under section 303(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(j));”;

(vii) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking “employment statistics” and inserting “workforce and labor market”;

(viii) in subparagraph (G), as so redesignated, by striking “and eligible providers of youth activities described in section 123,”;

(ix) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by inserting “under section 136” after “local performance measures”;

(x) in subparagraph (J), as so redesignated, by inserting “and information regarding the administration of the work test for the unemployment compensation system” after “compensation”;

(xi) by amending subparagraph (K), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(K) assistance in establishing eligibility for programs of financial aid assistance for education and training programs that are not funded under this Act and are available in the local area;”;

(xii) by inserting the following new subparagraphs after subparagraph (K), as so redesignated:

“(L) the provision of information from official publications of the Internal Revenue Service regarding Federal tax credits, available to participants in employment and training activities, and relating to education, job training, and employment;

“(M) comprehensive and specialized assessments of the skill levels and service needs of workers, which may include—

“(i) diagnostic testing and use of other assessment tools; and

“(ii) in-depth interviewing and evaluation to identify employment barriers and appropriate employment goals;

“(N) development of an individual employment plan, to identify the employment goals, appropriate achievement objectives, and appropriate combination of services for the participant;

“(O) group counseling;

“(P) individual counseling and career planning;

“(Q) case management;

“(R) short-term pre-career services, including development of learning skills, communications skills, interviewing skills, punctuality, personal maintenance skills, and professional conduct, to prepare individuals for unsubsidized employment or training;

“(S) internships and work experience;

“(T) literacy activities relating to basic work readiness, information and communication technology literacy activities, and financial literacy activities, if the activities involved are not available to participants in the local area under programs administered under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.);

“(U) out-of-area job search assistance and relocation assistance; and”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) DELIVERY OF SERVICES.—The work ready services described in paragraph (2) shall be provided through the one-stop delivery system and may be provided through contracts with public, private for-profit, and private nonprofit service providers, approved by the local board.”; and

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds described in paragraph (1)(C) shall be used to provide training services to individuals who—

“(i) after an interview, evaluation, or assessment, and case management, have been determined by a one-stop operator or one-stop partner, as appropriate, to—

“(I) be in need of training services to obtain or retain employment; and

“(II) have the skills and qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services;

“(ii) select programs of training services that are directly linked to the employment opportunities in the local area involved or in another area in which the individual receiving such services are willing to commute or relocate; and

“(iii) who meet the requirements of subparagraph (B).”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “Except” and inserting “Notwithstanding section 479B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087uu) and except”;

(iii) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) TRAINING SERVICES.—Training services authorized under this paragraph may include—

“(i) occupational skills training;

“(ii) on-the-job training;

“(iii) skill upgrading and retraining;

“(iv) entrepreneurial training;

“(v) education activities leading to a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent in combination with, concurrently or subsequently, occupational skills training;

“(vi) adult education and family literacy education activities provided in conjunction with other training services authorized under this subparagraph;

“(vii) workplace training combined with related instruction;

“(viii) occupational skills training that incorporates English language acquisition;

“(ix) customized training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of the training; and

“(x) training programs operated by the private sector.”;

(iv) by striking subparagraph (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively;

(v) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated)—

(I) in clause (ii)—

(aa) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “section 121”;

(bb) in subclause (I), by striking “section 122(e)” and inserting “section 122(d)” and by striking “section 122(h)” and inserting “section 122(i)”;

(cc) in subclause (II), by striking “subsections (e) and (h)” and inserting “subsections (d) and (i)”;

(II) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) CAREER ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNTS.—An individual who seeks training services and

who is eligible pursuant to subparagraph (A), may, in consultation with a case manager, select an eligible provider of training services from the list or identifying information for providers described in clause (ii)(I). Upon such selection, the one-stop operator involved shall, to the extent practicable, refer such individual to the eligible provider of training services, and arrange for payment for such services through a career enhancement account.

“(iv) COORDINATION.—Each local board may, through one-stop centers, coordinate career enhancement accounts with other Federal, State, local, or private job training programs or sources to assist the individual in obtaining training services from (notwithstanding any provision of this title) eligible providers for those programs and sources.

“(v) ASSISTANCE.—Each local board may, through one-stop centers, assist individuals receiving career enhancement accounts in obtaining funds (in addition to the funds provided under this section) from other programs and sources that will assist the individual in obtaining training services.”; and

(vi) in subparagraph (F) (as so redesignated)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS” and inserting “CAREER ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNTS”;

(II) in clause (i), by striking “individual training accounts” and inserting “career enhancement accounts”;

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “an individual training account” and inserting “a career enhancement account”;

(bb) by striking “subparagraph (F)” and inserting “subparagraph (E)”;

(cc) in subclause (II), by striking “individual training accounts” and inserting “career enhancement accounts”;

(dd) in subclause (II), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(ee) in subclause (III), by striking the period and inserting “; or”;

(ff) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) the local board determines that it would be most appropriate to award a contract to a postsecondary educational institution that has been identified as a priority eligible provider under section 117(d)(5)(B) in order to facilitate the training of multiple individuals in in-demand industries or occupations important to the State or local economy, that such contract may be used to enable the expansion of programs provided by a priority eligible provider, and that such contract does not limit customer choice.”;

(IV) in clause (iii), by striking “adult or dislocated worker” and inserting “individual”;

(V) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by redesignating subclause (IV) as subclause (V); and

(bb) by inserting after subclause (III) the following:

“(IV) Individuals with disabilities.”;

(6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) DISCRETIONARY ONE-STOP DELIVERY ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)(2) may be used to provide, through the one-stop delivery system—

“(i) customized screening and referral of qualified participants in training services to employers;

“(ii) customized employment-related services to employers on a fee-for-service basis;

“(iii) customer supports, including transportation and child care, to navigate among

multiple services and activities for special participant populations that face multiple barriers to employment, including individuals with disabilities;

“(iv) employment and training assistance provided in coordination with child support enforcement activities of the State agency carrying out subtitle D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

“(v) incorporation of pay-for-performance contract strategies as an element in funding activities under this section;

“(vi) activities to facilitate remote access to services provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology; and

“(vii) activities to carry out business services and strategies that meet the workforce investment needs of local area employers, as determined by the local board, consistent with the local plan under section 118.”;

(B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3); and (C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The local board may use funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)(2) to carry out incumbent worker training programs in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The training programs for incumbent workers under this paragraph shall be carried out by the local area in conjunction with the employers of such workers for the purpose of assisting such workers in obtaining the skills necessary to retain employment and avert layoffs.

“(C) EMPLOYER MATCH REQUIRED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Employers participating in programs under this paragraph shall be required to pay a proportion of the costs of providing the training to the incumbent workers of the employers. The local board shall establish the required payment toward such costs, which may include in-kind contributions.

“(ii) CALCULATION OF MATCH.—The wages paid by an employer to a worker while they are attending training may be included as part of the required payment of the employer.”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) PRIORITY FOR PLACEMENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS.—In providing employment and training activities authorized under this section, the State board and local board shall give priority to placing participants in jobs in the private sector.

“(f) VETERAN EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (8), a local board shall hire and employ one or more veteran employment specialists to carry out employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection in the local area served by the local board.

“(2) PRINCIPAL DUTIES.—A veteran employment specialist in a local area shall—

“(A) conduct outreach to employers in the local area to assist veterans, including disabled veterans, in gaining employment, including—

“(i) conducting seminars for employers; and

“(ii) in conjunction with employers, conducting job search workshops, and establishing job search groups; and

“(B) facilitate the furnishing of employment, training, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans, in the local area.

“(3) HIRING PREFERENCE FOR VETERANS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPERTISE IN SERVING VETERANS.—Subject to paragraph (8), a local

board shall, to the maximum extent practicable, employ veterans or individuals with expertise in serving veterans to carry out the services described in paragraph (2) in the local area served by the local board. In hiring an individual to serve as a veteran employment specialist, a local board shall give preference to veterans and other individuals in the following order:

“(A) To service-connected disabled veterans.

“(B) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) is available, to veterans.

“(C) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) or (B) is available, to any member of the Armed Forces transitioning out of military service.

“(D) If no veteran or member described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) is available, to any spouse of a veteran or a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces transitioning out of military service.

“(E) If no veteran or member described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) is available and no spouse described in paragraph (D) is available, to any other individuals with expertise in serving veterans.

“(4) ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each veteran employment specialist shall be administratively responsible to the one-stop operator of the one-stop center in the local area and shall provide, at a minimum, quarterly reports to the one-stop operator of such center and to the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training for the State on the specialist's performance, and compliance by the specialist with Federal law (including regulations), with respect to the—

“(i) principal duties (including facilitating the furnishing of services) for veterans described in paragraph (2); and

“(ii) hiring preferences described in paragraph (3) for veterans and other individuals.

“(B) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Each State shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on the qualifications used by each local board in the State in making hiring determinations for a veteran employment specialist and the salary structure under which such specialist is compensated.

“(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate an annual report summarizing the reports submitted under subparagraph (B), and including summaries of outcomes achieved by participating veterans, disaggregated by local areas.

“(5) PART-TIME EMPLOYEES.—A part-time veteran employment specialist shall perform the functions of a veteran employment specialist under this subsection on a halftime basis.

“(6) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—Each veteran employment specialist described in paragraph (2) shall satisfactorily complete training provided by the National Veterans' Employment and Training Institute during the 3-year period that begins on the date on which the employee is so assigned.

“(7) SPECIALIST'S DUTIES.—A full-time veteran employment specialist shall perform only duties related to employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection, and shall not perform other non-veteran-related duties if such duties detract from the specialist's ability to perform the specialist's duties related to employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection.

“(8) STATE OPTION.—At the request of a local board, a State may opt to assume the duties assigned to the local board under paragraphs (1) and (3), including the hiring and employment of one or more veteran employment specialists for placement in the local area served by the local board.”.

SEC. 23. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

Section 136 (29 U.S.C. 2871) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraphs (1) and (2) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each State, the State performance measures shall consist of—

“(A)(i) the core indicators of performance described in paragraph (2)(A); and

“(ii) additional indicators of performance (if any) identified by the State under paragraph (2)(B); and

“(B) a State adjusted level of performance for each indicator described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(A) CORE INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The core indicators of performance for the program of employment and training activities authorized under sections 132(a)(2) and 134, the program of adult education and family literacy education activities authorized under title II, and the program authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741), shall consist of the following indicators of performance (with performance determined in the aggregate and as disaggregated by the populations identified in the State and local plan in each case):

“(I) The percentage and number of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second full calendar quarter after exit from the program.

“(II) The percentage and number of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the fourth full calendar quarter after exit from the program.

“(III) The difference in the median earnings of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second full calendar quarter after exit from the program, compared to the median earnings of such participants prior to participation in such program.

“(IV) The percentage and number of program participants who obtain a recognized postsecondary credential (such as an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program), or a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (subject to clause (ii)), during participation in or within 1 year after exit from the program.

“(V) The percentage and number of program participants who, during a program year—

“(aa) are in an education or training program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential (such as an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program), a certificate from an on-the-job training program, a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or unsubsidized employment; and

“(bb) are achieving measurable basic skill gains toward such a credential, certificate, diploma, or employment.

“(VI) The percentage and number of program participants who obtain unsubsidized employment in the field relating to the training services described in section 134(c)(4) that such participants received.

“(ii) INDICATOR RELATING TO CREDENTIAL.—For purposes of clause (i)(IV), program participants who obtain a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent shall be included in the percentage counted as meeting the criterion under such clause only if such participants (in addition to obtaining such diploma or its recognized equivalent), within 1 year after exit from the program, have obtained or retained employment, have been removed from public assistance, or have begun an education or training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential.

“(B) ADDITIONAL INDICATORS.—A State may identify in the State plan additional indicators for workforce investment activities authorized under this subtitle.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the heading, by striking “AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDICATOR”;

(II) in clause (i), by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator described in paragraph (2)(B)”;

(III) in clause (ii), by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator of performance, for the first 3” and inserting “, for all 3”;

(IV) in clause (iii)—

(aa) in the heading, by striking “FOR FIRST 3 YEARS”;

(bb) by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator of performance, for the first 3 program years” and inserting “for all 3 program years”;

(V) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by striking “or (v)”;

(bb) by striking subclause (I) and redesignating subclauses (II) and (III) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively; and

(cc) in subclause (I) (as so redesignated)—

(AA) by inserting “, such as unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries” after “economic conditions”; and

(BB) by inserting “, such as indicators of poor work experience, dislocation from high-wage employment, low levels of literacy or English proficiency, disability status (including disability status among veterans), and welfare dependency,” after “program”;

(VI) by striking clause (v) and redesignating clause (vi) as clause (v); and

(VII) in clause (v) (as so redesignated)—

(aa) by striking “described in clause (iv)(II)” and inserting “described in clause (iv)(I)”;

(bb) by striking “or (v)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “paragraph (2)(C)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(B)”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending clause (i) of paragraph (1)(A) to read as follows:

“(i) the core indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for activities described in such subsection, other than statewide workforce investment activities; and”;

(B) in clause (ii) of paragraph (1)(A), by striking “(b)(2)(C)” and inserting “(b)(2)(B)”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) DETERMINATIONS.—In determining such local levels of performance, the local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall ensure such levels are adjusted based on the specific economic conditions (such as unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries), or demographic characteristics or other characteristics of the population to be served, in the local area.”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “127 or”;

(ii) by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator” each place it appears; and

(iii) in the last sentence, by inserting before the period the following: “, and on the amount and percentage of the State’s annual allotment under section 132 the State spends on administrative costs and on the amount and percentage of its annual allocation under section 133 each local area in the State spends on administrative costs”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (A);

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (B);

(iv) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking “(excluding participants who received only self-service and informational activities)”;

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(v) by striking subparagraph (F); and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) with respect to each local area in the State—

“(i) the number of individuals who received work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the number of individuals who received training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services, and the amount of funds spent on each of the 2 types of services during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 fiscal years;

“(ii) the number of individuals who successfully exited out of work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the number of individuals who exited out of training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services; and

“(iii) the average cost per participant of those individuals who received work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the average cost per participant of those individuals who received training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services; and

“(D) the amount of funds spent on training services and discretionary activities described in section 134(d), disaggregated by the populations identified under section 112(b)(16)(A)(iv) and section 118(b)(10).”;

(C) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “through publication” and inserting “through electronic means”;

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DATA VALIDATION.—In preparing the reports described in this subsection, each

State shall establish procedures, consistent with guidelines issued by the Secretary, to ensure the information contained in the reports is valid and reliable.

“(5) STATE AND LOCAL POLICIES.—

“(A) STATE POLICIES.—Each State that receives an allotment under section 132 shall maintain a central repository of policies related to access, eligibility, availability of services, and other matters, and plans approved by the State board and make such repository available to the public, including by electronic means.

“(B) LOCAL POLICIES.—Each local area that receives an allotment under section 133 shall maintain a central repository of policies related to access, eligibility, availability of services, and other matters, and plans approved by the local board and make such repository available to the public, including by electronic means.”;

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or (B)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “may reduce by not more than 5 percent,” and inserting “shall reduce”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) FUNDS RESULTING FROM REDUCED ALLOTMENTS.—The Secretary shall return to the Treasury the amount retained, as a result of a reduction in an allotment to a State made under paragraph (1)(B).”;

(5) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or (B)”;

and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by amending the matter preceding clause (i) to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If such failure continues for a second consecutive year, the Governor shall take corrective actions, including the development of a reorganization plan. Such plan shall—”;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A), the following:

“(B) REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF GRANT.—If such failure continues for a third consecutive year, the Governor shall reduce the amount of the grant that would (in the absence of this subparagraph) be payable to the local area under such program for the program year after such third consecutive year. Such penalty shall be based on the degree of failure to meet local levels of performance.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C)(i) (as so redesignated), by striking “a reorganization plan under subparagraph (A) may, not later than 30 days after receiving notice of the reorganization plan, appeal to the Governor to rescind or revise such plan” and inserting “corrective action under subparagraph (A) or (B) may, not later than 30 days after receiving notice of the action, appeal to the Governor to rescind or revise such action”;

(v) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesignated), by striking “subparagraph (B)” each place it appears and inserting “subparagraph (C)”;

(6) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “subsection (b)(2)(C)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(B)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “(b)(3)(A)(vi)” and inserting “(b)(3)(A)(v)”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “the activities described in section 502 concerning”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “described in paragraph (1) and in the activities described in section 502” and inserting “and activities described in this subsection”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(j) **USE OF CORE INDICATORS FOR OTHER PROGRAMS.**—Consistent with the requirements of the applicable authorizing laws, the Secretary shall use the core indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) to assess the effectiveness of the programs described in section 121(b)(1)(B) (in addition to the programs carried out under chapter 5) that are carried out by the Secretary.

“(k) **ESTABLISHING PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—At the discretion of the Governor of a State, a State may establish an incentive system for local boards to implement pay-for-performance contract strategies for the delivery of employment and training activities in the local areas served by the local boards.

“(2) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—A State that establishes a pay-for-performance incentive system shall reserve not more than 10 percent of the total amount allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) for a fiscal year to provide funds to local areas in the State whose local boards have implemented a pay-for-performance contract strategy.

“(3) **EVALUATIONS.**—A State described in paragraph (2) shall use funds reserved by the State under section 133(a)(1) to evaluate the return on investment of pay-for-performance contract strategies implemented by local boards in the State.”.

SEC. 24. **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

Section 137 (29 U.S.C. 2872) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 137. **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 132, \$5,945,639,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.”.

CHAPTER 3—JOB CORPS

SEC. 26. **JOB CORPS PURPOSES.**

Paragraph (1) of section 141 (29 U.S.C. 2881(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) to maintain a national Job Corps program for at-risk youth, carried out in partnership with States and communities, to assist eligible youth to connect to the workforce by providing them with intensive academic, career and technical education, and service-learning opportunities, in residential and nonresidential centers, in order for such youth to obtain regular secondary school diplomas and recognized postsecondary credentials leading to successful careers in in-demand industries that will result in opportunities for advancement;”.

SEC. 27. **JOB CORPS DEFINITIONS.**

Section 142 (29 U.S.C. 2882) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “APPLICABLE ONE-STOP” and inserting “ONE-STOP”;

(B) by striking “applicable”;

(C) by striking “customer service”; and

(D) by striking “intake” and inserting “assessment”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “before completing the requirements” and all that follows and inserting “prior to becoming a graduate.”; and

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking “has completed the requirements” and all that follows and inserting the following: “who, as a result of participation in the Job Corps program, has received a regular secondary school di-

ploma, completed the requirements of a career and technical education and training program, or received, or is making satisfactory progress (as defined under section 484(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(c))) toward receiving, a recognized postsecondary credential (including an industry-recognized credential) that prepares individuals for employment leading to economic self-sufficiency.”.

SEC. 28. **INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR THE JOB CORPS.**

Section 144 (29 U.S.C. 2884) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) not less than age 16 and not more than age 24 on the date of enrollment;”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “secondary” before “school”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(E), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education and”.

SEC. 29. **RECRUITMENT, SCREENING, SELECTION, AND ASSIGNMENT OF ENROLLEES.**

Section 145 (29 U.S.C. 2885) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(C)(i) by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education and training”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “To the extent practicable, the” and inserting “The”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “applicable”; and

(II) by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(iii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C); and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) organizations that have a demonstrated record of effectiveness in placing at-risk youth into employment.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and agrees to such rules” after “failure to observe the rules”; and

(ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) the individual has passed a background check conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary, which shall include—

“(i) a search of the State criminal registry or repository in the State where the individual resides and each State where the individual previously resided;

“(ii) a search of State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases in the State where the individual resides and each State where the individual previously resided;

“(iii) a search of the National Crime Information Center;

“(iv) a Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check using the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System; and

“(v) a search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.).”;

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) **INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF A CRIME.**—An individual shall be ineligible for enrollment if the individual—

“(A) makes a false statement in connection with the criminal background check described in paragraph (1)(C);

“(B) is registered or is required to be registered on a State sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protec-

tion and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.); or

“(C) has been convicted of a felony consisting of—

“(i) homicide;

“(ii) child abuse or neglect;

“(iii) a crime against children, including child pornography;

“(iv) a crime involving rape or sexual assault; or

“(v) physical assault, battery, or a drug-related offense, committed within the past 5 years.”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “2 years” and inserting “year”; and

(ii) by striking “an assignment” and inserting “a”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “, every 2 years,”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by inserting “the education and training” after “including”; and

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) the performance of the Job Corps center relating to the indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) in section 159(c), and whether any actions have been taken with respect to such center pursuant to section 159(f).”;

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “is closest to the home of the enrollee, except that the” and inserting “offers the type of career and technical education and training selected by the individual and, among the centers that offer such education and training, is closest to the home of the individual. The”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “that offers the career and technical education and training desired by” after “home of the enrollee”.

SEC. 30. **JOB CORPS CENTERS.**

Section 147 (29 U.S.C. 2887) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “vocational” both places it appears and inserting “career and technical”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “subsections (c) and (d) of section 303 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253)” and inserting “subsections (a) and (b) of section 3304 of title 41, United States Code”; and

(II) by striking “industry council” and inserting “workforce council”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(I) by amending subclause (II) to read as follows:

“(II) the ability of the entity to offer career and technical education and training that the workforce council proposes under section 154(c);”;

(II) in subclause (III), by striking “is familiar with the surrounding communities, applicable” and inserting “demonstrates relationships with the surrounding communities, employers, workforce boards,” and by striking “and” at the end;

(III) by amending subclause (IV) to read as follows:

“(IV) the performance of the entity, if any, relating to operating or providing activities described in this subtitle to a Job Corps center, including the entity’s demonstrated effectiveness in assisting individuals in achieving the primary and secondary indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c); and”;

(IV) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(V) the ability of the entity to demonstrate a record of successfully assisting at-risk youth to connect to the workforce, including by providing them with intensive academic, and career and technical education and training.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(I) by striking “, as appropriate”;

(II) by striking “through (IV)” and inserting “through (V)”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “In any year, no more than 20 percent of the individuals enrolled in the Job Corps may be non-residential participants in the Job Corps.”;

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Job Corps centers may include Civilian Conservation Centers, operated under an agreement between the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, that are located primarily in rural areas. Such centers shall adhere to all the provisions of this subtitle, and shall provide, in addition to education, career and technical education and training, and workforce preparation skills training described in section 148, programs of work experience to conserve, develop, or manage public natural resources or public recreational areas or to develop community projects in the public interest.

“(2) SELECTION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall select an entity that submits an application under subsection (d) to operate a Civilian Conservation Center on a competitive basis, as provided in subsection (a).”;

(4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to operate a Job Corps center under this subtitle, an entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

“(1) a description of the program activities that will be offered at the center, including how the career and technical education and training reflect State and local employment opportunities, including in in-demand industries;

“(2) a description of the counseling, placement, and support activities that will be offered at the center, including a description of the strategies and procedures the entity will use to place graduates into unsubsidized employment upon completion of the program;

“(3) a description of the demonstrated record of effectiveness that the entity has in placing at-risk youth into employment, including past performance of operating a Job Corps center under this subtitle;

“(4) a description of the relationships that the entity has developed with State and local workforce boards, employers, State and local educational agencies, and the surrounding communities in an effort to promote a comprehensive statewide workforce investment system;

“(5) a description of the strong fiscal controls the entity has in place to ensure proper accounting of Federal funds, and a descrip-

tion of how the entity will meet the requirements of section 159(a);

“(6) a description of the strategies and policies the entity will utilize to reduce participant costs;

“(7) a description of the steps taken to control costs in accordance with section 159(a)(3);

“(8) a detailed budget of the activities that will be supported using funds under this subtitle;

“(9) a detailed budget of the activities that will be supported using funds from non-Federal resources;

“(10) an assurance the entity will comply with the administrative cost limitation included in section 151(c);

“(11) an assurance the entity is licensed to operate in the State in which the center is located; and

“(12) an assurance the entity will comply with and meet basic health and safety codes, including those measures described in section 152(b).

“(e) LENGTH OF AGREEMENT.—The agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A) shall be for not longer than a 2-year period. The Secretary may renew the agreement for 3 1-year periods if the entity meets the requirements of subsection (f).

“(f) RENEWAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may renew the terms of an agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A) for an entity to operate a Job Corps center if the center meets or exceeds each of the indicators of performance described in section 159(c)(1).

“(2) RECOMPETITION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not renew the terms of the agreement for an entity to operate a Job Corps center if such center is ranked in the bottom quintile of centers described in section 159(f)(2) for any program year. Such entity may submit a new application under subsection (d) only if such center has shown significant improvement on the indicators of performance described in section 159(c)(1) over the last program year.

“(B) VIOLATIONS.—The Secretary shall not select an entity to operate a Job Corps center if such entity or such center has been found to have a systemic or substantial material failure that involves—

“(i) a threat to the health, safety, or civil rights of program participants or staff;

“(ii) the misuse of funds received under this subtitle;

“(iii) loss of legal status or financial viability, loss of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds;

“(iv) failure to meet any other Federal or State requirement that the entity has shown an unwillingness or inability to correct, after notice from the Secretary, within the period specified; or

“(v) an unresolved area of noncompliance.

“(g) CURRENT GRANTEES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act and notwithstanding any previous grant award or renewals of such award under this subtitle, the Secretary shall require all entities operating a Job Corps center under this subtitle to submit an application under subsection (d) to carry out the requirements of this section.”.

SEC. 31. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

Section 148 (29 U.S.C. 2888) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) ACTIVITIES PROVIDED THROUGH JOB CORPS CENTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees with an intensive, well-organized, and supervised program of education, career and technical education and training, work experience, recreational activities, physical rehabilitation and development, and counseling. Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees assigned to the center with access to work ready services described in section 134(c)(2).

“(2) RELATIONSHIP TO OPPORTUNITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The activities provided under this subsection shall be targeted to helping enrollees, on completion of their enrollment—

“(i) secure and maintain meaningful unsubsidized employment;

“(ii) complete secondary education and obtain a regular secondary school diploma;

“(iii) enroll in and complete postsecondary education or training programs, including obtaining recognized postsecondary credentials (such as industry-recognized credentials and certificates from registered apprenticeship programs); or

“(iv) satisfy Armed Forces requirements.

“(B) LINK TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.—The career and technical education and training provided shall be linked to the employment opportunities in in-demand industries in the State in which the Job Corps center is located.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL” and inserting “ACADEMIC AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND”;

(B) by striking “may” after “The Secretary” and inserting “shall”;

(C) by striking “vocational” each place it appears and inserting “career and technical”;

(3) by amending paragraph (3) of subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(3) DEMONSTRATION.—Each year, any operator seeking to enroll additional enrollees in an advanced career training program shall demonstrate, before the operator may carry out such additional enrollment, that—

“(A) participants in such program have achieved a satisfactory rate of completion and placement in training-related jobs; and

“(B) such operator has met or exceeded the indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c) for the previous year.”.

SEC. 32. COUNSELING AND JOB PLACEMENT.

Section 149 (29 U.S.C. 2889) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education and”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “make every effort to arrange to”;

(B) by striking “to assist” and inserting “assist”;

(3) by striking subsection (d).

SEC. 33. SUPPORT.

Subsection (b) of section 150 (29 U.S.C. 2890) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) TRANSITION ALLOWANCES AND SUPPORT FOR GRADUATES.—The Secretary shall arrange for a transition allowance to be paid to graduates. The transition allowance shall be incentive-based to reflect a graduate’s completion of academic, career and technical education or training, and attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential.”.

SEC. 34. OPERATIONS.

Section 151 (29 U.S.C. 2891) is amended—

(1) in the header, by striking “OPERATING PLAN” and inserting “OPERATIONS”;

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “IN GENERAL.—” and inserting “OPERATING PLAN.—”;

(3) by striking subsection (b) and redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(4) by amending subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the heading by inserting “OF OPERATING PLAN” after “AVAILABILITY”; and

(B) by striking “subsections (a) and (b)” and inserting “subsection (a)”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 10 percent of the funds allotted under section 147 to an entity selected to operate a Job Corps center may be used by the entity for administrative costs under this subtitle.”.

SEC. 35. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

Section 153 (29 U.S.C. 2893) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 153. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

“The director of each Job Corps center shall encourage and cooperate in activities to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between Job Corps centers in the State and nearby communities. Such activities may include the use of any local workforce development boards established under section 117 to provide a mechanism for joint discussion of common problems and for planning programs of mutual interest.”.

SEC. 36. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

Section 154 (29 U.S.C. 2894) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 154. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each Job Corps center shall have a workforce council appointed by the Governor of the State in which the Job Corps center is located.

“(b) WORKFORCE COUNCIL COMPOSITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A workforce council shall have comprised of—

“(A) business members of the State board described in section 111(b)(1)(B)(i);

“(B) business members of the local boards described in section 117(b)(2)(A) located in the State;

“(C) a representative of the State board described in section 111(f); and

“(D) such other representatives and State agency officials as the Governor may designate.

“(2) MAJORITY.—A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the members of the workforce council shall be representatives described in paragraph (1)(A).

“(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the workforce council shall be—

“(1) to review all the relevant labor market information, including related information in the State plan described in section 112, to—

“(A) determine the in-demand industries in the State in which enrollees intend to seek employment after graduation;

“(B) determine the skills and education that are necessary to obtain the employment opportunities described in subparagraph (A); and

“(C) determine the type or types of career and technical education and training that will be implemented at the center to enable the enrollees to obtain the employment opportunities; and

“(2) to meet at least once a year to re-evaluate the labor market information, and other relevant information, to determine any necessary changes in the career and technical education and training provided at the center.”.

SEC. 37. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 156 (29 U.S.C. 2896) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 156. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CENTERS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the funds reserved under section 132(a)(3), the Secretary shall

provide, directly or through grants, contracts, or other agreements or arrangements as the Secretary considers appropriate, technical assistance and training for the Job Corps program for the purposes of improving program quality.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—In providing training and technical assistance and for allocating resources for such assistance, the Secretary shall—

“(1) assist entities, including those entities not currently operating a Job Corps center, in developing the application described in section 147(d);

“(2) assist Job Corps centers and programs in correcting deficiencies and violations under this subtitle;

“(3) assist Job Corps centers and programs in meeting or exceeding the indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c); and

“(4) assist Job Corps centers and programs in the development of sound management practices, including financial management procedures.”.

SEC. 38. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

Section 158(c)(1) (29 U.S.C. 2898(c)(1)) is amended by striking “title II of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 481 et seq.)” and inserting “chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code.”.

SEC. 39. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MANAGEMENT.

Section 159 (29 U.S.C. 2899) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “MANAGEMENT INFORMATION” and inserting “PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY AND MANAGEMENT”; and

(2) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, or operating costs for such centers result in a budgetary shortfall”;

(3) by striking subsections (c) through (g); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(1) PRIMARY INDICATORS.—The annual primary indicators of performance for Job Corps centers shall include—

“(A) the percentage and number of enrollees who graduate from the Job Corps center;

“(B) the percentage and number of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment related to the career and technical education and training received through the Job Corps center, except that such calculation shall not include enrollment in education, the military, or volunteer service;

“(C) the percentage and number of graduates who obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program; and

“(D) the cost per successful performance outcome, which is calculated by comparing the number of graduates who were placed in unsubsidized employment or obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential, to total program costs, including all operations, construction, and administration costs at each Job Corps center.

“(2) SECONDARY INDICATORS.—The annual secondary indicators of performance for Job Corps centers shall include—

“(A) the percentage and number of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment not related to the career and technical education and training received through the Job Corps center;

“(B) the percentage and number of graduates who entered into postsecondary education;

“(C) the percentage and number of graduates who entered into the military;

“(D) the average wage of graduates who are in unsubsidized employment—

“(i) on the first day of employment; and

“(ii) 6 months after the first day;

“(E) the number and percentage of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment and were retained in the unsubsidized employment—

“(i) 6 months after the first day of employment; and

“(ii) 12 months after the first day of employment;

“(F) the percentage and number of enrollees compared to the percentage and number of enrollees the Secretary has established as targets in section 145(c)(1);

“(G) the cost per training slot, which is calculated by comparing the program's maximum number of enrollees that can be enrolled in a Job Corps center at any given time during the program year to the number of enrollees in the same program year; and

“(H) the number and percentage of former enrollees, including the number dismissed under the zero tolerance policy described in section 152(b).

“(3) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE FOR RECRUITERS.—The annual indicators of performance for recruiters shall include the measurements described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H) of paragraph (2).

“(4) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE OF CAREER TRANSITION SERVICE PROVIDERS.—The annual indicators of performance of career transition service providers shall include the measurements described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) and subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) of paragraph (2).

“(d) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall collect, and submit in the report described in subsection (f), information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, regarding—

“(1) the number and percentage of former enrollees who obtained a regular secondary school diploma;

“(2) the number and percentage of former enrollees who entered unsubsidized employment;

“(3) the number and percentage of former enrollees who obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential;

“(4) the number and percentage of former enrollees who entered into military service; and

“(5) any additional information required by the Secretary.

“(e) METHODS.—The Secretary shall collect the information described in subsections (c) and (d), using methods described in section 136(f)(2) and consistent with State law, by entering into agreements with the States to access such data for Job Corps enrollees, former enrollees, and graduates.

“(f) TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

“(1) REPORT.—The Secretary shall collect and annually submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate, and make available to the public by electronic means, a report containing—

“(A) information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, on the performance indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

“(B) a comparison of each Job Corps center, by rank, on the performance indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

“(C) a comparison of each Job Corps center, by rank, on the average performance of all primary indicators described in paragraph (1) of subsection (c);

“(D) information on the performance of the service providers described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c) on the performance indicators established under such paragraphs; and

“(E) a comparison of each service provider, by rank, on the performance of all service providers described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c) on the performance indicators established under such paragraphs.

“(2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall conduct an annual assessment of the performance of each Job Corps center which shall include information on the Job Corps centers that—

“(A) are ranked in the bottom 10 percent on the performance indicator described in paragraph (1)(C); or

“(B) have failed a safety and health code review described in subsection (g).

“(3) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT.—With respect to a Job Corps center that is identified under paragraph (2) or reports less than 50 percent on the performance indicators described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall develop and implement a 1 year performance improvement plan. Such a plan shall require action including—

“(A) providing technical assistance to the center;

“(B) changing the management staff of the center;

“(C) replacing the operator of the center;

“(D) reducing the capacity of the center; or

“(E) closing the center.

“(4) CLOSURE OF JOB CORPS CENTERS.—Job Corps centers that have been identified under paragraph (2) for more than 4 consecutive years shall be closed. The Secretary shall ensure—

“(A) that the proposed decision to close the center is announced in advance to the general public through publication in the Federal Register and other appropriate means; and

“(B) the establishment of a reasonable comment period, not to exceed 30 days, for interested individuals to submit written comments to the Secretary.

“(g) PARTICIPANT HEALTH AND SAFETY.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the General Services Administration or the appropriate State agency responsible for inspecting public buildings and safeguarding the health of disadvantaged students, to conduct an in-person review of the physical condition and health-related activities of each Job Corps center annually. Such review shall include a passing rate of occupancy under Federal and State ordinances.”

CHAPTER 4—NATIONAL PROGRAMS

SEC. 41. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 170 (29 U.S.C. 2915) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b);

(2) by striking:

“(a) GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—”; and

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subsections (a), (b), and (c) respectively, and moving such subsections 2 ems to the left, and conforming the casing style of the headings of such subsections to the casing style of the heading of subsection (d), as added by paragraph (7) of this section;

(4) in subsection (a) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by inserting “the training of staff providing rapid response services and additional assistance, the training of other staff of recipients of funds under this title, assistance regarding accounting and program operation

practices (when such assistance would not be duplicative to assistance provided by the State), technical assistance to States that do not meet State performance measures described in section 136,” after “localities,”; and

(B) by striking “from carrying out activities” and all that follows up to the period and inserting “to implement the amendments made by the SKILLS Act”; and

(5) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “subsection (a)”; and

(B) by striking “, or recipient of financial assistance under any of sections 166 through 169,”; and

(C) by striking “or grant recipient”; and

(6) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “subsection (a)”; and

(7) by inserting, after subsection (c) (as so redesignated), the following:

“(d) BEST PRACTICES COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) establish a system through which States may share information regarding best practices with regard to the operation of workforce investment activities under this Act; and

“(2) evaluate and disseminate information regarding best practices and identify knowledge gaps.”

SEC. 42. EVALUATIONS.

Section 172 (29 U.S.C. 2917) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “the Secretary shall provide for the continuing evaluation of the programs and activities, including those programs and activities carried out under section 171” and inserting “the Secretary, through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, shall conduct, at least once every 5 years, an independent evaluation of the programs and activities funded under this Act”; and

(2) by amending subsection (a)(4) to read as follows:

“(4) the impact of receiving services and not receiving services under such programs and activities on the community, businesses, and individuals;”;

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) TECHNIQUES.—Evaluations conducted under this section shall utilize appropriate and rigorous methodology and research designs, including the use of control groups chosen by scientific random assignment methodologies, quasi-experimental methods, impact analysis and the use of administrative data. The Secretary shall conduct an impact analysis, as described in subsection (a)(4), of the formula grant program under subtitle B not later than 2016, and thereafter shall conduct such an analysis not less than once every 4 years.”;

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate” and inserting “the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate”; and

(5) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g) and inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) REDUCTION OF AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED FOR LATE REPORTING.—If a report required to be transmitted to Congress under this section is not transmitted on or before the time period specified for that report, amounts authorized to be appropriated under this title shall be reduced by 10 percent for the fiscal year that begins after the date on which the final report required under this section is required to be transmitted and reduced by an additional 10 per-

cent each subsequent fiscal year until each such report is transmitted to Congress.”; and

(6) by adding at the end, the following:

“(h) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The results of the evaluations conducted under this section shall be made publicly available, including by posting such results on the Department’s website.”

CHAPTER 5—ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 46. REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS.

Section 181 (29 U.S.C. 2931) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(6), by striking “, including representatives of businesses and of labor organizations,”;

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “shall” and inserting “may”; and

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “training for” and inserting “the entry into employment, retention in employment, or increases in earnings of”; and

(B) by striking “subtitle B” and inserting “this Act”; and

(4) in subsection (f)(4), by striking “134(a)(3)(B)” and inserting “133(a)(4)”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) SALARY AND BONUS LIMITATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds provided under this title shall be used by a recipient or subrecipient of such funds to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or indirect costs, at a rate in excess of the rate prescribed in level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) VENDORS.—The limitation described in paragraph (1) shall not apply to vendors providing goods and services as defined in OMB Circular A-133.

“(3) LOWER LIMIT.—In a case in which a State is a recipient of such funds, the State may establish a lower limit than is provided in paragraph (1) for salaries and bonuses of those receiving salaries and bonuses from a subrecipient of such funds, taking into account factors including the relative cost of living in the State, the compensation levels for comparable State or local government employees, and the size of the organizations that administer the Federal programs involved.

“(h) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor (referred to in this Act as the ‘Administration’) shall administer all programs authorized under title I and the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.). The Administration shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Except for title II and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the Administration shall be the principal agency, and the Assistant Secretary shall be the principal officer, of such Department for carrying out this Act.

“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Secretary shall be an individual with substantial experience in workforce development and in workforce development management. The Assistant Secretary shall also, to the maximum extent possible, possess knowledge and have worked in or with the State or local workforce investment system or have been a member of the business community.

“(3) FUNCTIONS.—In the performance of the functions of the office, the Assistant Secretary shall be directly responsible to the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary of Labor, as determined by the Secretary. The functions of the Assistant Secretary shall not be

delegated to any officer not directly responsible, both with respect to program operation and administration, to the Assistant Secretary. Any reference in this Act to duties to be carried out by the Assistant Secretary shall be considered to be a reference to duties to be carried out by the Secretary acting through the Assistant Secretary.”

SEC. 47. PROMPT ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

Section 182 (29 U.S.C. 2932) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (c)—
- (A) by striking “127 or”; and
- (B) by striking “, except that” and all that follows and inserting a period; and
- (2) in subsection (e)—
- (A) by striking “sections 128 and 133” and inserting “section 133”; and
- (B) by striking “127 or”.

SEC. 48. FISCAL CONTROLS; SANCTIONS.

Section 184(a)(2) (29 U.S.C. 2934(a)(2)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “(A)” and all that follows through “Each” and inserting “Each”; and
- (2) by striking subparagraph (B).

SEC. 49. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 185 (29 U.S.C. 2935) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (c)—
- (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” after the semicolon;
- (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and
- (C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) shall have the option to submit or disseminate electronically any reports, records, plans, or other data that are required to be collected or disseminated under this title.”;
- (2) in subsection (e)(2), by inserting “and the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate,” after “Secretary.”.

SEC. 50. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Section 189 (29 U.S.C. 2939) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (g)—
- (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Appropriations for any fiscal year for programs and activities carried out under this title shall be available for obligation only on the basis of a program year. The program year shall begin on October 1 in the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made.”;
- (B) in paragraph (2)—
- (i) in the first sentence, by striking “each State” and inserting “each recipient (except as otherwise provided in this paragraph)”;
- (ii) in the second sentence, by striking “171 or”;
- (2) in subsection (i)—
- (A) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3);
- (B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (2);
- (C) by amending paragraph (2)(A), as so redesignated—
- (i) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and inserting a period at the end;
- (ii) by striking “requirements of subparagraph (B)” and all that follows through “any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of subtitle B” and inserting “requirements of subparagraph (B) or (D), any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of subtitle B”;
- (iii) by striking clause (ii); and
- (D) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) EXPEDITED PROCESS FOR EXTENDING APPROVED WAIVERS TO ADDITIONAL STATES.—The Secretary may establish an expedited procedure for the purpose of extending to ad-

ditional States the waiver of statutory or regulatory requirements that have been approved for a State pursuant to a request under subparagraph (B), in lieu of requiring the additional States to meet the requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C). Such procedure shall ensure that the extension of such a waiver to additional States is accompanied by appropriate conditions relating to the implementation of such waiver.

“(E) EXTERNAL CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall not require or impose new or additional requirements, that are not specified under this Act, on a State in exchange for providing a waiver to the State or a local area in the State under this paragraph.”.

SEC. 51. STATE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

Section 191(a) (29 U.S.C. 2941(a)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “consistent with the provisions of this title” and inserting “consistent with State law and the provisions of this title”; and
- (2) by striking “consistent with the terms and conditions required under this title” and inserting “consistent with State law and the terms and conditions required under this title”.

SEC. 52. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Section 195 (29 U.S.C. 2945) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (7), by inserting at the end the following:

“(D) Funds received under a program by a public or private nonprofit entity that are not described in subparagraph (B), such as funds privately raised from philanthropic foundations, businesses, or other private entities, shall not be considered to be income under this title and shall not be subject to the requirements of this paragraph.”;
- (2) by striking paragraph (9);
- (3) by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (13) as paragraphs (9) through (12), respectively; and
- (4) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(13) Funds provided under this title shall not be used to establish or operate stand-alone fee-for-service enterprises that compete with private sector employment agencies within the meaning of section 701(c) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e(c)), except that for purposes of this paragraph, such an enterprise does not include a one-stop center.

“(14) Any report required to be submitted to Congress, or to a Committee of Congress, under this title shall be submitted to both the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.”.

SEC. 53. FEDERAL AGENCY STAFF AND RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL AND LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.

Subtitle E of title I (29 U.S.C. 2931 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

“SEC. 196. FEDERAL AGENCY STAFF.
“The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

“(1) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the SKILLS Act—

“(A) identify the number of Federal government employees who, on the day before the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act, worked on or administered each of the programs and activities that were authorized under this Act or were authorized under a provision listed in section 71 of the SKILLS Act; and

“(B) identify the number of full-time equivalent employees who on the day before

that date of enactment, worked on or administered each of the programs and activities described in subparagraph (A), on functions for which the authorizing provision has been repealed, or for which an amount has been consolidated (if such employee is in a duplicate position), on or after such date of enactment;

“(2) not later than 90 after such date of enactment, publish the information described in paragraph (1) on the Office of Management and Budget website; and

“(3) not later than 1 year after such date of enactment—

“(A) reduce the workforce of the Federal Government by the number of full-time equivalent employees identified under paragraph (1)(B); and

“(B) submit to Congress a report on how the Director carried out the requirements of subparagraph (A).

“SEC. 197. RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

“(a) LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS.—

“(1) PUBLICITY RESTRICTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), no funds provided under this Act shall be used or proposed for use, for—

- “(i) publicity or propaganda purposes; or
- “(ii) the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, electronic communication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to—

- “(i) normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships;
- “(ii) the preparation, distribution, or use of the materials described in subparagraph (A)(ii) in presentation to the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body (except that this subparagraph does not apply with respect to such preparation, distribution, or use in presentation to the executive branch of any State or local government); or
- “(iii) such preparation, distribution, or use of such materials, that are designed to support or defeat any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government.

“(2) SALARY PAYMENT RESTRICTION.—No funds provided under this Act shall be used, or proposed for use, to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment or issuance of legislation, appropriations, regulations, administrative action, or an Executive order proposed or pending before the Congress or any State government, or a State or local legislature or legislative body, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships or participation by an agency or officer of a State, local, or tribal government in policymaking and administrative processes within the executive branch of that government.

“(b) POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds received by a participant of a program or activity under this Act shall be used for—

“(A) any partisan or nonpartisan political activity or any other political activity associated with a candidate, or contending faction or group, in an election for public or party office; or

“(B) any activity to provide voters with transportation to the polls or similar assistance in connection with any such election.

“(b) POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds received by a participant of a program or activity under this Act shall be used for—

“(A) any partisan or nonpartisan political activity or any other political activity associated with a candidate, or contending faction or group, in an election for public or party office; or

“(B) any activity to provide voters with transportation to the polls or similar assistance in connection with any such election.

“(2) RESTRICTION ON VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—No funds under this Act shall be used to conduct voter registration activities.

“(3) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this subsection, the term ‘participant’ includes any State, local area, or government, non-profit, or for-profit entity receiving funds under this Act.”.

CHAPTER 6—STATE UNIFIED PLAN

SEC. 56. STATE UNIFIED PLAN.

Section 501 (20 U.S.C. 9271) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall receive and approve State unified plans developed and submitted in accordance with this section.”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) STATE UNIFIED PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may develop and submit to the Secretary a State unified plan for 2 or more of the activities or programs set forth in paragraph (2). The State unified plan shall cover one or more of the activities or programs set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and shall cover one or more of the activities or programs set forth in subparagraphs (C) through (N) of paragraph (2).

“(2) ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘activity or program’ means any 1 of the following 14 activities or programs:

“(A) Activities and programs authorized under title I.

“(B) Activities and programs authorized under title II.

“(C) Programs authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 710 et seq.).

“(D) Secondary career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

“(E) Postsecondary career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

“(F) Activities and programs authorized under title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251 et seq.).

“(G) Programs and activities authorized under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the ‘National Apprenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

“(H) Programs authorized under the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.).

“(I) Programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

“(J) Programs authorized under State unemployment compensation laws (in accordance with applicable Federal law).

“(K) Work programs authorized under section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)).

“(L) Activities and programs authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

“(M) Activities and programs authorized under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.).

“(N) Activities authorized under chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.”;

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) APPROVAL.—

“(1) JURISDICTION.—In approving a State unified plan under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(A) submit the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) to the head of the Federal agency who exercises administrative authority over the activity or program for the approval of such portion by such Federal agency head; or

“(B) coordinate approval of the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) with the head of the Federal agency who exercises administrative authority over the activity or program.

“(2) TIMELINE.—A State unified plan shall be considered to be approved by the Secretary at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the day the Secretary receives the plan, unless the Secretary makes a written determination, during the 90-day period, that details how the plan is not consistent with the requirements of the Federal statute authorizing an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) and covered under the plan or how the plan is not consistent with the requirements of subsection (c)(3).

“(3) SCOPE OF PORTION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program shall be considered to include the plan described in subsection (c)(3) and any proposal described in subsection (e)(2), as that part and proposal relate to the activity or program.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FUNDS.—

“(1) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subsection to reduce inefficiencies in the administration of federally funded State and local employment and training programs.

“(2) IN GENERAL.—In developing a State unified plan for the activities or programs described in subsection (b)(2), and subject to paragraph (4) and to the State plan approval process under subsection (d), a State may propose to consolidate the amount, in whole or part, provided for the activities or programs covered by the plan into the Workforce Investment Fund under section 132(b) to improve the administration of State and local employment and training programs.

“(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A State that has a State unified plan approved under subsection (d) with a proposal for consolidation under paragraph (2), and that is carrying out such consolidation, shall—

“(A) in providing an activity or program for which an amount is consolidated into the Workforce Investment Fund—

“(i) continue to meet the program requirements, limitations, and prohibitions of any Federal statute authorizing the activity or program; and

“(ii) meet the intent and purpose for the activity or program; and

“(B) continue to make reservations and allotments under subsections (a) and (b) of section 133.

“(4) EXCEPTIONS.—A State may not consolidate an amount under paragraph (2) that is allocated to the State under—

“(A) the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.); or

“(B) title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 710 et seq.).”.

Subtitle B—Adult Education and Family Literacy Education

SEC. 61. AMENDMENT.

Title II (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION

“SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

“This title may be cited as the ‘Adult Education and Family Literacy Education Act’.

“SEC. 202. PURPOSE.

“It is the purpose of this title to provide instructional opportunities for adults seeking to improve their literacy skills, including their basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, and support States and local communities in providing, on a voluntary basis, adult education and family literacy education programs, in order to—

“(1) increase the literacy of adults, including the basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, to a level of proficiency necessary for adults to obtain employment and self-sufficiency and to successfully advance in the workforce;

“(2) assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education (or its equivalent) and the transition to a postsecondary educational institution;

“(3) assist adults who are parents to enable them to support the educational development of their children and make informed choices regarding their children’s education including, through instruction in basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills; and

“(4) assist adults who are not proficient in English in improving their reading, writing, speaking, listening, comprehension, and mathematics skills.

“SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—The term ‘adult education and family literacy education programs’ means a sequence of academic instruction and educational services below the postsecondary level that increase an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak English and perform mathematical computations leading to a level of proficiency equivalent to at least a secondary school completion that is provided for individuals—

“(A) who are at least 16 years of age;

“(B) who are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under State law; and

“(C) who—

“(i) lack sufficient mastery of basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills to enable the individuals to function effectively in society;

“(ii) do not have a secondary school diploma or its equivalent and have not achieved an equivalent level of education; or

“(iii) are English learners.

“(2) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term ‘eligible agency’—

“(A) means the primary entity or agency in a State or an outlying area responsible for administering or supervising policy for adult education and family literacy education programs in the State or outlying area, respectively, consistent with the law of the State or outlying area, respectively; and

“(B) may be the State educational agency, the State agency responsible for administering workforce investment activities, or the State agency responsible for administering community or technical colleges.

“(3) ELIGIBLE PROVIDER.—The term ‘eligible provider’ means an organization of demonstrated effectiveness that is—

“(A) a local educational agency;

“(B) a community-based or faith-based organization;

“(C) a volunteer literacy organization;

“(D) an institution of higher education;

“(E) a public or private educational agency;

“(F) a library;

“(G) a public housing authority;

“(H) an institution that is not described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (G) and has the ability to provide adult education, basic skills, and family literacy education programs to adults and families; or

“(I) a consortium of the agencies, organizations, institutions, libraries, or authorities described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (H).

“(4) ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘English language acquisition program’ means a program of instruction—

“(A) designed to help English learners achieve competence in reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension of the English language; and

“(B) that may lead to—

“(i) attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

“(ii) transition to success in postsecondary education and training; and

“(iii) employment or career advancement.

“(5) FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term ‘family literacy education program’ means an educational program that—

“(A) assists parents and students, on a voluntary basis, in achieving the purpose of this title as described in section 202; and

“(B) is of sufficient intensity in terms of hours and of sufficient quality to make sustainable changes in a family, is evidence-based, and, for the purpose of substantially increasing the ability of parents and children to read, write, and speak English, integrates—

“(i) interactive literacy activities between parents and their children;

“(ii) training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children;

“(iii) parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency; and

“(iv) an age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

“(6) GOVERNOR.—The term ‘Governor’ means the chief executive officer of a State or outlying area.

“(7) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘individual with a disability’ means an individual with any disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990).

“(B) INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The term ‘individuals with disabilities’ means more than one individual with a disability.

“(8) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term ‘English learner’ means an adult or out-of-school youth who has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or understanding the English language, and—

“(A) whose native language is a language other than English; or

“(B) who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.

“(9) INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The term ‘integrated education and training’ means services that provide adult education and literacy activities contextually and concurrently with workforce preparation activities and workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster. Such services may include offering adult education services concurrent with postsecondary education and training, including through co-instruction.

“(10) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(11) LITERACY.—The term ‘literacy’ means an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak in English, compute, and solve problems at a level of proficiency necessary to obtain employment and to successfully make the transition to postsecondary education.

“(12) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘local educational agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

“(13) OUTLYING AREA.—The term ‘outlying area’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of this Act.

“(14) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term ‘postsecondary educational institution’ means—

“(A) an institution of higher education that provides not less than a 2-year program of instruction that is acceptable for credit toward a bachelor’s degree;

“(B) a tribally controlled community college; or

“(C) a nonprofit educational institution offering certificate or apprenticeship programs at the postsecondary level.

“(15) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Education.

“(16) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

“(17) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘State educational agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

“(18) WORKPLACE LITERACY PROGRAM.—The term ‘workplace literacy program’ means an educational program that is offered in collaboration between eligible providers and employers or employee organizations for the purpose of improving the productivity of the workforce through the improvement of reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills.

“SEC. 204. HOME SCHOOLS.

“Nothing in this title shall be construed to affect home schools, whether or not a home school is treated as a home school or a private school under State law, or to compel a parent engaged in home schooling to participate in adult education and family literacy education activities under this title.

“SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title, \$606,294,933 for fiscal year 2015 and for each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.

“Subtitle A—Federal Provisions

“SEC. 211. RESERVATION OF FUNDS; GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES; ALLOTMENTS.

“(a) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 2.0 percent to carry out section 242.

“(b) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award a grant to each eligible agency having a State plan approved under section 224 in an amount equal to the sum of the initial allotment under subsection (c)(1) and the additional allotment under subsection (c)(2) for the eligible agency for the fiscal year, subject to subsections (f) and (g).

“(2) PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a grant under paragraph (1) only

if the eligible agency involved agrees to expend the grant in accordance with the provisions of this title.

“(c) ALLOTMENTS.—

“(1) INITIAL ALLOTMENTS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency having a State plan approved under section 224—

“(A) \$100,000, in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area; and

“(B) \$250,000, in the case of any other eligible agency.

“(2) ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205, not reserved under subsection (a), and not allotted under paragraph (1), for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency that receives an initial allotment under paragraph (1) an additional amount that bears the same relationship to such sums as the number of qualifying adults in the State or outlying area served by the eligible agency bears to the number of such adults in all States and outlying areas.

“(d) QUALIFYING ADULT.—For the purpose of subsection (c)(2), the term ‘qualifying adult’ means an adult who—

“(1) is at least 16 years of age;

“(2) is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance under the law of the State or outlying area;

“(3) does not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; and

“(4) is not enrolled in secondary school.

“(e) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available under subsection (c) for the Republic of Palau, the Secretary shall award grants to Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Republic of Palau to carry out activities described in this title in accordance with the provisions of this title as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) TERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Republic of Palau shall be eligible to receive a grant under this title until an agreement for the extension of United States education assistance under the Compact of Free Association for the Republic of Palau becomes effective.

“(f) HOLD-HARMLESS PROVISIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (c) and subject to paragraph (2), for—

“(A) fiscal year 2015, no eligible agency shall receive an allotment under this title that is less than 90 percent of the allotment the eligible agency received for fiscal year 2012 under this title; and

“(B) fiscal year 2016 and each succeeding fiscal year, no eligible agency shall receive an allotment under this title that is less than 90 percent of the allotment the eligible agency received for the preceding fiscal year under this title.

“(2) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If, for any fiscal year the amount available for allotment under this title is insufficient to satisfy the provisions of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ratable reduce the payments to all eligible agencies, as necessary.

“(g) REALLOTMENT.—The portion of any eligible agency’s allotment under this title for a fiscal year that the Secretary determines will not be required for the period such allotment is available for carrying out activities under this title, shall be available for reallocation from time to time, on such dates during such period as the Secretary shall fix, to other eligible agencies in proportion to the original allotments to such agencies under this title for such year.

“SEC. 212. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.”

“Programs and activities authorized under this title are subject to the performance accountability provisions described in paragraphs (2)(A) and (3) of section 136(b) and may, at a State’s discretion, include additional indicators identified in the State plan approved under section 224.

“Subtitle B—State Provisions**“SEC. 221. STATE ADMINISTRATION.”**

“Each eligible agency shall be responsible for the following activities under this title:

“(1) The development, submission, implementation, and monitoring of the State plan.

“(2) Consultation with other appropriate agencies, groups, and individuals that are involved in, or interested in, the development and implementation of activities assisted under this title.

“(3) Coordination and avoidance of duplication with other Federal and State education, training, corrections, public housing, and social service programs.

“SEC. 222. STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS; MATCHING REQUIREMENT.”

“(a) STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Each eligible agency receiving a grant under this title for a fiscal year—

“(1) shall use not less than 82.5 percent of the grant funds to award grants and contracts under section 231 and to carry out section 225, of which not more than 10 percent of such amount shall be available to carry out section 225;

“(2) shall use not more than 12.5 percent of the grant funds to carry out State leadership activities under section 223; and

“(3) shall use not more than 5 percent of the grant funds, or \$65,000, whichever is greater, for the administrative expenses of the eligible agency.

“(b) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive a grant from the Secretary under section 211(b), each eligible agency shall provide, for the costs to be incurred by the eligible agency in carrying out the adult education and family literacy education programs for which the grant is awarded, a non-Federal contribution in an amount that is not less than—

“(A) in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area, 12 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs in the outlying area, except that the Secretary may decrease the amount of funds required under this subparagraph for an eligible agency; and

“(B) in the case of an eligible agency serving a State, 25 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs in the State.

“(2) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—An eligible agency’s non-Federal contribution required under paragraph (1) may be provided in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, and shall include only non-Federal funds that are used for adult education and family literacy education programs in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of this title.

“SEC. 223. STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.”

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible agency may use funds made available under section 222(a)(2) for any of the following adult education and family literacy education programs:

“(1) The establishment or operation of professional development programs to improve the quality of instruction provided pursuant to local activities required under section 231(b).

“(2) The provision of technical assistance to eligible providers of adult education and

family literacy education programs, including for the development and dissemination of evidence based research instructional practices in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, and English language acquisition programs.

“(3) The provision of assistance to eligible providers in developing, implementing, and reporting measurable progress in achieving the objectives of this title.

“(4) The monitoring and evaluation of the quality of, and the improvement in, adult education and literacy activities.

“(5) The provision of technology assistance, including staff training, to eligible providers of adult education and family literacy education programs, including distance education activities, to enable the eligible providers to improve the quality of such activities.

“(6) The development and implementation of technology applications or distance education, including professional development to support the use of instructional technology.

“(7) Coordination with other public programs, including programs under title I of this Act, and other welfare-to-work, workforce development, and job training programs.

“(8) Coordination with existing support services, such as transportation, child care, and other assistance designed to increase rates of enrollment in, and successful completion of, adult education and family literacy education programs, for adults enrolled in such activities.

“(9) The development and implementation of a system to assist in the transition from adult basic education to postsecondary education.

“(10) Activities to promote workplace literacy programs.

“(11) Other activities of statewide significance, including assisting eligible providers in achieving progress in improving the skill levels of adults who participate in programs under this title.

“(12) Integration of literacy, instructional, and occupational skill training and promotion of linkages with employees.

“(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, eligible agencies shall coordinate where possible, and avoid duplicating efforts, in order to maximize the impact of the activities described in subsection (a).

“(c) STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS.—Whenever a State or outlying area implements any rule or policy relating to the administration or operation of a program authorized under this title that has the effect of imposing a requirement that is not imposed under Federal law (including any rule or policy based on a State or outlying area interpretation of a Federal statute, regulation, or guideline), the State or outlying area shall identify, to eligible providers, the rule or policy as being imposed by the State or outlying area.

“SEC. 224. STATE PLAN.”**“(a) 3-YEAR PLANS.—**

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible agency desiring a grant under this title for any fiscal year shall submit to, or have on file with, the Secretary a 3-year State plan.

“(2) STATE UNIFIED PLAN.—The eligible agency may submit the State plan as part of a State unified plan described in section 501.

“(b) PLAN CONTENTS.—The eligible agency shall include in the State plan or any revisions to the State plan—

“(1) an objective assessment of the needs of individuals in the State or outlying area for adult education and family literacy edu-

cation programs, including individuals most in need or hardest to serve;

“(2) a description of the adult education and family literacy education programs that will be carried out with funds received under this title;

“(3) an assurance that the funds received under this title will not be expended for any purpose other than for activities under this title;

“(4) a description of how the eligible agency will annually evaluate and measure the effectiveness and improvement of the adult education and family literacy education programs funded under this title using the indicators of performance described in section 136, including how the eligible agency will conduct such annual evaluations and measures for each grant received under this title;

“(5) a description of how the eligible agency will fund local activities in accordance with the measurable goals described in section 231(d);

“(6) an assurance that the eligible agency will expend the funds under this title only in a manner consistent with fiscal requirements in section 241;

“(7) a description of the process that will be used for public participation and comment with respect to the State plan, which—

“(A) shall include consultation with the State workforce investment board, the State board responsible for administering community or technical colleges, the Governor, the State educational agency, the State board or agency responsible for administering block grants for temporary assistance to needy families under title IV of the Social Security Act, the State council on disabilities, the State vocational rehabilitation agency, and other State agencies that promote the improvement of adult education and family literacy education programs, and direct providers of such programs; and

“(B) may include consultation with the State agency on higher education, institutions responsible for professional development of adult education and family literacy education programs instructors, representatives of business and industry, refugee assistance programs, and faith-based organizations;

“(8) a description of the eligible agency’s strategies for serving populations that include, at a minimum—

“(A) low-income individuals;

“(B) individuals with disabilities;

“(C) the unemployed;

“(D) the underemployed; and

“(E) individuals with multiple barriers to educational enhancement, including English learners;

“(9) a description of how the adult education and family literacy education programs that will be carried out with any funds received under this title will be integrated with other adult education, career development, and employment and training activities in the State or outlying area served by the eligible agency;

“(10) a description of the steps the eligible agency will take to ensure direct and equitable access, as required in section 231(c)(1), including—

“(A) how the State will build the capacity of community-based and faith-based organizations to provide adult education and family literacy education programs; and

“(B) how the State will increase the participation of business and industry in adult education and family literacy education programs;

“(11) an assessment of the adequacy of the system of the State or outlying area to ensure teacher quality and a description of how

the State or outlying area will use funds received under this subtitle to improve teacher quality, including evidence-based professional development to improve instruction; and

“(12) a description of how the eligible agency will consult with any State agency responsible for postsecondary education to develop adult education that prepares students to enter postsecondary education without the need for remediation upon completion of secondary school equivalency programs.

“(c) **PLAN REVISIONS.**—When changes in conditions or other factors require substantial revisions to an approved State plan, the eligible agency shall submit the revisions of the State plan to the Secretary.

“(d) **CONSULTATION.**—The eligible agency shall—

“(1) submit the State plan, and any revisions to the State plan, to the Governor, the chief State school officer, or the State officer responsible for administering community or technical colleges, or outlying area for review and comment; and

“(2) ensure that any comments regarding the State plan by the Governor, the chief State school officer, or the State officer responsible for administering community or technical colleges, and any revision to the State plan, are submitted to the Secretary.

“(e) **PLAN APPROVAL.**—The Secretary shall—

“(1) approve a State plan within 90 days after receiving the plan unless the Secretary makes a written determination within 30 days after receiving the plan that the plan does not meet the requirements of this section or is inconsistent with specific provisions of this subtitle; and

“(2) not finally disapprove of a State plan before offering the eligible agency the opportunity, prior to the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the eligible agency received the written determination described in paragraph (1), to review the plan and providing technical assistance in order to assist the eligible agency in meeting the requirements of this subtitle.

“SEC. 225. PROGRAMS FOR CORRECTIONS EDUCATION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONALIZED INDIVIDUALS.

“(a) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—From funds made available under section 222(a)(1) for a fiscal year, each eligible agency shall carry out corrections education and education for other institutionalized individuals.

“(b) **USES OF FUNDS.**—The funds described in subsection (a) shall be used for the cost of educational programs for criminal offenders in correctional institutions and for other institutionalized individuals, including academic programs for—

“(1) basic skills education;

“(2) special education programs as determined by the eligible agency;

“(3) reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics programs;

“(4) secondary school credit or diploma programs or their recognized equivalent; and

“(5) integrated education and training.

“(c) **PRIORITY.**—Each eligible agency that is using assistance provided under this section to carry out a program for criminal offenders within a correctional institution shall give priority to serving individuals who are likely to leave the correctional institution within 5 years of participation in the program.

“(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.**—The term ‘correctional institution’ means any—

“(A) prison;

“(B) jail;

“(C) reformatory;

“(D) work farm;

“(E) detention center; or

“(F) halfway house, community-based rehabilitation center, or any other similar institution designed for the confinement or rehabilitation of criminal offenders.

“(2) **CRIMINAL OFFENDER.**—The term ‘criminal offender’ means any individual who is charged with, or convicted of, any criminal offense.

“Subtitle C—Local Provisions

“SEC. 231. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.

“(a) **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.**—From grant funds made available under section 222(a)(1), each eligible agency shall award multi-year grants or contracts, on a competitive basis, to eligible providers within the State or outlying area that meet the conditions and requirements of this title to enable the eligible providers to develop, implement, and improve adult education and family literacy education programs within the State.

“(b) **LOCAL ACTIVITIES.**—The eligible agency shall require eligible providers receiving a grant or contract under subsection (a) to establish or operate—

“(1) programs that provide adult education and literacy activities;

“(2) programs that provide integrated education and training activities; or

“(3) credit-bearing postsecondary coursework.

“(c) **DIRECT AND EQUITABLE ACCESS; SAME PROCESS.**—Each eligible agency receiving funds under this title shall ensure that—

“(1) all eligible providers have direct and equitable access to apply for grants or contracts under this section; and

“(2) the same grant or contract announcement process and application process is used for all eligible providers in the State or outlying area.

“(d) **MEASURABLE GOALS.**—The eligible agency shall require eligible providers receiving a grant or contract under subsection (a) to demonstrate—

“(1) the eligible provider’s measurable goals for participant outcomes to be achieved annually on the core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A);

“(2) the past effectiveness of the eligible provider in improving the basic academic skills of adults and, for eligible providers receiving grants in the prior year, the success of the eligible provider receiving funding under this title in exceeding its performance goals in the prior year;

“(3) the commitment of the eligible provider to serve individuals in the community who are the most in need of basic academic skills instruction services, including individuals with disabilities and individuals who are low-income or have minimal reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, or are English learners;

“(4) the program is of sufficient intensity and quality for participants to achieve substantial learning gains;

“(5) educational practices are evidence-based;

“(6) the activities of the eligible provider effectively employ advances in technology, and delivery systems including distance education;

“(7) the activities provide instruction in real-life contexts, including integrated education and training when appropriate, to ensure that an individual has the skills needed to compete in the workplace and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;

“(8) the activities are staffed by well-trained instructors, counselors, and adminis-

trators who meet minimum qualifications established by the State;

“(9) the activities are coordinated with other available resources in the community, such as through strong links with elementary schools and secondary schools, postsecondary educational institutions, local workforce investment boards, one-stop centers, job training programs, community-based and faith-based organizations, and social service agencies;

“(10) the activities offer flexible schedules and support services (such as child care and transportation) that are necessary to enable individuals, including individuals with disabilities or other special needs, to attend and complete programs;

“(11) the activities include a high-quality information management system that has the capacity to report measurable participant outcomes (consistent with section 136) and to monitor program performance;

“(12) the local communities have a demonstrated need for additional English language acquisition programs, and integrated education and training programs;

“(13) the capacity of the eligible provider to produce valid information on performance results, including enrollments and measurable participant outcomes;

“(14) adult education and family literacy education programs offer rigorous reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics content that are evidence based; and

“(15) applications of technology, and services to be provided by the eligible providers, are of sufficient intensity and duration to increase the amount and quality of learning and lead to measurable learning gains within specified time periods.

“(e) **SPECIAL RULE.**—Eligible providers may use grant funds under this title to serve children participating in family literacy programs assisted under this part, provided that other sources of funds available to provide similar services for such children are used first.

“SEC. 232. LOCAL APPLICATION.

“Each eligible provider desiring a grant or contract under this title shall submit an application to the eligible agency containing such information and assurances as the eligible agency may require, including—

“(1) a description of how funds awarded under this title will be spent consistent with the requirements of this title;

“(2) a description of any cooperative arrangements the eligible provider has with other agencies, institutions, or organizations for the delivery of adult education and family literacy education programs; and

“(3) each of the demonstrations required by section 231(d).

“SEC. 233. LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMITS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (b), of the amount that is made available under this title to an eligible provider—

“(1) at least 95 percent shall be expended for carrying out adult education and family literacy education programs; and

“(2) the remaining amount shall be used for planning, administration, personnel and professional development, development of measurable goals in reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics, and interagency coordination.

“(b) **SPECIAL RULE.**—In cases where the cost limits described in subsection (a) are too restrictive to allow for adequate planning, administration, personnel development, and interagency coordination, the eligible provider may negotiate with the eligible agency in order to determine an adequate level of funds to be used for noninstructional purposes.

“Subtitle D—General Provisions**“SEC. 241. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

“Funds made available for adult education and family literacy education programs under this title shall supplement and not supplant other State or local public funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs.

“SEC. 242. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

“The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program of national activities that may include the following:

“(1) Providing technical assistance to eligible entities, on request, to—

“(A) improve their fiscal management, research-based instruction, and reporting requirements to carry out the requirements of this title;

“(B) improve its performance on the core indicators of performance described in section 136;

“(C) provide adult education professional development; and

“(D) use distance education and improve the application of technology in the classroom, including instruction in English language acquisition for English learners.

“(2) Providing for the conduct of research on national literacy basic skill acquisition levels among adults, including the number of adult English learners functioning at different levels of reading proficiency.

“(3) Improving the coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness of adult education and workforce development services at the national, State, and local levels.

“(4) Determining how participation in adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs prepares individuals for entry into and success in postsecondary education and employment, and in the case of prison-based services, the effect on recidivism.

“(5) Evaluating how different types of providers, including community and faith-based organizations or private for-profit agencies measurably improve the skills of participants in adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs.

“(6) Identifying model integrated basic and workplace skills education programs, including programs for English learners coordinated literacy and employment services, and effective strategies for serving adults with disabilities.

“(7) Initiating other activities designed to improve the measurable quality and effectiveness of adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs nationwide.”.

Subtitle C—Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act**SEC. 66. AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT.**

Section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 15. WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.**“(a) SYSTEM CONTENT.—**

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’), in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall oversee the development, maintenance, and continuous improvement of a nationwide workforce and labor market information system that includes—

“(A) statistical data from cooperative statistical survey and projection programs and data from administrative reporting systems that, taken together, enumerate, estimate, and project employment opportunities and conditions at national, State, and local lev-

els in a timely manner, including statistics on—

“(i) employment and unemployment status of national, State, and local populations, including self-employed, part-time, and seasonal workers;

“(ii) industrial distribution of occupations, as well as current and projected employment opportunities, wages, benefits (where data is available), and skill trends by occupation and industry, with particular attention paid to State and local conditions;

“(iii) the incidence of, industrial and geographical location of, and number of workers displaced by, permanent layoffs and plant closings; and

“(iv) employment and earnings information maintained in a longitudinal manner to be used for research and program evaluation;

“(B) information on State and local employment opportunities, and other appropriate statistical data related to labor market dynamics, which—

“(i) shall be current and comprehensive;

“(ii) shall meet the needs identified through the consultations described in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (e)(1); and

“(iii) shall meet the needs for the information identified in section 121(e)(1)(E) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841(e)(1)(E));

“(C) technical standards (which the Secretary shall publish annually) for data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) that, at a minimum, meet the criteria of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code;

“(D) procedures to ensure compatibility and additivity of the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) from national, State, and local levels;

“(E) procedures to support standardization and aggregation of data from administrative reporting systems described in subparagraph (A) of employment-related programs;

“(F) analysis of data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) for uses such as—

“(i) national, State, and local policymaking;

“(ii) implementation of Federal policies (including allocation formulas);

“(iii) program planning and evaluation; and

“(iv) researching labor market dynamics;

“(G) wide dissemination of such data, information, and analysis in a user-friendly manner and voluntary technical standards for dissemination mechanisms; and

“(H) programs of—

“(i) training for effective data dissemination;

“(ii) research and demonstration; and

“(iii) programs and technical assistance.

“(2) INFORMATION TO BE CONFIDENTIAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No officer or employee of the Federal Government or agent of the Federal Government may—

“(i) use any submission that is furnished for exclusively statistical purposes under the provisions of this section for any purpose other than the statistical purposes for which the submission is furnished;

“(ii) disclose to the public any publication or media transmittal of the data contained in the submission described in clause (i) that permits information concerning an individual subject to be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means; or

“(iii) permit anyone other than a sworn officer, employee, or agent of any Federal department or agency, or a contractor (including an employee of a contractor) of such de-

partment or agency, to examine an individual submission described in clause (i),

without the consent of the individual, agency, or other person who is the subject of the submission or provides that submission.

“(B) IMMUNITY FROM LEGAL PROCESS.—Any submission (including any data derived from the submission) that is collected and retained by a Federal department or agency, or an officer, employee, agent, or contractor of such a department or agency, for exclusively statistical purposes under this section shall be immune from the legal process and shall not, without the consent of the individual, agency, or other person who is the subject of the submission or provides that submission, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial or administrative proceeding.

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide immunity from the legal process for such submission (including any data derived from the submission) if the submission is in the possession of any person, agency, or entity other than the Federal Government or an officer, employee, agent, or contractor of the Federal Government, or if the submission is independently collected, retained, or produced for purposes other than the purposes of this Act.

“(b) SYSTEM RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) shall be planned, administered, overseen, and evaluated through a cooperative governance structure involving the Federal Government and States.

“(2) DUTIES.—The Secretary, with respect to data collection, analysis, and dissemination of workforce and labor market information for the system, shall carry out the following duties:

“(A) Assign responsibilities within the Department of Labor for elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) to ensure that all statistical and administrative data collected is consistent with appropriate Bureau of Labor Statistics standards and definitions.

“(B) Actively seek the cooperation of other Federal agencies to establish and maintain mechanisms for ensuring complementarity and nonduplication in the development and operation of statistical and administrative data collection activities.

“(C) Eliminate gaps and duplication in statistical undertakings, with the systemization of wage surveys as an early priority.

“(D) In collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and States, develop and maintain the elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a), including the development of consistent procedures and definitions for use by the States in collecting the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1).

“(E) Establish procedures for the system to ensure that—

“(i) such data and information are timely;

“(ii) paperwork and reporting for the system are reduced to a minimum; and

“(iii) States and localities are fully involved in the development and continuous improvement of the system at all levels.

“(c) NATIONAL ELECTRONIC TOOLS TO PROVIDE SERVICES.—The Secretary is authorized to assist in the development of national electronic tools that may be used to facilitate the delivery of work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c)(2)) and to

provide workforce and labor market information to individuals through the one-stop delivery systems described in section 121 and through other appropriate delivery systems.

“(d) COORDINATION WITH THE STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, working through the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration, shall regularly consult with representatives of State agencies carrying out workforce information activities regarding strategies for improving the workforce and labor market information system.

“(2) FORMAL CONSULTATIONS.—At least twice each year, the Secretary, working through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall conduct formal consultations regarding programs carried out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics with representatives of each of the Federal regions of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, elected (pursuant to a process established by the Secretary) from the State directors affiliated with State agencies that perform the duties described in subsection (e)(1).

“(e) STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive Federal financial assistance under this section, the Governor of a State shall—

“(A) be responsible for the management of the portions of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) that comprise a statewide workforce and labor market information system;

“(B) establish a process for the oversight of such system;

“(C) consult with State and local employers, participants, and local workforce investment boards about the labor market relevance of the data to be collected and disseminated through the statewide workforce and labor market information system;

“(D) consult with State educational agencies and local educational agencies concerning the provision of workforce and labor market information in order to meet the needs of secondary school and postsecondary school students who seek such information;

“(E) collect and disseminate for the system, on behalf of the State and localities in the State, the information and data described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1);

“(F) maintain and continuously improve the statewide workforce and labor market information system in accordance with this section;

“(G) perform contract and grant responsibilities for data collection, analysis, and dissemination for such system;

“(H) conduct such other data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities as will ensure an effective statewide workforce and labor market information system;

“(I) actively seek the participation of other State and local agencies in data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities in order to ensure complementarity, compatibility, and usefulness of data;

“(J) participate in the development of, and submit to the Secretary, an annual plan to carry out the requirements and authorities of this subsection; and

“(K) utilize the quarterly records described in section 136(f)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(f)(2)) to assist the State and other States in measuring State progress on State performance measures.

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the ability of a Governor to conduct additional data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities with State funds or with

Federal funds from sources other than this section.

“(f) NONDUPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—None of the functions and activities carried out pursuant to this section shall duplicate the functions and activities carried out under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$60,153,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.”

Subtitle D—Repeals and Conforming Amendments

SEC. 71. REPEALS.

The following provisions are repealed:

(1) Chapter 4 of subtitle B of title I, and sections 123, 155, 166, 167, 168, 169, 171, 173, 173A, 174, 192, 194, 502, 503, and 506 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act.

(2) Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.).

(3) Sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.).

(4) The Twenty-First Century Workforce Commission Act (29 U.S.C. 2701 note).

(5) Public Law 91-378, 16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq. (popularly known as the “Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970”).

(6) Section 821 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 1151).

(7) The Women in Apprenticeship and Non-traditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.).

(8) Sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 72. AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.—

(1) DEFINITION.—Section 3(t) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(t)) is amended—

(A) by striking “means (1) the agency” and inserting the following: “means—

“(A) the agency”;

(B) by striking “programs, and (2) the tribal” and inserting the following: “programs;

“(B) the tribal”; and

(C) by striking “this Act.” and inserting the following: “this Act; and

“(C) in the context of employment and training activities under section 6(d)(4), a State board as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).”

(2) ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.—Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(14) by striking “section 6(d)(4)(I)” and inserting “section 6(d)(4)(C)”, and

(B) in subsection (g)(3), in the first sentence, by striking “constitutes adequate participation in an employment and training program under section 6(d)” and inserting “allows the individual to participate in employment and training activities under section 6(d)(4)”.

(3) ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATIONS.—Section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

“(D) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—

“(i) IMPLEMENTATION.—Each State agency shall provide employment and training services authorized under section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864) to eligible members of households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program in gaining skills, training,

work, or experience that will increase their ability to obtain regular employment.

“(ii) STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.—Consistent with subparagraph (A), employment and training services shall be provided through the statewide workforce development system, including the one-stop delivery system authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

“(iii) REIMBURSEMENTS.—

“(I) ACTUAL COSTS.—The State agency shall provide payments or reimbursement to participants served under this paragraph for—

“(aa) the actual costs of transportation and other actual costs (other than dependent care costs) that are reasonably necessary and directly related to the individual participating in employment and training activities; and

“(bb) the actual costs of such dependent care expenses as are determined by the State agency to be necessary for the individual to participate in employment and training activities (other than an individual who is the caretaker relative of a dependent in a family receiving benefits under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) in a local area where an employment, training, or education program under title IV of that Act is in operation), except that no such payment or reimbursement shall exceed the applicable local market rate.

“(II) SERVICE CONTRACTS AND VOUCHERS.—In lieu of providing reimbursements or payments for dependent care expenses under clause (i), a State agency may, at the option of the State agency, arrange for dependent care through providers by the use of purchase of service contracts or vouchers or by providing vouchers to the household.

“(III) VALUE OF REIMBURSEMENTS.—The value of any dependent care services provided for or arranged under clause (ii), or any amount received as a payment or reimbursement under clause (i), shall—

“(aa) not be treated as income for the purposes of any other Federal or federally assisted program that bases eligibility for, or the amount of benefits on, need; and

“(bb) not be claimed as an employment-related expense for the purposes of the credit provided under section 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 21).”

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 11(e)(19) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(11)) is amended to read as follows:

“(S) the plans of the State agency for providing employment and training services under section 6(d)(4);”

(5) ADMINISTRATIVE COST-SHARING AND QUALITY CONTROL.—Section 16(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “carry out employment and training programs” and inserting “provide employment and training services to eligible households under section 6(d)(4);” and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “operating an employment and training program” and inserting “providing employment and training services consistent with section 6(d)(4);”

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “participation in an employment and training program” and inserting “the individual participating in employment and training activities”; and

(ii) by striking “section 6(d)(4)(I)(i)(II)” and inserting “section 6(d)(4)(C)(i)(II)”;

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking “for operating an employment and training program”

and inserting “to provide employment and training services”; and

(D) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(E) MONITORING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor, shall monitor each State agency responsible for administering employment and training services under section 6(d)(4) to ensure funds are being spent effectively and efficiently.

“(ii) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Each program of employment and training receiving funds under section 6(d)(4) shall be subject to the requirements of the performance accountability system, including having to meet the State performance measures described in section 136 of the Workforce Investment Act (29 U.S.C. 2871).”

(6) RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATION, AND EVALUATIONS.—Section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(B)(iv)(III)(dd), by striking “, (4)(F)(i), or (4)(K)” and inserting “or (4)”; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) in subsection (g), in the first sentence in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “programs established” and inserting “activities provided to eligible households”; and

(ii) by inserting “, in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor,” after “Secretary”.

(7) MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PROJECT.—Section 22(b)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2031(b)(4)) is amended by striking “equivalent to those offered under the employment and training program”.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 412 OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—

(1) CONDITIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS.—Section 412(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “make available sufficient resources for employment training and placement” and inserting “provide refugees with the opportunity to access employment and training services, including job placement,”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “services,” and inserting “services provided through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(C)(iii)(II), by inserting “and training” after “employment”;

(C) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii)—

(i) by striking “insure” and inserting “ensure”;

(ii) by inserting “and training” after “employment”; and

(iii) by inserting after “available” the following: “through the one-stop delivery system under section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841); and

(D) in paragraph (9), by inserting “the Secretary of Labor,” after “Education.”

(2) PROGRAM OF INITIAL RESETTLEMENT.—Section 412(b)(2) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) by striking “orientation, instruction” and inserting “orientation and instruction”; and

(B) by striking “, and job training for refugees, and such other education and training of refugees, as facilitates” and inserting “for refugees to facilitate”.

(3) PROJECT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES FOR REFUGEES.—Section 412(c) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting “and training” after “employment”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C);

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “paragraph—” and all that follows through “in a manner” and inserting “paragraph in a manner”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) In carrying out this section, the Director shall ensure that employment and training services are provided through the statewide workforce development system, as appropriate, authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.). Such action may include—

“(i) making employment and training activities described in section 134 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864) available to refugees; and

“(ii) providing refugees with access to a one-stop delivery system established under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841).”

(4) CASH ASSISTANCE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES.—Section 412(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(i), by inserting “and training” after “providing employment”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “The” and inserting “Consistent with subsection (c)(3), the”.

(c) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007.—

(1) FEDERAL PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE.—Section 231 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17541) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(E)—

(i) by inserting “the Department of Labor and” before “other Federal agencies”; and

(ii) by inserting “State and local workforce investment boards,” after “community-based organizations,”;

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking at the end “and”;

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking at the end the period and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(D) to coordinate reentry programs with the employment and training services provided through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.)”; and

(C) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(F) INTERACTION WITH THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall ensure that employment and training services, including such employment and services offered through reentry programs, are provided, as appropriate, through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), which may include—

“(I) making employment and training services available to prisoners prior to and immediately following the release of such prisoners; or

“(II) providing prisoners with access by remote means to a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841) in the State in which the prison involved is located.

“(ii) SERVICE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘employment and training services’ means those services described in section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864) offered by the Bureau of Prisons, including—

“(I) the skills assessment described in subsection (a)(1)(A);

“(II) the skills development plan described in subsection (a)(1)(B); and

“(III) the enhancement, development, and implementation of reentry and skills development programs.”

(2) DUTIES OF THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.—Section 4042(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E), as added by section 231(d)(1)(C) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199; 122 Stat. 685), as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(B) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(C) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking “Employment” and inserting “Employment and training services (as defined in paragraph (6) of section 231(d) of the Second Chance Act of 2007), including basic skills attainment, consistent with such paragraph”; and

(ii) by striking clause (iii); and

(D) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), (iv), (v), (vi), and (vii) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly.

(d) AMENDMENTS TO THE OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT OF 1968.—Section 2976 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797w) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) and training”; and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(D) coordinating employment and training services provided through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), including a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841), for offenders upon release from prison, jail, or a juvenile facility, as appropriate;”

(2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “, including local workforce investment boards established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2832),” after “nonprofit organizations”; and

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “victims services, and employment services” and inserting “and victim services”; and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(D) provides employment and training services through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), including a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841);” and

(4) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, in accordance with paragraph (2)” after “under this section”; and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(B) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—The Attorney General shall require each grantee under this section to measure the core indicators of performance as described in section

136(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A)) with respect to the program of such grantee funded with a grant under this section.”.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3672(d)(1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists under section 4103A” and inserting “veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”;

(2) in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 41, by striking the items relating to sections 4103A and 4104;

(3) in section 4102A—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), and (7); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (5);

(B) by striking subsections (c) and (h);

(C) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f); and

(D) in subsection (e)(1) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “, including disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representatives providing employment, training, and placement services under this chapter in a State”; and

(ii) by striking “for purposes of subsection (c)”;

(4) in section 4104A—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(i) the appropriate veteran employment specialist (in carrying out the functions described in section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998);”;

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(i) collaborate with the appropriate veteran employment specialist (as described in section 134(f)) and the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801));”;

(5) in section 4109—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representative” and inserting “veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representatives” and inserting “veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”; and

(6) in section 4112(d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialist” and inserting “veteran employment specialist appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(f) COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT OF 1980.—Section 104(k)(6)(A) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “training, research, and” and inserting “research and”.

SEC. 73. CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents in section 1(b) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

“Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

“TITLE I—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS

“Subtitle A—Workforce Investment Definitions

“Sec. 101. Definitions.

“Subtitle B—Statewide and Local Workforce Investment Systems

“Sec. 106. Purpose.

“CHAPTER 1—STATE PROVISIONS

“Sec. 111. State workforce investment boards.

“Sec. 112. State plan.

“CHAPTER 2—LOCAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 116. Local workforce investment areas.

“Sec. 117. Local workforce investment boards.

“Sec. 118. Local plan.

“CHAPTER 3—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES PROVIDERS

“Sec. 121. Establishment of one-stop delivery systems.

“Sec. 122. Identification of eligible providers of training services.

“CHAPTER 5—EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

“Sec. 131. General authorization.

“Sec. 132. State allotments.

“Sec. 133. Within State allocations.

“Sec. 134. Use of funds for employment and training activities.

“CHAPTER 6—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 136. Performance accountability system.

“Sec. 137. Authorization of appropriations.

“Subtitle C—Job Corps

“Sec. 141. Purposes.

“Sec. 142. Definitions.

“Sec. 143. Establishment.

“Sec. 144. Individuals eligible for the Job Corps.

“Sec. 145. Recruitment, screening, selection, and assignment of enrollees.

“Sec. 146. Enrollment.

“Sec. 147. Job Corps centers.

“Sec. 148. Program activities.

“Sec. 149. Counseling and job placement.

“Sec. 150. Support.

“Sec. 151. Operations.

“Sec. 152. Standards of conduct.

“Sec. 153. Community participation.

“Sec. 154. Workforce councils.

“Sec. 156. Technical assistance to centers.

“Sec. 157. Application of provisions of Federal law.

“Sec. 158. Special provisions.

“Sec. 159. Performance accountability and management.

“Sec. 160. General provisions.

“Sec. 161. Authorization of appropriations.

“Subtitle D—National Programs

“Sec. 170. Technical assistance.

“Sec. 172. Evaluations.

“Subtitle E—Administration

“Sec. 181. Requirements and restrictions.

“Sec. 182. Prompt allocation of funds.

“Sec. 183. Monitoring.

“Sec. 184. Fiscal controls; sanctions.

“Sec. 185. Reports; recordkeeping; investigations.

“Sec. 186. Administrative adjudication.

“Sec. 187. Judicial review.

“Sec. 188. Nondiscrimination.

“Sec. 189. Administrative provisions.

“Sec. 190. References.

“Sec. 191. State legislative authority.

“Sec. 193. Transfer of Federal equity in State employment security real property to the States.

“Sec. 195. General program requirements.

“Sec. 196. Federal agency staff.

“Sec. 197. Restrictions on lobbying and political activities.

“Subtitle F—Repeals and Conforming Amendments

“Sec. 199. Repeals.

“Sec. 199A. Conforming amendments.

“TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION

“Sec. 201. Short title.

“Sec. 202. Purpose.

“Sec. 203. Definitions.

“Sec. 204. Home schools.

“Sec. 205. Authorization of appropriations.

“Subtitle A—Federal Provisions

“Sec. 211. Reservation of funds; grants to eligible agencies; allotments.

“Sec. 212. Performance accountability system.

“Subtitle B—State Provisions

“Sec. 221. State administration.

“Sec. 222. State distribution of funds; matching requirement.

“Sec. 223. State leadership activities.

“Sec. 224. State plan.

“Sec. 225. Programs for corrections education and other institutionalized individuals.

“Subtitle C—Local Provisions

“Sec. 231. Grants and contracts for eligible providers.

“Sec. 232. Local application.

“Sec. 233. Local administrative cost limits.

“Subtitle D—General Provisions

“Sec. 241. Administrative provisions.

“Sec. 242. National activities.

“TITLE III—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

“Subtitle A—Wagner-Peyser Act

“Sec. 301. Definitions.

“Sec. 302. Functions.

“Sec. 303. Designation of State agencies.

“Sec. 304. Appropriations.

“Sec. 305. Disposition of allotted funds.

“Sec. 306. State plans.

“Sec. 307. Repeal of Federal advisory council.

“Sec. 308. Regulations.

“Sec. 309. Employment statistics.

“Sec. 310. Technical amendments.

“Sec. 311. Effective date.

“Subtitle B—Linkages With Other Programs

“Sec. 321. Trade Act of 1974.

“Sec. 322. Veterans’ employment programs.

“Sec. 323. Older Americans Act of 1965.

“Subtitle D—Application of Civil Rights and Labor-Management Laws to the Smithsonian Institution

“Sec. 341. Application of civil rights and labor-management laws to the Smithsonian Institution.

“TITLE IV—REHABILITATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1998

“Sec. 401. Short title.

“Sec. 402. Title.

“Sec. 403. General provisions.

“Sec. 404. Vocational rehabilitation services.

“Sec. 405. Research and training.

“Sec. 406. Professional development and special projects and demonstrations.

“Sec. 407. National Council on Disability.

“Sec. 408. Rights and advocacy.

“Sec. 409. Employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

"Sec. 410. Independent living services and centers for independent living.

"Sec. 411. Repeal.

"Sec. 412. Helen Keller National Center Act.

"Sec. 413. President's Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities.

"Sec. 414. Conforming amendments.

"TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

"Sec. 501. State unified plan.

"Sec. 504. Privacy.

"Sec. 505. Buy-American requirements.

"Sec. 507. Effective date."

Subtitle E—Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

SEC. 76. FINDINGS.

Section 2(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) there is a substantial need to improve and expand services for students with disabilities under this Act."

SEC. 77. REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3(a) (29 U.S.C. 702(a))—

(A) by striking "Office of the Secretary" and inserting "Department of Education";

(B) by striking "President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate" and inserting "Secretary"; and

(C) by striking "and the Commissioner shall be the principal officer,";

(2) by striking "Commissioner" each place it appears (except in section 21) and inserting "Director";

(3) in section 12(c) (29 U.S.C. 709(c)), by striking "Commissioner's" and inserting "Director's";

(4) in section 21 (29 U.S.C. 718)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) by striking "Commissioner" the first place it appears and inserting "Director of the Rehabilitation Services Administration";

(ii) by striking "(referred to in this subsection as the 'Director')"; and

(iii) by striking "The Commissioner and the Director" and inserting "Both such Directors"; and

(B) by striking "the Commissioner and the Director" each place it appears and inserting "both such Directors";

(5) in the heading for subparagraph (B) of section 100(d)(2) (29 U.S.C. 720(d)(2)), by striking "COMMISSIONER" and inserting "DIRECTOR";

(6) in section 401(a)(1) (29 U.S.C. 781(a)(1)), by inserting "of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research" after "Director";

(7) in the heading for section 706 (29 U.S.C. 796d-1), by striking "COMMISSIONER" and inserting "DIRECTOR"; and

(8) in the heading for paragraph (3) of section 723(a) (29 U.S.C. 796f-2(a)), by striking "COMMISSIONER" and inserting "DIRECTOR".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall—

(1) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply with respect to the appointments of Directors of the Rehabilitation Services Administration made on or after the date of enactment of this Act, and the Directors so appointed.

SEC. 78. DEFINITIONS.

Section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (35) through (39) as paragraphs (36) through (40), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (A)(ii) of paragraph (36) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking "paragraph (36)(C)" and inserting "paragraph (37)(C)"; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (34) the following:

"(35)(A) The term 'student with a disability' means an individual with a disability who—

"(i) is not younger than 16 and not older than 21;

"(ii) has been determined to be eligible under section 102(a) for assistance under this title; and

"(iii)(I) is eligible for, and is receiving, special education under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.); or

"(II) is an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504.

"(B) The term 'students with disabilities' means more than 1 student with a disability."

SEC. 79. CARRYOVER.

Section 19(a)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 716(a)(1)) is amended by striking "part B of title VI."

SEC. 80. TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

Section 21 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 718) is amended, in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A) of subsection (b), and in subsection (c), by striking "VI."

SEC. 81. STATE PLAN.

Section 101(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 721(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking "on the eligible individuals" and all that follows and inserting "of information necessary to assess the State's performance on the core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A));" and

(B) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking "to the extent the measures are applicable to individuals with disabilities";

(2) in paragraph (11)—

(A) in subparagraph (D)(i), by inserting before the semicolon the following: "which may be provided using alternative means of meeting participation (such as participation through video conferences and conference calls)"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(G) COORDINATION WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit and the lead agency or implementing entity responsible for carrying out duties under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) have developed working relationships and coordinate their activities."

(3) in paragraph (15)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking "and" at the end;

(II) in subclause (III), by adding "and" at the end; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

"(IV) students with disabilities, including their need for transition services;"

(ii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

"(ii) include an assessment of the transition services provided under this Act, and coordinated with transition services provided

under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), about the extent to which those 2 types of services meet the needs of individuals with disabilities;"

(B) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking "and under part B of title VI"; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (iii), (iv), and (v) as clauses (iv), (v), and (vi), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

"(iii) the methods to be used to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities, including the coordination of services designed to facilitate the transition of such students from the receipt of educational services in school to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title or to postsecondary education or employment;" and

(iii) in clause (v), as redesignated by clause (i) of this subparagraph, by striking "evaluation standards" and inserting "performance standards";

(4) in paragraph (22)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking "STATE PLAN SUPPLEMENT";

(B) by striking "carrying out part B of title VI, including"; and

(C) by striking "that part to supplement funds made available under part B of";

(5) in paragraph (24)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking "CONTRACTS" and inserting "GRANTS"; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "CONTRACTS" and inserting "GRANTS"; and

(ii) by striking "part A of title VI" and inserting "section 109A"; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

"(25) COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.—The State plan shall describe how the designated State agency will carry out the provisions of section 109A, including—

"(A) the criteria such agency will use to award grants under such section; and

"(B) how the activities carried out under such grants will be coordinated with other services provided under this title.

"(26) SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—The State plan shall provide an assurance satisfactory to the Secretary that the State—

"(A) has developed and implemented strategies to address the needs identified in the assessments described in paragraph (15), and achieve the goals and priorities identified by the State in that paragraph, to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities on a statewide basis in accordance with paragraph (15); and

"(B) from funds reserved under section 110A, shall carry out programs or activities designed to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities that—

"(i) facilitate the transition of students with disabilities from the receipt of educational services in school, to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title, including, at a minimum, those services specified in the interagency agreement required in paragraph (11)(D);

"(ii) improve the achievement of post-school goals of students with disabilities, including improving the achievement through participation (as appropriate when career goals are discussed) in meetings regarding individualized education programs developed under section 614 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414);

"(iii) provide career guidance, career exploration services, job search skills and

strategies, and technical assistance to students with disabilities;

“(iv) support the provision of training and technical assistance to State and local educational agencies and designated State agency personnel responsible for the planning and provision of services to students with disabilities; and

“(v) support outreach activities to students with disabilities who are eligible for, and need, services under this title.”.

SEC. 82. SCOPE OF SERVICES.

Section 103 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 723) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (15) and inserting the following:

“(15) transition services for students with disabilities, that facilitate the achievement of the employment outcome identified in the individualized plan for employment involved, including services described in clauses (i) through (iii) of section 101(a)(26)(B);”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6)(A)(i) Consultation and technical assistance services to assist State and local educational agencies in planning for the transition of students with disabilities from school to post-school activities, including employment.

“(ii) Training and technical assistance described in section 101(a)(26)(B)(iv).

“(B) Services for groups of individuals with disabilities who meet the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) of section 7(35)(A), including services described in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (v) of section 101(a)(26)(B), to assist in the transition from school to post-school activities.”; and

(3) in subsection (b), by inserting at the end the following:

“(7) The establishment, development, or improvement of assistive technology demonstration, loan, reutilization, or financing programs in coordination with activities authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to promote access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and employers.”.

SEC. 83. STANDARDS AND INDICATORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 726) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “EVALUATION STANDARDS” and inserting “PERFORMANCE STANDARDS”;

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) STANDARDS AND INDICATORS.—The performance standards and indicators for the vocational rehabilitation program carried out under this title—

“(1) shall be subject to paragraphs (2)(A) and (3) of section 136(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)); and

“(2) may, at a State’s discretion, include additional indicators identified in the State plan submitted under section 101.”; and

(3) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) on a biannual basis, review the program improvement efforts of the State and, if the State has not improved its performance to acceptable levels, as determined by the Director, direct the State to make revisions to the plan to improve performance; and”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 107 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 727) is amended—

(1) in subsections (a)(1)(B) and (b)(2), by striking “evaluation standards” and inserting “performance standards”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “an evaluation standard” and inserting “a performance standard”.

SEC. 84. EXPENDITURE OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.

Section 108(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 728(a)) is amended by striking “under part B of title VI, or”.

SEC. 85. COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended by inserting after section 109 (29 U.S.C. 728a) the following:

“SEC. 109A. COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.

“(a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For the purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a for-profit business, alone or in partnership with one or more of the following:

“(1) Community rehabilitation program providers.

“(2) Indian tribes.

“(3) Tribal organizations.

“(b) AUTHORITY.—A State shall use not less than one-half of one percent of the payment the State receives under section 111 for a fiscal year to award grants to eligible entities to pay for the Federal share of the cost of carrying out collaborative programs, to create practical job and career readiness and training programs, and to provide job placements and career advancement.

“(c) AWARDS.—Grants under this section shall—

“(1) be awarded for a period not to exceed 5 years; and

“(2) be awarded competitively.

“(d) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to a designated State agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as such agency shall require. Such application shall include, at a minimum—

“(1) a plan for evaluating the effectiveness of the collaborative program;

“(2) a plan for collecting and reporting the data and information described under subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 101(a)(10), as determined appropriate by the designated State agency; and

“(3) a plan for providing for the non-Federal share of the costs of the program.

“(e) ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out a program that provides one or more of the following:

“(1) Job development, job placement, and career advancement services for individuals with disabilities.

“(2) Training in realistic work settings in order to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment and career advancement in the competitive market.

“(3) Providing individuals with disabilities with such support services as may be required in order to maintain the employment and career advancement for which the individuals have received training.

“(f) ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.—An individual shall be eligible for services provided under a program under this section if the individual is determined under section 102(a)(1) to be eligible for assistance under this title.

“(g) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share for a program under this section shall not exceed 80 percent of the costs of the program.”.

SEC. 86. RESERVATION FOR EXPANDED TRAINING SERVICES.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended by inserting after section 110 (29 U.S.C. 730) the following:

“SEC. 110A. RESERVATION FOR EXPANDED TRAINING SERVICES.

“Each State shall reserve not less than 10 percent of the funds allotted to the State

under section 110(a) to carry out programs or activities under sections 101(a)(26)(B) and 103(b)(6).”.

SEC. 87. CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 112(e)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 732(e)(1)) is amended by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E) and inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) The Secretary shall make grants to the protection and advocacy system serving the American Indian Consortium under the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.) to provide services in accordance with this section, as determined by the Secretary. The amount of such grants shall be the same as the amount provided to territories under this subsection.”.

SEC. 88. RESEARCH.

Section 204(a)(2)(A) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 764(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “VI.”.

SEC. 89. TITLE III AMENDMENTS.

Title III of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 771 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 301(a) (21 U.S.C. 771(a))—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and” at the end;

(B) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3);

(2) in section 302 (29 U.S.C. 772)—

(A) in subsection (g)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING”; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) in subsection (h), by striking “section 306” and inserting “section 304”;

(3) in section 303 (29 U.S.C. 773)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “section 306” and inserting “section 304”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (4)—

(I) by amending subparagraph (A)(ii) to

read as follows:

“(ii) to coordinate activities and work closely with the parent training and information centers established pursuant to section 671 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1471), the community parent resource centers established pursuant to section 672 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1472), and the eligible entities receiving awards under section 673 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1473); and”;

(II) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, and demonstrate the capacity for serving,” after “serve”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) RESERVATION.—From the amount appropriated to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year, 20 percent of such amount or \$500,000, whichever is less, shall be reserved to carry out paragraph (6).”;

(4) by striking sections 304 and 305 (29 U.S.C. 774, 775); and

(5) by redesignating section 306 (29 U.S.C. 776) as section 304.

SEC. 90. REPEAL OF TITLE VI.

Title VI of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 795 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. 91. TITLE VII GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) PURPOSE.—Section 701(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796(3)) is amended by striking “State programs of supported employment services receiving assistance under part B of title VI.”.

(b) CHAIRPERSON.—Section 705(b)(5) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796d(b)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

“(5) CHAIRPERSON.—The Council shall select a chairperson from among the voting membership of the Council.”.

SEC. 92. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is further amended—

(1) in section 100 (29 U.S.C. 720)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$3,066,192,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(B), by striking “2003” and inserting “2021”;

(2) in section 110(c) (29 U.S.C. 730(c)), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) The sum referred to in paragraph (1) shall be, as determined by the Secretary, not less than 1 percent and not more than 1.5 percent of the amount referred to in paragraph (1) for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020.”;

(3) in section 112(h) (29 U.S.C. 732(h)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$11,600,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(4) by amending subsection (a) of section 201 (29 U.S.C. 761(a)) to read as follows: “(a) There are authorized to be appropriated \$103,125,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years to carry out this title.”;

(5) in section 302(i) (29 U.S.C. 772(i)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$33,657,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(6) in section 303(e) (29 U.S.C. 773(e)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$5,046,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(7) in section 405 (29 U.S.C. 785), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$3,081,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(8) in section 502(j) (29 U.S.C. 792(j)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$7,013,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(9) in section 509(l) (29 U.S.C. 794e(l)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$17,088,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(10) in section 714 (29 U.S.C. 796e-3), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$22,137,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(11) in section 727 (29 U.S.C. 796f-6), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$75,772,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”; and

(12) in section 753 (29 U.S.C. 796l), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$32,239,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”.

SEC. 93. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 1(b) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended—

(1) by inserting after the item relating to section 109 the following:

“Sec. 109A. Collaboration with industry.”;

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 110 the following:

“Sec. 110A. Reservation for expanded transition services.”;

(3) by striking the item related to section 304 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 304. Measuring of project outcomes and performance.”;

(4) by striking the items related to sections 305 and 306;

(5) by striking the items related to title VI; and

(6) by striking the item related to section 706 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 706. Responsibilities of the Director.”.

Subtitle F—Studies by the Comptroller General

SEC. 96. STUDY BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL ON EXHAUSTING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS BEFORE ACCESSING WIA FUNDS.

Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that—

(1) evaluates the effectiveness of subparagraph (B) of section 134(d)(4) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)(B)) (as such subparagraph was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), including—

(A) a review of the regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Labor to State and local areas on how to comply with such subparagraph;

(B) a review of State policies to determine how local areas are required to comply with such subparagraph;

(C) a review of local area policies to determine how one-stop operators are required to comply with such subparagraph; and

(D) a review of a sampling of individuals receiving training services under section 134(d)(4) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)) to determine if, before receiving such training services, such individuals have exhausted funds received through the Federal Pell Grant program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

(2) makes appropriate recommendations with respect to the matters evaluated under paragraph (1).

SEC. 97. STUDY BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL ON ADMINISTRATIVE COST SAVINGS.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that—

(1) determines the amount of administrative costs at the Federal and State levels for the most recent fiscal year for which satisfactory data are available for—

(A) each of the programs authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) or repealed under section 71, as such programs were in effect for such fiscal year; and

(B) each of the programs described in subparagraph (A) that have been repealed or consolidated on or after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) determines the amount of administrative cost savings at the Federal and State levels as a result of repealing and consolidating programs by calculating the differences in the amount of administrative costs between subparagraph (A) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1); and

(3) estimates the administrative cost savings at the Federal and State levels for a fiscal year as a result of States consolidating amounts under section 501(e) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 9271(e)) to reduce inefficiencies in the administration of federally-funded State and local employment and training programs.

(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “administrative costs” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).

SA 2890. Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2149, to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ANALYSIS OF EMPLOYMENT EFFECTS UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Environmental Protection Agency has systematically distorted the true impact of regulations promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) on job creation by using incomplete analyses to assess effects on employment, primarily as a result of the Environmental Protection Agency failing to take into account the cascading effects of a regulatory change across interconnected industries and markets nationwide;

(2) despite the Environmental Protection Agency finding that the impact of certain air pollution regulations will result in net job creation, implementation of the air pollution regulations will actually require billions of dollars in compliance costs, resulting in reduced business profits and millions of actual job losses;

(3)(A) the analysis of the Environmental Protection Agency of the final rule of the Agency entitled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units and Standards of Performance for Fossil-Fuel-Fired Electric Utility, Industrial-Commercial-Institutional, and Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units” (77 Fed. Reg. 9304 (Feb. 16, 2012)) estimated that implementation of the final rule would result in the creation of 46,000 temporary construction jobs and 8,000 net new permanent jobs; but

(B) a private study conducted by NERA Economic Consulting, using a “whole economy” model, estimated that implementation of the final rule described in subparagraph (A) would result in a negative impact on the income of workers in an amount equivalent to 180,000 to 215,000 lost jobs in 2015 and 50,000 to 85,000 lost jobs each year thereafter;

(4)(A) the analysis of the Environmental Protection Agency of the final rule of the Agency entitled “Federal Implementation Plans: Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter and Ozone and Correction of SIP

Approvals" (76 Fed. Reg. 48208 (Aug. 8, 2011)) estimated that implementation of the final rule would result in the creation of 700 jobs per year; but

(B) a private study conducted by NERA Economic Consulting estimated that implementation of the final rule described in subparagraph (A) would result in the elimination of a total of 34,000 jobs during the period beginning in calendar year 2013 and ending in calendar year 2037;

(5)(A) the analysis of the Environmental Protection Agency of the final rules of the Agency entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters" (76 Fed. Reg. 15608 (March 21, 2011)) and "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Area Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers" (76 Fed. Reg. 15554 (March 21, 2011)) estimated that implementation of the final rules would result in the creation of 2,200 jobs per year; but

(B) a private study conducted by NERA Economic Consulting estimated that implementation of the final rules described in subparagraph (A) would result in the elimination of 28,000 jobs per year during the period beginning in calendar year 2013 and ending in calendar year 2037;

(6) implementation of certain air pollution rules of the Environmental Protection Agency that have not been reviewed, updated, or finalized as of the date of enactment of this Act, such as regulations on greenhouse gas emissions and the update or review of national ambient air quality standards, are predicted to result in significant and negative employment impacts, but the Agency has not yet fully studied or disclosed the full impacts of existing Agency regulations;

(7) in reviewing, developing, or updating any regulations promulgated under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) after the date of enactment of this Act, the Environmental Protection Agency must be required to accurately disclose the adverse impact the existing regulations of the Agency will have on jobs and employment levels across the economy in the United States and disclose those impacts to the American people before issuing a final rule; and

(8) although since 1977, section 321(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7621(a)) has required the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to "conduct continuing evaluations of potential loss or shifts of employment which may result from the administration or enforcement of the provision of [the Clean Air Act] and applicable implementation plans, including where appropriate, investigating threatened plant closures or reductions in employment allegedly resulting from such administration or enforcement", the Environmental Protection Agency has failed to undertake that analysis or conduct a comprehensive study that considers the impact of programs carried out under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) on jobs and changes in employment.

(b) PROHIBITION.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not propose or finalize any major rule (as defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) until after the date on which the Administrator—

(1) completes an economy-wide analysis capturing the costs and cascading effects across industry sectors and markets in the United States of the implementation of major rules promulgated under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.); and

(2) establishes a process to update that analysis not less frequently than semiannually, so as to provide for the continuing evaluation of potential loss or shifts in employment, pursuant to section 321(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7621(a)), that may result from the implementation of major rules under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

SA 2891. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

SEC. 13. KEYSTONE XL PERMIT APPROVAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (delegating to Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations), TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. is authorized to construct, connect, operate, and maintain pipeline facilities for the import of crude oil and other hydrocarbons at the United States-Canada Border at Phillips County, Montana, in accordance with the application filed with the Department of State on May 4, 2012.

(b) PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding Executive Order No. 13337 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), Executive Order No. 11423 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and any other Executive order or provision of law, no presidential permit shall be required for the facilities described in subsection (a).

(c) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The final environmental impact statement issued by the Secretary of State on August 26, 2011, the Final Evaluation Report issued by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality on January 3, 2013, and the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Keystone XL Project issued in January 2014, regarding the crude oil pipeline and appurtenant facilities associated with the facilities described in subsection (a), shall be considered to satisfy—

(1) all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) any other provision of law that requires Federal agency consultation or review with respect to the facilities described in subsection (a) and the related facilities in the United States.

(d) PERMITS.—Any Federal permit or authorization issued before the date of enactment of this Act for the facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States shall remain in effect.

(e) FEDERAL JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States, that are approved by this section, and any permit, right-of-way, or other action taken to construct or complete the project pursuant to Federal law, shall only be subject to judicial review on direct appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

SEC. 14. EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS TO UKRAINE AND NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION MEMBER COUNTRIES AND JAPAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (delegating to Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations), Congress finds that exports of natural gas produced in the United States to Ukraine, member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and Japan is—

(1) necessary for the protection of the essential security interests of the United States; and

(2) in the public interest pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b).

(b) EXPEDITED APPROVAL.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended by inserting ", to Ukraine, to a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or to Japan" after "trade in natural gas".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall apply to applications for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) that are pending on, or filed on or after, the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2892. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

SEC. . REGULATION OF OIL OR NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT ON FEDERAL LAND IN STATES.

The Mineral Leasing Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 44 (30 U.S.C. 181 note) as section 45; and

(2) by inserting after section 43 (30 U.S.C. 226-3) the following:

"SEC. 44. REGULATION OF OIL OR NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT ON FEDERAL LAND IN STATES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior shall not issue or promulgate any guideline or regulation relating to oil or gas exploration or production on Federal land in a State if the State has otherwise met the requirements under this Act or any other applicable Federal law.

"(b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may issue or promulgate guidelines and regulations relating to oil or gas exploration or production on Federal land in a State if the Secretary of the Interior determines that as a result of the oil or gas exploration or production there is an imminent and substantial danger to the public health or environment."

SEC. . REGULATIONS.

Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 1459. REGULATIONS.

"(a) COMMENTS RELATING TO OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION.—Before issuing or promulgating any guideline or regulation relating to oil and gas exploration and production on Federal, State, tribal, or fee land pursuant to this Act, the Federal

Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), the Act entitled 'An Act to regulate the leasing of certain Indian lands for mining purposes', approved May 11, 1938 (commonly known as the 'Indian Mineral Leasing Act of 1938') (25 U.S.C. 396a et seq.), the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), or any other provision of law or Executive order, the head of a Federal department or agency shall seek comments from and consult with the head of each affected State, State agency, and Indian tribe at a location within the jurisdiction of the State or Indian tribe, as applicable.

“(b) STATEMENT OF ENERGY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT.—Each Federal department or agency described in subsection (a) shall develop a Statement of Energy and Economic Impact, which shall consist of a detailed statement and analysis supported by credible objective evidence relating to—

“(1) any adverse effects on energy supply, distribution, or use, including a shortfall in supply, price increases, and increased use of foreign supplies; and

“(2) any impact on the domestic economy if the action is taken, including the loss of jobs and decrease of revenue to each of the general and educational funds of the State or affected Indian tribe.

“(c) REGULATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A Federal department or agency shall not impose any new or modified regulation unless the head of the applicable Federal department or agency determines—

“(A) that the rule is necessary to prevent imminent substantial danger to the public health or the environment; and

“(B) by clear and convincing evidence, that the State or Indian tribe does not have an existing reasonable alternative to the proposed regulation.

“(2) DISCLOSURE.—Any Federal regulation promulgated on or after the date of enactment of this paragraph that requires disclosure of hydraulic fracturing chemicals shall refer to the database managed by the Ground Water Protection Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

“(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any regulation described in this section, a State or Indian tribe adversely affected by an action carried out under the regulation shall be entitled to review by a United States district court located in the State or the District of Columbia of compliance by the applicable Federal department or agency with the requirements of this section.

“(2) ACTION BY COURT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A district court providing review under this subsection may enjoin or mandate any action by a relevant Federal department or agency until the district court determines that the department or agency has complied with the requirements of this section.

“(B) DAMAGES.—The court shall not order money damages.

“(3) SCOPE AND STANDARD OF REVIEW.—In reviewing a regulation under this subsection—

“(A) the court shall not consider any evidence outside of the record that was before the agency; and

“(B) the standard of review shall be de novo.”

SA 2893. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure

that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TAXES, FEES, AND PENALTIES ENACTED UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

No tax, fee, or penalty imposed or enacted under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall be implemented, administered, or enforced unless there has been a certification by the Joint Committee on Taxation that such provision would not have a direct or indirect economic impact on individuals with an annual income of less than \$200,000 or families with an annual income of less than \$250,000.

SA 2894. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

DIVISION B—DOMESTIC ENERGY AND JOBS

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Domestic Energy and Jobs Act”.

TITLE I—IMPACTS OF EPA RULES AND ACTIONS ON ENERGY PRICES

SEC. 2101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Gasoline Regulations Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2102. TRANSPORTATION FUELS REGULATORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish a committee, to be known as the Transportation Fuels Regulatory Committee (referred to in this title as the “Committee”), to analyze and report on the cumulative impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency on gasoline, diesel fuel, and natural gas prices, in accordance with sections 2103 and 2104.

(b) MEMBERS.—The Committee shall be composed of the following officials (or their designees):

(1) The Secretary of Energy, who shall serve as the Chair of the Committee.

(2) The Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

(3) The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Chief Economist and the Under Secretary for International Trade.

(4) The Secretary of Labor, acting through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(5) The Secretary of the Treasury, acting through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Energy of the Department of the Treasury.

(6) The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief Economist.

(7) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(8) The Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, acting

through the Director of the Office of Economics.

(9) The Administrator of the Energy Information Administration.

(c) CONSULTATION BY CHAIR.—In carrying out the functions of the Chair of the Committee, the Chair shall consult with the other members of the Committee.

(d) CONSULTATION BY COMMITTEE.—In carrying out this title, the Committee shall consult with the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

(e) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate on the date that is 60 days after the date of submission of the final report of the Committee pursuant to section 2104(c).

SEC. 2103. ANALYSES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ACTION.—The term “covered action” means any action, to the extent that the action affects facilities involved in the production, transportation, or distribution of gasoline, diesel fuel, or natural gas, taken on or after January 1, 2009, by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, a State, a local government, or a permitting agency as a result of the application of part C of title I (relating to prevention of significant deterioration of air quality), or title V (relating to permitting), of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), to an air pollutant that is identified as a greenhouse gas in the rule entitled “Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act” (74 Fed. Reg. 66496 (December 15, 2009)).

(2) COVERED RULE.—The term “covered rule” means the following rules (and includes any successor or substantially similar rules):

(A) “Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards”, as described in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions under Regulatory Identification Number 2060-AQ86.

(B) “National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone” (73 Fed. Reg. 16436 (March 27, 2008)).

(C) “Reconsideration of the 2008 Ozone Primary and Secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards”, as described in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions under Regulatory Identification Number 2060-AP98.

(D) Any rule proposed after March 15, 2012, establishing or revising a standard of performance or emission standard under section 111 or 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411, 7412) applicable to petroleum refineries.

(E) Any rule proposed after March 15, 2012, to implement any portion of the renewable fuel program under section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)).

(F) Any rule proposed after March 15, 2012, revising or supplementing the national ambient air quality standards for ozone under section 109 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7409).

(b) SCOPE.—The Committee shall conduct analyses, for each of calendar years 2016 and 2020, of the prospective cumulative impact of all covered rules and covered actions.

(c) CONTENTS.—The Committee shall include in each analysis conducted under this section—

(1) estimates of the cumulative impacts of the covered rules and covered actions relating to—

(A) any resulting change in the national, State, or regional price of gasoline, diesel fuel, or natural gas;

(B) required capital investments and projected costs for operation and maintenance of new equipment required to be installed;

(C) global economic competitiveness of the United States and any loss of domestic refining capacity;

(D) other cumulative costs and cumulative benefits, including evaluation through a general equilibrium model approach;

(E) national, State, and regional employment, including impacts associated with changes in gasoline, diesel fuel, or natural gas prices and facility closures; and

(F) any other matters affecting the growth, stability, and sustainability of the oil and gas industries of the United States, particularly relative to that of other nations;

(2) an analysis of key uncertainties and assumptions associated with each estimate under paragraph (1);

(3) a sensitivity analysis reflecting alternative assumptions with respect to the aggregate demand for gasoline, diesel fuel, or natural gas; and

(4) an analysis and, if feasible, an assessment of—

(A) the cumulative impact of the covered risks and covered actions on—

- (i) consumers;
- (ii) small businesses;
- (iii) regional economies;
- (iv) State, local, and tribal governments;
- (v) low-income communities;
- (vi) public health; and
- (vii) local and industry-specific labor markets; and

(B) key uncertainties associated with each topic described in subparagraph (A).

(d) **METHODS.**—In conducting analyses under this section, the Committee shall use the best available methods, consistent with guidance from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-4.

(e) **DATA.**—In conducting analyses under this section, the Committee shall not be required to create data or to use data that is not readily accessible.

SEC. 2104. REPORTS; PUBLIC COMMENT.

(a) **PRELIMINARY REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Committee shall make public and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a preliminary report containing the results of the analyses conducted under section 2103.

(b) **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.**—The Committee shall accept public comments regarding the preliminary report submitted under subsection (a) for a period of 60 days after the date on which the preliminary report is submitted.

(c) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the expiration of the 60-day period described in subsection (b), the Committee shall submit to Congress a final report containing the analyses conducted under section 2103, including—

- (1) any revisions to the analyses made as a result of public comments; and
- (2) a response to the public comments.

SEC. 2105. NO FINAL ACTION ON CERTAIN RULES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not finalize any of the following rules until a date (to be determined by the Administrator) that is at least 180 days after the date on which the Committee submits the final report under section 2104(c):

- (1) “Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emis-

sion and Fuel Standards”, as described in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions under Regulatory Identification Number 2060-AQ86, and any successor or substantially similar rule.

(2) Any rule proposed after March 15, 2012, establishing or revising a standard of performance or emission standard under section 111 or 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411, 7412) that is applicable to petroleum refineries.

(3) Any rule revising or supplementing the national ambient air quality standards for ozone under section 109 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7409).

(b) **OTHER RULES NOT AFFECTED.**—Subsection (a) shall not affect the finalization of any rule other than the rules described in subsection (a).

SEC. 2106. CONSIDERATION OF FEASIBILITY AND COST IN REVISING OR SUPPLEMENTING NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS FOR OZONE.

In revising or supplementing any national primary or secondary ambient air quality standards for ozone under section 109 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7409), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall take into consideration feasibility and cost.

SEC. 2107. FUEL REQUIREMENTS WAIVER AND STUDY.

(a) **WAIVER OF FUEL REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 211(c)(4)(C) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(c)(4)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii)(II), by inserting “a problem with distribution or delivery equipment that is necessary for the transportation or delivery of fuel or fuel additives,” after “equipment failure.”;

(2) in clause (iii)(II), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “(except that the Administrator may extend the effectiveness of a waiver for more than 20 days if the Administrator determines that the conditions under clause (ii) supporting a waiver determination will exist for more than 20 days)”;

(3) by redesignating the second clause (v) (relating to the authority of the Administrator to approve certain State implementation plans) as clause (vi); and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) **PRESUMPTIVE APPROVAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subparagraph, if the Administrator does not approve or deny a request for a waiver under this subparagraph within 3 days after receipt of the request, the request shall be deemed to be approved as received by the Administrator and the applicable fuel standards shall be waived for the period of time requested.”.

(b) **FUEL SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS HARMONIZATION STUDY.**—Section 1509 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58; 119 Stat. 1083) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “biofuels,” after “oxygenated fuel.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(G), by striking “Tier II” and inserting “Tier III”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “2008” and inserting “2014”.

TITLE II—QUADRENNIAL STRATEGIC FEDERAL ONSHORE ENERGY PRODUCTION STRATEGY

SEC. 2201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Planning for American Energy Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2202. ONSHORE DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION STRATEGIC PLAN.

The Mineral Leasing Act is amended—

- (1) by redesignating section 44 (30 U.S.C. 181 note) as section 45; and

(2) by inserting after section 43 (30 U.S.C. 226-3) the following:

“SEC. 44. QUADRENNIAL STRATEGIC FEDERAL ONSHORE ENERGY PRODUCTION STRATEGY.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Interior.

“(2) **STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL ENERGY MINERALS.**—The term ‘strategic and critical energy minerals’ means—

“(A) minerals that are necessary for the energy infrastructure of the United States, including pipelines, refining capacity, electrical power generation and transmission, and renewable energy production; and

“(B) minerals that are necessary to support domestic manufacturing, including materials used in energy generation, production, and transportation.

“(3) **STRATEGY.**—The term ‘Strategy’ means the Quadrennial Federal Onshore Energy Production Strategy required under this section.

“(b) **STRATEGY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture with regard to land administered by the Forest Service, shall develop and publish every 4 years a Quadrennial Federal Onshore Energy Production Strategy.

“(2) **ENERGY SECURITY.**—The Strategy shall direct Federal land energy development and department resource allocation to promote the energy security of the United States.

“(c) **PURPOSES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In developing a Strategy, the Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration on—

“(A) the projected energy demands of the United States for the 30-year period beginning on the date of initiation of the Strategy; and

“(B) how energy derived from Federal onshore land can place the United States on a trajectory to meet that demand during the 4-year period beginning on the date of initiation of the Strategy.

“(2) **ENERGY SECURITY.**—The Secretary shall consider how Federal land will contribute to ensuring national energy security, with a goal of increasing energy independence and production, during the 4-year period beginning on the date of initiation of the Strategy.

“(d) **OBJECTIVES.**—The Secretary shall establish a domestic strategic production objective for the development of energy resources from Federal onshore land that is based on commercial and scientific data relating to the expected increase in—

“(1) domestic production of oil and natural gas from the Federal onshore mineral estate, with a focus on land held by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service;

“(2) domestic coal production from Federal land;

“(3) domestic production of strategic and critical energy minerals from the Federal onshore mineral estate;

“(4) megawatts for electricity production from each of wind, solar, biomass, hydropower, and geothermal energy produced on Federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service;

“(5) unconventional energy production, such as oil shale;

“(6) domestic production of oil, natural gas, coal, and other renewable sources from tribal land for any federally recognized Indian tribe that elects to participate in facilitating energy production on the land of the Indian tribe; and

“(7) domestic production of geothermal, solar, wind, or other renewable energy sources on land defined as available lands under section 203 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 109, chapter 42), and any other land considered by the Territory or State of Hawaii, as the case may be, to be available lands.

“(e) **METHODOLOGY.**—The Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration regarding the methodology used to arrive at the estimates made by the Secretary to carry out this section.

“(f) **EXPANSION OF PLAN.**—The Secretary may expand a Strategy to include other energy production technology sources or advancements in energy production on Federal land.

“(g) **TRIBAL OBJECTIVES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—It is the sense of Congress that federally recognized Indian tribes may elect to set the production objectives of the Indian tribes as part of a Strategy under this section.

“(2) **COOPERATION.**—The Secretary shall work in cooperation with any federally recognized Indian tribe that elects to participate in achieving the strategic energy objectives of the Indian tribe under this subsection.

“(h) **EXECUTION OF STRATEGY.**—

“(1) **DEFINITION OF SECRETARY CONCERNED.**—In this subsection, the term ‘Secretary concerned’ means—

“(A) the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service), with respect to National Forest System land; and

“(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (including land held for the benefit of an Indian tribe).

“(2) **ADDITIONAL LAND.**—The Secretary concerned may make determinations regarding which additional land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned will be made available in order to meet the energy production objectives established by a Strategy.

“(3) **ACTIONS.**—The Secretary concerned shall take all necessary actions to achieve the energy production objectives established under this section unless the President determines that it is not in the national security and economic interests of the United States—

“(A) to increase Federal domestic energy production; and

“(B) to decrease dependence on foreign sources of energy.

“(4) **LEASING.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary concerned shall only consider leasing Federal land available for leasing at the time the lease sale occurs.

“(i) **STATE, FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND PUBLIC INPUT.**—In developing a Strategy, the Secretary shall solicit the input of affected States, federally recognized Indian tribes, local governments, and the public.

“(j) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate an annual report describing the progress made in meeting the production goals of a Strategy.

“(2) **CONTENTS.**—In a report required under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

“(A) make projections for production and capacity installations;

“(B) describe any problems with leasing, permitting, siting, or production that will

prevent meeting the production goals of a Strategy; and

“(C) make recommendations to help meet any shortfalls in meeting the production goals.

“(k) **PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)), the Secretary shall complete a programmatic environmental impact statement for carrying out this section.

“(2) **COMPLIANCE.**—The programmatic environmental impact statement shall be considered sufficient to comply with all requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for all necessary resource management and land use plans associated with the implementation of a Strategy.

“(l) **CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days before publishing a proposed Strategy under this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and the President the proposed Strategy, together with any comments received from States, federally recognized Indian tribes, and local governments.

“(2) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The submission shall indicate why any specific recommendation of a State, federally recognized Indian tribe, or local government was not accepted.

“(m) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Nothing in this section modifies or affects any multiuse plan.

“(n) **FIRST STRATEGY.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress the first Strategy.”

TITLE III—ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING CERTAINTY

SEC. 2301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Providing Leasing Certainty for American Energy Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2302. MINIMUM ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ONSHORE LEASE SALES.

Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is amended—

(1) by striking “SEC. 17. (a) All lands” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 17. **LEASE OF OIL AND GAS LAND.**

“(a) **AUTHORITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—All land”; and

(2) in subsection (a) (as amended by paragraph (1)), by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **MINIMUM ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ONSHORE LEASE SALES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In conducting lease sales under this section, each year, the Secretary shall offer for sale not less than 25 percent of the annual nominated acreage not previously made available for lease.

“(B) **REVIEW.**—The offering of acreage offered for lease under this paragraph shall not be subject to review.

“(C) **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.**—Acreage offered for lease under this paragraph shall be eligible for categorical exclusions under section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942), except that extraordinary circumstances shall not be required for a categorical exclusion under this paragraph.

“(D) **LEASING.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall only consider leasing of Federal land that is available for leasing at the time the lease sale occurs.”

SEC. 2303. LEASING CERTAINTY AND CONSISTENCY.

Section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(a)) (as amended by section 2302)

is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **LEASING CERTAINTY.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall not withdraw approval of any covered energy project involving a lease under this Act without finding a violation of the terms of the lease by the lessee.

“(B) **DELAY.**—The Secretary shall not infringe on lease rights under leases issued under this Act by indefinitely delaying issuance of project approvals, drilling and seismic permits, and rights-of-way for activities under a lease.

“(C) **AVAILABILITY OF NOMINATED AREAS.**—Not later than 18 months after an area is designated as open under the applicable land use plan, the Secretary shall make available nominated areas for lease under paragraph (2).

“(D) **ISSUANCE OF LEASES.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall issue all leases sold under this Act not later than 60 days after the last payment is made.

“(E) **CANCELLATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF LEASE PARCELS.**—The Secretary shall not cancel or withdraw any lease parcel after a competitive lease sale has occurred and a winning bidder has submitted the last payment for the parcel.

“(F) **APPEALS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall complete the review of any appeal of a lease sale under this Act not later than 60 days after the receipt of the appeal.

“(ii) **CONSTRUCTIVE APPROVAL.**—If the review of an appeal is not conducted in accordance with clause (i), the appeal shall be considered approved.

“(G) **ADDITIONAL STIPULATIONS.**—The Secretary may not add any additional lease stipulation for a parcel after the parcel is sold unless the Secretary—

“(i) consults with the lessee and obtains the approval of the lessee; or

“(ii) determines that the stipulation is an emergency action that is necessary to conserve the resources of the United States.

“(4) **LEASING CONSISTENCY.**—A Federal land manager shall comply with applicable resource management plans and continue to actively lease in areas designated as open when resource management plans are being amended or revised, until a new record of decision is signed.”

SEC. 2304. REDUCTION OF REDUNDANT POLICIES.

Bureau of Land Management Instruction Memorandum 2010-117 shall have no force or effect.

TITLE IV—STREAMLINED ENERGY PERMITTING

SEC. 2401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Streamlining Permitting of American Energy Act of 2013”.

Subtitle A—Application for Permits To Drill Process Reform

SEC. 2411. PERMIT TO DRILL APPLICATION TIMELINE.

Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL REFORM AND PROCESS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall decide whether to issue a permit to drill not later than 30 days after the date on which the application for the permit is received by the Secretary.

“(B) **EXTENSIONS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may extend the period described in subparagraph

(A) for up to 2 periods of 15 days each, if the Secretary gives written notice of the delay to the applicant.

“(i) NOTICE.—The notice shall—

“(I) be in the form of a letter from the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary; and

“(II) include—

“(aa) the names and positions of the persons processing the application;

“(bb) the specific reasons for the delay; and

“(cc) a specific date on which a final decision on the application is expected.

“(C) NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DENIAL.—If the application is denied, the Secretary shall provide the applicant—

“(i) a written notice that provides—

“(I) clear and comprehensive reasons why the application was not accepted; and

“(II) detailed information concerning any deficiencies; and

“(ii) an opportunity to remedy any deficiencies.

“(D) APPLICATION CONSIDERED APPROVED.—If the Secretary has not made a decision on the application by the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date the application for the permit is received by the Secretary, the application shall be considered approved unless applicable reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) are incomplete.

“(E) DENIAL OF PERMIT.—If the Secretary decides not to issue a permit to drill under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

“(i) provide to the applicant a description of the reasons for the denial of the permit;

“(ii) allow the applicant to resubmit an application for a permit to drill during the 10-day period beginning on the date the applicant receives the description of the denial from the Secretary; and

“(iii) issue or deny any resubmitted application not later than 10 days after the date the application is submitted to the Secretary.

“(F) FEE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall collect a single \$6,500 permit processing fee per application from each applicant at the time the final decision is made whether to issue a permit under this paragraph.

“(ii) RESUBMITTED APPLICATIONS.—The fee described in clause (i) shall not apply to any resubmitted application.

“(iii) TREATMENT OF PERMIT PROCESSING FEE.—Subject to appropriation, of all fees collected under this paragraph, 50 percent shall be transferred to the field office where the fees are collected and used to process leases, permits, and appeals under this Act.”.

SEC. 2412. SOLAR AND WIND RIGHT-OF-WAY RENTAL REFORM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each fiscal year, of fees collected as annual wind energy and solar energy right-of-way authorization fees required under section 504(g) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1764(g)), 50 percent shall be retained by the Secretary of the Interior to be used, subject to appropriation—

(1) by the Bureau of Land Management to process permits, right-of-way applications, and other activities necessary for renewable development; and

(2) at the option of the Secretary of the Interior, by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or other Federal agencies involved in wind and solar permitting reviews to facilitate the processing of wind energy and solar energy permit applications on Bureau of Land Management land.

Subtitle B—Administrative Appeal Documentation Reform

SEC. 2421. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL DOCUMENTATION REFORM.

Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) APPEAL FEE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect a \$5,000 documentation fee to accompany each appeal of an action on a lease, right-of-way, or application for permit to drill.

“(B) TREATMENT OF FEES.—Subject to appropriation, of all fees collected under this paragraph, 50 percent shall remain in the field office where the fees are collected and used to process appeals.”.

Subtitle C—Permit Streamlining

SEC. 2431. FEDERAL ENERGY PERMIT COORDINATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ENERGY PROJECTS.—The term “energy projects” means oil, coal, natural gas, and renewable energy projects.

(2) PROJECT.—The term “Project” means the Federal Permit Streamlining Project established under subsection (b).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Federal Permit Streamlining Project in each Bureau of Land Management field office with responsibility for issuing permits for energy projects on Federal land.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to carry out this section with—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(B) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(C) the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers.

(2) STATE PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may request the Governor of any State with energy projects on Federal land to be a signatory to the memorandum of understanding.

(d) DESIGNATION OF QUALIFIED STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the signing of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c), all Federal signatory parties shall, if appropriate, assign to each of the Bureau of Land Management field offices an employee who has expertise in the regulatory issues relating to the office in which the employee is employed, including, as applicable, particular expertise in—

(A) the consultations and the preparation of biological opinions under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536);

(B) permits under section 404 of Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344);

(C) regulatory matters under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(D) planning under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a et seq.); and

(E) the preparation of analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) DUTIES.—Each employee assigned under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of assignment, report to the Bureau of Land Management Field Managers in the office to which the employee is assigned;

(B) be responsible for all issues relating to the energy projects that arise under the authorities of the home office of the employee; and

(C) participate as part of the team of personnel working on proposed energy projects, planning, and environmental analyses on Federal land.

(e) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The Secretary shall assign to each Bureau of Land Management field office identified under subsection (b) any additional personnel that are necessary to ensure the effective approval and implementation of energy projects administered by the Bureau of Land Management field offices, including inspection and enforcement relating to energy development on Federal land, in accordance with the multiple-use requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(f) FUNDING.—Funding for the additional personnel shall be derived from the Department of the Interior reforms made by sections 2411, 2412, and 2421 and the amendments made by those sections.

(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) the operation of any Federal or State law; or

(2) any delegation of authority made by the head of a Federal agency whose employees are participating in the Project.

SEC. 2432. ADMINISTRATION OF CURRENT LAW.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not require a finding of extraordinary circumstances in administering section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942).

Subtitle D—Judicial Review

SEC. 2441. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COVERED CIVIL ACTION.—The term “covered civil action” means a civil action containing a claim under section 702 of title 5, United States Code, regarding agency action (as defined for the purposes of that section) affecting a covered energy project on Federal land.

(2) COVERED ENERGY PROJECT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered energy project” means the leasing of Federal land of the United States for the exploration, development, production, processing, or transmission of oil, natural gas, wind, or any other source of energy, and any action under such a lease.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “covered energy project” does not include any disputes between the parties to a lease regarding the obligations under the lease, including regarding any alleged breach of the lease.

SEC. 2442. EXCLUSIVE VENUE FOR CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS RELATING TO COVERED ENERGY PROJECTS.

Venue for any covered civil action shall lie in the United States district court for the district in which the project or leases exist or are proposed.

SEC. 2443. TIMELY FILING.

To ensure timely redress by the courts, a covered civil action shall be filed not later than 90 days after the date of the final Federal agency action to which the covered civil action relates.

SEC. 2444. EXPEDITION IN HEARING AND DETERMINING THE ACTION.

A court shall endeavor to hear and determine any covered civil action as expeditiously as practicable.

SEC. 2445. STANDARD OF REVIEW.

In any judicial review of a covered civil action—

(1) administrative findings and conclusions relating to the challenged Federal action or decision shall be presumed to be correct; and

(2) the presumption may be rebutted only by the preponderance of the evidence contained in the administrative record.

SEC. 2446. LIMITATION ON INJUNCTION AND PROSPECTIVE RELIEF.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In a covered civil action, a court shall not grant or approve any prospective relief unless the court finds that the relief—

- (1) is narrowly drawn;
- (2) extends no further than necessary to correct the violation of a legal requirement; and
- (3) is the least intrusive means necessary to correct the violation.

(b) PRELIMINARY INJUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A court shall limit the duration of a preliminary injunction to halt a covered energy project to not more than 60 days, unless the court finds clear reasons to extend the injunction.

(2) EXTENSIONS.—Extensions under paragraph (1) shall—

- (A) only be in 30-day increments; and
- (B) require action by the court to renew the injunction.

SEC. 2447. LIMITATION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 504 of title 5 and 2412 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Equal Access to Justice Act”), shall not apply to a covered civil action.

(b) ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COURT COSTS.—A party in a covered civil action shall not receive payment from the Federal Government for attorney's fees, expenses, or other court costs.

SEC. 2448. LEGAL STANDING.

A challenger filing an appeal with the Interior Board of Land Appeals shall meet the same standing requirements as a challenger before a United States district court.

TITLE V—EXPEDITIOUS OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM IN NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA

SEC. 2501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Access Act”.

SEC. 2502. SENSE OF CONGRESS REAFFIRMING NATIONAL POLICY REGARDING NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the National Petroleum Reserve in the State of Alaska (referred to in this title as the “Reserve”) remains explicitly designated, both in name and legal status, for purposes of providing oil and natural gas resources to the United States; and

(2) accordingly, the national policy is to actively advance oil and gas development within the Reserve by facilitating the expeditious exploration, production, and transportation of oil and natural gas from and through the Reserve.

SEC. 2503. COMPETITIVE LEASING OF OIL AND GAS.

Section 107 of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6506a) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) COMPETITIVE LEASING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the Reserve in accordance with this Act.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The program under this subsection shall include at least 1 lease sale annually in each area of the Reserve that is most likely to produce commercial quantities of oil and natural gas for each of calendar years 2013 through 2023.”.

SEC. 2504. PLANNING AND PERMITTING PIPELINE AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall facilitate and ensure permits, in an environmentally responsible manner, for all surface development activities, including for the construction of pipelines and roads, necessary—

(1) to develop and bring into production any areas within the Reserve that are subject to oil and gas leases; and

(2) to transport oil and gas from and through the Reserve to existing transportation or processing infrastructure on the North Slope of Alaska.

(b) TIMELINES.—The Secretary shall ensure that any Federal permitting agency shall issue permits in accordance with the following timelines:

(1) EXISTING LEASES.—Each permit for construction relating to the transportation of oil and natural gas produced under existing Federal oil and gas leases with respect to which the Secretary of the Interior has issued a permit to drill shall be approved by not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) REQUESTED PERMITS.—Each permit for construction for transportation of oil and natural gas produced under Federal oil and gas leases shall be approved by not later than 180 days after the date of submission to the Secretary of a request for a permit to drill.

(c) PLAN.—To ensure timely future development of the Reserve, not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a plan for approved rights-of-way for a plan for pipeline, road, and any other surface infrastructure that may be necessary infrastructure to ensure that all leaseable tracts in the Reserve are located within 25 miles of an approved road and pipeline right-of-way that can serve future development of the Reserve.

SEC. 2505. DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate regulations to establish clear requirements to ensure that the Department of the Interior is supporting development of oil and gas leases in the Reserve.

(b) DEADLINES.—At a minimum, the regulations promulgated pursuant to this section shall—

(1) require the Secretary of the Interior to respond, acknowledging receipt of any permit application for development, by not later than 5 business days after the date of receipt of the application; and

(2) establish a timeline for the processing of each such application that—

(A) specifies deadlines for decisions and actions regarding permit applications; and

(B) provides that the period for issuing each permit after the date of submission of the application shall not exceed 60 days, absent the concurrence of the applicant.

(c) ACTIONS REQUIRED FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH DEADLINES.—If the Secretary of the Interior fails to comply with any deadline described in subsection (b) with respect to a permit application, the Secretary shall notify the applicant not less frequently than once every 5 days with specific information regarding—

- (1) the reasons for the permit delay;
- (2) the name of each specific office of the Department of the Interior responsible for—

(A) issuing the permit; or

(B) monitoring the permit delay; and

(3) an estimate of the date on which the permit will be issued.

(d) ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, after consultation with the State of Alaska and after providing notice and an opportunity for public comment, shall approve right-of-way corridors for the construction of 2 separate additional bridges and pipeline rights-of-way to help facilitate timely oil and gas development of the Reserve.

SEC. 2506. UPDATED RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall complete a comprehensive assessment of all technically recoverable fossil fuel resources within the Reserve, including all conventional and unconventional oil and natural gas.

(b) COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.—The resource assessment under subsection (a) shall be carried out by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation and consultation with the State of Alaska and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

(c) TIMING.—The resource assessment under subsection (a) shall be completed by not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) FUNDING.—In carrying out this section, the United States Geological Survey may cooperatively use resources and funds provided by the State of Alaska.

SEC. 2507. COLVILLE RIVER DELTA DESIGNATION.

The designation by the Environmental Protection Agency of the Colville River Delta as an aquatic resource of national importance shall have no force or effect on this title or an amendment made by this title.

TITLE VI—INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES

SEC. 2601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “BLM Live Internet Auctions Act”.

SEC. 2602. INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 17(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the third sentence, by striking “Lease sales” and inserting “Except as provided in subparagraph (C), lease sales”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) In order to diversify and expand the United States onshore leasing program to ensure the best return to Federal taxpayers, to reduce fraud, and to secure the leasing process, the Secretary may conduct onshore lease sales through Internet-based bidding methods, each of which shall be completed by not later than 7 days after the date of initiation of the sale.”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the tenth Internet-based lease sale conducted pursuant to subparagraph (C) of section 17(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)) (as added by subsection (a)), the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct, and submit to Congress a report describing the results of, an analysis of the first 10 such lease sales, including—

- (1) estimates of increases or decreases in the lease sales, as compared to sales conducted by oral bidding, in—
 - (A) the number of bidders;
 - (B) the average amount of the bids;
 - (C) the highest amount of the bids; and
 - (D) the lowest amount of the bids;
- (2) an estimate on the total cost or savings to the Department of the Interior as a result

of the sales, as compared to sales conducted by oral bidding; and

(3) an evaluation of the demonstrated or expected effectiveness of different structures for lease sales, which may—

(A) provide an opportunity to better maximize bidder participation;

(B) ensure the highest return to Federal taxpayers;

(C) minimize opportunities for fraud or collusion; and

(D) ensure the security and integrity of the leasing process.

TITLE VII—ADVANCING OFFSHORE WIND PRODUCTION

SEC. 2701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Advancing Offshore Wind Production Act”.

SEC. 2702. OFFSHORE METEOROLOGICAL SITE TESTING AND MONITORING PROJECTS.

(a) **DEFINITION OF OFFSHORE METEOROLOGICAL SITE TESTING AND MONITORING PROJECT.**—In this section, the term “offshore meteorological site testing and monitoring project” means a project carried out on or in the waters of the outer Continental Shelf (as defined in section 2 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331)) and administered by the Department of the Interior to test or monitor weather (including energy provided by weather, such as wind, tidal, current, and solar energy) using towers, buoys, or other temporary ocean infrastructure, that—

(1) causes—

(A) less than 1 acre of surface or seafloor disruption at the location of each meteorological tower or other device; and

(B) not more than 5 acres of surface or seafloor disruption within the proposed area affected by the project (including hazards to navigation);

(2) is decommissioned not more than 5 years after the date of commencement of the project, including—

(A) removal of towers, buoys, or other temporary ocean infrastructure from the project site; and

(B) restoration of the project site to approximately the original condition of the site; and

(3) provides meteorological information obtained by the project to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) **OFFSHORE METEOROLOGICAL PROJECT PERMITTING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall require, by regulation, that any applicant seeking to conduct an offshore meteorological site testing and monitoring project shall obtain a permit and right-of-way for the project in accordance with this subsection.

(2) **PERMIT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY TIMELINE AND CONDITIONS.**—

(A) **DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL.**—The Secretary shall decide whether to issue a permit and right-of-way for an offshore meteorological site testing and monitoring project by not later than 30 days after the date of receipt of a relevant application.

(B) **PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSULTATION.**—During the 30-day period referred to in subparagraph (A) with respect to an application for a permit and right-of-way under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(i) provide an opportunity for submission of comments regarding the application by the public; and

(ii) consult with the Secretary of Defense, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the heads of other Federal, State, and local agencies that would be affected by the issuance of the permit and right-of-way.

(C) **DENIAL OF PERMIT; OPPORTUNITY TO REMEDY DEFICIENCIES.**—If an application is denied under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide to the applicant—

(i) in writing—

(I) a list of clear and comprehensive reasons why the application was denied; and

(II) detailed information concerning any deficiencies in the application; and

(ii) an opportunity to remedy those deficiencies.

(c) **NEPA EXCLUSION.**—Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) shall not apply with respect to an offshore meteorological site testing and monitoring project.

(d) **PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.**—Any information provided to the Secretary of the Interior under subsection (a)(3) shall be—

(1) treated by the Secretary as proprietary information; and

(2) protected against disclosure.

TITLE VIII—CRITICAL MINERALS

SEC. 2801. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **APPLICABLE COMMITTEES.**—The term “applicable committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(2) **CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY.**—The term “clean energy technology” means a technology related to the production, use, transmission, storage, control, or conservation of energy that—

(A) reduces the need for additional energy supplies by using existing energy supplies with greater efficiency or by transmitting, distributing, storing, or transporting energy with greater effectiveness in or through the infrastructure of the United States;

(B) diversifies the sources of energy supply of the United States to strengthen energy security and to increase supplies with a favorable balance of environmental effects if the entire technology system is considered; or

(C) contributes to a stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations through reduction, avoidance, or sequestration of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

(3) **CRITICAL MINERAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “critical mineral” means any mineral designated as a critical mineral pursuant to section 2802.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term “critical mineral” does not include coal, oil, natural gas, or any other fossil fuels.

(4) **CRITICAL MINERAL MANUFACTURING.**—The term “critical mineral manufacturing” means—

(A) the production, processing, refining, alloying, separation, concentration, magnetic sintering, melting, or beneficiation of critical minerals within the United States;

(B) the fabrication, assembly, or production, within the United States, of clean energy technologies (including technologies related to wind, solar, and geothermal energy, efficient lighting, electrical superconducting materials, permanent magnet motors, batteries, and other energy storage devices), military equipment, and consumer electronics, or components necessary for applications; or

(C) any other value-added, manufacturing-related use of critical minerals undertaken within the United States.

(5) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(6) **MILITARY EQUIPMENT.**—The term “military equipment” means equipment used directly by the Armed Forces to carry out military operations.

(7) **RARE EARTH ELEMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “rare earth element” means the chemical elements in the periodic table from lanthanum (atomic number 57) up to and including lutetium (atomic number 71).

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “rare earth element” includes the similar chemical elements yttrium (atomic number 39) and scandium (atomic number 21).

(8) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior—

(A) acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey; and

(B) in consultation with (as appropriate)—

(i) the Secretary of Energy;

(ii) the Secretary of Defense;

(iii) the Secretary of Commerce;

(iv) the Secretary of State;

(v) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(vi) the United States Trade Representative; and

(vii) the heads of other applicable Federal agencies.

(9) **STATE.**—The term “State” means—

(A) a State;

(B) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(C) any other territory or possession of the United States.

(10) **VALUE-ADDED.**—The term “value-added” means, with respect to an activity, an activity that changes the form, fit, or function of a product, service, raw material, or physical good so that the resultant market price is greater than the cost of making the changes.

(11) **WORKING GROUP.**—The term “Working Group” means the Critical Minerals Working Group established under section 2805(a).

SEC. 2802. DESIGNATIONS.

(a) **DRAFT METHODOLOGY.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register for public comment a draft methodology for determining which minerals qualify as critical minerals based on an assessment of whether the minerals are—

(1) subject to potential supply restrictions (including restrictions associated with foreign political risk, abrupt demand growth, military conflict, and anti-competitive or protectionist behaviors); and

(2) important in use (including clean energy technology-, defense-, agriculture-, and health care-related applications).

(b) **AVAILABILITY OF DATA.**—If available data is insufficient to provide a quantitative basis for the methodology developed under this section, qualitative evidence may be used.

(c) **FINAL METHODOLOGY.**—After reviewing public comments on the draft methodology under subsection (a) and updating the draft methodology as appropriate, the Secretary shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering to obtain, not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) a review of the methodology; and

(2) recommendations for improving the methodology.

(d) **FINAL METHODOLOGY.**—After reviewing the recommendations under subsection (c), not later than 150 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a description of

the final methodology for determining which minerals qualify as critical minerals.

(e) **DESIGNATIONS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a list of minerals designated as critical, pursuant to the final methodology under subsection (d), for purposes of carrying out this title.

(f) **SUBSEQUENT REVIEW.**—The methodology and designations developed under subsections (d) and (e) shall be updated at least every 5 years, or in more regular intervals if considered appropriate by the Secretary.

(g) **NOTICE.**—On finalization of the methodology under subsection (d), the list under subsection (e), or any update to the list under subsection (f), the Secretary shall submit to the applicable committees written notice of the action.

SEC. 2803. POLICY.

(a) **POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States to promote an adequate, reliable, domestic, and stable supply of critical minerals, produced in an environmentally responsible manner, in order to strengthen and sustain the economic security, and the manufacturing, industrial, energy, technological, and competitive stature, of the United States.

(b) **COORDINATION.**—The President, acting through the Executive Office of the President, shall coordinate the actions of Federal agencies under this and other Acts—

(1) to encourage Federal agencies to facilitate the availability, development, and environmentally responsible production of domestic resources to meet national critical minerals needs;

(2) to minimize duplication, needless paperwork, and delays in the administration of applicable laws (including regulations) and the issuance of permits and authorizations necessary to explore for, develop, and produce critical minerals and to construct and operate critical mineral manufacturing facilities in an environmentally responsible manner;

(3) to promote the development of economically stable and environmentally responsible domestic critical mineral production and manufacturing;

(4) to establish an analytical and forecasting capability for identifying critical mineral demand, supply, and other market dynamics relevant to policy formulation so that informed actions may be taken to avoid supply shortages, mitigate price volatility, and prepare for demand growth and other market shifts;

(5) to strengthen educational and research capabilities and workforce training;

(6) to bolster international cooperation through technology transfer, information sharing, and other means;

(7) to promote the efficient production, use, and recycling of critical minerals;

(8) to develop alternatives to critical minerals; and

(9) to establish contingencies for the production of, or access to, critical minerals for which viable sources do not exist within the United States.

SEC. 2804. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, in consultation with applicable State (including geological surveys), local, academic, industry, and other entities, the Secretary shall complete a comprehensive national assessment of each critical mineral that—

(1) identifies and quantifies known critical mineral resources, using all available public and private information and datasets, including exploration histories;

(2) estimates the cost of production of the critical mineral resources identified and quantified under this section, using all available public and private information and datasets, including exploration histories;

(3) provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of undiscovered critical mineral resources throughout the United States, including probability estimates of tonnage and grade, using all available public and private information and datasets, including exploration histories;

(4) provides qualitative information on the environmental attributes of the critical mineral resources identified under this section; and

(5) pays particular attention to the identification and quantification of critical mineral resources on Federal land that is open to location and entry for exploration, development, and other uses.

(b) **FIELD WORK.**—If existing information and datasets prove insufficient to complete the assessment under this section and there is no reasonable opportunity to obtain the information and datasets from nongovernmental entities, the Secretary may carry out field work (including drilling, remote sensing, geophysical surveys, geological mapping, and geochemical sampling and analysis) to supplement existing information and datasets available for determining the existence of critical minerals on—

(1) Federal land that is open to location and entry for exploration, development, and other uses;

(2) tribal land, at the request and with the written permission of the Indian tribe with jurisdiction over the land; and

(3) State land, at the request and with the written permission of the Governor of the State.

(c) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—At the request of the Governor of a State or an Indian tribe, the Secretary may provide technical assistance to State governments and Indian tribes conducting critical mineral resource assessments on non-Federal land.

(d) **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary may make grants to State governments, or Indian tribes and economic development entities of Indian tribes, to cover the costs associated with assessments of critical mineral resources on State or tribal land, as applicable.

(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the applicable committees a report describing the results of the assessment conducted under this section.

(f) **PRIORITIZATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may sequence the completion of resource assessments for each critical mineral such that critical materials considered to be most critical under the methodology established pursuant to section 2802 are completed first.

(2) **REPORTING.**—If the Secretary sequences the completion of resource assessments for each critical material, the Secretary shall submit a report under subsection (e) on an iterative basis over the 4-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) **UPDATES.**—The Secretary shall periodically update the assessment conducted under this section based on—

(1) the generation of new information or datasets by the Federal Government; or

(2) the receipt of new information or datasets from critical mineral producers, State geological surveys, academic institutions, trade associations, or other entities or individuals.

SEC. 2805. PERMITTING.

(a) **CRITICAL MINERALS WORKING GROUP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established within the Department of the Interior a working group to be known as the “Critical Minerals Working Group”, which shall report to the President and the applicable committees through the Secretary.

(2) **COMPOSITION.**—The Working Group shall be composed of the following:

(A) The Secretary of the Interior (or a designee), who shall serve as chair of the Working Group.

(B) A Presidential designee from the Executive Office of the President, who shall serve as vice-chair of the Working Group.

(C) The Secretary of Energy (or a designee).

(D) The Secretary of Agriculture (or a designee).

(E) The Secretary of Defense (or a designee).

(F) The Secretary of Commerce (or a designee).

(G) The Secretary of State (or a designee).

(H) The United States Trade Representative (or a designee).

(I) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (or a designee).

(J) The Chief of Engineers of the Corps of Engineers (or a designee).

(b) **CONSULTATION.**—The Working Group shall operate in consultation with private sector, academic, and other applicable stakeholders with experience related to—

(1) critical minerals exploration;

(2) critical minerals permitting;

(3) critical minerals production; and

(4) critical minerals manufacturing.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The Working Group shall—

(1) facilitate Federal agency efforts to optimize efficiencies associated with the permitting of activities that will increase exploration and development of domestic critical minerals, while maintaining environmental standards;

(2) facilitate Federal agency review of laws (including regulations) and policies that discourage investment in exploration and development of domestic critical minerals;

(3) assess whether Federal policies adversely impact the global competitiveness of the domestic critical minerals exploration and development sector (including taxes, fees, regulatory burdens, and access restrictions);

(4) evaluate the sufficiency of existing mechanisms for the provision of tenure on Federal land and the role of the mechanisms in attracting capital investment for the exploration and development of domestic critical minerals; and

(5) generate such other information and take such other actions as the Working Group considers appropriate to achieve the policy described in section 2803(a).

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Working Group shall submit to the applicable committees a report that—

(1) describes the results of actions taken under subsection (c);

(2) evaluates the amount of time typically required (including the range derived from minimum and maximum durations, mean, median, variance, and other statistical measures or representations) to complete each step (including those aspects outside the control of the executive branch of the Federal Government, such as judicial review, applicant decisions, or State and local government involvement) associated with the processing of applications, operating plans, leases, licenses, permits, and other use authorizations for critical mineral-related activities on Federal land, which shall serve as

a baseline for the performance metric developed and finalized under subsections (e) and (f), respectively;

(3) identifies measures (including regulatory changes and legislative proposals) that would optimize efficiencies, while maintaining environmental standards, associated with the permitting of activities that will increase exploration and development of domestic critical minerals; and

(4) identifies options (including cost recovery paid by applicants) for ensuring adequate staffing of divisions, field offices, or other entities responsible for the consideration of applications, operating plans, leases, licenses, permits, and other use authorizations for critical mineral-related activities on Federal land.

(e) **DRAFT PERFORMANCE METRIC.**—Not later than 330 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and on completion of the report required under subsection (d), the Working Group shall publish in the Federal Register for public comment a draft description of a performance metric for evaluating the progress made by the executive branch of the Federal Government on matters within the control of that branch towards optimizing efficiencies, while maintaining environmental standards, associated with the permitting of activities that will increase exploration and development of domestic critical minerals.

(f) **FINAL PERFORMANCE METRIC.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and after consideration of any public comments received under subsection (e), the Working Group shall publish in the Federal Register a description of the final performance metric.

(g) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, using the final performance metric under subsection (f), the Working Group shall submit to the applicable committees, as part of the budget request of the Department of the Interior for each fiscal year, each report that—

(1) describes the progress made by the executive branch of the Federal Government on matters within the control of that branch towards optimizing efficiencies, while maintaining environmental standards, associated with the permitting of activities that will increase exploration and development of domestic critical minerals; and

(2) compares the United States to other countries in terms of permitting efficiency, environmental standards, and other criteria relevant to a globally competitive economic sector.

(h) **REPORT OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.**—Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the applicable committees a report that assesses the performance of Federal agencies in—

(1) complying with chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Regulatory Flexibility Act”), in promulgating regulations applicable to the critical minerals industry; and

(2) performing an analysis of regulations applicable to the critical minerals industry that may be outmoded, inefficient, duplicative, or excessively burdensome.

(i) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this section affects any judicial review of an agency action under any other provision of law.

(2) **CONSTRUCTION.**—This section—

(A) is intended to improve the internal management of the Federal Government; and

(B) does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States (including an agency, instrumentality, officer, or employee) or any other person.

SEC. 2806. RECYCLING AND ALTERNATIVES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Energy shall conduct a program of research and development to promote the efficient production, use, and recycling of, and alternatives to, critical minerals.

(b) **COOPERATION.**—In carrying out the program, the Secretary of Energy shall cooperate with appropriate—

(1) Federal agencies and National Laboratories;

(2) critical mineral producers;

(3) critical mineral manufacturers;

(4) trade associations;

(5) academic institutions;

(6) small businesses; and

(7) other relevant entities or individuals.

(c) **ACTIVITIES.**—Under the program, the Secretary of Energy shall carry out activities that include the identification and development of—

(1) advanced critical mineral production or processing technologies that decrease the environmental impact, and costs of production, of such activities;

(2) techniques and practices that minimize or lead to more efficient use of critical minerals;

(3) techniques and practices that facilitate the recycling of critical minerals, including options for improving the rates of collection of post-consumer products containing critical minerals;

(4) commercial markets, advanced storage methods, energy applications, and other beneficial uses of critical minerals processing byproducts; and

(5) alternative minerals, metals, and materials, particularly those available in abundance within the United States and not subject to potential supply restrictions, that lessen the need for critical minerals.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretaries shall submit to the applicable committees a report summarizing the activities, findings, and progress of the program.

SEC. 2807. ANALYSIS AND FORECASTING.

(a) **CAPABILITIES.**—In order to evaluate existing critical mineral policies and inform future actions that may be taken to avoid supply shortages, mitigate price volatility, and prepare for demand growth and other market shifts, the Secretary, in consultation with academic institutions, the Energy Information Administration, and others in order to maximize the application of existing competencies related to developing and maintaining computer-models and similar analytical tools, shall conduct and publish the results of an annual report that includes—

(1) as part of the annually published Mineral Commodity Summaries from the United States Geological Survey, a comprehensive review of critical mineral production, consumption, and recycling patterns, including—

(A) the quantity of each critical mineral domestically produced during the preceding year;

(B) the quantity of each critical mineral domestically consumed during the preceding year;

(C) market price data for each critical mineral;

(D) an assessment of—

(i) critical mineral requirements to meet the national security, energy, economic, industrial, technological, and other needs of the United States during the preceding year;

(ii) the reliance of the United States on foreign sources to meet those needs during the preceding year; and

(iii) the implications of any supply shortages, restrictions, or disruptions during the preceding year;

(E) the quantity of each critical mineral domestically recycled during the preceding year;

(F) the market penetration during the preceding year of alternatives to each critical mineral;

(G) a discussion of applicable international trends associated with the discovery, production, consumption, use, costs of production, prices, and recycling of each critical mineral as well as the development of alternatives to critical minerals; and

(H) such other data, analyses, and evaluations as the Secretary finds are necessary to achieve the purposes of this section; and

(2) a comprehensive forecast, entitled the “Annual Critical Minerals Outlook”, of projected critical mineral production, consumption, and recycling patterns, including—

(A) the quantity of each critical mineral projected to be domestically produced over the subsequent 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods;

(B) the quantity of each critical mineral projected to be domestically consumed over the subsequent 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods;

(C) market price projections for each critical mineral, to the maximum extent practicable and based on the best available information;

(D) an assessment of—

(i) critical mineral requirements to meet projected national security, energy, economic, industrial, technological, and other needs of the United States;

(ii) the projected reliance of the United States on foreign sources to meet those needs; and

(iii) the projected implications of potential supply shortages, restrictions, or disruptions;

(E) the quantity of each critical mineral projected to be domestically recycled over the subsequent 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods;

(F) the market penetration of alternatives to each critical mineral projected to take place over the subsequent 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods;

(G) a discussion of reasonably foreseeable international trends associated with the discovery, production, consumption, use, costs of production, prices, and recycling of each critical mineral as well as the development of alternatives to critical minerals; and

(H) such other projections relating to each critical mineral as the Secretary determines to be necessary to achieve the purposes of this section.

(b) **PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.**—In preparing a report described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) no person uses the information and data collected for the report for a purpose other than the development of or reporting of aggregate data in a manner such that the identity of the person who supplied the information is not discernible and is not material to the intended uses of the information;

(2) no person discloses any information or data collected for the report unless the information or data has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not

allow the identification of the person who supplied particular information; and

(3) procedures are established to require the withholding of any information or data collected for the report if the Secretary determines that withholding is necessary to protect proprietary information, including any trade secrets or other confidential information.

SEC. 2808. EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE.

(a) **WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.**—Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor (in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and employers in the critical minerals sector) shall submit to Congress an assessment of the domestic availability of technically trained personnel necessary for critical mineral assessment, production, manufacturing, recycling, analysis, forecasting, education, and research, including an analysis of—

(1) skills that are in the shortest supply as of the date of the assessment;

(2) skills that are projected to be in short supply in the future;

(3) the demographics of the critical minerals industry and how the demographics will evolve under the influence of factors such as an aging workforce;

(4) the effectiveness of training and education programs in addressing skills shortages;

(5) opportunities to hire locally for new and existing critical mineral activities;

(6) the sufficiency of personnel within relevant areas of the Federal Government for achieving the policy described in section 2803(a); and

(7) the potential need for new training programs to have a measurable effect on the supply of trained workers in the critical minerals industry.

(b) **CURRICULUM STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering under which the Academies shall coordinate with the National Science Foundation on conducting a study—

(A) to design an interdisciplinary program on critical minerals that will support the critical mineral supply chain and improve the ability of the United States to increase domestic, critical mineral exploration, development, and manufacturing;

(B) to address undergraduate and graduate education, especially to assist in the development of graduate level programs of research and instruction that lead to advanced degrees with an emphasis on the critical mineral supply chain or other positions that will increase domestic, critical mineral exploration, development, and manufacturing;

(C) to develop guidelines for proposals from institutions of higher education with substantial capabilities in the required disciplines to improve the critical mineral supply chain and advance the capacity of the United States to increase domestic, critical mineral exploration, development, and manufacturing; and

(D) to outline criteria for evaluating performance and recommendations for the amount of funding that will be necessary to establish and carry out the grant program described in subsection (c).

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a description of the results of the study required under paragraph (1).

(c) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary and the National Science Foundation shall jointly conduct a competitive grant program under which institutions of higher education may apply for and receive 4-year grants for—

(A) startup costs for newly designated faculty positions in integrated critical mineral education, research, innovation, training, and workforce development programs consistent with subsection (b);

(B) internships, scholarships, and fellowships for students enrolled in critical mineral programs; and

(C) equipment necessary for integrated critical mineral innovation, training, and workforce development programs.

(2) **RENEWAL.**—A grant under this subsection shall be renewable for up to 2 additional 3-year terms based on performance criteria outlined under subsection (b)(1)(D).

SEC. 2809. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary, shall carry out a program to promote international cooperation on critical mineral supply chain issues with allies of the United States.

(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—Under the program, the Secretary of State may work with allies of the United States—

(1) to increase the global, responsible production of critical minerals, if a determination is made by the Secretary of State that there is no viable production capacity for the critical minerals within the United States;

(2) to improve the efficiency and environmental performance of extraction techniques;

(3) to increase the recycling of, and deployment of alternatives to, critical minerals;

(4) to assist in the development and transfer of critical mineral extraction, processing, and manufacturing technologies that would have a beneficial impact on world commodity markets and the environment;

(5) to strengthen and maintain intellectual property protections; and

(6) to facilitate the collection of information necessary for analyses and forecasts conducted pursuant to section 2807.

SEC. 2810. REPEAL, AUTHORIZATION, AND OFFSET.

(a) **REPEAL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The National Critical Materials Act of 1984 (30 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) is repealed.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 3(d) of the National Superconductivity and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 5202(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “, with the assistance of the National Critical Materials Council as specified in the National Critical Materials Act of 1984 (30 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.),”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title and the amendments made by this title \$30,000,000.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OFFSET.**—Section 207(c) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17022(c)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, except that the amount authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section not appropriated as of the date of enactment of the Domestic Energy and Jobs Act shall be reduced by \$30,000,000”.

TITLE IX—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 2901. LIMITATION ON TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS UNDER THE SOLID MINERALS LEASING PROGRAM.

The Secretary of the Interior may not transfer to the Office of Surface Mining Rec-

lamation and Enforcement any responsibility or authority to perform any function performed on the day before the date of enactment of this Act under the solid minerals leasing program of the Department of the Interior, including—

(1) any function under—

(A) sections 2318 through 2352 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the “Mining Law of 1872”) (30 U.S.C. 21 et seq.);

(B) the Act of July 31, 1947 (commonly known as the “Materials Act of 1947”) (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

(C) the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.); or

(D) the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.);

(2) any function relating to management of mineral development on Federal land and acquired land under section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732); and

(3) any function performed under the mining law administration program of the Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 2902. AMOUNT OF DISTRIBUTED QUALIFIED OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUES.

Section 105(f)(1) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note; Public Law 109-432) is amended by striking “2055” and inserting “2025, and shall not exceed \$750,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2055”.

SEC. 2903. LEASE SALE 220 AND OTHER LEASE SALES OFF THE COAST OF VIRGINIA.

(a) **INCLUSION IN LEASING PROGRAMS.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) as soon as practicable after, but not later than 10 days after, the date of enactment of this Act, revise the proposed outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing program for the 2012-2017 period to include in the program Lease Sale 220 off the coast of Virginia; and

(2) include the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Virginia in the leasing program for each 5-year period after the 2012-2017 period.

(b) **CONDUCT OF LEASE SALE.**—As soon as practicable, but not later than 1 year, after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall carry out under section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337) Lease Sale 220.

(c) **BALANCING MILITARY AND ENERGY PRODUCTION GOALS.**—

(1) **JOINT GOALS.**—In recognition that the outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing program and the domestic energy resources produced under that program are integral to national security, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Defense shall work jointly in implementing this section—

(A) to preserve the ability of the Armed Forces to maintain an optimum state of readiness through their continued use of energy resources of the outer Continental Shelf; and

(B) to allow effective exploration, development, and production of the oil, gas, and renewable energy resources of the United States.

(2) **PROHIBITION ON CONFLICTS WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS.**—No person may engage in any exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas off the coast of Virginia that would conflict with any military operation, as determined in accordance with—

(A) the agreement entitled “Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior on Mutual Concerns on the Outer Continental Shelf” signed July 20, 1983; and

(B) any revision to, or replacement of, the agreement described in subparagraph (A) that is agreed to by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Interior after July 20, 1983, but before the date of issuance of the lease under which the exploration, development, or production is conducted.

(3) NATIONAL DEFENSE AREAS.—The United States reserves the right to designate by and through the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the President, national defense areas on the outer Continental Shelf under section 12(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341(d)).

SEC. 2904. LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY TO ISSUE REGULATIONS MODIFYING THE STREAM ZONE BUFFER RULE.

The Secretary of the Interior may not, before December 31, 2013, issue a regulation modifying the final rule entitled “Excess Spoil, Coal Mine Waste, and Buffers for Perennial and Intermittent Streams” (73 Fed. Reg. 75814 (December 12, 2008)).

SA 2895. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

SEC. ____ CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF EPA REGULATIONS WITH HIGH COMPLIANCE COSTS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the cost of compliance with a regulation of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency exceeds \$50,000,000 per year, the regulation shall not take effect unless Congress enacts a law that approves the regulation.

SA 2896. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ STUDY OF REGULATIONS THAT LIMIT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM NEW AND EXISTING POWER PLANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effect that regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing power plants would have on jobs and energy prices.

(b) DETERMINATION.—If, based on the study conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy determines that the regulations described in that subsection would directly or indirectly destroy jobs or raise energy prices, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not finalize the regulations.

SA 2897. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 2 of the amendment, strike line 1 and all that follows through page 3, line 2, and insert the following:

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 4007(a)(2) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “January 1, 2014” and inserting “September 1, 2014”.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (J), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

“(K) the amendment made by section 2(a) of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014;”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2898. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ PERMISSIBLE USES OF UNEMPLOYMENT FUND MONIES FOR PROGRAM INTEGRITY PURPOSES.

(a) WITHDRAWAL STANDARD IN THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.—Section 3304(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following new subparagraphs:

“(H) of those payments of benefits from a State’s unemployment fund that are determined to have been made in error and are subsequently recovered by the State, the State may, immediately following receipt of such recovered amount, deposit a percent of such recovered amount, as specified in State law (but not to exceed 5 percent), in a fund from which moneys may be withdrawn for—

“(i) the payment of costs of deterring, detecting, and collecting erroneous payments to individuals;

“(ii) purposes relating to the misclassification of employees as independent contractors, implementation of provisions of State law implementing section 303(k) of the Social Security Act, or other provisions of State law relating to employer fraud or evasion of contributions; or

“(iii) payment to the Secretary of the Treasury to the credit of the State’s account in the Unemployment Trust Fund; and

“(I) of those payments of contributions (or payments in lieu of contributions) that are collected as a result of an investigation and assessment by the State agency, the State may, immediately following receipt of such payments, deposit a percentage of such payments, as specified in State law (but not to exceed 5 percent), in a fund (which may be the same fund described in subparagraph (H)) from which moneys may be withdrawn for the purposes described in clauses (i) through (iii) of subparagraph (H);”.

(b) DEFINITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.—Section 3306(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking all that follows “(exclusive of expenses of administration)” and inserting “, except as otherwise provided in section 3304(a)(4) of the Social Security Act or any other provision of Federal law.”.

(c) WITHDRAWAL STANDARD IN SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 303(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)(5)) is amended by striking all that follows “payment of unemployment compensation, exclusive of expenses of administration,” and inserting “except as otherwise provided in this section, section 3304(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any other provision of Federal law; and”.

(d) IMMEDIATE DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE REQUIREMENT.—Paragraph (3) of section 3304(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(3) all money received in the unemployment fund of the State shall immediately upon such receipt be paid over to the Secretary of the Treasury to the credit of the Unemployment Trust Fund established by section 904 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1104), except for—

“(A) refunds of sums erroneously paid into the unemployment fund of the State;

“(B) refunds paid in accordance with the provisions of section 3305(b); and

“(C) amounts deposited in a State fund pursuant to subparagraph (H) or (I) of paragraph (4);”.

(2) SOCIAL SECURITY ACT REQUIREMENT.—Section 303(a)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)(4)) is amended by striking “(except for refunds)” and all that follows through “Federal Unemployment Tax Act” and inserting “(except as otherwise provided in this section, section 3304(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any other provision of Federal law)”.

(e) APPLICATION TO FEDERAL PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition for administering any unemployment compensation program of the United States (as defined in paragraph (2)) as an agent of the United States, a State shall, with respect to erroneous payments made under such programs by the State, use the authority provided under subparagraph (H) of section 3304(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by subsection (a), in the same manner as such authority is used with respect to erroneous payments made under the State unemployment compensation law. With respect to erroneous Federal payments recovered consistent with the authority under such subparagraph (H), the State shall immediately deposit the same percentage of the recovered payments into the same State fund as provided in the State law implementing such section 3304(a)(4).

(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “unemployment compensation program of the United States” means—

(A) unemployment compensation for Federal civilian employees under subchapter I of chapter 85 of title 5, United States Code;

(B) unemployment compensation for servicemembers under subchapter II of chapter 85 of title 5, United States Code;

(C) trade readjustment allowances under sections 231 through 234 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2291-2294);

(D) disaster unemployment assistance under section 410(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5177(a));

(E) any Federal temporary extension of unemployment compensation;

(F) any Federal program which increases the weekly amount of unemployment compensation payable to individuals; and

(G) any other Federal program providing for the payment of unemployment compensation.

SEC. —. DELAY IN APPLICATION OF INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE MAN-DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5000A(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “2013” and inserting “2014”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 5000A(c)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by striking “2014” in clause (i) and inserting “2015”, and

(B) by striking “2015” in clauses (ii) and (iii) and inserting “2016”.

(2) Section 5000A(c)(3)(B) of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”, and

(B) by striking “2015.” (prior to amendment by subparagraph (A)) and inserting “2016.”.

(3) Section 5000A(c)(3)(D) of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”, and

(B) by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

(4) Section 5000A(e)(1)(D) of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”, and

(B) by striking “2013” and inserting “2014”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 1501 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

SA 2899. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. —. LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE MANDATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) EXCEPTION FOR LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘full-time employee’ shall not include any individual who is a long-term unemployed individual with respect to such employer.

“(ii) LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term

‘long-term unemployed individual’ means, with respect to any employer, an individual who—

“(I) begins employment with such employer after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, and

“(II) has been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, immediately before the date such employment begins.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2900. Mr. COATS (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 9 of the amendment, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 10, line 20, and insert the following:

SEC. 8. REQUIREMENT THAT INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN A SYSTEMATIC AND SUSTAINED EFFORT TO OBTAIN SUITABLE WORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (h) of section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(h) ACTIVELY SEEKING WORK.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (b)(4), payment of emergency unemployment compensation shall not be made to any individual for any week of unemployment—

“(A) during which the individual fails to accept any offer of suitable work (as defined in paragraph (3)) or fails to apply for any suitable work to which the individual was referred by the State agency; or

“(B) during which the individual fails to actively engage in seeking work, unless such individual is not actively engaged in seeking work because such individual is, as determined in accordance with State law—

“(i) before any court of the United States or any State pursuant to a lawfully issued summons to appear for jury duty (as such term may be defined by the Secretary); or

“(ii) hospitalized for treatment of an emergency or a life-threatening condition (as such term may be defined by the Secretary), if such exemptions in clauses (i) and (ii) apply to recipients of regular benefits, and the State chooses to apply such exemptions for recipients of emergency unemployment benefits.

“(2) PERIOD OF INELIGIBILITY.—If any individual is ineligible for emergency unemployment compensation for any week by reason of a failure described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), the individual shall be ineligible to receive emergency unemployment compensation for any week which begins during a period which—

“(A) begins with the week following the week in which such failure occurs; and

“(B) does not end until such individual has been employed during at least 4 weeks which begin after such failure and the total of the remuneration earned by the individual for being so employed is not less than the product of 4 multiplied by the individual’s average weekly benefit amount for the individual’s benefit year.

“(3) SUITABLE WORK.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘suitable work’ means, with respect to any individual, any work which is within such individual’s capabilities, except that, if the individual furnishes evidence satisfactory to the State agency that such individual’s prospects for obtaining work in his customary occupation within a reasonably short period are good, the determination of whether any work is suitable work with respect to such individual shall be made in accordance with the applicable State law.

“(4) EXCEPTION.—Extended compensation shall not be denied under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) to any individual for any week by reason of a failure to accept an offer of, or apply for, suitable work—

“(A) if the gross average weekly remuneration payable to such individual for the position does not exceed the sum of—

“(i) the individual’s average weekly benefit amount for his benefit year, plus

“(ii) the amount (if any) of supplemental unemployment compensation benefits (as defined in section 501(c)(17)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) payable to such individual for such week;

“(B) if the position was not offered to such individual in writing and was not listed with the State employment service;

“(C) if such failure would not result in a denial of compensation under the provisions of the applicable State law to the extent that such provisions are not inconsistent with the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (5); or

“(D) if the position pays wages less than the higher of—

“(i) the minimum wage provided by section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, without regard to any exemption; or

“(ii) any applicable State or local minimum wage.

“(5) ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SEEKING WORK.—For purposes of this subsection, an individual shall be treated as actively engaged in seeking work during any week if—

“(A) the individual has engaged in a systematic and sustained effort to obtain work during such week, and

“(B) the individual provides tangible evidence to the State agency that he has engaged in such an effort during such week.

“(6) REFERRAL.—The State agency shall provide for referring applicants for emergency unemployment benefits to any suitable work to which paragraph (4) would not apply.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2901. Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr.

HOEVEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

SEC. ____ . ANALYSIS OF EMPLOYMENT EFFECTS UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Environmental Protection Agency has systematically distorted the true impact of regulations promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) on job creation by using incomplete analyses to assess effects on employment, primarily as a result of the Environmental Protection Agency failing to take into account the cascading effects of a regulatory change across interconnected industries and markets nationwide;

(2) despite the Environmental Protection Agency finding that the impact of certain air pollution regulations will result in net job creation, implementation of the air pollution regulations will actually require billions of dollars in compliance costs, resulting in reduced business profits and millions of actual job losses;

(3)(A) the analysis of the Environmental Protection Agency of the final rule of the Agency entitled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units and Standards of Performance for Fossil-Fuel-Fired Electric Utility, Industrial-Commercial-Institutional, and Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units” (77 Fed. Reg. 9304 (Feb. 16, 2012)) estimated that implementation of the final rule would result in the creation of 46,000 temporary construction jobs and 8,000 net new permanent jobs; but

(B) a private study conducted by NERA Economic Consulting, using a “whole economy” model, estimated that implementation of the final rule described in subparagraph (A) would result in a negative impact on the income of workers in an amount equivalent to 180,000 to 215,000 lost jobs in 2015 and 50,000 to 85,000 lost jobs each year thereafter;

(4)(A) the analysis of the Environmental Protection Agency of the final rule of the Agency entitled “Federal Implementation Plans: Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter and Ozone and Correction of SIP Approvals” (76 Fed. Reg. 48208 (Aug. 8, 2011)) estimated that implementation of the final rule would result in the creation of 700 jobs per year; but

(B) a private study conducted by NERA Economic Consulting estimated that implementation of the final rule described in subparagraph (A) would result in the elimination of a total of 34,000 jobs during the period beginning in calendar year 2013 and ending in calendar year 2037;

(5)(A) the analysis of the Environmental Protection Agency of the final rules of the Agency entitled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major

Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters” (76 Fed. Reg. 15608 (March 21, 2011)) and “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Area Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers” (76 Fed. Reg. 15554 (March 21, 2011)) estimated that implementation of the final rules would result in the creation of 2,200 jobs per year; but

(B) a private study conducted by NERA Economic Consulting estimated that implementation of the final rules described in subparagraph (A) would result in the elimination of 28,000 jobs per year during the period beginning in calendar year 2013 and ending in calendar year 2037;

(6) implementation of certain air pollution rules of the Environmental Protection Agency that have not been reviewed, updated, or finalized as of the date of enactment of this Act, such as regulations on greenhouse gas emissions and the update or review of national ambient air quality standards, are predicted to result in significant and negative employment impacts, but the Agency has not yet fully studied or disclosed the full impacts of existing Agency regulations;

(7) in reviewing, developing, or updating any regulations promulgated under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) after the date of enactment of this Act, the Environmental Protection Agency must be required to accurately disclose the adverse impact the existing regulations of the Agency will have on jobs and employment levels across the economy in the United States and disclose those impacts to the American people before issuing a final rule; and

(8) although since 1977, section 321(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7621(a)) has required the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to “conduct continuing evaluations of potential loss or shifts of employment which may result from the administration or enforcement of the provision of [the Clean Air Act] and applicable implementation plans, including where appropriate, investigating threatened plant closures or reductions in employment allegedly resulting from such administration or enforcement”, the Environmental Protection Agency has failed to undertake that analysis or conduct a comprehensive study that considers the impact of programs carried out under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) on jobs and changes in employment.

(b) PROHIBITION.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not propose or finalize any major rule (as defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) until after the date on which the Administrator—

(1) completes an economy-wide analysis capturing the costs and cascading effects across industry sectors and markets in the United States of the implementation of major rules promulgated under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.); and

(2) establishes a process to update that analysis not less frequently than semiannually, so as to provide for the continuing evaluation of potential loss or shifts in employment, pursuant to section 321(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7621(a)), that may result from the implementation of major rules under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

SA 2902. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure

that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . WORK ACTIVITY REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) have satisfied the requirements under subsection (k) with respect to such week.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) WORK ACTIVITIES AND GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CLASSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), as a condition of continuing eligibility for emergency unemployment compensation for any week, an individual shall—

“(A) in the case of an individual who certifies that they are the primary care giver for a child that has not attained 1 year of age, be exempt from any requirements under this subsection;

“(B) in the case of an individual who certifies that they are the primary care giver for a child that has attained 1 year of age but not attained 6 years of age, complete not less than 20 hours of any activities described in paragraph (2)(A);

“(C) in the case of a head of household (as defined in section 2(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) who is not described in subparagraphs (A) or (B), complete not less than 30 hours of any activities described in paragraph (2)(A); or

“(D) in the case of any individual not described in subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C), complete not less than 40 hours of any activities described in paragraph (2)(A).

“(2) WORK ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The activities described in this paragraph shall consist of the following:

“(i) Actively seeking work (as described in subsection (h)(1)).

“(ii) Reemployment services and in-person reemployment and eligibility assessment activities (as described in subsection (i)(2)).

“(iii) Work activities described in section 407(d) of the Social Security Act, as administered by the State agency responsible for administration and supervision of the program referred to in section 402(a)(1) of such Act.

“(iv) In the case of an individual described in subparagraph (B), attending classes described in such subparagraph.

“(B) GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—In the case of an individual who has not attained 30 years of age and has not obtained a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, such individual, as a condition of continuing eligibility for emergency unemployment compensation for any week, shall enroll in a program of study that leads to the recognized equivalent of a secondary school diploma, and, subsequent to enrollment, shall attend classes connected to such program.

“(3) EXCEPTION.—The requirements under this subsection shall not apply to an individual if the State agency responsible for the

administration of State unemployment compensation law determines that there is justifiable cause for failure to participate or to complete participating in the activities described in paragraph (2)(A), as determined in accordance with guidance to be issued by the Secretary.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this section shall apply to benefits for weeks beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2903. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . STATE CERTIFICATION REGARDING RETROACTIVE PAYMENT OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) **CERTIFICATION REGARDING RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.**—An agreement under this section shall not apply (or shall cease to apply) with respect to a State if, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014, the State fails to certify to the Secretary that retroactive payment of emergency unemployment compensation pursuant to such Act will not result in increased levels of fraud or overpayment with respect to such State.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this section shall apply to benefits paid for weeks beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2904. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 2 of the amendment, strike line 20 and all that follows through page 3, line 2, and insert the following: “this section shall apply to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.”.

SA 2905. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees

under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . PROTECT JOB CREATION.

Sections 1513 and 1514 and subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 10106 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (and the amendments made by such sections and subsections) are repealed and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 2906. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . REPEAL OF MEDICAL DEVICE EXCISE TAX.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subchapter E.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Subsection (a) of section 4221 of such Code is amended by striking the last sentence.

(2) Paragraph (2) of section 6416(b) of such Code is amended by striking the last sentence.

(c) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of subchapter for chapter 32 of such Code is amended by striking the item related to subchapter E.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to sales after December 31, 2012.

SA 2907. Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM EMPLOYER MANDATE UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) **EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.**—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an employer may elect not to take into account for a month as an employee any individual who, for such month, has medical coverage under—

“(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

“(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2908. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT OF BENEFITS BASED ON RECEIPT OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 224 the following new section:

“PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT OF BENEFITS BASED ON RECEIPT OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

“SEC. 224A. (a) If for any month prior to the month in which an individual attains retirement age (as defined in section 216(1)(1))—

“(1) such individual is entitled to benefits under section 223, and

“(2) such individual is entitled for such month to unemployment compensation,

the total of the individual’s benefits under section 223 for such month and of any benefits under subsections (b) through (h) of section 202 for such month based on the individual’s wages and self-employment income shall be reduced to zero.

“(b)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of any Federal agency shall provide such information within its possession as the Commissioner may require for purposes of making a timely determination under this section for reduction of benefits payable under this title, or verifying other information necessary in carrying out the provisions of this section.

“(2) The Commissioner is authorized to enter into agreements with States, political subdivisions, and other organizations that administer unemployment compensation, in order to obtain such information as the Commissioner may require to carry out the provisions of this section.

“(3) Any determination by the Commissioner pursuant to this section shall be subject to the requirements described in section 205(b)(1), including provision of reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing.

“(c) For purposes of this section, the term ‘unemployment compensation’ has the meaning given that term in section 85(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to benefits payable for months beginning after 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2909. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees

under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ PROHIBITING FEDERAL PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION WITH RESPECT TO COSTS FOR OFFICE FURNISHINGS AND MURALS, PORTRAITS, AND OTHER ARTWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 501) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) No portion of the cost of office furnishings or murals, portraits, or other artwork shall be treated as being a cost for the proper and efficient administration of the State unemployment compensation law.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to costs incurred on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2910. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.—

(1) RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES.—Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 157) is amended by striking “except to” and all that follows through “authorized in section 8(a)(3)”.

(2) UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES.—Section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “Provided, That” and all that follows through “retaining membership”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking “or to discriminate” and all that follows through “retaining membership”;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking “covered by an agreement authorized under subsection (a)(3) of this section”;

(C) in subsection (f), by striking clause (2) and redesignating clauses (3) and (4) as clauses (2) and (3), respectively.

(b) AMENDMENT TO THE RAILWAY LABOR ACT.—Section 2 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 152) is amended by striking paragraph Eleven.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2911. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that

emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ SUPPORTING NEW BUSINESSES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Startup Act 3.0”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Achieving economic recovery will require the formation and growth of new companies.

(2) Between 1980 and 2005, companies less than 5 years old accounted for nearly all net job creation in the United States.

(3) New firms in the United States create an average of 3,000,000 jobs per year.

(4) To get Americans back to work, entrepreneurs must be free to innovate, create new companies, and hire employees.

(c) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR IMMIGRANTS WITH AN ADVANCED DEGREE IN A STEM FIELD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1181 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 216A the following:

“SEC. 216B. CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR ALIENS WITH AN ADVANCED DEGREE IN A STEM FIELD.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security may adjust the status of not more than 50,000 aliens who have earned a master’s degree or a doctorate degree at an institution of higher education in a STEM field to that of an alien conditionally admitted for permanent residence and authorize each alien granted such adjustment of status to remain in the United States—

“(1) for up to 1 year after the expiration of the alien’s student visa under section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) if the alien is diligently searching for an opportunity to become actively engaged in a STEM field; and

“(2) indefinitely if the alien remains actively engaged in a STEM field.

“(b) APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—Every alien applying for a conditional permanent resident status under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary of Homeland Security before the expiration of the alien’s student visa in such form and manner as the Secretary shall prescribe by regulation.

“(c) INELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.—An alien granted conditional permanent resident status under this section shall not be eligible, while in such status, for—

“(1) any unemployment compensation (as defined in section 85(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986); or

“(2) any Federal means-tested public benefit (as that term is used in section 403 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1613)).

“(d) EFFECT ON NATURALIZATION RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT.—An alien granted conditional permanent resident status under this section shall be deemed to have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence for purposes of meeting the 5-year residency requirement set forth in section 316(a)(1).

“(e) REMOVAL OF CONDITION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall remove the conditional basis of an alien’s condi-

tional permanent resident status under this section on the date that is 5 years after the date such status was granted if the alien maintained his or her eligibility for such status during the entire 5-year period.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN A STEM FIELD.—The term ‘actively engaged in a STEM field’—

“(A) means—

“(i) gainfully employed in a for-profit business or nonprofit organization in the United States in a STEM field;

“(ii) teaching 1 or more STEM field courses at an institution of higher education; or

“(iii) employed by a Federal, State, or local government entity; and

“(B) includes any period of up to 6 months during which the alien does not meet the requirement under subparagraph (A) if such period was immediately preceded by a 1-year period during which the alien met the requirement under subparagraph (A).

“(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

“(3) STEM FIELD.—The term ‘STEM field’ means any field of study or occupation included on the most recent STEM-Designated Degree Program List published in the Federal Register by the Department of Homeland Security (as described in section 214.2(f)(1)(i)(C)(2) of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 216A the following:

“Sec. 216B. Conditional permanent resident status for aliens with an advanced degree in a STEM field.”.

(d) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress on the alien college graduates granted immigrant status under section 216B of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (c).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report described in paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of aliens described in paragraph (1) who have earned a master’s degree, broken down by the number of such degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

(B) the number of aliens described in paragraph (1) who have earned a doctorate degree, broken down by the number of such degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

(C) the number of aliens described in paragraph (1) who have founded a business in the United States in a STEM field;

(D) the number of aliens described in paragraph (1) who are employed in the United States in a STEM field, broken down by employment sector (for profit, nonprofit, or government); and

(E) the number of aliens described in paragraph (1) who are employed by an institution of higher education.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms “institution of higher education” and “STEM field” have the meanings given such terms in section 216B(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (c).

(e) IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS.—

(1) QUALIFIED ALIEN ENTREPRENEURS.—

(A) ADMISSION AS IMMIGRANTS.—Chapter 1 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 210A. QUALIFIED ALIEN ENTREPRENEURS.

“(a) ADMISSION AS IMMIGRANTS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in accordance with the provisions of this section and section 216A, may issue a conditional immigrant visa to not more than 75,000 qualified alien entrepreneurs.

“(b) APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—Every alien applying for a conditional immigrant visa under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary of Homeland Security in such form and manner as the Secretary shall prescribe by regulation.

“(c) REVOCATION.—If, during the 4-year period beginning on the date that an alien is granted a visa under this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that such alien is no longer a qualified alien entrepreneur, the Secretary shall—

“(1) revoke such visa; and

“(2) notify the alien that the alien—

“(A) may voluntarily depart from the United States in accordance to section 240B; or

“(B) will be subject to removal proceedings under section 240 if the alien does not depart from the United States not later than 6 months after receiving such notification.

“(d) REMOVAL OF CONDITIONAL BASIS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall remove the conditional basis of the status of an alien issued an immigrant visa under this section on that date that is 4 years after the date on which such visa was issued if such visa was not revoked pursuant to subsection (c).

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘full-time employee’ means a United States citizen or legal permanent resident who is paid by the new business entity registered by a qualified alien entrepreneur at a rate that is comparable to the median income of employees in the region.

“(2) QUALIFIED ALIEN ENTREPRENEUR.—The term ‘qualified alien entrepreneur’ means an alien who—

“(A) at the time the alien applies for an immigrant visa under this section—

“(i) is lawfully present in the United States; and

“(ii) holds a nonimmigrant visa pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b); or

“(II) holds a nonimmigrant visa pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(F)(i);

“(B) during the 1-year period beginning on the date the alien is granted a visa under this section—

“(i) registers at least 1 new business entity in a State;

“(ii) employs, at such business entity in the United States, at least 2 full-time employees who are not relatives of the alien; and

“(iii) invests, or raises capital investment of, not less than \$100,000 in such business entity; and

“(C) during the 3-year period beginning on the last day of the 1-year period described in paragraph (2), employs, at such business entity in the United States, an average of at least 5 full-time employees who are not relatives of the alien.”

(B) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.

1101 et seq.) is amended by adding after the item relating to section 210 the following:

“Sec. 210A. Qualified alien entrepreneurs.”

(2) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—Section 216A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1186b) is amended—

(A) by striking “Attorney General” each place such term appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”;;

(B) in subsection (b)(1)(C), by striking “203(b)(5),” and inserting “203(b)(5) or 210A, as appropriate.”;

(C) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “alien entrepreneur must” each place such term appears and inserting “alien entrepreneur shall”;

(D) in subsection (d)(1)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “or 210A, as appropriate.”; and

(E) in subsection (f)(1), by striking the period at the end and inserting “or 210A.”

(F) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress on the qualified alien entrepreneurs granted immigrant status under section 210A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (e)(1).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report described in paragraph (1) shall include information regarding—

(A) the number of qualified alien entrepreneurs who have received immigrant status under section 210A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, listed by country of origin;

(B) the localities in which such qualified alien entrepreneurs have initially settled;

(C) whether such qualified alien entrepreneurs generally remain in the localities in which they initially settle;

(D) the types of commercial enterprises that such qualified alien entrepreneurs have established; and

(E) the types and number of jobs created by such qualified alien entrepreneurs.

(g) ELIMINATION OF THE PER-COUNTRY NUMERICAL LIMITATION FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED VISAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)(2)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “AND EMPLOYMENT-BASED”;

(B) by striking “(3), (4), and (5),” and inserting “(3) and (4).”;

(C) by striking “subsections (a) and (b) of section 203” and inserting “section 203(a).”;

(D) by striking “7” and inserting “15”; and

(E) by striking “such subsections” and inserting “such section.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 202 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “both subsections (a) and (b) of section 203” and inserting “section 203(a).”;

(B) by striking subsection (a)(5); and

(C) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

“(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR COUNTRIES AT CEILING.—If it is determined that the total number of immigrant visas made available under section 203(a) to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area will exceed the numerical limitation specified in subsection (a)(2) in any fiscal year, in determining the allotment of immigrant visa numbers to natives under section 203(a), visa numbers with respect to natives of that state or area shall be allocated (to the extent prac-

ticable and otherwise consistent with this section and section 203) in a manner so that, except as provided in subsection (a)(4), the proportion of the visa numbers made available under each of paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 203(a) is equal to the ratio of the total number of visas made available under the respective paragraph to the total number of visas made available under section 203(a).”

(3) COUNTRY-SPECIFIC OFFSET.—Section 2 of the Chinese Student Protection Act of 1992 (8 U.S.C. 1255 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection (e))” and inserting “subsection (d))”; and

(B) by striking subsection (d) and redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(h) TRANSITION RULES FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the paragraphs (2) and (4) and notwithstanding title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.), the following rules shall apply:

(A) For fiscal year 2014, 15 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that was not one of the 2 states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining immigrant visas during fiscal year 2012 under such paragraphs.

(B) For fiscal year 2015, 10 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of such paragraphs shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that was not one of the 2 states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining immigrant visas during fiscal year 2013 under such paragraphs.

(C) For fiscal year 2016, 10 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of such paragraphs shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that was not one of the 2 states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining immigrant visas during fiscal year 2014 under such paragraphs.

(2) PER-COUNTRY LEVELS.—

(A) RESERVED VISAS.—With respect to the visas reserved under each of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1), the number of such visas made available to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area in the appropriate fiscal year may not exceed 25 percent (in the case of a single foreign state) or 2 percent (in the case of a dependent area) of the total number of such visas.

(B) UNRESERVED VISAS.—With respect to the immigrant visas made available under each of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) and not reserved under paragraph (1), for each of fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015, not more than 85 percent shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of any single foreign state.

(3) SPECIAL RULE TO PREVENT UNUSED VISAS.—If, with respect to fiscal year 2014, 2015, or 2016, the operation of paragraphs (1) and (2) would prevent the total number of immigrant visas made available under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 203(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) from being issued, such visas may be issued during the remainder of such fiscal year without regard to paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) RULES FOR CHARGEABILITY.—Section 202(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(b)) shall apply in determining the foreign state to which an alien is chargeable for purposes of this subsection.

(i) CAPITAL GAINS TAX EXEMPTION FOR STARTUP COMPANIES.—

(1) PERMANENT FULL EXCLUSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 1202 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(a) EXCLUSION.—In the case of a taxpayer other than a corporation, gross income shall not include 100 percent of any gain from the sale or exchange of qualified small business stock held for more than 5 years.”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(i) The heading for section 1202 of such Code is amended by striking “PARTIAL”.

(ii) The item relating to section 1202 in the table of sections for part I of subchapter P of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking “Partial exclusion” and inserting “Exclusion”.

(iii) Section 1223(13) of such Code is amended by striking “1202(a)(2)”.

(2) REPEAL OF MINIMUM TAX PREFERENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 57 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking paragraph (7).

(B) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Subclause (II) of section 53(d)(1)(B)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking “, (5), and (7)” and inserting “and (5)”.

(3) REPEAL OF 28 PERCENT CAPITAL GAINS RATE ON QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESS STOCK.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 1(h)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(A) collectibles gain, over”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(i) Section 1(h) of such Code is amended by striking paragraph (7).

(ii) (I) Section 1(h) of such Code is amended by redesignating paragraphs (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), and (13) as paragraphs (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), and (12), respectively.

(II) Sections 163(d)(4)(B), 854(b)(5), 857(c)(2)(D) of such Code are each amended by striking “section 1(h)(11)(B)” and inserting “section 1(h)(10)(B)”.

(III) The following sections of such Code are each amended by striking “section 1(h)(11)” and inserting “section 1(h)(10)”:

(aa) Section 301(f)(4).

(bb) Section 306(a)(1)(D).

(cc) Section 584(c).

(dd) Section 702(a)(5).

(ee) Section 854(a).

(ff) Section 854(b)(2).

(IV) The heading of section 857(c)(2) is amended by striking “1(h)(11)” and inserting “1(h)(10)”.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to stock acquired after December 31, 2013.

(j) RESEARCH CREDIT FOR STARTUP COMPANIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) TREATMENT OF CREDIT TO QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the election of a qualified small business, the payroll tax credit portion of the credit determined under subsection (a) shall be treated as a credit allowed under section 3111(f) (and not under this section).

“(2) PAYROLL TAX CREDIT PORTION.—For purposes of this subsection, the payroll tax credit portion of the credit determined under subsection (a) for any taxable year is so much of such credit as does not exceed \$250,000.

“(3) QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified small business’ means, with respect to any taxable year—

“(i) a corporation, partnership, or S corporation if—

“(I) the gross receipts (as determined under subsection (c)(7)) of such entity for the taxable year is less than \$5,000,000, and

“(II) such entity did not have gross receipts (as so determined) for any period preceding the 5-taxable-year period ending with such taxable year, and

“(ii) any person not described in subparagraph (A) if clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) applied to such person, determined—

“(I) by substituting ‘person’ for ‘entity’ each place it appears, and

“(II) in the case of an individual, by only taking into account the aggregate gross receipts received by such individual in carrying on trades or businesses of such individual.

“(B) LIMITATION.—Such term shall not include an organization which is exempt from taxation under section 501.

(4) ELECTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a partnership or S corporation, an election under this subsection shall be made at the entity level.

“(B) REVOCATION.—An election under this subsection may not be revoked without the consent of the Secretary.

“(C) LIMITATION.—A taxpayer may not make an election under this subsection if such taxpayer has made an election under this subsection for 5 or more preceding taxable years.

“(5) AGGREGATION RULES.—For purposes of determining the \$250,000 limitation under paragraph (2) and determining gross receipts under paragraph (3), all members of the same controlled group of corporations (within the meaning of section 267(f)) and all persons under common control (within the meaning of section 52(b) but determined by treating an interest of more than 50 percent as a controlling interest) shall be treated as 1 person.

“(6) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection, including—

“(A) regulations to prevent the avoidance of the purposes of paragraph (3) through the use of successor companies or other means,

“(B) regulations to minimize compliance and recordkeeping burdens under this subsection for start-up companies, and

“(C) regulations for recapturing the benefit of credits determined under section 3111(f) in cases where there is a subsequent adjustment to the payroll tax credit portion of the credit determined under subsection (a), including requiring amended returns in the cases where there is such an adjustment.”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 280C(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) TREATMENT OF QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT.—For purposes of determining the amount of any credit under section 41(a) under this subsection, any election under section 41(i) shall be disregarded.”.

(2) CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST FICA TAXES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 3111 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) CREDIT FOR RESEARCH EXPENDITURES OF QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a qualified small business which has made an election under section 41(i), there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by subsection (a) on wages paid with respect to the employment of all employees of the qualified small business for days in an applicable cal-

endar quarter an amount equal to the payroll tax credit portion of the research credit determined under section 41(a).

“(2) CARRYOVER OF UNUSED CREDIT.—In any case in which the payroll tax credit portion of the research credit determined under section 41(a) exceeds the tax imposed under subsection (a) for an applicable calendar quarter—

“(A) the succeeding calendar quarter shall be treated as an applicable calendar quarter, and

“(B) the amount of credit allowed under paragraph (1) shall be reduced by the amount of credit allowed under such paragraph for all preceding applicable calendar quarters.

“(3) ALLOCATION OF CREDIT FOR CONTROLLED GROUPS, ETC.—In determining the amount of the credit under this subsection—

“(A) all persons treated as a single taxpayer under section 41 shall be treated as a single taxpayer under this section, and

“(B) the credit (if any) allowable by this section to each such member shall be its proportionate share of the qualified research expenses, basic research payments, and amounts paid or incurred to energy research consortiums, giving rise to the credit allowable under section 41.

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) APPLICABLE CALENDAR QUARTER.—The term ‘applicable calendar quarter’ means—

“(i) the first calendar quarter following the date on which the qualified small business files a return under section 6012 for the taxable year for which the payroll tax credit portion of the research credit under section 41(a) is determined, and

“(ii) any succeeding calendar quarter treated as an applicable calendar quarter under paragraph (2)(A).

“For purposes of determining the date on which a return is filed, rules similar to the rules of section 6513 shall apply.

“(B) OTHER TERMS.—Any term used in this subsection which is also used in section 41 shall have the meaning given such term under section 41.”.

(B) TRANSFERS TO FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND.—There are hereby appropriated to the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund established under section 201 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401) amounts equal to the reduction in revenues to the Treasury by reason of the amendments made by paragraph (1). Amounts appropriated by the preceding sentence shall be transferred from the general fund at such times and in such manner as to replicate to the extent possible the transfers which would have occurred to such Trust Fund had such amendments not been enacted.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012.

(k) ACCELERATED COMMERCIALIZATION OF TAXPAYER-FUNDED RESEARCH.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship of the Department of Commerce established pursuant to section 25(c) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3720(c)).

(B) EXTRAMURAL BUDGET.—The term “extramural budget” means the sum of the total obligations minus amounts obligated for such activities by employees of the agency in or through Government-owned, Government-operated facilities, except that for the Department of Energy it shall not include

amounts obligated for atomic energy defense programs solely for weapons activities or for naval reactor programs, and except that for the Agency for International Development it shall not include amounts obligated solely for general institutional support of international research centers or for grants to foreign countries.

(C) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(D) RESEARCH OR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The term “research” or “research and development” means any activity that is—

(i) a systematic, intensive study directed toward greater knowledge or understanding of the subject studied;

(ii) a systematic study directed specifically toward applying new knowledge to meet a recognized need; or

(iii) a systematic application of knowledge toward the production of useful materials, devices, and systems or methods, including design, development, and improvement of prototypes and new processes to meet specific requirements.

(E) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(2) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency that has an extramural budget for research or research and development that is in excess of \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019, shall transfer 0.15 percent of such extramural budget for each of such fiscal years to the Secretary to enable the Secretary to carry out a grant program in accordance with this paragraph.

(B) GRANTS.—

(i) AWARDING OF GRANTS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—From funds transferred under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall use the criteria developed by the Council to award grants to institutions of higher education, including consortia of institutions of higher education, for initiatives to improve commercialization and transfer of technology.

(II) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later than 30 days after the Council submits the recommendations for criteria to the Secretary under paragraph (3)(B)(i), and annually thereafter for each fiscal year for which the grant program is authorized, the Secretary shall release a request for proposals.

(III) APPLICATIONS.—Each institution of higher education that desires to receive a grant under this subsection shall submit an application to the Secretary not later than 90 days after the Secretary releases the request for proposals under subclause (II).

(IV) COUNCIL REVIEW.—

(aa) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit each application received under subclause (III) to the Council for Council review.

(bb) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Council shall review each application received under item (aa) and submit recommendations for grant awards to the Secretary, including funding recommendations for each proposal.

(cc) PUBLIC RELEASE.—The Council shall publicly release any recommendations made under item (bb).

(dd) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into consideration the recommendations of the Council under item (bb).

(ii) COMMERCIALIZATION CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to support institutions of higher edu-

cation pursuing specific innovative initiatives to improve an institution's capacity to commercialize faculty research that can be widely adopted if the research yields measurable results.

(II) CONTENT OF PROPOSALS.—Grants shall be awarded under this clause to proposals demonstrating the capacity for accelerated commercialization, proof-of-concept proficiency, and translating scientific discoveries and cutting-edge inventions into technological innovations and new companies. In particular, grant funds shall seek to support innovative approaches to achieving these goals that can be replicated by other institutions of higher education if the innovative approaches are successful.

(iii) COMMERCIALIZATION ACCELERATOR GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award grants to support institutions of higher education pursuing initiatives that allow faculty to directly commercialize research in an effort to accelerate research breakthroughs. The Secretary shall prioritize those initiatives that have a management structure that encourages collaboration between other institutions of higher education or other entities with demonstrated proficiency in creating and growing new companies based on verifiable metrics.

(C) ASSESSMENT OF SUCCESS.—Grants awarded under this paragraph shall use criteria for assessing the success of programs through the establishment of benchmarks.

(D) TERMINATION.—The Secretary shall have the authority to terminate grant funding to an institution of higher education in accordance with the process and performance metrics recommended by the Council.

(E) LIMITATIONS.—

(i) PROJECT MANAGEMENT COSTS.—A grant recipient may use not more than 10 percent of grant funds awarded under this paragraph for the purpose of funding project management costs of the grant program.

(ii) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An institution of higher education that receives a grant under this paragraph shall use the grant funds to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds that would, in the absence of such grant funds, be made available for activities described in this subsection.

(F) UNSPENT FUNDS.—Any funds transferred to the Secretary under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year that are not expended by the end of such fiscal year may be expended in any subsequent fiscal year through fiscal year 2019. Any funds transferred under subparagraph (A) that are remaining at the end of the grant program's authorization under this subsection shall be transferred to the Treasury for deficit reduction.

(3) COUNCIL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Council shall convene and develop recommendations for criteria in awarding grants to institutions of higher education under paragraph (2).

(B) SUBMISSION TO COMMERCE AND PUBLICLY RELEASED.—The Council shall—

(i) submit the recommendations described in subparagraph (A) to the Secretary; and

(ii) release the recommendations to the public.

(C) MAJORITY VOTE.—The recommendations submitted by the Council under subparagraph (A) shall be determined by a majority vote of Council members.

(D) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—The Council shall develop and provide to the Secretary recommendations on performance metrics to be used to evaluate grants awarded under paragraph (2).

(E) EVALUATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days before the date on which the grant program authorized under paragraph (2) expires, the Council shall conduct an evaluation of the effect that the grant program is having on accelerating the commercialization of faculty research.

(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The evaluation shall include—

(I) the recommendation of the Council as to whether the grant program should be continued or terminated;

(II) quantitative data related to the effect, if any, that the grant program has had on faculty research commercialization; and

(III) a description of lessons learned in administering the grant program, and how those lessons could be applied to future efforts to accelerate commercialization of faculty research.

(iii) AVAILABILITY.—Upon completion of the evaluation, the evaluation shall be made available on a public website and submitted to Congress. The Secretary shall notify all institutions of higher education when the evaluation is published and how it can be accessed.

(4) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to alter, modify, or amend any provision of chapter 18 of title 35, United States Code (commonly known as the “Bayh-Dole Act”).

(I) ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SIGNIFICANT FEDERAL AGENCY RULES.—Section 553 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) REQUIRED REVIEW BEFORE ISSUANCE OF SIGNIFICANT RULES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register regarding the issuance of a proposed significant rule, the head of the Federal agency or independent regulatory agency seeking to issue the rule shall complete a review, to the extent permitted by law, that—

“(A) analyzes the problem that the proposed rule intends to address, including—

“(i) the specific market failure, such as externalities, market power, or lack of information, that justifies such rule; or

“(ii) any other specific problem, such as the failures of public institutions, that justifies such rule;

“(B) analyzes the expected impact of the proposed rule on the ability of new businesses to form and expand;

“(C) identifies the expected impact of the proposed rule on State, local, and tribal governments, including the availability of resources—

“(i) to carry out the mandates imposed by the rule on such government entities; and

“(ii) to minimize the burdens that uniquely or significantly affect such governmental entities, consistent with achieving regulatory objectives;

“(D) identifies any conflicting or duplicative regulations;

“(E) determines—

“(i) if existing laws or regulations created, or contributed to, the problem that the new rule is intended to correct; and

“(ii) if the laws or regulations referred to in clause (i) should be modified to more effectively achieve the intended goal of the rule; and

“(F) includes the cost-benefit analysis described in paragraph (2).

“(2) COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS.—A cost-benefit analysis described in this paragraph shall include—

“(A)(i) an assessment, including the underlying analysis, of benefits anticipated from the proposed rule, such as—

“(I) promoting the efficient functioning of the economy and private markets;

“(II) enhancing health and safety;

“(III) protecting the natural environment; and

“(IV) eliminating or reducing discrimination or bias; and

“(ii) the quantification of the benefits described in clause (i), to the extent feasible;

“(B)(i) an assessment, including the underlying analysis, of costs anticipated from the proposed rule, such as—

“(I) the direct costs to the Federal Government to administer the rule;

“(II) the direct costs to businesses and others to comply with the rule; and

“(III) any adverse effects on the efficient functioning of the economy, private markets (including productivity, employment, and competitiveness), health, safety, and the natural environment; and

“(ii) the quantification of the costs described in clause (i), to the extent feasible;

“(C)(i) an assessment, including the underlying analysis, of costs and benefits of potentially effective and reasonably feasible alternatives to the proposed rule, which have been identified by the agency or by the public, including taking reasonably viable non-regulatory actions; and

“(ii) an explanation of why the proposed rule is preferable to the alternatives identified under clause (i).

“(3) REPORT.—Before issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register regarding the issuance of a proposed significant rule, the head of the Federal agency or independent regulatory agency seeking to issue the rule shall—

“(A) submit the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1) to the appropriate congressional committees; and

“(B) post the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1) on a publicly available website.

“(4) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any determinations made, or other actions taken, by an agency or independent regulatory agency under this subsection shall not be subject to judicial review.

“(5) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection the term ‘significant rule’ means a rule that is likely to—

“(A) have an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more;

“(B) adversely affect, in a material way, the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities; or

“(C) create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency.”.

(m) BIENNIAL STATE STARTUP BUSINESS REPORT.—

(1) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary of Commerce shall regularly compile information from each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia on State laws that affect the formation and growth of new businesses within the State or District.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary, using data compiled under paragraph (1), shall prepare a report that—

(A) analyzes the economic effect of State and District laws that either encourage or inhibit business formation and growth; and

(B) ranks the States and the District based on the effectiveness with which their laws foster new business creation and economic growth.

(3) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall—

(A) submit each report prepared under paragraph (1) to Congress; and

(B) make each report available to the public on the website of the Department of Commerce.

(4) INCLUSION OF LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS.—Not later than 90 days after the submission of the first report under this subsection, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit a study to Congress on the feasibility and advisability of including, in future reports, information about the effect of local laws and ordinances on the formation and growth of new businesses in large metropolitan areas within the United States.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.

(n) NEW BUSINESS FORMATION REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall regularly compile quantitative and qualitative information on businesses in the United States that are not more than 1 year old.

(2) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall—

(A) regularly compile information from the Bureau of the Census’ business register on new business formation in the United States; and

(B) conduct quarterly surveys of business owners who start a business during the 1-year period ending on the date on which such survey is conducted to gather qualitative information about the factors that influenced their decision to start the business.

(3) RANDOM SAMPLING.—In conducting surveys under paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary may use random sampling to identify a group of business owners who are representative of all the business owners described in paragraph (2)(B).

(4) BENEFITS.—The Secretary shall inform business owners selected to participate in a survey conducted under this subsection of the benefits they would receive from participating in the survey.

(5) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Business owners selected to participate in a survey conducted under this subsection may decline to participate without penalty.

(6) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 3 months thereafter, the Secretary shall use the data compiled under paragraph (2) to prepare a report that—

(A) lists the aggregate number of new businesses formed in the United States;

(B) lists the aggregate number of persons employed by new businesses formed in the United States;

(C) analyzes the payroll of new businesses formed in the United States;

(D) summarizes the data collected under paragraph (2); and

(E) identifies the most effective means by which government officials can encourage the formation and growth of new businesses in the United States.

(7) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall—

(A) submit each report prepared under paragraph (6) to Congress; and

(B) make each report available to the public on the website of the Department of Commerce.

(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.

(o) RESCISSION OF UNSPENT FEDERAL FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of all available unob-

ligated funds for fiscal year 2014, the amount necessary to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section in appropriated discretionary funds are hereby rescinded.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall determine and identify from which appropriation accounts the rescission under paragraph (1) shall apply and the amount of such rescission that shall apply to each such account. Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Treasury and Congress of the accounts and amounts determined and identified for rescission under the preceding sentence.

SA 2912. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE XX—SOLUTIONS TO LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Solutions to Long-Term Unemployment Act”.

Subtitle A—Exemption From Affordable Care Act Mandate for Long-term Unemployed

SEC. 11. LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE MANDATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) EXCEPTION FOR LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—The term ‘full-time employee’ shall not include any individual who is a long-term unemployed individual (as defined in section 3111(d)(3)) with respect to such employer.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

Subtitle B—Employer Payroll Tax Holiday for Long-term Unemployed

SEC. 21. EMPLOYER PAYROLL TAX HOLIDAY FOR LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 3111 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(d) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to wages paid by a qualified employer with respect to employment during the applicable period of any long-term unemployed individual for services performed—

“(A) in a trade or business of such employer, or

“(B) in the case of an employer exempt from taxation under section 501(a), in furtherance of activities related to the purpose or function constituting the basis of the employer’s exemption under section 501.

“(2) QUALIFIED EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified employer’ means any employer other than the

United States, any State, or any political subdivision thereof, or any instrumentality of the foregoing.

“(B) TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the term ‘qualified employer’ includes any employer which is a public institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965).

“(3) LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘long-term unemployed individual’ means, with respect to any employer, an individual who—

“(A) begins employment with such employer after the date of the enactment of the Solutions to Long-Term Unemployment Act, and

“(B) has been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, immediately before the date such employment begins.

“(4) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—The term ‘applicable period’ means the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Solutions to Long-Term Unemployment Act, and ending on the earliest of—

“(A) the date that is 2 years after such date of enactment,

“(B) the date that is 6-months after the date on which the long-term unemployed individual began employment with the employer, or

“(C) the first day of the first month after the date on which the Secretary of Labor certifies that the total number of individuals in the United States who have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer is less than 2,000,000.

“(5) ELECTION.—An employer may elect to have this subsection not apply. Such election shall be made in such manner as the Secretary may require.”.

(b) COORDINATION WITH WORK OPPORTUNITY CREDIT.—Section 51(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(5) COORDINATION WITH PAYROLL TAX FORGIVENESS.—The term ‘wages’ shall not include any amount paid or incurred to a long-term unemployed individual (as defined in section 3111(d)(3)) during the 1-year period beginning on the hiring date of such individual by a qualified employer (as defined in section 3111(d)) unless such qualified employer makes an election not to have section 3111(d) apply.”.

(c) TRANSFERS TO FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND.—There are hereby appropriated to the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund established under section 201 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401) amounts equal to the reduction in revenues to the Treasury by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a). Amounts appropriated by the preceding sentence shall be transferred from the general fund at such times and in such manner as to replicate to the extent possible the transfers which would have occurred to such Trust Fund had such amendments not been enacted.

(d) APPLICATION TO RAILROAD RETIREMENT TAXES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 3221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of compensation paid by an employer during the applicable period, with respect to having a long-

term unemployed individual in the employer’s employ for services rendered to such employer, the applicable percentage under subsection (a) shall be equal to the rate of tax in effect under section 3111(b) for the calendar year.

“(2) QUALIFIED EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘qualified employer’ means any employer other than the United States, any State, or any political subdivision thereof, or any instrumentality of the foregoing.

“(3) LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘long-term unemployed individual’ means, with respect to any employer, an individual who—

“(A) begins employment with such employer after the date of the enactment of the Solutions to Long-Term Unemployment Act, and

“(B) has been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, immediately before the date such employment begins.

“(4) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—The term ‘applicable period’ means the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Solutions to Long-Term Unemployment Act, and ending on the earlier of—

“(A) the date that is 2 years after such date of enactment,

“(B) the date that is 6-months after the date on which the long-term unemployed individual began employment with the employer, or

“(C) the first day of the first month after the date on which the Secretary of Labor certifies that the total number of individuals in the United States who have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer is less than 2,000,000.

“(5) ELECTION.—An employer may elect to have this subsection not apply. Such election shall be made in such manner as the Secretary may require.”.

(2) TRANSFERS TO SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT.—There are hereby appropriated to the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account established under section 15A(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231n-1(a)) amounts equal to the reduction in revenues to the Treasury by reason of the amendments made by paragraph (1). Amounts appropriated by the preceding sentence shall be transferred from the general fund at such times and in such manner as to replicate to the extent possible the transfers which would have occurred to such Account had such amendments not been enacted.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to wages paid after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RAILROAD RETIREMENT TAXES.—The amendments made by subsection (d) shall apply to compensation paid after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle C—Employment Relocation Loans

SEC. 31. EMPLOYMENT RELOCATION LOANS.

(a) LOANS AUTHORIZED.—From amounts made available to carry out this section, the Secretary may issue loans, with the interest rates, terms, and conditions provided in this section, to long-term unemployed individuals selected from applications submitted under subsection (b)(1), in order to enable each selected individual to relocate to—

(1) a residence more than 50 miles away from the individual’s initial residence, to allow such individual to begin a new job for

which the individual has received and accepted an offer of employment; or

(2) a residence in a State or metropolitan area that—

(A) is not the State or metropolitan area of the individual’s initial residence; and

(B) has an unemployment rate that is 2 or more percentage points less than the unemployment rate of the State or metropolitan area, respectively, of the individual’s initial residence.

(b) SELECTION PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) APPLICATION.—A long-term unemployed individual who desires a loan under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(2) LIMITED ELIGIBILITY.—A long-term unemployed individual may receive only 1 loan under this section.

(c) LOAN TERMS.—A loan issued under this section to a long-term unemployed individual shall be—

(1) in an amount of \$10,000 or less; and

(2) evidenced by a note or other written agreement that—

(A) provides for repayment of the principal amount of the loan in installments over a 10-year period beginning on the date on which the loan is issued, except that no installments shall be required for the first year of the loan period;

(B) provides for interest to be calculated and accrue on the loan at the rate determined under subsection (d); and

(C) allows such individual to accelerate, without penalty, the repayment of the whole or any part of the loan.

(d) INTEREST RATE.—The interest rate for a loan issued under this section shall—

(1) be the rate equal to the high yield of the 10-year Treasury note auctioned at the final auction held prior to the date on which the loan is issued; and

(2) be a fixed interest rate for the period of the loan.

(e) LOAN FORGIVENESS.—Notwithstanding subsection (c)(2)(A), the Secretary may forgive the remaining amount of interest and principal due on a loan made under this section to a long-term unemployed individual for the purpose described in subsection (a)(1) in any case where the new job for which the individual relocates is eliminated within the first year of the individual’s employment through no fault of the individual.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INITIAL RESIDENCE.—The term “initial residence”, when used with respect to a long-term individual applying for a loan under this section, means the location where the individual resides as of the day before the loan is issued.

(2) LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “long-term unemployed individual” means an individual who resides in a State and who has been unemployed for 27 consecutive weeks or more, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Labor.

(4) STATES.—The term “State” means each of the several States of the United States and the District of Columbia.

(g) LIMITED AUTHORITY.—The Secretary’s authority to issue loans under subsection (a) shall terminate on the earlier of—

(1) the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) the date that is 1 month after the date on which the Secretary determines that the total number of long-term unemployed individuals in the United States is less than 2,000,000.

Subtitle D—Offset**SEC. 41. NONDEFENSE DISCRETIONARY SPENDING.**

Section 251(c)(2)(B) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by striking “\$492,356,000,000” and inserting “\$482,356,000,000”.

TITLE XX—SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS**SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act” or the “SKILLS Act”.

SEC. 02. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the amendment or repeal shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

SEC. 03. APPLICATION TO FISCAL YEARS.

Except as otherwise provided, this title and the amendments made by this title shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2015 and succeeding fiscal years.

Subtitle A—Amendments to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998**CHAPTER 1—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DEFINITIONS****SEC. 06. DEFINITIONS.**

Section 101 (29 U.S.C. 2801) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.**—The term ‘adult education and family literacy education activities’ has the meaning given the term in section 203.”;

(2) by striking paragraphs (13) and (24);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (12) as paragraphs (3) through (14), and paragraphs (14) through (23) as paragraphs (15) through (24), respectively;

(4) by striking paragraphs (52) and (53);

(5) by inserting after “In this title:” the following new paragraphs:

“(1) **ACCRUED EXPENDITURES.**—The term ‘accrued expenditures’ means—

“(A) charges incurred by recipients of funds under this title for a given period requiring the provision of funds for goods or other tangible property received;

“(B) charges incurred for services performed by employees, contractors, subgrantees, subcontractors, and other payees; and

“(C) other amounts becoming owed, under programs assisted under this title, for which no current services or performance is required, such as amounts for annuities, insurance claims, and other benefit payments.

“(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—The term ‘administrative costs’ means expenditures incurred by State boards and local boards, direct recipients (including State grant recipients under subtitle B and recipients of awards under subtitles C and D), local grant recipients, local fiscal agents or local grant subrecipients, and one-stop operators in the performance of administrative functions and in carrying out activities under this title that are not related to the direct provision of workforce investment activities (including services to participants and employers). Such costs include both personnel and non-personnel expenditures and both direct and indirect expenditures.”;

(6) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “Except in sections 127 and 132, the” and inserting “The”;

(7) by amending paragraph (5) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

“(5) **AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.**—The term ‘area career and technical education school’ has the meaning given the term in section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3)).”;

(8) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by inserting “(or such other level as the Governor may establish)” after “8th grade level”;

(9) in paragraph (10)(C) (as so redesignated), by striking “not less than 50 percent of the cost of the training” and inserting “a significant portion of the cost of training, as determined by the local board involved (or, in the case of an employer in multiple local areas in the State, as determined by the Governor), taking into account the size of the employer and such other factors as the local board or Governor, respectively, determines to be appropriate”;

(10) in paragraph (11) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II), by striking “section 134(c)” and inserting “section 121(e)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)(iii)—

(i) by striking “134(d)(4)” and inserting “134(c)(4)”;

(ii) by striking “intensive services described in section 134(d)(3)” and inserting “work ready services described in section 134(c)(2)”;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(D) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period and inserting “; or”;

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(E)(i) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days (as defined in section 101(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code) who has experienced a loss of employment as a direct result of relocation to accommodate a permanent change in duty station of such member; or

“(ii) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code) who meets the criteria described in paragraph (12)(B).”;

(11) in paragraph (12)(A) (as redesignated)—

(A) by striking “and” after the semicolon and inserting “or”;

(B) by striking “(A)” and inserting “(A)(i)”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days (as defined in section 101(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code) whose family income is significantly reduced because of a deployment (as defined in section 991(b) of title 10, United States Code, or pursuant to paragraph (4) of such section), a call or order to active duty pursuant to a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code, a permanent change of station, or the service-connected (as defined in section 101(16) of title 38, United States Code) death or disability of the member; and”;

(12) in paragraph (13) (as so redesignated), by inserting “or regional” after “local” each place it appears;

(13) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “section 122(e)(3)” and inserting “section 122”;

(B) by striking subparagraph (B), and inserting the following:

“(B) work ready services, means a provider who is identified or awarded a contract as described in section 117(d)(5)(C); or”;

(C) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C);

(14) in paragraph (15) (as so redesignated), by striking “adult or dislocated worker” and inserting “individual”;

(15) in paragraph (20), by striking “The” and inserting “Subject to section 116(a)(1)(E), the”;

(16) in paragraph (25)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “higher of—” and all that follows through clause (ii) and inserting “poverty line for an equivalent period;”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (F) as subparagraphs (E) through (G), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);”;

(17) in paragraph (32), by striking “the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia,”;

(18) by amending paragraph (33) to read as follows:

“(33) **OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.**—The term ‘out-of-school youth’ means—

“(A) an at-risk youth who is a school dropout; or

“(B) an at-risk youth who has received a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent but is basic skills deficient, unemployed, or underemployed.”;

(19) in paragraph (38), by striking “134(a)(1)(A)” and inserting “134(a)(1)(B)”;

(20) in paragraph (41), by striking “, and the term means such Secretary for purposes of section 503”;

(21) in paragraph (43), by striking “clause (iii) or (v) of section 136(b)(3)(A)” and inserting “section 136(b)(3)(A)(iii)”;

(22) by amending paragraph (49) to read as follows:

“(49) **VETERAN.**—The term ‘veteran’ has the same meaning given the term in section 2108(1) of title 5, United States Code.”;

(23) by amending paragraph (50) to read as follows:

“(50) **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**—The term ‘career and technical education’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).”;

(24) in paragraph (51), by striking “, and a youth activity”;

(25) by adding at the end the following:

“(52) **AT-RISK YOUTH.**—Except as provided in subtitle C, the term ‘at-risk youth’ means an individual who—

“(A) is not less than age 16 and not more than age 24;

“(B) is a low-income individual; and

“(C) is an individual who is one or more of the following:

“(i) A secondary school dropout.

“(ii) A youth in foster care (including youth aging out of foster care).

“(iii) A youth offender.

“(iv) A youth who is an individual with a disability.

“(v) A migrant youth.

“(53) **INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.**—The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ means a partnership of—

“(A) a State board or local board; and

“(B) one or more industry or sector organizations, and other entities, that have the capability to help the State board or local board determine the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries or sectors and other occupations

important to the State or local economy, respectively.

“(54) **INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL.**—The term ‘industry-recognized credential’ means a credential that is sought or accepted by companies within the industry sector involved, across multiple States, as recognized, preferred, or required for recruitment, screening, or hiring and is awarded for completion of a program listed or identified under subsection (d) or (i) of section 122, for the local area involved.

“(55) **PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGY.**—The term ‘pay-for-performance contract strategy’ means a strategy in which a pay-for-performance contract to provide a program of employment and training activities incorporates provisions regarding—

“(A) the core indicators of performance described in subclauses (I) through (IV) and (VI) of section 136(b)(2)(A)(i);

“(B) a fixed amount that will be paid to an eligible provider of such employment and training activities for each program participant who, within a defined timetable, achieves the agreed-to levels of performance based upon the core indicators of performance described in subparagraph (A), and may include a bonus payment to such provider, which may be used to expand the capacity of such provider;

“(C) the ability for an eligible provider to recoup the costs of providing the activities for a program participant who has not achieved those levels, but for whom the provider is able to demonstrate that such participant gained specific competencies required for education and career advancement that are, where feasible, tied to industry-recognized credentials and related standards, or State licensing requirements; and

“(D) the ability for an eligible provider that does not meet the requirements under section 122(a)(2) to participate in such pay-for-performance contract and to not be required to report on the performance and cost information required under section 122(d).

“(56) **RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.**—The term ‘recognized postsecondary credential’ means a credential awarded by a provider of training services or postsecondary educational institution based on completion of all requirements for a program of study, including coursework or tests or other performance evaluations. The term means an industry-recognized credential, a certificate of completion of a registered apprenticeship program, or an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution described in section 122(a)(2)(A)(i).

“(57) **REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.**—The term ‘registered apprenticeship program’ means a program described in section 122(a)(2)(B).”

CHAPTER 2—STATEWIDE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS

SEC. 11. PURPOSE.

Section 106 (29 U.S.C. 2811) is amended by adding at the end the following: “It is also the purpose of this subtitle to provide workforce investment activities in a manner that enhances employer engagement, promotes customer choices in the selection of training services, and ensures accountability in the use of taxpayer funds.”

SEC. 12. STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

Section 111 (29 U.S.C. 2821) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (B);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B); and

(iii) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated)—

(I) by amending clause (i)(I), by striking “section 117(b)(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “section 117(b)(2)(A)”;

(II) by amending clause (i)(II) to read as follows:

“(II) represent businesses, including large and small businesses, each of which has immediate and long-term employment opportunities in an in-demand industry or other occupation important to the State economy; and”;

(III) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) a State agency official responsible for economic development; and”;

(IV) by striking clauses (iv) through (vi);

(V) by amending clause (vii) to read as follows:

“(vii) such other representatives and State agency officials as the Governor may designate, including—

“(I) members of the State legislature;

“(II) representatives of individuals and organizations that have experience with respect to youth activities;

“(III) representatives of individuals and organizations that have experience and expertise in the delivery of workforce investment activities, including chief executive officers of community colleges and community-based organizations within the State;

“(IV) representatives of the lead State agency officials with responsibility for the programs and activities that are described in section 121(b) and carried out by one-stop partners; or

“(V) representatives of veterans service organizations.”; and

(VI) by redesignating clause (vii) (as so amended) as clause (iv); and

(B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) **MAJORITY.**—A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the members of the board shall be representatives described in paragraph (1)(B)(i).”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “(b)(1)(C)(i)” and inserting “(b)(1)(B)(i)”;

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) **FUNCTIONS.**—The State board shall assist the Governor of the State as follows:

“(1) **STATE PLAN.**—Consistent with section 112, the State board shall develop a State plan.

“(2) **STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.**—The State board shall review and develop statewide policies and programs in the State in a manner that supports a comprehensive statewide workforce development system that will result in meeting the workforce needs of the State and its local areas. Such review shall include determining whether the State should consolidate additional amounts for additional activities or programs into the Workforce Investment Fund in accordance with section 501(e).

“(3) **WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.**—The State board shall develop a statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(e)), which may include using information collected under Federal law other than this Act by the State economic development entity or a related entity in developing such system.

“(4) **EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT.**—The State board shall develop strategies, across local areas, that meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the State by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers.

“(5) **DESIGNATION OF LOCAL AREAS.**—The State board shall designate local areas as required under section 116.

“(6) **ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.**—The State board shall identify and disseminate information on best practices for effective operation of one-stop centers, including use of innovative business outreach, partnerships, and service delivery strategies.

“(7) **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.**—The State board shall conduct the following program oversight:

“(A) Reviewing and approving local plans under section 118.

“(B) Ensuring the appropriate use and management of the funds provided for State employment and training activities authorized under section 134.

“(C) Preparing an annual report to the Secretary described in section 136(d).

“(8) **DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**—The State board shall develop and ensure continuous improvement of comprehensive State performance measures, including State adjusted levels of performance, as described under section 136(b).”;

(4) by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e);

(5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by inserting “or participate in any action taken” after “vote”;

(6) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so redesignated), the following:

“(f) **STAFF.**—The State board may employ staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in subsection (d).”; and

(7) in subsection (g), by inserting “electronic means and” after “on a regular basis through”.

SEC. 13. STATE PLAN.

Section 112 (29 U.S.C. 2822)—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “127 or”; and

(B) by striking “5-year strategy” and inserting “3-year strategy”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) information describing—

“(A) the economic conditions in the State;

“(B) the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the State economy;

“(C) the knowledge and skills of the workforce in the State; and

“(D) workforce development activities (including education and training) in the State.”;

(B) by amending paragraph (7) to read as follows:

“(7) a description of the State criteria for determining the eligibility of training services providers in accordance with section 122, including how the State will take into account the performance of providers and whether the training services relate to in-demand industries and other occupations important to the State economy.”;

(C) by amending paragraph (8) to read as follows:

“(8)(A) a description of the procedures that will be taken by the State to assure coordination of, and avoid duplication among, the programs and activities identified under section 501(b)(2); and

“(B) a description of and an assurance regarding common data collection and reporting processes used for the programs and activities described in subparagraph (A), which are carried out by one-stop partners, including—

“(i) an assurance that such processes use quarterly wage records for performance

measures described in section 136(b)(2)(A) that are applicable to such programs or activities; or

“(ii) if such wage records are not being used for the performance measures, an identification of the barriers to using such wage records and a description of how the State will address such barriers within 1 year of the approval of the plan;”

(D) in paragraph (9), by striking “, including comment by representatives of businesses and representatives of labor organizations;”

(E) in paragraph (11), by striking “under sections 127 and 132” and inserting “under section 132”;

(F) by striking paragraph (12);

(G) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through (18) as paragraphs (12) through (17), respectively;

(H) in paragraph (12) (as so redesignated), by striking “111(f)” and inserting “111(e)”;

(I) in paragraph (13) (as so redesignated), by striking “134(c)” and inserting “121(e)”;

(J) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated), by striking “116(a)(5)” and inserting “116(a)(3)”;

(K) in paragraph (16) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “to dislocated workers”; and

(bb) by inserting “and additional assistance” after “rapid response activities”;

(II) in clause (iii), by striking “134(d)(4)” and inserting “134(c)(4)”;

(III) by striking “and” at the end of clause (iii);

(IV) by amending clause (iv) to read as follows:

“(iv) how the State will serve the employment and training needs of dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), low-income individuals (including recipients of public assistance such as supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)), long-term unemployed individuals (including individuals who have exhausted entitlement to Federal and State unemployment compensation), English learners, homeless individuals, individuals training for nontraditional employment, youth (including out-of-school youth and at-risk youth), older workers, ex-offenders, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, refugees and entrants, veterans (including disabled and homeless veterans), and Native Americans; and”;

(V) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(v) how the State will—

“(I) consistent with section 188 and Executive Order No. 13217 (42 U.S.C. 12131 note), serve the employment and training needs of individuals with disabilities; and

“(II) consistent with sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794, 794d), include the provision of outreach, intake, assessments, and service delivery, the development of performance measures, the training of staff, and other aspects of accessibility for individuals with disabilities to programs and services under this subtitle;”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “to the extent practicable” and inserting “in accordance with the requirements of the Jobs for Veterans Act (Public Law 107-288) and the amendments made by such Act”; and

(L) by striking paragraph (17) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

“(17) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the State—

“(A) to more fully engage employers, including small businesses and employers in in-demand industries and occupations important to the State economy;

“(B) to meet the needs of employers in the State; and

“(C) to better coordinate workforce development programs with economic development activities;

“(18) a description of how the State board will convene (or help to convene) industry or sector partnerships that lead to collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across a targeted cluster of multiple firms for a range of workers employed or potentially employed by the industry or sector—

“(A) to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement in the industry or sector;

“(B) to address the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the State economy; and

“(C) to address critical skill gaps within and across industries and sectors;

“(19) a description of how the State will utilize technology, to facilitate access to services in remote areas, which may be used throughout the State;

“(20) a description of the State strategy and assistance to be provided by the State for encouraging regional cooperation within the State and across State borders, as appropriate;

“(21) a description of the actions that will be taken by the State to foster communication, coordination, and partnerships with nonprofit organizations (including public libraries, community, faith-based, and philanthropic organizations) that provide employment-related, training, and complementary services, to enhance the quality and comprehensiveness of services available to participants under this title;

“(22) a description of the process and methodology for determining—

“(A) one-stop partner program contributions for the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers under section 121(h)(1); and

“(B) the formula for allocating such infrastructure funds to local areas under section 121(h)(3);

“(23) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, credentials (including recognized postsecondary credentials, such as industry-recognized credentials), and employment experience to succeed in the labor market, including—

“(A) training and internships in in-demand industries or occupations important to the State and local economy;

“(B) dropout recovery activities that are designed to lead to the attainment of a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or other State-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities); and

“(C) activities combining remediation of academic skills, work readiness training, and work experience, and including linkages to postsecondary education and training and career-ladder employment; and

“(24) a description of—

“(A) how the State will furnish employment, training, including training in advanced manufacturing, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans;

“(B) the strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist in and expedite

reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force; and

“(C) the veterans population to be served in the State.”;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “period, that—” and all that follows through paragraph (2) and inserting “period, that the plan is inconsistent with the provisions of this title.”; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking “5-year” and inserting “3-year”.

SEC. 14. LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS.

Section 116 (29 U.S.C. 2831) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) PROCESS.—In order to receive an allotment under section 132, a State, through the State board, shall establish a process to designate local workforce investment areas within the State. Such process shall—

“(i) support the statewide workforce development system developed under section 111(d)(2), enabling the system to meet the workforce needs of the State and its local areas;

“(ii) include consultation, prior to the designation, with chief elected officials;

“(iii) include consideration of comments received on the designation through the public comment process as described in section 112(b)(9); and

“(iv) require the submission of an application for approval under subparagraph (B).

“(B) APPLICATION.—To obtain designation of a local area under this paragraph, a local or regional board (or consortia of local or regional boards) seeking to take responsibility for the area under this Act shall submit an application to a State board at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State board may require, including—

“(i) a description of the local area, including the population that will be served by the local area, and the education and training needs of its employers and workers;

“(ii) a description of how the local area is consistent or aligned with—

“(I) service delivery areas (as determined by the State);

“(II) labor market areas; and

“(III) economic development regions;

“(iii) a description of the eligible providers of education and training, including postsecondary educational institutions such as community colleges, located in the local area and available to meet the needs of the local workforce;

“(iv) a description of the distance that individuals will need to travel to receive services provided in such local area; and

“(v) any other criteria that the State board may require.

“(C) PRIORITY.—In designating local areas under this paragraph, a State board shall give priority consideration to an area proposed by an applicant demonstrating that a designation as a local area under this paragraph will result in the reduction of overlapping service delivery areas, local market areas, or economic development regions.

“(D) ALIGNMENT WITH LOCAL PLAN.—A State may designate an area proposed by an applicant as a local area under this paragraph for a period not to exceed 3 years.

“(E) REFERENCES.—For purposes of this Act, a reference to a local area—

“(i) used with respect to a geographic area, refers to an area designated under this paragraph; and

“(ii) used with respect to an entity, refers to the applicant.”;

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall, if requested by the Governor of a State, provide the State with technical assistance in making the determinations required under paragraph (1). The Secretary shall not issue regulations governing determinations to be made under paragraph (1).”;

(C) by striking paragraph (3);

(D) by striking paragraph (4);

(E) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3); and

(F) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “(2) or (3)” both places it appears and inserting “(1)”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) SINGLE STATES.—Consistent with subsection (a), the State board of a State may designate the State as a single State local area for the purposes of this title.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: “The State may require the local boards for the designated region to prepare a single regional plan that incorporates the elements of the local plan under section 118 and that is submitted and approved in lieu of separate local plans under such section.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “employment statistics” and inserting “workforce and labor market information”.

SEC. 15. LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

Section 117 (29 U.S.C. 2832) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “include—” and all that follows through “representatives” and inserting “include representatives”;

(II) by striking clauses (ii) through (vi);

(III) by redesignating subclauses (I) through (III) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively (and by moving the margins of such clauses 2 ems to the left);

(IV) by striking clause (ii) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

“(ii) represent businesses, including large and small businesses, each of which has immediate and long-term employment opportunities in an in-demand industry or other occupation important to the local economy; and”;

(V) by striking the semicolon at the end of clause (iii) (as so redesignated) and inserting “; and”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) may include such other individuals or representatives of entities as the chief elected official in the local area may determine to be appropriate, including—

“(i) the superintendent or other employee of the local educational agency who has primary responsibility for secondary education, the presidents or chief executive officers of postsecondary educational institutions (including a community college, where such an entity exists), or administrators of local entities providing adult education and family literacy education activities;

“(ii) representatives of community-based organizations (including organizations representing individuals with disabilities and veterans, for a local area in which such organizations are present); or

“(iii) representatives of veterans service organizations.”;

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “A majority” and inserting “A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority”; and

(ii) by striking “(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “(2)(A)”;

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “(2)(A)”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (C); and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by striking “paragraphs (1) through (7)” and inserting “paragraphs (1) through (8)”;

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL BOARD.—The functions of the local board shall include the following:

“(1) LOCAL PLAN.—Consistent with section 118, each local board, in partnership with the chief elected official for the local area involved, shall develop and submit a local plan to the Governor.

“(2) WORKFORCE RESEARCH AND REGIONAL LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The local board shall—

“(i) conduct, and regularly update, an analysis of—

“(I) the economic conditions in the local area;

“(II) the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries and other occupations important to the local economy;

“(III) the knowledge and skills of the workforce in the local area; and

“(IV) workforce development activities (including education and training) in the local area; and

“(ii) assist the Governor in developing the statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(e)).

“(B) EXISTING ANALYSIS.—In carrying out requirements of subparagraph (A)(i), a local board shall use an existing analysis, if any, by the local economic development entity or related entity.

“(3) EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT.—The local board shall meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the local area by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers.

“(4) BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) BUDGET.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The local board shall develop a budget for the activities of the local board in the local area, consistent with the requirements of this subsection.

“(ii) TRAINING RESERVATION.—In developing a budget under clause (i), the local board shall reserve a percentage of funds to carry out the activities specified in section 134(c)(4). The local board shall use the analysis conducted under paragraph (2)(A)(i) to determine the appropriate percentage of funds to reserve under this clause.

“(B) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(i) GRANT RECIPIENT.—The chief elected official in a local area shall serve as the local grant recipient for, and shall be liable for any misuse of, the grant funds allocated to the local area under section 133, unless the chief elected official reaches an agreement with the Governor for the Governor to act as the local grant recipient and bear such liability.

“(ii) DESIGNATION.—In order to assist in administration of the grant funds, the chief elected official or the Governor, where the Governor serves as the local grant recipient for a local area, may designate an entity to serve as a local grant subrecipient for such funds or as a local fiscal agent. Such designation shall not relieve the chief elected

official or the Governor of the liability for any misuse of grant funds as described in clause (i).

“(iii) DISBURSAL.—The local grant recipient or an entity designated under clause (ii) shall disburse the grant funds for workforce investment activities at the direction of the local board, pursuant to the requirements of this title. The local grant recipient or entity designated under clause (ii) shall disburse the funds immediately on receiving such direction from the local board.

“(C) STAFF.—The local board may employ staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in this subsection.

“(D) GRANTS AND DONATIONS.—The local board may solicit and accept grants and donations from sources other than Federal funds made available under this Act.

“(5) SELECTION OF OPERATORS AND PROVIDERS.—

“(A) SELECTION OF ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—Consistent with section 121(d), the local board, with the agreement of the chief elected official—

“(i) shall designate or certify one-stop operators as described in section 121(d)(2)(A); and

“(ii) may terminate for cause the eligibility of such operators.

“(B) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE TRAINING SERVICE PROVIDERS.—Consistent with this subtitle, the local board shall identify eligible providers of training services described in section 134(c)(4) in the local area, annually review the outcomes of such eligible providers using the criteria under section 122(b)(2), and designate such eligible providers in the local area who have demonstrated the highest level of success with respect to such criteria as priority eligible providers for the program year following the review.

“(C) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF WORK READY SERVICES.—If the one-stop operator does not provide the services described in section 134(c)(2) in the local area, the local board shall identify eligible providers of such services in the local area by awarding contracts.

“(6) PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.—The local board, in partnership with the chief elected official, shall be responsible for—

“(A) ensuring the appropriate use and management of the funds provided for local employment and training activities authorized under section 134(b); and

“(B) conducting oversight of the one-stop delivery system, in the local area, authorized under section 121.

“(7) NEGOTIATION OF LOCAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall negotiate and reach agreement on local performance measures as described in section 136(c).

“(8) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—The local board shall develop strategies for technology improvements to facilitate access to services authorized under this subtitle and carried out in the local area, including access in remote areas.”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by inserting “electronic means and” after “regular basis through”; and

(B) by striking “and the award of grants or contracts to eligible providers of youth activities.”;

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “section 134(d)(4)” and inserting “section 134(c)(4)”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) WORK READY SERVICES; DESIGNATION OR CERTIFICATION AS ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—A

local board may provide work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) through a one-stop delivery system described in section 121 or be designated or certified as a one-stop operator only with the agreement of the chief elected official and the Governor.”;

(6) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “or participate in any action taken” after “vote”; and

(7) by striking subsections (h) and (i).

SEC. 16. LOCAL PLAN.

Section 118 (29 U.S.C. 2833) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “5-year” and inserting “3-year”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) CONTENTS.—The local plan shall include—

“(1) a description of the analysis of the local area’s economic and workforce conditions conducted under subclauses (I) through (IV) of section 117(d)(2)(A)(i), and an assurance that the local board will use such analysis to carry out the activities under this subtitle;

“(2) a description of the one-stop delivery system in the local area, including—

“(A) a description of how the local board will ensure—

“(i) the continuous improvement of eligible providers of services through the system; and

“(ii) that such providers meet the employment needs of local businesses and participants; and

“(B) a description of how the local board will facilitate access to services described in section 117(d)(8) and provided through the one-stop delivery system consistent with section 117(d)(8);

“(3) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area—

“(A) to more fully engage employers, including small businesses and employers in in-demand industries and occupations important to the local economy;

“(B) to meet the needs of employers in the local area;

“(C) to better coordinate workforce development programs with economic development activities; and

“(D) to better coordinate workforce development programs with employment, training, and literacy services carried out by non-profit organizations, including public libraries, as appropriate;

“(4) a description of how the local board will convene (or help to convene) industry or sector partnerships that lead to collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across multiple firms for a range of workers employed or potentially employed by a targeted industry or sector—

“(A) to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement in the targeted industry or sector;

“(B) to address the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the local economy; and

“(C) to address critical skill gaps within and across industries and sectors;

“(5) a description of how the funds reserved under section 117(d)(4)(A)(ii) will be used to carry out activities described in section 134(c)(4);

“(6) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with statewide workforce investment activities, as appropriate;

“(7) a description of how the local area will—

“(A) coordinate activities with the local area’s disability community, and with transition services (as defined under section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401)) provided under that Act by local educational agencies serving such local area, to make available comprehensive, high-quality services to individuals with disabilities;

“(B) consistent with section 188 and Executive Order No. 13217 (42 U.S.C. 12131 note), serve the employment and training needs of individuals with disabilities, with a focus on employment that fosters independence and integration into the workplace; and

“(C) consistent with sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794, 794d), include the provision of outreach, intake, assessments, and service delivery, the development of performance measures, the training of staff, and other aspects of accessibility for individuals with disabilities to programs and services under this subtitle;

“(8) a description of the local levels of performance negotiated with the Governor and chief elected official pursuant to section 136(c), to be—

“(A) used to measure the performance of the local area; and

“(B) used by the local board for measuring performance of the local fiscal agent (where appropriate), eligible providers, and the one-stop delivery system, in the local area;

“(9) a description of the process used by the local board, consistent with subsection (c), to provide an opportunity for public comment prior to submission of the plan;

“(10) a description of how the local area will serve the employment and training needs of dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), low-income individuals (including recipients of public assistance such as supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)), long-term unemployed individuals (including individuals who have exhausted entitlement to Federal and State unemployment compensation), English learners, homeless individuals, individuals training for nontraditional employment, youth (including out-of-school youth and at-risk youth), older workers, ex-offenders, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, refugees and entrants, veterans (including disabled veterans and homeless veterans), and Native Americans;

“(11) an identification of the entity responsible for the disbursement of grant funds described in section 117(d)(4)(B)(iii), as determined by the chief elected official or the Governor under such section;

“(12) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, credentials (including recognized postsecondary credentials, such as industry-recognized credentials), and employment experience to succeed in the labor market, including—

“(A) training and internships in in-demand industries or occupations important to the local economy;

“(B) dropout recovery activities that are designed to lead to the attainment of a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or other State-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities); and

“(C) activities combining remediation of academic skills, work readiness training, and work experience, and including linkages to postsecondary education and training and career-ladder employment;

“(13) a description of—

“(A) how the local area will furnish employment, training, including training in advanced manufacturing, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans;

“(B) the strategies and services that will be used in the local area to assist in and expedite reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force; and

“(C) the veteran population to be served in the local area;

“(14) a description of—

“(A) the duties assigned to the veteran employment specialist consistent with the requirements of section 134(f);

“(B) the manner in which the veteran employment specialist is integrated into the one-stop career system described in section 121;

“(C) the date on which the veteran employment specialist was assigned; and

“(D) whether the veteran employment specialist has satisfactorily completed related training by the National Veterans’ Employment and Training Services Institute; and

“(15) such other information as the Governor may require.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “such means” and inserting “electronic means and such means”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “, including representatives of business and representatives of labor organizations.”.

SEC. 17. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.

Section 121 (29 U.S.C. 2841) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(A) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—Each entity that carries out a program or activities described in subparagraph (B) shall—

“(i) provide access through a one-stop delivery system to the program or activities carried out by the entity, including making the work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) that are applicable to the program or activities of the entity available at one-stop centers (in addition to any other appropriate locations);

“(ii) use a portion of the funds available to the program or activities of the entity to maintain the one-stop delivery system, including payment of the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

“(iii) enter into a local memorandum of understanding with the local board, relating to the operation of the one-stop delivery system, that meets the requirements of subsection (c); and

“(iv) participate in the operation of the one-stop delivery system consistent with the terms of the memorandum of understanding, the requirements of this title, and the requirements of the Federal laws authorizing the program or activities carried out by the entity.”;

(B) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(i) by striking clauses (ii), (v), and (vi);

(ii) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

(iii) by redesignating clauses (vii) through (xii) as clauses (iv) through (ix), respectively;

(iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, by striking “adult education and literacy activities” and inserting “adult education and family literacy education activities”

(v) in clause (viii), as so redesignated, by striking “and” at the end;

(vi) in clause (ix), as so redesignated, by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(vii) by adding at the end the following:

“(x) subject to subparagraph (C), programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)”;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1)(B) the following:

“(C) DETERMINATION BY THE GOVERNOR.—Each entity carrying out a program described in subparagraph (B)(x) shall be considered to be a one-stop partner under this title and carry out the required partner activities described in subparagraph (A) unless the Governor of the State in which the local area is located provides the Secretary and Secretary of Health and Human Services written notice of a determination by the Governor that such an entity shall not be considered to be such a partner and shall not carry out such required partner activities.”; and

(D) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “section 134(d)(2)” and inserting “section 134(c)(2)”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking clauses (i), (ii), and (v);

(II) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) employment and training programs administered by the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration;

“(iv) employment and training programs carried out by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;

“(v) employment, training, and literacy services carried out by public libraries; and

“(vi) other appropriate Federal, State, or local programs, including programs in the private sector.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) provisions describing—

“(i) the services to be provided through the one-stop delivery system consistent with the requirements of this section, including the manner in which the services will be coordinated through such system;

“(ii) how the costs of such services and the operating costs of such system will be funded, through cash and in-kind contributions, to provide a stable and equitable funding stream for ongoing one-stop system operations, including the funding of the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

“(iii) methods of referral of individuals between the one-stop operator and the one-stop partners for appropriate services and activities, including referrals for training for non-traditional employment; and

“(iv) the duration of the memorandum of understanding and the procedures for amending the memorandum during the term of the memorandum, and assurances that such memorandum shall be reviewed not less than once every 3-year period to ensure appropriate funding and delivery of services under the memorandum; and”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the heading for paragraph (1), by striking “DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATION” and inserting “LOCAL DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATION”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “section 134(c)” and inserting “subsection (e)”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) shall be designated or certified as a one-stop operator through a competitive process; and”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking clause (ii) and redesignating clauses (iii) through (vi) as clauses (ii) through (v), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical”;

(4) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

“(e) ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established in a State that receives an allotment under section 132(b) a one-stop delivery system, which shall—

“(A) provide the work ready services described in section 134(c)(2);

“(B) provide access to training services as described in paragraph (4) of section 134(c), including serving as the point of access to career enhancement accounts for training services to participants in accordance with paragraph (4)(F) of such section;

“(C) provide access to the activities carried out under section 134(d), if any;

“(D) provide access to programs and activities carried out by one-stop partners that are described in subsection (b); and

“(E) provide access to the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 15(a)(1) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(a)(1)).

“(2) ONE-STOP DELIVERY.—At a minimum, the one-stop delivery system—

“(A) shall make each of the programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) accessible at not less than one physical center in each local area of the State; and

“(B) may also make programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) available—

“(i) through a network of affiliated sites that can provide one or more of the programs, services, and activities to individuals; and

“(ii) through a network of eligible one-stop partners—

“(I) in which each partner provides one or more of the programs, services, and activities to such individuals and is accessible at an affiliated site that consists of a physical location or an electronically- or technologically-linked access point; and

“(II) that assures individuals that information on the availability of the work ready services will be available regardless of where the individuals initially enter the statewide workforce investment system, including information made available through an access point described in subclause (I).

“(3) SPECIALIZED CENTERS.—The centers and sites described in paragraph (2) may have a specialization in addressing special needs.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) CERTIFICATION OF ONE-STOP CENTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The State board shall establish objective procedures and criteria for certifying, at least once every 3 years, one-stop centers for the purpose of awarding the one-stop infrastructure funding described in subsection (h).

“(B) CRITERIA.—The criteria for certification of a one-stop center under this subsection shall include—

“(i) meeting the expected levels of performance for each of the corresponding core indicators of performance as outlined in the State plan under section 112;

“(ii) meeting minimum standards relating to the scope and degree of service integration achieved by the center, involving the programs provided by the one-stop partners; and

“(iii) meeting minimum standards relating to how the center ensures that eligible providers meet the employment needs of local employers and participants.

“(C) EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION.—One-stop centers certified under this subsection shall be eligible to receive the infrastructure funding authorized under subsection (h).

“(2) LOCAL BOARDS.—Consistent with the criteria developed by the State, the local board may develop, for certification referred to in paragraph (1)(A), additional criteria or higher standards on the criteria referred to in paragraph (1)(B) to respond to local labor market and demographic conditions and trends.

“(h) ONE-STOP INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING.—

“(1) PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS.—

“(A) PROVISION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as determined under subparagraph (B), a portion of the Federal funds provided to the State and areas within the State under the Federal laws authorizing the one-stop partner programs described in subsection (b)(1)(B) and participating additional partner programs described in subsection (b)(2)(B), for a fiscal year shall be provided to the Governor by such partners to carry out this subsection.

“(B) DETERMINATION OF GOVERNOR.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Governor, in consultation with the State board, shall determine the portion of funds to be provided under subparagraph (A) by each one-stop partner and in making such determination shall consider the proportionate use of the one-stop centers in the State by each such partner, the costs of administration for purposes not related to one-stop centers for each such partner, and other relevant factors described in paragraph (3).

“(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—In those States where the State constitution places policy-making authority that is independent of the authority of the Governor in an entity or official with respect to the funds provided for adult education and family literacy education activities authorized under title II and for postsecondary career and technical education activities authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), the determination described in clause (i) with respect to the corresponding 2 programs shall be made by the Governor with the appropriate entity or official with such independent policy-making authority.

“(iii) APPEAL BY ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—The Governor shall establish a procedure for the one-stop partner administering a program described in subsection (b) and subparagraph (A) to appeal a determination regarding the portion of funds to be provided under this paragraph on the basis that such determination is inconsistent with the requirements described in the State plan for the program or with the requirements of this paragraph. Such procedure shall ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

“(C) LIMITATIONS.—

“(i) PROVISION FROM ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.—The funds provided under this paragraph by a one-stop partner shall be provided only from funds available for the costs of administration under the program administered by such partner, and shall be subject to the limitations with respect to the portion of funds under such program that may be used for administration.

“(ii) FEDERAL DIRECT SPENDING PROGRAMS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—A program that provides Federal direct spending under section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)(8)) shall not, for purposes of this paragraph, be required to provide more than the maximum amount determined under subclause (II).

“(II) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum amount for the program is the amount that bears the same relationship to the costs referred to in paragraph (2) for the State as the use of the one-stop centers by such program bears to the use of such centers by all one-stop partner programs in the State.

“(2) ALLOCATION BY GOVERNOR.—From the funds provided under paragraph (1), the Governor shall allocate funds to local areas in accordance with the formula established under paragraph (3) for the purposes of assisting in paying the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers certified under subsection (g).

“(3) ALLOCATION FORMULA.—The State board shall develop a formula to be used by the Governor to allocate the funds provided under paragraph (1) to local areas. The formula shall include such factors as the State board determines are appropriate, which may include factors such as the number of centers in a local area that have been certified, the population served by such centers, and the performance of such centers.

“(4) COSTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘costs of infrastructure’ means the nonpersonnel costs that are necessary for the general operation of a one-stop center, including the rental costs of the facilities involved, and the costs of utilities and maintenance, and equipment (including assistive technology for individuals with disabilities).

“(i) OTHER FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the funds provided under subsection (h), a portion of funds made available under Federal law authorizing the one-stop partner programs described in subsection (b)(1)(B) and participating additional partner programs described in subsection (b)(2)(B), or the noncash resources available under such 2 types of programs, shall be used to pay the costs relating to the operation of the one-stop delivery system that are not paid for from the funds provided under subsection (h), to the extent not inconsistent with the Federal law involved. Such portion shall be used to pay for costs including—

“(A) costs of infrastructure (as defined in subsection (h)) that are in excess of the funds provided under subsection (h);

“(B) common costs that are in addition to the costs of infrastructure (as so defined); and

“(C) the costs of the provision of work ready services applicable to each program.

“(2) DETERMINATION AND STANDARDS.—The method for determining the appropriate portion of funds and noncash resources to be provided by each program under paragraph (1) shall be determined as part of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c). The State board shall provide standards to facilitate the determination of appropriate allocation of the funds and noncash resources to local areas.”.

SEC. 122. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

Section 122 (29 U.S.C. 2842) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 122. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

“(a) ELIGIBILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor, after consultation with the State board, shall establish criteria and procedures regarding the eligibility of providers of training services described in section 134(c)(4) to receive funds provided under section 133(b) for the provision of such training services and be included on the list of eligible providers of training services described in subsection (d).

“(2) PROVIDERS.—Subject to the provisions of this section, to be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list, the provider shall be—

“(A) a postsecondary educational institution that—

“(i) is eligible to receive Federal funds under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

“(ii) provides a program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential;

“(B) an entity that carries out programs under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the ‘National Apprenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.); or

“(C) another public or private provider of a program of training services.

“(3) INCLUSION IN LIST OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.—A provider described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of paragraph (2) shall comply with the criteria and procedures established under this subsection to be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list. A provider described in paragraph (2)(B) shall be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list with respect to programs described in paragraph (2)(B) for so long as the provider remains certified by the Secretary of Labor to carry out the programs.

“(b) CRITERIA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The criteria established by the Governor pursuant to subsection (a) shall take into account—

“(A) the performance of providers of training services with respect to the performance measures described in section 136, measures for other matters for which information is required under paragraph (2), and other appropriate measures of performance outcomes for those participants receiving training services under this subtitle;

“(B) whether the training programs of such providers relate to in-demand industries or occupations important to the local economy;

“(C) the need to ensure access to training services throughout the State, including in rural areas;

“(D) the ability of the providers to offer programs that lead to a recognized postsecondary credential, and the quality of such programs;

“(E) the performance of the providers as reflected in the information such providers are required to report to State agencies with respect to other Federal and State programs (other than the program carried out under this subtitle), including one-stop partner programs; and

“(F) such other factors as the Governor determines are appropriate.

“(2) INFORMATION.—The criteria established by the Governor shall require that a provider of training services submit appropriate, accurate, and timely information to the State for purposes of carrying out subsection (d), with respect to participants receiving training services under this subtitle in the applicable program, including—

“(A) information on recognized postsecondary credentials received by such participants;

“(B) information on costs of attendance for such participants;

“(C) information on the program completion rate for such participants; and

“(D) information on the performance of the provider with respect to the performance measures described in section 136 for such participants.

“(3) RENEWAL.—The criteria established by the Governor shall also provide for a review on the criteria every 3 years and renewal of eligibility under this section for providers of training services.

“(4) LOCAL CRITERIA.—A local board in the State may establish criteria in addition to the criteria established by the Governor, or may require higher levels of performance than required on the criteria established by the Governor, for purposes of determining the eligibility of providers of training services under this section in the local area involved.

“(5) LIMITATION.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, no entity may disclose personally identifiable information regarding a student, including a Social Security number, student identification number, or other identifier, without the prior written consent of the parent or student in compliance with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

“(c) PROCEDURES.—The procedures established under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) identify—

“(A) the application process for a provider of training services to become eligible under this section; and

“(B) the respective roles of the State and local areas in receiving and reviewing applications and in making determinations of eligibility based on the criteria established under this section; and

“(2) establish a process, for a provider of training services to appeal a denial or termination of eligibility under this section, that includes an opportunity for a hearing and prescribes appropriate time limits to ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

“(d) INFORMATION TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS IN CHOOSING PROVIDERS.—In order to facilitate and assist participants under chapter 5 in choosing providers of training services, the Governor shall ensure that an appropriate list of providers determined eligible under this section in the State, including information provided under subsection (b)(2) with respect to such providers, is provided to the local boards in the State and is made available to such participants and to members of the public through the one-stop delivery system in the State.

“(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The procedures established under this section shall provide the following:

“(A) INTENTIONALLY SUPPLYING INACCURATE INFORMATION.—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services, or individual providing information on behalf of the provider, intentionally supplied inaccurate information under this section, the eligibility of such provider under this section shall be terminated for a period of time that is not less than 2 years.

“(B) SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATIONS.—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services substantially violated any requirement under this title, the eligibility of such provider under this section shall be terminated for a period of time that is not less than 10 years.

“(C) REPAYMENT.—A provider of training services whose eligibility is terminated under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be liable for the repayment of funds received under chapter 5 during a period of noncompliance

described in such subparagraph. For purposes of subparagraph (A), that period shall be considered to be the period beginning on the date on which the inaccurate information described in subparagraph (A) was supplied, and ending on the date of the termination described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1) shall be construed to provide remedies and penalties that supplement, but do not supplant, other civil and criminal remedies and penalties.

“(f) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES.—A State may enter into an agreement with another State, on a reciprocal basis, to permit eligible providers of training services to accept career enhancement accounts provided in the other State.

“(g) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In developing the criteria (including requirements for related information) and procedures required under this section, the Governor shall solicit and take into consideration the recommendations of local boards and providers of training services within the State.

“(h) OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT COMMENTS.—During the development of the criteria and procedures, and the list of eligible providers required under this section, the Governor shall provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to submit comments regarding such criteria, procedures, and list.

“(i) ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OR CUSTOMIZED TRAINING EXCEPTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Providers of on-the-job training or customized training shall not be subject to the requirements of subsections (a) through (d).

“(2) COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—A one-stop operator in a local area shall collect such performance information from on-the-job training and customized training providers as the Governor may require, determine whether the providers meet such performance criteria as the Governor may require, and disseminate information identifying providers that meet the criteria as eligible providers, and the performance information, through the one-stop delivery system. Providers determined to meet the criteria shall be considered to be identified as eligible under this section, to be providers of the training services involved.”.

SEC. 19. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.

Chapter 5 of subtitle B of title I is amended—

(1) by striking the heading for chapter 5 and inserting the following: “**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES**”; and

(2) in section 131 (29 U.S.C. 2861)—

(A) by striking “paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of”; and

(B) by striking “adults, and dislocated workers,” and inserting “individuals”.

SEC. 20. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

Section 132 (29 U.S.C. 2862) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) reserve $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year, of which—

“(A) 50 percent shall be used to provide technical assistance under section 170; and

“(B) 50 percent shall be used for evaluations under section 172;

“(2) reserve 1 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to make grants to, and enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native entities, Indian-controlled organizations serving Indians, or Native Hawaiian organizations to carry out employment and training activities;

“(3) reserve not more than 25 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to carry out the Jobs Corps program under subtitle C;

“(4) reserve not more than 3.5 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to—

“(A) make grants to State boards or local boards to provide employment and training assistance to workers affected by major economic dislocations, such as plant closures, mass layoffs, or closures and realignments of military installations; and

“(B) provide assistance to Governors of States with an area that has suffered an emergency or a major disaster (as such terms are defined in paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, of section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)) to provide disaster relief employment in the area; and

“(5) from the remaining amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year (after reserving funds under paragraphs (1) through (4)), make allotments in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.”; and

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND.—

“(1) RESERVATION FOR OUTLYING AREAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount made available under subsection (a)(5) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent to provide assistance to the outlying areas.

“(B) RESTRICTION.—The Republic of Palau shall cease to be eligible to receive funding under this paragraph upon entering into an agreement for extension of United States educational assistance under the Compact of Free Association (approved by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188) after the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act.

“(2) STATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—After determining the amount to be reserved under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall allot the remainder of the amount referred to in subsection (a)(5) for a fiscal year to the States pursuant to subparagraph (B) for employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

“(B) FORMULA.—Subject to subparagraphs (C) and (D), of the remainder—

“(i) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in each State, compared to the total number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in all States;

“(ii) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in the civilian labor force in each State, compared to the total number of such individuals in all States;

“(iii) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in each State who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more, compared to the total number of individuals in all States who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more; and

“(iv) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of disadvantaged youth in each State, compared to the total number of disadvantaged youth in all States.

“(C) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES.—

“(i) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is less than 100 percent of the allotment

percentage of the State for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is less than 90 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(ii) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Subject to clause (i), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(D) SMALL STATE MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for a fiscal year that is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of the remainder described in subparagraph (A) for the fiscal year.

“(E) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of the formula specified in this paragraph:

“(i) ALLOTMENT PERCENTAGE.—The term ‘allotment percentage’—

“(I) used with respect to fiscal year 2013, means the percentage of the amounts allotted to States under title I of this Act, title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.), the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code, and sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), as such provisions were in effect for fiscal year 2013, that is received under such provisions by the State involved for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) used with respect to fiscal year 2017 or a succeeding fiscal year, means the percentage of the amounts allotted to States under this paragraph for the fiscal year, that is received under this paragraph by the State involved for the fiscal year.

“(ii) AREA OF SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT.—The term ‘area of substantial unemployment’ means any area that is of sufficient size and scope to sustain a program of workforce investment activities carried out under this subtitle and that has an average rate of unemployment of at least 7 percent for the most recent 12 months, as determined by the Secretary. For purposes of this clause, determinations of areas of substantial unemployment shall be made once each fiscal year.

“(iii) DISADVANTAGED YOUTH.—The term ‘disadvantaged youth’ means an individual who is not less than age 16 and not more than age 24 who receives an income, or is a member of a family that receives a total family income, that in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of—

“(I) the poverty line; or

“(II) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level.

“(iv) INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘individual’ means an individual who is age 16 or older.”.

SEC. 21. WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.

Section 133 (29 U.S.C. 2863) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) RESERVATIONS FOR STATEWIDE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The Governor of a State shall reserve not more than 15 percent of the total amount allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) for a fiscal year to carry out the

statewide activities described in section 134(a).

“(2) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amount reserved under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Governor of the State shall reserve not more than 25 percent for statewide rapid response activities and additional assistance described in section 134(a)(4).

“(3) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—Of the amount reserved under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Governor of the State shall reserve 15 percent to carry out statewide activities described in section 134(a)(5).

“(4) STATE ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—Not more than 5 percent of the funds reserved under paragraph (1) may be used by the Governor of the State for administrative costs of carrying out the statewide activities described in section 134(a).”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATION.—

“(1) METHODS.—The Governor, acting in accordance with the State plan, and after consulting with chief elected officials in the local areas in the State, shall—

“(A) allocate the funds that are allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) and not reserved under subsection (a), in accordance with paragraph (2)(A); and

“(B) award the funds that are reserved by the State under subsection (a)(3) through competitive grants to eligible entities, in accordance with section 134(a)(1)(C).

“(2) FORMULA ALLOCATIONS FOR THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND.—

“(A) ALLOCATION.—In allocating the funds described in paragraph (1)(A) to local areas, a State shall allocate—

“(i) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(i);

“(ii) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(ii);

“(iii) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(iii); and

“(iv) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(iv),

except that a reference in a section specified in any of clauses (i) through (iv) to ‘each State’ shall be considered to refer to each local area, and to ‘all States’ shall be considered to refer to all local areas.

“(B) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES.—

“(i) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The State shall ensure that no local area shall receive an allocation under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is less than 100 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is less than 90 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(ii) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Subject to clause (i), the State shall ensure that no local area shall receive an allocation for a fiscal year under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is more than 130 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is more than 130 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(C) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of the formula specified in this paragraph, the term ‘allocation percentage’—

“(i) used with respect to fiscal year 2013, means the percentage of the amounts allocated to local areas under title I of this Act, title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.), the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code, and sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), as such provisions were in effect for fiscal year 2013, that is received under such provisions by the local area involved for fiscal year 2013; and

“(ii) used with respect to fiscal year 2017 or a succeeding fiscal year, means the percentage of the amounts allocated to local areas under this paragraph for the fiscal year, that is received under this paragraph by the local area involved for the fiscal year.”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor may, in accordance with this subsection, reallocate to eligible local areas within the State amounts that are allocated under subsection (b) for employment and training activities and that are available for reallocation.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b) for such activities” and inserting “subsection (b) for such activities”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) REALLOCATIONS.—In making reallocations to eligible local areas of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Governor shall allocate to each eligible local area within the State an amount based on the relative amount allocated to such local area under subsection (b)(2) for such activities for such prior program year, as compared to the total amount allocated to all eligible local areas in the State under subsection (b)(2) for such activities for such prior program year.”; and

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of”;

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—Of the amount allocated to a local area under this section for a fiscal year, not more than 10 percent of the amount may be used by the local board involved for the administrative costs of carrying out local workforce investment activities in the local area under this chapter.”.

SEC. 22. USE OF FUNDS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

Section 134 (29 U.S.C. 2864) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) DISTRIBUTION OF STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(1) and not reserved under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 133(a)—

“(i) shall be used to carry out the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (2); and

“(ii) may be used to carry out any of the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (3).

“(B) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(2) shall be used to provide the statewide rapid response activities and additional assistance described in paragraph (4).

“(C) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—Funds re-

served by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(3) shall be used to award statewide grants for individuals with barriers to employment on a competitive basis, and carry out other activities, as described in paragraph (5).

“(2) REQUIRED STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—A State shall use funds referred to in paragraph (1)(A) to carry out statewide employment and training activities, which shall include—

“(A) disseminating the State list of eligible providers of training services described in section 122(d), information identifying eligible providers of on-the-job training and customized training described in section 122(i), and performance information and program cost information described in section 122(b)(2);

“(B) supporting the provision of work ready services described in subsection (c)(2) in the one-stop delivery system;

“(C) implementing strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, recognized postsecondary credentials, and employment experience to succeed in the labor market;

“(D) conducting evaluations under section 136(e) of activities authorized under this chapter in coordination with evaluations carried out by the Secretary under section 172;

“(E) providing technical assistance to local areas that fail to meet local performance measures;

“(F) operating a fiscal and management accountability system under section 136(f); and

“(G) carrying out monitoring and oversight of activities carried out under this chapter.

“(3) ALLOWABLE STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—A State may use funds referred to in paragraph (1)(A) to carry out statewide employment and training activities which may include—

“(A) implementing innovative programs and strategies designed to meet the needs of all employers in the State, including small employers, which may include incumbent worker training programs, sectoral and industry cluster strategies and partnership initiatives, career ladder programs, micro-enterprise and entrepreneurial training and support programs, utilization of effective business intermediaries, activities to improve linkages between the one-stop delivery system in the State and all employers (including small employers) in the State, and other business services and strategies that better engage employers in workforce investment activities and make the workforce investment system more relevant to the needs of State and local businesses, consistent with the objectives of this title;

“(B) providing incentive grants to local areas—

“(i) for regional cooperation among local boards (including local boards in a designated region as described in section 116(c));

“(ii) for local coordination of activities carried out under this Act; and

“(iii) for exemplary performance by local areas on the local performance measures;

“(C) developing strategies for effectively integrating programs and services among one-stop partners;

“(D) carrying out activities to facilitate remote access to services provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology;

“(E) incorporating pay-for-performance contract strategies as an element in funding

activities under this section and providing technical support to local areas and eligible providers in order to carry out such a strategy, which may involve providing assistance with data collection and data entry requirements;

“(F) carrying out the State option under subsection (f)(8); and

“(G) carrying out other activities authorized under this section that the State determines to be necessary to assist local areas in carrying out activities described in subsection (c) or (d) through the statewide workforce investment system.

“(4) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—A State shall use funds reserved as described in section 133(a)(2)—

“(A) to carry out statewide rapid response activities, which shall include provision of rapid response activities, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials in the local areas; and

“(B) to provide additional assistance to local areas that experience disasters, mass layoffs, or plant closings, or other events that precipitate substantial increases in the number of unemployed individuals, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials in the local areas.

“(5) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds reserved as described in section 133(a)(3), the Governor of a State—

“(i) may reserve up to 5 percent to provide technical assistance for, and conduct evaluations as described in section 136(e) of, the programs carried out under this paragraph; and

“(ii) using the remainder, shall award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities (that meet specific performance outcomes and criteria established by the Governor) described in subparagraph (B) to carry out employment and training programs authorized under this paragraph for individuals with barriers to employment.

“(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity that—

“(i) is a—

“(I) local board or a consortium of local boards;

“(II) nonprofit entity, for-profit entity, or a consortium of nonprofit or for-profit entities; or

“(III) consortium of the entities described in subclauses (I) and (II);

“(ii) has a demonstrated record of placing individuals into unsubsidized employment and serving hard-to-serve individuals; and

“(iii) agrees to be reimbursed primarily on the basis of meeting specified performance outcomes and criteria established by the Governor.

“(C) GRANT PERIOD.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this paragraph shall be awarded for a period of 1 year.

“(ii) GRANT RENEWAL.—A Governor of a State may renew, for up to 4 additional 1-year periods, a grant awarded under this paragraph.

“(D) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—To be eligible to participate in activities under this paragraph, an individual shall be a low-income individual age 16 or older.

“(E) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this paragraph shall use the grant funds for programs of activi-

ties that are designed to assist eligible participants in obtaining employment and acquiring the education and skills necessary to succeed in the labor market. To be eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph for an employment and training program, an eligible entity shall submit an application to a State at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State may require, including—

“(i) a description of how the strategies and activities of the program will be aligned with the State plan submitted under section 112 and the local plan submitted under section 118, with respect to the area of the State that will be the focus of the program under this paragraph;

“(ii) a description of the educational and skills training programs and activities the eligible entity will provide to eligible participants under this paragraph;

“(iii) how the eligible entity will collaborate with State and local workforce investment systems established under this title in the provision of such programs and activities;

“(iv) a description of the programs of demonstrated effectiveness on which the provision of such educational and skills training programs and activities are based, and a description of how such programs and activities will improve education and skills training for eligible participants;

“(v) a description of the populations to be served and the skill needs of those populations, and the manner in which eligible participants will be recruited and selected as participants;

“(vi) a description of the private, public, local, and State resources that will be leveraged, with the grant funds provided, for the program under this paragraph, and how the entity will ensure the sustainability of such program after grant funds are no longer available;

“(vii) a description of the extent of the involvement of employers in such program;

“(viii) a description of the levels of performance the eligible entity expects to achieve with respect to the indicators of performance for all individuals specified in section 136(b)(2);

“(ix) a detailed budget and a description of the system of fiscal controls, and auditing and accountability procedures, that will be used to ensure fiscal soundness for the program provided under this paragraph; and

“(x) any other criteria the Governor may require.”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)—

“(1) shall be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (c); and

“(2) may be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (d).”;

(3) by striking subsection (c);

(4) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e), as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(5) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b) shall be used—

“(A) to establish a one-stop delivery system as described in section 121(e);

“(B) to provide the work ready services described in paragraph (2) through the one-stop delivery system in accordance with such paragraph; and

“(C) to provide training services described in paragraph (4) in accordance with such paragraph.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “CORE SERVICES” and inserting “WORK READY SERVICES”;

(ii) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “(1)(A)” and inserting “(1)”;

(II) by striking “core services” and inserting “work ready services”;

(III) by striking “who are adults or dislocated workers”;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (K) as subparagraph (V);

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (J) as subparagraphs (C) through (K), respectively;

(v) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) assistance in obtaining eligibility determinations under the other one-stop partner programs through activities, where appropriate and consistent with the authorizing statute of the one-stop partner program involved, such as assisting in—

“(i) the submission of applications;

“(ii) the provision of information on the results of such applications; and

“(iii) the provision of intake services and information.”;

(vi) by amending subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(E) labor exchange services, including—

“(i) job search and placement assistance, and where appropriate, career counseling;

“(ii) appropriate recruitment services for employers, including small employers, in the local area, which may include services described in this subsection, including provision of information and referral to specialized business services not traditionally offered through the one-stop delivery system; and

“(iii) reemployment services provided to unemployment claimants, including claimants identified as in need of such services under the worker profiling system established under section 303(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(j));”;

(vii) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking “employment statistics” and inserting “workforce and labor market”;

(viii) in subparagraph (G), as so redesignated, by striking “and eligible providers of youth activities described in section 123.”;

(ix) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by inserting “under section 136” after “local performance measures”;

(x) in subparagraph (J), as so redesignated, by inserting “and information regarding the administration of the work test for the unemployment compensation system” after “compensation”;

(xi) by amending subparagraph (K), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(K) assistance in establishing eligibility for programs of financial aid assistance for education and training programs that are not funded under this Act and are available in the local area;”;

(xii) by inserting the following new subparagraph after subparagraph (K), as so redesignated:

“(L) the provision of information from official publications of the Internal Revenue Service regarding Federal tax credits, available to participants in employment and training activities, and relating to education, job training, and employment;

“(M) comprehensive and specialized assessments of the skill levels and service needs of workers, which may include—

“(i) diagnostic testing and use of other assessment tools; and

“(ii) in-depth interviewing and evaluation to identify employment barriers and appropriate employment goals;

“(N) development of an individual employment plan, to identify the employment goals, appropriate achievement objectives, and appropriate combination of services for the participant;

“(O) group counseling;

“(P) individual counseling and career planning;

“(Q) case management;

“(R) short-term pre-career services, including development of learning skills, communications skills, interviewing skills, punctuality, personal maintenance skills, and professional conduct, to prepare individuals for unsubsidized employment or training;

“(S) internships and work experience;

“(T) literacy activities relating to basic work readiness, information and communication technology literacy activities, and financial literacy activities, if the activities involved are not available to participants in the local area under programs administered under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.);

“(U) out-of-area job search assistance and relocation assistance; and”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) DELIVERY OF SERVICES.—The work ready services described in paragraph (2) shall be provided through the one-stop delivery system and may be provided through contracts with public, private for-profit, and private nonprofit service providers, approved by the local board.”; and

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds described in paragraph (1)(C) shall be used to provide training services to individuals who—

“(i) after an interview, evaluation, or assessment, and case management, have been determined by a one-stop operator or one-stop partner, as appropriate, to—

“(I) be in need of training services to obtain or retain employment; and

“(II) have the skills and qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services;

“(ii) select programs of training services that are directly linked to the employment opportunities in the local area involved or in another area in which the individual receiving such services are willing to commute or relocate; and

“(iii) who meet the requirements of subparagraph (B).”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “Except” and inserting “Notwithstanding section 479B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087uu) and except”;

(iii) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) TRAINING SERVICES.—Training services authorized under this paragraph may include—

“(i) occupational skills training;

“(ii) on-the-job training;

“(iii) skill upgrading and retraining;

“(iv) entrepreneurial training;

“(v) education activities leading to a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent in combination with, concurrently or subsequently, occupational skills training;

“(vi) adult education and family literacy education activities provided in conjunction with other training services authorized under this subparagraph;

“(vii) workplace training combined with related instruction;

“(viii) occupational skills training that incorporates English language acquisition;

“(ix) customized training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of the training; and

“(x) training programs operated by the private sector.”;

(iv) by striking subparagraph (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively;

(v) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated)—

(I) in clause (ii)—

(aa) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “section 121”;

(bb) in subclause (I), by striking “section 122(e)” and inserting “section 122(d)” and by striking “section 122(h)” and inserting “section 122(i)”;

(cc) in subclause (II), by striking “subsections (e) and (h)” and inserting “subsections (d) and (i)”;

(II) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) CAREER ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNTS.—An individual who seeks training services and who is eligible pursuant to subparagraph (A), may, in consultation with a case manager, select an eligible provider of training services from the list or identifying information for providers described in clause (ii)(I). Upon such selection, the one-stop operator involved shall, to the extent practicable, refer such individual to the eligible provider of training services, and arrange for payment for such services through a career enhancement account.

“(iv) COORDINATION.—Each local board may, through one-stop centers, coordinate career enhancement accounts with other Federal, State, local, or private job training programs or sources to assist the individual in obtaining training services from (notwithstanding any provision of this title) eligible providers for those programs and sources.

“(v) ASSISTANCE.—Each local board may, through one-stop centers, assist individuals receiving career enhancement accounts in obtaining funds (in addition to the funds provided under this section) from other programs and sources that will assist the individual in obtaining training services.”;

(vi) in subparagraph (F) (as so redesignated)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS” and inserting “CAREER ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNTS”;

(II) in clause (i), by striking “individual training accounts” and inserting “career enhancement accounts”;

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “an individual training account” and inserting “a career enhancement account”;

(bb) by striking “subparagraph (F)” and inserting “subparagraph (E)”;

(cc) in subclause (II), by striking “individual training accounts” and inserting “career enhancement accounts”;

(dd) in subclause (II), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(ee) in subclause (III), by striking the period and inserting “; or”;

(ff) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) the local board determines that it would be most appropriate to award a contract to a postsecondary educational institution that has been identified as a priority eligible provider under section 117(d)(5)(B) in order to facilitate the training of multiple individuals in in-demand industries or occupations important to the State or local econ-

omy, that such contract may be used to enable the expansion of programs provided by a priority eligible provider, and that such contract does not limit customer choice.”;

(IV) in clause (iii), by striking “adult or dislocated worker” and inserting “individual”;

(V) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by redesignating subclause (IV) as subclause (V); and

(bb) by inserting after subclause (III) the following:

“(IV) Individuals with disabilities.”;

(6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) DISCRETIONARY ONE-STOP DELIVERY ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)(2) may be used to provide, through the one-stop delivery system—

“(i) customized screening and referral of qualified participants in training services to employers;

“(ii) customized employment-related services to employers on a fee-for-service basis;

“(iii) customer supports, including transportation and child care, to navigate among multiple services and activities for special participant populations that face multiple barriers to employment, including individuals with disabilities;

“(iv) employment and training assistance provided in coordination with child support enforcement activities of the State agency carrying out subtitle D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

“(v) incorporation of pay-for-performance contract strategies as an element in funding activities under this section;

“(vi) activities to facilitate remote access to services provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology; and

“(vii) activities to carry out business services and strategies that meet the workforce investment needs of local area employers, as determined by the local board, consistent with the local plan under section 118.”;

(B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3); and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The local board may use funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)(2) to carry out incumbent worker training programs in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The training programs for incumbent workers under this paragraph shall be carried out by the local area in conjunction with the employers of such workers for the purpose of assisting such workers in obtaining the skills necessary to retain employment and avert layoffs.

“(C) EMPLOYER MATCH REQUIRED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Employers participating in programs under this paragraph shall be required to pay a proportion of the costs of providing the training to the incumbent workers of the employers. The local board shall establish the required payment toward such costs, which may include in-kind contributions.

“(ii) CALCULATION OF MATCH.—The wages paid by an employer to a worker while they are attending training may be included as part of the required payment of the employer.”;

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) PRIORITY FOR PLACEMENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS.—In providing employment and

training activities authorized under this section, the State board and local board shall give priority to placing participants in jobs in the private sector.

“(f) VETERAN EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (8), a local board shall hire and employ one or more veteran employment specialists to carry out employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection in the local area served by the local board.

“(2) PRINCIPAL DUTIES.—A veteran employment specialist in a local area shall—

“(A) conduct outreach to employers in the local area to assist veterans, including disabled veterans, in gaining employment, including—

“(i) conducting seminars for employers; and

“(ii) in conjunction with employers, conducting job search workshops, and establishing job search groups; and

“(B) facilitate the furnishing of employment, training, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans, in the local area.

“(3) HIRING PREFERENCE FOR VETERANS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPERTISE IN SERVING VETERANS.—Subject to paragraph (8), a local board shall, to the maximum extent practicable, employ veterans or individuals with expertise in serving veterans to carry out the services described in paragraph (2) in the local area served by the local board. In hiring an individual to serve as a veteran employment specialist, a local board shall give preference to veterans and other individuals in the following order:

“(A) To service-connected disabled veterans.

“(B) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) is available, to veterans.

“(C) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) or (B) is available, to any member of the Armed Forces transitioning out of military service.

“(D) If no veteran or member described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) is available, to any spouse of a veteran or a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces transitioning out of military service.

“(E) If no veteran or member described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) is available and no spouse described in paragraph (D) is available, to any other individuals with expertise in serving veterans.

“(4) ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each veteran employment specialist shall be administratively responsible to the one-stop operator of the one-stop center in the local area and shall provide, at a minimum, quarterly reports to the one-stop operator of such center and to the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training for the State on the specialist's performance, and compliance by the specialist with Federal law (including regulations), with respect to the—

“(i) principal duties (including facilitating the furnishing of services) for veterans described in paragraph (2); and

“(ii) hiring preferences described in paragraph (3) for veterans and other individuals.

“(B) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Each State shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on the qualifications used by each local board in the State in making hiring determinations for a veteran employment specialist and the salary structure under which such specialist is compensated.

“(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representa-

tives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate an annual report summarizing the reports submitted under subparagraph (B), and including summaries of outcomes achieved by participating veterans, disaggregated by local areas.

“(5) PART-TIME EMPLOYEES.—A part-time veteran employment specialist shall perform the functions of a veteran employment specialist under this subsection on a halftime basis.

“(6) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—Each veteran employment specialist described in paragraph (2) shall satisfactorily complete training provided by the National Veterans' Employment and Training Institute during the 3-year period that begins on the date on which the employee is so assigned.

“(7) SPECIALIST'S DUTIES.—A full-time veteran employment specialist shall perform only duties related to employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection, and shall not perform other non-veteran-related duties if such duties detract from the specialist's ability to perform the specialist's duties related to employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection.

“(8) STATE OPTION.—At the request of a local board, a State may opt to assume the duties assigned to the local board under paragraphs (1) and (3), including the hiring and employment of one or more veteran employment specialists for placement in the local area served by the local board.”

SEC. 23. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

Section 136 (29 U.S.C. 2871) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraphs (1) and (2) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each State, the State performance measures shall consist of—

“(A)(i) the core indicators of performance described in paragraph (2)(A); and

“(ii) additional indicators of performance (if any) identified by the State under paragraph (2)(B); and

“(B) a State adjusted level of performance for each indicator described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(A) CORE INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The core indicators of performance for the program of employment and training activities authorized under sections 132(a)(2) and 134, the program of adult education and family literacy education activities authorized under title II, and the program authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741), shall consist of the following indicators of performance (with performance determined in the aggregate and as disaggregated by the populations identified in the State and local plan in each case):

“(I) The percentage and number of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second full calendar quarter after exit from the program.

“(II) The percentage and number of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the fourth full calendar quarter after exit from the program.

“(III) The difference in the median earnings of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second full calendar quarter after exit from the program, compared to the median earnings of such participants prior to participation in such program.

“(IV) The percentage and number of program participants who obtain a recognized postsecondary credential (such as an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program), or a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (subject to clause (ii)), during participation in or within 1 year after exit from the program.

“(V) The percentage and number of program participants who, during a program year—

“(aa) are in an education or training program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential (such as an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program), a certificate from an on-the-job training program, a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or unsubsidized employment; and

“(bb) are achieving measurable basic skill gains toward such a credential, certificate, diploma, or employment.

“(VI) The percentage and number of program participants who obtain unsubsidized employment in the field relating to the training services described in section 134(c)(4) that such participants received.

“(ii) INDICATOR RELATING TO CREDENTIAL.—For purposes of clause (i)(IV), program participants who obtain a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent shall be included in the percentage counted as meeting the criterion under such clause only if such participants (in addition to obtaining such diploma or its recognized equivalent), within 1 year after exit from the program, have obtained or retained employment, have been removed from public assistance, or have begun an education or training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential.

“(B) ADDITIONAL INDICATORS.—A State may identify in the State plan additional indicators for workforce investment activities authorized under this subtitle.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the heading, by striking “AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDICATOR”;

(II) in clause (i), by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator described in paragraph (2)(B)”;

(III) in clause (ii), by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator of performance, for the first 3” and inserting “, for all 3”;

(IV) in clause (iii)—

(aa) in the heading, by striking “FOR FIRST 3 YEARS”; and

(bb) by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator of performance, for the first 3 program years” and inserting “for all 3 program years”;

(V) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by striking “or (v)”;

(bb) by striking subclause (I) and redesignating subclauses (II) and (III) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively; and

(cc) in subclause (I) (as so redesignated)—

(AA) by inserting “, such as unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries” after “economic conditions”; and

(BB) by inserting “, such as indicators of poor work experience, dislocation from high-wage employment, low levels of literacy or English proficiency, disability status (including disability status among veterans), and welfare dependency,” after “program”;

(VI) by striking clause (v) and redesignating clause (vi) as clause (v); and

(VII) in clause (v) (as so redesignated)—

(aa) by striking “described in clause (iv)(II)” and inserting “described in clause (iv)(I)”; and

(bb) by striking “or (v)”; and

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “paragraph (2)(C)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(B)”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending clause (i) of paragraph (1)(A) to read as follows:

“(i) the core indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for activities described in such subsection, other than statewide workforce investment activities; and”;

(B) in clause (ii) of paragraph (1)(A), by striking “(b)(2)(C)” and inserting “(b)(2)(B)”; and

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) DETERMINATIONS.—In determining such local levels of performance, the local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall ensure such levels are adjusted based on the specific economic conditions (such as unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries), or demographic characteristics or other characteristics of the population to be served, in the local area.”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “127 or”;

(ii) by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator” each place it appears; and

(iii) in the last sentence, by inserting before the period the following: “, and on the amount and percentage of the State’s annual allotment under section 132 the State spends on administrative costs and on the amount and percentage of its annual allocation under section 133 each local area in the State spends on administrative costs”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (A);

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (B);

(iv) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking “(excluding participants who received only self-service and informational activities)”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(v) by striking subparagraph (F); and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) with respect to each local area in the State—

“(i) the number of individuals who received work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the number of individuals who received training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services, and the amount of funds spent on each of the 2 types of services during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 fiscal years;

“(ii) the number of individuals who successfully exited out of work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the number of individuals who exited out of training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received

work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services; and

“(iii) the average cost per participant of those individuals who received work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the average cost per participant of those individuals who received training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services; and

“(D) the amount of funds spent on training services and discretionary activities described in section 134(d), disaggregated by the populations identified under section 112(b)(16)(A)(iv) and section 118(b)(10).”;

(C) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “through publication” and inserting “through electronic means”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DATA VALIDATION.—In preparing the reports described in this subsection, each State shall establish procedures, consistent with guidelines issued by the Secretary, to ensure the information contained in the reports is valid and reliable.

“(5) STATE AND LOCAL POLICIES.—

“(A) STATE POLICIES.—Each State that receives an allotment under section 132 shall maintain a central repository of policies related to access, eligibility, availability of services, and other matters, and plans approved by the State board and make such repository available to the public, including by electronic means.

“(B) LOCAL POLICIES.—Each local area that receives an allotment under section 133 shall maintain a central repository of policies related to access, eligibility, availability of services, and other matters, and plans approved by the local board and make such repository available to the public, including by electronic means.”;

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or (B)”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “may reduce by not more than 5 percent,” and inserting “shall reduce”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) FUNDS RESULTING FROM REDUCED ALLOTMENTS.—The Secretary shall return to the Treasury the amount retained, as a result of a reduction in an allotment to a State made under paragraph (1)(B).”;

(5) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or (B)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by amending the matter preceding clause (i) to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If such failure continues for a second consecutive year, the Governor shall take corrective actions, including the development of a reorganization plan. Such plan shall—”;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A), the following:

“(B) REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF GRANT.—If such failure continues for a third consecu-

tive year, the Governor shall reduce the amount of the grant that would (in the absence of this subparagraph) be payable to the local area under such program for the program year after such third consecutive year. Such penalty shall be based on the degree of failure to meet local levels of performance.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C)(i) (as so redesignated), by striking “a reorganization plan under subparagraph (A) may, not later than 30 days after receiving notice of the reorganization plan, appeal to the Governor to rescind or revise such plan” and inserting “corrective action under subparagraph (A) or (B) may, not later than 30 days after receiving notice of the action, appeal to the Governor to rescind or revise such action”; and

(v) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesignated), by striking “subparagraph (B)” each place it appears and inserting “subparagraph (C)”; and

(6) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “subsection (b)(2)(C)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(B)”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “(b)(3)(A)(vi)” and inserting “(b)(3)(A)(v)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “the activities described in section 502 concerning”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “described in paragraph (1) and in the activities described in section 502” and inserting “and activities described in this subsection”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(j) USE OF CORE INDICATORS FOR OTHER PROGRAMS.—Consistent with the requirements of the applicable authorizing laws, the Secretary shall use the core indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) to assess the effectiveness of the programs described in section 121(b)(1)(B) (in addition to the programs carried out under chapter 5) that are carried out by the Secretary.

“(k) ESTABLISHING PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Governor of a State, a State may establish an incentive system for local boards to implement pay-for-performance contract strategies for the delivery of employment and training activities in the local areas served by the local boards.

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—A State that establishes a pay-for-performance incentive system shall reserve not more than 10 percent of the total amount allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) for a fiscal year to provide funds to local areas in the State whose local boards have implemented a pay-for-performance contract strategy.

“(3) EVALUATIONS.—A State described in paragraph (2) shall use funds reserved by the State under section 133(a)(1) to evaluate the return on investment of pay-for-performance contract strategies implemented by local boards in the State.”.

SEC. 24. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 137 (29 U.S.C. 2872) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 137. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 132, \$6,245,318,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.”.

CHAPTER 3—JOB CORPS

SEC. 26. JOB CORPS PURPOSES.

Paragraph (1) of section 141 (29 U.S.C. 2881(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) to maintain a national Job Corps program for at-risk youth, carried out in partnership with States and communities, to assist eligible youth to connect to the workforce by providing them with intensive academic, career and technical education, and service-learning opportunities, in residential and nonresidential centers, in order for such youth to obtain regular secondary school diplomas and recognized postsecondary credentials leading to successful careers in in-demand industries that will result in opportunities for advancement;”.

SEC. 27. JOB CORPS DEFINITIONS.

Section 142 (29 U.S.C. 2882) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—
(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “APPLICABLE ONE-STOP” and inserting “ONE-STOP”;
(B) by striking “applicable”;
(C) by striking “customer service”; and
(D) by striking “intake” and inserting “assessment”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “before completing the requirements” and all that follows and inserting “prior to becoming a graduate.”; and

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking “has completed the requirements” and all that follows and inserting the following: “who, as a result of participation in the Job Corps program, has received a regular secondary school diploma, completed the requirements of a career and technical education and training program, or received, or is making satisfactory progress (as defined under section 484(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(c)) toward receiving, a recognized postsecondary credential (including an industry-recognized credential) that prepares individuals for employment leading to economic self-sufficiency.”.

SEC. 28. INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR THE JOB CORPS.

Section 144 (29 U.S.C. 2884) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) not less than age 16 and not more than age 24 on the date of enrollment;”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “secondary” before “school”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(E), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education and”.

SEC. 29. RECRUITMENT, SCREENING, SELECTION, AND ASSIGNMENT OF ENROLLEES.

Section 145 (29 U.S.C. 2885) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) in paragraph (2)(C)(i) by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education and training”; and
(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “To the extent practicable, the” and inserting “The”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “applicable”; and
(II) by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(iii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C); and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) organizations that have a demonstrated record of effectiveness in placing at-risk youth into employment.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and agrees to such rules” after “failure to observe the rules”; and

(ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) the individual has passed a background check conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary, which shall include—

“(i) a search of the State criminal registry or repository in the State where the individual resides and each State where the individual previously resided;

“(ii) a search of State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases in the State where the individual resides and each State where the individual previously resided;

“(iii) a search of the National Crime Information Center;

“(iv) a Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check using the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System; and

“(v) a search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.).”;

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF A CRIME.—An individual shall be ineligible for enrollment if the individual—

“(A) makes a false statement in connection with the criminal background check described in paragraph (1)(C);

“(B) is registered or is required to be registered on a State sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.); or

“(C) has been convicted of a felony consisting of—

“(i) homicide;

“(ii) child abuse or neglect;

“(iii) a crime against children, including child pornography;

“(iv) a crime involving rape or sexual assault; or

“(v) physical assault, battery, or a drug-related offense, committed within the past 5 years.”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “2 years” and inserting “year”; and

(ii) by striking “an assignment” and inserting “a”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “, every 2 years.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by inserting “the education and training” after “including”; and

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) the performance of the Job Corps center relating to the indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) in section 159(c), and whether any actions have been taken with respect to such center pursuant to section 159(f).”;

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “is closest to the home of the enrollee, except that the” and inserting “offers the type of career and technical education and training selected by the individual and, among the centers that offer such education and training, is closest to the home of the individual. The”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “that offers the career and technical education and training desired by” after “home of the enrollee”.

SEC. 30. JOB CORPS CENTERS.

Section 147 (29 U.S.C. 2887) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “vocational” both places it appears and inserting “career and technical”; and
(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “subsections (c) and (d) of section 303 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253)” and inserting “subsections (a) and (b) of section 3304 of title 41, United States Code”; and
(II) by striking “industry council” and inserting “workforce council”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(I) by amending subclause (II) to read as follows:

“(II) the ability of the entity to offer career and technical education and training that the workforce council proposes under section 154(c);”;

(II) in subclause (III), by striking “is familiar with the surrounding communities, applicable” and inserting “demonstrates relationships with the surrounding communities, employers, workforce boards,” and by striking “and” at the end;

(III) by amending subclause (IV) to read as follows:

“(IV) the performance of the entity, if any, relating to operating or providing activities described in this subtitle to a Job Corps center, including the entity’s demonstrated effectiveness in assisting individuals in achieving the primary and secondary indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c); and”;

(IV) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(V) the ability of the entity to demonstrate a record of successfully assisting at-risk youth to connect to the workforce, including by providing them with intensive academic, and career and technical education and training.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(I) by striking “, as appropriate”; and
(II) by striking “through (IV)” and inserting “through (V)”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “In any year, no more than 20 percent of the individuals enrolled in the Job Corps may be non-residential participants in the Job Corps.”;

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Job Corps centers may include Civilian Conservation Centers, operated under an agreement between the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, that are located primarily in rural areas. Such centers shall adhere to all the provisions of this subtitle, and shall provide, in addition to education, career and technical education and training, and workforce preparation skills training described in section 148, programs of work experience to conserve, develop, or manage public natural resources or public recreational areas or to develop community projects in the public interest.

“(2) SELECTION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall select an entity that submits an application under subsection (d) to operate a Civilian Conservation Center on a competitive basis, as provided in subsection (a).”;

(4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to operate a Job Corps center under this subtitle, an entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and

containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

“(1) a description of the program activities that will be offered at the center, including how the career and technical education and training reflect State and local employment opportunities, including in in-demand industries;

“(2) a description of the counseling, placement, and support activities that will be offered at the center, including a description of the strategies and procedures the entity will use to place graduates into unsubsidized employment upon completion of the program;

“(3) a description of the demonstrated record of effectiveness that the entity has in placing at-risk youth into employment, including past performance of operating a Job Corps center under this subtitle;

“(4) a description of the relationships that the entity has developed with State and local workforce boards, employers, State and local educational agencies, and the surrounding communities in an effort to promote a comprehensive statewide workforce investment system;

“(5) a description of the strong fiscal controls the entity has in place to ensure proper accounting of Federal funds, and a description of how the entity will meet the requirements of section 159(a);

“(6) a description of the strategies and policies the entity will utilize to reduce participant costs;

“(7) a description of the steps taken to control costs in accordance with section 159(a)(3);

“(8) a detailed budget of the activities that will be supported using funds under this subtitle;

“(9) a detailed budget of the activities that will be supported using funds from non-Federal resources;

“(10) an assurance the entity will comply with the administrative cost limitation included in section 151(c);

“(11) an assurance the entity is licensed to operate in the State in which the center is located; and

“(12) an assurance the entity will comply with and meet basic health and safety codes, including those measures described in section 152(b).

“(e) **LENGTH OF AGREEMENT.**—The agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A) shall be for not longer than a 2-year period. The Secretary may renew the agreement for 3 1-year periods if the entity meets the requirements of subsection (f).

“(f) **RENEWAL.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may renew the terms of an agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A) for an entity to operate a Job Corps center if the center meets or exceeds each of the indicators of performance described in section 159(c)(1).

“(2) **RECOMPETITION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not renew the terms of the agreement for an entity to operate a Job Corps center if such center is ranked in the bottom quintile of centers described in section 159(f)(2) for any program year. Such entity may submit a new application under subsection (d) only if such center has shown significant improvement on the indicators of performance described in section 159(c)(1) over the last program year.

“(B) **VIOLATIONS.**—The Secretary shall not select an entity to operate a Job Corps center if such entity or such center has been found to have a systemic or substantial material failure that involves—

“(i) a threat to the health, safety, or civil rights of program participants or staff;

“(ii) the misuse of funds received under this subtitle;

“(iii) loss of legal status or financial viability, loss of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds;

“(iv) failure to meet any other Federal or State requirement that the entity has shown an unwillingness or inability to correct, after notice from the Secretary, within the period specified; or

“(v) an unresolved area of noncompliance.

“(g) **CURRENT GRANTEES.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act and notwithstanding any previous grant award or renewals of such award under this subtitle, the Secretary shall require all entities operating a Job Corps center under this subtitle to submit an application under subsection (d) to carry out the requirements of this section.”

SEC. 31. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

Section 148 (29 U.S.C. 2888) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) **ACTIVITIES PROVIDED THROUGH JOB CORPS CENTERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees with an intensive, well-organized, and supervised program of education, career and technical education and training, work experience, recreational activities, physical rehabilitation and development, and counseling. Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees assigned to the center with access to work ready services described in section 134(c)(2).

“(2) **RELATIONSHIP TO OPPORTUNITIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The activities provided under this subsection shall be targeted to helping enrollees, on completion of their enrollment—

“(i) secure and maintain meaningful unsubsidized employment;

“(ii) complete secondary education and obtain a regular secondary school diploma;

“(iii) enroll in and complete postsecondary education or training programs, including obtaining recognized postsecondary credentials (such as industry-recognized credentials and certificates from registered apprenticeship programs); or

“(iv) satisfy Armed Forces requirements.

“(B) **LINK TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.**—The career and technical education and training provided shall be linked to the employment opportunities in in-demand industries in the State in which the Job Corps center is located.”

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL” and inserting “ACADEMIC AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND”;

(B) by striking “may” after “The Secretary” and inserting “shall”; and

(C) by striking “vocational” each place it appears and inserting “career and technical”; and

(3) by amending paragraph (3) of subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(3) **DEMONSTRATION.**—Each year, any operator seeking to enroll additional enrollees in an advanced career training program shall demonstrate, before the operator may carry out such additional enrollment, that—

“(A) participants in such program have achieved a satisfactory rate of completion and placement in training-related jobs; and

“(B) such operator has met or exceeded the indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c) for the previous year.”

SEC. 32. COUNSELING AND JOB PLACEMENT.

Section 149 (29 U.S.C. 2889) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education and”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “make every effort to arrange to”; and

(B) by striking “to assist” and inserting “assist”; and

(3) by striking subsection (d).

SEC. 33. SUPPORT.

Subsection (b) of section 150 (29 U.S.C. 2890) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) **TRANSITION ALLOWANCES AND SUPPORT FOR GRADUATES.**—The Secretary shall arrange for a transition allowance to be paid to graduates. The transition allowance shall be incentive-based to reflect a graduate’s completion of academic, career and technical education or training, and attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential.”

SEC. 34. OPERATIONS.

Section 151 (29 U.S.C. 2891) is amended—

(1) in the header, by striking “**OPERATING PLAN.**” and inserting “**OPERATIONS.**”;

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “**IN GENERAL.**” and inserting “**OPERATING PLAN.**”;

(3) by striking subsection (b) and redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(4) by amending subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the heading by inserting “**OF OPERATING PLAN**” after “**AVAILABILITY**”; and

(B) by striking “subsections (a) and (b)” and inserting “subsection (a)”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—Not more than 10 percent of the funds allotted under section 147 to an entity selected to operate a Job Corps center may be used by the entity for administrative costs under this subtitle.”

SEC. 35. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

Section 153 (29 U.S.C. 2893) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 153. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

“The director of each Job Corps center shall encourage and cooperate in activities to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between Job Corps centers in the State and nearby communities. Such activities may include the use of any local workforce development boards established under section 117 to provide a mechanism for joint discussion of common problems and for planning programs of mutual interest.”

SEC. 36. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

Section 154 (29 U.S.C. 2894) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 154. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Job Corps center shall have a workforce council appointed by the Governor of the State in which the Job Corps center is located.

“(b) **WORKFORCE COUNCIL COMPOSITION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A workforce council shall be comprised of—

“(A) business members of the State board described in section 111(b)(1)(B)(i);

“(B) business members of the local boards described in section 117(b)(2)(A) located in the State;

“(C) a representative of the State board described in section 111(f); and

“(D) such other representatives and State agency officials as the Governor may designate.

“(2) **MAJORITY.**—A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the members of the workforce council shall be representatives described in paragraph (1)(A).

“(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the workforce council shall be—

“(1) to review all the relevant labor market information, including related information in the State plan described in section 112, to—

“(A) determine the in-demand industries in the State in which enrollees intend to seek employment after graduation;

“(B) determine the skills and education that are necessary to obtain the employment opportunities described in subparagraph (A); and

“(C) determine the type or types of career and technical education and training that will be implemented at the center to enable the enrollees to obtain the employment opportunities; and

“(2) to meet at least once a year to re-evaluate the labor market information, and other relevant information, to determine any necessary changes in the career and technical education and training provided at the center.”.

SEC. 37. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 156 (29 U.S.C. 2896) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 156. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CENTERS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the funds reserved under section 132(a)(3), the Secretary shall provide, directly or through grants, contracts, or other agreements or arrangements as the Secretary considers appropriate, technical assistance and training for the Job Corps program for the purposes of improving program quality.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—In providing training and technical assistance and for allocating resources for such assistance, the Secretary shall—

“(1) assist entities, including those entities not currently operating a Job Corps center, in developing the application described in section 147(d);

“(2) assist Job Corps centers and programs in correcting deficiencies and violations under this subtitle;

“(3) assist Job Corps centers and programs in meeting or exceeding the indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c); and

“(4) assist Job Corps centers and programs in the development of sound management practices, including financial management procedures.”.

SEC. 38. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

Section 158(c)(1) (29 U.S.C. 2989(c)(1)) is amended by striking “title II of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 481 et seq.)” and inserting “chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code.”.

SEC. 39. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MANAGEMENT.

Section 159 (29 U.S.C. 2899) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “MANAGEMENT INFORMATION” and inserting “PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY AND MANAGEMENT”;

(2) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, or operating costs for such centers result in a budgetary shortfall”;

(3) by striking subsections (c) through (g); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(1) PRIMARY INDICATORS.—The annual primary indicators of performance for Job Corps centers shall include—

“(A) the percentage and number of enrollees who graduate from the Job Corps center;

“(B) the percentage and number of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment

related to the career and technical education and training received through the Job Corps center, except that such calculation shall not include enrollment in education, the military, or volunteer service;

“(C) the percentage and number of graduates who obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program; and

“(D) the cost per successful performance outcome, which is calculated by comparing the number of graduates who were placed in unsubsidized employment or obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential, to total program costs, including all operations, construction, and administration costs at each Job Corps center.

“(2) SECONDARY INDICATORS.—The annual secondary indicators of performance for Job Corps centers shall include—

“(A) the percentage and number of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment not related to the career and technical education and training received through the Job Corps center;

“(B) the percentage and number of graduates who entered into postsecondary education;

“(C) the percentage and number of graduates who entered into the military;

“(D) the average wage of graduates who are in unsubsidized employment—

“(i) on the first day of employment; and

“(ii) 6 months after the first day;

“(E) the number and percentage of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment and were retained in the unsubsidized employment—

“(i) 6 months after the first day of employment; and

“(ii) 12 months after the first day of employment;

“(F) the percentage and number of enrollees compared to the percentage and number of enrollees the Secretary has established as targets in section 145(c)(1);

“(G) the cost per training slot, which is calculated by comparing the program’s maximum number of enrollees that can be enrolled in a Job Corps center at any given time during the program year to the number of enrollees in the same program year; and

“(H) the number and percentage of former enrollees, including the number dismissed under the zero tolerance policy described in section 152(b).

“(3) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE FOR RECRUITERS.—The annual indicators of performance for recruiters shall include the measurements described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H) of paragraph (2).

“(4) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE OF CAREER TRANSITION SERVICE PROVIDERS.—The annual indicators of performance of career transition service providers shall include the measurements described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) and subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) of paragraph (2).

“(d) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall collect, and submit in the report described in subsection (f), information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, regarding—

“(1) the number and percentage of former enrollees who obtained a regular secondary school diploma;

“(2) the number and percentage of former enrollees who entered unsubsidized employment;

“(3) the number and percentage of former enrollees who obtained a recognized postsec-

ondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential;

“(4) the number and percentage of former enrollees who entered into military service; and

“(5) any additional information required by the Secretary.

“(e) METHODS.—The Secretary shall collect the information described in subsections (c) and (d), using methods described in section 136(f)(2) and consistent with State law, by entering into agreements with the States to access such data for Job Corps enrollees, former enrollees, and graduates.

“(f) TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

“(1) REPORT.—The Secretary shall collect and annually submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate, and make available to the public by electronic means, a report containing—

“(A) information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, on the performance indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

“(B) a comparison of each Job Corps center, by rank, on the performance indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

“(C) a comparison of each Job Corps center, by rank, on the average performance of all primary indicators described in paragraph (1) of subsection (c);

“(D) information on the performance of the service providers described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c) on the performance indicators established under such paragraphs; and

“(E) a comparison of each service provider, by rank, on the performance of all service providers described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c) on the performance indicators established under such paragraphs.

“(2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall conduct an annual assessment of the performance of each Job Corps center which shall include information on the Job Corps centers that—

“(A) are ranked in the bottom 10 percent on the performance indicator described in paragraph (1)(C); or

“(B) have failed a safety and health code review described in subsection (g).

“(3) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT.—With respect to a Job Corps center that is identified under paragraph (2) or reports less than 50 percent on the performance indicators described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall develop and implement a 1 year performance improvement plan. Such a plan shall require action including—

“(A) providing technical assistance to the center;

“(B) changing the management staff of the center;

“(C) replacing the operator of the center;

“(D) reducing the capacity of the center; or

“(E) closing the center.

“(4) CLOSURE OF JOB CORPS CENTERS.—Job Corps centers that have been identified under paragraph (2) for more than 4 consecutive years shall be closed. The Secretary shall ensure—

“(A) that the proposed decision to close the center is announced in advance to the general public through publication in the Federal Register and other appropriate means; and

“(B) the establishment of a reasonable comment period, not to exceed 30 days, for interested individuals to submit written comments to the Secretary.

“(g) PARTICIPANT HEALTH AND SAFETY.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the General Services Administration or the appropriate State agency responsible for inspecting public buildings and safeguarding the health of disadvantaged students, to conduct an in-person review of the physical condition and health-related activities of each Job Corps center annually. Such review shall include a passing rate of occupancy under Federal and State ordinances.”.

CHAPTER 4—NATIONAL PROGRAMS

SEC. 41. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 170 (29 U.S.C. 2915) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b);

(2) by striking:

“(a) GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—”;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subsections (a), (b), and (c) respectively, and moving such subsections 2 ems to the left, and conforming the casing style of the headings of such subsections to the casing style of the heading of subsection (d), as added by paragraph (7) of this section;

(4) in subsection (a) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by inserting “the training of staff providing rapid response services and additional assistance, the training of other staff of recipients of funds under this title, assistance regarding accounting and program operation practices (when such assistance would not be duplicative to assistance provided by the State), technical assistance to States that do not meet State performance measures described in section 136,” after “localities.”; and

(B) by striking “from carrying out activities” and all that follows up to the period and inserting “to implement the amendments made by the SKILLS Act”;

(5) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “subsection (a)”;

(B) by striking “, or recipient of financial assistance under any of sections 166 through 169.”; and

(C) by striking “or grant recipient”;

(6) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “subsection (a)”;

(7) by inserting, after subsection (c) (as so redesignated), the following:

“(d) BEST PRACTICES COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) establish a system through which States may share information regarding best practices with regard to the operation of workforce investment activities under this Act; and

“(2) evaluate and disseminate information regarding best practices and identify knowledge gaps.”.

SEC. 42. EVALUATIONS.

Section 172 (29 U.S.C. 2917) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “the Secretary shall provide for the continuing evaluation of the programs and activities, including those programs and activities carried out under section 171” and inserting “the Secretary, through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, shall conduct, at least once every 5 years, an independent evaluation of the programs and activities funded under this Act”;

(2) by amending subsection (a)(4) to read as follows:

“(4) the impact of receiving services and not receiving services under such programs and activities on the community, businesses, and individuals.”;

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) TECHNIQUES.—Evaluations conducted under this section shall utilize appropriate

and rigorous methodology and research designs, including the use of control groups chosen by scientific random assignment methodologies, quasi-experimental methods, impact analysis and the use of administrative data. The Secretary shall conduct an impact analysis, as described in subsection (a)(4), of the formula grant program under subtitle B not later than 2016, and thereafter shall conduct such an analysis not less than once every 4 years.”;

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate” and inserting “the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate”;

(5) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g) and inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) REDUCTION OF AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED FOR LATE REPORTING.—If a report required to be transmitted to Congress under this section is not transmitted on or before the time period specified for that report, amounts authorized to be appropriated under this title shall be reduced by 10 percent for the fiscal year that begins after the date on which the final report required under this section is required to be transmitted and reduced by an additional 10 percent each subsequent fiscal year until each such report is transmitted to Congress.”; and

(6) by adding at the end, the following:

“(h) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The results of the evaluations conducted under this section shall be made publicly available, including by posting such results on the Department’s website.”.

CHAPTER 5—ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 46. REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS.

Section 181 (29 U.S.C. 2931) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(6), by striking “, including representatives of businesses and of labor organizations.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “shall” and inserting “may”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “training for” and inserting “the entry into employment, retention in employment, or increases in earnings of”;

(B) by striking “subtitle B” and inserting “this Act”;

(4) in subsection (f)(4), by striking “134(a)(3)(B)” and inserting “133(a)(4)”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) SALARY AND BONUS LIMITATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds provided under this title shall be used by a recipient or subrecipient of such funds to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or indirect costs, at a rate in excess of the rate prescribed in level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) VENDORS.—The limitation described in paragraph (1) shall not apply to vendors providing goods and services as defined in OMB Circular A-133.

“(3) LOWER LIMIT.—In a case in which a State is a recipient of such funds, the State may establish a lower limit than is provided in paragraph (1) for salaries and bonuses of those receiving salaries and bonuses from a subrecipient of such funds, taking into account factors including the relative cost of living in the State, the compensation levels for comparable State or local government employees, and the size of the organizations that administer the Federal programs involved.

“(h) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Employment and Training Administration of the Department

of Labor (referred to in this Act as the ‘Administration’) shall administer all programs authorized under title I and the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.). The Administration shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Except for title II and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the Administration shall be the principal agency, and the Assistant Secretary shall be the principal officer, of such Department for carrying out this Act.

“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Secretary shall be an individual with substantial experience in workforce development and in workforce development management. The Assistant Secretary shall also, to the maximum extent possible, possess knowledge and have worked in or with the State or local workforce investment system or have been a member of the business community.

“(3) FUNCTIONS.—In the performance of the functions of the office, the Assistant Secretary shall be directly responsible to the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary of Labor, as determined by the Secretary. The functions of the Assistant Secretary shall not be delegated to any officer not directly responsible, both with respect to program operation and administration, to the Assistant Secretary. Any reference in this Act to duties to be carried out by the Assistant Secretary shall be considered to be a reference to duties to be carried out by the Secretary acting through the Assistant Secretary.”.

SEC. 47. PROMPT ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

Section 182 (29 U.S.C. 2932) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “127 or”;

(B) by striking “, except that” and all that follows and inserting a period; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “sections 128 and 133” and inserting “section 133”;

(B) by striking “127 or”.

SEC. 48. FISCAL CONTROLS; SANCTIONS.

Section 184(a)(2) (29 U.S.C. 2934(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(A)” and all that follows through “Each” and inserting “Each”; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B).

SEC. 49. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 185 (29 U.S.C. 2935) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) shall have the option to submit or disseminate electronically any reports, records, plans, or other data that are required to be collected or disseminated under this title.”; and

(2) in subsection (e)(2), by inserting “and the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate,” after “Secretary.”.

SEC. 50. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Section 189 (29 U.S.C. 2939) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Appropriations for any fiscal year for programs and activities carried out under this title shall be available for obligation only on the basis of a program year. The program year shall begin on October 1 in the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “each State” and inserting “each recipient (except as otherwise provided in this paragraph)”;

and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking “171 or”;

(2) in subsection (i)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (2);

(C) by amending paragraph (2)(A), as so redesignated—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and inserting a period at the end;

(ii) by striking “requirements of subparagraph (B)” and all that follows through “any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of subtitle B” and inserting “requirements of subparagraph (B) or (D), any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of subtitle B”;

and

(iii) by striking clause (ii); and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) EXPEDITED PROCESS FOR EXTENDING APPROVED WAIVERS TO ADDITIONAL STATES.—The Secretary may establish an expedited procedure for the purpose of extending to additional States the waiver of statutory or regulatory requirements that have been approved for a State pursuant to a request under subparagraph (B), in lieu of requiring the additional States to meet the requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C). Such procedure shall ensure that the extension of such a waiver to additional States is accompanied by appropriate conditions relating to the implementation of such waiver.

“(E) EXTERNAL CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall not require or impose new or additional requirements, that are not specified under this Act, on a State in exchange for providing a waiver to the State or a local area in the State under this paragraph.”.

SEC. 51. STATE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

Section 191(a) (29 U.S.C. 2941(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “consistent with the provisions of this title” and inserting “consistent with State law and the provisions of this title”;

and

(2) by striking “consistent with the terms and conditions required under this title” and inserting “consistent with State law and the terms and conditions required under this title”.

SEC. 52. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Section 195 (29 U.S.C. 2945) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by inserting at the end the following:

“(D) Funds received under a program by a public or private nonprofit entity that are not described in subparagraph (B), such as funds privately raised from philanthropic foundations, businesses, or other private entities, shall not be considered to be income under this title and shall not be subject to the requirements of this paragraph.”;

(2) by striking paragraph (9);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (13) as paragraphs (9) through (12), respectively; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(13) Funds provided under this title shall not be used to establish or operate stand-alone fee-for-service enterprises that compete with private sector employment agencies within the meaning of section 701(c) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e(c)), except that for purposes of this paragraph, such an enterprise does not include a one-stop center.

“(14) Any report required to be submitted to Congress, or to a Committee of Congress, under this title shall be submitted to both the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.”.

SEC. 53. FEDERAL AGENCY STAFF AND RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL AND LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.

Subtitle E of title I (29 U.S.C. 2931 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

“SEC. 196. FEDERAL AGENCY STAFF.

“The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

“(1) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the SKILLS Act—

“(A) identify the number of Federal government employees who, on the day before the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act, worked on or administered each of the programs and activities that were authorized under this Act or were authorized under a provision listed in section 71 of the SKILLS Act; and

“(B) identify the number of full-time equivalent employees who on the day before that date of enactment, worked on or administered each of the programs and activities described in subparagraph (A), on functions for which the authorizing provision has been repealed, or for which an amount has been consolidated (if such employee is in a duplicate position), on or after such date of enactment;

“(2) not later than 90 after such date of enactment, publish the information described in paragraph (1) on the Office of Management and Budget website; and

“(3) not later than 1 year after such date of enactment—

“(A) reduce the workforce of the Federal Government by the number of full-time equivalent employees identified under paragraph (1)(B); and

“(B) submit to Congress a report on how the Director carried out the requirements of subparagraph (A).

“SEC. 197. RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

“(a) LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS.—

“(1) PUBLICITY RESTRICTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), no funds provided under this Act shall be used or proposed for use, for—

“(i) publicity or propaganda purposes; or

“(ii) the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, electronic communication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to—

“(i) normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships;

“(ii) the preparation, distribution, or use of the materials described in subparagraph (A)(i) in presentation to the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body (except that this subparagraph does not apply with respect to such preparation, distribution, or use in presentation to the executive branch of any State or local government); or

“(iii) such preparation, distribution, or use of such materials, that are designed to support or defeat any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government.

“(2) SALARY PAYMENT RESTRICTION.—No funds provided under this Act shall be used, or proposed for use, to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment or issuance of legislation, appropriations, regulations, administrative action, or an Executive order proposed or pending before the Congress or any State government, or a State or local legislature or legislative body, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships or participation by an agency or officer of a State, local, or tribal government in policymaking and administrative processes within the executive branch of that government.

“(b) POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds received by a participant of a program or activity under this Act shall be used for—

“(A) any partisan or nonpartisan political activity or any other political activity associated with a candidate, or contending faction or group, in an election for public or party office; or

“(B) any activity to provide voters with transportation to the polls or similar assistance in connection with any such election.

“(2) RESTRICTION ON VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—No funds under this Act shall be used to conduct voter registration activities.

“(3) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this subsection, the term ‘participant’ includes any State, local area, or government, nonprofit, or for-profit entity receiving funds under this Act.”.

CHAPTER 6—STATE UNIFIED PLAN

SEC. 56. STATE UNIFIED PLAN.

Section 501 (20 U.S.C. 9271) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall receive and approve State unified plans developed and submitted in accordance with this section.”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) STATE UNIFIED PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may develop and submit to the Secretary a State unified plan for 2 or more of the activities or programs set forth in paragraph (2). The State unified plan shall cover one or more of the activities or programs set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and shall cover one or more of the activities or programs set forth in subparagraphs (C) through (N) of paragraph (2).

“(2) ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘activity or program’ means any 1 of the following 14 activities or programs:

“(A) Activities and programs authorized under title I.

“(B) Activities and programs authorized under title II.

“(C) Programs authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 710 et seq.).

“(D) Secondary career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

“(E) Postsecondary career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

“(F) Activities and programs authorized under title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251 et seq.).

“(G) Programs and activities authorized under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly

known as the 'National Apprenticeship Act'; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

"(H) Programs authorized under the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.).

"(I) Programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

"(J) Programs authorized under State unemployment compensation laws (in accordance with applicable Federal law).

"(K) Work programs authorized under section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)).

"(L) Activities and programs authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

"(M) Activities and programs authorized under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.).

"(N) Activities authorized under chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.";

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

"(d) APPROVAL.—

"(1) JURISDICTION.—In approving a State unified plan under this section, the Secretary shall—

"(A) submit the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) to the head of the Federal agency who exercises administrative authority over the activity or program for the approval of such portion by such Federal agency head; or

"(B) coordinate approval of the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) with the head of the Federal agency who exercises administrative authority over the activity or program.

"(2) TIMELINE.—A State unified plan shall be considered to be approved by the Secretary at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the day the Secretary receives the plan, unless the Secretary makes a written determination, during the 90-day period, that details how the plan is not consistent with the requirements of the Federal statute authorizing an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) and covered under the plan or how the plan is not consistent with the requirements of subsection (c)(3).

"(3) SCOPE OF PORTION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program shall be considered to include the plan described in subsection (c)(3) and any proposal described in subsection (e)(2), as that part and proposal relate to the activity or program."; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(e) ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FUNDS.—

"(1) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subsection to reduce inefficiencies in the administration of federally funded State and local employment and training programs.

"(2) IN GENERAL.—In developing a State unified plan for the activities or programs described in subsection (b)(2), and subject to paragraph (4) and to the State plan approval process under subsection (d), a State may propose to consolidate the amount, in whole or part, provided for the activities or programs covered by the plan into the Workforce Investment Fund under section 132(b) to improve the administration of State and local employment and training programs.

"(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A State that has a State unified plan approved under subsection (d) with a proposal for consolidation under paragraph (2), and that is carrying out such consolidation, shall—

"(A) in providing an activity or program for which an amount is consolidated into the Workforce Investment Fund—

"(i) continue to meet the program requirements, limitations, and prohibitions of any Federal statute authorizing the activity or program; and

"(ii) meet the intent and purpose for the activity or program; and

"(B) continue to make reservations and allotments under subsections (a) and (b) of section 133.

"(4) EXCEPTIONS.—A State may not consolidate an amount under paragraph (2) that is allocated to the State under—

"(A) the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.); or

"(B) title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 710 et seq.)."

Subtitle B—Adult Education and Family Literacy Education

SEC. 61. AMENDMENT.

Title II (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

"TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION

"SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

"This title may be cited as the 'Adult Education and Family Literacy Education Act'.

"SEC. 202. PURPOSE.

"It is the purpose of this title to provide instructional opportunities for adults seeking to improve their literacy skills, including their basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, and support States and local communities in providing, on a voluntary basis, adult education and family literacy education programs, in order to—

"(1) increase the literacy of adults, including the basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, to a level of proficiency necessary for adults to obtain employment and self-sufficiency and to successfully advance in the workforce;

"(2) assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education (or its equivalent) and the transition to a postsecondary educational institution;

"(3) assist adults who are parents to enable them to support the educational development of their children and make informed choices regarding their children's education including, through instruction in basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills; and

"(4) assist adults who are not proficient in English in improving their reading, writing, speaking, listening, comprehension, and mathematics skills.

"SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

"In this title:

"(1) ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—The term 'adult education and family literacy education programs' means a sequence of academic instruction and educational services below the postsecondary level that increase an individual's ability to read, write, and speak English and perform mathematical computations leading to a level of proficiency equivalent to at least a secondary school completion that is provided for individuals—

"(A) who are at least 16 years of age;

"(B) who are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under State law; and

"(C) who—

"(i) lack sufficient mastery of basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills to enable the individuals to function effectively in society;

"(ii) do not have a secondary school diploma or its equivalent and have not achieved an equivalent level of education; or

"(iii) are English learners.

"(2) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term 'eligible agency'—

"(A) means the primary entity or agency in a State or an outlying area responsible for administering or supervising policy for adult education and family literacy education programs in the State or outlying area, respectively, consistent with the law of the State or outlying area, respectively; and

"(B) may be the State educational agency, the State agency responsible for administering workforce investment activities, or the State agency responsible for administering community or technical colleges.

"(3) ELIGIBLE PROVIDER.—The term 'eligible provider' means an organization of demonstrated effectiveness that is—

"(A) a local educational agency;

"(B) a community-based or faith-based organization;

"(C) a volunteer literacy organization;

"(D) an institution of higher education;

"(E) a public or private educational agency;

"(F) a library;

"(G) a public housing authority;

"(H) an institution that is not described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (G) and has the ability to provide adult education, basic skills, and family literacy education programs to adults and families; or

"(I) a consortium of the agencies, organizations, institutions, libraries, or authorities described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (H).

"(4) ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term 'English language acquisition program' means a program of instruction—

"(A) designed to help English learners achieve competence in reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension of the English language; and

"(B) that may lead to—

"(i) attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

"(ii) transition to success in postsecondary education and training; and

"(iii) employment or career advancement.

"(5) FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term 'family literacy education program' means an educational program that—

"(A) assists parents and students, on a voluntary basis, in achieving the purpose of this title as described in section 202; and

"(B) is of sufficient intensity in terms of hours and of sufficient quality to make sustainable changes in a family, is evidence-based, and, for the purpose of substantially increasing the ability of parents and children to read, write, and speak English, integrates—

"(i) interactive literacy activities between parents and their children;

"(ii) training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children;

"(iii) parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency; and

"(iv) an age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

"(6) GOVERNOR.—The term 'Governor' means the chief executive officer of a State or outlying area.

"(7) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'individual with a disability' means an individual with

any disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990).

“(B) INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The term ‘individuals with disabilities’ means more than one individual with a disability.

“(8) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term ‘English learner’ means an adult or out-of-school youth who has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or understanding the English language, and—

“(A) whose native language is a language other than English; or

“(B) who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.

“(9) INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The term ‘integrated education and training’ means services that provide adult education and literacy activities contextually and concurrently with workforce preparation activities and workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster. Such services may include offering adult education services concurrent with postsecondary education and training, including through co-instruction.

“(10) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(11) LITERACY.—The term ‘literacy’ means an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak in English, compute, and solve problems at a level of proficiency necessary to obtain employment and to successfully make the transition to postsecondary education.

“(12) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘local educational agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

“(13) OUTLYING AREA.—The term ‘outlying area’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of this Act.

“(14) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term ‘postsecondary educational institution’ means—

“(A) an institution of higher education that provides not less than a 2-year program of instruction that is acceptable for credit toward a bachelor’s degree;

“(B) a tribally controlled community college; or

“(C) a nonprofit educational institution offering certificate or apprenticeship programs at the postsecondary level.

“(15) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Education.

“(16) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

“(17) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘State educational agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

“(18) WORKPLACE LITERACY PROGRAM.—The term ‘workplace literacy program’ means an educational program that is offered in collaboration between eligible providers and employers or employee organizations for the purpose of improving the productivity of the workforce through the improvement of reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills.

“SEC. 204. HOME SCHOOLS.

“Nothing in this title shall be construed to affect home schools, whether or not a home school is treated as a home school or a private school under State law, or to compel a parent engaged in home schooling to participate in adult education and family literacy education activities under this title.

“SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title, \$606,294,933 for fiscal year 2015 and for each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.

“Subtitle A—Federal Provisions

“SEC. 211. RESERVATION OF FUNDS; GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES; ALLOTMENTS.

“(a) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 2.0 percent to carry out section 242.

“(b) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award a grant to each eligible agency having a State plan approved under section 224 in an amount equal to the sum of the initial allotment under subsection (c)(1) and the additional allotment under subsection (c)(2) for the eligible agency for the fiscal year, subject to subsections (f) and (g).

“(2) PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a grant under paragraph (1) only if the eligible agency involved agrees to expend the grant in accordance with the provisions of this title.

“(c) ALLOTMENTS.—

“(1) INITIAL ALLOTMENTS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency having a State plan approved under section 224—

“(A) \$100,000, in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area; and

“(B) \$250,000, in the case of any other eligible agency.

“(2) ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205, not reserved under subsection (a), and not allotted under paragraph (1), for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency that receives an initial allotment under paragraph (1) an additional amount that bears the same relationship to such sums as the number of qualifying adults in the State or outlying area served by the eligible agency bears to the number of such adults in all States and outlying areas.

“(d) QUALIFYING ADULT.—For the purpose of subsection (c)(2), the term ‘qualifying adult’ means an adult who—

“(1) is at least 16 years of age;

“(2) is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance under the law of the State or outlying area;

“(3) does not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; and

“(4) is not enrolled in secondary school.

“(e) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available under subsection (c) for the Republic of Palau, the Secretary shall award grants to Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Republic of Palau to carry out activities described in this title in accordance with the provisions of this title as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) TERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Republic of Palau shall be eligible to receive a grant under this title until an agreement for the extension of United States education assistance under the Compact of Free Association for the Republic of Palau becomes effective.

“(f) HOLD-HARMLESS PROVISIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (c) and subject to paragraph (2), for—

“(A) fiscal year 2015, no eligible agency shall receive an allotment under this title

that is less than 90 percent of the allotment the eligible agency received for fiscal year 2012 under this title; and

“(B) fiscal year 2016 and each succeeding fiscal year, no eligible agency shall receive an allotment under this title that is less than 90 percent of the allotment the eligible agency received for the preceding fiscal year under this title.

“(2) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If, for any fiscal year the amount available for allotment under this title is insufficient to satisfy the provisions of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ratable reduce the payments to all eligible agencies, as necessary.

“(g) REALLOTMENT.—The portion of any eligible agency’s allotment under this title for a fiscal year that the Secretary determines will not be required for the period such allotment is available for carrying out activities under this title, shall be available for reallocation from time to time, on such dates during such period as the Secretary shall fix, to other eligible agencies in proportion to the original allotments to such agencies under this title for such year.

“SEC. 212. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

“Programs and activities authorized under this title are subject to the performance accountability provisions described in paragraphs (2)(A) and (3) of section 136(b) and may, at a State’s discretion, include additional indicators identified in the State plan approved under section 224.

“Subtitle B—State Provisions

“SEC. 221. STATE ADMINISTRATION.

“Each eligible agency shall be responsible for the following activities under this title:

“(1) The development, submission, implementation, and monitoring of the State plan.

“(2) Consultation with other appropriate agencies, groups, and individuals that are involved in, or interested in, the development and implementation of activities assisted under this title.

“(3) Coordination and avoidance of duplication with other Federal and State education, training, corrections, public housing, and social service programs.

“SEC. 222. STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS; MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

“(a) STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Each eligible agency receiving a grant under this title for a fiscal year—

“(1) shall use not less than 82.5 percent of the grant funds to award grants and contracts under section 231 and to carry out section 225, of which not more than 10 percent of such amount shall be available to carry out section 225;

“(2) shall use not more than 12.5 percent of the grant funds to carry out State leadership activities under section 223; and

“(3) shall use not more than 5 percent of the grant funds, or \$65,000, whichever is greater, for the administrative expenses of the eligible agency.

“(b) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive a grant from the Secretary under section 211(b), each eligible agency shall provide, for the costs to be incurred by the eligible agency in carrying out the adult education and family literacy education programs for which the grant is awarded, a non-Federal contribution in an amount that is not less than—

“(A) in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area, 12 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs in the outlying area, except that the Secretary may decrease the amount of funds

required under this subparagraph for an eligible agency; and

“(B) in the case of an eligible agency serving a State, 25 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs in the State.

“(2) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—An eligible agency's non-Federal contribution required under paragraph (1) may be provided in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, and shall include only non-Federal funds that are used for adult education and family literacy education programs in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of this title.

“SEC. 223. STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible agency may use funds made available under section 222(a)(2) for any of the following adult education and family literacy education programs:

“(1) The establishment or operation of professional development programs to improve the quality of instruction provided pursuant to local activities required under section 231(b).

“(2) The provision of technical assistance to eligible providers of adult education and family literacy education programs, including for the development and dissemination of evidence based research instructional practices in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, and English language acquisition programs.

“(3) The provision of assistance to eligible providers in developing, implementing, and reporting measurable progress in achieving the objectives of this title.

“(4) The monitoring and evaluation of the quality of, and the improvement in, adult education and literacy activities.

“(5) The provision of technology assistance, including staff training, to eligible providers of adult education and family literacy education programs, including distance education activities, to enable the eligible providers to improve the quality of such activities.

“(6) The development and implementation of technology applications or distance education, including professional development to support the use of instructional technology.

“(7) Coordination with other public programs, including programs under title I of this Act, and other welfare-to-work, workforce development, and job training programs.

“(8) Coordination with existing support services, such as transportation, child care, and other assistance designed to increase rates of enrollment in, and successful completion of, adult education and family literacy education programs, for adults enrolled in such activities.

“(9) The development and implementation of a system to assist in the transition from adult basic education to postsecondary education.

“(10) Activities to promote workplace literacy programs.

“(11) Other activities of statewide significance, including assisting eligible providers in achieving progress in improving the skill levels of adults who participate in programs under this title.

“(12) Integration of literacy, instructional, and occupational skill training and promotion of linkages with employees.

“(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, eligible agencies shall coordinate where possible, and avoid duplicating efforts, in order to maximize the impact of the activities described in subsection (a).

“(c) STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS.—Whenever a State or outlying area imple-

ments any rule or policy relating to the administration or operation of a program authorized under this title that has the effect of imposing a requirement that is not imposed under Federal law (including any rule or policy based on a State or outlying area interpretation of a Federal statute, regulation, or guideline), the State or outlying area shall identify, to eligible providers, the rule or policy as being imposed by the State or outlying area.

“SEC. 224. STATE PLAN.

“(a) 3-YEAR PLANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible agency desiring a grant under this title for any fiscal year shall submit to, or have on file with, the Secretary a 3-year State plan.

“(2) STATE UNIFIED PLAN.—The eligible agency may submit the State plan as part of a State unified plan described in section 501.

“(b) PLAN CONTENTS.—The eligible agency shall include in the State plan or any revisions to the State plan—

“(1) an objective assessment of the needs of individuals in the State or outlying area for adult education and family literacy education programs, including individuals most in need or hardest to serve;

“(2) a description of the adult education and family literacy education programs that will be carried out with funds received under this title;

“(3) an assurance that the funds received under this title will not be expended for any purpose other than for activities under this title;

“(4) a description of how the eligible agency will annually evaluate and measure the effectiveness and improvement of the adult education and family literacy education programs funded under this title using the indicators of performance described in section 136, including how the eligible agency will conduct such annual evaluations and measures for each grant received under this title;

“(5) a description of how the eligible agency will fund local activities in accordance with the measurable goals described in section 231(d);

“(6) an assurance that the eligible agency will expend the funds under this title only in a manner consistent with fiscal requirements in section 241;

“(7) a description of the process that will be used for public participation and comment with respect to the State plan, which—

“(A) shall include consultation with the State workforce investment board, the State board responsible for administering community or technical colleges, the Governor, the State educational agency, the State board or agency responsible for administering block grants for temporary assistance to needy families under title IV of the Social Security Act, the State council on disabilities, the State vocational rehabilitation agency, and other State agencies that promote the improvement of adult education and family literacy education programs, and direct providers of such programs; and

“(B) may include consultation with the State agency on higher education, institutions responsible for professional development of adult education and family literacy education programs instructors, representatives of business and industry, refugee assistance programs, and faith-based organizations;

“(8) a description of the eligible agency's strategies for serving populations that include, at a minimum—

“(A) low-income individuals;

“(B) individuals with disabilities;

“(C) the unemployed;

“(D) the underemployed; and

“(E) individuals with multiple barriers to educational enhancement, including English learners;

“(9) a description of how the adult education and family literacy education programs that will be carried out with any funds received under this title will be integrated with other adult education, career development, and employment and training activities in the State or outlying area served by the eligible agency;

“(10) a description of the steps the eligible agency will take to ensure direct and equitable access, as required in section 231(c)(1), including—

“(A) how the State will build the capacity of community-based and faith-based organizations to provide adult education and family literacy education programs; and

“(B) how the State will increase the participation of business and industry in adult education and family literacy education programs;

“(11) an assessment of the adequacy of the system of the State or outlying area to ensure teacher quality and a description of how the State or outlying area will use funds received under this subtitle to improve teacher quality, including evidence-based professional development to improve instruction; and

“(12) a description of how the eligible agency will consult with any State agency responsible for postsecondary education to develop adult education that prepares students to enter postsecondary education without the need for remediation upon completion of secondary school equivalency programs.

“(c) PLAN REVISIONS.—When changes in conditions or other factors require substantial revisions to an approved State plan, the eligible agency shall submit the revisions of the State plan to the Secretary.

“(d) CONSULTATION.—The eligible agency shall—

“(1) submit the State plan, and any revisions to the State plan, to the Governor, the chief State school officer, or the State officer responsible for administering community or technical colleges, or outlying area for review and comment; and

“(2) ensure that any comments regarding the State plan by the Governor, the chief State school officer, or the State officer responsible for administering community or technical colleges, and any revision to the State plan, are submitted to the Secretary.

“(e) PLAN APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) approve a State plan within 90 days after receiving the plan unless the Secretary makes a written determination within 30 days after receiving the plan that the plan does not meet the requirements of this section or is inconsistent with specific provisions of this subtitle; and

“(2) not finally disapprove of a State plan before offering the eligible agency the opportunity, prior to the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the eligible agency received the written determination described in paragraph (1), to review the plan and providing technical assistance in order to assist the eligible agency in meeting the requirements of this subtitle.

“SEC. 225. PROGRAMS FOR CORRECTIONS EDUCATION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONALIZED INDIVIDUALS.

“(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From funds made available under section 222(a)(1) for a fiscal year, each eligible agency shall carry out corrections education and education for other institutionalized individuals.

“(b) USES OF FUNDS.—The funds described in subsection (a) shall be used for the cost of educational programs for criminal offenders in correctional institutions and for other institutionalized individuals, including academic programs for—

- “(1) basic skills education;
- “(2) special education programs as determined by the eligible agency;
- “(3) reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics programs;
- “(4) secondary school credit or diploma programs or their recognized equivalent; and
- “(5) integrated education and training.

“(c) PRIORITY.—Each eligible agency that is using assistance provided under this section to carry out a program for criminal offenders within a correctional institution shall give priority to serving individuals who are likely to leave the correctional institution within 5 years of participation in the program.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term ‘correctional institution’ means any—

- “(A) prison;
- “(B) jail;
- “(C) reformatory;
- “(D) work farm;
- “(E) detention center; or
- “(F) halfway house, community-based rehabilitation center, or any other similar institution designed for the confinement or rehabilitation of criminal offenders.

“(2) CRIMINAL OFFENDER.—The term ‘criminal offender’ means any individual who is charged with, or convicted of, any criminal offense.

“Subtitle C—Local Provisions

“SEC. 231. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.

“(a) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—From grant funds made available under section 222(a)(1), each eligible agency shall award multi-year grants or contracts, on a competitive basis, to eligible providers within the State or outlying area that meet the conditions and requirements of this title to enable the eligible providers to develop, implement, and improve adult education and family literacy education programs within the State.

“(b) LOCAL ACTIVITIES.—The eligible agency shall require eligible providers receiving a grant or contract under subsection (a) to establish or operate—

- “(1) programs that provide adult education and literacy activities;
- “(2) programs that provide integrated education and training activities; or
- “(3) credit-bearing postsecondary coursework.

“(c) DIRECT AND EQUITABLE ACCESS; SAME PROCESS.—Each eligible agency receiving funds under this title shall ensure that—

- “(1) all eligible providers have direct and equitable access to apply for grants or contracts under this section; and
- “(2) the same grant or contract announcement process and application process is used for all eligible providers in the State or outlying area.

“(d) MEASURABLE GOALS.—The eligible agency shall require eligible providers receiving a grant or contract under subsection (a) to demonstrate—

- “(1) the eligible provider’s measurable goals for participant outcomes to be achieved annually on the core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A);
- “(2) the past effectiveness of the eligible provider in improving the basic academic skills of adults and, for eligible providers receiving grants in the prior year, the success of the eligible provider receiving funding

under this title in exceeding its performance goals in the prior year;

“(3) the commitment of the eligible provider to serve individuals in the community who are the most in need of basic academic skills instruction services, including individuals with disabilities and individuals who are low-income or have minimal reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, or are English learners;

“(4) the program is of sufficient intensity and quality for participants to achieve substantial learning gains;

“(5) educational practices are evidence-based;

“(6) the activities of the eligible provider effectively employ advances in technology, and delivery systems including distance education;

“(7) the activities provide instruction in real-life contexts, including integrated education and training when appropriate, to ensure that an individual has the skills needed to compete in the workplace and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;

“(8) the activities are staffed by well-trained instructors, counselors, and administrators who meet minimum qualifications established by the State;

“(9) the activities are coordinated with other available resources in the community, such as through strong links with elementary schools and secondary schools, postsecondary educational institutions, local workforce investment boards, one-stop centers, job training programs, community-based and faith-based organizations, and social service agencies;

“(10) the activities offer flexible schedules and support services (such as child care and transportation) that are necessary to enable individuals, including individuals with disabilities or other special needs, to attend and complete programs;

“(11) the activities include a high-quality information management system that has the capacity to report measurable participant outcomes (consistent with section 136) and to monitor program performance;

“(12) the local communities have a demonstrated need for additional English language acquisition programs, and integrated education and training programs;

“(13) the capacity of the eligible provider to produce valid information on performance results, including enrollments and measurable participant outcomes;

“(14) adult education and family literacy education programs offer rigorous reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics content that are evidence based; and

“(15) applications of technology, and services to be provided by the eligible providers, are of sufficient intensity and duration to increase the amount and quality of learning and lead to measurable learning gains within specified time periods.

“(e) SPECIAL RULE.—Eligible providers may use grant funds under this title to serve children participating in family literacy programs assisted under this part, provided that other sources of funds available to provide similar services for such children are used first.

“SEC. 232. LOCAL APPLICATION.

“Each eligible provider desiring a grant or contract under this title shall submit an application to the eligible agency containing such information and assurances as the eligible agency may require, including—

“(1) a description of how funds awarded under this title will be spent consistent with the requirements of this title;

“(2) a description of any cooperative arrangements the eligible provider has with

other agencies, institutions, or organizations for the delivery of adult education and family literacy education programs; and

“(3) each of the demonstrations required by section 231(d).

“SEC. 233. LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMITS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), of the amount that is made available under this title to an eligible provider—

“(1) at least 95 percent shall be expended for carrying out adult education and family literacy education programs; and

“(2) the remaining amount shall be used for planning, administration, personnel and professional development, development of measurable goals in reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics, and interagency coordination.

“(b) SPECIAL RULE.—In cases where the cost limits described in subsection (a) are too restrictive to allow for adequate planning, administration, personnel development, and interagency coordination, the eligible provider may negotiate with the eligible agency in order to determine an adequate level of funds to be used for noninstructional purposes.

“Subtitle D—General Provisions

“SEC. 241. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

“Funds made available for adult education and family literacy education programs under this title shall supplement and not supplant other State or local public funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs.

“SEC. 242. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

“The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program of national activities that may include the following:

“(1) Providing technical assistance to eligible entities, on request, to—

“(A) improve their fiscal management, research-based instruction, and reporting requirements to carry out the requirements of this title;

“(B) improve its performance on the core indicators of performance described in section 136;

“(C) provide adult education professional development; and

“(D) use distance education and improve the application of technology in the classroom, including instruction in English language acquisition for English learners.

“(2) Providing for the conduct of research on national literacy basic skill acquisition levels among adults, including the number of adult English learners functioning at different levels of reading proficiency.

“(3) Improving the coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness of adult education and workforce development services at the national, State, and local levels.

“(4) Determining how participation in adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs prepares individuals for entry into and success in postsecondary education and employment, and in the case of prison-based services, the effect on recidivism.

“(5) Evaluating how different types of providers, including community and faith-based organizations or private for-profit agencies measurably improve the skills of participants in adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs.

“(6) Identifying model integrated basic and workplace skills education programs, including programs for English learners coordinated literacy and employment services, and effective strategies for serving adults with disabilities.

“(7) Initiating other activities designed to improve the measurable quality and effectiveness of adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs nationwide.”.

Subtitle C—Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act

SEC. — 66. AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT.

Section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 15. WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.

“(a) SYSTEM CONTENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’), in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall oversee the development, maintenance, and continuous improvement of a nationwide workforce and labor market information system that includes—

“(A) statistical data from cooperative statistical survey and projection programs and data from administrative reporting systems that, taken together, enumerate, estimate, and project employment opportunities and conditions at national, State, and local levels in a timely manner, including statistics on—

“(i) employment and unemployment status of national, State, and local populations, including self-employed, part-time, and seasonal workers;

“(ii) industrial distribution of occupations, as well as current and projected employment opportunities, wages, benefits (where data is available), and skill trends by occupation and industry, with particular attention paid to State and local conditions;

“(iii) the incidence of, industrial and geographical location of, and number of workers displaced by, permanent layoffs and plant closings; and

“(iv) employment and earnings information maintained in a longitudinal manner to be used for research and program evaluation;

“(B) information on State and local employment opportunities, and other appropriate statistical data related to labor market dynamics, which—

“(i) shall be current and comprehensive;

“(ii) shall meet the needs identified through the consultations described in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (e)(1); and

“(iii) shall meet the needs for the information identified in section 121(e)(1)(E) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841(e)(1)(E));

“(C) technical standards (which the Secretary shall publish annually) for data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) that, at a minimum, meet the criteria of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code;

“(D) procedures to ensure compatibility and additivity of the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) from national, State, and local levels;

“(E) procedures to support standardization and aggregation of data from administrative reporting systems described in subparagraph (A) of employment-related programs;

“(F) analysis of data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) for uses such as—

“(i) national, State, and local policy-making;

“(ii) implementation of Federal policies (including allocation formulas);

“(iii) program planning and evaluation; and

“(iv) researching labor market dynamics;

“(G) wide dissemination of such data, information, and analysis in a user-friendly manner and voluntary technical standards for dissemination mechanisms; and

“(H) programs of—

“(i) training for effective data dissemination;

“(ii) research and demonstration; and

“(iii) programs and technical assistance.

“(2) INFORMATION TO BE CONFIDENTIAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No officer or employee of the Federal Government or agent of the Federal Government may—

“(i) use any submission that is furnished for exclusively statistical purposes under the provisions of this section for any purpose other than the statistical purposes for which the submission is furnished;

“(ii) disclose to the public any publication or media transmittal of the data contained in the submission described in clause (i) that permits information concerning an individual subject to be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means; or

“(iii) permit anyone other than a sworn officer, employee, or agent of any Federal department or agency, or a contractor (including an employee of a contractor) of such department or agency, to examine an individual submission described in clause (i),

without the consent of the individual, agency, or other person who is the subject of the submission or provides that submission.

“(B) IMMUNITY FROM LEGAL PROCESS.—Any submission (including any data derived from the submission) that is collected and retained by a Federal department or agency, or an officer, employee, agent, or contractor of such a department or agency, for exclusively statistical purposes under this section shall be immune from the legal process and shall not, without the consent of the individual, agency, or other person who is the subject of the submission or provides that submission, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial or administrative proceeding.

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide immunity from the legal process for such submission (including any data derived from the submission) if the submission is in the possession of any person, agency, or entity other than the Federal Government or an officer, employee, agent, or contractor of the Federal Government, or if the submission is independently collected, retained, or produced for purposes other than the purposes of this Act.

“(b) SYSTEM RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) shall be planned, administered, overseen, and evaluated through a cooperative governance structure involving the Federal Government and States.

“(2) DUTIES.—The Secretary, with respect to data collection, analysis, and dissemination of workforce and labor market information for the system, shall carry out the following duties:

“(A) Assign responsibilities within the Department of Labor for elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) to ensure that all statistical and administrative data collected is consistent with appropriate Bureau of Labor Statistics standards and definitions.

“(B) Actively seek the cooperation of other Federal agencies to establish and maintain mechanisms for ensuring complementarity and nonduplication in the development and operation of statistical and administrative data collection activities.

“(C) Eliminate gaps and duplication in statistical undertakings, with the systemization of wage surveys as an early priority.

“(D) In collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and States, develop and maintain the elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a), including the development of consistent procedures and definitions for use by the States in collecting the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1).

“(E) Establish procedures for the system to ensure that—

“(i) such data and information are timely;

“(ii) paperwork and reporting for the system are reduced to a minimum; and

“(iii) States and localities are fully involved in the development and continuous improvement of the system at all levels.

“(c) NATIONAL ELECTRONIC TOOLS TO PROVIDE SERVICES.—The Secretary is authorized to assist in the development of national electronic tools that may be used to facilitate the delivery of work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c)(2)) and to provide workforce and labor market information to individuals through the one-stop delivery systems described in section 121 and through other appropriate delivery systems.

“(d) COORDINATION WITH THE STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, working through the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration, shall regularly consult with representatives of State agencies carrying out workforce information activities regarding strategies for improving the workforce and labor market information system.

“(2) FORMAL CONSULTATIONS.—At least twice each year, the Secretary, working through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall conduct formal consultations regarding programs carried out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics with representatives of each of the Federal regions of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, elected (pursuant to a process established by the Secretary) from the State directors affiliated with State agencies that perform the duties described in subsection (e)(1).

“(e) STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive Federal financial assistance under this section, the Governor of a State shall—

“(A) be responsible for the management of the portions of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) that comprise a statewide workforce and labor market information system;

“(B) establish a process for the oversight of such system;

“(C) consult with State and local employers, participants, and local workforce investment boards about the labor market relevance of the data to be collected and disseminated through the statewide workforce and labor market information system;

“(D) consult with State educational agencies and local educational agencies concerning the provision of workforce and labor market information in order to meet the needs of secondary school and postsecondary school students who seek such information;

“(E) collect and disseminate for the system, on behalf of the State and localities in the State, the information and data described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1);

“(F) maintain and continuously improve the statewide workforce and labor market information system in accordance with this section;

“(G) perform contract and grant responsibilities for data collection, analysis, and dissemination for such system;

“(H) conduct such other data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities as will ensure an effective statewide workforce and labor market information system;

“(I) actively seek the participation of other State and local agencies in data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities in order to ensure complementarity, compatibility, and usefulness of data;

“(J) participate in the development of, and submit to the Secretary, an annual plan to carry out the requirements and authorities of this subsection; and

“(K) utilize the quarterly records described in section 136(f)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(f)(2)) to assist the State and other States in measuring State progress on State performance measures.

“(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the ability of a Governor to conduct additional data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities with State funds or with Federal funds from sources other than this section.

“(f) **NONDUPLICATION REQUIREMENT.**—None of the functions and activities carried out pursuant to this section shall duplicate the functions and activities carried out under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

“(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$63,473,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.”

Subtitle D—Repeals and Conforming Amendments

SEC. 71. REPEALS.

The following provisions are repealed:

(1) Chapter 4 of subtitle B of title I, and sections 123, 155, 166, 167, 168, 169, 171, 173, 173A, 174, 192, 194, 502, 503, and 506 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act.

(2) Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.).

(3) Sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.).

(4) The Twenty-First Century Workforce Commission Act (29 U.S.C. 2701 note).

(5) Public Law 91–378, 16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq. (popularly known as the “Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970”).

(6) Section 821 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 1151).

(7) The Women in Apprenticeship and Non-traditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.).

(8) Sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 72. AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) **AMENDMENTS TO THE FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.**—

(1) **DEFINITION.**—Section 3(t) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking “means (1) the agency” and inserting the following: “means—

“(A) the agency”;

(B) by striking “programs, and (2) the tribal” and inserting the following: “programs;

“(B) the tribal”;

(C) by striking “this Act.” and inserting the following: “this Act; and

“(C) in the context of employment and training activities under section 6(d)(4), a State board as defined in section 101 of the

Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).”

(2) **ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.**—Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(14) by striking “section 6(d)(4)(I)” and inserting “section 6(d)(4)(C)”, and

(B) in subsection (g)(3), in the first sentence, by striking “constitutes adequate participation in an employment and training program under section 6(d)” and inserting “allows the individual to participate in employment and training activities under section 6(d)(4)”.

(3) **ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATIONS.**—Section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

“(D) **EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.**—

“(i) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Each State agency shall provide employment and training services authorized under section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864) to eligible members of households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program in gaining skills, training, work, or experience that will increase their ability to obtain regular employment.

“(ii) **STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.**—Consistent with subparagraph (A), employment and training services shall be provided through the statewide workforce development system, including the one-stop delivery system authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

“(iii) **REIMBURSEMENTS.**—

“(I) **ACTUAL COSTS.**—The State agency shall provide payments or reimbursement to participants served under this paragraph for—

“(aa) the actual costs of transportation and other actual costs (other than dependent care costs) that are reasonably necessary and directly related to the individual participating in employment and training activities; and

“(bb) the actual costs of such dependent care expenses as are determined by the State agency to be necessary for the individual to participate in employment and training activities (other than an individual who is the caretaker relative of a dependent in a family receiving benefits under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) in a local area where an employment, training, or education program under title IV of that Act is in operation), except that no such payment or reimbursement shall exceed the applicable local market rate.

“(II) **SERVICE CONTRACTS AND VOUCHERS.**—In lieu of providing reimbursements or payments for dependent care expenses under clause (i), a State agency may, at the option of the State agency, arrange for dependent care through providers by the use of purchase of service contracts or vouchers or by providing vouchers to the household.

“(III) **VALUE OF REIMBURSEMENTS.**—The value of any dependent care services provided for or arranged under clause (ii), or any amount received as a payment or reimbursement under clause (i), shall—

“(aa) not be treated as income for the purposes of any other Federal or federally assisted program that bases eligibility for, or the amount of benefits on, need; and

“(bb) not be claimed as an employment-related expense for the purposes of the credit provided under section 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 21).”

(4) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 11(e)(19) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(11)) is amended to read as follows:

“(S) the plans of the State agency for providing employment and training services under section 6(d)(4);”

(5) **ADMINISTRATIVE COST-SHARING AND QUALITY CONTROL.**—Section 16(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “carry out employment and training programs” and inserting “provide employment and training services to eligible households under section 6(d)(4);” and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “operating an employment and training program” and inserting “providing employment and training services consistent with section 6(d)(4);”

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “participation in an employment and training program” and inserting “the individual participating in employment and training activities”; and

(ii) by striking “section 6(d)(4)(I)(i)(II)” and inserting “section 6(d)(4)(C)(i)(II)”;

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking “for operating an employment and training program” and inserting “to provide employment and training services”; and

(D) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(E) **MONITORING.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor, shall monitor each State agency responsible for administering employment and training services under section 6(d)(4) to ensure funds are being spent effectively and efficiently.

“(ii) **ACCOUNTABILITY.**—Each program of employment and training receiving funds under section 6(d)(4) shall be subject to the requirements of the performance accountability system, including having to meet the State performance measures described in section 136 of the Workforce Investment Act (29 U.S.C. 2871).”

(6) **RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATION, AND EVALUATIONS.**—Section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(B)(iv)(III)(dd), by striking “(4)(F)(i), or (4)(K)” and inserting “or (4)”; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) in subsection (g), in the first sentence in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “programs established” and inserting “activities provided to eligible households”; and

(ii) by inserting “, in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor,” after “Secretary”.

(7) **MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PROJECT.**—Section 22(b)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2031(b)(4)) is amended by striking “equivalent to those offered under the employment and training program”.

(b) **AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 412 OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.**—

(1) **CONDITIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS.**—Section 412(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “make available sufficient resources for employment training and placement” and inserting “provide refugees with the opportunity to access employment and training services, including job placement,”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “services,” and inserting “services provided through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.);”

(B) in paragraph (2)(C)(iii)(II), by inserting “and training” after “employment”;

(C) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii)—

(i) by striking “insure” and inserting “ensure”;

(ii) by inserting “and training” after “employment”;

(iii) by inserting after “available” the following: “through the one-stop delivery system under section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841)”; and

(D) in paragraph (9), by inserting “the Secretary of Labor,” after “Education.”

(2) PROGRAM OF INITIAL RESETTLEMENT.—Section 412(b)(2) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) by striking “orientation, instruction” and inserting “orientation and instruction”; and

(B) by striking “, and job training for refugees, and such other education and training of refugees, as facilitates” and inserting “for refugees to facilitate”.

(3) PROJECT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES FOR REFUGEES.—Section 412(c) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting “and training” after “employment”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C);

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “paragraph—” and all that follows through “in a manner” and inserting “paragraph in a manner”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) In carrying out this section, the Director shall ensure that employment and training services are provided through the statewide workforce development system, as appropriate, authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.). Such action may include—

“(i) making employment and training activities described in section 134 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864) available to refugees; and

“(ii) providing refugees with access to a one-stop delivery system established under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841).”

(4) CASH ASSISTANCE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES.—Section 412(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(i), by inserting “and training” after “providing employment”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “The” and inserting “Consistent with subsection (c)(3), the”.

(C) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007.—

(1) FEDERAL PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE.—Section 231 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17541) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(E)—

(i) by inserting “the Department of Labor and” before “other Federal agencies”; and

(ii) by inserting “State and local workforce investment boards,” after “community-based organizations.”;

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking at the end “and”;

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking at the end the period and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(D) to coordinate reentry programs with the employment and training services provided through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.);”;

(C) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(F) INTERACTION WITH THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall ensure that employ-

ment and training services, including such employment and services offered through reentry programs, are provided, as appropriate, through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), which may include—

“(I) making employment and training services available to prisoners prior to and immediately following the release of such prisoners; or

“(II) providing prisoners with access by remote means to a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841) in the State in which the prison involved is located.

“(ii) SERVICE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘employment and training services’ means those services described in section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864) offered by the Bureau of Prisons, including—

“(I) the skills assessment described in subsection (a)(1)(A);

“(II) the skills development plan described in subsection (a)(1)(B); and

“(III) the enhancement, development, and implementation of reentry and skills development programs.”

(2) DUTIES OF THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.—Section 4042(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E), as added by section 231(d)(1)(C) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199; 122 Stat. 685), as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(B) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(C) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking “Employment” and inserting “Employment and training services (as defined in paragraph (6) of section 231(d) of the Second Chance Act of 2007), including basic skills attainment, consistent with such paragraph”; and

(ii) by striking clause (iii); and

(D) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), (iv), (v), (vi), and (vii) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly.

(d) AMENDMENTS TO THE OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT OF 1968.—Section 2976 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797w) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) and training”; and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(D) coordinating employment and training services provided through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), including a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841), for offenders upon release from prison, jail, or a juvenile facility, as appropriate;”;

(2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “, including local workforce investment boards established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2832),” after “nonprofit organizations”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “victims services, and employment services” and inserting “and victim services”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(D) provides employment and training services through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), including a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841);”;

(4) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, in accordance with paragraph (2)” after “under this section”; and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(B) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—The Attorney General shall require each grantee under this section to measure the core indicators of performance as described in section 136(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A)) with respect to the program of such grantee funded with a grant under this section.”

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3672(d)(1), by striking “disabled veterans” outreach program specialists under section 4103A” and inserting “veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”;

(2) in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 41, by striking the items relating to sections 4103A and 4104;

(3) in section 4102A—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), and (7); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (5);

(B) by striking subsections (c) and (h);

(C) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f); and

(D) in subsection (e)(1) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “, including disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representatives providing employment, training, and placement services under this chapter in a State”; and

(ii) by striking “for purposes of subsection (c)”;

(4) in section 4104A—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(i) the appropriate veteran employment specialist (in carrying out the functions described in section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998);”;

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(i) collaborate with the appropriate veteran employment specialist (as described in section 134(f)) and the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801));”;

(5) in section 4109—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representative” and inserting “veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representatives” and inserting “veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”; and (6) in section 4112(d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialist” and inserting “veteran employment specialist appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(f) COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT OF 1980.—Section 104(k)(6)(A) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “training, research, and” and inserting “research and”.

SEC. 73. CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents in section 1(b) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

“Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

“TITLE I—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS

“Subtitle A—Workforce Investment Definitions

“Sec. 101. Definitions.

“Subtitle B—Statewide and Local Workforce Investment Systems

“Sec. 106. Purpose.

“CHAPTER 1—STATE PROVISIONS

“Sec. 111. State workforce investment boards.

“Sec. 112. State plan.

“CHAPTER 2—LOCAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 116. Local workforce investment areas.

“Sec. 117. Local workforce investment boards.

“Sec. 118. Local plan.

“CHAPTER 3—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES PROVIDERS

“Sec. 121. Establishment of one-stop delivery systems.

“Sec. 122. Identification of eligible providers of training services.

“CHAPTER 5—EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

“Sec. 131. General authorization.

“Sec. 132. State allotments.

“Sec. 133. Within State allocations.

“Sec. 134. Use of funds for employment and training activities.

“CHAPTER 6—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 136. Performance accountability system.

“Sec. 137. Authorization of appropriations.

“Subtitle C—Job Corps

“Sec. 141. Purposes.

“Sec. 142. Definitions.

“Sec. 143. Establishment.

“Sec. 144. Individuals eligible for the Job Corps.

“Sec. 145. Recruitment, screening, selection, and assignment of enrollees.

“Sec. 146. Enrollment.

“Sec. 147. Job Corps centers.

“Sec. 148. Program activities.

“Sec. 149. Counseling and job placement.

“Sec. 150. Support.

“Sec. 151. Operations.

“Sec. 152. Standards of conduct.

“Sec. 153. Community participation.

“Sec. 154. Workforce councils.

“Sec. 156. Technical assistance to centers.

“Sec. 157. Application of provisions of Federal law.

“Sec. 158. Special provisions.

“Sec. 159. Performance accountability and management.

“Sec. 160. General provisions.

“Sec. 161. Authorization of appropriations.

“Subtitle D—National Programs

“Sec. 170. Technical assistance.

“Sec. 172. Evaluations.

“Subtitle E—Administration

“Sec. 181. Requirements and restrictions.

“Sec. 182. Prompt allocation of funds.

“Sec. 183. Monitoring.

“Sec. 184. Fiscal controls; sanctions.

“Sec. 185. Reports; recordkeeping; investigations.

“Sec. 186. Administrative adjudication.

“Sec. 187. Judicial review.

“Sec. 188. Nondiscrimination.

“Sec. 189. Administrative provisions.

“Sec. 190. References.

“Sec. 191. State legislative authority.

“Sec. 193. Transfer of Federal equity in State employment security real property to the States.

“Sec. 195. General program requirements.

“Sec. 196. Federal agency staff.

“Sec. 197. Restrictions on lobbying and political activities.

“Subtitle F—Repeals and Conforming Amendments

“Sec. 199. Repeals.

“Sec. 199A. Conforming amendments.

“TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION

“Sec. 201. Short title.

“Sec. 202. Purpose.

“Sec. 203. Definitions.

“Sec. 204. Home schools.

“Sec. 205. Authorization of appropriations.

“Subtitle A—Federal Provisions

“Sec. 211. Reservation of funds; grants to eligible agencies; allotments.

“Sec. 212. Performance accountability system.

“Subtitle B—State Provisions

“Sec. 221. State administration.

“Sec. 222. State distribution of funds; matching requirement.

“Sec. 223. State leadership activities.

“Sec. 224. State plan.

“Sec. 225. Programs for corrections education and other institutionalized individuals.

“Subtitle C—Local Provisions

“Sec. 231. Grants and contracts for eligible providers.

“Sec. 232. Local application.

“Sec. 233. Local administrative cost limits.

“Subtitle D—General Provisions

“Sec. 241. Administrative provisions.

“Sec. 242. National activities.

“TITLE III—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

“Subtitle A—Wagner-Peyser Act

“Sec. 301. Definitions.

“Sec. 302. Functions.

“Sec. 303. Designation of State agencies.

“Sec. 304. Appropriations.

“Sec. 305. Disposition of allotted funds.

“Sec. 306. State plans.

“Sec. 307. Repeal of Federal advisory council.

“Sec. 308. Regulations.

“Sec. 309. Employment statistics.

“Sec. 310. Technical amendments.

“Sec. 311. Effective date.

“Subtitle B—Linkages With Other Programs

“Sec. 321. Trade Act of 1974.

“Sec. 322. Veterans’ employment programs.

“Sec. 323. Older Americans Act of 1965.

“Subtitle D—Application of Civil Rights and Labor-Management Laws to the Smithsonian Institution

“Sec. 341. Application of civil rights and labor-management laws to the Smithsonian Institution.

“TITLE IV—REHABILITATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1998

“Sec. 401. Short title.

“Sec. 402. Title.

“Sec. 403. General provisions.

“Sec. 404. Vocational rehabilitation services.

“Sec. 405. Research and training.

“Sec. 406. Professional development and special projects and demonstrations.

“Sec. 407. National Council on Disability.

“Sec. 408. Rights and advocacy.

“Sec. 409. Employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

“Sec. 410. Independent living services and centers for independent living.

“Sec. 411. Repeal.

“Sec. 412. Helen Keller National Center Act.

“Sec. 413. President’s Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities.

“Sec. 414. Conforming amendments.

“TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 501. State unified plan.

“Sec. 504. Privacy.

“Sec. 505. Buy-American requirements.

“Sec. 507. Effective date.”.

Subtitle E—Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

SEC. 76. FINDINGS.

Section 2(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) there is a substantial need to improve and expand services for students with disabilities under this Act.”.

SEC. 77. REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3(a) (29 U.S.C. 702(a))—

(A) by striking “Office of the Secretary” and inserting “Department of Education”; and

(B) by striking “President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate” and inserting “Secretary”; and

(C) by striking “, and the Commissioner shall be the principal officer,”;

(2) by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears (except in section 21) and inserting “Director”;

(3) in section 12(c) (29 U.S.C. 709(c)), by striking “Commissioner’s” and inserting “Director’s”;

(4) in section 21 (29 U.S.C. 718)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) by striking “Commissioner” the first place it appears and inserting “Director of the Rehabilitation Services Administration”;

(ii) by striking “(referred to in this subsection as the ‘Director’)”; and

(iii) by striking “The Commissioner and the Director” and inserting “Both such Directors”; and

(B) by striking “the Commissioner and the Director” each place it appears and inserting “both such Directors”;

(5) in the heading for subparagraph (B) of section 100(d)(2) (29 U.S.C. 720(d)(2)), by striking “COMMISSIONER” and inserting “DIRECTOR”;

(6) in section 401(a)(1) (29 U.S.C. 781(a)(1)), by inserting “of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research” after “Director”;

(7) in the heading for section 706 (29 U.S.C. 796d-1), by striking “COMMISSIONER” and inserting “DIRECTOR”; and

(8) in the heading for paragraph (3) of section 723(a) (29 U.S.C. 796f-2(a)), by striking “COMMISSIONER” and inserting “DIRECTOR”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall—

(1) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply with respect to the appointments of Directors of the Rehabilitation Services Administration made on or after the date of enactment of this Act, and the Directors so appointed.

SEC. 78. DEFINITIONS.

Section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (35) through (39) as paragraphs (36) through (40), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (A)(ii) of paragraph (36) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking “paragraph (36)(C)” and inserting “paragraph (37)(C)”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (34) the following:

“(35)(A) The term ‘student with a disability’ means an individual with a disability who—

“(i) is not younger than 16 and not older than 21;

“(ii) has been determined to be eligible under section 102(a) for assistance under this title; and

“(iii)(I) is eligible for, and is receiving, special education under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.); or

“(II) is an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504.

“(B) The term ‘students with disabilities’ means more than 1 student with a disability.”

SEC. 79. CARRYOVER.

Section 19(a)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 716(a)(1)) is amended by striking “part B of title VI.”

SEC. 80. TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

Section 21 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 718) is amended, in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A) of subsection (b), and in subsection (c), by striking “VI.”

SEC. 81. STATE PLAN.

Section 101(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 721(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “on the eligible individuals” and all that follows and inserting “of information necessary to assess the State’s performance on the core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A)).”; and

(B) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking “, to the extent the measures are applicable to individuals with disabilities”;

(2) in paragraph (11)—

(A) in subparagraph (D)(i), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, which may be provided using alternative means of meeting participation (such as participation through video conferences and conference calls)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) COORDINATION WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit and the lead agency or implementing entity responsible for carrying out duties under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) have developed working relationships and coordinate their activities.”;

(3) in paragraph (15)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking “and” at the end;

(II) in subclause (III), by adding “and” at the end; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) students with disabilities, including their need for transition services.”;

(ii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) include an assessment of the transition services provided under this Act, and coordinated with transition services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), about the extent to which those 2 types of services meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “and under part B of title VI”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (iii), (iv), and (v) as clauses (iv), (v), and (vi), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) the methods to be used to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities, including the coordination of services designed to facilitate the transition of such students from the receipt of educational services in school to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title or to postsecondary education or employment.”; and

(iii) in clause (v), as redesignated by clause (i) of this subparagraph, by striking “evaluation standards” and inserting “performance standards”;

(4) in paragraph (22)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “STATE PLAN SUPPLEMENT”;

(B) by striking “carrying out part B of title VI, including”; and

(C) by striking “that part to supplement funds made available under part B of”;

(5) in paragraph (24)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “CONTRACTS” and inserting “GRANTS”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “CONTRACTS” and inserting “GRANTS”; and

(ii) by striking “part A of title VI” and inserting “section 109A”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(25) COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.—The State plan shall describe how the designated State agency will carry out the provisions of section 109A, including—

“(A) the criteria such agency will use to award grants under such section; and

“(B) how the activities carried out under such grants will be coordinated with other services provided under this title.

“(26) SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—The State plan shall provide an assurance satisfactory to the Secretary that the State—

“(A) has developed and implemented strategies to address the needs identified in the assessments described in paragraph (15), and

achieve the goals and priorities identified by the State in that paragraph, to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities on a statewide basis in accordance with paragraph (15); and

“(B) from funds reserved under section 110A, shall carry out programs or activities designed to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities that—

“(i) facilitate the transition of students with disabilities from the receipt of educational services in school, to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title, including, at a minimum, those services specified in the interagency agreement required in paragraph (11)(D);

“(ii) improve the achievement of post-school goals of students with disabilities, including improving the achievement through participation (as appropriate when career goals are discussed) in meetings regarding individualized education programs developed under section 614 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414);

“(iii) provide career guidance, career exploration services, job search skills and strategies, and technical assistance to students with disabilities;

“(iv) support the provision of training and technical assistance to State and local educational agencies and designated State agency personnel responsible for the planning and provision of services to students with disabilities; and

“(v) support outreach activities to students with disabilities who are eligible for, and need, services under this title.”

SEC. 82. SCOPE OF SERVICES.

Section 103 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 723) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (15) and inserting the following:

“(15) transition services for students with disabilities, that facilitate the achievement of the employment outcome identified in the individualized plan for employment involved, including services described in clauses (i) through (iii) of section 101(a)(26)(B).”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6)(A)(i) Consultation and technical assistance services to assist State and local educational agencies in planning for the transition of students with disabilities from school to post-school activities, including employment.

“(ii) Training and technical assistance described in section 101(a)(26)(B)(iv).

“(B) Services for groups of individuals with disabilities who meet the requirements of clauses (i) and (iii) of section 7(35)(A), including services described in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (v) of section 101(a)(26)(B), to assist in the transition from school to post-school activities.”; and

(3) in subsection (b), by inserting at the end the following:

“(7) The establishment, development, or improvement of assistive technology demonstration, loan, reutilization, or financing programs in coordination with activities authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to promote access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and employers.”.

SEC. 83. STANDARDS AND INDICATORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 726) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “EVALUATION STANDARDS” and inserting “PERFORMANCE STANDARDS”;

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) STANDARDS AND INDICATORS.—The performance standards and indicators for the vocational rehabilitation program carried out under this title—

“(1) shall be subject to paragraphs (2)(A) and (3) of section 136(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)); and

“(2) may, at a State’s discretion, include additional indicators identified in the State plan submitted under section 101.”; and

(3) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) on a biannual basis, review the program improvement efforts of the State and, if the State has not improved its performance to acceptable levels, as determined by the Director, direct the State to make revisions to the plan to improve performance; and”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 107 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 727) is amended—

(1) in subsections (a)(1)(B) and (b)(2), by striking “evaluation standards” and inserting “performance standards”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “an evaluation standard” and inserting “a performance standard”.

SEC. 84. EXPENDITURE OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.

Section 108(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 728(a)) is amended by striking “under part B of title VI, or”.

SEC. 85. COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended by inserting after section 109 (29 U.S.C. 728a) the following:

“SEC. 109A. COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.

“(a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For the purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a for-profit business, alone or in partnership with one or more of the following:

“(1) Community rehabilitation program providers.

“(2) Indian tribes.

“(3) Tribal organizations.

“(b) AUTHORITY.—A State shall use not less than one-half of one percent of the payment the State receives under section 111 for a fiscal year to award grants to eligible entities to pay for the Federal share of the cost of carrying out collaborative programs, to create practical job and career readiness and training programs, and to provide job placements and career advancement.

“(c) AWARDS.—Grants under this section shall—

“(1) be awarded for a period not to exceed 5 years; and

“(2) be awarded competitively.

“(d) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to a designated State agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as such agency shall require. Such application shall include, at a minimum—

“(1) a plan for evaluating the effectiveness of the collaborative program;

“(2) a plan for collecting and reporting the data and information described under subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 101(a)(10), as determined appropriate by the designated State agency; and

“(3) a plan for providing for the non-Federal share of the costs of the program.

“(e) ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out a program that provides one or more of the following:

“(1) Job development, job placement, and career advancement services for individuals with disabilities.

“(2) Training in realistic work settings in order to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment and career advancement in the competitive market.

“(3) Providing individuals with disabilities with such support services as may be required in order to maintain the employment and career advancement for which the individuals have received training.

“(f) ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.—An individual shall be eligible for services provided under a program under this section if the individual is determined under section 102(a)(1) to be eligible for assistance under this title.

“(g) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share for a program under this section shall not exceed 80 percent of the costs of the program.”.

SEC. 86. RESERVATION FOR EXPANDED TRANSITION SERVICES.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended by inserting after section 110 (29 U.S.C. 730) the following:

“SEC. 110A. RESERVATION FOR EXPANDED TRANSITION SERVICES.

“Each State shall reserve not less than 10 percent of the funds allotted to the State under section 110(a) to carry out programs or activities under sections 101(a)(26)(B) and 103(b)(6).”.

SEC. 87. CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 112(e)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 732(e)(1)) is amended by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E) and inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) The Secretary shall make grants to the protection and advocacy system serving the American Indian Consortium under the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.) to provide services in accordance with this section, as determined by the Secretary. The amount of such grants shall be the same as the amount provided to territories under this subsection.”.

SEC. 88. RESEARCH.

Section 204(a)(2)(A) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 764(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “VI.”.

SEC. 89. TITLE III AMENDMENTS.

Title III of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 771 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 301(a) (21 U.S.C. 771(a))—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and” at the end;

(B) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3);

(2) in section 302 (29 U.S.C. 772)—

(A) in subsection (g)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING”; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) in subsection (h), by striking “section 306” and inserting “section 304”;

(3) in section 303 (29 U.S.C. 773)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “section 306” and inserting “section 304”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (4)—

(I) by amending subparagraph (A)(ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) to coordinate activities and work closely with the parent training and information centers established pursuant to section 671 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1471), the community parent resource centers established pursuant to section 672 of such Act (29 U.S.C.

1472), and the eligible entities receiving awards under section 673 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1473); and”; and

(II) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, and demonstrate the capacity for serving,” after “serve”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) RESERVATION.—From the amount appropriated to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year, 20 percent of such amount or \$500,000, whichever is less, shall be reserved to carry out paragraph (6).”;

(4) by striking sections 304 and 305 (29 U.S.C. 774, 775); and

(5) by redesignating section 306 (29 U.S.C. 776) as section 304.

SEC. 90. REPEAL OF TITLE VI.

Title VI of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 795 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. 91. TITLE VII GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) PURPOSE.—Section 701(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796(3)) is amended by striking “State programs of supported employment services receiving assistance under part B of title VI.”.

(b) CHAIRPERSON.—Section 705(b)(5) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796d(b)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

“(5) CHAIRPERSON.—The Council shall select a chairperson from among the voting membership of the Council.”.

SEC. 92. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is further amended—

(1) in section 100 (29 U.S.C. 720)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$3,121,712,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(B), by striking “2003” and inserting “2021”;

(2) in section 110(c) (29 U.S.C. 730(c)), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) The sum referred to in paragraph (1) shall be, as determined by the Secretary, not less than 1 percent and not more than 1.5 percent of the amount referred to in paragraph (1) for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020.”;

(3) in section 112(h) (29 U.S.C. 732(h)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$12,240,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(4) by amending subsection (a) of section 201 (29 U.S.C. 761(a)) to read as follows: “(a) There are authorized to be appropriated \$108,817,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years to carry out this title.”;

(5) in section 302(i) (29 U.S.C. 772(i)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$35,515,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(6) in section 303(e) (29 U.S.C. 773(e)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$5,325,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(7) in section 405 (29 U.S.C. 785), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$3,258,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(8) in section 502(j) (29 U.S.C. 792(j)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$7,400,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(9) in section 509(l) (29 U.S.C. 794e(l)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for

each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003" and inserting "\$18,031,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years";

(10) in section 714 (29 U.S.C. 796e-3), by striking "such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003" and inserting "\$23,359,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years";

(11) in section 727 (29 U.S.C. 796f-6), by striking "such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003" and inserting "\$79,953,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years"; and

(12) in section 753 (29 U.S.C. 796l), by striking "such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003" and inserting "\$34,018,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years".

SEC. 93. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 1(b) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended—

(1) by inserting after the item relating to section 109 the following:

"Sec. 109A. Collaboration with industry.";

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 110 the following:

"Sec. 110A. Reservation for expanded transition services.";

(3) by striking the item related to section 304 and inserting the following:

"Sec. 304. Measuring of project outcomes and performance.";

(4) by striking the items related to sections 305 and 306;

(5) by striking the items related to title VI; and

(6) by striking the item related to section 706 and inserting the following:

"Sec. 706. Responsibilities of the Director."

Subtitle F—Studies by the Comptroller General

SEC. 96. STUDY BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL ON EXHAUSTING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS BEFORE ACCESSING WIA FUNDS.

Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that—

(1) evaluates the effectiveness of subparagraph (B) of section 134(d)(4) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)(B)) (as such subparagraph was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), including—

(A) a review of the regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Labor to State and local areas on how to comply with such subparagraph;

(B) a review of State policies to determine how local areas are required to comply with such subparagraph;

(C) a review of local area policies to determine how one-stop operators are required to comply with such subparagraph; and

(D) a review of a sampling of individuals receiving training services under section 134(d)(4) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)) to determine if, before receiving such training services, such individuals have exhausted funds received through the Federal Pell Grant program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

(2) makes appropriate recommendations with respect to the matters evaluated under paragraph (1).

SEC. 97. STUDY BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL ON ADMINISTRATIVE COST SAVINGS.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that—

(1) determines the amount of administrative costs at the Federal and State levels for the most recent fiscal year for which satisfactory data are available for—

(A) each of the programs authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) or repealed under section 71 of this title, as such programs were in effect for such fiscal year; and

(B) each of the programs described in subparagraph (A) that have been repealed or consolidated on or after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) determines the amount of administrative cost savings at the Federal and State levels as a result of repealing and consolidating programs by calculating the differences in the amount of administrative costs between subparagraph (A) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1); and

(3) estimates the administrative cost savings at the Federal and State levels for a fiscal year as a result of States consolidating amounts under section 501(e) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 9271(e)) to reduce inefficiencies in the administration of federally-funded State and local employment and training programs.

(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term "administrative costs" has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).

SA 2913. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . DISQUALIFICATION ON RECEIPT OF DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS IN A MONTH FOR WHICH EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION IS RECEIVED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(k) DISQUALIFICATION ON RECEIPT OF DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS.—If for any month an individual is entitled to emergency unemployment compensation under this title, such individual shall be deemed to have engaged in substantial gainful activity for such month for purposes of sections 222 and 223 of the Social Security Act."

(b) DATA MATCHING.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall implement the amendments made by this section using appropriate electronic data.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to months beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2914. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 3. ALTERNATIVE QUALIFICATIONS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "agency" has the meaning given the term "Executive agency" in section 105 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management; and

(3) the term "individual with alternative educational experience" means an individual who—

(A) does not have a degree from an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)); and

(B) has received training or education in 1 or more subject areas or occupational fields from an educational provider that does not meet the requirements of such section 101(a).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM; PILOT PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish a pilot program to appoint to positions in the civil service individuals with alternative educational experience, in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) PILOT PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot program established under paragraph (1), the Director shall select positions in the civil service for which the employing agency—

(i) is accepting applications for employment as of the date of establishment of the pilot program, or is likely to accept applications for employment within 1 year of such date;

(ii) may not require an individual to have a degree from an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)) in order to be appointed to such positions; and

(iii) shall consider an application for employment, if any, from an individual with alternative educational experience.

(B) SCOPE AND NUMBER OF POSITIONS SELECTED.—

(i) POSITIONS SELECTED.—The Director shall select not less than 25 positions under subparagraph (A) during each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

(ii) OCCUPATIONAL FIELDS COVERED.—The positions selected under clause (i) shall be from across not less than 10 diverse occupational fields.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than December 31, 2020, the Director shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program established under subsection (b)(1), which shall include—

(1) the number and description of the positions selected under subsection (b)(2), including the geographic locations and occupational fields of such positions;

(2) the number of individuals with alternative educational experience whose applications were considered for a position selected under subsection (b)(2);

(3) the number of individuals with alternative educational experience who were appointed to a position selected under subsection (b)(2); and

(4) the number of individuals described in paragraph (3) who, as of the end of fiscal year 2019, with respect to the position to which the individual was appointed under the pilot program—

- (A) continued to occupy the position;
- (B) were promoted; or
- (C) were terminated.

SA 2915. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . NATIONAL REGULATORY BUDGET ACT.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “National Regulatory Budget Act of 2014”.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY ANALYSIS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Part I of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 6 the following:

“CHAPTER 6A—NATIONAL REGULATORY BUDGET AND OFFICE OF REGULATORY ANALYSIS

“Sec.

“613. Definitions.

“614. Office of Regulatory Analysis; establishment; powers.

“615. Functions of Office of Regulatory Analysis; Executive branch agency compliance.

“616. Public disclosure of estimate methodology and data; privacy.

“617. National Regulatory Budget; timeline.

“618. Executive branch agency cooperation mandatory; information sharing.

“619. Enforcement.

“620. Regulatory Analysis Advisory Board.

“§ 613. Definitions

“In this chapter—

“(1) the term ‘aggregate costs’, with respect to a covered Federal rule, means the sum of—

“(A) the direct costs of the covered Federal rule; and

“(B) the regulatory costs of the covered Federal rule;

“(2) the term ‘covered Federal rule’ means—

“(A) a rule (as defined in section 551);

“(B) an information collection requirement given a control number by the Office of Management and Budget; or

“(C) guidance or a directive that—

“(i) is not described in subparagraph (A) or (B);

“(ii)(I) is mandatory in its application to regulated entities; or

“(II) represents a statement of agency position that regulated entities would reasonably construe as reflecting the enforcement or litigation position of the agency; and

“(iii) imposes not less than \$25,000,000 in annual costs on regulated entities;

“(3) the term ‘direct costs’ means—

“(A) expenditures made by an Executive branch agency that relate to the promulga-

tion, administration, or enforcement of a covered Federal rule; or

“(B) costs incurred by an Executive branch agency, a Government corporation, the United States Postal Service, or any other instrumentality of the Federal Government because of a covered Federal rule;

“(4) the term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Regulatory Analysis established under section 614(b);

“(5) the term ‘Executive branch agency’ means—

“(A) an Executive department (as defined in section 101); and

“(B) an independent establishment (as defined in section 104);

“(6) the term ‘regulated entity’ means—

“(A) a for-profit private sector entity (including an individual who is in business as a sole proprietor);

“(B) a not-for-profit private sector entity; or

“(C) a State or local government; and

“(7) the term ‘regulatory costs’ means all costs incurred by a regulated entity because of covered Federal rules.

“§ 614. Office of Regulatory Analysis; establishment; powers

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the executive branch an independent establishment to be known as the ‘Office of Regulatory Analysis’.

“(b) DIRECTOR.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION.—There shall be at the head of the Office of Regulatory Analysis a Director, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(2) TERM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term of office of the Director shall—

“(i) be 4 years; and

“(ii) expire on the last day of February following each Presidential election.

“(B) APPOINTMENTS PRIOR TO EXPIRATION OF TERM.—Subject to subparagraph (C), an individual appointed as Director to fill a vacancy prior to the expiration of a term shall serve only for the unexpired portion of the term.

“(C) SERVICE UNTIL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR.—An individual serving as Director at the expiration of a term may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

“(3) POWERS.—

“(A) APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND EMPLOYEES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director may appoint Deputy Directors, officers, and employees, including attorneys, in accordance with chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53.

“(ii) TERM OF DEPUTY DIRECTORS.—A Deputy Director shall serve until the expiration of the term of office of the Director who appointed the Deputy Director (and until a successor to that Director is appointed), unless sooner removed by the Director.

“(B) CONTRACTING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director may contract for financial and administrative services (including those related to budget and accounting, financial reporting, personnel, and procurement) with the General Services Administration, or such other Federal agency as the Director determines appropriate, for which payment shall be made in advance, or by reimbursement, from funds of the Office of Regulatory Analysis in such amounts as may be agreed upon by the Director and the head of the Federal agency providing the services.

“(ii) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—Contract authority under clause (i) shall be effective for any fiscal year only to the extent

that appropriations are available for that purpose.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office of Regulatory Analysis for each fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to enable the Office of Regulatory Analysis to carry out its duties and functions.

“§ 615. Functions of Office of Regulatory Analysis; Executive branch agency compliance

“(a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 30 of each year, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a Report on National Regulatory Costs (referred to in this section as the ‘Report’) that includes the information specified under paragraph (2).

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each Report shall include—

“(A) an estimate, for the fiscal year during which the Report is submitted and for the preceding fiscal year, of—

“(i) the regulatory costs imposed by each Executive branch agency on regulated entities;

“(ii) the aggregate costs imposed by each Executive branch agency;

“(iii) the aggregate costs imposed by all Executive branch agencies combined;

“(iv) the direct costs incurred by the Federal Government because of covered Federal rules issued by each Executive branch agency;

“(v) the sum of the costs described in clauses (iii) and (iv);

“(vi) the regulatory costs imposed by each Executive branch agency on small businesses, small organizations, and small governmental jurisdictions (as those terms are defined in section 601); and

“(vii) the sum of the costs described in clause (vi);

“(B) an analysis of any major changes in estimation methodology used by the Office of Regulatory Analysis since the previous annual report;

“(C) an analysis of any major estimate changes caused by improved or inadequate data since the previous annual report;

“(D) recommendations, both general and specific, regarding—

“(i) how regulations may be streamlined, simplified, and modernized;

“(ii) regulations that should be repealed; and

“(iii) how the Federal Government may reduce the costs of regulations without diminishing the effectiveness of regulations; and

“(E) any other information that the Director determines may be of assistance to Congress in determining the National Regulatory Budget required under section 617.

“(b) REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF NEW RULES.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Director shall publish in the Federal Register and on the website of the Office of Regulatory Analysis a regulatory analysis of each proposed covered Federal rule issued by an Executive branch agency, and each proposed withdrawal or modification of a covered Federal rule by an Executive branch agency, that—

“(A) imposes costs on a regulated entity; or

“(B) reduces costs imposed on a regulated entity.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each regulatory analysis published under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) an estimate of the change in regulatory cost of each proposed covered Federal rule (or proposed withdrawal or modification of a covered Federal rule); and

“(B) any other information or recommendation that the Director may choose to provide.

“(3) TIMING OF REGULATORY ANALYSIS.—

“(A) INITIAL REGULATORY ANALYSIS.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Director receives a copy of a proposed covered Federal rule from the head of an Executive branch agency under paragraph (4), the Director shall publish an initial regulatory analysis.

“(B) REVISED REGULATORY ANALYSIS.—The Director may publish a revised regulatory analysis at any time.

“(4) NOTICE TO DIRECTOR OF PROPOSED COVERED FEDERAL RULE.—The head of an Executive branch agency shall provide a copy of each proposed covered Federal rule to the Director in a manner prescribed by the Director.

“(c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a covered Federal rule may not take effect earlier than 75 days after the date on which the head of the Executive branch agency proposing the covered Federal rule submits a copy of the proposed covered Federal rule to the Director in the manner prescribed by the Director under subsection (b)(4).

“(2) EXCEPTION.—If the head of the Executive branch agency proposing a covered Federal rule determines that the public health or safety or national security requires that the covered Federal rule be promulgated earlier than the date specified under paragraph (1), the head of the Executive branch agency may promulgate the covered Federal rule without regard to paragraph (1).

“§ 616. Public disclosure of estimate methodology and data; privacy

“(a) PRIVACY.—The Director shall comply with all relevant privacy laws, including—

“(1) the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note);

“(2) section 9 of title 13; and

“(3) section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(b) DISCLOSURE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent permitted by law, the Director shall disclose, by publication in the Federal Register and on the website of the Office of Regulatory Analysis, the methodology and data used to generate the estimates in the Report on National Regulatory Costs required under section 615.

“(2) GOAL OF DISCLOSURE.—In disclosing the methodology and data under paragraph (1), the Director shall seek to provide sufficient information so that outside researchers may replicate the results contained in the Report on National Regulatory Costs.

“§ 617. National Regulatory Budget; timeline

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘annual overall regulatory cost cap’ means the maximum amount of regulatory costs that all Executive branch agencies combined may impose in a fiscal year;

“(2) the term ‘annual agency regulatory cost cap’ means the maximum amount of regulatory costs that an Executive branch agency may impose in a fiscal year; and

“(3) the term ‘National Regulatory Budget’ means an Act of Congress that establishes, for a fiscal year—

“(A) the annual overall regulatory cost cap; and

“(B) an annual agency regulatory cost cap for each Executive branch agency.

“(b) COMMITTEE DEADLINES.—

“(1) REFERRAL.—Not later than March 31 of each year—

“(A) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate shall refer to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a bill that sets forth a National Regulatory Budget for the fiscal year beginning on October 1 of that year; and

“(B) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives shall refer to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a bill that sets forth a National Regulatory Budget for the fiscal year beginning on October 1 of that year.

“(2) REPORTING.—Not later than May 31 of each year—

“(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate shall report a bill establishing a National Regulatory Budget for the fiscal year beginning on October 1 of that year; and

“(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives shall report a bill establishing a National Regulatory Budget for the fiscal year beginning on October 1 of that year.

“(c) PASSAGE.—Not later than July 31 of each year, the House of Representatives and the Senate shall each pass a bill establishing a National Regulatory Budget for the fiscal year beginning on October 1 of that year.

“(d) PRESENTMENT.—Not later than September 15 of each year, Congress shall pass and present to the President a National Regulatory Budget for the fiscal year beginning on October 1 of that year.

“(e) DEFAULT BUDGET.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a National Regulatory Budget is not enacted with respect to a fiscal year, the most recently enacted National Regulatory Budget shall apply to that fiscal year.

“(2) DEFAULT INITIAL BUDGET.—

“(A) CALCULATION.—If a National Regulatory Budget is not enacted with respect to a fiscal year, and no National Regulatory Budget has previously been enacted—

“(i) the annual agency regulatory cost cap for an Executive branch agency for the fiscal year shall be equal to the amount of regulatory costs imposed by that Executive branch agency on regulated entities during the preceding fiscal year, as estimated by the Director in the annual report submitted to Congress under section 615(a); and

“(ii) the annual overall regulatory cost cap for the fiscal year shall be equal to the sum of the amounts described in clause (i).

“(B) EFFECT.—For purposes of section 619, an annual agency regulatory cost cap described in subparagraph (A) that applies to a fiscal year shall have the same effect as if the annual agency regulatory cost cap were part of a National Regulatory Budget applicable to that fiscal year.

“(f) INITIAL BUDGET.—The first National Regulatory Budget shall be with respect to fiscal year 2016.

“§ 618. Executive branch agency cooperation mandatory; information sharing

“(a) EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCY COOPERATION MANDATORY.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which the Director requests any information from an Executive branch agency, the Executive branch agency shall provide the Director with the information.

“(b) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An Executive branch agency may require the Director to enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding the confidentiality of information provided by the Executive branch agency to the Director under subsection (a) as a condition precedent to providing any requested information.

“(2) DEGREE OF CONFIDENTIALITY OR DATA PROTECTION.—An Executive branch agency may not require a greater degree of confidentiality or data protection from the Director in a memorandum of understanding entered into under paragraph (1) than the Executive branch agency itself must adhere to.

“(3) SCOPE.—A memorandum of understanding entered into by the Director and an Executive branch agency under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be general in scope; and

“(B) govern all pending and future requests made to the Executive branch agency by the Director.

“(c) SANCTIONS FOR NON-COOPERATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The appropriations of an Executive branch agency for a fiscal year shall be reduced by one-half of 1 percent if, during that fiscal year, the Director finds that—

“(A) the Executive branch agency has failed to timely provide information that the Director requested under subsection (a);

“(B) the Director has provided notice of the failure described in subparagraph (A) to the Executive branch agency;

“(C) the Executive branch agency has failed to cure the failure described in subparagraph (A) within 30 days of being notified under subparagraph (B); and

“(D) the information that the Director requested under subsection (a)—

“(i) is in the possession of the Executive branch agency; or

“(ii) may reasonably be developed by the Executive branch agency.

“(2) SEQUESTRATION.—The Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Office of Federal Financial Management and Financial Management Service, shall enforce a reduction in appropriations under paragraph (1) by sequestering the appropriate amount of funds and returning the funds to the Treasury.

“(3) APPEALS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget may reduce the amount of, or except as provided in subparagraph (B), waive, a sanction imposed under paragraph (1) if the Director of the Office of Management and Budget finds that—

“(i) the sanction is unwarranted;

“(ii) the sanction is disproportionate to the gravity of the failure;

“(iii) the failure has been cured; or

“(iv) providing the requested information would adversely affect national security.

“(B) NO WAIVER FOR HISTORICALLY NON-COMPLIANT AGENCIES.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget may not waive a sanction imposed on an Executive branch agency under paragraph (1) if the Executive branch agency has a history of non-compliance with requests for information by the Director of the Office of Regulatory Analysis under subsection (a).

“(d) NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Director may not require an Executive branch agency to provide information under subsection (a) that would adversely affect national security.

“§ 619. Enforcement

“(a) EXCEEDING ANNUAL AGENCY REGULATORY COST CAP.—An Executive branch

agency that exceeds the annual agency regulatory cost cap imposed by the National Regulatory Budget for a fiscal year may not promulgate a new covered Federal rule that increases regulatory costs until the Executive branch agency no longer exceeds the annual agency regulatory cost cap imposed by the applicable National Regulatory Budget.

“(b) DETERMINATION OF DIRECTOR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An Executive branch agency may not promulgate a covered Federal rule unless the Director determines, in conducting the regulatory analysis of the covered Federal rule under section 615(b)(3)(A) that, after the Executive branch agency promulgates the covered Federal rule, the Executive branch agency will not exceed the annual agency regulatory cost cap for that Executive branch agency.

“(2) TIMING.—The Director shall make a determination under paragraph (1) with respect to a proposed covered Federal rule not later than 60 days after the Director receives a copy of the proposed covered Federal rule under section 615(b)(4).

“(c) EFFECT OF VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.—

“(1) NO FORCE OR EFFECT.—A covered Federal rule that is promulgated in violation of this section shall have no force or effect.

“(2) JUDICIAL ENFORCEMENT.—Any party may bring an action in a district court of the United States to declare that a covered Federal rule has no force or effect because the covered Federal rule was promulgated in violation of this section.

“§ 620. Regulatory Analysis Advisory Board

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD.—In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), the Director shall—

“(1) establish a Regulatory Analysis Advisory Board; and

“(2) appoint not fewer than 9 and not more than 15 individuals as members of the Regulatory Analysis Advisory Board.

“(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Director shall appoint individuals with technical and practical expertise in economics, law, accounting, science, management, and other areas that will aid the Director in preparing the annual Report on National Regulatory Costs required under section 615.”

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The table of chapters for part I of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 6 the following:

“6A. National Regulatory Budget and Office of Regulatory Analysis 613”.

(B) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section 6103(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) OFFICE OF REGULATORY ANALYSIS.—Upon written request by the Director of the Office of Regulatory Analysis established under section 614 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary shall furnish to officers and employees of the Office of Regulatory Analysis return information for the purpose of, but only to the extent necessary for, an analysis of regulatory costs.”

(c) REPORT ON DUPLICATIVE PERSONNEL; REPORT ON REGULATORY ANALYSIS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Regulatory Analysis; and

(B) the term “Office of Regulatory Analysis” means the Office of Regulatory Analysis established under section 614(a) of title 5, United States Code (as added by subsection (b)).

(2) REPORT ON DUPLICATIVE PERSONNEL.—Not later than December 31, 2014, the Director shall submit to Congress a report determining positions in the Federal Government that are—

(A) duplicative of the work performed by the Office of Regulatory Analysis; or

(B) otherwise rendered cost ineffective by the work of the Office of Regulatory Analysis.

(3) REPORT ON REGULATORY ANALYSIS.—

(A) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than June 30, 2015, the Director shall provide to Congress a report analyzing the practice with respect to, and the effectiveness of—

(i) chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Regulatory Flexibility Act”);

(ii) the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 601 note);

(iii) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”);

(iv) each Executive Order that mandates economic analysis of Federal regulations; and

(v) Office of Management and Budget circulars, directives, and memoranda that mandate the economic analysis of Federal regulation.

(B) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall include recommendations about how Federal regulatory analysis may be improved.

(d) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE.—

(1) DEFINITION OF “RULE”.—Section 551(4) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after “requirements of an agency” the following: “, whether or not the agency statement amends the Code of Federal Regulations and including, without limitation, a statement described by the agency as a regulation, rule, directive, or guidance.”.

(2) NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING.—Section 553(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended, following the flush text, in subparagraph (A) by striking “interpretative rules, general statements of policy, or”.

SA 2916. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, insert the following:

SEC. . ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Entrepreneurial Training Improvement Act of 2014”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Entrepreneurship represents an important part of the economic recovery. According to the 2012 Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity, adults in the United States created an average of 543,000 new businesses each month in 2011, among the highest levels of entrepreneurship in the last 16 years.

(2) Of the estimated 27,500,000 small businesses in the United States, 21,400,000 had no employees in 2008, according to the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

(3) According to a January 2010 report entitled “Think Entrepreneurs: A Call to Action” prepared by the Consortium for Entre-

preneurship Education for the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor, “Entrepreneurship is not well established in Federal and statewide policy and execution strategies.” The report continues to state that Workforce Investment Board staff “lacks information and training about self-employment as a career option, including accessibility to resources, technical assistance, outreach efforts, available partnerships, assessment processes, and coordination of available funding options” and that the Boards report that “self-employment outcomes are hard to document for [Department of Labor] regulations; entrepreneurship does not fit into current methods for measuring performance.”

(4) In Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 12-10, issued November 15, 2010, the Employment and Training Administration noted that “Certain types of employment, particularly self-employment, are generally not covered by state [unemployment insurance] wage records, and the system has noted this as a challenge in providing entrepreneurship training. However, supplemental data options for some performance measures, combined with performance target negotiations, offer flexibility to accommodate entrepreneurship training within the workforce system.”

(5) There are many existing supplemental data sources and authorities that can be used to better measure the success of an entrepreneurial training program.

(6) All reasonable effort should be made by the Secretary of Labor to reduce regulatory barriers and disincentives that discourage local workforce investment boards from offering entrepreneurial training programs.

(c) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall establish alternate standards for measuring the progress of State and local performance for entrepreneurial training services, as authorized in section 134(d)(4)(D)(vi) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)(D)(vi)), and provide the State and local workforce investment boards with specific guidance on successful approaches to collecting performance information on entrepreneurial training services.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the alternate standards, the Secretary shall consider using standards based, for participants in such services, on—

(A) obtaining a State license, or a Federal or State tax identification number, for a corresponding business;

(B) documenting income from a corresponding business; or

(C) filing a Federal or State tax return for a corresponding business.

(3) AUTHORITIES.—In determining the alternate standards, the Secretary shall consider utilizing authorities granted under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), including a State’s waiver authority, as authorized in section 189(i)(4) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2939(i)(4)).

(4) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare a report on the progress of State and local workforce investment boards in implementing new programs of entrepreneurial training services and any ongoing challenges to offering such programs, with recommendations on how best to address those challenges. Not later than 12 months after publication of the final regulations establishing the alternate standards, the Secretary shall submit the report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and

the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate.

SA 2917. Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. HATCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. —. ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act”.

(b) **PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION.**—Section 401(b) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (division C of Public Law 104-208; 8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended by striking “Unless the Congress otherwise provides, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall terminate a pilot program on September 30, 2015.”.

(c) **MANDATORY USE OF E-VERIFY.**—Section 402 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.**—Each department and agency of the Federal Government shall participate in E-Verify by complying with the terms and conditions set forth in this section.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “, that conducts hiring in a State” and all that follows and inserting “shall participate in E-Verify by complying with the terms and conditions set forth in this section.”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) **UNITED STATES CONTRACTORS.**—Any person, employer, or other entity that enters into a contract with the Federal Government shall participate in E-Verify by complying with the terms and conditions set forth in this section.

“(3) **DESIGNATION OF CRITICAL EMPLOYERS.**—Not later than 7 days after the date of the enactment of the Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

“(A) conduct an assessment of employers that are critical to the homeland security or national security needs of the United States;

“(B) designate and publish a list of employers and classes of employers that are deemed to be critical pursuant to the assessment conducted under subparagraph (A); and

“(C) require that critical employers designated pursuant to subparagraph (B) participate in E-Verify by complying with the

terms and conditions set forth in this section not later than 30 days after the Secretary makes such designation.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) **MANDATORY PARTICIPATION IN E-VERIFY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), all employers in the United States shall participate in E-Verify, with respect to all employees recruited, referred, or hired by such employer on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act.

“(2) **USE OF CONTRACT LABOR.**—Any employer who uses a contract, subcontract, or exchange to obtain the labor of an individual in the United States shall certify in such contract, subcontract, or exchange that the employer uses E-Verify. If such certification is not included in a contract, subcontract, or exchange, the employer shall be deemed to have violated paragraph (1).

“(3) **INTERIM MANDATORY PARTICIPATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Before the date set forth in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall require any employer or class of employers to participate in E-Verify, with respect to all employees recruited, referred, or hired by such employer if the Secretary has reasonable cause to believe that the employer is or has been engaged in a material violation of section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a).

“(B) **NOTIFICATION.**—Not later than 14 days before an employer or class of employers is required to begin participating in E-Verify pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide such employer or class of employers with—

“(i) written notification of such requirement; and

“(ii) appropriate training materials to facilitate compliance with such requirement.”.

(d) **CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 402(e)(5) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), as redesignated by subsection (c)(1)(B), is amended to read as follows:

“(5) **CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE.**—If a person or other entity that is required to participate in E-Verify fails to comply with the requirements under this title with respect to an individual—

“(A) such failure shall be treated as a violation of section 274A(a)(1)(B) with respect to such individual; and

“(B) a rebuttable presumption is created that the person or entity has violated section 274A(a)(1)(A).”.

(2) **PENALTIES.**—Section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (4)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “, subject to paragraph (10),” after “in an amount”;

(II) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “not less than \$250 and not more than \$2,000” and inserting “not less than \$2,500 and not more than \$5,000”;

(III) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$5,000” and inserting “not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$10,000”;

(IV) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking “not less than \$3,000 and not more than \$10,000” and inserting “not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$25,000”; and

(V) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) may require the person or entity to take such other remedial action as is appropriate.”;

(ii) in paragraph (5)—

(I) by inserting “, subject to paragraphs (10) through (12),” after “in an amount”;

(II) by striking “\$100” and inserting “\$1,000”;

(III) by striking “\$1,000” and inserting “\$25,000”;

(IV) by striking “the size of the business of the employer being charged, the good faith of the employer” and inserting “the good faith of the employer being charged”; and

(V) by adding at the end the following:

“Failure by a person or entity to utilize the employment eligibility verification system as required by law, or providing information to the system that the person or entity knows or reasonably believes to be false, shall be treated as a violation of subsection (a)(1)(A).”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) **EXEMPTION FROM PENALTY.**—In the case of imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (4)(A) with respect to a violation of subsection (a)(1)(A) or (a)(2) for hiring or continuation of employment or recruitment or referral by person or entity and in the case of imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (5) for a violation of subsection (a)(1)(B) for hiring or recruitment or referral by a person or entity, the penalty otherwise imposed may be waived or reduced if the violator establishes that the violator acted in good faith.

“(11) **AUTHORITY TO DEBAR EMPLOYERS FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If a person or entity is determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be a repeat violator of paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of subsection (a), or is convicted of a crime under this section, such person or entity may be considered for debarment from the receipt of Federal contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements in accordance with the debarment standards and pursuant to the debarment procedures set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

“(B) **DOES NOT HAVE CONTRACT, GRANT, AGREEMENT.**—If the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General wishes to have a person or entity considered for debarment in accordance with this paragraph, and such a person or entity does not hold a Federal contract, grant or cooperative agreement, the Secretary or Attorney General shall refer the matter to the Administrator of General Services to determine whether to list the person or entity on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement, and if so, for what duration and under what scope.

“(C) **HAS CONTRACT, GRANT, AGREEMENT.**—If the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General wishes to have a person or entity considered for debarment in accordance with this paragraph, and such person or entity holds a Federal contract, grant or cooperative agreement, the Secretary or Attorney General shall advise all agencies or departments holding a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with the person or entity of the Government’s interest in having the person or entity considered for debarment, and after soliciting and considering the views of all such agencies and departments, the Secretary or Attorney General may waive the operation of this paragraph or refer the matter to any appropriate lead agency to determine whether to list the person or entity on the List of Parties Excluded

from Federal Procurement, and if so, for what duration and under what scope.

“(D) REVIEW.—Any decision to debar a person or entity under in accordance with this paragraph shall be reviewable pursuant to part 9.4 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.”; and

(B) in subsection (f)—

(i) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Any person or entity which engages in a pattern or practice of violations of subsection (a)(1) or (2) shall be fined not more than \$15,000 for each unauthorized alien with respect to which such a violation occurs, imprisoned for not less than 1 year and not more than 10 years, or both, notwithstanding the provisions of any other Federal law relating to fine levels.”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “Attorney General” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”.

(e) PREEMPTION; LIABILITY.—Section 402 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), as amended by this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) LIMITATION ON STATE AUTHORITY.—

“(1) PREEMPTION.—A State or local government may not prohibit a person or other entity from verifying the employment authorization of new hires or current employees through E-Verify.

“(2) LIABILITY.—A person or other entity that participates in E-Verify may not be held liable under any Federal, State, or local law for any employment-related action taken with respect to the wrongful termination of an individual in good faith reliance on information provided through E-Verify.”.

(f) EXPANDED USE OF E-VERIFY.—Section 403(a)(3)(A) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) BEFORE HIRING.—The person or other entity may verify the employment eligibility of an individual through E-Verify before the individual is hired, recruited, or referred if the individual consents to such verification. If an employer receives a tentative nonconfirmation for an individual, the employer shall comply with procedures prescribed by the Secretary, including—

“(I) providing the individual employees with private, written notification of the finding and written referral instructions;

“(II) allowing the individual to contest the finding; and

“(III) not taking adverse action against the individual if the individual chooses to contest the finding.

“(ii) AFTER EMPLOYMENT OFFER.—The person or other entity shall verify the employment eligibility of an individual through E-Verify not later than 3 days after the date of the hiring, recruitment, or referral, as the case may be.

“(iii) EXISTING EMPLOYEES.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of the Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act, the Secretary shall require all employers to use E-Verify to verify the identity and employment eligibility of any individual who has not been previously verified by the employer through E-Verify.”.

(g) REVERIFICATION.—Section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) REVERIFICATION.—Each person or other entity participating in E-Verify shall use the E-Verify confirmation system to reverify the work authorization of any individual not later than 3 days after the date on which such individual’s employment authorization is scheduled to expire (as indicated by the Secretary or the documents provided to the employer pursuant to section 274A(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b))), in accordance with the procedures set forth in this subsection and section 402.”.

(h) HOLDING EMPLOYERS ACCOUNTABLE.—

(1) CONSEQUENCES OF NONCONFIRMATION.—Section 403(a)(4)(C) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended to read as follows:

“(C) CONSEQUENCES OF NONCONFIRMATION.—

“(i) TERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.—If the person or other entity receives a final nonconfirmation regarding an individual, the employer shall immediately—

“(I) terminate the employment, recruitment, or referral of the individual; and

“(II) submit to the Secretary any information relating to the individual that the Secretary determines would assist the Secretary in enforcing or administering United States immigration laws.

“(ii) CONSEQUENCE OF CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT.—If the person or other entity continues to employ, recruit, or refer the individual after receiving final nonconfirmation, a rebuttable presumption is created that the employer has violated section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a).”.

(2) INTERAGENCY NONCONFIRMATION REPORT.—Section 405 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) INTERAGENCY NONCONFIRMATION REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall submit a weekly report to the Assistant Secretary of Immigration and Customs Enforcement that includes, for each individual who receives final nonconfirmation through E-Verify—

“(A) the name of such individual;

“(B) his or her Social Security number or alien file number;

“(C) the name and contact information for his or her current employer; and

“(D) any other critical information that the Assistant Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(2) USE OF WEEKLY REPORT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall use information provided under paragraph (1) to enforce compliance of the United States immigration laws.”.

(i) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Commissioner of Social Security, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall jointly establish a program to share information among such agencies that may or could lead to the identification of unauthorized aliens (as defined in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act), including any no-match letter and any information in the earnings suspense file.

(j) FORM I-9 PROCESS.—Not later than 9 months after date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to Congress that contains recommendations for—

(1) modifying and simplifying the process by which employers are required to complete and retain a Form I-9 for each employee pur-

suant to section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a); and

(2) eliminating the process described in paragraph (1).

(k) ALGORITHM.—Section 404(d) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) DESIGN AND OPERATION OF SYSTEM.—E-Verify shall be designed and operated—

“(1) to maximize its reliability and ease of use by employers;

“(2) to insulate and protect the privacy and security of the underlying information;

“(3) to maintain appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to prevent unauthorized disclosure of personal information;

“(4) to respond accurately to all inquiries made by employers on whether individuals are authorized to be employed;

“(5) to register any times when E-Verify is unable to receive inquiries;

“(6) to allow for auditing use of the system to detect fraud and identify theft;

“(7) to preserve the security of the information in all of the system by—

“(A) developing and using algorithms to detect potential identity theft, such as multiple uses of the same identifying information or documents;

“(B) developing and using algorithms to detect misuse of the system by employers and employees;

“(C) developing capabilities to detect anomalies in the use of the system that may indicate potential fraud or misuse of the system; and

“(D) auditing documents and information submitted by potential employees to employers, including authority to conduct interviews with employers and employees;

“(8) to confirm identity and work authorization through verification of records maintained by the Secretary, other Federal departments, States, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or an outlying possession of the United States, as determined necessary by the Secretary, including—

“(A) records maintained by the Social Security Administration;

“(B) birth and death records maintained by vital statistics agencies of any State or other jurisdiction in the United States;

“(C) passport and visa records (including photographs) maintained by the Department of State; and

“(D) State driver’s license or identity card information (including photographs) maintained by State department of motor vehicles;

“(9) to electronically confirm the issuance of the employment authorization or identity document; and

“(10) to display the digital photograph that the issuer placed on the document so that the employer can compare the photograph displayed to the photograph on the document presented by the employee or, in exceptional cases, if a photograph is not available from the issuer, to provide for a temporary alternative procedure, specified by the Secretary, for confirming the authenticity of the document.”.

(l) IDENTITY THEFT.—Section 1028 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(7), by striking “of another person” and inserting “that is not his or her own”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by adding “or” at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) to facilitate or assist in harboring or hiring unauthorized workers in violation of section 274, 274A, or 274C of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324, 1324a, and 1324c).”.

(m) **SMALL BUSINESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**—Section 403 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) **SMALL BUSINESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of the Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act, the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall establish a demonstration program that assists small businesses in rural areas or areas without internet capabilities to verify the employment eligibility of newly hired employees solely through the use of publicly accessible internet terminals.”.

SA 2918. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2922 submitted by Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

SA 2919. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2922 submitted by Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

SA 2920. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 4 days after enactment.

SA 2921. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “4 days” and insert “5 days”.

SA 2922. Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Extension of emergency unemployment compensation program.
- Sec. 3. Temporary extension of extended benefit provisions.
- Sec. 4. Extension of funding for reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities.
- Sec. 5. Additional extended unemployment benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.
- Sec. 6. Flexibility for unemployment program agreements.
- Sec. 7. Ending unemployment payments to jobless millionaires and billionaires.
- Sec. 8. GAO study on the use of work suitability requirements in unemployment insurance programs.
- Sec. 9. Funding stabilization.
- Sec. 10. Prepayment of certain PBGC premiums.
- Sec. 11. Extension of customs user fees.
- Sec. 12. Emergency services, government, and certain nonprofit volunteers.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Section 4007(a)(2) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “January 1, 2014” and inserting “June 1, 2014”.

(b) **FUNDING.**—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (J), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

“(K) the amendment made by section 2(a) of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014;”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 3. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF EXTENDED BENEFIT PROVISIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111-5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note), is amended—

(1) by striking “December 31, 2013” each place it appears and inserting “May 31, 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “June 30, 2014” and inserting “November 30, 2014”.

(b) **EXTENSION OF MATCHING FOR STATES WITH NO WAITING WEEK.**—Section 5 of the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-449; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “June 30, 2014” and inserting “November 30, 2014”.

(c) **EXTENSION OF MODIFICATION OF INDICATORS UNDER THE EXTENDED BENEFIT PROGRAM.**—Section 203 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “May 31, 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “May 31, 2014”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND REEMPLOYMENT AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4004(c)(2)(A) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2014” and inserting “through the first five months of fiscal year 2015”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this subsection shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

(b) **TIMING FOR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.**—(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4001(i)(1)(A) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence:

“At a minimum, such reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities shall be provided to an individual within a time period (determined appropriate by the Secretary) after the date the individual begins to receive amounts under section 4002(b) (first tier benefits) and, if applicable, again within a time period (determined appropriate by the Secretary) after the date the individual begins to receive amounts under section 4002(d) (third tier benefits).”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply on and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **PURPOSES OF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.**—The purposes of the reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities under section 4001(i) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) are—

(1) to better link the unemployed with the overall workforce system by bringing individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits in for personalized assessments and referrals to reemployment services; and

(2) to provide individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits with early access to specific strategies that can help get them back into the workforce faster, including through—

(A) the development of a reemployment plan;

(B) the provision of access to relevant labor market information;

(C) the provision of access to information about industry-recognized credentials that are regionally relevant or nationally portable;

(D) the provision of referrals to reemployment services and training; and

(E) an assessment of the individual's ongoing eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits.

SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS UNDER THE RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 2(c)(2)(D)(iii) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 352(c)(2)(D)(iii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “June 30, 2013” and inserting “November 30, 2013”; and

(2) by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “May 31, 2014”.

(b) CLARIFICATION ON AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS.—Funds appropriated under either the first or second sentence of clause (iv) of section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act shall be available to cover the cost of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D) by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a) as well as to cover the cost of such benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATION.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Railroad Retirement Board \$105,000 for administrative expenses associated with the payment of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act by reason of the amendments

made by subsection (a), to remain available until expended.

SEC. 6. FLEXIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENTS.

(a) FLEXIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall not apply with respect to a State that has enacted a law before December 1, 2013, that, upon taking effect, would violate such subsection.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) is effective with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after December 29, 2013.

(b) PERMITTING A SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT.—Nothing in title IV of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall preclude a State whose agreement under such title was terminated from entering into a subsequent agreement under such title on or after the date of the enactment of this Act if the State, taking into account the application of subsection (a), would otherwise meet the requirements for an agreement under such title.

SEC. 7. ENDING UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS TO JOBLESS MILLIONAIRES AND BILLIONAIRES.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds may be used for payments of unemployment compensation under the emergency unemployment compensation program under title IV of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) to an individual whose adjusted gross income in the preceding year was equal to or greater than \$1,000,000.

(b) COMPLIANCE.—Unemployment Insurance applications shall include a form or procedure for an individual applicant to certify the individual's adjusted gross income was not equal to or greater than \$1,000,000 in the preceding year.

(c) AUDITS.—The certifications required by subsection (b) shall be auditable by the U.S. Department of Labor or the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

(d) STATUS OF APPLICANTS.—It is the duty of the States to verify the residency, employment, legal, and income status of applicants for Unemployment Insurance and no Federal funds may be expended for purposes of determining whether or not the prohibition under subsection (a) applies with respect to an individual.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall apply to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. GAO STUDY ON THE USE OF WORK SUITABILITY REQUIREMENTS IN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the use of work suitability requirements to strengthen requirements to ensure that unemployment insurance benefits are being provided to individuals who are actively looking for work and who truly want to return to the labor force. Such study shall include an analysis of—

(1) how work suitability requirements work under both State and Federal unemployment insurance programs; and

(2) how to incorporate and improve such requirements under Federal unemployment insurance programs; and

(3) other items determined appropriate by the Comptroller General.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall brief Congress on the ongoing study required under subsection (a). Such briefing shall include preliminary recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SEC. 9. FUNDING STABILIZATION.

(a) FUNDING STABILIZATION UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.—The table in subclause (II) of section 430(h)(2)(C)(iv) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“If the calendar year is:	The applicable minimum percentage is:	The applicable maximum percentage is:
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, or 2017	90%	110%
2018	85%	115%
2019	80%	120%
2020	75%	125%
After 2020	70%	130%”.

(b) FUNDING STABILIZATION UNDER ERISA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The table in subclause (II) of section 303(h)(2)(C)(iv) of the Employee

Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended to read as follows:

“If the calendar year is:	The applicable minimum percentage is:	The applicable maximum percentage is:
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, or 2017	90%	110%
2018	85%	115%
2019	80%	120%
2020	75%	125%
After 2020	70%	130%”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Clause (ii) of section 101(f)(2)(D) of such Act is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2020”.

(B) STATEMENTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall modify the statements required under subclauses (I) and (II) of section 101(f)(2)(D)(i) of such Act to conform to the amendments made by this section.

(C) STABILIZATION NOT TO APPLY FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN ACCELERATED BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION RULES.—

(1) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—The second sentence of paragraph (2) of section 436(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “of such plan” and inserting “of such plan (determined by not taking into account any adjustment of segment rates under section 430(h)(2)(C)(iv))”.

(2) EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—The second sentence of subparagraph (B) of section 206(g)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1056(g)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “of such plan” and inserting “of such plan

(determined by not taking into account any adjustment of segment rates under section 303(h)(2)(C)(iv))”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2014.

(B) COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED PLANS.—In the case of a plan maintained pursuant to 1 or more collective bargaining agreements, the amendments made by this subsection

shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2015.

(4) PROVISIONS RELATING TO PLAN AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If this paragraph applies to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract, such plan or contract shall be treated as being operated in accordance with the terms of the plan during the period described in subparagraph (B)(ii).

(B) AMENDMENTS TO WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—This paragraph shall apply to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract which is made—

(I) pursuant to the amendments made by this subsection, or pursuant to any regulation issued by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of Labor under any provision as so amended, and

(II) on or before the last day of the first plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2016, or such later date as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

(ii) CONDITIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to any amendment unless, during the period—

(I) beginning on the date that the amendments made by this subsection or the regulation described in clause (i)(I) takes effect (or in the case of a plan or contract amendment not required by such amend

(II) ending on the date described in clause (i)(II) (or, if earlier, the date the plan or contract amendment is adopted),

the plan or contract is operated as if such plan or contract amendment were in effect, and such plan or contract amendment applies retroactively for such period.

(C) ANTI-CUTBACK RELIEF.—A plan shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements of section 204(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 411(d)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 solely by reason of a plan amendment to which this paragraph applies.

(d) MODIFICATION OF FUNDING TARGET DETERMINATION PERIODS.—

(1) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Clause (i) of section 430(h)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “the first day of the plan year” and inserting “the valuation date for the plan year”.

(2) EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—Clause (i) of section 303(h)(2)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1083(h)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “the first day of the plan year” and inserting “the valuation date for the plan year”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (d) shall apply with respect to plan years beginning after December 31, 2012.

(2) ELECTIONS.—A plan sponsor may elect not to have the amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (d) apply to any plan year beginning before January 1, 2014, either (as specified in the election)—

(A) for all purposes for which such amendments apply, or

(B) solely for purposes of determining the adjusted funding target attainment percentage under sections 436 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and 206(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 for such plan year.

A plan shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements of section 204(g) of such Act and section 411(d)(6) of such Code solely by reason of an election under this paragraph.

SEC. 10. PREPAYMENT OF CERTAIN PBGC PREMIUMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4007 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1307) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) ELECTION TO PREPAY FLAT DOLLAR PREMIUMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The designated payor may elect to prepay during any plan year the premiums due under clause (i) or (v), whichever is applicable, of section 4006(a)(3)(A) for the number of consecutive subsequent plan years (not greater than 5) specified in the election.

“(2) AMOUNT OF PREPAYMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the prepayment for any subsequent plan year under paragraph (1) shall be equal to the amount of the premium determined under clause (i) or (v), whichever is applicable, of section 4006(a)(3)(A) for the plan year in which the prepayment is made.

“(B) ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS.—If there is an increase in the number of participants in the plan during any plan year with respect to which a prepayment has been made, the designated payor shall pay a premium for such additional participants at the premium rate in effect under clause (i) or (v), whichever is applicable, of section 4006(a)(3)(A) for such plan year. No credit or other refund shall be granted in the case of a plan that has a decrease in number of participants during a plan year with respect to which a prepayment has been made.

“(C) COORDINATION WITH PREMIUM FOR UNFUNDED VESTED BENEFITS.—The amount of the premium determined under section 4006(a)(3)(A)(i) for the purpose of determining the prepayment amount for any plan year shall be determined without regard to the increase in such premium under section 4006(a)(3)(E). Such increase shall be paid in the same amount and at the same time as it would otherwise be paid without regard to this subsection.

“(3) ELECTION.—The election under this subsection shall be made at such time and in such manner as the corporation may prescribe.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The second sentence of subsection (a) of section 4007 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1307) is amended by striking “Premiums” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (f), premiums”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 11. EXTENSION OF CUSTOMS USER FEES.

Section 13031(j)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “September 30, 2024”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “September 30, 2024”.

SEC. 12. EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(A) EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide

volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms ‘qualified services’, ‘bona fide volunteer’, and ‘eligible employer’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

“(B) CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NON-PROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

“(ii) BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘bona fide volunteer’ means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

“(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

“(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, customarily paid by similar entities in connection with the performance of services by volunteers.

“(iii) SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified employer’ means—

“(I) any government entity, and

“(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

“(iv) COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).—This subparagraph shall not fail to apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(11)(C)).”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 30, 2013.

SA 2923. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. AMENDMENTS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT.

(a) DEFINITION OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively;

(2) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Subject to paragraphs (2) through (4)” and inserting “Subject to paragraphs (2) through (5)”;

(3) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) if accredited by an authorized accreditation authority in a State that has an alternative accreditation agreement with the Secretary, as described in paragraph (5)—

“(i) an institution that provides postsecondary education;

“(ii) a postsecondary apprenticeship program; or

“(iii) a postsecondary education course or program provided by an institution of postsecondary education, a nonprofit organization, or a for-profit organization or business;”; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (4), the following:

“(5) STATE ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State may establish an alternative accreditation system for the purpose of establishing institutions that provide postsecondary education and postsecondary education courses or programs as eligible for funding under title IV if the State enters into an agreement with the Secretary for the establishment of the alternative accreditation system. Such institutions, courses, or programs may include—

“(i) institutions that provide postsecondary education;

“(ii) postsecondary apprenticeship programs;

“(iii) any other postsecondary education course or program offered at an institution of postsecondary education, a nonprofit organization, or a for-profit organization or business; and

“(iv) any of the entities described in clauses (i) through (iii) that do not award a postsecondary certification, credential, or degree, provided that such entity provides credit that will apply toward a postsecondary certification, credential, or degree.

“(B) ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION AGREEMENT.—The alternative accreditation agreement described in subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

“(i) The designation of 1 or more authorized accrediting entities within the State, such as the State Department of Education, another State agency, an industry-specific accrediting agency, or another entity, and an explanation of the process through which the State will select such authorized accrediting entities.

“(ii) The standards or criteria that an institution that provides postsecondary education and a postsecondary education course or program must meet in order to—

“(I) receive an initial accreditation as part of the alternative accreditation system; and

“(II) maintain such accreditation.

“(iii) A description of the appeals process through which an institution that provides postsecondary education and a postsecondary education course or program may appeal to an authorized accrediting entity if such institution, course, or program is denied accreditation under the State alternative accreditation system.

“(iv) Each authorized accrediting entity’s policy regarding the transfer of credits between institutions that provide postsecondary education and postsecondary education courses or programs within the State that are accredited as part of the alternative accreditation system.

“(v) The Secretary’s reporting requirements for the State regarding the State alternative accreditation system, including—

“(I) the contents of reports that must be submitted to the Secretary, which may include information such as—

“(aa) in the case of a postsecondary education course or program that is accredited through the State alternative accreditation system—

“(AA) the number and percentage of students who successfully complete each such postsecondary education course or program; and

“(BB) the number and percentage of students who successfully obtain a postsec-

ondary certification, credential, or degree using credit obtained from each such postsecondary education course or program; and

“(bb) in the case of an institution that provides postsecondary education that is accredited through the State alternative accreditation system—

“(AA) the number and percentage of students who successfully obtain a postsecondary certification, credential, or degree from such institution; and

“(BB) the number and percentage of students who do not successfully obtain a postsecondary certification, credential, or degree from such institution but do obtain credit from such institution toward a postsecondary degree, credential, or certification;

“(II) the frequency with which such reports must be submitted to the Secretary; and

“(III) any requirements for third party verification of information contained in such reports.

“(vi) The State policy regarding public accessibility to certain information relating to institutions that provide postsecondary education and postsecondary education courses and programs accredited under the State alternative accreditation system, including—

“(I) the information described in subclause (I) of clause (v); and

“(II) information about the rates of job placement for individuals that have graduated from an institution or completed a course or program that is accredited under the State alternative accreditation system.

“(vii) An assurance by the State that under the State alternative accreditation system, only institutions that provide postsecondary education and postsecondary education courses or programs that provide credits toward a postsecondary certification, credential, or degree (as defined by the State in accordance with clause (viii)) will be accredited.

“(viii) The State’s definition of a postsecondary certification, credential, or degree, as such term applies to the requirement described in clause (vii).

“(ix) A description of the agreements that the State will enter into with institutions that provide postsecondary education and postsecondary education courses or programs that are accredited under the alternative accreditation system to enable such institutions, courses, or programs to be eligible under a program authorized under title IV, for participation in the direct student loan program, and for the origination of loans under part D of title IV, and how such agreements will operate in lieu of the agreements described in sections 487 and 454.

“(x) A description of how the State will select institutions that provide postsecondary education and postsecondary education courses or programs that are accredited under the alternative accreditation system, in lieu of the selection process described in section 453, for—

“(I) participation in the direct student loan program under part D of title IV; and

“(II) approval allowing such institution, program, or course to originate direct loans under part D of title IV.

“(xi) A description of how the State will administer title IV funds for institutions that provide postsecondary education, postsecondary apprenticeship programs, and postsecondary education courses or programs provided by an institution of postsecondary education, a nonprofit organization, or a for-profit organization or business that are accredited through the alternative accreditation system.

“(C) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR PELL GRANT STUDENTS.—

“(i) PELL GRANTS ADMINISTERED BY ENTITIES.—In the case of an institution that provides postsecondary education, a postsecondary apprenticeship program, or an entity that provides a postsecondary education course or program that is accredited through the alternative accreditation system and that will administer the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants in accordance with the agreement described in subparagraph (B)(xi), the Secretary shall, in lieu of carrying out section 690.10 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, and subject to available appropriations, pay \$5.00 to the institution, apprenticeship program, or entity, as the case may be, for each student who receives a Federal Pell Grant at that institution, apprenticeship program, or entity for an award year.

“(ii) PELL GRANTS ADMINISTERED BY STATES.—In the case of an institution that provides postsecondary education, a postsecondary apprenticeship program, or an entity that provides a postsecondary education course or program that is accredited through the alternative accreditation system and will not administer the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, but will have such programs administered by the State in accordance with the agreement described in subparagraph (B)(xi), the Secretary shall, in lieu of carrying out section 690.10 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, and subject to available appropriations, pay \$5.00 to the State for each student who receives a Federal Pell Grant at that institution, apprenticeship program, or entity, as the case may be, for an award year.

“(iii) USE OF FUNDS.—All funds that an institution, apprenticeship program, entity, or the State receives under this subparagraph shall be used solely to pay the cost of—

“(I) administering the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants; and

“(II) carrying out the reporting requirements described under subparagraph (B)(v).

“(iv) FINANCIAL AID SERVICES.—If an institution, apprenticeship program, or entity described in this subparagraph enrolls a significant number of students who are attending less-than-full-time or are independent students, such institution, apprenticeship program, entity, or the State, as the case may be, shall use a reasonable proportion of the funds provided under this subparagraph to make financial aid services available during times and in places that will most effectively accommodate the needs of those students.”.

(b) TITLE IV ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Part G of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 493E. STATE ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS, PROGRAMS, OR COURSES.

“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an institution, program, or course that is eligible for funds under this title in accordance with section 102(a)(1)(B) and meets the requirements of section 102(a)(5) shall not be required to meet any other requirements of this title. For purposes of this title, such an institution, program, or course shall be deemed to be an eligible institution that meets the requirements of section 487.”.

SA 2924. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . COMPENSATORY TIME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) COMPENSATORY TIME OFF FOR PRIVATE EMPLOYEES.—

“(1) GENERAL RULE.—An employee may receive, in accordance with this subsection and in lieu of monetary overtime compensation, compensatory time off at a rate not less than one and one-half hours for each hour of employment for which overtime compensation is required by this section.

“(2) CONDITIONS.—An employer may provide compensatory time to employees under paragraph (1)(A) only if such time is provided in accordance with—

“(A) applicable provisions of a collective bargaining agreement between the employer and the labor organization that has been certified or recognized as the representative of the employees under applicable law; or

“(B) in the case of employees who are not represented by a labor organization that has been certified or recognized as the representative of such employees under applicable law, an agreement arrived at between the employer and employee before the performance of the work and affirmed by a written or otherwise verifiable record maintained in accordance with section 11(c)—

“(i) in which the employer has offered and the employee has chosen to receive compensatory time in lieu of monetary overtime compensation; and

“(ii) entered into knowingly and voluntarily by such employees and not as a condition of employment.

No employee may receive or agree to receive compensatory time off under this subsection unless the employee has worked at least 1,000 hours for the employee's employer during a period of continuous employment with the employer in the 12-month period before the date of agreement or receipt of compensatory time off.

“(3) HOUR LIMIT.—

“(A) MAXIMUM HOURS.—An employee may accrue not more than 160 hours of compensatory time.

“(B) COMPENSATION DATE.—Not later than January 31 of each calendar year, the employee's employer shall provide monetary compensation for any unused compensatory time off accrued during the preceding calendar year that was not used prior to December 31 of the preceding year at the rate prescribed by paragraph (6). An employer may designate and communicate to the employer's employees a 12-month period other than the calendar year, in which case such compensation shall be provided not later than 31 days after the end of such 12-month period.

“(C) EXCESS OF 80 HOURS.—The employer may provide monetary compensation for an employee's unused compensatory time in excess of 80 hours at any time after giving the employee at least 30 days notice. Such compensation shall be provided at the rate prescribed by paragraph (6).

“(D) POLICY.—Except where a collective bargaining agreement provides otherwise, an employer that has adopted a policy offering

compensatory time to employees may discontinue such policy upon giving employees 30 days notice.

“(E) WRITTEN REQUEST.—An employee may withdraw an agreement described in paragraph (2)(B) at any time. An employee may also request in writing that monetary compensation be provided, at any time, for all compensatory time accrued that has not yet been used. Within 30 days of receiving the written request, the employer shall provide the employee the monetary compensation due in accordance with paragraph (6).

“(4) PRIVATE EMPLOYER ACTIONS.—An employer that provides compensatory time under paragraph (1) to employees shall not directly or indirectly intimidate, threaten, or coerce or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any employee for the purpose of—

“(A) interfering with such employee's rights under this subsection to request or not request compensatory time off in lieu of payment of monetary overtime compensation for overtime hours; or

“(B) requiring any employee to use such compensatory time.

“(5) TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT.—An employee who has accrued compensatory time off authorized to be provided under paragraph (1) shall, upon the voluntary or involuntary termination of employment, be paid for the unused compensatory time in accordance with paragraph (6).

“(6) RATE OF COMPENSATION.—

“(A) GENERAL RULE.—If compensation is to be paid to an employee for accrued compensatory time off, such compensation shall be paid at a rate of compensation not less than—

“(i) the regular rate received by such employee when the compensatory time was earned; or

“(ii) the final regular rate received by such employee, whichever is higher.

“(B) CONSIDERATION OF PAYMENT.—Any payment owed to an employee under this subsection for unused compensatory time shall be considered unpaid overtime compensation.

“(7) USE OF TIME.—An employee—

“(A) who has accrued compensatory time off authorized to be provided under paragraph (1); and

“(B) who has requested the use of such compensatory time, shall be permitted by the employee's employer to use such time within a reasonable period after making the request if the use of the compensatory time does not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer.

“(8) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘employee’ does not include an employee of a public agency; and

“(B) the terms ‘overtime compensation’ and ‘compensatory time’ shall have the meanings given such terms by subsection (o)(7).”.

(b) REMEDIES.—Section 16 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “(b) Any employer” and inserting “(b) Except as provided in subsection (f), any employer”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) An employer that violates section 7(s)(4) shall be liable to the employee affected in the amount of the rate of compensation (determined in accordance with section 7(s)(6)(A)) for each hour of compensatory time accrued by the employee and in an additional equal amount as liquidated damages reduced by the amount of such rate

of compensation for each hour of compensatory time used by such employee.”.

(c) NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall revise the materials the Secretary provides, under regulations published in section 516.4 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, to employers for purposes of a notice explaining the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to employees so that such notice reflects the amendments made to such Act by this section.

(d) GAO REPORT.—Beginning 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and each of the 3 years thereafter, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress providing, with respect to the reporting period immediately prior to each such report—

(1) data concerning the extent to which employers provide compensatory time pursuant to section 7(s) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as added by this section, and the extent to which employees opt to receive compensatory time;

(2) the number of complaints alleging a violation of such section filed by any employee with the Secretary of Labor;

(3) the number of enforcement actions commenced by the Secretary or commenced by the Secretary on behalf of any employee for alleged violations of such section;

(4) the disposition or status of such complaints and actions described in paragraphs (2) and (3); and

(5) an account of any unpaid wages, damages, penalties, injunctive relief, or other remedies obtained or sought by the Secretary in connection with such actions described in paragraph (3).

(e) SUNSET.—This section and the amendments made by this Act shall expire 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2925. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE ____ —TRANSPORTATION EMPOWERMENT

SEC. ____ 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Transportation Empowerment Act”.

SEC. ____ 02. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the objective of the Federal highway program has been to facilitate the construction of a modern freeway system that promotes efficient interstate commerce by connecting all States;

(2) the objective described in paragraph (1) has been attained, and the Interstate System connecting all States is near completion;

(3) each State has the responsibility of providing an efficient transportation network for the residents of the State;

(4) each State has the means to build and operate a network of transportation systems, including highways, that best serves the needs of the State;

(5) each State is best capable of determining the needs of the State and acting on those needs;

(6) the Federal role in highway transportation has, over time, usurped the role of the

States by taxing motor fuels used in the States and then distributing the proceeds to the States based on the perceptions of the Federal Government on what is best for the States;

(7) the Federal Government has used the Federal motor fuels tax revenues to force all States to take actions that are not necessarily appropriate for individual States;

(8) the Federal distribution, review, and enforcement process wastes billions of dollars on unproductive activities;

(9) Federal mandates that apply uniformly to all 50 States, regardless of the different circumstances of the States, cause the States to waste billions of hard-earned tax dollars on projects, programs, and activities that the States would not otherwise undertake; and

(10) Congress has expressed a strong interest in reducing the role of the Federal Government by allowing each State to manage its own affairs.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this title are—

(1) to return to the individual States maximum discretionary authority and fiscal responsibility for all elements of the national surface transportation systems that are not within the direct purview of the Federal Government;

(2) to preserve Federal responsibility for the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways;

(3) to preserve the responsibility of the Department of Transportation for—

(A) design, construction, and preservation of transportation facilities on Federal public land;

(B) national programs of transportation research and development and transportation safety; and

(C) emergency assistance to the States in response to natural disasters;

(4) to eliminate to the maximum extent practicable Federal obstacles to the ability of each State to apply innovative solutions to the financing, design, construction, operation, and preservation of Federal and State transportation facilities; and

(5) with respect to transportation activities carried out by States, local governments, and the private sector, to encourage—

(A) competition among States, local governments, and the private sector; and

(B) innovation, energy efficiency, private sector participation, and productivity.

SEC. 03. FUNDING LIMITATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Secretary of Transportation determines for any of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 that the aggregate amount required to carry out transportation programs and projects under this title and amendments made by this title exceeds the estimated aggregate amount in the Highway Trust Fund available for those programs and projects for the fiscal year, each amount made available for that program or project shall be reduced by the pro rata percentage required to reduce the aggregate amount required to carry out those programs and projects to an amount equal to that available for those programs and projects in the Highway Trust Fund for the fiscal year.

SEC. 04. FUNDING FOR CORE HIGHWAY PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—The following sums are authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account):

(A) **FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY PROGRAM.**—For the national highway performance program

under section 119 of title 23, United States Code, the surface transportation program under section 133 of that title, the metropolitan transportation planning program under section 134 of that title, the highway safety improvement program under section 148 of that title, and the congestion mitigation and air quality improvement program under section 149 of that title—

(i) \$37,592,576,000 for fiscal year 2015;

(ii) \$19,720,696,000 for fiscal year 2016;

(iii) \$13,147,130,000 for fiscal year 2017;

(iv) \$10,271,196,000 for fiscal year 2018; and

(v) \$7,600,685,000 for fiscal year 2019.

(B) **EMERGENCY RELIEF.**—For emergency relief under section 125 of title 23, United States Code, \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

(C) **FEDERAL LANDS PROGRAMS.**—

(i) **FEDERAL LANDS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.**—For the Federal lands transportation program under section 203 of title 23, United States Code, \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019, of which \$240,000,000 of the amount made available for each fiscal year shall be the amount for the National Park Service and \$30,000,000 of the amount made available for each fiscal year shall be the amount for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(ii) **FEDERAL LANDS ACCESS PROGRAM.**—For the Federal lands access program under section 204 of title 23, United States Code, \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

(D) **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—Section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) to be made available to the Secretary for administrative expenses of the Federal Highway Administration—

“(A) \$437,600,000 for fiscal year 2015;

“(B) \$229,565,000 for fiscal year 2016;

“(C) \$153,043,000 for fiscal year 2017;

“(D) \$119,565,000 for fiscal year 2018; and

“(E) \$88,478,000 for fiscal year 2019.”.

(2) **TRANSFERABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Section 104 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) **TRANSFERABILITY OF FUNDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To the extent that a State determines that funds made available under this title to the State for a purpose are in excess of the needs of the State for that purpose, the State may transfer the excess funds to, and use the excess funds for, any surface transportation (including mass transit and rail) purpose in the State.

“(2) **ENFORCEMENT.**—If the Secretary determines that a State has transferred funds under paragraph (1) to a purpose that is not a surface transportation purpose as described in paragraph (1), the amount of the improperly transferred funds shall be deducted from any amount the State would otherwise receive from the Highway Trust Fund for the fiscal year that begins after the date of the determination.”.

(3) **FEDERAL-AID SYSTEM.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 103(a) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking “the National Highway System, which includes”.

(B) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in section 103 by striking the section designation and heading and inserting the following:

“§ 103. Federal-aid system”;

and

(ii) in the analysis by striking the item relating to section 103 and inserting the following:

“103. Federal-aid system.”.

(4) **CALCULATION OF STATE AMOUNTS.**—Section 104(c)(2) of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading by striking “FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014” and inserting “SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A) by striking “fiscal year 2014” and inserting “fiscal year 2014 and each subsequent fiscal year”.

(5) **NATIONAL BRIDGE AND TUNNEL INVENTORY AND INSPECTION STANDARDS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 144 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in subsection (e)(1) by inserting “on the Federal-aid system” after “any bridge”; and

(ii) in subsection (f)(1) by inserting “on the Federal-aid system” after “construct any bridge”.

(B) **REPEAL OF HISTORIC BRIDGES PROVISIONS.**—Section 144(g) of title 23, United States Code, is repealed.

(6) **REPEAL OF TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM.**—The following provisions are repealed:

(A) Section 213 of title 23, United States Code.

(B) The item relating to section 213 in the analysis for chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code.

(7) **NATIONAL DEFENSE HIGHWAYS.**—Section 311 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “under subsection (a) of section 104 of this title” and inserting “to carry out this section”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence.

(8) **FEDERALIZATION AND DEFEDERALIZATION OF PROJECTS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning on October 1, 2014—

(A) a highway construction or improvement project shall not be considered to be a Federal highway construction or improvement project unless and until a State expends Federal funds for the construction portion of the project;

(B) a highway construction or improvement project shall not be considered to be a Federal highway construction or improvement project solely by reason of the expenditure of Federal funds by a State before the construction phase of the project to pay expenses relating to the project, including for any environmental document or design work required for the project; and

(C)(i) a State may, after having used Federal funds to pay all or a portion of the costs of a highway construction or improvement project, reimburse the Federal Government in an amount equal to the amount of Federal funds so expended; and

(ii) after completion of a reimbursement described in clause (i), a highway construction or improvement project described in that clause shall no longer be considered to be a Federal highway construction or improvement project.

(9) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—No reporting requirement, other than a reporting requirement in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act, shall apply on or after October 1, 2014, to the use of Federal funds for highway projects by a public-private partnership.

(b) **EXPENDITURES FROM HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.**—

(1) EXPENDITURES FOR CORE PROGRAMS.—Section 9503(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “October 1, 2014” and inserting “October 1, 2020”; and

(ii) by striking “MAP-21” and inserting “Transportation Empowerment Act”;

(B) in paragraphs (3)(A)(i), (4)(A), and (5), by striking “October 1, 2016” each place it appears and inserting “October 1, 2022”; and

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “July 1, 2017” and inserting “July 1, 2023”.

(2) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR CORE PROGRAM EXPENDITURES.—Section 9503 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) CORE PROGRAMS FINANCING RATE.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2)—

“(A) in the case of gasoline and special motor fuels the tax rate of which is the rate specified in section 4081(a)(2)(A)(i), the core programs financing rate is—

“(i) after September 30, 2014, and before October 1, 2015, 18.3 cents per gallon,

“(ii) after September 30, 2015, and before October 1, 2016, 9.6 cents per gallon,

“(iii) after September 30, 2016, and before October 1, 2017, 6.4 cents per gallon,

“(iv) after September 30, 2017, and before October 1, 2018, 5.0 cents per gallon, and

“(v) after September 30, 2018, 3.7 cents per gallon, and

“(B) in the case of kerosene, diesel fuel, and special motor fuels the tax rate of which is the rate specified in section 4081(a)(2)(A)(iii), the core programs financing rate is—

“(i) after September 30, 2014, and before October 1, 2015, 24.3 cents per gallon,

“(ii) after September 30, 2015, and before October 1, 2016, 12.7 cents per gallon,

“(iii) after September 30, 2016, and before October 1, 2017, 8.5 cents per gallon,

“(iv) after September 30, 2017, and before October 1, 2018, 6.6 cents per gallon, and

“(v) after September 30, 2018, 5.0 cents per gallon.

“(2) APPLICATION OF RATE.—In the case of fuels used as described in paragraphs (3)(C), (4)(B), and (5) of subsection (c), the core programs financing rate is zero.”.

(c) TERMINATION OF MASS TRANSIT ACCOUNT.—Section 9503(e)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting “, and before October 1, 2014” after “March 31, 1983”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) TRANSFER TO HIGHWAY ACCOUNT.—On October 1, 2014, the Secretary shall transfer all amounts in the Mass Transit Account to the Highway Account.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments and repeals made by this section take effect on October 1, 2014.

SEC. 05. FUNDING FOR HIGHWAY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) to carry out section 503(b) of title 23, United States Code, \$115,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF TITLE 23, UNITED STATES CODE.—Funds authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) shall—

(1) be available for obligation in the same manner as if those funds were apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, except that the Federal share of the

cost of a project or activity carried out using those funds shall be 80 percent, unless otherwise expressly provided by this title (including the amendments by this title) or otherwise determined by the Secretary; and

(2) remain available until expended and not be transferable.

SEC. 06. RETURN OF EXCESS TAX RECEIPTS TO STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9503(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) RETURN OF EXCESS TAX RECEIPTS TO STATES FOR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PURPOSES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—On the first day of each of fiscal years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall—

“(i) determine the excess (if any) of—

“(I) the amounts appropriated in such fiscal year to the Highway Trust Fund under subsection (b) which are attributable to the taxes described in paragraphs (1) and (2) thereof (after the application of paragraph (4) thereof) over the sum of—

“(II) the amounts so appropriated which are equivalent to—

“(aa) such amounts attributable to the core programs financing rate for such year, plus

“(bb) the taxes described in paragraphs (3)(C), (4)(B), and (5) of subsection (c), and

“(ii) allocate the amount determined under clause (i) among the States (as defined in section 101(a) of title 23, United States Code) for surface transportation (including mass transit and rail) purposes so that—

“(I) the percentage of that amount allocated to each State, is equal to

“(II) the percentage of the amount determined under clause (i)(I) paid into the Highway Trust Fund in the latest fiscal year for which such data are available which is attributable to highway users in the State.

“(B) ENFORCEMENT.—If the Secretary determines that a State has used amounts under subparagraph (A) for a purpose which is not a surface transportation purpose as described in subparagraph (A), the improperly used amounts shall be deducted from any amount the State would otherwise receive from the Highway Trust Fund for the fiscal year which begins after the date of the determination.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section takes effect on October 1, 2014.

SEC. 07. REDUCTION IN TAXES ON GASOLINE, DIESEL FUEL, KEROSENE, AND SPECIAL FUELS FUNDING HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.

(a) REDUCTION IN TAX RATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4081(a)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “18.3 cents” and inserting “3.7 cents”; and

(B) in clause (iii), by striking “24.3 cents” and inserting “5.0 cents”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 4081(a)(2)(D) of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking “19.7 cents” and inserting “4.1 cents”; and

(ii) by striking “24.3 cents” and inserting “5.0 cents”.

(B) Section 6427(b)(2)(A) of such Code is amended by striking “7.4 cents” and inserting “1.5 cents”.

(b) ADDITIONAL CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 4041(a)(1)(C)(iii)(I) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by

striking “7.3 cents per gallon (4.3 cents per gallon after September 30, 2016)” and inserting “1.4 cents per gallon (zero after September 30, 2021)”.

(2) Section 4041(a)(2)(B)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking “24.3 cents” and inserting “5.0 cents”.

(3) Section 4041(a)(3)(A) of such Code is amended by striking “18.3 cents” and inserting “3.7 cents”.

(4) Section 4041(m)(1) of such Code is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2016” and inserting “2021.”;

(B) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “9.15 cents” and inserting “1.8 cents”;

(C) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “11.3 cents” and inserting “2.3 cents”; and

(D) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) zero after September 30, 2021.”.

(5) Section 4081(d)(1) of such Code is amended by striking “4.3 cents per gallon after September 30, 2016” and inserting “zero after September 30, 2021”.

(6) Section 9503(b) of such Code is amended—

(A) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking “October 1, 2016” both places it appears and inserting “October 1, 2021”;

(B) in the heading of paragraph (2), by striking “OCTOBER 1, 2016” and inserting “OCTOBER 1, 2021”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “after September 30, 2016, and before July 1, 2017” and inserting “after September 30, 2021, and before July 1, 2022”; and

(D) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking “October 1, 2014” and inserting “October 1, 2019”.

(c) FLOOR STOCK REFUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If—

(A) before October 1, 2019, tax has been imposed under section 4081 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 on any liquid; and

(B) on such date such liquid is held by a dealer and has not been used and is intended for sale;

there shall be credited or refunded (without interest) to the person who paid such tax (in this subsection referred to as the “taxpayer”) an amount equal to the excess of the tax paid by the taxpayer over the amount of such tax which would be imposed on such liquid had the taxable event occurred on such date.

(2) TIME FOR FILING CLAIMS.—No credit or refund shall be allowed or made under this subsection unless—

(A) claim therefor is filed with the Secretary of the Treasury before April 1, 2020; and

(B) in any case where liquid is held by a dealer (other than the taxpayer) on October 1, 2019—

(i) the dealer submits a request for refund or credit to the taxpayer before January 1, 2020; and

(ii) the taxpayer has repaid or agreed to repay the amount so claimed to such dealer or has obtained the written consent of such dealer to the allowance of the credit or the making of the refund.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR FUEL HELD IN RETAIL STOCKS.—No credit or refund shall be allowed under this subsection with respect to any liquid in retail stocks held at the place where intended to be sold at retail.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the terms “dealer” and “held by a dealer” have the respective meanings given to such terms by section 6412 of such Code; except that the term “dealer” includes a producer.

(5) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—Rules similar to the rules of subsections (b) and (c) of section 6412 and sections 6206 and 6675 of such Code shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to fuel removed after September 30, 2019.

(2) CERTAIN CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by subsections (b)(4) and (b)(6) shall apply to fuel removed after September 30, 2016.

SEC. 08. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, after consultation with the appropriate committees of Congress, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to Congress describing such technical and conforming amendments to titles 23 and 49, United States Code, and such technical and conforming amendments to other laws, as are necessary to bring those titles and other laws into conformity with the policy embodied in this title and the amendments made by this title.

SEC. 09. EFFECTIVE DATE CONTINGENT ON CERTIFICATION OF DEFICIT NEUTRALITY.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to ensure that—

(1) this title will become effective only if the Director of the Office of Management and Budget certifies that this title is deficit neutral;

(2) discretionary spending limits are reduced to capture the savings realized in devolving transportation functions to the State level pursuant to this title; and

(3) the tax reduction made by this title is not scored under pay-as-you-go and does not inadvertently trigger a sequestration.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE CONTINGENCY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, this title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect only if—

(1) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (referred to in this section as the “Director”) submits the report as required in subsection (c); and

(2) the report contains a certification by the Director that, based on the required estimates, the reduction in discretionary outlays resulting from the reduction in contract authority is at least as great as the reduction in revenues for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2019.

(c) OMB ESTIMATES AND REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 5 calendar days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall—

(A) estimate the net change in revenues resulting from this title for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2019;

(B) estimate the net change in discretionary outlays resulting from the reduction in contract authority under this title for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2019;

(C) determine, based on those estimates, whether the reduction in discretionary outlays is at least as great as the reduction in revenues for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2019; and

(D) submit to Congress a report setting forth the estimates and determination.

(2) APPLICABLE ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDELINES.—

(A) REVENUE ESTIMATES.—The revenue estimates required under paragraph (1)(A) shall be predicated on the same economic and technical assumptions and score keeping guidelines that would be used for estimates made pursuant to section 252(d) of the Bal-

anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 902(d)).

(B) OUTLAY ESTIMATES.—The outlay estimates required under paragraph (1)(B) shall be determined by comparing the level of discretionary outlays resulting from this title with the corresponding level of discretionary outlays projected in the baseline under section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907).

(d) CONFORMING ADJUSTMENT TO DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.—On compliance with the requirements specified in subsection (b), the Director shall adjust the adjusted discretionary spending limits for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2019 under section 601(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 665(a)(2)) by the estimated reductions in discretionary outlays under subsection (c)(1)(B).

(e) PAYGO INTERACTION.—On compliance with the requirements specified in subsection (b), no changes in revenues estimated to result from the enactment of this Act shall be counted for the purposes of section 252(d) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 902(d)).

SA 2926. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16 of the amendment, strike line 15 and all that follows through page 18, line 19, and insert the following:

SEC. 10. REDUCTION IN BENEFITS BASED ON RECEIPT OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 224 the following new section:

“REDUCTION IN BENEFITS BASED ON RECEIPT OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

“SEC. 224A (a)(1) If for any month prior to the month in which an individual attains retirement age (as defined in section 216(l)(1))—

“(A) such individual is entitled to benefits under section 223, and

“(B) such individual is entitled for such month to unemployment compensation, the total of the individual’s benefits under section 223 for such month and of any benefits under section 202 for such month based on the individual’s wages and self-employment income shall be reduced (but not below zero) by the total amount of unemployment compensation received by such individual for such month.

“(2) The reduction of benefits under paragraph (1) shall also apply to any past-due benefits under section 223 for any month in which the individual was entitled to—

“(A) benefits under such section, and

“(B) unemployment compensation.

“(3) The reduction of benefits under paragraph (1) shall not apply to any benefits under section 223 for any month, or any ben-

efits under section 202 for such month based on the individual’s wages and self-employment income for such month, if the individual is entitled for such month to unemployment compensation following a period of trial work (as described in section 222(c)(1), participation in the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program established under section 1148, or participation in any other program that is designed to encourage an individual entitled to benefits under section 223 or 202 to work.

“(b) If any unemployment compensation is payable to an individual on other than a monthly basis (including a benefit payable as a lump sum to the extent that it is a commutation of, or a substitute for, such periodic compensation), the reduction under this section shall be made at such time or times and in such amounts as the Commissioner of Social Security (referred to in this section as the ‘Commissioner’) determines will approximate as nearly as practicable the reduction prescribed by subsection (a).

“(c) Reduction of benefits under this section shall be made after any applicable reductions under section 203(a) and section 224, but before any other applicable deductions under section 203.

“(d)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), if the Commissioner determines that an individual may be eligible for unemployment compensation which would give rise to a reduction of benefits under this section, the Commissioner may require, as a condition of certification for payment of any benefits under section 223 to any individual for any month and of any benefits under section 202 for such month based on such individual’s wages and self-employment income, that such individual certify—

“(A) whether the individual has filed or intends to file any claim for unemployment compensation, and

“(B) if the individual has filed a claim, whether there has been a decision on such claim.

“(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the Commissioner may, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, rely upon a certification by the individual that the individual has not filed and does not intend to file such a claim, or that the individual has so filed and no final decision thereon has been made, in certifying benefits for payment pursuant to section 205(i).

“(e) Whenever a reduction in total benefits based on an individual’s wages and self-employment income is made under this section for any month, each benefit, except the disability insurance benefit, shall first be proportionately decreased, and any excess of such reduction over the sum of all such benefits other than the disability insurance benefit shall then be applied to such disability insurance benefit.

“(f)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of any Federal agency shall provide such information within its possession as the Commissioner may require for purposes of making a timely determination of the amount of the reduction, if any, required by this section in benefits payable under this title, or verifying other information necessary in carrying out the provisions of this section.

“(2) The Commissioner is authorized to enter into agreements with States, political subdivisions, and other organizations that administer unemployment compensation, in order to obtain such information as the Commissioner may require to carry out the provisions of this section.

“(g) For purposes of this section, the term ‘unemployment compensation’ has the meaning given that term in section 85(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the total amount of unemployment compensation to which an individual is entitled shall be determined prior to any applicable reduction under State law based on the receipt of benefits under section 202 or 223.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 224(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 424(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “the age of 65” and inserting “retirement age (as defined in section 216(1)(1))”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply to benefits payable for months beginning on or after the date that is 12 months after the date of enactment of this section.

SA 2927. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE II—REINS ACT

SECTION 201. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2014” or the “REINS Act”.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) Section 1 of article I of the United States Constitution grants all legislative powers to Congress.

(2) Over time, Congress has excessively delegated its constitutional charge while failing to conduct appropriate oversight and retain accountability for the content of the laws it passes.

(3) By requiring a vote in Congress, the REINS Act will result in more carefully drafted and detailed legislation, an improved regulatory process, and a legislative branch that is truly accountable to the people of the United States for the laws imposed upon them.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this title is to increase accountability for and transparency in the Federal regulatory process.

SEC. 203. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.

Chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“CHAPTER 8—CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING

“Sec.

“801. Congressional review.

“802. Congressional approval procedure for major rules.

“803. Congressional disapproval procedure for nonmajor rules.

“804. Definitions.

“805. Judicial review.

“806. Exemption for monetary policy.

“807. Effective date of certain rules.

“§ 801. Congressional review

“(a)(1)(A) Before a rule may take effect, the Federal agency promulgating such rule shall submit to each House of Congress and to the Comptroller General a report containing—

“(i) a copy of the rule;

“(ii) a concise general statement relating to the rule;

“(iii) a classification of the rule as a major or nonmajor rule, including an explanation of the classification specifically addressing each criteria for a major rule contained within sections 804(2)(A), 804(2)(B), and 804(2)(C);

“(iv) a list of any other related regulatory actions intended to implement the same statutory provision or regulatory objective as well as the individual and aggregate economic effects of those actions; and

“(v) the proposed effective date of the rule.

“(B) On the date of the submission of the report under subparagraph (A), the Federal agency promulgating the rule shall submit to the Comptroller General and make available to each House of Congress—

“(i) a complete copy of the cost-benefit analysis of the rule, if any;

“(ii) the actions of the agency pursuant to sections 603, 604, 605, 607, and 609 of title 5, United States Code;

“(iii) the actions of the agency pursuant to sections 1532, 1533, 1534, and 1535 of title 2, United States Code; and

“(iv) any other relevant information or requirements under any other Act and any relevant Executive orders.

“(C) Upon receipt of a report submitted under subparagraph (A), each House shall provide copies of the report to the chairman and ranking member of each standing committee with jurisdiction under the rules of the House of Representatives or the Senate to report a bill to amend the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

“(2)(A) The Comptroller General shall provide a report on each major rule to the committees of jurisdiction by the end of 15 calendar days after the submission or publication date as provided in section 802(b)(2). The report of the Comptroller General shall include an assessment of compliance by the agency with procedural steps required by paragraph (1)(B).

“(B) Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Comptroller General by providing information relevant to the Comptroller General’s report under subparagraph (A).

“(3) A major rule relating to a report submitted under paragraph (1) shall take effect upon enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 802 or as provided for in the rule following enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 802, whichever is later.

“(4) A nonmajor rule shall take effect as provided by section 803 after submission to Congress under paragraph (1).

“(5) If a joint resolution of approval relating to a major rule is not enacted within the period provided in subsection (b)(2), then a joint resolution of approval relating to the same rule may not be considered under this chapter in the same Congress by either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

“(b)(1) A major rule shall not take effect unless the Congress enacts a joint resolution of approval described under section 802.

“(2) If a joint resolution described in subsection (a) is not enacted into law by the end of 70 session days or legislative days, as applicable, beginning on the date on which the report referred to in section 801(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), then the rule described in that resolution shall be deemed not to be approved and such rule shall not take effect.

“(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section (except subject to para-

graph (3)), a major rule may take effect for one 90-calendar-day period if the President makes a determination under paragraph (2) and submits written notice of such determination to the Congress.

“(2) Paragraph (1) applies to a determination made by the President by Executive order that the major rule should take effect because such rule is—

“(A) necessary because of an imminent threat to health or safety or other emergency;

“(B) necessary for the enforcement of criminal laws;

“(C) necessary for national security; or

“(D) issued pursuant to any statute implementing an international trade agreement.

“(3) An exercise by the President of the authority under this subsection shall have no effect on the procedures under section 802.

“(d)(1) In addition to the opportunity for review otherwise provided under this chapter, sections 802 and 803 shall apply, in the succeeding session of Congress, to any rule for which a report was submitted in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(A) during the period beginning on the date occurring—

“(A) in the case of the Senate, 60 session days before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session of Congress through the date on which the same or succeeding Congress first convenes its next session; or

“(B) in the case of the House of Representatives, 60 legislative days before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session of Congress through the date on which the same or succeeding Congress first convenes its next session.

“(2)(A) In applying sections 802 and 803 for purposes of such additional review, a rule described under paragraph (1) shall be treated as though—

“(i) such rule were published in the Federal Register on—

“(I) in the case of the Senate, the 15th session day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes; or

“(II) in the case of the House of Representatives, the 15th legislative day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes; and

“(ii) a report on such rule were submitted to Congress under subsection (a)(1) on such date.

“(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to affect the requirement under subsection (a)(1) that a report shall be submitted to Congress before a rule can take effect.

“(3) A rule described under paragraph (1) shall take effect as otherwise provided by law (including other subsections of this section).

“§ 802. Congressional approval procedure for major rules

“(a)(1) For purposes of this section, the term ‘joint resolution’ means only a joint resolution addressing a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 801(a)(1)(A)(iii) that—

“(A) bears no preamble;

“(B) bears the following title: ‘Approving the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.’ (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in);

“(C) includes after its resolving clause only the following: ‘That Congress approves the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.’ (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in); and

“(D) is introduced pursuant to paragraph (2).

“(2) After a House of Congress receives a report classifying a rule as major pursuant

to section 801(a)(1)(A)(iii), the majority leader of that House (or the designee of the majority leader) shall introduce (by request, if appropriate) a joint resolution described in paragraph (1)—

“(A) in the case of the House of Representatives, within 3 legislative days; and

“(B) in the case of the Senate, within 3 session days.

“(3) A joint resolution described in paragraph (1) shall not be subject to amendment at any stage of proceeding.

“(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred in each House of Congress to the committees having jurisdiction over the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

“(c) In the Senate, if the committee or committees to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred have not reported it at the end of 15 session days after its introduction, such committee or committees shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar. A vote on final passage of the resolution shall be taken on or before the close of the 15th session day after the resolution is reported by the committee or committees to which it was referred, or after such committee or committees have been discharged from further consideration of the resolution.

“(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee or committees to which a joint resolution is referred have reported, or when a committee or committees are discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

“(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

“(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

“(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

“(e) In the House of Representatives, if the committee or committees to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred has not reported it to the House at the end of 15 legislative days after its introduction, such committee or commit-

tees shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution, and it shall be placed on the appropriate calendar. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month it shall be in order at any time for the Speaker to recognize a Member who favors passage of a joint resolution that has appeared on the calendar for not fewer than 5 legislative days to call up the joint resolution for immediate consideration in the House without intervention of any point of order. When so called up, a joint resolution shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and the previous question shall be considered as ordered to its passage without intervening motion. It shall not be in order to reconsider the vote on passage. If a vote on final passage of the joint resolution has not been taken by the third Thursday on which the Speaker may recognize a Member under this subsection, such vote shall be taken on that day.

“(f)(1) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘identical joint resolution’ means a joint resolution of the first House that proposes to approve the same major rule as a joint resolution of the second House.

“(2) If the second House receives from the first House a joint resolution, the Chair shall determine whether the joint resolution is an identical joint resolution.

“(3) If the second House receives an identical joint resolution—

“(A) the identical joint resolution shall not be referred to a committee; and

“(B) the procedure in the second House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the first house, except that the vote on final passage shall be on the identical joint resolution.

“(4) This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if the joint resolution received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

“(g) If either House has not taken a vote on final passage of the joint resolution by the last day of the period described in section 801(b)(2), then such vote shall be taken on that day.

“(h) This section and section 803 are enacted by Congress—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed to be part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution described in subsection (a) and superseding other rules only where explicitly so; and

“(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as they relate to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

“§ 803. Congressional disapproval procedure for nonmajor rules

“(a) For purposes of this section, the term ‘joint resolution’ means only a joint resolution introduced in the period beginning on the date on which the report referred to in section 801(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress and ending 60 days thereafter (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: ‘That Congress disapproves the nonmajor rule submitted by the _____ relating to _____, and such rule shall have no force or effect.’ (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in).

“(b)(1) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred to the committees in each House of Congress with jurisdiction.

“(2) For purposes of this section, the term ‘submission or publication date’ means the later of the date on which—

“(A) the Congress receives the report submitted under section 801(a)(1); or

“(B) the nonmajor rule is published in the Federal Register, if so published.

“(c) In the Senate, if the committee to which is referred a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has not reported such joint resolution (or an identical joint resolution) at the end of 15 session days after the date of introduction of the joint resolution, such committee may be discharged from further consideration of such joint resolution upon a petition supported in writing by 30 Members of the Senate, and such joint resolution shall be placed on the calendar.

“(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution is referred has reported, or when a committee is discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

“(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

“(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

“(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

“(e) In the Senate the procedure specified in subsection (c) or (d) shall not apply to the consideration of a joint resolution respecting a nonmajor rule—

“(1) after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning with the applicable submission or publication date, or

“(2) if the report under section 801(a)(1)(A) was submitted during the period referred to in section 801(d)(1), after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning on the 15th session day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes.

“(f) If, before the passage by one House of a joint resolution of that House described in subsection (a), that House receives from the

other House a joint resolution described in subsection (a), then the following procedures shall apply:

“(1) The joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

“(2) With respect to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) of the House receiving the joint resolution—

“(A) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House; but

“(B) the vote on final passage shall be on the joint resolution of the other House.

“§ 804. Definitions

“For purposes of this chapter—

“(1) the term ‘Federal agency’ means any agency as that term is defined in section 551(1);

“(2) the term ‘major rule’ means any rule, including an interim final rule, that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in—

“(A) an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more;

“(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or

“(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets;

“(3) the term ‘nonmajor rule’ means any rule that is not a major rule; and

“(4) the term ‘rule’ has the meaning given such term in section 551, except that such term does not include—

“(A) any rule of particular applicability, including a rule that approves or prescribes for the future rates, wages, prices, services, or allowances therefore, corporate or financial structures, reorganizations, mergers, or acquisitions thereof, or accounting practices or disclosures bearing on any of the foregoing;

“(B) any rule relating to agency management or personnel; or

“(C) any rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

“§ 805. Judicial review

“(a) No determination, finding, action, or omission under this chapter shall be subject to judicial review.

“(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a court may determine whether a Federal agency has completed the necessary requirements under this chapter for a rule to take effect.

“(c) The enactment of a joint resolution of approval under section 802 shall not—

“(1) be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification of statutory authority by Congress for the promulgation of a rule;

“(2) extinguish or affect any claim, whether substantive or procedural, against any alleged defect in a rule; and

“(3) form part of the record before the court in any judicial proceeding concerning a rule except for purposes of determining whether or not the rule is in effect.

“§ 806. Exemption for monetary policy

“Nothing in this chapter shall apply to rules that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.

“§ 807. Effective date of certain rules

“Notwithstanding section 801—

“(1) any rule that establishes, modifies, opens, closes, or conducts a regulatory program for a commercial, recreational, or subsistence activity related to hunting, fishing, or camping; or

“(2) any rule other than a major rule which an agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefore in the rule issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest, shall take effect at such time as the Federal agency promulgating the rule determines.”.

SEC. 204. BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 802 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 257(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) Any rules subject to the congressional approval procedure set forth in section 802 of chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, affecting budget authority, outlays, or receipts shall be assumed to be effective unless it is not approved in accordance with such section.”.

SA 2928. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. —. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIPT OF EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Extended Unemployment Benefits Reform Act of 2014”.

(b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Founding Fathers of this Nation held the value and virtue of work to be an integral part of the American spirit of freedom and unity.

(2) Honest work of an individual’s choice, whether paid or unpaid, benefits both the individual and society as a whole.

(3) The betterment of communities through public service should be encouraged by the Federal Government.

(4) After the first months of eligibility for unemployment benefits, involvement by an individual in public service will not infringe on such individual’s readiness to work or their ability to search for employment.

(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIPT OF EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3304 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (18), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (19) as paragraph (20); and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (18) the following new paragraph:

“(19) extended compensation, including any such compensation under a temporary program, shall not be payable to an individual for any week in which such individual does not—

“(A) perform at least 20 hours of public service (as described in subsection (g)); and

“(B) engage in at least 20 hours of active job searching (as described in subsection (h)); and”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(g) **PUBLIC SERVICE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of subsection (a)(19)(A), the term ‘public service’ means unpaid service by an individual to an organization described in section 501(c)(3), or a Federal, State, or local agency (as permitted in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local law), with tangible evidence to be provided to the State agency by the individual on a weekly basis demonstrating that the individual has performed such service during the previous week.

“(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—For purposes of the public service requirement under subsection (a)(19)(A), an individual shall be deemed to have satisfied such requirement for that week if the individual—

“(A) provides tangible evidence to the State agency demonstrating that such individual was unable to perform the required public service for that week due to an illness or family emergency;

“(B) is a parent of a qualifying child (as defined in section 152(c)) and provides tangible evidence to the State agency demonstrating an inability to perform the required number of hours of public service due to responsibility for child care;

“(C) provides tangible evidence to the State agency demonstrating an inability to perform the required number of hours of public service due to a lack of available transportation, telephone, or internet services; or

“(D) provides tangible evidence of a bona fide attempt to perform public service and, pursuant to such criteria as is determined appropriate by the State agency, is determined to be unable to perform such service due to a lack of available public service opportunities in the area in which the individual resides.

“(3) **PERFORMANCE OF WORK ACTIVITIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), the total number of hours of public service required under subsection (a)(19)(A) shall be reduced by 1 hour for each hour during that week that an individual performs work activities.

“(B) **MINIMUM PUBLIC SERVICE REQUIREMENT.**—For purposes of subparagraph (A), any reduction in the total number of hours of public service required under subsection (a)(19)(A) based upon performance of work activities shall not be greater than 15 hours for each week.

“(C) **DEFINITION OF WORK ACTIVITIES.**—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘work activities’ has the same meaning as provided under subsection (d) of section 407 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 607), except that such activities shall not include job searching, as described in paragraph (6) of such subsection.

“(h) **ACTIVE SEARCH FOR EMPLOYMENT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of subsection (a)(19)(B), the term ‘active job searching’ means an active and ongoing search for employment by an individual, with tangible evidence of such search to be provided to the State agency by the individual on a weekly basis, which shall include a record of potential employers contacted by the individual (including relevant contact information for such employers) and such other information as determined appropriate by the State agency.

“(2) **ALTERNATIVE JOB SEARCH REQUIREMENTS.**—The State agency may reduce the total number of hours of active job searching

required under subparagraph (A) of subsection (a)(19) and provide alternative job search requirements for an individual who has met the requirements under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such subsection for a period of not less than 12 weeks.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amendments made by this section shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(B) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION REQUIRED.—In the case of a State which the Secretary of Labor determines requires State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) in order for the State law to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by this section, the State law shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such section 3304(a)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by such amendments, solely on the basis of the failure of the State law to meet such additional requirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter beginning after the close of the 1st regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of enactment of this Act. For purposes of the previous sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of such session shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

SA 2929. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

SEC. ____ . COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE SKILLS TESTING REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to determine—

(A) the Commercial Drivers License (referred to in this section as “CDL”) skills testing procedures used by each State;

(B) whether States using the procedures described in paragraph (2)(A) have reduced testing wait times, on average, compared to the procedures described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2);

(C) for each of the 3 CDL skills testing procedures described in paragraph (2)—

(i) the average time between a CDL applicant’s request for a CDL skills test and such test in States using such procedure;

(ii) the failure rate of CDL applicants in States using such procedure; and

(iii) the average time between a CDL applicant’s request to retake a CDL skills test and such test; and

(D) the total economic impact of CDL skills testing delays.

(2) SKILLS TESTING PROCEDURES.—The procedures described in this paragraph are—

(A) third party testing, using nongovernmental contractors to proctor CDL skills tests on behalf of the State;

(B) modified third party testing, administering CDL skills tests at State testing facilities, community colleges, or a limited number of third parties; and

(C) State testing, administering CDL skills tests only at State-owned facilities.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress that contains the results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. ____ . WAIVER OF NONCONFLICTING REGULATIONS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “infrastructure project” means any physical systems project carried out in the United States, such as a project relating to transportation, communications, sewage, or water.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term “infrastructure project” includes a project for energy infrastructure.

(2) NONCONFLICTING REGULATION.—The term “nonconflicting regulation” means a Federal regulation applicable to an infrastructure project, the waiver of which would not conflict with any provision of Federal or State law, as determined by the Secretary concerned.

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Secretary concerned” means the head of a Federal department or agency with jurisdiction over a nonconflicting regulation.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “Secretary concerned” includes—

(i) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, with respect to nonconflicting regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(ii) the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, with respect to nonconflicting regulations of the Corps of Engineers.

(b) ACTION BY SECRETARY CONCERNED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), on receipt of a request of the Governor of a State in which an infrastructure project is conducted, the Secretary concerned shall waive any nonconflicting regulation applicable to the infrastructure project that, as determined by the Secretary concerned, in consultation with the Governor, impedes or could impede the progress of the infrastructure project.

(2) DEADLINE FOR WAIVER.—The Secretary concerned shall waive a nonconflicting regulation by not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of a request under paragraph (1).

(3) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary concerned shall provide a waiver under this subsection with respect to a nonconflicting regulation unless the Secretary concerned provides to the applicable Governor, by not later than the date described in paragraph (2), a written notice that the nonconflicting regulation is necessary due to a specific, direct, and quantifiable concern for safety or the environment.

SEC. ____ . STATE CONTROL OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION ON ALL AVAILABLE FEDERAL LAND.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AVAILABLE FEDERAL LAND.—The term “available Federal land” means any Federal land that, as of May 31, 2013—

(A) is located within the boundaries of a State;

(B) is not held by the United States in trust for the benefit of a federally recognized Indian tribe;

(C) is not a unit of the National Park System;

(D) is not a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(E) is not a Congressionally designated wilderness area.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” means—

(A) a State; and

(B) the District of Columbia.

(b) STATE PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State—

(A) may establish a program covering the leasing and permitting processes, regulatory requirements, and any other provisions by which the State would exercise its rights to develop all forms of energy resources on available Federal land in the State; and

(B) as a condition of certification under subsection (c)(2) shall submit a declaration to the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Energy that a program under subparagraph (A) has been established or amended.

(2) AMENDMENT OF PROGRAMS.—A State may amend a program developed and certified under this section at any time.

(3) CERTIFICATION OF AMENDED PROGRAMS.—Any program amended under paragraph (2) shall be certified under subsection (c)(2).

(c) LEASING, PERMITTING, AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS.—

(1) SATISFACTION OF FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS.—Each program certified under this section shall be considered to satisfy all applicable requirements of Federal law (including regulations), including—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

(2) FEDERAL CERTIFICATION AND TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS.—Upon submission of a declaration by a State under subsection (b)(1)(B)(i)—

(A) the program under subsection (b)(1)(A) shall be certified; and

(B) the State shall receive all rights from the Federal Government to develop all forms of energy resources covered by the program.

(3) ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND LEASES.—If a State elects to issue a permit or lease for the development of any form of energy resource on any available Federal land within the borders of the State in accordance with a program certified under paragraph (2), the permit or lease shall be considered to meet all applicable requirements of Federal law (including regulations).

(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Activities carried out in accordance with this Act shall not be subject to judicial review.

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT.—Activities carried out in accordance with this Act shall not be subject to subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Administrative Procedure Act”).

SEC. ____ . FRACTURING REGULATIONS ARE EFFECTIVE IN STATE HANDS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) hydraulic fracturing is a commercially viable practice that has been used in the United States for more than 60 years in more than 1,000,000 wells;

(2) the Ground Water Protection Council, a national association of State water regulators that is considered to be a leading groundwater protection organization in the United States, released a report entitled “State Oil and Natural Gas Regulations Designed to Protect Water Resources” and dated May 2009 finding that the “current State regulation of oil and gas activities is environmentally proactive and preventive”;

(3) that report also concluded that “[a]ll oil and gas producing States have regulations which are designed to provide protection for water resources”;

(4) a 2004 study by the Environmental Protection Agency, entitled “Evaluation of Impacts to Underground Sources of Drinking Water by Hydraulic Fracturing of Coalbed Methane Reservoirs”, found no evidence of drinking water wells contaminated by fracture fluid from the fracked formation;

(5) a 2009 report by the Ground Water Protection Council, entitled “State Oil and Natural Gas Regulations Designed to Protect Water Resources”, found a “lack of evidence” that hydraulic fracturing conducted in both deep and shallow formations presents a risk of endangerment to ground water;

(6) a January 2009 resolution by the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission stated “The states, who regulate production, have comprehensive laws and regulations to ensure operations are safe and to protect drinking water. States have found no verified cases of groundwater contamination associated with hydraulic fracturing.”;

(7) on May 24, 2011, before the Oversight and Government Reform Committee of the House of Representatives, Lisa Jackson, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, testified that she was “not aware of any proven case where the fracking process itself has affected water”;

(8) in 2011, Bureau of Land Management Director Bob Abbey stated, “We have not seen evidence of any adverse effect as a result of the use of the chemicals that are part of that fracking technology.”;

(9)(A) activities relating to hydraulic fracturing (such as surface discharges, wastewater disposal, and air emissions) are already regulated at the Federal level under a variety of environmental statutes, including portions of—

(i) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(ii) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.); and

(iii) the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.); but

(B) Congress has continually elected not to include the hydraulic fracturing process in the underground injection control program under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

(10) in 2011, the Secretary of the Interior announced the intention to promulgate new Federal regulations governing hydraulic fracturing on Federal land; and

(11) a February 2012 study by the Energy Institute at the University of Texas at Austin, entitled “Fact-Based Regulation for Environmental Protection in Shale Gas Development”, found that “[n]o evidence of chemicals from hydraulic fracturing fluid has been found in aquifers as a result of fracturing operations”.

(b) DEFINITION OF FEDERAL LAND.—In this section, the term “Federal land” means—

(1) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702));

(2) National Forest System land;

(3) land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation; and

(4) land under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers.

(c) STATE AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State shall have the sole authority to promulgate or enforce any regulation, guidance, or permit requirement regarding the treatment of a well by the application of fluids under pressure to which propping agents may be added for the ex-

pressly designed purpose of initiating or propagating fractures in a target geologic formation in order to enhance production of oil, natural gas, or geothermal production activities on or under any land within the boundaries of the State.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—The treatment of a well by the application of fluids under pressure to which propping agents may be added for the expressly designed purpose of initiating or propagating fractures in a target geologic formation in order to enhance production of oil, natural gas, or geothermal production activities on Federal land shall be subject to the law of the State in which the land is located.

SEC. ____ . ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE DEVELOPMENT.

(a) ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES.—

(1) MAXIMUM FUEL ECONOMY INCREASE FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32906(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “(except an electric automobile)” and inserting “(except an electric automobile or, beginning with model year 2016, an alternative fueled automobile that does not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 32901(a)(1))”.

(2) MINIMUM DRIVING RANGES FOR DUAL FUELED PASSENGER AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32901(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, except that beginning with model year 2016, alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (a)(1) shall have a minimum driving range of 150 miles” after “at least 200 miles”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by adding at the end the following: “Beginning with model year 2016, if the Secretary prescribes a minimum driving range of 150 miles for alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (a)(1), subparagraph (A) shall not apply to dual fueled automobiles (except electric automobiles).”.

(3) MANUFACTURING PROVISION FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32905(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(B) by striking “For any model” and inserting the following:

“(1) MODEL YEARS 1993 THROUGH 2015.—For any model”;

(C) in paragraph (1), as redesignated, by striking “2019” and inserting “2015”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) MODEL YEARS AFTER 2015.—For any model of gaseous fuel dual fueled automobile manufactured by a manufacturer after model year 2015, the Administrator shall calculate fuel economy as a weighted harmonic average of the fuel economy on gaseous fuel as measured under subsection (c) and the fuel economy on gasoline or diesel fuel as measured under section 32904(c). The Administrator shall apply the utility factors set forth in the table under section 600.510-12(c)(2)(vii)(A) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

“(3) MODEL YEARS AFTER 2016.—Beginning with model year 2017, the manufacturer may elect to utilize the utility factors set forth under subsection (e)(1) for the purposes of calculating fuel economy under paragraph (2).”.

(4) ELECTRIC DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32905 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) ELECTRIC DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the manufacturer, the Administrator may measure the fuel economy for any model of dual fueled automobile manufactured after model year 2015 that is capable of operating on electricity in addition to gasoline or diesel fuel, obtains its electricity from a source external to the vehicle, and meets the minimum driving range requirements established by the Secretary for dual fueled electric automobiles, by dividing 1.0 by the sum of—

“(A) the percentage utilization of the model on gasoline or diesel fuel, as determined by a formula based on the model’s alternative fuel range, divided by the fuel economy measured under section 32904(c); and

“(B) the percentage utilization of the model on electricity, as determined by a formula based on the model’s alternative fuel range, divided by the fuel economy measured under section 32904(a)(2).

“(2) ALTERNATIVE UTILIZATION.—The Administrator may adapt the utility factor established under paragraph (1) for alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 32901(a)(1).

“(3) ALTERNATIVE CALCULATION.—If the manufacturer does not request that the Administrator calculate the manufacturing incentive for its electric dual fueled automobiles in accordance with paragraph (1), the Administrator shall calculate such incentive for such automobiles manufactured by such manufacturer after model year 2015 in accordance with subsection (b).”.

(5) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 32906(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 32905(e)” and inserting “section 32905(f)”.

(b) HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE FACILITIES.—Section 166 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (b)(5), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) INHERENTLY LOW-EMISSION VEHICLES.—If a State agency establishes procedures for enforcing the restrictions on the use of a HOV facility by vehicles listed in clauses (i) and (ii), the State agency may allow the use of the HOV facility by—

“(i) alternative fuel vehicles; and

“(ii) new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles (as defined in section 30D(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).”;

(2) in subparagraph (f)(1), by inserting “solely” before “operating”.

(c) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, after consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) describes options to incentivize the development of public compressed natural gas fueling stations; and

(2) analyzes a variety of possible financing tools, which could include—

(A) Federal grants and credit assistance;

(B) public-private partnerships; and

(C) membership-based cooperatives.

SEC. ____ . CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS IN EMERGENCIES.

Section 1315 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (23 U.S.C. 109 note; 126 Stat. 549) is amended by striking “activity is—” and all that follows through “(2) commenced” and inserting “activity is commenced”.

SEC. ____ . CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS FOR PROJECTS WITHIN RIGHT-OF-WAY.

Section 1316 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (23 U.S.C. 109 note; 126 Stat. 549) is amended—

(1) in the heading of subsection (b), by striking “AN OPERATIONAL”; and

(2) in subsection (a)(1) and subsection (b), by striking “operational” each place it appears.

SEC. ____ . LIMITATIONS ON CERTAIN FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 176 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7506) is amended—

(1) by striking “(c)(1) No” and all that follows through “(d) Each” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each”;

(2) in the first sentence, by striking “prepared under this section”; and

(3) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following:

“(b) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies to—

“(1) title 23, United States Code;

“(2) chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code; and

“(3) the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701t et seq.).”

SEC. ____ . TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this Act shall terminate on the day that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act if the Secretary of Labor, acting through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in coordination with the heads of other Federal agencies, including the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, fails to publish in the Federal Register a report that models the impact of major Federal regulations on job creation across the whole economy of the United States.

(b) UPDATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor, acting through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall update the report described in subsection (a) not less frequently than once every 30 days.

(2) TERMINATION.—The amendments made by this Act shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the most recent report described in paragraph (1) is required if the Secretary of Labor, acting through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, fails to update the report in accordance with paragraph (1).

SA 2930. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

SEC. ____ . LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY TO ISSUE REGULATIONS MODIFYING THE STREAM ZONE BUFFER RULE.

The Secretary of the Interior may not, before December 31, 2014, issue a regulation modifying the final rule entitled “Excess Spoil, Coal Mine Waste, and Buffers for Perennial and Intermittent Streams” (73 Fed. Reg. 75814 (December 12, 2008)).

SA 2931. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DISQUALIFICATION ON RECEIPT OF DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS IN A MONTH FOR WHICH EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION IS RECEIVED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) DISQUALIFICATION ON RECEIPT OF DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS.—If for any month an individual is entitled to emergency unemployment compensation under this title, such individual shall be deemed to have engaged in substantial gainful activity for such month for purposes of sections 222 and 223 of the Social Security Act.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to months beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2932. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DISQUALIFICATION ON RECEIPT OF DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS IN A MONTH FOR WHICH EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION IS RECEIVED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) DISQUALIFICATION ON RECEIPT OF DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS.—If for any month an individual is entitled to emergency unemployment compensation under this title, such individual shall be deemed to have engaged in substantial gainful activity for such month for purposes of sections 222 and 223 of the Social Security Act.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to months beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2933. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are

not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . EXPENSING CERTAIN DEPRECIABLE BUSINESS ASSETS FOR SMALL BUSINESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—Paragraph (1) of section 179(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “shall not exceed—” and all that follows and inserting “shall not exceed \$250,000.”

(2) REDUCTION IN LIMITATION.—Paragraph (2) of section 179(b) of such Code is amended by striking “exceeds—” and all that follows and inserting “exceeds \$800,000.”

(b) COMPUTER SOFTWARE.—Clause (ii) of section 179(d)(1)(A) of such Code is amended by striking “and before 2014”.

(c) ELECTION.—Paragraph (2) of section 179(c) of such Code is amended by striking “may not be revoked” and all that follows through “and before 2014”.

(d) QUALIFIED REAL PROPERTY.—Section 179(f) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking “beginning in 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013” in paragraph (1), and

(2) by striking paragraph (4).

(e) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Subsection (b) of section 179 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2014, the dollar amounts in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

“(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, by substituting ‘2013’ for ‘1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

“(B) ROUNDING.—The amount of any increase under subparagraph (A) shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10,000.”

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2934. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the amendment, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . EXPENSING CERTAIN DEPRECIABLE BUSINESS ASSETS FOR SMALL BUSINESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—Paragraph (1) of section 179(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “shall not exceed—” and all that follows and inserting “shall not exceed \$250,000.”

(2) **REDUCTION IN LIMITATION.**—Paragraph (2) of section 179(b) of such Code is amended by striking “exceeds—” and all that follows and inserting “exceeds \$800,000.”.

(b) **COMPUTER SOFTWARE.**—Clause (ii) of section 179(d)(1)(A) of such Code is amended by striking “and before 2014”.

(c) **ELECTION.**—Paragraph (2) of section 179(c) of such Code is amended by striking “may not be revoked” and all that follows through “and before 2014”.

(d) **QUALIFIED REAL PROPERTY.**—Section 179(f) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking “beginning in 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013” in paragraph (1), and

(2) by striking paragraph (4).

(e) **INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.**—Subsection (b) of section 179 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) **INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2014, the dollar amounts in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

“(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, by substituting ‘2013’ for ‘1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

“(B) **ROUNDING.**—The amount of any increase under subparagraph (A) shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10,000.”.

(f) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2935. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. AUTHORITY TO OFFER ADDITIONAL PLAN OPTIONS.

(a) **CATASTROPHIC PLANS.**—Notwithstanding title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), a catastrophic plan as described in section 1302(e) of such Act shall be deemed to be a qualified health plan (including for purposes of receiving tax credits under section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and cost-sharing assistance under section 1402 of this Act), except that for purposes of enrollment in such plans, the provisions of paragraph (2) of such section 1302(e) shall not apply.

(b) **INDIVIDUAL MANDATE.**—Coverage under a catastrophic plan under subsection (a) shall be deemed to be minimum essential coverage for purposes of section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SA 2936. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees

under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. AUTHORITY TO OFFER ADDITIONAL PLAN OPTIONS.

(a) **CATASTROPHIC PLANS.**—Notwithstanding title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), a catastrophic plan as described in section 1302(e) of such Act shall be deemed to be a qualified health plan (including for purposes of receiving tax credits under section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and cost-sharing assistance under section 1402 of this Act), except that for purposes of enrollment in such plans, the provisions of paragraph (2) of such section 1302(e) shall not apply.

(b) **INDIVIDUAL MANDATE.**—Coverage under a catastrophic plan under subsection (a) shall be deemed to be minimum essential coverage for purposes of section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SA 2937. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) **SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.**—

“(A) **EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.**—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms ‘qualified services’, ‘bona fide volunteer’, and ‘eligible employer’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

“(B) **CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

“(ii) **BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.**—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘bona fide volunteer’ means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

“(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

“(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, custom-

arily paid by similar entities in connection with the performance of services by volunteers.

“(iii) **SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.**—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified employer’ means—

“(I) any government entity, and

“(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

“(iv) **COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).**—This subparagraph shall not fail to apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(11)(C)).”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF THE INDIVIDUAL MANDATE.

Section 1501 and subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 10106 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (and the amendments made by such sections and subsections) are repealed and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 2938. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) **SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.**—

“(A) **EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.**—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms ‘qualified services’, ‘bona fide volunteer’, and ‘eligible employer’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

“(B) **CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

“(ii) **BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.**—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘bona fide volunteer’ means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

“(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

“(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, custom-

with the performance of services by volunteers.

“(iii) SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified employer’ means—

“(I) any government entity, and

“(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

“(iv) COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).—This subparagraph shall not fail to apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(11)(C)).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE LARGE EMPLOYER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “50 full-time employees” each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and (B)(i) and inserting “500 full-time employees”, and

(2) by striking “in excess of 50” in subparagraph (B)(i)(II) and inserting “in excess of 500”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2939. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(A) EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms ‘qualified services’, ‘bona fide volunteer’, and ‘eligible employer’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

“(B) CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

“(ii) BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘bona fide volunteer’ means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

“(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

“(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, customarily paid by similar entities in connection with the performance of services by volunteers.

“(iii) SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified employer’ means—

“(I) any government entity, and

“(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

“(iv) COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).—This subparagraph shall not fail to apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(11)(C)).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE LARGE EMPLOYER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “50 full-time employees” each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and (B)(i) and inserting “100,000,000 full-time employees”, and

(2) by striking “in excess of 50” in subparagraph (B)(i)(II) and inserting “in excess of 100,000,000”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2940. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(A) EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms ‘qualified services’, ‘bona fide volunteer’, and ‘eligible employer’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

“(B) CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

“(ii) BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘bona fide volunteer’ means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

“(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

“(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, customarily paid by similar entities in connection with the performance of services by volunteers.

“(iii) SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified employer’ means—

“(I) any government entity, and

“(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

“(iv) COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).—This subparagraph shall not fail to apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(11)(C)).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF THE EMPLOYER MANDATE.

Sections 1513 and 1514 and subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 10106 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (and the amendments made by such sections and subsections) are repealed and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 2941. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE MANDATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) EXCEPTION FOR LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘full-time employee’ shall not include any individual who is a long-term unemployed individual with respect to such employer.

“(ii) LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘long-term unemployed individual’ means, with respect to any employer, an individual who—

“(I) begins employment with such employer after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, and

“(II) has been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, immediately before the date such employment begins.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2942. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed

by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(A) EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms ‘qualified services’, ‘bona fide volunteer’, and ‘eligible employer’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

“(B) CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

“(ii) BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘bona fide volunteer’ means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

“(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

“(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, customarily paid by similar entities in connection with the performance of services by volunteers.

“(iii) SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified employer’ means—

“(I) any government entity, and

“(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

“(iv) COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).—This subparagraph shall not fail to apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(1)(C)).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM EMPLOYER MANDATE UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.—Solely for purposes of determining

whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an employer may elect not to take into account for a month as an employee any individual who, for such month, has medical coverage under—

“(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

“(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2943. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(A) EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms ‘qualified services’, ‘bona fide volunteer’, and ‘eligible employer’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

“(B) CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

“(ii) BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘bona fide volunteer’ means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

“(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

“(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, customarily paid by similar entities in connection with the performance of services by volunteers.

“(iii) SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified employer’ means—

“(I) any government entity, and

“(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

“(iv) COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).—This subparagraph shall not fail to apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(1)(C)).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.

Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “by 120” and inserting “by 174”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A) by striking “30 hours” and inserting “40 hours”.

SA 2944. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(A) EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms ‘qualified services’, ‘bona fide volunteer’, and ‘eligible employer’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

“(B) CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

“(ii) BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘bona fide volunteer’ means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

“(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

“(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, customarily paid by similar entities in connection with the performance of services by volunteers.

“(iii) SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified employer’ means—

“(I) any government entity, and

“(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

“(iv) COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).—This subparagraph shall not fail to

apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(1)(C)).”

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.

Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “by 120” and inserting “by 174”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A) by striking “30 hours” and inserting “40 hours”.

SEC. 4. EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM EMPLOYER MANDATE UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) **EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.**—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an employer may elect not to take into account for a month as an employee any individual who, for such month, has medical coverage under—

“(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

“(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2945. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike Sections 1 through 11.

SA 2946. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and

by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) **SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.**—

“(A) **EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.**—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms ‘qualified services’, ‘bona fide volunteer’, and ‘eligible employer’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

“(B) **CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

“(ii) **BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.**—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘bona fide volunteer’ means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

“(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

“(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, customarily paid by similar entities in connection with the performance of services by volunteers.

“(iii) **SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.**—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified employer’ means—

“(I) any government entity, and

“(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

“(iv) **COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).**—This subparagraph shall not fail to apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(1)(C)).”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 30, 2013.

SA 2947. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE LARGE EMPLOYER.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (2) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “50 full-time employees” each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and (B)(i) and inserting “100,000,000 full-time employees”; and

(2) by striking “in excess of 50” in subparagraph (B)(i)(II) and inserting “in excess of 500”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2948. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to

ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . REPEAL OF THE INDIVIDUAL MANDATE.

Section 1501 and subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 10106 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (and the amendments made by such sections and subsections) are repealed and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 2949. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . REPEAL OF THE EMPLOYER MANDATE.

Sections 1513 and 1514 and subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 10106 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (and the amendments made by such sections and subsections) are repealed and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SA 2950. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE LARGE EMPLOYER.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (2) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “50 full-time employees” each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and (B)(i) and inserting “100,000,000 full-time employees”; and

(2) by striking “in excess of 50” in subparagraph (B)(i)(II) and inserting “in excess of 100,000,000”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2951. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility

requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE MANDATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) EXCEPTION FOR LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘full-time employee’ shall not include any individual who is a long-term unemployed individual with respect to such employer.

“(ii) LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘long-term unemployed individual’ means, with respect to any employer, an individual who—

“(I) begins employment with such employer after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, and

“(II) has been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, immediately before the date such employment begins.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2952. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM EMPLOYER MANDATE UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an employer may elect not to take into account for a month as an employee any individual who, for such month, has medical coverage under—

“(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

“(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2953. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend

the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.

Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “by 120” and inserting “by 174”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A) by striking “30 hours” and inserting “40 hours”.

SA 2954. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.

Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “by 120” and inserting “by 174”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A) by striking “30 hours” and inserting “40 hours”.

SEC. ____ . EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM EMPLOYER MANDATE UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an employer may elect not to take into account for a month as an employee any individual who, for such month, has medical coverage under—

“(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

“(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 2955. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

DIVISION B—SAVING COAL JOBS

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Saving Coal Jobs Act of 2013”.

TITLE I—PROHIBITION ON ENERGY TAX

SEC. 2101. PROHIBITION ON ENERGY TAX.

(a) FINDINGS; PURPOSES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) on June 25, 2013, President Obama issued a Presidential memorandum directing the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue regulations relating to power sector carbon pollution standards for existing coal fired power plants;

(B) the issuance of that memorandum circumvents Congress and the will of the people of the United States;

(C) any action to control emissions of greenhouse gases from existing coal fired power plants in the United States by mandating a national energy tax would devastate major sectors of the economy, cost thousands of jobs, and increase energy costs for low-income households, small businesses, and seniors on fixed income;

(D) joblessness increases the likelihood of hospital visits, illnesses, and premature deaths;

(E) according to testimony on June 15, 2011, before the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate by Dr. Harvey Brenner of Johns Hopkins University, “The unemployment rate is well established as a risk factor for elevated illness and mortality rates in epidemiological studies performed since the early 1980s. In addition to influences on mental disorder, suicide and alcohol abuse and alcoholism, unemployment is also an important risk factor in cardiovascular disease and overall decreases in life expectancy.”;

(F) according to the National Center for Health Statistics, “children in poor families were four times as likely to be in fair or poor health as children that were not poor”;

(G) any major decision that would cost the economy of the United States millions of dollars and lead to serious negative health effects for the people of the United States should be debated and explicitly authorized by Congress, not approved by a Presidential memorandum or regulations; and

(H) any policy adopted by Congress should make United States energy as clean as practicable, as quickly as practicable, without increasing the cost of energy for struggling families, seniors, low-income households, and small businesses.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(A) to ensure that—

(i) a national energy tax is not imposed on the economy of the United States; and

(ii) struggling families, seniors, low-income households, and small businesses do not experience skyrocketing electricity bills and joblessness;

(B) to protect the people of the United States, particularly families, seniors, and children, from the serious negative health effects of joblessness;

(C) to allow sufficient time for Congress to develop and authorize an appropriate mechanism to address the energy needs of the United States and the potential challenges posed by severe weather; and

(D) to restore the legislative process and congressional authority over the energy policy of the United States.

(b) PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head

of a Federal agency shall not promulgate any regulation relating to power sector carbon pollution standards or any substantially similar regulation on or after June 25, 2013, unless that regulation is explicitly authorized by an Act of Congress.

TITLE II—PERMITS

SEC. 2201. NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM.

(a) **APPLICABILITY OF GUIDANCE.**—Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) **APPLICABILITY OF GUIDANCE.**—

“(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

“(A) **GUIDANCE.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘guidance’ means draft, interim, or final guidance issued by the Administrator.

“(ii) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term ‘guidance’ includes—

“(I) the comprehensive guidance issued by the Administrator and dated April 1, 2010;

“(II) the proposed guidance entitled ‘Draft Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act’ and dated April 28, 2011;

“(III) the final guidance proposed by the Administrator and dated July 21, 2011; and

“(IV) any other document or paper issued by the Administrator through any process other than the notice and comment rule-making process.

“(B) **NEW PERMIT.**—The term ‘new permit’ means a permit covering discharges from a structure—

“(i) that is issued under this section by a permitting authority; and

“(ii) for which an application is—

“(I) pending as of the date of enactment of this subsection; or

“(II) filed on or after the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(C) **PERMITTING AUTHORITY.**—The term ‘permitting authority’ means—

“(i) the Administrator; or

“(ii) a State, acting pursuant to a State program that is equivalent to the program under this section and approved by the Administrator.

“(2) **PERMITS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in making a determination whether to approve a new permit or a renewed permit, the permitting authority—

“(i) shall base the determination only on compliance with regulations issued by the Administrator or the permitting authority; and

“(ii) shall not base the determination on the extent of adherence of the applicant for the new permit or renewed permit to guidance.

“(B) **NEW PERMITS.**—If the permitting authority does not approve or deny an application for a new permit by the date that is 270 days after the date of receipt of the application for the new permit, the applicant may operate as if the application were approved in accordance with Federal law for the period of time for which a permit from the same industry would be approved.

“(C) **SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETENESS.**—In determining whether an application for a new permit or a renewed permit received under this paragraph is substantially complete, the permitting authority shall use standards for determining substantial completeness of similar permits for similar facilities submitted in fiscal year 2007.”

(b) **STATE PERMIT PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) **STATE PERMIT PROGRAMS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—At any time after the promulgation of the guidelines required by section 304(a)(2), the Governor of each State desiring to administer a permit program for discharges into navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the State may submit to the Administrator—

“(A) a full and complete description of the program the State proposes to establish and administer under State law or under an interstate compact; and

“(B) a statement from the attorney general (or the attorney for those State water pollution control agencies that have independent legal counsel), or from the chief legal officer in the case of an interstate agency, that the laws of the State, or the interstate compact, as applicable, provide adequate authority to carry out the described program.

“(2) **APPROVAL.**—The Administrator shall approve each program for which a description is submitted under paragraph (1) unless the Administrator determines that adequate authority does not exist—

“(A) to issue permits that—

“(i) apply, and ensure compliance with, any applicable requirements of sections 301, 302, 306, 307, and 403;

“(ii) are for fixed terms not exceeding 5 years;

“(iii) can be terminated or modified for cause, including—

“(I) a violation of any condition of the permit;

“(II) obtaining a permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts; and

“(III) a change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the permitted discharge; and

“(iv) control the disposal of pollutants into wells;

“(B)(i) to issue permits that apply, and ensure compliance with, all applicable requirements of section 308; or

“(ii) to inspect, monitor, enter, and require reports to at least the same extent as required in section 308;

“(C) to ensure that the public, and any other State the waters of which may be affected, receives notice of each application for a permit and an opportunity for a public hearing before a ruling on each application;

“(D) to ensure that the Administrator receives notice and a copy of each application for a permit;

“(E) to ensure that any State (other than the permitting State), whose waters may be affected by the issuance of a permit may submit written recommendations to the permitting State and the Administrator with respect to any permit application and, if any part of the written recommendations are not accepted by the permitting State, that the permitting State will notify the affected State and the Administrator in writing of the failure of the State to accept the recommendations, including the reasons for not accepting the recommendations;

“(F) to ensure that no permit will be issued if, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Army (acting through the Chief of Engineers), after consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, anchorage and navigation of any of the navigable waters would be substantially impaired by the issuance of the permit;

“(G) to abate violations of the permit or the permit program, including civil and criminal penalties and other means of enforcement;

“(H) to ensure that any permit for a discharge from a publicly owned treatment works includes conditions to require the identification in terms of character and volume of pollutants of any significant source introducing pollutants subject to pretreatment standards under section 307(b) into the treatment works and a program to ensure compliance with those pretreatment standards by each source, in addition to adequate notice, which shall include information on the quality and quantity of effluent to be introduced into the treatment works and any anticipated impact of the change in the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the publicly owned treatment works, to the permitting agency of—

“(i) new introductions into the treatment works of pollutants from any source that would be a new source (as defined in section 306(a)) if the source were discharging pollutants;

“(ii) new introductions of pollutants into the treatment works from a source that would be subject to section 301 if the source were discharging those pollutants; or

“(iii) a substantial change in volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the treatment works by a source introducing pollutants into the treatment works at the time of issuance of the permit; and

“(I) to ensure that any industrial user of any publicly owned treatment works will comply with sections 204(b), 307, and 308.

“(3) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Administrator may not disapprove or withdraw approval of a program under this subsection on the basis of the following:

“(A) The failure of the program to incorporate or comply with guidance (as defined in subsection (s)(1)).

“(B) The implementation of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).”

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(A) Section 309 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1319) is amended—

(i) in subsection (c)—

(I) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “402(b)(8)” and inserting “402(b)(2)(H)”; and

(II) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “402(b)(8)” and inserting “402(b)(2)(H)”; and

(ii) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by striking “402(b)(8)” and inserting “402(b)(2)(H)”.

(B) Section 402(m) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(m)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “subsection (b)(8) of this section” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(H)”.

(C) **SUSPENSION OF FEDERAL PROGRAM.**—Section 402(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) **LIMITATION ON DISAPPROVAL.**—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (3), the Administrator may not disapprove or withdraw approval of a State program under subsection (b) on the basis of the failure of the following:

“(A) The failure of the program to incorporate or comply with guidance (as defined in subsection (s)(1)).

“(B) The implementation of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).”

(d) **NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATOR.**—Section 402(d)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution

Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(2)” and all that follows through the end of the first sentence and inserting the following:

“(2) OBJECTION BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), no permit shall issue if—

“(i) not later than 90 days after the date on which the Administrator receives notification under subsection (b)(2)(E), the Administrator objects in writing to the issuance of the permit; or

“(ii) not later than 90 days after the date on which the proposed permit of the State is transmitted to the Administrator, the Administrator objects in writing to the issuance of the permit as being outside the guidelines and requirements of this Act.”;

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “Whenever the Administrator” and inserting the following:

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—If the Administrator”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) EXCEPTION.—The Administrator shall not object to or deny the issuance of a permit by a State under subsection (b) or (s) based on the following:

“(i) Guidance, as that term is defined in subsection (s)(1).

“(ii) The interpretation of the Administrator of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).”.

SEC. 2202. PERMITS FOR DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and all that follows through “SEC. 404. (a) The Secretary may issue” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 404. PERMITS FOR DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL.

“(a) PERMITS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue”; and

(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(2) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL.—

“(A) PERMIT APPLICATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), if an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, as appropriate, is required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Secretary shall—

“(i) begin the process not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a permit application; and

“(ii) approve or deny an application for a permit under this subsection not later than the latter of—

“(aa) if an agency carries out an environmental assessment that leads to a finding of no significant impact, the date on which the finding of no significant impact is issued; or

“(bb) if an agency carries out an environmental assessment that leads to a record of decision, 15 days after the date on which the record of decision on an environmental impact statement is issued.

“(ii) PROCESSES.—Notwithstanding clause (i), regardless of whether the Secretary has commenced an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement by the date described in clause (i)(I), the following deadlines shall apply:

“(I) An environmental assessment carried out under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be completed not later than 1 year after the

deadline for commencing the permit process under clause (i)(I).

“(II) An environmental impact statement carried out under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be completed not later than 2 years after the deadline for commencing the permit process under clause (i)(I).

“(B) FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Secretary fails to act by the deadline specified in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A)—

“(i) the application, and the permit requested in the application, shall be considered to be approved;

“(ii) the Secretary shall issue a permit to the applicant; and

“(iii) the permit shall not be subject to judicial review.”.

(b) STATE PERMITTING PROGRAMS.—Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) AUTHORITY OF ADMINISTRATOR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) through (4), until the Secretary has issued a permit under this section, the Administrator is authorized to prohibit the specification (including the withdrawal of specification) of any defined area as a disposal site, and deny or restrict the use of any defined area for specification (including the withdrawal of specification) as a disposal site, if the Administrator determines, after notice and opportunity for public hearings, that the discharge of the materials into the area will have an unacceptable adverse effect on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds or fishery areas (including spawning and breeding areas), wildlife, or recreational areas.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—Before making a determination under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consult with the Secretary.

“(3) FINDINGS.—The Administrator shall set forth in writing and make public the findings of the Administrator and the reasons of the Administrator for making any determination under this subsection.

“(4) AUTHORITY OF STATE PERMITTING PROGRAMS.—This subsection shall not apply to any permit if the State in which the discharge originates or will originate does not concur with the determination of the Administrator that the discharge will result in an unacceptable adverse effect as described in paragraph (1).”.

(c) STATE PROGRAMS.—Section 404(g)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(g)(1)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “for the discharge” and inserting “for all or part of the discharges”.

SEC. 2203. IMPACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGULATORY ACTIVITY ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) COVERED ACTION.—The term “covered action” means any of the following actions taken by the Administrator under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.):

(A) Issuing a regulation, policy statement, guidance, response to a petition, or other requirement.

(B) Implementing a new or substantially altered program.

(3) MORE THAN A DE MINIMIS NEGATIVE IMPACT.—The term “more than a de minimis negative impact” means the following:

(A) With respect to employment levels, a loss of more than 100 jobs, except that any offsetting job gains that result from the hypothetical creation of new jobs through new

technologies or government employment may not be used in the job loss calculation.

(B) With respect to economic activity, a decrease in economic activity of more than \$1,000,000 over any calendar year, except that any offsetting economic activity that results from the hypothetical creation of new economic activity through new technologies or government employment may not be used in the economic activity calculation.

(b) ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS OF ACTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.—

(1) ANALYSIS.—Before taking a covered action, the Administrator shall analyze the impact, disaggregated by State, of the covered action on employment levels and economic activity, including estimated job losses and decreased economic activity.

(2) ECONOMIC MODELS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator shall use the best available economic models.

(B) ANNUAL GAO REPORT.—Not later than December 31st of each year, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the economic models used by the Administrator to carry out this subsection.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—With respect to any covered action, the Administrator shall—

(A) post the analysis under paragraph (1) as a link on the main page of the public Internet Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(B) request that the Governor of any State experiencing more than a de minimis negative impact post the analysis in the Capitol of the State.

(c) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator concludes under subsection (b)(1) that a covered action will have more than a de minimis negative impact on employment levels or economic activity in a State, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing in each such State at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the covered action.

(2) TIME, LOCATION, AND SELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A public hearing required under paragraph (1) shall be held at a convenient time and location for impacted residents.

(B) PRIORITY.—In selecting a location for such a public hearing, the Administrator shall give priority to locations in the State that will experience the greatest number of job losses.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—If the Administrator concludes under subsection (b)(1) that a covered action will have more than a de minimis negative impact on employment levels or economic activity in any State, the Administrator shall give notice of such impact to the congressional delegation, Governor, and legislature of the State at least 45 days before the effective date of the covered action.

SEC. 2204. IDENTIFICATION OF WATERS PROTECTED BY THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not—

(1) finalize, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed guidance described in the notice of availability and request for comments entitled “EPA and Army Corps of Engineers Guidance Regarding Identification of Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act” (EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0409) (76 Fed. Reg. 24479 (May 2, 2011)); and

(2) use the guidance described in paragraph (1), any successor document, or any substantially similar guidance made publicly available on or after December 3, 2008, as the basis

for any decision regarding the scope of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or any rulemaking.

(b) RULES.—The use of the guidance described in subsection (a)(1), or any successor document or substantially similar guidance made publicly available on or after December 3, 2008, as the basis for any rule shall be grounds for vacating the rule.

SEC. 2205. LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY TO MODIFY STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.

(a) STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—Section 303(c)(4) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking “(4) The” and inserting the following:

“(4) PROMULGATION OF REVISED OR NEW STANDARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The”;

(3) by striking “The Administrator shall promulgate” and inserting the following:

“(B) DEADLINE.—The Administrator shall promulgate;” and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, the Administrator may not promulgate a revised or new standard for a pollutant in any case in which the State has submitted to the Administrator and the Administrator has approved a water quality standard for that pollutant, unless the State concurs with the determination of the Administrator that the revised or new standard is necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.”.

(b) FEDERAL LICENSES AND PERMITS.—Section 401(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) STATE OR INTERSTATE AGENCY DETERMINATION.—With respect to any discharge, if a State or interstate agency having jurisdiction over the navigable waters at the point at which the discharge originates or will originate determines under paragraph (1) that the discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307, the Administrator may not take any action to supersede the determination.”.

SEC. 2206. STATE AUTHORITY TO IDENTIFY WATERS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE.

Section 303(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) STATE AUTHORITY TO IDENTIFY WATERS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall submit to the Administrator from time to time, with the first such submission not later than 180 days after the date of publication of the first identification of pollutants under section 304(a)(2)(D), the waters identified and the loads established under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (1).

“(B) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of submission, the Administrator shall approve the State identification and load or announce the disagreement of the Administrator with the State identification and load.

“(ii) APPROVAL.—If the Administrator approves the identification and load submitted by the State under this subsection, the State shall incorporate the identification and load

into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

“(iii) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the identification and load submitted by the State under this subsection, the Administrator shall submit, not later than 30 days after the date that the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the submission of the State, to the State the written recommendation of the Administrator of those additional waters that the Administrator identifies and such loads for such waters as the Administrator believes are necessary to implement the water quality standards applicable to the waters.

“(C) ACTION BY STATE.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of the recommendation of the Administrator, the State shall—

“(i) disregard the recommendation of the Administrator in full and incorporate its own identification and load into the current plan of the State under subsection (e);

“(ii) accept the recommendation of the Administrator in full and incorporate its identification and load as amended by the recommendation of the Administrator into the current plan of the State under subsection (e); or

“(iii) accept the recommendation of the Administrator in part, identifying certain additional waters and certain additional loads proposed by the Administrator to be added to the State's identification and load and incorporate the State's identification and load as amended into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

“(D) NONCOMPLIANCE BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator fails to approve the State identification and load or announce the disagreement of the Administrator with the State identification and load within the time specified in this subsection—

“(I) the identification and load of the State shall be considered approved; and

“(II) the State shall incorporate the identification and load that the State submitted into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

“(ii) RECOMMENDATIONS NOT SUBMITTED.—If the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the identification and load of the State but fails to submit the written recommendation of the Administrator to the State within 30 days as required by subparagraph (B)(iii)—

“(I) the identification and load of the State shall be considered approved; and

“(II) the State shall incorporate the identification and load that the State submitted into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

“(E) APPLICATION.—This section shall apply to any decision made by the Administrator under this subsection issued on or after March 1, 2013.”.

SA 2956. Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 371, honoring the legacy and accomplishments of Jan Karski on the centennial of his birth; as follows:

Beginning on page 2, strike line 2 and all that follows through “(3) applauds” on page 3, line 3, and insert the following:

(1) recognizes the life and legacy of Dr. Jan Karski on the centennial of his birth, and expresses its gratitude for his efforts alerting the free world about the atrocities committed by Nazi and totalitarian forces in occupied Poland during World War II; and

(2) applauds

SA 2957. Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 371, 0; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “Honoring the legacy and accomplishments of Jan Karski on the centennial of his birth.”.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, intend to object to the nomination of Katherine M. O'Regan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, dated March 31, 2014.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 1, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, “Reauthorization of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 1, 2014, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 1, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, “Access to Justice: Ensuring Equal Pay with the Paycheck Fairness Act.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 1, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, “Judicial Nominations.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of

the Senate on April 1, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "Cat-erpillar's Offshore Tax Strategy."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 1, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 1, 2014, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Diana Hodges and Benjamin Rowland, interns from the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at a time to be determined by me, in consultation with Senator McCONNELL, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: 520, 679, 705; that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote on the nominations in the order listed; that all roll-call votes after the first be 10 minutes in length; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JAN KARSKI DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 371 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 371) honoring the legacy of Jan Karski by designating April 24, 2014, as "Jan Karski Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Menendez amendment to the resolution, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the Menendez amendment to the title, which is at the desk, be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2956) was agreed to, as follows:

Beginning on page 2, strike line 2 and all that follows through "(3) applauds" on page 3, line 3, and insert the following:

(1) recognizes the life and legacy of Dr. Jan Karski on the centennial of his birth, and expresses its gratitude for his efforts alerting the free world about the atrocities committed by Nazi and totalitarian forces in occupied Poland during World War II; and
(2) applauds

The resolution (S. Res. 371), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 371

Whereas Jan Karski was born on April 24, 1914, in Lodz, Poland;

Whereas Jan Karski managed to escape the Soviet massacre in the Katyn Forest in 1940, in which almost 22,000 Polish citizens lost their lives;

Whereas Jan Karski became a key emissary in the Polish underground resistance, the Home Army, against Nazi occupation;

Whereas Jan Karski risked his own life after escaping a prisoner-of-war camp, having endured Gestapo torture, to continue to act as an emissary for the Polish Underground, in order to provide critical intelligence to the Allied war effort and alert Allied governments about the Holocaust and the dire situation on the ground in German-occupied Poland;

Whereas Jan Karski traveled to Allied capitals and provided critical eyewitness testimony about the horrors of Hitler's "Final Solution" and the extermination of Jews and others in Nazi-occupied Poland to British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden and United States President Franklin Roosevelt;

Whereas Jan Karski, after living through the atrocities of World War II, went on to earn a Ph.D. from Georgetown University in 1952;

Whereas Jan Karski became a United States citizen and taught generations of students of foreign policy at Georgetown University for 40 years, dedicating the rest of his life to strengthening the idea of tolerance and respect for different religions and cultures and ensuring that the full extent of the Nazi atrocities are never forgotten; and

Whereas Jan Karski was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously on

May 29, 2012, one of the highest civilian honors in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the life and legacy of Dr. Jan Karski on the centennial of his birth, and expresses its gratitude for his efforts alerting the free world about the atrocities committed by Nazi and totalitarian forces in occupied Poland during World War II; and

(2) applauds the awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Jan Karski for his efforts during World War II and reaffirms the importance of the United States-Poland bilateral relationship.

The amendment (No. 2957) was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "Honoring the legacy and accomplishments of Jan Karski on the centennial of his birth."

PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 408.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 408) supporting the designation of April as "Parkinson's Awareness Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 408) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,

APRIL 2, 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until tomorrow morning at 9 a.m.; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3979, which is the vehicle for the unemployment insurance extension, with the time until 10 a.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that the filing deadline for second-degree amendments be 9:30 tomorrow morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2198 AND S. 2199

Mr. REID. There are two bills at the desk due for their first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2198) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator of Environmental Protection Agency to take action to provide additional water supplies and disaster assistance to the State of California and other Western States due to drought, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2199) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I ask for a second reading for both bills but object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. The first rollcall vote will be at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning to invoke cloture on the substitute amendment to the unemployment bill. Additional votes are possible.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:11 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at 9 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 1, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KEVIN WHITAKER, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CHRISTOPHER P. LU, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN P. CARLIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, April 1, 2014

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 1, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, GOVERNOR BRENDAN T. BYRNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of the Honorable Brendan T. Byrne, the 47th Governor of New Jersey, who today celebrates his 90th birthday. He has lived longer than any governor in the history of our State.

Governor Byrne was born on April 1, 1924, in West Orange, Essex County, and currently lives in the Short Hills section of Millburn Township, Essex County, in the congressional district I have the honor of serving.

He graduated from West Orange High School in 1942 and served during World War II in the Army Air Corps, where he advanced to the rank of lieutenant and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and four Air Medals.

One of his fingers was frostbitten as the result of the conditions during his heroic air service over Germany late in the war.

Governor Byrne was graduated from Princeton University in 1949, majoring in public and international affairs, our

first Governor to receive an undergraduate degree from Princeton since Woodrow Wilson in 1879, 70 years earlier. Governor Byrne received his law degree from Harvard University in 1951.

In the 1950s, as a young man, he served as a close aide to Governor Robert B. Meyner, who appointed him Essex County prosecutor in 1959. Governor Richard J. Hughes reappointed him prosecutor in 1964 and named him president of the State Board of Public Utilities in 1968.

Respected by both political parties, he was appointed by Republican Governor William T. Cahill to our superior court in 1970.

He was overwhelmingly elected Governor in 1973 and reelected in an uphill political campaign in 1977. During his tenure, the Pinelands Protection Act became law, and casino hotel development began in Atlantic City. Impeccably honest, he served as our Governor with great distinction. His dry wit is a joy to hear and deeply appreciated by countless New Jerseyans.

I was honored to have Governor Byrne as a professor when I was a student at the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University in the early 1980s and recall fondly his superb teaching skills and generosity of spirit and time as the class met weekly at Morven, the historic Governor's residence in Princeton, built by Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Governor Byrne is a wonderful father and grandfather, teacher and mentor, colleague and friend. His dynamic and vivacious wife, Ruthi Zinn Byrne, is known to many New Jerseyans for her significant charitable activities. They are an integral part of the fabric of New Jersey.

On his 90th birthday, I congratulate Governor Brandon T. Byrne and wish him many years ahead of good health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO GARLAND TUCKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, last year, we mourned the loss of a true servant of our community, Garland Scott Tucker, Jr. Garland dedicated his life to sharing his love of Christ. In family life, in business, and in his community, Garland was grounded and guided by his faith.

Garland was born in Raleigh in 1919. After graduating from UNC Chapel

Hill, he joined the family business, Tucker Furniture, in 1941 and moved to Wilson the next year to manage the eastern North Carolina stores.

He eventually became president of the company, a position he would hold until his retirement in 1985. In 1954, he joined the board of directors at BB&T and served as chairman from 1979 to 1987. During that time, BB&T would grow from a community bank into a major player throughout the Southeast.

Beyond a very successful business career, Garland was a true family man. He married Jean Barnes Wilson in 1946, and over the course of their 67-year marriage, they had four children, Garland III, Edwin, Sarah, and Macon, who in turn blessed Garland with 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Garland's life was marked by his commitment to sharing his faith with others and serving those in need. The primary focus of his civic engagement was his support for Gideons International and the Salvation Army. Through both organizations, he was able to improve his local community and the world at large.

Garland served Gideons International in a number of different capacities, spanning local, national, and international involvement with their mission. In his time, he served as one of three members for their finance committee and also one of 20 members of the international cabinet, which serves as the governing body for the entire organization.

At the peak of his responsibilities, Garland was responsible for the distribution of Bibles across 41 countries, including countries in Europe, South America, the Caribbean, and the Near East.

At the local level, Garland was an engaged and active member of the Salvation Army, both in Wilson and Raleigh. While a Wilson resident, he served as chairman of the Salvation Army's board of directors for several years and similarly joined the Salvation Army's board in Raleigh when he moved back to Raleigh in 1996.

His time spent volunteering for the Salvation Army was so meaningful that, in 2012, he was honored with one of their highest honors, the William Booth Award. Named for the Salvation Army's founder, the award is given to those who have made an international impact to the betterment of humanity.

Garland's faith guided him each and every day to follow Christ's example and help those around the world who

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

are in need. In word and deed, Garland dedicated his 94 years to making a mark here, nationally, and internationally, enriching the lives of everyone he met and all those across the world who were impacted by his work.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, last week in a hearing of the Armed Services Committee, we listened to the concerns of Army Secretary John McHugh and Chief of Staff of the Army, General Ray Odierno.

They appeared before the committee to tell us about the serious problems facing the United States Army, specifically, the difficult budget situation the Army is currently facing.

It was my intention to ask the following question regarding the funding that is being cut from the Army: Why are we continuing to spend billions of dollars in Afghanistan when the money could be going to support our servicemembers?

As I did last week, I would like to read a short paragraph from the World Affairs Journal entitled, "Money Pit: The Monstrous Failure of U.S. Aid to Afghanistan." The article states that, in 2012, the United States budgeted \$11.2 billion for Afghan military training, with another \$5.8 billion for 2013.

The article goes on to say:

In Afghanistan, a big problem is illiteracy. Almost 3 years ago, when Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell IV, took command of the NATO training mission, he noted that "overall literacy" among Afghan military and police stood "at about 14 percent." How can an illiterate policeman read a license plate, the General asked, how can a soldier fill out a form, read an equipment manual?

Now, even though these concerns have been on the table for years, the special inspector general for Afghan reconstruction said in last summer's report: The literacy rate of Afghan security forces as a whole is 11 percent.

Again, I want to repeat that, in 2012, the United States budgeted \$11.2 billion for Afghan military training, with another \$5.8 billion for 2013.

Madam Speaker, for the United States to continue funding these Afghan security forces would be a mistake. It would put our servicemembers' lives in danger, and it would waste the American people's hard-earned tax dollars.

Why are we, in Congress, not putting a stop to this abuse, especially considering this money flows freely overseas with little to no accountability?

Last Friday, I had the privilege of speaking to around 100 people at an event in my district, and truly, almost everyone agreed with me that spending money we do not have in Afghanistan is a waste.

Every nation that has tried to govern Afghanistan has failed, and this is no exception. It is my hope, along with my colleague, JIM MCGOVERN, who has continuously worked with me on this issue, that the House leadership will allow debate on this failed policy in Afghanistan this spring or summer.

We need to take the money that we are spending overseas, and we need it to benefit our own security forces and the problems facing the American people here at home.

When I look at the bridges and the potholes and education and other needs in America and we are cutting those programs, why do we continue to borrow billions of dollars from foreign governments to prop up the Afghan leadership? It is nothing but a failed policy.

In closing, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform, and I continue to ask God to continue to bless America.

OBAMACARE DEADLINE: APRIL FOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today marks the legal deadline of registration for the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as ObamaCare.

On March 12, 2014, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius testified before a House Ways and Means Committee. When asked, are you going to delay enrollment beyond March 31, she definitively answered, no, sir.

Well, Madam Speaker, April Fools.

Millions of Americans are finding ObamaCare today to be a very expensive and harmful April Fools' prank. One of those individuals is Sondra, a constituent from Clinton County, located in the Fifth District of Pennsylvania.

Sondra emailed the following on Friday:

I was just on the marketplace, and I can't believe the prices. I also am wrong about ObamaCare including eye and dental. I see that it does not. I thought this was supposed to be better than what I would find privately. Not to my surprise.

Even with the tax credits, it is going to cost us just as much. It seems they doubled the price on there to eat up the tax credits. This whole thing has us so upset.

We only make between \$30,000-\$40,000 a year, and our health insurance is going to go from \$320 a month for both of us to doubling, at the least. We will pay more and get less coverage and pay way more out of pocket.

How does our President think this is helping us, the working poor? This is a class we never hear anyone talk about. We hear about the poor, middle class, and the wealthy, but not the working poor. We are the ones who make too much to get a handout, not that

we want one, but not enough to really make ends meet due to our poor economy and rapidly rising inflation.

Honestly, it would pay me to quit my job because we would get all the help we need because our income would be so low, and with my chronic health issues of diabetes, thyroid disease, and arthritis, I would get Pennsylvania medical assistance.

How sad is it that our President has put the working poor in that option? I could honestly just cry not knowing how we will be able to pay for this health care penalty. We had what we needed and could afford.

Now, we can't afford it even with the government help, and we have less coverage for higher premiums. How does this make any sense? Ugh. Sorry for the rant.

□ 1215

Madam Speaker, Americans deserve solutions to assure access to affordable, quality health care that they determine that they need. As for ObamaCare, there are far too many winners and mostly losers like Sondra and her family, so it is fitting and accurate on this April 1 day to say: ObamaCare? April fools.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 1, 2014 at 8:58 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2183.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4302.

Appointments:
United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 1, 2014 at 9:52 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 407.
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We use this moment to be reminded of Your presence, and to tap the resources needed by the men and women of this assembly to do their work as well as it can be done. May they be led by Your spirit in the decisions they make. May they possess Your power as they steady themselves amid the pressures of persistent problems.

The issues facing our Nation this week are monumental to us, but a part of the long history of political and policy debate that have created a great narrative of participative democracy. Send Your spirit of wisdom upon the people's House, that the Members might work as one to move our Nation forward to a brighter future.

And may all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE) at 4 p.m.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I hereby resign my position as a member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Sincerely,

MARK TAKANO,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

REPORT REGARDING ICELAND'S COMMERCIAL WHALING ACTIVITIES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-101)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Natural Resources and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

On January 31, 2014, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell certified under section 8 of the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967 (the "Pelly Amendment") (22 U.S.C. 1978), that nationals of Iceland are conducting trade in whale meat and products that diminishes the effectiveness of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

(CITES). This message constitutes my notification to the Congress consistent with subsection (b) of the Pelly Amendment.

This is the third certification by United States Government agencies of Iceland for their continued whaling activities. In 2004, Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans made a certification regarding Iceland under the Pelly Amendment because its scientific whaling program diminished the effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). When Iceland resumed commercial whaling in 2006, Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez continued Iceland's certification. In 2011, Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke increased actions to be taken by members of the Cabinet, Federal departments and agencies, and U.S. delegations by again certifying Iceland for diminishing the effectiveness of the IWC.

A single Icelandic company, Hvalur hf, conducts fin whaling. Iceland does not consume most of these fin whales; rather, they are exported, mainly to Japan. Iceland's commercial harvest of fin whales escalated dramatically in 2009 and 2010, was suspended in 2011 and 2012 due to difficulties in the Japanese market after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and resumed in 2013. Between 1987 and 2008, Iceland hunted a total of 7 fin whales. In 2009, Iceland hunted 125 fin whales, followed by 148 in 2010, zero in the years 2011–2012, and 134 fin whales in 2013. On December 16, 2013, Iceland set its 2014–2019 fin whale quota at 154 fin whales per year, an increase in its previous yearly whaling quota. According to the IWC, a harvest of 46 fin whales in the North Atlantic is biologically sustainable.

Iceland's actions jeopardize the survival of the fin whale, which is listed in CITES among the species most threatened with extinction, and they undermine multilateral efforts to ensure greater worldwide protection for whales. Specifically, Iceland's continued commercial whaling and recent trade in whale products diminish the effectiveness of CITES because: (1) Iceland's commercial harvest of fin whales undermines the goal of CITES to ensure that international trade in species of animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild; and (2) Iceland's current fin whale harvest and quota exceeds catch levels that the IWC's scientific body advised were sustainable.

In her letter of January 31, 2014, Secretary Jewell expressed her concern for Iceland's actions, and I share these concerns. Just as the United States made the transition from a commercial whaling nation to a whale watching nation, we must enhance our engagement to facilitate this change by Iceland.

To ensure that this issue continues to receive the highest level of attention, I have directed: (1) relevant U.S.

agencies to raise concerns with Iceland's trade in whale parts and products in appropriate CITES fora and processes, and, in consultation with other international actors, to seek additional measures to reduce such trade and enhance the effectiveness of CITES; (2) relevant senior Administration officials and U.S. delegations meeting with Icelandic officials to raise U.S. objections to commercial whaling and Iceland's ongoing trade in fin whale parts and products and to urge a halt to such action, including immediate notification of this position to the Government of Iceland; (3) the Department of State and other relevant agencies to encourage Iceland to develop and expand measures that increase economic opportunities for the nonlethal uses of whales in Iceland, such as responsible whale watching activities and educational and scientific research activities that contribute to the conservation of whales; (4) the Department of State to re-examine bilateral cooperation projects, and where appropriate, to base U.S. cooperation with Iceland on the Icelandic government changing its whaling policy, abiding by the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling, and not engaging in trade in whale parts and products in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of CITES; (5) the Department of State to inform the Government of Iceland that the United States will continue to monitor the activities of Icelandic companies that engage in commercial whaling and international trade in whale parts and products; (6) Cabinet secretaries and other senior Administration officials to evaluate the appropriateness of visits to Iceland in light of Iceland's resumption of fin whaling and ongoing trade in fin whale parts and products; (7) relevant departments and agencies to examine other options for responding to continued whaling by Iceland; and (8) all relevant departments and agencies to report on their actions, within 6 months of certification, and any updates as needed beyond, through the Departments of State and the Interior. In addition, previous Pelly certifications of Iceland, and the direction to take actions pursuant to those certifications, remain in effect. I concur with the recommendation, as presented by the Secretary of the Interior, to pursue the use of non-trade measures and that the actions outlined above are the appropriate course of action to address this issue. Accordingly, I am not directing the Secretary of the Treasury to impose trade measures on Icelandic products for the whaling activities that led to the certification by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Departments of State, Commerce, and the Interior will continue to monitor and encourage Iceland to revise its policies regarding commercial whaling. Further, within 6 months,

I have directed relevant departments and agencies to report to me through the Departments of State, Commerce, and the Interior on their actions. I believe that continuing focus on Icelandic whaling activities is needed to encourage Iceland to halt commercial whaling and support international conservation efforts.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 1, 2014.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

PROVISION OF COSTS OF LOAN GUARANTEES FOR UKRAINE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4152) to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ALIEN.**—The term "alien" has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Appropriations, and the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(3) **MATERIALLY ASSISTED.**—The term "materially assisted" means the provision of assistance that is significant and of a kind directly relevant to acts described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 8(a) or acts described in section 9(a)(1).

(4) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term "United States person" means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SEC. 3. UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD UKRAINE.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to condemn the unjustified military intervention of the Russian Federation in the Crimea region of Ukraine and its concurrent occupation of that region, as well as any other form of political, economic, or military aggression against Ukraine;

(2) to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to, and to remind Russia of its ongoing commitment to, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, which was executed jointly with the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom and explicitly secures the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and borders of Ukraine, and to demand the immediate cessation of improper activities, including the seizures of airfields and other locations, and the immediate return of Russian forces to their barracks;

(3) to work with United States partners in the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and at the United Nations to ensure that all nations recognize and not undermine, nor seek to undermine, the independence, sovereignty, or territorial or economic integrity of Ukraine;

(4) to use all appropriate economic elements of United States national power, in coordination with United States allies, to protect the independence, sovereignty, and territorial and economic integrity of Ukraine;

(5) to support the people of Ukraine in their desire to forge closer ties with Europe, including signing an Association Agreement with the European Union as a means to address endemic corruption, consolidate democracy, and achieve sustained prosperity;

(6) to use the voice and vote of the United States to secure sufficient resources through the International Monetary Fund to support needed economic structural reforms in Ukraine under conditions that will reinforce a sovereign decision by the Government of Ukraine to sign and implement an association agreement with the European Union;

(7) to help the Government of Ukraine prepare for the presidential election in May 2014;

(8) to reinforce the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to bring to justice those responsible for the acts of violence against peaceful protestors and other unprovoked acts of violence related to the antigovernment protests in that began on November 21, 2013;

(9) to support the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to recover and return to the Ukrainian state funds stolen by former President Yanukovich, his family, and other current and former members of the Ukrainian government and elites;

(10) to support the continued professionalization of the Ukrainian military;

(11) to condemn economic extortion by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, Moldova, Lithuania, and other countries in the region designed to obstruct closer ties between the European Union and the countries of the Eastern Partnership and to reduce the harmful consequences of such extortion;

(12) to condemn the continuing and longstanding pattern and practice by the Government of the Russian Federation of physical and economic aggression toward neighboring countries;

(13) to enhance and extend our security cooperation with, security assistance to, and military exercises conducted with, states in Central and Eastern Europe, including North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member countries, NATO aspirants, and appropriate Eastern Partnership countries;

(14) to reaffirm United States defense commitments to its treaty allies under Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty;

(15) that the continued participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of Eight (G-8)

nations should be conditioned on the Government of the Russian Federation respecting the territorial integrity of its neighbors and accepting and adhering to the norms and standards of free, democratic societies as generally practiced by every other member nation of the G-8 nations;

(16) to explore ways for the United States Government to assist the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to diversify their energy sources and achieve energy security; and

(17) to ensure the United States maintains its predominant leadership position and influence within the International Monetary Fund, and to guarantee the International Monetary Fund has the resources and governance structure necessary to support structural reforms in Ukraine and respond to and prevent a potentially serious financial crisis in Ukraine or other foreign economic crises that threatens United States national security.

SEC. 4. PROVISION OF COSTS OF LOAN GUARANTEES FOR UKRAINE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—From the unobligated balance of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available under the heading “ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND” under the heading “FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT” in title III of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2014 (division K of Public Law 113-76) and in Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for preceding fiscal years (other than amounts designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A))), amounts shall be made available for the costs (as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a)) of loan guarantees for Ukraine that are hereby authorized to be provided under this Act.

(b) *INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.*—Amounts made available for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine pursuant to subsection (a) shall not be considered “assistance” for the purpose of provisions of law limiting assistance to Ukraine.

SEC. 5. RECOVERY OF ASSETS LINKED TO GOVERNMENTAL CORRUPTION IN UKRAINE.

(a) *ASSET RECOVERY.*—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall assist, on an expedited basis as appropriate, the Government of Ukraine to identify, secure, and recover assets linked to acts of corruption by Viktor Yanukovich, members of his family, or other former or current officials of the Government of Ukraine or their accomplices in any jurisdiction through appropriate programs, including the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative of the Department of Justice.

(b) *COORDINATION.*—Any asset recovery efforts undertaken pursuant to subsection (a) shall be coordinated through the relevant bilateral or multilateral entities, including, as appropriate, the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the World Bank Group and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network, and the Global Focal Point Initiative of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

(c) *INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE.*—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall assist the Government of Ukraine, the European Union, and other appropriate countries, on an expedited basis, with formal and informal investigative assistance and training, as appropriate, to support the identification, seizure, and return to the Government of Ukraine of assets linked to acts of corruption.

(d) *PRIORITY ASSIGNED.*—The Secretary of the Treasury shall ensure that the Financial Crimes

Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury assists the Government of Ukraine, the European Union, and other appropriate countries under section 314(a) of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (31 U.S.C. 5311 note).

SEC. 6. DEMOCRACY, CIVIL SOCIETY, GOVERNANCE, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINE AND OTHER STATES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of State shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, directly or through nongovernmental organizations—

(1) improve democratic governance, transparency, accountability, rule of law, and anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine;

(2) support efforts by the Government of Ukraine to foster greater unity among the people and regions of the country;

(3) support the people and Government of Ukraine in preparing to conduct and contest free and fair elections, including through domestic and international election monitoring;

(4) assist in diversifying Ukraine's economy, trade, and energy supplies, including at the national, regional, and local levels;

(5) strengthen democratic institutions and political and civil society organizations in Ukraine;

(6) expand free and unfettered access to independent media of all kinds in Ukraine and assist with the protection of journalists and civil society activists who have been targeted for free speech activities;

(7) support political and economic reform initiatives by Eastern Partnership countries; and

(8) support the efforts of the Government of Ukraine, civil society, and international organizations to enhance the economic and political empowerment of women in Ukraine and to prevent and address violence against women and girls in Ukraine, and support the inclusion of women in Ukraine in any negotiations to restore Ukraine's security, independence, sovereignty, or territorial or economic integrity.

(b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a). Amounts appropriated for the activities set forth in subsection (a) shall be used pursuant to the authorization and requirements contained in this section. Additional amounts may be authorized to be appropriated under other provisions of law.

(c) *STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.*—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a).

(d) *NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to subsection (b) may not be obligated until 15 days after the date on which the President has provided notice of intent to obligate such funds to the appropriate congressional committees.

(2) *WAIVER.*—The President may waive the notification requirement under paragraph (1) if the President determines that failure to do so would pose a substantial risk to human health or welfare, in which case notification shall be provided as early as practicable, but in no event later than three days after taking the action to which such notification requirement was applicable in the context of the circumstances necessitating such waiver.

SEC. 7. ENHANCED SECURITY COOPERATION WITH UKRAINE AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The President shall, subject to the availability of appropriations—

(1) enhance security cooperation efforts and relationships amongst countries in Central and Eastern Europe and among the United States, the European Union, and countries in Central and Eastern Europe;

(2) provide additional security assistance, including defense articles and defense services (as those terms are defined in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794)) and military training, to countries in Central and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine; and

(3) support greater reform, professionalism, and capacity-building efforts within the military, intelligence, and security services in Central and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine.

(b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President a total of \$100,000,000 for fiscal years 2015 through 2017 to carry out this section. Amounts appropriated for the activities set forth in subsection (a) shall be used pursuant to the authorization and requirements contained in this section. Additional amounts may be authorized to be appropriated under other provisions of law.

(c) *STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.*—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a).

(d) *NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to subsection (b) may not be obligated until 15 days after the date on which the President has provided notice of intent to obligate such funds to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) *WAIVER.*—The President may waive the notification requirement under paragraph (1) if the President determines that failure to do so would pose a substantial risk to human health or welfare, in which case notification shall be provided as early as practicable, but in no event later than three days after taking the action to which such notification requirement was applicable in the context of the circumstances necessitating such waiver.

SEC. 8. SANCTIONS ON PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE OR UNDERMINING THE PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY, SOVEREIGNTY, OR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF UKRAINE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to—

(1) any person, including a current or former official of the Government of Ukraine or a person acting on behalf of that Government, that the President determines has perpetrated, or is responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, significant acts of violence or gross human rights abuses in Ukraine against persons associated with the antigovernment protests in Ukraine that began on November 21, 2013;

(2) any person that the President determines has perpetrated, or is responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, significant acts that are intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine, including acts of economic extortion;

(3) any official of the Government of the Russian Federation, or a close associate or family member of such an official, that the President determines is responsible for, complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, acts of significant corruption in Ukraine, including the expropriation of private or public assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, bribery, or the facilitation

or transfer of the proceeds of corruption to foreign jurisdictions; and

(4) any individual that the President determines materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the commission of acts described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—In the case of an alien determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a), denial of a visa to, and exclusion from the United States of, the alien, and revocation in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other documentation of the alien.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under paragraph (1)(A) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “good” has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(4) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a notice of and a justification for the waiver.

(d) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 9. SANCTIONS ON PERSONS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION COMPLICIT IN OR RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNIFICANT CORRUPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized and encouraged to impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to—

(1) any official of the Government of the Russian Federation, or a close associate or family member of such an official, that the President determines is responsible for, or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, acts of significant corruption in the Russian Federation, including the expropriation of private or public assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, bribery, or the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption to foreign jurisdictions; and

(2) any individual who has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, an act described in paragraph (1).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—In the case of an alien determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a), denial of a visa to, and exclusion from the United States of, the alien, and revocation in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other documentation of the alien.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under paragraph (1)(A) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “good” has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(4) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a notice of and a justification for the waiver.

(d) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 10. ANNUAL REPORT ON MILITARY AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than June 1, 2015, and June 1 of each year thereafter through 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the specified congressional committees a report, in both classified and unclassified form, on the current and future military power of the Russian Federation (in this section referred to as “Russia”). The report shall address the current and probable future course of military-technological development of the Russian military, the tenets and probable development of the security strategy and military strategy of the Government of Russia, and military organizations and operational concepts, for the 20-year period following submission of such report.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the security situation in regions neighboring Russia.

(2) The goals and factors shaping the security strategy and military strategy of the Government of Russia.

(3) Trends in Russian security and military behavior that would be designed to achieve, or that are consistent with, the goals described in paragraph (2).

(4) An assessment of the global and regional security objectives of the Government of Russia, including objectives that would affect the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Middle East, or the People's Republic of China.

(5) A detailed assessment of the sizes, locations, and capabilities of the nuclear, special operations, land, sea, and air forces of the Government of Russia.

(6) Developments in Russian military doctrine and training.

(7) An assessment of the proliferation activities of the Government of Russia and Russian entities, as a supplier of materials, technologies, or expertise relating to nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction or missile systems.

(8) Developments in the asymmetric capabilities of the Government of Russia, including its strategy and efforts to develop and deploy cyberwarfare and electronic warfare capabilities, details on the number of malicious cyber incidents originating from Russia against Department of Defense infrastructure, and associated activities originating or suspected of originating from Russia.

(9) The strategy and capabilities of space and counterspace programs in Russia, including trends, global and regional activities, the involvement of military and civilian organizations, including state-owned enterprises, academic institutions, and commercial entities, and efforts to develop, acquire, or gain access to advanced technologies that would enhance Russian military capabilities.

(10) Developments in Russia's nuclear program, including the size and state of Russia's stockpile, its nuclear strategy and associated doctrines, its civil and military production capacities, and projections of its future arsenals.

(11) A description of the anti-access and area denial capabilities of the Government of Russia.

(12) A description of Russia's command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance modernization program and its applications for Russia's precision guided weapons.

(13) In consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State, developments regarding United States-Russian engagement and cooperation on security matters.

(14) Other military and security developments involving Russia that the Secretary of Defense considers relevant to United States national security.

(c) SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "specified congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this important legislation to support the Ukrainian people and to stand up to Russian aggression.

Just a few days ago, the House of Representatives acted decisively in passing similar legislation authored by me and by Mr. ELIOT ENGEL of New York, our ranking member. We authored that bill, and I might add that Mr. ENGEL, himself, and his forefathers came from Ukraine, and suffered under that region's long and tortured history. The bill passed by 399-19 on the House floor. I prefer the more comprehensive bill backed by the House, but with today's vote, we will send this bill to the Senate, demonstrating bipartisan support for Ukraine at this critical time.

Importantly, this bill expands the sanctions available to be imposed on Russia's leaders for their actions. The President should be using all of this authority, in conjunction with our European allies, putting as much pressure in place as quickly as we can. Our targets must include those who exercise influence over Russian policy, including the so-called "oligarchs" and others who have amassed enormous wealth through government corruption.

Ukraine faces many challenges that will not be resolved quickly or easily. This legislation responds quickly to

help Ukrainians help themselves, helping to strengthen civil society and combat corruption. The task of righting Ukraine is made all the more difficult given the threat of Russian troops on its borders, and while the Russian Army threatens Ukraine's east, it is Russia's considerable energy resources that allow Moscow to hold all of Ukraine hostage. For many years, Moscow has used its supply of oil and gas to blackmail Ukraine and to blackmail other countries, including some of our NATO allies in Eastern Europe. This morning, Gazprom announced that it would hike the price for natural gas to Ukraine by 44 percent, an announcement deliberately timed to worsen that country's economic situation.

We can remove this weapon from Russia's arsenal by lifting the self-imposed barriers on U.S. energy exports. The greatly enhanced supply of oil and natural gas added to the world market, if we were to ship into Ukraine, into Hungary, and into the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland—all of these countries have written to the Speaker of the House, requesting us to do that—would undermine Russia's stranglehold on other countries and would reduce the revenues that comprise 52 percent of Moscow's budget for its military and its government. That would get Putin's attention, imposing a cost for aggression.

I will add that Mr. ENGEL and myself will be traveling with a bipartisan delegation to Ukraine in a few weeks. Let me urge all Members to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 4152.

Let me first open by commending our chair once again, Congressman ROYCE, for making such a statesmanlike statement. I agree with everything he said in that our bipartisan work in support of Ukraine and our bipartisan work on the entire Foreign Affairs Committee has been a treasure for both sides of the aisle and, certainly, for me as ranking member and for Mr. ROYCE as chair. I thank him again for working with us in such a bipartisan fashion.

Last Thursday, the House passed H.R. 4278, the Ukraine Support Act, by the overwhelming margin of 399-19. Think about what that means. We have said that Congress can't agree on anything, and it has been said that Congress can't agree on anything, that we can't work together and that nothing gets done. This proves it wrong, as 399-19 is pretty bipartisan and is a very strong showing to the world and to our country as well that we get together when things are important. What is happening in Ukraine is very, very important.

At that time, I made an extended statement about how important it is

for the United States to stand with the people of Ukraine and to make it clear to Putin and his cronies that there will be serious consequences for Russia's aggression. With Russian forces massing on Ukraine's borders, tension and fear are spreading throughout the region, and our legislation sends a clear signal that Congress will not stand for further violations.

Today, we consider the Senate version of our Ukraine legislation. This bill originated in the House as a measure to provide loan guarantees to Ukraine, and it passed this body on March 6 by a vote of 385-23, again another overwhelming bipartisan majority. The Senate then took up this legislation, stripped out our text, inserted the Ukraine bill, authored by Foreign Relations Committee Chairman MENENDEZ and Ranking Member CORKER, and sent it back to the House.

Like the House bill, this legislation authorizes assistance to Ukraine as it attempts to right its struggling economy, increase energy security, strengthen civil society, and prepare for democratic elections this spring. It supports enhanced security cooperation with Ukraine and with other countries in the region, and it provides assistance to help Ukraine recover stolen assets. It also imposes sanctions on those responsible for violating Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, for looting Ukraine's economy, and for violating human rights in Ukraine.

While the two bills are very similar, I wish that a number of provisions in the House legislation had been included in the Senate bill. For example, our bill would provide immediate assistance to Ukraine as it attempts to right its struggling economy, increase energy security, strengthen civil society and the rule of law, and prepare for democratic elections this spring, while the Senate bill does not authorize assistance until the next fiscal year, which doesn't begin until October 1. The House bill includes an important provision supporting efforts to professionalize Ukraine's law enforcement, and the House bill includes language that would require the extra scrutiny of Russian banks that may be involved in nefarious activities in Ukraine or in other parts of the world.

But in the interest of time, I support the House passage of this measure so we can get it to the President for his signature as soon as possible. The most important thing here is that both the House and Senate are united in sending a strong, bipartisan signal of support to the people of Ukraine and in providing needed assistance at a critical moment. So I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and the author of the original House-passed version of this bill, H.R. 4152.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to again rise in support of this bill, H.R. 4152, a bill that I did introduce and that the House originally passed almost a month ago to provide loan guarantees for Ukraine.

The bill has now come back to us from the Senate, as has been said, with additional authorizations for security and democracy assistance. It also sends, I think, a very clear message that the United States will not tolerate the Russian incursion into Ukraine, human rights abuses, or corruption by imposing sanctions, visa bans, and asset freezes.

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As we all know, Ukraine is facing an extraordinarily difficult economic situation. The International Monetary Fund has now said they will step in with a financing package, but the United States and our partners must also help during this time of need.

By giving the administration the ability to provide loan guarantees from funds already appropriated, this bill will provide some stability for Ukraine throughout this tumultuous time.

This is a critical bill at an important moment. The Congress must stand with the government of Ukraine. We must get this bill passed and to the President's desk as soon as possible. We have already waited too long while other issues, such as the IMF, got unnecessarily entangled with aid and sanctions proposals.

Mr. Speaker, we must pass this bill today and I hope overwhelmingly. I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, let me stress once again that this bill sends a strong message of support to the people of Ukraine at a critical moment. We are the greatest country in the world. We have interests all over the world. I think that it is important that we don't shirk from those interests, but rise to the top with them.

When there are problems around the world, the United States needs to be there. It doesn't mean being the policeman of the world, but it means standing with our friends and allies against brutal aggression. When countries stand up for democracy, they look to the United States as the role model and the leader.

Today, we are leading. Today, we are acting as a role model. Today, we are helping the beleaguered people of Ukraine.

The coming weeks and months will be very difficult for Ukraine. The coun-

try faces significant challenges as it seeks to return to political and economic health, so it is very important that the people of Ukraine know that the U.S. stands with them. They should know that we will support them as they seek to build a more democratic, prosperous, and just state and society.

They will know that we support them in urging them to look westward rather than eastward. That is what Russia fears. They fear that these countries will look westward. They will look west and see the Western allies and see what we have to offer.

Then they look eastward, and they see Putin as a bully, someone who will do whatever it necessary to keep them in line, and they don't want that.

Putin may think that he is rebuilding the old Soviet Union, but we will continue to press forward with democracy and stand foursquare with the people of Ukraine in their quest for democracy.

I urge all my colleagues to vote for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill does come at a critical time.

In closing, I will just say that U.S. officials are pressing President Putin to respect Ukrainian sovereignty, but this diplomacy will only have a chance if it is backed up by a combination of the threat of tough sanctions that are being implemented to their fullest and by the message of more energy independence for Ukraine.

I am very pleased to have worked closely with Ranking Member ENGEL and many other Members on this bipartisan legislation. It represents, as Mr. ENGEL indicated, what Congress can accomplish on the floor of this House in terms of policy when we unite to advance U.S. interests.

By our action here today, we will send a clear message of American resolve. That message will be heard in Kiev, it will be heard in Moscow, and it is going to be heard around the globe.

I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 4152.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO UKRAINE AND NEIGHBORING REGIONS

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2183) United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2183

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

(a) Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The Russian Government has deliberately blocked the Ukrainian people's access to uncensored sources of information and has provided alternative news and information that is both inaccurate and inflammatory;

(2) United States international programming exists to advance the United States interests and values by presenting accurate and comprehensive news and information, which is the foundation for democratic governance;

(3) The opinions and views of the Ukrainian people, especially those people located in the eastern regions and Crimea, are not being accurately represented in Russian dominated mass media;

(4) Russian forces have seized more than five television stations in Crimea and taken over transmissions, switching to a 24/7 Russian propaganda format; this increase in programming augments the already robust pro-Russian programming to Ukraine;

(5) United States international programming has the potential to combat this anti-democratic propaganda.

(b) PROGRAMMING.—Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Incorporated, and the Voice of America service to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

(1) provide news and information that is accessible, credible, and accurate;

(2) emphasize investigative and analytical journalism to highlight inconsistencies and misinformation provided by Russian or pro-Russian media outlets;

(3) prioritize programming to areas where access to uncensored sources of information is limited or non-existent, especially populations serviced by Russian supported media outlets;

(4) increase the number of reporters and organizational presence in eastern Ukraine, especially in Crimea;

(5) promote democratic processes, respect for human rights, freedom of the press, and territorial sovereignty; and

(6) take necessary preparatory steps to continue and increase programming and content that promotes democracy and government transparency in Russia.

(c) PROGRAMMING SURGE.—RFE/RL, Incorporated, and Voice of America programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

(1) prioritize programming to eastern Ukraine, including Crimea, and Moldova, and to ethnic and linguistic Russian populations, as well as to Tatar minorities;

(2) prioritize news and information that directly contributes to the target audiences' understanding of political and economic developments in Ukraine and Moldova, including countering misinformation that may originate from other news outlets, especially Russian supported news outlets;

(3) provide programming content 24 hours a day, seven days a week to target populations, using all available and effective distribution outlets, including—

(A) at least 8 weekly hours of total original television and video content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar languages, not inclusive of live video streaming coverage of breaking news, to be distributed on satellite, digital, and through regional television affiliates by the Voice of America; and

(B) at least 14 weekly hours the total audio content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar languages to be distributed on satellite, digital, and through regional radio affiliates of RFE/RL, Incorporated;

(4) expand the use, audience, and audience engagement of mobile news and multimedia platforms by RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, including through Internet-based social networking platforms; and

(5) partner with private sector broadcasters and affiliates to seek and start co-production for new, original content, when possible, to increase distribution.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014, in addition to funds otherwise made available for such purposes, up to \$10,000,000 to carry out programming in the Ukrainian, Balkan, Russian, and Tatar language services of RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, for the purpose of bolstering existing United States programming to the people of Ukraine and neighboring regions, and increasing programming capacity and jamming circumvention technology to overcome any disruptions to service.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Foreign Relations and Appropriations of the Senate a detailed report on plans to increase broadcasts pursuant to subsections (a) and (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of S. 2183, legislation to bolster U.S.-backed international broadcasting to Ukraine and the surrounding region. This legislation passed the House overwhelmingly last week as part of H.R. 4278. It was authored by myself and Mr. ENGEL.

While the Senate did not act on the full House package of legislation to support Ukraine, I am pleased that the Senate did recognize and act on this important piece of legislation. With its passage, this bill goes to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is central to our effort to counter Russian aggression and to send the type of support we need for the democratic development of Ukraine.

Throughout the crisis, Russians and Ukrainians alike have been bombarded by portrayals of Ukrainian protesters and the interim government, as you can hear on the Russian propaganda broadcast, what they call fascist mercenaries.

This, of course, is a rather deplorable attempt to draw a connection between those who yearn for freedom in Ukraine to the brutal Nazi invasion of the second World War. Overwhelmingly, the country of Ukraine voted for independence.

In this false narrative, which really is sort of a big lie, stark images of chaos and violence are used to persuade viewers that ethnic and linguistic Russians are under attack in Ukraine.

Footage of a border crossing between Ukraine and Poland has been used to support the outlandish claims that Ukrainian refugees are fleeing into Russia.

In Crimea, Russian forces have seized control over at least a dozen television and radio stations that are now used to broadcast misleading and false news and information around the clock.

Russian propaganda right now is in overdrive. A survey by Russia's only independent polling service, Levada, earlier this month showed that 63 percent of Russians believe state media portrays an objective picture of Ukraine.

This bill puts us on the offensive in this information battle. It does so by requiring Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Voice of America to increase broadcasts to the people of eastern Ukraine and Crimea, prioritizing programming to populations that are being inundated with Russian propaganda and combating the misinformation they are receiving.

This bill also supports efforts to circumvent Russian jamming. The Russian government has targeted Ukrainian television and radio stations, jamming their signals and disrupting their ability to reach Ukrainian audiences while the Russian propaganda broadcasts come in relentlessly.

In addition, this bill supports U.S. international broadcasting to the Balkans and Moldova, two regions that are subject to the wider Russian propaganda campaign.

The free flow of information forms the foundation for a strong democratic society. Russian propaganda kills democratic prospects. This is the problem with the fact that the state and Russia has now taken over all independent media.

As they struggle to build democracy, this bill will help provide the people of Ukraine with news and information that is accessible, credible, and accu-

rate. It will basically be surrogate broadcasting.

I urge its passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2183, a bill to provide surge news broadcasts to the people of Ukraine and the surrounding region, in order to counter Russian propaganda.

I want to, again, concur with everything that Chairman ROYCE said. I agree with every word he mentioned. I am, again, very happy to have been working closely with him on this legislation in a bipartisan fashion.

Chairman ROYCE feels as I do, particularly strongly about broadcasting. It is something that is very important. It is something that helped to win the cold war.

It is something that we are able to get into countries, so they hear the truth when they are denied the truth from their own governments, and that is what this bill does.

Over the past few weeks, the people of Ukraine, Russia, and much of Eastern Europe have been bombarded by the state-controlled and directed Russian media. Among other things, these so-called reports claim that fascists and neo-Nazis have taken control of the government in Kiev, that they have been attacking ethnic Russians in Ukraine and similarly in Crimea, and that they have engaged in widespread anti-Semitic acts.

Despite the complete lack of evidence, President Putin and other Russian officials have repeatedly referred to these alleged events to justify the invasion of Crimea and their massing of troops on Ukraine's border.

It is important to note that a number of prominent Jewish leaders in Ukraine, including Chief Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich, have recently made clear that the Russian allegations about anti-Semitic acts in Ukraine are false and that this baseless propaganda has been used as a pretext for the illegal annexation of Crimea.

I will insert in the record a letter from Ukrainian Jewish leaders debunking the fabrications emanating from Russia.

The legislation before us today, which is very similar to a provision included in the bipartisan Ukraine Support Act that passed the House last week, is a critical piece of our comprehensive approach to address the crisis in Ukraine.

S. 2183 directs Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Voice of America to significantly increase radio, TV, and Internet programming in Ukraine and other countries in the region.

It also requires RFE/RL and Voice of America to expand their network of reporters in eastern Ukraine and Crimea and focus on news and information that directly rebuts misinformation

from the Kremlin-controlled Russian media.

I would note, Mr. Speaker, that this legislation originated in the House as part of the Foreign Affairs Committee's Ukraine Support Act and was broken off in the Senate to create a separate bill.

In the interest of expediting passage, I will support the bill, but in the future, I might expect that Congress would follow a different process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2183 to help ensure that the people of Ukraine, Moldova, the Balkan States, and other countries in the region have access to objective and comprehensive news.

I reserve the balance of my time.

OPEN LETTER OF UKRAINIAN JEWS TO RUSSIAN
FEDERATION PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION VLADIMIR VLADIMIROVICH PUTIN

MR. PRESIDENT: We are Jewish citizens of Ukraine: businessmen, managers, public figures, scientists and scholars, artists and musicians. We are addressing you on behalf of the multi-national people of Ukraine, Ukraine's national minorities, and on behalf of the Jewish community.

You have stated that Russia wants to protect the rights of the Russian-speaking citizens of the Crimea and all of Ukraine and that these rights have been trampled by the current Ukrainian government. Historically, Ukrainian Jews are also mostly Russian-speaking. Thus, our opinion on what is happening carries no less weight than the opinion of those who advise and inform you.

We are convinced that you are not easily fooled. This means that you must be consciously picking and choosing lies and slander from the entire body of information on Ukraine. And you know very well that Victor Yanukovich's statement used to describe the situation after the latest treaty had been signed—"... Kyiv is full of armed people who have begun to ransack buildings, places of worship, and churches. Innocent people are suffering. People are being robbed and killed in the streets..."—is simply a lie, from the first word to the very last.

The Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine are not being humiliated or discriminated against, their civil rights have not been infringed upon. Meanderings about "forced Ukrainization" and "bans on the Russian language" that have been so common in Russian media are on the heads of those who invented them. Your certainty about the growth of anti-Semitism in Ukraine, which you expressed at your press-conference, also does not correspond to the actual facts. Perhaps you got Ukraine confused with Russia, where Jewish organizations have noticed growth in anti-Semitic tendencies last year.

Right now, after Ukraine has survived a difficult political crisis, many of us have wound up on different sides of the barricades. The Jews of Ukraine, as all ethnic groups, are not absolutely unified in their opinion towards what is happening in the country. But we live in a democratic country and can afford a difference of opinion.

They have tried to scare us (and are continuing their attempts) with "Bandera followers" and "Fascists" attempting to wrest away the helm of Ukrainian society, with imminent Jewish pogroms. Yes, we are well aware that the political opposition and the forces of social protests who have secured

changes for the better are made up of different groups. They include nationalistic groups, but even the most marginal do not dare show anti-Semitism or other xenophobic behavior. And we certainly know that our very few nationalists are well-controlled by civil society and the new Ukrainian government—which is more than can be said for the Russian neo-Nazis, who are encouraged by your security services.

We have a great mutual understanding with the new government, and a partnership is in the works. There are quite a few national minority representatives in the Cabinet of Ministers: the Minister of Internal Affairs is Armenian, the Vice Prime Minister is a Jew, two ministers are Russian. The newly-appointed governors of Ukraine's region are also not exclusively Ukrainian.

Unfortunately, we must admit that in recent days stability in our country has been threatened. And this threat is coming from the Russian government, namely—from you personally. It is your policy of inciting separatism and crude pressure placed on Ukraine that threatens us and all Ukrainian people, including those who live in Crimea and the Ukrainian South-East. Southeastern Ukrainians will soon see that for themselves.

Vladimir Vladimirovich, we highly value your concern about the safety and rights of Ukrainian national minorities. But we do not wish to be "defended" by sundering Ukraine and annexing its territory. We decisively call for you not to intervene in internal Ukrainian affairs, to return the Russian armed forces to their normal fixed peacetime location, and to stop encouraging pro-Russian separatism.

Vladimir Vladimirovich, we are quite capable of protecting our rights in a constructive dialogue and in cooperation with the government and civil society of a sovereign, democratic, and united Ukraine. We strongly urge you not to destabilize the situation in our country and to stop your attempts of delegitimizing the new Ukrainian government.

Signed:

Josef Zisels, Chairman of the Association of Jewish Communities and Organizations of Ukraine (VAAD) Ukraine, Executive Vice President of the Congress of National Communities of Ukraine; Alexander Suslensky, D.Sc., Vice President of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, businessman; Andrei Adamovsky, First Vice President of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, member of the "Hillel" Jewish Student organization Observation Council (citizen of Russia); Evgen Chervonenko, Vice President of the European Jewish Congress, businessman; Rabbi Alex Dukhovny, Head Rabbi of the Ukrainian Progressive Judaism communities; Rabbi Reuven Stamov, Head Rabbi of the Ukrainian Traditional Judaism communities; Alexander Paskhaver, Member of the VAAD Ukraine Coordination Council, economist; Leonid Finberg, Director of the NaUKMA Center for the Studies of History and Culture of Eastern European Jewry, VAAD Ukraine Vice Chairman; Anatoliy Podolsky, Director of the Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies, Vice Chairman of VAAD Ukraine; Igor Kuperberg, Chairman of the Zionist Federation of Ukraine, Vice Chairman of VAAD Ukraine; Semen Belman, Vice President of the Jewish Council of Ukraine, President of the Chernigiv Jewish Community; Alexander Gaidar, Leader of the Union of Ukrainian Progressive Judaism Religious Communities; Vyacheslav Likhachev, CNCU Chief expert in monitoring and analysing xenophobia and anti-Semitism, member of the VAAD

Ukraine Coordination Council (citizen of Russia and Israel); Michael Gold, Editor-in-chief of the VAAD Ukraine newspaper "Hadashot"; Galina Haraz, Engineer (citizen of Ukraine and Israel); Igor Turov, PhD in history, Director of the Jewish Studies Certificate Program of VAAD Ukraine, VAAD Ukraine, Presidium member; Diana Gold, VAAD Ukraine Presidium member; Alexander Roitburg, Artist; Evgen Greben, Director of the "Maccabi" Jewish Cultural and Sports Society (Kyiv); Grigoriy Pickman; "B'nei B'rith Leopoldis" President; Igor Kerez, VAAD Ukraine Trustee Board member; businessman; (Signatures still being collected); March 4, 2014.

□ 1630

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), a very respected member of our Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from New York.

Let me begin first by thanking and extending my commendation to the distinguished chairman of our committee, Mr. ROYCE, and our distinguished ranking member, Mr. ENGEL. They have comported the Foreign Affairs Committee in a civil and bipartisan, collegial fashion that I think is a model for this Congress, and I wish we could emulate that in more of our committee work and here on the floor of the House of Representatives. They understand, both of them, that foreign policy has to be bipartisan, that the United States' interest must trump partisan issues and interests, and I thank them both for their leadership and their inspiration.

I rise in strong support of these two bipartisan bills which contain provisions supported by our committee and the full House in recent weeks.

The House initially passed a bill to provide loan guarantees to Ukraine on March 6, and with today's vote, the bill finally will go to the President for his signature. It authorizes \$150 million in aid to Ukraine, and another \$100 million for this fiscal year for increased U.S. security cooperation among NATO states in response to the situation in Ukraine. This compromise legislation will also codify and expand the sanctions imposed last month by the Obama administration against certain Russian and Ukrainian officials who have undermined the Ukrainian Government or committed human rights abuses.

The second bill authorizes up to \$10 million for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Voice of America to increase their broadcasts into eastern Ukraine—including the Crimea, Moldova, and other nearby ethnic Russian communities—consistent with the House-passed bill.

As the ranking member just noted, the power of radio certainly was something we saw during the cold war era,

where truth could be beamed into homes, people had the courage to listen, and it actually changed minds, hearts, and, ultimately, the politics of the entire Soviet-dominated region.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and its allies cannot allow the flagrant violation of sovereignty that occurred by Russia in Crimea in violation of the international law, blatantly, to stand. Doing so would be an abrogation of our moral responsibility as a world power, and it would be turning our backs on the lessons we should have learned from the catastrophic events of the previous century.

Mr. Putin's claims that Russian speakers in Crimea were in jeopardy is nothing more than a fabrication and a ruse. Russia's interests were never threatened in the Crimea after the revolution in Kiev.

The current treaty with Crimea provided Russia with naval and military privileges and bases through the year 2042. That treaty was never threatened by Kiev. That treaty was never abrogated until the Russians' lower chamber of Parliament voted to abrogate that treaty, as a matter of fact.

Putin has learned nothing from history and is, in fact, bent, apparently, on repeating it. Crimea was settled by Stalin to have a Russian majority. He expelled and executed much of the native population of Crimea.

Mr. Putin seems to have learned nothing from that history, other than there is power at the end of the barrel of a gun. And the so-called referendum in Crimea was also, frankly, carried out with the assistance of bused-in thugs and at the end of the barrel of a gun. I guess, as I have said before with respect to Mr. Putin, once a KGB agent, always a KGB agent.

If Mr. Putin's goal was to deter Ukraine and other former Soviet satellite nations from turning to the West, he has failed miserably. Ukraine and its neighbors are now looking at this aggression and turning even more to the West for their orientation and their support. As they do, the United States and its allies must be there to stand with them against this naked aggression, a raw and reckless act by the Russian Government.

I urge my colleagues to support these two bills. Speak with one voice on behalf of the United States Congress, and send a decisive message to the aggressive Mr. Putin and his Russian Government.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I would like to say that information is power, and we must not yield the media landscape to intentional efforts by the state-controlled and directed Russian media to mislead the people of Ukraine and the surrounding countries by providing false

and deceptive information. These reports, as was mentioned, have been used as a pretext to the annexation of Crimea and possible incursions into eastern Ukraine and even Moldova and, I might say, even Georgia. That is why this bill is necessary to ensuring that there is access to objective news and information.

I again urge the Congress to pass this with an overwhelming, bipartisan majority.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad state of affairs. There was one television station left in Russia that had some measure of independence, that wasn't state-controlled. Russia, President Putin, went after that institution, and now it is no longer broadcasting.

Russia has been waging an intense, aggressive, and very blunt disinformation campaign. Not only is that campaign directed at disinformation to people in Ukraine, but they have also spun tales of sinister plotting by the West. This measure, S. 2183, responds by directing U.S. international broadcasters to advance access to uncensored sources of information, the truth, about what is happening on the ground in Ukraine, to use stringers and reporters and to operate as a surrogate radio broadcast source in order to get news and information to people that are otherwise subject to the Russian propaganda, state-run propaganda that is coming into the country. I think it is important that this be done because the Ukrainian stations themselves have now been jammed by the Russians, by the Russian Government.

The former head of Radio Free Europe once described the mission of his broadcasts as one that "irritates authoritarian regimes, inspires democrats, and creates greater space for civil society." We need to create greater space for civil society in Eastern Europe today. We need to provide a platform to inspire those who want to see democratic governance, and that is exactly the type of response that is needed.

For years, this type of broadcasting has been pivotal in helping young democracies push back against media lies and distortions and get off of their feet. We know from listening to Vaclav Havel and Lech Walesa how important this broadcasting can be. It is the type of broadcasting needed now in Ukraine and the surrounding region more than ever.

So I urge the House to pass S. 2183 and ensure that Russian attempts to undermine democracy in Ukraine through an intense propaganda campaign do not go unanswered.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2183.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

WEATHER FORECASTING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2413) to prioritize and redirect NOAA resources to a focused program of investment on near-term, affordable, and attainable advances in observational, computing, and modeling capabilities to deliver substantial improvement in weather forecasting and prediction of high impact weather events, such as tornadoes and hurricanes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2413

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITY.

In accordance with NOAA's critical mission to provide science, service, and stewardship, the Under Secretary shall prioritize weather-related activities, including the provision of improved weather data, forecasts, and warnings for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy, in all relevant line offices.

SEC. 3. WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION.

(a) PROGRAM.—The Assistant Administrator for OAR shall conduct a program to develop improved understanding of and forecast capabilities for atmospheric events and their impacts, placing priority on developing more accurate, timely, and effective warnings and forecasts of high impact weather events that endanger life and property.

(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The program described in subsection (a) shall focus on the following activities:

(1) Improving the fundamental understanding of weather consistent with section 2, including the boundary layer and other atmospheric processes affecting high impact weather events.

(2) Improving the understanding of how the public receives, interprets, and responds to warnings and forecasts of high impact weather events that endanger life and property.

(3) Research and development, and transfer of knowledge, technologies, and applications to the NWS and other appropriate agencies and entities, including the American weather industry and academic partners, related to—

(A) advanced radar, radar networking technologies, and other ground-based technologies, including those emphasizing rapid,

fine-scale sensing of the boundary layer and lower troposphere, and the use of innovative, dual-polarization, phased array technologies;

(B) aerial weather observing systems;

(C) high performance computing and information technology and wireless communication networks;

(D) advanced numerical weather prediction systems and forecasting tools and techniques that improve the forecasting of timing, track, intensity, and severity of high impact weather, including through—

(i) the development of more effective mesoscale models;

(ii) more effective use of existing, and the development of new, regional and national cloud-resolving models;

(iii) enhanced global weather models; and

(iv) integrated assessment models;

(E) quantitative assessment tools for measuring the impact and value of data and observing systems, including OSSEs (as described in section 8), OSEs, and AOA;

(F) atmospheric chemistry and interactions essential to accurately characterizing atmospheric composition and predicting meteorological processes, including cloud microphysical, precipitation, and atmospheric electrification processes, to more effectively understand their role in severe weather; and

(G) additional sources of weather data and information, including commercial observing systems.

(4) A technology transfer initiative, carried out jointly and in coordination with the Assistant Administrator for NWS, and in cooperation with the American weather industry and academic partners, to ensure continuous development and transition of the latest scientific and technological advances into NWS operations and to establish a process to sunset outdated and expensive operational methods and tools to enable cost-effective transfer of new methods and tools into operations.

(C) EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program under this section, the Assistant Administrator for OAR shall collaborate with and support the non-Federal weather research community, which includes institutions of higher education, private entities, and nongovernmental organizations, by making funds available through competitive grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that not less than 30 percent of the funds authorized for research and development at OAR by this Act should be made available for this purpose.

(d) REPORT.—The Under Secretary shall transmit to Congress annually, concurrently with NOAA's budget request, a description of current and planned activities under this section.

SEC. 4. TORNADO WARNING IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary, in collaboration with the American weather industry and academic partners, shall establish a tornado warning improvement and extension program.

(b) GOAL.—The goal of such program shall be to reduce the loss of life and economic losses from tornadoes through the development and extension of accurate, effective, and timely tornado forecasts, predictions, and warnings, including the prediction of tornadoes beyond one hour in advance.

(c) PROGRAM PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Administrator for OAR, in

consultation with the Assistant Administrator for NWS, shall develop a program plan that details the specific research, development, and technology transfer activities, as well as corresponding resources and timelines, necessary to achieve the program goal.

(d) BUDGET FOR PLAN.—Following completion of the plan, the Assistant Administrator for OAR, in consultation with the Assistant Administrator for NWS, shall transmit annually to Congress a proposed budget corresponding to the activities identified in the plan.

SEC. 5. HURRICANE WARNING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary, in collaboration with the American weather industry and academic partners, shall establish a hurricane warning improvement program.

(b) GOAL.—The goal of such program shall be to develop and extend accurate hurricane forecasts and warnings in order to reduce loss of life, injury, and damage to the economy.

(c) PROGRAM PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Administrator for OAR, in consultation with the Assistant Administrator for NWS, shall develop a program plan that details the specific research, development, and technology transfer activities, as well as corresponding resources and timelines, necessary to achieve the program goal.

(d) BUDGET FOR PLAN.—Following completion of the plan, the Assistant Administrator for OAR, in consultation with the Assistant Administrator for NWS, shall transmit annually to Congress a proposed budget corresponding to the activities identified in the plan.

SEC. 6. WEATHER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Administrator for OAR, in coordination with the Assistant Administrators for NWS and NESDIS, shall issue a research and development plan to restore and maintain United States leadership in numerical weather prediction and forecasting that—

(1) describes the forecasting skill and technology goals, objectives, and progress of NOAA in carrying out the program conducted under section 3;

(2) identifies and prioritizes specific research and development activities, and performance metrics, weighted to meet the operational weather mission of NWS;

(3) describes how the program will collaborate with stakeholders, including the American weather industry and academic partners; and

(4) identifies, through consultation with the National Science Foundation, American weather industry, and academic partners, research necessary to enhance the integration of social science knowledge into weather forecast and warning processes, including to improve the communication of threat information necessary to enable improved severe weather planning and decisionmaking on the part of individuals and communities.

SEC. 7. OBSERVING SYSTEM PLANNING.

The Under Secretary shall—

(1) develop and maintain a prioritized list of observation data requirements necessary to ensure weather forecasting capabilities to protect life and property to the maximum extent practicable;

(2) undertake, using OSSEs, OSEs, AOAs, and other appropriate assessment tools, on-

going systematic evaluations of the combination of observing systems, data, and information needed to meet the requirements listed under paragraph (1), assessing various options to maximize observational capabilities and their cost-effectiveness;

(3) identify current and potential future data gaps in observing capabilities related to the requirements listed under paragraph (1); and

(4) determine a range of options to address gaps identified under paragraph (3).

SEC. 8. OBSERVING SYSTEM SIMULATION EXPERIMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In support of the requirements of section 7, the Assistant Administrator for OAR shall undertake OSSEs to quantitatively assess the relative value and benefits of observing capabilities and systems. Technical and scientific OSSE evaluations—

(1) may include assessments of the impact of observing capabilities on—

(A) global weather prediction;

(B) hurricane track and intensity forecasting;

(C) tornado warning lead times and accuracy;

(D) prediction of mid-latitude severe local storm outbreaks; and

(E) prediction of storms that have the potential to cause extreme precipitation and flooding lasting from 6 hours to 1 week; and

(2) shall be conducted in cooperation with other appropriate entities within NOAA, other Federal agencies, the American weather industry, and academic partners to ensure the technical and scientific merit of OSSE results.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—OSSEs shall quantitatively—

(1) determine the potential impact of proposed space-based, suborbital, and in situ observing systems on analyses and forecasts, including potential impacts on extreme weather events across all parts of the Nation;

(2) evaluate and compare observing system design options; and

(3) assess the relative capabilities and costs of various observing systems and combinations of observing systems in providing data necessary to protect life and property.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—OSSEs—

(1) shall be conducted prior to the acquisition of major Government-owned or Government-leased operational observing systems, including polar-orbiting and geostationary satellite systems, with a lifecycle cost of more than \$500,000,000; and

(2) shall be conducted prior to the purchase of any major new commercially provided data with a lifecycle cost of more than \$500,000,000.

(d) PRIORITY OSSEs.—Not later than June 30, 2014, the Assistant Administrator for OAR shall complete OSSEs to assess the value of data from both Global Positioning System radio occultation and a geostationary hyperspectral sounder global constellation.

(e) RESULTS.—Upon completion of all OSSEs, results shall be publicly released and accompanied by an assessment of related private and public sector weather data sourcing options, including their availability, affordability, and cost effectiveness. Such assessments shall be developed in accordance with section 50503 of title 51, United States Code.

SEC. 9. COMPUTING RESOURCES PRIORITIZATION REPORT.

Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the NOAA Chief Information Officer,

in coordination with the Assistant Administrator for OAR and the Assistant Administrator for NWS, shall produce and make publicly available a report that explains how NOAA intends to—

(1) aggressively pursue the newest, fastest, and most cost effective high performance computing technologies in support of its weather prediction mission;

(2) ensure a balance between the research requirements to develop the next generation of regional and global models and its highly reliable operational models;

(3) take advantage of advanced development concepts to, as appropriate, make its next generation weather prediction models available in beta-test mode to its operational forecasters, the American weather industry, and its partners in academic and government research;

(4) identify opportunities to reallocate existing advanced computing resources from lower priority uses to improve advanced research and operational weather prediction; and

(5) harness new computing power in OAR and NWS for immediate improvement in forecasting and experimentation.

SEC. 10. COMMERCIAL WEATHER DATA.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 60161 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: “This prohibition shall not extend to—

“(1) the purchase of weather data through contracts with commercial providers; or

“(2) the placement of weather satellite instruments on cohosted government or private payloads.”.

(b) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Under Secretary, shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a strategy to enable the procurement of quality commercial weather data. The strategy shall assess the range of commercial opportunities, including public-private partnerships, for obtaining both surface-based and space-based weather observations. The strategy shall include the expected cost effectiveness of these opportunities as well as provide a plan for procuring data, including an expected implementation timeline, from these nongovernmental sources, as appropriate.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The strategy shall include—

(A) an analysis of financial or other benefits to, and risks associated with, acquiring commercial weather data or services, including through multiyear acquisition approaches;

(B) an identification of methods to address planning, programming, budgeting, and execution challenges to such approaches, including—

(i) how standards will be set to ensure that data is reliable and effective;

(ii) how data may be acquired through commercial experimental or innovative techniques and then evaluated for integration into operational use;

(iii) how to guarantee public access to all forecast-critical data to ensure that the American weather industry and the public continue to have access to information critical to their work; and

(iv) in accordance with section 50503 of title 51, United States Code, methods to address potential termination liability or cancellation costs associated with weather data or service contracts; and

(C) an identification of any changes needed in the requirements development and approval processes of the Department of Commerce to facilitate effective and efficient implementation of such strategy.

SEC. 11. WEATHER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Under Secretary shall establish a Federal Advisory Committee to—

(1) provide advice for prioritizing weather research initiatives at NOAA to produce real improvement in weather forecasting;

(2) provide advice on existing or emerging technologies or techniques that can be found in private industry or the research community that could be incorporated into forecasting at NWS to improve forecasting;

(3) identify opportunities to improve communications between weather forecasters, emergency management personnel, and the public; and

(4) address such other matters as the Under Secretary or the Advisory Committee believes would improve innovation in weather forecasting.

(b) COMPOSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary shall appoint leading experts and innovators from all relevant fields of science and engineering that inform meteorology, including atmospheric chemistry, atmospheric physics, hydrology, social science, risk communications, electrical engineering, and computer modeling.

(2) NUMBER.—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of at least 12 members, with the chair of the Advisory Committee chosen by the Under Secretary from among the members.

(3) RESTRICTION.—The Under Secretary may not appoint a majority of members who are employees of NOAA-funded research centers.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Advisory Committee shall transmit annually to the Under Secretary a report on progress made by NOAA in adopting the Advisory Committee's recommendations. The Under Secretary shall transmit a copy of such report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(d) DURATION.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Committee until the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 12. INTERAGENCY WEATHER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COORDINATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish an Inter-agency Committee for Advancing Weather Services to improve coordination of relevant weather research and forecast innovation activities across the Federal Government. The Interagency Committee shall—

(1) include participation by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, NOAA and its constituent elements, the National Science Foundation, and such other agencies involved in weather forecasting research as the President determines are appropriate;

(2) identify and prioritize top forecast needs and coordinate those needs against budget requests and program initiatives across participating offices and agencies; and

(3) share information regarding operational needs and forecasting improvements across relevant agencies.

(b) CO-CHAIR.—The Federal Coordinator for Meteorology shall serve as a co-chair of this panel.

(c) FURTHER COORDINATION.—The Director shall take such other steps as are necessary to coordinate the activities of the Federal Government with those of the American weather industry, State governments, emergency managers, and academic researchers.

SEC. 13. OAR AND NWS EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Administrator for OAR and the Assistant Administrator for NWS may establish a program to detail OAR personnel to the NWS and NWS personnel to OAR.

(b) GOAL.—The goal of this program is to enhance forecasting innovation through regular, direct interaction between OAR's world-class scientists and NWS's operational staff.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The program shall allow up to 10 OAR staff and NWS staff to spend up to 1 year on detail. Candidates shall be jointly selected by the Assistant Administrator for OAR and the Assistant Administrator for NWS.

(d) REPORT.—The Under Secretary shall report annually to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on participation in such program and shall highlight any innovations that come from this interaction.

SEC. 14. VISITING FELLOWS AT NWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Administrator for NWS may establish a program to host postdoctoral fellows and academic researchers at any of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction.

(b) GOAL.—This program shall be designed to provide direct interaction between forecasters and talented academic and private sector researchers in an effort to bring innovation to forecasting tools and techniques available to the NWS.

(c) SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT.—Such fellows shall be competitively selected and appointed for a term not to exceed 1 year.

SEC. 15. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AOA.—The term “AOA” means an Analysis of Alternatives.

(2) NESDIS.—The term “NESDIS” means the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service.

(3) NOAA.—The term “NOAA” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(4) NWS.—The term “NWS” means the National Weather Service.

(5) OAR.—The term “OAR” means the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

(6) OSE.—The term “OSE” means an Observing System Experiment.

(7) OSSE.—The term “OSSE” means an Observing System Simulation Experiment.

(8) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

SEC. 16. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2014.—There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014—

(1) \$83,000,000 to OAR to carry out this Act, of which—

(A) \$65,000,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes; and

(B) \$18,000,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs; and

(2) out of funds made available for research and development in NWS, an additional amount of \$14,000,000 for OAR to carry out the joint technology transfer initiative described in section 3(b)(4).

(b) ALTERNATIVE FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014.—If the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25) is repealed or replaced with an Act that increases allocations, subsection (a) shall not apply, and there are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014—

(1) \$96,500,000 to OAR to carry out this Act, of which—

(A) \$77,500,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes; and

(B) \$19,000,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs; and

(2) out of funds made available for research and development in NWS, an additional amount of \$16,000,000 for OAR to carry out the joint technology transfer initiative described in section 3(b)(4).

(c) FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2017.—For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, there are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) \$100,000,000 to OAR to carry out this Act, of which—

(A) \$80,000,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes; and

(B) \$20,000,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs; and

(2) an additional amount of \$20,000,000 for the joint technology transfer initiative described in section 3(b)(4).

(d) LIMITATION.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out this Act, and the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2413, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2413, the Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2014, will greatly improve our severe weather forecasting capabilities. I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE) for his work on this bill.

Severe weather routinely affects large portions of the United States. This past year has been no different. The United States needs a world-class weather prediction system that helps protect American lives and property.

Our leadership has slipped in severe weather forecasting. European weather models routinely predict America's weather better than we can. We need to make up for lost ground. H.R. 2413 improves weather observation systems and advances computing and next generation modeling capabilities. The enhanced prediction of major storms is of great importance to protecting the public from injury and loss of property.

This legislation is the result of multiple hearings, a subcommittee mark-

up, and Member negotiations. Again, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for taking the lead on this issue. I also want to thank the former chairman of the Environment Subcommittee, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART), and the Environment Subcommittee ranking member, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), for their contributions to this bipartisan bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2413, the Weather Forecasting Improvement Act. This bill is a bipartisan agreement by members of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

I am pleased to join my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, the bill's sponsor, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Subcommittee Chair SCHWEIKERT, former subcommittee chair, Mr. STEWART, and Chairman SMITH in support of this bill. I want to thank them, as well as Ranking Member JOHNSON, for their work on this important bill. Members on both sides of the aisle can be assured that this bill represents a truly bipartisan effort and is built on extensive discussions with and advice from the weather community.

After devastating tornadoes in his district, Mr. BRIDENSTINE introduced a well-intentioned bill that went a long way toward improving the tools available to NOAA for evaluating emerging forecast technologies. His emphasis on tornado research was appropriate and helpful. At the subcommittee markup, Mr. GRAYSON added a valuable amendment for a focused hurricane research program.

Representative STEWART, then the chairman of the Environment Subcommittee, worked with my staff and me on a manager's amendment to add to the tools and programs in the original bill. We drew on expert advice from the weather enterprise and from extensive reports from the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration.

Experts told us that, to improve weather forecasting, the research at the Office of Oceans and Atmospheric Research, or OAR, and the forecasting at the National Weather Service had to be better coordinated. This legislation contains important provisions to improve that coordination. This bill encourages NOAA to integrate research and operations in a way that models the successful innovation structure used by the Department of Defense.

The bill we are considering today also creates numerous opportunities for the broader weather community to provide input to NOAA, and their insights as well. At every opportunity, we charge the agency to consult with the American weather industry and re-

searchers as they develop research plans and undertake new initiatives. We also press NOAA to get serious about exploring private sector solutions to their data needs.

The bill makes clear that we expect the historical support for extramural research to continue. The engine of weather forecasting innovation has not always been found within NOAA, but is often found in the external research community and labs that work with NOAA. That collaboration must continue and will continue under this legislation.

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In addition, the bill includes an explicit focus on tapping the expertise of social scientists on how to best communicate risks and warnings to the public. Witnesses who came before the Science Committee emphasized the importance of this work. The best forecasting skill and technology in the world won't be as effective unless the messages to the public result in the right safety response.

The bill before us today is designed to improve public safety, enhance the American economy, and transform the innovation culture at NOAA. I am confident that its passage will improve weather forecasting and tangibly benefit our constituents.

I can assure Members on both sides of the aisle that weather research is strengthened in this bill but not at the expense of other important work at NOAA.

During the committee process, we heard from witness after witness who stressed that weather forecasting involves many different scientific disciplines. This integrated multidisciplinary approach reflects an understanding that we cannot choose to strengthen one area of research at OAR without endangering the progress in the other areas because they are all interconnected. Physical and chemical laws do not respect OAR's budgetary boundaries of climate, weather, and oceans, and this bill only addresses organizational issues in weather at NOAA.

Thank you, again, to Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON for giving us the support to work out a compromise. I want to reiterate my thanks to Mr. BRIDENSTINE for his willingness to work with us and accept changes to the original bill. I particularly want to thank Representative CHRIS STEWART, the former chair of the Environment Subcommittee, whose attitude throughout the process was collaborative and constructive, allowing us to arrive at the bipartisan bill we have before us today. Chairman SCHWEIKERT, who took on the chairmanship of the subcommittee when Mr. STEWART went to the Committee on Appropriations, has brought with him that same collaborative spirit. Finally,

I want to thank the very hardworking staff on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, weather is not a partisan issue. The American public needs and deserves the best weather forecasting service we can provide. This bill has broad support in the weather community among research institutions, established businesses, and emerging companies. Supporters include the American Commercial Space Weather Association, University Consortium for Atmospheric Research, GeoOptics, PlanetiQ, and the Weather Coalition.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE), who is a member of the Science Committee and is the author of this bill.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, on May 20 of last year, a massive tornado struck Moore, Oklahoma, with very little warning. The Moore tornado killed 24 Oklahomans, injured 377, and resulted in an estimated \$2 billion worth of damage. A warning was issued only 15 minutes before the tornado touched down, just 15 minutes. In fact, 15 minutes is the standard in America. Mr. Speaker, America can do better than 15 minutes.

The Weather Forecasting Improvement Act is the first step toward restoring America's leadership in weather and weather forecasting and prediction. I would like to thank Chairman LAMAR SMITH and the Science Committee staff for their very hard work.

H.R. 2413, the Weather Forecasting Improvement Act, is critical legislation that will save lives and protect property and critical infrastructure.

I would also like to thank the former Environment Subcommittee chairman, CHRIS STEWART, now a member of the Appropriations Committee, and my friend and colleague from Oregon, Representative SUZANNE BONAMICI, for making this truly a very bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is about priorities. When America is over \$17 trillion in debt, the answer is not more spending, but to prioritize necessary spending toward its best uses. Saving lives and protecting property should be the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's top priority. This bill codifies that priority.

H.R. 2413 directs NOAA to prioritize weather-related activities and rebalances NOAA's funding priorities to bring weather-related activities to a higher amount. The bill completes this reprioritization in a fiscally responsible manner. H.R. 2413 does not increase NOAA's overall authorization. I would like to repeat that. H.R. 2413 does not increase NOAA's overall authorization. It doesn't spend one more dime.

Mr. Speaker, this bill helps get weather research projects out of the

lab and into the field, thereby speeding up the development and fielding of life-saving weather forecasting technology. By requiring coordination and prioritization across the range of NOAA agencies, H.R. 2413 will help get weather prediction and forecasting technologies off the drawing board and into the field.

This bill authorizes dedicated tornado and hurricane warning programs to coordinate research and development activities. It directs the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research to prioritize its research and development. And it codifies technology transfer between OAR—the researchers—and the National Weather Service—the operators—a vital link that ensures next-generation weather technologies are implemented.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps most importantly, H.R. 2413 enhances NOAA's collaboration with the private sector and with universities. Oklahoma is on the cutting edge of weather research, prediction, and forecasting with absolutely world-class institutions such as the National Weather Center and the National Severe Storms Laboratory at the University of Oklahoma.

And I would like to anchor here, just to brag for a second, about what is happening at the University of Oklahoma. As a Navy pilot, I have seen firsthand phased array radar technology being used to detect, track, and target enemy aircraft many, many miles away. What this technology is now being used for at the University of Oklahoma is to detect and track clouds and very small particles in clouds. Those particles can provide reflected radar energy that goes into a data assimilation system, into a numerical weather model, and we can now predict tornadoes over an hour in advance, which is a goal of this piece of legislation.

Saving lives and property requires us to be able to warn people based on the forecast of a tornado, not just based on the detection of a tornado, moving from 15 minutes to over an hour in advance to detect tornadoes. Not only is this possible, it has been done. And they are doing it currently at the University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also clarifies that NOAA can purchase weather data through contracts with commercial providers and place weather satellite instruments on private payloads. Leveraging the private sector will lead to lower costs for better weather data; again, saving lives and property.

Mr. Speaker, the imbalance of NOAA's resources is leaving America further behind our international competitors. The Science Committee received compelling testimony showing that the European Union has better capabilities in some areas of numerical weather prediction, forecasting, and risk communication, and other countries, such as Britain and Japan, are closing in fast.

Misallocating resources can have terrible consequences, as my constituents and the people of Oklahoma understand all too well every tornado season.

The Weather Forecasting Improvement Act is a first step toward rebalancing NOAA's priorities, moving new technologies from the lab bench to the field, and leveraging formidable capabilities developed in the private sector and at universities. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), who is also chairman of the Environment Subcommittee of the Science Committee.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. I thank Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member BONAMICI, and the sponsor of our bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is actually one of those moments where you are going over a piece of legislation—and I am very proud of everyone who has worked on it, and maybe this language is a little too strong, but in many ways, it sort of removes, whether it be excuses or statutory straitjackets, away from NOAA, away from OAR. And the optionality of, how do you design data sets, how do you reach out to the cloud, to the world around you, and gather their technology, and how they are doing weather forecasting.

You have just heard Chairman BRIDENSTINE speak of big weather events, whether they be tornadoes that affect his district—but think of the Members who have had input into this piece of legislation. I am from the desert Southwest. We have someone from the wet and rainy Northwest. We have had people from around the country that represent very, very different types of climates in their districts, and that is, actually, something that is really special about this piece of legislation.

I have a level of enthusiasm. Last month was my birthday, and my wife bought me this weather station that sits on the side of the house, and it talks to the WiFi, which talks to the cloud. And their goal is to set up hundreds of thousands of data points that are collected by enthusiasts, like myself, across the country and put that data together.

Can you imagine a world where NOAA actually becomes the hub of so many data sets? Then it has the optionality of reaching out and finding what technology, what mechanics are out there to put it together and help us, from our little microclimates that I may have in my neighborhood to the terrible storm that may be threatening the Florida coast.

This is the future, and this bill actually moves us towards that future.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on the committee. I really appreciate working with them.

I want to make clear that when we worked on this—this is a reprioritization of how the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research lays out its own weather research efforts. The key reprioritization is to put in place a clear process that ties the needs of forecasters at the National Weather Service to the research initiatives at OAR.

I am glad that my colleagues have worked on this important bill. This legislation will make real and measurable improvements in weather research and weather forecasting, and I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2413, the Weather Forecasting Improvement Act. This bill represents a bipartisan agreement by members of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I am pleased to join my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, the bill's sponsor, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, subcommittee Chair SCHWEIKERT, the former subcommittee Chair STEWART, and Chair SMITH, in support of this bill. I want to thank them, as well as Ranking Member JOHNSON, for their work on this important bill.

Members on both sides of the aisle can be assured that this bill represents a truly bipartisan effort, and is built on extensive discussions with, and advice from, the weather community.

After the devastating tornados in his district, Mr. BRIDENSTINE introduced a well-intended bill that went a long way toward improving the tools available to NOAA for evaluating emerging forecast technologies. His emphasis on tornado research was appropriate and helpful. At the Subcommittee markup, Mr. GRAYSON added a valuable amendment for a focused hurricane research program.

Mr. STEWART, then the Chairman of the Environment Subcommittee, worked with my staff and me on an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to add to the tools and programs in the original bill.

We drew on expert advice from the weather enterprise and from extensive reports from the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration. Experts told us that to improve weather forecasting, the research at the Office of Oceans and Atmospheric Research (OAR) and the forecasting at the National Weather Service had to be better coordinated; this legislation contains provisions to improve that coordination.

This bill encourages NOAA to integrate research and operations in a way that models the successful innovation structure used by the Department of Defense.

The bill we are considering today also creates numerous opportunities for the broader weather community to provide insights to NOAA.

At every opportunity, we charge the agency to consult with the American weather industry and researchers as they develop research plans and undertake new initiatives. We also press NOAA to get serious about exploring private sector solutions to their data needs.

The bill makes clear that we expect the historical support for extramural research to con-

tinue. The engine of weather forecasting innovation has not always been found within NOAA, but often is found in the external research community and labs that work with NOAA. That collaboration must and will continue under this legislation.

In addition, the bill includes an explicit focus on tapping the expertise of social scientists in how to best communicate risks and warnings to the public. Witnesses who came before the Science Committee emphasized the importance of this work.

The best forecasting skill and technology in the world won't be as effective unless the messages to the public result in the right safety-response.

The bill before us today is designed to improve public safety, enhance the American economy, and transform the innovation culture at NOAA. I am confident that its passage will improve weather forecasting and tangibly benefit our constituents.

I can assure all Members that weather research is strengthened in this bill, but not at the expense of other important work at NOAA.

During the committee process we heard from witness after witness who stressed that weather forecasting involves many different scientific disciplines, and this integrated, multidisciplinary approach reflects an understanding that we cannot choose to strengthen one area of research at OAR without endangering the progress in the other areas because they are all interconnected. Physical and chemical laws do not respect OAR's budgeting boundaries of climate, weather, and oceans and this bill does not step beyond addressing organizational issues in weather at NOAA.

I want to be clear about what this bill does and does not do, because there seems to be some confusion on the Hill and elsewhere. There is no question that the bill as introduced threatened NOAA's ability to make expert judgments about how to distribute research support among climate, weather, and oceans work. The original language of H.R. 2413 would have required that weather-related activities be the "top priority" across all NOAA offices. This clearly would have put weather at the front of the line in budget and planning efforts compared to oceans or climate.

That language raised significant concerns for Members on my side of the aisle, in part because there was no hearing record to support such a reordering of programs. On the contrary, the testimony we received reflected consensus that such direction would be counter-productive, and would not substantively improve weather forecasting.

In light of that record, and the real goal of the bill's original sponsors to have a bipartisan bill, Chairman STEWART and Mr. BRIDENSTINE agreed to accept a change in that language to simply direct NOAA to "prioritize" weather-related work. Instead of a value statement that puts weather in front of all other initiatives, we adopted a neutral process statement. This language was discussed with NOAA, and my staff and my Democratic colleagues on the committee were satisfied with their response. In other words, setting priorities is what the agency does in its strategic plans, annual performance plans, and budgets.

The language in the bill before us today instructs NOAA to prioritize, a process that is al-

ready in place. The legislative record is clear on this subject. The Committee abandoned a value direction to the agency and instead adopted a simple process direction.

My willingness to support the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute and the underlying bill, and to recommend that colleagues on my side of the aisle do the same, was based in part on conversations with NOAA reflecting their understanding that the shift away from "Top Priority" represented a significant improvement to the legislation. I would not support legislation that sought to make weather forecasting superior to other areas of work at OAR, and the weather community would not support that either. Witnesses from across that community were very articulate on the interconnected nature of work in these three budgeting areas at NOAA. Proof that the minority would not support language that placed weather research in front of climate or oceans research can easily be found in our unanimous opposition to the original version of this bill, which moved through the subcommittee on a partisan vote. Only after the prioritization issue was addressed were minority committee members willing to support the bill.

Although H.R. 2413 does not reprioritize funding from climate or oceans research to weather research, the bill does include some reprioritization across weather programs at NOAA. The most significant financial move is shifting the technology transfer program and account from the National Weather Service to NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

There is reprioritization within OAR, it can all be found in how the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research lays out its own weather research effort. For example, the bill puts in place a clear process that ties the needs of forecasters at the National Weather Service to the research initiatives at OAR.

On the question of funding for weather research, I remind my colleagues that the total amount requested for weather and forecasting research at NOAA in the FY2015 budget is \$207 million. In addition to the \$84 million requested for OAR weather research, another \$123 million was requested for science and technology at the National Weather Service. This exceeds the amount requested for climate research by \$19 million.

As I have stated previously, expert witnesses testifying on this matter emphasized that improving weather forecasting accuracy requires prioritizing into oceans and climate. The physics and chemistry of these three areas makes them interconnected in a way that budgeting obscures.

Weather is defined as what happens in the atmosphere in any 14-day period. Droughts and tropical storm seasons are driven by longer-term processes, well beyond 14 days. The severe weather phenomena that have been ravaging our country in recent years are climatic events that are the result of processes that can be measured in seasons and even years.

Ocean and climate research undoubtedly support weather forecasting improvement. Similarly, understanding short-term phenomena—weather—has implications for oceans and climate. The bill as amended reflects this understanding.

Thank you, again, to Chair SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON for giving us the support to work out a compromise. And I want to reiterate my thanks to Mr. BRIDENSTINE for his willingness to work with us and accept changes to the original bill.

Mr. Speaker, weather is not a partisan issue. The American public needs and deserves the best weather forecasting system we can provide.

This bill has broad support in the weather community among research institutions, established businesses, and emerging companies. Supporters include: The American Commercial Space Weather Association, University Consortium for Atmospheric Research, GeoOptics, Planet IQ, and The Weather Coalition.

I particularly want to thank Mr. STEWART, the former Chair of the Environment Subcommittee, whose attitude throughout the process was collaborative and constructive, allowing us to arrive at the bipartisan bill we have before us today. Chair SCHWEIKERT, who took on the Chairmanship of the Subcommittee when Mr. STEWART went to the Committee on Appropriations, has brought with him that same collaborative spirit. And finally, thank you to all of the very hardworking staff on both sides of the aisle.

In summary, this bill does not reallocate money from oceans or climate to weather research, I would not support a bill that did that. What the bill does do is to launch some new management processes designed to give taxpayers a better return on their investment while opening the door to exploring commercial opportunities that could reduce costs at NOAA. This bill can drive meaningful cultural change at NOAA, harvest the benefits of research tied to operational needs, and accomplish that without significant spending increases.

This legislation will make real and measurable improvements in weather research and weather forecasting. I urge my colleagues to support this effort, and to vote yes on this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE), Ms. BONAMICI, and DAVID SCHWEIKERT for their hard work on this bill. I appreciate all of the effort they have put into it. It is a wonderful product. It is going to save lives. It is going to save property, and it is going to benefit many, many Americans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2413, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to prioritize and redirect NOAA resources to a focused program of investment on affordable and attainable advances in observational, computing, and modeling capabilities to deliver substantial improvement in weather forecasting and prediction of high impact weather events,

such as those associated with hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, floods, storm surges, and wildfires, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4005) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4005

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 102. Authorized levels of military strength and training.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

Sec. 201. Commissioned officers.

Sec. 202. Prevention and response workforces.

Sec. 203. Centers of expertise.

Sec. 204. Agreements.

Sec. 205. Coast Guard housing.

Sec. 206. Determinations.

Sec. 207. Annual Board of Visitors.

Sec. 208. Repeal of limitation on medals of honor.

Sec. 209. Mission need statement.

Sec. 210. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.

Sec. 211. Inventory of real property.

Sec. 212. Active duty for emergency augmentation of regular forces.

Sec. 213. Acquisition workforce expedited hiring authority.

Sec. 214. Icebreakers.

Sec. 215. Multiyear procurement authority for Offshore Patrol Cutters.

Sec. 216. Maintaining Medium Endurance Cutter mission capability.

Sec. 217. Coast Guard administrative savings.

Sec. 218. Technical corrections to title 14.

Sec. 219. Flag officers.

Sec. 220. Aviation capability in the Great Lakes region.

Sec. 221. e-LORAN.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

Sec. 301. Treatment of fishing permits.

Sec. 302. International ice patrol reform.

Sec. 303. Repeal.

Sec. 304. Donation of historical property.

Sec. 305. Small shipyards.

Sec. 306. Drug testing reporting.

Sec. 307. Recourse for noncitizens.

Sec. 308. Penalty wages.

Sec. 309. Crediting time in the sea services.

Sec. 310. Treatment of abandoned seafarers.

Sec. 311. Clarification of high-risk waters.

Sec. 312. Uninspected passenger vessels in the Virgin Islands.

Sec. 313. Offshore supply vessel third-party inspection.

Sec. 314. Survival craft.

Sec. 315. Technical correction to title 46.

Sec. 316. Enforcement.

Sec. 317. Severe marine debris events.

Sec. 318. Minimum tonnage.

Sec. 319. Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee.

Sec. 320. Report on effect of LNG export carriage requirements on job creation in the United States maritime industry.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Sec. 401. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 402. Terms of Commissioners.

TITLE V—COMMERCIAL VESSEL DISCHARGE REFORM

Sec. 501. Short title.

Sec. 502. Discharges incidental to the normal operation of certain vessels.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 601. Distant water tuna fleet.

Sec. 602. Vessel determination.

Sec. 603. Lease authority.

Sec. 604. National maritime strategy.

Sec. 605. IMO Polar Code negotiations.

Sec. 606. Valley View Ferry.

Sec. 607. Competition by United States flag vessels.

Sec. 608. Survey.

Sec. 609. Fishing safety grant programs.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2015 and 2016 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard as follows:

(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard—

(A) \$6,981,036,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

(B) \$6,981,036,000 for fiscal year 2016.

(2) For the acquisition, construction, rebuilding, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore and offshore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto—

(A) \$1,546,448,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

(B) \$1,546,448,000 for fiscal year 2016;

to remain available until expended.

(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including personnel and training costs, equipment, and services—

(A) \$140,016,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

(B) \$140,016,000 for fiscal year 2016.

(4) For environmental compliance and restoration of Coast Guard vessels, aircraft, and facilities (other than parts and equipment associated with operation and maintenance)—

(A) \$16,701,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

(B) \$16,701,000 for fiscal year 2016;

to remain available until expended.

(5) To the Commandant of the Coast Guard for research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard's mission with respect to search and rescue, aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environmental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties, ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense readiness—

(A) \$19,890,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

(B) \$19,890,000 for fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZED LEVELS OF MILITARY STRENGTH AND TRAINING.

(a) ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH.—The Coast Guard is authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty personnel of 43,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

(b) **MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.**—The Coast Guard is authorized average military training student loads for each of fiscal years 2015 and 2016 as follows:

- (1) For recruit and special training, 2,500 student years.
- (2) For flight training, 165 student years.
- (3) For professional training in military and civilian institutions, 350 student years.
- (4) For officer acquisition, 1,200 student years.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

SEC. 201. COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Section 42(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “7,200” and inserting “6,700”.

SEC. 202. PREVENTION AND RESPONSE WORKFORCES.

Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in subsection (b)—
 - (A) in paragraph (2) by striking “or” at the end;
 - (B) in paragraph (3) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
 - (C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) waterways operations manager shall have knowledge, skill, and practical experience with respect to marine transportation system management; or

“(5) port and facility safety and security specialist shall have knowledge, skill, and practical experience with respect to the safety, security, and environmental protection responsibilities associated with maritime ports and facilities.”;
- (2) in subsection (c) by striking “or marine safety engineer” and inserting “marine safety engineer, waterways operations manager, or port and facility safety and security specialist”;
- (3) in subsection (f)(2) by striking “investigator or marine safety engineer.” and inserting “investigator, marine safety engineer, waterways operations manager, or port and facility safety and security specialist.”.

SEC. 203. CENTERS OF EXPERTISE.

Section 58(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b) **MISSIONS.**—Any center established under subsection (a) may—

- “(1) promote, facilitate, and conduct—
- “(A) education;
- “(B) training; and
- “(C) activities authorized under section 93(a)(4); and
- “(2) be a repository of information on operations, practices, and resources related to the mission for which the center was established.”.

SEC. 204. AGREEMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 93(a)(4) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) by striking “, investigate” and inserting “and investigate”;
- (2) by striking “, and cooperate and coordinate such activities with other Government agencies and with private agencies”.

(b) **AUTHORITY.**—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 102. Agreements

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out section 93(a)(4), the Commandant may—

- “(1) enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with Federal entities and other public or private entities, including academic entities; and
- “(2) impose on and collect from an entity subject to an agreement or contract under paragraph (1) a fee to assist with expenses incurred in carrying out such section.

“(b) **DEPOSIT AND USE OF FEES.**—Fees collected under this section shall be deposited

in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts. The fees may be used, to the extent provided in advance in an appropriation law, only to carry out activities under section 93(a)(4).”.

(c) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The analysis for chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“102. Agreements.”.

SEC. 205. COAST GUARD HOUSING.

(a) **COMMANDANT; GENERAL POWERS.**—Section 93(a)(13) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “the Treasury” and inserting “the fund established under section 687”.

(b) **LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY.**—Section 672a(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “the Treasury” and inserting “the fund established under section 687”.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 687(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

- “(4) Monies received under section 93(a)(13).
- “(5) Amounts received under section 672a(b).”.

SEC. 206. DETERMINATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 103. Determinations

“The Secretary may only make a determination that a waterway, or any portion thereof, is navigable for purposes of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard through a rulemaking that is conducted in a manner consistent with subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The analysis for chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“103. Determinations.”.

SEC. 207. ANNUAL BOARD OF VISITORS.

Section 194 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 194. Annual Board of Visitors

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A Board of Visitors to the Coast Guard Academy is established to review and make recommendations on the operation of the Academy.

“(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The membership of the Board shall consist of the following:

“(A) The chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, or the chairman’s designee.

“(B) The chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, or the chairman’s designee.

“(C) 3 Members of the Senate designated by the Vice President.

“(D) 4 Members of the House of Representatives designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

“(E) 6 individuals designated by the President.

“(2) **LENGTH OF SERVICE.**—

“(A) **MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.**—A Member of Congress designated under subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (1) as a member of the Board shall be designated as a member in the First Session of a Congress and serve for the duration of that Congress.

“(B) **INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT.**—Each individual designated by the President under subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) shall serve as a member of the Board for 3 years, except that any such mem-

ber whose term of office has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

“(3) **DEATH OR RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER.**—If a member of the Board dies or resigns, a successor shall be designated for any unexpired portion of the term of the member by the official who designated the member.

“(c) **ACADEMY VISITS.**—

“(1) **ANNUAL VISIT.**—The Board shall visit the Academy annually to review the operation of the Academy.

“(2) **ADDITIONAL VISITS.**—With the approval of the Secretary, the Board or individual members of the Board may make other visits to the Academy in connection with the duties of the Board or to consult with the Superintendent of the Academy.

“(d) **SCOPE OF REVIEW.**—The Board shall review, with respect to the Academy—

- “(1) the state of morale and discipline;
- “(2) the curriculum;
- “(3) instruction;
- “(4) physical equipment;
- “(5) fiscal affairs; and
- “(6) other matters relating to the Academy that the Board determines appropriate.

“(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of an annual visit of the Board under subsection (c)(1), the Board shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the actions of the Board during such visit and the recommendations of the Board pertaining to the Academy.

“(f) **ADVISORS.**—If approved by the Secretary, the Board may consult with advisors in carrying out this section.

“(g) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—Each member of the Board and each adviser consulted by the Board under subsection (f) shall be reimbursed, to the extent permitted by law, by the Coast Guard for actual expenses incurred while engaged in duties as a member or adviser.”.

SEC. 208. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON MEDALS OF HONOR.

Section 494 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “medal of honor,” each place that it appears.

SEC. 209. MISSION NEED STATEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 569 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 569. Mission need statement

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2016 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2019 under such section, and every 4 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an integrated major acquisition mission need statement.

“(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the following definitions apply:

“(1) **INTEGRATED MAJOR ACQUISITION MISSION NEED STATEMENT.**—The term ‘integrated major acquisition mission need statement’ means a document that—

“(A) identifies current and projected gaps in Coast Guard mission capabilities using mission hour targets;

“(B) explains how each major acquisition program addresses gaps identified under subparagraph (A) if funded at the levels provided for such program in the most recently submitted capital investment plan; and

“(C) describes the missions the Coast Guard will not be able to achieve, by fiscal year, for each gap identified under subparagraph (A).

“(2) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘major acquisition program’ has the meaning given that term in section 569a(e).

“(3) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—The term ‘capital investment plan’ means the plan required under section 663(a)(1).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 569 and inserting the following: “569. Mission need statement.”.

SEC. 210. TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 662 the following:

“§ 662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a Coast Guard authorization request with respect to such fiscal year.

“(b) COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘Coast Guard authorization request’ means a proposal for legislation that, with respect to the Coast Guard for the relevant fiscal year—

“(1) recommends end strengths for personnel for that fiscal year, as described in section 661;

“(2) recommends authorizations of appropriations for that fiscal year, including with respect to matters described in section 662; and

“(3) addresses any other matter that the Secretary determines is appropriate for inclusion in a Coast Guard authorization bill.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 662 the following:

“662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.”.

SEC. 211. INVENTORY OF REAL PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 679. Inventory of real property

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2014, the Commandant shall establish an inventory of all real property, including submerged lands, under the control of the Coast Guard, which shall include—

“(1) the size, the location, and any other appropriate description of each unit of such property;

“(2) an assessment of the physical condition of each unit of such property, excluding lands;

“(3) an estimate of the fair market value of each unit of such property;

“(4) a determination of whether each unit of such property should be—

“(A) retained to fulfill a current or projected Coast Guard mission requirement; or

“(B) subject to divestiture; and

“(5) other information the Commandant considers appropriate.

(b) INVENTORY MAINTENANCE.—The Commandant shall—

“(1) maintain the inventory required under subsection (a) on an ongoing basis; and

“(2) update information on each unit of real property included in such inventory not later than 30 days after any change relating to such property.

“(c) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than March 30, 2015, and every 5 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

“(1) a list of all real property under the control of the Coast Guard and the location of such property by property type;

“(2) recommendations for divestiture with respect to any units of such property, including an estimate of—

“(A) the fair market value of any property recommended for divestiture; and

“(B) the costs or savings associated with divestiture; and

“(3) recommendations for consolidating any units of such property, including—

“(A) an estimate of the costs or savings associated with each recommended consolidation; and

“(B) a discussion of the impact that such consolidation would have on Coast Guard mission effectiveness.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“679. Inventory of real property.”.

SEC. 212. ACTIVE DUTY FOR EMERGENCY AUGMENTATION OF REGULAR FORCES.

Section 712(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “not more than 60 days in any 4-month period and”.

SEC. 213. ACQUISITION WORKFORCE EXPEDITED HIRING AUTHORITY.

Section 404(b) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 124 Stat. 2951) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2017”.

SEC. 214. ICEBREAKERS.

(a) COAST GUARD POLAR ICEBREAKERS.—Section 222 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading by striking “; BRIDGING STRATEGY”; and

(B) by striking “Commandant of the Coast Guard” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea.”;

(2) by adding at the end of subsection (d) the following:

“(3) RESULT OF NO DETERMINATION.—If in the analysis submitted under this section the Secretary does not make a determination under subsection (a)(5) regarding whether it is cost-effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then—

“(A) the Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea; or

“(B) the Secretary may make such determination, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and take actions in accordance with this subsection as though such determination was made in the analysis previously submitted.”;

(3) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) STRATEGIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the analysis required under subsection (a) is submitted, the Com-

mandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

“(A) a strategy to meet the Coast Guard’s Arctic ice operations needs through September 30, 2050; and

“(B) unless the Secretary makes a determination under this section that it is cost-effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, a bridging strategy for maintaining the Coast Guard’s polar icebreaking services until at least September 30, 2024.

“(2) REQUIREMENT.—The strategies required under paragraph (1) shall include a business case analysis comparing the leasing and purchasing of icebreakers to maintain the needs and services described in that paragraph.”.

(b) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not expend amounts appropriated for the Coast Guard for any of fiscal years 2015 through 2024, for—

(A) design activities related to a capability of a Polar-Class Icebreaker that is based on an operational requirement of another Federal department or agency, except for amounts appropriated for design activities for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016; or

(B) long-lead-time materials, production, or post-delivery activities related to such a capability.

(2) OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available to the Secretary under an agreement with another Federal department or agency and expended on a capability of a Polar-Class Icebreaker that is based on an operational requirement of that or another Federal department or agency shall not be treated as amounts expended by the Secretary for purposes of the limitation established under paragraph (1).

SEC. 215. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTERS.

In fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may enter into, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, multiyear contracts for the procurement of Offshore Patrol Cutters and associated equipment.

SEC. 216. MAINTAINING MEDIUM ENDURANCE CUTTER MISSION CAPABILITY.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a schedule and plan for decommissioning, not later than September 30, 2029, each of the 210-foot, Reliance-Class Cutters operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) a schedule and plan for enhancing the maintenance or extending the service life of each of the 270-foot, Famous-Class Cutters operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) to maintain the capability of the Coast Guard to carry out sea-going missions with respect to such Cutters at the level of capability existing on September 30, 2013; and

(B) for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the final Offshore Patrol Cutter is scheduled and planned to be commissioned under paragraph (4);

(3) an identification of the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters capable of sea state 5 operations that, if 8 National Security Cutters are commissioned, are necessary to return the sea state 5 operating capability of the Coast Guard to the level of capability that existed prior to the decommissioning of the first High Endurance Cutter in fiscal year 2011;

(4) a schedule and plan for commissioning the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3); and

(5) a schedule and plan for commissioning, not later than September 30, 2034, a number of Offshore Patrol Cutters not capable of sea state 5 operations that is equal to—

(A) 25; less

(B) the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3).

SEC. 217. COAST GUARD ADMINISTRATIVE SAVINGS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF OUTDATED AND DUPLICATE REPORTS.—

(1) MARINE INDUSTRY TRAINING.—Section 59 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant” and inserting “The Commandant”; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(2) OPERATIONS AND EXPENDITURES.—Section 651 of title 14, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 17 of such title, are repealed.

(3) DRUG INTERDICTION.—Section 103 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 (14 U.S.C. 89 note), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 2 of that Act, are repealed.

(4) NATIONAL DEFENSE.—Section 426 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (14 U.S.C. 2 note), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 1(b) of that Act, are repealed.

(5) LIVING MARINE RESOURCES.—Section 4(b) of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2010 (16 U.S.C. 1828 note) is amended by adding at the end the following: “No report shall be required under this subsection, including that no report shall be required under section 224 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 or section 804 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006, for fiscal years beginning after fiscal year 2013.”

(b) CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) MARINE SAFETY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 2116(d)(2)(B) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(B) on the program’s mission performance in achieving numerical measurable goals established under subsection (b), including—

“(i) the number of civilian and military Coast Guard personnel assigned to marine safety positions; and

“(ii) an identification of marine safety positions that are understaffed to meet the workload required to accomplish each activity included in the strategy and plans under subsection (a); and”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(i) by striking subsection (e); and

(ii) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (e), (f), and (g) respectively.

(2) MINOR CONSTRUCTION.—Section 656(d)(2) of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget under section 1105 of title 31 each

year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing each project carried out under paragraph (1), in the most recently concluded fiscal year, for which the amount expended under such paragraph for such project was more than \$1,000,000. If no such project was carried out during a fiscal year, no report under this paragraph shall be required with respect to that fiscal year.”.

(3) RESCUE 21.—Section 346 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (14 U.S.C. 88 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 346. MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DISTRESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM.

“(a) REPORT.—Not later than March 30, 2014, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the implementation of the Rescue 21 project in Alaska and in Coast Guard sectors Upper Mississippi River, Lower Mississippi River, and Ohio River Valley.

“(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) describe what improvements are being made to the distress response system in the areas specified in subsection (a), including information on which areas will receive digital selective calling and direction finding capability;

“(2) describe the impediments to installing digital selective calling and direction finding capability in areas where such technology will not be installed;

“(3) identify locations in the areas specified in subsection (a) where communication gaps will continue to present a risk to mariners after completion of the Rescue 21 project;

“(4) include a list of all reported marine accidents, casualties, and fatalities occurring in the locations identified under paragraph (3) since 1990; and

“(5) provide an estimate of the costs associated with installing the technology necessary to close communication gaps in the locations identified under paragraph (3).”.

SEC. 218. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14.

Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in section 93(b)(1) by striking “Notwithstanding subsection (a)(14)” and inserting “Notwithstanding subsection (a)(13)”;

(2) in section 197(b) by striking “of Homeland Security”; and

(3) in section 573(c)(3)(A) by inserting “and shall maintain such cutter in such class” before the period at the end.

SEC. 219. FLAG OFFICERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 295 the following:

“§ 296. Flag officers

“During any period in which the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy, section 1216(d) of title 10 does not apply with respect to flag officers of the Coast Guard.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 295 the following:

“296. Flag officers.”.

SEC. 220. AVIATION CAPABILITY IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION.

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may—

(1) request and accept through a direct military-to-military transfer under section 2571 of title 10, United States Code, such H-60 helicopters as may be necessary to establish a year-round operational capability in the Coast Guard’s Ninth District; and

(2) use funds provided under section 101 of this Act to convert such helicopters to Coast Guard MH-60T configuration.

SEC. 221. E-LORAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not carry out activities related to the dismantling or disposal of infrastructure that supported the former LORAN system until the later of—

(1) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) the date on which the Secretary provides to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate notice of a determination by the Secretary that such infrastructure is not required to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to activities necessary for the safety of human life.

(c) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with Federal entities and other public or private entities, including academic entities, to develop a positioning, timing, and navigation system, including an enhanced LORAN system, to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

SEC. 301. TREATMENT OF FISHING PERMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 313 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 31310. Treatment of fishing permits

“(a) LIMITATION ON MARITIME LIENS.—This chapter—

“(1) does not establish a maritime lien on a fishing permit; and

“(2) does not authorize any civil action to enforce a maritime lien on a fishing permit.

“(b) TREATMENT OF FISHING PERMITS UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.—A fishing permit—

“(1) is governed solely by the State or Federal law under which it is issued; and

“(2) shall not be treated as part of a vessel, or as an appurtenance or intangible of a vessel, for any purpose under Federal law.

“(c) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as imposing any limitation upon the authority of the Secretary of Commerce—

“(1) to modify, suspend, revoke, or impose a sanction on any fishing permit issued by the Secretary of Commerce; or

“(2) to bring a civil action to enforce such a modification, suspension, revocation, or sanction.

“(d) FISHING PERMIT DEFINED.—In this section the term ‘fishing permit’ means any authorization of a person or vessel to engage in fishing that is issued under State or Federal law.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is

amended by inserting after the item relating to section 31309 the following:

“31310. Treatment of fishing permits.”.

SEC. 302. INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 80301 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) PAYMENTS.—Payments received pursuant to subsection (b)(1) shall be credited to the appropriation for operating expenses of the Coast Guard.

“(d) LIMITATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A Coast Guard vessel or aircraft may not be used to carry out an agreement under subsection (a) in fiscal year 2015 and any fiscal year thereafter unless payments are received by the United States Government pursuant to subsection (b)(1) in the preceding fiscal year in a total amount that is not less than difference between—

“(A) the cost incurred by the Coast Guard in maintaining the services; minus

“(B) the amount of the proportionate share of the expense generated by vessels documented under the laws of the United States.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), Coast Guard aircraft may be used to carry out an agreement under subsection (a) if the President determines it necessary in the interest of national security.

“(3) NOTIFICATION.—The President shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of a determination made under paragraph (2) within 15 days after such determination.”.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 80302 of title 46, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 803 of such title, are repealed on October 1, 2014.

SEC. 303. REPEAL.

Chapter 555 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by repealing section 55501;

(2) by redesignating section 55502 as section 55501; and

(3) in the analysis by striking the items relating to sections 55501 and 55502 and inserting the following:

“55501. United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System.”.

SEC. 304. DONATION OF HISTORICAL PROPERTY.

Section 51103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) DONATION FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may convey the right, title, and interest of the United States Government in any property administered by the Maritime Administration, except real estate or vessels, if—

“(A) the Secretary determines that such property is not needed by the Maritime Administration; and

“(B) the recipient—

“(i) is a nonprofit organization, a State, or a political subdivision of a State;

“(ii) agrees to hold the Government harmless for any claims arising from exposure to hazardous materials, including asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, or lead paint, after conveyance of the property;

“(iii) provides a description and explanation of the intended use of the property to the Secretary for approval;

“(iv) has provided to the Secretary proof, as determined by the Secretary, of resources sufficient to accomplish the intended use provided under clause (iii) and to maintain the property;

“(v) agrees that when the recipient no longer requires the property, the recipient shall—

“(I) return the property to the Secretary, at the recipient's expense and in the same condition as received except for ordinary wear and tear; or

“(II) subject to the approval of the Secretary, retain, sell, or otherwise dispose of the property in a manner consistent with applicable law; and

“(vi) agree to any additional terms the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(2) REVERSION.—The Secretary shall include in any conveyance under this subsection terms under which all right, title, and interest conveyed by the Secretary shall revert to the Government if the Secretary determines the property has been used other than as approved by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(B)(iii).”.

SEC. 305. SMALL SHIPYARDS.

Section 54101(i) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “2009 through 2013” and inserting “2015 and 2016”.

SEC. 306. DRUG TESTING REPORTING.

Section 7706 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “an applicant for employment by a Federal agency,” after “Federal agency,”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by—

(A) inserting “or an applicant for employment by a Federal agency” after “an employee”; and

(B) striking “the employee.” and inserting “the employee or the applicant.”.

SEC. 307. RECOURSE FOR NONCITIZENS.

Section 30104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before the first sentence; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) RESTRICTION ON RECOVERY FOR NON-RESIDENT ALIENS EMPLOYED ON FOREIGN PASSENGER VESSELS.—A claim for damages or expenses relating to personal injury, illness, or death of a seaman who is a citizen of a foreign nation, arising during or from the engagement of the seaman by or for a passenger vessel duly registered under the laws of a foreign nation, may not be brought under the laws of the United States if—

“(1) such seaman was not a permanent resident alien of the United States at the time the claim arose;

“(2) the injury, illness, or death arose outside the territorial waters of the United States; and

“(3) the seaman or the seaman's personal representative has or had a right to seek compensation for the injury, illness, or death in, or under the laws of—

“(A) the nation in which the vessel was registered at the time the claim arose; or

“(B) the nation in which the seaman maintained citizenship or residency at the time the claim arose.”.

SEC. 308. PENALTY WAGES.

(a) FOREIGN AND INTERCOASTAL VOYAGES.—Section 10313(g) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “all claims in a class action suit by seamen” and inserting “each claim by a seaman”; and

(B) by striking “the seamen” and inserting “the seaman”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “class action”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “, by a seaman who is a claimant in the suit,” and inserting “by the seaman”.

(b) COASTWISE VOYAGES.—Section 10504(c) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “all claims in a class action suit by seamen” and inserting “each claim by a seaman”; and

(B) by striking “the seamen” and inserting “the seaman”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “class action”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “, by a seaman who is a claimant in the suit,” and inserting “by the seaman”.

SEC. 309. CREDITING TIME IN THE SEA SERVICES.

(a) ENDORSEMENTS FOR VETERANS.—Section 7101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) The Secretary may issue a license under this section in a class under subsection (c) to an applicant that—

“(1) has at least 3 months of qualifying service on vessels of the uniformed services (as that term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10) of appropriate tonnage or horsepower within the 7-year period immediately preceding the date of application; and

“(2) satisfies all other requirements for such a license.”.

(b) SEA SERVICE LETTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 427 the following:

“§ 428. Sea service letters

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide a sea service letter to a member or former member of the Coast Guard who—

“(1) accumulated sea service on a vessel of the armed forces (as such term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10); and

“(2) requests such letter.

“(b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a request for a sea service letter from a member or former member of the Coast Guard under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide such letter to such member or former member if such member or former member satisfies the requirement under subsection (a)(1).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 427 the following:

“428. Sea service letters.”.

(c) CREDITING OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SERVICE, TRAINING, AND QUALIFICATIONS.—

(1) MAXIMIZING CREDITABILITY.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in implementing United States merchant mariner license, certification, and document laws and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, shall maximize the extent to which United States Armed Forces service, training, and qualifications are creditable toward meeting the requirements of such laws and such Convention.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the steps taken to implement this subsection.

SEC. 310. TREATMENT OF ABANDONED SEAFARERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 18. TREATMENT OF ABANDONED SEAFARERS.

“(a) ABANDONED SEAFARERS FUND.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a separate account to be known as the Abandoned Seafarers Fund.

“(2) CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO FUND.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be credited to the Fund the following:

“(i) Penalties deposited in the Fund under section 9, except as provided in subparagraph (B).

“(ii) Amounts reimbursed or recovered under subsection (d).

“(B) LIMITATION.—Amounts may be credited to the Fund under subparagraph (A)(i) only if the unobligated balance of the Fund is less than \$2,000,000.

“(3) REPORT REQUIRED.—On the date on which the President submits each budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that describes—

“(A) the amounts credited to the Fund under paragraph (2) for the preceding fiscal year; and

“(B) amounts in the Fund that were expended for the preceding fiscal year.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FROM FUND.—Amounts in the Fund may be appropriated to the Secretary for use to—

“(1) pay necessary support of—

“(A) a seafarer that—

“(i) enters, remains, or is paroled into the United States; and

“(ii) is involved in an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter that is related to the administration or enforcement of this Act by the Coast Guard; and

“(B) a seafarer that the Secretary determines was abandoned in the United States and has not applied for asylum under section 208 or 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158, 1225); and

“(2) reimburse a vessel owner or operator that has provided necessary support of a seafarer who has been paroled into the United States to facilitate an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter that is related to the administration or enforcement of this Act by the Coast Guard, for the costs of such necessary support.

“(c) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

“(1) to create a private right of action or any other right, benefit, or entitlement to necessary support for any person; or

“(2) to compel the Secretary to pay or reimburse the cost of necessary support.

“(d) REIMBURSEMENT; RECOVERY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A vessel owner or operator shall reimburse the Fund an amount equal to the total amount paid from the Fund for necessary support of a seafarer, if—

“(A) the vessel owner or operator—

“(i) during the course of an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter under this Act that the Coast Guard referred to a United States attorney or the Attorney General, fails to provide necessary support of a seafarer who was paroled into the United States to facilitate the investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication; and

“(ii) subsequently is—

“(I) convicted of a criminal offense related to such matter; or

“(II) required to reimburse the Fund pursuant to a court order or negotiated settlement related to such matter; or

“(B) the vessel owner or operator abandons a seafarer in the United States, as determined by the Secretary based on substantial evidence.

“(2) ENFORCEMENT.—If a vessel owner or operator fails to reimburse the Fund under paragraph (1), the Secretary may—

“(A) proceed in rem against the vessel on which the affected seafarer served in the Federal district court for the district in which the vessel is found; and

“(B) withhold or revoke the clearance required under section 60105 of title 46, United States Code, for the vessel.

“(3) REMEDY.—A vessel may obtain clearance from the Secretary after it is withheld or revoked under paragraph (2)(B) if the vessel owner or operator—

“(A) reimburses the Fund the amount required under paragraph (1); or

“(B) provides a bond, or other evidence of financial responsibility sufficient to meet the amount required to be reimbursed under paragraph (1).

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ABANDONS; ABANDONED.—Each of the terms ‘abandons’ and ‘abandoned’ means—

“(A) a vessel owner’s or operator’s unilateral severance of ties with a seafarer; and

“(B) a vessel owner’s or operator’s failure to provide necessary support of a seafarer.

“(2) FUND.—The term ‘Fund’ means the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under this section.

“(3) NECESSARY SUPPORT.—The term ‘necessary support’ means normal wages and expenses the Secretary considers reasonable for lodging, subsistence, clothing, medical care (including hospitalization), repatriation, and any other support the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

“(4) SEAFARER.—The term ‘seafarer’ means an alien crewman who is employed or engaged in any capacity on board a vessel subject to this Act.”; and

(2) in section 9, by adding at the end the following:

“(g) Any penalty collected under subsection (a) or (b) that is not paid under that subsection to the person giving information leading to the conviction or assessment of such penalties shall be deposited in the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under section 18, subject to the limitation in subsection (a)(2)(B) of such section.”.

SEC. 311. CLARIFICATION OF HIGH-RISK WATERS.

Section 55305(e) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “provide armed personnel aboard” and inserting “reimburse, subject to the availability of appropriations, the owners or operators of”; and

(B) by inserting “for the cost of providing armed personnel aboard such vessels” before “if”; and

(2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘high-risk waters’ means waters—

“(A) so designated by the Commandant of the Coast Guard in the maritime security directive issued by the Commandant and in effect on the date on which an applicable voyage begins; and

“(B) in which the Secretary of Transportation determines an act of piracy is likely to occur based on documented acts of piracy that occurred in such waters during the 12-month period preceding the date on which an applicable voyage begins.”.

SEC. 312. UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSELS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4105 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) In applying this title with respect to an uninspected vessel of less than 24 meters overall in length that carries passengers to or from a port in the United States Virgin Islands, the Secretary shall substitute ‘12 passengers’ for ‘6 passengers’ each place it appears in section 2101(42) if the Secretary determines that the vessel complies with—

“(1) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Motor Vessels (commonly referred to as the ‘Yellow Code’), as published by the U.K. Maritime and Coastguard Agency and in effect on January 1, 2014; or

“(2) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Sailing Vessels (commonly referred to as the ‘Blue Code’), as published by such agency and in effect on such date.”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 4105(c) of title 46, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, is amended by striking “Within twenty-four months of the date of enactment of this subsection, the” and inserting “The”.

SEC. 313. OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSEL THIRD-PARTY INSPECTION.

Section 3316 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g), and by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f)(1) Upon request of an owner or operator of an offshore supply vessel, the Secretary shall delegate the authorities set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) with respect to such vessel to a classification society to which a delegation is authorized under that paragraph. A delegation by the Secretary under this subsection shall be used for any vessel inspection and examination function carried out by the Secretary, including the issuance of certificates of inspection and all other related documents.

“(2) If the Secretary determines that a certificate of inspection or related document issued under authority delegated under paragraph (1) of this subsection with respect to a vessel has reduced the operational safety of that vessel, the Secretary may terminate the certificate or document, respectively.

“(3) Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, and for each year of the subsequent 2-year period, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

“(A) the number of vessels for which a delegation was made under paragraph (1);

“(B) any savings in personnel and operational costs incurred by the Coast Guard that resulted from the delegations; and

“(C) based on measurable marine casualty and other data, any impacts of the delegations on the operational safety of vessels for which the delegations were made, and on the crew on those vessels.”.

SEC. 314. SURVIVAL CRAFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 3104. Survival craft

“(a) REQUIREMENT TO EQUIP.—The Secretary shall require that a passenger vessel be equipped with survival craft that ensures

that no part of an individual is immersed in water, if—

“(1) such vessel is built or undergoes a major conversion after January 1, 2016; and
“(2) operates in cold waters as determined by the Secretary.

“(b) HIGHER STANDARD OF SAFETY.—The Secretary may revise part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect before January 1, 2016, if such revision provides a higher standard of safety than is provided by the regulations in effect on or before the date of enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014.

“(c) INNOVATIVE AND NOVEL DESIGNS.—The Secretary may, in lieu of the requirements set out in part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, allow a passenger vessel to be equipped with a life saving appliance or arrangement of an innovative or novel design that—

“(1) ensures no part of an individual is immersed in water; and

“(2) provides an equal or higher standard of safety than is provided by such requirements as in effect before such date of enactment.

“(d) BUILT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘built’ has the meaning that term has under section 4503(e).”.

(b) REVIEW; REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—

(1) REVIEW.—Not later than December 31, 2015, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a review of—

(A) the number of casualties for individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly as a result of immersion in water, reported to the Coast Guard over the preceding 30-year period, by vessel type and area of operation;

(B) the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly as a result of immersion in water, by passenger vessel type and area of operation;

(C) the effect that carriage of survival craft that ensure that no part of an individual is immersed in water has on—

(i) passenger vessel safety, including stability and safe navigation;

(ii) improving the survivability of individuals, including individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly; and

(iii) the costs, the incremental cost difference to vessel operators, and the cost effectiveness of requiring the carriage of such survival craft to address the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly;

(D) the efficacy of alternative safety systems, devices, or measures in improving survivability of individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly; and

(E) the number of small businesses and nonprofit vessel operators that would be affected by requiring the carriage of such survival craft on passenger vessels to address the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly.

(2) REVISION.—Based on the review conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary may revise regulations concerning the carriage of survival craft pursuant to section 3104(c) of title 46, United States Code.

SEC. 315. TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO TITLE 46.

Section 2116(b)(1)(D) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 93(c)” and inserting “section 93(c) of title 14”.

SEC. 316. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DETERMINATION OF COVERED PROGRAMS.—Section 55305(d) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) The Secretary of Transportation shall annually review programs administered by other departments and agencies and determine whether each such program is subject to the requirements of this section.”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (5), and by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) The Secretary shall have the sole responsibility to make determinations described in paragraph (1).

“(3) A determination made by the Secretary under paragraph (1) regarding a program shall remain in effect until the Secretary determines that such program is no longer subject to the requirements of this section.

“(4) Each department or agency administering a program determined by the Secretary under paragraph (1) to be subject to the requirements of this section shall administer such program in accordance with this section and any rules or guidance issued by the Secretary. The issuance of such rules or guidance is not a prerequisite to the issuance of final determinations under paragraph (1).”;

(C) in paragraph (5)(A), as so redesignated, by striking “section;” and inserting “section, to determine compliance with the requirements of this section;”;

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

“(A) lists the programs determined under paragraph (1) to be subject to the requirements of this section; and

“(B) describes the results of the most recent annual review required by paragraph (5)(A), including identification of the departments and agencies that transported cargo in violation of this section and any action the Secretary took under paragraph (5) with respect to each violation.”.

(2) DEADLINE FOR FIRST REVIEW.—The Secretary of Transportation shall complete the first review and make the determinations required under the amendment made by paragraph (1)(A) by not later than December 31, 2015.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—Section 55305(d) of title 46, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) The Secretary may prescribe rules, including interim rules, necessary to carry out paragraph (5). An interim rule prescribed under this paragraph shall remain in effect until superseded by a final rule.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3511(c) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (46 U.S.C. 55305 note) is repealed.

SEC. 317. SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.

(a) NOAA MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.—Section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking “AND CONTRACTS” and inserting “CONTRACTS, AND OTHER AGREEMENTS”;

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purposes set forth in section 2, the Administrator, acting through the Program, may—

“(A) enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with Federal agencies, States, local governments, regional agencies, interstate agencies, and other entities, including agreements to use the personnel, services, equipment, or facilities of such entities on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis; and

“(B) make grants to—

“(i) State, local, and tribal governments; and

“(ii) institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and commercial organizations with the expertise or responsibility to identify, determine sources of, assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris.”;

(C) by striking paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) and inserting the following:

“(4) GRANTS.—

“(A) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under paragraph (1)(B), an entity specified in that paragraph shall submit to the Administrator a marine debris project proposal.

“(B) REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—The Administrator shall—

“(i) review each marine debris project proposal submitted under subparagraph (A) to determine if the proposal meets grant criteria established by the Administrator and supports the purposes set forth in section 2;

“(ii) after considering any written comments and recommendations with respect to the review conducted under clause (i), approve or disapprove a grant for the proposal; and

“(iii) provide notification of that approval or disapproval to the entity that submitted the proposal.

“(C) REPORTING.—Each entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1)(B) shall provide reports to the Administrator as required by the Administrator. Each report provided shall include all information determined necessary by the Administrator for evaluating the progress and success of the project for which the grant was provided and describe the impact of the grant on the identification, determination of sources, assessment, prevention, reduction, or removal of marine debris.

“(D) TRAINING.—The Administrator may require a recipient of a grant under this subsection to provide training to persons engaged in marine debris response efforts funded by such grant with respect to the potential impacts of marine debris, including non-indigenous species related to the debris, on the economy of the United States, the marine environment, and navigation safety.”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.—

“(1) GRANT PREFERENCE.—In evaluating proposals for grants under subsection (c), the Administrator may give preference in approving grants to proposals that address a severe marine debris event.

“(2) REQUEST FOR A DECLARATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the Governor of a State may request that the Administrator declare a severe marine debris event in such State or a region that includes such State.

“(B) RESPONSE TO REQUESTS.—Not later than 30 days after the Administrator receives a request under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall either—

“(i) declare a severe marine debris event with respect to the request; or

“(ii) submit a response to the Governor who submitted the request, explaining why the Administrator has not declared a severe marine debris event with respect to the request.”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 7 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1956) is amended—

(1) by moving paragraph (5) to appear before paragraph (6);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) NONINDIGENOUS SPECIES.—The term ‘nonindigenous species’ has the meaning given that term in section 1003 of the Non-Indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4702).”.

(c) SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENT DETERMINATION.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may provide funds to an eligible entity impacted by the covered severe marine debris event to assist such entity with the costs of any activity carried out to address the effects of such event.

(B) FUNDING.—The Administrator may provide funds under subparagraph (A) using any funds provided by the Government of Japan for activities to address the effects of the covered severe marine debris event.

(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(i) COVERED SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENT.—The term “covered severe marine debris event” means the events, including marine debris, resulting from the March 2011 Tohoku earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means any State (as defined in section 7 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1956)), local, or tribal government.

(2) REPEAL.—The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-213) is amended—

(A) in the table of contents in section 1(b) by striking the item relating to section 609; and

(B) by striking section 609.

SEC. 318. MINIMUM TONNAGE.

Section 55305 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) MINIMUM TONNAGE.—With respect to commodities transported under the activities specified in section 55314(b), the percentage specified in subsection (b) of this section shall be treated as 75 percent.”.

SEC. 319. MERCHANT MARINE PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 81 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 8108. Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as ‘the Committee’). The Committee—

“(1) shall act solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary through the Commandant of the Coast Guard on matters relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards, and other matters as assigned by the Commandant;

“(2) shall review and comment on proposed Coast Guard regulations and policies relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards;

“(3) may be given special assignments by the Secretary and may conduct studies, inquiries, workshops, and fact finding in consultation with individuals and groups in the private sector and with State or local governments;

“(4) shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary;

“(5) shall meet not less than twice each year; and

“(6) may make available to the Congress recommendations that the Committee makes to the Secretary.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of not more than 19 members who are appointed by and serve terms of a duration determined by the Secretary. Before filling a position on the Committee, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting nominations for membership on the Committee.

(2) REQUIRED MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall appoint as members of the Committee—

“(A) 9 United States citizens with active licenses or certificates issued under chapter 71 or merchant mariner documents issued under chapter 73, including—

“(i) 3 deck officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine deck officers, of whom—

“(I) 2 shall be licensed for oceans any gross tons;

“(II) 1 shall be licensed for inland river route with a limited or unlimited tonnage;

“(III) 2 shall have a master’s license or a master of towing vessels license;

“(IV) 1 shall have significant tanker experience; and

“(V) to the extent practicable—

“(aa) 1 shall represent the viewpoint of labor; and

“(bb) another shall represent a management perspective;

“(ii) 3 engineering officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine engineering officers, of whom—

“(I) 2 shall be licensed as chief engineer any horsepower;

“(II) 1 shall be licensed as either a limited chief engineer or a designated duty engineer; and

“(III) to the extent practicable—

“(aa) 1 shall represent a labor viewpoint; and

“(bb) another shall represent a management perspective;

“(iii) 2 unlicensed seamen, of whom—

“(I) 1 shall represent the viewpoint of able-bodied seamen; and

“(II) another shall represent the viewpoint of qualified members of the engine department; and

“(iv) 1 pilot who represents the viewpoint of merchant marine pilots;

“(B) 6 marine educators, including—

“(i) 3 marine educators who represent the viewpoint of maritime academies, including—

“(I) 2 who represent the viewpoint of State maritime academies and are jointly recommended by such State maritime academies; and

“(II) 1 who represents either the viewpoint of the State maritime academies or the United States Merchant Marine Academy; and

“(ii) 3 marine educators who represent the viewpoint of other maritime training institutions, 1 of whom shall represent the viewpoint of the small vessel industry;

“(C) 2 individuals who represent the viewpoint of shipping companies employed in ship operation management; and

“(D) 2 members who are appointed from the general public.

“(c) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Committee shall elect one of its members as the Chairman and one of its members as the Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman in the absence or incapacity of the Chairman, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chairman.

“(d) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Committee may establish and disestablish subcommittees and working groups for any purpose consistent with this section, subject to conditions imposed by the Committee. Members of the Committee and additional persons drawn from the general public may be assigned to such subcommittees and working groups. Only Committee members may chair subcommittee or working groups.

“(e) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate on September 30, 2020.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 8108. Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee.”.

(b) COMPETITIVENESS OF THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee established under the amendment made by subsection (a) shall—

(A) review—

(i) the merchant mariner licensing, certification, and documentation programs and STCW Convention implementation programs of the 3 flag-states; and

(ii) State maritime academy problems regarding implementation of the STCW Convention; and

(B) report to the Commandant of the Coast Guard—

(i) a description of each specific provision for which United States merchant mariner license, certification, and document and STCW Convention implementation requirements are more stringent than the requirements of such flag-state programs, and a recommendation of whether such United States provision should be retained, modified, or eliminated;

(ii) a description of which United States merchant mariner license, certification, and document evaluation requirements must be complied with separately from similar STCW Convention evaluation requirements, any statutory requirement for such separate compliance, and steps that can be taken by the Coast Guard or by the Congress to minimize such redundant requirements; and

(iii) a description of problems State maritime academies are having in implementing the STCW Convention and recommendations on how to address such problems.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 6 months from the date the Commandant receives the report under paragraph (1)(B), the Commandant shall forward to the Congress a copy of the report with recommendations for actions to implement the report’s recommendations.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) 3 FLAG STATES.—The term “3 flag states” means the 3 countries that are parties to the Annex to the International Maritime Organization Maritime Safety Committee Circular MSC.1/Circ.1163/Rev.8 dated

January 7, 2013, and, of all such countries, have the greatest vessel tonnage documented under the laws of each respective country.

(B) STCW CONVENTION.—The term “STCW Convention” means the amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 that entered into force on January 1, 2012.

SEC. 320. REPORT ON EFFECT OF LNG EXPORT CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS ON JOB CREATION IN THE UNITED STATES MARITIME INDUSTRY.

No later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the number of jobs, including vessel construction and vessel operating jobs, that would be created in the United States maritime industry each year in 2015 through 2025 if liquified natural gas exported from the United States were required to be carried—

(1) before December 31, 2018, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States; and

(2) after such date, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States and constructed in the United States.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Maritime Commission \$24,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

SEC. 402. TERMS OF COMMISSIONERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) TERMS.—The term of each Commissioner is 5 years. When the term of a Commissioner ends, the Commissioner may continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified, but for a period not to exceed one year. Except as provided in paragraph (3), no individual may serve more than 2 terms.”; and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5), and inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) VACANCIES.—A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is appointed only for the unexpired term of the individual being succeeded. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy may serve 2 terms in addition to the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of that individual was appointed.

“(4) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—

“(A) LIMITATION ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH REGULATED ENTITIES.—A Commissioner may not have a pecuniary interest in, hold an official relation to, or own stocks or bonds of any entity the Commission regulates under chapter 401 of this title.

“(B) LIMITATION ON OTHER ACTIVITIES.—A Commissioner may not engage in another business, vocation, or employment.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1) does not apply with respect to a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission appointed and confirmed by the Senate before the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—COMMERCIAL VESSEL DISCHARGE REFORM

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Commercial Vessel Discharge Reform Act of 2014”.

SEC. 502. DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF CERTAIN VESSELS.

Section 2(a) of Public Law 110-299 (33 U.S.C. 1342 note) is amended by striking “during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 18, 2014.”.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 601. DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.

Section 421 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-241; 120 Stat. 547) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) only applies to a foreign citizen who holds a credential to serve as an officer on a fishing vessel or vessel of similar tonnage.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “An equivalent credential” and inserting “A credential”; and

(2) by striking subsections (c), (e), and (f) and redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

SEC. 602. VESSEL DETERMINATION.

The vessel assigned United States official number 1205366 is deemed a new vessel effective on the date of delivery of the vessel after January 1, 2012, from a privately owned United States shipyard, if no encumbrances are on record with the Coast Guard at the time of the issuance of the new certificate of documentation for the vessel.

SEC. 603. LEASE AUTHORITY.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard may lease under section 93(a)(13) of title 14, United States Code, submerged lands and tidelands under the control of the Coast Guard without regard to the limitation under that section with respect to lease duration.

(b) LIMITATION.—The Commandant may lease submerged lands and tidelands under subsection (a) only if—

(1) lease payments are—

(A) received exclusively in the form of cash;

(B) equal to the fair market value of the leased submerged lands or tidelands, as determined by the Commandant; and

(C) deposited in the fund established under section 687 of title 14, United States Code; and

(2) the lease does not provide authority to or commit the Coast Guard to use or support any improvements to such submerged lands or tidelands, or obtain goods or services from the lessee.

SEC. 604. NATIONAL MARITIME STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a national maritime strategy.

(b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify—

(A) Federal regulations and policies that reduce the competitiveness of United States flag vessels in the international trade; and

(B) the impact of reduced cargo flow due to reductions in the number of members of the United States Armed Forces stationed or deployed outside of the United States; and

(2) include recommendations to—

(A) make United States flag vessels more competitive in shipping routes between United States and foreign ports;

(B) increase the use of United States flag vessels to carry cargo imported to and exported from the United States;

(C) assure compliance by Federal agencies with chapter 553 of title 46, United States Code;

(D) increase the use of third-party inspection and certification authorities to inspect and certify vessels;

(E) increase the use of short sea transportation routes designated under section 55601(c) of title 46, United States Code, to enhance intermodal freight movements; and

(F) enhance United States shipbuilding capability.

SEC. 605. IMO POLAR CODE NEGOTIATIONS.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and thereafter with the submission of the budget proposal submitted for each of fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report on—

(1) the status of the negotiations at the International Maritime Organization regarding the establishment of a draft international code of safety for ships operating in polar waters, popularly known as the Polar Code, and any amendments proposed by such a code to be made to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships;

(2) the coming into effect of such a code and such amendments for nations that are parties to those conventions;

(3) impacts, for coastal communities located in the Arctic (as that term is defined in the section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111)) of such a code or such amendments, on—

(A) the costs of delivering fuel and freight; and

(B) the safety of maritime transportation; and

(4) actions the Secretary must take to implement the requirements of such a code and such amendments.

SEC. 606. VALLEY VIEW FERRY.

(a) EXEMPTION.—Section 8902 of title 46, United States Code, shall not apply to the vessel John Craig (United States official number D1110613) when such vessel is operating on the portion of the Kentucky River, Kentucky, located at approximately mile point 158, in Pool Number 9, between Lock and Dam Number 9 and Lock and Dam Number 10.

(b) APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply on and after the date on which the Secretary determines that a licensing requirement has been established under Kentucky State law that applies to an operator of the vessel John Craig.

SEC. 607. COMPETITION BY UNITED STATES FLAG VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an assessment of authorities under subtitle II of title 46, United States Code, that have been delegated to the Coast Guard that impact the ability of vessels documented under the laws of the United States to effectively compete in the carriage of merchandise and passengers in the international trade.

(b) REVIEW OF DIFFERENCES WITH IMO STANDARDS.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include a review of differences between United States laws, policies, regulations, and guidance governing the inspection of vessels documented under the laws of the United States and standards set by the International Maritime Organization governing the inspection of vessels.

(c) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commandant enters into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit the assessment required under such subsection to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 608. SURVEY.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a survey of the parcel of real property under the administrative control of the Coast Guard, consisting of approximately 1.95 acres (measured at the mean low-water mark) located at the entrance to Gig Harbor, Washington, and commonly known as the Gig Harbor Sand Spit Area.

SEC. 609. FISHING SAFETY GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) FISHING SAFETY TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(i)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “2010 through 2014” and inserting “2015 and 2016”.

(b) FISHING SAFETY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(j)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “2010 through 2014” and inserting “2015 and 2016”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4005 is the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014. It reauthorizes funding for the Coast Guard through fiscal year 2016 at levels that are fiscally sound and will reverse the misguided cuts proposed by this administration. The President proposed to slash the service's acquisition budget by over 20 percent, reduce the number of servicemembers by over 1,300, undermine readiness by cutting programmed hours for aircraft, and jeopardize the success of research and rescue missions by taking fixed-wing aircraft crews off of immediate alert status.

□ 1700

The President's budget request will only worsen the Coast Guard's growing

gaps in mission performance, increase acquisition delays, drive up the costs of the new assets, and deny our servicemembers the critical resources needed to perform their duties.

H.R. 4005 provides sufficient funding to ensure these cuts do not happen and the service has what it needs to successfully conduct its missions.

In 2012—that is the last year we have the numbers for—the Coast Guard responded to over 19,700 search and rescue cases; saved over 3,500 lives; conducted over 20,000 safety, security, and environmental inspections of U.S. and foreign flag commercial vessels, more importantly; and interdicted over 2,900 undocumented migrants and 163 metric tons of illegal drugs.

The Coast Guard is our first line of defense in this country. H.R. 4005 is going to fund the eighth national security cutter. That is the last one. It is a 425-foot frigate that the Navy is even jealous of.

It funds six fast response cutters over the next 2 years. It also prepares us to buy the new offshore patrol cutter, and it also transfers 14 C-27Js from the Air Force to the Coast Guard for not a penny—not a dime—not a penny—totally free—transfers it from the Air Force to the Coast Guard. It can put those into effect.

The bill also makes several reforms to Coast Guard authorities, as well as laws governing shipping and navigation. Specifically, H.R. 4005 supports Coast Guard servicemembers by authorizing military pay raises and enhancing military benefits.

There are about 42,000 Active Duty Coast Guardsmen patrolling all the navigable waters throughout the United States in rivers, bays, and seas and also every single piece of coastline that we have—42,000.

Compare that to the Marine Corps numbers, over 175,000; the Army, over 400,000; yet the Coast Guard is responsible for every single piece of American water, every inland waterway, the Great Lakes, and every river. That is what the Coast Guard is responsible for.

If you talk about weapons of mass destruction coming in through American ports from the ocean, the Coast Guard is our first line of defense there, too.

This bill improves Coast Guard mission effectiveness by replacing and modernizing Coast Guard assets in a cost-effective manner. It enhances oversight of the Coast Guard, reduces inefficient operations, and saves taxpayer dollars by making commonsense reforms to Coast Guard missions and administration.

The bill helps veterans make an easier transition from the Coast Guard into the life of a mariner, so they can get out and get good-paying jobs in industry, so it gives them time and service for their Coast Guard time, as opposed to making them go through all of

the hurdles, jumps, and hoops that you would have to go through otherwise.

It encourages job growth in the maritime sector by cutting regulatory burdens on job creators, and it reauthorizes and reforms the structure and operations of the Federal Maritime Commission.

H.R. 4005 is a bipartisan effort that was put together in close consultation with the minority. I want to thank Ranking Members RAHALL and GARAMENDI for their efforts and Chairman SHUSTER for his leadership.

I would also like to thank John Rayfield and Geoff Gosselin on the committee staff, whose depths of knowledge on the Coast Guard and Maritime issues are unfathomable, and Lieutenant Commander Stephen West, my Coast Guard fellow that was our reality check in this committee by giving us great, sane advice when we needed it.

Finally, I want to take a minute to point out that this will be the last Coast Guard authorization bill that will benefit from the advice and support of the only Member of Congress with service in the Coast Guard, our colleague and friend, HOWARD COBLE.

HOWARD is a Korean war veteran with 5 years of Active Duty in the Coast Guard and another 18 years in the Coast Guard Reserve. He is the founder of the Congressional Coast Guard Caucus, as well as an active member and former chairman of our subcommittee.

Throughout his career in Congress, HOWARD has been a tireless advocate for the men and women of the Coast Guard. I thank him and commend him for his service to our Nation and his contributions to this and past Coast Guard authorizations and to this Congress.

I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 20, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,

Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 4005, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, as amended. This legislation includes matters that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 4005, and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Our committee also appreciates efforts by your staff to coordinate on matters that fall in our Rule X jurisdiction in advance. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this legislation, I do not intend to request sequential referral on H.R. 4005. By waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Armed Services does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider the provisions over which we have jurisdiction.

Please place this letter and your committee's response into the committee report to accompany H.R. 4005 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 25, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee,
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4005, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014. I appreciate your willingness to support expediting the consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

I acknowledge that by waiving consideration of this bill, the Committee on Armed Services does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar legislation. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 4005 in the bill report filed by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation, and I look forward to working with the Committee on Armed Services as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: On February 11, 2014, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure ordered reported, with amendment, H.R. 4005, the "Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014." The reported version of H.R. 4005 includes provisions within the Rule X Jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security regarding border security, port security, research and development, and the organization, administration, and general management of the Department of Homeland Security.

Due to the desire to bring H.R. 4005 to the House floor in an expeditious manner, the Committee on Homeland Security will forgo any consideration of H.R. 4005. I take this action, however, with the mutual understanding that by forgoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. In addition, our Committee reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate con-

ference involving this or similar legislation, and I ask that you support this request. Finally, I ask that a copy of exchange of letters be included in your committee's report on H.R. 4005 and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 25, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4005, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014. I appreciate your willingness to support expediting the consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

I acknowledge that by waiving consideration of this bill, the Committee on Homeland Security does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar legislation. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 4005 in the bill report filed by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation, and I look forward to working with the Committee on Homeland Security as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, is bipartisan legislation.

Maintaining a safe, reliable, and efficient maritime economy enables foreign and domestic trade to fuel the U.S. economy, and it remains vital. This legislation will provide the Coast Guard with the resources and policy tools it needs to fulfill its vital missions.

I want to thank Chairman HUNTER and his staff for their willingness to work with me and several of the Democratic Members, and I also want to commend Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member NICK RAHALL for their valuable contributions to this bill. We thank the gentlemen.

H.R. 4005 will provide not only the budget stability for the Coast Guard for the next 2 years, it will also advance several important initiatives to revitalize our U.S. maritime industry.

For example, H.R. 4005 will better align the Coast Guard's mission needs with its long-term capital planning and annual budgetary processes, and explicit cooperative agreement authority is also granted.

It provides a new multiyear procurement authority for the offshore patrol cutter, the OPC, a critical and new

asset. It directs the administration to enforce our cargo preference laws. No way out, guys. Enforce those laws and regulations, something that is long overdue.

It will streamline the administrative processes to make it easier for our veterans to get their civilian licenses and find jobs in the merchant marine.

Now, natural gas is a strategic American asset that is allowing America to enjoy low energy costs and a resurgence of American manufacturing. The export of LNG at a modest level could create even more American jobs if that LNG is transported on American-made LNG tankers flying the American flag with American sailors.

The currently approved export terminals will require approximately 100 LNG tankers. This tanker fleet could be American made, phased in as the LNG export terminals come on line and LNG exports grow. American shipyards could build these tankers over the next decade and beyond, creating thousands of jobs and maintaining a vital industrial base for America and our Navy.

This legislation does direct the Government Accountability Office, the GAO, to assess how future transport of LNG on U.S. tankers could affect American job creation in the U.S. maritime industry. It is a good first step, but we should be doing more.

This legislation also directs the Department of Transportation to develop a new national maritime strategy, a much-needed revision and new thought into what that strategy could be.

The bill authorizes a needed increase in the funding for the Federal Maritime Commission, and the bill reauthorizes the Small Shipyard Grant Program through fiscal year 2017 to improve the quality and competitiveness of our small, domestic shipyards.

There is more to be done. Specifically, title 11 needs to be rewritten and redone so that our American shipyards will have the loan guarantees that they need to construct the ships, perhaps those LNG tankers.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4005 is responsible legislation. It deserves an "aye" vote, and I want to thank all of who have been involved in writing it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the chairman of the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014.

The United States Coast Guard enforces all U.S. laws on U.S. waterways and, when necessary, on the high seas. This service saves the life and property of those who sail in our waters for recreation and commerce.

They protect our marine natural resources and secure our borders against illegal drugs and against human trafficking. They have a huge job, and they deserve our thanks.

H.R. 4005 provides the service with our support. This bipartisan legislation authorizes the Coast Guard to carry out all its vital missions, improves its mission effectiveness, and helps replace and modernize aging Coast Guard assets in a cost-effective manner; it enhances oversight and reduces inefficiency to save taxpayer dollars.

Additionally, the bill strengthens U.S. maritime transportation, reduces regulatory burdens to create jobs and encourage economic growth, and improves the Nation's competitiveness.

Specifically, it authorizes funding for Coast Guard activities in 2015 and 2016 at fiscally responsible levels that will allow the Coast Guard to continue updating its fleet of aging cutters and continue operations, supports Coast Guard servicemen and women, and encourages the Coast Guard to work with the private sector; it enhances Congressional oversight, improves Coast Guard acquisition activities, requires development of a national maritime strategy, creates opportunities for our veterans, and it reforms the Federal Maritime Commission.

I would also like to make note, as Chairman HUNTER noted, this is our colleague HOWARD COBLE's last term as a member of the Coast Guard Subcommittee. The gentleman from North Carolina has served on the subcommittee and its predecessor, the Merchant Marine Committee, since he came to Congress in 1985.

He is the only former coastie now serving in Congress. I know the Coast Guard appreciates his strong support for the service, particularly during his term as subcommittee chairman on this committee. I know all the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee members join me in wishing HOWARD a well-deserved and happy retirement.

I want to thank and commend Subcommittee Chairman HUNTER for introducing this bill and working with Ranking Member RAHALL and also Ranking Member GARAMENDI for their work on this bill.

I also will take notice that our good friend from the Virgin Islands is in the Chamber working on a couple provisions that I know are going to be very beneficial to the U.S. territories and to the U.S. Virgin Islands. I thank her for her hard work on this legislation.

I look forward to working with the Senate to get the final version of this bill enacted this year.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the good lady from Los Angeles, California (Ms. HAHN).

Ms. HAHN. Mr. GARAMENDI, thank you for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to discuss the importance of an amend-

ment that I offered to this bill, but withdrew it because of jurisdictional concerns.

In exchange for dropping this amendment, the language was supposed to be included in a manager's amendment, but, unfortunately, the suspension calendar precluded this from happening. It is my hope that, with the help of the chairman, this issue will be taken up during the conference with the Senate.

Under current law, port authorities are required to develop port security plans which are then submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard for review. However, ports are not required to address cybersecurity in these plans.

Without a requirement, many of our ports have not addressed this issue, creating a gap in our Nation's port security.

Last July, the Brookings Institute released a report stating our Nation's port cybersecurity awareness is remarkably low. Without requiring ports to address this vulnerability, we risk exposing our Nation to a disruption that could devastate our economy and grind the flow of commerce to a halt in a matter of days.

That is why I offered an amendment to this bill that would have required that ports address cybersecurity in their port security plans that they submit to the Coast Guard every 5 years. Unfortunately, this language was not included in the final bill, and it is my hope that it is put in the bill during the conference as it was intended.

By requiring every port to begin to address cybersecurity in their port security plans, we can help avoid a potentially devastating attack that would leave our Nation's freight network crippled beyond repair.

I appreciate the chairman's willingness to work with me on this issue, and I look forward to his support in trying to address this issue in conference.

Mr. HUNTER. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. HAHN. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. To the extent that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has jurisdiction over this issue, I look forward to working with the gentlelady from California to include her proposal to include cybersecurity as an element in facility security plans required under chapter 701 of title 46 because it is important, and we need to figure out who is the best at it, who can do it.

It might not be the Coast Guard. It might not be the actual ports. It might be the Navy. I think it is important, and I look forward to working with you on the issue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. HUNTER. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I thank the gentleman from California for the time, and I also thank him for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I would like to commend Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL for their hard work on the legislation before the House today.

H.R. 4005, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, authorizes the United States Coast Guard, a critical component of the Department of Homeland Security, for 2 years.

Every day, the men and women of the Coast Guard work to protect our ports and waterways from terrorist attack and other dangers.

□ 1715

It is for that very reason that the Committee on Homeland Security should have considered this legislation. Unfortunately, Chairman MCCAUL rejected my request that, consistent with precedent the committee established in prior Congresses, he insist on a referral of this measure.

Doing so would have ensured that the members of the Committee on Homeland Security could inform the bill's security-related provisions in an open markup setting.

As a result of Chairman MCCAUL's decision to waive the right of the committee to consider this measure, the House has before it a bill that does not fully take into account the statutory mission of the Department of Homeland Security component it authorizes.

In fact, it does not have a single provision solely dedicated to port and maritime security. You just heard the gentlelady from California talk about port security and how important it is, and I appreciate the gentleman from California saying that he would work with her, but it is also a responsibility of the Committee on Homeland Security.

While disappointing, I do not blame the leadership of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the absence of such provisions. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Homeland Security to leave its mark on this important homeland security legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. To be clear, this is not a case of the Committee on Homeland Security lacking the jurisdiction needed to inform the legislation before us today. It is a case of a chairman failing to ensure his committee was afforded the right to exercise its jurisdictional authority.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Ford House Office Building, House of Rep-
resentatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Border and Mari-
time Security, Cannon House Office Build-
ing, House of Representatives, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL AND SUB-
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MILLER: We write to
urge you to insist upon a sequential referral
of H.R. 4005, the "Coast Guard and Maritime
Transportation Act of 2014," and to afford
the Members of the Committee on Homeland
Security (the Committee) the opportunity to
consider this important homeland security
legislation in an open markup session.

Despite H.R. 4005 containing numerous pro-
visions within the Committee's Rule X,
clause 1(j) jurisdiction, the Speaker chose
not to refer the bill to the Committee upon
introduction, opting to refer the bill to the
Committee on Transportation and Infra-
structure (T&I) alone. As you are aware,
H.R. 4005, as ordered to be reported by T&I
today, contains numerous provisions within
the legislative jurisdiction of the Com-
mittee.

Since being established as a standing com-
mittee in the 109th Congress, the Committee
has waived its right to a sequential referral
of legislation authorizing the United States
Coast Guard (USCG) on only two occasions.
The first instance was in the 109th Congress
and the most recent was during the 112th
Congress. In contrast, in the 110th and 111th
Congresses, we made certain that bills au-
thorizing the USCG, a critical component of
the Department of Homeland Security
(DHS), were referred to the Committee.

As recently as last week, the Committee's
Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Secu-
rity held a public hearing to explore the
USCG's homeland security mission. During
that hearing, Chairman Miller emphasized
the important homeland security mission of
the USCG when she stated:

"Since 9/11, the Coast Guard has taken an
ever-increasing role in the protection of our
nation. We've given the Coast Guard addi-
tional responsibility. We have tasked them
to specifically focus their limited resources
on port and maritime security."

We concur with Chairman Miller's senti-
ment regarding the critical role the USCG
plays in ensuring the security of our ports
and maritime system. To ensure H.R. 4005 re-
flects the USCG's homeland security mis-
sion, we urge you to insist on a referral and
hold an open markup session of the bill.

In addition to our desire to see the Mem-
bers of our Committee have an opportunity
to shape the policy in a bill authorizing a
critical component of DHS, we believe it is
critical that the Committee exercise its ju-
risdictional prerogative whenever possible.
H.R. 4005 represents an opportunity for you
to ensure that the Committee exercises its
existing jurisdictional authority to the full-
est extent possible.

Thank you, in advance, for your attention
to this request. Should you or your staff
have any questions on this matter, please
contact Ms. Rosaline Cohen, Chief Counsel
for Legislation of the Committee on Home-
land Security, at x6-2616.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Ranking Member.
SHEILA JACKSON LEE,

Ranking Member, Sub-
committee on Border
and Maritime Secu-
rity.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Ford House Office Building, House of Rep-
resentatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Border and Mari-
time Security, Cannon House Office Build-
ing, U.S. House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL AND SUB-
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MILLER: On February
11, 2014, we wrote urging you to insist upon
a sequential referral of H.R. 4005, the "Coast
Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of
2014." Today, we are writing to express our
deep disappointment with your decision to
waive the Committee's right to a sequential
referral of this important homeland security
legislation. As your letter to the Speaker on
February 12, 2014, requesting a sequential re-
ferral of the bill rightly points out, the
United States Coast Guard (USCG) is
charged with port, waterway, and coastal se-
curity, putting them on the forefront of de-
fending the Nation's maritime borders.

Since being established as a standing com-
mittee in the 109th Congress, the Committee
has failed to receive referrals of bills au-
thorizing the Coast Guard during Republican
control of the House of Representatives. In
contrast, during the 110th and 111th Con-
gresses, during our time in the Majority, we
insisted that both bills authorizing the Coast
Guard be referred to the Committee. During
the 112th Congress, Chairman KING decided
to break with Committee precedent by
waiving the Committee's right to a referral
of H.R. 2838, the "Coast Guard and Maritime
Transportation Act of 2011." Given the crit-
ical role the USCG plays in ensuring the se-
curity of our ports and maritime system, we
are disappointed with your decision to con-
tinue the Republican precedent and waive
the Committee's right to a referral of H.R.
4005. This decision not only denies our Mem-
bers the opportunity to consider this port
and maritime security legislation in Com-
mittee but also cleared the way for the
measure to be considered by the Full House
on the suspension calendar, thereby denying
our Members the opportunity to offer port
and maritime security amendments to this
critical authorizing legislation.

During the Committee's hearing on Feb-
ruary 26, 2014, titled The Secretary's Vision
for the Future—Challenges and Priorities,
you responded to Subcommittee on Trans-
portation Security Ranking Member RICH-
MOND's urging that the Committee insist on
a referral of H.R. 4005 by stating that you in-
tend to offer a Coast Guard reauthorization
bill. We would ask, for the record, for details
on your Coast Guard reauthorization pro-
posal, including the scope of the measure and
the timeline for consideration. Further, we
would like to know what relationship, if any,
there is between your decision to waive a re-
ferral to H.R. 4005 and this forthcoming ef-
fort. We are eager to work with you on the
Coast Guard reauthorization bill you an-
nounced you would be offering for consid-
eration by the Committee.

Should you or your staff have any further
questions on this matter, please contact Ms.
Rosaline Cohen, Chief Counsel for Legisla-

tion of the Committee on Homeland Secu-
rity.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Ranking Member.
SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
Ranking Member, Sub-
committee on Border
and Maritime Secu-
rity.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield
such time as he may consume to the
gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I
would like to indulge in a colloquy
with Mr. HUNTER.

I want to thank the chairman of the
subcommittee for yielding and, again,
thank him for his work. Section 221 of
H.R. 4005 prohibits the Secretary of
Homeland Security from dismantling or
disposing of any former LORAN sys-
tem infrastructure for at least 1 year
from the date of enactment of the act
or until the date the Secretary notifies
the committee that such infrastructure
is not needed for a positioning, naviga-
tion, and timing system to provide re-
dundant capability in the event GPS
signals are disrupted, whichever is
later; is that the chairman's under-
standing?

Mr. HUNTER. Will the gentleman
yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield to the
gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Yes, it is.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I ask the
chairman, I am aware there are several
important issues surrounding the dis-
position of LORAN stations, including
the disposition of lands associated with
them that we should closely examine
and deal with in an appropriate man-
ner.

I ask the chairman and my col-
leagues on the committee to work with
me to resolve these issues in the con-
text of H.R. 4005 as this bill moves for-
ward.

Mr. HUNTER. To the extent that
these issues are within the jurisdiction
of the Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure, I look forward to
working with the gentleman from Alas-
ka with respect to resolving the dis-
position of the assets associated with
the Coast Guard LORAN stations in a
manner satisfactory to the longest-
serving member of the subcommittee
and its predecessors.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I thank the
chairman. I look forward to working on
this issue further, and I also want to
extend my heartfelt congratulations
and best wishes to the gentleman from
North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), the only
former coastguardsman now serving in
Congress.

To find a finer gentleman and col-
league than Mr. COBLE would be dif-
ficult, indeed. We will miss you, How-
ard, so please stay in touch.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I yield 2 minutes
to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms.
BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues today in support of H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act. I know that the chairmen and ranking members have worked diligently on the underlying bill, and I commend them for their efforts.

Importantly, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with them to add language from two bills I introduced to help coastal communities dealing with increasing marine debris.

Since the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011, residents of the Pacific Northwest have faced an increase in the volume of marine debris reaching our coast. This debris is a hazard to navigators, a threat to the marine environment, and a potential drag on coastal tourism.

Following the arrival of a 66-foot dock on an Oregon beach in June 2012, I worked with a bipartisan coalition on two bills to improve the Federal response to marine debris.

The first proposal, which I introduced with the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER), was introduced to expedite NOAA's grant process for debris cleanup by allowing NOAA to prioritize grant applications from communities affected by a severe marine debris event.

I partnered with Congressman DON YOUNG on the second proposal to allow NOAA to reimburse States for debris cleanup costs with a generous \$5 million gift from the Government of Japan.

I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee for their support, with special thanks to my Oregon colleague, Ranking Member DEFazio.

I would also like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for including these proposals in the underlying bill.

I am pleased to have worked with so many Members on the passage of these bipartisan marine provisions, and I urge a "yes" vote on the underlying bill.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and thank the leadership of my good friend and colleague from California (Mr. HUNTER) on his recognition that we need to go forward with this Coast Guard reauthorization.

Not only does it put in good reforms and continues to work in a real way to support our men and women who serve in the Coast Guard, but it does so in—quite frankly, in a very streamlined way, so I thank the leadership of Congressman HUNTER.

I want to go on further and recognize a gentleman from North Carolina, the

dean of the delegation, Congressman HOWARD COBLE. Not only is Howard a good friend, but he has served with distinction for more than 30 years here in this House.

Being an active member of the Coast Guard, it was his leadership and truly his work with Congressman HUNTER that really set this in motion. Having, at the age of 83, decided that it is time for him to retire from representing the people of the great State of North Carolina, I just want to acknowledge this particular day, Mr. Speaker, on a great statesman, truly a gentleman.

When you look up "gentleman" in the dictionary, it should have HOWARD COBLE's picture right beside it. He is the epitome of what it is to not only represent the people of North Carolina in such a fine fashion, but he works across party aisles.

He works with his colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to make sure that our country is served in the best way possible. It is with great pleasure that I get to speak on behalf of this bill and, in doing so, honor a man who knows the Coast Guard well and knows that the men and women who serve there serve our country in a the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

It is my understanding that this legislation contains a provision that would survey property at the open water entrance from the Puget Sound to the city of Gig Harbor, Washington, commonly known as the Gig Harbor sand spit area.

That property was leased to the city by the Coast Guard in 1988 to construct a small replica lighthouse with a private aid to navigation on the parcel and that the city and other local parties have financed, operated, and maintained the sand spit area, lighthouse, and private aid since that time and have used the property primarily for recreational purposes.

Mr. HUNTER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILMER. I yield to the chairman.

Mr. HUNTER. That is my understanding as well.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, the Coast Guard in 2005 determined that the property was in excess to their operational requirements and authorized the disposal of the property.

In addition, the city has been in discussions with the Coast Guard since 2011 regarding transferring the property.

I yield to the chairman.

Mr. HUNTER. That is also my understanding.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, the legislation before us today provides for a survey of the Gig Harbor sand spit area.

Am I correct in understanding that, when the Federal Government completes the survey, the chairman will work with me to convey this property to the city?

I yield to the chairman.

Mr. HUNTER. To the extent that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has jurisdiction over this property, I will work with the gentleman from Washington to convey the property to the city.

Mr. KILMER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate you working with me on this issue.

It is very important to my constituents, and I look forward to a final resolution in the very near future. The Gig Harbor sand spit area is a cherished maritime gateway to the city of Gig Harbor, which is an area in my district which has a long and rich history of boating and commercial fishing.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

One thing that this bill does is not only does it inventory this property—or it would—it also works to reduce the Coast Guard's excess property in general.

It requires the Coast Guard to conduct an inventory of all of its real property and to determine which property can be divested or consolidated to save taxpayers money and to give the land back to the municipalities and cities and counties in which it resides.

This is not just a Coast Guard bill. As the ranking member spoke about—and the chairman of the full committee, Mr. SHUSTER, it is beyond the Coast Guard in that this bill is important because it deals with maritime transportation. A healthy maritime industry is vital to our national security.

Throughout our history, the Navy has relied on U.S.-flagged commercial vessels, crewed by American merchant mariners to carry troops, weapons, and supplies to the battlefield.

When I deployed on my second tour to Fallujah, Iraq, in 2004 out of San Diego, I was in charge as the logistics officer of driving down all of our equipment with Humvees and our big battery cannons down to the local pier in San Diego. We then put this on a roll-on/roll-off boat.

I made sure everything was the way it was supposed to be, and that is how all of our equipment got over to Iraq. This boat was driven—manned by American merchant mariners.

It was not driven by the Navy or the Coast Guard, but by civilian mariners that do this for us; so I have a very close personal relationship, if you will, because all of the gear that we fell in on in Fallujah was stuff we had shipped over from San Diego to Iraq.

During Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom, U.S.-flagged commercial vessels transported 63 percent of all military cargos, like mine, moved to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Since we cannot rely on foreign vessels and crews to provide for our national security—let's say we relied on the Russians to move our military equipment like we rely on them to move our people and equipment into space—it is critical that we maintain a robust fleet of U.S.-flagged vessels, a large cadre of skilled American workers, and a strong shipyard industrial base.

Let me go through what the maritime sector provides to our economy very quickly. The U.S. maritime industry currently employs more than 260,000 Americans, providing nearly \$29 billion in annual wages.

There are more than 40,000 commercial vessels currently flying the American flags on our waterways, and the vast majority of these vessels are engaged in domestic commerce, moving over 100 million passengers and \$400 billion worth of goods between ports in the U.S. on an annual basis.

Each year, the U.S. maritime industry accounts for over \$100 billion in economic output, and these are not just port cities that get this. It is the inland waterways, the Mississippi, the Great Lakes, all of the different locks and dams throughout Pennsylvania and the Northeast, including the Colorado River.

Those are places where the Coast Guard is hard at work and our maritime industry is creating jobs and keeping people's mortgages paid and food on their table.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, might I inquire as to the amount of time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 9¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding, and I thank the manager of this legislation.

I rise with an appreciation for this legislation and also a concern. I think this legislation would have been important to have been referred and for the waiver not to be exercised to the Homeland Security Committee.

I serve as the ranking member on the Border Security and Maritime Security Committee, and it is known that the Coast Guard has a responsibility for defending the Nation's maritime borders. It is charged with port waterway and coastal security.

□ 1730

With that in mind, it would be appropriate to address those questions of

Homeland Security. I notice that this bill limits and reduces the number of commissioned officers, alters the mission of Coast Guard centers, and did not come before our committee.

At a hearing on the oil spill in Houston, which has an impact on America's waterways, particularly around the gulf region and has an impact on security, it was clear that the Coast Guard were the first responders. They were the first responders in terms of the potential rescue. They were the first responders in terms of being the cops of the waterway, to ensure that all of those who needed to use that waterway and the ports were able to do so. They were the ones that protected the individuals that were on cruise lines that were left offshore, and they were, of course, taking care of commerce. This is clearly part of the responsibility of Homeland Security.

As I indicated, we are very proud of the Coast Guard. I am always reminded of the great service they rendered during Hurricane Katrina, saving over 1,000 persons.

I rise today to hope that we will have an opportunity to address the questions dealing with security. As I do so, however, I want to commend Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., who is a commandant now of the United States Coast Guard, 24th United States Coast Guard Commandant and has served 39 years. Let us salute this great American.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Commandant Papp is a great American. He has been a friend to not only those of us in the United States Congress who are on the responsible committees, but he has been a friend to his men and women that serve in the United States Coast Guard.

Commandant Papp, we salute you for your grand service and look forward to your continued service to America, but more importantly, we owe you a great deal of respect and honor. Thank you so very much.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak with reservations regarding the consideration of H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act under a suspension because the bill establishes appropriations limits; reduces the number of commissioned officers; alters the mission of Coast Guard Centers; and did not come before the Homeland Security Committee under a sequential referral.

The bill before the House accomplishes several goals that may have been shared by the House Transportation Committee and the House Committee on Homeland Security, but it also addresses areas that should have had more deliberation before coming to the House Floor for a vote with no opportunity to amend the legislation.

On February 11, 2014, as Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, I joined Ranking Member of the Full Homeland Security Committee BENNIE THOMPSON in writing to urge a sequential referral of H.R. 4005, the "Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014."

We were disappointed with the decision of the Homeland Security's Chair and Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security to waive the Committee's right to a sequential referral of this important homeland security legislation.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is charged with port, waterway, and coastal security, putting them on the forefront of defending the Nation's maritime borders.

On March 25, 2014, I participated in the hearing held by the Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communication when FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate testified.

One of the provisions of H.R. 4005 would prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from making a determination that a waterway is navigable for purposes of the Coast Guard's jurisdiction without conducting a rulemaking under appropriate administrative procedures.

This provision of H.R. 4005 could have huge repercussions in an emergency related to a waterway's safety.

I raised the issue with Administrator Fugate regarding the critical role of the Coast Guard in making sure that our ports and waterways are navigable because of the 168,000 gallons of oil spilled due to a tugboat accident into the Port of Houston which led to a shutdown.

The Port of Houston is critical infrastructure. According to the Department of Commerce in 2012, Texas exports totaled \$265 billion.

The Port of Houston is a 25-mile-long complex of diversified public and private facilities located just a few hours' sailing time from the Gulf of Mexico.

In 2012 ship channel-related businesses contribute 1,026,820 jobs and generate more than \$178.5 billion in statewide economic impact.

For the past 11 consecutive years, Texas has outpaced the rest of the country in exports.

First ranked U.S. port in foreign tonnage;
Second ranked U.S. port in total tonnage;
Seventh ranked U.S. container port by total TEUs in 2012;

Largest Texas port with 46 percent of market share by tonnage;

Largest Texas container port with 96 percent market share in containers by total TEUs in 2012;

Largest Gulf Coast container port, handling 67 percent of U.S. Gulf Coast container traffic in 2012;

Second ranked U.S. port in terms of cargo value (based on CBP Customs port definitions).

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), reports that this port, and its waterways, and vessels are part of an economic engine handling more than \$700 billion in merchandise annually.

The Port of Houston houses approximately 100 steamship lines offering services that link Houston with 1,053 ports in 203 countries.

The Port of Houston has \$15 billion petrochemical complex, the largest in the nation and second largest worldwide.

The bill does establish rules for the Coast Guard engaging in ice patrol agreements with other nations and the need to establish reimbursement agreements prior to the commitment of resources in ice patrols.

The bill provides for compensation of ship owners and operators who provide necessary support to seafarers paroled into the United States to facilitate investigations, reporting, documentation, or adjudications.

The bill also addresses the definition of "high-risk waters," for the purpose of determining when owners and operators of U.S. vessels carrying government-impelled cargo are to be reimbursed for the cost of providing armed on-board safety personnel.

Since being established as a standing committee in the 109th Congress, the Homeland Security Committee has failed to receive a referral of a bill authorizing the Coast Guard only during periods of Republican control of the House of Representatives.

In contrast, during the 110th and 111th Congresses, during our time in the Majority, we insisted that both bills authorizing the Coast Guard be referred to the Committee.

Given the critical role the Coast Guard plays in ensuring the security of our ports and maritime system the Homeland Security Committee should never waive its right to consider legislation directly related to homeland security. The Committee on Homeland Security had no chance to provide valuable input in the drafting of H.R. 4005.

H.R. 4005, is an important bill that should have had the attention of the House Committee on Homeland Security, and if not members should have had an opportunity to offer amendments during full House Consideration of the bill.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014. I want to thank the subcommittee chair, Chairman HUNTER, and Subcommittee Ranking Member GARAMENDI, as well as Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL, for their leadership on the committee and their willingness to include language in the bill that would rectify a problem that has hurt the charter boat industry in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Section 312 of the bill would enable U.S.-owned passenger vessels operating in the Virgin Islands to carry up to 12 passengers, provided the vessels, of course, meet certain safety requirements, something our charter boat industry has been advocating for at least 20 years. Because of the existing rule, our once thriving charter yacht industry has gone to the British Virgin Islands, and estimates of revenue losses to the USVI economy range from \$70 million to \$100 million annually.

I also want to thank the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Council for their invaluable assistance. I have been

working on this change since coming to the House. And I can honestly say it is only because of their efforts and the support of Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL that we are on the cusp of finally resolving the issue. I thank them again, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4005.

I rise in support of H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014.

I especially want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL for their willingness to include language in the bill that would clarify a problem with the Charter boat industry in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Section 312 of the bill would enable U.S. owned uninspected passenger vessels operating in the U.S. Virgin Islands to carry up to 12 passengers provided the vessels meet certain safety requirements. The Virgin Islands Charter boat industry has been advocating for this change for at least 20 years.

Because of the rule this section will change, our once thriving charter yacht industry has migrated to the British Virgin Islands where regulations are less restrictive. Estimates of revenue losses to the USVI economy because of the damage to this industry, range from \$70 to \$100 million annually. This is at a time when the territory's economy has not rebounded from the 2008 recession and the closure of largest private employer.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Council for their invaluable assistance. I have been working on this change since coming to the House and I can honestly say that it is only because of their efforts and the support of Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL that we are on the cusp of finally resolving the issue.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4005, as amended.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I just wanted to say that Congressman RICK LARSEN entered his statement in the RECORD, and his statement speaks to the issue of the Coast Guard providing icebreaking services in the Arctic, and particularly the reconstruction of the polar sea.

I want to thank Mr. HUNTER and the staff, Republican staff, and our staff on our side, David, and the people that worked on this particular piece of legislation.

This legislation is very important to the Coast Guard and to the American economy because it deals with the international trade. Ninety percent or more of the trade and services go by water. This bill provides the Coast Guard with the materials that it needs, with the budget authority, and with important reforms.

The legislation also provides considerable support for the Merchant Marine elements in our committee. It deals in part with the necessity for the national defense.

Chairman HUNTER spoke to the issue of the Maritime Security Program. Similarly, the bill does speak to the Ready Reserve program as well as the breaking of ships, that is, the disposal of ships that have lost their usefulness. It is a comprehensive bill. There are a few more things that we should be doing in this piece of legislation that hopefully we will be able to take up in the Senate or in the conference committee.

I spoke earlier about the export of liquified natural gas, LNG. This is an enormous opportunity for America to rebuild its Merchant Marine. More than 100 ships will be needed to export that LNG. Those should be American-made ships, manned by American sailors, flying under the American flag.

I think we need, also, to work on title XI, the Loan Guarantee Program for ships that are built in the United States. It is very restrictive in its present form.

Chairman HUNTER in his opening remarks also talked about the problem of the appropriations. While this bill does provide authorization authority that should be sufficient for all of these elements, the ultimate money available would be through the appropriation process.

I am very concerned about the austerity budgeting that has consumed this Congress for the last 3 years and appears to be continuing for the next 2. If that happens, all of the good intentions in this bill may be lost upon the shoals of an austerity budget. We need to pay attention to that.

It is a good piece of legislation. It has been a great honor to work on this subcommittee as the ranking member.

I yield back my remaining time, asking for a positive vote on this bill.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the ranking member, Mr. GARAMENDI from California. He was great to work with on this. We had some disagreements, but we agree on the majority of it.

I would like to thank you for your support. It was great working with you, and we will do it more in the future.

I would also like to take into account what Mr. GARAMENDI said about an icebreaker. America is the only Arctic nation with no icebreaker. We don't have one. China has them; Russia has them; Canada has them. Just about everybody else that has any Arctic in its sphere of influence has an icebreaker, except for the United States; meaning, if an American oil ship got stuck in the Arctic, guess who would bail them out? Our good friend the Russians, maybe our good friends the Communist Chinese. The Canadians, if we are lucky, will have a ship available so we can at least go with a free country if we had to get that ship out of trouble.

We don't have an icebreaker. That is a travesty. Icebreakers are expensive,

especially if you just buy one. They are about a billion dollars by the Coast Guard's account.

There are other options to get an icebreaker. You can lease an icebreaker like you lease a car, and it can be operated by merchant mariners, the same ones that we have been praising. Talking about this bill, that is who could run this icebreaker. We are going to work on that, and that should be this subcommittee and this committee's crowning achievement is getting an American icebreaker on the high seas to support American industry and American seafarers in the Arctic.

Number two, maritime transportation is more than just important to this country; it is what this country is all about. There is an old saying in the Department of Defense—and I was a marine, so let me just throw this out there—whoever controls the oceans controls the world. Now you can say whoever controls space controls the ocean, but whoever controls the oceans controls the world.

America is surrounded by water for the most part. All of our trade comes in through the Pacific or the Atlantic. It is more than important. It is the most important thing out there that we make sure of two things: that we protect these trade routes on the high seas for goods coming in and out of this country; number 2, we have to secure our ports and coastline from drugs, from illegal immigrants, and, most importantly, from a weapon of mass destruction that might be smuggled to our shoreline and then detonated by one of our port cities. That is easier to do than it is now to fly an airplane and land in an American airport and set something off. It is also easier to do than it is to cross the southern border and sneak across with some weapon of mass destruction. It is easier to get a ship or a cargo container ship with a weapon of mass destruction off of an American coast than it is to get it into this country any other way.

When it comes to maritime transportation, Americans are leading the way in making these ships. We just made in San Diego, a company called NASSCO, a shipbuilding company in San Diego just built or is in the process of building right now the very first liquified natural gas-powered ships. They are not container ships that carry liquified natural gas, LNG, but they are powered by it. They are the first ones in the world. They are being made here in this country. So we might not be able to make cheap ships as easily as nations that don't have the same labor laws or environmental laws, but we can still make the most technologically advanced ships in the world, and we are doing that today.

Lastly, the Coast Guard, approximately 41,000 military personnel—and to my friends that say that the U.S. Coast Guard should be under Homeland

Security, the Coast Guard is a fifth branch of the U.S. military. It is actually under DOD. So if we want to move it anywhere, I would say put it under the Armed Services Committee.

Approximately 41,000 military personnel, 8,000 reservists, 8,500 civilian employees, and 30,000 volunteers of the Coast Guard Auxiliary comprise this adaptable responsive military force within the Department of Homeland Security.

As one the Nation's five Armed Forces, the Coast Guard also is prepared to operate as a specialized service to the Navy in times of war or at the President's direction. The Coast Guard is instrumental to the security of our Nation and our maritime transportation system of this Nation which, both of those, are, in turn, the most important things that we can look at when it comes to the high seas and maintaining a robust economy and secure shores.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the Arctic is fast becoming the 21st-century version of the Northwest Passage. Just four years ago, two German ships followed a Russian icebreaker to complete the first commercial shipment across the Arctic. Last year, with the warmest Arctic summer on record, 46 ships made the crossing. An active and well-maintained icebreaker fleet is a key part of our country's responsibility as an Arctic nation.

As Ranking Member of the Coast Guard subcommittee in the 112th Congress, I had the privilege to work with Representative LOBIONDO, who was the Chairman at that time. We agreed it was time for the Coast Guard to make a decision about how to move forward with its icebreaker fleet. In the last Coast Guard reauthorization bill, we asked the agency to look at the business case for reactivating the *Polar Sea*, which is currently docked in Seattle.

That analysis showed that for about \$100 million, we could have a functioning *Polar Sea*, which is about one-tenth the price tag for a brand new icebreaker. In my view that is a bargain.

However, the Coast Guard still has not come to a conclusion about what to do with the *Polar Sea*. Instead, it is currently sitting in cold storage in Seattle. Every day the *Polar Sea* sits without maintenance it loses value.

The bill before us would require the Coast Guard to use the analysis Representative LOBIONDO and I requested and make a decision about the *Polar Sea*.

I was pleased to hear Coast Guard Admiral Papp talk about reactivation of the *Polar Sea* in a positive light during a subcommittee hearing last week. I believe the right course of action is to reactivate the *Polar Sea*.

But that decision needs to be made soon.

The Coast Guard also needs to start moving on the next generation of icebreakers.

I understand that the intent of this legislation is to encourage the Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation and other interested agencies to partner with the Coast Guard in building a new fleet of icebreakers.

However, I am concerned that by tying the Coast Guard's hands until those agencies fully engage in this process, we may be delaying much needed progress towards building a new icebreaker.

That's why I am pleased that Chairman DUNCAN and Ranking Member GARAMENDI included some changes I requested to the icebreaker language in this bill to ensure that we do not hinder what little progress is being made on icebreakers today.

I hope we can continue to work together to ensure our country meets its responsibilities as an Arctic nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4005, the "Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act." I want to commend Chairman HUNTER, Ranking Member GARAMENDI, and their staffs for the amount of work they put in to have this bipartisan measure brought to the floor.

This important legislation contains a provision based on the "Commercial Vessel Discharges Reform Act of 2013" introduced by myself and Mr. LARSEN. This provision puts in place a permanent moratorium from Environmental Protection Agency, state regulations and fines governing incidental discharges from commercial fishing vessels and all other commercial vessels less than 79 feet. With our stagnant economy, the government must not enact federal penalties which could discourage economic growth and job creation. The fines that are scheduled to be levied against our commercial fishermen for incidental charges will be devastating to our national and local South Jersey businesses.

In conclusion, I'd also like to praise the tireless efforts on behalf of all Coasties that our colleague Mr. COBLE has worked on during his entire career in the House. A Coasty himself, he has always fought for the men and women serving in this distinguished uniform and we will surely miss him.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 4005.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, the Coast Guard is facing difficult challenges related to maintenance and costs of its aging ships and aircrafts. In these difficult financial times, the Coast Guard should examine the potential cost savings resulting from the use of laser peening technology, which may help to strengthen parts and extend the life of the Coast Guard's assets.

Developed as a result of work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and in conjunction with Curtiss-Wright Metal Improvement Company, laser peening uses laser beam impacts to strengthen metal four times deeper than conventional shot peening, resulting in increased resistance to fatigue and erosion driven failures.

In ships, such as those used by the Coast Guard, erosion and cracking can occur in metals due to environmental and repeated stresses. These problems can cause damage to key metal components of ships such as propellers, rudders, ship hulls near propellers, control valves, pumps, and impellers. Without replacing or strengthening these important ship components, this damage can potentially lead to the part's unexpected failure. With a Coast Guard fleet stretched well beyond its

estimated lifetime, the Coast Guard should examine the benefits of laser peening as a way to reduce costs and enhance the life of its ships.

Laser peening has been proven in both commercial and military settings. For example, in the commercial sector, laser peening has been used by Rolls-Royce to repair and strengthen cracked engine blades for airplanes. From its success with Rolls-Royce, in 2003 Curtiss-Wright became the first specialized laser peening repair station for commercial aviation to be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. Within the military, laser peening has been used by both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force to increase lifetime of aircraft components and save money on maintenance. These successful commercial and military applications have helped reduce costs by strengthening and extending the life of critical components.

In past years, the House has gone on record in support of laser peening as a means for saving money on future repairs. For example, the Armed Services Committee report accompanying H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 stated that: "laser peening has achieved considerable success in commercial aerospace and power-generation applications, reducing costs by enabling improvements in the metal structure and mitigating high-cycle fatigue failures of a system, thus extending the system's lifetime." The Armed Services Committee further encouraged the Department of Defense "to examine the potential cost savings that may be derived from adopting this technology broadly across the military services, but was concerned that some military departments have not fully explored the use of such technologies to reduce costs associated with problems of fatigue failure, stress corrosion cracking, and component shape corrections. The committee further encourages the Department to explore such technologies for use in aircraft engines to slow the rate of replacement of highly stressed components and parts."

I suggest that the Coast Guard examine the potential cost savings that may be derived from adopting laser peening, which can be utilized to greatly reduce cracking and erosion. It could have wide benefits to Coast Guard vessels, fixed wing aircraft, and rotorcraft. The cost savings resulting from the use of laser peening could reduce the need for major structure rework, slow the rate of replacement of highly stressed components and parts, and provide a longer lifetime for Coast Guard assets.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4005, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 92) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 92

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 33rd Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the "Memorial Service"), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2013.

(b) DATE OF MEMORIAL SERVICE.—The Memorial Service shall be held on May 15, 2014, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate, with preparation for the event to begin on May 12, 2014.

SEC. 2. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (in this resolution referred to as the "Exhibition"), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to allow law enforcement representatives to exhibit their ability to demonstrate Honor Guard programs and provide for a bag pipe exhibition.

(b) DATE OF EXHIBITION.—The exhibition shall be held on May 14, 2014, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsors of the Memorial Service and Exhibition shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the events.

SEC. 4. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsors referred to in section 3(b) are authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment, as may be required for the Memorial Service and Exhibition.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in

section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the events.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 92.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

H. Con. Res. 92 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition. I am pleased to be the sponsor of this resolution along with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

These events are held each year as part of Police Week to honor the men and women who sacrifice their lives in the line of duty.

□ 1745

This year, over 110 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers will be honored for their ultimate sacrifice—giving their lives in the line of duty to protect us.

Three of these officers are from Pennsylvania, including one from my district, Correctional Officer Eric Williams of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. Officer Williams was beaten and stabbed to death by an inmate in Federal prison in Wayne County. These officers put their lives on the line every day, doing a hard job that protects law-abiding citizens from violent criminals. Officer Williams' sacrifice and the sacrifices of those like him should not be forgotten. I support the passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a former law enforcement officer from the great State of Indiana, I am a very proud supporter of this resolution to honor law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2013. The 111 officers who will be honored in May have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their local communities.

Compared to last year, the number of officers slain has decreased by 8 percent. This represents the fewest number of officers killed since 1959. In addition, 2013 had the lowest number of officer deaths related to firearms since 1887. Every life taken is one too many, so any reduction is significant to our officers, to their families, and to the communities they serve. Sadly, my hometown of Indianapolis, Indiana, is still grieving one of our own who was killed in the line of duty last year.

Officer Rod Bradway, a 41-year-old Indianapolis Metro police officer, was killed while responding to a domestic violence dispute on September 20, 2013. Officer Bradway was a 5-year veteran of the police department, and is survived by his wife and two teenage daughters. He had already received the Indianapolis Police Department's Medal of Bravery, and he had previously served as a Wayne Township firefighter and EMT.

Thousands of residents of Indianapolis turned out for Officer Bradway's memorial service in downtown Indianapolis. They believe, as I do, that he was a hero who died while serving others. My deepest condolences go to Officer Bradway's family and to the rest of the hardworking Metro police officers.

I strongly support this bill because I know that the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service will show the proper respect to Officer Bradway and to all other law enforcement officers who have given everything to protect our communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this tribute to our fallen law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 92, which authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition. It is altogether fitting and proper that we do this.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

Dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Memorial honors federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people. Carved on its walls are the names of 19,981 officers who have been killed in the line of duty throughout U.S. history, dating back to the first known death in 1791.

Enshrined on the Memorial Wall of Honor are the names of 1,653 fallen peace officers from the state of Texas, the most of any state, including 114 members of the Houston Police Department who gave their lives to keep their city safe. I ask unanimous consent to include a list of these fallen heroes from Houston, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, today there are more than 900,000 law enforcement personnel serving

the people of our country, the highest amount ever. About 12 percent of them are female.

These brave men and women risk their lives to keep the peace and keep us safe but they are too often taken by the violence they are working to prevent. Every year, a law enforcement officer is killed somewhere in the United States every 57 hours, and there are also 58,261 assaults against our law officers each year, resulting in 15,658 injuries.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus I am proud to represent the people of the 18th Congressional District of Texas in paying tribute to the 321 fallen heroes who will be joining the 19,981 gallant men and women who gave the last full measure of devotion to the communities they took an oath to protect and serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of the officers whose names will be added to the National Peace Officers Memorial Wall of Honor.

HOUSTON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIALIZED ON THE WALL OF HONOR

1. Timothy Scott Abernethy, End of Watch: December 7, 2008, Houston, Texas, P.D.
2. Charles H. Baker, End of Watch: August 16, 1979, Houston, Texas, P.D.
3. Johnny Terrell Bamsch, End of Watch: January 30, 1975, Houston, Texas, P.D.
4. Claude R. Beck, End of Watch: December 10, 1971, Houston, Texas, P.D.
5. Jack B. Beets, End of Watch: March 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.
6. Troy A. Blando, End of Watch: May 19, 1999, Houston, Texas, P.D.
7. James Charles Boswell, End of Watch: December 9, 1989, Houston, Texas, P.D.
8. C. E. Branon, End of Watch: March 20, 1959, Houston, Texas, P.D.
9. John M. Cain, End of Watch: August 3, 1911, Houston, Texas, P.D.
10. Richard H. Calhoun, End of Watch: October 10, 1975, Houston Texas Police Department.
11. Dionicio M. Camacho, End of Watch: October 23, 2009, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
12. Henry Canales, End of Watch: June 23, 2009, Houston, Texas, P.D.
13. Frank Manuel Cantu Jr., End of Watch: March 25, 2004, Houston, Texas, P.D.
14. E. C. Chavez, End of Watch: September 17, 1925, Houston, Texas, P.D.
15. Charles Roy Clark, End of Watch: April 3, 2003, Houston, Texas, P.D.
16. Charles Robert Coates, II, End of Watch: February 23, 1983, Houston, Texas, P.D.
17. Pete Corrales, End of Watch: January 25, 1925, Houston, Texas, P.D.
18. Rufus E. Daniels, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
19. Johnnie Davidson, End of Watch: February 19, 1921, Houston, Texas, P.D.
20. Worth Davis, End of Watch: June 17, 1928, Houston, Texas, P.D.
21. Keith Alan Dees, End of Watch: March 7, 2002, Houston, Texas, P.D.
22. Reuben Becerra Deleon, Jr, End of Watch: October 26, 2005, Houston, Texas, P.D.
23. William Edwin Deleon, End of Watch: March 29, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
24. Floyd T. Deloach Jr., End of Watch: June 30, 1965, Houston, Texas, P.D.
25. George D. Edwards, End of Watch: June 30, 1939, Houston, Texas, P.D.
26. Dawn Suzanne Erickson End of Watch: December 24, 1995, Houston, Texas, P.D.
27. J. C. Etheridge, End of Watch: August 23, 1924, Houston, Texas, P.D.

28. James E. Fenn, End of Watch: March 14, 1891, Houston, Texas, P.D.

29. E. D. Fitzgerald, End of Watch: September 30, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.

30. C. Edward Foley, End of Watch: March 10, 1860, Houston, Texas, P.D.

31. Joseph Robert Free, End of Watch: October 18, 1912, Houston, Texas, P.D.

32. Guy P. Gaddis, End of Watch: January 31, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.

33. James T. Gambill, End of Watch: December 1, 1936, Houston, Texas, P.D.

34. Florentino M. Garcia, Jr., End of Watch: November 10, 1989, Houston, Texas, P.D.

35. Ben Eddie Gerhart, End of Watch: June 26, 1968, Houston, Texas, P.D.

36. G. Q. Gonzalez, End of Watch: February 28, 1960, Houston, Texas, P.D.

37. Charles R. Gougenheim, End of Watch: April 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.

38. Carl Greene, End of Watch: March 14, 1928, Houston, Texas, P.D.

39. Leon Griggs, End of Watch: January 31, 1970, Houston, Texas, P.D.

40. Maria Michelle Groves, End of Watch: April 10, 1987, Houston, Texas, P.D.

41. Gary Allen Gryder, End of Watch: June 29, 2008, Houston, Texas, P.D.

42. Antonio Guzman, JF, End of Watch: January 9, 1973, Houston, Texas, P.D.

43. Howard B. Hammond, End of Watch: August 18, 1946, Houston, Texas, P.D.

44. James Donald Harris, End of Watch: July 13, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.

45. David Michael Healy, End of Watch: November 12, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.

46. Timothy A. Hearn, End of Watch: June 8, 1978, Houston, Texas, P.D.

47. Oscar Hope, End of Watch: June 22, 1929, Houston, Texas, P.D.

48. Elston M. Howard, End of Watch: July 20, 1988, Houston, Texas, P.D.

49. David Huerta, End of Watch: September 19, 1973, Houston, Texas, P.D.

50. James Bruce Irby, End of Watch: June 27, 1990, Houston, Texas, P.D.

51. Bobby L. James, End of Watch: June 26, 1968, Houston, Texas, P.D.

52. John C. James, End of Watch: December 12, 1901, Houston, Texas, P.D.

53. Rodney Joseph Johnson, End of Watch: September 21, 2006, Houston, Texas, P.D.

54. Ed Jones, End of Watch: September 13, 1929, Houston, Texas, P.D.

55. P.P. Jones, End of Watch: January 30, 1927, Houston, Texas, P.D.

56. Frank L. Kellogg, End of Watch: November 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.

57. S.A. Buster Kent, End of Watch: January 12, 1954, Houston, Texas, P.D.

58. James F. Kilty, End of Watch: April 8, 1976, Houston, Texas, P.D.

59. Kent Dean Kincaid, End of Watch: May 23, 1998, Houston, Texas, P.D.

60. Louis R. Kuba, End of Watch: May 17, 1967, Houston, Texas, P.D.

61. J.D. Landry, End of Watch: December 3, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.

62. Robert Wayne Lee, End of Watch: January 31, 1971, Houston, Texas, P.D.

63. Fred Maddox Jr., End of Watch: February 24, 1954, Houston, Texas, P.D.

64. Eydelmen Mani, End of Watch: May 19, 2010, Houston, Texas, P.D.

65. A.P. Marshall, End of Watch: November 8, 1937, Houston, Texas, P.D.

66. Charles R. McDaniel, End of Watch: August 4, 1963, Houston, Texas, P.D.

67. E.G. Meinke, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.

68. Harry Mereness, End of Watch: October 18, 1933, Houston, Texas, P.D.

69. Noel R. Miller, End of Watch: June 6, 1958, Houston, Texas, P.D.

70. Kenneth L. Moody, End of Watch: November 26, 1969, Houston, Texas, P.D.

71. Horace Moody, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.

72. William Moss, End of Watch: September 12, 1983, Houston Airport Police, Texas

73. Dave Murdock, End of Watch: June 27, 1921, Houston, Texas, P.D.

74. William E. Murphy, End of Watch: April 1, 1910, Houston, Texas, P.D.

75. David Franklin Noel, End of Watch: June 17, 1972, Houston, Texas, P.D.

76. M.E. Palmer, End of Watch: March 24, 1938, Houston, Texas, P.D.

77. Isaac Parson, End of Watch: May 24, 1914, Houston, Texas, P.D.

78. Ross Patton, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.

79. W.B. Phares, End of Watch: September 30, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.

80. Herbert N. Planer, End of Watch: February 18, 1965 Houston, Texas, P.D.

81. Ira Raney, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.

82. Winston J. Rawlings, End of Watch: March 29, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.

83. Jerry Lawrence Riley, End of Watch: June 18, 1974, Houston, Texas, P.D.

84. John Charles Risley End of Watch: October 23, 2000, Harris County, Texas, S.O.

85. Sandra Ann Robbins, End of Watch: March 17, 1991, South Houston, Texas, P.D.

86. George G. Rojas, End of Watch: January 28, 1976, Houston, Texas, P.D.

87. Michael P. Roman, End of Watch: January 6, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.

88. John Anthony Salvaggio, End of Watch: November 25, 1990, Houston, Texas, P.D.

89. Louis L. Sander, End of Watch: January 21, 1967, Houston, Texas, P.D.

90. Jeffery Scott Sanford, End of Watch: September 14, 1991, Harris County, Texas, S.O.

91. Kathleen C. Schaefer, End of Watch: August 18, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.

92. Robert Schultea, End of Watch: August 25, 1956, Houston, Texas, P.D.

93. Daryl Wayne Shirley End of Watch: April 28, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.

94. Richard Snow, End of Watch: March 17, 1882, Houston, Texas, P.D.

95. Bruno David Soboleski, End of Watch: April 12, 1991, Houston, Texas, P.D.

96. Jerry Leon Spruill, End of Watch: October 27, 1972, Houston, Texas, P.D.

97. R H Sullivan, End of Watch: March 9, 1935, Houston, Texas, P.D.

98. John W Suttle, End of Watch: August 3, 1959, Houston, Texas, P.D.

99. Cuong Huy Trinh, End of Watch: April 6, 1997, Houston, Texas, P.D.

100. Alberto Vasquez, End of Watch: May 22, 2001, Houston, Texas, P.D.

101. James T Walker, End of Watch: March 8, 1963, Houston, Texas, P.D.

102. Victor R Wells III, End of Watch: October 2, 1980, Houston, Texas, P.D.

103. R O Wells, End of Watch: July 30, 1927, Houston, Texas, P.D.

104. Albert Charles Wilkins, End of Watch: January 6, 1978, Harris County, Texas, C.O.

105. Kevin Scott Will, End of Watch: May 29, 2011, Houston, Texas, P.D.

106. Henry Williams, End of Watch: February 8, 1886, Houston, Texas, P.D.

107. William C Williams, Jr., End of Watch: April 16, 1930, Harris County, Texas, S.O.

108. Edd Williams, End of Watch: January 12, 1974, Harris County, Texas, S.O.

109. James Franklin Willis, End of Watch: July 1, 1964, Houston, Texas, P.D.

110. Marvin Alton Winter, End of Watch: December 4, 1937, Harris County, Texas, C.O., Pct. 4

111. Andrew Winzer, End of Watch: February 18, 1988, Houston, Texas, P.D.

112. Jeter Young, End of Watch: June 19, 1921, Houston, Texas, P.D.

113. Herman Youngst, End of Watch: December 12, 1901, Houston, Texas, P.D.

114. Joe A Zamarron 60-W: 2, End of Watch: April 18, 1981, Houston, Texas, P.D.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 92.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 88) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 88

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR SOAP BOX DERBY RACES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association (in this resolution referred to as the “sponsor”) shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, soap box derby races (in this resolution referred to as the “event”), on the Capitol Grounds.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on June 14, 2014, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make such additional arrangements as may be required to carry out the event.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in

section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 88.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H. Con. Res. 88 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby in June.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for introducing this resolution. He has been a longtime supporter of this event and of the children involved each year.

This event occurs annually on the Capitol Grounds. The Soap Box Derby encourages children to show off their dedication, work, and creativity as they compete for trophies. The winners of each division are qualified to compete in the National All-American Soap Box Derby held in Ohio.

I support the passage of this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to commend my very close and dear friend, Congressman HOYER, for his dedication to the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby and for introducing this resolution on behalf of the Washington regional delegation.

I support today's resolution, which authorizes the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby to use the Capitol Grounds. This event provides a terrific opportunity for children to learn the values of craftsmanship and competition as they build and race their vehicles.

The very first soap box derby race in Washington, D.C., was run in 1938, and for the last 20 years, the official race site has been on Capitol Hill. With race cars approaching speeds of 25 miles per hour on Constitution Avenue, this event provides a real thrill for kids and adults alike from across the region. Winners of this event go on to compete in the national competition in Akron, Ohio, where they compete against kids from all over the world.

On race day, every Greater Washington Soap Box Derby participant

starts the race with the chance to become a world champion. I support this terrific opportunity for the children of Washington, D.C., and I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this great resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I want to thank Mr. CARSON and Mr. BARLETTA for bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, for the 23rd straight year, I am proud to sponsor this resolution that allows the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to hold its 73rd annual race on the grounds of the United States Capitol on June 14, which, by the way, Mr. Speaker, happens to be my birthday. As Mr. CARSON pointed out, and as Mr. BARLETTA has said, this is a long-standing tradition that brings young people from around the area to the Capitol for a fun and educational achievement.

In 1938, Mr. Speaker, Norman Rocca beat 223 other racers to win the inaugural Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, which was held on New Hampshire Avenue. Over the years, thousands of the region's young people have participated in this great race. Dozens of boys and girls, ranging in age from 8 to 17, are divided into three divisions: stock, super stock, and masters. The local winner of each division will qualify to compete with racers from around the world in the All-American Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio.

America's soap box derbies have been called the "greatest amateur racing event in the world." Every year, they bring young people together with their parents and teach sportsmanship, hard work, and pride of accomplishment, not to mention engineering and the awareness of how you make something that makes a difference. The spirit of competition that fuels these racers is the same spirit that has long energized our Nation's businesses and innovators, which all of these young people are and, hopefully, will continue to be. The young participants in these derbies are often sponsored by community groups, police departments, fire departments, and others who recognize in them great promise for the future.

I continue to be incredibly proud of those from Maryland's Fifth District who participate. We have celebrated a number of soap box derby champions from the Fifth District, including the winners from 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, and 2013. You can see that the soap box derby is very important and popular in my district. The winners in 2007 and 2008 went on to prevail in the national championship. All of last year's winners were from Maryland's Fifth Dis-

trict: Aspen Tomasello, who won the stock division; Brittany Sorli, who won the super stock division; and Jay Warnick, who won the masters division and who went on to become the third St. Mary's County resident—the county in which I live, the most southern county in our State—to win the All-American Soap Box Derby in 6 years. We are very proud of them all.

I want to thank those Members who have cosponsored this resolution: Representatives GERRY CONNOLLY, JOHN DELANEY, DONNA EDWARDS, JIM MORAN, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and my dear friend FRANK WOLF.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to come and see the soap box derby in action.

Mr. BARLETTA. The gentleman from Maryland may be interested to know that, in our markup of this resolution, two of our committee members mentioned that they were proud soap box derby champions—Mr. NOLAN of Minnesota and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. They also joked that, today, they now stand on a soap box here in Congress.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, may I ask my colleague, the honorable chairman, Mr. BARLETTA, if he has any other speakers.

Mr. BARLETTA. I have no other speakers.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this has been a proud tradition across the Nation, including in Pennsylvania. In fact, in 1975, 11-year-old Karren Stead of Lower Bucks County, Pennsylvania, became the first girl to win the All-American Soap Box Derby.

Again, I would like to thank the minority whip for giving us an opportunity each year to highlight this event and its importance.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 88.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GME SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1557) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1557

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. PROGRAM OF PAYMENTS TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS THAT OPERATE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 340E of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "through 2005 and each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011" and inserting "through 2005, each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011, and each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018"; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in clause (iii), by striking "and";

(ii) in clause (iv), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(v) for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, \$100,000,000."; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking "and";

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(E) for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, \$200,000,000.".

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 340E(b)(3)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256e(b)(3)(D)) is amended by striking "Not later than the end of fiscal year 2011" and inserting "Not later than the end of fiscal year 2018".

SEC. 3. SUPPORT OF GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN CERTAIN HOSPITALS.

Section 340E of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to make available up to 25 percent of the total amounts in excess of \$245,000,000 appropriated under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (f), but not to exceed \$7,000,000, for payments to hospitals qualified as described in paragraph (2), for the direct and indirect expenses associated with operating approved graduate medical residency training programs, as described in subsection (a).

"(2) QUALIFIED HOSPITALS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—To qualify to receive payments under paragraph (1), a hospital shall be a free-standing hospital—

"(i) with a Medicare payment agreement and that is excluded from the Medicare inpatient hospital prospective payment system pursuant to section 1886(d)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act and its accompanying regulations;

"(ii) whose inpatients are predominantly individuals under 18 years of age;

"(iii) that has an approved medical residency training program as defined in section 1886(h)(5)(A) of the Social Security Act; and

"(iv) that is not otherwise qualified to receive payments under this section or section 1886(h) of the Social Security Act.

"(B) ESTABLISHMENT OF RESIDENCY CAP.—In the case of a freestanding children's hospital that, on the date of enactment of this subsection, meets the requirements of subparagraph (A) but for which the Secretary has not determined an average number of full-time equivalent residents under section

1886(h)(4) of the Social Security Act, the Secretary may establish such number of full-time equivalent residents for the purposes of calculating payments under this subsection.

“(3) PAYMENTS.—Payments to hospitals made under this subsection shall be made in the same manner as payments are made to children’s hospitals, as described in subsections (b) through (e).

“(4) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—The direct and indirect payment amounts under this subsection shall be determined using per resident amounts that are no greater than the per resident amounts used for determining direct and indirect payment amounts under subsection (a).

“(5) REPORTING.—A hospital receiving payments under this subsection shall be subject to the reporting requirements under subsection (b)(3).

“(6) REMAINING FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the payments to qualified hospitals under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year are less than the total amount made available under such paragraph for that fiscal year, any remaining amounts for such fiscal year may be made available to all hospitals participating in the program under this subsection or subsection (a).

“(B) QUALITY BONUS SYSTEM.—For purposes of distributing the remaining amounts described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary may establish a quality bonus system, whereby the Secretary distributes bonus payments to hospitals participating in the program under this subsection or subsection (a) that meet standards specified by the Secretary, which may include a focus on quality measurement and improvement, interpersonal and communications skills, delivering patient-centered care, and practicing in integrated health systems, including training in community-based settings. In developing such standards, the Secretary shall collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including program accrediting bodies, certifying boards, training programs, health care organizations, health care purchasers, and patient and consumer groups.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am glad that, today, we will pass a bill that will help keep American children healthy. Today, the House considers S. 1557, the Children’s Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013. This is companion legislation to my own bill, H.R. 297, which passed the House at the beginning of this Congress. I am pleased that we have worked out the slight differences between the bills and that we can now re-

authorize an important program that makes sure our Nation has enough doctors trained to treat children.

The Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program helps encourage more young doctors to pursue this important specialty. Without it, we would certainly see fewer medical professionals enter pediatrics and pediatric subspecialties.

□ 1800

Children need doctors trained just to treat them. Nationwide, this program supports the training of more than 5,000 doctors. Locally, in my area of Pennsylvania, the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia participates in the program.

I have had the privilege of visiting the hospital a number of times and meeting with the young patients and the doctors learning how to treat them.

I am proud to have worked on this legislation with Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE. We originally introduced this bill in the 112th Congress. It has been a long road. I am glad we can finally send this bill to the President for his signature.

This is yet another bipartisan bill that we have successfully moved through the Health Subcommittee. It is proof that, despite our differences, we can find common ground and work together on legislation in a bipartisan way to help Americans stay healthy.

I would like to especially thank Monica Volante on my staff, as well as the staff of the Health Subcommittee, especially Brenda Destro and Katie Novaria, who worked tirelessly on this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of the Children’s Hospitals GME Support Reauthorization Act, which reauthorizes the Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program through 2018.

The Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program provides vital funding to support the training of pediatricians and pediatric specialists in our children’s hospitals.

Continued strong support for CHGME is essential to maintain this investment in our children’s health care. Reauthorizing the Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program represents a commitment to ensuring that children throughout the country have access to the quality care they need.

Since its creation in 1999, this program has increased the number of pediatric health care providers, addressed critical shortages in pediatric specialty care, and improved access to necessary care.

The CHGME recipient hospitals represent less than 1 percent of all hospitals, yet train half of all the Nation’s pediatricians and pediatric specialists.

As a cosponsor of the House bill that passed in 2013 and a long advocate for the Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program, I applaud this bipartisan, bicameral effort to preserve and strengthen this important program.

I want to recognize and applaud the leadership of Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE and Chairman PITTS on this legislation in the House.

I also want to acknowledge the sponsors of the measure we are considering today, Senators CASEY and ISAKSON. I also commend Chairman UPTON, Chairman HARKIN, and Ranking Member ALEXANDER for making it possible for the House to consider this bipartisan legislation today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1557 and sending this legislation to the President for his signature.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Children’s Hospitals GME Support Reauthorization Act, which reauthorizes the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program through 2018.

The CHGME program provides vital funding to support the training of pediatricians and pediatric specialists in children’s hospitals.

Continued strong support for CHGME is essential to maintain this investment in children’s health care. Reauthorizing CHGME represents a commitment to ensuring that children throughout the country have access to the quality care they need.

Since its creation in 1999, CHGME has increased the number of pediatric health care providers, addressed critical shortages in pediatric specialty care and improved access to necessary care.

The CHGME recipient hospitals represent less than one percent of all hospitals, yet train half of all the nation’s pediatricians and pediatric specialists.

As a co-sponsor of the House bill that passed in February 2013 and a longtime advocate for the CHGME program, I applaud this bipartisan, bicameral effort to preserve and strengthen this important program.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to ask all Members to support S. 1557, very important legislation with bipartisan support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support S. 1557, the Children’s Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013.

S. 1557 reauthorizes the children’s hospital graduate medical education—or CHGME—program through fiscal year 2018 at an authorization level of \$300 million per year. The legislation also makes two important changes to the program. It provides for a limited expansion of the CHGME program to include children’s psychiatric hospitals and other children’s hospitals that have been unable—to date—to participate in the program for technical reasons. It also would allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to redistribute any remaining funding set aside for the

newly-eligible hospitals that goes unused based upon quality measures.

This program provides ongoing and consistent financial support to hospitals such as Children's Hospital of Los Angeles for the training of doctors who want to specialize in pediatrics. Over the years, the CHGME program has been enormously successful in reversing the significant decline in the number of pediatrician trainees across the country. Indeed, today, children's hospitals nationwide that are supported by the program train 49% of all pediatricians and 51% of all pediatric specialists.

Not surprisingly, the CHGME program has a decade-long history of bipartisan support. The program was first established in 1999 and has subsequently been reauthorized on two occasions. During the 112th Congress and earlier this Congress, the House passed stand alone legislation that would have reauthorized the CHGME program for another five years.

I am sure that Members on both sides of the aisle agree we want to make certain this important program remains in place, and we want to send a strong message about the importance of fully funding it.

I want to recognize and applaud the leadership of Ranking Member PALLONE and Chairman PITTS on CHGME legislation in the House. I also want to acknowledge the sponsors of the measure we are considering today—Senators CASEY and ISAKSON. And, of course, I commend Chairman UPTON, Chairman HARKIN, and Ranking Member ALEXANDER for making it possible for the House to consider this bipartisan legislation today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1557 and sending this legislation to the President for his signature.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1557, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013. This bill extends and reauthorizes funding for those children's hospitals with approved graduate medical residency training program. We must act now to promote and strengthen our country's pediatric workforce.

It is no secret that our country faces a growing shortage of physicians. It is important for Congress to recognize that investments in our future doctors will be essential to ensuring patient access and quality health outcomes. If we do not have the physicians to care for our sick and needy, no amount of technological advancement will be enough to provide health care services for everyone. The vote today recognizes this fact, and will confirm our desire to provide adequate future access to pediatric care.

As a physician of over 30 years, and one who has delivered over 5,200 babies, I understand the tremendous impact that pediatricians have on the health of our children. The bipartisan support and engagement of this legislation points to its truly important need and I urge my colleagues today to vote to ensure that an adequate funding stream is available to train tomorrow's pediatricians.

For these important reasons, I support S. 1557.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1557, the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Support Reauthorization Act. Passed in

the Senate in November, this legislation is vital to our children's health care system because it provides freestanding children's hospitals with federal funding for graduate medical education.

In my district, Children's Medical Center of Dallas trains 230 medical residents each year and is integral in addressing the current physician shortage in Texas. CHGME is vital to the continuation of the training program at Children's and at pediatric hospitals nationwide. CHGME recipient hospitals make up only one percent of all hospitals and train nearly half of all pediatricians.

Hospitals like Children's provide coordinated care for our nation's sickest kids regardless of their family's ability to pay. The CHGME program ensures that pediatricians and pediatric specialists are properly trained to care for these children, covering basic physician visits to complex, life-threatening cancers.

Since 1999, CHGME has helped to address the gap in federal support for pediatric training and specialty pediatric care. The CHGME program is a critical investment in strengthening our healthcare workforce and is essential to maintaining the gains in pediatric care. I urge my colleagues to support the CHGME program and vote in favor of S. 1557, the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Support Reauthorization Act.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of S. 1557, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013.

As every parent knows, it's very important to have a trusted doctor to turn to when their child gets sick. Since its inception in 1999, the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program—known as CHGME—has helped to make sure that a doctor is there and prepared to diagnose any symptoms our children face.

In fact, the program has been a true success. In the 1990s declines in pediatric training programs threatened the stability of the pediatric workforce. CHGME helped to reverse these dangerous declines. Even then, Congress, on a bipartisan manner recognized that if we didn't create and fund programs that would train doctors to treat these children, there won't be anyone left to take care of them.

That is why, the House overwhelmingly supported reauthorization of the program in the 112th and 113th Congresses, passing stand-alone legislation in September 2011, including the reauthorization in broader legislation in December 2012, and approving standalone legislation one year ago.

The legislation before us today—which has already cleared the Senate by unanimous consent—reauthorizes the program through fiscal year 2018 and makes two important changes to the program.

First, S. 1557 allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to undertake a limited program expansion to include children's psychiatric hospitals and other freestanding children's hospitals that have been ineligible to participate in the program for technical reasons.

Second, it gives the Secretary the authority to redistribute funding set-aside for the newly-eligible hospitals that is unused, based upon

quality measures that are consistent with residency program accreditation criteria and that are developed in consultation with stakeholders.

With this federal CHGME support, children's hospitals can play a key role in ensuring the continued growth of our nation's pediatric workforce. In 2012, the program supported the training of 6,015 resident physicians nationally. The program will also help to enhance hospitals' research capabilities and improve hospitals' ability to provide care to vulnerable and underserved children.

I want to thank Congressman JOE PITTS, the Chairman of our Health Subcommittee, for working with me on the House bill. Together with his help and leadership, we advanced House CHGME legislation upon convening the 113th Congress. A special thanks to Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member WAXMAN for their support in addressing this critical program.

I also want to commend Senators CASEY and ISAKSON for their leadership on this legislation in the Senate and hard work to address concerns raised about children's psychiatric hospitals and other children's hospitals being excluded from the program in a fair and balanced way.

Mr. Speaker, this program has proven results and it is past time that we finally reauthorize CHGME so that we can provide certainty to hospitals, doctors and their patients.

Children in our communities are counting on this program to train a future generation of pediatricians. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on S. 1557 and to send this measure to the President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1557.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Suspending the rules with regard to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4152, S. 2183, and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVISION OF COSTS OF LOAN GUARANTEES FOR UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4152) to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 34, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 149]
YEAS—378

Aderholt	Cleaver	Forbes
Amodei	Clyburn	Fortenberry
Bachmann	Coble	Foster
Bachus	Coffman	Fox
Barber	Cohen	Frankel (FL)
Barletta	Cole	Franks (AZ)
Barr	Collins (GA)	Frelinghuysen
Barrow (GA)	Collins (NY)	Fudge
Barton	Conaway	Gabbard
Bass	Connolly	Galleo
Beatty	Conyers	Garamendi
Becerra	Cook	Garcia
Benish	Cooper	Gardner
Bera (CA)	Cotton	Gerlach
Bilirakis	Courtney	Gibbs
Bishop (GA)	Cramer	Gingrey (GA)
Bishop (NY)	Crawford	Gohmert
Bishop (UT)	Crenshaw	Goodlatte
Black	Crowley	Granger
Blackburn	Cuellar	Green, Al
Blumenauer	Culberson	Green, Gene
Bonamici	Cummings	Griffin (AR)
Boustany	Daines	Griffith (VA)
Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)	Grijalva
Brady (TX)	Davis, Danny	Grimm
Braley (IA)	Davis, Rodney	Guthrie
Bridenstine	DeFazio	Hahn
Brooks (AL)	DeGette	Hall
Brooks (IN)	Delaney	Hanabusa
Brown (FL)	DeLauro	Harper
Brownley (CA)	DelBene	Harris
Bucshon	Denham	Hartzler
Burgess	Dent	Hastings (FL)
Bustos	DeSantis	Hastings (WA)
Butterfield	Deutch	Heck (NV)
Byrne	Diaz-Balart	Heck (WA)
Calvert	Dingell	Hensarling
Camp	Doggett	Higgins
Cantor	Doyle	Himes
Capito	Duckworth	Hinojosa
Capps	Duffy	Holt
Cardenas	Edwards	Honda
Carney	Ellison	Horsford
Carson (IN)	Elmiers	Hoyer
Carter	Engel	Hudson
Cartwright	Enyart	Huffman
Cassidy	Eshoo	Huizenga (MI)
Castor (FL)	Esty	Hultgren
Castro (TX)	Farenthold	Hunter
Chabot	Farr	Hurt
Chaffetz	Fattah	Israel
Chu	Fitzpatrick	Issa
Clark (MA)	Fleischmann	Jackson Lee
Clarke (NY)	Fleming	Jeffries
Clay	Flores	Jenkins

Johnson (GA)	Michaud	Schakowsky
Johnson (OH)	Miller (FL)	Schiff
Johnson, E. B.	Miller (MI)	Schneider
Johnson, Sam	Miller, George	Schock
Jolly	Moore	Schrader
Jordan	Moran	Schwartz
Kaptur	Murphy (FL)	Schweikert
Keating	Murphy (PA)	Scott (VA)
Kelly (IL)	Nadler	Scott, Austin
Kelly (PA)	Napolitano	Scott, David
Kennedy	Neal	Sensenbrenner
Kildee	Negrete McLeod	Serrano
Kilmer	Neugebauer	Sessions
Kind	Noem	Sewell (AL)
King (IA)	Nolan	Shea-Porter
King (NY)	Nugent	Sherman
Kinzinger (IL)	Nunes	Shimkus
Kirkpatrick	Nunnelee	Shuster
Kline	Olson	Simpson
Kuster	Owens	Sinema
LaMalfa	Palazzo	Sires
Lamborn	Pallone	Slaughter
Lance	Pascrell	Smith (MO)
Langevin	Paulsen	Smith (NE)
Lankford	Payne	Smith (NJ)
Larsen (WA)	Pearce	Smith (TX)
Larson (CT)	Pelosi	Smith (WA)
Latham	Perlmuter	Southerland
Latta	Perry	Speier
Lee (CA)	Peters (CA)	Stewart
Levin	Peters (MI)	Stivers
Lewis	Peterson	Stutzman
Lipinski	Petri	Swalwell (CA)
LoBiondo	Pingree (ME)	Takano
Loeb	Pittenger	Terry
Loftgren	Pitts	Thompson (CA)
Long	Pocan	Thompson (MS)
Lowenthal	Poe (TX)	Thompson (PA)
Lowe	Polis	Thornberry
Lucas	Pompeo	Tiberi
Luetkemeyer	Price (GA)	Tierney
Lujan Grisham	Price (NC)	Titus
(NM)	Quigley	Tonko
Lujan, Ben Ray	Rahall	Tsongas
(NM)	Rangel	Turner
Lummis	Reed	Upton
Maffei	Reichert	Valadao
Maloney,	Renacci	Van Hollen
Carolyn	Ribble	Vargas
Maloney, Sean	Richmond	Veasey
Marchant	Rigell	Vela
Marino	Roby	Wagner
Matheson	Roe (TN)	Walberg
Matsui	Rogers (AL)	Walden
McCarthy (CA)	Rogers (KY)	Walorski
McCarthy (NY)	Rogers (MI)	Walz
McCaul	Ros-Lehtinen	Wasserman
McClintock	Roskam	Schultz
McCollum	Ross	Waters
McDermott	Rothfus	Waxman
McGovern	Roybal-Allard	Webster (FL)
McHenry	Royce	Welch
McIntyre	Ruiz	Wenstrup
McKeon	Runyan	Williams
McKinley	Ruppersberger	Wilson (FL)
McMorris	Rush	Wilson (SC)
Rodgers	Ryan (OH)	Wittman
McNerney	Ryan (WI)	Wolf
Meadows	Sánchez, Linda	Womack
Meehan	T.	Yarmuth
Meeks	Sánchez, Loretta	Yoder
Messer	Sarbanes	Young (AK)
Mica	Scalise	Young (IN)

NAYS—34

Amash	Herrera Beutler	Rokita
Bentivolio	Holding	Rooney
Broun (GA)	Huelskamp	Salmon
DesJarlais	Jones	Sanford
Duncan (SC)	Labrador	Tipton
Duncan (TN)	Massie	Weber (TX)
Garrett	McAllister	Westmoreland
Gibson	Mullin	Whitfield
Gosar	Mulvaney	Woodall
Gowdy	O'Rourke	Yoho
Graves (GA)	Posey	
Grayson	Rice (SC)	

NOT VOTING—19

Buchanan	Fincher	Kingston
Campbell	Graves (MO)	Lynch
Capuano	Gutiérrez	Meng
Cicilline	Hanna	
Costa	Joyce	

Miller, Gary	Rohrabacher	Velázquez
Pastor (AZ)	Stockman	Visclosky

□ 1855

Messrs. POSEY, GARRETT, and GOWDY changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. LOFGREN, Messrs. OWENS and FOSTER changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO UKRAINE AND NEIGHBORING REGIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2183) United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 12, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 150]
YEAS—399

Aderholt	Carson (IN)	Denham
Amodei	Carter	Dent
Bachmann	Cartwright	DeSantis
Bachus	Cassidy	Deutch
Barber	Castor (FL)	Diaz-Balart
Barletta	Castro (TX)	Dingell
Barr	Chabot	Doggett
Barrow (GA)	Chaffetz	Doyle
Barton	Chu	Duckworth
Bass	Clark (MA)	Duffy
Beatty	Clarke (NY)	Duncan (SC)
Becerra	Clay	Edwards
Benish	Cleaver	Ellison
Bera (CA)	Clyburn	Elmiers
Bilirakis	Coble	Engel
Bishop (GA)	Coffman	Enyart
Bishop (NY)	Cohen	Eshoo
Bishop (UT)	Cole	Esty
Black	Collins (GA)	Farenthold
Blackburn	Collins (NY)	Farr
Blumenauer	Conaway	Fattah
Bonamici	Connolly	Fitzpatrick
Boustany	Conyers	Fleischmann
Brady (PA)	Cook	Fleming
Brady (TX)	Cooper	Flores
Braley (IA)	Cotton	Forbes
Bridenstine	Courtney	Fortenberry
Brooks (AL)	Cramer	Foster
Brooks (IN)	Crawford	Fox
Brown (FL)	Crenshaw	Frankel (FL)
Brownley (CA)	Crowley	Franks (AZ)
Bucshon	Cuellar	Frelinghuysen
Burgess	Culberson	Fudge
Bustos	Cummings	Gabbard
Butterfield	Daines	Galleo
Byrne	Davis (CA)	Garamendi
Calvert	Davis, Danny	Garcia
Camp	Davis, Rodney	Gardner
Cantor	DeFazio	Gerlach
Capito	DeGette	Gibbs
Capps	Delaney	Gibson
Cardenas	DeLauro	Gingrey (GA)
Carney	DelBene	Gohmert

Goodlatte	Maffei	Rothfus	NAYS—12		Lamborn	Neugebauer	Sensenbrenner
Gosar	Maloney,	Roybal-Allard	Duncan (TN)	Massie	Lankford	Noem	Serrano
Gowdy	Carolyn	Royce	Garrett	O'Rourke	Larsen (WA)	Nunes	Sessions
Granger	Maloney, Sean	Ruiz	Grayson	Westmoreland	Larson (CT)	Nunnelee	Shea-Porter
Graves (GA)	Marchant	Runyan	Jones	Yoho	Latham	O'Rourke	Sherman
Green, Al	Marino	Ruppersberger	NOT VOTING—20		Latta	Olson	Shimkus
Green, Gene	Matheson	Rush			Lee (CA)	Palazzo	Shuster
Griffin (AR)	Matsui	Ryan (OH)	Buchanan	Gutiérrez	Levin	Pascrell	Simpson
Griffith (VA)	McAllister	Ryan (WI)	Campbell	Hanna	Lewis	Payne	Sinema
Grijalva	McCarthy (CA)	Salmon	Capuano	Kingston	Lipinski	Pelosi	Smith (NE)
Grimm	McCarthy (NY)	Sánchez, Linda	Cicilline	Lynch	Loeb sack	Perlmutter	Smith (NJ)
Guthrie	McCaul	T.	Costa	Meng	Lofgren	Petri	Smith (TX)
Hahn	McClintock	Sanchez, Loretta	Fincher	Miller, Gary	Long	Pingree (ME)	Smith (WA)
Hall	McCollum	Sanford	Graves (MO)	Nunnelee	Lowenthal	Pittenger	Southerland
Hanabusa	McDermott	Sarbanes			Lucas	Pocan	Speier
Harper	McGovern	Scalise			Luetkemeyer	Poe (TX)	Stewart
Harris	McHenry	Schakowsky			Lujan Grisham	Polis	Stutzman
Hartzler	McIntyre	Schiff			(NM)	Pompeo	Takano
Hastings (FL)	McKeon	Schneider			Lujan, Ben Ray	Posey	Thornberry
Hastings (WA)	McKinley	Schock			(NM)	Price (NC)	Tiberi
Heck (NV)	McMorris	Schrader			Maloney,	Quigley	Tierney
Heck (WA)	Rodgers	Schwartz			Carolyn	Rangel	Titus
Hensarling	McNerney	Schweikert			Marino	Ribble	Tonko
Herrera Beutler	Meadows	Scott (VA)			Matsui	Rice (SC)	Tsongas
Higgins	Meehan	Scott, Austin			McAllister	Richmond	Turner
Himes	Meeks	Scott, David			McCarthy (CA)	Roby	Van Hollen
Hinojosa	Messer	Sensenbrenner			McCarthy (NY)	Rogers (AL)	Vargas
Holding	Mica	Serrano			McCaul	Rogers (KY)	Vela
Holt	Michaud	Sessions			McClintock	Rogers (MI)	Wagner
Honda	Miller (FL)	Sewell (AL)			McCollum	Rokita	Walden
Horsford	Miller (MI)	Shea-Porter			McHenry	Roskam	Walorski
Hoyer	Miller, George	Sherman			McIntyre	Ross	Walz
Hudson	Moore	Shimkus			McKeon	Rothfus	Wasserman
Huelskamp	Moran	Shuster			McKinley	Royce	Schultz
Huffman	Mullin	Simpson			McMorris	Ruiz	Waxman
Huizenga (MI)	Mulvaney	Sinema			Rodgers	Runyan	Webster (FL)
Hultgren	Murphy (FL)	Sires			McNerney	Ruppersberger	Welch
Hunter	Murphy (PA)	Slaughter			Meadows	Rush	Wenstrup
Hurt	Nadler	Smith (MO)			Meehan	Ryan (WI)	Westmoreland
Israel	Napolitano	Smith (NE)			Messer	Sanchez, Loretta	Whitfield
Issa	Neal	Smith (NJ)			Mica	Sanford	Williams
Jackson Lee	Negrete McLeod	Smith (TX)			Michaud	Schiff	Wilson (FL)
Jeffries	Neugebauer	Smith (WA)			Miller (MI)	Schneider	Wilson (SC)
Jenkins	Noem	Southerland			Moore	Schrader	Wolf
Johnson (GA)	Nolan	Speier			Moran	Schwartz	Womack
Johnson (OH)	Nugent	Stewart			Mullin	Schweikert	Yarmuth
Johnson, E. B.	Nunes	Stivers			Nadler	Scott (VA)	Young (IN)
Johnson, Sam	Olson	Stutzman			Neal	Scott, Austin	
Jolly	Owens	Swalwell (CA)					
Jordan	Palazzo	Takano					
Joyce	Pallone	Terry					
Kaptur	Pascrell	Thompson (CA)					
Keating	Paulsen	Thompson (MS)					
Kelly (IL)	Payne	Thompson (PA)					
Kelly (PA)	Pearce	Thornberry					
Kennedy	Pelosi	Tiberi					
Kildee	Perlmutter	Tierney					
Kilmer	Perry	Tipton					
Kind	Peters (CA)	Titus					
King (IA)	Peters (MI)	Tonko					
King (NY)	Peterson	Tsongas					
Kinzinger (IL)	Petri	Turner					
Kirkpatrick	Pingree (ME)	Upton					
Kline	Pittenger	Valadao					
Kuster	Pitts	Van Hollen					
Labrador	Pocan	Vargas					
LaMalfa	Poe (TX)	Veasey					
Lamborn	Polis	Vela					
Lance	Pompeo	Wagner					
Langevin	Posey	Walberg					
Lankford	Price (GA)	Walden					
Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)	Walorski					
Larson (CT)	Quigley	Walz					
Latham	Rahall	Wasserman					
Latta	Rangel	Schultz					
Lee (CA)	Reed	Waters					
Levin	Reichert	Waxman					
Lewis	Renacci	Weber (TX)					
Lipinski	Ribble	Webster (FL)					
LoBiondo	Rice (SC)	Welch					
Loeb sack	Richmond	Wenstrup					
Lofgren	Rigell	Whitfield					
Long	Roby	Williams					
Lowenthal	Roe (TN)	Wilson (FL)					
Lowey	Rogers (AL)	Wilson (SC)					
Lucas	Rogers (KY)	Wolf					
Luetkemeyer	Rogers (MI)	Womack					
Lujan Grisham	Rokita	Woodall					
(NM)	Rooney	Yarmuth					
Luján, Ben Ray	Ros-Lehtinen	Yoder					
(NM)	Roskam	Young (AK)					
Lummis	Ross	Young (IN)					

□ 1903

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 150, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 261, nays 140, answered "present" 2, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 151]

YEAS—261

Aderholt	Coble	Frelinghuysen
Amodei	Cole	Fudge
Bachmann	Collins (NY)	Gabbard
Bachus	Cook	Galleo
Barletta	Cooper	Gibbs
Barr	Courtney	Goodlatte
Barrow (GA)	Crawford	Granger
Barton	Crenshaw	Grayson
Beatty	Crowley	Grimm
Becerra	Cuellar	Guthrie
Bera (CA)	Culberson	Hahn
Bilirakis	Cummings	Hall
Bishop (GA)	Daines	Hanabusa
Blackburn	Davis (CA)	Harper
Blumenauer	Davis, Danny	Hastings (WA)
Bonamici	DeGette	Heck (WA)
Boustany	Delaney	Hensarling
Brady (TX)	DeLauro	Higgins
Braley (IA)	DelBene	Himes
Brooks (AL)	Dent	Hinojosa
Brooks (IN)	DesJarlais	Holt
Brown (FL)	Deutsch	Horsford
Bustos	Diaz-Balart	Huffman
Butterfield	Duffy	Hultgren
Byrne	Doggett	Hunter
Calvert	Doyle	Hurt
Camp	Duncan (TN)	Issa
Cantor	Edwards	Johnson (GA)
Capito	Ellison	Johnson, Sam
Capps	Engel	Jolly
Cárdenas	Enyart	Kaptur
Carney	Eshoo	Kelly (IL)
Carson (IN)	Esty	Kelly (PA)
Carter	Farr	Kennedy
Cartwright	Fattah	Kildee
Castro (TX)	Fleischmann	King (IA)
Chabot	Forbes	King (NY)
Chaffetz	Fortenberry	Kline
Clark (MA)	Foster	Kuster
Clay	Frankel (FL)	Labrador
Cleaver	Franks (AZ)	LaMalfa

NAYS—140

Amash	Green, Al	Murphy (PA)
Barber	Green, Gene	Napolitano
Bass	Griffin (AR)	Negrete McLeod
Benishek	Griffith (VA)	Nolan
Bentivolio	Harris	Nugent
Bishop (NY)	Hartzler	Pallone
Bishop (UT)	Hastings (FL)	Paulsen
Brady (PA)	Heck (NV)	Pearce
Bridenstine	Herrera Beutler	Perry
Broun (GA)	Holding	Peters (CA)
Brownley (CA)	Honda	Peters (MI)
Bucshon	Hoyer	Peterson
Burgess	Hudson	Pitts
Castor (FL)	Huelskamp	Price (GA)
Clarke (NY)	Huizenga (MI)	Rahall
Clyburn	Israel	Reed
Coffman	Jackson Lee	Reichert
Cohen	Jeffries	Renacci
Collins (GA)	Jenkins	Rigell
Conaway	Johnson (OH)	Roe (TN)
Connolly	Johnson, E. B.	Rooney
Cotton	Jones	Ros-Lehtinen
DeVries	Jordan	Roybal-Allard
DeFazio	Joyce	Ryan (OH)
Denham	Keating	Salmon
DeSantis	Kilmer	Sánchez, Linda
Duckworth	Kind	T.
Duffy	Kinzinger (IL)	Sarbanes
Duncan (SC)	Kirkpatrick	Scalise
Ellmers	Lance	Schakowsky
Farenthold	Langevin	Schock
Fitzpatrick	LoBiondo	Sewell (AL)
Fleming	Lummis	Slaughter
Flores	Maffei	Smith (MO)
Fox	Maloney, Sean	Stivers
Garamendi	Marchant	Swalwell (CA)
Garcia	Massie	Terry
Gardner	Matheson	Thompson (CA)
Garrett	McDermott	Thompson (MS)
Gerlach	McGovern	Thompson (PA)
Gibson	Meeks	Tipton
Gingrey (GA)	Miller (FL)	Upton
Gosar	Miller, George	Valadao
Gowdy	Mulvaney	Veasey
Graves (GA)	Murphy (FL)	Walberg

Weber (TX) Woodall Yoho
Wittman Yoder Young (AK)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Gohmert Owens

NOT VOTING—28

Black Fincher Pastor (AZ)
Buchanan Graves (MO) Rohrabacher
Campbell Grijalva Scott, David
Capuano Gutiérrez Sires
Cassidy Hanna Stockman
Chu Kingston Velázquez
Cicilline Lowey Visclosky
Conyers Lynch Waters
Costa Meng
Cramer Miller, Gary

□ 1912

Messrs. PALLONE and PERRY changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2575, SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT OF 2014

Mr. BURGESS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-397) on the resolution (H. Res. 530) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2575) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 531) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 531

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Mr. Doggett and Mr. Kildee.

(2) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE.—Mr. Takano.

(3) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Ms. Clark of Massachusetts.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1915

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2988

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor from H.R. 2998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

HONORING ANDY GRIFFIN

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andy Griffin of Glen Carbon, Illinois, for being named the American Association of Nurse Anesthetist's Advocate of the Year.

Andy currently serves as president-elect on the board for the Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthetists, as well as their Federal political director. Andy also serves as the director of the Nurse Anesthesia program at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Andy uses his dual roles as an advocate and a teacher to bring young nurse anesthetist students to Washington, D.C. each year to meet with their congressional offices.

In his spare time Andy volunteers at his church in Maryville and mentors children every summer at the Lake Williamson Christian Camp. He uses his training and passion in music to help children connect with their faith.

In addition to mentoring children within his community, Andy is a loving husband to his wife, Valerie, and a great father to their four children. Andy's coworkers, family, and friends can attest to his selflessness and tireless devotion to helping others and advocating on their behalf.

We should all aspire to be as compassionate and dedicated as Andy Griffin. I am proud to call him my constituent and even more proud to call Andy Griffin my friend.

HEALTH CARE TO ALL AMERICANS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, they said it couldn't be done, but as of yesterday and early this morning, 7,000,041 individuals here in the United States accessed and enrolled in the Affordable Care Act.

Is it working? Do people want health care? Yes, they do. Do they want access to the Affordable Care Act? Yes, they do. These numbers will probably grow when the State exchanges begin to report their various individuals that enrolled under their system.

In the State of Texas, going all the way from last week until the lines around Reliant Stadium, to individuals staying until 10 o'clock at the Community of Faith Church, which I was at with Bishop James Dixon, to the Harris County Department of Education and 500 or 600 there, yes, we want affordable

care and the Affordable Care Act to give health care to all Americans.

Now, we need to tell the States that you have left out millions of those who could benefit from the expanded Medicaid. I ask Governor Perry of the State of Texas to stop denying the millions of Texans who would be eligible under the expanded Medicaid to have health insurance. Stop denying them health insurance. This is a celebration. More will come, and it is good to know that the work that was done is benefiting Americans.

FOREIGN CRIMINALS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a lady in my district wrote about the administration's new immigration enforcement policy—or, rather, the lack thereof. She is worried, and so am I. The government claims that it prioritizes deporting criminal aliens before all others who are illegally in the country.

Really?

According to news reports in 2013, nearly 68,000 foreign criminals were caught, charged, and/or convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor then released back onto the streets of America. Well, why? The administration should follow the law and deport foreign criminals and not let them loose.

There is more. In some instances, a criminal illegal goes to a U.S. prison and then he is ordered deported, and their home country won't take them back. That is why I have introduced legislation to withhold diplomatic visas to nations who won't take back their lawfully deported criminals. The administration should just simply enforce the law.

Foreign criminals who have committed crimes in America belong behind bars, and then they should be sent back where they came from.

And that's just the way it is.

AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am wearing blue today, joining people around the globe in recognition of Autism Awareness Day as we bring light to a disorder that affects 70 million families worldwide, 1 in 68 children in the United States.

Autism Day is a day of hope for the mother and father whose sweet baby doesn't smile or babble, for the child who rocks obsessively, for the teen locked in his own mind who is shunned by classmates, and the aging parents who fear their adult child's care when they are gone.

Awareness is about increasing knowledge, which means early diagnosis and early intervention, and it is about love for all our precious children. On this day of awareness, Mr. Speaker, let's all commit to work together in a bipartisan manner to fund autism research and reduce the financial strains for Americans with disabilities.

PROTECTING SENIORS FROM MEDICARE CUTS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on an issue that affects hundreds of thousands of seniors in Minnesota.

Over half of the medical-eligible seniors in my district have chosen now to enroll in Medicare Advantage plans to meet their health care needs. The Medicare Advantage program has been a resounding success by providing better quality care with more options. However, the proposed cuts to the program, if enacted, will now mean that seniors in Minnesota could see their premiums increase by nearly \$1,000 annually. On top of that, seniors will face a loss of benefits and less choice.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take steps to strengthen our Medicare system and ensure it stays solvent for generations to come, and these proposed cuts are not the answer. By encouraging more health care coordination, creating better incentives for providers, and using new technologies, we can lower costs while providing more improved care. These are areas where we can find bipartisan agreement to make progress and make sure that our seniors are protected from these devastating cuts.

REMEMBERING LANCE CORPORAL ANDREW SILVA

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of 23-year-old fallen Marine Lance Corporal Andrew Silva of Union City, California, who was tragically killed last week by a drunk driver just over 1 month after returning home from Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Silva was a 2009 graduate of James Logan High School, where he played football. After high school, he joined the Marine Corps Reserves, where he most recently served in a combat logistics battalion based in San Jose. In February, Lance Corporal Silva returned from a deployment to the Helmand province in Afghanistan, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Although his life was cut far too short by a heartbreaking tragedy, Cor-

poral Silva and his service to the country was long, and he will be remembered by many. His work as a marine illustrates the heroism of the servicemembers across our country who are serving in the military to support freedom everywhere.

Lance Corporal Silva is survived by his wife and his 2-year-old son. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. May Lance Corporal Silva rest in peace.

ONGOING CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the United States must stand in solidarity with human rights in Venezuela and against the repressive actions of Maduro. Since protest began almost 2 months ago, there have been nearly 40 killed at the hands of this brutal regime.

At the Organization of American States here in Washington, DC, opposition leader Maria Corina Machado was prevented from speaking the truth about the democracy crisis in Venezuela. And as a result of her appearance at the OAS, Maduro's top henchman, Diosdado Cabello, stripped her of her position in the Venezuelan legislature. The highest kangaroo court backed this attempt to silence dissent, proving that it, too, is nothing more than a political tool used by Maduro to attack the opposition.

Today, Maria Corina, joined by thousands of supporters of democracy, marched to protest this politically motivated act, but were met with tear gas from Maduro's security thugs.

These actions must not go unpunished. It is shameful that the Obama administration continues to neglect the suffering of the Venezuelan people. The time to sanction human rights violators in Venezuela is now.

SCOTIA-GLENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize the Scotia-Glenville High School boys' basketball team for winning the New York State class A high school State championship on its way to becoming New York State federation cup champions. These young men completed one of the best seasons in section 2 and New York State basketball history.

Led by Coach Jim Giammettei, the Scotia-Glenville Tartans not only became State champions but amassed a perfect 27-0 record on its way to becoming the best of the public, private,

and independent institutions in New York State.

These students will take this exemplary leadership and teamwork with them to face future challenges as they continue to make our communities and capital region of New York proud.

Again, I congratulate the Scotia-Glenville Tartans on a perfect season and this remarkable achievement.

CONGRATULATIONS A.C. STEERE ELEMENTARY

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, it is a great accomplishment when a school is honored for having a principal of the year or a teacher of the year or even a student of the year. A.C. Steere Elementary School in Shreveport has all three.

Congratulations to Principal Kim Derrick, who was named Caddo Parish Principal of the Year. Her passion for education has been instrumental in making A.C. Steere a great neighborhood school.

The third grade language arts teacher, Glynis Johnston, is the Caddo Parish Teacher of the Year. Each day she brings a positive, motivational, and innovative approach to her classroom.

The fruit of the labor of a great principal and excellent teacher is often seen in the accomplishments of their students, and fifth-grader Tindol Hamm is a fine example. She is a gifted young lady who was named Caddo Parish Student of the Year. Tindol works hard at academics, and she is active in her church and in sports.

Congratulations, A.C. Steere Elementary. I am proud to see you rewarded for your excellence.

THANK YOU, AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my fellow Americans, the results are in with the closing of the Affordable Care Act's first-time open enrollment period: over 7 million Americans have now secured quality, affordable health care coverage for themselves and their families.

I want to congratulate everyone who signed up. I personally called over 30,000 people to encourage them to sign up, and worked at one of the sign-up sites over the weekend.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, no American could ever again be denied coverage for a preexisting condition; no woman can ever again be charged a higher premium just because she is a woman; 3 million young Americans age 26 and under can stay on their

family plan; no American ever again will have to worry that one major illness will bankrupt their family; no senior will ever have to pay a copayment for key preventative services such as cancer screening.

I want to thank everyone for signing up and not going for the okeydoke.

□ 1930

OBAMACARE FAILS EXPECTATIONS AND AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, as the flawed enrollment period for ObamaCare ended, a CBS poll revealed that a majority of Americans disapprove of the President's health care takeover law, which destroys jobs. Constituents living in South Carolina's Second Congressional District agree—ObamaCare will not work.

Cindy from Lexington writes:

I am so distressed about the extremely high cost of insurance now that the so-called Affordable Care Act is in place . . . Our insurance has increased \$600. This is ridiculous. It is really hurting our family and is causing a huge strain on our budget. I am so disappointed in this law and the fact it was able to pass. Is there anything you are doing or can do to help families like ours? Everyone else I know is suffering because of it.

These real-life experiences convey why Americans are fed up with ObamaCare. We must repeal and replace this train wreck of a law so that these burdens no longer hammer down on middle class families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

IRENE LANCASTER

(Mr. NUNNELEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ms. Irene Lancaster of Columbus, Mississippi, and to wish her a happy birthday tomorrow.

In fact, I stand in this body today because of the encouragement of teachers like Ms. Lancaster. Her passion and enthusiasm for American history was contagious. As an eighth-grade student at Joe Cook Middle School in Columbus, Mississippi, she instilled in me a love of American history that I carry today. I can still hear in my mind her voice as she talked about the forcefulness of President Andrew Jackson.

She thought she was teaching names and dates and places, but what Ms. Lancaster was really doing was preparing leaders—business leaders, community leaders, leaders in medicine and in energy—and even a United States Congressman.

So happy birthday, Ms. Lancaster.

In saluting her, I salute all of those teachers every day who are preparing the next generation of American leaders.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALMON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the President proposes a 25 percent increase in the minimum wage. ObamaCare, however, is resulting in as much as a 25 percent decrease in the pay of millions of hourly workers. Because of the 30 hours is full time provision, too many Americans are not able to work the hours they need to support their families. By passing my bill, the Save American Workers Act, we can create an America that works simply by restoring the traditional 40-hour workweek.

I am joined this evening in this Special Order by my colleagues, Representatives KELLY of Pennsylvania and BARR of Kentucky, but so many people have helped bring this important issue to the attention of the American people at large, to rank and file Americans, who during this down economy are looking for as many hours as they can get and for as much take-home pay as they might receive.

Let me just kick this evening off by explaining in some level of detail what this 30-hour provision is because, frankly, for the uninitiated, it is a bit foreign for most of us to consider full-time employment to be a 30-hour workweek, but that is the case under the Affordable Care Act. In fact, the Affordable Care Act mandates employers provide ObamaCare-sanctioned health insurance to all of their employees should they employ 50 or more individuals who work 30 or more hours per week.

We have all heard from employers about the adverse consequences—unintended, I expect—created by this 30 hours is full time provision. The unintended consequence is chiefly that so many employers, especially those who are squeezed by tight profit margins or those who just wouldn't be financially viable entities, are moving their employees down below this 30-hour threshold. They are reducing the num-

ber of hours that their hourly employees can work so that they don't have to provide ObamaCare-sanctioned health insurance.

The employer mandate has been delayed by the administration twice, so it is clear that this is ill-considered policy. While the White House says the delays are to help employers, it should be even more apparent to those of us who visit with our constituents on an almost daily basis that it is the low- and middle-income worker who is being most adversely impacted by this employer mandate.

The real result of the 30-hour bill—let me be clear—is fewer jobs, reduced hours, reduced wages, less take-home pay for things like food and shelter and clothing for Americans who need it most. I can cite plenty of examples in my district in which this is having a very serious impact at this early stage of ObamaCare's implementation. I live in Bloomington, Indiana.

Indiana University is feeling the pinch of this and is reducing some hours of some of their hourly employees, from custodians to cafeteria workers and others, because they cannot remain a financially viable entity, as taxpayers expect it to be, should it have to comply with this employer mandate as it is currently constructed.

Ivy Tech Community College is also feeling the pinch. In fact, 4,500 of their adjunct professors are losing hours. This is resulting in reduced course offerings for many students, but more importantly for those adjunct professors, they need the wages, they need the hours. Should Ivy Tech decide to continue on with business as usual, they would be eating all sorts of compliance costs to try and measure the hours of their hourly employees and ensure that they are complying with the law. They have done the math. They have figured out that this 30 hours is full time provision amounts to a \$12 million unfunded mandate, courtesy of Uncle Sam.

I have heard from 39 public school corporations in Indiana about the adverse consequences of this 30 hours is full time provision. In fact, they are suing the Federal Government, along with the State of Indiana, because of this provision, which they say will have catastrophic financial consequences on their operations, on their balance sheets.

From a practical perspective, the majority of employers who voluntarily provide coverage to their employees do so for their full-time employees, and they do so because they want to attract the absolute best talent they can within the labor market. This system has succeeded in providing coverage for nearly 160 million Americans. It is working. In fact, this is the largest source of health coverage in America, but the 30-hour rule radically disrupts this success and this model. Many people will lose their coverage, especially

your lower-skilled workers, often your entry-level opportunities where younger workers get valuable work experience and start to work their way up the economic ladder. We need to protect the wages of Americans who depend on them the most. That is what this bipartisan effort, the Save American Workers Act, is all about.

I am proud to be joined in this effort by Representative BARR, who has shown some leadership on this issue, and by Representative KELLY, who was out front very early with respect to this issue. I look forward to engaging in some dialogue this evening and in turning over the mike to them to get their State level perspectives, but I think it is worth noting, because I do want to recognize them, the fair-minded Members among us who look for opportunities to work across the aisle.

Representative LIPINSKI, a Democrat from Illinois, has shown a lot of leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives with respect to this issue. There are a handful of other Democrat Members who have signed on to the Save American Workers Act. It is my fervent hope, not for my interest but for the interests of my constituents and for those like them around the country, that other Democrats will join the vast majority of Republican Members of Congress in supporting this bill.

With that, I would just invite the dialogue of Mr. BARR, my good colleague in his first term—but he seems far more experienced than that—to speak to the Save American Workers Act.

Mr. BARR. I thank my friend, the gentleman from Indiana, Congressman YOUNG, for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, it is an important issue because ObamaCare is hurting American families. It is hurting American employers. It is hurting American workers who are struggling to make ends meet, to put food on the table. This is a bad economy. We continue to suffer from a bad economy despite 5 years having passed after the financial crisis.

The project of ObamaCare—the project of the Affordable Care Act—is really the project of the entire Obama Presidency. It is a project to determine whether or not Big Government can solve big problems. It is a project to determine whether or not the Federal Government can micromanage one-sixth of the American economy. It is a project to determine whether or not it is a good idea to allow the government to take away choices from the American people—from American workers and from American small business owners.

Wages in this country have gone down over \$2,300 in the last several years. The labor participation rate in this country—the percentage of working-aged people actually in the work-

force—is the lowest it has been in 35 years, and 75 percent of the American people are living paycheck to paycheck. This is not a sign and these statistics are not indicators of a healthy economy. This is a very unhealthy economy.

Why? Why haven't we seen a robust economic recovery in which American families, American businesses, American entrepreneurs, and American workers can achieve the potential that they deserve, can achieve the opportunities, can reach out and take advantage of the American Dream—why is that objective so illusive for so many Americans today?

Unfortunately, we all know people who are currently looking for employment and who are unable to care for their families as they would like. On top of insurance cancellation notices, higher premiums, broken promises, a malfunctioning Web site, and reduced health care choices, Americans are now seeing as a result of ObamaCare that the law is forcing job creators to cut employees' hours just so that they can comply with the law, just so that they can prevent any kind of sanctions or penalties that they would incur as a result of running afoul of the provisions of the law. Thanks to ObamaCare, millions of these already struggling Americans are having an even harder time finding work, caring for their families, putting food on their tables because, again, ObamaCare is putting full-time work and decent wages out of reach.

Mr. Speaker, we are moving from a full-time work economy to a part-time work economy, and it is largely because of ObamaCare. I speak with small business owners across central and eastern Kentucky all the time, and what they tell me is very consistent: they want to put people back to work; they want to invest and grow their businesses; they want to be able to provide good, quality health care to their employees and to their workers, who are the backbone of the American Dream, who are the backbone of their entrepreneurial success. ObamaCare is holding them back. Employers in my district and all over America consistently cite ObamaCare as one of the top reasons for planned layoffs and their reluctance to hire more workers.

Think about that.

Why on Earth in a down economy—in the worst economy—and with the worst labor participation rate in 35 years would lawmakers in Washington want to punish American businesses—American entrepreneurs, American job creators—for hiring more people? Yet that is exactly what this flawed law does.

□ 1945

This law entangles small businesses in a web of rules and regulations, making it expensive and nearly impossible to invest in new workers.

In particular, ObamaCare's 30-hour rule, which defines full-time work as

averaging only 30 hours per week, is resulting in fewer jobs, reduced hours, and less opportunities for so many Americans.

This 30-hour rule forces employers who have been providing coverage—in some cases, for decades—which is good, quality health care, to fundamentally alter their benefit plans, to drop coverage altogether, or shift more of their workforce to part time by cutting workers' hours below 30 a week because they can't afford to offer the health insurance mandated by ObamaCare.

The Wall Street Journal had an editorial and called these the 49ers and the 29ers—49ers because these are businesses that will not hire more than 49 employees because ObamaCare will punish the employer if they hire more than 49 employees, 29ers because employers will not and cannot hire people for more than 29 hours a week.

So these are the 29ers. These are people who are struggling to take care of their families. This is hurting people.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Reclaiming my time, I sometimes like to distill the narrative down to some numbers.

You just mentioned the movement down to 29 hours a week. Let's consider the Kentuckian or the Hoosier who is currently working 39 hours a week, and because of this provision, their employer is unable, under the current economic conditions, to offer them ObamaCare-sanctioned health insurance.

They are incentivized to move that hardworking hourly work down to 29 hours. That is a loss of 10 hours per week. Over the course of a month, that worker is losing an entire work week.

How is an hourly worker that has to pay for food and shelter and clothing and other basic expenditures supposed to take care of their family?

It is imminently unfair, and someone needs to stand up for our low- and middle-income workers. I think that is the essence of what this is all about.

Mr. BARR. Absolutely. I totally agree. You are absolutely right. I would commend the gentleman for being one of those leaders in our country who is standing up for the working people of this country.

I would just note the president of the Teamsters Union, James Hoffa, has said that this rule will “destroy the foundation of the 40-hour work week that is the backbone of the American middle class.”

In short, ObamaCare is hurting the very people that it was intended to help. I don't think this is a partisan issue. There are well-meaning people on both sides of the aisle who want to help working families make it a little easier and get by a little easier and put food on the table and earn a living wage, but this law is punishing people for working hard. Hard work is what made this country great.

Why would we disincentivize hard work? Yet that is exactly what ObamaCare does.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. If I could interject because I think you hit on a key point. This isn't ideological. This ought not be partisan at all. In fact, we have a number of Democratic cosponsors. I am gratified by their intellectual honesty, their courage, their support. They are doing the right thing here. They are looking out for their constituents.

We have all been asked to come here and get something done while people are feeling pain. This was certainly an unintended consequence, is my reading. I don't want to impugn the motives of those who hurriedly passed this Affordable Care Act. I don't think they intended this.

So we repeal the provision. We replace it with something that makes sense and restores wages for workers that need it most.

Mr. BARR. Absolutely. This is commonsense reform.

Again, I commend Congressman YOUNG and other colleagues who have sponsored the Save American Workers Act. This is a simple piece of legislation. It would simply repeal the 30-hour definition of full-time employment in the Affordable Care Act, in ObamaCare, and restore the traditional 40-hour definition.

It makes perfect sense. It would help employees who are seeking the hours that they need to take care of themselves and their families. It would lower the burden and the regulatory costs on employers.

It would allow American businesses to be more productive. It will allow American workers to be more productive. It will get to the heart of why our economy is not where it should be today.

I really appreciate the gentleman's leadership on this issue.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Thank you for not just your support, but your vocal support, engagement, leadership, and education of your colleagues and others who are important stakeholders with respect to this issue. Thank you so much for being with us here this evening.

I would like to pivot off of your discussion of this down economy. We are at a 35-year low in labor force participation. None of us is happy with the rate of job creation or business creation.

One of my constituents was sharing with me recently they saw a stat indicating that business creation and entrepreneurship are at a 15-year low. Clearly, we are experiencing the hardest of times.

The way to grow an economy, based on my economic background, is not to reduce the hours of workers and impose new compliance costs on our employers. Instead, we need to be removing obstacles to realizing the sorts of income that people need and opportunities to work your way up that eco-

nomic ladder. Unfortunately, this goes in the opposite direction.

I am pleased today to be joined by my good colleague, MIKE KELLY of Pennsylvania, who partnered with me in helping to draft this legislation. He has proven himself to be a fine leader in the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman. It is really a pleasure to be with you tonight.

Representative YOUNG's piece of legislation, H.R. 2575, is really something that I think that perhaps if more of us who serve in this body were actually people who experienced what it was like to be in the private sector, more of us would understand.

I was very fortunate to have a family business, and I can tell you, from an employer standpoint, that one of the greatest thrills you have in your life is to sit across the desk from somebody who has come in and applied for a job and to be able to say to them: you're hired, we need you on board, we need you to be part of our team to make the business successful.

You can see in their eyes, at that moment, that they look at this opportunity as: my goodness, now I can put a roof over the head of my family, I can put food on the table, and I can put clothes on their back, and I can plan for a future.

Now, why in the world would we all of a sudden say: You know what? We are going to change that dynamic because it is no longer going to be a 40-hour week; we are going to dial it back to 30 hours a week.

You say to yourself: How did anybody come up with those numbers? Why would they come up with those numbers, and what is the benefit of those numbers?

The answer is that it helps make the Affordable Care Act work. It doesn't help America work. It helps a piece of flawed legislation work. It is about the dynamics of the math.

It is not about the dynamics of allowing men and women to go to work and be able to go home at night and say: I went to work today for you, I went to work to make your life better.

You look at some of the numbers, Mr. YOUNG. The 30-hour rule puts 2.6 million workers with a median income of under \$30,000 at risk for losing jobs or hours. Eighty-nine percent of these workers impacted by the rule do not have a college degree. 63 percent of these folks are women, and over half have a high school diploma or less.

When I look back at my district, District Three in Pennsylvania, they are hardworking good American people. I have no idea how they are registered. I have no idea how they vote. I have no idea what they think about at night and what they pray for at night before they lay their head on the pillow.

I do know who they are, basically, because they are all of the same ilk.

They are the same people. The blood that courses through their veins is pretty much the same. They believe in America. They believe in paying their fair share. They believe in lifting the load and helping out.

Barb Wilson works for the Arc in Mercer County, Pennsylvania. This is a phenomenal organization that assists people with developmental disabilities. Barb is a part-time employee who used to work 30 to 35 hours a week.

Her employer recently informed her and her coworkers that all part-time employees will be having their hours cut to around just 20 hours a week because of the Affordable Care Act's employer mandate.

Barb tells me that she was shocked when she heard this news. Because of her hours being cut, she says she will no longer be able to afford the cost of living.

I have more people in my district that come to me and talk to me. One of the things—and I think you found the same thing in Indiana, and I am sure Mr. BARR has in Kentucky—I have people that say: You can use my story, but you can't use my name.

Now, that is a very chilling effect to think that, in this country, the United States of America, people are afraid to be identified with their story because they are afraid of a retribution from the government. That is just totally unacceptable.

One of those people is in the fast food business. How about this?

In 2012, 92 of its 993 employees worked more than 30 hours a week. Think about that. All of these 92 employees have had their hours cut to less than 30 hours.

On top of that, more than 30 employees have had access to their health insurance plans ended. Even though their plans made sense for them, they did not meet ObamaCare's standards, and so the company could not afford to keep them.

This doesn't make any sense. At a time when we want to get America to work, when we want to increase jobs, why would we make it harder for those people to accomplish those goals? It just doesn't make sense.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. It makes absolutely no sense. For example, I have a school corporation in Washington County, Indiana, which I recently visited. I was visiting their superintendent and members of their school board.

I don't know their politics, but I certainly know that they care about children. They care about all the employees who work for them. They were absolutely distraught.

They said: Congressman, I don't know what we're going to do with respect to this 30 hours is full time provision. When we think about our substitute teachers, we are actually contemplating having to reduce the number of hours in the middle of classes because we don't have a large enough

pool of substitute teachers available to draw on.

We can literally have somebody substituting for half of a class. In order to fall under the 30 hours is full time provision in the Affordable Care Act, these folks are having to leave early.

The students are unattended. They are not being educated. Parents are certainly upset. It is imposing undue costs upon the school corporation in order to track the hours of their employees.

This is the sort of Rube Goldberg sort of contraption that only could be conceived of in Washington, D.C.

I cannot make sense of why anyone would oppose trying to change this provision, as we have done in this bill. Some have speculated that it is a matter of saving face. You pass a big bill; you pass it quickly.

It perhaps was most ill-advised in any sort of fundamental change to the bill. Any sort of repeal of a major provision within the bill and a replacement with something that works better undermines the credibility not only of the bill itself, but of those who supported it originally.

I would like to think better of my colleagues than that. I think there has to be something else at work here, but I don't know how to explain to that superintendent and those concerned school board members in Washington County, Indiana, why others won't sign on to this.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I agree with you. In my district, Butler Area School District has had to implement procedures to keep all of its part-time employees working less than 30 hours. This hurts education.

In New Castle, Lawrence County, their local government has reduced all of its employees to just 28 hours.

So we talk about these things. You and I just got here 3 years ago. You look at a government that is supposed to be a citizen government—a government that works for the people and does things in the people's best interest—and then you look at this piece of legislation and say: My goodness, how did we come up with this?

The answer is always: There are unintended consequences.

I understand that there are unintended consequences, but they are not always painful consequences. If we are going to do anything here, we better start responding when we hurt the people we represent.

We also better understand that these unintended consequences are also fixable. They are not unfixable. Why wouldn't we fix it if you know it is hurting someone, if you know it is taking away opportunity?

I talked about being in the private sector. When we bring people on board, it is mutually beneficial. It is to share in success.

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I can tell you that the gap right now has widened between those who own businesses and run them and those associates who work there. We have put them at odds with each other because now it becomes: well, you know what? The people that employ you really don't care enough about you. And you say: my goodness. No, no, that is not true. That is not true.

I can tell you from the position that I have been in from a business that my dad started in 1953 after being a parts-picker in a Chevrolet warehouse and coming back after the war and starting a little Chevrolet dealership and watching it grow into something where we have 110 people that every 2 weeks get a check, I know that when they are successful, the business is successful; and when the business is successful, the community is successful, because we all participate at every level.

Now, why would you destroy a model that is so perfect? Why would you destroy something that is so fundamentally strong? Why would you take apart the American Dream in order to have a flawed piece of legislation meet the metrics that this is looking for? It just doesn't make sense.

In a town that you and I have discussed many times is devoid of common sense, we need to take a look at it, because if our real concern is the next election and not the direction that we are going in, then we are here for the wrong purposes.

So I want to thank the gentleman. I have got to tell you, we talked long and we talked at great length about the effects this was having.

H.R. 2575 corrects a flawed idea. It just makes sense what you are doing, sir. And I would just tell you that, for all of those thousands and thousands and millions of workers who have been hurt by this law, our ability to fix it, which is what some of our colleagues say—I know you don't like it; I know you don't agree with it, but help us fix it—we need to fix it, not so much for a political agenda but for the people we represent.

I thank you for what you are doing. I think that this piece of legislation is timely and is needed, and your dedication to the American worker and to the American families is to be heralded.

Thank you so much.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

This is not a political issue. There is an old saying that good policy is good politics. Those who are driven primarily by political considerations—and I think there are, frankly, few that are primarily driven by those—they need to be on the right side of history. They need to be adopting a more optimal policy with respect to how we treat our low- and middle-income workers, so I would invite their support.

Please understand, even in this sometimes shrill, divided Congress, even in this sometimes divided Nation, there are still things we can agree upon. There are commonsensical solutions that we can adopt. There are problems that we can solve.

Repealing the first ever definition of “full time” in full law at 30 hours and moving it up to 40 hours, the traditional full-time workweek standard, just makes common sense. It is going to restore wages for millions of workers. \$75 billion in foregone wages will be realized if we pass the Save American Workers Act.

Now, there has been quite a bit of talk about wages in this town and beyond in recent weeks, the minimum wage, in particular. I didn't come here to talk specifically about the minimum wage, but let me just illustrate the impact of this 40-hour provision. Let's consider the worker who works at the Federal minimum wage, which few actually do, but \$7.25 an hour. So many States have a higher minimum wage. So many people get multiple jobs and, you know, gosh, my heart goes out to them. I appreciate their work ethic. But as a proportion of our economy, most people are not working at the \$7.25 rate.

But let's suppose someone is and they work 40 hours a week. That is \$290 in take-home pay per week. Now, if we were to raise the minimum wage as the President suggests to \$10.20 but this person got dropped down to 29 hours a week, guess what they would be making? Roughly \$290 a week. The same thing.

So, for those who see this as a sort of an issue that is somehow partisan but care deeply about the issue of the minimum wage, which I think can create distortions in the economy and kill jobs and so forth—that is a separate debate that I suspect we will have—but those who care deeply about this ought to be on board with this 40 hours is full time legislation, the Save American Workers Act, so I would invite their bipartisan support.

I note that we have just about every Republican who has signed on to this bill. We have a handful of courageous Democrats, and I commend their participation. I think we have some others with us this evening who are supportive of this legislation, prepared to speak to their constituents' experiences and their thoughts about the adverse consequences of a 30-hour definition of “full time” in the United States of America.

I am joined by my colleague from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), who is a very thoughtful and articulate member of the Budget Committee and cares deeply about his State. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. LANKFORD. I thank the gentleman from Indiana.

It is my privilege to get a chance to be able to speak out for the constituents that I represent who are asking the same questions a lot of Americans are asking: Why did you just drop my hours?

People that have jobs, go to work every day, trying to pay for their family, barely eking by, working hourly, suddenly got their hours dropped, and they are asking all of us: Why did this happen?

Well, the difficult thing is we are trying to explain to people it happened because more people were needed onto the exchanges, and so the administration needed additional people to get onto this health care coverage. So it isn't actually something to help people; it is something to help the administration and their formula, which makes them even madder.

They don't want to be a pawn in some game. They want to take care of their family. They want to be able to do what they can do in their job and to take care of their kids and play soccer with them on weekends and be able to spend time, but things have changed dramatically for them now.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. So would it be accurate to say that, in part, it is our lower-income to middle-income workers, through reduced hours, who are paying for the Affordable Care Act, which is wildly unpopular nationally?

Mr. LANKFORD. It is. And it is wildly unpopular larger in that group as well. Every section of Americans, when you go and get a chance to visit with them, they will tell you the same thing: my premiums went up; my deduction went up; I lost access to a doctor; I had to change to a different hospital; I lost some of my choices.

And this whole belief that suddenly now we have 7 million new people that got there, millions of those individuals that are now in the exchanges used to be on health care that they liked. They were kicked off of it January 1, and now they are forced into a new system, and the President is somehow celebrating.

I was astounded by the sense of, at the very last minute, all these people filed and they got excited about it. There are around 43 million people that are uninsured in the United States. Seven million of them have actually capitulated to the administration's forced enrollment into this program or face a fine. That would be something akin to, during tax day coming up just 15 days from now, the administration standing up and celebrating that 25 percent of Americans actually filed their taxes on time because they would face a fine if they don't. Well, no one would actually celebrate that, but this administration is celebrating 25 percent of the people actually following through on it.

There are real lives and real people that are attached to this. Let me tell

you about one of them. Her name is Cindy. And like some of the other individuals that were here visiting before, Mr. KELLY from Pennsylvania, didn't want her name put out publicly on it because, in this day and age, people are becoming more and more afraid of their government and what their government is going to do to them rather than for them.

So Cindy works at a job at a restaurant. She works more than 40 hours a week, and then finds out, after the transition happens, January 1, they are dropping her hours back to 26 hours a week. Twenty-six hours a week is really hard. Her job plus 30 hours was really difficult for her to make ends meet. She can't make it at 26 hours. So now this individual has to go out and try to find a different job to add up to two different jobs.

Let me talk to you about a dad that his son just graduated from high school. He didn't make great grades in high school, but he is a good, hard worker. So he is engaged in a job, and he is out looking for a job. Doesn't have a college degree, just a working guy. He cannot find a job for more than 28½ hours, so he is looking for two jobs to try to get that, to try to build up to enough money to be able to do it.

So suddenly, this sense of we are going to help provide for people by forcing people to get to this providing health care, what is actually happening is people are just dropping the hours. It is the same thing everyone said before.

And the President's statement today that there is no good reason to go back to a time before ObamaCare, I would have to tell you, Cindy would disagree with that; this other gentleman would disagree with that. A lot of people would look back and say: I would much rather go back to working one job than be forced to work two jobs and still not have health care coverage.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. You mentioned a very compelling story, incidentally, and I think all of us hear these stories, Republican, Democrat, Independent. It matters not. I suspect we all hear them around our district. You mentioned the President's Statement of Administration Policy which came out today, April Fools' Day. I had to wonder whether it might have been an April Fools' joke. It, in part, reads: Rather than attempting, once again, to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which the House has tried to do over 50 times, it is time for Congress to stop fighting old political battles and join the President in an agenda focused on providing greater economic opportunity. And then it goes on and on.

Listen, this is not a repeal of the Affordable Care Act. This is a repeal of a provision that we recognize that a bipartisan group of United States Congressmen and many Senators recognize is flawed. So, I mean, it is an absolute red herring.

I cannot understand why the administration won't engage with us in a fair-minded, statesmanlike way to mitigate the pain so many Americans are feeling.

Mr. LANKFORD. I would have to tell you honestly, I would like nothing better for my citizens that I represent to not have to live under this law. I would absolutely vote again, as I have multiple times, to repeal this entire law.

But I also have a responsibility to do whatever I can to protect the people of my district from the harmful effects of this law, and this law has many harmful effects. One of them is it is forcing those that struggle the most in our economy to make two ends meet to have to go out and get multiple jobs, and it has made it even harder for them, in transportation, in timing, in time with their family. They are losing all of those things. It has been taken away from them based on a preference of an administration, not something that is actually economic responsibility of the President.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. I would like to associate myself with those remarks pertaining to preferring to start over in an open, deliberative fashion. My belief would be that, if we started over with respect to health care reform, we could actually control costs, increase access, continue to incentivize innovation, and do all the other things that were purportedly the rationale behind this law.

We want to broaden coverage to those who don't have coverage, but the Affordable Care Act, so-called, does not even accomplish that. And so the administration, at least according to the Statement of Administration Policy put out today, welcomes ideas to improve the law. Well, this is an idea to improve the health care circumstances of so many Americans. We need to repeal this 30-hour provision within the law, so that is what the Save American Workers Act does.

Now, I noted that this created some perverse incentives, this 30-hour threshold. I heard a story from a constituent who will remain unnamed for obvious reasons, but they indicated they own some fast-food restaurants, and they are actually contemplating employing some of their workers at one fast-food restaurant under the 30-hour threshold and then making an arrangement with a nearby restaurant, whether they own it or someone else owns it, of a different name to finish out their workweek. So basically, to use a colloquial example, you take off the Subway shirt or the McDonald's shirt and then put on a Burger King shirt.

These are the sorts of perverse incentives created by ill-considered provisions in a very hastily passed and, frankly, partisan law.

Mr. BARR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BARR. I thank the gentleman.

I would like to note a point that the President made in his State of the Union address and, really, why Congressman YOUNG's bill should be a point of agreement for all of us—for the President, for Members of the other side of the aisle, for those of us on this side of the aisle. Here is what the President said in his State of the Union address, speaking to the state of our economy: Inequality has grown, he said, income inequality. Upward mobility has stalled.

That is what the President of the United States said. I agree with the President. Upward mobility has stalled.

Why has it stalled?

Well, one of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, upward mobility has stalled in this country is because we are punishing hard work. ObamaCare is punishing people for working hard. That is what made this country great.

□ 2015

The Congressional Budget Office released a report a few weeks ago, and that report projects that ObamaCare will force 2.5 million Americans to leave the workforce in the next decade.

Think about that. There are Members of Congress who are defending a law that will shrink the American workforce by 2.5 million Americans. And what is the administration's response? They say it is a good thing. They say it is a good thing that Americans are going to be forced to leave their jobs.

So this law does two things: it forces Americans to lose their jobs or leave the workforce, and it forces employers to reduce the number of hours for those who remain in the workforce. This is a prescription for continued economic stagnation.

Now, we have a solution before us. The solution is the legislation H.R. 2575, proposed by my friend from Indiana, TODD YOUNG, the Save American Workers Act. Not only is this proposal good for working Americans—because it would repeal the 30-hour workweek definition and replace it with a traditional 40-hour workweek definition for full-time work—but it would also, according to the Congressional Budget Office, it will create \$75 billion in higher cash wages for American workers.

Now, if that is what the nonpartisan CBO says—and we know that wages have been declining in this country; we know that working families are struggling to put food on the table because they are not making enough to make ends meet and to take care of their kids—why on Earth would we not vote in favor of legislation that will create \$75 billion in higher cash wages?

I just want to, once again, thank the gentleman from Indiana. I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, also for his leadership

and the gentleman from Oklahoma who spoke earlier and eloquently shared a story of his constituent.

This is about American workers having the ability to achieve that upward mobility that the President spoke about in his State of the Union. I invite the President to join us. I invite my friends on the other side of the aisle to join us in helping the American workers achieve their potential, reinvigorate the work ethic in this country, allow people to work the way they want to without punishing small businesses and workers for achieving their potential.

At a time when Americans are struggling, we must do everything we can to invest in real solutions like the Save American Workers Act of 2014 that would grow the economy and get the country working again.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. I thank the gentleman.

I am going to close where I began. The President is proposing a 25 percent increase in the minimum wage, but ObamaCare is resulting in as much as a 25 percent decrease in the pay of millions of hourly workers. Because of the 30 hours is full time provision, too many Americans aren't able to work the number of hours they need, aren't able to get the take-home pay they need to support themselves and their families and to go after the dreams that they want to realize.

So by passing my bill, one which has bipartisan support and which has enjoyed great leadership by so many of my colleagues, the Save American Workers Act, we can create an America that works simply by restoring the traditional 40-hour workweek.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Missouri). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to talk about a couple of issues that are on the floor. I really want to spend this evening talking about an enormous opportunity that America has to further jobs in this Nation. It is a piece of legislation that passed off the House floor this afternoon. H.R. 4005, a piece of legislation that deals with the Coast Guard and the maritime industry.

But just a few words about the previous hour that was spent here talking about the 40-hour workweek. There is nothing in the Affordable Care Act that does away with the 40-hour workweek, not at all. The 40-hour workweek remains, and, in fact, Democrats are

trying to strengthen the overtime provisions that are needed to be put into effect, when men and women across the United States work more than 40 hours and do not receive overtime, time-and-a-half pay. So that is another thing.

We just basically heard yet one more effort by our Republican colleagues to eviscerate and otherwise put aside the Affordable Care Act, which now has perhaps 12 to 15 million Americans with some sort of insurance. Perhaps it is a new health insurance policy that they previously did not have available to them or they are on Medicaid or they are on their parents' health insurance. Well over 12 million Americans now have insurance because of the Affordable Care Act.

They also have guaranteed coverage. No longer can an insurance company discriminate against them because they have a preexisting condition. No longer are newborn babies denied coverage because they are born with some sort of a medical problem. That is what used to occur in America before the Affordable Care Act.

Also, it is kind of ironic, if you will, that we just heard an hour of discussion on the 30-hour workweek, the 40-hour workweek. The 30 hours only talks about when an employer must provide insurance for their employees. It doesn't take away anybody's 40-hour workweek at all.

However, the ironic part is today, the Republicans announced the new Ryan budget, which seriously impacts every American's health care policy. The new Ryan budget repeals the Affordable Care Act and those guarantees of coverage that I spoke of just a moment ago. The guarantee that a newborn child with a medical problem has insurance was wiped out by the proposal that was introduced by Mr. RYAN today. The guarantee that every woman is no longer discriminated against because she is a woman, a female, that guarantee was wiped out by the proposal that was put forward by Mr. RYAN today.

The guarantee that there are no more limits on coverage. Before the Affordable Care Act, if you came down with cancer and your insurance policy, as was common, had a total limit on the coverage, you would blow through that coverage and then bankruptcy was in your future. Oh, unless, of course, you didn't take the medical care. So these basic guarantees of health insurance availability were wiped out, or would be wiped out, by Mr. RYAN's budget that he proposed today.

Similarly, something that is really important for every senior is seriously affected by the Republican Ryan budget that was put forth today. It was 1965 that Medicare went into effect. Lyndon Johnson signed that bill. I actually have a photo of the speech that he gave here on the House floor, calling for the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid. It was 1963, '64 when that occurred.

The budget proposal that was put out by Mr. RYAN today would effectively end Medicare, as we know it. And if you are 55 years of age or younger, you would not have Medicare when you become 65. Instead, you would be given a voucher and told, go buy insurance in the health insurance market, which was so roundly criticized by our Republican colleagues today, and the improvements that have been made in that market by the Affordable Care Act.

So let's try to get this straight. First of all, a proposal put forward today by the Republican majority in this House would effectively end Medicare for every American who is 55 and younger and put those people into a health insurance market that has had all of its guarantees of coverage, all of the consumer protections, all of the consumer Bill of Rights in the Affordable Care Act repealed. So on the one hand you repeal all of those protections, and then on the other hand, you take every American 55 years and younger and force them into that dog fight with no protections in the private health insurance market. I don't think we want to go there. I don't think we want to go there.

What we want to do is to make sure that seniors have affordable Medicare insurance. But the proposal put forth today will deny those men and women that are currently in Medicare the opportunity to have the doughnut hole, the prescription drug doughnut hole, removed. Instead, the proposal put forth today would increase that doughnut hole, sending seniors back into the unaffordable prescription drug program that existed before the Affordable Care Act. So if you are a senior out there, beware. Beware of the budget proposal that was put forth here in the House of Representatives today because there is serious harm to you in 2016, should that proposal ever become law.

We will fight that. We don't want Medicare to disappear, as we know it. We don't want a voucher program that forces seniors into the clutches of the private insurance companies without the protections that are presently in the Affordable Care program.

I didn't intend to talk about this today. But following on the previous hour from my colleagues who were talking so vehemently against the Affordable Care Act, I thought we ought to have a discussion about what is in the Affordable Care Act, all of the protections that are there for every, every American, whether they are 65 or older. And oh, by the way, if you are 65 now and you are on Medicare, you have an annual free medical checkup—high blood pressure, diabetes, all of those things that can affect you—an annual free checkup which has already shown that it keeps seniors healthy longer and has dramatically reduced the cost of Medicare this year and will continue to do so in the years ahead.

Now, what I really wanted to talk about was something really good and really positive that happened here on the floor of the House today, and that was the passage of H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime legislation that reauthorizes the United States Coast Guard for 2 more years, expands their opportunities to protect our waterways, our lakes, and to protect America in the oceans that surround this great Nation. It also provides an opportunity for the mariners who want to enter that profession from the armed services, who may have been in the Navy, who have gained certain skills, so that they can get a license to be a mariner, to be a sailor, to be a ship's captain or an officer on one of our merchant marine ships. There is more that we can do with this piece of legislation, and I want to put it up here so that we can take a look at some of the opportunities that exist in this law. Here we go.

About 20 years ago, there were several hundred American-flagged ships and several tens of thousands of American sailors that were bringing American commerce, exports, and imports into our ports. So if we support the growth of jobs and the growth of trade, then we need to support the merchant marine and Coast Guard renewal act that passed the House today because it provides these opportunities.

This is not an LNG tanker. But the United States may very well be exporting liquefied natural gas. Rather than importing, we are likely to be exporting. Seven permits have been granted to the gas companies to export LNG, liquefied natural gas.

□ 2030

That is good, to a point. Export too much of this, and a strategic American asset will be wasted, and we will lose the opportunity to have low-cost energy in the United States.

That low-cost energy, a result of an abundance of natural gas that we now have in the United States, will be lost if we export too much of that gas through the liquefaction and the export of it.

Right now, we are somewhere around 10 percent of the total supply would be exported; and economists tell us, at that level, we are not going to see a rise in the cost of energy in the United States. That is good, and it is good for the gas companies.

They have been drilling, and if they are able to export this, they are going to make a substantial profit on that gas that they are allowed to export, a very handsome profit, because we have seen the Ukrainian situation with Russia threatening to shut down the supply of gas to Ukraine and quite possibly to Western Europe.

Well, the cost of gas in those countries is two, three, and, in some cases, four times what it costs here in the

United States; so the gas companies naturally want to export to that market, to take advantage of the higher prices there.

All well and good, if it is limited. Even at that limited rate, we could see over 100 new, American-made ships handling that export.

We need to be very aware here in Congress that American policy—the laws—have everything to do with American manufacturing; so if we are going to Make It In America once again, we need to use every opportunity to enhance our manufacturing base.

The export of billions—and indeed trillions—of cubic feet of natural gas from those seven export terminals could lead to 100 or more new tankers, LNG tankers, in the export of that gas, sending that gas all around the world, liquified natural gas.

We can build those ships here if we use our public policy wisely and simply require that American natural gas be exported on American-made ships built in American shipyards made by American workers and then flagged and sailed by American sailors, building, once again, the American merchant marine.

We have this opportunity. We should not lose this opportunity. Now, we may run up against certain trade barriers put there by the World Trade Organization. We need to find a way to maneuver around those trade barriers and use every opportunity that this strategic natural asset gives to this country, to use that not just for the benefit of the gas companies and their profits, but also to the benefit of American workers, American steel companies producing the steel, American engine companies building the engines for these tankers, and American shipyards putting together these ships that will be exporting this natural gas.

The liquefied natural gas industry opportunity must not be missed. We must, once again, rebuild the American shipping fleet by 100 tankers. It is a very real possibility. We must not lose that possibility.

In the legislation that passed today, we see the opportunity for the Coast Guard to build new offshore patrol cutters. We see an opportunity for the maritime industry to enter into the manufacturing of ships from American shipyards, and we see the opportunity for the Coast Guard to protect America's ports. These are things that must be done, and this is public policy at its best.

However, there is a threat to all of this. The threat is found in the reality that passing an authorization bill is the starting point. It authorizes the expenditures.

The question then goes to: Will there actually be an appropriation that will fund those new ships for the Coast Guard, that will fund the merchant

marine, the Ready Reserve fleet, and the maritime shipping programs?

That is on the appropriations side, and that will bring me back full circle to where I started this discussion.

The budget that was proposed today by Mr. RYAN and the Republicans decimates the programs that would fund the education of the mariners in the maritime academies, that would fund the new ships for the Coast Guard, would decimate the opportunity to build the marine security program that puts ships available for the military, shipping men and equipment to wherever they are needed in the world if there is some trouble out there that the military must respond to, that decimates the funding for the programs that are in the Coast Guard Maritime Authorization Act.

We need to be consistent here. It is not enough to vote by unanimous consent off this floor a bill that authorizes a robust Coast Guard, that authorizes the rebuilding of the maritime industry, that authorizes the pay level for our coastguardsmen and women, and simultaneously put forth a budget that would defund or largely eliminate those programs.

So the question is: Are we prepared to create jobs in our Nation or not?

A final point goes to something that is really important in my district, and it is this: the levees that protect the tens of thousands of citizens in my district from flooding. This is a picture of a levee that broke in California some time ago, and the flooding devastated a community. This is a threat all across America.

The question for us here on the floor of the House of Representatives is: Are we willing to put together an infrastructure program like the President had called for in his budget? Or are we going to go with the Ryan budget which reduces—significantly reduces—the investment in critical infrastructure that protects our communities?

I could just as easily put a picture up here of a bridge that has collapsed and of roads with potholes. In this Nation, our water systems are antiquated, our sanitation systems are inadequate, our levee systems don't meet the needs to protect our community; and in California, with a major drought underway, we do not have the money to build the water storage systems to protect the world's largest agricultural sector, California agriculture, and certainly the Nation's largest agricultural sector, or the cities and the communities that depend upon the water.

We have enormous infrastructure needs. The President, in his budget, put forth a major undertaking to fund new infrastructure by ending tax breaks for American corporations that are sending jobs overseas.

On the other hand, put forward today by my Republican colleagues is a minimalist program—not a robust pro-

gram that would put millions of Americans back to work—but rather a minimalist program that actually would continue the decrease in the expenditures on infrastructure.

Let me just put up one more chart here, and this is a chart of where we are going with infrastructure spending at the Federal level. This is 2002. In 2002, we were spending somewhere in the range of \$325 billion a year on infrastructure.

In 2012—and we are not even at the lower level called for in the sequestration—we are down to less than \$250 billion a year on infrastructure, all Federal expenditures—highways, levees, ports, water systems, and sanitation systems, all of that. From \$325 billion, we have lost \$75 billion. Those are American jobs that are not coming into play.

If we take the budget proposal today from Mr. RYAN, this number will go even lower. We can't do that. This Nation is built on its infrastructure, it is built on its education, it is built on its support for seniors, and it is built on the humanitarian instincts that we have.

And what are we getting from our majority? Less—less infrastructure; less for seniors; less for Medicaid, the poor, and the elderly; and less Pell grants for those kids that want to go to school.

That is not how you build this economy. You build this economy on a great education system that has to be funded, kids that can go to college, not less Pell grants, but more, so that kids can find an affordable college education; more infrastructure investment, not less.

But go with the President. He would have us back up to this number, 325 billion, not the 75 billion less that is in the current budgets, the current austerity budgets or the budgets that have been proposed by Mr. RYAN today.

Are we going to build America or not? We put forward a major bill, the Coast Guard bill, and then we don't fund it; so it becomes hypocritical and devastating to the American economy.

For those seniors that depend on Medicare, the Ryan budget, instead of closing the doughnut hole for prescription drugs that cost seniors that have serious health care an enormous amount of money, it opens it so, once again, seniors are going to have to pay for drugs that they cannot afford. The Affordable Care Act closed that.

Choices, we are going to make choices here. We are in the process of deciding what the budget will be for the Government of the United States.

Will it be a budget that provides the fundamental needs to grow this economy, education, and manufacturing so our shipyards and so our bridges can be built with American workers? Are we going to do that or not? Are we going to take care of the seniors? Are we going to educate our kids?

These are the questions that we confront here, and I would ask our colleagues to stop the—I don't know—3-year effort now to repeal the Affordable Care Act and, rather, work on making that new system effective, efficient, and viable.

It is the path we are on. It is not a government-run health care system. In fact, it is a private insurance system that has now been added with protections for the consumers, the consumers' health care bill of rights.

Don't repeal it. Make it work better. Work with us to address those problems that we know exist in the system. No program has ever been perfect, and we can do better here. That is our goal.

So today was a good day for me. As ranking member of the Coast Guard Maritime Subcommittee, we put forth a good policy—not complete—we need to add to it, and hopefully, that will happen when the bill is taken up in the Senate; but at the same time, we hear a continuing call to do away—to eliminate the patient's bill of rights. We don't want to do that.

I am going to yield back my remaining time here and just put this question before all of us. This is a country that needs to grow. This is a country that needs to prosper, and we need to work across the aisle here, just as we did last week with my colleague, Mr. LAMALFA, a Republican, a conservative.

We said we need to build something in California. We need to build a water storage system. So we have introduced legislation, the sites reservoir legislation, a bipartisan piece of legislation, a major infrastructure reservoir for the State of California, where we can store water for the drought that is going to come—not for the current drought, that opportunity was lost years ago—but for the next drought, nearly 2 million acre feet of water to be stored to be available for farmers, for the city, for the environment, to be used when needed when the rain is not there.

That is the kind of bipartisanship that we need. We need to come together. We need to spend our money wisely and efficiently. We can do that in a bipartisan way. I want to thank my colleague, Mr. LAMALFA, for working on a project that is desperately needed in California. We need those levees all across this Nation.

□ 2045

We need those shipyards building American ships to carry that natural gas all around the world. We don't need to do too much of it. We don't want to drive up the price in the United States. We want to make sure that if we are going to export a strategic national asset that all of America benefits—not just the gas companies, but all of America—the shipyards, the shipbuilders, the steelworkers, the plumbers, the pipe fitters, the electricians,

those middle class jobs, 100 ships. It is possible. We need to work together to make that happen.

We have got a full agenda ahead of us. An austerity budget won't make it. It is going to harm this Nation. It is going to deprive us of what we need to do: to build the infrastructure, to educate, to do the research, and to make this country move forward. Hopefully we will make a wise decision.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back my remaining time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CAPUANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this Congress, two additional requirements for the consideration of a concurrent resolution on the budget resolution were set forth in Section 3(e) of House Resolution 5 (113th Congress).

The first requires the concurrent resolution on the budget include a section related to means-tested and nonmeans-tested direct spending programs. The second requires a statement from the Chair of the Committee on the Budget defining those terms to be included in the Congressional Record prior to the consideration of such concurrent resolution on the budget. Amendments to, and conference reports on, the concurrent resolution must also fulfill these provisions.

Enclosed please find two tables prepared in order to fulfill the terms of section 3(e) referred to above. I have also included a communication and associated tables from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, with whom I have consulted in the preparation of this material. While the nonmeans-tested list is not exhaustive, all programs not considered means-tested can be considered nonmeans-tested direct spending. The description of programs considered to be means-tested direct spending and nonmeans-tested direct spending is the same as the one filed on March 7, 2013 in compliance with the section 3(e) requirement.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. RYAN of Wisconsin,
Chairman, House Budget Committee.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2014.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives,
Washington DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you requested, enclosed are two tables that show federal spending for each of the government's major mandatory spending programs and tax credits that are primarily means-tested (that is, spending programs and tax credits that provide cash payments or assistance in obtaining health care, food, or education to people with relatively low income or few assets).

Table 1 shows CBO's baseline projections for the 2014-2024 period; Table 2 shows historical spending data from 2004 through 2013, along with CBO's estimates for 2014.

The tables include total spending for mandatory programs that are primarily not means-tested, but they do not include separate entries for individual programs in that group that have means-tested components (for example, student loans and some portions of Medicare, other than low-income subsidies for Part D). They also do not include means-tested programs that are discretionary (for example, the Section 8 housing assistance programs and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). However, the tables show discretionary spending for the Pell Grant program as a memorandum item because that program has both discretionary and mandatory spending components and the amount of the mandatory Pell grant component is partially dependent on the annual amount of discretionary funding.

In CBO's latest baseline projections, published in *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2014 to 2024* (February 2014), mandatory outlays for both means-tested and nonmeans-tested programs are projected to grow over the next decade at an average annual rate of 5.4 percent (see Table 1).

Overall, the growth rates projected for total mandatory spending over the coming decade are slower than those experienced in the past 10 years—by about one-half percentage point per year, on average. Over the 2005-2014 period, CBO estimates that total mandatory outlays will have increased at an average annual rate of 6.0 percent—means-tested programs by an average of 6.8 percent per year and nonmeans-tested programs by 5.7 percent per year (see Table 2).

A number of programs shown in Tables 1 and 2 have been or are scheduled to be significantly affected by changes in law, the recent recession, and the continuing recovery. As a result, important aspects of the programs in the future may differ significantly from historical experience, and those differences may be the source of some of the variation between the growth rates in the past 10 years and those in the coming decade. For example, spending for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), health insurance subsidies, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the refundable portions of the earned income and child tax credits has been or will be significantly affected by program changes that unfold over time.

The difference in growth rates for Medicaid in the two periods stems in part from policy changes that, on net, reduced those rates for the past decade (when they averaged 5.4 percent) but will increase them in the coming decade (when they are projected to average 6.8 percent). For example, in 2006, Medicaid spending contracted when spending for prescription drugs for certain people was shifted to the new Medicare Part D program. By contrast, projected rates of growth in Medicaid spending over the coming decade are elevated by the expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act. CBO expects growth in such spending to average about 10 percent per year over the 2014-2017 period, as the expansion is phased in, and then to level off at a steady-state rate of roughly 5.5 percent per year in the final years of the projection period.

The difference in growth rates between the two periods for CHIP (11.8 percent in the 2005-2014 period vs. -8.6 percent in the 2015-2024 period) reflects the sunset of CHIP's existing authority at the end of fiscal year

2015. Consistent with statutory guidelines, CBO assumes in its baseline spending projections that funding for the program after 2015 will continue at \$5.7 billion, which is a significant reduction from the amount available at the start of the 2015-2024 period.

Payments of health insurance subsidies under the Affordable Care Act began in January 2014, and the high rates of growth projected for the next several years reflect a startup period for the new program. In the current projection, the number of people gaining coverage through the exchanges rises from 6 million in 2014 to 22 million in 2016. CBO projects that, after the initial startup, annual growth will average about 6 percent over the 2018-2024 period.

SNAP spending increased markedly during the recent recession—particularly in 2009 and 2010—as more people became eligible for those benefits. CBO expects that SNAP case-loads will fall in each year of the projection period as the economy continues to improve. In addition, provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) raised the maximum benefit under that program; those provisions expired in October 2013.

The outlay portions of the earned income and child tax credits are expected to dip after 2018 because provisions expanding the refundability of those credits (which were originally enacted in ARRA and were subsequently extended) are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2017.

Finally, because of the unique budgetary treatment of the Pell Grant program—which has both mandatory and discretionary components—the growth rates for the mandatory portions of that program give incomplete information. The bulk of the funding for Pell grants is discretionary and is provided annually in appropriation acts. In recent years, spending for Pell grants also has included two mandatory components that have allowed the discretionary budget authority provided by the regular appropriation acts to remain well below the full cost of the program.

In keeping with procedures that govern CBO's baseline projections, the projection for the discretionary portion of the Pell Grant program is based on the budget authority appropriated for fiscal year 2014, adjusted for inflation. (Discretionary spending for the program is shown as a memorandum item in both tables.) Thus, the baseline projection for both discretionary and mandatory spending for Pell grants does not represent an estimate of the expected future costs of the program; such a projection also would take into account such factors as changes in eligibility and enrollment.

I hope that you find this information helpful. If you have any further questions, please contact me or my staff. The primary staff contact is Barry Blom, who can be reached at 226-2880.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF,
Director.

Enclosure

ENDNOTE

1. Under current law, funding for the program in 2015 consists of two semiannual allotments of \$2.85 billion—amounts that are much smaller than the allotments made in the four preceding years. (The first semiannual allotment in 2015 will be supplemented by \$15.4 billion in one-time funding for the program.) Following the rules prescribed by the Deficit Control Act, CBO extrapolates the \$2.85 billion provided for the second half of the year to arrive at projected annual funding of \$5.7 billion.

Table 1

Mandatory Outlays in CBO's February 2014 Baseline
(Outlays by fiscal year, billions of dollars)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average Annual Growth 2015-2024
Means-Tested Outlays												
Health Care Programs												
Medicaid	298	328	368	393	413	437	461	487	515	543	574	6.8%
Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidies	24	26	30	31	32	37	40	44	51	53	54	8.3%
Health insurance subsidies ^a	15	41	75	95	104	108	115	122	128	135	143	24.9%
Children's Health Insurance Program	14	15	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	-8.6%
Subtotal	352	410	481	525	555	588	622	659	700	737	775	8.2%
Income Security												
SNAP	80	80	79	78	76	76	75	75	74	74	74	-0.8%
Supplemental Security Income	54	55	61	59	55	62	64	66	74	71	67	2.1%
Earned income and child tax credits ^b	82	84	87	88	89	78	80	81	82	84	85	0.4%
Family support and foster care ^c	31	31	32	32	32	32	32	33	33	33	33	0.6%
Child nutrition	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	28	30	31	3.9%
Subtotal	268	272	281	279	277	273	277	282	292	291	291	0.8%
Veterans Pensions	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	3.2%
Pell Grants ^d	13	6	7	8	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	-3.1%
Subtotal, Means-Tested Outlays	639	694	774	818	848	877	916	958	1,009	1,046	1,083	5.4%
Non-Means-Tested Outlays ^e	1,766	1,846	1,955	2,035	2,124	2,266	2,399	2,546	2,736	2,851	2,994	5.4%
Total Mandatory Outlays	2,405	2,540	2,729	2,853	2,972	3,144	3,315	3,504	3,744	3,897	4,077	5.4%
Memorandum												
Pell Grants (Discretionary) ^f	18	27	29	24	24	25	25	26	26	27	27	3.8%

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: Unless otherwise noted, the projections shown here are the same as those reported in Congressional Budget Office, *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2014 to 2024* (February 2014).

The average annual growth rate over the 2015-2024 period encompasses growth in outlays from the amount recorded in 2014 through the amount projected for 2024.

Projections on spending for benefit programs in this table exclude administrative costs that are classified as discretionary but generally include administrative costs classified as mandatory.

SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

a. Differs from the amounts reported in Table 3-2 of *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2014 to 2024* (February 2014) because it does not include payments to health insurance plans for risk adjustment (amounts paid to plans that attract less healthy enrollees), reinsurance (amounts paid to plans that enroll individuals who end up with high costs), and risk corridors (amounts paid to health insurance plans whose actual costs for medical claims exceed expected costs). According to CBO's projections, that spending will be more than offset by corresponding collections. Spending for grants to states to establish exchanges is also excluded.

b. Differs from the amounts reported in Table 3-2 of *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2014 to 2024* (February 2014) because it does not include other tax credits.

c. Includes the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Child Support Enforcement program, the Child Care Entitlement program, and other programs that benefit children.

d. Includes mandatory spending designed to reduce the discretionary budget authority needed to support the maximum award level set in the appropriation act plus mandatory spending that, by formula, increases the total maximum award above the amount set in the appropriation act.

e. Does not include offsetting receipts.

f. The discretionary baseline does not represent a projection of expected costs for the discretionary portion of the Pell grant program. The budget authority is calculated by inflating the budget authority appropriated for fiscal year 2014. Outlays for future years are based on those projected amounts of budget authority and on the budget authority provided in 2014.

Table 2

Mandatory Outlays Since 2004

(Outlays by fiscal year, billions of dollars)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Projected, 2014	Average Annual Growth 2005-2014
Means-Tested Outlays												
Health Care Programs												
Medicaid	176	182	181	191	201	251	273	275	251	265	298	5.4%
Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidies	0	0	11	17	17	19	21	26	20	22	24	10.0% ^a
Health insurance subsidies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	n.a.
Children's Health Insurance Program	5	5	5	6	7	8	8	9	9	9	14	11.8%
Subtotal	181	187	197	213	225	277	302	309	279	297	352	6.9%
Income Security												
SNAP	29	33	35	35	39	56	70	77	80	83	80	10.9%
Supplemental Security Income	34	38	37	36	41	45	47	53	47	53	54	4.8%
Earned income and child tax credits	42	49	52	54	75	67	77	78	77	79	82	6.9%
Family support and foster care ^b	31	31	30	31	32	33	35	33	30	32	31	0.2%
Child nutrition	12	13	14	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	5.6%
Subtotal	147	163	168	170	202	217	247	260	254	266	268	6.2%
Veterans Pensions	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	6	5.2%
Pell Grants ^c	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	14	12	16	13	n.a.
Subtotal, Means-Tested Outlays	331	354	369	386	431	501	557	589	550	584	639	6.8%
Non-Means-Tested Outlays^d	1,015	1,094	1,188	1,242	1,349	1,787	1,553	1,646	1,710	1,753	1,766	5.7%
Total Mandatory Outlays	1,346	1,448	1,556	1,628	1,780	2,288	2,110	2,235	2,260	2,338	2,405	6.0%
Memorandum												
Pell Grants (Discretionary)	13	13	13	13	15	13	20	21	21	17	18	3.6%

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: The average annual growth rate over the 2005-2014 period encompasses growth in outlays from the amount recorded in 2004 through the amount projected for 2014.

Data on spending for benefit programs in this table exclude administrative costs that are classified as discretionary but generally include administrative costs classified as mandatory.

SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; n.a. = not applicable.

^a = between zero and \$500 million.^b The average annual growth rate reflects the program's growth from its inception in 2006 through 2014.^c Includes the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Child Support Enforcement program, the Child Care Entitlement program, and other programs that benefit children.^d Includes mandatory spending designed to reduce the discretionary budget authority needed to support the maximum award level set in the appropriation act plus mandatory spending that, by formula, increases the total maximum award above the amount set in the appropriation act.^e Does not include offsetting receipts.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4302. An act to amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on April 1, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 4302. To amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5127. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received March 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5128. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Arizona; Payson PM10 Air Quality Planning Area [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0657; FRL-9908-00-Region-9] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5129. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0118; FRL-9907-77-Region-7] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5130. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [EPA-R07-OAR-2013-0817; FRL-9908-02-Region-7] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5131. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Hawaii; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone and the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0228; FRL-9907-73-Region-9] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5132. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Updates to HCFC Trade Language as Applied to Article 5 Countries; Ratification Status of Parties to the Montreal Protocol; and Harmonized Tariff Schedule Commodity Codes [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0600; FRL-9906-75-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR89) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5133. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Regulation of Fuel and Fuel Additives: Reformulated Gasoline Requirements for the Atlanta Covered Area [EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0318; FRL-9907-91-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AN63) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5134. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Manchester and Nashua Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plans [EPA-R01-OAR-2012-0661; A-1-FRL-9906-76-Region-1] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5135. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Second Ten-Year PM10 Maintenance Plan for Pagosa Springs [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0834; FRL-9907-57-Region-8] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5136. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Stage II Vapor Recovery Program and Control of Air Pollution from Volatile Organic Compounds [EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0439; FRL-9907-55-Region-6] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5137. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of California; 2013 Los Angeles County State Implementation Plan for 2008 Lead Standard [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0687; FRL-9907-14-Region-9] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5138. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Disapproval of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Clark County, Nevada [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0778; FRL-9907-56-Region-9] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5139. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fenamidone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0161; FRL-9906-99] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5140. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0806; FRL-9905-18-Region-9] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5141. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan South Coast Air Quality Management District and El Dorado County Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0683; FRL-9905-26-Region-9] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5142. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20-303, "Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5143. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period January 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a Public Law 88-454; (H. Doc. No. 113-100); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

5144. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Big Skate in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120-918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XD120) received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5145. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3148-02] (RIN: 0648-XD125) received March 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5146. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XD099) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5147. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments

[Docket No.: 30939; Amdt. No. 3574] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5148. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30938; Amdt. No. 3573] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 981. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a global rare earth element assessment, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-389). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1063. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment of the capability of the Nation to meet our current and future demands for the minerals critical to United States manufacturing and agricultural competitiveness and economic and national security in a time of expanding resource nationalism, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-390). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1259. A bill to establish Coltville National Historical Park in the State of Connecticut, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-391). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1501. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System; with an amendment (Rept. 113-392). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3110. A bill to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska; with an amendment (Rept. 113-393). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3188. A bill to expedite the planning and implementation of salvage timber sales as part of Forest Service and Department of the Interior restoration and rehabilitation activities for lands within the Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park and Bureau of Land Management lands adversely impacted by the 2013 Rim Fire in California; with amendments (Rept. 113-394, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3222. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associ-

ated with the 1657 signing of the Flushing Remonstrance in Queens, New York, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-395). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3605. A bill to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-396). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 530. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2575) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours (Rept. 113-397). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3188 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KLINE (for himself and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H.R. 10. A bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. POLIS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 4348. A bill to increase transparency and reduce students' burdens related to transferring credits between institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. McCAUL (for himself and Mr. CULBERSON):

H.R. 4349. A bill to repeal the crude oil export ban under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 4350. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take lands and mineral rights on the reservation of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana and other culturally important lands into trust, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 4351. A bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to

such Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. ROONEY):

H.R. 4352. A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to conduct periodic reviews of the flood insurance rates and flood insurance rate maps under the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CHAFFETZ, and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 4353. A bill to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas:

H.R. 4354. A bill to prevent a taxpayer bailout of health insurance issuers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (for himself, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. COTTON):

H.R. 4355. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the "Harold George Bennett Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 4356. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the information security of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself and Mr. BRIDENSTINE):

H.R. 4357. A bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has engaged in espionage activities against the United States, poses a threat to United States national security interests, or has engaged in a terrorist activity against the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4358. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to convey a parcel of land in St. Charles County, Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4359. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make memorial headstones and markers available for purchase on behalf of members of reserve components who performed inactive duty training or active duty for training but did not serve on active duty; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. JONES, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. FOXX, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. HOLDING):

H.R. 4360. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Forest Service for the Grandfather Ranger District located at 109 Lawing Drive in Nebo, North Carolina, as the "Jason Crisp Forest Service Building"; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 4361. A bill to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, relating to protective orders, sealing of cases, disclosures of discovery information in civil actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4362. A bill to prohibit United States contributions to the United Nations Population Fund; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 4363. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a direct employment pilot program for members of the National Guard and Reserve, to be known as the "Work for Warriors Program", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 4364. A bill to provide greater transparency, accountability, and safety authority to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BECERRA:

H. Res. 531. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mr. MARINO, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. KEATING):

H. Res. 532. A resolution calls on the Government of Turkey to allow free expression and Internet freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. CHU, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. RAHALL, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine):

H. Res. 533. A resolution expressing support for designation of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WALZ (for himself, Mr. CRENshaw, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. KLINE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. KIND):

H. Res. 534. A resolution recognizing the 150th Anniversary of Mayo Clinic; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KLINE:

H.R. 10.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California;

H.R. 4348.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 3

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 4349.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I., Sec. 8, Clause 3: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign nations."

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 4350.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4351.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 4352.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 4353.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas:

H.R. 4354.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas

H.R. 4355.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 The Congress shall have Power to establish Post Offices and post roads.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 4356.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 4357.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8. To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper . . .

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4358.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York

H.R. 4359.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8, of the United States Constitution reserves to Congress the power to raise and support Armies and provide and maintain a Navy, as well as make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval forces.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 4360.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1:

Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 4361.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 9 and 18 of section 8 of article I and section 1 of article III of the Constitution.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4362.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—"No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 4363.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. WAXMAN:

H.R. 4364.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 24: Mr. RENACCI and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 139: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 148: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 164: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 182: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 303: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 333: Ms. HAHN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 485: Mr. LEWIS and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 543: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 578: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 594: Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 596: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 647: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 721: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 755: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 781: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 808: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 824: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 846: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 1020: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 1024: Mr. GARCIA.
H.R. 1030: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 1074: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 1148: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 1240: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1249: Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 1339: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 1354: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 1466: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1475: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 1502: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 1507: Mr. POCAN and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1563: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FATTAH, and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 1579: Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 1666: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 1696: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
H.R. 1728: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 1739: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 1761: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. GARCIA.
H.R. 1812: Mr. LONG and Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 1851: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1852: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 2093: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2330: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 2415: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2429: Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. McKEON, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 2453: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 2537: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 2548: Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LANCE, and Ms. DELAULO.
H.R. 2557: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 2788: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2932: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. FARR, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. PETRI, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALBERG, and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 2939: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. KEATING, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 2957: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2959: Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. MESSER, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 3043: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 3086: Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DEFazio, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. CAMP.

H.R. 3303: Ms. JENKINS and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 3344: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 3367: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. PETRI, and Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 3371: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 3377: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. LONG, Mr. HALL, and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3382: Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 3413: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 3485: Mr. BYRNE and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 3494: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3529: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 3530: Mr. CHAFFETZ and Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 3548: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3619: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 3665: Mr. BARROW of Georgia.
H.R. 3670: Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 3672: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3673: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 3717: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3723: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 3740: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 3776: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 3778: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3829: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 3836: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. MESSER, Mr. PETRI, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mrs. ELLMERS.
H.R. 3852: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3877: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 3878: Ms. DELBENE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. DELAULO, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3989: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 3991: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 3997: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 4007: Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 4031: Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 4042: Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 4049: Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 4058: Mr. PITTINGER.
H.R. 4060: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 4078: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 4128: Mr. KILMER and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 4148: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 4149: Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 4157: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 4190: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4208: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 4225: Mr. PITTINGER, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 4230: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 4285: Ms. NORTON, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 4286: Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 4299: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 4303: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 4305: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4310: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 4316: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 4318: Mr. LUCAS and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 4323: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4342: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H. Con. Res. 27: Ms. LEE of California.
H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. GARCIA.
H. Con. Res. 91: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. LONG.
H. Con. Res. 94: Mr. THORNBERRY and Mr. KLINE.
H. Res. 169: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ENYART, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H. Res. 188: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 190: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. CAPUANO.
H. Res. 417: Mr. GOHMERT.
H. Res. 476: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H. Res. 494: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. OLSON.
H. Res. 500: Mr. WHITFIELD.
H. Res. 519: Mr. SIRES.
H. Res. 526: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 2988: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BEVERLY O'NEILL, A LONG BEACH
ICON

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, as Women's History Month comes to a close for 2014, I think it is appropriate to highlight the life and work of one of the most influential and iconic women from my district: Beverly O'Neill.

She was an educator, a mayor, and a leader. She remains a dear friend to me and an icon to a huge portion of Long Beach.

Her determined guidance, over an unprecedented three terms as Mayor from 1994 to 2006, led the City of Long Beach through a transformation from "the smallest big city" on the West Coast to a thriving international destination and gateway known throughout the world.

Born in Long Beach as Beverly Joy Lewis before the city became a World War II Navy boomtown, Beverly attended Polytechnic High School and went on to graduate from California State University, Long Beach. She eventually earned not one, not two, but five different teaching credentials and spent 31 years as an educator at Long Beach City College before becoming the college's President in 1988.

Shortly after being elected as mayor of Long Beach in 1994, as only the second directly elected mayor in city history, she and the city faced the closure of the Long Beach Naval Shipyard and the tens of thousands of city jobs connected to it. Her resolute determination and leadership to keep the city on an even keel during this difficult time and her empathy and compassion for those impacted by the job cuts endeared her to many in the city.

In her election to a second term in 1998, she received 80 percent of the vote. She continued to guide the city past its reliance on a single industry as the core employer in the city, focusing instead on a diversified economic base.

Termed out in 2002, Beverly decided to run for a third term as a write-in candidate. The citizens of Long Beach gave her a third term and made her the first mayor of a major U.S. city to be elected in a write-in campaign.

By the time she stepped down in 2006, Long Beach had made the difficult economic transition from Navy town to an international gateway and home to one of the busiest maritime ports in the Western Hemisphere.

Still a powerful force for good in the city, Beverly remains busy with numerous civic boards.

Her disarming and unshakable positivity for the city she loved, her compassion for the people she served, and the incredible leadership with which she inspired a generation of citizens has left an indelible mark on the history and the future of Long Beach.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF HEIDI CUSICK DICKERSON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague MIKE THOMPSON to honor Heidi Cusick Dickerson, who is transitioning from her position as Congressional Representative after nine years of service and dedication to the people of Mendocino County.

Heidi served as Mendocino District Representative for Congressman MIKE THOMPSON for eight years, and has served as a District Representative in my Ukiah office since the beginning of the 113th Congress. Heidi is a recognized leader in the county. The residents of our Congressional Districts are better off today thanks to the work of Heidi Cusick Dickerson. Her passion for advocating for individuals in need of federal assistance as well as for championing community issues is unparalleled.

Throughout her time working on behalf of the people of Mendocino County, she has championed many successful projects, ranging from saving the Anderson Valley Health Clinic to ensuring that the Veterans History Project was a success each year. A dedicated public servant, Heidi coordinated a housing foreclosure conference to benefit the people of Mendocino and honored countless deserving citizens by presenting them with certificates of recognition on behalf of their Representative. A passionate advocate for Mendocino, Heidi continuously promoted the county's food and wine industries. Heidi worked tirelessly to secure appropriations for the Fort Bragg Coastal Trail and played an instrumental role in bringing the Point Arena-Stornetta public lands on the Mendocino coast into National Monument status this March. In addition, Heidi forged an historic partnership between tribal, state and federal agencies to protect salmon from poaching on the Garcia River.

Heidi's unyielding dedication to advocating on behalf of the people of our beloved county is greatly appreciated by the entire Mendocino community. We know that she will continue to be an ardent advocate for all things Mendocino and we wish her continued success in the future. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Heidi for her nine years of invaluable service to the people of Mendocino County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 141, I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CALLING FOR DEPORTATION RELIEF AND FOR THE SWIFT ENACTMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues to expand the deferred action guidelines to provide deportation relief for the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents and DREAMers. Earlier this month, I joined some of my colleagues in asking President Obama to use his prosecutorial discretion at all levels of immigration enforcement proceedings.

A majority of my colleagues and I are committed to comprehensive immigration reform and have demanded a vote on the House Floor. It is imperative that the House put politics aside and work together to reach a compromise that will benefit our country, strengthen our economy, and allow 11 million people to step out of the shadows. The House must enact immigration reform that is fair and reflects the highest values of our nation. We are a country of immigrants and how we treat those who aspire to be citizens reflects our democracy's commitment to uphold the moral principles upon which our nation was built.

As we continue to fight for comprehensive immigration reform, we cannot ignore the fact that families and communities are being torn apart on a daily basis. The impact of watching a parent, sibling or child being ripped away from the family unit is crushing and causes untold damage. We must restore judicial discretion and expand deferred action guidelines to provide deportation relief to immigrants who have done nothing wrong but seek a better life for their children, their families, and themselves.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN BRITA

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a distinguished, dedicated and tireless civil servant, Susan Brita. Over 31 years, she has been a woman of unique and unmatched talent and expertise serving our government.

Ms. Brita is a 25 year resident of my congressional district, living in the City of Alexandria. She has held many high level positions over the years, as a chief of staff, Staff Director of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, and most recently, Deputy Administrator at the General Services Administration. An invaluable champion for good governance, she is widely admired and deeply respected by countless colleagues and friends in the federal agencies and the U.S. Congress. Susan is a problem solver, tenacious ally, tough advocate and I'm proud to call her a friend.

Susan's expert work and support for managing federal facilities around the country has made our country stronger. She has been the author of legislation to develop highly visible projects in our nation's capital, such as the Old Post Office, the Southeast Federal Center, and the International Cultural Trade Center. These buildings will have an enduring influence on the topography of Washington, DC for centuries to come. As a dedicated civil servant and true patriot, Ms. Brita's leadership has set the bar high for those to come after her, and she will be solely missed.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations are in order for a job well done!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of the Eastern Kentucky University basketball team.

Throughout this season, these young athletes have shown a tremendous commitment to their team, ending their regular season with a record of 24 wins and 10 losses. Although everyone who is part of an athletic team shares in its ups and downs throughout the season, the leadership shown by Eastern Kentucky's seniors is commendable. In my opinion, there is no greater way to be an example of leadership than to lead by example. This was proven throughout the Colonels' season.

As one of only eight teams to represent East Kentucky in the school's history, their appearance in the NCAA tournament is a testament of their unity and drive as a team. During the tournament, they played valiantly in a close game against the Kansas Jayhawks. I am happy to see this type of dedication being

applied by the students of the Sixth District, and I know their drive and determination will serve them well in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CHRISTINE ANDERSON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague MIKE THOMPSON today to recognize Christine Anderson, who is transitioning from her position as congressional representative after nine years of service and dedication to the people of Mendocino County.

Christine served as a Mendocino Constituent Services Representative for Congressman MIKE THOMPSON for eight years, and as a Field Representative for Congressman JARED HUFFMAN since the beginning of the 113th Congress. She is renowned in the county for her exceptional management of constituent services as she helped countless individuals throughout the region tackle challenging issues. From veterans services to homeowners facing foreclosures to senior citizens, Christine has worked tirelessly to improve conditions for others. Her work with the Congressional Art Competition and Veterans History Projects touched many students and community members, promoting educational and cultural experiences of the highest quality. Christine's sense of grace, professionalism, and compassion provided many Mendocino residents with the highest level of care and positive problem-solving on a variety of difficult issues, and she will be missed.

The residents of our congressional districts are better off today thanks to the work of Christine Anderson. Her commitment to advocating for individuals in need of federal assistance is appreciated and we wish her continued success in the future. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Christine for her nine years of invaluable service to the people of Mendocino County.

2014 MAYORS DAY OF RECOGNITION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the 2014 Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service. The service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges. The nation's Mayors are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet city needs.

They address the most pressing challenges facing our cities and nation, from educating students for jobs of the 21st century and supporting veterans and military families to providing health services and helping communities recover from natural disasters. National service expands economic opportunity by cre-

ating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve.

National service participants serve in more than 60,000 locations across the country, including ninety service locations in Tucson bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our city's economic and social well-being. More than five hundred national service participants of all ages and backgrounds serve in Tucson, providing vital support to city residents and improving the quality of life in our city.

National service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; including more than \$3,439,824 in Tucson. They demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors.

The Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with mayors nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities. They are joining with the National League of Cities, City of Service, and mayors across the country to recognize the impact of service on the Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service on April 1, 2014.

We commend all of those who participate in national service for their dedication to the betterment of their communities.

HONORING PEGGY KIRK BELL, FIRST FEMALE CPGA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to extend sincere congratulations to Southern Pines' very own Peggy Kirk Bell. On February 16, Peggy made history as the first female inductee into the Carolinas PGA Hall of Fame. For 33 years, the CPGA Hall of Fame has honored and praised individuals living within the Carolinas for their remarkable contributions to the game of golf, and Mrs. Bell's induction is long overdue.

Peggy is a golf legend with numerous accomplishments. She has shepherded the way for women golfers by being known as the first widely acclaimed teacher of women's golf, serving as a Charter Member of the LPGA, and also as chairwoman of the largest girl's golf tour in the country. Through the Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour, she has provided top-level competitive golfing opportunities to thousands of girls across the Carolinas.

In 1949, Peggy won the North & South Amateur Women's title at Pinehurst No. 2 and was selected to become a member of the 1950 USGA Curtis Cup Team. She was the winner of the first LPGA Senior Championship, and the first woman inductee into Golf Magazine's World Golf Teacher Hall of Fame. In addition to her personal accomplishments, Bell has advocated to have major golf championships played in the Carolinas, several of which

were hosted at her own resort: The Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club.

The second district of North Carolina is fortunate to have someone who has dedicated their lifetime to promoting the game of golf and expanding opportunities to young girls across the state. She is an inspiration to all within the golf industry, and her induction into the Carolinas PGA Hall of Fame rightfully cements her place in history.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
METROPOLITAN PHILIP SALIBA

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Metropolitan Philip Saliba. His Eminence Metropolitan Philip was the Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America since 1966.

Born in Lebanon, Metropolitan Philip led the American Antiochian Orthodox church through the latter half of the twentieth century and ushered the church into the new millennium before passing away this past March. Throughout his life, he continually ministered to the faithful and was a prominent voice for peace and compassion in the Middle East. Where others doubted he projected hope and met each challenge with determination and courage.

Metropolitan Philip's deep faith led him to always serve and place others before himself, whether it was the President of the United States or a member of the church. His legacy of stewardship includes helping the Arab Christian community adapt to life in America while still retaining and sharing their deep, rich roots with their new communities. His leadership also allowed the church to expand and saw the number of parishes quadruple. In an age of declining church attendance his spirit nurtured growth.

Metropolitan Philip will be remembered foremost as a man of God as well as a uniter, theologian, author, humanitarian and a warm friend. Over the years Metropolitan Philip has been very good to me along with countless others. I am deeply saddened by his death and my thoughts and prayers go out to his family and all of those who have been blessed to have him as part of their lives.

Both the church and the country have lost an individual who possessed a deep and enduring faith, who passionately advocated for those in need and stood up for what he believed in.

Mr. Speaker, I close with the sentiment that the greatest way to honor Metropolitan Philip's legacy would be to emulate the manner in which he lived his life, which stands as a testament to a calling devoted to others.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF OREN LYONS
AS THE 2014 WISDOM KEEPER
AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Chief Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan, Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs of the Six Nations of the Iroquois, the Haudenosaunee, as the 2014 Wisdom Keeper Award Recipient.

The 2014 Wisdom Keeper award will be presented to Chief Lyons at The F.O.C.U.S. Wisdom Keeper Event on April 2, 2014 at the Nicholas J. Pirro Convention Center at Oncenter in Syracuse, New York. The Wisdom Keeper Award recognizes community leaders that have enriched our community with their wisdom, perseverance and passion. Award winners are commemorated with bronze plaques placed in the F.O.C.U.S. Wisdom Keeper Garden in the City of Syracuse.

Chief Lyons was an All-American lacrosse player at Syracuse University, playing next to the great two-sport All-American Jim Brown. Today, Chief Lyons is enshrined in the Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

Chief Lyons has relished in a spiritually rich and fulfilling life, and has contributed immensely to the cause of passing on a clean and fruitful earth to future generations. Chief Lyons is the recipient of The Earth Day International United Nations Award. Chief Lyons has also been awarded the National Audubon Award, the Elder and Wiser Award of the Rosa Parks Institute of Human Rights, as well as the Ellis Island Congressional Medal of Honor.

Chief Lyons has been a tireless advocate for the rights of Indigenous peoples. He worked to establish the Working Group of Indigenous Populations at the United Nations in 1982. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival. Chief Lyons recently was awarded Sweden's Friends of the Children Award, along with Nelson Mandela. In 1992, Chief Lyons addressed the U.N. General Assembly as he commenced the International Year of the World's Indigenous People.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Chief Oren Lyons as the 2014 Wisdom Keeper Award recipient. May he continue to be a leading force for all that is good and fair for our future generations in an ever-changing world.

CELEBRATING STEVE SWOFFORD'S
25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Steve Swofford's 25th Anniversary as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rockwall. He has served the congregation and his commu-

nity with humility, humor, and a love that stems from his faith in Jesus Christ. I know the First Family of FBC Rockwall is thankful for the Swoffords and for Steve's leadership over the years, and that they join me in celebrating this special occasion.

Steve grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, and accepted Christ as his personal Savior as a high school junior. He felt the call to ministry a year later and went on to receive his Bachelor's degree from Dallas Baptist University and his Master's from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He was blessed with many supportive relationships and his faith was made stronger through the spiritual guidance of his first pastor, Bob Graham; his favorite high school teacher, F.J. Lykins; and Pastor Gene Reynolds. Steve's wife Brenda, whom he married in 1973, has also been a true helpmate to him and their church family.

Steve began his ministry in the Dallas area and was soon drawn to Rockwall because of the untapped potential of First Baptist and the closeness of the community. Over the 25 years Steve has faithfully served the First Family, the church has seen tremendous growth—growing from 800 members to over 4,000. In order to meet the needs of the growing church body, FBC, which began with one Sunday morning worship service and Sunday School, now holds three Sunday morning worship services and three Sunday Schools. Bible Study attendance has likewise grown from 200 people to almost 1,500. To meet space demands, four new buildings and five new parking lots have been built. As a Pastor with deep convictions to actively spread the Gospel, Steve has also led FBC Rockwall to give nearly \$8.5 million on behalf of world missions—not one penny of which stayed in the church.

It is important to note that Steve's ministry goes beyond the walls of First Baptist. He serves at the local, state, and national level in Baptist endeavors, and especially enjoys serving the Rockwall community as chaplain with the Rockwall police and fire departments where he can provide spiritual and emotional support to those in need.

Without a doubt, God has strengthened and helped Pastor Swofford as he has faithfully served the First Family of FBC Rockwall these past 25 years. I am sure that Steve and Brenda share their accomplishments together—and that they attribute all success to Christ for His Glory.

I am also personally indebted to Pastor Steve for his participation in the service for my late wife, Mary Ellen. His generosity to a fellow believer—outside his church membership but still a brother in Christ—is not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Pastor Steve Swofford's 25 years of faithful leadership to the members of First Baptist Church of Rockwall. He is truly a servant of God, and the First Family and Rockwall community are blessed to have him. Even more so, we are blessed to live in a country founded on Christian principles where pastors like Steve Swofford can proclaim the Gospel freely.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED EMPLOYEES OF HOPE CREEK CARE CENTER IN EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated employees at Hope Creek Care Center in East Moline, Illinois.

The devoted staff of Hope Creek, members of AFSCME Local 2371, are a special group who are often regarded as extended family members to the residents and their loved ones. They don't do what they do for the money. The employees there genuinely care about the people.

Some of the more prominent residents who continue to benefit from the excellent care that Hope Creek provides include former U.S. Congressman Lane Evans and former Rock Island County State's Attorney Marshall Douglas, Sr. But make no mistake, everyone who lives there receives the same first-rate care and services.

Hope Creek, a publicly owned nursing home, is currently facing a possible sale by the county board to a private corporation. Whatever the outcome, I hope that the same standard of excellence that Hope Creek is known for continues, and that starts with the quality staff.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to know that first-rate facilities such as these exist, and I want to thank the wonderful staff for their contributions to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the creation of United States Air Force Academy on 1 April 1954, and offer remarks to honor this youngest of our nation's service academies. Birthed in the minds of visionary post Army Air Corps leaders and the Eisenhower Administration, the Air Force Academy has become the most forward looking military institution and premiere Aerospace Military Academy imaginable during the second half of the 20th Century. Residing in the bedrock of the Colorado Rocky Mountains the United States Air Force Academy has fueled the heart, mind, and winning spirit of the U.S. Air Force by providing leaders who flew higher than its inspiring surrounding peaks.

Since its inception the U.S. Air Force Academy has produced over forty-six thousand young men and women officers and superior senior leaders across the span of six decades. These leaders provided the backbone of our Aerospace warriors, including the first Air Force ace from the Vietnam War, Captain

Steve Ritchie and the first USAFA graduate to be given the Medal of Honor, Captain Lance Sijan. Since that era one hundred and eighty one graduates have given their lives in defense of our Nation. The lifeblood of the USAF leadership has flowed from the Academy over the decades, with contributions of 598 General officers and five Air Force Chiefs of Staff. As the premier academy to explore the final frontier of space the Academy has produced 38 Astronaut Graduates and continues to produce numerous strategic leaders in the military space arena.

The Air Force Academy has a longstanding tradition of producing both highly qualified and committed military officers combined with superbly educated college graduates from its halls of academic excellence. Over the years the Academy produced 37 Rhodes Scholars and the institution continues to be highly ranked in national college reviews such as Forbes and US News and World Report over more than three decades. Over the years the institution has scored in the top 100 of American colleges in numerous ranking publications. In college athletics USAFA competes in 17 NCAA sports conferences and continually performs extremely well in its various divisions. The Air Force Academy has won the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy on the gridiron 18 times, far surpassing the other Service Academies and brining national publicity to this Colorado institution.

Since its inception the United States Air Force Academy has continually trained, educated, and inspired young men and women to become leaders of character with the motivation to serve as Air Force career officers. It continues into its sixth decade of institutional defense contributions to the Nation by providing a unique blend of academic curriculum, military training, and leadership and physical development. This institution has become a historical wellspring of Air Force military leadership which will continue to develop future generations to defend our precious United States of America. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to recognize our USAFA landmark as it contributes to the security of our democracy from its position anchored in the foothills of the Colorado Rockies.

HONORING PETER J. WIRS

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I join my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) in drawing attention to an event that is set to unfold on April 17 at USA Wrestling's National Open in Las Vegas, where Mr. Peter J. Wirs is set to become what I am told is the oldest person ever to step onto an international freestyle wrestling mat for his very first competitive match.

I was fortunate to be involved in the sport of wrestling from an early age. I know from personal experience just how much dedication and discipline the sport requires. When my teammates and I wrestled, we faced certain challenges, but the challenges Pete Wirs

faces next month are far different: He is 59 years old, has suffered a heart attack and two strokes, and has diabetes.

While my colleague from Pennsylvania spoke about the importance of Mr. Wirs overcoming diabetes to wrestle, I would also note the corollary: He chose wrestling as the sport to overcome diabetes.

Wrestling is demanding. Who wins and who loses is decided solely by the two individuals squaring off on the mat. People have different opinions about what percent of training is physical and what percent is mental, but everyone agrees that wrestling is an incredibly demanding sport, both physically and emotionally.

Former Speaker Dennis Hastert, a former wrestling coach, often commented on the courage, discipline, and perseverance that wrestling demands. Paraphrasing the old introduction to ABC's Wide World of Sports, wrestling demonstrates the "thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

That will be very important to remember on April 17, when Pete Wirs steps onto the mat. From one wrestler to another and one public official to another, I wish him the best of luck.

Mr. Speaker, you may remember that the International Olympic Committee's executive board voted last year to expel wrestling from the Summer Games. Thanks to the outcry from ordinary citizens from across America and around the world, the IOC General Assembly ultimately reversed the board's decision and reinstated the sport. But this decision gives wrestling only a temporary reprieve. It is still on probation, with its status in the future facing further challenges.

Our country should celebrate the thousands of amateur athletes who train for and compete in the sport of wrestling. Today, I am honored to commend Pete Wirs and all who rise to the challenge.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF COLONEL ROBERT K. THOMPSON, USAF

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Colonel Robert K. Thompson upon the occasion of his retirement after 29 years of honorable service to our great Nation in the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

Colonel Thompson received his Air Force commission in 1985 as a distinguished ROTC graduate from Indiana University. After receiving his commission, he began an impressive career as a public affairs officer—a career that spanned nearly three decades and brought him to all corners of the world. Colonel Thompson's final assignment at Headquarters, United States Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as the Chief of Public Affairs for the Policy Integration Directorate, Office of Air Force Reserve, was in direct support of the Chief of Air Force Reserve, where he helped fulfill mission directives for more than 70,000 reservists at 34 wings and 12 groups.

Throughout his myriad deployments in Central and South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and in the United States, Colonel Thompson championed America's First Amendment rights and goodwill in war zones and disaster areas. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, he expedited the story and video of the airstrike that killed al-Zarqawi, leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq. As NATO's top spokesman in Bosnia, he communicated the coalition's commitment to the Dayton Peace Accord and coalition efforts to remove landmines, disarm former combatants and capture war criminals leading to the arrest of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. Utilizing his experience and success as a public affairs officer, Colonel Thompson wrote the first draft of the Department of Defense's media plan for Operation Enduring Freedom, which helped inform the American people while also protecting operational security. At home, Colonel Thompson escorted FOX, CNN, and CBS aboard the Air Force's first-responder helicopters to cover the Winter Olympics in Utah and rescue operations during Hurricane Katrina, ultimately writing the plans for release of information critical for the general public to understand military disaster relief operations. Additionally, Colonel Thompson orchestrated better insight into our humanitarian efforts in Japan, Libya, and Haiti, where we helped open schools, medical clinics and the first transnational road built coast-to-coast by the U.S. military in Honduras.

In his most recent position as Chief of Public Affairs, Colonel Thompson played an integral role in Congressional proceedings relating to life-cycle manpower costs and force shaping. He also worked to provide input to our Nation's highest military and civilian leaders and informed the public on important Air Force developments, with more than 100 published news articles viewed by millions. Colonel Thompson's efforts have also been critical to implementing new laws and policies supporting combat veterans, reservists, their civilian employers, and their families, and championing increased utilization of an operational reserve.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, my wife Vicki and I extend our deepest appreciation of Colonel Thompson for his many years of dedicated service. There is no question that the Air Force, Department of Defense, and the United States benefitted greatly from Colonel Thompson's visionary leadership, planning, and foresight, and we wish him and his wife, Pam, the very best.

**SANFORD HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S
BASKETBALL TEAM**

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sanford High School men's basketball team and their coach, Rhett Larsen. Sanford's Indians claimed their sixth Class 2A state basketball title, with their previous titles coming in 1950, 1951, 1978, 1996, and 2006.

Sanford finished the season with a remarkable 26–1 record, capping it off with a cham-

pionship win over Akron, 55–51 at the Colorado State University-Pueblo Massari Arena. The team made 17 free throws in the fourth quarter, making nine free throws in the final two minutes to clinch the victory.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Sanford's basketball team and their extraordinary coach. Under Coach Laresn's expert guidance, I have no doubt that Sanford will win many more state titles. I look forward to this group of young men's future successes on and off the basketball court.

HONORING PETER WIRS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Wirs, a friend and a neighbor, who will soon become the first diabetic and oldest individual to step into an international freestyle wrestling mat at this year's USA Wrestling's National Open, taking place in Las Vegas on April 17. Peter Wirs currently serves as the 59th Republican Ward Leader in Philadelphia.

But despite what Peter has accomplished, diabetes continues to be an epidemic. One in 12 Americans has diabetes, and an additional one in 3 Americans is at risk for developing the disease. Every 17 seconds, another individual is diagnosed with diabetes. Shockingly, this disease kills more Americans every year than breast cancer and AIDS combined. The American Diabetes Association's latest research estimates the total costs of diagnosed diabetes have risen to \$245 billion in 2012 from \$174 billion in 2007, when the cost was last examined, representing a 41 percent over a five-year period. Diabetes costs severely impact American productivity, let alone billions in healthcare costs.

Pete Wirs could have given up ten years ago. When I first met Pete Wirs he weighed 250 lbs. Today, he weighs 180 lbs. He exercises at 5:30 in the morning every day, followed by drills and wrestling holds and moves practice every night after work at the Pennsylvania Wrestling Club headquarters, located in my District.

Mr. Speaker, we don't know whether Leader Wirs will win or lose his first match. But no matter what the final score ends up being, Pete Wirs will have scored a moral victory by simply stepping onto the mat, by getting his diabetes under control, and by proving to all of us that physical fitness is not a diet or a fad, but a life-long commitment to healthy eating, continuous exercise, and sports activity.

Mr. Speaker, Pete Wirs remains an inspiration to all diabetics and indeed to all of us who should be exercising and participating in sports and recreation. I join my colleague, Congressman JIM JORDAN, in congratulating Leader Wirs, and all of his fellow team members, coaches and boosters in what is sure to be a sports event for the history books.

IN MEMORY OF BERNADINO CRUZ, JR., AND HIS PASSION FOR EDUCATION, MUSIC, AND THE SOUTHWEST DETROIT COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Bernadino Cruz, Jr., an educator, a musician and a community activist in Southwest Detroit.

As an educator, Mr. Cruz shared his love of music and the learning process with his students as a music teacher at Burt Elementary and then at Cesar Chavez Academy. In each instance, he took his love of music and focused that passion into connecting his students with the importance of their education. At Burt Elementary, Mr. Cruz not only directly tied the music department programming into the school's curriculum, but also took the initiative to expand the array of programming available to students by establishing a concert choir. At Cesar Chavez, Mr. Cruz continued his track record of dedication to his students by establishing an instrumental music program and a touring bilingual concert choir. As an honor and testament to the remarkable impact Mr. Cruz made on the students at Cesar Chavez, the new media center at its high school will be dedicated to him.

After more than six years as a teacher, Mr. Cruz stepped into a new educational role as Assistant Principal at the Hope of Detroit Academy. In this position, he continued his commitment to engage his students in the educational process. His responsibilities included overseeing the entire school curriculum, management of day-to-day operations and management of student body behavior.

Furthermore, Mr. Cruz's passion for learning did not stop with his students—it is a value that he practiced in his own life as he continued to seek more knowledge in the field of education. Following his Bachelor of Arts in Music from Wayne State University, Mr. Cruz went on to receive additional certifications in education and education administration from Wayne State and Marygrove College in Detroit. With each new skill he developed, Mr. Cruz furthered his mission to empower his students with a quality education.

As a musician, Mr. Cruz shared his passion for music with the Southwest Detroit community in many ways. In addition to his role as a music teacher in the field of education, Mr. Cruz served as a music teacher at the Most Holy Redeemer Church and used his musical talents to support many causes focused on strengthening the Southwest Detroit community. Working together with his brother Mauro, Mr. Cruz also sought to build bridges of cultural understanding by taking traditional Latin music and incorporating new rhythms and styles that helped youth better connect to both their identity and heritage.

Mr. Speaker, leaders, educators and artists, like Mr. Bernadino Cruz, Jr., are so important to ensuring the success of the communities we represent. Mr. Cruz showed a passion and dedication for education, music and the Southwest Detroit community that have inspired so

many to make a difference in their community. I join the Southwest Detroit community, and all whose lives have been influenced by Mr. Cruz and his enthusiasm, in the sadness that is felt for his loss. However, I know that his family can take comfort in the incredible difference he has made in the lives of so many people, and the inspiration his legacy will continue to instill in future generations.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LEONARD
WASSERMAN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Leonard J. Wasserman of Oregon, Ohio, who passed from this life on Monday, March 10, 2014. Len Wasserman was an indefatigable and socially minded leader on many fronts, dedicating his life to the service of his country and his local community.

After graduating from Olney High School in 1944, Len served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army during WWII. Following his service, he returned to Oregon, Ohio, to work as an engineer for Pure-Union oil, then as a chief engineer for Little Sisters of the Poor. In addition to his work as an engineer, he also enjoyed farming and continued pursuing this passion until his retirement in 2000.

In the city of Oregon, he has made an immeasurable impact through his active role in the community. He served the city in various capacities, ranging from Councilman, Mayor, member of T.M.O.C.O.G., and past chairman of the Safety Commission and the Oregon Growth Commission. Len also remained politically active throughout his life, through his involvement in the Oregon Democratic Club. He served as past president and was a lifetime member 45+ years precinct committeeman. He was also a life member of the St. Ignatius Church, serving the church in a variety of roles. Len was a member and past president of the Holy Name Society, church lector, Eucharistic minister, member and past president of St. Vincent DePaul Society, church councilman, usher, and past president of the church credit union. In addition to his involvement with the church, Len was also a member of the Christ Dunberger American Legion Post 537, where he served as chaplain and member of the color guard, V.F.W. 9816, life member of O.C.A.W. 346, Old News Boys, Eagles 2562, Swiss Club, G.A.F. Society, and the G.B.U.

Len Wasserman leaves to cherish his life and legacy his loving wife Wilma Wasserman, their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family and friends. May we join them in honoring the life and service of an exceptional man.

PINE RIVER LIBRARY

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding performance of the Pine River Library District in Bayfield, Colorado. For their continued excellence and service to their community, the Pine River Library District has been selected as the Best Small Library in America by the Library Journal for 2014.

The Board of Directors and entire staff have contributed to the development of a truly world-class facility that provides a diverse array of services to the Bayfield community. Pine River not only offers traditional library services, but provides patrons with laptops, GPS devices, and e-readers to check out and use. Their dedication to the community also extends to education, offering teen and youth programs, free film and documentary screenings, and community classes on a regular basis.

The library is committed to creatively engaging the public through hands-on understanding of sustainable agriculture and environmentally friendly research through their Living Library program. Everyone can come to the library and learn about sustainable foods in the community garden, explore a geodesic greenhouse, or take advantage of the upcoming tool lending program that will allow patrons to start their own garden at home. It is clear that Pine River is more than a library; it is a hub for knowledge and education that offers valuable resources to the Bayfield community every day.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize the passion for knowledge that the Pine River Library District represents and to congratulate them on their selection for this prestigious award. With their unique and comprehensive approach to learning, I am confident that they will continue to serve as an example to libraries worldwide.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today I was unavoidably detained due to a family emergency and missed the following votes:

Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1459. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this motion.

H. Res. 524—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1459—Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

H.R. 1228—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building," as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

H. Res. 524—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1459—Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act (Rep. BISHOP (UT)—Natural Resources). Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this rule.

An amendment, offered by Ms. TSONGAS, numbered 3 printed in House Report 113—385 to preserve the ability of the President to declare as national monuments those that provide for the "protection or conservation of historic or cultural resources related to American military history," regardless of their size. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

HONORING KEITH CARSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Keith Carson for his extraordinary career in public service. Mr. Carson is currently a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for District 5, where he has served his constituents with dedication.

A proud Berkeley native, Mr. Carson graduated from University of California, Berkeley with a bachelor of arts in social sciences. He went on to receive his master's degree in public administration from California State University, Hayward. Mr. Carson served as an aide for Congressman Ronald V. Dellums for 14 years before holding public office.

During his tenure on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Mr. Carson has promoted and continues to promote many beneficial programs for youth in Alameda County. Among these, Mr. Carson initiated the Family Journeys/Youth Ancestry Project in partnership with McClymonds High School, Berkeley Technical High School, Beyond Emancipation, the African American Genealogical Society and the staff at the Family History Center at the Mormon Temple. The Ancestry project is a semester long research project with the aim to spark conversations between youth, their parents, and other family members. Furthermore, Mr. Carson spearheaded a pilot youth bus pass program in 2001, providing AC Transit passes for all students in grades 6 through 12 who qualified for free and reduced lunch in the county.

Mr. Carson has also been at the forefront of the fight to improve health services in Alameda County. One example, Alameda County's Place Matters is an initiative designed to improve the health of communities by addressing the social conditions that lead to poor health. In addition, he pushed for the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services to develop an African American Utilization Study to determine which behavioral health care services in Alameda County African Americans utilize in an effort to better serve the population.

Mr. Carson is keenly committed to community leadership, serving as chairman of several

Alameda County committees and organizations. He currently sits on the Board for the Alameda County East Bay Economic Development Alliance, one of the largest business organizations serving the East Bay Area. Mr. Carson is also the Chairman of the Alameda County Budget Work Group and is a member of the Alameda County Transportation Commission. Moreover, he represents the Alameda Board of Supervisors in State and national organizations, including the Board of Directors for the California State Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties.

Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Carson has been praised for his commitment and contributions to the community. He has worked tirelessly to enhance the lives of the community he serves through public service and raising awareness on critical social issues.

It is a privilege to call Keith one of my closest personal friends. We have traveled to Cuba, Africa, and Asia together and have shared many unique experiences in learning about the world and our responsibilities as global citizens. As our beloved, the late Supervisor John George instructed us—think locally, act globally. Keith's life is the epitome of that wisdom. As a longtime friend, Keith not only supports my work as an elected official, but constantly checks in with me to remind me of the importance of work-life balance, whether it's taking time to rest, exercise, eat properly, and spend time with my family. He cares deeply about my personal well being given the 24/7 nature of my work and for that, my family and I are deeply grateful.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Mr. Keith Carson, I salute you. I thank you for a lifetime of service and congratulate you on your many achievements. I wish you continued success as you serve the residents of the East Bay.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNM UNDERGRADUATE MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the hard work and impressive accomplishments of the Undergraduate Mock Trial Team at the University of New Mexico. This determined group of students recently competed in a regional tournament in California, where their performance earned them a trip to the opening round of the national competition. Following a strong second place finish in that round, the team has qualified to move to the next round taking place later this month in Orlando, Florida.

In addition to their success in the regional tournament and the opening round competition, the team has traveled around the West, placing first in a competition in Colorado Springs, and giving impressive performances in competitions in Texas and California. While their success in mock trial competitions is a source of pride, it is their initiative and leadership as a self-coached group that is so impressive.

While many of the teams it competes against have a faculty or professional attorney

coaching them, the UNM team has taken upon themselves to manage, train, and govern their own team. Founded four years ago, the students have worked diligently over that time, as they have improved their skills and turned their vision into a successful and accomplished team.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the UNM Undergraduate Mock Trial Team—Laura Worden, Cris Romero, Nicolas Cordova, Daniel Whiteley, Valeria Garcia, Danielle Harrier, Sarah Peterson, and Seth Barany—and wish them the best at the national competition.

NORWOOD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Norwood High School Mavericks girls' basketball team and their coach, Greg King, for winning this year's 1A State basketball championship title.

Their thrilling 38 to 34 victory over the Caliche High School Buffaloes marks only the second time in the school's history winning this prestigious athletic title. According to Coach King, this is a team that fights hard for every victory on the court and in the classroom. These talented young women exemplify the versatility and passion of our amazing student athletes, and will no doubt have bright futures.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to offer my sincere congratulations to Norwood for this year's exciting victory, and I commend Coach King and each member of the team for their sportsmanship and competitive spirit as they continue their bright academic and athletic careers.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today, April 1st, marks the 30th anniversary of the effective date of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The FAR replaced the Armed Services Procurement Regulation and the Federal Procurement Regulations. The principles of the FAR system have remained constant, providing a consistent government-wide approach to the rules and processes of contracting with the U.S. Government. The FAR has helped facilitate our ability to tap into the vast resources of the private sector in those instances when the work of the government can best be performed by outside entities.

The United States Federal government is one of the world's largest consumers of goods and services, with total procurement spending of approximately a half trillion dollars each year. We need to ensure that the government

acquires goods and services in an efficient and streamlined fashion, while getting the best value for the American taxpayer.

Many have criticized the fashion in which the government acquires goods and services, particularly information technology, as cumbersome and inefficient. The FAR has evolved to provide broad flexibility to the government, while balancing the need to conduct business with integrity, fairness, and openness. Under the FAR, small businesses have grown into a critical business partner for the Federal government.

The FAR is the Federal regulation that most reflects a collaborative process. Unlike other Federal regulations, the FAR is not signed by one agency, but by three agencies—the General Services Administration, the Department of Defense, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—under the overall direction of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (in the Office of Management and Budget). They are supported by seventeen other civilian agencies and the small agency council. Together they continuously improve Federal acquisition, incorporating best practices from private industry while protecting taxpayer dollars from waste and abuse.

The FAR has its own authority for rule-making which streamlines the process but provides the opportunity for participation in the rulemaking process by both government users and the public. There have been notable collaborative rulemakings in the past, such as the implementation of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994, and I support the continued use of the FAR rulemaking process to provide robust exchanges between government and the public.

From the shortest FAR clause which reads "United States law will apply to resolve any claim of breach of this contract" to the longest one, the Government Property clause, which is over 5000 words long, the FAR is a flexible instrument designed to do the job.

More than 30 percent of the government's discretionary budget is dedicated to procurement—the grunt work of the government. It may not be glamorous, but it is what makes the government work. We acknowledge and support the FAR on its anniversary, but remain committed to streamlining and improving its operation and ensuring that acquisition professionals across the government have the tools, training, and support they need to properly use this critical tool.

While the FAR is by no means a perfect document, most countries in the world, whether developed or developing, study the FAR and borrow from it for their procurement system. More importantly, the hard working men and women of the acquisition workforce play a vital role in the policy that is developed for the FAR, and in making that policy work on a daily basis they strive to ensure that the taxpayers, in the end, get best value.

On behalf of those taxpayers, I direct my thanks to the acquisition workforce community for all you do to make our federal acquisition system work. Our system, while not perfect, is better than any alternative out there and something for you to be proud of—you make it work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 147, I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING CHAPLAIN BENJAMIN VEGORS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chaplain Benjamin Vegors, who is retiring after giving over 40 years of service to our nation's veterans. A dedicated servant, Chaplain Vegors spent countless hours counseling and caring for our veterans throughout the Pacific Northwest at the Jonathan N. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington.

A World War II veteran, Chaplain Vegors served in the Army Air Corps from 1942–1945, assigned to Europe as a tail gunner in B24 Liberator bombers flying 30 missions over Germany and Austria. When asked what called him to the ministry, Ben tells about one particular mission over Germany when two of the plane's outboard engines were shot out. With the plane out of formation and slowly losing altitude, the pilot had to make an emergency landing. With enemy soldiers in pursuit, Chaplain Vegors felt certain that they were all going to die—if they bailed out of the plane, they would be shot in the air but if they stayed in the plane, they were sure to go down. While sitting in his usual landing position, Chaplain Vegors made a midair commitment that if he survived, he would serve God for the rest of his life.

Following discharge from the military, Chaplain Vegors went back to school and then to seminary at Multnomah Bible College in Portland, Oregon. His pastoral career began in Junction City, Oregon. Afterwards, he went to Walla Walla, where he met Jim Dennis, the chaplain at the VA Hospital. Chaplain Dennis invited Ben to accompany him on his night calls to veterans. This led to an intermittent chaplaincy appointment with the VA and eventually to a part-time chaplaincy position.

In 1972, he was appointed as a full-time chaplain. After 42 years of service as Chaplain of the Jonathan N. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington, Chaplain Vegors is retiring. Knowing that he has made a difference in countless veterans' lives, Ben once said that he would serve 1,000 years if he could. As it is, he is the oldest chaplain in the United States. A man of integrity and high principle, his humility and his impact on Eastern Washington's veterans and on his country will long be remembered.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chaplain Vegors for a lifetime of dedicated service.

PUEBLO EAST HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pueblo East High School men's basketball team and their coach, Dave Ryder. In their third time in the State finals, the Pueblo East Eagles claimed their first Class 4A State basketball title. This was Coach Ryder's final year with the Eagles after teaching for 29 years and 10 years as head coach.

After an exciting and challenging game, the Eagles production in the half court helped them beat Denver South, 58 to 51. In a thrilling back and forth between these two teams, Pueblo East's defense made the difference, allowing their opponent to only score two points in the final 2:41 of the game.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Pueblo East men's basketball team and their extraordinary coach, Dave Ryder. Under Coach Ryder's expert guidance, the team captured their first men's basketball championship in school history, and built a base that I have no doubt will win many more State titles to continue their legacy of success.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,554,275,708,064.70. We've added \$6,927,398,659,151.62 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING LLOYD MITCHELL

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lloyd Mitchell for his many years of exemplary service to the state of Missouri. Lloyd retired on February 11, 2014 after more than 46 years of service to the Texas County Sheriff's department.

In 1968, at age 43, Lloyd began his career in law enforcement as Deputy Sheriff of Texas County. In 1994, he became a bailiff in Texas County and held this position up until his retirement. Over the course of his career, Lloyd developed a reputation for conducting his job with the utmost integrity. His professionalism has set a high standard of work ethics that will serve as an example for future generations of law enforcement professionals.

In addition to his many years of service to the sheriff's department, Lloyd is a published author and has served as a deacon for his local Church. His dedication to serving Texas County has helped countless residents, and it is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

HONORING MITCHELL LIBMAN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mitchell Libman of Hollywood, Florida, who for more than five decades worked to ensure a dear friend received the recognition he deserved for his heroism and sacrifice during the Korean War.

In 1951, Mr. Libman learned that his childhood friend, Private First Class Leonard Kravitz, lost his life during combat and received the Distinguished Service Cross for his service. After hearing about Private Kravitz's heroics from some of the soldiers who fought by his side in Korea, he was inspired to dig deeper into the circumstances of his death.

Mr. Libman found that his friend's service was indeed extraordinary. During an ambush of Communist forces, Private First Class Leonard Kravitz sacrificed his own life when he took over a machine gun so that his platoon could retreat to safety. It became clear that Private Kravitz's heroism qualified him for the Medal of Honor, and yet he never received one. During his years of research, Mr. Libman began to suspect that Private Kravitz could have been bypassed for the Medal of Honor due to possible prejudice in the military against his Jewish heritage. He decided to take the issue to Washington.

As a result of Mr. Libman's heartfelt advocacy, Congress passed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2002 requiring the Pentagon to undergo a review and determine if Jewish and Hispanic Americans serving in our Armed Forces could have been overlooked for the Medal of Honor due to bias in the military.

The Pentagon's review did more than confirm that Private First Class Leonard Kravitz indeed fit the criteria for the Medal of Honor. It also revealed 23 additional cases of soldiers who went above and beyond the call of duty and yet never received the Medal of Honor for their extraordinary service. Last fall, I was pleased to pass H.R. 3304, an amended version of the National Defense Authorization Act ensuring that every soldier discovered during this review to be worthy of the Medal of Honor would finally be recognized.

On March 18, 2014, Mr. Libman's decades of work culminated in President Barack Obama awarding all 24 soldiers with the Medal of Honor. Seeing the President finally issue these long overdue awards should remind us all of the power every American citizen has to make a difference, and I am profoundly grateful for Mitchell Libman's years of determination and love of country.

RICHARD GOTTLIEB

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Richard Gottlieb, a World War II Veteran, who served his county as a B-24 gunner with the 15th Air Force, 55th Bomb Wing, of the 465th Bomb Group, 780th squadron stationed at Pantanella Air Base in Italy.

The 465th Bomb Group served as a strategic bombardment group on two different missions, bombing strategic points near Vienna, Austria, on July 8, 1944, and two steel plants at Friedrichshafen, Germany, on August 3, 1944. His group was given a Distinguished Unit Citation for carrying out their missions despite enemy anti-aircraft and fighter pilot fire.

Mr. Gottlieb was born in 1925 and spent most of his life in Brooklyn, New York. As a troop leader for the Boy Scouts of America, Mr. Gottlieb travelled by train through the State of Colorado to the Philmont Scout Ranch in Northern New Mexico, where he first saw and fell in love with the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, vowing to one day live there. In 1990, he moved to Ft. Garland, Colorado and has been residing at the Colorado State Veterans Center at Homelake since 2006.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Richard Gottlieb for his service to our country during WWII and for the contributions he made to preserve our freedom.

RECOGNIZING PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENT JESSIE SWOFFORD FOR HER COMMITMENT AND SERVICE TO WASHINGTON STATE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Ms. Jessie Swofford of Tacoma has just been named one of the top honorees in Washington by the 2014 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers across the country.

Jessie is being recognized for helping improve the lives of children with autism and their families through volunteering with Families for Effective Autism Treatment (FEAT). Each month Jessie volunteers at FEAT's "Super Saturdays," where she organizes games and activities for children with autism. Jessie also mentors teenagers with autism and spends her summers volunteering with an intensive intervention program for youth with autism.

Jessie herself battled a digestive disorder and a botched surgery as an infant, and dyslexia growing up, all of which she has overcome. Today she is enrolled in advanced placement and honors courses, and she is

discovering her passion to become a speech pathologist.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions that these young citizens have made. Young volunteers like Jessie are inspiring examples to all of us and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued—and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 19 years, the program has become the Nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Jessie should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Jessie for seeking to make her community a better place to live and for working to positively impact the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world. Jessie's actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE GLORIA MOLINA

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gloria Molina, who is retiring at the end of this year, after an impressive 40-year career as a public servant in the State of California.

On the occasion of Ms. Molina's retirement from public office, we wish to extend to her sincere congratulations for the decades of dedicated service that she has given to her nation, her State, her City, and her County, most recently as member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, where she has served with distinction as the First Supervisorial District Supervisor since 1991.

Through the Chicano Power Movement, the Women's Movement, and the national movement against the Vietnam War during the 1960s and 1970s, Ms. Molina's interest was awakened to civic affairs. She was the first chief deputy for California State Assemblyman Art Torres in 1974 and later for the renowned California State Assembly Speaker Willie Brown. Ms. Molina also served in the Carter White House as well as the San Francisco Department of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Molina was first elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1991, the first Latina ever elected to the Board, representing the First District, where she is cur-

rently serving her fifth term. During this time, she also has served five times as Chair of the Board. Ms. Molina's tenure has produced dramatic results both because she has insisted that County services be streamlined for maximum effectiveness and because she has brought to fruition major capital endeavors that improve County residents' quality-of-life.

Prior to representing the First Supervisorial District, Ms. Molina was elected to the California State Assembly in 1982 and the Los Angeles City Council in 1987. Both times, she was the first Latina to earn this honor. Her triumphant leadership in the 1980s against the construction of a state prison in East Los Angeles is legendary, and it solidified her reputation—whether functioning on a local or a national level—as both a fighter and groundbreaker able to achieve victory despite seemingly insurmountable odds.

Named as one of the Democratic Party's "10 Rising Stars" by TIME magazine in 1996, Ms. Molina served as one of four vice chairs of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) from 1996 through 2004. During the 2000 Presidential Election, Ms. Molina was one of 15 top women leaders nationwide to be named as a possible vice-presidential candidate by the White House Project—a non-profit, non-partisan group dedicated to raising awareness of women's leadership in American politics.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, the State of California, and the County of Los Angeles, I want to thank Gloria Molina for sharing her tremendous talents with us for so many years. We extend our gratitude to her for her remarkable contributions in public service throughout her illustrious career. With sincere best wishes, we congratulate Ms. Molina upon her retirement from elective office. We are pleased to join her many co-workers, family, friends, and associates in wishing her health, happiness, and continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CAMBODIAN DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, this April marks the 39th anniversary of the Khmer Rouge regime's rise to power in Cambodia and the tragedies that followed. I join Cambodian Americans to commemorate this tragedy in the community's past. Yet even as we solemnly recognize this moment, we can also look at the hopeful future that lies ahead for the Cambodian American community.

The Khmer Rouge regime seized power in Cambodia on April 17, 1975 and began a reign of terror and systematic genocide. Upwards of 3.4 million innocent men, women, and children lost their lives at mass grave sites now known as the Killing Fields. Thousands of refugees escaped these atrocities and were given sanctuary in the United States; many came to the State of Illinois.

Thanks to the Cambodian Association of Illinois and our strong Cambodian American

community here in the United States, we are aware of the Cambodian genocide and its devastating effects. Organizations such as the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and the Killing Field Memorial carry out the vital mission of ensuring that we do not forget the atrocities of this period. The Cambodian community is committed to remembering and paying tribute to those lost in the Killing Fields while enhancing the public's awareness of these atrocities and supporting the survivors and their families.

As Illinois and other States recognize April 17th as the Cambodian Day of Remembrance, I rise today to join my Cambodian American friends to commemorate the atrocities of the Killing Fields and to provide comfort and hope to the victims' families. Let us take this moment to recognize that group-targeted violence and intolerance still exist in nations across the world, and we cannot ignore its presence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in solidarity with the Cambodian American community in remembering those who were lost to the Khmer Rouge regime and in recognizing our hope for a more peaceful future.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LIBBY AND ROBIN MAYNARD

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Libby and Robin Maynard. Libby Maynard was a leader among women through her personal life, her career, and her fight with breast cancer. A Florida native, born in Lakeland in 1943, Libby grew up active in her church and school music programs. Libby attended college in Georgia, where she majored in music and was selected for the Who's Who Among American College Students. While in college, Libby began her journey as a missionary. Her service led her to New York City where she worked directly with teenage gang members and was a minister of music at local churches. During her time in New York, she met and married Reverend Herb Maynard with whom she had two daughters.

Libby moved home to Lakeland in 1979 to care for her mother, who was diagnosed with breast cancer for a second time. After her mom's passing, she spent some time in North Carolina, before returning to Florida again to care for her aging father. Having been touched by cancer personally, she began volunteering and then working for the American Cancer Society.

Libby was passionate and dedicated. She loved helping people throughout her life. In January 2005, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She began her journey with cancer with the same boundless energy, determination, and amazing strength that she applied to every challenge in her life. Due to the demands of her cancer treatments, Libby lost her job and, as a result, her health insurance. Despite her own difficulties, she continued to be a positive light and to help those around her.

Twelve months after her diagnosis, Libby "won her trip to heaven" after the cancer suddenly returned. Libby left this world with dignity and grace. She left behind a legacy of hope that her daughter Robin carries on in her name.

Robin Maynard, following her mom's beautiful example, is a leader among women in Central Florida. After losing her mother to breast cancer in 2006, Robin saw firsthand the difficulties faced by uninsured women in Florida. In 2007, she founded Libby's Legacy Breast Cancer Foundation (LLBCF). The Foundation provides lifesaving breast health services to the uninsured and underinsured women of Central Florida and its health care advocates fight to get patients the treatment they need when diagnosed.

In 2009, Robin left her successful career as an Orange County Crime Scene Investigator to work full time at LLBCF, where she fights daily for her patients to receive the treatment they need and deserve. Since it opened its doors, LLBCF has provided over 4,000 breast health services and diagnosed more than 65 cases of breast cancer. Today, 114 children still have their mothers because of Robin's tireless efforts after losing her own mother. Through their leadership and legacy, Libby and Robin continue to save lives.

I am happy to honor Libby and Robin Maynard, during Women's History Month, for their service and contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND COMMITMENT OF THE GRAYS HARBOR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY IN WASHINGTON STATE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Grays Harbor Community Foundation, which has provided unwavering support to the greater Grays Harbor County community.

The Grays Harbor Community Foundation was established in 1994 to partner with residents to make investments in the future of our region. Through scholarships, grants, partnerships, and support for the arts, the Foundation has inspired long-term philanthropy and community investment.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to highlight a few of the many accomplishments of the Foundation. In 2012, the Foundation launched the Technology Initiative and provided grants to five school districts that gave them the resources to integrate innovative learning tools into the classroom and increase student engagement and achievement. I applaud their efforts. We know that it is critical to make investments in school technology so that all students have access to critical tools they need to remain competitive in today's increasingly technology-dependent world.

I commend the Foundation's scholarship program, which supports students' aspirations

of pursuing education beyond high school. Education is the door to opportunity and for a lot of families—including mine—financial aid is the key to that door. This Foundation has done exemplary work partnering with students to help them open that door.

Mr. Speaker, the Foundation also partners with an array of excellent local organizations to build art installations, provide safe places for kids to learn and play, fund afterschool programs, help families cover unexpected expenses, and provide access to legal resources. I applaud their work in meeting community needs and making Grays Harbor a better, more vibrant place to live.

I am happy to join in the celebration of the Foundation's 20th year. As I close, it is only appropriate to acknowledge the work of Executive Director Jim Daly, Finance and Accounting Officer Jim George, Program Officer Cassie Lentz, Office Manager Cari Jewell, and the Foundation's Board of Directors for their ongoing support of the Grays Harbor Community Foundation. It is my sincere pleasure to recognize their outstanding service today in the United States Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE LOUIS A. BECKER'S EXTRAORDINARY WORK AS A JUDGE

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before you today to recognize the efforts of a truly significant individual in the judicial field. Not only is it a privilege to know Judge Louis A. Becker, but also to call Judge Becker a friend. Our lives had some remarkable commonalities. We both worked as a lifeguard in Ocean City, Maryland. We both played lacrosse during our school years and graduated from the University of Baltimore's Law School. Finally, we both worked for our Nation's Intelligence communities during our long careers in public service.

The Honorable Louis A. Becker was appointed by Governor Ehrlich as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Howard County in July 2005, after having been appointed by Governor Schaefer to the District Court of Maryland for Howard County in 1989. On occasion, he has been specially assigned to Maryland's 2nd highest appellate bench, the Court of Special Appeals. Thus, he has adjudicated thousands of bench and jury trials involving major felonies and complex civil cases and authored several appellate opinions.

He is a graduate of Loyola University, B.S., Political Science, 1965 and the University of Baltimore School of Law, J.D., 1970. Having served on active duty and the Reserves from 1965 to 1994, he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Intelligence.

Prior to the bench he practiced law with emphasis in the areas of criminal law, real property, corporate, computer, and professional malpractice. He was formerly a member of the Board of Governors of the Maryland State Bar

Association and served on its Ethics & Judicial Selection Committees, and Solo/Small Firm Practice Section Council. As Chair of the latter in 1999–2000, he received the American Bar Association Solo/Small Firm Bar Leader of the Year Award. He is a Fellow of the Maryland and Howard Bar Foundations. He is Past President of the Howard County Bar Association and he is currently serving a second term as President of the James Macgill American Inns of Court; an organization dedicated to promoting judicial and legal excellence. He served on the Maryland Attorney Grievance Commission from 1975 to 1980.

Judge Becker has written and lectured on search and seizure law as well as lawyer and judicial ethics for the Maryland Judicial Institute, the New Trial Judges Orientation Course and the Maryland Institute for Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers (MICPEL). Having taught Professional Responsibility, he is currently teaching Trial Advocacy at the University of Baltimore Law School where he was awarded Adjunct Professor of the Year in 2003, and has been a member of the Dean's Advisory Council since 1994.

As a judicial leader, he was the founder of the first Drug/DUI Treatment Court in Howard County. Over the years his community involvement has included service on the Board of Trustees of the Howard County Library, the Howard County Executive's Mental Health Services Restructuring Task Force and the County Youth Lacrosse Program.

His wife of 46 years, Shawn, a Registered Nurse who holds a Master's Degree in Nursing Policy, is Senior Director of Patient Safety, US Pharmacopeia (USP). He has two grown sons; one of whom is a commercial banker and the other a construction project manager, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see from this incredible list of accomplishments, Judge Louis A. Becker has had a distinguished career as an attorney and a judge for the State of Maryland. He has served our country with distinction. I ask that you join with me today to applaud the tremendous work he has done for our courts and our community as he enters retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the passage and signing of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) on April 10, 1979. I would also like to congratulate and welcome Mr. Lyushun Shen as the incoming Representative for Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) in the United States.

The TRA has molded our relations with Taiwan and has provided the backbone for a productive and constructive partnership between our two countries.

The ability of the people of Taiwan to defend themselves has been the hallmark of the

TRA's success and has led to a sustained peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, as well as in the Western Pacific. In an ever evolving geo-political environment, we must recognize the continuing importance of Taiwan's self-defense needs going forward to ensure that peace continues to prevail.

In addition, with our commitment to Taiwan under the TRA, Taiwan has developed into a democracy with a flourishing economy and free market system. In 2012, the bilateral trade volume reached \$63 billion, making Taiwan the United States' 11th largest trading partner. Taiwan's commitment to free market principles, demonstrative economic power, and role as a global supply chain hub make it an important partner in international trade.

The security and stability in the region, along with Taiwan's commitment to free market policies, have resulted in unprecedented economic growth. Taiwan's commitment and participation in international free trade should not only be lauded, but should be bolstered around the globe. I look forward to Taiwan's continued growth as a trade partner and celebrate its relationship with the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 148, I was unable to attend.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF LOCAL 636 OF THE UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate the members and leadership of the Steamfitters, Pipefitters, Refrigeration and Air Condition Service Local Union 636 as they gather to celebrate their local's centennial and recognize them for their many important accomplishments.

As the Detroit chapter of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry (UA), Local 636 and its members are part of an organization with a rich history that has supported our country in moments of crisis. As key participants in the Public Works Administration and Works Progress Administration during the New Deal, members of the UA put their skills and experience to work for the revitalization of our Nation—constructing many roads, dams, schools, libraries, and other public buildings that are a testament to the ingenuity of Amer-

ican workers. Furthermore, as citizens across the United States rose to answer the call to serve our Nation during WWII, members of the UA entered our Armed Forces and went to work in the Arsenal of Democracy—constructing equipment that was vital to our Nation's success. As a community that was central to industrial innovation and output during WWII and the decades that have come since then, the members of Local 636 in the greater Detroit area have a unique and strong bond to these significant moments in our history.

With the mission of promoting the building trade professions through supporting high standards of excellence, the members of Local 636 are engaged in work that impacts the quality of our lives at home, at work, and in our leisure time. These high standards include a strong commitment to the ongoing education of its members, which Local 636 supports with a three-acre training center where its members can receive practical hands-on training for a number of disciplines including steam and hydronic heating systems, building automation systems, and industrial controls. Furthermore, through its programs, Local 636's education center provides members with certifications in pipefitting mastery, industrial process control calibration, EPA refrigerant recovery, orbital welding, and for many other practical applications. The end result is an educated workforce that is well positioned to capitalize on advancements in technology and thereby, able to serve the changing needs of the greater Detroit region.

Mr. Speaker, in the past one-hundred years, the members of trade unions have been at the center of so many advancements in the workplace, in the pursuit of social justice, and in improving the quality of education. Many of the protections and rights that we enjoy in today's workplace are a result of their decades of struggle and dedication. Local 636 of the UA has a proud history that includes these valiant pursuits and as their members gather to celebrate and reflect upon their achievements over the last 100 years, I congratulate them on the impact they have made and the commitment they continue to embrace in support of their members and Michigan's middle-class families.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR. FRANK KITAMOTO

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Frank Kitamoto, and offer my condolences to his family and friends in light of his passing. As President of the Bainbridge Island Japanese Community for over 25 years, Dr. Kitamoto has helped thousands of people learn about Japanese American incarceration during World War II. His leadership and mentorship has impacted the Bainbridge Island community for years to come.

At the age of two, Dr. Kitamoto and his family were among the 277 Bainbridge Island residents forced from their homes and taken to Manzanar War Relocation Center in California,

as directed by Executive Order 9066 and Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1. Later, his family was transferred to the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho. They were the first required to leave their homes. In total, 12,000 Japanese American Washingtonians were forced out of their homes for the duration of the war. After World War II he returned to Bainbridge Island and served as a dentist for the community.

It was important to Dr. Kitamoto that people remember and students learn about Japanese American history and forced relocation during WWII. In 1983, he began an oral history project of Japanese American culture and intentment so that people could listen to their compelling and heartfelt stories. Dr. Kitamoto visited classrooms in Washington State and traveled around the country to share these stories and talk about the Japanese American experience during WWII.

Dr. Kitamoto played an integral role in the installation of the Japanese American Exclusion Memorial on Bainbridge Island. He has been honored by the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council with the Island Treasure Award and the Kitsap Human Rights Commission bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, our nation owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Kitamoto for his commitment to human rights and dedication to ensuring that the stories of this difficult period in American history are told. While Dr. Kitamoto was greatly missed at the 72nd anniversary commemoration of the forced removal of Bainbridge Island Japanese Americans, his memory and great work will never be forgotten. I am pleased to recognize his service to the community and honor his legacy today in the United States Congress.

RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT ALBERT J. BAGOS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Albert J. Bagos who is retiring after more than 29 years of law enforcement service to the City of Fairfield.

After volunteering for over four years as a Cadet with the Fairfield Police Department, he was hired as a Police Officer on January 7, 1985. As an officer, he worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Special Operations, Crime Suppression, and Field Training. Lieutenant Bagos joined the Special Activity Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Team in 1988 and was promoted to Police Corporal on December 31, 1999.

On June 30, 2000, Lieutenant Bagos was promoted to Police Sergeant and supervised Patrol and Traffic teams before being promoted to Police Lieutenant on February 4, 2005. He also earned an Exceptional Performance Citation in 2005 for managing FPD personnel and ensuring the successful production of the television show "Extreme Makeover-Home Edition" that was filming in Fairfield and would ultimately have national exposure. Addi-

tionally, Lieutenant Bagos' knowledge and extensive experience in street level operations led to his appointment as SWAT Commander on May 1, 2006.

Lieutenant Bagos' commitment to the community was evidenced by his positive, can-do attitude and handling of potentially dangerous situations on a daily basis. He is commended for his hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated public servant Lieutenant Albert J. Bagos. I ask our colleagues to join with us in thanking Mr. Bagos for his long and dedicated service to the City of Fairfield and wishing him continued success in all his future endeavors along with a happy retirement.

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in anticipation of Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week, which will be observed this year between April 7th and the 11th.

For more than 25 years, Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week has been observed as a show of support and appreciation for our nation's graduate and professional students. Its sponsor, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, hosts events across the U.S.A. each year in April to educate the public about the importance and impact that graduate and professional students have on their communities and our country.

Our nation's graduate and professional students play several important roles in our society. For starters, they teach undergraduate students at many colleges and universities across the country. In addition, they play an often unsung role in our nation's academic research efforts, working away in laboratories and libraries on cutting edge research. Finally, of course, once they graduate and receive their graduate or professional degrees, they go on to careers in science, education, law, medicine, and other fields that are essential to improving our quality of life and promoting economic growth. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students represents more than 600,000 graduate and professional students at over 90 institutions across the United States, including a number in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District.

More than 15,000 graduate and professional students are enrolled in the nine institutions of higher education in and around the City of Pittsburgh: Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Chatham University, Robert Morris University, Carlow University, Point Park University, La Roche College, and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

The graduate programs offered by these institutions and the high caliber of students they attract have a tremendous impact on our local civic life and economy, not only while they are studying, but often because they remain in the

region. Graduate students teach undergraduates, lead innovative research projects, and start companies that attract bigger companies to the region like Google, Yahoo, Disney and many others.

Pittsburgh owes much of its recent economic growth to the world class research being done at our local colleges and universities. I think it's safe to say that the same is true across the country at institutions of higher learning where graduate and professional students are working in collaboration with talented faculty members to expand the boundaries of human knowledge and improve Americans' quality of life.

That's why I think it's particularly important to recognize our nation's graduate and professional students each year. I urge my colleagues to join me in observing Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week this year.

MEDIA DOES NOT TELL THE WHOLE STORY ON OBAMACARE DELAY

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today may be April Fools' Day, but Americans are not fooled about the damaging effects of Obamacare.

Millions of Americans continue to receive notice that their health insurance plans are being cancelled, while others see their premiums going up.

The Administration has waived or delayed more than 30 provisions of the law. When will they realize the law just will not work?

Articles in the Washington Post and the New York Times tried to cover for the Administration. One headline read, "U.S. to extend sign-up period for insurance." The other headline states that the Administration is going to "allow more time to enroll in health care."

What these articles fail to mention is that just two weeks earlier, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius testified before Congress that the deadline was not going to be extended.

Also, it's been over 130 days since ABC's Nightline focused on Obamacare and the problems with the law.

The national media should give the American people the facts, not tell them what to think. Only when they have all the facts can Americans make good decisions.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, 35 years ago next week, on April 10, 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) codified America's commitment to our democratic ally Taiwan. Since then, this watershed legislation has served as

an anchor for peace and security in the Western Pacific region and the cornerstone of close defense, economic, and cultural relations between our peoples. The TRA serves the interests of both of our nations by fostering United States power in the Pacific and allowing the people of Taiwan to sustain a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous way of life by mandating the availability of necessary U.S. defense articles and materials to enable a sufficient Taiwanese self-defense capability to counter Chinese aggression.

In 1979, there was much consternation in Washington that American security and economic interests in Taiwan would be neglected by President Carter's unjust decision to recognize the People's Republic of China and derecognize the Republic of China (Taiwan). The TRA was enacted to address these concerns and its guidelines now govern, in the absence of diplomatic relations, nearly every facet of U.S. relations with Taiwan. In the face of a hostile military posture by China, the new law helped level the defense capabilities across the Strait so that Taiwan's future could be determined by peaceful means.

China's rapidly increasing defense budget and provocations in the East and South China Seas are evidence of China's regional hegemonic ambitions. In order to counter and preserve the Taiwanese people's ability to determine their own future, we must reaffirm, clarify, and strengthen relations with our democratic ally and friend Taiwan. That is why I was proud to introduce, with my colleagues, the co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, Representatives MARIO DIAZ-BALART, JOHN CARTER, ALBIO SIRE, GERALD CONNOLLY, the Taiwan Policy Act (TPA), which seeks to accomplish these goals.

If enacted, the TPA would codify that it is U.S. policy to support the people of Taiwan, their democracy and human rights, and that Taiwan's future must be determined peacefully and with the Taiwanese people's assent. The bill would reaffirm the continuation of longstanding policies established within the TRA and by the Six Assurances of 1982. It would strengthen our ally's ability to defend itself against Chinese aggression by advancing the sale or transfer of necessary defense articles like F-16 C/D fighter aircraft, *Perry* class guided missile frigates, as well as other air and air defense, maritime, and ground capabilities. It would help Taiwan build its capacity to partner with other friendly foreign militaries in matters of intelligence, communications, and training and further economic ties by promoting bilateral investment and tax agreements with the ultimate goal of a Free Trade Agreement. The TPA would also encourage visits by cabinet-level and other high-level officials and support meaningful participation in international organizations like the World Health Assembly, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and United Nations entities.

The TRA serves as an enduring reminder of the extent to which Taiwan and the United States share a common commitment to freedom and a government elected by the people and for the people. As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the TRA, there is no better time to recommit to the people of Taiwan and reaffirm that the United States will ensure the flame of liberty continues to burn brightly in the face of Chinese aggression.

HONORING VACAVILLE HIGH SCHOOL'S WRESTLING PROGRAM

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legacy of Vacaville High School's Wrestling Program.

Under Larry Nelsen, who served as the Head Coach from 1961–1993, the Vacaville Bulldogs procured 26 League Team Titles, 160 Individual League Champions, 15 Northwest Team Sub Section Championships, 77 Individual Sub Section Championships, 6 Sac Joaquin Team Section Championships, 28 Individual Section Champions, 5 Sac Joaquin Section Dual Championships, 2 CIF State Champions, 28 CIF State Place Winners, and 2 CIF Team Place Winners.

Under Dave Nelsen, who served as the Head Coach from 1994–2000, the Vacaville Bulldogs procured 6 League Team Titles, 35 Individual League Champions, 6 Northwest Team Sub Section Championships, 27 Individual Sub Section Champions, 4 Sac Joaquin Section Dual Championships, 5 Individual Section Champions, 2 CIF State Champions, and 9 CIF State Place Winners.

Under Richard Penaluna, who served as the Head Coach from 2001–2005, the Vacaville Bulldogs procured 5 League Team Championships, 39 Individual League Champions, 5 Northwest Team Sub Section Championships, 26 Individual Sub Sections Champions, 4 Sac Joaquin Section Dual Championships, 3 Sac Joaquin Team Section Championships, 8 Individual Section Champions, 2 CIF State Champions, 19 CIF State Place Winners, and 1 CIF Team Place State Winners.

Under the current Head Coaches, Clint Birch and Adam Wight, who took over in 2006, the Vacaville Bulldogs have procured 9 League Team Championships, 97 Individual League Champions, 9 Divisional Section Championships, 46 Individual Divisional Section Champions, 7 Sac Joaquin Section Dual Championships, 7 Sac Joaquin Team Section Masters Championships, 20 Individual Masters Champions, 6 CIF State Champions, 25 CIF State Place Winners, and 7 CIF Team Place State Winner, of which all were in the top 10.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the impressive achievement of this fine school. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Vacaville High School's Wrestling Program.

HONORING RSVP VOLUNTEERS

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today in the City of West, Texas, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, better known as RSVP, is being honored for their service. I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation for all help they have provided to our community.

RSVP has a rich history of giving back. As volunteers, their service adds to the well being and preserves the health of our community.

In the wake of the tragic fertilizer plant explosion in West, RSVP came to the aid of a community in need. Following the explosion, volunteers with the organization staffed the call center, food distribution headquarters, and the donations management center. Their leadership, experience, and support aided in providing relief to those affected and were a tremendous help throughout the recovery process of this disaster.

We are truly thankful that RSVP was able to organize and assist in such a quick and efficient manner, and we know that those affected by the explosion truly appreciate their efforts as well.

RSVP Volunteers do their part to add value to the world and work to leave it a better place. During a time in which our country faces tough challenges, it is encouraging to see that we still have strong groups like RSVP who work together to solve problems, and to pitch in to strengthen our communities and improve others' lives.

I am appreciative of the work that RSVP volunteers do and commend them for all of their hard work for our community.

God bless the continuing work of RSVP and God Bless the United States of America.

HONORING ROBERT HARBULA

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents who is truly an American hero.

Mr. Robert Harbula of West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, fought bravely as a U.S. Marine in the Korean War—including the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. Private First Class Harbula served in G Company of the Third Battalion of the First Marine Regiment, part of the First Marine Division, in the Korean War. His unit was referred to initially as "George Company" and then, later, after Chosin Reservoir, as "Bloody George."

Private First Class Bob Harbula was assigned to the Marine unit guarding Camp David, the Presidential retreat, when he served as an usher for the Washington, DC, premiere of "Sands of Iwo Jima" in January of 1950. After seeing the movie, he decided that he ought to get a more dangerous posting, so he volunteered for a marine raider unit several months later. Soon thereafter, he ended up in Camp Pendleton as part of the 1st Marine Division—and in August 1950, he found himself on a troopship headed for Japan with the First Marines as one of the early reinforcements for the hard-pressed UN forces in Korea. Mr. Harbula was part of the machine gun squad attached to G Company's First Platoon.

Korea had been occupied for 35 years by Japan until the end of World War II, at which point it was partitioned at the 38th Parallel. South Korea was occupied and protected by US forces. North Korea was occupied by the Soviet Union. UN plans to hold elections and unify the country were rejected by the Soviets, and a communist dictatorship was established in the north.

On June 25, North Korean troops crossed the boundary separating North and South Korea, taking the ill-prepared South Korean Army by surprise and overwhelming it. Three days later, the North Korean army occupied Seoul, the South Korean capital. US troops from the Eighth Army based in Japan rushed to aid the South Koreans. They were thrown into battle piecemeal in a desperate effort to gain time for more reinforcements to arrive. South Korean troops and the US 24th Infantry Division fought the North Korean troops repeatedly, inflicting substantial casualties, but they were repeatedly defeated by superior numbers and forced to retreat. By August, US and South Korean forces had been pushed back to a fragile perimeter around the port city of Pusan in the southwest corner of the Korean peninsula. Despite repeated North Korean attacks, the Pusan Perimeter held and bled the North Koreans dry.

General Douglas MacArthur, commander of US forces in the region, decided to launch a major amphibious landing deep in the North Korean army's rear at the port city of Inchon on Korea's west coast. Mr. Harbula's unit was in the first wave of the assault craft, which landed under heavy fire on September 15th. From that moment on, George Company was in nearly constant combat as US forces captured Inchon and fought their way into Seoul, where the fighting often deteriorated into vicious house-to-house combat. On the night of September 25, George Company—heavily outnumbered—stopped a major North Korean counterattack by tanks, self-propelled artillery, and hundreds of men along Seoul's Ma Po Boulevard. Mr. Harbula and his section did what they could, firing a machine gun non-stop at the lead tank. With artillery support, George Company withstood and repelled the attack—but at a terrible cost.

The Inchon landing and the liberation of Seoul caused the weakened and over-extended North Korean forces in the south to collapse and beat a panicked retreat northward. The US Eighth Army began pressing northward in aggressive pursuit along Korea's west coast. The X Corps, which included the 1st Marine Division, was pulled out of the line and loaded onto amphibious transport ships. They sailed around the Korean Peninsula and disembarked at the end of October in the port of Wonsan on North Korea's southeastern coast, which had already been secured by South Korean units.

George Company's first assignment after landing at Wonsan was holding a village called Majon-ni several miles inland at the junction of roads leading to Seoul, Wonsan, and Pyongyang. On November 2nd, PFC Harbula's machine gun squad was helping to escort a re-supply convoy through a treacherous mountain gorge when it was ambushed. Bob Harbula provided cover, firing a .30 caliber machine gun from the hip, while the surviving trucks were carefully turned around on the one-lane, cliff-edged road and driven out of the ambush to Wonsan, where they reported to headquarters and requested a rescue mission for the remaining survivors.

George Company garrisoned Majon-ni for several weeks after the ambush. PFC Harbula took command of his 10-man machine gun squad after the sergeant who had been in

charge was seriously wounded in the ambush. On November 14, George Company moved north to the Hungnam-Chigyeong region.

The rugged Taebaek Mountains that ran up the middle of the Korean peninsula divided the Eighth Army from X Corps as each force pushed north. On November 24, MacArthur ordered the "Home by Christmas" offensive to conquer all of North Korea up to the Yalu River, which formed the boundary between North Korea and China. The Eighth Army was to push north, while the First Marine Division was to push west from the Chosin Reservoir, cut off a North Korean major supply line, and link up with the Eighth Army.

Unbeknownst to General MacArthur and his advisors, hundreds of thousands of Chinese troops had begun infiltrating into North Korea in mid-October. The General and his staff thought that there were only a few small Chinese units fighting in North Korea. In fact, Chinese troops were massing for attacks in both the east and west. In the east, the 9th Army Group of the Chinese "People's Volunteer Army" had encircled most of the Chosin Reservoir, a large man-made lake north of Wonsan and 65 miles northwest of the port city of Hungnam.

On November 25, nearly two hundred thousand Chinese troops launched a surprise attack on the Eighth Army, defeating it resoundingly in the Battle of the Ch'ongch'on River and sending it retreating southward in what came to be called "the Big Bug-out."

On November 27, however, the First Marine Division's orders were still to attack northwestward. Most of the Division's combat troops, primarily thousands of Marines from the First Marine Division's 5th and 7th Regiments, were positioned around the village of Yudam-ni west of the reservoir. An understrength regimental combat team from the 7th Infantry Division held territory on the east side of the reservoir up through the village of Hundong-ni to Sinhung-ni. A winding narrow road led through the mountainous terrain from each village to the bottom of the lake, where they met in the village of Hagaru-ri, which was lightly defended by a hodgepodge of units from the First Marine Division, including a number of companies from George Company's First Marine Regiment. Essential supplies had been stockpiled at Hagaru-ri, and engineers were desperately trying to build a small airstrip when they weren't fighting off enemy attacks.

It was 14 miles of treacherous terrain from Yudam-ni to Hagaru-ri. From there, the road wound 11 miles through more mountainous terrain to the town of Koto-ri, where the 1st Marine Regiment's headquarters was located—defended by the Regiment's Second Battalion—and then another 10 miles to Chinhung-ni, defended by First Battalion, First Marine Regiment. From there, it was another 37 miles to the port city of Hungnam. That one narrow road was the only way First Marine Division and the other units from X Corps could get out of the mountains and back to the coast.

Meanwhile, George Company was stuck somewhere in the rear echelons for lack of transportation.

On the night of November 27, all hell broke loose. The 9th Army Group of the People's

Volunteer Army attacked the X Corps forces on either side of the Chosin Reservoir and at various points along the road as far south as Koto-ri. Tens of thousands of Chinese soldiers attacked the Marines. The Marines at Yudam-ni were surrounded and cut off, as were the soldiers of the 7th Infantry's Regimental Combat Team 31 on the east side of the reservoir—and the Divisional headquarters and elements of the 1st Marine Regiment at Hagaru-ri.

On the morning of November 28, George Company finally got some wheels. They were ordered into trucks and headed north, arriving in Koto-ri at nightfall.

That night, the Chinese launched a massive attack on Hagaru-ri. They almost succeeded in overwhelming the outnumbered Marines, who had thrown every able-bodied man who could fire a rifle into the front line—down to, and including, the cooks and truck drivers. When dawn came, the defenses had held, but Chinese forces occupied the strategic high ground—East Hill—and unless reinforcements arrived, it seemed inevitable that Hagaru-ri would fall and the units around the Chosin Reservoir would be doomed.

George Company's 200 men formed part of the 900-man "Task Force Drysdale" that was rapidly thrown together on the morning of November 29th in Koto-ri to reinforce Hagaru-ri. It took the column all day to fight their way up the 11 miles of road between Koto-ri and Hagaru-ri. They had to stop repeatedly to clear enemy roadblocks, and they were under fire the whole time from thousands of Chinese soldiers dug in on either side of the road. The route was subsequently given the name "Hell Fire Valley."

Late in the day, the rear of the convoy was stopped by a burning truck and surrounded by Chinese troops. Fighting through the night until their ammunition was nearly all gone, the surviving soldiers finally had no choice but to surrender.

The front of the column, consisting of the surviving tanks, George Company, and some of the Royal Marines pushed on and finally broke through to Hagaru-ri. Only a third of the men who set out that morning in Task Force Drysdale made it to Hagaru-ri, but the 300 soldiers and the tanks that made it through Hell Fire Valley at such a terrible cost significantly bolstered the town's defenses.

The next morning, November 30, George Company was given the daunting mission of retaking East Hill. They slowly advanced up the hill, slipping and falling repeatedly on the ice and taking heavy rifle and machine gun fire. By the end of the day, they held the south end of the ridge, but the Chinese still held the center. George Company dug in as best they could, but the temperature at night dropped past -20 degrees and the ground was frozen hard. Private Harbula was forced to resort to piling dead Chinese soldiers around his machine gun like sand bags.

Once it was dark, Chinese forces counter-attacked, charging down the hill several thousand strong. The men of George Company fought bravely—eventually hand-to-hand. Private Harbula's machine gun jammed, and his position was overrun by the enemy. An officer ordered the men to pull back. He remembers hitting one Chinese soldier in the face with his

helmet and firing his pistol at several others. As he slipped and slid back down the hill, he fell into a shell crater. In the crater, he found several dead Americans and one of his comrades, Richard Haller, still alive but wounded in both legs. Private Harbula carried Haller down the hill to safety, but he ruptured his Achilles tendon in the process. Private Harbula was out of the fight, but the surviving members of George Company fought on. Finally, near dawn on December 1st, the Chinese attack petered out.

December 1st was something of a turning point. That day, the Marines in Yudam-ni began a break-out to the south. By nightfall, they had fought their way to Toktong Pass, halfway to Hagaru-ri. In addition, the engineers who had been working on the airstrip completed enough of the runway that C-47 transport planes could use it. That afternoon, planes started bringing in supplies and reinforcements and flying out the wounded.

There was bad news on December 1st as well. With half of the men in Regimental Combat Team 31 dead or wounded, its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Don Faith, ordered his troops to destroy any equipment they couldn't carry and attempt to break through to Hagaru-ri. As the column advanced, it was attacked constantly by thousands of Chinese soldiers on each side of the road to Hagaru-ri. As night fell, Lieutenant Faith was killed trying to take a roadblock and the column disintegrated. Many small groups of soldiers fled through the night and made it to the Hagaru-ri perimeter alive, but everyone who stayed with the convoy was killed.

Most of the First Division was now reunited in Hagaru-ri. The remaining able-bodied but exhausted members of George Company continued to defend the perimeter, moving to one end of the runway on December 5th and repulsing another large Chinese attack.

On December 6, the First Marine Division began its breakout effort—or as its commanding officer General O.P. Smith put it, not so much retreating as attacking in a different direction. George Company fought its way back down Hell Fire Valley—but this time as part of a unit powerful enough to defend itself. They reached Koto-ri by the end of the next day. The retreat continued the following day with the 5th and 7th Regiments pushing ahead and the 1st Regiment and George Company acting as a rear guard. Finally, reached the port of Hungnam, where an armada of ships evacuated a quarter of a million soldiers and civilians, as well as a great deal of equipment.

The “advance in a different direction” by the “Chosin Few” has become a legendary example of heroism, sacrifice, endurance, and suffering. Thousands of American soldiers rebuffed surprise attacks by overwhelming numbers of enemy forces and then conducted a 70-mile fighting retreat through treacherous mountain terrain in subfreezing weather.

George Company, now “Bloody George,” did their part, fighting their way into Hagaru-ri, up East Hill, and then—outnumbered 10 to 1—holding their perimeter against determined enemy counterattack. Private First Class Bob Harbula served bravely in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir until he was injured.

Remarkably, several months later, Bob's brother, John, who was a Marine stationed in

Norfolk, saw a Marine on crutches hitchhiking. John picked him up and they got to talking, and the Marine mentioned that he was at the Chosin Reservoir with G-3-1. John told his passenger that he had a brother who had also fought there with G-3-1. The hitchhiker asked John what his brother's name was, and when John told him that it was Bob Harbula, the Marine's face turned white and he said, “that's the SOB that saved my life!” John had given a lift to Richard Haller!

Chosin Reservoir didn't mark the end of Bloody George's or Bob Harbula's combat action in Korea by any means. Soon after, he was back in combat. On April 15, 1951, he was promoted to Corporal and put in charge of 2 machineguns and 20 men at the start of Operation Ripper. He fought again with G Company in North Korea at the Hwachon Reservoir, where the First Marine Division was awarded its third Presidential Unit Citation for action on Hill 902. He was finally rotated home on 6 June 1951.

Mr. Harbula was recently quoted in the McKeesport Daily News as saying, “I don't consider myself a hero.” Well, I think it's safe to say that the rest of us do. I am grateful to U.S. Marine Corporal Robert Harbula for his heroic service to our country, and I am very proud to represent him in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Harbula may not consider himself a hero, but he believes deeply that his comrades in George Company, especially those who gave their lives for this country, are heroes who never got the recognition they deserved. He has endeavored in recent years to educate the American public about the critical role George Company played in reinforcing and defending Hagaru-ri and holding it until the 5th and 7th Marine Regiments could reach it and the First Marine Division could carry out its legendary fighting withdrawal.

That may finally be happening some 60-some years after the fact. In 2010, a writer named Patrick K. O'Donnell published “Give Me Tomorrow: The Korean War's Greatest Untold Story—the Epic Stand of the Marines of George Company.” The book is based on extensive interviews with the surviving members of G Company. In addition, earlier this week, the story of George Company's actions in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir was the subject of an episode of “Against All Odds”—a six-part series about battlefield heroism on the American Heroes Channel—which until recently was known as the Military Channel.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans can be proud of the fact that in the course of our nation's history, there have been many inspiring, often heartbreaking stories of heroes who have given their lives for this country. There are many, many more Americans who have served this country who have risked their lives for this country. Many have come home wounded and disabled. We owe them all a debt we can never begin to repay. It's my belief, though, that we should remember them and honor them as best we can for what they've done. That's why, when I learned about Bob Harbula and George Company's service in the Korean War, I felt it was only right that I share their story with you and have it included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Harbula has spent much of his life trying to call attention to his brothers in arms—the

Chosin Few—so I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the bravery and tremendous sacrifices of Bob Harbula and the men of Company G, Third Battalion, First Marine Regiment for their heroic service in the Korean War. God bless them, and God bless everyone who serves or has served our nation in its armed forces.

RETIREMENT OF OFFICE
SPECIALIST DEBBIE D. WOLD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Office Specialist Debbie D. Wold who is retiring after nearly 25 years of service to the City of Fairfield.

Debbie was hired on August 21, 1989, as a Public Service Clerk for the Investigations Bureau. In 1992, she was reclassified to Transcriber and received a Department Commendation for her outstanding ability to completely and accurately transcribe complex police reports and interrogations in 1996.

On November 19, 1999, Debbie was promoted to Office Specialist and has provided superior administrative support to the Investigations Bureau, Training Unit, and Support Services Division over the years. Debbie received numerous commendations from co-workers and citizens for her teamwork, customer service and friendly demeanor. Debbie was also selected as the Police Department's Employee of the Quarter for July–September, 2011, and the Police Department's Employee of the Year in 1996 and 2011. Debbie is known to be reliable, detailed-orientated, and provides high quality of work.

Debbie has been a valued employee and her commitment to the City of Fairfield and its constituents was evident on a daily basis. She is admired for her hard work, dedication, and selfless contributions.

Debbie has been a valued employee and her commitment to the community was second to none. Debbie was a loyal representative of the City of Fairfield and admired for her hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Golden Anniversary of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. In 1901, during the midst of the Alaska Gold Rush, the first pioneers settled on the banks of the Chena River on the land that would become the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The discovery of gold created a population boom in the region, and the town of Fairbanks was established. In 1963, the Alaska Legislature passed the Mandatory Borough Act requiring

that the most populated areas in the state join together to form organized borough governments. Fairbanks students won a competition to name the borough the North Star Borough, and in 1966, the name was officially changed to the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Over the last 50 years, the Borough has grown tremendously to become the second largest community in Alaska with a population of over 100,000 residents, and is commonly referred to as the "Golden Heart of Alaska." The Fairbanks North Star Borough has managed a unique juxtaposition by retaining the small-town pioneer quality that existed in the early 1900s, yet thriving with a modern and youthful spirit stemming from the economic opportunities in the area, as well as being the home of the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus.

After the gold rush, the next economic boom in the region was the discovery of oil in Prudhoe Bay on Alaska's North Slope. Fairbanks North Star Borough was the closest large town to the project, and as a result, con-

struction on the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline began in 1974. The pipeline was completed in 1977, traveling over frozen tundra, the boreal forest, 800 rivers and streams, three major earthquake faults, and three rugged mountain ranges. The exploding construction of the 800-mile pipeline brought more than 30,000 job opportunities to Fairbanks over the years.

Today, the Borough is home to many Alaskans, Military Servicemen and women stationed at Ft. Wainwright Army Base and Eielson Air Force Base, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, enrolling 10,800 students annually. Ft. Wainwright and Eielson AFB's strategic locations and Fairbanks' uniquely harsh climate prepare units to deploy anywhere in the world for contingencies ranging from humanitarian relief to combat operations. Eielson AFB remains a strategic location for refueling and North American Aerospace Defense Command.

On behalf of the State of Alaska, Fairbanks North Star Borough has hosted many inter-

national sporting events such as the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, Junior Olympics, and the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. Fairbanks is also home to the Yukon Quest, an international 1,000 mile sled dog that is considered one of the toughest in the world.

Fairbanks North Star Borough has and will continue to provide important energy and mineral resources, defense tools, and education for Alaskans. The borough encourages vibrant, engaged citizens, and continues to provide for residents and businesses not only in the State of Alaska, but in the entire United States of America. I know that Fairbanks North Star Borough will continue to serve as a wonderful example for towns across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating the Fairbanks North Star Borough on its Golden Anniversary.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, April 2, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 2, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GLENN THOMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

GOP BUDGET AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, throughout American history, the path to prosperity has been infrastructure. It has been paving that path, building that road, constructing the transcontinental railroad, improving water systems, extending electrification to rural America, dams, flood control, and sewer systems.

Each and every one of these initiatives were key to improving the quality of life for Americans, enacting business opportunities, and putting millions of Americans to work.

They were all public-private partnerships primarily paid for with public investment. Creating these infrastructure marvels, which for most of our history were the envy of the world, put millions of Americans to work.

Sadly, that is no longer the case. The United States has fallen behind the global leaders. Our infrastructure is mediocre, according to expert reports. The American Society of Civil Engi-

neers has given our infrastructure a D-plus rating and identified over \$3.5 trillion of investments that are going to be necessary just to bring it up to standard by 2020.

That is how far we have fallen—a D-plus rating—and needing billions of dollars just to prevent further deterioration and decline.

The failure to act carries significant costs in and of itself. There is more wear and tear on vehicles. There is more delays and congestion. There are safety problems associated with inferior infrastructure and poor maintenance.

It is going to cost the average American family over \$1,000 per year in actual damage and increased operating costs to say nothing of the millions of hours lost to congestion. It hits business especially hard. A 5-minute delay costs UPS \$50 million in additional costs each year.

Ten years ago, there was a blue ribbon report to then-President Bush about transportation and transportation funding alternatives. It identified over \$375 billion as necessary to fund an appropriate 6-year program. That was 10 years ago.

We are now spending at a rate, 10 years later, of about \$275 billion a year at current levels, but the highway trust fund is only going to produce about \$200 billion during that same period of time.

Both Chairman CAMP in his tax reform proposal and President Obama in his infrastructure proposal identified ways to close this gap to be able to fully fund a 6-year transportation reauthorization that would help meet America's funding needs for projects of national significance that are, in many cases, multistate and are part of a national system. We all depend upon the pieces of the system to be in place in good repair and working together.

Sadly, the Republican budget sentences us to decline and then locks in a 30 percent reduction from these current inadequate levels over the next 10 years.

It pretends the Federal commitment can be downsized and outsourced. Although I would note, in a letter signed by 31 executives of statewide chambers of commerce, they point out:

Even with increased State revenues and innovative mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, there are projects of national significance that cannot be completed without Federal assistance.

I will be offering today a proposal in the Budget Committee to at least allow the capacity to respond to these needs,

to meet the requests of 17 bipartisan governors, including Republicans from North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania and the 31 State chamber of commerce executives from Alabama, Arizona, and Arkansas, to Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin. We need these Federal partnerships.

While this proposal won't commit anybody to a specific path forward, it does provide the capacity to get us unstuck and out of this sad state of decline, in other words, a true path to prosperity, putting millions of people to work, jump-starting the economy, and strengthening communities from coast to coast, so that our families can be safe, healthy, and economically secure.

IT IS TIME TO QUIT LEADING FROM BEHIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the crisis in Ukraine, Putin's rising aggression and intransigence in the face of increased international opprobrium, and the failure of American leadership that has allowed these recent events to transpire.

This is yet another example of Vladimir Putin looking at President Obama's foreign policy and making the calculation that he can do whatever he wants without fear that the White House will react with anything other than empty threats.

We have seen this time and time again, so much so that the President's lead from behind policy has not only eroded our influence and credibility around the world, it has hurt our relations with other countries, and it has shown tyrants like Putin, Assad, Maduro, Kim Jung Un, Khamenei, and the Castros that the U.S. lacks the courage of its convictions.

Putin has annexed Crimea, and we would be foolish to think that he will stop there as he seeks to reestablish Russia as more than just a regional power, and the Obama administration has misguidedly dismissed Putin and his provocations as those of a weakened Russia acting out.

This is an astonishing view to take and one that could seriously harm our U.S. national security interests if we continue to downplay these threats.

In 1994, the United States, along with Ukraine and Russia, signed the Budapest memorandum. In that agreement,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

all sides agreed to respect Ukraine's territorial sovereignty if Ukraine returned the nuclear weapons it inherited after the fall of the Soviet empire. We gave our guarantee to protect Ukraine's borders, a guarantee that we clearly did not keep.

What kind of message is the United States sending to the world again?

You can bet that Rouhani and Khamenei are sitting in Iran, and they are paying very close attention, Mr. Speaker. They are making the calculations right now, and they are betting that perhaps they will face no repercussions if they abandoned the negotiations and actively and openly pursue nuclear weapons.

President Obama's lack of leadership and strength has shown that the umbrella of U.S. security that so many have relied upon is not as wide nor as durable as they once thought.

The House and the Senate have acted to pass sanctions legislation against Putin over his actions in Crimea, but it is clear that Putin is not going to be deterred by this.

It may be a case of too little, too late because the administration failed to take decisive action from the get-go, just like it had in Iran and Syria before this and just like it is now failing to do in Venezuela.

While Obama threatens consequences for Putin over his Crimea provocations—and fails to act on these words—he hasn't even mustered up the fortitude to even feign strong condemnations for Maduro and his thugs in Venezuela, as they continue to brutally oppress the opposition in Venezuela, the opposition that is calling for reforms and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I have here a poster of Maria Corina Machado, a valiant human rights leader in Venezuela, and she is just one of the many victims of Maduro's thuggery.

There have been 30 people killed as a result of Maduro's violent attempts to oppress dissent, while opposition leaders like Leopoldo Lopez have been unjustly detained over a month now in military prison, and Maria Corina Machado has been stripped of her seat in the national assembly, thus revoking her immunity, her protection, suggesting that Maduro and his goons will soon be coming to take her away to a military prison.

Yet again, President Obama chooses to lead from behind. The administration has repeatedly said that we need to work with the Organization of American States to hold Maduro accountable, but that body is even more afraid to call out Maduro than this administration.

Mr. Speaker, 5 years of failed foreign policy from this administration is really coming home to roost, and that means dire consequences for the American people, for the people of Venezuela, for the people of Ukraine, and

for freedom-seeking people throughout the world.

It is time for the administration to take an active role in foreign policy for the sake of American national security and for the sake of the future of democracy. It is time to quit this leading from behind. It is time to restore American leadership, and that is the only way to make the world a safer place.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET MORE OF THE SAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the baseball season begins this week, so I will quote the great Yogi Berra. "It's déjà vu all over again."

This year's Republican budget, which Chairman RYAN unveiled yesterday, is more of the same we have, unfortunately, come to expect. It is an exercise in partisan messaging, not a serious and honest attempt to invest in our priorities and pursue compromise toward a sustainable fiscal outlook.

Their budget rejects the balanced approach of spending reforms, new revenue, and investments in our economy called for by both the Bowles-Simpson and the Rivlin-Domenici Commissions, as well as by the Gang of Six in the United States Senate and by virtually every economist. The Ryan budget cuts \$5 trillion without a single penny of new revenue, not even a hint of balance.

Moreover, Chairman RYAN's budget once again relies on the magic asterisk of hundreds of billions of dollars in spending cuts to important domestic programs. He doesn't say what programs we are going to cut; he simply says we are going to get the money.

He said that last year, of course, and it didn't happen. He gives virtually no details about the policies through which he expects to achieve these savings. To that extent, it is radically different from the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee's tax reform plan, which made real choices, showed real courage, and was a real document.

The Republican budget continues their obsession with repealing or undermining the Affordable Care Act, their 53rd attempt to do so. However, of course, they keep all the savings and revenues that the Affordable Care Act is scored as giving.

It would furthermore kick millions off their health insurance and turn Medicaid into a capped block grant, decimating the program and making life more difficult for all those millions who rely on it.

Once more, they are seeking to end the Medicare guarantee as we know it. They will say it is a choice, that at 55 you can make a choice whether you want to have private insurance with a

voucher that you get from the Federal Government or go into Medicare. That's what they say.

□ 1015

The reality is, however, they would make traditional Medicare far, far, far more expensive, driving people out of that program and eliminating it over time.

Their budget, in addition, would make it very difficult, if not impossible, for Congress to invest in our economy and our people by driving domestic discretionary spending well below the sequester's harmful level.

The American people ought to be outraged but not surprised. We have seen this movie before, and it never ends well for Republicans or, tragically, does it end happily for the American people. The new plot twist in this year's budget is that Chairman RYAN is going where no budget chairman has gone before, relying on the spurious gimmickry of so-called "dynamic scoring" to pad his numbers with budget savings that simply do not exist.

We have talked about this a lot. The 1981 tax cuts were supposed to boom the economy. In fact, we increased the national debt by 187 percent. In 2001 and 2003, we were promised that the tax cuts would grow the economy. In fact, during those 8 years of the Bush administration, we had the worst economy that anybody in this Chamber has experienced and, indeed, I would presume, in the gallery as well.

While Chairman RYAN claims his budget balances in 10 years, in reality, his projection for revenues in 2024 is less than his projection for outlays. In other words, no balance. That is the simple budget math. The only way Chairman RYAN can pretend his math works is by using Republicans' dynamic scoring trick.

This is the same trick that paved the way for the Bush tax cuts to turn record surpluses into record deficits, as I have said. It is sort of like a family making its budget and projecting: well, we are going to get a big raise because the boss is going to be doing better, the economy is going to be doing better, and we will get a big raise, so we will budget as if we had already gotten the raise. What happens is you don't get that raise and you are deeply in the hole. Americans get that. It is a shame their Congress doesn't get that.

Republicans have a bill on the floor this week to force the nonpartisan CBO to use the Republican math. The virtue of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office was that it would give us honest numbers, but now the Republicans want to force them to give them their numbers that they want that make it easier for them to pretend that things are going to get better with their policies rather than putting their policies in place and then seeing if it does get

better, and if it does, we have a bonus. Of course, if it doesn't, we run up large deficits as we did in the last administration, as we did in the Reagan administration, as we did in the first Bush administration, and, yes, slightly in the Clinton administration. But in the Clinton administration, over every Republican's objections, we balanced the budget for 4 years.

We need a budget, Madam Speaker, that reflects our real challenges and recognizes that we must compromise to make the difficult choices necessary to meet them. The American people deserve a budget that focuses not on gimmicks but one that promotes opportunity, growth, and security; compromise, not confrontation; pragmatism, not partisanship; what works, not what sounds good.

Our budget proposal should reflect our priorities and enable us to rise to meet our challenges. The Republican budget that is going to be voted on today in the Budget Committee does not do that.

The Wall Street Journal, Madam Speaker, wrote an editorial about the Ryan priorities, most of which I disagree with because I think their reliance, as RYAN does, on dynamic scoring is a "fool's errand" and has been proved to be such over the years that I have served in Congress over the last 33 years. But I do agree with their conclusion, and they say this:

But the Ryan outline does the service of showing the policy direction in which Republicans would head if they regain control of the Senate next year.

I agree with that. I think this is a litmus test for the American people. They can review the Ryan budget. They can review its consequences to them, themselves, their families, their children, and their community. They can see the adverse consequences of a plan that will not work.

I predict, as I predicted last year, Madam Speaker, the Appropriations Committee, headed by HAL ROGERS, Republican chairman, will not bring appropriation bills to the floor that will pass on this floor that will implement the Ryan budget, notwithstanding the fact that RYAN's party controls this House. I predicted that last year, and I was right. As a matter of fact, no bills passed this House at the Ryan budget numbers last year—none, not one. Sadly, I think that is what is going to happen this year—sadly, for the American people; sadly, for this Congress; sadly, for our children.

Madam Speaker, we can do better. We can be real. We ought to do the job that the American people expect us to do and get this country on a fiscally sustainable path, not with smoke and mirrors but with sincerity and courage.

CONGRESSIONAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, if you listen to probably the majority of the speeches provided on this House floor, they clearly indicate partisan bickering. If you listen to many of these speeches, it is pretty easy to find out what we disagree upon. There are some divides in beliefs and opinions. One of the things that is wonderful about this House is this is the people's House. It reflects a very diverse nation, and we have diverse opinions here on the House floor.

At the same time, there are individuals here that I work with, both sides of the aisle, that I think want to be problem solvers. They are willing to not talk about what we disagree about, because we don't even need to do that; we just turn on the news, and that is what is highlighted is what we disagree upon. But the fact is we do have individuals here that have the courage and willingness to come to the table, and that is step one; to sit at the table and define properly what the problem is, because without defining the problem, you really aren't going to come up with effective solutions that work; and third, be willing to state what do we agree upon, what can we agree upon and make that the beginning point, the foundation, for cost-effective solutions.

I am here today as part of a group that really does that. I rise today as cochair of the bipartisan Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus. This is a group of Members from both sides of the aisle, diverse routes of the United States, who care about investing in opportunities for individuals to be able to do better in life through education. My opinion is: it is not so important where you start in life; it is where you end up. The key to that stair or that ladder or that path is education.

The Career and Technical Education Caucus really, really focuses on that in a bipartisan way. It is about America's competitiveness. Because if America does not have a qualified and trained workforce, America doesn't have a future. So as appropriation season is upon us, we in the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus encourage our colleagues to continue this body's united commitment to ensuring that America remains competitive through an adequately trained workforce.

This can be achieved through an existing program. We don't have to create a new program. No need to reinvent the wheel. It is the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. Perkins provides the principal source of Federal support for program improvement and helps to strengthen the inte-

gration of academic, career, and technical education at both the secondary and the postsecondary institutions.

Although deficit reduction must remain priority number one—it is one of our greatest threats for national security—during these fiscally challenging times, we must invest in CTE programs. We must also recognize that any reduction to Perkins funding would affect millions of career and technical educational students, the business community that relies on a qualified workforce, and the future competitiveness of this country.

Going into the fiscal year 2015, the Career and Technical Education Caucus is putting together a modest request for level funding for this program. I encourage my colleagues to support the efforts of the caucus and join in sending this important request to the Appropriations Committee.

LET'S PASS AN IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Madam Speaker, on June 27, we will mark 1 year since our friends on the other side of the Hill in the United States Senate passed a bipartisan immigration reform bill.

Four Senators from each party worked together to get a bill introduced on April 16 of last year. By May, the Judiciary Committee was debating and marking it up, and by June, it was headed to the Senate floor. Then after debate and many, many, many amendments, it was voted on by the full Senate. Sixty-eight out of 100 Senators voted to replace illegal immigration with legal immigration, legalize millions of people who live and work in the U.S., and secure our immigration system in the workplace and, yes, at the border.

Madam Speaker, almost a year with no serious movement forward on immigration reform in the House, I am beginning to wonder whether Republicans will get serious about immigration before they run out of time. Well, I want to be helpful, so I have done a little calculating. Including today, we have 34 legislative days before the July 4 recess.

Madam Speaker, let's be honest. If Republicans have not gotten an immigration bill seriously rolling down the tracks by the time we break for Independence Day, Republicans might as well just fold up the tent they are always talking about. One thing is for sure: Republicans won't be pitching a tent at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue any time soon.

I talk to Republicans, and they know the truth: if Republicans don't work with Democrats and bring an immigration bill to the floor, they are giving up on a chance to stand for justice, a

sense of peace, and fairness for immigrants until after the 2016 Presidential election. That means Republicans will have to head into the 2016 Presidential election as the party that blocked immigration reform that would have finally brought justice to immigrant communities across our Nation. You will have said “no” to the dreams of DREAMers and “no” to millions of families and “no” to communities in every city across our country.

Oh, and, Madam Speaker, if you think the Republican Party alone controls the future of 11 million undocumented immigrants, you will be sadly disappointed. If you don't act in the next 34 days, if you refuse to give the President a bill he can sign because you say you don't trust him to enforce immigration law even though he has spent more money and deported more people than any President before him, I believe he will act without you.

He has alternatives under existing law. There are concrete ways within existing laws to help keep families together and spare U.S. citizens from losing their wives, their husbands, and their children to deportation in spite of your lack of action, and I believe the President is going to use those tools. I saw it in his eyes when I met with him. He didn't run for office so that he could deport 2 million people and put thousands of American children in foster care. He is heartbroken by the pain deportation has caused.

Do you think he will simply sit by and do nothing because you refuse to act? The Republicans threaten lawsuits and even impeachment if the President acts to spare American families being broken apart by deportation; but this President will act if you refuse to, and the country will rally behind him because that is what Americans do in the face of humanitarian crisis.

The Republicans threaten to impeach the President? What is new, Madam Speaker? Look, you have got to remember, for the first 3 or 4 years he was President, leaders in the Republican Party—I mean Presidential candidates and entire cable TV networks—questioned the President's own immigration status. We had “birthers” denying the President was born in America. They questioned whether he was an undocumented immigrant himself. They demanded to see his papers. Now we have “deportation deniers” falsely suggesting President Obama is not enforcing the law. Oh, he is really not deporting people, they say. That is all fake, something Obama, Univision, and Telemundo cooked up.

The President knows the kind of pain that congressional inaction has caused for families and children.

□ 1030

The President wants to be an emancipator, not a deporter, and he will act if he has to. If you give him no choice,

this President is going to take charge himself, as well he should.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, we offer a lifeline to the Republicans. Let's work together to pass a bill before the President, faced with no other choice, takes action himself. You have 34 legislative days left until July 4, and you had better make good use of them. The American people are waiting.

SUPPORTING AUTISM AWARENESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Autism Awareness Month. April is Autism Awareness Month, and today, April 2, is Autism Awareness Day.

Autism is serious. It does not discriminate. People in all racial, socioeconomic, and ethnic groups are impacted. One in 68 children is diagnosed with autism. Let me say it again: one in 68 children. This is a very disturbing statistic.

Mr. Speaker, Florida has a lot of great programs and resources for individuals with autism. The Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities, or CARD, all across the State of Florida will be offering resources and awareness month activities. The Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism pairs teachers and schools with a professional from one of the many CARDS across Florida to assist students with autism. This program's motto is to “provide quality educational programs to students with autism spectrum disorders.”

It is the graciousness and generosity of organizations like these and of the individuals involved with them that help in the fight against autism. It is important to raise awareness. It is important to provide programs to assist children and adults with disorders on the autism spectrum. Ultimately, through groups like these and through public and private partnerships, we can continue to work towards a cure.

I am committed to this cause, and I encourage my fellow Members on both sides of the aisle to get involved. This is an issue that truly overcomes partisan lines. The Light It Up Blue campaign draws awareness for autism as well. Today, thousands of businesses and landmarks will be lit blue. Together, we can shine the light on autism.

ANTHONY P. “TONY” REARDON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Anthony P. “Tony” Reardon, Deputy Director of Legislative Liaison for the Office of the

Secretary of the Air Force. A command navigator from West Palm Beach, Florida, with 1,700 flying hours in the RF-4C, Tony Reardon has excelled both in the cockpit and at the Pentagon. I want to offer him my congratulations on his recent selection as Director of Strategy, Resources and Integration for the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs.

This recent promotion is no surprise to anyone who knows Tony. Throughout his life, he has displayed exceptional leadership and judgment. He graduated in 1977 from Forest Hill High School in West Palm Beach, and even then he was known for his intelligence, his loyalty, and his integrity. He was a drummer in the marching band, a pitcher for the baseball team, and a participant in the American Legion Boys State program, which encourages young people to grow into engaged and responsible citizens.

After graduating from Florida State University in 1981, Tony was selected to attend undergraduate navigator training at Mather Air Force Base in California. He quickly garnered the role of RF-4C instructor weapon systems officer in the 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron at Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas. Tony's talents were needed on the front lines of the cold war, and he was reassigned to Zweibrücken Air Base in Germany. Following the end of the cold war, Tony was transferred back to Bergstrom, where he continued to pass his wealth of knowledge and experience on to the next generation of weapon systems officers.

Realizing his talent for leadership, his commander transferred him to Air Combat Command Headquarters at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, where he excelled in the Plans and Programs Directorate. After a successful tour, he was once again sent overseas, this time as an air liaison officer at Camp Red Cloud, Korea. Later, he was assigned to Pacific Air Forces Headquarters, returning to the Plans and Programs Directorate at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. After 3 years in Hawaii, he began numerous assignments at Headquarters Air Force at the Pentagon.

As Deputy Director of Legislative Liaison for the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Tony has supported Air Force leadership by engaging Congress on programs and weapon systems authorizations, constituent inquiries, and other congressional interests. Among some of his more notable accomplishments during his tenure as Deputy Director, Tony prepared the Air Force team for confirmation hearings for the Air Force Secretary, Under Secretary, Chief of Staff, and the Vice Chief of Staff, all in an unprecedented 2-year time frame. He also supported more than 1,500 Air Force senior leader visits

to the Hill as well as over 1,000 wing commander Hill visits, more than 450 congressional delegation and congressional staff trips, over 200 congressional hearings, and countless other Air Force Hill engagements.

Today, I would like to wish Mr. Anthony P. "Tony" Reardon good luck and Godspeed in his next assignment as the Director of Strategy, Resources and Integration for the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs. We know that this next chapter of his distinguished career will be one of even more success.

On behalf of the Congress and of the United States of America, I thank Tony; his wife, Dee; and their children, Maggie and Trip, for their patriotism, commitment to country, and service to Nation.

PUERTO RICO: HOW STATEHOOD WOULD POTENTIALLY AFFECT SELECTED FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND REVENUE SOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, this week, the GAO published a report about the fiscal impact of Puerto Rico statehood on the Federal Government.

In a 2012 referendum, a majority of voters in Puerto Rico said they didn't want Puerto Rico to remain a territory, and more voters favored statehood than any other option. In January, at my initiative, a law was enacted to provide funding for the first federally-sponsored vote in Puerto Rico's history. Meanwhile, in the past year, Puerto Rico's longstanding economic problems have devolved into a crisis. Every week, 1,000 of my constituents move to the States in search of opportunity and equality. Thus, the GAO has released its report at a time when island residents are voting for statehood—at the ballot box and with their feet—in unprecedented numbers.

The momentum in favor of statehood continues to build with this report, which supports the conclusion that statehood will be beneficial to Puerto Rico and to the U.S. as a whole.

The report confirms that statehood will enhance the quality of life in Puerto Rico. As a territory, Puerto Rico is treated unequally under key Federal spending and tax credit programs. As a State, it will receive equal treatment. Based on the GAO's analysis and taking into account programs the GAO did not examine, it can be calculated that statehood will inject an additional \$10 billion into Puerto Rico's economy each year. This underscores the scope and severity of the discrimination Puerto Rico faces as a territory.

The report also alleviates the concern that statehood would have an ad-

verse impact on the U.S. Treasury. As the GAO explains, new Federal outlays to Puerto Rico will be significantly counterbalanced by new Federal revenues generated from the island, which could amount to \$7 billion a year. As Puerto Rico prospers, collections will increase further.

The report, thus, reinforces that statehood, which is so plainly in Puerto Rico's interest, is also in the national interest. This Nation will benefit when Puerto Rico's economy is strong, when its residents don't need to move to the States to achieve their dreams or vote for their national leaders, when individuals and businesses on the island flourish, and when the tax base expands. The U.S. will profit from the state of Puerto Rico's success, just as it currently pays an economic and a moral price for the territory's shortcomings.

The reaction to the report from politicians in Puerto Rico who favor the status quo has been dishonest. Their strategy is clear: if you cannot convince the public, try to confuse the public.

For example, they claim the report concludes that hardworking island residents would have a large Federal tax liability under statehood. The report says no such thing, and the assertion is false. A typical household in Puerto Rico will pay the same or less in total taxes under statehood than it pays now due to the application of Federal tax credits and the ability of the Puerto Rico Government to reduce its high local rates once it no longer needs to finance a disproportionate share of public services.

In any event, this inaccurate argument shows disrespect for the people of Puerto Rico, who will be proud to assume both the rights and responsibilities of statehood. Throughout history, men and women have fought and fallen for equality and dignity. These principles are priceless.

My colleagues who requested the GAO report should now schedule a hearing on it. Seventy-five days have passed since the enactment of the law authorizing Puerto Rico to hold a federally-sponsored referendum, and 132 Members of Congress have sponsored my legislation that calls for a referendum on Puerto Rico's admission as a State, which requires Federal action if a majority of voters chooses statehood. If the Governor of Puerto Rico believes his claim that the GAO report is somehow damaging to statehood, he should have the courage of his convictions to conduct a statehood admission vote with the available Federal funds without delay. His inaction speaks louder than his words.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Bryan Smith, First Baptist Church Roanoke, Roanoke, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we thank You for today, for the life that You have given to us, the riches of Your blessings, the freedoms we enjoy, and for Your gracious and tender mercies.

Forgive us for our transgressions against You, and help those gathered here today to work together in the knowledge of Your truth.

I thank You for these leaders who are here by Your authority. Please bless them and their families.

Give to them the wisdom, discernment, humility, and guidance they will need in fulfilling the obligations and responsibilities entrusted to them. May they be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

May their weakness be the revenue for Your strength; may their purpose for gathering today be honorable in Your sight; and may the work that is accomplished promote Your righteousness and peace throughout our Nation.

In Your holy name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COURTNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING DR. BRYAN SMITH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to welcome Dr. Bryan Smith, a constituent of the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia and a friend who has offered the opening prayer today. I hope the doctor's prayer offers this body guidance and wisdom for the tasks before us.

Dr. Smith serves as senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, one of the largest congregations in Roanoke Valley. During his time at First Baptist, I have known Dr. Smith to be a man who believes in putting faith in action, working tirelessly to help others grow spiritually.

Dr. Smith and his wife, Mary, have served in ministry together for more than 25 years. They have two children. He is a graduate of Mobile College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

I want to thank Dr. Smith for serving as guest chaplain in the House of Representatives today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OBAMACARE 30-HOUR RULE

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you about a young American and one of my constituents from McKinney, Texas, who is doing her best to make a way for herself.

Jillian, a college student, has worked part-time at a local grocery store to help pay for her school expenses. For many years, Jillian clocked between 30 and 40 hours a week until suddenly that was cut down to 15 to 18 hours a week. Jillian learned the cuts were due to ObamaCare.

The new definition of full-time employment is 30 hours instead of the traditional 40 hours. Fewer work hours not only mean less take-home pay, but also less experience and less opportunity.

That is not the America we know and love. That is not the America we want

to leave to our children and grandchildren. That is why I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act, to restore the traditional 40-hour workweek and help millions of hardworking Americans like Jillian.

FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, it is here. We have been waiting with bated breath for the Ryan budget, perhaps some of the biggest and most immediate problems confronting our Nation, things that will put people back to work and boost the economy.

For me, number one is the exhaustion of the highway trust fund, meaning, as of October 1 or earlier, the Federal Government will end all new authorization for State highway projects and bridge replacement and transit for 8 to 10 months because the highway trust fund is depleted.

If you look through the Ryan budget, it is the subject of three pages of narrative and is screed full of blather, but a close reading gets to a blueprint for the future of the national transportation system. He has a simple solution. We will end it. We will end it.

The legacy of Dwight David Eisenhower and a coordinated approach to a national transportation system, in the Ryan budget, it ends. He will devolve it, devolve it to the States. The 50 States assembled and the territories will be responsible for funding their own transportation system, and somehow it will serve national needs.

Let's stop this madness.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S BACK- DOOR GOVERNMENT ABORTION FUNDING

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the government's backdoor funding of abortions through grants to abortion provider Planned Parenthood. Forty-five percent of the organization's entire revenue, totaling roughly \$540 million in 2013, was provided directly by the American taxpayer through government grants.

Planned Parenthood performed 327,000 abortions in 2012. Planned Parenthood states in its own budgetary report for 2013:

We are the most effective advocate in the country for policies that protect access to abortion.

My constituents find the practice of abortion morally abhorrent and threatening to the social fabric of this country, and they should not be forced to subsidize abortions nationwide.

I call on this body to respect the conscience of millions of Americans by ending the practice of government funding for abortions.

RYAN BUDGET

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we learned the details of the Ryan budget, a proposal that would have devastating impacts on my western New York community.

For seniors, the Ryan budget would put Medicare on the road to privatization, handing older Americans a voucher and forcing them to fend for themselves to find quality health care.

This budget slashes Pell grants that provide young people the opportunity for a college education; ends AmeriCorps, a program filling a critical need in urban schools and neighborhoods; and eliminates all support for the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Ryan budget would gut domestic priorities such as infrastructure, education, and medical research, cutting nation-building here by \$791 billion in less than a decade.

A budget is the clearest message of a nation's values. The Ryan budget abandons seniors, students, patients awaiting medical breakthroughs, and struggling families. This is not who we are as a nation.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Month of the Military Child, which is celebrated every April.

For generations, military children have supported those who serve by making their own sacrifices and persevering through tough times, especially those in families with parents on Active Duty or deployment.

For a child, there are few things more difficult than being apart from a mom or dad deployed overseas. Just since 2001, nearly 2 million military children have experienced a parental deployment. Currently, there are approximately 1.2 million children of Active Duty U.S. members worldwide.

Sometimes overlooked, military families move three times as often as non-military families and share many of the hardships. Children and spouses in these circumstances also experience anxiety in higher rates than their non-military counterparts and must worry about new housing, jobs, friends, and schools.

With a son and daughter-in-law in the military, I know life in the service

can be trying, but we thank these soldiers and their families for keeping us safe.

Mr. Speaker, let us give praise to these soldiers and their families for their service and their sacrifice. They deserve as much.

CONNECTICUT PRE-ENGINEERING PROGRAM

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a group of five talented students from Danbury. These students, part of the Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program at Danbury High School, won Best in State in the second annual Verizon Innovative App Challenge.

With the guidance of their teacher advisers, Jack Tracey and Linda Kimble, they created an app, Mediminder, that reminds people to refill their prescriptions and provides them with their doctor's contact information.

As a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and as a cofounder of the congressional student app competition, I am a strong believer in hands-on opportunities like this. In fact, this weekend, I will be hosting an app workshop in Waterbury.

When students create and design their own app, they transform from passive consumers of technology into active innovators, problem solvers, and entrepreneurs.

Tommy, Anjali, Lexie, Steven, and Sameena, I applaud your innovative spirit. Congratulations on winning Best in State. I can't wait to see what you come up with next.

HONORING DR. FERNANDEZ FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEDICINE IN SOUTH FLORIDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Dr. Bernardo "Bernie" Fernandez to medicine in south Florida.

Dr. Fernandez will soon assume the post of CEO of Baptist Medical Health Group, and he is an accomplished doctor with a record of success as CEO of Cleveland Clinic Florida. His leadership in the field of medicine earned him the distinction of being named one of America's best doctors and the title of Fellow at the American College of Physicians and the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology.

Dr. Fernandez has given back to the south Florida community by actively participating in charitable groups and supporting our shared alma mater, the University of Miami. However, none of

this is done in a vacuum and is only accomplished with the love and support of his wife, Rosy, and their children, Steven and Cristina.

Again, I congratulate Bernie for his leadership, and I know that our south Florida community will continue to benefit from his more than 25 years of experience. Congratulations to Bernie.

HEALTH INSURANCE SIGN-UPS SURGE

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, these are heady days in the State of Connecticut where both the UConn men and women are in the Final Four, shocking the world.

Mr. Speaker, there has also been another team working hard in the State of Connecticut. That is the assisters, navigators, insurance agents, community health centers, faith-based groups, and call center employees who have been enrolling Connecticut citizens in the Affordable Care Act at a frantic pace.

As of Monday night, they had enrolled 197,000 Connecticut citizens. Even though the target that HHS gave last summer was only 100,000, they doubled the target that was given to the State of Connecticut. Why? Because these assisters, like Marianne Martinez, said:

I heard a lot of stories from people who hadn't had insurance or seen a doctor in years. Some people came in expecting insurance would cost them \$500 a month, and it turned out to be only \$40 or \$100. It was a breath of fresh air.

Congratulations to all those individuals who are helping, helping people in this country get access to health care. And go, Huskies.

ADMINISTRATION RELEASES DANGEROUS CRIMINAL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the administration claims historic record deportation numbers, but a recent report by the Center for Immigration Studies found that immigration agents only attempted to send home about one-fourth of the illegal immigrants they encountered in 2014, and 68,000 of those released back into our communities have criminal records.

When the administration puts criminal illegal immigrants back in our neighborhoods, it can have tragic results. Not only do these illegal immigrants take jobs from unemployed Americans, but they also pose a threat to the safety of innocent Americans.

These dangerous criminal illegal immigrants are likely to repeat their offenses. In 2012, the Congressional Research Service determined that over 26,000 illegal immigrants were re-arrested almost 58,000 times. Suspected crimes included theft, robbery, and murder.

The President's immigration policy threatens the safety and lives of thousands of Americans.

□ 1215

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Ms. BROWNLEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the severe impact of climate change across the United States.

On Sunday, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a new report, laying out the ways that climate change has already impacted our economy.

Climate change threatens our coastal communities through ocean acidification and sea level rise. It threatens our big cities by making extreme weather events, like Hurricane Sandy, more frequent and more intense. It threatens all of us who rely on rain to water our crops or on snow for our drinking water.

California faces a future where less snow and earlier snowmelt will strain our already scarce water resources. 2014 is already one of the driest years in our State's history. Who knows what 2015 will bring?

I call on all of my colleagues to come together in a meaningful and bipartisan way to tackle climate change.

RYAN BUDGET PROTECTS DEFENSE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, House Budget Chairman PAUL RYAN unveiled his vision of a budget, which will reduce Washington's out-of-control spending and will put our country back on a path to prosperity.

For years, the President has targeted our military in order to support his Big Government agenda. Last month, the administration announced plans to reduce the size of our Armed Forces to levels of those prior to World War II, putting American families at risk.

Chairman RYAN recognizes that our brave men and women in uniform, military families, and veterans are the ones who dedicate their lives to keeping us safe. His budget proposes to strengthen national security.

The primary function of the national government is to maintain a strong national defense. I appreciate Chairman

PAUL RYAN for committing to ensuring the safety of every American at home and abroad.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RYAN BUDGET

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the draconian budget proposal released by House Republicans yesterday.

In Las Vegas and across the country, Americans have made it clear that our budget should bolster a strong middle class and make serious investments in the next generation.

This Republican proposal, however, shrinks investments in infrastructure and education, cuts funding to research and development, eliminates the safety net for our most vulnerable citizens, and breaks the longtime promise to seniors by, once again, attacking the Medicare guarantee. These cuts undermine our short-term recovery, and they shortchange critical investments that will keep us competitive in the global economy.

In short, Republicans ignore solid American values, instead doubling down on inconsistent assumptions and budget gimmicks that just do not add up. This budget should have been released on Groundhog Day, but I guess that April Fool's Day is just as appropriate.

I say to you: Don't be fooled.

REMEMBERING RAY HUTCHISON— A TEXAS ICON

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Ray Hutchison, husband to our colleague, former Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, a great Texan and an even better friend.

Through his work in developing nearly every public works project in our area in the past 50 years, Ray Hutchison is leaving a lasting mark on the north Texas community. He was a driving force in creating the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, one of the largest airports in the country today, as well as developing the Dallas Area Rapid Transit system. He also contributed to several professional sporting facilities in the area. We can thank Ray Hutchison for moving the Washington Senators to Arlington in the early 1970s, giving us our beloved team, the Texas Rangers.

Ray's selflessness and abundant accomplishments are too great to list in just 1 minute, but I am proud to have

known him. On behalf of the Texas delegation, I offer my sincerest condolences to former Senator Hutchison and to her children, Bailey and Houston.

DISCHARGE PETITION FOR BIPARTISAN, COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, last week, I signed the discharge petition on H.R. 15, the bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform bill.

Today, I stand with millions of families across our country to call upon Speaker BOEHNER to simply bring H.R. 15 to the floor of the House for a vote. This bill secures our borders, provides an earned pathway to citizenship, and increases economic opportunity for all Americans. We request a vote—no, we demand a vote. We demand a vote, Mr. Speaker.

We demand this vote because the American people are tired of living under a broken immigration system and seeing families broken apart. The American people know that passing this bill will save our country \$900 billion over the next two decades. We know that the American people overwhelmingly support immigration reform with a path to citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, give the American people that vote.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, not only is April National Autism Awareness Month, but more specifically, today, April 2, is World Autism Awareness Day. Today, we join with families all across the world in a sign of support, unity, and encouragement.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, nearly one in 68 babies born will be diagnosed with some degree of autism. Families dealing with autism are in all of our districts, and they are in our communities. They are our neighbors, and they are our families and friends. Yet far too little awareness and support occurs for these families that are raising an autistic child.

April is one more opportunity to spread the word and remind others about autism, and to raise awareness about the importance of research and advocacy for Americans who are living with developmental disabilities. Families dealing with autism bear their challenges admirably and lovingly, raising children into adults who con-

tribute to our country in so many ways. Today, we celebrate those families and their many accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize April as National Autism Awareness Month.

RYAN BUDGET PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Republicans released their budget blueprint to the American people.

Budgets are moral documents that reflect our priorities as a nation. Republicans have clearly outlined their priorities in this budget, which are: raising taxes on the middle class, cutting taxes for multimillionaires, and hurting seniors by ending Medicare as we know it. The budget plan introduced this week offers no real solutions.

If your thing is massive cuts to nutrition, health care, and other critical supports that give low-income children and families a decent chance at life, then the Ryan budget is your deal.

Instead of making these hits on the middle class, we should focus on improving education, investing in domestic manufacturing, and paving the way for a good future.

Also troubling is that the Ryan budget rejects the opportunity to enact immigration reform, to raise the minimum wage, and to extend unemployment insurance, which would create jobs and strengthen our economy.

As elected leaders, we owe it to the American people to invest in them, not to cut the safety net from under them.

MARFA, TEXAS

(Mr. GALLEGOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GALLEGOS. Mr. Speaker, today, in my 23-in-1 journey, I would like to take you to a beautiful city in West Texas known as Marfa.

Established in 1883 as a water stop for the railroad, Marfa has become a cultural mixing bowl, with cowboys and artists alike. Located in the Trans-Pecos area at an altitude of over 4,800 feet and situated on what is known as the Marfa Plateau, it is surrounded by a beautiful landscape that has served as the backdrop to many notable movies, like the film "Giant," starring James Dean and Elizabeth Taylor.

Despite having a population of only 2,000 people, Marfa has become a hidden cultural hub in the desert. It is a place filled with cowboys and art galleries, Mexican food and Texas barbecue.

In Marfa, you will find one of the most beautiful, historic courthouses in

Texas. The antelope literally play amongst the rich outdoor art, and the tourists come to relax, surrounded by big city culture in a town with only one traffic light.

In Marfa, the old crashes with the new to form a harmony that is truly American. I am honored to represent a city so rich in art, cultural life, and history. Mr. Speaker, I invite everyone to Marfa.

AN AFFRONT TO DEMOCRACY

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court's conservative majority has decided the very wealthiest Americans should now be allowed to have even more influence in politics to advance their personal or political or business agendas.

The Court has allowed even more money into campaigns, and this threatens to drown out the voices of ordinary citizens.

Today's Supreme Court McCutcheon decision is the worst affront to democracy since Citizens United. Congress must take action.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, just give us a vote. Just give us a vote on comprehensive immigration reform.

The United States Senate passed a bill almost a year ago, in a bipartisan fashion, on comprehensive immigration reform. Americans want comprehensive immigration reform.

We have a bill, H.R. 15, which provides for comprehensive immigration reform. It would pass this House, but for some reason or another, the Republican majority will not bring it up. It will not allow the House to vote on it.

The Senate had the courage to vote on it. The House ought to bring this up and pass comprehensive immigration reform. It can be done this week or next week. Let's get it done. Just give us a vote.

FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the other week, I met with leaders of the San Diego medical research community, who had a unified message: we need to end the cuts in research that have slowed medical innovation for the last decade.

I am proud to be leading the bipartisan effort, along with nearly 200 of

my colleagues, to push for over \$32 billion in Federal funding for the NIH.

This is a very personal issue. Almost all of us know someone who is struggling with a disease for which the National Institutes of Health funding is used to find a cure. That person could be a mother, a father, a family friend or, even more heart-wrenching, a child. The disease could be cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, MS, or any of the other diseases that people face every day.

It is more than a matter of scientific research; it is a matter of economics. For a generation, California has been a world leader in life sciences innovation, and our State is home to the most jobs, to the most companies, to the world's greatest concentration of top-tier research institutions. It is time to reverse the budget cuts that threaten this ecosystem and to increase the NIH budget to \$32 billion.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, all across America and around the world, the men and women in the United States military serve us and serve us well.

Would you wonder whether or not their families back home would be eligible for an increase in the minimum wage?

Their families may be blue-collar workers or workers in the service industries, and here they are, willing to sacrifice their lives, and we here in the United States Congress won't raise the minimum wage to \$10.10. What an outrage. Even the possible compromise that is percolating around has the audacity to suggest that \$7.25 is okay, that we will raise it just a little bit. But you don't understand the facts: \$10.10 is over a 3-year period.

Then today, on the floor of the House, a brilliant idea. H.R. 2575, I believe is the name. This one wants to eliminate the opportunity of those who are working 30 hours a week to get health care. Across the way, in the Budget hearing, the Republican budget is cutting trillions of dollars in social services and Medicaid.

Raise the minimum wage. Take the American people off of social needs, social assistance. Stop the tomfoolery of turning this country backwards.

□ 1230

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2575, SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT OF 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 530 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 530

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2575) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) three hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 530 provides for consideration of a critical piece of legislation passed out of the Ways and Means Committee designed to address a critical flaw in the Affordable Care Act, which is causing workers to lose hours at their job and thus lose wages to help put food on their tables and feed their families and pay their utility bills to heat their homes in the winter and cool their homes in the summer.

H.R. 2575, the bipartisan Save American Workers Act of 2014, fixes this flaw by changing the newly created labor rule in the Affordable Care Act, which defines full-time work at 30 hours per week and places that definition back where the American public has always believed it to be, at 40 hours per week.

The rule before us today provides for 3 hours of debate. That is triple the standard hour of debate that most bills before this body receive. This is done in order to fully discuss this important labor issue affecting so many Americans.

To maintain this targeted focus—the exact kind of fix that the President

claims he is interested in discussing with Republicans in order to make his law more workable—no amendments were made in order. This allows the House to fully debate this crucial issue without the possibility of unrelated issues being brought into the debate.

Indeed, this bill is so targeted, dealing with one single provision in the Affordable Care Act, that it does not repeal the Affordable Care Act—a charge I have no doubt we will hear several times over today—but in fact simply changes a definition in the bill.

Moreover, during the markup of this legislation in the Ways and Means Committee, no amendments were offered by either the majority or the minority. As always, the minority is afforded the customary motion to recommit on the bill.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of the Affordable Care Act's requirement that businesses with 50 or more employees provide health insurance coverage to those employees working 30 or more hours a week, employers across the Nation—from schools to universities to municipalities to restaurants—are being forced to cut workers' hours or face unsustainable employment costs to their businesses and organizations.

As we are seeing—and indeed, as many on this side predicted prior to the controversial and contentious passage of the Affordable Care Act—the bill fundamentally changed labor law in this country, creating a new standard called the 30-hour workweek, a standard 30-hour workweek, a shorter workweek than even imposed by the country of France.

As a result, workers' hours are being cut and productivity in this country, a country that has always prided itself on the work ethic of its citizens, will decrease over time. This is what an onerous government regulation can and will do—suppress innovation and disadvantage our businesses.

Many members of the Democratic Party have been outspoken in clamoring for an extension to long-term unemployment benefits, which would extend government assistance to unemployed Americans well beyond a year's worth of benefits; yet there is something that can be done today which will have the actual, practical effect of putting more money into people's pockets.

We have heard story after story, from every State in the Union, that employers are dropping workers from even 39 hours per week to 29 or fewer hours, potentially 10 work hours a week that workers won't see in their paychecks, which could mean hundreds or more dollars that men and women won't have to feed their families or pay their bills. Increasing workers' hours increases the money that people have in their disposable income.

The Affordable Care Act fundamentally changed labor law in this coun-

try, and the repercussions of this might not be felt for years to come. This is indeed the prototype of the dangerous, slippery slope.

What other labor laws will be reinterpreted to define full-time employment at 30 hours per week? Do people intend to impose overtime rules on employers who employ people for over 30 hours per week? It is yet another regulation which would only result in businesses cutting more hours.

What will the National Labor Relations Board reinterpret, knowing that the very fabric of labor law is based on a 30-hour workweek, instead of that previously established standard of 40 hours per week?

Prior to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, employers were already overwhelmingly providing health insurance to their employees working 40 hours a week.

Making the change contained in Mr. YOUNG's legislation will cause the least amount of disruption in the labor market, and I would submit, with the economy as it is today, making the least disruptive change in the labor market would be desirable.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the Affordable Care Act will reduce the total number of hours worked by about 1.5 percent to 2 percent during the period from 2017 to 2024. This is almost entirely because workers will choose to supply less labor.

Because of this, the Congressional Budget Office projects a decline in the number of workers of about 2 million in 2017, rising to about 2.5 million in 2024, all as a net result of the Affordable Care Act.

The latest Congressional Budget Office figures show that the Affordable Care Act will increase spending by almost \$2 trillion—double the estimate from 2010. The Joint Committee on Taxation states that taxpayers will be on the hook for another \$1.1 trillion over the next decade.

Americans earning as little as \$25,000 a year will pay more because of the law, even after accounting for the \$1 trillion in premium cost-sharing subsidies.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear about what is happening here today. This bill before us does not repeal the President's takeover of health care in this country. It does not undermine the Affordable Care Act.

It does not take health insurance from a single person in the country. It is a fix to a fatal flaw contained within the law, similar to the seven fixes that have passed both Houses of Congress and were signed into law by the President.

Does anyone miss the 1099 paperwork regulation, which was repealed early on after the passage of the Affordable Care Act? Does anyone legitimately miss the CLASS Act, which was re-

pealed on the very last day of the last Congress?

I think not. Had I not reminded you of those two parts of the bill, I doubt you would remember them.

This is no different from those 37 unilateral fixes that the President and his Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Treasury have made on their own, with no input from either legislative body. It is a fix to stop legislation that will cause people to lose their work.

If all sides cannot agree to fix a provision within the Affordable Care Act that is preventing people from working, then it is simply empty rhetoric to claim that the President or the other body or this body is interested in any fixes at all.

I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on the rule and "yes" on the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise against the 52nd closed rule and the 52nd attempt to dismantle the ACA, the Affordable Care Act.

Once again, my colleagues in the Republican Party are standing on the wrong side of history. In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed an ambitious program called Social Security in order to ensure that America's seniors had a measure of financial safety in their old age, a floor through which they could not fall; yet as it was being debated in the halls of Congress, Republicans and their allies in the business community tried to portray Social Security as something far more sinister.

Representative Daniel Reed of New York predicted that, under Social Security, Americans would feel "the lash of the dictator," while Republican Senator Daniel Hastings of Delaware declared that Social Security would "end the progress of a great country."

Republican Congressman John Taber even said of the proposed law:

Never in the history of the world has any measure been brought here so insidiously designed as to prevent business recovery and to enslave workers.

Thirty years later, these same arguments are being used to decry the creation of Medicare as the beginning of socialized medicine, and it was strictly with the votes of Democrats that the legislation to create Medicare was passed out of the Ways and Means Committee and the Rules Committee before being brought to the floor.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, we have been through this same story many times. A cynical person might believe that one of the reasons that the ACA has been fought so hard, as this is the third time Republicans failed to come

up with any program that would help Americans either achieve independence or security in their old age, is that since every one of them voted against it, it is in their best interest that it fail.

All those claims that were made were absolutely untrue; and today, despite the current majority's attempts to portray the Affordable Care Act as another law that will steal personal freedoms, destroy the economy, and hurt American workers, the facts are once again proving them wrong.

Instead, it is quickly becoming clear that the Affordable Care Act will stand alongside Social Security and Medicare as an enduring commitment to the welfare of our fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, when we passed the Affordable Care Act in 2010, our Nation had reached the depths of a crisis that was decades in the making.

In fact, Presidents dating back as far as Harry Truman, including Republicans like Richard Nixon and Democrats like Bill Clinton, saw the urgent need to reform our health care system and expand coverage to every American, yet each time that a President tried to act, their efforts failed.

As a result, by 2010, our Nation was spending 17.6 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product on health care, and yet a record high number of 49.9 million Americans had no care at all.

With the health care crisis more acute than ever, President Obama and Democrats in Congress decided that we had to act. In fact, the percentage of GDP that health care was consuming was rising beyond 18 percent, causing a serious threat to our economy. Thus began one of the most comprehensive legislative debates in history, a debate that included the views of both Democrats and Republicans, since they occupy all committees, and a debate conducted in full view of the American people.

The House held nearly 100 hours of hearings and 83 hours of committee markups. We heard from 181 witnesses, and 239 amendments from both Democrats and Republicans were considered in the three committees of jurisdiction, and 121 of them were adopted.

□ 1245

Finally, the bill was available for 72 hours before Members were asked to vote on it on the House floor. Despite this thorough and collaborative process, not a single member of the Republican Party on this floor voted for the historic law, true to their pattern of decades.

Today, thanks exclusively to the votes of Democrats, the numbers of Americans with access to health care is going up, and most importantly, the cost to providing health care to our citizens is slowing down. We have seen the slowest growth in the rise of health care in these last 2 years than we have in 50 years.

We all know that 7.2 million Americans registered for health insurance this year through the online health care exchanges—and even more in State exchanges, and we don't have that number yet. Indeed, RAND put out a report this week stating that 20 million Americans are benefiting, including the number of children under 26 who are on their parents' health care insurance. So, this week, in addition to that, the Los Angeles Times said at least 9.5 million previously uninsured Americans now have health insurance because of the ACA.

For those of us who have been carrying health insurance and been lucky enough to have it from our employers, each of our policies have cost \$1,000 more because of what we were having to pay for uncompensated care for those who had no health insurance. That alone is one measure that is going to reduce the cost of insurance.

In the face of its success, it is not surprising the majority has come here today with a 52nd attempt to undermine the Affordable Care Act. After unanimously opposing its passage, spending millions of dollars campaigning against it, the majority has firmly planted their feet on the wrong side of history. Their only way forward is to dismantle the ACA as quickly as possible and prevent the American people from seeing more benefits under the law.

Mr. Speaker, even though the majority may claim that today's legislation is an attempt to fix the Affordable Care Act, it is, in fact, a fiscally irresponsible attempt to undermine the law. First, the legislation is not paid for, which flies in the face of the rules of all the Republicans in the House. The bill costs \$74 million, and there is no hint at all of how that is going to be paid for. In fact, the Rules Committee last night, as it may, waived the rules of the House that require a pay-for, despite denying countless similar waiver requests in the past.

According to analysis by the Congressional Budget Office, this legislation would increase the deficit by \$74 billion and force 1 million people to lose their sponsored health care coverage and increase the number of uninsured. It is not true that under this piece of legislation no one would lose their health care.

Over the next few hours, we will surely hear many claims about how much we care about the American worker. And I have no doubt that each claim contains a measure of truth because, after all, those American workers are our constituents. Words, no matter how moving, are only as powerful as the actions that are taken to back them up. It is the vote we take, not the speeches we make, that will show how much we care for the well-being of the American people.

Will we continue the progress being made under the Affordable Care Act,

progress that is providing millions of Americans with access to health care for the very first time, or will we vote to try and undermine the progress with a bill that is before us today?

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on today's rule and the underlying legislation. The facts become clearer every day. The Affordable Care Act is delivering on its promise of lower cost, greater access to lifesaving health care for millions of Americans. Millions, Mr. Speaker, for the first time, have health care because they had been born with a preexisting condition which no longer hampers their having health care.

It is time the majority stop playing political games and start supporting the historic law that will benefit Americans now and for generations to come. As I have pointed out many times on the floor during a rule, running the House of Representatives of the Congress costs \$24 million a week. This is again another week where we do nothing to earn that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds for a response.

Of course, the President did come out for a big photo op and press conference in the Rose Garden yesterday and talked about a number of 7 million. Discounted in that is the 6 million people who lost their health insurance in October, November, and December of last year who have now, thankfully, reclaimed insurance.

So, the actual numbers, we will see those posted later in the year; but isn't it interesting, the President can have a press conference, but they cannot provide our committee with the actual detail on those numbers, which we have been asking for for months.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Texas for yielding.

I rise in strong support of the rule and on, also, the underlying bill, the Save American Workers Act.

Four years after ObamaCare's passage, this law's implementation is a patchwork of delays stitched together with miles of bureaucratic red tape. Unfortunately, the arbitrary delays and the exemptions this administration has granted help only a small segment of workers and businesses. Part-time workers have been among those most deeply affected by ObamaCare, yet this administration has shown little interest in providing the relief to these folks that is extended to unions and favored business entities.

It was said just a moment ago that this is the 52nd time that we are doing something like this, but I will say this: I will stand on the side of history that says for 52 times it will stand to stand against something that is wrong. I will stand in this well 52 more times when

it is wrong and hurting the American people. Right is right, and this bill is wrong.

The underlying bill seeks to help moms and dads, businesses understand what we have always known. ObamaCare's 30-hour definition of full-time employee demonstrates how little the authors of the bill know about running a business. The vast majority of American employers and employees have understood full time as being 40 hours a week for nearly a century. It is time to replace ObamaCare's definition of full-time employee with one that makes sense and will help American workers meet their financial goals.

As an original cosponsor of the Save American Workers Act, I stand with all those in Georgia's Ninth District whose livelihood has been impacted by ObamaCare's definition of a full-time employee. These include employees of the City of Gainesville, which is limiting workers' hours to avoid ObamaCare's employer mandate. Reduced hours make a tremendous impact on the household budgets of the men and women serving the people of Gainesville. While many of these folks have had the option of working additional hours to make ends meet in the past, they must now seek employment elsewhere or find a second job.

Mr. Speaker, this is a situation that is not unique. We have heard similar stories from both the private and public sector told in this Chamber. It is time for this administration and its allies to stop writing off these realities as lies or untruths being circulated for political purposes.

Those who still stand by ObamaCare need to spend some time face-to-face with the workers whose hours have been cut because of this law. It is time for them to look in the eyes of a mom and dad who won't have as much time with their children this year because they will have to take on yet another job to make ends meet.

I hope my fair-minded colleagues on both sides of the aisle will come together to support this commonsense legislation and provide some relief to the folks who deserve it most—America's working men and women.

The gentlewoman from New York is right; it is about our votes, not our speeches. The American people can look to the Republican majority and they can see whom we stand with. We stand with the people who have been hurt, who are suffering, who are having to work extra jobs. It is about those moms and dads. It is not about the exemptions and special privileges given to friends of this administration on the delays and a whim and a notice.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my fellow New Yorker, Mr. BISHOP.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak with respect to the previous question. I would urge my col-

leagues to defeat the previous question so we could vote on H.R. 1010, a bill that would raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour over a 3-year period.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I don't get it. I don't understand what the problem is. We are the people's House. More than 70 percent of the American people have indicated that they support an increase in the minimum wage. This isn't a partisan issue. Majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and unaffiliateds all support an increase in the minimum wage by overwhelming numbers.

There are studies that indicate that if we increase the minimum wage, we will pump \$35 billion into the economy over a 3-year span of phasing it in. That is \$35 billion worth of economic activity without spending a dime of Federal money. That economic activity, it is estimated, would create 85,000 jobs.

Again, I will say, I don't get it. This Congress ought to be about creating jobs. Here is an opportunity to do that without spending a dime of Federal money, and yet we can't even get a vote.

While we're here in this Chamber, the so-called Ryan budget, the Republican budget resolution, is being marked up. That budget resolution seeks to cut \$135 billion out of the SNAP program over the next 10 years. In order for that cut to be effective, if it were to ever take on the force of law, millions of people would lose their SNAP eligibility.

But get this, if we raise the minimum wage, it has been estimated that we would save \$4.6 billion a year, in other words, roughly \$50 billion over 10 years in SNAP costs because people would be making more money and, thus, have their eligibility for SNAP reduced. Isn't it preferable to help people earn more money and reduce their dependence on Federal programs?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman another 1 minute.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, wouldn't it be vastly preferable to reduce Federal expenditures for a safety net program by virtue of lifting the economic status of the people that received them? Isn't that what we should be doing, trying to lift people up and give them opportunity as opposed to taking away from them benefits that they very badly need and benefits that they need because the jobs they have are such low-wage jobs?

All we are asking for is a vote. We simply want a vote. The previous speaker said that we were sent here to vote. That is right. We were sent here to vote. This is a very simple, straightforward provision. It used to get passed with bipartisan support. All we are asking for is a vote. If Members don't support the measure, vote against it. Let the American people know where

they stand. But if Members do support it, they should have the opportunity to vote for it; and hopefully, giving us that opportunity, we will pass it so that we can help lift people up without spending a dime of Federal money.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the chairman of the Rules Committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, really, today's legislation is simple. It is about protecting American workers from job-destroying regulations contained in the Affordable Care Act. As written, ObamaCare establishes a definition of full-time employees as anyone working 30 hours per week and requires that business provide each of these workers with employer-sponsored health care or to pay a penalty.

Mr. Speaker, what we are here for is not the minimum wage today; that is another time. I am sure that as the other body debates this and as the administration trots around the country opportunities to sell their end of that, the American people will get that message. Today, this is about a group of people who are arbitrarily losing and having diminished from 40 hours down to 30 hours their work, their job, directly as a result of ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in testimony before the House of Representatives, there was discussion about a Hoover Institution study that was done by Dr. Chen. Dr. Chen specifically went and looked at the impact that the Affordable Care Act was having upon employers and employees. This really was put into context when we realized that this is a net \$74 billion change in the law—\$74 billion that the administration was counting on American people paying into the Affordable Care Act to support this by diminishing the amount of hours that a person works.

So, what did Dr. Chen say? Dr. Chen took just one part of our marketplace—education. Here is what he said:

The final reason I argue the 30-hour rule must be addressed is because of the negative impact it is having—in this case—on school districts, colleges, and universities. The analysis of vulnerable workers referenced earlier was that we focused on 225,000 workers who have a history of working in the education industry.

And they found out that, because of the 30-hour rule, that over 100 school districts across the country, including dozens in Indiana, which is where the study took place, would have either cut workers' hours or outsourced jobs to avoid the Affordable Care Act's employee mandate.

□ 1300

What we are saying is that the Federal law—which is not a mistake; it is on purpose—was specifically designed to bring \$74 billion to the Affordable Care Act by diminishing the hours that

the American worker can have. And when we bring this to the floor, they are arguing, oh, my gosh; Republicans, they want to have a \$74 billion higher deficit. It could not be further from the truth. This is money that comes from American workers, \$74 billion. And this commonsense legislation that we are handling today will say that we are going to turn back the clock to where there will not be a penalty for having a 40-hour workweek in America.

Today, the Democratic Party and President Obama want to reduce the number of hours that an American worker will have and take \$74 billion off, diminishing what would be in their pockets, to move it directly to the Federal Government.

No doubt you will see other Democrats come to the floor, just as we saw the gentleman from New York, arguing not about the substance of this bill but talking about why we ought to do a minimum wage bill. Yet their same arguments are, we should have a government that allows people to keep more money in their pockets. Mr. Speaker, that is what we are doing today.

We are with a commonsense bill on the floor of the House of Representatives. The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) carefully, thoughtfully went and sold this bill across this body, a bipartisan bill to say that the \$74 billion impact on the middle class of this country—in particular, universities, those in education, those workers who needed jobs—will lose, in essence, one-fourth of the hours that they have worked because of the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama, NANCY PELOSI, and HARRY REID, who jammed this bill down the American people's throats. And now Republicans are taking it on one at a time. This is our 51st slice at explaining to the American people why this is a bad bill.

Mr. Speaker, the \$74 billion belongs to the American worker, not to bigger government. The \$74 billion is exactly why the Republican Party is here today. And I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), who has worked not only on the Rules Committee but also in Energy and Commerce, for taking his private sector experience as a doctor to Washington, D.C. Having a doctor in the House, as Dr. BURGESS has done, makes a huge difference. That is why the Republican Party is on the floor today saying, let's pass this piece of legislation.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act hit a significant milestone yesterday: over 7 million people signed up for health care. I was very proud of it. I voted for the Affordable Care Act.

I suffered a debilitating illness when I was 5 years old, and my father was a

doctor, but, beyond that, just knowing human beings and the need for health care, it was so important for me to see that people got health care. Fifty million Americans don't have it.

It was a great day when we gave the opportunity to these 7 million people, plus the many people that got Medicaid extended to them in States where the Governors were responsible and are accepting money to provide health care to people who needed it, while some other States are not, and the children who are able to stay on their parents' health care until they are 26. We are talking over 7 million people. When you add in the children and the Medicaid folks, it is a lot more people. It is a day America should be celebrating. It boggles my mind to see the other side bringing, for the 51st or 52nd time, a bill to repeal what is an effort to give 10 million Americans, or more, health care. We should be celebrating.

What you do unto the least of these, you do unto me. Health care is an essential basic element of life, and if you don't have health care, you are not going to have a fruitful and long life.

So I celebrate the passage of the bill and am in bewilderment at the fact that the Republicans are proudly having a 51st or 52nd opportunity to attack what is a bill that gives health care to people; gives parents the knowledge that their children are getting health care; gives children the relief that their parents, when they have illnesses, will be treated; and that nobody will be shut out because they have a pre-existing condition. Being a woman won't be treated as a preexisting condition, and insurers will not be allowed to deny them health care because of their gender. The doughnut hole will be filled. This is a day to celebrate.

Above the Speaker's rostrum, DANIEL WEBSTER says: Let's do something great in our time here. Well, we did it, and we need to be proud of it.

Mr. BURGESS. I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, a very important point of what we are doing here today—look, when the junior Senator from my State stands up back home and says that he wants to repeal every syllable of ObamaCare, I will stand on my chair and cheer because I think that is the right approach.

But that is not what we are doing today. We are fixing a problem, as it exists in the body of the law, that is redefining full-time work as 30 hours per week. We are fundamentally reestablishing the relationship that occurs with America's working class.

Now, I would submit that in Politico magazine, on March 26, 2014, there was an opinion piece written, "How to Fix the Affordable Care Act." And who was this opinion piece written by? Well, it was written by Members of the other body, Democratic Senators who had voted in favor of the passage of the Af-

fordable Care Act in the first place. But they have proposals that they put forward in an opinion piece on how to fix the Affordable Care Act.

One of the things they say is, maybe we ought to allow selling across State lines. Maybe we ought to allow for a catastrophic policy to be sold again because that has, after all, been prohibited under the Affordable Care Act. They are valid suggestions. They are trying to fix the problems contained within the Affordable Care Act because they recognize it is unsustainable and unmanageable. Perhaps they are a little bit embarrassed because each one of them was the 60th vote that allowed the Affordable Care Act to come back over to the House and be passed.

Now, today we are talking about a fix to a problem within the Affordable Care Act that allows full-time employment to be reestablished and redefined at 40 hours per week.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire if my colleague has more speakers?

Mr. BURGESS. Your colleague always has more speakers as long as he is seated in the House. But I see no one else waiting, so we can proceed.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Then I am prepared to close and yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we heard, again, today that the Affordable Care Act has caused a lot of job loss, which simply flies in the face of reality because since the bill was passed, 8.6 million new jobs have been created in the United States. And every time we see one of those ads where somebody says, oh, I couldn't do this, I couldn't do that because of the health care bill, we have discovered that, generally, oftentimes people have been paid to say that on ads or that they have, unfortunately, been mistaken.

Now, today's rule grants 3 hours of debate on a bill going nowhere because we don't have anything else to do. We all know that the Senate will never take up this legislation, and if it did, the President has already said he would veto it. So instead of wasting 3 hours of debate on a 52nd attempt to undermine the Affordable Care Act, I urge my colleagues to finally hold a vote to reform our immigration system, renew unemployment benefits, raise the minimum wage, or create jobs.

This economy would be roaring if we could pass some of our bills. We have 48 bills ready to go that would create new jobs that we can't put on the floor because of our single occupation here of trying to dismantle the Affordable Care Act.

So if we defeat the previous question today—and I hope everybody will vote "no" on it—it will give us a chance to do something that cries out to be done.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up legislation

to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. The American people are calling for an economy that works for everyone, not just for those at the top.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" to defeat the previous question, vote "no" on the underlying bill, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, to the issue of jobs created in the last 5 years, let me point out that the State of Texas has been responsible for the creation of about one-third of those jobs. It is our robust oil and gas business and the manufacturing sector in the State of Texas that have been responsible for that job growth.

So when the President comes in front of a joint session of Congress for the State of the Union address and wants to talk about the jobs created since he became President, my belief is, he should say in the next statement, May God bless Texas, because Texas is responsible for that job growth, and it had nothing to do with the Affordable Care Act.

Let me talk briefly about why we are here today. Of course the gentlelady mentioned about the passage of the Affordable Care Act. She mentioned the detailed analysis that was done by Democrats, who were then in the majority, how they pored over every word in the legislation.

Let me read you the paragraph that is under question today. I am reading from section 1513 of the consolidated Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: "The number of full-time employees for any month otherwise determined include for such month a number of employees determined by dividing the aggregate number of hours of service of employees who are not full-time employees for the month by 120." Period, end of sentence.

What does that mean, Mr. Speaker? Well, fortunately, we don't have to wonder what it means because we have a rule that was promulgated by the Department of the Treasury which came out this past February. It is about a 55-page rule based upon what I just read to the House. It is a long recitation. It contains a lot of things, but here is the bottom line: For employees who average at least 30 hours of service per week during a measurement period, who thus must be treated as full-time employees during an associated 6-month stability period. That is the bottom line.

I don't know how we went from 120 per month to 30 hours per week, but they figured it out at the Department of Treasury at some great expense, I rather suspect, because here is this rule that came to the American people in February of this year when the actual law was passed almost 4 years prior. Nevertheless, we have the rule, and people are welcome to read it in the Federal Register. It was published on Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 2 days before Valentine's Day. We love you, America.

Mr. Speaker, the rule that governs the debate on this bill before us today keeps that fundamental contract with employers and their workers that full-time employment will be 40 hours. If you accept the definition from the Department of Labor that it is now 30 hours and an employer is trying to reduce the cost of providing employment, they may make the logical assumption that if someone only works 28 or 29 hours, then they are not full-time; therefore, they do not need to be providing health insurance.

And what we have done is, we have shifted that entire equation and robbed people of 10 hours of employment every week. That is a significant change in their take-home pay.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule provides for consideration of a critical bill to ensure that Americans are not forced to work fewer hours than they otherwise would without these draconian labor laws included in the Affordable Care Act.

□ 1315

I want to thank Mr. YOUNG for his thoughtful legislation, working across the aisle to offer a bill that both Republicans and Democrats have accepted in the committee by passing it through the committee with no amendments. He has bipartisan cosponsors, and he has public support.

I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2575, the so-called "Save American Workers Act of 2014," which represents the 52nd attempt by House Republicans to impede the Affordable Care Act and deny Americans the security that comes from having access to affordable, high-quality health care.

I oppose this bill because its effect would be to deny employer provided health insurance to hard working employees who work more than 30 hours but less than 40 hours per week.

If this bill were to become law in its current form, the health security of 10.2 percent of the workforce, or approximately 19.8 million workers, would be placed at risk.

I offered two amendments to H.R. 2575 that would prevent this travesty but regrettably neither was made in order by the Rules Committee.

Jackson Lee Amendment #1 would have improved this bad bill by amending the bill's 40-hour workweek definition to include the em-

ployee's average commuting time in the computation of hours worked for purposes of determining "full-time employment."

Commuting time has become a major issue for those who work hourly wage jobs because their workday is much longer.

According to the Bureau of the Census nearly 8.1% of American workers commute 60 minutes or longer.

In 2011, almost 600,000 full-time workers had "mega-commutes" of at least 90 minutes and travel 50 miles or more from their homes. The daily average one-way travel to work for employees nationally is 25.5 minutes, and 1 out of 4 workers cross county lines to reach their jobs.

Jackson Lee Amendment #2 would have amended the bill by delaying the effective date of the bill until the first month after there has been two consecutive quarters in which the national unemployment rate is below 5 percent, which would indicate the nation has reached a full employment economy.

Our nation has taken a momentous step in creating a mindset that health insurance is a personal responsibility with the enactment of the Affordable Care Act. The law did not automatically enroll all citizens into the program because it was specifically designed to be an opt-in process.

This week all over the nation, over 4 millions of Americans took the first step toward taking control of their lives by purchasing their first personal or family health insurance policy.

Over the course of the sign-up process for the Affordable Care Act tens of thousands of visitors each day shopped the website and over 7.1 million people were added to private insurance roles as customers or have enrolled into Medicaid.

Despite problems with the initial rollout of the online health insurance registration process, people were patient and persistent about getting coverage for themselves and their families.

I have held many events in my District to inform and connect people with Navigators and Community Health Centers to support the message that it was time to get health insurance for yourself and your family.

Why with 60 legislative days remaining in the Second Session of the 113th Congress before the end of the 2014 fiscal year, we are still seeing attempts to end the Affordable Care Act is a mystery to the American public who are voting with their own healthcare dollars for Obamacare.

H.R. 2575 proposes to amend the Internal Revenue Code by redefining a full-time employee for purposes of providing health insurance to only those workers who work a 40-hour workweek.

Mr. Speaker, few hourly workers in low-wage jobs work a 40-hour workweek. These employees often rely on government assistance, which amounts to a hidden tax break to employers.

Low wagedworkers often rely upon public housing assistance, SNAP, WIC or Medicaid to make ends meet.

Health insurance should not be used as a status symbol, but a basic right for people who live in the world's most prosperous nation.

I know that many predicted that the Affordable Care Act would cause havoc on the nation's health care system, but it is not the ACA

that is causing havoc—it is a small vocal minority within the majority part that is causing headaches and heartaches to doctors and their patients.

I ask that my colleagues join me in protecting workers by voting down this rule and the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 530 OFFERED BY
Ms. SLAUGHTER OF NEW YORK

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

Sec. 2. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1010) to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

Sec. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1010.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT
REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitz-

gerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BURGESS. I yield back the balance of my time and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of House Resolution 530, if ordered, and approval of the Journal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 229, nays 194, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 152]

YEAS—229

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr

Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn

Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan

Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling

Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey

NAYS—194

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)

Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell

Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez

Hahn	Maloney, Sean	Sánchez, Linda	Boustany	Hastings (WA)	Pompeo	Frankel (FL)	Lowenthal	Roybal-Allard
Hanabusa	Matheson	T.	Brady (TX)	Heck (NV)	Posey	Fudge	Lowey	Ruiz
Hastings (FL)	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta	Bridenstine	Hensarling	Price (GA)	Gabbard	Lujan Grisham	Ruppersberger
Heck (WA)	McCarthy (NY)	Sarbanes	Brooks (AL)	Herrera Beutler	Rahall	Gallego	(NM)	Rush
Higgins	McCollum	Schakowsky	Brooks (IN)	Holding	Reed	Garamendi	Luján, Ben Ray	Ryan (OH)
Himes	McDermott	Schiff	Broun (GA)	Hudson	Reichert	Garcia	(NM)	Sánchez, Linda
Hinojosa	McGovern	Schneider	Buchanan	Huelskamp	Renacci	Grayson	Maffei	T.
Holt	McIntyre	Schwader	Bucshon	Huizenga (MI)	Ribble	Green, Al	Maloney,	Sanchez, Loretta
Honda	McNerney	Schwartz	Burgess	Hultgren	Rice (SC)	Green, Gene	Carolyn	Sarbanes
Horsford	Meeks	Scott (VA)	Byrne	Hunter	Rigell	Grijalva	Maloney, Sean	Schakowsky
Hoyer	Meng	Scott, David	Calvert	Hurt	Roby	Gutiérrez	Matheson	Schiff
Huffman	Michaud	Serrano	Camp	Issa	Roe (TN)	Hahn	Matsui	Schneider
Israel	Miller, George	Sewell (AL)	Campbell	Jenkins	Rogers (AL)	Hanabusa	McCarthy (NY)	Schwartz
Jackson Lee	Moore	Shea-Porter	Cantor	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (KY)	Hastings (FL)	McCollum	Scott (VA)
Jeffries	Moran	Sherman	Capito	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (MI)	Heck (WA)	McDermott	Scott, David
Johnson (GA)	Murphy (FL)	Sinema	Carter	Jolly	Rohrabacher	Higgins	McGovern	Serrano
Johnson, E. B.	Nadler	Sires	Cassidy	Jones	Rokita	Himes	McNerney	Sewell (AL)
Kaptur	Napolitano	Slaughter	Chabot	Jordan	Rooney	Hinojosa	Meeks	Shea-Porter
Keating	Neal	Smith (WA)	Chaffetz	Joyce	Ros-Lehtinen	Holt	Meng	Sherman
Kelly (IL)	Negrete McLeod	Speier	Coble	Kelly (PA)	Roskam	Honda	Michaud	Sires
Kennedy	Nolan	Swalwell (CA)	Coffman	King (IA)	Ross	Horsford	Miller, George	Slaughter
Kildee	O'Rourke	Takano	Cole	King (NY)	Rothfus	Hoyer	Moore	Speier
Kilmer	Owens	Thompson (CA)	Collins (GA)	Kingston	Royce	Huffman	Moran	Swalwell (CA)
Kind	Pallone	Thompson (MS)	Collins (NY)	Kinzinger (IL)	Runyan	Israel	Murphy (FL)	Takano
Kirkpatrick	Pascarell	Tierney	Conaway	Kline	Ryan (WI)	Jackson Lee	Nadler	Thompson (CA)
Kuster	Pastor (AZ)	Titus	Cook	Labrador	Salmon	Jeffries	Napolitano	Thompson (MS)
Langevin	Payne	Tonko	Cotton	LaMalfa	Sanford	Johnson (GA)	Neal	Tierney
Larsen (WA)	Pelosi	Tsongas	Cramer	Lamborn	Scalise	Johnson, E. B.	Negrete McLeod	Titus
Larson (CT)	Perlmutter	Van Hollen	Crawford	Lance	Schock	Kaptur	Nolan	Tonko
Lee (CA)	Peters (CA)	Vargas	Crenshaw	Lankford	Schrader	Keating	O'Rourke	Tsongas
Levin	Peterson	Veasey	Culberson	Latham	Schweikert	Kelly (IL)	Pallone	Van Hollen
Lewis	Pingree (ME)	Vela	Daines	Latta	Scott, Austin	Kennedy	Pascarell	Vargas
Lipinski	Pocan	Velázquez	Davis, Rodney	Scott, Austin	Sensenbrenner	Kildee	Pastor (AZ)	Veasey
Loeb sack	Polis	Visclosky	Denham	Sessions	Shimkus	Kilmer	Payne	Vela
Lofgren	Price (NC)	Walz	Dent	Shuster	Shimkus	Kind	Pelosi	Velázquez
Lowenthal	Quigley	Wasserman	DeSantis	Simpson	Shuster	Kirkpatrick	Peters (CA)	Visclosky
Lowey	Rahall	Schultz	DesJarlais	Lummis	Simpson	Kuster	Peterson	Walz
Lujan Grisham	Rangel	Waters	Diaz-Balart	Duffy	Sinema	Langevin	Pingree (ME)	Wasserman
(NM)	Richmond	Waxman	Duffy	Duncan (SC)	Smith (MO)	Larsen (WA)	Pocan	Schultz
Luján, Ben Ray	Roybal-Allard	Welch	Duncan (TN)	Marino	Smith (NE)	Larson (CT)	Polis	Waters
(NM)	Ruiz	Ellmers	Ellmers	Massie	Smith (NJ)	Lee (CA)	Price (NC)	Waxman
Maffei	Ruppersberger	Farenthold	Farenthold	McAllister	Smith (TX)	Levin	Quigley	Welch
Maloney,	Rush	Fincher	Fincher	McCarthy (CA)	Smith (WA)	Lewis	Rangel	Wilson (FL)
Carolyn	Ryan (OH)	Fitzpatrick	Fitzpatrick	McCaul	Southerland	Loeb sack	Richmond	Yarmuth
		Fleischmann	Fleischmann	McClintock	Stewart	Lofgren		
		McHenry	McHenry	Stockman	Stutzman			
		McIntyre	McIntyre	Terry	Thompson (PA)			
		McKeon	McKeon	Thompson (PA)	Thornberry			
		McKinley	McKinley	Tiberi	Tipton			
		McMorris	McMorris	Turner	Upton			
		Rodgers	Rodgers	Valadao	Walberg			
		Meadows	Meadows	Wagner	Walberg			
		Meehan	Meehan	Walden	Walorski			
		Messer	Messer	Weber (TX)	Weber (TX)			
		Mica	Mica	Webster (FL)	Webster (FL)			
		Miller (FL)	Miller (FL)	Wenstrup	Wenstrup			
		Miller (MI)	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland	Whitfield			
		Mullin	Mullin	Williams	Williams			
		Mulvaney	Mulvaney	Wilson (SC)	Wittman			
		Murphy (PA)	Murphy (PA)	Wolf	Womack			
		Gosar	Gosar	Woodall	Woodall			
		Neugebauer	Neugebauer	Yoder	Yoder			
		Noem	Noem	Yoho	Yoho			
		Nugent	Nugent	Young (AK)	Young (AK)			
		Nunes	Nunes	Young (IN)	Young (IN)			
		Nunnelee	Nunnelee					
		Olson	Olson					
		Palazzo	Palazzo					
		Paulsen	Paulsen					
		Pearce	Pearce					
		Perry	Perry					
		Petri	Petri					
		Pittenger	Pittenger					
		Pitts	Pitts					
		Poe (TX)	Poe (TX)					

NOT VOTING—8

Capuano Conyers Miller, Gary
Clark (MA) Lynch Peters (MI)
Coffman McAllister

□ 1347

Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. SINEMA, Messrs. CARNEY, OWENS, CROWLEY, and SCHRADER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. STIVERS and SESSIONS changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 152 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 236, nays 186, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 153]

YEAS—236

Aderholt Barber Bentivolio
Amash Barletta Bilirakis
Amodei Barr Bishop (UT)
Bachmann Barton Black
Bachus Benishek Blackburn

Barrow (GA) Bass
Beatty Beatty
Becerra Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA) Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer Blumenauer
Bonamici Brady (PA)
Braley (IA) Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA) Bustos
Butterfield Capps
Cárdenas Carney
Carson (IN)

NAYS—186

Cartwright Castor (FL)
Castro (TX) Chu
Cicilline Clarke (NY)
Clay Cleaver
Clyburn Cohen
Connolly Cooper
Costa Courtney
Crowley Cuellar
Cummings Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny

DeFazio DeGette
Delaney DeLauro
DelBene Deutch
Dingell Doggett
Doyle Duckworth
Edwards Ellison
Engel Enyart
Eshoo Esty
Farr Fattah
Foster

NOT VOTING—9

Capuano Fortenberry Perlmutter
Clark (MA) Lynch Peters (MI)
Conyers Miller, Gary Stivers

□ 1355

Mr. HUFFMAN changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. SINEMA and Mr. RICE of South Carolina changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 153, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Stated against:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on April 2, 2014, I was traveling with President Obama for his address at the University of Michigan and unable to vote on the rule for H.R. 2575. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 262, nays

157, answered “present” 2, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 154]

YEAS—262

Aderholt	Gosar	O'Rourke
Amodei	Granger	Olson
Bachmann	Grayson	Pascarell
Bachus	Green, Al	Pelosi
Barber	Griffith (VA)	Perry
Barletta	Grimm	Petri
Barr	Guthrie	Pingree (ME)
Barrow (GA)	Hahn	Pocan
Barton	Hanabusa	Polis
Becerra	Harper	Pompeo
Bilirakis	Harris	Posey
Bishop (GA)	Hastings (FL)	Price (NC)
Bishop (UT)	Hastings (WA)	Quigley
Black	Heck (WA)	Rangel
Blackburn	Hensarling	Ribble
Blumenauer	Higgins	Rice (SC)
Bonamici	Himes	Richmond
Boustany	Hinojosa	Roby
Bridenstine	Horsford	Roe (TN)
Brooks (AL)	Huffman	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (IN)	Hultgren	Rogers (KY)
Brown (FL)	Hunter	Rogers (MI)
Buchanan	Hurt	Rohrabacher
Bustos	Issa	Rokita
Butterfield	Johnson (GA)	Rooney
Byrne	Johnson, E. B.	Roskam
Calvert	Johnson, Sam	Ross
Camp	Jolly	Rothfus
Campbell	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard
Cantor	Kelly (IL)	Royce
Capito	Kelly (PA)	Ruiz
Capps	Kennedy	Runyan
Cárdenas	Kildee	Ruppersberger
Carney	King (IA)	Ryan (WI)
Carter	King (NY)	Sanchez, Loretta
Cartwright	Kingston	Sanford
Cassidy	Kline	Scalise
Castro (TX)	Kuster	Schneider
Chabot	Labrador	Schrader
Chaffetz	LaMalfa	Schwartz
Chu	Lamborn	Schweikert
Ciilline	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Clay	Lankford	Scott, Austin
Cleaver	Larsen (WA)	Scott, David
Coble	Larson (CT)	Sensenbrenner
Cole	Latham	Serrano
Collins (NY)	Latta	Sessions
Cook	Lipinski	Sherman
Cooper	Loeb sack	Shimkus
Courtney	Lofgren	Shuster
Cramer	Long	Simpson
Crawford	Lowenthal	Sinema
Crenshaw	Lucas	Smith (NE)
Cuellar	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NJ)
Culberson	Lujan Grisham	Smith (TX)
Daines	(NM)	Smith (WA)
Davis (CA)	Lujan, Ben Ray	Southerland
DeGette	(NM)	Speier
Delaney	Marino	Stewart
DeLauro	Massie	Swalwell (CA)
DeBene	Matsui	Takano
Denham	McAllister	Thornberry
DesJarlais	McCarthy (CA)	Tierney
Deutch	McCarthy (NY)	Titus
Diaz-Balart	McCaul	Tonko
Dingell	McClintock	Tsongas
Doggett	McCollum	Van Hollen
Doyle	McHenry	Vela
Duncan (SC)	McIntyre	Wagner
Duncan (TN)	McKeon	Walden
Ellison	McKinley	Walorski
Engel	McMorris	Walz
Enyart	Rodgers	Wasserman
Eshoo	McNerney	Schultz
Esty	Meadows	Waters
Farr	Meng	Waxman
Fattah	Messer	Welch
Fincher	Mica	Westrup
Fleischmann	Michaud	Westmoreland
Fortenberry	Miller (MI)	Whitfield
Foster	Moran	Williams
Franks (AZ)	Mullin	Wilson (FL)
Frelinghuysen	Nadler	Wilson (SC)
Gabbard	Napolitano	Wolf
Gallego	Neugebauer	Womack
Garrett	Noem	Yarmuth
Gibbs	Nugent	Yoho
Gingrey (GA)	Nunes	Young (IN)
Goodlatte	Nunnelee	

NAYS—157

Amash	Gutiérrez	Pallone
Bass	Hall	Pastor (AZ)
Beatty	Hanna	Paulsen
Benishke	Hartzler	Payne
Bentivolio	Heck (NV)	Pearce
Bera (CA)	Herrera Beutler	Peters (CA)
Bishop (NY)	Holding	Peterson
Brady (PA)	Holt	Pittenger
Brady (TX)	Honda	Pitts
Braley (IA)	Hoyer	Poe (TX)
Broun (GA)	Hudson	Price (GA)
Brownley (CA)	Huelskamp	Rahall
Bucshon	Huizenga (MI)	Reed
Burgess	Israel	Reichert
Carson (IN)	Jackson Lee	Renacci
Castor (FL)	Jeffries	Rigell
Clarke (NY)	Jenkins	Ros-Lehtinen
Clyburn	Johnson (OH)	Rush
Coffman	Jones	Ryan (OH)
Cohen	Jordan	Salmon
Collins (GA)	Joyce	Sánchez, Linda
Connaway	Keating	T.
Connolly	Kilmer	Sarbanes
Costa	Kind	Schakowsky
Cotton	Kinzing (IL)	Schiff
Crowley	Kirkpatrick	Schock
Cummings	Lance	Sewell (AL)
Davis, Danny	Lee (CA)	Shea-Porter
Davis, Rodney	Levin	Sires
DeFazio	Lewis	Slaughter
Dent	LoBiondo	Smith (MO)
DeSantis	Lowey	Stivers
Duckworth	Lummis	Stockman
Duffy	Maffei	Stutzman
Edwards	Maloney	Terry
Ellmers	Carolyn	Thompson (CA)
Farenthold	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (MS)
Fitzpatrick	Marchant	Thompson (PA)
Fleming	Matheson	Tiberi
Flores	McDermott	Tipton
Forbes	McGovern	Turner
Fox	Meehan	Upton
Frankel (FL)	Meeks	Valadao
Fudge	Miller (FL)	Vargas
Garcia	Miller, George	Veasey
Gardner	Moore	Velázquez
Gerlach	Mulvaney	Visclosky
Gibson	Murphy (FL)	Walberg
Gowdy	Murphy (PA)	Weber (TX)
Graves (GA)	Neal	Wittman
Graves (MO)	Negrete McLeod	Woodall
Green, Gene	Nolan	Yoder
Griffin (AR)	Palazzo	Young (AK)

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—2

Gohmert

Owens

NOT VOTING—10

Capuano	Grijalva	Peters (MI)
Clark (MA)	Lynch	Webster (FL)
Conyers	Miller, Gary	
Garamendi	Perlmutter	

□ 1402

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 154, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3717

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor from H.R. 3717, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT
OF 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 530, I call up the bill (H.R. 2575) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 530, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, is adopted. The bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 2575

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Save American Workers Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF 30-HOUR THRESHOLD FOR CLASSIFICATION AS FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE FOR PURPOSES OF THE EMPLOYER MANDATE IN THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND REPLACEMENT WITH 40 HOURS.

(a) FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS.—Paragraph (2) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by repealing subparagraph (E), and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

“(E) FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS TREATED AS FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph, an employer shall, in addition to the number of full-time employees for any month otherwise determined, include for such month a number of full-time employees determined by dividing the aggregate number of hours of service of employees who are not full-time employees for the month by 174.”.

(b) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—Paragraph (4) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by repealing subparagraph (A), and

(2) by inserting before subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘full-time employee’ means, with respect to any month, an employee who is employed on average at least 40 hours of service per week.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 90 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2575.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, I rise in support of restoring Americans' work hours so they can see bigger paychecks and more opportunities.

ObamaCare places an unprecedented government regulation on workers, changing the definition of "full-time work" from 40 hours per week to 30 hours. As a direct result, Americans across the country are having their hours cut at work, and they are seeing smaller paychecks. At a time when the costs of groceries, gas, and health care keep increasing, lower paychecks are simply unacceptable.

The bill we have before us today, the Save American Workers Act, would repeal ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek definition of "full-time employment" and would restore the traditional definition of a 40-hour workweek. Today, we are voting to restore hours and wages and to give businesses and their workers some relief from the burdens of ObamaCare. This is a critical step in creating an America that works.

I hear about the effects of ObamaCare from workers and employers across mid-Michigan. Recently, Central Michigan University was forced to cut back student employees' hours. As one student said:

Students use that money to pay for finances and school, and I think it's going to become increasingly harder for them to pay for school when we can only work 25 hours.

A faculty member at a community college in my district wrote to me recently, and said:

I hold two part-time positions . . . Today, I was informed I cannot continue to do both jobs because of ObamaCare laws. Beginning in August, I will no longer be advising and will lose approximately one-third of my income. Last year, I bought a house, a house I now fear I will no longer be able to afford.

By forcing employers to shift workers from full time to part time, the 30-hour rule is destroying hardworking Americans' abilities to earn more during these tough economic times. At a time when the President is calling on Congress to increase wages, it is his health care law that is forcing Americans to see smaller paychecks. ObamaCare is putting full-time work and the potential to earn more wages out of the reach of millions of Americans. Those who are hit the hardest are low-income Americans who are already struggling in these tough economic times. According to a Hoover Institution study, 2.6 million Americans making under \$30,000 a year are most at risk of having their hours and wages cut as a result of the 30-hour rule. Of that, over 60 percent are women, and 90 percent do not have a college degree.

The administration has made exceptions and has implemented delays for

big businesses and political allies. Why not American workers and job creators?

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office confirmed the bill we are considering today will reduce ObamaCare's unacceptable burden on job creators and will increase wages for American workers. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Save American Workers Act will increase cash wages for American workers by \$75 billion, repeal \$63.4 billion in ObamaCare tax increases, and reduce the number of employers subject to penalties related to ObamaCare.

I applaud Congressman TODD YOUNG, a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, for his work on this legislation.

It is time to vote in support of Americans who are facing higher bills and smaller paychecks. I urge my colleagues to join me in a "yes" vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) to control.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the Senate continues to push for a 25 percent increase in the Federal minimum wage, they continue to ignore that millions of hourly workers face as much as a 25 percent pay cut as a result of ObamaCare. Because of the 30 hours is full time provision buried in the employer mandate, many employees face the prospect of being limited in their work hours. When they are not allowed to work more than 29 hours, they simply aren't able to generate the income they need to support themselves and their families.

It is worth noting that an employee who sees his hours cut from 39 to 29 is losing 10 hours a week, which, over the course of a month, is an entire week's worth of wages. The employees we are talking about are the people who most depend on getting every hour and every bit of wages that they can. We are talking about custodians, cafeteria workers, and substitute teachers at your child's school. We are talking about the waitresses and busboys at your favorite restaurant, about the cashier who rings you out at the grocery store, and about the guys on the assembly line who help make your car. In my district, we are also talking about adjunct professors at places like Ivy Tech Community College and Indiana University.

These are all Americans who want to work, but they are dealing with the unintended consequences—and I do believe they are unintended—of this health care law, ObamaCare. Some of these provisions are limiting their

hours and pay, and this needs to be fixed. So I introduced the Save American Workers Act because I want to help these hardworking Hoosiers and other Americans who are just trying to make ends meet. By simply repealing this provision and restoring the traditional 40-hour workweek, we can help make an America that works.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill. I commend my colleagues on the other side who have already signed on as cosponsors.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleagues on the Republican side in the House are so blinded by their ideology that they will not or cannot see reality or hear other voices. So here is the reality:

7-plus million people have enrolled in private plans through the ACA marketplaces. The ACA is working; millions have new coverage under Medicaid; up to 129 million Americans with pre-existing health conditions, including 17 million children, no longer have to worry about being denied coverage or about being charged higher premiums due to their health status; 3.1 million young adults have gained health coverage because they can now, up to age 26, stay on their parents' health plans. That is the reality of ACA.

There is more. There is also the reality of what this legislation would do, and I want to emphasize this because I don't think it has been accurately stated to date.

It would force 1 million people out of employer-based health insurance. According to the CBO, 1 million people would be forced out of employer-based health insurance. It would increase the number of uninsured by about a half a million people, also according to the CBO. So they are bringing this up at the same time that 7 million people have enrolled in private plans through the marketplace and when millions now have coverage under Medicaid. They essentially want to go in reverse in terms of health coverage, and they don't face up to this.

I think it has also been misdescribed. This bill would add \$74 billion to the deficit, according to the CBO, when there is no offset.

□ 1415

That is \$74 billion, and you are coming forth here, the day after we receive the latest information about ACA and all that has happened beneficially and now coming and saying knock people off of employer-based insurance and add \$74 billion to the deficit.

If any of those figures are wrong, I would like someone to stand up and say so.

Also, there has been much discussion about the impact in terms of part-time employment. I want to read what the

CBO said definitively in February. In CBO's judgment:

There is no compelling evidence that part-time employment has increased as a result of the ACA.

So as we heard in testimony, a community college came forth and said they had reduced the hours of teachers in order to avoid paying health insurance. Somebody in the education came forth and said that is their policy.

I suggest, instead of foregoing their responsibility as employers, they ought to go into the marketplace and see what they can do to bring more coverage for the people who are working hard.

Essentially, what you are doing here today is saying to many, many people who are working hard and who need insurance that this bill will knock you off your employer-based insurance and increase the number of uninsured by half a million, while increasing the deficit by \$74 billion. Ideology is indeed blind when this kind of a proposition is put forth.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is worth noting this bill would decrease by \$63 billion the amount of taxes on our employers during the worst economy, some will say, since the Great Depression. It will cause our wage earners around the country to realize an additional \$75 billion in wage income.

I take the fiscal condition of this country very seriously. I find it very hard to believe, though, that anyone—a Member of this body—would desire to pass a national health care law that is paid for on the backs of our hourly workers, those who can least afford to absorb lower wages, fewer hours, and perhaps losing their job altogether.

I think that is essentially the argument I hear from the other side when I hear the \$75 billion figure put forward.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BUCHANAN. I want to thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, there is no issue today that is more important in this body than growing the economy and creating jobs.

The Wall Street Journal noted that there are fewer jobs today than since the recession began back in 2007.

The gentleman from Michigan mentioned we need to go in the marketplace. I have been in the marketplace for 30 years, as someone who created a lot of jobs, and I can tell you this health care mandate that has employees looking at 30 hours or less a week unless they get health care is a big issue. The 30-hour requirement is forcing businesses to reduce working hours and cut wages.

I had a gentleman in my congressional district last week that has three restaurants and 291 employees. He has mentioned to me numerous times that he is going to have to cut quite a few employees from 40 hours to 29 hours.

He has even suggested that, in many cases, to reduce his health care costs, he is going to have to push some people down even more hours, so he can bring down his health care costs.

The fact is that health care costs in my district are as much as \$1,500 to \$2,000 an employee, so it is a big issue.

Another employer in our area—one of our larger employers—is going to be moving hundreds of employees from 40 hours to 29 hours a week, so it is a very big issue in my congressional district in Sarasota.

With that, I would ask my colleagues for quick passage. We need to move this bill quickly.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

The evidence is clear that more people would have their hours reduced if this bill passed than might be true under the present ACA.

I said what the CBO has said in terms of reduced hours of work. Once again, you are just not facing the reality. Changing this to 40 hours will hurt all around.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Ranking Member LEVIN, for yielding.

We speak a lot in this body about the freedoms that we as Americans have been endowed with by our forefathers and that are enshrined in the Constitution, whether it is the freedom of speech, the freedom of religion, or our Second Amendment freedoms.

I think we all understand and know—unfortunately, too many Americans know firsthand—that when you are sick and lying in a hospital bed or at home and have a child that you can't afford to take to the doctor, those freedoms mean very little.

For someone who couldn't get health insurance, whose life is spiraling downward, who can't afford to make their car or mortgage payment, how much are those freedoms worth when their life is spiraling downward because they can't afford health care anymore?

The fact is one of the greatest things that the Affordable Care Act has done is allowed more Americans to be able to enjoy the freedoms that all of us here in Congress fight so hard to protect for the American people.

A few of the troubling things about this bill is that up to a million people would lose their health care coverage if this piece of legislation was enacted. As Congressman LEVIN mentioned, it would cost \$74 billion to the American people, adding to our debt and deficit.

What is also interesting is that just about every bill that is now allowed to pass through the House of Representa-

tives requires a pay-for. In other words, the Republican majority does not allow a piece of legislation to be passed unless it is paid for by cutting something else.

What is different about this piece of legislation is that there is no question that it would cost \$74 billion, and yet there is absolutely no pay-for in this bill.

I would also note, as was mentioned, that this would cost American business some money. Well, a few things; first, many, many American businesses don't define the workweek as 40 hours. They define it as 32 hours or, sometimes, lower. Sometimes, it is 30.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. So this is inconsistent even with how millions of American businesses define full-time employment, and I would also point out this: we know that, as our economy has started to rebound from the worst recession that we have had since the Great Depression, many American businesses are doing well.

Wall Street is hitting all-time highs, and the stock market has soared. That is a good thing for America. We certainly don't begrudge any company or business that, but small businesses are already exempted from the ACA requirements, so this is about more sizable companies.

In an economy where business is doing well, why should we say to all of these workers—people who are going to work every day, who have incredible work ethic, who are powering our economy—that they don't deserve health insurance?

I was in San Antonio—and I know it happened in many cities—and we had long lines on Monday to enroll in the Affordable Care Act. People's faces lit up because, for the first time in many of their lives, they were going to be able to afford health care coverage. Many of them had their kids with them. There were teenagers and senior citizens there.

This is a milestone in people's lives, and this bill would take that away from a million people.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I know my good colleague spoke with a great deal of sincerity and earnestness when he talked about pay-fors.

It is worth noting, once again, that the attempt to pay for this Affordable Care Act—ObamaCare, as it is popularly known—on the backs of our hourly workers strikes me as unconscionable and something that none of us ought to be contemplating, which is why this is a bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the distinguished majority whip.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act.

Mr. Speaker, working on an hourly wage is tough. I know this. I worked every single job in a deli I started 25 years ago. Working an hourly wage is an opportunity to start, to work hard, to impress, and to be able to move up; but in today's world, it is a little different.

Today, because of ObamaCare, you don't have the opportunity to work the extra hours. You don't have the opportunity to expand.

Mr. Speaker, I listened to another colleague on this floor who said small businesses up to 50 employees were exempt, so now, our law is saying: you have to stay small, you can't grow, you can't have that American Dream to be something bigger.

Mr. Speaker, this affects business, but it also affects the public sector as well. In every single district across this country, this is having a great deal of effect.

In my own hometown in Kern County, the board of supervisors no longer allows seasonal workers, such as seasonal firefighters, because they can't go beyond the time allowed.

My community college in my district no longer has that extra job for the students. The students packed the boardroom and wanted to know why we could no longer do this. They pointed to one bill, ObamaCare.

Those are the stories you hear, the stories you know about, but numbers don't lie.

So what have the numbers shown since this law has gone into effect?

Last December, the Department of Labor showed low wage workers clocked the shortest workweek on record, only 27.4 hours a week. That is lower than during the recession.

Today, we have an opportunity to change that. Today, we have an opportunity to unshackle this, so an individual can work more hours. An individual that maybe owns a business can give other people opportunities; and, yes, the barrier will not be there to make sure you are only small, but you can have the American Dream. You can grow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all to join us and make it a bipartisan bill, when individuals have cosponsored this bill, to move America forward.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is too bad that we don't have a position called fact-checker on the floor. We could yield to the fact-checker every time something is misstated. If there were such a position here today, that person would be immensely busy.

For example, I think it is correct that student workers are exempted from the count, so to come here and talk about students, I think, misstates the facts.

The same is true of the story about the ACA would hurt workers, when the truth of the matter is this shift from 30 to 40 would indeed have a major impact in terms of people.

□ 1430

Let me read to you from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, dated October 12, 2013:

Moreover, raising the law's threshold for full-time work from 30 hours a week to 40 hours would make a shift toward part-time employment much more likely, not less so. That's because only a small share of workers today, less than 8 percent, work 34 hours a week and, thus, are more at risk of having their hours cut below health reform's threshold.

In comparison, 43 percent of employees work 40 hours a week, and another several percent 41 to 44 hours a week. Thus, raising the threshold to 40 hours would place more than five times as many workers at risk of having their hours reduced.

That is the reality. And to come here and to say that what would happen if we don't pass this bill is that more people would have their hours reduced than if we pass the bill, that simply is not correct.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the House majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana for his leadership in bringing this bill forward, the Save American Workers Act. It is today that I rise in support of the Save American Workers Act.

Mr. Speaker, every working American deserves a fair shot at climbing the economic ladder of success, and every wage earner deserves a chance to live the American Dream. However, over the past few months, we have watched the President's health care law wreak havoc on working families and squeeze the middle class, who are already struggling to make ends meet.

As we all know, millions of people have seen their premiums and deductibles go up under the President's health care law, while others have been forced off the very plans they were promised they could keep. But that is not the full picture. Because of the 30-hour workweek provision in ObamaCare, wage earners could see their hours reduced, resulting in a 25 percent cut to their pay.

Now, let me just take a moment to explain exactly who might see their paychecks shrink. According to a study by the Hoover Institution, there are 2.6 million Americans especially at risk of having their wages cut. Of those 2.6 million, 59 percent are younger workers between the ages of 18 and 34, many of whom may be trying to save for college or for their first home; 63 percent are women, many of them single moms trying to support their children. The

median household income for families most at risk from harm under this ObamaCare regulation is just over \$29,000. That is the median household income most at risk.

The bottom line is this: the workers most affected by these cuts are those who earn the least. For someone who currently earns \$10 an hour and works 40 hours a week, being cut to 29 hours means a loss of \$110 each and every week. Three out of four Americans are already claiming they are working paycheck to paycheck. A 25 percent cut to their income would have a devastating effect. This is not how America should work.

While this rule will impact Americans in all different industries, those who are most likely to be affected work in retail, restaurants, manufacturing, and even America's education sector.

In my hometown of Richmond, many school districts have begun to limit part-time workers to less than 30 hours a week to avoid added costs imposed by the advent of this health care law and would thus strain their budgets.

A substitute teacher named Amy, from Chesterfield County, Virginia, was asked by the Richmond Times-Dispatch about the burdens of this rule under ObamaCare, and she said: "The people that it is going to affect are the people that need or want to work every single day."

So why is the government punishing those who are looking to earn an honest wage?

This administration believes that they can hide the reality of the wage cuts with an increase in the minimum wage. But that proposal, which the nonpartisan experts say will result in 500,000 lost jobs, is not the answer. The answer is restore the 40-hour workweek and let people work.

We have known for a long time that the President's health care law was broken, but now it is beginning to break the backs of American workers. Our constituents don't deserve this broken law or more broken promises. They deserve a fair shot at success without the government standing in the way.

Today, we have an opportunity to unclench this middle class squeeze and restore the 40-hour workweek so that wage earners don't have to worry about smaller paychecks. So let's stand together, in a bipartisan fashion, and take a big step towards creating an America that works again—and works again for everyone.

I would like to thank Chairman CAMP, Representative YOUNG, and the rest of the Ways and Means Committee for their hard work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support working families by passing this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I shall consume.

I knew the majority would come here and talk about the middle class. They are trying to escape from their failure to help take action to provide jobs for middle class Americans.

They also, by the way, so far haven't helped out to provide the continuation of the unemployment insurance for hundreds of thousands of people, so many in the middle class, who have lost their jobs.

Look, I quoted from CBO, and I guess I will have to quote again. This is in February. "In CBO's judgment, there is no compelling evidence that part-time employment has increased as a result of the ACA."

I will quote again from this study of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and it is headed this way: "Health reform not causing significant shift to part-time work, but raising threshold to 40 hours a week would make a sizable shift likely."

I quoted why they say that because the number of people who are working 40 hours or thereabouts, that number is so much larger than those who are working 30 hours or thereabouts; and so any employer who wanted, essentially, to shift the burden from them to others, they are more likely to do it under this bill than under the present circumstance. That is the reason why it has been said by CBO that it would force 1 million people out of employer-based health insurance, and it would add \$74 billion to the deficit since it is not offset.

You haven't refuted a single one of those statements. If they are not true, I would like you to say so. I would like you to say CBO is wrong, and also wrong when they say it would increase the number of uninsured by half a million people.

Those are three CBO statements. They stand here to refute the myths that are being brought here in defense of this bill.

So you raise the middle class banner. At the same time, you essentially, with this bill, would take away health insurance from many, many, many, many middle class citizens. That is what you would be doing here.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), a distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said before, the more we learn about the President's health care law, the more the facts show it is hurting more people than it is helping. The latest development now is the law's 30-hour rule is forcing some companies to scale back

hours with more part-time jobs and less full-time jobs, so that those employees that have good full-time jobs are now having to go to part-time jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I met with a small business owner. He owns seven different restaurants. And I know that a lot of folks think that people in the restaurant industry, they only employ part-time workers, but 41 percent of his workers he employs full-time. But because of the new law, where now 30 hours is the standard being considered full-time work, he is being forced to lower the work hours for those employees, nearly all of them, to 29 hours or less. That absolutely makes no sense. These reduced hours are now going to force a 25 percent reduction in pay for those workers. Many will now have to go out and find a second part-time job just to make up for the hours that they lost.

Another small business owner I talked to from Minnesota, he was imploring me when he contacted me: please, Congress needs to correct the 30-hour rule so that it reflects his workforce's needs and his employees' desire to have more flexible hours. He said, if it's not addressed by Congress soon, there will be disruptions in the workforce, and the flexible work options for his employees could disappear altogether.

The 30-hour work rule is negatively impacting restaurateurs, manufacturers, and even our schools, as was mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker. We should be removing these barriers to work. We should not punish employees who want to work more, and we should be helping American workers.

So let's pass this legislation. It will restore some common sense and a common understanding in America that full-time work is 40 hours. It will pass with bipartisan support.

I commend the gentleman for his leadership on this issue for getting Americans back to work.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to also indicate the fact that I, too, have read the Congressional Budget Office's estimate of this legislation. They indicate that \$75 billion in wages will be lost as a result of the Affordable Care Act if something like the Save American Workers Act isn't implemented.

So, effectively, I hear some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle making the case that we ought to be funding the Affordable Care Act essentially on the backs of these hourly workers, and I don't think that is a position anyone wants to find themselves in.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON).

Mr. SALMON. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting, as we throw all these numbers around, I guess they mean a lot on the floor debate, but to the real people that are suffering, they don't really mean anything.

There is an old adage that says there are lies, damn lies, and statistics. We are throwing numbers around here like they matter, but the fact is there are real people's lives that are being hurt, being destroyed.

In fact, I read an article just a few months ago that the community college where I met my wife is actually notifying 1,300 employees, 700 of them that were adjunct professors, that their hours are going to be reduced, and they are being reduced because of this law. They are being hurt.

I guess we can quote them a statistic to tell them: go on your merry way. I know you can't pay for your mortgage. I know you can't make your car payment. You can't pay for your child's college education, but we got this great statistic that we just got out of Congress that ought to make you feel better about your life.

The fact is we ought to be more concerned about individuals than we are throwing numbers around.

I understand CBO also said that total implementation of ObamaCare would cost \$2.1 trillion. The fact is we can use statistics to say just about whatever we want them to say, but real people's lives are being hurt; and we have a responsibility here in this body to do everything that we can to try to raise the lifestyle in this country, not degrade it.

People are losing their jobs. My son lost his insurance because of ObamaCare. He was one of that small percentage—again, a statistic—that we were quoted, but the fact is he lost his insurance. Now he just told us that he is having his third child. The first two children were delivered by a doctor that they know and trust, but because of ObamaCare, their doctor is not covered under their new policy. To add insult to injury, when he went on the exchange to sign up, after he was told that his policy was no longer covered because of ObamaCare, his premiums went up from \$450 a month to \$850 a month. That is hardly helping people.

I think that it is safe to note, this law was passed without one Republican, and it is time that we stopped our high horse of statistics and actually care about people.

□ 1445

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, if you care about people you should be for the ACA. Seven million people have been enrolled in private plans through the ACA marketplaces, 7 million-plus. And millions—we will get the figures—now have coverage under Medicaid. That is lots of

millions of people, and you come forth with an individual case?

In many cases, I don't know your instance, these cases have turned out to be incorrect. They have been put in political ads, and they have been refuted.

I now want to read the Statement of Administration Policy from the President:

The administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act—it should be the so-called Save American Workers Act—because it would significantly increase the deficit and reduce the number of Americans with employer-based health insurance. Rather than attempting once again to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which the House has tried to do over 50 times, it is time for the Congress to stop fighting old political battles and join the President in an agenda focused on providing greater economic opportunity and security for middle class families and all those working to get into the middle class.

This legislation would weaken the provision of the Affordable Care Act that keeps employers from dropping health insurance coverage and shifting the cost to taxpayers. According to the Congressional Budget Office, it would increase the budget deficit by \$73.7 billion over the 2015 to 2024 period. Moreover, the proposed change would reduce the number of people receiving employer-based coverage by about 1 million, while increasing the number of uninsured.

The Affordable Care Act gives people greater control over their own health care. Since October 1, over 7 million have signed up for insurance in the health insurance marketplaces. Because of the Affordable Care Act, Americans who have previously been denied coverage due to a preexisting condition now have access to coverage. Additionally, the law helps millions of Americans stay on their parents' plan until age 26 and provides access to free preventive care like cancer screenings that catch illness early on.

While the administration welcomes ideas to improve the law, H.R. 2575 would undermine it by shifting costs to taxpayers and causing employers either to drop or to not expand health insurance coverage.

"If the President"—and this is underlined—"were presented with H.R. 2575 he would veto it."

With that very effective, I think so convincing statement—I hope all listen to it—I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe what I just heard. I heard that individual cases ought not be cited, that that is somehow off limits.

Mr. Speaker, one of my colleagues just cited the example of his son, lost his insurance despite the promises of this bill during campaign season. He lost his doctor. He saw his insurance premiums and copays go up. These are real lives we are talking about. These are real hours and real wages that we are trying to remedy. This is a real 40-hour workweek that people depend upon.

Then to cite the Statement of Administration Policy as somehow being more authoritative than these personal examples I find, frankly, a bit off-putting.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), the chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

It was pointed out by the chairman in the House Education and the Workforce Committee, as the name suggests, the committee has broad jurisdiction over policies affecting our Nation's classrooms and workplaces. It goes without saying that both face difficult challenges today.

Budget constraints continue to plague States, school districts, and institutions of higher education, straining their ability to effectively serve students. Workers and job creators are still struggling in a persistently anemic economy, making it difficult for many Americans to pay the bills and provide for their families.

Unfortunately, the health care law is making things worse. Thanks to the President's government-run scheme, full-time jobs are being destroyed, not created. Health care costs are going up, not down; and millions of individuals are losing the health care plan they like—an example of which we just heard earlier—instead of keeping it as promised.

This reality isn't limited to private businesses. It is a reality unfolding in schools, colleges, and universities across the country. Recent headlines confirm in stark detail how the President's health care law is hurting our education system.

From The Washington Free Beacon: "Alabama schools face shortage of substitute teachers due to ObamaCare."

From The Weekly Standard: "Hours cut for 200 North Carolina teachers due to ObamaCare."

And just in case my friends from the other side of the aisle would accuse me of selecting only conservative publications, from The New York Times: "Public sector capping part-time hours to skirt health care law."

Aside from press reports, we have also heard firsthand accounts of how ObamaCare is making it harder for school leaders to meet the needs of students. In December, the committee asked the public to share personal stories about the effects of the health care law on local classrooms and campuses.

Helieanna, from Saint Anthony, Minnesota, described her dream to teach at the school she once attended as a student. While that dream may have come true, she wrote that her financial situation is less stable than it was before the health care law.

Kate, from Hemet, California, informed the committee that her community college would have to restrict workers' hours, noting this impacts our ability to properly serve students.

Secretary Sebelius once dismissed concerns about jobs lost and hours cut

under ObamaCare as "speculation." Yet for Helieanna, Kate, and countless others, the health care law is wreaking havoc on their families, their livelihood, and their schools. It is time to do something about it.

By restoring the traditional standard of full-time work, the Save American Workers Act will help restore workers' hours and allow them to earn the wages they deserve. Just as important, the legislation will provide relief for schools grappling with a flawed health care law.

Congress should not stand by while teachers have their hours cut and students receive diminished access to educational opportunities, all because of bad policies out of Washington.

Certainly I urge my colleagues to provide relief for our Nation's workplaces and classrooms by supporting the Save American Workers Act. I would point out, as my colleague did, that taking the administration's Statement of Administrative Policy as definitive here defies, frankly, all logic.

There is no one in America who would be surprised that the President doesn't want changes to his law, unless he unilaterally makes those changes, because after all, Mr. Speaker, if you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan—unless you can't. If you like your doctor, Mr. Speaker, you can keep your doctor—except when you can't.

Before I yield back my time, I would like to thank the Ways and Means Committee for their excellent work on this legislation, and I would like to take a moment to recognize my friend and colleague, DAVE CAMP, who announced earlier this week his plan to retire. During more than 20 years of service, Chairman CAMP has been a distinguished Member, a dedicated reformer, and tireless champion of working families. We are going to miss him. I wish him all the best.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the balance of our time today be managed by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), a member of the committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding.

I rise today in opposition to this bill, the so-called Save American Workers Act, and to speak in support of working men and women of this great country. I am here today and every day, not only as a Member of Congress, but as someone who knows what it is like to work for a living.

As someone who for 18 years as an ironworker strapped on a pair of work

boots during boom times and down economies, I know what it is like to stand in an unemployment line when my local shipyard closed and when our auto plant shut down.

Mr. Speaker, I am part of the American workforce. Like many of my colleagues, I represent hundreds of thousands of hard-working people who struggle every day to make ends meet. That is why I am deeply offended that the Republican leadership of this House, the people's House, has the temerity to refer to any of their efforts in the context of saving the American worker.

Now, the simple fact is that during my time in Congress the actions of my colleagues, especially the Republican leadership, have spoken loudly to the contrary. It is impossible in the time allowed to me to cover all the anti-worker efforts that the Republican majority has undertaken since I have been in Congress. They have continually tried to roll back prevailing wage laws and workers' rights and protections that have been in place since the 1930s. They tried to cripple the National Labor Relations Board, put in place in 1935 to protect American workers.

Their attacks on the Federal workforce are ceaseless, freezing pay and cutting benefits, and demoralizing our hard-working men and women in government. The Republican leadership has opposed equal pay for women; they have opposed raising the minimum wage; they have opposed employee non-discrimination legislation. In fact, they won't even bring some of those bills for a vote.

As we struggle to recover from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, the Republican leadership has refused to extend emergency unemployment benefits to the long-term unemployed, many of whom use that money just to put food on the table while they search for work.

Now the Republican majority has the audacity to put forward a bill they call the Save American Workers Act. We have got to save the American worker from you. That is who we need to be saving them from.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I thank the Speaker for his indulgence.

The bill before us today is more of the same. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the bill will add \$74 billion to the Federal deficit, force 1 million more people to lose employer-covered health care, and leave 500,000 completely uninsured.

According to a study released by the University of California Berkley, this bill will cause 6.5 million workers to lose more hours. This bill, like so many others offered by my colleagues from

across the aisle, is not crafted to save the American worker. It is crafted to increase the profits of large employers while workers continue to struggle.

Perhaps this bill should be named the "Save American CEO Act." It is the height of hypocrisy, that after all their efforts to harm the American worker my colleagues should have the audacity to even offer a bill entitled "Save American Workers Act."

We all know and realize that we need to save the American worker from the Republican leadership. That is what we need to do. So I urge my colleagues to continue to oppose these efforts to destroy the middle class and sabotage the American worker and the American family.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE), a member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, this bill would repeal ObamaCare's mandate on employers to provide insurance to all employees working at least 30 hours per week and would instead restore the traditional 40-hour standard. Everywhere I go, I hear concerns about the lack of jobs and the need for job creation. Tennessee's unemployment rate is still near 7 percent. We need to be doing everything possible to encourage employers to not only create jobs, but to maintain current jobs.

That is why the 30-hour standard makes no sense. Employers are already struggling to make their budgets work in the stagnant Obama economy. We all know how the employers are forced to respond: by cutting hours or hiring fewer workers. There is concrete evidence this is already happening, not just in the private sector. In my own hometown, Johnson, Tennessee, where I was mayor before I came here, the city school system been forced to keep approximately 200 employees, including substitute teachers, below the 129 hours a month.

□ 1500

This hurts the families that count on that income and the schoolchildren that benefit from the efforts of these adults.

President Obama's case for defending this flawed law is built on a false premise: that there is no other way to help individuals who cannot afford health insurance or who have been affected by a catastrophic illness or disease.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent my entire adult life as a physician taking care of people from all walks of life. I want every American to have access to an affordable health care plan, and I have worked since I arrived in Congress to develop patient-centered solutions to help people afford health care, like H.R. 3121, the American Health Care Reform Act.

There are ways to reach this goal without creating massive new bureaucracies, spending \$2 trillion, weakening the doctor-patient relationship, or increasing premiums for millions of hardworking Americans, but the President won't even engage in a conversation. So, in the meantime, we must do everything we can to protect the American people from this law. That is why I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield myself, Mr. Speaker, such time as I may consume.

I think, Mr. Speaker, this is about the 52nd time that the Republican majority has attempted to either repeal or derail the Affordable Care Act. I don't know why they do it so often since constitutionally it is abundantly clear that they don't have the votes to pass it in the Senate, and clearly, if it ever reached the President's desk, it would be vetoed, and there are not enough votes to override the veto. So, clearly, this madness continues even after more than enough people have enrolled, far beyond those that were expected by some of the Republicans. And this struggle, this madness, goes on as though Democrats are the only people that are going to become sick and need health care.

So I don't know where we go from here. I assume that comes the next election, once again, the voters will speak out. And for those people that have had kids on their insurance policy, we will hear from them; for those who have had preconditions and couldn't get health insurance, we will hear from them; for those that thought that getting preventive health care was a luxury, we should hear from them; but, more importantly, the people who just could not afford insurance. I cannot conceive how these people are all Democrats, in that the Republicans have no people that are vulnerable to illnesses and the severe expenses that are involved.

But, clearly, it has been my opinion that if this bill doesn't work, if it fails, and if some of these tactics had been successful, that the Democrats would be embarrassed by its failure. But I also thought—and it makes a lot of sense to me—that if, indeed, the American people started to understand the complexities of the bill and thought they were in need of health insurance, as close to 10 million people feel, then the Republicans would have to defend their negative position as to why they fight so hard to deny people health insurance.

So I understand from Mr. LYNCH that the bill is named after workers. So that brings me to include a letter for the RECORD from the AFL/CIO. Clearly, this is not a management outfit but really supports the workers, and they, of course, are opposed to this bill that is drafted to go nowhere.

In addition to that, I include for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, a letter from the

AFSCME into the RECORD, which represents county and municipal employees, and they strongly oppose the legislation that the Republican majority has brought to the floor.

Lastly, I include for the RECORD a letter from the National Education Association that opposes this legislation.

Before I reserve the balance of my time, I would like to join in with the majority that has complimented the work of Chairman DAVID CAMP. His announcement surprised most of us, but I don't think in his challenge that he has really proven his chairmanship to be all that we expected from him and then some. I regret the Republicans have passed over his opportunity to reform the tax law, but, then again, the chairman's tax reform law made too much sense for anybody to think that it would be picked up by the Republican majority. But it was a bill that would be great for discussion; it was hard hitting; it provided a lot of savings; and it reduced the rates.

So I don't know why before he leaves that we couldn't have this taken up, but it is my understanding that the gift that was given to him by his majority was just to allow him to present his draft. I think that is unfortunate because, if ever there was a time we need to reform the tax laws, it would be now. So I congratulate Chairman CAMP for his attempt to introduce this to the House, and I regret that the Republican majority has, out of hand, rejected it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS,

Washington, DC, January 28, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the Save American Workers Act (H.R. 2575) sponsored by Congressman Todd Young and the Forty Hours is Full Time Act (H.R. 2988) introduced by Representative Dan Lipinski.

Both of these bills would weaken the employer responsibility requirements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by increasing to 40 hours per week the threshold at which employers are required to either offer coverage or pay a penalty. Contrary to the intent of this legislation, economic data show that raising the threshold would cause more employers to reduce the hours of their workers, and it would result in millions of working families losing employment-based insurance coverage.

As the Ways and Means Committee examines these issues in a hearing this week, and as discussions continue, the House should instead seek to strengthen the employer responsibility requirements of the ACA by lowering the hours threshold, requiring employers to provide coverage for workers who work 20 hours a week or more, and by applying a pro rata shared responsibility penalty if workers with fewer than 20 hours are not offered coverage. This is the only way to protect groups of workers—such as low-wage employees, school staff, and adjunct professors—that will lose wages under the existing incentive to reduce hours.

Unfortunately, the ACA's employer responsibility requirements do not adequately

sanction employers that drop coverage or decline to offer affordable, comprehensive coverage. The \$2,000 penalty for not offering coverage to a full-time employee pales in comparison to the average annual cost of single coverage, which was \$5,884 in 2013. The ACA's extension of Medicaid eligibility to the uninsured will tempt low road employers to move lower-income employees into the program, since the law has no penalty to discourage employers from shifting the responsibility for covering these workers. In the construction industry, where the vast majority of firms have fewer than 50 employees, there is no penalty for companies that fail to provide coverage, creating a competitive disadvantage for employers that do provide coverage. A true "employer mandate" would address these issues and other weaknesses in the employer requirements.

The bills introduced by Representatives Young and Lipinski would take the ACA in the opposite direction, compounding the problem they seek to solve. A December 2013 analysis by the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education found that the approach employed by this legislation—moving the threshold for coverage from 30 hours to 40 hours—would result in reduced work hours for three times as many workers (6.5 million) compared to the number vulnerable to a reduction of hours at the current threshold (2.3 million).

The researchers also found that the approach would "effectively eliminate" the employer shared responsibility requirement, because employers could cut workers to 39 hours or less with relatively little cost. Pointing to the Congressional Budget Office estimate that one million workers will lose job-based coverage as a result of the Administration's one-year delay in implementing the current employer responsibility rules, the researchers warned that making the "employer requirement effectively non-binding on a permanent basis" would cause many more workers to lose employment-based coverage. The responsibility for covering this group would shift from employers to the federal government, incurring substantial new costs. Instead, the authors recommend that the incentive to reduce hours created by the 30-hour cliff could be addressed by applying the employer requirement to part-time workers and by pro rating the penalty for these workers.

The AFL-CIO endorses this kind of approach. We seek a full penalty for employers that fail to provide affordable, comprehensive coverage to workers averaging 20 hours a week or more. A pro-rated penalty should apply if adequate coverage is not provided to employees working less than 20 hours. This policy would eliminate the cliff imposed by the current 30-hour threshold, rather than simply shifting it higher and creating a new incentive for employers to reduce hours.

We look forward to working with you to strengthen the employer responsibility rules of the ACA, by extending coverage requirements to part-time workers and bolstering requirements related to the affordability and comprehensiveness of coverage. Achieving the coverage goals of the Affordable Care Act will depend upon maintaining employer responsibility for providing coverage to working families.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
*Director,
Government Affairs Department.*

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE,
COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO,

Washington, DC, February 3, 2014.

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the Save American Workers Act (H.R. 2575), sponsored by Rep. Todd Young and the Forty Hours is Full Time Act (H.R. 2988), sponsored by Rep. Dan Lipinski.

Both of these bills would weaken employer responsibility requirements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by increasing to 40 hours per week, the threshold at which employers are required to either offer coverage or pay a penalty. Based on research described in testimony to the Committee last week, three times as many workers would be at risk of a reduction in hours if one of these bills became law. Rather than resolve any problems that may exist, these bills would make them worse.

Financing our health care system must be a shared responsibility. While our health care system is based on employer-provided coverage, some employers are shirking their responsibility. Instead of making it easier for employers to do so, the ACA should be strengthened to ask more from employers. We urge the Committee to approve legislation that would require employers to provide coverage for those working 20 hours or more, or pay a penalty. A pro-rated penalty should apply for workers who put in fewer than 20 hours per week.

Today, we urge you to oppose legislation to raise the hour's threshold to 40.

Sincerely,

CHARLES M. LOVELESS.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, February 4, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association, and the students they serve, we urge you to vote NO on the Save American Workers Act of 2013 (H.R. 2575), scheduled to be voted on in committee today. We oppose the bill because we believe it would create a disincentive for employers to provide health care coverage, negatively impacting employer sponsored health insurance and harming families, children and educators who need coverage.

We believe that the Affordable Care Act's shared responsibility for employers, sometimes referred to as the employer penalty, supports the overall goal of expanding quality, affordable coverage to all Americans.

We are concerned that this bill's changes to the ACA's definition of what constitutes full-time employment from "on average at least 30 hours of service per week" monthly to an average of 40 hours per week monthly would adversely affect overall employer-sponsored health coverage. It also may lead to higher costs to the federal government as workers are passed off to exchanges and potentially become eligible for premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions.

Additionally, if employer-based coverage is reduced, an even greater number of low-income individuals and their families in the 25 states that have refused to expand Medicaid will be unable to afford buying health benefits. In those states, childless adults whose incomes fall below 100 percent of the federal poverty line will not only be denied access to Medicaid coverage, but they will be ineligible for premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions through a health insurance

marketplace (exchange). Moving the full-time definition from 30 hours to 40 hours, as this bill does, would only expand the number of people hurt by this coverage gap.

We believe the bill misses the mark by substituting “40 hours” for “30 hours” because it would do nothing to stop employers’ misuse of the ACA’s employer penalty provisions as a justification for cutting employees’ hours. Experience with this portion of the ACA shows that one of the biggest implementation challenges in the education sector consists of making sure that employers and other health plan sponsors fully understand the law’s provisions related to shared responsibility for employers. For years, we have engaged with the Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service to ensure that regulations on shared responsibility for employers work consistently well in the education sector, and believe regulators have taken important steps to correct this.

The changes contemplated in H.R. 2575, however, would simply shift the hours-related context in which these common errors take place:

Mistakenly believing that the only way to avoid employer penalties is to cut employees’ hours to under 30 a week or to under six hours a day;

Misunderstanding how and when to use proposed regulations related to an optional hours-counting method called the look-back measurement method;

Overestimating the potential cost of complying with the law’s provisions on shared responsibility for employers; and

Failing to incorporate into decision-making the statutory and regulatory provisions that ensure that this part of the ACA establishes possible penalties on large employers rather than an “employer mandate.”

These and other ACA-implementation errors can lead to exaggerated responses that hurt students, workers, and families alike. Unfortunately, H.R. 2575 would just shift the hours-related focal point for such errors.

Employers who take the time to understand the law and regulations as they currently stand can develop common sense, constructive, and consensual approaches to properly implementing the law.

Again, we urge you to vote NO on H.R. 2575. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the committee on this issue.

Sincerely,

MARY KUSLER,
Director of Government Relations.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that to get a bill this far in the legislative process requires the work of a lot of people: My own staff within my office, the committee staff, and my fellow colleagues who are willing to provide a consultative role, constructive advice, and a very strong leadership role.

So, with that, I am very happy to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan, TIM WALBERG, who helped us introduce this bill. He is a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. WALBERG. I thank the gentleman. I thank you for your leadership.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to stand here in support of this legislation—good legislation—that will help people in my district in Michigan, a hard-hit State because of economic problems

and, I think, bad, bad efforts and policies from an administration that didn’t understand that workers who are encouraged to work to their fullest extent produce an economy.

It is hard to take seriously the objections of the Democrat side of the aisle here when they talk about the middle class, they talk about employees and their efforts to help them, a party who enshrines the minimum wage and unemployment insurance as the golden grail of what grows an economy. I find that absurd.

It is a party who has decimated the middle class in the last 6 years with policies including what we are discussing today. Moving from 40 hours to 30 hours as full-time worker requirements? I don’t get it.

We also understand it is the same party that told us, if you like your insurance, you can keep it—no. If you like your doctor, you can keep it—no. If you like your hospital, you can keep it—no. And now we hear their objection that basically says, if you like your job, you can keep it—no.

Back in September, before this ill-advised law took place, Janet from Jackson, Michigan, called my office in tears, a 56-year-old mother of three, single parent, who had just been told that morning by her job provider in home health care—a very valuable field of service—that she no longer would be working 36 hours, which was her normal working hour opportunity, and was being moved back to 28 because of what? The Affordable Care Act requirements. And so she said to my office staff, in tears:

How am I now going to make it when I was making it on 36 hours at that job, supplementing that with a waitress job on the weekend, and I was paying my mortgage and my insurance, and now I am going to be asked to pay for all that on 28 hours? I am 56 years old. Where am I going to get another job?

That is what is being produced by this. We want to give Janet the opportunity to have her 36 hours back. We want to give Jim, Jerry, and Joan, and all the rest of the people, the opportunity to have the fullest hours they can possibly have in an America that grows the middle class and gives opportunity for success.

Mr. RANGEL. I just don’t know what part of the Constitution the gentleman doesn’t understand, but the truth of the matter is that this law passed the House of Representatives, passed the Senate, was signed into law, and verified by the United States Supreme Court, and still we hear people yelling at the darkness that we should repeal it.

Now, there are ways to do these things, but one thing is abundantly clear: the way we have been going about this, the 52 parliamentary opportunities that the House has had, this doesn’t work. And so if you tried something 51 times, it would seem to me,

unless somebody is putting something in the water on the other side of the aisle, that we will try something else like try to repair it, try to fix it, try in a bipartisan way to see where we agree that changes could be made to make it easier for employers and employees. But this barking at the Moon, to me, is just a waste of taxpayers’ money and time.

How many speakers do we have, and how much time do we have remaining, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The gentleman from New York has 62 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Indiana has 64 minutes remaining.

Mr. RANGEL. How many speakers does the gentleman have? I only have two speakers.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. We have six speakers on this side.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD a letter of support for the Save American Workers Act, the bipartisan bill, by the National Restaurant Association.

Mr. Speaker, I also now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the National Restaurant Association, the leading trade association representing the restaurant and foodservice industry, I write to urge you to vote YES in favor of H.R. 2575, the “Save American Workers Act,” when it is considered on the House floor this week. The National Restaurant Association may consider any votes on, or related to, such legislation in our annual “How They Voted” legislative scorecard.

H.R. 2575 would reinstate the historic definition of full-time as working 40 hours per week. The law’s definition of full-time set at 30 hours could have lasting impacts on the labor market, far beyond the Affordable Care Act, with the unintended consequence of potentially limiting hours for workers who do not intend to rely on their employer for their insurance needs.

One reason so many Americans are drawn to restaurant and foodservice industry jobs is the flexibility to build a work schedule or change hours to suit their personal needs. Generally, most restaurant operators have classified positions as salaried and hourly, not full- or part-time. Previously, hourly workers were able to take on extra shifts as available and as they chose to work. However, under this law, there is now a bright line as to who is considered full-time and who is considered part-time. As a result, the flexibility so many enjoy and seek out in working for the industry may become harder to find.

In its analysis of the legislation, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) acknowledged employers’ commitment to offering coverage to employees and projects that only a small percentage of employers would either reassign or reduce hours of employees who work more than 40 hours per week. More than 156 million people would continue to be covered

by employer-sponsored plans, underscoring the CBO's conclusion that "most of the affected employers would continue to offer coverage because most employers construct compensation packages to attract the best available workers at the lowest possible cost."

Aligning the law's definition of full-time employee status with current levels used by restaurant and foodservice operators would help avoid any unnecessary disruptions to employees' wages and hours, and would provide significant relief to employers. The National Restaurant Association supports H.R. 2575 and encourages you to vote YES when it is considered on the House floor.

Sincerely,

SCOTT DEFIFE,
Executive Vice President,
Policy and Government Affairs.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Thank you, Congressman YOUNG, for yielding.

As an original cosponsor, I am very grateful for Chairman JOHN KLINE and Congressman TODD YOUNG for their thoughtful leadership on this very important issue with the Save American Workers Act.

ObamaCare is the saddest example of Big Government failure. The American people have lost their health care plans, access to their most trusted doctors, and been forced to pay significant premium increases for poorer coverage and higher deductibles.

On top of all of these broken promises, it is tragic for American families that the President's signature health care law will also destroy jobs. Every day, real constituents living in South Carolina's Second Congressional District reach out to me expressing frustration with this broken law. Jennifer, a true small business owner from Lexington, writes:

Keep trying to repeal ObamaCare at all costs. The employer mandate will cause my business to move full-time employees to part-time.

Dozens of actual people express these same sentiments and plead with Congress to provide relief. The National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, was correct that ObamaCare will destroy 1.6 million jobs.

ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek rule is lowering wages for a significant portion of hardworking Americans, the very ones the President claims to champion.

On behalf of the millions of Americans who are receiving smaller paychecks and having to work multiple jobs, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and provide greater economic security and opportunity for those who need it the most.

Mr. RANGEL. At this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the former chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee that played such an important role in bringing this historic legislation to the floor and to the law.

□ 1515

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is an historic week for the economic secu-

rity of the American people. After the unprecedented surge in enrollment, the Affordable Care Act has led to the largest expansion of health insurance coverage in half a century.

More than 7.1 million Americans have signed up for private coverage through the marketplaces. More than 3 million young adults are covered through their parents' plans, and millions more Americans are now covered through Medicaid or through private insurance purchased directly from an insurer.

According to an analysis by the Los Angeles Times, more than 9.5 million Americans who previously lacked health insurance now have coverage because of the Affordable Care Act.

These millions of Americans now have the peace of mind and economic security that comes with quality, affordable health insurance, and every American knows that they will never be discriminated against because of a preexisting condition. These are historic achievements.

However, despite these reforms to our health system, the Affordable Care Act does not change the fact that the vast majority of Americans who have health insurance get it through their employer. In fact, the law strengthens the employer-sponsored insurance system.

It encourages larger employers to do the responsible thing and offer their employees affordable coverage. It ensures that workers get quality coverage and do not face harsh annual limits on their coverage.

The bill before us today, however, weakens the employer-sponsored insurance system and hurts American workers. The Congressional Budget Office has indicated that the bill would cause 1 million Americans to lose their employer coverage.

CBO found that the bill will cause half a million Americans to become uninsured, and CBO found that the bill will cost taxpayers nearly \$75 billion.

Republicans claim that all these costs are worthwhile because their legislation will keep workers from having their hours cut, but the fact is this bill is a solution in search of a problem.

CBO said it plainly:

There is no compelling evidence that part-time employment has increased as a result of the ACA.

Since the Affordable Care Act became law, we have added more than 8.6 million private sector jobs. After years of increasing part-time labor, the number of part-time workers today is actually lower than it was before the ACA was enacted. The flimsy justification for this bill just does not stand up to scrutiny.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the end of the ACA's first open enrollment period can be an opportunity for the Congress to change its approach to this law. More than 7 million Americans have

signed up for coverage through health insurance marketplaces.

Tens of millions more will sign up in the months and years to come. Rather than pushing divisive legislation, let's come together to acknowledge the fact that millions of Americans getting covered is a great step forward for this Nation.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter of support from the International Franchise Association for this bill, and I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON), a member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

INTERNATIONAL
FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION,

Washington, DC, February 3, 2013.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the International Franchise Association, I write today to urge you to support H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act, sponsored by Rep. Todd Young (R-IN). This legislation will change the definition of a full-time employee in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to 40 hours, the definition that employers have traditionally used to manage their workforce, and will help small businesses better adjust to the ACA's employer mandate.

For decades, employers have used the 40-hour work week as a standard for workforce management. The ACA's provision requiring employers to provide coverage to full-time employees, and defining full-time as 30-hours, will cause many employers to simply manage their part-time employees to fewer hours. Data from a recent Public Opinion Strategies survey commissioned by the IFA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce shows that 31 percent of franchises and 12 percent of non-franchised businesses have already reduced worker hours to lower costs, a full year before the employer mandate is set to take effect. Not only has the employer mandate discouraged job creation and business expansion, it has also damaged existing jobs by including a misguided statutory requirement that discarded more than a half-century of established labor policy.

The employer mandate will hurt American workers in many ways, but one of the most devastating effects of the mandate is that fewer workers will be offered health insurance, and employees will be less able to afford their own coverage when working fewer hours. Allowing employers to manage their workers to the traditional 40-hour work week will give employees more flexibility and eliminate the need to revamp longstanding employer personnel policies.

IFA urges you to support the Save American Workers Act. This is a common-sense effort to a problem we know is only going to get worse. The passing of this bill would provide much-needed relief and flexibility for employers and employees by avoiding the worst effects of the employer mandate.

While this measure will not make the Affordable Care Act completely workable for the 825,000 franchise locations nationwide or the 9 million workers they employ, it will help both employers and workers better absorb the impact of the employer mandate.

Sincerely,
STEPHEN J. CALDEIRA,
President & Chief Executive Officer,
International Franchise Association.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation. Let's focus on schools in my district. Greencastle School Corporation

was forced to cut the hours of 54 employees from full time to part time.

The Terre Haute School Corporation was forced to cut the hours of hundreds of employees. Many of them are bus drivers who are no longer allowed to provide transportation for afterschool activities.

Washington Greene County School Corporation was forced to cut the hours of 150 employees from 40 to 29 hours.

Eastern Greene County School Corporation announced that all of their employees who aren't receiving health insurance will have their hours cut to 28 hours a week.

Dubois County School was forced to reduce the hours for instructional assistants, cafeteria employees, and custodial staff.

Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of these employees already receive health insurance either through their spouse or other sources, and many of them have worked for their school corporation for many years.

School corporations don't have the luxury of raising taxes to pay for these provisions of the Affordable Care Act. They are not a major business that can raise their prices.

School corporations simply can't afford the Affordable Care Act. These Hoosiers work every day with students, and because of this provision in the Affordable Care Act, our students will suffer.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our distinguished minority whip. Maybe after he expresses what makes common sense, our Republican friends may change their minds, and so I yield for the hard work he has done in this area, and good luck.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I might say that the chairman in exile of the Ways and Means Committee and his confidence in my ability to change minds is wonderful, but probably overstated. I regret that, but I will try anyway.

The previous speaker said that people will be forced to reduce hours. Now, they will only be forced to reduce hours from 40 to 39, as opposed to 30 to 29. In other words, if you work 39 hours a week, you won't have to be covered.

You won't have to have health care insurance, and somebody else will pay their bill, maybe Medicaid, depending upon how much they make. Maybe all of us will pay that extra thousand dollars in our premium so the uninsured can be funded; or maybe the other employers who do, in fact, believe it is good to offer their employees health insurance, even though they only work 39 hours a week, somebody else will pay the bill.

That is what has been happening with employers who don't provide

health care insurance. Their competitors who do are in an unfair position.

Why did we choose 30 hours a week? We chose 30 hours a week, Mr. Speaker, because in surveying the private sector employment field, we found that 29 hours was perceived to be the litmus test for 29 hours or less being part time; so we picked 30 hours, which was more than the average in the private sector.

Now, we have a bill that is the 52nd vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act, this obsession with undermining the access to affordable, quality health care by the American people.

This bill changes the definition of full-time employee in a way that would make approximately 1 million Americans lose their employer-sponsored coverage.

Do we care? Do 1 million Americans make a difference to us? Do 1 million Americans not having the availability of the assurance that they and their families have health coverage, does that matter to us?

Or are they all part of the 47 percent who aren't going to vote for some of us anyway—the proposition is—so why worry about them?

In addition, it would increase the number of uninsured by as many as half a million people, and it would increase the deficit by \$74 billion. A million people lose their employer-sponsored care, half a million people would continue to be uninsured, and \$74 billion is the loss in revenue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this is because the legislation provides an incentive for some employers to redefine work hours, so that more employees would be categorized as part-time.

In other words, you work in the United States of America 39 hours, and you are part-time.

Under this bill, more than five times as many workers would be put at risk of having their employers just slightly reduce their hours to avoid providing them with health insurance.

That would be a change that subverts the goals of the Affordable Care Act, and it is not going to help grow our economy either; but more importantly, it subverts the quality of life, the confidence, the assurance, if you will, of millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the defeat of this legislation. I urge us to confirm the fact that we believe Americans in the richest country on the face of the Earth ought to have access to affordable, quality health care and that everybody would participate in that objective.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that this bill, the Affordable Care Act that the President calls

ObamaCare, clearly would not insure every American in the country.

Dropping somebody from 39 hours down to 29 hours is effectively a loss of 10 hours of work per week. Over the course of a month, that is the loss of an entire week's work of wages.

For the life of me, I can't understand why the very same individuals who embraced all of the three dozen or so administrative changes to this law without hesitation will not work together in a bipartisan fashion because this is a bipartisan bill to restore the hours and income of those who need it most during the worst economy since the Great Depression.

With that, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman YOUNG for his superb management of this bill and for his expertise in this area.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act, which would change the health care law's definition of full-time employee from 30 hours per week to the traditional 40 hours per week.

That is 8 hours a day, times 5 days in the workweek, 40 hours, the traditional workweek, empowering hardworking middle class men and women to earn additional wages otherwise denied to them under the health care law.

Not long ago, I spoke to a constituent from Basking Ridge, New Jersey, the congressional district I have the honor of representing, whose son works at a grocery store.

This young man was told he could only work 29 hours a week. Despite the company wanting him to work more and pay him more, it could not permit employees to exceed the health care law's arbitrary definition of full-time status. This young man from Basking Ridge must work less and earn less because of the health care law.

Too many Americans are experiencing significantly reduced wages and hours worked because of the law. H.R. 2575 will protect existing jobs by removing some of the uncertainty facing employers and employees and help America's job creators put people back to work.

I urge passage of H.R. 2575.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for his leadership and years of service and his understanding of this issue.

I heard his debate on the floor of the House, which would drive many of us as Members of Congress to come and join you because of the literalness and the straightforwardness of your argument.

Frankly, I think that is the challenge we have this afternoon, wondering how many Americans even understand what we are doing because it is a numbers game. I have heard the stories of my colleagues, and I am absolutely empathetic, and I am sympathetic.

All of us have young people working, single parents working, husband and wife working. Maybe there are two working in a grocery store.

I think the problem with this legislation is that we are giving a pass to businesses who, in actuality, we are providing them with an opportunity to provide enhanced benefits to their hardworking workers.

□ 1530

This is a threshold question. The Affordable Care Act defined a full-time job as 30 hours. So it means that if you have 50 employees that are at 30 hours or above, you provide them with health insurance. But let me remind you, it is the Affordable Care Act. That means that these individuals, if you don't provide them, you have the opportunity to get into a pool or you can find insurance that fits that level of 50 workers. This does not apply if you have one worker; it doesn't apply if you have two workers. It is a threshold.

So what my friends are telling me is that, if you can afford 50 workers, you are dead broke. Then you have to take that 50th worker and drive him or her into the ground and leave them crawling out of your business at 29½ or 28 simply because you don't want to do the right thing. That is why this bill is so baffling.

In the Rules Committee, I offered two amendments to try to make it better to indicate that commuting time would be included as part of your 40 hours, or that we should delay this bill until we fully appreciate and understand the overall impact of whether or not it, in fact, undermines hardworking Americans who are in hardworking businesses. We are just passing this bill and have no clue as to whether or not this is going to be something that undermines businesses that have 50 employees.

Now, this is the backdrop of what they are doing. I even offered the point, Mr. RANGEL, of why not a tax incentive so that these businesses with 50 employees can keep the 50 employees at 30 hours and get a benefit for providing them with health insurance; and when I say that, one that is pointed to the fact that you have 50 employees and you are willing to give insurance. As it is now, we know that the individual employees will get tax relief.

But 7 million people have enrolled, Mr. Speaker. The fact that we had a record-breaking access to the Affordable Care Act, or interest, this bill seems to be the complete wrong direction to go. It is wrongheaded. I would

ask my colleagues to vote against the bill that destroys the working people of America and puts them on their knees to work less hours.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2575, the so-called "Save American Workers Act of 2014."

This bill represents the 52nd time that House Republicans have tried to scuttle or impede the Affordable Care Act and deny Americans the security that comes from having access to affordable, high-quality health care.

Their record to date is 0–51.

The Affordable Care Act, which has been passed by both the House and Senate, signed by President, upheld by the Supreme Court, and ratified by the voters in the 2012 presidential election, is here to stay.

It is long past time that House Republicans abandon their quixotic quest to derail a law that is bringing so much peace of mind to millions of Americans and will reduce the deficit by \$1 trillion.

The Affordable Care Act is working. For example, in my State of Texas:

1. 5,198,000 individuals on private insurance have gained coverage for at least one free preventive health care service such as a mammogram, birth control, or an immunization in 2011 and 2012. In the first eleven months of 2013 alone, an additional 1,683,800 people with Medicare have received at least one preventive service at no out of pocket cost.

2. The up to 10,695,000 individuals with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, cancer, or diabetes—including up to 1,632,000 children—will no longer have to worry about being denied coverage or charged higher prices because of their health status or history.

3. Approximately 5,189,000 Texans have gained expanded mental health and substance use disorder benefits and/or federal parity protections.

4. 4,889,000 uninsured Texans will have new health insurance options through Medicaid or private health plans in the Marketplace.

5. As a result of new policies that make sure premium dollars work for the consumer, not just the insurer, in the past year insurance companies have sent rebates averaging \$95 per family to approximately 726,200 consumers.

6. In the first ten months of 2013, 233,100 seniors and people with disabilities have saved on average \$866 on prescription medications as the health care law closes Medicare's so-called "donut hole."

7. 357,000 young adults have gained health insurance because they can now stay on their parents' health plans until age 26.

8. Individuals no longer have to worry about having their health benefits cut off after they reach a lifetime limit on benefits, and since in January, 7,536,000 Texans will no longer have had to worry about annual limits, either.

9. Health centers have received \$293,038,000 to provide primary care, establish new sites, and renovate existing centers to expand access to quality health care. Texas has approximately 400 health center sites, which served about 1,079,000 individuals in 2012.

I oppose this bill because its effect would be to deny employer provided health insurance to

hard working employees who work more than 30 hours but less than 40 hours per week.

If this bill were to become law in its current form, the health security of 10.2 percent of the workforce, or approximately 19.8 million workers, would be placed at risk.

I offered two amendments to H.R. 2575 that would prevent this travesty but regrettably neither was made in order by the Rules Committee.

Jackson Lee Amendment #1 would have improved this bad bill by amending the bill's 40-hour work week definition to include the employee's average commuting time in the computation of hours worked for purposes of determining "full-time employment."

Commuting time has become a major issue for those who work hourly wage jobs because their workday is much longer.

According to the Bureau of the Census nearly 8.1 percent of American workers commute 60 minutes or longer.

In 2011, almost 600,000 full-time workers had "mega-commutes" of at least 90 minutes and travel 50 miles or more from their homes. The daily average one-way travel to work for employees nationally is 25.5 minutes, and 1 out of 4 workers cross county lines to reach their jobs.

Jackson Lee Amendment #2 would have amended the bill by delaying the effective date of the bill until the first month after there has been two consecutive quarters in which the national unemployment rate is below 5 percent, which would indicate the Nation has reached a full employment economy.

Our Nation has taken a momentous step in creating a mindset that health insurance is a personal responsibility with the enactment of the Affordable Care Act. The law did not automatically enroll all citizens into the program because it was specifically designed to be an opt-in process.

This week all over the Nation, over 4 millions of Americans took the first step toward taking control of their lives by purchasing their first personal or family health insurance policy.

Over the course of the sign-up process for the Affordable Care Act tens of thousands of visitors each day shopped the website and over 7.1 million people were added to private insurance roles as customers or have enrolled into Medicaid.

Despite problems with the initial rollout of the online health insurance registration process, people were patient and persistent about getting coverage for themselves and their families.

I have held many events in my District to inform and connect people with Navigators and Community Health Centers to support the message that it was time to get health insurance for yourself and your family.

Why with 60 legislative days remaining in the Second Session of the 113th Congress before the end of the 2014 fiscal year, we are still seeing attempts to end the Affordable Care Act is a mystery to the American public who are voting with their own healthcare dollars for Obamacare.

H.R. 2575 proposes to amend the Internal Revenue Code by redefining a full-time employee for purposes of providing health insurance to only those workers who work a 40-hour work week.

Mr. Speaker, few hourly workers in low-wage jobs work a 40-hour work week. These employees often rely on government assistance, which amounts to a hidden tax break to employers.

Low wagedworkers often rely upon public housing assistance, SNAP, WIC, or Medicaid to make ends meet.

Health insurance should not be used as a status symbol, but a basic right for people who live in the world's most prosperous nation.

I know that many predicted that the Affordable Care Act would cause havoc on the Nation's health care system, but it is not the ACA that is causing havoc—it is a small vocal minority within the majority party that is causing headaches and heartaches to doctors and their patients.

I ask that my colleagues to join me in protecting workers by voting down this rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record a letter of support for the Save American Workers Act from the National Grocers Association on behalf of their members and on behalf of their workers, and I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

NATIONAL GROCERS ASSOCIATION,
Arlington, VA, March 31, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, Washington, DC.

Hon. ERIC CANTOR,
Majority Leader, Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader, Washington, DC.

Hon. STENY HOYER,
Democratic Whip, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, LEADER PELOSI, LEADER CANTOR, AND REPRESENTATIVE HOYER: The National Grocers Association (NGA) supports H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act (SAW), a bill introduced by Representative Todd Young (R-IN) and championed by Representative Dan Lipinski (D-IL). The bill has broad support in the House, with 210 bipartisan co-sponsors. NGA strongly encourages the House to pass the bill with bipartisan support during the vote scheduled for the week of March 31. We commend Majority Leader Cantor for bringing H.R. 2575 to the Floor for what will hopefully be an overwhelming vote in support of the bill.

H.R. 2575 addresses one of the most problematic provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by amending the definition of a full-time employee, which the ACA currently defines as those averaging 30 hours a week. Left unchanged, this provision will have far reaching consequences on the independent supermarket industry. Simply put, 30 hours is not full-time and requiring employers to meet this new definition is one of the most significant challenges of the law, jeopardizing coverage for our true full-time workforce. The SAW Act seeks to amend this problematic provision by defining a full-time employee as those averaging 40 hours a week and treating full-time equivalents as full-time employees for the purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer. This is a win-win for both American employers and our nation's workforce.

Independent grocers face complex challenges in implementing the law all while operating on a profit margin of around 1 percent. They are committed to their workers, and 92% of independent grocers already pro-

vide health benefits to full-time employees. It is important that Congress work in a bipartisan manner to provide employers with important reforms such as the SAW Act before irreversible changes to the US job market occur. Maintaining the full-time level many employers use today is something both sides of the debate can agree would be better for job preservation and employee coverage. Reforms such as the SAW Act are vital to our businesses and to our goal of providing quality benefits and available hours to our employees. Independent retailers and wholesalers have a significant economic impact across nearly every community in America. Our industry is accountable for close to 1 percent of the nation's overall economy and is responsible for generating over \$131 billion in sales, 944,000 jobs, \$30 billion in wages, and \$27 billion in tax revenue. We are proud that the communities we serve are also the neighborhoods we live in.

Thank you for your support of this important issue. NGA looks forward to continuing to work with Congress to address this issue before the employer mandate is implemented in 2015. This is a critical issue for NGA and our member companies, and we will be key voting this vote and including it on our 2014 Legislative Scorecard. We remain appreciative of the reforms Congress has already made to amend the ACA to make the law workable for both employers and the American workforce.

Sincerely,

PETER J. LARKIN,
President and CEO.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, workers in western Pennsylvania and across the Nation are seeing their hours cut and wages reduced due to the employer mandate in President Obama's health care law. This mandate hurts our friends and neighbors who are working to provide for their families.

Last July, a mom working in the food service industry in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, told me about how her hours had been cut nearly in half because of the employer mandate. Sadly, her story is not unique or an isolated incident.

Brian in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, called the office to let me know that his daughter would have her hours cut at a bridal shop. She is yet another victim of this 30-hour workweek rule.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median hourly wage for someone working in sales in Pennsylvania was \$12.18 in 2013. Losing 10 hours a week will cost that worker almost \$6,000 annually.

Many small business owners want to add jobs and increase wages but cannot afford to because of the employer mandate. As Brandon from Ellwood City said: "Small companies like ours try to do the right thing for us. They probably won't be hiring someone who can really use a job."

Washington should be working to grow the economy and add jobs, not making it harder for employees to earn more and get ahead or for employers to hire more people. The Save American Workers Act will restore the traditional 40-hour workweek and help those who want the opportunity to

work more hours and see their wages rise.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand in solidarity with these workers and support this legislation.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. YOUNG on his outstanding leadership in managing this bill, which is going to remove one of the most misguided and confusing provisions of the President's Affordable Care Act.

Everyone outside Washington knows that full time means 40 hours. Only Federal bureaucrats would try to redefine a commonly understood fact that is critical to millions of workers and employers nationwide.

The redefinition of full time to 30 hours under the health care law is not only confusing to hardworking Americans, it is confusing to the very government who changed the definition in the first place. Just last week, Mr. Speaker, news reports showed that on different forms of the Federal agencies and in different offices, full-time work was being described as 40 hours by some agencies, 30 hours by other departments, and 35 hours by still others.

By moving the goalposts on what is actually constituting full-time employment, this administration fundamentally changed the workplace for hourly workers, increasing the risk of lost hours and smaller paychecks for real people, for real workers, for real Americans who are losers under this law called ObamaCare.

The bipartisan Save American Workers Act, of which I am proud to cosponsor, is going to restore that 40-hour work week. I am proud to cosponsor it and urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD letters of support for the Save American Workers Act from The Associated General Contractors of America on behalf of their workers and their members, and also a letter by the National Franchise Association on behalf of their members and workers, and I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN), my colleague.

THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL
CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA,
Arlington, VA, February 3, 2014.

Re Support H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act of 2013.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), I am writing in support of H.R. 2575,

the Save American Workers Act of 2013. This act would repeal the 30-hour definition of "full-time employment" in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by replacing it with the more traditional 40-hour definition.

The construction industry is typically project-based, transitory and seasonal, which distinguishes it from other professional industries with more predictable hours. As a result, many construction employers rely on part-time, seasonal and variable-hour employees. In addition, the construction industry consists of many smaller employers with limited human resource and administrative staff. These two issues alone add layers of difficulty for a construction firm that is required to use the complex formulas in the ACA to determine whether or not it is considered a large employer under the law.

Despite the one-year delay of the reporting and enforcement provisions of the ACA, the law continues to add layers of administrative burdens for employers, while other regulations are yet to be issued. Replacing the definition of a full-time employee to the more commonly accepted 40 hours per week will, at the very least, reduce some of the complexity associated with the ACA.

AGC hopes you will support H.R. 2575 and provide some relief for construction employers across the country.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY D. SHOAF,
Senior Executive Director,
Government Affairs.

NATIONAL FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Kennesaw, GA, February 3, 2014.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
House Committee on Ways and Means.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: On behalf of thousands of BURGER KING® franchisees across the country, we would like to express our strong support for H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act of 2013, scheduled for mark-up in the Ways and Means Committee tomorrow.

The National Franchise Association (NFA) represents independent BURGER KING® restaurant entrepreneurs in the United States who operate more than 5,300 franchised restaurants and employ almost 200,000 individuals across the nation. The NFA works side by side with member franchisee regional organizations, system suppliers, business partners and Burger King Corporation to promote economic growth and prosperity.

The NFA strongly supports the Save American Workers Act, which amends "full-time" employment as defined in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("ACA") to working forty hours per week. The current 30-hour definition neither reflects current workplace standards nor the desire for flexible hours for both employers and employees in the Quick Service Restaurant (QSR) industry. By defining "full-time" as working 30 hours per week, our members may be forced to reduce hours, limit the number of full-time positions available and enforce rigid scheduling standards for their employees.

On behalf of thousands of small business owners, the NFA thanks you and the Ways and Means Committee for the opportunity to share our views. We look forward to working with you and the other members of this Committee to help small business owners create more jobs and grow their businesses.

Sincerely,

PETER J. COTTER,
Chair, NFA Government Relations
Committee.
MISTY CHALLY,
VP, Legislative Affairs.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman YOUNG for his hard work.

ObamaCare is waging a war on work. ObamaCare's 30-hour rule gives employers an awful choice: cut hours or pay new taxes.

Fort Wayne Community Schools, our State's largest school district, announced last year that they would cut 610 part-time workers after estimating a \$10 million cost of compliance with ObamaCare.

My constituent, Todd Hollman, the Vice President of Pizza Hut and KFC of Fort Wayne, writes this:

Due to ACA, our company has been forced to reduce the number of part-time employees or face even greater penalties than we already will. Even by reducing the number of newly defined full-time employees, we will still incur nearly a \$1 million penalty in 2015.

While the Obama administration has delayed the employer mandate, businesses are still bracing themselves for ObamaCare's inevitable impact. Hoosiers don't need a part-time economy. We deserve a full-throated recovery. It is time to repeal ObamaCare's 30-hour definition of full employment.

I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. YOUNG, for his leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2575. It is the right thing to do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 2575 is postponed.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Today, we are here to talk about the Affordable Care Act, and especially the big week that we have had in this country in making sure that millions of Americans will now enjoy access to quality, affordable health care.

Last week, we had a chance to talk about this and had other Members from all over the country who represent wonderful districts come forward and talk about how the Affordable Care Act has been very beneficial to their constituents. Part of the discussion last week and in the previous months, real-

ly since October, has been about whether Americans would accept the Affordable Care Act and how many people would enroll and how many States would expand Medicaid.

The numbers are very clear that, despite all of the advertisements and the millions of dollars that has been spent on television promoting misinformation about the Affordable Care Act, demonizing this as socialism and other bad things, that despite all of that, the American people have clearly rejected that narrative, that they believe the Affordable Care Act and what it is doing for this country are good things and that in the wealthiest nation on Earth, as we are, that people should be able to afford health care, that they should not be denied because of pre-existing conditions, that students should be able to stay on their parents' plans after college, and that Medicaid for low-income Americans should be made more readily available.

Let's look at some of those numbers. We know, for example, that 7.1 million people ended up signing up for the Affordable Care Act in the exchanges. Now, that is on top of the 3 million students who can now stay on their parents' plans because of this act. That is on top of all of the States that expanded Medicaid to make sure that folks who don't make a lot of money, the vast majority of these people working hard day in and day out, that they are going to be covered, too.

There are still about 19 States, including my home State of Texas, that have chosen not to expand Medicaid. That has been such an incredible blow to the people of my State. For example, we have the highest percentage of people in the Nation that have no health care coverage.

On Monday, I was back home in San Antonio and there was a large enrollment fair, as there was in many cities throughout the country on Monday. It was probably about 6, 7, and this fair was going to close at 8. So I went over to see how it was going and to say hello to folks. There was a long line of people waiting. Families were there, two and three and four and five family members. People brought their young kids to enroll them in insurance.

One of the narratives during this debate has been this idea that has been pushed that this is just benefiting people who may be lazy or not working. One of the things that struck me when I was making my way through that line was that there were so many people there that had the insignia of the company that they work for or their uniform on. They told me that they had just come straight from work and how grateful they were that this was going to go on until 8 so that they had time to come after work.

It was really a stark reminder that—despite all of the stories or this idea of the makers and the takers in this

country, or 47 percent of people versus 53 percent—the vast majority of people who are benefiting from this law, benefiting from things like Medicaid, are, in fact, not just takers, but are hard-working Americans who are powering our economy. All they want is a fair chance at the American Dream.

We talk a lot about freedoms in this body. The United States Congress is, of course, one of the main bodies in government that is entrusted with protecting American freedoms. So we talk about our First Amendment rights, whether it is freedom of expression, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, or Second Amendment rights, other amendments, the right against self-incrimination, all of these things, all of the Bill of Rights enshrined in the Constitution. But I pose the question to those who continue to want to repeal the Affordable Care Act: What good are any of those rights that we are entitled to as Americans, that previous generations of Americans and this generation of Americans have fought so hard to preserve, what good is freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of speech if you are stuck in a hospital bed sick, broke because you can't pay your hospital bills, worried about your family and your future?

Remember, that is not an uncommon situation for Americans over the years.

□ 1545

The biggest reason for personal bankruptcies before the Affordable Care Act was the fact that people were racking up these huge health care bills that they couldn't pay, and this happened for a few reasons. Sometimes people just couldn't afford the insurance for their primary care physicians—the doctors they would go see—or emergency room doctors, not doctors in some clinic or private practice. Sometimes, even if they could afford insurance, they were hitting lifetime caps—somebody with cancer, somebody with MS—somebody like my grandmother and my mother with diabetes, who suffer from complications. My grandmother, before she passed away from congenital heart failure because of diabetes, had her leg amputated.

There are so many people who can't enjoy the freedoms that we are supposed to be able to enjoy because they can't afford health care coverage, so they have ended up not going to the doctor for many years. They have put off going to the doctor for a long time because, if they went without insurance to the doctor, then they wouldn't be able to make their mortgage payments or to pay their rent or pay their car bills, cars that they need in order to get to work. These are the common experiences of millions of Americans, not just of low-income Americans—certainly, low-income Americans—but also of Americans in the middle class, who power our Nation and power our economy.

I want us to consider the success of the Affordable Care Act. Of course, there was the Web site that had a tough rollout, and a lot of people doubted whether the program would be successful. This has shown also that the Affordable Care Act is about more than just a Web site that had a glitch. Again, the fundamental reason that this law has passed is that America is the wealthiest nation on Earth, and for generations, other countries with a lot less money have been able to provide and make available health care to their citizens a lot better than the United States of America has.

Consider this: with the Affordable Care Act, up to 129 million Americans who have preexisting health conditions, including up to 17 million children, no longer have to worry about being denied coverage or being charged higher premiums due to their health statuses. Again, you might have a woman who is 55 years old or 60 years old. She loses her job that gave her insurance, so now she tries to find another job, and tries to buy insurance, and she is rejected. She tries to go on to the individual market, and finds that she can't afford the prices on the individual market.

What is that person to do? A lot of them are suffering from chronic diseases.

In south Texas, for example, we have an incredibly high rate of diabetes. In other parts of the country, in other communities, it is other diseases, but whatever it is, these ailments are common, and they are forcing people often-times into bankruptcy, into not being able to pay their bills or in not being able to get health care coverage. So lifting the lifetime caps has made a mountain of difference for people. It has helped ease their minds, and it has also made things more fair.

Yesterday, the President was pretty very forceful in his comments. I think they did the press conference in the Rose Garden, but I was on an airplane, so I couldn't watch the press conference, but I got to see some of the clips. He made a comment that really struck me, which is that the Affordable Care Act is here to stay. This law is not going anywhere despite all of the opponents and despite the millions of dollars that have been spent on television for misinformation and demonizing this law.

The reason it is not going anywhere is not just because of the political reality. I mean, the politics, really, are tough on both sides. The country had been evenly divided for a long time. The reason that it is not going anywhere is because of the human reality, because we want fewer people going bankrupt because they are hitting lifetime caps and their insurance companies won't pay for their bills anymore. It is because you want more people who are not using the emergency rooms as

their only way to get medical care and putting off ailments and diseases because, if they go to the doctor, they know that a month later or 3 weeks later they are going to run up these huge bills, and they know they can't pay them.

By the way, many folks have pointed this out, but certainly, when we had a dialogue last week, I pointed out again that there is a measure here also of personal responsibility, of people getting insurance in the same way that many States require you to get auto insurance. Why do States require you to get auto insurance? It is because, if you rear-end somebody, somebody has got to fix his car. In many public hospitals throughout the Nation, certainly in Texas—in San Antonio, for example—what happens routinely, often-times not from San Antonio but from surrounding counties, is that these folks come in, and you can't deny anybody emergency room coverage. You have to treat them. Then you send them a bill, and they can't pay the bill. They don't have insurance, and they can't pay the bill. Guess who pays the bill? That bill has to be paid somehow. The taxpayers end up paying that bill. Somebody has to eat that cost, and it is not the hospital. They pay a fraction of it, but those costs are spread, and all Americans have to pay them State by State, county by county. So this is a way that people can not only benefit from the Act but can also take a measure of personal responsibility for their own health care coverage.

That is why in the 1980s and in the 1990s, which was before this issue became so political and before President Obama was inaugurated in 2009, that originally the kind of legislation that we now know as ObamaCare, or the Affordable Care Act, was actually legislation that was promoted by the very conservative Heritage Foundation. It was considered to be a conservative idea in the same way that somebody getting car insurance—taking personal responsibility in case you hit somebody on the road—is thought to be a conservative idea. You are going to own up to your responsibilities. It has been very interesting over the last 4 years and even over the last few months to see the evolution of the arguments about health care coverage and about the Affordable Care Act and about how politics sometimes and often has trumped public policy.

In a minute, I would like to yield to my good friend from California, MARK TAKANO, but before I do that, I want to share with you just a few stories of people from my area, from Texas, who said that I could share their stories with them and how grateful they are that they are now able to afford health care.

The first one is a woman named Magdalena. She is a substitute teacher and had a hard time transitioning to

San Antonio since moving from Del Rio. Del Rio is a city right along the Texas-Mexico border. It is about 2½ hours from San Antonio. She has dedicated herself to taking care of her family, and she often puts her family in front of herself. Like many mothers, she was worried about her health as she moved into her senior years. She was skeptical about trying to fill out an application, but she eventually came to an Enroll SA event. Many cities had Enroll SA or Enroll Austin or Enroll Dallas. After sitting down with a counselor, she was able to get a plan for 5 cents a month. This is a woman who had previously been unable to get health care coverage. She returned to the registration table and wept tears of joy, with her eyes filled with hope, and the volunteers wept along with her. Her face just lit up because now her life was truly changing.

Like many others, Magdalena is a hardworking American, somebody who has taken care of her family, who is going to work day in and day out, who is not asking for very much—just a chance to enjoy the freedoms that we talk about here in Congress a lot.

With that, I would like to yield to my colleague from California, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Thank you so much to the gentleman from Texas, San Antonio, and New Braunfels.

Mr. Speaker, today, we are talking about the Affordable Care Act. This is so, so important as we have seen this week 7 million-plus American enrollees, and I know there are still some who tried to get in at the very end and are in the pipeline. I am hoping we push even closer to 8 million new enrollees into the Affordable Care Act.

It is interesting because we over here on the Democratic side have really been working to enroll people—we have been working to talk to people about how important it is to have a health care plan—while at the same time we have seen from the other side 50-plus votes to try to undercut, to undermine, to eliminate the ACA, but here we are. They were repealing. We were enrolling.

California's enrollment numbers surpassed 1.2 million people this past Monday, which is more than double of any other State. On top of that, the expansion of Medi-Cal, which is our Medicaid piece of this, has covered another 1.5 million low-income families, so we are pretty excited. California looked at this and said, this Medi-Cal plan—this plan of having a health care plan for lower income families, for the members in these lower income families—is so important. For the first 3 years, it is paid 100 percent from the Federal Government.

So, if you are sitting in a State like California and if you have 1.5 million new families who didn't have health

care before that was paid for, they were putting up with being sick, doing what we call in Spanish "aguantamos." If you got sick, you wouldn't go to the doctor. You wouldn't go and you wouldn't go, and you would work through. You would go to work, and you would be sick. You wouldn't go until, finally, you couldn't take it anymore. You were really, really sick. Then where would you go? You would go to the emergency room, which is the highest cost place in the entire health care system. Instead of putting up with not having health care—instead of aguantamos—we now have 1.5 million families who are in Medi-Cal and, again, as of Monday, 1.2 million people who are in what we call our exchange, Covered California.

This is very, very important, but there is also another piece of this that is incredibly important, which is that now we have to work with people. Now that we have enrolled them for the year, we need to work with people who have never before had a health care plan. They don't know what a primary doctor is. They don't even know what a specialist is. They don't know what the process is to go. They don't know about getting a baseline. Go and get an annual physical for free under these plans. This is for free. We have to teach them.

So you go in. You get a relationship with a doctor. You get a physical. You get a baseline. You get your blood drawn. For someone like me, that is incredibly important because, for example, diabetes runs in my family. My granddad died of it, my grandma, my aunt, her five kids. It is 3½ times more likely to be in Latinos than in the average Anglo in America. It is being able to go and get blood work done so that can you see where you are, whether you have the propensity to get diabetes, for example, because diabetes in over 50 percent of the cases can be stopped; it can be turned back. It is about having some nutritional understanding, being able to eat the right way, sequencing your food, exercising after you eat—just a 15-minute walk. There were just two studies that were released this past May that said, if you have a propensity for diabetes but if you walk 15 minutes after you eat, you can cut that propensity by almost 50 percent.

This is information that our communities do not have. Low-income, immigrant communities in particular are less likely to have this kind of information. Now, if they have health care plans and if we teach them how to go and get that baseline—get their annual physicals, get their pap smears, get their mammograms—and if there is something wrong, let's work on fixing it, and it takes personal responsibility to do that.

□ 1600

I have to get up early in the morning and go and run. I have to go to the gym to ensure that, since the propensity is high for me, I don't get that because it takes some personal responsibility—personal responsibility not to eat pizza all the time, and things of that sort, yes, personal responsibility.

It takes a health care plan, it takes knowledge, it takes access. These places have to be close by. We have to have clinics and doctors signed up into these plans so we can go to them. It takes cultural knowledge, as you know, being from San Antonio. Some of it is a language barrier. Some of it is just understanding how our community works and how we spread it by word of mouth, rather than go to computers to find our information.

Knowing all of this will help us ensure that, now that people are enrolled, they begin to use the plans effectively, and when they use them effectively, we drive down that cost curve that was happening. In California, on average, it was a 17 percent increase in medical health care costs on an annual basis. That was not sustainable.

The only people who could have liked the old system were the wealthy or the healthy. If you got sick, you had the money, or you never got sick; but today, we can fix these things.

Today, we can fix these things by moving forward with these health care plans and with teaching people how to use them efficiently and effectively, so that all of society becomes stronger and healthier, and that is why we voted to put this in. That is why we have worked so hard.

I am so thrilled that the gentleman from Texas wanted to discuss this issue today.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congresswoman. Thank you for your passion over the many years on health care and many other issues, and you raised several wonderful points, but there are a few in particular that I wanted to mention.

We debate our national debt and deficit here a lot. Since the Affordable Care Act was passed, as we know, health care has been the biggest driver of our debt. The Affordable Care Act has actually slowed the cost of health care, the slowest growth that we have seen in decades.

So this is something that has actually been good and will be good for our fiscal health in this country. Thank you for alluding to that.

Also, you mentioned that in many of the communities we represent—not only in California or in Texas, but many places—ailments like diabetes are things that affect so many people in our neighborhoods and our cities, but it is not just diabetes.

In other places, it could be cancer or sickle cell anemia or multiple sclerosis. All of those patients will now

find a lot more relief because the United States Congress passed this bill.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I couldn't agree with you more. There are pockets of this.

I just want to leave with one story. A few years ago, we had this one company who was a lensmaker kind of company. It was somebody who had retail stores, and you would go in and get your eyes checked. They would grind lenses and get glasses for you. Usually, they could do it in one stop, in 2 or 3 hours, et cetera.

They said: Let's do this in your area, LORETTA; let's hold a health care fair.

We had a lot of different types of people offering services, and they said: For the first 400 people who show up, we will have ophthalmologists there—medical eye doctors—and we will take a look and see what is going on with people. If we need to grind lenses, we'll grind lenses for them and give them free glasses.

Because even if you had a health care plan, most people didn't have vision or dental, so people were not buying glasses. They couldn't afford it.

I got there at 7:30 in the morning to this health care fair. It started at 8. There were 600 people in line already, so we gave coupons for these people to be able to walk into one of those retail stores and get the service for free. We kept the first 400.

One of the young ladies that worked with me stayed all day with one of the doctors, making sure the patients were coming in and out, giving him the things he needed, et cetera. At the end of the day, the doctor turned to her and said: Do you know that 80 percent of the people that we saw today had diabetes or were about to get diabetes?

They didn't even know it because one of the first symptoms for diabetes is blurry vision, so these people were thinking they are getting old and their vision is kind of going, but the reality was they were sick.

They didn't know it because they did not have health coverage, and, like I said, that is a disease that you can really get rid of or eliminate in your life if you work at it.

These people need that knowledge. These people need that ability to walk into the doctor and to get their blood tested and to see what is going on, so that we can tell them: if you don't change what is going on in your life, you are going to be diabetic.

By the way, the plans before, if you had diabetes and you had to have your leg chopped off, for example, we would pay for that. You see what I am saying?

We wouldn't be paying to let them know you may be getting diabetes or you have diabetes; we would pay after the fact to chop off their legs. Or, if they went blind, we would have them at home because, now, they couldn't work.

So it is going to make Americans healthier. When Americans are healthier, they will be more productive. They will have less sick days. It will be good for industry.

So I am really thrilled to have voted for the ACA. I am really thrilled, 4 years-plus now, and that we are seeing it now, at the ground level, with people signed up for plans; and now, we have just got to make sure they go and use these, so that we can get them healthy.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congresswoman SANCHEZ.

Now, I would like to yield to my friend from Houston, Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the convener of this Special Order and the colleagues I have heard since I have come to the floor, like Congresswoman SANCHEZ.

Congressman CASTRO, thank you very much. Coming from similar territory—the State of Texas—I just hope that you will allow me, just for a moment, to juxtapose the present pending bill on the floor.

I heard you speak of the bill, H.R. 2575, as well, and with all due respect to the proponent of the bill, it is confusing. It is confusing in the backdrop of the number that you have standing alongside of you, 7 million Americans and growing.

Because there were many Americans who were in the queue—in the line, when March 31 came, and because of President Obama, they will now have extended the opportunity to finish the work, and I was with a lot of navigators and people enrolling over the weekend. They were excited about being able to finish the task.

In Texas alone, that was the epicenter of unemployed. I keep saying, “unemployed.” Certainly, it has employed persons as well. There are 164,000 without unemployment insurance, which really is what baffles me about this effort at repeal and this effort of determining that, with 30 hours of hard work, you can't get health insurance.

In the State of Texas, 5.198 million individuals on private insurance have gained coverage for at least one preventative health care service, such as mammograms, birth control, and immunizations. That is for people with private insurance.

Also, 10.695 million individuals with preexisting conditions like asthma, cancer, or diabetes, including 1.6 children, will no longer have to be worried about being denied coverage in our own State alone.

As well, 5.189 million Texans have gained expanded mental health and substance abuse or use disorder benefits, and 4 million-plus uninsured Texans will have new health insurance options through the idea of going into the marketplace.

Also, 233,000 seniors and people with disabilities have saved \$866 in prescrip-

tion medications, and 357,000 young adults have gained health insurance, and 7 million Texans will no longer have to worry about annual limits. That is, of course, those who are uninsured and who can access the new Affordable Care Act insurance.

The other point is that, over these last 2 days, we have seen the reality of Americans clamoring for health insurance, with 4 million people accessing the healthcare.gov Web site.

And let me make this as breaking news—because this is what we were hearing from those opposing it—80 to 85 percent of those who have enrolled have paid their first premium. This is not a story of I have enrolled and you never hear from me again; this is a story of serious decisions being made by serious persons.

Let me offer, as well, some of the tragedies over the years—and I am very pleased to have cast that vote for the Affordable Care Act. I have been to any number of townhall meetings to share it with my constituents, some of whom who did not understand or agree.

In the course of the hearings, I have heard of so many stories that we don't repeat anymore, like the little girl that had leukemia. Her parents took her over and over again to the insurance company to get the opportunity for her to be covered. She had a pre-existing disease. She had no coverage. She ultimately lost her life.

I believe—I don't want to call up facts that are not accurate—they even took her to the insurance company's office to plead for her to be covered. It was at that point near the end of her life, which she shortly thereafter lost.

We have the mother who came to us and said yes, her son had a difficult history. He was a trained lawyer. He was doing pro bono work. He was in Atlanta, Georgia. Frankly, he had gotten hepatitis. Because he had no health care, the only coverage he could get was from going into an emergency room. He had waited too long.

He was going into the emergency room, being the only source of health care. If he had had the ability to go to a doctor, in spite of his history of drug abuse at that time—a trained lawyer—he would have been able to maintain his life.

My last one is the issue of a young resident who took a summer position in Atlanta, Georgia, but his health care was in a 25-mile perimeter around Washington, D.C.

He fell ill with kidney disease during that summer. His father was a doctor. He was a student. He didn't have the ability to stay on his parents' insurance. His insurance was a school-based insurance that said it could only be around the school.

Congressman, his father had to drive hours to pick him up and put him in his car and pray for his survival and get him back into the perimeter of his health insurance.

This is what we lived with before the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and before the President ultimately signed it, and so I am baffled as to why, for the 52nd time, there is an attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act with H.R. 2575.

Let me just say that the importance of this Special Order is to emphasize whose side Members are on. I am on the side of those who are clamoring for good health care and who have children who need good health care. I am on the side of those who need the expanded Medicaid and ask the State of Texas to do it.

As I close, just on this bill, H.R. 2575, I am still trying to understand what it means to tell someone who works full time, 30 hours a week, in a company that has 50 employees, that you cannot get health care.

So to the employers out there, frankly, I believe that some people are speaking for you that may not be really speaking for you. Because when you pay your employees and they get health care, they have more cash to buy your goods.

More people have income to come back to the grocery store, come back to the restaurant, come to the small clothing store, or to buy flowers.

Why would you deny employees health care so that they can get sick, go to the emergency room, and have days off? It doesn't make sense.

I think this bill is way before its time. There is no evidence that we need to reduce the hours of working Americans. There is evidence that we should pass unemployment insurance for those who are chronically unemployed. We need to do that.

There is evidence to raise the minimum wage, but there is no evidence that this is a problem of catastrophic moment that we are debating it for 4 hours on the floor.

So I want to congratulate the gentleman for his leadership on this question.

□ 1615

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congresswoman JACKSON LEE. Thank you for all of your work on this and many other issues. You are one of the most tireless folks, Republican or Democrat, who is involved in all the floor debates and amendments and proposing legislation. So thank you.

Just a few things that you mentioned. You were talking about the bill that we just discussed, and it was essentially saying that for sizeable businesses, not small businesses, because the small businesses are exempted from the requirements of the Affordable Care Act. That is worth repeating again. Small businesses are exempted from the requirements of the Affordable Care Act, so this was about larger businesses.

Instead of requiring that they offer health care coverage to their employ-

ees at 30 hours, the Republicans wanted to move it up to 40. One of the myths has been that all of these employers are reducing hours and cutting employees hours and this is hurting the workers. Well, the Congressional Budget Office, which both sides use as a neutral resource to figure out what's what, said that there is no evidence of that. There is no trend that says that part-time work versus full-time work is increasing because of the Affordable Care Act.

I also pointed out earlier in the discussion that part of the challenge in this economy is that American business has bounced back, but ordinary Americans still have not fully bounced back.

So, when we see that the stock market every other week, if not every other day, is hitting alltime highs and at the same time there are millions of Americans still struggling to find work, I think it is fair to ask why an employer shouldn't offer health care coverage to somebody that is working 32 or 35 hours a week.

Under the Republican plan, somebody that was working 39 hours a week, as STENY HOYER mentioned earlier, you wouldn't be offered health care coverage necessarily. And we believe that that is wrong. We believe that the freedoms that we would otherwise enjoy as Americans, those freedoms are harder to enjoy if you are sick and unhealthy and broke because of medical bills.

So the Affordable Care Act is not perfect and, quite frankly, nothing this Congress does, from health care to education to any other issue, is ever going to be perfect. If anybody is expecting perfection from this place, they are always going to be disappointed. But this is a bill that is absolutely a step in the right direction and one that we are going to continue to improve with the help of the American people, with the voices of the American people.

But I will tell you what. As I mentioned earlier, this law is not going to be repealed. We are not going to go backward. We are not going to go to the way things were because the way they were was not good, and this is much better.

Thank you, Congresswoman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you.

If I could just make one final point. First of all, I am excited about the embracing by new Members like yourself who came out of State legislatures and knew how difficult it was to provide health insurance for our fellow Texans. But the embrace that you are now offering is one that gives us confidence that it will not be repealed, even though this is the 52nd time that it has been offered to repeal.

I just want to leave these facts for you as you continue your debate. This is a values question. This is a fairness question.

As you stand on the floor right now, the Budget Committee is meeting, with

a budget as its underpinning, the underlying bill, that will give millionaires a \$200,000 tax cut, and yet we have a bill here on the floor that wants to take the living substance from under the feet of workers working 30 hours a week, that gives them the stability and the confidence that they have health insurance for companies that are 50 and above, 50 persons and above. That is not a small company. I can tell you, I would ask that employer: Are you going to get rid of Mrs. Smith, who has given you 10 years of hard work, and put her at 29 hours because you don't want to give Mrs. Smith health insurance?

I think we are on the right side of the issue on this. The Affordable Care Act has helped seniors, it has helped single parents, it has helped individuals with preexisting disease, and it has helped young people who have surged into buying it. We should continue to embrace it and recognize that it has a value and it is going to turn lives.

My message to our Governor, if I can end on this note: Governor Perry, it is time to opt into the expanded Medicaid, which is part of the Affordable Care Act, which will give millions of others in the State of Texas their opportunity to benefit from good health care—being healthy and being able to work.

That is our challenge, and I look forward to working with you on these issues.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you.

I yield now to a wonderful legislator from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding time.

I rise today to stage an intervention, an intervention for Speaker BOEHNER and the House Republicans. Now, this intervention is not because they are wearing goofy hats or are spray tanning too much. This intervention is over their obsession with repealing or delaying the Affordable Care Act, also known as ObamaCare.

Now, just this week, the open enrollment period ended, and it is estimated that more than 7 million Americans signed up for private health coverage through healthcare.gov or their State exchanges. That number does not include the millions of young adults who are staying on their parents' plans or those getting coverage through Medicaid for the first time. The open enrollment period was one of the final pieces of ObamaCare.

Now, millions of Americans finally have access to affordable coverage that can't be taken away just because they get sick. Despite that, Speaker BOEHNER and the House Republicans are committed to fighting a battle that they have lost and have scheduled the 52nd vote to repeal or delay ObamaCare.

The Affordable Care Act passed the House. It passed the Senate and was

signed by the President and has been upheld by the Supreme Court. Despite millions of dollars being funneled into misleading ads that discouraged people from getting covered, this is a law that millions of Americans have embraced and have benefited from. We saw an incredible surge in the final days of open enrollment, with consumers reportedly lining up around the block at some sign-up centers.

But if you talk to Republicans, it is clear they are still in the first stage of denial, denial of the facts, denial of the benefits, denial that our health care system is finally doing what it is supposed to do for the first time in a long time. My Republican colleagues must stop making excuses and blaming others. They have put themselves in this position.

Even in the first few days of the rollout, when the system was admittedly struggling, Republicans were predicting ObamaCare's complete and total failure. JOHN BOEHNER called the initial numbers "a symbol of the failure of the President's health care law." My colleague from California, Congressman DARRELL ISSA, said, "It is time for the President to finally acknowledge ObamaCare isn't working and to delay the law."

Funny how they believed the numbers then, because they seemingly have doubts about what is being reported now. According to Senator JOHN BARRASSO, the administration was "cooking the books."

To my Republican friends, I want to say: this is a safe place. We are here to help. Your addiction to repealing ObamaCare and peddling conspiracy theories about the law are not doing any good for yourselves or for the American people.

Stop standing on the wrong side of history. Let's move on. Let's accept that ObamaCare is the law of the land. Let's get back to being productive as a legislative body.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congressman. Thank you for your comments, and also thank you for all of you in California who have been one of the States that has shown the Nation what is possible in helping to offer insurance to the hardworking men and women of your State.

We, as Americans, we appreciate that.

Mr. TAKANO. Well, it is a point of pride that even in my area of California, the Inland Empire, my county has met, has exceeded its enrollment goals under Covered California, and just a few days ago we had reached a million in California alone. It is because we have a State legislature and a Governor who cooperated from the beginning. I don't understand any Governor or any State legislature that would intentionally try to keep low-income people from getting coverage.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. You make a wonderful point. California and several

other States have had the benefit of a State legislature and a Governor who have been helpful in making sure that the Affordable Care Act, health care coverage, is available to their residents.

In places like the State where I live, in Texas, you have a Governor, State legislators, both Senators who are actively working and campaigning against the Affordable Care Act. So, many of us, not just elected officials but others who are trying to make sure that people have health care coverage, have faced a very strong headwind when trying to get the word out about the Affordable Care Act.

I told a story earlier about a woman who showed up at an enrollment fair in San Antonio and she ended up being able to provide insurance for herself and her family, but she went there and she was skeptical at first. Well, part of the reason she was skeptical is because there has been so much misinformation about this law and so much demonization about the law that I am not surprised that a lot of Americans would say, hey, you know, that thing doesn't sound like a good thing. It sounds like a bad thing.

Mr. TAKANO. There has been so much distortion. And to my way of thinking, it is diabolical to spend money on distorting ads to confuse people intentionally, to get young people to not sign up for the law, to undermine the law in that way.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. That is right. You bring up a good point.

There was a group that was specifically set up to go on to college campuses, funneled millions of dollars to go on to college campuses to convince college students not to enroll in the Affordable Care Act. That is just amazing to me.

Mr. TAKANO. Fortunately, I can tell you stories of someone who is under 30, one of those young invincibles, but who was wise enough to know that it made sense for a young person to sign up because it was so very affordable, and he convinced his employer that she needed to take a look at what the exchange had to offer.

As it turned out, he discovered he had a very serious condition, and he was one of those young people who discovered that they did need health insurance and that he was facing far larger bills than if he didn't have any coverage at all.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. California also, I believe, expanded Medicaid, and that is something that Texas didn't do. In fact, I remember several months back, when the State legislative session in Texas was still going on, and usually it goes to about the end of May or early June. We went down there and we were doing a press conference, and at the same time, the Governor and the Senators, Lieutenant Governor, all Republicans were doing their press conference.

Our junior Senator, Senator CRUZ, compared folks who need Medicaid and accept Medicaid to drug addicts, compared them to drug addicts. And the State's leadership implied that—not implied, said—allowing Medicaid to low-income Texans was like getting people hooked on sugar or drugs.

Mr. TAKANO. Forgive me. I may be speaking—I don't think what I am saying is an exaggeration, but I see that the denial of the expansion of Medicaid by some of these States is nothing less than a war on the poor. I don't know how else to say it.

Twenty-four percent of my congressional district were uninsured before the ACA. I have seen charts and maps of congressional districts color-coded, and I have seen many of those districts in Texas that are at the same level of uninsured as my congressional district.

In my congressional district, we benefit greatly from the expansion of our version of Medicaid, which is Medi-Cal. And the beauty is that the expiration is not to end it as of the 31st of March. People who qualify for Medi-Cal can continue to sign up for it year-round.

But to think that in Texas that it is not available to people who are low-income, to me, is unconscionable.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. I appreciate those words. Unfortunately, in Texas there are a lot of people suffering needlessly, hardworking people. These are not lazy people. These are people that are going to work day in and day out, but they are suffering because their State leadership—even though Texas was going to get up to \$90 billion for Medicaid expansion. The Federal Government was providing the funds through 2017 and then providing 90 percent of the funds after that. Despite the fact that it made economic sense, still, the State's leadership refused to do it.

□ 1630

I think it is worth mentioning a few other things. A lot of us, we saw there were long lines on Monday, March 31 of people waiting to enroll in the Affordable Care Act. It is worth noting that anybody that started that process on March 31 but was not able to complete it has until April 15 to actually finish it off. So the 7.1 million number of the number of folks that have enrolled will very likely, I would think, go up by at least a few hundred thousand people.

Mr. TAKANO. At least the folks in Texas, who can sign up with the Federal exchange, can get insurance if they are online, but it is unfortunate that those low-income Texans have no place to go.

I will just say to the folks in California, those low-income people who can still qualify for Medi-Cal, that you can still sign up. There is not a deadline for you. You are presumed qualified if you meet a certain income test. So the effects of the Affordable Care

Act are still going to continue in my State for those who need health care the most and those who have heretofore not had access to medical care.

It has been a pleasure sharing this time with you on the floor, Representative CASTRO.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you very much, Congressman.

There is another benefit of the Affordable Care Act that I haven't talked about yet that is also very important to know. We know that 7.1 million people have signed up. Three million or more college students or young adults are able to stay on their parents' plans because of the Affordable Care Act. Millions more have benefited from Medicaid expansion. Millions of Americans also benefit because there is no longer lifetime caps. You know, you are not going to have somebody who is suffering from cancer in a hospital bed have a doctor or an administrative billing person from the hospital come talk to you about the fact that you are about to hit your lifetime cap. So now, not only are you lying there sick in the hospital bed, but you are also thinking about how you are going to pay your mortgage and keep your kids in college. That is not going to happen anymore.

So when you hear people talk about repeal—and first of all, repeal with no plan to replace it. I mean, the only thing coming from the other side is, just get rid of this whole thing. There is no plan to replace it.

So I think what we owe the American people is, when we talk about repealing a law, especially something as important and big as this, I think it is a very fair and necessary question to ask: What are you going to replace it with? Are we going to go back to the old system, where that cancer patient lying in a hospital bed now is going to hit a lifetime cap with the insurance company so they are going to be told that they either have to leave the hospital or they are going to get stuck with \$250,000 of bills, and they have to sell their house because they can't afford it anymore? When you hear the word "repeal," you should understand that that is what is at stake, that is what we would go back to, the old system.

Until folks come up with an alternative—and in 4 years, there has been no alternative, and really, there is no reason to think that over the next 4 years there is going to be one. Unless you can come up with an alternative, then we are talking about going back to that time.

But the thing that I wanted to mention and something that is often overlooked here is that part of the Affordable Care Act, another benefit of it is that mental health care coverage is vastly expanded because of the Affordable Care Act. That is extremely important. Millions of families in this country, individuals and families, have

either suffered themselves or have family members who suffer from serious depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, other mental health afflictions that—quite frankly, in America and many other countries of the world, for the longest time, we never took mental health issues as seriously as we have taken physical health issues.

So for a long time, people would tell you, oh, you are depressed. Well, you just need to snap out of it. Or they treated things like bipolar disorder very lightly. They thought somebody just had a bad attitude.

In Texas, in 2011, I and others worked on getting young people with serious emotional disturbances covered by insurance companies in Texas. And, you know, the Democrats are in a deep minority in Texas. The whole time I was there, for five terms, we were in a deep minority. So you would have a Republican-controlled legislature. And my bill went nowhere. It didn't go anywhere. It died. So serious emotional disturbances weren't covered. But under the Affordable Care Act, things like that will be.

The reason that was important was because families were coming to me—in my district office, there is one family in particular that came to me and said, We are scared of our son. Our son is a teenager, and he has gotten violent before. So we call the cops. The cops take him to the hospital. There is nowhere to keep him for any kind of long-term treatment because, by the way, the State provides inadequate resources for mental health care coverage. They can't really put him in jail unless he has really assaulted somebody. So there is just this cycle, where we are having this issue with our son, and we are scared to be in the same house with him. But we can't really do anything. And the law offers us no relief.

Well, one of the benefits of the Affordable Care Act is that serious emotional disturbances and many other mental health issues will now be taken more seriously, and they will be more covered by health care companies than they have ever been in the history of the United States. And that hasn't been a big focus because a lot of this has been about politics. And a lot of the milestones and, quite frankly, the celebrations about the more than 7 million people signing up, that has been the big focus of this whole thing. But we shouldn't overlook some of the things that haven't gotten as much attention.

For me, as somebody that worked on mental health legislation in Texas, and I know many other people, Republicans and Democrats, have worked on things like that—to the families who are dealing with situations like that, that is a big deal. That means a lot to them. And that is helping them out.

So, as Americans, when you hear folks talk about repealing this law, I

hope that we all fully understand exactly what we would be going back to. And those legislators who propose repealing it are irresponsible if they don't provide to the American people a full alternative and an explanation for what that alternative would do for them and what it would cost for the country. You know what the Affordable Care Act is about. We have seen no plan on the other side.

So as I close, I would like to say "thank you" to all the Members of Congress from different places in the Nation who joined me today in talking about this milestone for the Affordable Care Act. I am very personally glad that over 7 million people have now signed up and are benefiting. And millions more are benefiting through Medicaid expansion, college students, and all of these people who won't be kicked off of insurance because they have hit lifetime caps. Or, you know, somebody that tries to get insurance, and the insurance company sends them a letter back saying, we can't insure you because you have a preexisting condition, or your doctor submits a bill to the insurance company, as it used to be, and the insurance company writes back saying, Well, you know what, we are not going to cover that \$3,000 bill because you had a preexisting condition. That is what repeal would be about, going backward.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE STATE OF OUR CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be able to stand here today with my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO) and Mr. WENSTRUP from Ohio, behind me, in order to talk a little bit about not only the state of our country but of our Congress. When we came here 3 years ago, we were on a mission to get America back to work. We have watched now over the last 3 years. And some of the criticism that comes about all the time is, You know, you guys just aren't getting anything done. I hear people talk about not getting anything done, about being a do-nothing Congress, about not really pushing the agenda forward, about us not being able to get America back to work.

Well, today, Mr. MARINO, our colleagues, and I are going to be here in the position of myth-busters. This myth that somehow the House of Representatives—and I think the key to this is that there are actually two Chambers to this Congress. There is a House of Representatives and there is a Senate. In the House of Representatives, we have done incredible work

over the last 3 years. We are talking about 220 House-passed bills that are stuck in the do-nothing Senate. And of those 220 bills, 30-plus of those bills are about job creation. They are about getting America back to work. They are about giving people confidence in the future that they can look forward and begin to plan their lives.

Now, we can't do it alone. And while we get criticism from the administration and as we look down the hall to the Senate, we start to wonder ourselves, what would it take to get America engaged in this process? What would it take to get our American citizens aware of what is actually going on in the Capitol? Why is it that we are stuck here? Why can't we move forward?

So today's exercise—for the next 60 minutes, Mr. MARINO, myself, and our other colleagues are going to have an opportunity to speak to the people of the United States to make sure that we expose this myth that this is a do-nothing Congress. No, no, no, no. This is not a do-nothing Congress. This is a Congress that has worked very hard. This is a Congress that has done monumental work to get our fellow Americans back to work.

The problem is, when you walk it down the halls and into the Senate, it gets lost. It gets tabled. It doesn't get amended. It doesn't get discussed. It doesn't get debated. In fact, it doesn't do anything. It just collects dust.

So I welcome this opportunity to speak not just to this House but also to the people of America. And at this time, I would like my colleague and my good friend in Congress, Mr. MARINO from Pennsylvania, to also weigh in on this.

Mr. MARINO. Thank you, Congressman KELLY. I appreciate this. It is an honor to be here with you, and it is an honor to be setting the record straight.

You know, I spent a couple minutes in here listening to my colleagues about what we are not doing and what they are doing. The facts and figures that they are throwing out are coming from the White House. They change on a regular basis. We will get into that stuff in a little bit.

But I want to hold up something and show it to the American people and then touch on it a little bit, about what we have done in the House of Representatives. What the Republicans have done in the House of Representatives for the 113th Congress—that is just last year and this year. That is not including the legislation that we passed in the 112th Congress, from 2011 to 2012.

I am holding in my hand here the names, the numbers, the dates, and the details of 220 bills that the House passed—220 bills. Some of it was with support from a handful of Democrats who saw that this is good legislation, that it will create jobs, it will keep

taxes low. It does away with job-crushing regulation. It lets the private sector do what it does best. It allows the hardworking taxpayers to have a level playing field.

I am just going to recite some of the bills. I am not going to go over nearly all 220 bills that are sitting on Democrat Senate Leader HARRY REID's desk that he refuses to bring to the floor for a vote. I ask the Democrat leader: Senator REID, what are you afraid of? Why do you not bring these bills to the floor for a vote so the American people can see the legislation and how their Senators vote for it? They can see it right here in the House. They can go to our Web site. They can go to the congressional Web site. They can see how we voted on legislation.

I think it is despicable that one person in Congress can hold up 220 pieces of legislation and hide it from the American people. And do you know why he does it? Politics. There is an election coming up this year. He doesn't want his Democrat Senators to have a voting record. Well, that is why we are here. We are supposed to have a voting record. We are supposed to represent the American people.

Some of the legislation concerns energy, the Offshore Energy and Jobs Act, H.R. 2231; Northern Route Approval Act, H.R. 3; hydropower regulation; Energy Consumers Relief; Coal Residuals Reuse; Federal Lands; Energy and Water appropriations; Department of Defense appropriations; Homeland Security appropriations; Preserving Work Requirements for Welfare Programs; the SKILLS Act; Student Success Act; the RAPID Act, which does away with regulation and time that prevents businesses from creating jobs. And who creates the jobs the best? The private industry.

□ 1645

Look, the Federal Government has a rough time keeping Amtrak on time, and they are always way over budget, and we are going to trust them with health care? We are going to trust the Federal Government with creating jobs when entrepreneurs are the best people, women and men, to do that?

Any time you want to see what legislation is on Mr. REID's desk, you just go to the Web site, the congressional Web site and see what was passed.

You are going to hear some facts and figures. I was a prosecutor for 18 years. Actually, I started working in a bakery, a wholesale bakery, at 17. I worked in that bakery until I was 33. The owner died, and a new company came in. They overlooked me for a promotion because I didn't have a college degree, but they wanted me to train the guy with the college degree coming in. I went home and said to my wife: I want to go to college and law school. My wife worked full-time, and I worked part-time. We got through college and

law school, which normally takes 7 years, in 5 years. I wouldn't have been able to do it without my wife.

But I know what it is like to work in a factory 60 and 65 hours a week. I know what it is like to stretch a paycheck. My wife knows what it is like to stretch a dollar from here to next year. And I also know what it is like in the criminal justice system as a prosecutor for 18 years. I have seen it all. I have seen the worst sides of life that I have ever seen. But do you know what I have a passion for? It is the children. And our children's future now is dismal.

My father gave me a better life than he had. I am not sure I can do that for my children. They are now looking at over \$50,000 of debt—each of them. So that means that every dollar that they earn, over 50 percent of it—if we ever get to the point to pay the debt down—is going to our debt.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman.

At this time, I am going to yield to a new Member from the State of Ohio. BRAD WENSTRUP is with us today. He has done remarkable work since he has gotten here in just a little over a year.

So, Mr. WENSTRUP, thank you for being with us today.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Thank you very much. I appreciate that, Mr. KELLY.

Mr. Speaker, we have a problem. We have an inactive Senate with HARRY REID at the helm as the majority leader. Someone on the Senate side seems to have hit the pause button, and it has been stuck there for a while, and we are having to deal with that. But here in the House of Representatives, the people's House, we have passed over 200 bills since I came to Congress that just seem to be gathering dust over in the Senate.

We have hardly been inactive on this side of Congress taking up important energy, education, health care reforms, and numerous jobs bills—some Republican bills, some Democratic bills—and most passed with bipartisan support. Yet Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID has thrown them on the ground.

Ohioans ask me what we are doing here in Washington, D.C. I am at my wit's end trying to explain that every reform-minded bill that I have supported that we passed on behalf of the American people is stuck in the Senate. It is a legislative purgatory. It just sits. And I don't wish that on my fellow Ohioans or my fellow Americans. I am not asking the Senate to agree with every bill that we pass, Mr. Speaker, but at least allow a vote and at least allow a discussion.

One example is the Keystone XL pipeline. The energy security legislation passed the House with bipartisan support nearly a year ago; 241 Members of Congress voted for the Northern Route Approval Act. More than that, a filibuster-proof majority of Senators, Republicans and Democrats, are on the record as supporting this project.

A recent Washington Post-ABC poll demonstrates that the American people also support the goals of this legislation of building the pipeline by nearly a three-to-one margin. But the Senate has thrown the bill on the floor blocking any vote. Does the Senate have a solution? Not really. They just seem to want to stand in the way.

Another example is the SKILLS Act. I hear from Ohioans frustrated that Washington isn't working, especially in year 6 of this Obama economy with disappointing job growth. And as we continue to face unacceptable unemployment levels, the Senate refuses to take commonsense steps to get Americans back to work.

Over a year ago, I was proud to support the SKILLS Act, legislation that would have helped job seekers, helped employers, reformed government, and cut bureaucratic costs so that more money can go directly to help people getting back to work. This legislation offers a long-term solution to help those looking for work, combined with smart government reforms. And what do we hear from Senate leadership? Nothing.

It is bipartisan frustration, I think, on some parts because these aren't just Republican bills that are being blocked. Nearly three dozen Democratic-sponsored bills have passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle—no action in the Senate. These are noncontroversial bills. But some in the Senate are more concerned with demonizing individual Americans than helping every American.

The legislative branch is the most direct representation of the American people, yet the Senate leader is content to hand over his constitutional responsibilities to President Obama and the executive branch rather than do his job and to legislate. It is a myth that this is a do-nothing Congress, but we are witnessing a do-nothing Senate.

I ask Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID: relieve this legislative backlog; hundreds of bills and millions of Americans are waiting.

Here in the House, we have taken action. We are active. We have taken the vote. We have taken the action as far as we can take it, and America waits for a further response. Most of these bills that we pass usually involve having less government involvement, not more, not more involvement. The table is set. Our Founders set it up in such a way that we are to represent the people and we are to act, and the Senate is to act, and we are all supposed to come together at the table. I have been here just over a year, and I have been waiting at that table. I have been waiting for the Senate to engage with us. I have been waiting for the President to engage with us. But that hasn't happened.

I left a medical practice to serve here, and I am proud and honored to be

here. People often ask me, well, what is the difference between a doctor and being here? Well, as a doctor, I can make a diagnosis. I can get together with a patient and their family and provide a treatment, and together we go to work on that. It takes both of us to do that. Sometimes when you make the suggestion of a treatment, you even suggest that there be a second opinion. And I can tell you right now on all of these things that we have passed, all these treatments that we have recommended, we are still waiting for our second opinion from the Senate.

The House is active. We are waiting for the Senate to take up the arm and do their job, as well.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank Mr. WENSTRUP.

Mr. MARINO and I were talking for a second. Mr. MARINO had touched on something that had just happened recently when you talked about activity on the Senate floor and inactivity on the Senate floor. There was a night not too long ago where the Senate talked all night long, and I think Mr. MARINO wants to just touch on that right now.

Mr. MARINO. If this were not nauseating, it would be hilarious. There are millions of people out of work, Mr. Speaker, millions of people who are losing their health care and millions more whose health care is increasing. There are 230 pieces of legislation sitting on HARRY REID's desk. And do you know what they debated a couple weeks ago all night on the floor? Nothing to do with jobs, nothing to do with deregulation, and nothing to do with getting out of the way of the hard-working taxpayer business. They debated climate change all night on the floor.

Now, there is no one that is more than a conservationist than myself. I live out in the country. I love seeing the bear and the deer walk across my property. I get my water from a well. My children have grown up there. I will do everything I can to protect my children and make sure that the air they are breathing is clean, the water is clean, and the land is pristine. But do you know something? I am pretty sure the hardworking taxpayers, the people in this country, the farmers in my district, and the entrepreneurs in my district want to see the government get out of the way and let entrepreneurs and business do what it does.

I am a states' rights guy. I believe the less Federal Government in my life the better. That is proven by—I just met with a group of entrepreneurs a little earlier. They are called start-ups. They are young kids. They are geniuses who know the IT industry and who create apps, create hardware, and create software. They are saying to me: Congressman, our hands are tied. We are being overregulated, and we have a lot of good ideas that will help the American people.

You are going to be hearing some figures quoted. I am not a big figure guy, but I think it is important that you listen to these figures and see these figures. But I want to tell you where I got them, because as a prosecutor, I always had to back up, in court, where I got my evidence and cite it.

You have all heard of the Congressional Budget Office. We refer to it as the CBO. I am going to tell you just in two sentences what the Congressional Budget Office does. The Congressional Budget Office, CBO, is a Federal agency within the legislative branch of the United States Government that provides economic data to Congress. The CBO was created as a nonpartisan agency by the Congressional Budget and Improvement Control Act of 1974, which means they are independent. They are not Republican, and they are not Democrat. These are people who crunch numbers, make estimates, bring us information, and then submit it to us so the American people know what the actual facts are.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Thank you, Mr. MARINO.

We all have similar experiences. I know you do, BRAD, when you are back home; and, TOM, I know you do when you are back home. It really doesn't matter where we are. A lot of times it is coming out of Mass on Sunday morning, and sometimes it is just being down at the K-Mart or the Walmart, or maybe I am up in Erie and I am out near Presque Isle, or I could be in Grove City or I could be in Slippery Rock, and people come up to me all the time and say: Do you know what? You all need to get busy. And they talk about: We don't want to hear any more about the battles between Republicans and Democrats. Quite frankly, we are tired of hearing it because, if you can't work together, you can't get things done. And then the question that comes up is: Can't you just compromise once in a while to get something done? And then you have got to scratch your head and say: Yes, but, do you know what? We are doing an awful lot right now, but you are just not hearing it.

The reason that comes about, and we all know this, is because the biggest megaphone in the country right now is at the White House.

Now, BRAD, you and I sat here, and, TOM, you and I sat here during the State of the Union. The President made a very chilling statement. He said:

America can't wait, and I can't wait. And if this Congress won't act the way I want it to do, I will go around them, and I will get it done.

Half of this side of the House stood up and cheered that, cheered up their forfeiture of their duty of the oath that they took when they came into office.

Now, I stand here today as a representative of Pennsylvania's Third District. That does not mean that I

only represent Republicans that live in the Third District of Pennsylvania. That does not mean that I am only concerned with the concerns of Republicans in the Third District of Pennsylvania. That does not mean that I represent anything else but every single person—every citizen—that resides within that district.

So the things we are talking about today are not Republican issues, and they are not Democrat issues. These are American issues. We are talking about American jobs. We are talking about getting back to work. We are talking about coming here, taking an oath of office, and then fulfilling that oath to the people who sent us.

Now, I know that you go through the same thing. I have many people that approach me and say: Do you know what, Mike? I didn't vote for you. And I say to them: Well, do you know what? I didn't know that until right now, but I will forget about it, believe me. And they will say: Well, this is an issue I have, and these are some things that concern me, and I just want to know where are you all going and what is it that you are trying to do? And why can't you get America back to work? Because you all said when you ran for office that we have got to get this Nation back on track and we have got to get America moving in the right direction. We have got to get America being America again.

We know that oftentimes in our life we look at all the problems we have, and the answer to everything right now is these things need fixing. Now, how do you do that? You can only do it with a very dynamic and robust economy. So when I hear the conversation that takes place either in our Chamber or the Senate Chamber and you start to say to yourself, it is nice to have that conversation, it is nice to have that little talk, and it is nice to have that debate, but do you know what? You haven't created any jobs. Because without a dynamic and robust economy, it is all just idle chatter. It is just politicians getting up, speaking and hoping that somehow they hit a chord with some constituents somewhere that says, boy, she is speaking for me or he is speaking for me.

□ 1700

We speak for everybody, not just the towns we come from or the townships we come from or the counties we come from or the States we come from, but this entire country.

So when we look at what is going on now and people say: yes, you say that is going on, but you know what, there is no proof.

Here is what I would ask our friends to do because the President says this all the time. He says: you know what, pick up your phone or pick up your pen, and that is what I am going to do, and I am going to get things done; I am

going to use my executive powers, which are vast and enormous, to do what I want to do, despite what Congress may say, despite especially what those characters in the House of Representatives are pushing down your throat because that is just not what I want you to hear.

Well, my message to the American people is: you all have phones, and you all have pens, and you all have the ability, because of the country we live in, to speak out on anything, any time, anywhere you want; no place else in the world can we do that.

As an example today, as my colleagues and I are doing—because, as I said earlier, it is time to do some mythbusting, it is time to call a halt to this idle chatter about what America really needs.

We know what America really needs. America needs to get back to work, and this Congress needs to get out of the job creators' way. We need to get the heavy regulatory boot of the government off the throat of our job creators, and we need to let them breathe again.

We need to let them look to the future with some certainty and know that you can go ahead and plan. You can go ahead and make a strategy. You can go ahead and look to the future with a great degree of success waiting for you.

Now, opportunity is there for everybody. There is equal opportunity. There is no question about that. We know there is not equal outcome. My goodness, that is just not the case.

We do know that hardworking Americans throughout our history have done things that are absolutely incredible, and they have done it because of a government that lets people be free. It gives them liberty to go on and do what they need to do and when they want to do it and the ways that they want to do it.

There is no place else in the world, so the question comes down to: Why now? Why now have we hit such a logjam? Why is it that we can't get a law to get America back to work?

The answer is quite simple. Mr. MARINO has talked about it. Mr. WENSTRUP has talked about it. My goodness, there is another election coming, and if it truly comes down to we can't get these things done because of another election coming, then we can never get anything done because there are elections every year.

Now, if Mr. REID can say to his people in the Senate and if he can look to this country and if he can go on TV and tell people these things you are hearing about the health care law are all lies, these things have been conjured up by people who don't really exist, the stories that they are spreading are lies, there is not a shred of evidence that would support what they have said—now, he stands in front of the Amer-

ican people and says that you are all liars and that we are not going to tolerate that type of behavior.

Then he goes behind his desk at the Senate and said: all of those pieces of legislation, those 220 House-passed bills, put them on the table because we are not going to talk about them. We are not going to debate them. We are not going to amend them. And you know why we are not? Because there is an election coming.

Right now, there are a third of the Senate Members up for election. That is their rotation—a third, a third, and a third. Every couple of years, there is a third reelected, or new Senators come in.

He has placed the reelection above the redirection of this country. The reelection of his Senate is more important to him than the redirection of this country. That is absolutely unforgivable.

So I would just ask our friends, as they listen—and this is a message to America, not so much to the House of Representatives or to the Senate because we are pretty much ignored, but let me just say this: for those of you who are at home and listening to this, there are several things you can do.

I said about picking up your phone or picking up your pen. How about this, just getting on your computer. Go to www.speaker.gov/jobs. You can also go to majorityleader.gov/bill-tracker.

What will these two sites give you? They will give you everything we are talking about. It is all there. You don't have to come to Washington to see us. You don't have to send away for a book.

You don't have to do anything except go online and pick up this information. You can sit at home and see what it is this House of Representatives has passed; and then you, too, can sit, as myself, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. WENSTRUP do every day, and ask: What is it that we are waiting for?

The answer is leadership; quite simply, it is leadership. America, right now, is hunting for champions. They are hunting for people who will rise up and take control of this situation, and this idea that, somehow, somewhere, some knight in shining armor has to come riding in on a white charger to get us there is baloney because, every election, it comes right out your hometown.

It comes right out of your churches, and it comes right out of the folks you work with every day and have grown up with and have lived life with. That is who is here. That is who is here. It is so unique; it is the only place in the world that you can do it.

I just tell you, because of the social media, you can go as an individual in your home. You don't have to get in your car and drive anywhere. You don't have to waste any money on gas. You don't have to worry about sitting in traffic.

Just sit at home and go to those two sites, www.speaker.gov/jobs or majorityleader.gov/bill-tracker. You can find out everything we are talking about.

Mr. WENSTRUP, you did talk about the Keystone pipeline, and we ask ourselves all the time: What is the holdup on the Keystone pipeline?

One person, one person; and if you don't know where that person is, let me give you a clue: he lives in a white house at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. This is not a tough place to find.

Pick up the phone and call him. Tell him: Mr. President, let's get back to work; Mr. President, let's make America energy independent; Mr. President, let's quit worrying about the next election, and let's get this country back in the right direction.

We can do it as a people. We can do it together. We must do it. It is not just a responsibility. It is our obligation, not just for the future, but to all those from the past.

So I would just tell you, my friends, there is so much going on right now, and I really would like my two colleagues, let's all join, and we can have a colloquy right now between the three of us and talk back and forth because I think it is important for the people of America to understand.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward Senators and are further reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I yield to Mr. WENSTRUP.

Mr. WENSTRUP. The gentleman mentioned the Affordable Care Act, and you mentioned a phone and a pen. I would encourage all Americans to use their phone and to use their pen to let the other parts of our government know where you stand and know that you do want to see some action taking place.

We are a Nation of laws, and we should live by the rule of law. It is very difficult for the American people to understand when certain laws are passed and signed by the President and then just changed as though it is a menu, you can just select which laws you want to enforce.

That makes it very difficult for the American people to understand, and it makes our job more difficult, too, as we go ahead and pass laws.

While we are talking about some of the things that we have done here in the House, both in the 112th and in the 113th Congress, we passed the REINS Act. For those who aren't familiar with the REINS Act, basically what it does is it brings more power back into Congress and into those who represent you. It gives you a voice.

We have established, over the years, many agencies where we have empowered those agencies, and we have em-

powered the people within the agencies to make the decisions, and often, it is punitive, regulatory decisions that they are making, so this makes it very difficult for our businesses.

What the REINS Act does is it says that, if a regulation has a negative economic impact of over \$100 million, then it has to be approved by Congress. That gives you, the people, a chance to reach out to your Representative and let them know how you feel about these regulations, rather than just having a bureaucracy deciding that this is what is going to take place.

As I said, I think, over the years, this body has given up some of that power to these agencies, and that takes it away from the American people, and we want to get that back.

Now, we talk about if it is over \$100 million of negative economic impact. Well, I tell you I rarely see a regulation that has a positive economic impact in America, and so this is an opportunity for us to get that back.

Again, it is something that we passed in the last two Congresses here in the House of Representatives, and it has not been taken up in the Senate.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman, and I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this and many other issues, and I thank him for putting this time together.

Whenever anyone says it is a do-nothing Congress, they are only half right. It is actually a do-nothing Senate.

In this Congress, the House has passed and sent over to the Senate 311 total bills, and we have talked about the 220 jobs-related bill. There are 311 total bills.

In stark contrast, the Senate has sent to the House only 67 bills. The Senate produces just about one-third of what the House does—one-third of the work, Mr. Speaker.

I am not saying that passing bills in and of itself is an unalloyed good. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare, is a primary example of that, but it is one way to measure how hard you are working.

From the House Natural Resources Committee I sit on, we have passed six bills opening up American energy that would create over 1 million new jobs, lower gasoline and electricity prices, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and help lower our national debt by generating over \$1 billion in new revenue. These bills are now stalled in the Senate.

The U.S. Senate has turned into a productivity graveyard. President Obama has signed only 24 Senate bills into law during this Congress. In contrast, 91 bills from the House have been signed by the President into law. These are total bills of all different subjects.

Senate Democrats' sole concern seems to be protecting themselves from taking recorded votes that might anger their liberal donors or their voters. They do this by closing off debate, eliminating amendments, and writing their bills in secret, shutting out Republican voices and input.

This broken and dysfunctional Democrat Senate has produced many disasters for the American people and not just ObamaCare. They also passed the trillion dollar so-called Stimulus Act, refused for 4 years to pass a budget, and allowed the President to balloon the national debt in five short years from \$10 trillion to \$17 trillion.

Don't let the President or HARRY REID fool you with false narratives that those rascally Republicans are holding up the Nation's business. This is just another gimmick to shift the blame away from where it really lies.

Our country deserves better. Bills that would grow our economy and put millions of our friends and neighbors back to work should never die in the depths of the Democrat Senate. It is critical for every single American to let Senate Democrats know that they are sick and tired of the do-nothing Senate.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank Mr. LAMBORN.

If I may inquire, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 25 minutes remaining.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO).

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I heard a little bit ago when my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were talking about ObamaCare, and they said that Republicans tried to repeal it over 40 times; and that is true, we did.

We tried to fix it, with no help from the other side, but he said, twice, that we didn't have anything to offer. Again, that statement is not correct.

Look at H.R. 3121, American Health Care Reform Act. It repeals ObamaCare and puts together a health care program that physicians and hospital administrators and the public took part in suggesting what we need in a health care program, so it is there. It is backed up. H.R. 3121, we did do something.

Now, we need to talk a little bit about some issues concerning what my colleagues have said with regard to ObamaCare.

I just recently heard and verified this by my staff that the House minority leader, NANCY PELOSI, said Tuesday that the Founding Fathers—talking about Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, and Washington, the Founding Fathers—would be pleased with ObamaCare because it means that Americans can pursue happiness without being stuck with a job just to have health care.

□ 1715

This is the same person that says we have to pass it so we know what is in it. Well, we all know what is in it, and we all know what is not in it.

Now, I want to make a point clear. Congressman KELLY and myself, this is our second term. We new Members of the House, we have a little different approach to things.

This \$18 trillion of debt that we are in, this just didn't happen over the last couple of years. This happened over the last 50 years. I often say to my constituents, if I had the ability to have every living President in a group of my constituents, Mr. Speaker, and every leader, I would say to them: how dare you do this to us; how dare you, Republicans and Democrats, put us into this debt.

The Republicans had some opportunities when they had control of the House and the Senate a decade or so ago, but times are changing. There is a new breed here.

I just want to bring some issues to your attention concerning ObamaCare that the American people need to know about. When ObamaCare was first implemented, first told about what is going to happen, it was supposed to cover 60 million people. Again, go to the Congressional Budget Office Web site at www.cbo.gov. It is supposed to cover 60 million people at a cost of \$900 billion and some change over a 10-year period.

You were told you can keep your doctor; you can keep your health care program. If you didn't want to participate in ObamaCare, you didn't have to. And do you know something? It wasn't going to cost you one penny more. Well, the Congressional Budget Office just released new figures and they simply put it this way: instead of covering 60 million people, maybe—maybe—ObamaCare will cover 24 million people; and instead of costing \$900 billion, it now is closer to \$2 trillion.

And, oh, by the way, were you able to keep your insurance that you had prior to ObamaCare? No. The President said you could, but you can't.

Were you able to keep your physicians? In many instances, no.

Your rates weren't going up. How many of your rates stayed the same? We are talking about millions of people, millions and millions of people who lost insurance because of ObamaCare, and millions more whose insurance rates went up significantly.

The President waived more than 30 provisions of his law in order to try and make it work, number one.

Despite his promise that everyone who likes their plan can keep it, between 4 and 7 million Americans have had their health care plans canceled.

Approximately, 7.5 million seniors will be forced from their Medicare Advantage health care plan of choice in 2014. Others will see more than \$3,700 in services cut.

ObamaCare imposes 21 different taxes on Americans and businesses and an additional cost of more than \$1 trillion to Americans and the economy.

The workforce will shrink. My colleague said there is no evidence that the workforce would shrink. Well, you go to www.cbo.gov and you will read that the workforce will shrink by 2.5 million jobs because of ObamaCare. Not a good sign for the 4 million Americans who have been unemployed for over 6 months.

Eleven million small business employees will see premiums rise under ObamaCare.

And Medicaid, a program that already has reimbursement rates below Medicare and one in which one out of three doctors does not accept new patients will see enrollments rise by more than 91 million Americans, 34 million of whom are childless adults.

This, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Speaker, this does not work, and we have to fix it. We have offered a way to fix it, but the President said there is nothing wrong with it.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank Mr. MARINO.

I think, Mr. Speaker, as we draw to the end of time, I think it is time for us now to take a look at the world and our place in the world. Geopolitically, we know we have been hurt lately because America has decided to follow something called "leading from behind." I have absolutely no idea what that possibly could mean.

But I hear constantly about the next great emerging economy. You sit back and say, well, who could it possibly be? Well, let me tell you who it is, and it doesn't take much guesswork. It is us. It is the U.S.

Now, why do I say that? Because right now we are uniquely positioned in history at this moment in time to be the greatest economy the world has ever seen. Why? Because we have been blessed by our Creator with abundant, accessible, and affordable fossil fuels. These can be extracted safely, and that creates thousands of jobs. This can lower our cost per energy unit far below anyplace else in the world and allows us, in fact, to let our wages rise because our cost of producing goes down as far as energy is concerned.

What else we have, if you look just to the north of the district I serve, the Great Lake system is there. Lake Erie is there. Also what is there is one-fifth of the world's freshwater. Also, if you were to look at our land, our tillable soil, the production per acre that our people in agriculture are able to achieve.

So I would ask you then, at this point in time, at this point in history, if we know that really what we need to do is to have a robust and dynamic economy, what would be holding us back? It certainly is not our cost of energy, because we are blessed with en-

ergy everywhere. It has been placed there by the Good Lord for us to use. Through new technology we are able to extract it. We are able to heat and cool our homes, to light our homes, to run our factories, to light our streets at night, to do almost anything we want to do at a rate that is lower than anyplace in the world.

In fact, we are at a point right now we don't have to rely on anybody else on this globe other than ourselves. We can be energy independent. We have drinking water that the rest of the world would love to have. And we have the ability to produce, as you know, Mr. Speaker, because of where you come from in California, the ability to produce food for a population that doesn't need to go starving, it doesn't need to look to the rest of the world for help, because we can create it right here, right now, for every single American.

The question becomes then: Why are we where we are at right now? Why do we have the lowest labor participation rate we have had in 35 years? My goodness, when you look at all the assets, when you can look at everything that we have, when you can look at the opportunities we have, when you can look at everything, being there and being within our grasp without too far of a reach to get there, the question becomes: What is holding us up? What is holding us back? What is keeping us from achieving that destiny that we have been granted by the Lord? What is keeping us from that?

Look, I would just say this. There are many, many millions of Americans that are out of work. All you have to do is go out of this Chamber and go down the hall and I can show you a lot of Americans that actually have a job that aren't working. I can show you a Senate that continues to sit on all these jobs bills, on all this legislation that would get America back to work.

I am so sick and tired of hearing about, well, you know, if the House would just do something. I will tell you something; I would suggest this: the President would wear out his fingers on that phone calling HARRY REID; in fact, his left arm would probably go numb from signing all the legislation that could be sitting on his desk right now.

What is holding it up? What is the roadblock? What is keeping us from that pathway to prosperity? Do you know what it is? It is a do-nothing Senate. It is a Senate that sits back and calls the American people liars. It is a Senate that sits back and distorts the facts. It is a Senate that puts out, every day, myths about a House of Representatives not working. It is a Senate that had to go under the gun to pass a budget and say: Do you know what? Here is the deal. You don't pass a budget, we don't pay you.

Are you kidding me? Are you kidding me? You have to threaten them that

you are going to cut their pay if they don't pass a budget. Oh, Good Lord. I would like to see us do that in our schools. I would like to see us do that in our homes. I would like to see us do that in our factories and in our businesses in the private sector.

When we have to pass a bill to make them pass a budget, is that where we have reached? Have we reached the depths? Is that how low we have become?

It is a great honor and a privilege to serve in this House. It is a great honor to come before the people and to go home and say: We are working hard for you. We are going to do the best we can do.

But do you know what? It requires a little help. It requires a little help. This system, this system where there are two Chambers, it requires us being able to get things through the House, which we have done. 220 House-passed bills are stuck in a do-nothing Senate right now. It requires some teamwork now. It requires us to truly be the "united" States and not the "divided" States of America. It requires us to be a body that works for the American people and not for a political party. It requires us to work on an agenda that puts America back to work and does not worry about the next election that is coming up and worries about the new direction this country needs to go in.

It is a responsibility to take advantage of all those assets the Lord has given us; and it is time for the United States to now become the next great emerging economy, one that will be heralded all over the world, one that the rest of the world is looking to and scratching their head and says: My goodness, you have got everything. What is it that you are waiting for?

And the answer, again, is leadership. That leadership has got to take place, and it has got to take place soon.

We will continue to do our job in the House of Representatives. We will continue to push bills forward. We will continue to debate and amend bills. We will continue to pass bills, and we will walk them down the hall to the Senate. But after that, the Senate has to pick these bills up. It has to debate them. It has to amend them. It has to vote on them, and it has to send them down to the White House for the President's final signature.

If we are truly going to get America back to work, then let's get to work. My colleagues in the House have already heard that clarion call and they have done their job. I am just going to yell it down the hallway as we walk out of here tonight: Hey, you all need to get to work because America is waiting for you to lead. Then the phone should be ringing off the hook in Mr. REID's office and at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue as America says it is time to get up off your seat and get the job done.

It is time to quit talking the talk. It is time to walk the walk. It is time to actually do what we know we can do and take advantage of every single asset the Lord has provided for us.

I would just say, Mr. Speaker, in closing, thank you so much for allowing us to be here.

Mr. MARINO, always a pleasure to be with you, sir. As we go back to Pennsylvania, we will continue to fight those fights.

Mr. WENSTRUP is gone and also Mr. LAMBORN is gone, but it is good to have colleagues to join us.

I would just tell you this. If there is nobody that sits in this House of Representatives that doesn't want to see America do well, it is just time to get back to work.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am going to yield to Mr. MARINO, and he will finish up.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I am going to hit on two areas here for a moment and ask the American people to get more involved, to call your Representatives, to call your Senators, demand from them that we get legislation passed through both Houses, or at least the legislation is brought to the floor for a vote. The American people deserve that.

As I said earlier, I am a states' rights guy, a constitutionalist, worked in a factory, worked in industry, and then put myself through college and law school.

My father, as I said, gave me a good life. My father was a firefighter, a janitor, a painter, and whatever else he could do to raise money to keep a roof over our heads and to feed us. He always said, if you are going to say something, first of all, to someone, that you look right in their eye and you speak the truth. You don't make it personal, and you base what you say on facts and you support those facts.

I am a true believer that Americans, over the last decade or two, even more so today, have been asked to do more with less. Their budgets are tight. Some are laid off. Some are completely out of jobs. They are working one and two and three part-time jobs. But we have the technology out there to create better jobs.

Also, the American people should demand that government operates the same way. I am a believer that the Federal Government is much too large. The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. It needs to be downsized by at least a third.

□ 1730

From those of us still here, the taxpayers should demand that we do

more—do more with less—just like industry does, just like we do at home. The government should operate under that basis.

I am now going to switch back to ObamaCare for a moment. In an article of 2-24-2014 in *Forbes* magazine, it reads: "ObamaCare Will Cost 2.9 million or More Jobs a Year." I have more health care people—physicians, hospitals, constituents—constantly calling me, saying, What am I going to do? I can't get insurance or I cannot afford this insurance. We, the Republicans, have put a proposal together, and we would like to see that voted on. We would like to see that get over to the Senate.

I also want to bring something else to your attention concerning ObamaCare, and it is concerning our young people, the future of this country. I have met so many bright young people who are out of college but who cannot get a job. They are very talented. They are smart individuals. There was a feature issue put out by *Sea Change*, and it was a poll. It reads: "Policy Feature Issue: ObamaCare and Youth—Why Millennials are Right to be Concerned." These are young people, particularly those out of college who can't find work.

It reads:

A recent poll of millennials, released by Harvard's Institute of Politics, found that, today, "only 41 percent of millennials approve of the President's performance, down 11 points since Harvard's last survey in April."

I am going to go further on to read:

With respect to ObamaCare, young Americans are even more suspicious. More than half of the poll's responders believe that health care costs will increase under ObamaCare, with 44 percent indicating that they believe the quality of care will decline. Moreover, almost two-thirds of the respondents say they do not plan to enroll in ObamaCare, which, if accurate, would be extremely problematic for the future viability of the Federal exchanges.

The White House just released that now they have—I heard it on the floor today—almost 7 million. It was 7 million, and then it was over 7 million. Again, the White House has not been consistent with its numbers, and it hasn't, I believe, given all of the information. I read an article here in which it says they are touting that 6 million, 7 million—whatever figure they have come up with—got on the Web site and signed up. There is a big difference there, folks, because, Mr. Speaker, there is a difference between signing up and paying. This article stated that most of those individuals who signed up did not pay and that they project that those individuals will not pay. That is what this ObamaCare health care plan was relying on, for young people who are in good health today to pay. Yet they are saying, I am in good health. Why should I bail others out?

Now, let me make this perfectly clear. I believe that everyone should

have health care. My daughter has cystic fibrosis, a disease for which there is no cure. The hoops that my wife and I had to jump through and still are jumping through in order to cover my daughter are extraordinary. If there are people out there who cannot afford health care, we, as Americans, have to help them. We have to pay for them. We have to give them health care. That is what America is about. That is what Americans do. We help people. We try to improve the quality of life.

I am asking, Mr. Speaker, that the American people get more involved in the political system, to be aware of what is out there, to hear what is going on. You heard what I stated and what I cited. Check my facts. Follow up. Just don't take what you hear as actual fact and actual truth. Back it up. Ask your elected officials, Where did you get that information? On what did you base it?

It is about time, as my colleague Congressman KELLY said, that we level the playing field, that we take the handcuffs and the restraints off of hardworking taxpayers so they can give their children and their grandchildren a better way of life. I know that we can do that in this country. We are the greatest country in the world. I am a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I am a member of the NATO alliance. I talk to people who represent 27 other countries about how great America is and about how they look to us and what we can do. Even the countries that do not like us look to America for leadership. They look to America for a better way of life, not only here in the U.S. but around the world.

I have to tell you that every time I drive from Williamsport, Pennsylvania—the 10th Congressional District there—after a week of listening to my constituents and seeing what they go through—my farmers, businesspeople, homemakers, single moms, men who can't find jobs, women who have to work two and three part-time jobs to raise their families—I know we have a responsibility. As I turn on to Independence and as I see the dome of this beautiful building, I can't believe that I am fortunate enough to be here, to represent not only my 10th Congressional District in Pennsylvania but all of America, but it is a responsibility that I chose. It is a responsibility for which I have to continue to fight every day of my life.

I heard one of my colleagues say—and I am going to borrow his line, and I am going to ad-lib it a little bit. He would say to his people as he was speaking to them in a group—and he would stand up and take his glasses off—do you see this line here, this wrinkle here? This was caused by fighting to keep your taxes low. Do you see this wrinkle here? This was caused by making sure that the American people

know what we are voting on. This line here was caused to make sure that there is a level playing field, and there is still room on my face for more lines and more wrinkles to keep fighting.

That is what I am going to do—that is what we all should be doing here in the House—to keep fighting for the American people. Down the road, I want someone to say to my children, Do you know something? When your father was a Member of Congress, he did the right thing for the American people and for his constituents.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I think my time is pretty close to the end, is it not?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I will take this brief opportunity to thank my colleagues Mr. MARINO and Mr. WENSTRUP for being here and Mr. LAMBORN for being here and for your indulgence and for the American people's.

We have often said—and we have shared these moments together many times—that we have not just a responsibility but an obligation not just to ourselves and to our current generation but to all of those who came before us for all of the sacrifices that they made—for the 1.6 million men and women in uniform who gave their lives that we could have this moment today and those into the future. We have a responsibility to guarantee to them that we made a conscious decision to make sure that their future would be as secure as the one that we were given.

In having said all of that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. I want to thank my friends, Mr. Speaker, who are both from Pennsylvania, for their superb comments. They are so right on everything they have said.

In following up on those comments, there was an article today from The Washington Free Beacon: "Employers Say ObamaCare Will Cost Them \$5,000 More Per Employee." How much more can businesses absorb?

Actually, in the last month, we have been finding out about more groups that are getting money from a health care program informally called "ObamaCare," because it is so hard to call it "affordable" when it is not. They are groups that are getting money from the Federal Government that, it sounds like, are using it more as an opportunity to register voters as Democrats when that money could be used to get a pacemaker or to get a mammogram or to replace a knee for

some 85-year-old widow who could really use a new knee or a new hip. Yet millions and millions of dollars are being paid to groups to go out and find people and to do all they can to get them signed up so they can say they had 7 million people sign up. They sign them up all over the country, using millions and millions of dollars that should have been for health care, yet they are using it to try to recruit votes for the Democratic Party. Millions and millions of dollars are being spent on hiring big names that young people will recognize to go on television, to go on radio to try and talk people into signing up for health care to pay for the health care of others—because they hope they are in good health and won't need it—and that will fund all of the millions and millions of dollars that they are paying to celebrities to convince them to buy ObamaCare.

We know that insurance companies cannot run like the Federal Government and, certainly, not like the executive branch. They can't just announce 7 million people have bought a product if they have not bought it. I haven't seen any insurance companies come out and say, Do you know what? We have had 1.5 million of these or we have had 3 million of these 7 million. Insurance companies have to know who has paid for their services, who has paid for their products. They can't just go along and announce to the IRS, We had 7 million people who bought our products. We don't know who paid for them. We will probably not know for a year or so. We don't know, but 7.1 million have bought our products, but you are going to have to give us a pass for a year or two until we find out who actually paid for it, and then we will eventually get around to telling you how much we owe you in income tax from all of the people who bought or who didn't buy our insurance. They can't work like that, because the IRS will not let them work like that. The insurance companies have to know how much money has come through their doors. They have to account for it. They can't get into this magical math that the executive branch gets into that 7.1 million have paid for ObamaCare and count that as some kind of glorious thing.

We were told there were over 30 million people who didn't have health care and that that was the whole reason health care, itself, had to be turned upside down. Cancer patients had to be turned away from their cancer treatment providers. Of the people who had the doctors they wanted, who were doing great things for their health—keeping them alive—oh, they had to lose them because we had over 30 million who didn't have health insurance. Then we were told, of the 7.1 million or so who may have acquired health insurance under ObamaCare, there is

only a small fraction of them who were people who didn't have insurance, part of the 30 or so million who didn't have insurance.

If you are going to cut off people's cancer treatments and if you are going to cut off their ability to get the health care they need—cut off their ability to go to the cancer hospitals they have been going to for treatment—if you are going to basically bring people's lives to an early end because we have got to help those 30 million or so who don't have insurance, then wouldn't you want to get the 30 million signed up? Why are you happy that it is only, maybe, 1 million or 2 million or many fewer who didn't have insurance who have signed up? If it is a fraction of the 7 million who have actually paid, and if it is an even smaller part of the fraction who paid who didn't have health insurance before and who were part of the 30-plus million, then how is that a good thing?

Why did every Democrat in the House and in the Senate who thought it was such a good idea without a single Republican's input—we didn't get to have any input in ObamaCare. They shoved it through this body and down the throats of the American people. They shoved it through the Senate, and they had to do it quickly before Scott Brown ended up in office, in having that seat. Tragically, they shoved it through without any bipartisan assistance, so nearly half of Americans were not represented in the creation of that bill.

□ 1745

It wasn't done on C-SPAN, as the candidate for President, Senator Obama, had promised. It was done in back rooms at the White House, here. Who knows where. We don't even know who was present.

We know there were some union leaders that met with the President about it, without anybody there to record what was said. We know that they ended up wanting every health care worker eventually to be a union member because their numbers have declined everywhere except in the area of government workers, where Franklin Roosevelt said we should never even have government unions.

So if the 30-plus million who purportedly didn't have health insurance were the real important reason we had to turn health care upside down, that we had to cut \$716 billion from Medicare, so seniors are not going to be able to get care they would have before ObamaCare was passed, if we had to turn away seniors from health care they need just for those 30-plus million that don't have insurance, then why should we be happy that maybe only one-thirtieth or so of that has signed up for insurance?

In the 4 years since ObamaCare passed, the best they could do is sign

up 1 million of the 30 or so million that didn't have insurance. That is a good thing?

Most Americans are ready to have some real reform, like having competition. If you need an MRI, you shouldn't have to do like one of the people in my office who was in Boston and under RomneyCare at the time.

The President said they modeled ObamaCare after RomneyCare. She was in a car wreck and couldn't get an MRI for a month or so after the wreck, so she had to fly back to Texas and get an MRI to find out she had broken bones.

This is the kind of care we are heading to. You get put on a list. This is what happens in England and Canada, and that is coming to a health care provider near you. You will get on the list. Why? Because we are told 30 million people didn't have health insurance.

Well, real reform would have made sure not that everybody had insurance, but that they had health care that was affordable and that they could get all the health care they needed and that it was affordable.

In some cases, it would have been a whole lot cheaper than having insurance. Also, having catastrophic insurance for the things you can't afford. Those were some reforms that we wanted to make.

Most of us were okay with fixing a problem called preexisting conditions, which had allowed some insurance companies to really screw over people unfairly. We offered to address that in a bipartisan manner, but the Democrats didn't want our input.

They said they didn't need it. They had the votes without it. They didn't care what we wanted. They didn't care what our constituents thought was a good idea. So we got ObamaCare, and it is wreaking havoc across the country. It is time to repeal it.

So we are told that, under this administration and under those two glorious years when the Democrats had the White House, the House, and the Senate, full control of all the powers here in Washington—and what did they put in motion in 2009 with control of the House, the Senate, and the White House?

Well, now, we find out—the President admitted this last September. It didn't get much press at all, if any, from the mainstream because, of course, they got the President elected, and so they have got to cover for him. We understand that.

But this is staggering. It has never ever happened before in American history. When the President, the Democratic House, and the Democratic Senate put these things in motion, 95 percent of all of the income made in America went to the top 1 percent of Americans. The top 1 percent of income earners in America got 95 percent of the income. Wow.

We talk about how we have really got to help the poor and we have really got to help the middle class, and then we find out the actions of this Democratic-controlled House, Democratic-controlled Senate, and Democratic-controlled White House put in motion the mechanics to ensure that 95 percent of all the income for those years—2009 until it was admitted last September—went to the top 1 percent income earners. Staggering.

Why isn't there more in the mainstream about it? They love to go after the wealthy. Well, because these wealthy are about 70 or 80 percent of the people on Wall Street who donate to Democrats over Republicans. People don't get that. It is shocking.

But it is about 4 to 1 that donations from executives and their spouses on Wall Street go to Democratic candidates.

It is shocking, I know, for some people to come to the realization that most of the wealthiest people in America are Democrats, and they are ready to pull up the ladder behind them. They are thrilled to have a President that will talk about the fat cats.

They don't mind being called fat cats, when they are making 95 percent of all the income in America, they have got a President that talks about the poor and the middle class, and the ones he has helped like nobody else are the ultrawealthy in America.

At some point, people are going to figure this out. At some point, the middle class and the poor are going to say: You know what? I have been supporting Democrats all these years, and now, 95 percent of all the income is going to the top 1 percent. How is that a good thing? Why should I keep supporting the party that is sending 95 percent of the income to the top 1 percent and the Wall Street fat cats have gotten richer than they ever have in their lives?

I don't mind people getting wealthy, but not at the expense of the whole country, and you look at the separation of the wealthy and the middle class. It has never been so dramatically far apart as it is now under this President, with what was set in motion with ObamaCare and all these things that this administration has done.

Crony capitalism has been amazing. How? You can pay over \$600 billion to your buddies that you have known for years to create a Web site. Oh, they forgot to do security. That is going to cost people billions of dollars to try to save their own identity information that has now been out there on an insecure Web site.

You have a Web site that keeps breaking down. Why? Because crony capitalism kicked in and people that are buddies got the contract.

It is just like British Petroleum should have never been allowed to continue drilling in the Gulf of Mexico,

but they were buddies with the administration. At the time the Deepwater Horizon blew out, I read that they had people from BP talking to John Kerry about coming out in support of cap-and-trade, so they didn't want to shut them down.

They had hundreds and hundreds of egregious safety violations, compared to others like Exxon and Shell. I think they had one or two or none.

Well, they should never have been allowed to operate. Why? Because crony capitalism is alive and well in this administration and with Democrats in control. Yes, we will let them keep operating. Never mind they are the unsafe drillers in the Gulf of Mexico. That is okay because they are on our side.

America is sick of cronyism. They are sick of favoritism. We don't begrudge anybody getting wealthy, but what we begrudge is gaming the system so the middle class and the poor have no chance because the ladder has been pulled up behind ultrawealthy Democrats by a Democratic administration, and it continues.

So employers are saying ObamaCare will cost them \$5,000 more per employee. This has got to stop. We have got to repeal ObamaCare and have true health care reform. I know some people say: well, you don't have any ideas.

Are you kidding? The last I saw, there were about 80 different bills—ideas for reform; and what I really want to see us do is, once we get ObamaCare repealed, let's have the full debate. Let's have it on C-SPAN.

Like Candidate Obama said, let's let America see who is really standing up for them and who is cutting those sweetheart deals with unions, who is cutting the sweetheart deals with AARP, the big pharmaceuticals, the AMA, the AHA; who is cutting those big deals behind the scenes in private rooms, so that mainstream America sees 95 percent of the income going to 1 percent, the most wealthy?

Let them see that. I welcome that. We have got to repeal ObamaCare. We have got to.

There is a book Glenn Beck had pointed out a week or so ago. I had not seen it before. It was copyrighted originally in 1942. The Library of Congress has this book. It is "The Road We Are Traveling." It is interesting.

He basically talks about the ways that socialism and communism have failed. Really, socialism and communism are bad words, so you don't want to call it that. We know now it is called progressivism.

Here, at page 95, he talks about:

In war and peace, boom and depression, the march towards centralized, collective controls has continued. Planning has often been identified with socialism. Yet orthodox socialists themselves are far from pleased with the collectivism practiced in Russia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, and they look with grave suspicion on the New Deal. Something has appeared which nobody antici-

pated, nobody wanted, and nobody really understands.

This was written in 1942.

Mr. James Burnham has called it the "managerial revolution," in the first intelligent attempt to understand it which I have seen. Many more studies will be needed before the mystery is cleared up. We have something called "X," which is displacing the system of free enterprise, all over the world. If we do not know yet what to call it, we can at least describe its major characteristics. They include, in most countries, free enterprise into "X."

He goes on and lists these things. Again, this is 1942. It is interesting.

You can still find on the Internet, Mr. Speaker, a presentation about President Obama from, obviously, a supportive Obama group, called "The Road We've Traveled." It appears to be a clear takeoff from "The Road We Are Traveling" that was written in 1942.

But here is what is described as this new progressive ideal that we are moving toward that he was excited about in 1942 under President Roosevelt and these characteristics of what they call X because they know socialism and communism doesn't go over well. Progressivism sounds a lot better.

□ 1800

But here is this X, a strong centralized government, an executive arm growing at the expense of the legislative and judicial arms. In some countries, power is consolidated in a dictator issuing decrees.

Well, we have certainly seen, Mr. Speaker, the legislative and judicial arms compromised in this trilateral government, which the executive arm has even said, and got a standing ovation in here, basically, that he will usurp legislative power if we don't use it. It turns out that was an aim that was set out for progressives, socialists, X, as he called it, back in 1942.

He goes on, these are the other things that we are trying to shoot for, according to him: control of banking, credit, and security exchanges by the government.

Well, we know under the Democrat control of the House and the Senate and the White House, the Federal Government took control of all student loans. What a great thing.

Thank God that my kids, we were able to get student loans for them before I had to go begging to a Democratic administration, because it isn't difficult to figure out how easily corruptible it is when the government controls who gets to get a college loan and who doesn't.

So this was set out as what they were shooting for back in 1942. He says also:

The underwriting of employment by the government, either through armaments or public works.

The underwriting of Social Security by the government, old-age pensions, mothers' pensions, unemployment insurance and the like.

Well, we have seen that all come to pass since 1942, just as this Progressive had hoped.

The underwriting of food, housing, medical care, by the government. The United States is already experimenting with providing these essentials. Other nations are far along the road.

This Progressive says he is also shooting for:

The use of deficit spending technique to finance these underwritings. The annually balanced budget has lost its old-time sanctity.

The control of foreign trade by the government, with increasing emphasis on bilateral agreements and barter deals.

The control of natural resources, with increasing emphasis on self-sufficiency.

We have seen the government, with every passing month, take more and more control of natural resources. And since Texas is doing so well, producing more oil, more natural gas than ever, basically, the Federal Government is, in effect, declaring war on Texas. Economically, they have sicced the EPA after Texas. They want to do everything they can to destroy any private resource production.

It just sounds like somebody has had this book, and that the book, "The Road We Are Traveling," fits right nicely in the road the President's supporters say he has traveled or we have traveled.

This goal's progressive—they call it X in the book, but clearly it is the progressive. They want control of transportation, railway, highway, airway, waterway. Well, that has progressed right nicely since 1942. They want control of all agriculture production. Well, we have certainly seen that take effect as well; control of labor organizations, often to the point of prohibiting strikes.

Now, that is something we haven't seen, but there really hasn't been a need, because when the President, as this President did, issues an executive order that even the IRS cannot enact policies until they have a private meeting with the head of the labor union to work things out behind private doors and it can't be recorded and nobody can know what they discuss, there is really not much reason for strikes. When top labor union heads sit down with the President in a private meeting about health care before they come out with ObamaCare and nobody gets to know what was said and done, why do you need strikes? The heads of the labor unions are working hand-in-hand with the executive branch.

In this book, X, which clearly is progressivism, shoots for:

The enlistment of young men and women in youth corps devoted to health, discipline, community service and ideologies consistent with those of the authorities. The CCC camps have just inaugurated military drill.

Well, it is also interesting that in ObamaCare, in my copy, at the beginning of Page 1312, it talked about—or section 1312, but it talked about the new President's Officer and Non-commissioned Officer Corps, created under a health care bill for international health emergency or national

emergencies, and they can be called up involuntarily at the present. So it sounds like that fits right into what was sought as the road to travel.

Then here is another:

Heavy taxation, with especial emphasis on the estates and incomes of the rich.

Well, we have certainly heard that enough.

He goes on and says:

Not much "taking over" of property or industries in the old socialistic sense. The formula appears to be control without ownership. It is interesting to recall that the same formula is used by the management of great corporations in depriving stockholders of power.

And last:

The state control of communications and propaganda.

We have certainly seen that take effect since 1942. And we have people in the House and Senate, my Democratic friends—some of my Democratic friends—that want even more control through the FCC and other government entities to control people's thoughts and what they can put out on the air. Let the government control all of that. It really is outrageous what is happening.

In any event, it appears that "The Road We Are Traveling," written in 1942, by Stuart Chase, setting out what he called X, because socialism, communism were not as popular, are the road that we have traveled. It is time to give the people their power back.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the honor and privilege to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives and to follow my good friend, the gentleman from Texas, Judge GOHMERT, in this presentation here tonight.

I have been watching forward with increasing concern about some of the potential decisions that might be made here in this House of Representatives. We have been through some long immigration debates in this saga of what happens to the future and the destiny of the United States of America. It is something that goes back, I will say, in the modern era, to sometime January 5, 2004, when then-President George Bush gave his speech that launched their effort to advance "comprehensive immigration reform."

Mr. Speaker, I had my discussion with the President's west wing at that time, meaning west wing of the White House. I advised them—I should say, I

advised him that what you have described here is amnesty. However you want to redefine it, however you want to try to call it comprehensive immigration reform, in the end, amnesty is amnesty. The American people will know what amnesty is, and they will reject amnesty because it is bad policy for our country.

Well, since that time, I will say that that has proven to be true in each one of these national debates that we have had and these waves of national debates that we have had.

That debate that took place in 2005—excuse me, 2004 into 2005 and beyond, when there were, at times, tens of thousands of people, often coming in on buses wearing identical white T-shirts, pressing Congress to suspend the rule of law and give them a special path to citizenship. Through that, this discussion has pivoted on what I called, at the time, the scarlet letter A, called amnesty.

The definition of "amnesty," it comes in different forms. Black's Law has one. There are a couple of other definitions for "amnesty." But the practical definition that applies in this political arena that we are in, this cultural American arena that we are in, Mr. Speaker, is this: to grant amnesty is to pardon immigration lawbreakers and reward them with the objective of their crime.

Now, the objective of their crime—and in most cases it is a crime. It is not necessarily someone who is unlawfully present in the United States or necessarily guilty of committing a crime, but it is true in most cases. In any case, we don't always know the objective of their crime, whether it is to come into the United States to get a job and seek a better life and take care of their family. If they cross the border illegally, that is a crime. If they come in legally and overstay their visa, then that is a violation, a civil misdemeanor. And yet, if they go to work in this country, they have to fraudulently misrepresent themselves in order to legally work, then in that case, it is often document fraud, and that is also a crime.

So the objective of their crime may have been a job; it may have been a home; it may have been what is planned to be and often is a better life; and it might be someone coming in here with a different kind of intention. We know that coming across our southern border we have had, I will say, scores of people, at a minimum, who are persons of interest from nations of interest.

Now, that is the verbiage that gets used in our security personnel. If they are from a nation of interest, that is a nation that is in the list, having been a nation that spawns terrorists. If they are a person of interest, they are a person from that nation that is a nation of interest that spawns terrorists.

So you have got kind of a double marker here. Somebody shows up coming across our southern border and they are from Yemen, for example, they are going to be a person of interest from a nation of interest, which means we should pay more attention to that because they are a risk to the security of United States because that is a place that terrorists come from in the records that we have and the data that we know. It doesn't mean that everybody that might come across our southern border from Yemen is a terrorist. It means, though, just what the definition is. This happens on a regular basis.

When anyone is interdicted, apprehended, coming across our border who is a person of interest from a nation of interest, they are turned over, as soon as possible, to the FBI. That act immediately closes the case as far as public discussion is concerned because now it is classified. So, if they are continually classifying the reports and any prosecutions and how we handle persons of interest from nations of interest, that means, Mr. Speaker, that we don't know how many people have been caught coming into the United States with ill will towards us or suspicion of ill will towards us. That is classified.

What I know is I know of seven cases where we have interdicted a person of interest from a nation of interest. And the reason I know about them is because, having spent time on the border, been down there when a person of that definition is interdicted and I gain knowledge of that circumstance, same business day, early enough in the day and close enough to the incident that they can tell me about it before that individual or individuals are handed over to the FBI where the case becomes classified.

This Congress doesn't seem to be aware that this circumstance exists at all, so they whistle through the graveyard. And it may be a more appropriate explanation than I had actually thought when I started to say it, whistling through the graveyard here on what could be going on inside the United States when people come across the border who are from sources that we normally identify as sources for terrorism. That is one piece.

Another is, 80 to 90 percent of the illegal drugs consumed in America come from or through Mexico. It isn't all their fault. One is that some of those drugs are produced and smuggled into Mexico and then into the United States. Another is there is a huge demand in the United States for illegal drugs. The value of that marketplace in this country could well be over \$60 billion. That is 60 billion with a b. But even the Drug Enforcement doesn't know that number, and they aren't comfortable producing that number. That number actually comes from a media report.

In any case, so we have persons of interest from nations of interest. We have 80 to 90 percent of the illegal drugs coming from or through to Mexico. It is a threat to our country, a threat to our society.

And on top of that, we have a border that remains porous. We have a President whose administration has been announcing that he has been deporting record numbers of people, but when you look at the numbers, you find out that he is double counting and he has changed the definition of "removals."

□ 1815

He is counting those who are turned back at the border, those who are caught crossing the border that do a voluntary return to avoid it going on their record so that they can avoid being subject to the 3- or 10-year bar and double-counting some of those that are turned back.

So here are the real numbers, and it is this: That the lead deportations that actually took place in our modern era under—not the George Bush administration, Mr. Speaker—but they took place under the Bill Clinton administration in the year 2000 when there was some number above 1.8 million removals from the country. And we have a President now, under Barack Obama, down around 450,000 removals from the country, a long, long ways from being what they sometimes accept the definition of him as being the Deporter-in-Chief.

No President has taken the position that this President has, that he picks and chooses the laws that he wants to enforce and ignores the rest. No President has so broadly gone out there and violated the limitations in article two of the Constitution.

Just within immigration itself, when the Morton Memos came out—and those are the memos that created DACA, which is the executive amnesty that was produced and signed by Janet Napolitano, then the Secretary of Homeland Security, who came before the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Speaker, and alleged repeatedly that they had prosecutorial discretion, that they don't have the resources to enforce every law, therefore, they have to enforce with the best effect of the resources that they have, and stated: We have prosecutorial discretion, and it is on an individual basis only, an individual basis only. She repeated it in her testimony under oath before the Judiciary Committee, and I had in front of me at the time the document that describes this, and in a page and about a third of single-spaced 12-point type, it said, used the term "on an individual basis only," by my count, in memory, seven times.

Now why would this administration remind Members of Congress, especially members of the Judiciary Committee, that they were executing pros-

ecutorial discretion by waiving the application of the law to hundreds of thousands of people altogether under this definition of "on an individual basis only"? We know they didn't deal with them on an individual basis only.

When you read that report and you go through and draw a couple of x's and o's, you come to this conclusion: that Homeland Security, under the Morton Memos of ICE, created four different classes of people, and they are broadly exempted from the law by the definitions of the classes of people created in the very memo that says, seven times "on an individual basis only."

This was what I thought was a lame effort to try to cloak themselves in prosecutorial discretion when there is no such thing. Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize this. There is no such thing as prosecutorial discretion outside of an individual basis only. It only can be applied on an individual basis. It cannot be applied to classes or groups of people because everyone that is paying attention to law, the structure of law, knows that the law defines classes and groups of people, and the exemptions under prosecutorial discretion have to be justified, justifiable, and on an individual basis only. This administration didn't adhere to that, and they know it. And, Mr. Speaker, they strategized around it so that they could grant what is the equivalent of executive amnesty to hundreds of thousands of people.

Now Senator JEFF SESSIONS has released a report a little over a week ago, and I want to thank him and his staff for the work that they have done to dig the details out of this network of regulations and rules and executive edicts to come down to this point: that the application of the law almost completely exempts the law, itself, which requires those encountered by immigration officials who are unlawfully present in the United States to be placed into removal proceedings. That is the law.

It is real clear that the DACA documents, the Morton Memos, direct ICE to violate the very law that they have taken an oath to uphold, and that is the requirement that they place into removal proceedings those whom they may encounter who are unlawfully present in the United States.

The President has ordered that they not do so, which violates their oath to the Constitution, their fidelity to the law, and their fidelity to the rule of law, and it usurps the directive from Congress, which sets up immigration law here in the United States of America.

This is an appalling assault on our Constitution and on the rule of law and on the separation of powers, and the administration knows it. And I am not drawing this as an assumption, Mr. Speaker. I am drawing this from this understanding.

The President has told us on a number of occasions that he taught constitutional law as an adjunct professor at the University of Chicago's School of Law for 10 years. Ten years of teaching the Constitution means you can't avoid coming across these constitutional requirements, and you can't avoid addressing the separation of powers that are distinct between articles one, two, and three of our Constitution. And if we wondered if somehow the President could have taught con law for a decade and not run across the separation of powers concept, or the authority that is granted to the Congress: All legislative powers shall be vested in the body of the United States Congress, the legislative body in article one. All powers, all legislative powers. The President had to have taught that for 10 years. I don't think you can take con law and not encounter that principle. And he didn't.

He didn't avoid that principle. In fact, he was teaching it as recently as March 28, 2011, when he was speaking to a high school class at a high school here in Washington, D.C., when he said to them: You want me to enact the DREAM Act by executive order. But I am here to tell you that you have studied this, and you know that the Congress doesn't allow that. I don't have the authority to implement the DREAM Act by executive order because—and he said this this way—Congress writes the laws; the judicial branch interprets the laws; and my job is to enforce them. It is a very compact and succinct and, I think, a clear understanding of the three branches of government embodied in articles one, two, and three.

So it is clear not only did the President teach this very principle for a decade, but he—and I don't want to say "lectured," but he gave a speech on it to a high school class and said, I cannot implement this by an executive order or fiat; it is exclusively reserved for Congress. Some months later, though, apparently the idea was stuck in the head of the President of the United States, and by executive fiat, he did do just what had he said publicly he didn't have the authority to do. That is just on the immigration piece.

We could go on through ObamaCare—the 38, 39, or more different changes that have been applied to ObamaCare. Now, I don't assert, Mr. Speaker, that they are all unconstitutional moves on the part of the President, but some of them are so clearly unconstitutional that it cannot be argued with a straight face if you know anything about the Constitution whatsoever.

The clearest, the starkest was, the directive in ObamaCare that the employer mandate shall be implemented in each month after December of 2013. That is real clear. But the President announced months ago, we are going to

delay the employer mandate for another year. They are going to add another year to the implementation date. So it is as if the President—you know he said he had a pen and a cell phone. It was as if the President took his pen, went to page whatever it is in the 2,700 pages of ObamaCare, and went in there—it would be a red pen, not a blue one—and drew a line through the number that said 2013, and in each month after December of 2013, drew a line through that and just changed the number 13 to the number 2014.

Now, the President does not have the authority to do that. If he does, then the work of this Congress is meaningless, and it would never have a relation to anything, except we would be a debate body here. So we could be in the business of deciding whether we side for or against the President without any power whatsoever. If the President continues to exert this authority—it is unconstitutional, it is a violation of his constitutional authorities and the separation of power. There are multiple lawsuits that are working their way through the courts, and I think that the administration has done a calculation of, they are not going to catch up with us before the President's term is over and he goes off into his happy perpetual golfing land, that he might.

But this immigration issue sets the destiny for America. It is not a policy like ObamaCare, which is the largest social movement in my adult lifetime, social piece of legislation, social engineering piece of legislation. It is a takeover of a huge percentage of our economy, some say as much as 17 percent of our economy. It is a directive that orders American citizens, for the first time, to buy a product that is produced and specified by the Federal Government or be fined and punished by the Internal Revenue Service.

That is where we are with ObamaCare. That is what it does to this God-given liberty and says, You shall be a subject of the State, and you will buy a product that is approved by the Federal Government. And if you fail to do what we have told you to do, ordered you to do, then we are going to fine you and punish you, and we are going to use the Internal Revenue Service to chase you down and dun you for that money.

Now, that is an appalling thing to a free people. But we should think of that in the context of, first of all, if the Federal Government can order you to buy an insurance policy, they can order you to buy an automobile, they can order you to buy a washing machine, they can order you to go to the grocery store and buy broccoli. They can forbid you from buying—let's just say butter, or whatever it is that the First Lady might think is not the healthy diet for the American people. By the way, they are already dictating the calorie limitations to our kids in school.

This country has become not so much the land of the free any longer. It has become a land where they seek to micromanage every aspect of our lives. It has started. It is going down that way.

But if the White House can configure a bill and pass it through this Congress by hook, crook, and legislative shenanigans, and, in the process of making the deal to get the votes to get it passed, promise a Member of Congress—let's just say a Member of Congress from Michigan—that, never fear if the language that you would like to have doesn't become part of the law, the President will sign an executive order to amend ObamaCare after the bill is signed if the agreement that they make here doesn't follow through in the final piece of legislation that comes from the Senate.

Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, the very idea that the President would promise to amend a bill? He has no authority to amend any bill whatsoever. He has no authority to amend any legislation whatsoever. He has no authority to amend existing U.S. Code of any kind whatsoever.

Now he can influence the executive branch to pass a rule, to publish that rule and take it out for comments. And through the authority granted to the executive branch through the Administrative Procedures Act, they can have the force and effect of law. But they can't change law. They can't amend law. And they cannot write a rule that changes the directive language that is part of the law. The law is the law. The Constitution is the foundation for this Republic, and the laws that are passed by it are supreme, not the President.

So we have this usurpation of congressional authority from the President. We have an ObamaCare piece of legislation that is a taking of American liberty. And we have a President that changes it willy-nilly at will. And not an ability in this Congress to put the brakes on that. But maybe, just maybe the American people will go to the polls in November and bring it around the other way. In 2016, there will be a new President elected. That President must run on adhering to, respecting, and reverting our country back to this Constitution.

But this country, the bedrock underneath our Constitution is free and fair elections, confidence that they are free and fair and legitimate. The foundation is the Constitution. The Declaration is the promise; the Constitution is the fulfillment.

As we sit here in this most blessed country in the history of the world, Mr. Speaker, we are watching it be taken apart by executive fiat and executive edict piece by piece. ObamaCare changed 30-some times. Immigration changed five or six times. And a President who threatens to go out and do that again, one who suspended Welfare

to Work when it was written specifically to tighten up, that a President couldn't suspend the work component of Welfare to Work. And No Child Left Behind, suspended by the application of waivers that go on because he didn't agree with the policy and he thought he had a better policy, but he didn't want to come to Congress because Congress might not think it is a better policy.

This President doesn't negotiate with this Congress. He doesn't work in a cooperative fashion. He imposes the whim of the White House on the American people.

□ 1830

This Congress went through a government shutdown to assert its will and came in to second place on that because not enough Members of this Congress had the will. We watched the Constitution be eroded because of that lack of will.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what I see coming is an effort to grant more amnesty through the legislative process instead of, this time, the executive fiat or executive edict or executive overreach process, and the President threatens to use his pen more to grant more amnesty if we don't pass it here in the House.

We have some misguided people on my side of the aisle that ought to be better thinkers than they are. I understand why Democrats are for amnesty almost universally because they get the big political benefit from it.

They have been discouraging me for years from bringing up this topic, that Democrats have long known, Mr. Speaker, that a significant majority, 2 to 1, 3 to 1, 5 to 1—there are even statistics out there of 8 to 1—that newly arriving immigrants, if given an opportunity to vote, are going to vote in those kind of statistics at least 2 to 1 for Democrats.

Here is a King axiom, Mr. Speaker, that newly arriving immigrants will assimilate into the politics of the locale where they arrive because they don't know what party they are when they get here.

They will simply associate with their neighbors, their friends, and their family. When they go to political events, if they go, they will go with them, encouraged by them, and when they go to the polls, they are going to take their first advice.

I look down through my neighborhood. We have fourth generation FDR Democrats that by heritage are Democrats, by philosophy are Republicans, but they don't change, necessarily, their voting stripes.

If someone thinks I am wrong about this, they could go to Boston, and they could find me an Irish Catholic Republican. I am sure one of them exists. I understand there are two. But the heritage of inheriting the politics of the

locale where you arrive as a newly arriving immigrant is a big part of this.

That is what drives Democrats. It is not about truth, justice, and the American way. It is not about justice and equity. It is not about fairness. It is about political power, and it is about Democrats seeking to expand the dependency class in America because that expands their political class and their political leverage at the expense of the Constitution, the rule of law, safety in the streets of America, and at the expense of the destiny of our country.

We need to think this through much more deeply. We need to look ahead, Mr. Speaker. We need to see that, if we make an immigration decision in this Congress, we are going to live with that decision and our children and our grandchildren. Every succeeding generation lives with the decisions that we make here on immigration.

It is different than ObamaCare. ObamaCare is bad. It is a horrible usurpation of God-given American liberty. It can be repealed. It can even be, in components, diminished in its negative effects by some tweaks that we could do, and I have got some on the books that I will be advancing here in the upcoming week; but we could repeal ObamaCare.

We could undo it. We could recover. We could even somehow struggle through a massive amendment of it and come out with a product that the American people could live with and still have a measure of freedom; but if we get the immigration question wrong, there is no going back to repeal. There is no going back to change. There is no going back to undo what would be done by the colossal mistake of amnesty.

Whatever you think about demographics, whatever you think about political power, and whatever you think about economics, there is an essential pillar of American exceptionalism that we can't do without and still be a great country. It is called the rule of law.

The rule of law means that the law has to treat everyone equally. Justice must be blind. Lady Justice stands there with the scales in her hands, balanced, and most of the time, you will see her with a blindfold on because Justice needs to be blind and treat everyone equally. If we lose the rule of law, we will never be able to restore it again.

If we sacrifice the rule of law in a misguided idea that, somehow, our sympathy for people that want a better life—and by the way, there are some 6 billion of them on the planet that want a better life—if our idea that our sympathy for people that want a better life is more important than our fidelity to the rule of law, then we have sacrificed the core of the greatness of America because our hearts overruled our heads.

I am not surprised when Democrats do that. That is what they are in busi-

ness to do, is have their hearts overrule their heads; but we can't let that happen on this side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, not even—not even—for someone who came into the United States illegally, misrepresented themselves to get into the United States military, put on a uniform, took an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and maybe, just maybe, risked their life in a performance of that duty.

They have already violated our laws, they have already misrepresented themselves, and they have already defrauded the Department of Defense.

Any bill that might be attached to a National Defense Authorization Act or comes to this floor in any form that rewards someone who has defrauded the Department of Defense or the United States—whether or not they have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution, it is a false oath because they have given their false word—any bill like that needs to be met with the full rejection of the full vigor of the rule of law here in the floor of the United States Congress.

That includes those things that are coming out now in the press today. We don't need to have an intense fight over immigration. We have an election coming up in November.

We have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution and have defended it, generally, from this side of the aisle and not exclusively, Mr. Speaker.

We have an obligation to defend that rule of law, preserve the sovereignty of America, and refuse to reward lawbreakers. If we reward lawbreakers, we get more lawbreakers. We need fewer lawbreakers, not more.

I will defend my oath to this Constitution and the rule of law, and I will encourage and challenge all of my colleagues to do the same.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of attending funeral in district.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4152. An act to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1557. An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for grad-

uate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

S. 2183. United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 3, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5149. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Basel III Conforming Amendments Related to Cross-References, Subordinated Debt and Limits Based on Regulatory Capital [Docket ID: OCC-2014-0004] (RIN: 1557-AD73) received March 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5150. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Annual Events Requiring Safety Zones in the Captain of the Port Lake Michigan Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2013-1033] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5151. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Southern Oahu Tsunami Vessel Evacuation Honolulu, HI [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0080] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5152. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Havasu Triathlon; Lake Havasu, AZ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0004] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5153. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Maintenance Dredging 35-Foot Channel and Rock Removal; Portland Harbor, Portland, ME [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0010] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5154. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Eleventh Coast Guard District Annual Fireworks Events [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0362] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5155. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Inner Harbor

Navigational Canal, New Orleans, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0562] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5156. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Terrebonne Bayou, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-1072] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5157. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Great Lakes Pilotage Rate — 2014 Annual Review and Adjustment [USCG-2013-0534] (RIN: 1625-AC07) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5158. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Minimum Altitudes for Use of Autopilots [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1059; Amdts. No. 121-368, 125-63, 135-128] (RIN: 2120-AK11) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5159. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co. KG Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0352; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-14-AD; Amendment 39-17750; AD 2014-03-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5160. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Christiansted, St. Croix, VI [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0757; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASO-19] received March 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5161. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Various Restricted Category Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0736; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-013-AD; Amendment 39-17747; AD 2014-03-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5162. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0791; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-026-AD; Amendment 39-17745; AD 2014-03-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5163. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0210; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-053-AD; Amendment 39-17744; AD 2014-03-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5164. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Air-

worthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0054; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-001-AD; Amendment 39-17754; AD 2014-03-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5165. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. (Bell) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0735; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-014-AD; Amendment 39-17748; AD 2014-03-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5166. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; ATR — GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0799; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-153-AD; Amendment 39-17746; AD 2014-03-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5167. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type certificate currently held by Eurocopter France) [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0737; Directorate Identifier 2012-SW-111-AD; Amendment 39-17739; AD 2014-03-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5168. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Morrisville, VT [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0683; Airspace Docket No. 13-ANE-1] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5169. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; McMinnville, TN [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0682; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASO-17] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5170. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Kailua-Kona, HI [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0622; Airspace Docket No. 10-AWP-10] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5171. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace, Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Salinas, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0708; Airspace Docket No. 13-AWP-11] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5172. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Grand Forks, ND [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0950; Airspace Docket No. 13-AGL-34] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5173. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of the Dallas/Fort Worth Class B Airspace Area; TX [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1168; Airspace Docket No. 07-AWA-3] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5174. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Atlanta, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0891; Airspace Docket No. 12-ASO-37] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5175. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0632; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-045-AD; Amendment 39-17752; AD 2014-03-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5176. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Use of Additional Portable Oxygen Concentrators on Board Aircraft [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1013; Amdt. No. 121-369] (RIN: 2120-AK-35) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5177. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Prohibition on Personal Use of Electronic Devices on the Flight Deck [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0929; Amdt. No. 121-369] (RIN: 2120-AJ17) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5178. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Import Restrictions on Archaeological and Ecclesiastical Ethnological Materials from Honduras [CBP Dec. 14-03] (RIN: 1515-AE00) received March 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1425. A bill to amend the Marine Debris Act to better address severe marine debris events, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-398, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1491. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to provide certain funds to eligible entities for activities undertaken to address the marine debris impacts of the March 2011 Tohoku earthquake and subsequent tsunami, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-399, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GERLACH (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REED, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 4365. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROKITA (for himself, Mr. KLINE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York):

H.R. 4366. A bill to strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 4367. A bill to prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from relinquishing responsibilities with respect to Internet domain name functions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIMM (for himself, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. JOYCE):

H.R. 4368. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from implementing proposed policy changes that would permit passengers to carry small, non-locking knives on aircraft; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 4369. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require payment to each county of a portion of mining royalties received for mining operations in such county, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. NUGENT):

H.R. 4370. A bill to improve the information security of the Department of Veterans Affairs by directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain actions to improve the transparency and the governance of the information security program of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 4371. A bill to redesignate the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area in California as the "Johnson Valley National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area," and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 4372. A bill to require the President to make publicly available an annual report on the use of targeted lethal force by remotely-piloted aircraft; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. HAHN, Mr. SIREN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GENE

GREEN of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. VELA, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 4373. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 4374. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt and implement a standard identification protocol for use in the tracking and procurement of biological implants by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BARBER (for himself, Mr. SALMON, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona):

H.R. 4375. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, as the "Jim Kolbe Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 4376. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify safe harbor requirements applicable to automatic contribution arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 4377. A bill to place conditions on assistance to the Government of Burma; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 4378. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue to Federal agencies guidelines for developing procedures and requirements relating to certain primary care Federal health professionals completing continuing medical education on nutrition and to require Federal agencies to submit annual reports relating to such guidelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4379. A bill to prohibit any appropriation of funds for the National Labor Relations Board; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4380. A bill to prohibit gun confiscation and registration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4381. A bill to protect the privacy of individuals' personal genetic information and other personal identifier information; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 4382. A bill to streamline the collection and distribution of government information; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself and Mr. STIVERS):

H. Res. 535. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "Financial Literacy

Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H. Res. 536. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that telephone service must be improved in rural areas of the United States and that no entity may unreasonably discriminate against telephone users in those areas; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 4365.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROKITA:

H.R. 4366.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4367.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. GRIMM:

H.R. 4368.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, §8, clause 3

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 4369.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 4370.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 4371.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 4372.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 and the Necessary and Proper Clause. Additionally, the Preamble to the Constitution provides support of the authority to enact legislation to promote the General Welfare.

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 4373.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 4374.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

By Mr. BARBER:

H.R. 4375.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7

The Congress shall have Power to establish Post Offices and post roads.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 4376.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 4377.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 4378.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4379.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—"No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4380.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Second Amendment: "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4381.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment IV of the United States Constitution—"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE:

H.R. 4382.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 gives Congress the power to make all laws necessary and proper to carry into execution the preceding enumerated powers. It is necessary and proper for Congress to eliminate the National Technical Information Service in the Department of Commerce.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 279: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 401: Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. RUNYAN.

H.R. 494: Mr. WITTMAN and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 713: Ms. DeLAURO.

H.R. 718: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 721: Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 809: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 1179: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 1199: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 1226: Mr. WESTMORELAND and Mr.

TIBERI.

H.R. 1239: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 1313: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 1317: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1318: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 1696: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 1718: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 1733: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1827: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1918: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 1998: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 2084: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 2203: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 2283: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 2296: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 2315: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 2415: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 2499: Mr. PETERS of California and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 2619: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 2648: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2661: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 2692: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 2935: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 2939: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Ms. BASS, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. DeGETTE, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. FARR, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HOLT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KIND, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VELA, Mr. WELCH, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. HARPER, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BARTON, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HALL, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 2959: Mr. McALLISTER and Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 2989: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 2996: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 3022: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 3040: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 3179: Mr. MICA.

H.R. 3335: Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 3461: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 3481: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 3489: Mr. HECK of Nevada.

H.R. 3493: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3505: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 3529: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 3530: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 3548: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 3583: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 3600: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3610: Mr. PITTINGER.

H.R. 3708: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 3717: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 3722: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 3833: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 3836: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ENYART, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 3852: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. HAHN, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3867: Ms. MENG, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 3929: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 3974: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 4012: Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 4069: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 4122: Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4135: Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 4156: Mr. VEASEY and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 4164: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 4184: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4190: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 4217: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4219: Mr. LATHAM, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 4225: Mr. KLINE, Ms. BASS, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 4227: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4228: Mr. PEARCE, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 4229: Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 4234: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ENYART, Mr. JONES, and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 4249: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4261: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 4286: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 4304: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 4307: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 4308: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 4315: Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 4320: Mr. PETRI and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 4321: Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 4342: Mr. LONG, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 4346: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 4349: Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.J. Res. 29: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H. Con. Res. 95: Mr. LAMALFA.

H. Res. 30: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H. Res. 190: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. MARINO.

H. Res. 418: Mr. LoBIONDO, Mr. MORAN and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H. Res. 480: Mr. OWENS and Mr. ISRAEL.

H. Res. 494: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 509: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KEATING, Ms. BASS, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H. Res. 519: Mrs. BEATTY.

H. Res. 525: Ms. McCOLLUM, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. CONYERS.

H. Res. 532: Mr. TERRY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. MENG, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under Clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3717: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

SENATE—Wednesday, April 2, 2014

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy God, You make the clouds Your chariot and walk upon the wind. We see Your works in the rising of the Sun and in its setting. For the beauty of the Earth and the glory of the skies, we give You praise.

Today, make our lawmakers heirs of peace, demonstrating that they are Your children as they strive to find common ground. May they take pleasure in doing Your will and fulfilling Your purposes in our world. Lord, You are never far from us, but often we are far from You. So show us Your ways and teach us Your paths.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 2, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 250.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 250, S. 1737, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3979, which is the legislative vehicle for the Unemployment Insurance Extension bill, with the time until 10 a.m. equally divided and controlled. The filing deadline is 9:30 a.m. today.

At 10 a.m. there will be a cloture vote on the Reed amendment. Additional votes are expected throughout the day. Senators will be notified when they are scheduled.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2198
AND S. 2199

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2198) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies and disaster assistance to the State of California and other Western States due to drought, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2199) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I would object to any further proceedings to both of these matters at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the measures will be placed on the calendar.

HOUSE BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in what has become an annual frustration for the American people, the tea party-controlled House Budget Committee released its budget proposal yesterday. This budget is frustrating for Americans because it doesn't reflect what they envision for this Nation. In fact, the Ryan budget more closely resembles the wants of the multibillionaire Koch brothers than it does a pattern for helping America.

For those who haven't seen the prequels; that is, the newest budget proposal, it is the same old story, and it is a story of broken promises—of broken promises to our children, to our seniors, and to our families.

To our children we have promised we will protect and provide for them, safeguarding them during the vulnerable years of childhood and adolescence—at least try to do everything we can to help them. Yet by repealing the expansion of health care to millions of Americans by cutting Medicaid by \$1.5 trillion, the Ryan-Koch budget tells our Nation's children they are on their own.

We must provide for our children by supplying the tools they need to succeed—most importantly, a quality education. But evidently House Republicans don't see the need for us to invest in education because their budget slashes tens of billions of dollars in funding for schools and rolls back Federal financial aid to college students.

The Koch-Ryan budget breaks the promise to seniors we have had in existence since the Great Depression. It would be the end of Medicare as we know it. Health insurance premiums for seniors would skyrocket as would their prescription costs.

Finally, a Ryan-Koch budget breaks a promise to every American family that we in the Federal Government have given them; that by working hard and playing by the rules, they can get ahead. That isn't what the Ryan-Koch budget would allow.

What do the Republicans propose to do with this money they cut from Medicare, Medicaid, and education? They will create more tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy, but it is more than that. It is some of the things not written—these holes in the budget that we have heard before. We know they want to whack Social Security. They are just afraid to put it in writing. The Koch budget would cut the corporate tax rate to 25 percent and lower the top individual tax rate for America's highest earners.

I guess what I would say to the House Budget Committee and all the House Members—Democrats and Republicans—isn't \$80 billion personal wealth of the Koch brothers enough? I think most everyone would say, yes, it is enough, but not the Koch brothers. They want more. They are the richest people in the world. Individually they are only fifth, but put them together and they are the richest in the world.

Under this budget I have talked about, middle-class families would pay about \$2,000 a year more in taxes, but

the rich would pay less. Democrats believe in growing the economy from the middle out, but the Republicans are still trapped in the trickle-down economics based on handouts to the super-wealthy and special interests.

Perhaps the Ryan-Koch budget is summarized best by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' Robert Greenstein: "More poverty and less opportunity." That is what their budget is all about: more poverty, less opportunity.

So whether it is current law such as the Affordable Care Act or much needed legislation such as comprehensive immigration reform or an overhaul of the tax system, I ask my Republican colleagues to work with us for a better America.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

DELIVERING REAL PROSPERITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Democratic majority led us to believe the Senate would be discussing jobs this week, but it seemed to be a pretty one-sided discussion.

Republican Senators came to the floor to talk about our innovative ideas to create jobs and grow opportunity for all Americans. As for Senate Democrats though—well, they wouldn't even stand to call for votes on the jobs proposals.

I think this reflects a growing divide in the Senate between a Republican Party focused on the middle class and a Democratic Party that is obsessed with November 4.

That is very disappointing for America. The American people need two serious political parties in this country. But at least our constituents can be assured of one thing: Republicans are laser-focused on delivering real prosperity to the families who have struggled so much in this economy. It is the impetus behind basically everything we do, and it is the impetus behind the numerous jobs proposals Republican Senators are rolling out this week.

For instance, several Republican Senators will take to the floor again today to talk about energy's potential for driving growth and American job creation and why the government needs to stop holding Americans back from sharing in the energy boom. I also plan to join and discuss my own amendment that would fight back against the President's war on coal jobs. I am looking forward to that colloquy.

But right now I wish to talk about another jobs proposal Senator PAUL and I have again introduced: national right-to-work legislation. It would allow American workers to choose whether they would like to join a union, and it would protect the worker from getting fired if she would rather not subsidize a union boss who fails to

represent her concerns and priorities. It is such a commonsense proworker proposal. According to one survey, about 80 percent of union workers agree that employees should be able to decide whether joining a union is right for them. One obvious benefit is increased take-home pay for workers who choose to keep the hundreds of dollars that would otherwise be taken from their paychecks by union bosses. There is a huge opportunity component here as well, because most unions operate on a seniority system with pay raises often based off the amount of time the worker has spent at a company rather than on her performance. Well, I think an American worker deserves an opportunity to earn more money if she works hard. I think she deserves the opportunity to rise through the ranks and put more money in her pocket if she is determined to do it. That is real paycheck fairness.

These are bedrock American values—core workers rights that should never be denied to our constituents, especially in a terrible economy such as this one. Many of Kentucky's neighboring States have gone right-to-work with great success, and I hope Kentucky will join them soon. I recently read an op-ed that laid out how much we could have gained over the last decade if we had. It noted that private sector jobs have grown about 15.3 percent in right-to-work States compared to just 6.9 percent in Kentucky; manufacturing had expanded three times faster in right-to-work States and compensation had grown about 14.2 percent compared to just 4.3 percent in Kentucky.

So I am encouraged by the members of Kentucky's legislature who continue to fight for right-to-work legislation. Kentuckians shouldn't be subjected to that kind of prosperity gap any longer, and neither should millions of other Americans struggling across our country. I believe they should have a more equal chance of finding work in every State, and they should no longer see their communities failing to secure new investment because their State hasn't passed right-to-work. That is just one more reason why I believe in our national legislation too.

So I am asking our Democratic friends to join Senator PAUL and me in standing up for workers rights and a stronger middle class to join us in passing right-to-work legislation.

Let's be honest. After more than 5 years of economic misery under their watch, that is the least Washington Democrats can do for the American people. Unfortunately, I suspect we will hear a lot of excuses instead about why Washington Democrats cannot or won't stand with us in this fight. No matter what they say, though, the American people will know the truth: It is because big labor bosses have such sway over today's Democratic Party and because big labor bosses aren't

about to give up their perks or their vise grip over American workers.

Well, big labor bosses should know that Republicans are determined to fight for American workers, American jobs, and a stronger middle class, even if the bosses work against us every step of the way. Right-to-work is a smart way to get America on the path to real recovery, and it is critical to empowering workers and giving them more freedom.

I commend Senator PAUL for his leadership on this legislation and for his long-time advocacy on this issue. I hope our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will prove me wrong by working together to pass important job initiatives such as right-to-work for the American people.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3979, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

An act (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Pending:

Reid (for Reed) Amendment No. 2874, of a perfecting nature.

Reid Amendment No. 2875 (to Amendment No. 2874), to change the enactment date.

Reid Amendment No. 2876 (to Amendment No. 2875), of a perfecting nature.

Reid Amendment No. 2877 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 2874), to change the enactment date.

Reid Amendment No. 2878 (to Amendment No. 2877), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 2879, to change the enactment date.

Reid Amendment No. 2880 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 2879), of a perfecting nature.

Reid Amendment No. 2881 (to Amendment No. 2880), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to discuss and present amendment No. 2931 to the bill before us. This is a germane amendment. It is all about the substance of the bill before us and it is a fully bipartisan proposal, since all of the substance of this

amendment was actually contained in the President's most recent budget submission.

The amendment idea is very simple: It would prohibit unemployment insurance and disability double-dipping. Those are two different things. One is about somebody who is temporarily unable to find work, still looking for work, clearly able to work. That is unemployment insurance. Disability is fundamentally different, somebody who is disabled and because of that disability cannot work on a long-term basis.

So, as President Obama has proposed, as many Republicans have proposed, this would simply prohibit an individual from receiving both of those benefits at the same time, and would save about \$1 billion over 10 years. That is President Obama's own estimation.

To fully present and consider this, I would ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer my amendment No. 2931.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, we have had millions of people over the last many months who have lost their unemployment benefits. In most instances it is real tragic. Many of the people who lost these benefits are past middle age. Because of the recession they lost their jobs they had for a long time and they cannot find work.

We have read into the RECORD the tragic stories about people using their Social Security to try to save their son's home. We have the woman who is couch surfing. She said, "I didn't know what the term meant. Now I know." They have had to struggle without extended unemployment benefits.

The senior Senator from Rhode Island has negotiated a bipartisan fix to this. It has basically given the Republicans everything they asked for. Everything is paid for. There is no disagreement as to the pay-fors. It hasn't increased the deficit at all. In fact, it would stimulate the economy significantly.

We have been told by economist Mark Zandi, JOHN MCCAIN's chief economic advisor when he ran for President, we have been told by him and others that unemployment benefits stimulate the economy quicker and faster and more efficiently than any other thing we do, because they are desperate for money and they spend it.

But in spite of the bipartisan agreement negotiated with Senator JACK REED, Senator HELLER from Nevada and other Republicans, we have the vast majority of Republican Senators doing the same thing they have done for a long time. They respond in their usual way. When they face a bill they are trying to kill, they try to change the subject—diversion.

Now already on this piece of legislation before the Senate today we have more than 24 amendments that have been filed by Republicans dealing with ObamaCare alone, in spite of the fact—in spite of the fact—that yesterday it was announced that there are 7.1 million people who have already signed up. That doesn't count the 14 State exchanges that will get another 900,000, it is estimated, plus the 2-week extension in which hundreds of thousands more will sign up.

They are tone-deaf. They have got to go to some other issue. But they cannot. There are more than two dozen amendments on this bill alone dealing with ObamaCare, repealing it in different ways.

Several other amendments have been singled out that we have before the body to attack the administration's efforts to protect the environment. The protests of Republican Senators to the contrary notwithstanding, these amendments show that the other side of the aisle is not serious about unemployment insurance benefits. They are more concerned about protecting the Koch brothers. This is the behavior of Senators who want to kill something, who want to kick up enough dust so they don't get blamed for what they are trying to do. What are they trying to do? Kill extended unemployment benefits.

So I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I am going to repeat my request, because apparently the majority leader, based on his comments, didn't understand it.

I have an amendment that is about unemployment insurance. I have an amendment that is germane to the bill. It is not about ObamaCare, not about EPA, not about the Koch brothers. I have an amendment that is a proposal contained in President Obama's last two budgets. My amendment has nothing to do with any of the comments and objections he makes. For that reason I am trying to clarify that, and I would again ask unanimous consent that my germane amendment proposed by President Obama in his last two budgets be in order, and it be in order for me to offer my amendment No. 2931.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, I clearly understood the diversion-and-delay tactics of my friend from Louisiana, and I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection is heard.

Mr. VITTER. Well, Mr. President, reclaiming the floor, I think it is very unfortunate. I don't know why it is diversionary to talk about the substance that is before us in this bill. That is not changing the subject, I would say through the Chair to the majority lead-

er; that is talking about the subject. I don't know why it is delaying anything to consider an amendment during the time set aside for this bill. That is not delaying anything. That is doing the business of the Senate by bringing valid ideas to the floor and offering them as an amendment, and I don't know why it is Republican obstructionism to have an amendment that is a proposal contained in President Obama's last two budgets.

So again, I would make the point that everything the majority leader said in objecting to my being even able to present my amendment for a vote doesn't apply to my amendment. It is complete nonsense. It is just talking past the substance of this amendment which is about unemployment insurance reform and which is a bipartisan proposal and which is included in the President's last two budgets.

This is an important and commonsense reform. It is common sense because eligibility for the two programs we are talking about is mutually exclusive. It is apples and oranges. Disability is designed to assist folks who are physically or mentally unable to work for a significant period of time, sometimes permanently. Unemployment insurance, in contrast, is intended to replace some of the earnings for those individuals who become unemployed and are unable to find work temporarily.

It is an oversight, a technical imperfection in the law, the fact that some limited number of folks can double-dip and get both at the same time. This is widely recognized on a bipartisan basis. On the Republican side, of course, I have this amendment. Senator COBURN, my colleague from Oklahoma, has had similar proposals. Senator PORTMAN, my colleague from Ohio, has had similar proposals.

On the Democratic side, there is no higher ranking Democrat I can possibly cite than President Obama. The President has included this reform—exactly this reform—in his last two budget proposals. I have never heard any articulation from any Democrat or any Member of the Senate why this reform doesn't make sense.

The majority leader, while objecting to my even being able to present this amendment for a vote, offered no such rationale. He talked past it. He talked about the Koch brothers and he talked about EPA and he talked about ObamaCare, instead of talking about my germane, commonsense bipartisan reform amendment to this bill, which has been included—this proposal—in President Obama's last two budgets.

So I find this very unfortunate, but I am going to continue to fight for a vote on this amendment. It will improve the bill, whatever you think about the bill. This will improve it. This will save \$1 billion over 10 years. This will clear up the double dipping

which was never intended and contrary to the fundamental different purposes of the last of the two programs, and this will advance a proposal that has been included in President Obama's last two budgets.

With that, I will return to promote this amendment, but for now I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes as if in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, it has been more than 3 months since 2 million Americans and nearly 60,000 people in my home State of Ohio and tens of thousands of people in the Presiding Officer's State of Massachusetts—overwhelmingly most of whom have worked day in and day out for most of their lives—have had their unemployment benefits expire simply because the House of Representatives and the Senate have failed to act.

This body has tried to act a number of times and a number of times it has been filibustered. We could not get 60 votes to move forward. The House of Representatives has seemed, frankly, indifferent to these 2 million people.

Think about who these people are. This is about unemployment insurance. It is called insurance for a reason. Insurance means they pay in when they are working, they get benefits when they are laid off, but they must be seeking work to qualify and earn—and I underscore earn—those benefits. They are not given those benefits. They have earned them. They have paid into the unemployment insurance program and they get assistance when they lose their jobs.

Every day and week we fail in this Congress because of Republican filibusters and cold indifference in the House of Representatives to extend these benefits, more Americans slip into poverty. People are not getting rich from unemployment insurance. The average unemployment check in Massachusetts and Ohio and across this country is about \$300, which helps to keep their head above water, avoid foreclosure, put gas in their car, look for work—as they are required to do so they can receive unemployment—and just keep their family going and reduce poverty.

When they don't get unemployment benefits, they are not spending that money in their community. When they

do get these benefits, they are spending money at the local grocery store in Chillicothe, they are going to the local shoe store in Portsmouth or Gallipolis, they are going to the car repair shop in Toledo or Lima. They are putting money in the economy which generates economic activity which grows jobs.

Extending unemployment is not just right for families in Dayton, Akron, Springfield, OH, and Springfield, MA, it is right for the economy because it puts money into the economy and helps to create jobs.

Forget about the statistics. Forget about the numbers—60,000 people in Ohio and 2 million people across the country—and instead listen to what this does for individual lives. I have three or four stories from people around my State. Lori from Montgomery County, which is in southwest Ohio and the Dayton area, writes:

I have worked my entire life, until I lost my job last summer. I now spend 4-5 hours a day looking for jobs, but the positions in my field are limited.

I'm told I'm either over or under qualified. My unemployment benefits aren't much, but it's enough to keep a roof over my head, and allow me to make car payments, so that when I did get a job interview, I have a car to get me there. Please don't let me down.

Robert from Belmont County, which is on the West Virginia line near the Ohio River in eastern Ohio, writes:

I lost my job in 2012 when my employer, a steel mill, shut down. I was unemployed for more than a year before finding another position.

I was there for two and a half months before being let go due to the down economy—not enough time for a new claim to get me by.

I have a family to support and now that the extension is gone, what am I to do until I find a good job to support my family? Do the right thing. Many lives are depending on it.

The first person said, "Please don't let me down," and the second person from Belmont County said, "Do the right thing."

Scott from Union County, which is in central Ohio where they are doing a little better overall but still going through tough times, writes:

I was laid off from my job at the beginning of this year. I had only been there for six months, and it was a godsend for me.

I don't have a college degree, but I was given a chance to show I could do this job, even though a degree was required.

We went through a round of layoffs in October. My job was saved at the time, but then our company closed its doors in January.

Now I have nothing.

Zero income. Zero outside help, and a non-existing savings—not because I didn't save, but because I didn't make enough money to save anything the last few years.

I joined the military out of high school, and used my GI Bill to put myself through some college. But soon enough, I was just in a mountain of debt from school, and needed to work full-time.

I wasn't able to save money because I couldn't afford to pay my student loan debt.

While I'm writing you, I'm sitting here watching my son play, and he is so happy. But he doesn't know why his dad is so sad—nor should he ever.

I am begging you to get this figured out soon.

These are veterans and people who have struggled and worked all their lives. They are people who have never had it easy, but they do what is asked of them. As President Clinton used to say, they play by the rules. They take personal responsibility for their lives.

The Senate, because of the filibuster, has turned its back on these workers. The House of Representatives, because of its indifference, has shrugged these workers off. It is wrong. It is important that this Congress—the House and the Senate—pass the extension of unemployment. The President eagerly awaits signing this legislation because it will matter to workers in Middletown, Ravenna, Mansfield, and Shelby, OH. This legislation is important not only to my State but all over this country.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I applaud my colleague from Ohio for his stories from his home State on the families who have been dramatically impacted by the broken bridge between a lost job and the next job. Indeed, in my home State there are about 26,000 folks who are affected in this manner. We can think of it as the space between two jobs, as a chasm—a chasm that threatens the success of every family. They are hoping to make their payment on their light bill. They are hoping to make their rent payment or their mortgage payment. But they have to make it to that next job, and savings run thin, particularly when savings are very hard to come by when our economy is generating fewer and fewer living-wage jobs.

In the last recession of 2008, 60 percent of the jobs lost were living-wage jobs. But of the jobs we are getting back, only 40 percent are living-wage jobs. Indeed, that means millions of families have gone from a strong foundation—the ability to raise children, to buy a modest home, perhaps take an annual vacation, perhaps to save a little bit of money to help send their kids to college—to struggling and chasing minimum wage or near minimum wage jobs, part-time jobs, and jobs that often have no benefits. All of those wrestling with this situation aren't going to have a big pile of savings to get from one position to the next.

That is why, during periods of high unemployment, we have created a longer unemployment insurance bridge to get them successfully to that next job. When people fall into the chasm between one job and the next, it is not just the family that is hurt; it is not just the worker who is hurt. Our entire society is impacted. It is impacted in

several ways. First we have the situation where people go through foreclosure, and that is devastating to the family, devastating to the children, and certainly it also impacts the value of every home on the street. We have the situation of families who lose their home, who lose their rental home and become homeless. It isn't just the parents who are impacted. The children are deeply impacted, and they go through a traumatic event. That is certainly a terrible situation to endure and mal effects throughout. Indeed, of those 26,000 families in Oregon, right now there is a couple sitting at their kitchen table trying to figure out just how many meals they are going to skip in order to make their next rent payment, or they are struggling with how long they can defer a health care bill while they make their mortgage payment. These are tough decisions.

This is why we developed a bipartisan agreement under President Bush that during periods of high unemployment, we would have a longer bridge to the next job. The logic is very simple. The logic is that during periods of high unemployment, the average time between jobs is longer and the chasm is wider, so people need a longer bridge to get there. This is a program that automatically pulls itself back in, retires itself, as the unemployment rate drops. As the unemployment rate drops, the number of extra weeks become fewer and fewer. That is why there is so much logic behind it. That is why there was no partisan divide.

Today we are going to vote, again, on whether to keep this logical, bipartisan, self-retiring, critical bridge in place, and I hope we have a broad bipartisan vote to support it. Then we need to say to the House of Representatives: This is not another bill we can lock in the basement and throw away the key. This is a fundamental piece of legislation that affects the welfare of our families, the health of our economy, the strength of our communities, and it merits a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives. It is certainly a reasonable expectation that everyone in America should see where their Congressman or their Congresswoman stands on such a vital economic strategy for individual families and for the broader community.

So let us not disappoint those 26,000 families in Oregon. Let us not disappoint those 1.7 million families across America that have counted on problem-solving common sense rather than partisan warfare to address this issue.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the substitute amendment No. 2874 to H.R. 3979, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Harry Reid, Jack Reed, Patrick J. Leahy, Thomas R. Carper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Harkin, Cory A. Booker, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Barbara Boxer, Angus S. King, Jr., Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Bernard Sanders.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 2874 to H.R. 3979, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 61, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 96 Leg.]

YEAS—61

Ayotte	Heinrich	Nelson
Baldwin	Heitkamp	Portman
Begich	Heller	Pryor
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Rockefeller
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Kirk	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	
Harkin	Murray	

NAYS—38

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Chambliss	Hoeben	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cornyn	Lee	Vitter
Crapo	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—1

Cruz

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote the yeas are 61 and the nays are 38. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked on amendment No. 2874, the motion to commit falls as being inconsistent with cloture.

The Chair further announces that amendment Nos. 2878, 2877, and 2876 also fall as they were not in order to be offered and their pendency is inconsistent with the Senate's precedents with respect to the offering of amendments, their number, degree, and kind. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Before we can have a real debate on how to fix the U.S. economy, which is experiencing the slowest recovery following a recession of any time since World War II, we have to agree on what the problem is and what we are actually trying to solve.

On this side of the aisle, we believe the problem is a shortage of full-time jobs, and we believe our main economic priority should be to facilitate or to create circumstances under which the private sector can create more full-time jobs. That is why we have offered a series of amendments to the pending legislation that would help do that. It would help grow the economy and help get people back to work—not just pay people who are, unfortunately, unemployed but actually help create jobs so they can find work and help provide for their families, which is what the vast majority of people want to do.

Currently, we have pending about 70 different amendments from this side of the aisle that would actually improve the underlying legislation. Among other things, our amendments would repeal job-killing taxes, improve congressional safeguards against overregulation, and restore the traditional 40-hour workweek, which is a particular subject of concern to organized labor, which recently sent a letter to the White House and said that ObamaCare was incentivizing employers to take full-time work and make it part-time work. They called it a nightmare.

We also need to modernize our work-training programs. I have traveled to a number of locations in Texas, for example, where, as a result of the shale gas renaissance, we have had a number

of manufacturing companies move back onshore because of this inexpensive energy supply, creating thousands of new jobs, and there are thousands more to come.

Thank goodness our community colleges are working with industry in these areas because what we find is that when people graduate from high school or maybe even college, they don't necessarily have the skills to qualify for these good, high-paying jobs. If there is one aspect we ought to all be able to agree on, it is that we need to modernize our work-training programs so that we can help people gain those skills so they can earn a good income as a result.

We also need to expedite natural gas exports, and that is not only for economic reasons and job-creating reasons at home. We have seen Russia using natural gas—and the stranglehold it has on Ukraine—as a weapon. One of the things we can do to help the people of Ukraine and to help our allies in Europe is to provide a long-term source of energy through another route other than through Russian pipelines.

We also should approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, which will complete this pipeline from Canada all the way across the United States. The terminus would be in southeast Texas, where that oil would be refined into gasoline and jet fuel and create a lot of jobs in the process. Then we need to consider proposals that would incentivize American businesses, small and large, to hire veterans.

I have been discussing these amendments all week, and I have been calling on the majority leader to allow these amendments to come to the floor and to provide an opportunity for a vote. As I said, there are now currently more than 70 different amendments and ideas that have been filed that are just waiting on the majority leader, who is the one who basically has complete discretion over whether or not those votes will actually occur. We have been imploring him to allow a vote on these amendments, but it appears—and I don't know if there is really any other conclusion you can draw—the majority leader has a different priority. His top priority, it appears, is for show votes on bills that either aren't going to go anywhere, because they are not going to be taken up by the House of Representatives, or that really treat the symptom rather than solve the underlying problem.

As we read in the New York Times and elsewhere, it is the intention of the majority leader and the Democratic leadership in the Senate to schedule a series of show votes that basically are designed to change the subject from the failed policies of this administration—notably ObamaCare. Of course, one of those is going to be to make it easier for the trial bar to file class action lawsuits when it comes to gender

pay disparity, something that is already against the law. The majority leader and his allies are going to lift the cap on damages and subject small and large businesses alike to class action lawsuits.

You don't have to take my word for it. All you have to do is read the New York Times. Here is what they reported last week:

The proposals have little chance of passing. But Democrats concede that making new laws is not really the point. Rather, they are trying to force Republicans to vote against them.

For that matter, the majority leader himself has acknowledged that these ideas were developed in collaboration with the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, the political arm of our Democrat friends in the Senate.

So it is pretty clear what is happening here. This is not a majority leader—or a majority, for that matter—in search of solutions to the problems that plague our country, particularly slow economic growth and high joblessness, and the highest percentage of people who have dropped out of the workforce since World War II. This has nothing to do with helping the American people. What it does have to do with is making proposals that would actually make the economy worse.

For example, the Congressional Budget Office said the proposed minimum wage increase—a 40-percent increase in the minimum wage—would likely destroy ½ million to 1 million jobs because the money has to come from somewhere. Small businesses, if they are going to be forced to pay 40 percent more for their workforce, are going to have to cut somewhere else, and what they are going to cut is jobs.

Needless to say, notwithstanding the fact that we are seeing the majority leader and the majority party engaged in pure political posturing, what they are actually proposing is going to make things worse, not better.

There is also the so-called Paycheck Fairness Act, which really should be called the “Trial Lawyers Bonanza” bill. This is nothing more than a gift to the trial bar. As I said earlier, gender-based pay discrimination was outlawed a half century ago. It is illegal already. President Obama, more recently, signed something called the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act just a few days after taking office in January of 2009. Here is what he said at that time. In 2009, he said that the Ledbetter act “ensures equal pay for equal work.”

If that is true—and I believe it is—then why offer this additional legislation, unless it is purely a political exercise designed to posture and perhaps distract people from the things they are upset about, such as ObamaCare, leading into the midterm elections. We are now being told that unless we pass the so-called Paycheck Fairness Act, or the “Trial Lawyer Giveaway,” em-

ployers will be able to discriminate against women. Well, that is nonsense. That is not true. I don't know how you can say it any more strongly other than to call it the lie that it is.

Even before the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act equal pay for equal work has been the law of the land since the 1960s. As the Wall Street Journal once observed, the Paycheck Fairness Act should really be called the “Trial Lawyer Paycheck Act” because that is who would benefit from this bill were it to become the law of the land.

Of course, as I mentioned a moment ago, the majority leader doesn't really expect this to pass. It is part of this false narrative we have heard before, and we are going to hear it again, that somehow this is really about fairness and gender discrimination, when it is about nothing of the kind. It is solely about politics. It really is a cynical attempt to distract people from what are the most important things we could do as a Senate, which is, again, to create circumstances under which the economy would grow and jobs would be created by the private sector so people could find work and they could provide for their families. That is what we ought to be doing.

Our Democratic friends claim this political agenda they announced last week, in conjunction with the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, is all about giving Americans a fair shot. Yet the majority leader is refusing to give them a fair shot at finding a full-time job, and he is refusing to give my constituents in Texas—26 million of them—an opportunity to get some of their ideas heard and voted on on the Senate Floor.

As I said once, and I will say it again, there are more than 70 different amendments that have been filed to this underlying legislation that would actually provide a solution rather than a political stunt which will do nothing to solve the underlying problem. The purpose of these amendments is to help millions of people who remain unemployed or underemployed, including the 3.8 million Americans who have been unemployed for more than 6 months—3.8 million Americans out of work for more than 6 months.

This legislation does nothing to help those people, other than perhaps to help pay them for a period of time they are continuing unsuccessfully to find work. There are also 7.2 million Americans who are working part-time who would like to work full time.

If the majority leader wants to argue our amendments are a bad idea, let him do it. We will have that debate on the merits. If he wants to promote alternative options for growing the economy and creating jobs, we will be happy to consider those and perhaps even agree with him on some of them. But to simply refuse to allow a vote on these 70-some-odd amendments is a

profound insult, not to us but to our constituents and the millions of Americans who continue to suffer through the longest period of high unemployment since the Great Depression.

We can do better. We need to do better. The American people deserve better than this cheap political stunt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, we have before us a bipartisan piece of legislation designed to provide very limited assistance to millions of Americans who have lost their unemployment compensation benefits. On December 28, the long-term unemployment insurance benefits terminated. At that point it was 1.3 million Americans; today it is 2.3 million Americans, and it is growing.

Since December 28, we have, on a bipartisan basis, been endeavoring to bring to this floor for a final vote a 5-month extension, some of which—in fact, with each passing day more of which—is retroactive rather than prospective. This bill is designed to help people.

In fact, this bill will provide them the benefits they were receiving based upon their work record because the only way you can receive unemployment insurance benefits is to lose a job through no fault of your own and continue to search for a job.

These are working Americans. The benefits we are talking about are roughly \$300 a week. What does that do? For some people it helps them keep their home. It pays the rent. For some others it provides food for their families. For others it provides them the ability to have a cell phone that is plugged in, literally, because they need one when they get, they hope, the offer for a job interview or for a job. So contrary to doing nothing to help Americans, this does a great deal for people who have earned these benefits through their toil and effort and their continued efforts to look for jobs.

We have an obligation, a great obligation to increase the growth in this country, and to do it in a way that will allow people to find jobs. In my home State of Rhode Island, there are at least two applicants for every job—in many cases, three applicants. There is a disconnect in many cases between the skills they have had over decades of work and the skills that employers are looking for today. And we have to address that.

But, to prevent this legislation from going through is to deny millions of working Americans the support they need to get through a very difficult period. That is why, on a bipartisan basis, we have come together. We have 5 months fully paid for. This is a fiscally sound piece of legislation which benefits men and women across this country based upon their work record. I

don't think there is a more important thing we can do at this moment, and to delay it would be a disservice to the people.

I think something else is important too. When we talk about economic growth, let us recognize this legislation will help growth in the United States. There have been estimates if we had a full-year extension of the unemployment insurance program it would generate 200,000 jobs. Those are significant numbers. That is roughly about 1 month's job growth over the last several years. If we don't do this, then we won't get that growth.

So not only is this a fundamentally sound, fair, and thoughtful thing to do for millions of American families, it is also good for our economy. It does provide the growth my colleagues are talking about when they say we have to grow this economy.

There is much more that we could do. Many of my Republican colleagues, who have come to provide their insights and support, have suggested longer term ways in which we could deal with the unemployment crisis—better training programs, et cetera. Indeed, we have a bipartisan Workforce Investment Act reauthorization that is in the HELP Committee that I hope we can get to the floor quickly because we have to reform our overall job training program in this country. As I go out and talk to businessmen and women in Rhode Island, they say there is a disconnect between the skill set many people have and the skills they need for their workplace.

There is another aspect of this situation. The long-term unemployed numbers in this country today are twice as high as they are typically when we have ended unemployment benefits previously. We have a significant problem and a growing problem of the long-term unemployed.

Again, we will wait for the data to be conclusive and decisive, but my sense is, going back to Rhode Island, many of these individuals are in their middle ages—they are 40 and 50 years old. They have worked for 20 years. They have good work records, but the skills that employers are looking for right now are not immediately those skills that they have. Of course, there are job training options available, but all of these things require support. Again, if you are juggling family responsibilities and trying to get job training, that \$300 a week benefit check you have earned through your previous work is very helpful as you prepare yourself for a new job.

This legislation can't be delayed any longer. This is not about some political demonstration or some political messaging point; this is about getting aid and assistance to 2.3 million Americans today. And that number will grow with each passing day. It is about helping people who earned this benefit through their work.

I can't think of anything more important that we can do—and do it in a timely and prompt manner. That is why I hope we can move forward as quickly as possible on a bipartisan basis with fully paid for legislation which is fiscally responsible, which will provide assistance for millions of deserving Americans and in addition provide further stimulus to our economy.

A final point. Why does this provide a stimulus to the economy? Because these types of benefits go to a former worker, someone looking for work, and they go right back in the economy. This is not a sophisticated tax break that will allow someone to put some money aside for a rainy day. This goes right to the families, right to the economy—to the local grocery store, to the local gas station for the repairs of a car, to pay for daycare that is necessary for children—to do those things that will go right back and stimulate further growth in our economy.

For reasons both of fundamental fairness and individual recognition that these people deserve a break in a tough economy and the very real fact that this dramatically benefits our overall economy, I think we have to move.

I am pleased and proud that we have had the support of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to move forward procedurally. I hope we can finish this debate promptly, move this over to the House, and then begin to work with the House so they recognize the same reality that on a bipartisan basis we have recognized here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, yesterday President Obama held an event at the White House to talk about his health care law. The President said:

The debate over repealing this law is over—the Affordable Care Act is here to stay.

That is what President Obama said yesterday. Of course, last October President Obama said his health care law was “the law of the land.” Then he went ahead and changed or delayed the law more than 20 times after that—on his own, without coming to Congress. If it is the law of the land, how does he get to change the law of the land 20 times?

Back on March 6, President Obama said the Democrats' health care law is “working the way it should.” Well, if the law is working the way it should, why do people in Wyoming keep telling me how bad the law is for them personally?

Just the other day I heard from a woman in Rawlins, WY. She wrote:

My husband has been self-employed at a small truck driving company servicing the oil and gas fields in [Wyoming] for over 13 years. We have always purchased individual healthcare coverage for our family of five. We currently pay \$906.87 for that coverage.

She said:

The lowest priced ACA Bronze plan will increase our premium to \$1359 per month, an increase of \$452 per month—an amount we cannot currently absorb. This is not affordable. Why is [President] Obama doing this to us?

That is a good question. Why are Democrats here in Washington doing this to families such as this woman's family in Wyoming? Why does President Obama think his law is working the way it should?

Well, the Senate Democratic majority leader, Senator REID, said here on the floor of the Senate back on February 26 that the law is going great. The majority leader said, "Despite all the good news, there's plenty of horror stories being told." He went on to say: "All are untrue, but they're being told all over America."

"All are untrue," he said here on the floor.

The majority leader added that all of the stories were "made up from whole cloth, lies distorted by the Republicans to grab headlines or make political advertisements."

Why does Senator REID think this woman in Rawlins, WY, is making up a story out of whole cloth?

Remember, the President also said that if you like your insurance, you can keep it. He said that if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. He said people's health care costs were going to be \$2,500 lower by now. So the President has said a lot of things that turned out not to be accurate. Now the President says his health care law is here to stay.

Given the President's history, I think it is fair to get a second opinion. As a doctor who has practiced medicine for 25 years, taking care of families in Wyoming, I come to the floor to tell you that I bring my medical experience, along with my colleague's experience, Senator TOM COBURN from Oklahoma. He and I have put together a report that looks at some of the promises Democrats have made about the law and some of the things Republicans have said about it. The report is called "Prognosis." It came out April 2014 and is available today on Senator COBURN's Web site at www.coburn.senate.gov or on my site at www.barrasso.senate.gov.

What we have done is come out with a report going through three different previous reports that, as doctors, we have put out watching the health care law as it has been developing. Each of the reports—one called "Bad Medicine," one called "Grim Diagnosis," and one called "Warning: Side Effects"—was released between 2010 and 2012. We grade ourselves now on how the predictions we have made over the last 4 years have turned out.

In the first prediction we made—report No. 1, "Bad Medicine"—we warned that millions of Americans could lose their health insurance plans.

The headlines all across the country show that over 5 million Americans did, in fact, get letters that they lost their health insurance plan—health insurance which they liked, which worked for them, something they chose and they lost because the President said it wasn't good enough. He said he knew more about what they needed for themselves and their families than they did. So we predicted 4 years ago that millions would lose their health insurance plans, and millions did.

We warned that the law's new mandates would increase health costs and obviously increase the cost of insurance. That original diagnosis is confirmed as well.

Like the letter I just read from the family in Rawlins, WY, families all across Wyoming and all across the country are seeing incredible increases in the cost of their insurance. They are paying more, and in their opinion they are getting worse insurance—the President said better; I say worse—because they are having to pay for a lot of things that they don't need, don't want, and will never use. Yet the President says he knows better than they do about what kind of insurance they need and what is best for them and their families. They are also being faced with higher copays, higher deductibles, and higher out-of-pocket costs.

We warned additionally that short-term fixes threaten seniors' long-term access to care.

That is actually exactly what happened. The health care law took \$500 billion out of the Medicare Program—a program to take care of our seniors—not to strengthen Medicare, not to help our seniors, but to start a whole new government program for other people. For those 14 million Americans on Medicare Advantage, a program for which there are advantages—preventive care, coordinated care, things one would want—well, that has been dramatically hurt by the President's decision to take money away from the very popular Medicare Advantage plan.

We warned that patients with pre-existing conditions would still face care restrictions.

I listened to the President's speech. I read editorials written by colleagues on the other side of the aisle as recently as last week that said people with preexisting conditions are all being protected. That is not true. We know of patients who because of their condition have had to leave the State in which they live to get specialty care in other States. And when they lost their insurance and bought insurance through the plans of their State, their children with cystic fibrosis seeking specialty care in Boston are excluded from doing that under the plan because the insurance was bought in the State in which they live and the insurance they got did not cover any out-of-State physicians. So children have been hurt

by the President's health care law, and we can identify those young victims of the President's health care law.

We warned that the individual mandate would fail with the IRS as an enforcer.

The IRS even admits they don't have a whole mechanism put together to make sure the mandate to fine Americans for not buying a government-approved product would be collected by the IRS.

We warned that new IRS taxes would harm small businesses.

That initial diagnosis is now confirmed. Small businesses are impacted all across the country by additional expenses and costs, making it much harder for them to provide insurance to their workers. Many looking at this are saying that it might be cheaper to pay the fine than to do what we would like to do and have done in the past, which is provide insurance that worked for those employers and their employees but perhaps doesn't meet the President's recommendations of what many people say is much more insurance than they will ever need, want, use, or can afford.

The second report we came out with a number of years ago is called "Grim Diagnosis." In that, we went through a number of concerns we had about the health care law after the initial report "Bad Medicine."

"Grim Diagnosis" provided warnings that the employer mandate would lower incomes and result in hundreds of thousands of jobs being lost.

We are still watching that one very carefully because we do know that with the employer mandate, there have been stories of businesses with 50 employees saying: We are going to have to get below 50. We are not going to hire more people. We have to get below that number.

The President is working to maybe make that a higher number, but no matter where that number line is drawn, people are finding that from a business standpoint, there are advantages to being below a certain number of employees and then not having to comply with the expensive mandates of the law.

We warned that the law included a risky insurance scheme that would cost taxpayers dearly.

That original diagnosis is confirmed as well with something called the CLASS Act. Folks who looked at it carefully on both sides of the aisle called it a Ponzi scheme—a Ponzi scheme—that would never work, could not be afforded. They said it was something Bernie Madoff would even be proud of. Yet the Democrats forced it into the health care law in spite of warnings against it.

Our final report was called "Warning: Side Effects," released in 2012. We started talking about the side effects of the health care law. We warned that

the law includes hundreds of billions of dollars of tax hikes.

Well, that has been confirmed. All one has to do is look at the list of new taxes brought on by the health care law. It goes on and on with one new tax after another. These are taxes on real people that get passed on to others if they are applied to a business, totaling \$1 trillion in gross tax increases over the next 10 years, from 2013 to 2022.

We warned that the new insurance cooperatives would waste taxpayer dollars.

That is exactly what this report confirms. It goes State by State, where we see significant wasting of money, as reported in the Washington Post and in USA TODAY.

We warned that the medical device tax would stifle innovation.

That original diagnosis has been confirmed as well. We see the medical device tax, which, when we talked about it as part of a budget amendment, there was bipartisan support for repealing it. Why aren't we voting to repeal it when it matters, when we could actually get this repealed? The Senate majority leader continues to block a vote on that.

So I come to the floor, the day after the President held his "mission accomplished" speech at the White House, to say that the prognosis for this health care law continues to be grim, the points we have made throughout continue to be true, and the people all across the country are experiencing it day-to-day.

They are experiencing it in their lives. They are experiencing it when they try to continue health insurance that works for their family. They are paying more out of pocket. Their premiums are higher. They may not be able to keep the doctor they had and liked. They may not be able to go to the hospital they had gone to previously.

It is interesting that in the State of New Hampshire where there are 28 hospitals, 10 of them are excluded—10 of the 28 hospitals in the State of New Hampshire are excluded—from the insurance being offered on that State's exchange to be sold in that State. Even the doctor who is the chief of staff of one of those hospitals—well, her insurance does not permit her to go to the very hospital where she is the chief of staff. Is this what the Democrats had in mind when they passed this health care law, people paying more in premiums, people losing their doctors, not having access to the hospitals in their community, higher copays, higher deductibles? That is what the American people are facing.

It is time for the President of the United States to acknowledge the pain that his health care law has caused people across the country. I know he watches the polls, and the polls continue to show that for every one person

who says they may have been helped by the health care law there are more than two people who say they have been harmed.

People knew we needed health care reform in this country, and they knew the reason. People knew what they wanted. They wanted the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs.

This health care law has failed to deliver to the American people what they wanted, what they asked for, and instead is trying to deal day-to-day with something the Democrats in this Senate and in the House shoved down the throats of the American people.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 30 minutes as if in morning business and to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from Maine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I come to the floor again today to talk about good jobs and how we can work together in a responsible and bipartisan way to create high-quality and lasting middle-class jobs. All of us hear from our home States about how they want us to work together to produce for America today and America tomorrow.

As someone who worked for 8 years for a manufacturing company in the private sector before going into public service, I can tell you we can win in manufacturing. We can learn from our competitors, we can strengthen our workforce, we can strengthen our access to foreign markets, and we can strengthen our access to credit. We can do all of it and we can compete and win in advanced manufacturing in the United States.

One of the aspects of my own experience in the private sector that has stayed with me is that more of our manufacturing employment was in Germany than any other single country, and that often seems unlikely given that Germany actually has higher labor costs, labor protections, environmental protections, and in many ways a higher cost of doing business than almost any other advanced country. So how is it possible they are so successful? In fact, more than twice the percentage of their GDP is in manufacturing than is the case in the United States.

Why would we fight for manufacturing jobs? Why would we fight to

emulate Germany's example? Because manufacturing jobs are great jobs. As the Presiding Officer and our colleague from Maine know, manufacturing jobs are high skill, high wage, high benefit, and have a positive impact on their surrounding community. They also need something. They need ongoing R&D, cutting-edge research, continuous improvement and innovations in order to remain at the cutting edge of productivity.

What we are going to talk about on the floor today is a bill that learns from the lessons of our most successful European competitor, Germany. Germany has more than 60 manufacturing hubs located all over their country. These manufacturing hubs are in places where universities are doing cutting-edge technical research and companies are beginning to deploy these new technologies in manufacturing and the workforce that are needed to acquire the skills to be successful in these new areas of manufacturing all work in coordination. That is something we can, by working in a bipartisan way here in this Senate, advance, and advance rapidly, here in the United States.

The Senator from Maine and I are going to talk about a bill—the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act—which has 14 cosponsors and is an indication of its broad base of bipartisan support. It has long been led by Senators BROWN of Ohio and BLUNT of Missouri, a bipartisan team, and to that they have added a great initial leadership team with Senator STABENOW, Senator LEVIN, Senator REED, and Senator SCHUMER, all Democrats, as well as Senator GRAHAM, Senator KIRK, Senator COLLINS, Senator WICKER, and Senator BOOZMAN, all Republicans. Most recently our wonderful colleague, Senator ANGUS KING of Maine, an Independent, has joined us.

This bill has been endorsed by folks ranging from the National Association of Manufacturers to the U.S. Conference of Mayors to the United Auto Workers, and many more organizations at the national and local level, which is another indicator of how diverse its support is from across the country and many different sectors. This is a bill I have reason to hope can not just get a lot of endorsements from the private sector and not just a lot of endorsements from cosponsors here in the Senate but can actually move through regular order to be taken up and considered by the committee of jurisdiction, to be taken up here on the floor, and actually signed into law by the President of the United States. I am hopeful that could happen partly because this is good policy.

There are already a number of hubs that have been established by Federal agencies spending money that has already been authorized and appropriated for specific research areas where the

Department of Energy and the Department of Defense need to do work to develop cutting-edge manufacturing capacity in the United States.

I think if this law gets taken up on a bipartisan basis and is improved, refined, and debated in committee and here on the floor, we actually have a shot at advancing a process that will be wide open and will allow elements of the Federal Government, in partnership with the private sector, to leverage cutting-edge research and deploy whole new technologies across this country.

I am excited by it, and I know my colleague is as well. I will briefly state why Senator KING is a great colleague to join all of us who have served as sponsors on this bill. He has previously worked in the private sector in clean energy. He has previously served as the Governor of the State of Maine and worked closely with the University of Maine and has a sense of how publicly funded research at a cutting-edge university, investment in workforce skills, and the deployment of new and innovative technologies in clean energy can work together to grow manufacturing, grow job opportunities, and grow our economy.

I invite my colleague to address his experience in Maine and why he has joined this broad group of cosponsors on this promising and bipartisan manufacturing bill.

Mr. KING. I thank my colleague from Delaware for his leadership on this issue. He has been indefatigable. He has been very strong on this issue. I think it is one of the most important issues that faces us.

I am not an economist; I am a country lawyer from Maine, but one of the things I know about any economy is you can't build an economy by taking in each other's laundry. Somebody somewhere has to make something, and that is the basis of wealth creation. Somehow in the 1980s, 1990s, and the early part of this century, we sort of lost sight of that and manufacturing took an enormous hit. We lost 32 percent of our manufacturing jobs in the decade from 2000 to 2010. We lost 42,000 factories—not people, 42,000 factories. Manufacturing was literally withering away in this country.

I think a lot of people sort of wrung their hands and said: Oh, well, I guess that is just the way of the world. It is all going to Asia, China, and Mexico. It is going to low-wage countries, and that is just the way it works.

The problem is, as my colleague from Delaware pointed out, Germany has gone in the opposite direction, and their country has the same standard of living, the same labor standards, the same employment cost levels, and yet 20 percent of their economy is based upon manufacturing; whereas, it is only 10 or 11 percent in this country. So that tells me it is not impossible. It

tells me there is an opportunity here and that we can't just lay back and say: Well, I guess that is going to go away. Woe is us. That is never the way to seize the future.

Why do it? The Senator from Delaware said it: Better pay. In Maine, in looking at the data, employees in manufacturing on average make twice as much as employees in other areas—twice as much. There is a tremendous difference in pay, and of course a better difference in benefits. There is also a bigger multiplier for manufacturing. Manufacturing creates more jobs down the line and around a manufacturing facility. It is important for national security.

We are in danger of losing our industrial base, which is part of our national security infrastructure. If we can no longer make things—whether it is destroyers at Bath Iron Works or jet airplanes or uniforms or boots or other things that are necessary to support our national security apparatus—we are in trouble, and that is a danger to our country. That is a national security danger because if we are dependent upon other countries that may or may not be our friends for essential components of our national security infrastructure, that is a very dangerous and risky place to be. That is not often talked about, but the maintenance of manufacturing jobs in the United States is a critical part of our industrial base and a part of our national security strategy.

Manufacturing allows for more exporting. It brings money into our country. Eighty-three percent of the exports from Maine come out of the manufacturing sector, and that is bringing money into our country rather than sending it out to other countries.

Also, I think it is very important to remember that this is a way of dealing with what I think is one of the most serious issues of our time, which is income inequality. It is the widening gap between those at the top and those at the bottom, and what is really a concern is the stagnation, and, in fact, the decline of the American middle class.

Manufacturing was the path into the middle class for our parents and grandparents. The manufacturing resurgence after World War II—by the way, part of that resurgence was based upon the GI bill, probably the greatest economic development program ever fostered by any government anywhere in the world—which helped to create the middle class is in danger. One of the ways to preserve and strengthen the middle class—and to deal with this problem of income inequality—is more manufacturing and more of those good jobs.

This is the 100th anniversary of one of the most amazing and transformative actions in American corporate history. The year was 1914 when Henry Ford doubled the pay of all of his workers. Everybody was aston-

ished. His competitors were aghast. The advocates of unbridled capitalism said: How can he do this? Henry Ford was a genius in many ways. But one of his insights was he wanted his workers to be able to buy his products, and one of the problems in our economy today is a lack of demand. The people of the middle class don't have enough income to buy the products and it becomes a downward spiral. It is a lack of demand that is truly at the heart of the weakness of the current economy, and it is because people don't have good enough jobs and they are not being paid enough.

Henry Ford realized if he paid his workers more—and, by the way, that munificent sum in 1914 was \$5 a day, but it was a doubling of what the rate of pay was everywhere else in American society at that time. That was a huge breakthrough intellectually, economically, and socially for this country.

OK. We talked about the losses. There is some good news. In the last 2½ years we have gained 500,000 jobs. We lost 6 million in that decade, but now we have gained 500,000 back. So something is happening. A lot of different things are happening. The low price of natural gas I think is helping to rejuvenate manufacturing. I know it is in Maine. I think there is more innovation happening around the country. People are realizing—I have talked to manufacturers who have been offshore and have come back because they said the offshore factory was a little cheaper, the labor costs were less, but the hassle factor was higher, and what I have learned is I can control costs, I can control transportation, I can control time limits better if the manufacturing is in the United States.

So what do we do? What do we do if we want to increase manufacturing? We can't wave a wand here in Washington. We can't say, well, go out and create jobs. We have to create an atmosphere where we can create jobs.

When my little girl Molly, who is not so little anymore, was in the third grade, I used to teach her things with pneumonics. I would say the three Xs or the three Ys or whatever. In this case, if she were here and she were still in the third grade, I would say it is the four Ps, Molly. It is the four Ps that are going to make this happen. The first is a plan. Nothing happens without a strategy or a vision or a plan. This bill has a vision of how to link innovation and the American economy and manufacturing in such a way as to create and rejuvenate this sector. A plan—we have to start with a plan or a vision.

The second P is partnerships, and this bill is based on partnerships. Nothing good happens without partnerships. It is based upon linking the academic world with the manufacturing world with government; putting those partnerships together, mostly universities

and manufacturing, to create innovation, to create new jobs, to create new ways of building wealth. We don't have to look much further than Silicon Valley in California. That is a perfect example of a natural born innovation hub built around several knowledge factories: Stanford University, University of California, University of San Francisco. Knowledge factories, together with manufacturers, created one of the greatest hotbeds—probably the greatest hotbed—of innovation, creativity, and new wealth creation in the history of this country and perhaps in the history of the world. We want to create these kinds of hubs all over the country, putting together the academic community and the business community to develop the capacity for innovation and creativity.

I should mention—it is not part of this bill, but the other thing I think we have to do a lot of thinking about is the skills gap. I got a call right after my election from a chamber of commerce director in southern Maine and he said: Senator, we want you to come down and talk about jobs.

I said: Oh, OK. I will. And I was prepared to talk about how to create jobs and add jobs.

He said: No, no, it is not that. The problem is we have 500 jobs and we can't fill them. These are good-paying jobs in manufacturing, and we can't fill them because the people we need aren't available with the skills we need. There is a mismatch.

I believe one of the things we have to do around here is think hard about all the programs—I think there are something like 59 different Federal job training programs—how to integrate them, coordinate them, and focus them on business-ready jobs, not 10-years-ago jobs but the jobs of today. Therefore, I think the coordination and cooperation between business and the job training infrastructure has to be much closer than it is today.

That gets me to S. 1468. I think it is a wonderful idea. One of the best parts of it is that it is bipartisan. This is an idea that is supported—SHERROD BROWN and ROY BLUNT were the spearheads of it, and then we have people such as ROGER WICKER, the Senator from Mississippi, and the Senator from Delaware; we have a good bipartisan group from around the country geographically and across party lines. This is what we have to do. Why is it so important? Because what drives new manufacturing jobs is innovation.

When I was Governor of Maine, somebody gave me a cap and on it it said "innovate or die." Bill Gates once famously said: Every product we make today is going to be obsolete in 5 years. The only question is whether we make it obsolete or someone else does.

Innovation is the heart of this economy. That is why we have to put together the knowledge factories with

the production factories—the knowledge factories, the universities, such as the University of Maine, that has the advanced composites lab that has created amazing new ways to deal with composites. One of their creations is the bridge and a backpack. The bridge and a backpack is a composite system which I have seen in action. They are long tubes made of fiberglass. You spread the tubes out, fill them with concrete, mold them into the shape you want, and in about 3 or 4 days you have a bridge, and you put the deck over it. It is a wonderful system. It came out of the University of Maine and now it is being used across the country.

The other piece I like about this is that it isn't a government program. Government is the catalyst, the convener, the pulling together of these hubs, and that is, I think, our function. We shouldn't be doing it. We shouldn't be steering it, but we should be launching it, and that is what this bill is all about. Does it solve all the problems of manufacturing? Of course not. There are dozens of things we have to do in order to support this industry, whether it is tax reform, job training or innovation hubs and more support for R&D. All of those we have to do, but I think this is one of the most important, and we don't have to guess about it. It works in Germany. They have twice the role for manufacturing in their economy as we do. It works. So let's see what we can do here with the same idea.

I compliment the Senator from Delaware and the others who have led this bill, and I am delighted to be able to tag along. I think this is a great idea. It truly can make a difference, and I think we will see that difference in the coming years.

I yield the floor.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Maine for sharing his personal experience both as Governor and for his work and partnership with the University of Maine and their composites center and his understanding of the importance of a modern, skilled workforce in order to take advantage of the work we are hoping to catalyze through this bill.

I wish to summarize across three large areas. This bill, if enacted, would take advantage of linkages, leverage, and labor in a way that would grow lasting middle-class jobs. All of us want to work together to find a way to give American workers and families a fair shot, to give them a fair shot at the kind of middle-class quality of life that dominated over the last 50 years. As my colleague said, it was because of the GI bill and its investment in education, it was because of innovation and competitiveness, and it was because of a skilled workforce that we were able to dominate the world in manufacturing for much of the last 50

years of the last century. If we are to seize this moment and regain our global leadership not just in the productivity sector of our manufacturing but also in the base, in the employment of our manufacturing, we have to do the sorts of things this bill imagines.

We have research being done in national labs, in federally funded national labs—fundamental research. That is wonderful. We have applied research on composites being done at the University of Delaware and at the University of Maine and every other State university that does higher research. We have manufacturers trying to take advantage of new technologies and new opportunities. This bill will link them all together to create regional hubs that allow the researchers, the private sector, and the new employees to all come together.

It also, as my colleague mentioned, leverages private sector funds. Every one of the four hubs announced to date is a more than a 1-to-1 match; 2 or 4 or, in one case, 8-to-1 match of private sector dollars to public sector dollars.

Last, it invests heavily in training and in skills and making sure the workforce is ready as these new technologies get out there.

I wish to describe the reach of some of these linkages and partnerships for a moment. Let me take a second and take a walking tour, if I could, of the four hubs that have been finalized so far.

For example, the one in Youngstown, OH, deals with 3D manufacturing. This is a relatively new, cutting-edge technology that radically alters the scale of early stage manufacturing and what is possible in terms of prototyping, and then, I think fairly soon, what is possible in terms of customized, unit-by-unit manufacturing. It has enormous promise. But if we are going to stay competitive globally in manufacturing, when there is something new invented in the United States, we have to also make sure it is made in the United States. So this is the sort of hub that makes that possible.

There are four hubs, and I will mention them briefly: the one in Ohio, the one in Raleigh, NC, the one in Detroit, and the one in Chicago. But they don't just engage the universities and the workforce and the companies right in that immediate community. They benefit from national networks. For example, General Dynamics and Honeywell are two of the very large national footprint firms partnering with the Youngstown hub. Universities from Arizona State to Florida State are collaborating in the wide bandgap semiconductor work in Raleigh, NC. Researchers from the University of Kentucky, the University of Tennessee, Notre Dame, and Ohio State are partners with the hub that is in Detroit. There are researchers from Boulder, Indiana, Notre Dame, Louisville, Iowa,

Nebraska, UT, Austin, and Wisconsin that are partnering with the hub in Chicago.

So what are these hubs? Are they just some diffuse academic teams that share names and a little bit of data with each other? No. If there were, for example, to be a hub in Maine on composites, we would find researchers at the University of Delaware who have done great work in composites and companies doing work in composites partnering with the fundamental research being done, let's say, hypothetically, at the University of Maine, and learning about how to deploy that new technology in ways that would benefit the local workforce and the local manufacturers.

That is why there is so much leverage coming out of these linkages. That is why these hubs have been so generative and so powerful in Germany's experience. It is a way to harness our Federal investment in research by the national labs and by State universities with the energy of the private sector and the capacity of our manufacturers to relentlessly innovate.

We have a very broad menu of bipartisan manufacturing bills that have been taken up and discussed in this Chamber. This one—this manufacturing hubs bill—has some of the broadest support and I think some of the best reasons for it to be considered in committee and taken up on this floor later this spring. It is my real hope our colleagues will join us in doing so.

Let me yield back to my colleague from Maine.

Mr. KING. I like the Senator's suggestion of a hub in Maine involving composites. Could we write that in the bill? I wouldn't object to that amendment.

Mr. COONS. If there is a footnote that says "and Delaware."

Mr. KING. I think this is such an important idea, and in my comments I outlined how we get here. We start with a vision or a plan which the bill entails, and we start with partnerships, which is truly the essence of the bill, but there are two more pieces. There are two more Ps. One is perseverance. Any Member of this body knows about perseverance. That is what this place is all about. We have to stick to it. We have to not take no for an answer. We have to listen to our colleagues to find out how they feel about the bill and try to form a consensus and then move this bill through.

Last Friday was the 100th birthday of Ed Muskie of Maine. Ed Muskie was the father of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. Talk about perseverance. He spent 2 years, hundreds of hearings, hundreds of hours of markup and ended up with that bill passing the Senate unanimously—unanimously. That is a monument to perseverance.

Normally, I would say those are the three Ps: plan, partnership, and perse-

verance, but I think there is one more, and I am sure my colleague from Delaware agrees with me.

Nothing is going to happen without passion. We have to care about this. The people of America have to care about this. We have to say that this is something we are going to do. We are going to rebuild the manufacturing centers that made this country what it was—a sector that made this country what it was. We are going to have to do it with passion and commitment. I believe this bill is an opportunity to restart that process.

It will, and as I mentioned earlier, it can change us and provide benefits everywhere from higher wages to better national security to a stronger middle class. A plan, a partnership, perseverance, and passion—that is what changes the world.

Mr. COONS. I thank my colleague for joining me in this colloquy on manufacturing, both broadly and more specifically on this bill. I am grateful for the leadership that Senator STABENOW and Senator GRAHAM, as the cochairs of the Senate Manufacturing Caucus, have shown on this particular bill and the passion and the perseverance that Senators BROWN and BLUNT have shown in bringing this great idea into legislative form and in advancing it.

There are so many other bills that we can and should take up that will bring strength and vitality to the American manufacturing sector. But it is my real hope that S. 1468, the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act will be the next in a series of important bipartisan manufacturing bills that we will take up to make sure we are doing our job to help grow high quality American jobs.

I yield the floor.

REINSTATED AMENDMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair was in error in striking down amendments Nos. 2877 and 2878. Those amendments are reinstated.

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. Kaine. Madam President, I rise to talk a little bit today about the Affordable Care Act and its benefit to America's women. I want to thank Senators MURPHY, BOXER, and WHITEHOUSE who have organized a few of us to come to the floor today. They will be on the floor later this afternoon.

But with so much discussion in the news about the recent completion of the March enrollment period—over 7 million people enrolled in the Affordable Care Act through the exchanges—I feel it is a good time to look at some of the benefits of the ACA, but also where there is more work to do.

I know the Presiding Officer has been very focused on "where there is more work to do." I applaud the Presiding Officer for that. I will talk about some of those issues as well. But first, let me start with a couple of Virginia stories because we hear stories from our con-

stituents about the Affordable Care Act.

There is a 27-year-old woman in Charlottesville who was diagnosed with uterine cancer. Before the ACA, her previous insurance plan refused to cover her surgery because cancer was a preexisting condition. She is now enrolled in a health plan under the ACA, and her doctor and hospital where she is planning the surgery were confirmed to be in the provider network.

In Alexandria, VA, there is a woman by the name of Aqualyn Laury. She is 43 years old. She suffered a stroke and a heart attack at a young age and had been on a preexisting condition insurance plan that was extremely expensive for some time. With her coverage scheduled to end, Aqualyn recently enrolled in coverage through the health insurance marketplace. She found a plan through the marketplace with a reputable company with a premium of approximately \$245 a month, with copays and deductibles that were easy to understand.

Angelette Harrell from Norfolk was able to purchase a plan on the exchange. Now, she had a problem with ACA because she could not work the Web site. But she did not give up. She called the phone number. She was able to find a plan that is \$85 a month with a tax credit. She works in a care facility for adults with autism. She says she could not afford a plan that would have been \$280 a month without the tax credit. Because she is under 200 percent of the poverty level, she gets a credit, and she gets a plan for \$85 a month. That makes her a more reliable employee. She said: "It felt great. I finally got insured."

She was able to enroll. I will tell a story about another great Virginia woman, my wife, and her experience with the Affordable Care Act. We had to buy insurance on the open market for the first time as a family in the summer of 2012. Like any good husband who wants to get something done right, I asked my wife to do it.

My wife comparison shopped with a couple of insurance companies. Two insurance companies told my wife: We can give you insurance, but we can only give you insurance for four of your five family members because of preexisting conditions—one because of me and one because of one of my kids. We have to be about the healthiest family in the United States. The only hospitalizations our family of five have ever had are the three times for child birth for my wife.

Yet insurance companies told her when she called in that we—boy, I tell you, do not tell my wife we can insure four of your five family members—an important safety tip. They told her that. She said: That is now against the law.

The company said: No, it is not. This is what we do.

Well, talk to your supervisor and call me back. It is against the law.

The company had to call back in both instances within a few hours and say: You are right. It is against the law. Here is a quote for your entire family.

The ACA is helping women and families in all circumstances, people who are working in low-income jobs and cannot afford insurance or people who are well off like me but need protection from the former practice of denying people for preexisting conditions.

Here are some ways the ACA works for women in particular. The law eliminates the ability of insurers to charge higher rates due to gender. Do you know that the unfair practice of charging women more, a gender rating system, was resulting in women in this country paying \$1 billion more in annual premiums than men prior to the passing of the ACA. That is now illegal. Nearly 30 million women are receiving free coverage for comprehensive women's preventive services, including diabetes, cancer screening, contraception, and family planning. That is an important benefit for women.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, both women and men are free from lifetime annual limits on insurance coverage in 10 essential health benefits, like hospital visits and prescription drugs. It is not only about health, the ACA is also helping the financial health of women and families. Insurance companies under the ACA are now subject to a national rate review provision if they want to increase premiums higher than 10 percent. In 2012 alone, those rate reviews saved 6.8 million Americans an estimated \$1.2 billion in premiums just in 1 year.

Insurance companies are also required to spend their premium dollars in a smart way. They have to spend at least 80 percent of premium dollars on patient care and quality improvement. That is at least 85 percent for large insurers. In 2013—just in calendar year 2013—8.5 million Americans received rebates averaging \$100 per family because of this particular provision.

An estimated 3.1 million young Americans are able to stay on family policies—that is also affecting my family in a positive way—up until age 26. Families with incomes between 100 and 400 percent of the poverty line are eligible for tax credits. So as an example, a family of four in Virginia making \$50,000 can access a health plan with premiums as low as \$48 a month—health care for your family for less than your cell phone bill, for less than your cable bill. This is remarkable. Plans are required to limit family's out-of-pocket health care costs to less than \$12,700 a year.

Like the Presiding Officer, I am a fixer; I am not a repealer. I think there are a lot of fixings that are still needed in the Affordable Care Act and, frank-

ly, in our health care system generally, not just in the ACA. There is more that we can do to make the ACA work better for women and families.

Medicaid expansion is an example, a critical step that my State, Virginia, has yet to take. Without Medicaid expansion, uninsured women will face a coverage gap. With Medicaid expansion, over 400,000 Virginians will receive health care coverage. The ACA was designed to provide subsidies and tax credits to individuals and families who are making between 138 and 400 percent of the poverty level. But without Medicaid expansion, it is these families—working people—who remain uninsured.

We also have to work on some proposals to continue to improve affordability and choice for all consumers. The Presiding Officer has led an effort with others to put a number of positive reforms on the table. Let me mention a couple that I am very excited about: The Expanded Consumer Choice Act, S. 1729, would create a new tier of coverage, copper plans, and would give people shopping for health insurance more options to meet their family's needs.

Everybody's financial and health situation is different. So more options are great because that gives people more ability to meet their particular needs. That is a very important piece of legislation. The Presiding Officer played a leadership role in it.

I supported expanding the small business tax credit to incentivize more businesses to participate in the tax credit program, to make it easier to access and easier for the small businesses to use. One I am particularly focused on is that we need to close the family glitch loophole. That is not a technical term, the family glitch loophole. The Affordable Care Act says an employee is eligible for subsidized health coverage through the new exchanges if their employer does not offer "affordable coverage", which is defined as more than 9.5 percent of the employee's household income.

But the way the law is written, the affordability definition only applies to the price for the employee, not for the family coverage that an employer may offer. So if an employer does not offer affordable family coverage, there is no eligibility for a subsidy for that particular very important coverage, since most people's families are covered through their employer plan. I think that is an important thing we should fix.

So look. There are plenty of things to fix. There are plenty of things about our health care system outside of the Affordable Care Act that we ought to be focusing on and fixing. But repealing the Affordable Care Act, as some colleagues in this body and in the House continue to advocate, would mean turning back on all of these ad-

vances: Letting women be discriminated against because of gender, letting families be turned away because of preexisting conditions, saying to folks: Do not worry, you are not going to get a rebate; we can charge whatever premium we want.

The last thing we need to do is repeal the ACA or to go into the homes of nearly 10 million Americans who have received coverage and yank that coverage back from them and put them back out into the wilderness of the individual market where they were not protected before. What we need to do is to be embrace the good and embrace the fixes to make it better. That is what I certainly intend to do working with my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Madam President, I appreciate the comments of the Senator from Virginia. I think they were timely and important. I wanted to add one note. The Senator and I were in a hearing yesterday in the Budget Committee with three eminent economists—one was a Noble Prize winner—talking about income inequality and the status of our economy and where we are going.

But there was one aspect of the Affordable Care Act that came up in a discussion that really has gotten essentially no play whatsoever, no discussion in the press or in the media. I think in the long run it may turn out to be one of the most important aspects of the Affordable Care Act. It came home to me 2 weeks ago. Every Wednesday morning I have a coffee in my office here in the Senate office building for anybody from Maine that happens to be in town, whatever reason they are here, whether they are touring or have business in Washington. They can come in and have some blueberry muffins and some Maine coffee.

I met a couple there. The woman, in talking to us—she was down touring and everything. She said: By the way, thanks for supporting the Affordable Care Act.

I said: Oh, well, that is great. I appreciate that. Why do you say that?

She said: Because I have been in a job for a number of years that I do not like. But I could not leave it because it was how I got my health insurance. My husband does not have health insurance. So I had to stay in the job in order to keep the health insurance. She said: Now under the Affordable Care Act, I have an option to get health insurance at a reasonable price so I can leave this job and start my own business.

After I had this discussion, I did a little research. It turns out there is an economic term for this. It is called job lock. All over the country there are thousands, perhaps even millions, of people who are locked into a job where

they are not feeling very appreciated, where they are not really enjoying it, where they are not expressing their productivity and their talents fully because they could not leave their insurance.

Now they can. There is a lot of talk around here about job creators. The job creators are the people that start businesses, the entrepreneurs. Those are the job creators. This is going to lead to an explosion of new businesses, of people who do not have to stay in the job that they are in simply because of their health insurance but have the option to go out and start a business of their own because they can get their health insurance at a reasonable price through the Affordable Care Act.

So there is a lot to discuss about the Affordable Care Act. But this is one of the aspects of it that has been underappreciated. As the years go on, we are going to see a decrease in people uninsured—which we are already starting to see—and we are going to see an increase in small businesses because people no longer have to stay in their jobs simply to maintain their insurance.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. HATCH. I rise to speak once again about the process we have been following in the Senate when it comes to major pieces of legislation.

The Senate has been called the world's greatest deliberative body. However, if you look at how it operates these days, I don't think anyone would say that anymore unless they were being sarcastic. We no longer have real debate. Most bills don't go through committee, where they can be refined and improved.

When the Senate Democratic leadership decides to bring a bill to the floor, far more often than not we are blocked from offering any amendments. The unemployment insurance legislation before us today is a good example. Republicans have filed dozens of amendments to this bill. Some of them would definitely improve the UI legislation. Others would address the underlying problems that have led some to call for another extension of Federal unemployment benefits—namely, the stagnant growth in our economy and jobs. Yet it appears that none of these amendments will get a vote because the Senate Democratic leadership has decided it is more important to protect their Members from having to take difficult votes than it is to actually legislate.

I filed several amendments. Two of them in particular would help to create jobs and prevent further job losses. One of those amendments would repeal the ObamaCare tax on medical devices. We had 79 votes for that. Yet we can't get a vehicle that will put it through. The House will overwhelmingly vote for it. Yet we can't even get time on the floor

to take care of it. That shouldn't even be considered controversial. Indeed, a large majority of Senators have already voted in favor of repealing this job-killing tax and protecting an important American industry—I should say important American industries because there are a lot of industries in this area. Repeal of the medical device tax has bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate, as I have mentioned.

I have another amendment that would repeal the ObamaCare employer mandate. On the face of this, this may seem more controversial, but it shouldn't be. After all, the Obama administration has already delayed the mandate for 2 years. If the mandate is so harmful that the administration is afraid to let it go into effect, why don't we simply do away with it altogether and ensure that it doesn't kill any more jobs?

These are reasonable amendments. They deserve a vote. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer my amendment No. 2905.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, reserving my right to object, the underlying emergency bipartisan legislation is critical to helping 2.7 million Americans, and I would hope we could expeditiously move to that legislation. Therefore, I would object to the unanimous consent request by the distinguished Senator from Utah with respect to his amendment No. 2905.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. HATCH. You can imagine how disappointed I am in that.

I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer my amendment No. 2906.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, the same logic—given the emergency nature of the legislation before us, I would urge immediate action. Therefore, I would object to the senior Senator's unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, the Senate didn't used to operate this way.

I have been to the floor many times over the past few years to talk about the deterioration of the Senate procedures under the current majority and to call for a return to the deliberative traditions of this Chamber. Many of my colleagues on this side of the aisle have done the same. Sadly, it appears our calls have fallen on deaf ears.

I have been in the Senate a long time, and I have never seen it worse than it is right now. There have been some very rough times in the Senate

over the years, but I have never seen it worse. Over the past number of years, the majority has called up a bill and then immediately filed cloture as if we were filibustering, when we don't have any intention to filibuster. All we want is to be able to call up amendments. But, in addition to filing cloture, the majority will fill the tree, making impossible for anyone to call up an amendment.

Frankly, this is not the way to run the Senate.

All I can say is that the Senate is not being run the way it should be run.

I have no objection to filling the tree after a full and extended debate when people have an opportunity to bring up their amendments, full-blooded Senators here on the floor, who have the right to bring up those amendments.

I have no problem with amendments that I totally disagree with being brought up, but you can't even do that most of the time on these bills unless, basically, the leadership on the Democratic side approves. Until recently, this body has always had the position that we can call up germane and non-germane amendments. That is what makes this body great. It is what has given it such prestige over the years. Now, with it being run this way, we've just become a rubberstamp for the leadership. That can work both ways. I think it is a bad thing to do. However, the principle has been started and the precedent has been set.

I lament this because I have been here long enough to see some of the greatest debates in the history of the Senate done right here on this floor. Some were initiated by Democrats who wanted their right to be able to bring up everything and to really have it debated—whether it was germane or non-germane—and assert their rights on the floor. Others were brought up by Republicans filing amendments that Democrats didn't like. But the Democratic leadership in the past acknowledged that, my gosh, you have the right to do that in the most deliberative body in the world. But we have made it anything but the most deliberative body in the world with this type of procedure.

It is my hope that the Republicans will be able to take over the Senate in 2014. Perhaps that won't happen, but I would like to see it happen. If it does, I think my friends on the other side are going to feel very badly if this same type of maneuvering is done to prevent them from bringing up the amendments they would like to bring up. But, I personally believe that, with Republicans in the majority, we would get back to the regular order that the rules were before these types of shenanigans took place.

This is important stuff, and there is a lot of concern on our side regarding how the Senate is currently being run. As the most senior Republican in this

body, I understand those feelings. I have them too.

It is wrong, certainly not right, and we need to change this. We need to make it back to the most deliberative body in the world. Should we do that, I think everybody here will breathe a sigh of relief and say: My gosh, each side will have these rights restored that have been so distorted during the last number of years.

I am sorry I couldn't get these two amendments. One of them was the medical device tax repeal. We brought it up before during the debate over the budget. Seventy-nine of our colleagues—79 of us—voted for that amendment. It was a bipartisan vote, a vote that had tremendous leadership on the Democratic side through the distinguished Senator from Minnesota, Senator KLOBUCHAR, who has been a wonderful leader on that issue. If it wasn't bipartisan, maybe I would understand it, but it is not only bipartisan, it is crucial to all of the medical device companies throughout the United States that have set the standard for the whole world.

We are going to get that passed sooner or later, but in the meantime we are having medical device companies leaving the United States because of that stupid gross tax on gross sales, if you can believe it. There is only one reason it was put into the health care legislation, and that was because they needed about \$30 billion—with a “b”—for ObamaCare. It was basically a phony approach to come up with \$30 billion that has deliberately hurt one of the greatest budding industries in America.

I can't think of a more stupid tax than one that taxes the gross sales of these companies. That is a dangerous, debilitating, disgusting, wrongful tax. Yet we can't even get a vehicle over here to put it on—the other body would pass it quickly—so that we can get rid of it.

All I can say is that I am very disappointed, but I do understand how this body works.

With that, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, the numbers are in—over 7 million Americans have enrolled through the health exchanges around the Nation.

When we passed the Affordable Care Act 4 years ago, projections were that we would hit the 7 million mark of enrollees at the close of the first year of enrollment. We have exceeded those numbers. We have exceeded those num-

bers even though we had a very rough rollout of the exchanges and people were frustrated when they couldn't get information as quickly as they wanted. But Americans wanted insurance, and they knew they could get affordable coverage, so they stuck with it and now we know that, in fact, over 7 million have enrolled.

When we see the final numbers, those numbers are going to go up because there were a lot of people in the process of signing up online on March 31 and the processing has not been completed. So we will see more. Plus, we have the Medicaid expansion, which is going to bring millions more with health insurance coverage than we had before.

Over the last 4 years we have seen incredible progress and help going out to all Americans with their health coverage and their health costs. No longer do we have preexisting conditions. A family who has a child with asthma doesn't have to worry whether that asthma will be considered a preexisting condition to full coverage. A woman does not have to worry about having a child being a preexisting condition to full coverage. Parents can keep their adult children on their insurance policies until the age of 26. There are no longer any caps on insurance. Many Americans thought they had insurance coverage only to go through a serious illness and find their insurance had a cap that did not cover all the expenses. No longer do families have to worry about being forced into bankruptcy because of an illness or an injury.

Our seniors now have much stronger coverage under Medicare, with preventive care covered without any deductibles. Prescription drug coverage is now more complete with that so-called doughnut hole—that coverage gap—being filled. And the solvency of the Medicare trust fund has been extended by a decade.

Small business owners have a choice of the types of plans they want. They do not have to worry about one person in their employment getting sick during the year and causing an astronomical increase in their premiums. They also have help and affordability in paying for their health insurance for their employees.

Community health centers have been expanded and offer such coverage as prenatal care. In my own State of Maryland we are seeing the low birth weight baby numbers declining and infant mortality rates going down. We are now providing more pediatric dental services within the community. That is all as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

So we now have passed the March 31 date and the first year of enrollment. Many Americans now have affordable quality health care and a choice. They have a good product at a reasonable cost.

Everybody hears the numbers, but I want to go through a few—and I have literally hundreds—of the letters I have received from real people whose real lives have been affected. They are one of those 7.1 million people, and we could read millions of accounts just like this. This is from Dr. Michael L. of Cecil County in a letter to the Baltimore Sun. He said:

My wife and I would like to thank President Barack Obama for helping us save almost \$4,000 a year on health care. I am 61 years old with a preexisting condition of asthma, which is under control with medication. Yet before the Affordable Care Act, my insurance company felt it necessary to charge me 25 percent more for my insurance coverage. I'm sure there are many others like myself with preexisting conditions who will see a savings on their coverage. The public should know that since Fox News and the GOP would have us believe ObamaCare helps no one and will cost everyone more.

This is from Colleen F. of Anne Arundel County, and she posted on our Facebook.

Senator—I am 26 years old and have been on COBRA paying \$570 a month for coverage because of a pre-existing condition—asthma. I want to thank you for fighting for the ACA!! I applied recently . . . and was accepted into the program. I now pay \$243 a month with a \$500 deductible! Thank you thank you thank you! Affordable health care is a human right—thank you for fighting on my behalf!

Kelly “M” wrote:

I have a new plan. I haven't had insurance for years. When I applied for insurance before, I was denied for pre-existing conditions, even for plans with huge deductibles. I signed up on the Maryland Healthcare Exchange back in October, and by January 1st, I was holding an insurance card from Carefirst Blueshield and have already had my first doctor's appointment. It works. I am proof. And I'm so grateful that I can take care of myself with dignity without having to go to the ER whenever I'm sick or have to spend half my paycheck at an urgent care center. I can do all of the preventative measures that I have been putting off, and get back on the road to health. It's a good feeling.

Pam S. of Frederick County, MD, wrote:

My daughter and I met with a Navigator from the “Door to HealthCare” . . . to discuss applying for health care. We had been having problems with the enrollment process. I had been paying for a separate plan for her and now she is paying \$55 less per month. Now my daughter gets to have a comprehensive plan, cheaper than before and without any interruption on her coverage. Thank you!

Ryan, from Prince George's County, has aged out of her parents' insurance. Ryan was suffering from asthma and a sinus infection, but she was unable to afford a doctor's visit on her own. After attending a local Affordable Care Act information session, she logged onto the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and was able to go through the entire process and pick an affordable health plan. She is now insured and able to get the treatment she needs.

Ryan is 26 years old. Those under 26 can be on their parents' policy. We talk about young people who think they will never need insurance. I was in downtown Baltimore over the weekend at a fair where we were enrolling people in the Affordable Care Act. I saw many people of Ryan's age—young people over 26 years of age, who were there to find out whether this was right for them. When they left, they held an insurance card. They had enrolled because they found out how reasonable the price was for a young person to get comprehensive coverage.

I have quite a few more, and maybe on a later date I will come back and read some of the other letters I have received. But the point I want to bring up is we have fundamentally changed the health care system from a system that was basically a sick system—only if you got sick, figured out how to pay your bills, maybe you went through bankruptcy—to a health care system where we keep people healthy, where we provide for comprehensive preventive health care so people can stay out of emergency rooms and hospitals.

Yes, we have benefited those who had no health insurance. Millions of people now have coverage who didn't have coverage before the Affordable Care Act. We have brought them into the system. They don't have to fear bankruptcy. They can take care of themselves, and they can do it in a more cost-effective way for all of us.

We have helped our seniors. No question about it. They now have more comprehensive benefits, and they have a system that is on a more stable financial footing.

But we also have helped those who already had insurance. We have helped them by giving them a better product, by making sure the premiums insurance companies charge are used for patients' benefits and not excessive profits. They must spend 80 to 85 percent; otherwise, they have to give a rebate.

We have gotten people out of the emergency room. I was asked on C-SPAN today: Well, aren't we helping the providers? After all, people who go to hospitals now are more likely to pay their bills. Absolutely right. But guess who paid for that uncompensated care. Those of us who had insurance. Our premiums were higher as a result of people not paying their bills. Well, now they are going to be paying their bills. First of all, they are going to stay out of the hospital which will save us all money. But if they need to be in the hospital, they will have the insurance coverage to pay for it.

The Affordable Care Act has worked for all of us by bringing down the growth rate of health care costs, by making the system more efficient. Today I think we can acknowledge the fundamentals are sound. People are taking advantage of it. We hope, as we go forward, more and more will.

One final point. When Medicare Part D was passed and we projected the number of seniors who would take advantage of it, we hit about 70 percent of our projection in the first year. On the Affordable Care Act and the health exchanges, we are over 100 percent. This program is working. People know it. The more they know about it, the more they like what they see.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I rise today to speak about a critical disaster relief bill I recently introduced here in the Senate.

In the West, we have a saying that "Mother Nature bats last." For millions of Americans, that saying is a reminder that often entire communities are at the mercy of the raw force of nature and natural disasters. Sadly, we are reminded of this truism every year with wildfires in the West, hurricanes in the South, and ice storms along the Atlantic seaboard. The devastating and tragic mudslides that have recently devastated Oso, WA, are the latest example.

First, and most importantly, I wish to express my deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of this tragedy in Washington State. I assure the people of Washington that Coloradans stand ready to assist in whatever way we can with a recovery process we know all too well ourselves. We are all in this together.

In times of disasters such as these, I believe there are no Democrats or Republicans. We put aside partisan divides to unite in the face of tragedy. When confronted by these dire situations, we stand united to support our fellow Americans who have been shaken by the destructive forces of Mother Nature.

When the Northeast was rocked by Superstorm Sandy in 2012, a majority of the Congress stood together to fund relief and recovery efforts, not because it benefited their State or because they expected anything in return, but because it was simply the right thing to do. Similarly, when Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast in 2005, we united to support our fellow Americans who lost their homes and livelihoods in the hurricane and its aftermath. And when ice jams just last year caused the Yukon River to spill its banks, flooding Galena, AK, and the surrounding towns, Congress stood as one to provide aid and assistance for those in need.

My State too has felt the pain of destructive and unprecedented natural disasters in recent years. In fact, many parts of Colorado are still reeling from the September 2013 floods that resulted in 10 deaths, washed away homes and businesses, and literally redrew the map across parts of my State. In my travels to places such as Evans, Jamestown, and Estes Park, I witnessed first-

hand how thousands were impacted by this disaster, which spanned 200 square miles and 15 counties.

Fortunately, in spite of a destructive and partisan government shutdown that forced all of us to scramble just days after the flooding, many of the 18,000 evacuees in my State have returned home and are working on rebuilding their lives and their communities. This is thanks to the assistance from Federal and State agencies, including important relief funding made possible by the Superstorm Sandy relief package we passed here in Congress in a bipartisan manner.

In sum, we in Colorado are on the road to recovery thanks to the tremendous efforts of thousands of people, including many of our colleagues here in the Senate. But as my colleagues who have dealt with their own natural disasters know all too well, the initial relief efforts are only the first step.

Looking ahead over the next couple of months, Colorado—like many other Western States—may be facing another round of devastating floods, wildfires, and mudslides. Why? Colorado, like Washington, has received an above-average snowpack this year. We have more snow than normal and we are expecting 127 percent of average snowmelt this spring. So when we combine this increased snowpack and the impending spring runoff with streambeds still jammed full of debris, crumbling riverbanks, and waterways that the flood rerouted out of their original path, Colorado still has a recipe for disaster on our hands.

I will share a photograph of what happened in one of our communities. We can see the culvert washed out, the vehicles embedded in the cobbles and sand and boulders of the riverbed. The riverbed itself was completely rerouted during the flooding when it took out the road in that particular area. The good news is, as we look at the potential for additional disaster, we have the power here in Congress to confront the disaster before it has a chance to occur.

I wish to speak to the history of what Congress did. Congress recognized the importance of stabilizing waterbanks, preventing soil erosion, and clearing debris from waterways back in 1978 through the Agricultural Credit Act. As part of that important law, Congress authorized the Emergency Watershed Protection Program—or EWP for short. As many of my colleagues know well, EWP provides critical disaster relief assistance for families and communities which have suffered severe damages from flood, fire, drought, or other natural disasters.

The EWP Program focuses on funding critical emergency recovery measures for runoff mitigation and erosion prevention that will relieve imminent hazards to life and property presented by natural disasters. Protecting and repairing these watersheds, wherever

they may be, is critical in preventing the type of erosion that leads to massive mudslides and future disasters.

Unfortunately, even though our country is rocked by these natural disasters every year, the critical EWP Program does not receive consistent funding. The sporadic and inconsistent way we fund it—via ad hoc supplemental bills—has created a backlog in need of over \$120 million nationally.

For my colleagues in the Chamber who may not immediately recognize the importance of EWP and the program attached to it, let me make clear that there are 14 States which have projects left unfunded because of this backlog, meaning there are up to 28 Senators who could see relief in their home States if we pass this bill.

This backlog is unacceptable. It is preventing us from funding dozens of projects that can help reduce the frequency and severity of mudslides, projects that can protect our watersheds, and projects that can save lives.

So with this in mind, I rise today to ask this Congress to come together yet again and pass legislation, which I introduced last week, supporting a more permanent funding stream for the EWP Program. I have introduced the bill with my home State colleague, Senator BENNET, and it has been cosponsored by the senior Senator from Washington, PATTY MURRAY.

It will not cost a dime, but it will finally change the way we structurally fund the EWP Program by creating a common, unified account to provide support to families and communities around the country.

This commonsense legislation would also free up dollars that have already been appropriated in the past but have not been used. Unlocking these dollars will not create additional spending but will infuse this newly created account with seed funding to begin clearing out the backlog and helping States such as Colorado finance critical projects that can save lives.

Moving forward, my bill sets up a system where appropriators and States impacted in the future can ensure that every dollar made available to the EWP Program is used when needed, and put back into this important, permanent fund when it is not, reducing the threat and the cost of future disasters.

As an avid outdoorsman, I am well aware of the dangers presented by the forces of nature. I have been a longtime supporter of EWP and its vital relief efforts. The importance of this program was only further emphasized to me last September when boulders, water, and debris came roaring through Eldorado Canyon, which is just a short mile from my home, and there were scenes like this as well near my home.

It has become very clear that every moment we spend trying to piece together ad hoc funding for this program every year—after these disasters have

already occurred—is another moment that could be spent rebuilding the homes and the livelihoods of Americans who have been struck by Mother Nature.

Americans should not be forced to wonder or worry about partisan divides undermining their ability to access critical resources and services. They shouldn't have to face the uncertainty of whether Congress will pass supplemental funding to support their families and communities after a devastating event such as the one we see here that forever changes their lives. And they certainly shouldn't have to wait for Congress in order to access essential and proven services from the EWP Program when a disaster leaves their homes and communities in shambles. Unfortunately, some in this Congress have shown that they are incapable of rising above partisan posturing to help those in need. The reckless partisanship of these individuals nearly prevented us from passing a bill to help the storm-ravaged States affected by Hurricane Sandy and kept the government shut down 16 days, even as we in Colorado were struggling to take the important first steps toward recovering from our historic fall flooding.

We cannot let funding as critical as EWP be subjected to this kind of rancor, which is why my bill is so important. That is why it is long past time EWP receives a solid, dependable funding stream. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation, and I look forward to working with Senate appropriators to actively finance this fund for years to come.

With the funding structure created by my bill in place, communities around the country that have been knocked off their feet by brutal and unanticipated disasters will be able to count on this program to immediately help them get back up and onto the road to recovery. This is not only responsible to do, it is right to do.

I wish to briefly touch on a slightly different topic but one that is also very important specifically to Colorado; that is, the national security, economic, and job-boosting potential of exporting liquid natural gas or LNG.

This is a topic which I and many Senators from both sides of the aisle have been talking about over the recent weeks, particularly in light of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and Russia's use of its natural gas exports as a weapon. Russian aggression and its incursion into the Crimean peninsula illustrates precisely the reason we cannot wait any longer to responsibly develop our natural gas reserves and to export this resource abroad.

Unfortunately, new facilities to export LNG are on hold right now waiting for approval at the U.S. Department of Energy. While the Department of Energy approval is only one step in a complex process to construct a new

export facility—a process that includes environmental access and public input—it has become an unacceptable logjam. That is why I introduced a bill a few weeks ago that would break the logjam and pave the way for approval of LNG exports to World Trade Organization nations, in effect approving the pending applications in the queue.

My bill is bipartisan and bicameral, and it would send a signal to international markets that the days of Russia's monopolistic stranglehold on energy supplies is waning. My bill would pave the way for more American jobs and provide a shot in the arm to our economy. That is why I was disappointed to learn that several of my colleagues have decided that another political vote is more important than good policy and decided to push an LNG amendment tied to the approval of the controversial Keystone XL Pipeline.

I voted against both Republican and Democratic Keystone Pipeline amendments because I believe these political votes by both sides only set back progress on the real review process. Tying good LNG policy to a political vote about an unrelated topic doesn't lead to progress on either issue. Instead, it shows the political motivations of those who are deciding to go this route.

My friend from Wyoming, Senator BARRASSO, has a strong bill that would open LNG exports to a targeted group of countries in Europe, which he tried to attach to the Ukraine aid bill. I agreed with that effort. He also filed my bill, which opens LNG more broadly, as an amendment to that same legislation during the Senate Foreign Relations Committee markup. Both of these approaches have bipartisan support, both of them would make a difference, and both of them are worthy of consideration.

So I invite all of us who want to get something done to abandon election or political gains and focus on what matters. We can leverage our natural resources to promote global security, create jobs, and prevent power-hungry leaders such as Putin from using energy supplies as a weapon. Let's get this done and work together to find a real way forward, and let's have a vote.

Madam President, thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I see Senator BLUNT. I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of Senator BLUNT's remarks, I be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer my amendment on this bill, No. 2885.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, because of the emergency nature of the underlying bipartisan bill to aid about 2.7 million Americans, I would object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, let me talk about why I think we should have this and other amendments on this bill.

My friend from Colorado just talked about an amendment that he said he supported last week. Of course, none of us got to support it on the Ukrainian bill because it wasn't allowed to come up, just like on this issue of talking about unemployment extension or the other things that our friends on the other side have announced in a pretty aggressive way that they intend to bring up because they just hope to have a political issue rather than a process that will actually work.

I believe we should have these energy amendments such as the one I am proposing on this bill because getting people back to work and being concerned about people's take-home pay, being concerned about what people get to keep of what they earn is an important part of this whole process.

So the amendment my friend objected to would be an amendment that would make it very difficult—it would establish another hurdle before anyone could have a carbon tax. This amendment is similar to the one I offered during the budget debate this year, and 53 of my colleagues supported it, so a majority of the Members of the Senate are for this but just not the majority it would take in the Senate to get it done.

A carbon tax would force families to pay more at the pump. What is a carbon tax? It is a tax on fuels that have some carbon component, and that means fuels such as gasoline, coal-based electricity, and other fossil fuels. For this component, you would have to pay more at the gas pump, you would have to pay more for your heating, more for your cooling, more for virtually every product we make in America.

The energy bill, the utility bill is a big component of what we make in the country today, and it could be one of our huge advantages in manufacturing and job creation, but we are headed in a direction with our view of energy that is not the most focused on more American energy and that doesn't take advantage of the moment we could be in.

Areas where I live in Missouri, people in the South and Midwest—frankly, from about the middle of Pennsylvania to the western edge of Wyoming—are heavily dependent on coal for electricity. About 50 percent of all the electricity in that vast majority of the land mass of America is from coal. Eighty-two percent of the electricity

produced in Missouri is from coal. There are at least five States that have a higher dependency on coal than we do. If we had a cap-and-trade bill, the estimates are that our bill would have gone up about 40 percent since 2013.

A carbon tax is disproportionately impactful on people who are struggling to get by. If you want to really do things that impact the vulnerable in our society, make the utility bill higher. If you want to really do things that impact the vulnerable in our society who are looking for work, make it harder to put those jobs in the United States of America.

About 40 million U.S. households that currently earn less than \$30,000 per year spend almost 20 percent of their income already on energy. Why would we want that percentage to be higher. What you make is not nearly as important as what you are able to use to advance your family. If the utility bill is 30 percent of what you make or 40 percent of what you make instead of 20 percent, obviously the other things you would have done with that money could not have been done.

These are the households that can least afford to have the new energy-efficient refrigerators. These are the last households to get the better windows, the last houses to get more insulation in the ceiling and the walls, the first houses where people have to think about, What room do we shut off this winter because we cannot use all the rooms in the house in the way we would like to? It would be nice to be able to fill up your tank rather than stand at the gas pump and wonder, Can I possibly afford to put more gas in than that pump has already shown on prices that are already too high.

There are lots of amendments on this bill about energy, none of which, I am told, will be allowed, and I think that is a tragedy.

A 2013 study by the National Association of Manufacturers found that the overall effect of a carbon tax on American jobs would be staggering, with a loss of worker income equivalent to about \$13 million and 1.5 million jobs. Why would we want to take that out of our economy when we can not only keep it there, but by enhancing more American energy, we could expand it?

The utility bill is an increasingly important part of job creation. Energy-sensitive industries such as chemicals, auto manufacturing, iron and steel manufacturing, cement, mining, and refining sectors are the hardest hit by a carbon tax, and these sectors would see a big drop in their manufacturing output.

So if we had the kind of debate we ought to have, it would be a debate about how we get people back to work rather than how we continue to extend benefits in a policy that was never intended to have never-ending benefits. This system doesn't work. It doesn't

work for people who pay into the system or draw out of the system if we abuse it.

I think we all know this is not the debate we should be having this week, and I would like to see us have a debate on how we could improve the economy while we deal with this so-called immediate need that we are talking about on the floor instead of the things we ought to be talking about.

I wish to talk for a few minutes about the announcements yesterday about how many people have signed up for the President's health care plan. As I said when the Web site wouldn't work, it is not about whether the Web site works. Frankly, it is not even about how many people sign up. This is about whether this is the right direction for us to go as a country. Is this health care more affordable, and will more people be insured, and will the people who are insured be insured with policies they can afford and coverage they want?

The President, of course, and everybody understands the Web site had its problems. I think we would be really remiss if we decided—if making the Web site work was the test of the program or, frankly, making people sign up was the test of the program.

This debate is not over. It shouldn't be over. We need to continue to look for ways to try to make this work better because I certainly continue to hear from Missourians who tell me that the course they are on is hurting their families, hurting their job opportunities.

The law of unintended consequences appears to be the law here that is most likely to be applied, the unintended consequences of people who are going to work part time, the unintended consequences of people who are looking at a job that used to be a full-time job but now the government said: You don't have to provide benefits unless somebody works 30 hours a week. I guess what the government really said was that you have to provide benefits when they do work 30 hours a week. But people immediately look at that and the society adjusts to that government determination. So suddenly people are working 28 and 29 and 20 hours without benefits where they might have been working those same hours before with some level of benefits or might have—more importantly for their families—been working full time before.

We are going to continue to talk about this law and how it serves people. Let me give a couple of quick examples as I conclude this morning.

I had a person in the office this morning who was here for another purpose. He is a radiologist from Cape Girardeau, MO, and he said he received notice that his insurance was going to go up \$500 a month for the same coverage until the President made the decision to suspend the law, which is a

totally different debate topic, whether the President can do that. But when the President suspended the application of this law, which everybody is supposed to be so excited about, they were able to keep the policy they had for another year, and it was \$500 a month less—\$6,000 a year less for that family.

Here is some information I got today from Sherry in Shelbyville, MO, who said that her 18-year-old son has had cerebral palsy his whole life. They had a medicine that works that allows him to deal with this. Last year a 3-month supply of this particular medicine went from \$125 to \$1,086—almost a \$1,000 increase. But that may or may not be impacted by what is happening with overall health care policies. What was impacted this year was her family's deductible. Their deductible went from \$500 to \$5,000. They were paying \$500 on a 3-month supply of medicine. A 1-year supply of that medicine cost a little over \$4,000. They were paying \$500 of that, and now they are paying all of that.

Her view—which would be the view of most working families—is: We had insurance we could afford, we had insurance that met our needs, and now we are paying \$3,500 more than we were paying. For almost any family, \$300 a month makes a big difference. It particularly makes a difference for families who are struggling and already dealing with a health problem.

Pete from Jackson, MO, receives health care benefits through his employer, but his wife and two children had health insurance through an independent carrier. His wife and children's plan will be dropped November 30 of this year. Their new plan will cost \$1,200 per month instead of \$530 for similar coverage they have right now.

By the way, these are just a few of the letters from the top of the list. If I had more time, I could certainly read more letters.

I have a letter from Greg who is from St. Joseph. His out-of-pocket expenses went from \$2,500 per year to \$10,000 per year. He is paying that by going into his 401(k) retirement plan. If anybody thinks Greg and his family are better off from this new change in the law by paying \$10,000 out of pocket instead of the \$2,500 out of pocket—and he is having to dip into his retirement plan to help pay for his health insurance—I would like to hear from them.

There are people who had insurance before this new law, and although they have insurance now through the exchange, they just happen to be paying in many cases a lot more and have a deductible that is a lot higher. I think that would be a great debate for us to have on the floor now that we know, as a country, what is at stake.

What do we do to be sure the best health care system in the world works better for everybody? How do we make

changes so that those who are outside of the system have a better chance to be a part of that system rather than penalizing everybody who had insurance they thought was working for them?

I yield the floor to my friend from Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the underlying legislation, which is so critical. It is an emergency. On December 28, we stopped extending unemployment benefits for at that point 1.3 million Americans. These are individuals who were working and who are looking for work, since that is the only way you can collect these benefits.

Since that time, they have been without the very modest support that emergency unemployment insurance provides. It provides about \$300 a week. We are trying, on a bipartisan basis, to move this legislation through this body and get it to the House so these people can get some help and support as they continue to look for work.

This legislation will support a program that is vital to 2.7 million Americans, and it is a bipartisan compromise. This is not something that is being jammed through exclusively at the will of the majority. This has been an effort that began months ago. First we worked with Senator HELLER and then other colleagues—Senator COLLINS, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator PORTMAN, and Senator KIRK.

We listened to their suggestions and incorporated them so we could move forward on a bipartisan basis as we have done on so many different topics. We would like to have a vote, move it to the House, and have it signed by the President so we can get the relief, support, and assistance to these Americans. Again, I have to emphasize that they are only qualified for this program because they lost their jobs through no fault of their own, and they are continuing to look for work in a very difficult economy.

The one other thing I wanted to mention, which is very important, is we are building on significant changes to the unemployment compensation laws that were passed in 2012. At that time the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in the House of Representatives, Chairman DAVE CAMP of Michigan, described these as historic reforms. Our goal, as I said many times during the past few weeks and months, and prior to and since the ending of these benefits on December 28, is to find a path forward to a rather straightforward extension of the benefits. Again, this is a temporary extension. It is a 5-month total window, but with each day more of it is retroactive. The reason we wanted to look for a very straightforward proposal is that, first, it would recognize the important changes and

reforms that were made in 2012. Many of the ideas I have seen and heard discussed around here actually were considered thoughtfully in 2012 and incorporated in many cases—not all cases—into the legislation.

The other thing we want to do is make this as administratively feasible as possible to implement by the State agencies. Adding significant changes, such as adding a training component that didn't exist before, not only complicated the implementation, but when you stop and step back, it usually costs money.

One of the underlying premises, particularly from my colleagues who worked with us from the Republican side, is that this whole effort has to be fully funded. This bill is fully offset during this ten year budgetary window. This is paid for, it incorporates the ideas and suggestions from my colleagues on the other side, and it is now time to move for passage.

I recognize there are many issues we could deal with in the Senate. Many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle have come to us with their issues. But to do that would undercut the ability to, in timely manner,—today or I hope tomorrow, but certainly this week—pass this legislation and move forward.

Millions of Americans are facing a crisis. They are out of work and looking for a job. In my State there are probably two applicants for every job, and in many cases there are probably three or four applicants for every job. We also recognize this is a long-term unemployed population that is different in some respects than previous episodes of unemployment. There are indications and suggestions that they are older on average. They are also facing a situation where the economy has been very difficult for many years.

Many of them are homeowners who can't sell their house because of the market so they can't move to an area where there is work. Many of them, particularly if they are middle-aged, have responsibilities to mothers and fathers who may have health issues, and children they have to support. The overall situation is that these individuals are facing a very difficult challenge.

There is a very thoughtful paper by the former chair of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, Alan Krueger, and his colleagues. They described the difficulty of these unemployed Americans in this economy, particularly for the long-term unemployed.

We have seen periods of significant unemployment. I can recall the 1980s, when unemployment hit 10 percent, but normally there is a relatively fast response once the right fiscal and monetary policies are put in place. Some of that was because of the mobility of the American people back then, contrasted

to people who are now tied to their home because they can't sell it, and some of it is due to the relative age of the unemployed back then where the mobility was not as much of a factor as it is today.

We are trying to help these people who have, in many cases, worked for decades and now for the first time find themselves in a very difficult situation.

If you look overall, there are 10.4 million Americans who are out of work but are looking for that job—for that fair shot—so they have a chance to move on and be a part of the American economy. Extending emergency unemployment benefits to these 2.7 million people is just one part of the efforts we have to undertake. No one should be under the impression that this is a solution. No. This is just a response to the incredible need of these very worthwhile Americans who are looking for work.

I do note that this aid is very targeted. I cannot repeat it enough. There is this sort of notion out there that this is sort of a giveaway to people who are undeserving. Well, the benefits are targeted to people who meet very specific criteria and, most importantly, they have to have an adequate work history to be eligible for unemployment insurance in the first place. They have to be workers. We are trying to help workers. They have to have lost their job through no fault of their own—they were laid off. It is not as though they didn't like their job and left, or had problems in the workplace and were not fitting in. These are people who want to work, and they were told they cannot work any longer. They were downsized, they were outsourced—all the 10K euphemisms for saying, "We don't need you anymore." Well, they are important people who want to work, and they have to actively look for work in order to qualify for benefits. This is not an open-ended benefit to individuals who have no end in sight. They are either going to find a job or exhaust these benefits.

One of the reforms we did in 2012, frankly, was to shrink the period of time. Previous to 2012, there were 73 weeks of emergency extended benefits. We shrunk that down to 47 weeks. So this notion that this is an unending, indefinite, long-term benefit to people who don't earn it is completely incorrect.

This program has been in effect for a very long time. Indeed, some form of it has been put in place since 2008 when George W. Bush was the President, when we first started seeing the signs of increasing unemployment. This was in conjunction with the near collapse of many financial institutions, in 2007 and 2008. The housing market was literally coming off the tracks. The consequences for the American economy at that time were probably the most

severe since the Great Depression. One of the ways we have been dealing with these issues began with President Bush, and continuing now with President Obama, is emergency unemployment compensation benefits for Americans.

I think we have to look at and be conscious of all of the facts and data. We are also at a point where we have to recognize there are two programs. There is a State program, which covers the first 26 weeks, and then there is the emergency Federal unemployment benefits program.

This emergency program, in some respects, is becoming much more critical, because what we find now is that the long-term unemployed are probably twice the number you would typically associate with an economy such as ours at the present moment. We have unemployment rates that range from the high—unfortunately Rhode Island is at 9 percent—to the very low. There are some States because of the commodities—particularly energy commodities—that virtually have no unemployment.

At this point we should not see the kind of long-term unemployed we are seeing. The Federal program—not the State program, which is the first 26 weeks—is going to help these people who are particularly struggling. It is a targeted program—very much targeted—but it has an outsized impact. Not only are the workers who are receiving this very modest weekly stipend of roughly \$300 a week able to pay for essentials, but it has a very positive effect on our overall economy.

All of my colleagues are here today saying, listen, not only do we have to help these people, but more importantly, we have to grow this economy. Well, by the way, the legislation we are proposing does both. These emergency benefits have been repeatedly analyzed by economists, and they have been determined to provide a significantly greater bang for the buck than many other programs being talked about today on the floor that are being suggested as alternatives or complements to what we are talking about. That is why the Congressional Budget Office, in a very modest and conservative analysis, projected that if we fail to extend these emergency benefits through 2014—through the whole year—it would cost our economy 200,000 jobs. So those people who are opposing these benefits are basically saying we are not interested in at least part of these 200,000 jobs.

It is not, as they often say, rocket science. What happens to this money is it goes to a family who desperately needs it immediately to repair the car, to buy groceries, to take care of the necessities of life. So this money is not going to be put aside for a rainy day. It is not going to be exported overseas for a venture some place. It is going to be

used locally in the economy—at the grocery store, at the service station, at the dry cleaners, and to pay for the cell phone so a person can stay in touch to see if they get that job and if they are offered a job. That effect of immediately putting money in the economy immediately generates more economic activity. It is the fact that at the local coffee shop a person will come in and get a cup of coffee and maybe be able to afford something else too. That goes to the ability of that local coffee shop to keep some more people on to work the counters. It has a cumulative effect.

The economists have measured it, and it is much more than the dollars we are putting into it. It has a multiplier effect. So what we are doing is not only providing the necessary support for these deserving families; we are providing an injection of economic activity into our economy—precisely what all of my colleagues are saying we have to do. Let's do it. We can do it. We are very close. On a bipartisan basis, we are hopefully hours away, I hope, from getting this done, and then sending it over to the House.

Then, we need to ask our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol to consider not only the bipartisan nature of this bill but also the fact that it not only provides economic stimulus, but it also is fiscally responsible. We have paid for these efforts. That was insisted upon, and we have certainly acceded to that request by so many of our colleagues.

Now, with respect to reforms of the temporary program, and even the permanent State program, as I said before, we made significant reforms in 2012. I was a member of the conference committee, at the request of the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to participate, particularly in the deliberations about the unemployment insurance compensation program. These 2012 reforms go a long way to make the system better. Can we make more improvements? Of course. Can we shift to a related but an important topic, which is job training, through the Workforce Investment Act? Yes, we can, and we should. But we shouldn't hold this legislation hostage to training improvements and to additional reform.

One of the reforms which we worked to enhance in the bill before us today, which was implemented in 2012, is the Reemployment Service and Reemployment Eligibility Assessment, or the RES and REA. I have to thank Senator COLLINS, particularly. She was insistent that we provide a way to better link up individuals looking for work and the jobs that are available. This is a mechanism that does this. This is an evidence-based reform that has been successful in getting individuals back to work sooner. It also helps to ensure individuals are receiving the proper benefit. It addresses one of the major

concerns we received from the House Ways and Means Committee Republicans with respect to overpayments. Essentially, what it does is it requires—there is one assessment in the program right now—a second assessment at a certain period during the extended benefits. So an individual would have to come in and essentially be counseled. They would also verify the person is searching for work, that the benefits are appropriate, and also give the kind of counseling and assistance and help that is shown by evidence to be effective in linking job seekers to jobs. We are very committed to this improvement. This is one of the improvements we put into the legislation. We have provided the funding for State agencies to take care of it.

So this is something we think is going to be a direct beneficial solution to a legitimate issue raised by so many. How do we connect those who are unemployed today with the jobs that are out there?

I will say something else, too, about this. There has been some suggestion that there are a lot of overpayments in the system and that people are really getting more than they should. Well RESs and REAs play an important program integrity role, not just providing counsel to the individual. They also have to ensure that the people are, in fact, actively seeking work. This legislation is saying these individuals have to physically come to the State agency, not just at the first tier, when they start it, but at the third tier—that is the way we break it up—several weeks into the process of emergency unemployment benefits. Doing that—their physical presence in the office, talking to a counselor—helps the system be more legitimate, and it helps the accountability because the individual State counselor will be able to check on how faithful they are to the program and how consistent their benefits are. That double check is part of the legislation which I think will be effective and efficient. We want both effectiveness and efficiency. As I indicated before, it is fully paid for, so it is not an additional burden to States.

In the 2012 reforms, we also included my work-sharing initiative. This is critical. I have heard from so many companies in Rhode Island that before the 2012 legislation, there were a few States—Rhode Island was one—that were actually doing something very creative. They said that instead of laying a person off totally, if you keep the person employed for a certain number of days and provide their benefits, we will pay for the one or two days they don't work. It is a partial payment. That has been able to allow companies to really keep their core group of workers together. Instead of throwing someone out and saying they are sorry, as well as losing their expertise and losing their skills, they have been able to

keep their operation moving. It is a smart way of doing it. It has been very successful in Rhode Island, and it is now a national option. That is because of an initiative from 2012 that was a good reform and a smart, efficient way to use the taxpayers' dollars.

With respect to work search generally, the 2012 reforms for the first time created a uniform standard for both the State-based program and the temporary emergency program to ensure that States require that in order to be eligible, individuals need to be "able, available, and actively seek[ing] work." We also passed a reform to better recover improper payments by requiring States to offset their current State benefits in order to recover overpayments owed to other States and the Federal Government. So program integrity, program efficiency, and program effectiveness were significantly embodied in the 2012 amendments.

We are looking at a program that just 2 years ago has been significantly reformed—in fact, as I said, according to the chairman of the Republican Ways and Means Committee, historically reformed. So this program is one that we can support and we should support.

Back in 2012 we also provided up to 10 demonstration projects in States that could be granted waivers on their State-based unemployment insurance program if they could come up with proposals that would improve the effectiveness of their reemployment efforts. This was an opportunity to give the States flexibility, to test out new ideas. Some of the new ideas my colleagues have shared with me—we should do this or that—the States—at least 10 States—have that opportunity to apply today to do that. I don't think we need to reinvent that opportunity in this legislation since it is on an emergency, short-term basis. That authority sunsets at the end of 2015. But it is very telling, because since 2012, 10 States have had the option, but no States have taken up these proposals. So many of the good ideas my colleagues have suggested haven't passed muster at the State level. One would think if they were that compelling, if they were that efficient, that affordable, that one State, at least, would have taken the option, out of 10 available, to try these proposals.

The 2012 reforms also allowed States to drug screen and test individuals if they were terminated from prior employment for drug use or if they were applying for work for which passing a drug test was a standard eligibility requirement. I mention this because we have persistently heard proposals—particularly from the other side of the Capitol—oh, we have a drug test proposal, et cetera. Guess what. States already have the option to do that now. So it is not a reason to stop today and say we have to fix this problem.

I think this whole issue of drug testing, though, deserves a further comment. It is somewhat of a presumption that people who are applying for these benefits somehow are more susceptible to drug dependency, and that is not accurate. In fact, reflecting back to my previous comments, there are so many people now, particularly the longer term unemployed, who are middle-aged colleagues or slightly younger than I am, who have spent 20 or 35 years working, et cetera. They are not the typical person who one would suspect of that. But when we looked at data from the TANF realm—there were related arguments for testing in TANF—it turns out that individuals who are tested in these TANF programs, which is a welfare program, actually show an average of slightly less drug usage than the average American. So this whole drug issue has to be disabused. But, for the record, there are in the 2012 reforms, opportunities for States if they feel so compelled to exercise some of these options.

So the record demonstrates clearly that we have made extensive reforms. Additionally, as I said, in this legislation, we are requiring a second assessment process which I think is going to be very efficient and very effective.

This raises the final point. We have tried to keep this very simple. Even so, the State administrators came forward with a letter saying: This is going to be very difficult for us. The letter was refuted point by point by the Secretary of Labor, Tom Perez. Secretary Perez was the former director of these programs for the State of Maryland. He knows better than anyone what it takes to make these programs work. He has committed that the Department of Labor not only will—but can—be sure that these programs, as we have written them today, will be fully and effectively implemented.

So I hope my colleagues really come together. I thank my colleagues who already have joined together to get this legislation moving. Time is literally ticking. This is a 5-month bill. This is not a long-term, indefinite bill. The clock is ticking, so that every day more benefits are retroactive than prospective. We want to give people the chance. They have worked for it all of their lives—many of them—and now, in many cases, this is the first time they have really struggled.

With that, I yield the floor because I see my colleague, the Senator from Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order for me to offer an amendment that has been designated No. 2911.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, reserving the right to object, and not elaborating much further than the comments I already made, but in order to get this bipartisan emergency legislation completed which will affect 2.7 million Americans, I would respectfully object to my colleague's amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, we were here last evening on this topic for consideration by the Senate. The amendment I was offering that the Senator from Rhode Island has objected to in my view is one of the many amendments that could be considered in this legislation—certainly should be considered by this Senate. While I am certainly interested and willing to have a discussion about the extension of unemployment benefits, it seems to me that this Senate ought also to be looking at issues that would reduce the chances that individual Americans—workers across the country—need that extension. We ought to be doing the things we are not doing here in the Senate. In fact, in my view, this Senate and this President have done nothing to increase the opportunities for Americans to keep their jobs, to increase their employment opportunities, to get a higher wage, to expand their economic opportunity in this country.

The amendment I was offering, which has been objected to, is one of those many examples of legislation that, once again, gets ignored on the Senate floor. It is not considered by any committee and is not allowed to be made in order.

Again, the process in the Senate has broken down so that individual Senators who have good ideas, at least who believe they have good ideas about how we can make life better for Americans, are not being enabled the opportunity to offer those amendments for consideration by the Senate.

In fact, there have now been 70 amendments offered to this legislation. It appears that none of those 70 will be considered while we consider this issue of extension of unemployment benefits. The amendment would, in my view, increase the opportunity for every American to find a better job.

We know that if we are going to increase economic activity, create jobs in this country, the statistics show, the facts show, academic and real-life experiences demonstrate that entrepreneurs—individuals who have a dream to start a business, who work in their garage or their backyard or their barn, decide that they have something they can contribute to the consumer in this country and they pursue that dream—have the best opportunity that we have in this country to create jobs for other Americans.

So the amendment I offered would be legislation called Startup Act 3.0. This

is not just the Senator from Kansas or not just a Republican Senator in the Senate offering this amendment, it is a bipartisan amendment offered by me and one of my Democratic colleagues, but the underlying legislation actually has more Democratic sponsors than it has Republican sponsors. Again, it is the kind of thing that one would expect some consideration in the Senate.

Unfortunately, this legislation was offered 3 years ago, shortly after I came to the Senate. So my frustration is not that just this opportunity today is being denied me and my colleagues who support the concept of promoting entrepreneurship, but it has been denied for certainly more than 2 years, almost 3 years, when we have facts, academicians who tell us these are exactly the kind of things that would increase the chances that Americans are better off today and in the future.

This legislation deals with the regulatory environment, the Tax Code, access to capital, federally funded research put into the hands of the private sector more quickly, the opportunity for Americans to better compete in the battle for global talent, all things that are just common sense and my guess is would be agreed to. If we would ever have a vote on the Senate floor about this concept, I would not be surprised that overwhelmingly my colleagues would support this.

There is nothing in here that is a partisan issue. There is nothing in here that is significantly controversial. We can argue or debate the details, we can improve this legislation, but we are never given the chance to pursue that goal. It is certainly disappointing to me that once again legislation that would address the underlying problems we face in this country, the inability of Americans to keep jobs, improve their job circumstance, and create a brighter future for the next generation of Americans, is something this Senate, for the last 3 years, has determined does not have merit for even consideration, either in a committee or on the Senate floor.

For those who are interested in the details of this legislation, I would refer them to my remarks on the Senate floor last evening.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I rise to try to advance important legislation to fully authorize 27 Veterans Affairs clinics around the country in 18 different States, in communities that desperately need these facilities for our

veterans, including two in Louisiana, Lafayette and Lake Charles.

These clinics have been on the books, planned for, approved for quite a while. Unfortunately, they ran into several bureaucratic glitches and hurdles. In the case of our two clinics in Louisiana, the first thing was a flatout mistake, a screwup at the VA, which they fully admit to. They made some errors in the contract letting process. Because of that, they had to stop that entire bidding process and back up and start all over.

That basically cost us 1 year in terms of those vital community-based clinics in Lafayette and Lake Charles. Then, as they were into that year of delay, out of the blue the Congressional Budget Office decided to score these sorts of clinics in a different way than they ever did before. That created a scoring issue with regard to all 27 of these clinics in 18 States.

On a bipartisan basis, a number of us went to work on that issue to clear that up. We have solved that issue, and the House has put a bill together with strong bipartisan support—virtually unanimous support—and has passed the bill that resolved that issue.

It came to the Senate. I reached out to all of my colleagues. There were a few concerns, and I addressed those concerns proactively by finding savings in other parts of the budget to off-balance, counteract any possible costs of this bill, and so we added that amendment to that proposal. Through all of that hard work, we have addressed all of the substantive concerns with moving forward on these 27 clinics.

I have been trying to pass this bill with an amendment at the desk so that these 27 clinics can move forward as expeditiously as possible. As I said, every substantive concern about this bill, as it would be amended, has been met—everybody's concerns, conservatives, moderates, liberals.

The only objection to the bill now is from the distinguished Senator from Vermont, who, quite frankly, wants to hold it hostage, wants to object to it, simply to try to advance his much broader veterans bill which he brought to the floor and was unsuccessful in passing several weeks ago. While I appreciate the Senator's passion on this issue—I appreciate his legislation and his focus on it—the problem is that legislation does have many Senators with concerns about it, including me. Forty-three Senators, forty-three percent of the overall Senate, 43 out of 100, have serious, substantive concerns with that much broader bill.

In contrast to that, no one in the Senate has substantive concerns with my narrower bill with regard to 27 VA clinics around the country.

I simply suggest that we agree on important matters we can agree on; we use that to begin to build consensus to move forward constructively, do what

we can agree on, and continue to work on that on which there is some disagreement.

In that spirit, I come to the floor again to ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of the narrow veterans clinics bill I was referring to, H.R. 3521, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that my amendment, which is at the desk, which I also referred to, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object, I thank my colleague from Louisiana for coming to the floor today to talk about, in fact, an important issue.

Before I respond to him directly, I did want to comment he is right, there were 43 Members of the Senate who voted against what is regarded as the most comprehensive veterans legislation to have been introduced in several decades, legislation that was supported by virtually every veterans organization in the country, including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the Gold Star Wives, and dozens and dozens of other veterans organizations.

If I might point out that while my colleague from Louisiana is, of course, right that there were 43 Senators who voted no, he neglected to mention that there were 56 Senators who voted yes. There was one Senator who was absent on that day who would have voted yes.

We are now at the stage where we have 57 Senators, which I would suggest to my colleague from Louisiana is significantly more than 43 percent, it is 57 percent.

If we could have the cooperation—and I hope we can maybe make some progress right here, now, from my colleague from Louisiana who has shown interest in veterans issues—do you know what, we can do something that millions and millions of veterans and their families want us to do.

If my colleague from Louisiana would allow me, I would like to quote from what the Disabled American Veterans, the DAV, has to say about this legislation—which, unfortunately my colleague from Louisiana voted against. He was one of the 43 who voted against it.

DAV says:

This massive omnibus bill, unprecedented in our modern experience, would create, expand, advance, and extend a number of VA benefits, services and programs that are important to the DAV and to our members. For example, responding to a call from DAV as a leading veterans organization, it would create a comprehensive family caregiver sup-

port program for all generations of severely wounded, injured and ill veterans. Also, the bill would authorize advance appropriations for VA's mandatory funding accounts to ensure that in any government shutdown environment in the future, veterans benefits payments would not be delayed or put in jeopardy. This measure would also provide additional financial support to survivors of servicemembers who die in the line of duty, as well as expanded access for them to GI Bill educational benefits. A two-plus year stalemate in VA's authority to lease facilities for health care treatment and other purposes would be solved by this bill . . .

—which, of course, is what the Senator from Louisiana is referring to. Then they continue:

. . . These are but a few of the myriad provisions of this bill that would improve the lives, health, and prospects of veterans—especially the wounded, injured and ill—and their loved ones.

That is the DAV. I ask my colleague from Louisiana—you are raising an important issue, and I agree with you. But what I cannot do is take this issue over here, separate it, and that issue over here, because tomorrow there will be somebody else coming and saying: You know, Senator SANDERS, I want you to move forward on this. Then the next day somebody else comes forward and says: I want to move forward on that.

We have a comprehensive piece of legislation, supported by millions of veterans, and supported by 57 Members of the Senate. I ask my colleague from Louisiana—who is concerned about veterans' issues—work with us, support us, give us the three Republican votes we need. We had 55, 54 Members of the Democratic Caucus. We only had two Republican votes. Help me get three more votes. You will get these facilities in Louisiana, we will get these facilities all over the country, but we will also address many of the major crises facing the veterans community.

With that, Madam President, I would object to my colleague's proposal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Reclaiming the floor and reclaiming the time, I find this approach very unfortunate. To follow through on the scenario the Senator from Vermont himself laid out, yes, we can find agreement here on the floor, but then, "Katy, bar the door." That might lead to our finding agreement on other important matters that can help veterans, and we might be moving forward in this area and that area and the other one. God forbid that we make progress to help veterans and actually get something done versus having a hostage standoff. God forbid. I think the more productive way of working together is to agree on what we can agree on and keep talking about those areas where we have disagreement.

In fact, in the past Senator SANDERS has endorsed that approach in the area of veterans affairs. He has said, in the

past, working on another issue in November of 2013:

I'm happy to tell you that I think that was a concern of his . . .

This was referring to another Senator. He continues:

. . . we got that UC'd last night. So we moved that pretty quickly, and I want to try to do those things, where we have agreement, let's move it.

He agreed on a small focus bill where we did have agreement. He said, let's do that by unanimous consent, let's agree where we can agree and be constructive and move on. He said, "I want to try to do those things where we have agreement, let's move it."

Well, I would say to Senator SANDERS, through the Chair, we have agreement. This is an important matter. Twenty-seven clinics isn't the world, but it is an important matter that affects hundreds of thousands of veterans in 18 States, including in my Louisiana communities of Lafayette and Lake Charles. We have agreement, so let's move it. I agree with that approach. I think that is a constructive approach versus saying: I have majority support, but not the 60 required, so I am holding everything else veterans-related hostage, I am not agreeing to anything else.

I don't think that is a constructive approach. I don't think that reflects the spirit of the American people who want us to try to reach agreement where we can reach agreement. I don't think that is a constructive way to build goodwill and to build consensus.

I would urge my colleague, with all due respect, to reconsider. Let's agree where we can agree, where we have agreement. Let's move forward where we have agreement. Let's move it.

This isn't the world, but it is meaningful, it is significant, and it does not relieve any pressure in terms of the broader veterans discussion regarding the Sanders bill or the Burr alternative or anything else. Those bills are so much massively larger than these 27 clinics, being done separately, do not change the discussion or the dynamics of this in any way, shape, or form.

I would urge my colleague to reconsider. I would urge my colleague from Louisiana, Senator LANDRIEU, to urge Senator SANDERS to reconsider, something she has not done to date. A lot of us are waiting for her support of these important community-based clinics in Lafayette and Lake Charles. She hasn't been on the floor. I urge her to join me on the floor to get this done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. First, I would tell you that—two things in terms of Senator LANDRIEU. She has, in fact, spoken to me on numerous occasions about her concerns about this issue but, more importantly, she has shown a willingness to stand for all veterans in this country, and she voted for the legislation

supported by the American Legion, the DAV, and the Vietnam Veterans of America and virtually every veterans organization. So I thank Senator LANDRIEU very much for her support for comprehensive legislation that would benefit millions and millions of Americans.

Essentially, what the Senator from Louisiana is saying is let's work together. I agree with him, let us work together. I have 57 votes for this piece of legislation. Right now, I ask my friend from Louisiana, work with us. What are your objections at a time when we have given huge tax breaks to billionaires and millionaires, and when one out of four corporations in this country doesn't pay a nickel in Federal income taxes. Does my colleague from Louisiana think that in this country we should not take care of the men and women who have put their lives on the line to defend this country?

I am prepared, my staff is prepared, to sit down and hear the Senator's objections. I am not sure what his objections are. He hasn't told me. Is the Senator opposed to an expansion of the caregivers program? Is he? So that 70-year-old women who have been taking care of their husbands who lost their legs in Vietnam get a modest bit of help? Is that an objection the Senator has? Is the Senator objecting to the fact that maybe we provide dental care to some veterans whose teeth are rotting in their mouths? Is the Senator objecting to advance appropriations so we are not in a situation where if we have another government shutdown, disabled vets will not get the checks they need? Is the Senator objecting to the fact that right now we have young veterans who are trying to go to college through the GI bill but can't get in-State tuition? Is the Senator objecting to that? Is the Senator objecting to helping veterans find jobs in an economy where it is very hard to do so?

I am not quite sure what the Senator's objection is. Tell me. Tell me now or sit down with my staff and me, and maybe we can work it out and do something of real significance for the veterans of this country.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 297, S. 1950; that a Sanders substitute amendment, the text of S. 1982, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Pay Restoration Act, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Reserving the right to object, I would again point out that I am not only going to object to this, there are 43 Senators who have serious

substantive concerns with this very broad and expansive bill, and those concerns and objections have been laid out. They have been laid out by my staff, in meetings with the staff of the Senator from Vermont, and they have been laid out by the Republican ranking member on the committee, Senator BURR. I share the general concerns of Senator BURR about the bill. So if the distinguished Senator from Vermont doesn't understand those concerns, quite frankly he hasn't been listening very hard. We have laid them out, and they are shared by 43 Senators, versus a bill, as amended at the desk, with no objections to its substance—none, 100 to 0. Big difference. Big difference.

So on behalf of the total of 43 Senators, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, retaining the floor, I would also ask the distinguished Senator from Vermont through the Chair—because he mentioned Senator LANDRIEU—has Senator LANDRIEU asked him to remove his objection to this bill so we can get a clinic in Lafayette and Lake Charles, No. 1; and No. 2, all those veterans groups he mentioned, do they oppose moving forward with this bill as it would be amended at the desk? Do they publicly oppose moving forward with those 27 veterans clinics?

I would ask those two very important, pertinent questions of the Senator from Vermont through the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I believe at this point—please correct me if I am wrong—that I control the floor; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. SANDERS. While my friend from Louisiana is still here, let me answer yes in response to his question. Senator LANDRIEU has asked me, very forcefully, to move forward on this provision on more than one occasion, and my response to Senator LANDRIEU, who voted for the comprehensive legislation, unlike Senator VITTER, is the same.

Secondly, what the veterans organizations of this country want is for the Congress to recognize the very serious problems facing the veterans community. What I can tell my colleague from Louisiana is that to the best of my knowledge the veterans organizations have been to my colleague's office, and we are trying to get some specific objections as to why he is not supporting this legislation and we have not gotten that.

So I would ask my colleague from Louisiana to come forward and tell me what he disagrees with, which he has not done yet, and I look forward to working with him. I agree we have to work together. I am offering him that

opportunity to tell me what he doesn't like. Let's get a piece of legislation the veterans of this country need and want and that we will be proud of.

With that, I believe I have the floor; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is correct.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, how much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont has 53 minutes remaining in his postcloture time.

Mr. SANDERS. I will tell my colleague from Louisiana that I don't intend to be addressing this issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, in that case, I ask unanimous consent to wrap up this discussion in about 45 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VITTER. I thank my colleague.

Again, Madam President, I think this is very important. I agree with what Senator SANDERS said last November—where we have agreement, let's move it. We have agreement about these 27 clinics, 18 States, including Lafayette and Lake Charles. Let's move it.

I didn't hear him say that any of those veterans organizations he continually cites oppose this because they do not. They take the commonsense approach the huge majority of Americans take: Where there is agreement and we can constructively move forward for veterans, let's do it and let's build on that.

Finally, if Senator LANDRIEU has forcefully asked the Senator to remove his objection to this, apparently she has not been very effective. I think that is very unfortunate because veterans in Louisiana are suffering today. They have been waiting for this. They have been waiting for years for this, and they still wait, even though there is no substantive disagreement with this bill.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, it is not my intention to get involved in Louisiana politics, but just let me say that Senator LANDRIEU has voted for this legislation, she has been a champion of veterans rights, and I look forward to continuing to work with her on comprehensive legislation that will benefit all of the veterans of Louisiana and those in the other 49 States.

Madam President, I wish to change subjects, if I might, and I wish to touch upon an issue which I believe is far and away the most significant issue facing the American people; that is, a struggle not just to make sure we can preserve and expand the vitally important programs that are life or death to tens

of millions of working-class and middle-class families—programs such as Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid. The issue we are discussing now is not just whether we must create the millions and millions of jobs that we need. Real unemployment is not 6.8 percent. It is close to 12 percent and youth unemployment is close to 20 percent. We have to create millions of jobs for our young people and for working families around this country.

We have made some progress with the Affordable Care Act, announced just yesterday. About 10 million more Americans will have access to health care who formerly did not, but we have to go further. We have to join the rest of the industrialized world, all of which have stated—every country has stated—that health care must be a right and not a privilege. When we do that through a Medicare-for-all, single-payer program, we can do it much more cost-effectively and end the absurdity of the United States spending almost twice as much per capita on health care as do the people of any other nation.

All of those issues, and education and climate change, are all enormously important for the future of this Nation. But the issue that is even more important than all of those is whether we can prevent this country from moving to an oligarchic form of society in which virtually all economic and political power rests with a handful of billionaire families.

I know we don't talk about it too much. Most people don't raise that issue. Certainly we don't see it in the corporate media. That is the reality. Right now in America we have, by far, the most unequal distribution of wealth and income of any major country on Earth.

What we are looking at is the top 1 percent owns 38 percent of the financial wealth of America. I have very little doubt the overwhelming majority of Americans have no idea what the bottom 60 percent looks like. The top 1 percent owns 38 percent of the wealth of America, and the bottom 60 percent owns all of 2.3 percent. That gap between the very rich and everybody else is growing wider and wider. We have one family—one family—the Walton family, who owns Walmart, that owns more wealth than the bottom 40 percent of the American people.

In terms of income, the situation is equally bad. In the last number of years since the Wall Street collapse, 95 percent of all new income has gone to the top 1 percent.

So we have an economic situation where the middle class is disappearing, and more people are living in poverty than at any time in the history of the United States. We have 22 percent of our kids living in poverty, the highest rate of childhood poverty of any major country on Earth. All the while the

middle class disappears, more and more people are living in poverty, people on top are doing phenomenally well. Almost all new income goes to the top 1 percent.

It is not just a growing disparity in terms of income and wealth—that is enormously important—but it is what is happening to the political foundations of America. What we are now seeing as a result of Citizens United—and we are going to see it more as a result of the disastrous Supreme Court decision of today in *McCutcheon*—will enable the billionaire class to play an even more prominent role in terms of our political process.

The Koch brothers are worth about \$80 billion—\$80 billion. They are the second wealthiest family in America. Working with other billionaires, such as Sheldon Adelson, the Kochs are prepared to spend an unlimited sum of money to create an America shaped by their rightwing extremist views—and I mean unlimited.

If your income went up, Madam President—and I know our Presiding Officer is not quite there in this status—from \$68 billion to \$80 billion in 1 year—a \$12 billion increase in your wealth—and you believed passionately, as the Koch brothers do, in this rightwing agenda, why would you hesitate in spending \$1 billion, \$2 billion on the political process? Last year, both Barack Obama and Mitt Romney spent a little more than \$1 billion for their entire campaigns. These guys can take out their checkbook tomorrow and write that check and it will be one-twelfth of what their increased wealth was in 1 year. It doesn't mean anything to them. It is 50 bucks to you; it is \$1 billion to them.

So we have to be very careful that we do not allow this great country, where people fought and died to protect American democracy, become a plutocracy or an oligarchy, and that, frankly, is the direction in which we are moving.

I suspect that many of our fellow Americans saw a spectacle in Las Vegas—and this was not the usual Las Vegas spectacle, with the great shows they have there—this was the Sheldon Adelson spectacle. This is what the spectacle was just last weekend. Sheldon Adelson said to prospective Republican candidates for President: Why don't you come on down to Las Vegas and tell me what you could do for me because I am only worth \$20 billion. I am only the largest gambling mogul in the entire world. But \$20 billion isn't enough, so I want you to come to Las Vegas and tell me what favors you can give me if you happen to be elected President and, by the way, if you sound the right note—if you kind of do what I like—I may put a few hundred million into your campaign. Maybe if I am feeling good, I will throw \$1 billion into your campaign.

The media has dubbed this the Adelson primary. What primaries generally are about are hundreds of thousands of Republicans getting together and they vote on whom they want their candidate to be in a State—Democrats do the same—and candidates make an appeal to ordinary people to get votes. Some of us are old-fashioned and we kind of see that as democracy.

I come from a State which proudly has town meetings. I have held hundreds of town meetings in my State. I know it is old-fashioned. I know it is getting out of step, but I actually listen to what people have to say. They walk in the door free, occasionally we actually even serve some lunch, and they don't have to be a billionaire to ask me a question. I answer questions and I talk to people. I understand that is old-fashioned, not the way we do it anymore.

The way we do it now is the Adelson way: walk in the door and I will give you hundreds of millions of dollars or come to a campaign fundraiser, and if you make the largest contributions—tens of thousands of dollars—I will listen to you.

We have to turn this thing around, because if we don't, we are going to end up in a situation where not only the economy of this country is going to be controlled by a handful of billionaires and large multinational corporations, but we are going to be living in a country where the political process is controlled.

Somebody mentioned to me—and I don't know, maybe I will introduce this legislation. We all know what NASCAR is. These guys who drive the racing cars have on their coats they are being sponsored by this or that oil company or this or that tire company. Maybe we should introduce that concept in the Senate. You could have a patch on your jacket that says: I am sponsored by the Koch brothers. Eighty-seven percent of my funding comes from the Koch brothers.

Maybe we will give you a special jacket, and then you have the Adelson guy or this person or that person. But it might tell the American people why we continue as a body to give more tax breaks to billionaires and yet we are having a heck of a tough time raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. It might tell the American people why we do nothing to close corporate loopholes, but we are having a hard time addressing pay equity in America so women get the same wages that men do.

I think when we talk about issues such as campaign finance, a lot of Americans say: Well, yes, it is a problem, but it doesn't really relate to me.

Let me suggest that it absolutely does relate to every man, woman, and child. It is imperative people understand what the agenda is—the Koch brothers, for example. These are people

who have been very clear that they want massive cuts in Social Security or the privatization of Social Security. They want massive cuts in Medicare or the voucherization of Medicare, and massive cuts in Medicaid. As some of the largest polluters in America in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, the Koch brothers want to crack down on the ability of the EPA to regulate pollution. These guys want to cut back on funds for education so our kids can afford to go to college.

So if we think the issue of campaign finance does not relate to our lives, we are very mistaken. We are moving toward a situation where people with huge sums of money are going to spend unlimited amounts to elect candidates who reflect an extreme rightwing agenda which will make the wealthiest people in this country even richer while continuing the attacks against the middle class and working families in this country.

I will conclude by saying this—and I mean this quite honestly. As somebody who grew up in a family that didn't have a lot of money and as somebody who represents the great State of Vermont, where people constantly tell me they ask for so little, I have heard veterans say: I don't want to use the VA because another veteran really may need it more. I don't need this program and somebody else may need it more.

I don't understand how people worth \$80 billion are spending huge sums of money to become even richer. They are doing it by trying to attack life-and-death programs for the elderly. Why would somebody want to cut Social Security when they are worth \$80 billion and have more money than they can dream of for retirement? Why would somebody want to do that when they are worth billions and have the best health care in the world? Why do they want to make massive cuts in Medicare or Medicaid? What motivates somebody with so much money to go to war against working families and the middle class?

I frankly don't understand it. I can only think that this has to do with power—the drive for more and more power, the thrill it must be to tell candidates: Do you want my support? This is what you have to do.

But I think this is just a huge issue that we as a nation have got to address. Too many people have given up their lives fighting for American democracy to see this great Nation be converted into a plutocracy or an oligarchy. We must not allow that to happen.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, can you tell us the order of business pending on the floor?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is considering H.R. 3979.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I start by commending my colleague from Vermont.

What happened today across the street at the Supreme Court will be lost on most Americans. They can't understand why they should even care about it.

The Supreme Court was asked whether it was proper under the law to limit the number of Federal campaigns and the total dollars an individual can give to candidates. To no one's surprise, the Supreme Court said there should be no limitation. People can give as much money as they want to as many Federal candidates they want with no limitation.

Most Americans will say: So what? You know, these politicians run against one another. During the campaign both sides spend too much money. I am sick and tired of their ads. I don't care how you pay for it; it is all bad.

But I have to say, Senator SANDERS put his finger on it. What is at issue here is not just how we finance campaigns. It is who we elect. What we are faced with is a Supreme Court across the street which celebrates oligarchs. They happen to believe that the wealthiest people in America deserve the strongest voice in American politics. I couldn't disagree more.

Sadly, many of us are caught up in this system of campaign financing where we literally have to raise millions of dollars to run for election and reelection. In my State multimillionaires are running for the highest offices against what I consider to be mere mortals—those of us who aren't in the multimillionaire class—trying to compete with them, always wondering if tomorrow the Koch brothers—with an \$80 billion net worth—will say: Spend \$10 million there; spend \$20 million there.

I say to my friend from Vermont, as best we can count, in the last election cycle the Koch brothers—not to be confused with the soft drink—spent over \$250 million in ad campaigns. I think the figure, frankly, is much higher, and the suggestion is they are going to double that spending this time. They have already spent \$10 million in the State of North Carolina with negative television advertising for 12 months against the Democratic incumbent Senator KAY HAGAN, trying to beat her down, so they can defeat her in November.

Make no mistake. There is a lot of money being spent on both sides. But Sheldon Adelson, who—as the Senator from Vermont said—runs one of the biggest gambling operations and maybe is the wealthiest man when it comes to

that in the United States, maybe in the world, has become a player. Can you imagine if those who want to run for the Republican nomination for President come hat in hand, land at the Las Vegas airport, walk into a room and see if they can say something that appeals to this man who is worth billions of dollars? Last time he fell in love with Newt Gingrich, and he was going to make Newt Gingrich President. People in many of the Republican primaries saw it differently. Well, this time he wants to pick another horse to run.

Why are the richest people in America so intent on owning our political process? Because they have an agenda. It isn't just because they love the Constitution. They have an agenda—an agenda which makes the Tax Code work for them, an agenda which makes sure that government spending and things that aren't priorities for them are reduced.

We saw some of that yesterday, when Congressman PAUL RYAN in the House of Representatives introduced his budget, his vision of what America should look like. What is it? It is a budget amendment which cuts back on some basic things. One thing the Ryan budget cuts back on that everybody listening to this debate ought to take note of is domestic discretionary spending for medical research—seriously.

Today happens to be World Autism Awareness Day. Do you know a family with an autistic child? Do you have any idea what they are going through? I know a few. Sadly, the number of people suffering from autism and the autism spectrum disorder seems to be growing by the day. We look at these families struggling to give their son or daughter a chance and think: If we only knew a little bit more about this disease, if we only knew a little bit more about the human brain, if we only could see this coming and do something to avoid it, if we could find a way to treat it, what a difference it would make for all of these families on World Autism Awareness Day. But the answer from Congressman RYAN is to cut back on medical research. That is not the answer. It is not the answer for any of us.

God forbid we go to the doctor's office tomorrow with a child, and the doctor says something awful has happened. But the first question we would ask the doctor is: Is there something you can do? Is there a medicine? Is there a procedure?

How many families have been in that position where they have asked that physician, praying to God that the answer is yes? The answer will not be yes when we cut back on medical research. The answer is going to be no.

That is why we have to really reflect on our priorities—not only in Congress but in elections. If we are going to let people take over the American political scene through the Citizens United

case across the street or the McCutcheon case which was decided today, we are going to turn our government over to people who are totally out of touch with the reality of American families and American working families. That would be a serious mistake.

While we are on the subject, these are the first people in line who want to eliminate the Affordable Care Act. I was in the Rose Garden yesterday, invited by the President with a large group to celebrate the announcement that more than 7.1 million Americans have now enrolled by the deadline under the Affordable Care Act, and more than 3 million young people, fresh out of college, looking for jobs are covered by their mom and dad's health insurance while they are looking for work. Then add another 8 million people across America who now have health insurance protection through Medicaid—meaning their income is so low that they qualify for this basic health insurance. Add those numbers up, and they come to somewhere in the range of 15 million to 18 million people who benefited by the Affordable Care Act—people, who until they had this opportunity, some of them, many of them had no insurance. I have met them. I have met them across my State. I have met those in downstate Illinois who worked all their lives. They are 62 years old.

A friend of mine never had health insurance one day in her life, never missed a day of work in her life. Now she has the protection of health insurance at age 62 for the first time—and thank God she does. She has just been diagnosed with diabetes. She has a chance now because she has health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. So what is the response from the other side? Repeal it. Get rid of it. We don't need it. It is a waste—too much government.

We are not going back. We're not repealing. We can make it better, and we ought to do it on a bipartisan basis. But we are not repealing the Affordable Care Act.

What would repealing the Affordable Care Act mean to the rest of us who have health insurance? The Affordable Care Act guarantees that if you have a child or a spouse with a medical condition—a medical history of asthma, diabetes, survived cancer—you cannot be discriminated against when you buy health insurance. What we are talking about here is giving families a fair shot at affordable health insurance—giving them a fair shot even if their child is born with a serious medical issue.

Secondly, the Affordable Care Act says: When you sell me a health insurance policy, it ought to be worth something when I need it. They used to sell these policies and put limits on them. God forbid tomorrow you are diagnosed with cancer and facing radiation ther-

apy, chemotherapy, surgery, and hospitalizations. But there is a limit on your policy, and pretty soon you bust through the limit, and now it is all coming out of your meager savings. That is the number one reason people declare personal bankruptcy in America—health bills. The Affordable Care Act puts an end to that and says that your health insurance policy has to be there in an amount when you need it.

The third thing it says is if you are a senior citizen getting prescription drugs—there used to be something called the doughnut hole. It was a crazy thing. You couldn't even explain it. I pay for prescriptions—no, wait a minute. I don't pay for prescription drugs for the first 3 months, and then I pay for them for 4 months, and then the government pays for them. It was called the doughnut hole. It made no sense at all. We closed the doughnut hole, saying to seniors: We are going to make sure that your prescription drugs are covered and you don't have to pay out of pocket, and you can get that annual checkup that you need to stay healthy. Those who want to repeal the Affordable Care Act want to do away with that, and that is just plain wrong.

As I mentioned earlier, if you happen to be a family with a child under the age of 26, you can keep that child on your health insurance plan while they are finishing college and looking for a job, maybe getting that first job. It may not be the best, may not have benefits. They are still covered under your policy.

Have you as a parent ever called your 24-year-old daughter and asked her, as I have: Jenny, do you have health insurance?

No, Dad. I'm fine. Don't worry about me.

Right. I will stay up all night worrying about you.

You don't have to do that anymore under the Affordable Care Act. Those who want to repeal it want to go back to those days where young people fresh out of college had no health insurance protection. We are not going back. We can make this bill stronger and better, and I will work to do it. But for the millions of Americans who now have a chance at affordable, accessible health insurance, we are not turning the clock back.

There is one other thing worth mentioning. Not only are millions now on health insurance, the good news is for the last 5 years since we passed this bill, the rate of increase in costs for health insurance has been going down—yes, going down. Not as fast as we want it to, but it used to be trending up in a way we couldn't even manage or control. Now we are moving in the right direction in terms of health care costs. So for those who come to the floor of the Senate or the floor of the House growling and whining about the Affordable Care Act, the

good news is that this debate is over in America. The Affordable Care Act is here to stay.

We could make it better. We should work to make it better. We should do it on a bipartisan basis. But there are 18 million reasons why we are not going to repeal the Affordable Care Act—18 million Americans that have peace of mind with health insurance because of this law.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent to offer my amendment No. 2935.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, in order to keep this bipartisan emergency legislation pending on the floor and to benefit 2.7 million Americans, I respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. FLAKE. Thank you, Mr. President.

I think it is unfortunate that we are not allowing amendments to be offered here for extending unemployment benefits. The least we ought to do is make it easier to find a job. Unfortunately, there is no room in the legislation to do that.

I would like to talk about one area where we could offer some help and relief. Hearing some of the discussion over the past few minutes in this Chamber, it seems that this Chamber has become an echo chamber for happy talk about the Affordable Care Act. Unfortunately, for those who talk about figures—enrollment figures and whatever—we seem to forget about the number of people who had their health care canceled, who may have been able to pick up new coverage under the Affordable Care Act, but it is hardly—hardly—affordable. In fact, in most cases the cost has gone up significantly.

So I am here today to join a number of my colleagues who are seeking to offer amendments to this legislation, to make it easier for those who don't have jobs and who cannot easily access jobs. As we all know, the ACA or Affordable Care Act placed requirements on what new plans are mandated to cover, including coverage of things—I think they named 10 essential health care benefits, essential being used loosely—like pediatric dentistry, maternity care, mental health.

We have all heard stories of those squeezed by the ACA's new mandates and regulations. For many, if it isn't higher premiums, it is higher deductibles, increased copays or even

greater out-of-pocket costs. That is the case for most but not all. I think all of us should freely acknowledge that some people have been able to buy more affordable care, but I think those examples are overshadowed completely by those who are facing higher costs.

The Wall Street Journal noted in a March 22 article—they cited an eHealth report—that the average premium for an individual health plan that meets ACA requirements was \$274 a month, up 39 percent from last year, before the ACA provisions took effect. The same article reported that family plans averaged \$663 a month, a 56 percent increase from last year. These facts have real world implications and have a bearing on both a family's financial realities as well as their employment.

For instance, I previously referenced a case of Leanne from Eager, AZ. Her family is facing what she calls "sky-high" rates now. This is thanks to the Affordable Care Act. If that isn't bad enough, it looks as if she and her husband will have to put off buying their parents' business.

In January I introduced the ReLIEF Act as a response to the administration's announcement that those facing health cancellations due to the ACA will be able to enroll in catastrophic coverage. The relief act would allow health insurance providers to provide catastrophic coverage to everyone and would deem these plans as meeting the minimal essential coverage requirement. The bottom line is, if we are going to delay benefits, delay mandates on the Affordable Care Act or delay implementation of certain parts of the Affordable Care Act for some, we ought to do it for everyone. I get a real kick out of hearing everybody reference the happy talk about the Affordable Care Act, but the reality is that much of it has been delayed or postponed or changed. If there are no problems with it, why do we keep doing that? If we are doing that for some, why don't we delay the mandates for everyone or allow others to buy more affordable coverage by giving some relief on these mandates?

This ReLIEF Act that I have introduced will allow health providers to offer catastrophic plans that may cost a lot less, that families used to be able to access and simply no longer can because too few insurance companies will offer them because at a certain point they will have to offer compliant plans that are much more expensive. My goal is to provide affordable insurance options and to give individuals who don't need or don't want more extensive coverage options to purchase these plans.

I applied the relief act to this bill as an amendment. I hope to bring that up. That was the purpose of the unanimous consent request that was just rejected. Unfortunately, it appears that very few, if any, amendments will be allowed to this legislation. I think that is unfortunate.

If we are concerned about the unemployed, as I know we all are, then we ought to at least offer them alternatives, offer them ways to more easily find employment to give them some more relief.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I come to speak about the economy in terms of wages, but I do want to respond to the last discussion in terms of health care for a moment. Part of the fair shot is to make sure they have a fair shot that they need for their families, and thank goodness, under the Affordable Care Act, now folks are going to get what they are paying for. They cannot just get dropped if they get sick or if their child has juvenile diabetes or they have heart disease or some other condition. They are going to be able to know they can get insurance without preexisting conditions.

But it is also going to be incredibly important moving forward for women. As the author of the provision to improve maternity care, I do want to say to my friend who just spoke that prior to health reform, about 60 percent of the plans in the private market wouldn't provide maternity care for women, amazingly. Being a woman was viewed as a preexisting condition because you might be of childbearing age or maybe you are not.

I remember hearing from one young couple where the husband couldn't get insurance because his wife was of childbearing age. They couldn't get maternity care. This is not true anymore—not true anymore. Thank goodness for the comprehensive care that our friends on the other side call regulations on insurance companies—and actually that regulation is a requirement—so that women can get maternity care, and there is a requirement that we treat mental health and physical health the same in terms of insurance, which by the way affects 1 out of 4 people in our country. I think that it is a good thing.

We can always improve on it, and we will, to make it better, listen to the concerns and do what needs to be done to make it work better. But I think that families now have a fair shot to get health care coverage and not as parents go to bed at night worrying about whether their kids are going to get sick. It is a good thing, and we will move forward in a positive way.

Mr. President, let me tell you now about a business owner who said the minimum wage wasn't good enough—wasn't good enough—and his employees needed more. So he doubled everybody's wages. He doubled everybody's wages, and people thought he was crazy. He was shunned by the business community. People said he would go bankrupt. His name was Henry Ford—Henry Ford. Because of

his decision to pay his workers \$5 a day, which was unheard of 100 years ago, he became one of the richest men in America.

When he first announced a \$5 workday, not everybody was happy. Economists had a fit. Ford's competitors were furious. The Wall Street elite were calling the \$5 day "an economic crime." They said Ford wouldn't be competitive in the economy anymore. They questioned his judgment and his business sense.

They were wrong. His decision to pay his workers \$5 a day not only was a brilliant business decision, it created the middle class of this country. We are very proud in Michigan that it started with us.

A hundred years ago \$5 a day was a lot of money. A loaf of bread cost 6 cents. A gallon of milk cost about 35 cents. At 3 a.m., the day after Henry Ford made his announcement, a bitterly cold day in Detroit, something started to happen on Woodward Avenue.

Picture it. In the middle of a cold night—and we have a lot of cold nights in Michigan—people all around Detroit at 3 o'clock in the morning began walking through the snow-covered streets to Woodward and Manchester, the site of Ford's Highland Park plant. A line was forming, getting longer every minute. Tens and then hundreds and then thousands of people were getting in line. Traffic came to a standstill. There were too many people in the road for the cars to get by.

The hours passed. The lines got longer. By 10 a.m. there were 12,000 people standing in line waiting in the freezing cold for the chance to get one of those jobs—one of those \$5-a-day jobs that Henry Ford was offering, to be able to work hard, get that job, and build a better life. They were just looking for a fair shot to get ahead, like the millions of workers today who work 40 hours a week, such as the single mom who scrubs floors and works 40 hours a week and is still living in poverty, and the millions of other Americans still looking for work. Like most Americans and like those Ford workers 100 years ago, they just want a shot to work hard and play by the rules and be able to get ahead with their family.

Henry Ford knew that when his workers had money in their pocket, when they had enough money to put food on the table, when they were caught up on their bills, it meant they could afford to buy one of those cars they were building at the plant.

In fact, that is what he said when folks called him crazy. He said, "I want to make sure I got somebody who can afford to buy my car."

For families in 1914, a job in the Ford factory was a ticket to the middle class, and that is still true today. Henry Ford knew that paying a higher wage would mean happier workers and

lower turnover, instead of workers who were frustrated about not being able to make ends meet. Henry Ford had workers who were proud to work for him. This meant greater productivity and greater profits because if the workers could make more cars he could sell more cars. If they could sell more cars, they could make more cars, so this was a win-win situation.

Henry Ford made more money than he had ever dreamed of, and his workers made more money than they had ever dreamed of. The effect this new wage had on Ford's employees went deeper than their wallets. In the first 3 weeks after the raise began, more than 50 of his employees applied for marriage licenses because they said they could now afford to get married and start a family. A lot of folks talk about the importance of starting a family. Having money in your pocket to be able to get started in life is a pretty big deal.

When the workers made enough money to live on, they were able to spread the wealth. Their local grocery stores, restaurants, and hardware stores and others also benefited from the increase in wages, which was reflected all around the neighborhood and the plant in 1914. A sandwich cart operator near the plant was interviewed about the new wages by the Detroit News in February of 1914, and he said: "I'm for this raise in wages. I sell nearly twice as much as I did a month ago." Those who sold food and goods, such as hats, scarves, and gloves near the plant said the same thing. One vendor said that if things kept going like this, he would have to hire a new employee to help out with the new business.

It is simple: When workers have more money in their pockets, they have more money to spend at businesses both large and small. When businesses have more customers, they can pay their workers better and hire more of them. When the workers have more money in their pocket, they can go out and buy more things, and that is called the demand part of the economy.

Our colleagues are always talking about the supply side. They like to say: Let's just give it to the top and it will trickle down. Most people in Michigan are still holding their breath waiting for it to trickle down. We know if you put it in the pocket of workers—people who are, frankly, fighting to hold on to stay in the middle class or working to get into the middle class—you create the demand side of the economy.

As Henry Ford found out, things started turning. This kind of virtuous cycle that Henry Ford helped create in Michigan and in America 100 years ago is what we need to do today to restore our economy. We can't do that with a minimum wage that has lost most of its value in the past few decades.

Those Ford workers worked hard, saved their money, bought homes, built

communities, and gave their children opportunities, such as being able to go to college. In Michigan, you can buy a little cottage up north where you can have a boat, a snowmobile, or be able to go out hunting on the weekends and enjoy life—that is the middle class.

Because of what was done by doubling people's wages—when everyone said Henry Ford was crazy—created the middle class of this country. But today everything the middle class worked for—what they built with their bare hands, elbow grease, and blood, sweat, and tears—is at risk. The Federal minimum wage has been stuck at \$7.25 for nearly 5 years. That single mom with two kids working for minimum wage today earns about \$15,000 a year, which is \$4,000 below the poverty line. That is not right, if you work 40 hours a week and make less than the poverty level. That is not how we built the middle class 100 years ago, and it is certainly not how we are going to grow it today.

Too many Americans rightly feel they are trapped in a rigged game where heads, the wealthy win, and tails, the rest of us lose. What we need is an economy that gives everybody a fair shot. That is what we are fighting for, that is what we believe in, and that is what we are promoting in everything we are doing. We want a fair shot and a fair economy for everybody—not a free shot but a fair shot for everybody who works hard. Being rewarded for your hard work is what makes this country great. You can take a good idea, you can work hard, you can build a better life, and that is the American dream.

Today there is less opportunity for people who do that, unfortunately. People need to have a chance to build something—to build a career, a company, and a future—or we will fall behind the rest of the world. They need a fair shot. They deserve a fair shot. The middle class we built over the last 100 years could cease to exist if we don't act together and understand what drives the economy.

To turn things around, we need to make sure people can get jobs that pay a fair wage just as we had 100 years ago. Let's talk about what that means. We can start by raising the minimum wage. What is appalling to me today is that the \$5 a day Henry Ford paid his workers for 8 hours of work is the equivalent of \$14.67 an hour. If we did what Henry Ford did 100 years ago by paying \$5 to his employees to help drive the economy and create the middle class, employees today would have to be paid about \$14.67 an hour.

Think about that for a minute. The millions of Americans across this country who are working today for a minimum wage are only making the equivalent of half of what Henry Ford paid his workers 100 years ago. Meanwhile, the average CEO in this country today now makes as much as the wages of 933

minimum wage workers combined. I could not fit quite that many people in here, but imagine 933 people—all working 40 hours a week, making minimum wage, and maybe working 2 or 3 jobs—combined equals the average salary of a CEO.

We are going to move this country and working-class people forward again if we understand that people need a fair shot to get ahead and we do something about it. That is why we are going to vote soon on the Fair Minimum Wage Act which does just what it says. It makes sure all of our workers are getting paid a fair wage. An hourly wage of \$10.10—not even as much as I was talking about with Henry Ford—is the right number because it gets people out of poverty. That is the number that gets people out of poverty.

Some places across the country are seeking a minimum wage hike that is higher than that, while too many States are stuck at \$7.25 an hour, which is the national average. The bill before us in the Senate strikes the right balance by raising the minimum wage to the point where people are above the poverty line and have a fair shot to get ahead. If it made sense for Henry Ford in 1914, it makes sense for us today in 2014. The American people know this, and that is why raising the minimum wage enjoys broad bipartisan public support. If the public were voting, this would be done.

Democrats, Republicans, and Independents understand that it makes sense, just as Henry Ford realized it 100 years ago. If families are making more money, it is better for everybody in the economy, and it is better for taxpayers. All of us, as taxpayers, know that higher salaries mean we are not spending so much money on food assistance. If we can get \$10.10 an hour, we are saving money on SNAP and people will not need or qualify for food assistance anymore. That is the way to cut the food assistance budget the right way. We need to give people access to work that pays above poverty line. Give people a handhold on the ladder to opportunity.

This is about the future of our country. If we want to continue to be a world leader, we have to make sure everybody has a fair shot at a good education, to get a good job, start a business, and make enough money. When they can do that, they will be able to support their family.

Nobody who works 40 hours week should live in poverty. Yet that is exactly what is happening today. We can change that. We can do what Henry Ford did. This man became one of the wealthiest men in the world by lifting people up and giving them a fair shot with a fair wage. I hope that in a few days we will do that. The American people get it, and I hope we will too.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, I ask to speak in morning business for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, this morning the Supreme Court announced its decision in the *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*, the latest in a series of rulings that have done away with any meaningful limits on money in politics. Since the Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Citizens United* in 2010, we have witnessed the systematic unraveling of our Nation's campaign finance laws.

I am sure this is a cause for celebration for some—the superwealthy and well-funded corporate interests—because, after all, these rulings give them more influence, more access, and more power, as if they need it. Then there is everybody else—the everyday folks in Minnesota and around the country who don't have the luxury of pouring millions of dollars into political campaigns.

There is the senior on a fixed income who gives \$25 to a candidate she likes—maybe someone fighting to contain the cost of prescription drugs. That \$25 donation is real money for that senior, but it is nothing compared to the \$25 million the pharmaceutical industry can now spend to elect the other candidate.

There is the middle-class mom who has just enough money to buy her kids' school clothes, but surely doesn't have enough money left over to buy an election too.

There is the small business owner in the suburbs who is so concerned about making payroll that she cannot even begin to think about making a huge campaign contribution.

Our democracy can't function the way it is supposed to when these voices are drowned out by a flood of corporate money, so for those who believe the measure of democracy's strength is in votes cast, not dollars spent, well, for us there is nothing to celebrate today.

Citizens United was, in my view, one of the worst decisions in the history of the Supreme Court. By a 5-4 margin, the Court ruled that corporations have a constitutional right to spend as much money as they want to influence elections. If Big Oil wants to spend millions of dollars to attack the guy who is advocating for more renewable fuels, the Supreme Court says: Sure. Go ahead. If huge corporations want to run endless radio ads against a candidate who promises to raise the minimum wage, the Supreme Court says: Fine. Go ahead. If the Wall Street banks want to pour money into a campaign to undo consumer protection laws, the Supreme Court says that is their constitutional right so there is not much you can do about it. That is the way the Court sees it, but it is not the way I see it and it is not the way most Minnesotans see it either.

I think we should be able to say: Enough is enough. There is too much corporate money in politics and some reasonable limits on campaign spending are not just appropriate, they are necessary. Really, that is what *Citizens United* is all about—the case that got us into this mess. It sort of came down to the question: Can we, the people, place any real limit on the amount of money corporations can spend on elections? The answer should have been, yes, of course we can, but five Supreme Court Justices said: No, we can't. Their logic was literally unprecedented.

To reach the result it did, the Supreme Court had to overturn the case *Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce*. The decision had been on the books for 20 years. Overturning *Austin* wasn't some minor technical change to the law; it was a radical shift, an exercise in pro-corporate judicial activism. Just compare what the Court said about campaign expenditures in *Austin* to what it said 20 years later in *Citizens United*. In *Austin*, the Court refused to strike down a Michigan law that limited corporate spending on elections. The Court explained that the lawsuit served a “compelling interest”—namely, preventing corporations from gaining an unfair advantage in the political system. The *Austin* Court said that “corporate wealth can unfairly influence elections.” Those were the Supreme Court's words in 1990, that “corporate wealth can unfairly influence elections.” The Court explained that campaign finance laws prevent “the corrosive and distorting effects of immense aggregations of wealth that are accumulated with the help of the corporate form.” In other words, there is good reason—no, a compelling reason—to be worried about unlimited corporate money in politics.

Had today's Supreme Court followed the precedent, *Citizens United* would have been an easy case. I mean, I would have written the opinion in a couple of minutes. It would have gone something like this: Laws limiting corporate campaign expenditures are constitutional. See *Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce*. The end.

Of course, that is not the opinion the Court wrote in *Citizens United*. The Court's opinion was a lot longer and a lot worse.

Here is the one phrase that sums up the *Citizens United* decision: “We now conclude that independent expenditures, including those made by corporations, do not give rise to corruption or the appearance of corruption.” The majority of the Court told us that there is no reason at all to be worried about unlimited corporate money in politics anymore, that it does not give rise even to the appearance of corruption. And, the logic goes, since there is no reason to be concerned about it, there is no constitutional basis to regulate it. That is what the Court tells

us, but we know better. The Court's analysis not only is disconnected from precedent, it is disconnected from reality.

The Minnesota League of Women Voters recently issued a report in which it concluded that “the influence of money in politics represents a dangerous threat to the health of our democracy in Minnesota and nationally.” That is the Minnesota League of Women Voters. That sounds right to me because here is the thing: In our democracy, everyone is supposed to have an equal say regardless of his or her wealth. The guy in the assembly line gets as many votes as the CEO—one. You don't get extra votes just because you have extra money or greater say because of greater wealth. It doesn't work that way—or shouldn't.

Citizens United turned the whole thing on its head and basically said that those among us with the most money get the most influence, and not only that, there is no limit to the amount of money the wealthy can spend or the amount of influence they can buy. I think that is inherently corrupting.

Unfortunately, *Citizens United* was just the beginning of the story, and in the years since we have seen courts across the country strike down campaign finance laws, ushering in what are known as super PACs—wealthy groups that can raise and spend unlimited money to influence elections.

Today, in *McCutcheon*, the Court took *Citizens United* a step further, striking down a law that limited the amount of money people could give directly to candidates and political parties. In doing so, the Court overturned a key holding from *Buckley v. Valeo*, a case from 1976. Until today, the law said that direct contributions to candidates, parties, and certain PACs could not exceed about \$125,000 in the aggregate per election cycle. The law was intended to stem the tide of money in politics and maintain the integrity of our public institutions. But as of this morning, that law has been taken off the books at the Supreme Court's direction.

As Justice Breyer explained in his dissenting opinion in *McCutcheon* today, “Taken together with *Citizens United*, today's decision eviscerates our Nation's campaign finance laws, leaving a remnant incapable of dealing with the grave problems of democratic legitimacy that those laws were intended to resolve.” He is right.

Changing law has real consequences. What happens when we get rid of the speed limit? People with fast cars drive faster—as fast as they want to drive. What happens when we get rid of campaign finance limits? Well, special interests with a lot of money spend more of it on politics—as much as they want to spend. That is not a theory; it is empirical fact. According to data collected by the Center for Responsive

Politics, spending by outside groups more than tripled from 2008 to 2012, with overall outside spending topping \$1 billion—billion with a “b”—for the first time in history. Where is the new money coming from? Well, in most cases we don’t know. More on that a little later. What we do know is pretty much what one would expect. According to one study, 60 percent of super PACS’ funding in the 2012 election cycle came from just 132 donors, each donating at least \$1 million. So we have a relatively small group of super-wealthy people accounting for most of the money.

Remember when the Citizens United court decision assured us that all of this new money in politics is OK, that we shouldn’t be worried about it, that it “will not cause the electorate to lose faith in our democracy”? Wow, were they wrong. People are losing faith in our democracy, and can we blame them?

The system is broken, and we need to fix it. There are a number of good proposals out there, and I wish to use this opportunity to mention three of them: disclosure, public financing, and a constitutional amendment.

First, we need greater disclosure. The problem in the post-Citizens United world isn’t just that there is now unlimited money in politics, it is also that we have no idea where that money is coming from. Billionaires and big corporations want to influence elections by giving unlimited money to super PACs, but they don’t want anyone to know they are the ones pulling the strings, so they do something that looks a lot like money laundering—except that it is perfectly legal.

Let’s say there are a bunch of corporations and billionaires out there who want to preserve indefensible tax loopholes that really only help their bottom lines. Their allies form a super PAC with a mission to do just that—preserve their big tax breaks. Now, a super PAC needs a name. “Americans for Indefensible Tax Loopholes” probably doesn’t achieve their end, so the super PAC decides to go with something such as “Americans for a Better Tax Code.” After all, who could be against that? Remember, the corporations or the billionaires who are behind this whole thing don’t want their fingerprints on this, so they pass their money through shell corporations before it ends up in the super PAC. That way the actual donors don’t show up on the Federal disclosure forms. So now the TV is flooded with attack ads and something like “paid for by Americans for a Better Tax Code,” but nobody has any idea who is actually behind the advertisement and there is no good way to find out.

But hang on. It gets worse. In addition to all of the secret money being spent by these super PACs, there are a bunch of nonprofit organizations that

are using a glitch in the Tax Code to keep all of their campaign activities secret. These groups, liberal or conservative, don’t have to disclose a single penny. Combine them with the super PACs, and we have a lot of money and very little information. Voters aren’t just being flooded, they are being blindfolded too.

We have a bill called the DISCLOSE Act that would go a long way toward fixing this problem. It would put in place a clear set of rules requiring disclosure whenever anyone spends more than \$10,000 to influence an election, even when that money is being funneled through back channels. The idea is pretty simple: If someone is going to spend that kind of money to influence elections, people should know about it so they can make informed decisions and effectively evaluate what a candidate has to say. This is all about transparency and accountability.

All of us should be able to get behind that. Indeed, most of us already have. The last version of the DISCLOSE Act had support from a majority of Senators, and I am proud to have been one of the bill’s cosponsors. Several of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have spoken enthusiastically about greater disclosure. They have said things such as “sunshine is the greatest disinfectant.” Even the Supreme Court has endorsed disclosure laws in both Citizens United and in today’s decision. Poll after poll shows that the vast majority of Americans support greater transparency in campaign financing.

This is a basic step we should be able to take pretty easily—or one would think so. It turns out that one would be wrong. In July 2012 we brought the DISCLOSE Act to the Senate floor and Republicans blocked it. The bill died before it could get an up-or-down vote. But we are not going to give up on it. I will continue to work with my colleagues to make the campaign finance system more transparent.

Here is another thing we can do: Fundamentally change the way candidates finance their campaigns. Senator DICK DURBIN of Illinois recently reintroduced the Fair Elections Now Act, which basically says that candidates who refuse to accept contributions of more than \$150 will be eligible for public financing of their campaigns. This would level the playing field. Instead of campaigns that are funded by a handful of wealthy donors, we will have citizen-funded grassroots campaigns where candidates focus their attention on people who donate \$5, \$10, \$50, up to \$150. We will restore power to that senior who makes the \$25 donation.

I have cosponsored the Fair Elections Now Act in the past, and I am proud to cosponsor it again in this Congress. This isn’t going to solve all of the problems created by Citizens United and McCutcheon, but it is a step in the right direction.

Finally, there is something else we can do, and honestly it is the one thing we most need to do if we are going to repair all the damage the Supreme Court has done; that is, amend the Constitution to reverse the Citizens United and McCutcheon decisions.

Let me be clear. Amending the Constitution is not something I take lightly. I think it should be done only in extraordinary circumstances. But the Supreme Court’s decisions present us with one of those situations because they erode the very foundation of our democracy.

I know what my colleagues are thinking: Constitutional amendments are really hard to come by. They require agreement by two-thirds of both Chambers of Congress, and they have to be ratified by at least three-quarters of the States.

It is no wonder that constitutional amendments have been so rare in our history.

Just because a constitutional amendment takes a long time to accomplish doesn’t mean it is not worth trying. It took a long time—much longer than it should have—to enshrine women’s suffrage into the Constitution, but it got done because it would have been an affront to our democracy had it been otherwise.

These things take time and patience and persistence and perseverance, but they happen. In fact, there is already momentum building. I am proud to cosponsor a constitutional amendment that has been proposed here in the Senate that would restore legal authority to the people to regulate campaign finance. The States are moving in the right direction too. According to Public Citizen, 16 States have already called for a constitutional amendment. I believe it is time for us to answer the call.

Mr. President, thank you. I yield the floor for the Senator from Connecticut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Yesterday, the administration announced that 7.1 million people had signed up for private health care all across the country in exchanges that range from the national exchange down to the State-based exchanges. Many of those who signed up are women who are enjoying new benefits and new protections under the health care law. So I wanted to come down to the floor, as Senator KAINE did earlier today, as Senator BOXER will in a few moments, to talk about why women all across this country have a completely different health care experience today under the Affordable Care Act and why they have no interest in going back to the days before the Affordable Care Act, and to talk also about what it means to have 7 million people all

across this country who now have access to private health care insurance who did not have it before.

The story for women all across this country, as Senator BOXER will talk about in far more articulate terms than I can, is pretty stunning. Mr. President, 8.7 million women will gain maternity coverage in 2014; 8.7 million women did not have maternity coverage either because they did not have coverage to begin with or because they had a plan that did not provide maternity coverage. The health care law says if you buy insurance, we are going to expect that insurance has just a basic, commonsense level of benefits, and I think every American would agree with the fact that insurance for a woman should probably cover what for many women will be the most expensive intersection with the health care system they have in their life: And that is when they get pregnant. For families across the country, getting pregnant can bankrupt a family if they do not have maternity coverage. That changes with the Affordable Care Act.

Twenty seven million women can receive lifesaving preventive care without copays all across this country. A copay for many people is just \$5 or \$10. But for some cancer screenings, it can be a significant amount of money, running more than \$100. For low-income women, who are the primary breadwinner for their family, who are perhaps only making about \$25,000 a year, that is a barrier for them in seeking this basic preventive care, seeking care that could catch a cancer when it can be treated before it becomes a killer. Because of the Affordable Care Act, 27 million women now can receive lifesaving preventive care.

But maybe the most important statistic for women is this one: zero. Zero women can be charged more just for being a woman. The reality was, as Senator BOXER will talk about, if you were a woman in this country, you were sometimes paying 50 percent more simply because insurance companies believed in many cases that being a woman constituted a preexisting condition.

So we have 7.1 million people who are now on these private exchanges. Many of them are women who are already enjoying the benefits of the Affordable Care Act but now are going to be able to get lifesaving treatment because of the ACA.

There were a lot of people who said this day was not going to happen. There were a lot of naysayers out there who said there was no way we were ever going to be able to hit the 7 million mark.

It is kind of interesting to look back now on all of the folks who predicted catastrophe for the Affordable Care Act who have been proven wrong. Before I yield the floor for Senator BOXER, I want to go through a couple of these statements.

A lot of people in the House of Representatives have spent the majority of the last several years trying to destroy the Affordable Care Act. I was a Member of that body, and I probably was down on the floor of the House of Representatives for about 40 different votes to repeal all or part of the Affordable Care Act. I think we are now at about 50 or 51 votes.

But when the Web site ran into some troubles in the beginning of the year, they all went down to the floor and went on the cable news networks and said this was an example of how bad this law is and there is no way to fix the law, there is no way to fix the Web site.

Representative BILL JOHNSON of Ohio said this:

This may be the most stunning example of overpromising and under delivering in recent U.S. history. Based on my review, the problems with the Healthcare.gov website are catastrophic.

That is a bit of hyperbole to suggest that the problems with the Web site were the most stunning example ever in recent U.S. history of overpromising and underdelivering. But, of course, the Web site problems were fixed. They were fixed within a few months such that we have actually gone straight through the CBO's estimate—after the Web site troubles—of 6 million people enrolling and we now have 7 million people enrolling.

But as early as this month, Republicans and mass media sources were telling us there was no way we were going to hit 7 million or 6 million. An Associated Press article said:

... the White House needs something close to a miracle to meet its goal of enrolling 6 million people by the end of this month. With open enrollment ending March 31, that means to meet the goal, another 1.8 million people would have to sign up during the month. ... That's way above the daily averages for January and February. ... The math seems to be going against the administration.

Well, what the Associated Press did not get is that there is desperation out on the streets. People who have not had insurance for years, if not decades, well, they might have taken their time to price out the right plan for themselves. Some of them might have simply waited until the last minute. But the reality is, the demand there is, frankly, almost insatiable, such that the Web site actually came down for a portion of time on the 31st because so many people were going to it. The number eventually eclipsed even the CBO's rosiest estimate of enrollment.

Bill Kristol said this:

If the exchanges are permitted to go into effect ... there will be error, fraud, inefficiency, arbitrariness, and privacy violations aplenty. ... Just as economic shortages were endemic to Soviet central planning, the coming Obamacare train wreck is endemic to big government liberalism.

Well, the exchanges are working pretty well, such that we broke

through the 7 million barrier. In my State of Connecticut, which has run a really good exchange, we are coming close to doubling our expected enrollment. Senator BOXER will talk about her numbers in California. But when you actually work to implement the health care law, rather than work to undermine it, as several States are, the exchanges work very well.

So then they turned and said: Well, yes, lots of people are signing up, and, yes, the exchanges seem to be working, but the wrong people are signing up. So one conservative scholar said:

They have thrown the entire health-care system into unprecedented chaos for a population—

The uninsured—

that is, it seems, staying as far away from it as possible. Little has been fixed. ...

Well, Kentucky, just in the first 6 months of implementation, has reduced its uninsured population by 40 percent. The RAND Corporation said that 9 million Americans who had no health insurance now have health insurance. The reality is that people without insurance are signing up for the new health care law. Why? Because they can afford it and they desperately need it.

The fact is Republicans are going to continue to attack this law, and they are going to continue to change their arguments, they are going to continue to be shifting in the messages they send to the American people because every time they tell us that something is wrong, they are wrong.

Now they have said—do you know what—that 7 million figure, well, that just cannot be right. They are cooking the books. That cannot be right. There has to be something wrong with the methodology. Well, it is not just the Obama administration that says it is 7 million; it is independent analysts who say it is 7 million. And guess what. By the end of the year it could be 8 million once people who have had life-changing events sign up for care, once we incorporate all the State numbers.

Nobody is cooking the books. The uninsured are not staying away. The exchanges are not catastrophic. The Web site is not unfixable. All of these things have been proven untrue. Yet we still have people come down to the floor and tell us why this thing cannot work.

I listened to one of my colleagues come down to the floor earlier today and tell a story about a family in Wyoming. I do not know the specifics of the family there. But let's talk about families in a State like Wyoming that is on a Federal exchange—the real story of the options that are out there for families out there.

I think my friend from Wyoming was talking about a family of five. Again, I cannot know all of the specifics of that family. But let's say that family of five in Carbon County, WY, was making \$100,000 a year—which would be about

twice the average salary in that State and across the country. Well, that family of five making \$100,000 a year would qualify for a \$677 per month tax credit. A bronze plan would be about \$550 to \$750 per month. That is about 40 percent cheaper than a lot of private plans that may be available today.

Now let's say that family is actually making the median income in Wyoming, which is around \$56,000. Well, if you are making \$56,000, and you are a family of five in Wyoming, all your kids will qualify for Medicaid, which is virtually free, and the parents would qualify for a tax credit of \$528 per month. A bronze plan could be as cheap as \$171 per month.

That is the reality. That is affordable for a family of five making the median income. That is affordable. I understand people are having stories that do not match up with the 7 million people who have signed up for these plans over the past several months. I get that there is bad news out there. But there is a lot of good news out there as well. There are a lot of people who could not afford to buy a health insurance plan, who now can finally afford health care.

That is why Senator BOXER and myself and Senator STABENOW and Senator WHITEHOUSE and so many others have been coming down to the floor to talk about the fact that the Affordable Care Act is working. And for all of the naysayers, for all of the people who have predicted that this law could not work, well, the example has been set: 7 million people and counting signed up for health care exchanges all across this country—never mind all of the people who have gotten access to Medicaid, never mind all the people who have been able to stay on their parents' plan. We do not know what the overall number right now will be of people who have qualified for health care under the exchanges, Medicaid, and the provisions allowing people to stay on their plans. But this number could be 25 million by the time the year is out.

So I am thrilled to see the success of the Affordable Care Act and the number from yesterday. I am thrilled to see the life-changing benefits for women all across the country. I am pleased to be joined here on the floor by my colleague, Senator BOXER.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, what is the time situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is postcloture on H.R. 3979 and a perfecting amendment thereto.

Mrs. BOXER. Do I need to ask permission to speak on health care?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator does need consent.

Mrs. BOXER. I would so ask.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you so much, Mr. President.

I want to say a big thank you to Senator MURPHY because he has been a great leader on this issue. He and I are coming from States where people are signing up and signing up and surpassing the goals. The stories are incredibly heartwarming and wonderful and are being told on the radio and being told on TV. The truth is coming out about the Affordable Care Act.

All of the scares aside, we see now it is working. Why is it working? Because there was a very simple premise when we passed this bill 4 years ago; and that was, people deserve a fair shot at affordable health care. That is all it was. They deserve a fair shot at getting affordable health care. They deserve affordable health care. They deserve to be free from discrimination by the insurance companies.

So I am so pleased Senator MURPHY has taken it upon himself to organize a few of us so we do not allow misinformation and lies to be spread about the Affordable Care Act.

What I loved about President Obama's speech yesterday at the Rose Garden was that he is so open about it. He said: Yes, we had a flawed rollout. We lost time. That was bad. And, yes, no bill is perfect. I think it was our colleague ANGUS KING who said it the best. He said: The most perfect document in the world is the Constitution, and it has been amended 27 times. So is any bill perfect? Is any document perfect? Of course not. But I am here to say, given the facts—not the made-up stuff—given the facts, I am so proud I was able to vote for the Affordable Care Act. I am so proud of that. And I am sad that not one Republican joined us in that vote—not one of them, not one of them.

When you go back to 4 years ago, we saw that millions of our citizens were uninsured because they could not afford insurance; or they were uninsured because their insurance company walked out on them when they were sick; or there were annual limits on their plans, and they simply went over that annual limit and they went broke and they could not afford insurance. Some had lifetime caps. And it sounded like a lot: Oh, you have a cap of a quarter of a million dollars. But then when you get cancer, that cap is reached a heck of a lot faster than you thought.

So we had kids kicked off their parents' health insurance at 18, 19 years old.

We had people with asthma, diabetes, cancer who could not get insurance until the Affordable Care Act passed. Being a woman was considered a pre-existing condition. If you were a victim of domestic violence, forget it. The insurance company wanted no part of your risk. So Democrats took action—took action.

All the Republicans can do is come down here and say: Oh, here is one con-

stituent's story. For every one constituent's story that they tell, No. 1, doublecheck the facts because sometimes we look at the facts and they are not exactly what they say. But I can give 100 stories to their 1 of people finally getting health care.

By the way, we can fix this law any day of the week with the help of the Republicans if they have an issue they think needs to be addressed. But their answer is: repeal, repeal, repeal. Why would they want to repeal a law that is helping, I will tell you, over 100 million Americans, not 7 million—7 million who are on the exchange—but I will show you more than 100 million of our people are getting preventive care, free cancer screenings, immunizations, contraception.

It has made a big difference in their lives. It is making a big difference that kids can stay on their parents' policies. Why do they want to repeal a law that does that, that gives us a patients' bill of rights, so insurance companies cannot look at you when you are sick, in your darkest moment and say: Senator or friend or Mr. Jones or Mrs. Smith, I am so sorry to tell you that you are not getting any more coverage because we just learned you had diabetes. You did not tell us. You did not mention it. You are out.

I do not know why Republicans want to take that away from people, but then again history is repeating itself. I tell my friends—I have so many friends on the other side of the aisle. We just see the world differently. When we go back to Medicare, you should see what the Republicans said in this Senate about Medicare: Socialism, let it wither on the vine.

Bob Dole was here. He was so proud he voted against it. He led the charge. "It is terrible." Now you have tea party members come with signs to rallies that say, "Don't touch my Medicare." They love their Medicare. They do not understand it is a government program, Medicare. The government is the insurer. Of course, PAUL RYAN wants to end it in his budget. So I guess nothing changes; it all stays the same. They hated Medicare. They still hate it. They wanted it to wither on the vine. They totally destroy it in Ryan's budget.

Social Security. You should see what they said about Social Security. It was an abomination. That is what they said. So nothing changes. We have different people in different clothes. I look a little different than the Democrats in the old days. There were no women here for starters. My colleague is very handsome. He had some predecessors that looked good, but they all say the same thing: Government should not be involved in any of this. It will all be great. You know what, I wish they were right. I wish they were right.

My husband developed a small business. He managed to pay health care

for his people. He was proud to do it. But you know not every business is fair and just and right. So, yes, once in a while we have to say let's all work together to make sure people are covered. When I was a little kid, my mother used to tell me all the time: Without your health care, you have nothing. If you are sick, you got nothing.

I used to say: Oh, God, I am so tired of hearing that. I remember she used to say: You see that beautiful actress over there? She has everything, but she got sick so she has nothing. Your health is everything, she told me. You have to protect your health. She was right.

How do you protect your health and the health of your family? By getting preventive care so you can catch something early. If you do not have insurance, you do not get that preventive care. You are in trouble. If something happens and you are in an automobile accident and you thought you were an invincible young person and nothing would happen to you and suddenly you find yourself with broken bones and everything else, including a broken heart, and you have no health insurance, you can go bankrupt. People did, because it was so hard to get affordable insurance before the Affordable Care Act.

So what you are hearing and will continue to hear are scare tactics, stories. I am here to tell you—and I want to say it very clearly—about the millions and millions of Americans who understand that the Affordable Care Act is working for them.

Yesterday was a historic day. They said: Never would you get 7 million people to sign up for private insurance on the exchanges—never. It happened. Why? Because this is a product people need, health insurance that is affordable. But that number is the tip of the iceberg. I will prove it.

Medicaid; that is, insurance for the poorest working people. We expanded it. We let more people qualify: 4.5 million Americans previously uninsured now have coverage through Medicaid. So let's do the math. There are 7 million on the exchanges—7.1; 4.5 million on Medicaid who did not have it before; 3 million young adults are able to stay on their parents' plan who were not able to do that before. How about this? Eight million senior citizens who have saved billions of dollars because of the fix in the Affordable Care Act that says they get more help paying for their prescriptions.

That adds up to, drum roll, 22.6 million Americans with those very important benefits, but then here is the other thing. One hundred million Americans are now getting help with preventive services that they used to have to pay for: immunizations, mammograms, vaccines, annual exams, and other lifesaving preventive care.

We are talking about millions and millions. Even with private health care

now, you can have no annual limit, no lifetime limit. They cannot be turned away for preexisting conditions. Your insurance company cannot break out on them just when they are needing them. So that is almost everyone in the country who is benefiting from the law.

Let me tell you about California. We are the biggest State in the Union, 38 million strong. Covered California is the way we set up our exchange. It is coveredCA.com. Peter Lee is the head of that. I wish to thank Peter Lee today—he does not know I am doing this—for his extraordinary leadership.

Here is what happened. We exceeded our State's goal for enrollment through Covered California by not 100,000 people, not 200,000 people, not 300,000 or 400,000, but by 500,000 people we exceeded our goal. That is bigger than some States. Can you believe it? Half a million people, more than we expected.

I am sure Senator THUNE is shocked by this. This is a fact. We expected to have 700,000 sign up. Instead we had 1.2 million. That does not even include all of those who signed up on Monday or who were still in the process of completing enrollment.

We are going to hear a lot of stories about families who are paying what they think is too much—and I want to work with everybody to make this law better, believe me—but listen to a couple of my constituents. Julie Mims from Sacramento said:

We no longer have to worry about being ruined physically and financially by a serious health issue. . . . We enrolled in a Bronze 60 plan that will cost us \$2 a month.

This is a working woman who is getting the help she needs to have a decent—decent—health care policy.

Then there is Rebecca Tasker. She runs a small construction business in San Diego with her husband. They are saving \$1,000 a month. They are saving \$12,000 a year that they can spend on their family. They can spend that in their community boosting this economy.

She said, "These savings will help our company grow and might allow us to be able to hire our first employee this year."

So here is a small businesswoman who had to spend so much on health care, and now because of the Affordable Care Act she is able to save \$1,000 a month and possibly hire her first employee. Have you heard of something called job lock? Before the Affordable Care Act, people said: I do not want to leave my job because I have health care. I am scared to go out on my own. I would not be able to get it. I would not be able to afford it. That is why we set up the exchanges. It is freeing people to move out of a job that maybe they think is a dead-end and start their own business.

Here is a woman who is going to be able to hire her first employee with the

money she is saving. There are hundreds more stories. I will be coming to talk about those in the coming days and weeks. Stunningly, House Republicans keep bragging about their never-ending efforts to take health care away from millions of Americans.

Do you know the House has voted not once, not twice but more than 50 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They are doing it again. If they had spent as much energy working with us to make the law better, which the President said he is open to, we are open to, just like we worked with them on Medicare Part D when they carried that. We worked with them to make it better.

Can you imagine, we would be standing here talking about even more millions of people. I have to say and this—I know it might be viewed as controversial, but because this law helps women so much with mammography, with vaccines, with birth control, with the end of discrimination based on gender, with an end of discrimination if you have been the victim of violence, with the end of discrimination because you could carry a child and have a pregnancy and want coverage, this Affordable Care Act helps women.

So I am going to say this: When you vote 50 times to repeal a law that benefits women, you are voting against women. So you can say all you want to become—and I know Speaker BOEHNER said: I want to become more sensitive to women. I have an idea: Stop trying to take away health care from women and their families and then you will see women feel much better about you.

Women are smart. They know who is on their side. They know who wants to give them a fair shot. But it is not people who want to take away their health care. That is what you say day in and day out. Remember, under the Affordable Care Act, many women were denied health insurance because of pre-existing illnesses such as breast cancer, depression or, again, even being a victim of domestic violence. They were charged more than men. Let us be clear. Now we are guaranteed access to free preventive care and maternity care. Women are now paying zero dollars for a checkup—zero. This is it. Zero dollars to get a test to check for cervical cancer, zero dollars for a mammogram, zero dollars for FDA-approved contraception. Why do the Republicans want to repeal this law and take away mammograms, take away tests for cervical cancer, and take away checkups and FDA-approved contraception? Why?

At the same time, they say they do not understand why women do not gravitate to their party. I have to say, we should be celebrating this law—yes, fixing it where it needs to be fixed. But I think if Republicans would join with us and say let's work together to make this a better plan—if you have someone who cannot find their doctor in their

plan, let's try to work together to fix it. If you have someone who you think deserves a subsidy, let's work together and try to fix it.

But let's remember, folks, I just pointed out the millions of people who are benefiting.

House Speaker BOEHNER called the Affordable Care Act a "rolling calamity." House Majority Whip MCCARTHY said the enrollment numbers would be "staggeringly low." Several GOP Members tweeted excitedly about how enrollments in their States wouldn't even fill a football stadium to capacity, and former Gov. Mike Huckabee said: "You've got more people wanting to go moose hunting in New Hampshire than want Obamacare."

Wrong. Really wrong—really, really wrong.

It is time for Republicans to look at the facts. It is time for the GOP to accept the reality that this law is helping millions of people: seniors, women, men, students, children—all Americans.

It is time to recognize that one of the biggest problems facing our country before the Affordable Care Act was a lack of affordable insurance and millions of people are gaining the benefits.

So we are not going to go back to the days when our people were denied health care, where an insurance company would walk out on you, where you brought in a child with asthma when they were wheezing and the insurance company said: Get out. We can't insure that child.

I have seen the tears before the ACA when people were forced into bankruptcy because they had no insurance, and I have seen the tears of joy since the ACA.

So we will listen to our colleagues tell their tale of horrors, and that is fine. They have every right. I respect them. But remember, as we hear these stories, go back and make sure that is exactly what you thought you heard and then ask them what is their plan. How do they want to help women and their families and their children?

So far, we haven't heard much. All we have heard about is repeal, repeal, repeal. That is not a policy. Repealing the Affordable Care Act will hurt Americans and not just a few but many millions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with a number of my colleagues for up to 45 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, before I start, I noted that the Senator from Connecticut came to the floor in an attempt to debunk a letter from one of my constituents to me, a family from Rawlins, WY, whom I talked about earlier on the floor.

It seems the Senator is making the same argument the majority leader Senator REID has made time and time again that these letters are made up. That is what seems to be the case. Is that what the Senator from Connecticut is saying? These are letters, these are emails, these are news articles that are out there coming from our constituents and coming from our home States.

This was all supposed to be about affordable care. Care and affordability were the keystones of this entire piece of legislation.

So I heard the Senator from California talking about people being denied care. It is happening now because of the health care law—because of the health care law people are being denied care.

Let me reference where my colleague from Connecticut comes from. The State of Connecticut, the Hartford Courant, a major newspaper in the State of Connecticut, has a report that came out March 17 of this year, just a couple of weeks ago: "Connecticut Is Less Competitive After Federal Health Care Reform."

I heard the Senator from California saying there are people who have been helped, and I believe that, but for every one person who has been helped, I believe many have been harmed as a result of the law.

Let me tell you what our friends from the Hartford Courant wrote:

The individual health insurance market is less competitive in Connecticut since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, sometimes called Obamacare, the Kaiser Family Foundation said in a report released Monday.

Of the seven States to release enrollment data by insurer, Connecticut and Washington had fewer options—

Fewer options, not more options, as the President of the United States has claimed—fewer options. The article continues—

for people buying health plans on the individual market, according to Kaiser foundation, a non-profit health policy research organization.

California and New York, the largest States in the study, each has a more competitive insurance market today compared to 2012, Kaiser found.

But Connecticut, the State where my colleague had questioned where the woman from Wyoming comes from, is less competitive. The article continues:

In 2012, Connecticut's individual health insurance market was more evenly distributed among a number of insurers.

They list Aetna, WellPoint/Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, UnitedHealth Group, EmblemHealth/ConnectiCare. It says:

Connecticut has fewer insurer options available on Access Health CT, its public health exchange, which was created by the Affordable Care Act.

As of February 18, two insurers dominated 97 percent of health plans sold through Access Health CT.

There is a "less competitive exchange market and" let me point out "higher than average premiums."

If that is what my colleague from Connecticut wants to say is a success, let him have it, but he has no right, in my opinion, to come and say that a woman who wrote to me is either not smart enough to know how to figure out how much of her premiums she is being asked to pay and what her premiums were prior to her losing insurance because of the health care law.

Then the Senator from California came to the floor to say: Well, people aren't losing the care they had.

NBC Connecticut, again where our colleague is from, says: "Some Connecticut doctors said they will not accept certain health insurance plans offered on the state health exchange." The story goes on to say: "It broke my heart," losing the doctor she had been to before whom she trusts and has faith in but because of the health care law is losing that care.

I come to the floor to just point out that Republicans have better ideas. Republicans have ideas about ways to help work to lower the cost of care so patients can get the care they need from a doctor they want at lower cost, not the situation we see across the country, where many individuals believe and truly feel harmed as a result of the President's health care law.

With that, in response to what my colleagues from Connecticut and California have just said, we are here today to talk about jobs, the economy, getting people back to work. As a doctor, I will tell you long-term unemployment, how it affects someone's life, how it affects, I believe, their identity, their self-worth, their dignity, and the way they think about themselves, and so it is much more important that we get Americans back to work.

I am on the floor with a number of my colleagues. The Senator from South Dakota is on the floor, and he knows as well as anyone the impact unemployment has in rural America, in the Western United States and how when jobs go away it makes it much harder for other jobs to come. I would ask that he share some of those thoughts with us right now.

Mr. THUNE. I thank the Senator from Wyoming for his observations about health care and more particularly about jobs.

We are talking about a 13th extension now of unemployment insurance benefits which, in my view, does treat a symptom, but it doesn't do anything to address the underlying cause. The cause is we have too many people in this country who are out of the work, which means we need to create more jobs, and that means making it less expensive and less difficult to hire people, not driving up the cost of hiring.

The Senator from Wyoming has just touched on one of the issues that is affecting hiring in this country; that is, ObamaCare.

You can say what you want—and the other side may have some stories, which we will not dispute, unlike when we come up here and we share the stories, the real-life stories of some of our constituents, and then we have the majority leader of the Senate say those stories aren't true, those stories are all made up. Then he came to the floor last week in response to more bad news about ObamaCare and said the reason people aren't signing up for it is they just aren't educated enough about the Internet.

What he is essentially saying is that the people of this country, No. 1, aren't telling the truth and; No. 2, aren't very smart. That is not what I believe and I don't think that is what any of my colleagues believe.

We do believe there are things we ought to be doing to get Americans back to work. Repealing ObamaCare would be a good place to start because it is making the cost of growing your business, expanding your business in this country, dramatically higher. It is also raising the premiums and the deductibles for people all across this country, for middle-class families, and giving them fewer options when it comes to doctors and to hospitals.

I want to talk just briefly, if I might, about the cost of overregulation and what it is doing to our economy.

We have had an opportunity during this discussion on unemployment insurance to talk about some of the things that we would do if we would be given a chance to offer amendments. Typically, the case around here, what happens, the practice and pattern of late is that the majority leader fills the tree and blocks us from offering amendments. We have a lot of Members on our side who have great ideas about things that would actually create jobs, actually grow the economy. One of the things we know is costing jobs and hurting the economy is the cost of overregulation, destroying jobs and making it more difficult for our job creators.

In fact, the estimate is it is almost one-half trillion dollars in the cost of regulations since the President has come to office—almost one-half trillion dollars added—added cost in this country. That figure is larger than the entire economy of Peru. It is larger than the entire economy of Sweden. Think about that. The cost of regulation in this country since this President has come to office is larger than the entire economies of either Sweden or Peru.

One of the largest contributors to these new regulations and compliance costs is the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency. They came out with the Boiler MACT regulations, they came out with the Utility MACT

regulations, and they came out with tier 3 fuel standards. All of these things that the EPA has finalized are some of the most costly regulations we have seen from any agency in recent history.

These rules will impose billions of dollars in costs on energy producers and manufacturers, which are going to be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices. Unfortunately, for consumers already hurting in the Obama economy, more bad news is on the way. The EPA is currently working on regulations for ozone standards, greenhouse gas emissions for powerplants, and a dramatic expansion of the Clean Water Act that will reach into ditches and gullies all across America.

I would like to briefly touch on the impacts EPA mandates, including greenhouse gas standards, regional haze requirements, Utility MACT, and Boiler MACT, are having on energy prices back in my home State of South Dakota. Unfortunately, South Dakotans are on the frontlines of this administration's war on affordable energy.

In 2008, then-Senator Obama promised to make energy prices skyrocket. Today, in my home State, he is fulfilling that promise. Just Monday Black Hills Power, a utility company in western South Dakota, announced a proposed rate increase to cover the cost of new EPA mandates. If that rate increase is approved, the average customer's rates will increase by \$130 a year. For a family living in western South Dakota, \$130 can go a long way toward putting food on the table or making a car payment.

South Dakota is a rural State with energy-intensive manufacturing and agricultural sectors of our economy. Families have to travel long distances. We are a cold-weather climate. We see dramatic swings in seasonal temperatures that create uncertainty when opening monthly utility bills. Unfortunately, the EPA's backdoor energy tax, which is already beginning to hit South Dakota's families, is about to get even more expensive.

The tier 3 gasoline standards, greenhouse gas regulations, and new ozone rules are a train wreck of new regulations that are going to further drive up energy costs and destroy jobs. That is why I have offered two commonsense amendments to rein in these costly EPA regulations.

The first amendment would require Congress to approve any EPA regulation with a projected cost of more than \$50 million a year. If Congress rejects that rule, the EPA would be forced to go back to the drawing board and pursue less costly alternatives.

From regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act to regulating streams and ditches under the Clean Water Act, this EPA stretches authority well beyond what Congress in-

tended when we created a Federal-State environment regulatory structure decades ago. This EPA needs to be reined in, and the best way to do that is by creating congressional oversight of major regulations.

My second amendment would create another check on the EPA's ever-expanding regulatory reach. This would require the Department of Energy and the Government Accountability Office to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of EPA's proposed greenhouse gas regulations on powerplants.

If, based on this study, the DOE, the Department of Energy, or GAO determined that the new regulations would raise energy prices or destroy jobs, the new regulations could not take effect. The EPA could still propose new regulations on new and existing powerplants, but those regulations couldn't be finalized until it certified that those new rules would not negatively impact jobs or energy costs.

We have over 10 million people who remain unemployed. Economic growth and job creation remain stagnant and middle-class incomes have dropped by \$3,000 per family over the past 5 years. The last thing middle-class families need is for their pocketbooks to be further stretched by misguided government policies that drive up energy costs. It is time to put a check on the EPA. It is time to have an open debate, an amendment process on commonsense proposals to increase congressional oversight, and it is time to put consumers ahead of liberal environmental groups.

I encourage my colleagues on the floor with me today to continue pushing for policies that make energy more abundant and more affordable. Unlike the heavyhanded regulations we have seen from the Obama administration, these policies will actually create jobs and help grow the middle class. I will continue fighting, along with my colleagues joining me on the floor today, to make sure we get votes on these policies and begin to rein in the out-of-control regulations from the Obama administration.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I am pleased to be here with my colleagues talking about ways we can get people back to work, regulations that don't make sense, and energy policies that clearly every economist we talk to understands are a key to the future.

I know the Republican leader has joined us on the floor, and I think I will ask him if he has some comments he would like to make, and then we can come back to me at the end of his comments.

Mr. McCONNELL. I thank my friend from Missouri.

What we have been talking about is how to create jobs. Unfortunately, the

agenda of the Senate Democratic majority does just the opposite. It appears as if we are not likely to be able to get any amendments offered that would actually create jobs and opportunity for our people.

One of the things I have been so disturbed about over the years is the inability of employees to make a voluntary choice about whether they want to belong to a union.

In addition to the energy jobs measures we are discussing here today, I have another related measure I would like to highlight. As I mentioned earlier this morning in my opening remarks, enacting national right-to-work legislation is just plain common sense. My colleague from Kentucky, Senator PAUL, has been the leader on this issue.

This is a fundamental issue of worker freedom. This amendment would empower American workers to choose whether they would like to join a union. It would protect a worker from getting fired if she would rather not pay dues to a union boss who fails to represent her concerns and her priorities. According to one survey, 80 percent of unionized workers agreed that workers should be able to choose whether to join a union.

It is an issue of upward mobility. A worker should be able to be recognized and rewarded for her individual hard work and productivity.

This is paycheck fairness. A worker should no longer be held back by an antiquated system where pay raises are based on seniority rather than on merit.

This is an issue of leveling the playing field. Workers in all States would have a more equal chance of finding work in every State, and they would no longer see their communities failing to secure new investments because their State hasn't passed a right-to-work law.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer my amendment No. 2910, which I have just described to my colleagues here in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, reserving my right to object, the underlying measure is a bipartisan response to an emergency in terms of extending unemployment for 5 months—a temporary extension. Given the emergency nature of the underlying legislation, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, Senator THUNE, my friend from South Dakota, and I have worked for a long time on the kinds of economic and troublesome regulations he talked about earlier. Nobody appears to be answerable to the people—those who come forward with

these regulations. I think he has an amendment on that, and I would afford him the chance to talk about that amendment.

Mr. THUNE. I thank my colleague from Missouri.

Senator BLUNT and I have, as he said, worked very hard when it comes to the overreach of government agencies and the burdens of regulations, the cost of regulations and what that is doing to a lot of middle-class families and their pocketbooks.

I mentioned earlier a couple of amendments I had filed here that pertained to energy costs in my home State of South Dakota, one of which sets a \$50 million threshold over which a regulation proposed by the EPA would have to be voted on by the Congress of the United States, and if Congress rejected it, the EPA would have to go back to the drawing board to come up with an alternative approach. That amendment is amendment No. 2895, and I think it fits perfectly with what we are talking about today, which is growing our economy, creating jobs, and trying to do what actually would get people back to work. Certainly, the burdensome cost of regulation is a tremendous deterrent and impediment to job creation in this country.

I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer my amendment No. 2895.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Is there objection?

The senior Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, reserving my right to object, once again, given the emergency nature of this bipartisan legislation to address the plight of over 2 million Americans desperately looking for work, I object and hope we can press on with the passing of the underlying legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, let's talk about this topic a little longer—regulation. Again, in my view—and my friend from South Dakota and I have shared this view for a long time—when the Congress passes laws—and I think it is appropriate that we are not always in the best place to come up with the regulations that put those laws in place—I believe the country has clearly come to a place where nobody is then answerable for regulations that have a significant impact on our economy.

The Senator from Kentucky Mr. PAUL and I have cosponsored the REINS Act, which addresses these laws that meet this kind of threshold, and it is a bill that was before the Congress, but we can't get that bill to the floor.

Senator THUNE and I have worked for a long time on this kind of proposal that would simply create opportunity.

The emergency nature of the opportunity is really a 5-year emergency now where we have seen job opportunity after job opportunity go away. Part of that is surely because of what were the unintended but clear consequences of the Affordable Care Act, and part of it is rules and regulations that don't make sense to people who are about to take enough of a chance with their creation of opportunity for themselves and somebody else without having any idea that someone answerable to them is eventually going to have to answer for what the Federal Government does. And that is what bringing these regulations to the floor would do.

Nobody is saying Congress should be responsible for implementing every law and the goal of law, but we should be responsible for the impact of that law and should have the final say on rules and regulations that we have essentially started in motion. They should come back here.

If we don't do this on this bill today, we should do this. We should have done this years ago. Many of us in this body, in the Congress, have believed for a long time that this is one of the major impediments to job creation.

Another impediment is bad energy policy. That is why there are so many energy amendments. The amendment I offered where the Congress couldn't have a carbon tax unless it passed a threshold of 60 votes was offered in the budget debate last year, and 53 of my colleagues—Democrats and Republicans here on the floor—agreed that, yes, we should have a special threshold.

When we talk about a tax that makes gas at the gasoline pump more expensive; that makes diesel fuel that delivers products more expensive; that raises the utility bill of everybody who has some element of fossil fuel in their utilities, and that is virtually everybody; that makes it less likely that people will create manufacturing jobs and those kinds of opportunities here, of course we ought to be talking about those kinds of policies, whether or not it is the carbon tax.

In Ohio, in Missouri, in Wyoming, in the vast middle of the country, our energy comes from fossil fuels. Those are the resources we have. Our focus should be on using those more effectively, not figuring out ways we shouldn't use them at all or figuring out ways to double the utility bill.

That is the EPA's own estimate of their own rule, that the utility bill, they say, will go up 80 percent if the rule is in place. I think that is probably a little optimistic on their part. Eighty percent is almost doubling your current utility bill. Think about where you work or your daughter-in-law works or your son-in-law works or somebody in your family works, doubling the utility bill there and wondering if there will still be a utility

there or if that company will decide to go somewhere else. The incredibly capable and competitive American workforce is being held back by utility policies that stop people from making the investments they want to make.

The energy cost of manufacturing, according to the National Association of Manufacturers and others, is a key element now in that final decision to decide where you are going to build something, where you are going to make something, and, most importantly for families, where you are going to create a job that has the kind of take-home pay families need.

When we talk about the Keystone Pipeline, the ability to maximize our use of natural gas, of fracking for oil, we are talking about the great resources we have, and we should use those resources to our benefit. Every other country in the world, when they look at their tableaux of natural resources, the first two words that come to mind in every other country in the world are “economic opportunity” or “economic advantage.” What does this allow us to do that we couldn’t do otherwise? What advantage does this give us over our competitors?

We shouldn’t let the first two words that come to mind when we look at our natural resources be “environmental hazard.” What is the worst thing that would happen and what would happen if that happened every day? No. 1, the worst thing to happen is something we should think about but not be overwhelmed by. We should see that that doesn’t happen, and if it does happen, what are we immediately prepared to do about it so it does not become an ongoing problem? That is the whole formula it takes on the energy side, on the natural resources side to create opportunity.

The one thing government policies can do, although they can’t create jobs, is they can create an environment where people want to create private sector jobs. That is and continues to be the No. 1 priority domestically this Congress should be focused on—what we do to create more private sector jobs. I think energy is a big part of that.

Certainly, my friend from Wyoming Senator BARRASSO who has brought us together to talk about this, understands that so well. Energy and regulation policies that make sense are the kinds of policies that help us create the opportunities that hard-working families need and that families who would like to see somebody in their family have that job with great take-home pay are focused on.

I yield for my friend Senator BARRASSO.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. I thank my colleague, and I appreciate the comments of my colleague Senator BLUNT, who

has been a leader and champion on the issue of getting people back to work.

We heard the Senator from Rhode Island saying there are people out there desperately looking for work. What we are doing is bringing to the floor amendments to this piece of legislation that will actually get people back to work nearly immediately.

So I rise today to discuss how Congress can actually help the people who are unemployed get back to work. We have been debating all week whether the Senate should extend unemployment insurance to the long-term unemployed. And whether or not one supports extending unemployment insurance, we can all agree and should all agree that job creation should really be the top priority. This, to me, is where the unemployment insurance bill, as currently written, falls short. That is why I, along with a number of my colleagues, have filed amendments that would help create nearly 100,000 jobs.

Our amendment would do two things, and President Obama has failed to do them. The amendment I am here with Senator HOEVEN to discuss would permit—approve the Keystone XL Pipeline as well as liquefied natural gas exports to our allies and strategic partners.

The Keystone XL Pipeline has been pending for over 5½ years—over 5½ years. During that time the Obama administration has conducted five separate environmental reviews of this project—five environmental reviews in the last 5½ years.

Despite this scrutiny, President Obama continues to delay approving the Keystone XL Pipeline even though its construction would support over 42,000 jobs. That 42,000 jobs number is not my number. This is the jobs estimate from President Obama’s own State Department.

The Keystone XL Pipeline has broad bipartisan support throughout the country. A recent Washington Post/ABC News poll found that 65 percent of Americans support the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Labor unions such as the plumbers and pipefitters, building and construction trades, international labor, and the union of operating engineers, among others, have all called on the President of the United States to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. Just over 1 year ago, 62 Members of the Senate voted in favor of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

If the Senate is going to extend unemployment insurance, it should also help Americans get back to work. We should adopt this amendment which approves the Keystone XL Pipeline.

The other part of the amendment deals with approving LNG exports—liquefied natural gas—to our allies and strategic partners. Before getting into the specifics of that, I ask my colleague and friend from North Dakota, Senator HOEVEN—who has worked closely with supporters of the Keystone

XL Pipeline, a man who was Governor of the State of North Dakota during the early discussions—to express his thoughts on why we think this is important to the economy, to help those people who are unemployed, and help getting Americans back to work.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I thank the esteemed Senator from Wyoming for leading this colloquy.

Our effort here is to address in real terms the problem—the legislation we have on the floor right now is the unemployment insurance bill—to truly address the problem, which is getting people back to work, rather than additional government payments added onto the payments already made.

What we are trying to do is make sure there are jobs to get people back to work. Energy is an incredible opportunity to do just that. So when we talk about this energy legislation, it is about producing more energy for our country. But it is about jobs, it is about economic growth, and it is about national security. So I commend the esteemed Senator from Wyoming for leading the charge on legislation which would allow us to export liquefied natural gas.

We currently consume in the United States on an annual basis about 26 trillion cubic feet of natural gas a year, but we produce 30 trillion cubic feet of natural gas a year. So we are already in a situation where we are producing more than we consume. We import some from Canada, and we are growing in terms of our domestic production in States such as Wyoming, my home State, and others. Across the country with the shale gas development, we are producing more and more natural gas. We need a market for that natural gas, and Europe very much needs natural gas so they are not dependent on Russia for their energy. So we are talking about an opportunity here at home to actually create more economic activity and put people back to work. That is the real solution. It doesn’t cost the government one penny. Instead, we get revenue—not from higher taxes, but from a growing economy and people going back to work.

When we look at this legislation, we have taken legislation led by the Senator from Wyoming and we have tied it together with Keystone legislation I have submitted. We call it the Energy Security Act, and it does those two things—it approves the Keystone XL Pipeline, a \$5.3 billion investment by private companies in our economy. By the Obama administration’s own estimate, their State Department has said it will create more than 40,000 jobs in the construction phase. We tie that with legislation which has been put forward by the Senator from Wyoming, which I am extremely pleased to co-sponsor. We put those two together,

LNG exports with Keystone. We call it the Energy Security Act. We have submitted it and we have filed it as amendment No. 2891.

I therefore ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer my amendment No. 2891.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REED. Mr. President, reserving my right to object, once again, the underlying legislation is designed to help 2.7 million Americans who need the support. It is a bipartisan agreement. There is a time and place to debate all these issues, but I think the time and place now is to move forward and vote on the underlying agreement.

Therefore, I respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. HOEVEN. With due deference to the good Senator, I understand his desire to make sure people who are unemployed receive assistance. I think he truly is a champion in that effort. I appreciate the opportunity to work with him in a bipartisan way. But I would submit this very legislation absolutely complements what he is trying to do, and does it in a number of ways, first, in terms of a permanent, real, long-term solution—meaning getting those people back to work, but, second, in terms of paying for it, in terms of actually paying for the cost of unemployment insurance, these provisions—this amendment and the other amendment we are offering—will actually help create revenue to do what the Senator is trying to do.

For that reason, I think it is absolutely complementary to the legislation at hand and will in fact add bipartisan support to passage of that legislation.

I will cite one more extremely compelling study which relates to this point before I turn back to the Senator from Wyoming.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce in 2011 commissioned a study. They had experts do an evaluation of energy projects awaiting approval to proceed from the administration—awaiting permits or other requirements so they could proceed with these energy projects.

What I am talking about are energy projects that total billions, even hundreds of billions, of dollars where private companies are willing to invest their money and develop energy resources across this great country.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce study I cite was performed in 2011. It came back and said there are more than 350 energy projects, both renewable type energy and traditional energy, that are stalled because of bureaucratic redtape on the part of the Federal Government at a cost of \$1.1 trillion to the American economy and nearly 2 million jobs for the American people. Think about that, 2 million

jobs for the American people, when what we are talking about here today is the unemployed.

What we are talking about here today is putting people back to work.

I will cite from that study:

In aggregate, planning and construction of the subject projects (the “investment phase”) would generate \$577 billion in direct investment, calculated in current dollars. The indirect and induced effects (what we term multiplier effects) would generate an approximate \$1.1 trillion increase in U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) including \$352 billion in employment earnings, based on present discounted value (PDV) over an average construction period of seven years. Furthermore, we estimate that as many as 1.9 million jobs would be required during each year of construction.

Good-paying construction jobs. The Keystone XL Pipeline is just one of those more than 350 projects, and it alone is an investment of \$5.3 billion. It alone, according to the State Department's own estimates, will create more than 40,000 jobs.

What are we trying to do here? I thought it was to put people back to work, trying to make sure they have an opportunity—in States such as Ohio. Of course, in my State we have an energy boom. We are trying to get people. We have more jobs than people because we have unleashed this investment in energy. We have done that in our State. Why not do it across the country? Why not do it across the country? There is no question we can.

We have offered other amendments as well. The other point I want to make is they are bipartisan amendments. They are amendments that don't cost the Federal Government any money but create incredible investment and incredible opportunity for our people, and they are bipartisan.

One of the amendments put forward by the Senator from Missouri passed through the House with 1 dissenting vote. I don't know if the 1 dissenting vote was Republican or Democrat, but I don't know how you get any more bipartisan than that, because they were one short of unanimous. So that is what we are talking about here.

I know negotiations and discussions are going on as to votes we may get on the legislation we are offering as part of this unemployment insurance bill. I ask the leadership on the majority side to allow us to vote on these amendments. We will accept the verdict of the Senate; all 100 get to vote, which is what we were sent here to do.

I will close with that. This isn't about either the Democratic side of the aisle or the Republican side of the aisle. This is about people who are unemployed and need an opportunity. We absolutely have the ability to give them that opportunity, so let's do it. Let's do it. That is what this debate is all about.

Again, I thank the distinguished Senator from Wyoming for leading the dis-

cussion. He has been an energy leader as well as a physician, so he certainly has been a leader on the health care issue too. But he has certainly been an energy leader, and his State is a leading energy-producing State.

As I said at the outset, and he has made the point so eloquently, this is an opportunity. Energy is an opportunity. It is jobs, it is economic growth, it is national security. Let's go. Let's get it done.

With that, I turn to my colleague from Wyoming and again thank him for his leadership of this important discussion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, how much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 5 minutes 20 seconds.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of my friend and colleague from North Dakota, a State in which he served as a Governor, a business leader in the community, and knows the State very well and knows the importance of energy—not just to his State's economy but to the economy of the country and the importance for people who want work, who want jobs.

I think bringing together the issues of the Keystone XL Pipeline as well as the exportation of liquefied natural gas is what will help get Americans back to work.

Since September of 2010, the Obama administration approved only seven applications to export liquefied natural gas. The administration is sitting on 24 pending applications. Thirteen of those applications have been pending for more than 1 year. Some of these applications have been pending for more than 2 years. To put this in context: The United States has approved less than half of the LNG export capacity that Canada has approved. To me, this administration's delay is unacceptable and the excuses have run out.

I take a look at this from the standpoint of what is happening globally as well. Ukraine imports about 60 percent to 70 percent of its natural gas from Russia. Nine of our NATO allies import 40 percent or more of their natural gas from Russia. Four of our NATO allies import 100 percent of their natural gas from Russia.

LNG exports would help our strategic partners and allies free themselves from Russian energy. This is why our NATO allies are calling on Congress to expedite—expedite—LNG exports.

LNG exports will give our allies an alternative supply of natural gas and enable them to resist Russia's intimidation. LNG exports will also help create jobs right here at home.

In February, The Economist explained that LNG exports “would generate tanker loads of cash” for the United States.

More recently, Nera Economic Consulting suggested that LNG exports could help reduce the unemployment rolls by as many as 45,000 over the next few years. This is extraordinary. LNG exports would not only create new jobs but would employ Americans who cannot find work today.

LNG exports would help as many as 45,000 Americans find work. President Obama through his actions has made it very clear that jobs are not his priority. He seems to be more interested in inventing new delays and new excuses than in actually creating new jobs. That is why the Senate must act today and here in this place. That is why the Senate should approve the Keystone XL Pipeline and LNG exports and that is why we should adopt the amendment that Senator HOEVEN has offered.

So, Mr. President, I come to the floor today to say Republicans have now tried to offer 9 amendments we believe would get this economy growing again, amendments we believe would actually create jobs and put people back to work.

Now, to inform my colleagues of what I am about to do, I am going to move to table the pending Reid amendment No. 2878, which for everyone's information is an amendment which merely changes the date of enactment. So Senators voting not to table this amendment would rather change the date than vote on amendments that would help put people back to work.

In order for my colleagues to be able to offer amendments, I move to table the pending Reid amendment No. 2878, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 97 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Alexander	Coats	Enzi
Ayotte	Coburn	Fischer
Barrasso	Cochran	Flake
Blunt	Collins	Graham
Boozman	Corker	Grassley
Burr	Cornyn	Hatch
Chambliss	Crapo	Heller

Hoeven	McCain
Inhofe	McConnell
Isakson	Moran
Johanns	Murkowski
Johnson (WI)	Paul
King	Portman
Kirk	Risch
Lee	Roberts
Manchin	Rubio

NAYS—50

Baldwin	Hagan	Nelson
Begich	Harkin	Pryor
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Landrieu	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Walsh
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Rockefeller
Markey	Warren

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I have a germane amendment to this matter, which I have been trying to get recognized to present.

I call up my amendment No. 2931 to the Reid amendment No. 2874.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is not in order to be offered. It is inconsistent with Senate precedence with respect to the offering of amendments, their numbers, degree, and kind.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in light of the fact that our practice of regularly shutting out Senators from the ability to offer reasonable and germane amendments is inconsistent with all of the history and traditions of the Senate, I appeal the ruling of the Chair that the amendment is not in order and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to table and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 98 Leg.]

YEAS—67

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murphy
Ayotte	Hagan	Murray
Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Hatch	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Heller	Reid
Boxer	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Isakson	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Sessions
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Chambliss	Landrieu	Tester
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Collins	Levin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Manchin	Walsh
Corker	McCain	Warner
Donnelly	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Durbin	Menendez	Wicker
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden
Flake	Mikulski	
Franken	Murkowski	

NAYS—29

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Coats	Johanns	Scott
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	McConnell	Vitter
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Rockefeller
Markey	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to table the appeal on the ruling of the Chair is agreed to.

The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF TOMASZ P. MALINOWSKI TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR

NOMINATION OF PORTIA Y. WU TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR

NOMINATION OF DEBORAH L. BIRX TO BE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE AND COORDINATOR OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS GLOBALLY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, pursuant to an order that is now in effect in the Senate, I move to proceed to executive session to consider the Malinowski, Wu, and Birx nominations, and ask that all time for debate be yielded back on all of these nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of Tomasz P. Malinowski, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; Portia Y. Wu, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor; and Deborah L. Bix, of Maryland, to be Ambassador at Large and Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I rise to express my support for the nomination of Dr. Deborah Bix to serve as the next Global Aids Coordinator at the Department of State. Dr. Bix's extensive leadership, experience, and research in the field of HIV/AIDS make her an ideal candidate to lead our Nation's response to HIV/AIDS around the world.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, has been a resounding success. Our investments in fighting HIV/AIDS throughout the world have resulted in access to treatment for millions of people and dramatic reductions in new infections. It has also garnered unprecedented respect for the United States in communities around the world. This is why it is important that we have a strong coordinator who will continue to lead on this important issue. Dr. Bix has a unique combination of scientific, technical, and leadership experience that makes her the best candidate for this position.

Dr. Bix began her career serving in the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, where she led the Department of Defense in its work on HIV/AIDS throughout the 1980s. In that role, she led one of the most influential HIV vaccine trials in history, which resulted in the first supporting evidence of any vaccine being effective in lowering the risk of contracting HIV.

For more than a decade, Dr. Bix served as the Director of the U.S. Military HIV Research Program at the Department of Defense. During her time there she brought together the Army, Navy, and Air Force in a new model of cooperation and greatly improved the U.S. military's HIV/AIDS efforts through innovative collaboration.

Since 2005, she has served as the Director of the Global AIDS Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. Through her leadership, CDC now has an infrastructure that supports HIV/AIDS programs in over 75 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America which are funded by PEPFAR.

Dr. Bix has dedicated her career to advancing and improving the field of HIV/AIDS. After three decades in the fight against HIV/AIDS, her passion and dedication to her work has not

wavered, and she remains stalwart in her belief that we can put an end to this epidemic. Her leadership and expertise in this field is unprecedented, which is why I urge my colleagues to support the nomination of Dr. Deborah Bix to serve as the next U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator.

VOTE ON MALINOWSKI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Tomasz P. Malinowski, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON WU NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Portia Y. Wu, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BIX NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Deborah L. Bix, of Maryland, to be Ambassador at Large and Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume legislative session.

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I can still remember my first job as though it was yesterday. I worked as a busboy at a local family restaurant during our small-town fair. While that job only lasted a few days, I still remember how incredibly proud I was to have earned a few dollars myself. The next year that same family hired me to bus tables and wash dishes year-round at their family restaurant. I soon went from busing tables to bagging groceries and then stocking shelves at the local grocery store.

I grew up on a small farming and ranching operation. So whether it was drying dishes after dinner or helping my dad with the cattle, hard work was simply a requirement for every single member of my family. In addition to tending cattle, my dad worked as a utility lineman. And my mother

worked in a factory inspecting wheels on the assembly line.

Like a lot of Americans, I learned the dignity of work long before I ever held a job. I learned at home.

Everyone deserves a fair shot at success in this country. That is at the heart of why raising the minimum wage truly matters.

Minimum wage workers are not just teenagers. They are single parents working two jobs to make ends meet. They are women working a minimum-wage job at a movie theater for 8 years waiting for a raise. They are students working toward a degree that they hope will make all the difference in their lives. They are mothers and fathers working 40 hours a week—sometimes many more—to support their families.

These are the Americans who work hard and earn the Federal minimum wage and still find it difficult—some would argue impossible—to get ahead.

At \$7.25 an hour, the Federal minimum wage has lost more than 30 percent of its value over the past four decades. Groceries and housing, education and energy costs all continue to rise, but the minimum wage simply has not kept pace.

This financial hardship is especially felt by women who make up a majority of minimum wage workers in this country. And stagnant wages hinder a family's chance to work their way into the middle class.

For many, raising the minimum wage means the difference between poverty and dignity. It can mean the difference between a trip to the food bank and a trip to the grocery store. It means the difference between earning enough to just barely get by and earning enough to at least think about the future.

That is why I am supporting the Minimum Wage Fairness Act to raise the Federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour by 2015.

According to recent estimates, more than 100,000 New Mexicans would receive a direct raise from this legislation, and another 43,000 would see their pay increase as overall wages improve, dramatically increasing economic opportunities for New Mexico families.

Raising the minimum wage is not just good for those workers; it is good for business and it is good for the economy at large. A higher minimum wage helps reduce turnover, increases productivity, and boosts consumer demand.

A higher minimum wage puts more money in the pockets of people who spend locally and helps create a ladder of opportunity into the middle class.

Americans are no strangers to hard work and embrace the belief that if you work hard and you play by the rules, you should be able to get ahead, you deserve a fair shot.

There are cities in New Mexico that are already taking the initiative and

raising the minimum wage on their own. The city of Santa Fe's minimum wage is \$10.51 per hour. As a city councilor myself, I fought to raise the minimum wage in Albuquerque. And today Albuquerque's minimum wage is still \$1.25 more than the current Federal rate.

In Las Cruces, there is a growing grassroots effort to raise that city's minimum wage.

I know this fight. We need to raise the national minimum wage so that all workers have a fair shot to get ahead. Because, the truth is, the deck has been stacked against working families for some time now. Too many working families are forced to make decisions that hurt the progress and strength of our Nation as a whole—such as taking on an extra shift instead of pursuing their education, or having to choose between paying the heating bill or the phone bill.

Raising the minimum wage is key to making this economic recovery work for all of us. But raising the minimum wage alone is not enough to constitute a middle-class economic agenda.

We need to put preschool within the financial grasp of every working family, and we need to address the outrageous increases in college tuition and loan costs. We must invest in vocational training and help build the modern American manufacturing economy of the 21st century. We must close the gender wage gap to ensure that women are paid what they deserve—paid equally with men.

Fair, livable wages, together with educational opportunities for middle-class families—that is a formula for a real opportunity agenda.

It is time to ensure that every New Mexican, every American has a fair shot. It is time to raise the minimum wage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The Finance Committee is considering something we call in the Senate tax extenders. One of those is the wind production tax credit. For the next 10 minutes or so, I wish to address that law which has been on the books for more than 20 years. It expired in December, and, in my view, needs to stay expired.

One of the things we remember most about the late President Ronald Reagan, is what he said about government programs: The closest you will come to eternal life on this Earth is a government program.

Well, my nomination for the most glaring example of a government program that seems to have eternal life is the wind production tax credit—the Federal taxpayers' subsidy for what I would call "big wind."

Here is what the wind production tax credit does. Let's say you build one of

those 20-story turbines and the wind turbines begin to go around, as they will about one-third of the time to produce electricity. So for every kilowatt hour of electricity that you produce, the taxpayers will pay you 2.3 cents. That is a pretty good deal because the wholesale price of electricity, depending on where you are at in the country, might range from about 3 cents per kilowatt hour to 7 cents per kilowatt hour. So let's say you are in Oregon or a part of the country where they have pretty cheap electricity and you sell wind for 3 cents a kilowatt hour. You will pay 1 cent of the money you get in Federal corporate tax. That leaves you with 2 cents, but then the taxpayer is going to come in and pay you 2.3 cents on top of that. Because it is a tax credit, it is worth even more.

Now it is even better than that. That subsidy is not just for 1 year, but it is for 10 years. So every time we have a 1-year extension of the wind production tax credit, we tell the owner of the wind turbine—and usually they take these ownerships and they put them in portfolios and they split them up and sell them to rich people around the country and around the world who can use the tax credits—it is for 10 years. So the wind production tax credit is 2.3 cents per kilowatt hour of taxpayer money, every year for 10 years if you are producing wind electricity.

This provision of the Tax Code was enacted in 1992. It was supposed to be a "temporary" subsidy. It was intended to do what we have done several times in our country, which is to jump-start a new energy technology. Well, as President Reagan observed, eternal life for a government program sinks in pretty quickly. This temporary tax provision, enacted in 1992—more than 20 years ago—has been extended eight times since its enactment. The wind industry has become a very well-developed industry.

I asked President Obama's Nobel Prize-winning Energy Secretary, Secretary Chu, in the first term of President Obama's administration how he would describe wind power. He said it was a "mature" technology.

The No. 1 problem with the wind production tax credit is its cost. Congress enacted a 1-year extension for 2013. That was at a cost of nearly \$12 billion to the taxpayers—remember, not all in 2013; that was just for a 1-year extension. For 2014 there is another 1-year extension which is being considered by the Finance Committee, and that will be another \$6 billion.

This is real money. I mean, just look at the amount of money we spend on energy research in multiple agencies. The number is about \$10 billion let's say we, through our research, developed a way to capture carbon from coal plants and recycle that carbon and turn it into something commercially feasible and sell it. Then all of a sud-

den, these coal plants that people worry about because they produce carbon, would be as clean as nuclear power, as clean as wind power. As a result we would be building coal plants everywhere in America. That seems like a better use of taxpayer dollars. We would have cheap electricity—even cheaper electricity for a longer period of time.

We spend \$10 billion on energy research in a year and the last 1-year extension of the wind production tax credit was \$12 billion over 10 years. By comparison, take tax breaks for Big Oil. One of the last times President Obama wanted to end the tax subsidies for what he called Big Oil, he identified \$4 billion worth of tax subsidies. Well, most of those tax breaks, he calls subsidies for Big Oil, are tax breaks that many manufacturing companies have.

The point I am trying to make is that we are talking about a lot of money.

The supporters of this tax credit will say: "Let's phase it out." In fact, it is phased out. If Congress did not act, all of those people who currently today have their wind turbines would continue to get their subsidies for up to 10 more years. So that phases it out.

But let's say we phase it out according to a proposal that was made last year by the wind industry. Well, the American Energy Alliance said that might cost as much as \$50 billion over 10 years—a huge amount of money. Now, there could be some other form of phase out—I would welcome the opportunity to see it—that would not cost so much. Maybe that would make sense, but beware the phase out.

The United States uses 20 to 25 percent of all of the electricity in the world. It is important to us. We use it for our computers, we use it for our businesses, we use it for our military, and we use it for our lights. If the lights go out in America, America stops. That is how important electricity is to us.

Where does that electricity come from? Four percent of it comes from wind power. Of course, that is only available when the wind blows—usually at night, usually when we need it the least. Four percent of our electricity is wind after 22 years and billions of dollars. The rest of it comes from other sources—7 percent from hydroelectric power; 19 percent from nuclear power, which is about 60 percent of all of our clean energy; nearly 40 percent from coal; and 27 percent from natural gas. So 4 percent from wind.

It is true, as wind power advocates say, that in the past Congress has approved other jump-starts for energy technology. But the difference is that we put a cap on them.

We are very happy about all of the unconventional gas we have in this country today. Suddenly, we have an enormous amount of natural gas. The

research for that partially came from Sandia Laboratory, from Department of Energy demonstration projects. There was a tax credit for fracking, but it expired in 1992. The demonstration projects are over. This technology is out in the marketplace and making lives better all across the country. Take plug-in electric cars. I supported that, but there was a cap on the number of credits we had for plug-in electric cars—200,000 per manufacturer. The nuclear production tax credit works just like the wind production tax credit. You sell a kilowatt hour of electricity from a nuclear power plant, and we will give you a taxpayer credit. But that is capped at 6,000 megawatts. So there is a limit to it. There is no cap on the subsidy for electricity produced by wind. I do not know the exact number, but it is probably in the 50- or 60- or 70,000 megawatt range.

Problem No. 1 is cost.

Problem No. 2 is reliability risk.

The problem here is that Congress is picking winners and losers. When it gives wind power such a big subsidy that is sometimes more than the cost of the electricity, it undercuts our coal and nuclear plants. And what that does is put us at risk as a country. Any country that uses that much electricity needs these big plants to operate almost all the time—coal and nuclear—to keep the lights on, to support jobs, to keep the cars running, and to make America run. Our country cannot run on windmills that only work when the wind blows. We cannot run only on solar power that only works when the Sun shines. We have to have baseload power.

Because the wind subsidy is picking winners and losers, it undercuts baseload power. It has caused the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a very well-respected organization, to say that the combination of the federal subsidy for wind power and low gas prices could cause as many as 25 percent of our nuclear plants in America to close within the next 10 years. That would be a terrible blow to our country's economy, to our effort to improve family incomes and to find jobs for middle-class Americans.

How could that be? How does it do that? Well, let's take this example. Let's say you are in Chicago and it is the middle of the night, 3 a.m., and the demand for electricity goes down as people go to sleep. Well, the supplier of electricity to your home or your business in Chicago is buying electricity from the market at the lowest possible cost. Well, as the demand goes down, the price goes down, and who is left out there selling electricity? It is the wind power people because they can give away their electricity and still make a profit because of the subsidy. This negative pricing is what is undermining baseload, coal and nuclear.

We are very proud of the fact that in our country we have, in effect, a do-

mestic price for natural gas. It is very low. Chemical companies are moving back to America instead of leaving. Manufacturing plants are enjoying the lower costs, and so are homeowners as they heat and cool their homes. But remember that natural gas prices can go up and they can go down. In 2005 they were not \$3 and \$4 as they are today, they were \$13. In New England, even today sometimes natural gas prices spike to \$30 a unit. So it is important to have diversity and it is important to have baseload power.

The third problem is that these large wind turbines destroy the environment in the name of saving the environment. Some people might like to look at them. I really do not. Particularly in my part of the country, the only places they work are along the foothills or along the tops of the most beautiful mountains in the Eastern United States. So you string these 20-story structures with blinking lights that can be seen for 20 miles in the middle of the beautiful view you have in the Eastern United States. They take up a lot of space.

You could run these 20-story windmills from Georgia to Maine to produce electricity, scarring the entire eastern landscape. Or you could produce the same amount of electricity with eight nuclear power plants. And you would still need the nuclear power plants to produce electricity when the wind is not blowing, which is most of the time.

The final problem is energy security. I had a meeting with George Shultz, the former Secretary of State, the other day in San Francisco. He made an observation that I had not heard him make before. George Shultz said, "We should pay a lot of attention to generating more energy where we use it because of national security risks."

George Shultz is head of the MIT Energy Initiative. He was observing that the supply of energy ought to be near the user of energy. That is especially true with military bases. It could be true for the rest of us in this age of terrorism. That is another reason it makes less sense to subsidize these giant turbines say in the Great Plains, and then someone has to pay for 700 miles of transmission lines through backyards and nature preserves to get the wind power to Memphis—to bring that electricity to Tennessee and the Tennessee Valley.

Expecting the United States to operate on windmills is the energy equivalent of going to war in sailboats while nuclear power is available. It is even worse than that. It is the same as destroying our nuclear ships—our nuclear plants, the same way—and replacing them with sailboats.

The energy subsidy for wind turbines has served a purpose for the last 22 years. We have spent enough money on them. We have distorted the market as much as we can stand. Because of the

cost and because we are undermining the baseload power of coal and nuclear, which puts us at risk as a country that uses 20 to 25 percent of the electricity in the world, my hope would be that the Finance Committee would save some money and let the marketplace flourish. Give us the opportunity to allow the wind production tax credit to stay right where it is, expired, as it did at the end of last year. Let those persons who already have the benefit of the credits enjoy them for the rest of the period of time.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ISAKSON. I rise to address two subjects briefly on the floor and would ask that my remarks be divided appropriately in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. There has been a lot said about the Affordable Care Act on the floor of this Chamber for 5 years. I was here when we passed the Affordable Care Act. I am in the Senate as it is being implemented.

There have been lots of things said about it, but this year marks one of the things we need to recognize as a major hit to small business. Bernie Marcus, a founder of Home Depot and the former chairman and CEO, opined yesterday in the Wall Street Journal about the cost of ObamaCare to American business, a hidden tax that has been unveiled on the American people, the American ratepayer, and the American small business person.

A tax assessment of \$8 billion in 2014 is being levied by the Affordable Care Act against every insurance company that sells to the small- and medium-sized market, to every insurance company that sells a Medicare Advantage policy or a Medicare managed care policy. The 2014 assessment is \$8 billion, and it graduates up to where in 2018 it is \$14.3 billion. That assessment is an arbitrary amount of money that was used as a pay-for in the ObamaCare legislation.

It is assessed on the insurance companies based on their market share of the insurance market in small- or medium-sized carriers, Medicare Advantage, and Medicaid managed care plans. It represents about a \$500-per-year rate increase on every one of those policyholders, because as we all know when an insurance company has the added cost to the administration of their policy, that cost is obviously passed on to the consumer; \$500 a year is \$5,000 in the next decade. It also represents over the next decade the loss, as estimated by the CBO and NFIB, of 146,000 jobs.

Let's think for a minute. The main topics we have had this year in the Senate of the United States is income inequality, the need to lower unemployment, and the need to create jobs. Yet the signature piece of legislation of this administration is going to cost

us because of a new tax being levied against insurance companies that provide health insurance to the American people, and it is going to cost 146,000 jobs. It is another example of how we need to rethink the approach of the Affordable Care Act.

We have to recognize all the things it has done from the standpoint of taxes, cost, lost jobs, and lost wages. Reform that legislation, repeal that legislation, and get it right for the people of the United States of America.

I commend Bernie Marcus on bringing this to the people's attention. I commend him on all he has done for my State and for our country, and I hope he will keep on giving us his opinion for what is best for the United States of America.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a column written and published yesterday in the Wall Street Journal by Mr. Bernie Marcus, cofounder, former chairman, and CEO of Home Depot.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Wall Street Journal, Apr. 1, 2014]

OBAMACARE'S HIDDEN HIT ON BUSINESSES
(By Bernie Marcus)

The law's insurance-company fee will raise premiums and kill at least 146,000 jobs.

President Obama's promise that Americans could keep their health insurance if they liked it was the most infamous of the Affordable Care Act's sketchy sales pitches. But many of the law's most damaging aspects are less known, buried in thousands of pages of regulations.

Consider the "fee"—really a hidden sales tax—that all health-insurance companies have been forced to pay since the first of this year on premiums for policies sold to individuals and small and medium-size businesses. The health-insurance tax—known as HIT in business circles—is expected to generate revenues of about \$8 billion this year and as much as \$14.3 billion by 2018, according to the legislation.

The Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation predict that insurance companies will pass the cost on to customers, as any company subject to such a tax would. In other words, millions of Americans lucky enough to keep their current health insurance under ObamaCare will be paying much higher premiums because of this tax, with the added cost rippling through the economy and stifling job creation.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses projects the health-insurance tax will add an additional \$475 per year for the average individually purchased family policy—nearly \$5,000 over the course of a decade. Small businesses will take an even bigger hit, with the cost of an employer-provided family policy rising a projected \$6,800 in the next decade.

Since most large companies self-insure, they aren't affected by the new tax. But smaller- and medium-size businesses don't have that luxury and will bear the brunt of the tax. Many will be forced to raise their employees' share of premium payments or, worse, lay off workers to pay the escalating costs of health care for their core employees.

The NFIB projects private-sector employment through 2022 will be reduced by at least

146,000 jobs because of the health-insurance tax, and perhaps as much as 262,000 jobs. That's like vaporizing some of the largest employers in the country. Just the low-end estimate—146,000 jobs—is still more than the total number of employees currently working for companies like Costco, Microsoft and Delta Airlines.

Sadly, the NFIB predicts that 59% of the reduced job growth will be in small- and medium-size businesses, America's biggest engines of job creation. Worse, 26% of the problem will be concentrated in very small businesses—the Main Street cafes, retailers and family businesses that are the backbone of the U.S. economy. America's 28 million small businesses make up 99.7% of all American employers. They also create 63% of new private-sector jobs.

The jobs never created because of the health-insurance tax will be a "death of a thousand cuts" on Main Street that adds up to a major wound for the economy. As a result, NFIB predicts total gross domestic product in 2022 will be \$23 billion to \$35 billion smaller than it would have been absent the HIT.

To get a handle on what this means, consider that McDonald's Corp. grossed \$27.6 billion last year, selling to 68 million customers per day in 119 countries. So this one new tax on our health insurance is projected to drill a hole in our economy as big as McDonald's in just eight years, with the overwhelming majority of the damage falling on already struggling small businesses.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Affordable Care Act was designed to fix only half the problem of uninsured Americans, by bringing the number of uninsured from 53 million down to 27 million—equal to the current population of Texas. Yet this half-solution has brought with it full-sized problems—like lost health coverage for the previously insured, and job-killing policies like the health-insurance tax.

Poor enrollment figures and endless stories of Americans losing insurance indicate the law won't even be able to accomplish its incomplete goals. Building a sicker economy will not create healthy Americans. Congress and the president must reform this "reform."

IRAN

Mr. ISAKSON. America was insulted earlier last month by the Iranian people. The government of the nation of Iran has appointed a new Ambassador to the United Nations.

The new Ambassador's name is Hamid Aboutalebi. He will be an Ambassador to the U.N. who served on the ground in the Iranian forces who took the American Embassy hostages in 1979, captured 52 Americans, and held them for 444 days—a man who claims he was just an innocent bystander and didn't have much to do with that horrible tragedy. If you were alive at that time and watched the "Nightline" shows night after night to watch the beatings, the torture, the terror, and the capture of the American people, you understand full well that nobody could have been within sight of that Embassy and not claim to be a part of it.

My State has been touched. Almost every State of the Union has been touched. Those hostages who were held—right up until the time Ronald

Reagan was sworn in as President—were finally released at the last minute when the U.S. Government waived their right to compensation against the nation of Iran.

The nation that held 52 of our diplomats hostage for 444 days signed an agreement never to have to pay any reparation to those people and is now appointing to the United Nations, the world forum, an ambassador who was on the site in Tehran when those people were taken captive. It is an insult to America.

First and foremost, the Government of Iran should apologize; second and foremost, the Government of Iran should compensate all of those hostages who had been held. Fifty-two hostages were held and 25 percent of them have passed away. One of them, as recently as late last year, took their own life as a consequence of the injuries they suffered.

One of the citizens from my State, Col. Chuck Scott of Jonesboro, GA, was on television just 2 nights ago about the tragedy in Iran. His teeth were knocked out by a 2 by 4 during his captivity. He is going back for another surgery in another week to try to remedy some of the pain he harbors from that tragedy that took place 34 years ago.

It is an insult to everything the United Nations stands for, to the integrity of the people of the United States of America, and the memory of those who passed and those who lived who were held hostage. We should demand this appointment be withdrawn by the Iranian Government. We should demand an apology on behalf of the Iranian Government to the people of United States of America, and we should demand that they voluntarily compensate those hostages.

They are not going to do that, and I know that, which is why we introduced legislation, which I principally sponsored 3 years ago, to compensate the 52 hostages who were held in captivity from 1979 until 1981. It is a shame beyond belief that 52 Americans who were held hostage are the only Americans in the same circumstance who have not been compensated for the damages perpetrated upon them.

I hope a vehicle comes through the floor of the Senate where we can attach this. Senator Kerry, while he was chairman of the committee and now Senator MENENDEZ, who is now the chairman, and Ranking Member CORKER have all embraced our concept of seeing to it that we fight to see that recompense is finally made to those hostages who were captured from 1979 to 1981.

We have a great and compassionate country, and we owe them and their families every effort to see that the nation of Iran compensates them and they are in some way paid back for the terrible tragedy that was perpetrated upon them.

But first and foremost, Iran needs to know that this U.S. Senator, and I think every U.S. Senator, realizes the affront to the American people and the insult to the United Nations that Iran is perpetrating by making this appointment as Ambassador of their country today.

I yield back the remainder of my time, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMTRAK

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about one of the most recent American transportation success stories—Amtrak's Northeast corridor—and how Congress can help it grow.

First, however, I would like to thank two great leaders on the Senate Appropriations Committee. First, our chair, BARBARA MIKULSKI—she is from the Northeast corridor. I often stop by in Baltimore as I take the train from New York to Washington. She has been a staunch defender of Amtrak from the day she got here. And PATTY MURRAY who is chairman of the transportation subcommittee. She is not from the Northeast corridor but, of course, cares very much about Amtrak across the Nation and has been a defender of those of us who care about Amtrak and depend on Amtrak in the Northeast, as well as throughout the whole country. In tough budget times, these two folks have stood up for Amtrak from one end of the Nation to the other, and we very much appreciate that.

Now, as the committees begin their work on the fiscal year 2015 appropriations, my colleagues and I are here to urge something that will benefit millions of riders on the Northeast corridor, which runs from Boston to Washington, DC.

We are mindful of the fact we depend on national support for Amtrak. Even though the Northeast corridor is far and away the most used and the most profitable of the Amtrak lines, we are one Amtrak. We understand how important Amtrak is, even if it doesn't serve as many passengers in sparsely populated States, and of course in more populated areas on the west coast and the Midwest and the South.

Having said that, I want to point out that I strongly believe in the long-distance service provided by Amtrak. It connects rural communities and other economic hubs by rail. People want it and like this service. In upstate New York, in the Buffalo to Albany corridor, it is clearly not as used as in the Northeast corridor, but we know how much we depend on Amtrak there. In

the other 49 States people depend on it as well.

Since 1971, Amtrak, in the Northeast and throughout the country, has been a Federal responsibility, and it should continue to be. So the proposal we are advocating today is one of fairness to both ends of the national passenger rail system. What we are saying is simple. Accept Amtrak's new budget framework, which would allow the NEC to reinvest profits while continuing to provide long-distance service.

First, let me explain the backdrop. Amtrak's Northeast corridor has become a profit-generating operation that carries passengers in an economically critical region home to over 50 million people. Some of the facts on our region: It generates \$1 out of \$5 of GDP. One out of every three Fortune 100 companies has its headquarters located there. One out of every five jobs in the United States is located in the Northeast corridor. So you wouldn't be surprised that over the past decade ridership along the Northeast corridor has been growing.

Between the years of 2001 and 2011, Amtrak's share of the air-rail travel market has increased from 37 percent to 75 percent for trips between New York and Washington and 20 percent to 54 percent from New York to Boston. Look at those increases. You wouldn't believe it. It is counterintuitive almost, but three-quarters of the people who make the decision to travel between Washington, DC, and New York, and don't use a car or a bus but would rather use a plane or train, use the train. Even a majority now on the slightly longer route to Boston use the train.

It is a testament to the region and to Amtrak that every day 750,000 people travel over portions of the Northeast corridor main line. That is nearly half of all railroad commuters nationally. It is a total of 260,000 trips a year. Look at all the different commuter railroads that run over Amtrak's Northeast corridor structure. Here they are: Mass Bay, Shoreline East, Metro North in my city of New York, and in my metropolitan area of New York, Long Island Railroad, New Jersey Transit, SEPTA—Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation—Maryland Area Regional Commuter, and Virginia.

Two of the biggest commuter railroads in the country operate on Amtrak's structure, and those are in the metropolitan area that the Presiding Officer and I share. They are Metro North and the Long Island Railroad. Hundreds of thousands of people use these railroads every day.

So the Northeast corridor is one of the most important arteries in the beating heart of our economy, and I am happy to report that business is booming. NEC revenues currently exceed operating costs by more than \$300 million a year. So one would think, finally, we

have the means to update the aging infrastructure that Amtrak and our commuter rail system depend upon. Unfortunately, the growth of the Northeast corridor and the profits it has produced are not going back into the system. Instead, over the last 10 years, NEC revenues have been used to cover the costs of the State-supported and long-distance services across the rest of the national railroad.

We understand in the Northeast why that has happened, again because we depend on support throughout the country and we need to bring the whole country together. But it is happening at the same time the Federal contributions to Amtrak in the form of operating grants have declined. In fact, operating grants to Amtrak are lower now by almost half than they were under a Republican Congress and President George Bush. Here are the numbers. You can see them: \$1 billion in 2003, and they stay about the same. But operating as a percentage of the total went from 50 percent to 24 percent.

That is not necessarily a bad thing. For the past few years, some of my Republican colleagues have urged Amtrak to become more efficient and rely on Federal operating grants. Amtrak has done just that. In 2013, Amtrak set an annual ridership record of 31.6 million and a ticket revenue record of \$2.1 billion.

The reason my colleagues and I are speaking today is to make it very clear that weaning Amtrak off of Federal operating grants shouldn't come at the expense of the capital costs in the Northeast corridor. The Amtrak operating grant request for 2015 is \$700 million—a fraction of the overall budget, and lower than the 2005 funding level under George Bush. The total request is for \$1.62 billion, a modest request over last year's \$1.4 billion. This would allow all long-distance service mandated by Congress to continue and, importantly, it would allow \$300 million a year to come back into the Northeast corridor's infrastructure. That is real money—money that, if continued over time, can service loans to build new tunnels and bridges and fix up the tracks and stations which we desperately need. It is an old, old system.

Think of some of the immediate projects Amtrak may have to forgo if they do not receive the full request: the replacement of structural columns underneath Philadelphia's beautiful 30th Street Station; overhauling the Acela, which is very profitable, and usually, we know, very full, to improve Amtrak's on-time performance; and extremely important—because if they collapse the whole Northeast corridor collapses and their transportation mechanism collapses causing real harm to the economy—reconstruction of the decaying infrastructure in the East River tunnels.

This last project is particularly important—the East River tunnels, that

is—for several reasons. It shows the massive benefits of this plan for people who use railroads that they rely on. The trains carry hundreds of thousands of passengers back and forth every day and are in a major state of disrepair. The proposal will allow Amtrak to invest more—way more—in these vital East River tunnels, making them more reliable and improving travel for Long Island Railroad riders and NEC passengers every day. A collateral benefit for all commuting New Yorkers is that there are Penn Station improvements—the most heavily used transportation hub in the country. The plan would fund many of these key improvements and make them happen quicker.

The status quo is unacceptable. The current Federal funding requirements leave the NEC's infrastructure vulnerable to a bigger, costlier, and far more damaging failure than we have ever seen.

The long-term need to increase capacity and make needed repairs to our bridges and tunnels could not be clearer. Several important segments, such as Hudson River tunnels, are growing at a record level. By 2030—look at that—the need will be even greater. These are segments which will exceed capacity by 2030—lots of them.

In my State of New York we see the economic cost of devastating events such as Hurricane Sandy, which flooded Hudson River tunnels and shut down the Northeast corridor for days. According to new estimates, a 1-day disruption along the Northeast corridor could cost the economy \$100 million.

So I would ask my colleagues—both Democrats and Republicans—from States along the Northeast corridor and from around the rest of the country to support an increase in Federal investment in our rail infrastructure. I know we can get bipartisan support because there has been bipartisan support in the past. Senators in this body on both sides of the aisle supported operating grant levels requested by Amtrak in the past. In the longer term, we know we need to authorize a dedicated intercity passenger rail fund that provides robust investment in this infrastructure.

In the meantime, our Nation can no longer afford to let a railroad that carries half of Amtrak's trains and 80 percent of the Nation's rail commuters fall apart at the seams. Allowing the NEC to keep the cash it generates will help benefit and support those same profit-making activities, helping to create a virtual cycle of reinvestment. I hope that sounds like something my colleagues across the aisle could support.

If we want an interstate commuter network in the next century, we must begin by fixing and improving the infrastructure from the beginning of the last century. That was the mission of our good friend, my dear friend, the

late Frank Lautenberg. He was a tireless and passionate advocate for improving our Nation's infrastructure—especially our railways—because he knew it would better the State's economy and indeed our country's economy. We can honor his legacy by carrying on that mission.

I ask my colleagues to recognize this great leader as they have in the past. Give the Northeast corridor the funds and flexibility to reap the benefits of its recent growth while still providing service around the rest of the country.

With that, I would like to turn to my friend the junior Senator from Connecticut to ask him to talk about the importance of the Northeast corridor for his State and especially the relationship Amtrak has with commuter railroads.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Thank you, Mr. President, and I thank the Senator from New York for bringing us all together this evening to talk about the really vital economic importance of the Northeast corridor to States such as Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and New York.

This is a pivotal moment for the Northeast corridor. We have a region that is growing with respect to the number of people who are using the rail but an infrastructure that is dramatically aging.

It is important to remember the connection between investment in rail and the emergence of this Nation's economic greatness. The rail line that means the most to us in Connecticut was chartered in 1844. It was the New York and New Haven Railroad, and it was initially built to connect New York to Boston, going through New Haven and going through Connecticut. Later on, it had a spur going through Long Island and then a spur connecting down to Providence. It was built at a time of massive rail expansion all across the country.

In the last 25 years of the 1800s, where a lot of this expansion happened after the initial investment in places such as New York and Connecticut and Boston, the expansion of rail led to a tenfold increase in economic output for this Nation. It allowed for enormous social and economic mobility because if you didn't like the circumstances where you were today, tomorrow you could be halfway across the country because of a train. It allowed for the gradual evaporation of a lot of the divisions that were created because of the Civil War. As people got to know other parts of the country and could move more freely back and forth, they began to understand what this Nation was really about. One historian, John Hankey, has noted that the railroads essentially transitioned our lexicology about the United States from referring

to “these United States” to “this United States.” It is a small difference, but it suggests the way in which the rail lines allowed for this country to connect.

Nowhere has this expansion of rail mattered more than in the Northeast corridor. We have the highest concentration of population, the highest concentration of commerce, the highest concentration of ports of shipping, and the highest concentration of rail lines. Not only do we have Amtrak running up and down the spine of the Northeast corridor, we have 10 commuter railroads, including Metro North, a line Mr. BLUMENTHAL—the Presiding Officer—and I are very proud of.

We have 260 million passengers today who are using the Northeast corridor. That number is expected to grow in 2030 to 412 million. Just think about that. We are talking about a time period of only 16 years. We are going to go from 260 million passengers today to 412 million passengers in 2030. If you ride a train from Bridgeport to Stamford or from Stamford to Grand Central on any given Monday morning or any given Thursday afternoon, you are going to fail to understand how that line is going to be able to absorb an increase from 260 million passengers to 412 million passengers. We simply don't have the capacity today to be able to absorb that increase.

We have 1,000 bridges and tunnels along the Northeast corridor that are badly in need of repair. Some of them are 100 years old. The estimates are that over the next 20 years we have to spend \$50 billion along the Northeast corridor simply to maintain a state of good repair. I wish this were a cheaper exercise, but it is not.

In Connecticut alone, we have to replace a bridge in Cos Cob that is going to cost \$830 million. The Norwalk Bridge has to be rehabbed for \$250 million. The Saugatuck River Bridge in Westport has to be rehabbed as well for \$300 million. The Devon Bridge replacement project is going to be \$750 million. We have to upgrade communication and signals all along the New Haven Line; that is \$400 million. We have an old aging catenary—the electric lines above the supply power to the trains—that is going to be \$600 million as well.

In Connecticut it is our lifeblood, meaning we are nothing if not for the economic power that is driven by those trains. About a decade ago an economic report came out on Connecticut that really shook the State to its core. It talked about the great economic potential Connecticut has as we sit right between the enormous job-creating hubs of New York City and Boston. But it warned us that if we don't get serious about unclogging the arteries out of Connecticut into Connecticut, that, in the words of the report, “Connecticut

risks becoming an economic cul-de-sac.” That is a pretty scary premise, the idea that we could be so close to all of this economic activity, but simply because people cannot get to Connecticut or get out of Connecticut because of these aging rail lines, we are going to ultimately be left behind.

So what we are really here to talk about is just a principle of basic fairness. The Northeast corridor makes money. It is the only section of rail in the Nation that does make money simply because of volume and because of efficient management. The profit equals about \$300 million a year. We are not asking for the Northeast corridor to get any more than we are owed; we simply want that \$300 million, as Amtrak has proposed, to be re-invested in the line.

From the Cos Cob Bridge to the Sagatuck River Bridge, we are going to have to make these upgrades at some point. If we don’t, ultimately they are going to fall down. We have seen not only in the Northeast corridor but across the country the consequences of allowing our infrastructure to atrophy to the point of crisis and collapse. So why don’t we make those investments today? Why don’t we make those investments at a moment when people need to go to work, when the repairs are as cost-efficient as they are going to get, and when the line itself in the Northeast is generating \$300 million extra a year that right now is going to other parts of the country?

I agree with Senator SCHUMER. We support a national Amtrak. We strongly support a robust inner-city connection linking major cities, major urban areas with rail all across the country. Just in our small region, we have half of the trips of the entire country. So we think it is not too much to ask that to the extent we are profitable, we get to reinvest that money into an infrastructure that is older than any other piece of infrastructure in the entire country.

I would say this: It is not just about fairness for the States that make up the Northeast corridor. The economic power of the Northeast spreads itself out all across the country. The corporations that are located in Manhattan and Stanford and Newark employ people in Nebraska and in California, in South Dakota and Texas. So our pitch to our colleagues outside of the Northeast is not just that it seems to be the right and fair thing to do for all of this profit that is being made through the ticket fares passengers in the Northeast are paying to stay in the Northeast, but the benefit that comes from a well-constructed, efficiently run Northeast corridor accrues to the entire country.

I am really pleased Senator SCHUMER brought us down to the floor today to talk about how important reinvesting this \$300 million is to the Northeast

corridor. In my State, with Metro North generating literally hundreds of millions of dollars in economic benefit to our section of the country, if we don’t recapture this income, if we aren’t able to make these repairs that I listed, then, as that economic report suggests, we really do risk our State of Connecticut ultimately becoming an economic cul-de-sac.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHUMER). The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Thank you, Mr. President. I am honored to follow the Presiding Officer, my good friend Senator SCHUMER of New York, and my colleague and friend Senator MURPHY of Connecticut to talk about an issue that really affects quality of life, our pocketbooks, and our environment.

But first I wish to join my colleague from New York in paying tribute to one of the great transportation advocates, indeed one of the great public servants of our time, Senator Frank Lautenberg, who preceded me as chairman of a critical subcommittee on the commerce committee which has authority and jurisdiction over surface transportation.

I am tremendously honored to have followed him in that role, and my mission and ambition is to be as effective and eloquent and ardent as he was in this cause. It is a cause that brings us together as a nation, as my colleague from New York has so eloquently said. We are better when we come together as a nation and the railroads provide arteries carrying the lifeblood of our economy. Not only is the train used for commuters going to work and riders going to visit relatives and enjoying tourism, traveling, vacations, and other benefits of this great Nation, but it also transports the freight that is critical to carry goods and services.

We know the infrastructure is aging all across the country. We are, in effect, transporting goods and services, products and people, commuters and riders in the 21st century using 20th century equipment, tracks, and other infrastructure. We are talking, indeed, about the economic lifeblood of our Nation, which has linked us coast to coast, north to south, and east to west in ways that are not only economically material and tangible but also emotionally and psychologically vital to our present and our future.

These economic benefits will not continue. They are not an accident of history. They are the result of purposeful invention and investing, and we are challenged as a nation as to whether we will continue to invest to ensure that our railroads carry our freight and our people to places they must go if we are to have economic growth and jobs in this Nation. No one knows this fact better than those who live on the

Northeast corridor. It is among the busiest. In fact, the Metro-North line is the busiest in the Nation. It has bridges and tracks that are more than 100 years old, and tragically we have seen the consequences of lack of proper maintenance, management, and inspection of our infrastructure.

My colleague from New York has been a relentless and tireless advocate for improving rail service along the Northeast corridor and most particularly in the area of our region of New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey.

The derailment in Bridgeport was a recent tragedy that resulted in the loss of lives and caused injuries as well as power outages which disrupted travel for as much as 13 days. These disruptions should lead to a new era of leadership at Metro-North, and hopefully it will.

Good management is the key to making this railroad work better than it has and making it safer and more reliable. Good management is vital, but money, along with management, is absolutely necessary. In fact, good management requires investing, and that is why we are here today—not to talk about money for the sake of dollars and cents but the investment it means in the track, the bridges, the cars, and other equipment vital to make this railroad safer and more reliable.

We know some of this investment is small in amount. The Senator from New York and I have championed the idea of cameras facing inward and outward. Compared to the overall costs of investments, that one is relatively new. Likewise, alerters placed in cabs that operate the railroad cost relatively little, but other expenditures are much more substantial, and one of the problems is that money has been going into the system—money taken from the riders and users in the New Jersey, Connecticut, and New York area along the Northeast corridor has gone to the system as a whole.

As I mentioned at the beginning, far from begrudging the national system this kind of investment, we support it, but we need our fair share, which is necessary to make the investment that is critical to bridges such as Saugatuck, the Connecticut River, and the Norwalk River. These bridges contain movable components. They are important for marine traffic as well as rail. They are frequently opened and closed. They experience more stress than normal, and the resulting corrosion requires trains to use reduced speed. Repair and eventual replacement of many of these bridges will be crucial for keeping train traffic safe and reliable not only along the Northeast corridor but also freight and riders traveling from New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey to other parts of the east coast and indeed across the country.

It is a national investment, not just a Northeast investment. It is an investment we must make as a whole or our infrastructure will crumble and continue to erode.

I am proud to join my colleagues to urge that Amtrak's full funding request for fiscal year 2015 be granted. This amount will allow the Northeast corridor's operating revenue to be reinvested back where it is needed most—the Northeast corridor—and will simultaneously provide much needed Federal support for rail networks in the rest of the country.

A fair share is what the Northeast corridor needs and deserves. A fair share is what we are advocating. As my colleagues have explained, the support we offer and advocate for this Northeast corridor is a benefit to the whole country, and it is consistent with national support for railway travel which eliminates congestion on roads, raises the quality of our air, makes for safer travel, and maybe equally, if not more importantly, creates jobs.

This investment will help create jobs and drive economic growth in the jobs it creates directly and the jobs it enables along the route of travel.

I thank my colleagues for joining me in this effort, and I know, in particular, that there is a bridge in New Jersey—a movable swing bridge along the Hackensack River between Kearny and Secaucus, NJ. I believe it is called the Portal Bridge. That Portal Bridge is a key linchpin in the Northeast corridor. Having a functional Portal Bridge is essential to me as a resident of Connecticut. When I go from Washington to New York and then to Connecticut, we are one country. We are united by that railroad, and that Portal Bridge is a key linchpin in the Northeast corridor. It is as important to me as it is to my colleague from New Jersey who has been—similar to Senator Lautenberg—a tireless advocate for rail transportation, and he has done model work on improving rail transportation in this country.

I am happy to yield for the senior Senator from New Jersey, Mr. MENENDEZ.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague from Connecticut for his engagement and for recognizing our former colleague, Senator Lautenberg, whose passion for public transportation was unmatched in this body. He understood the nexus of why it was important not just to our State of New Jersey and the Northeast but to the country.

My colleague from Connecticut is correct, that Portal Bridge—it is called the Portal Bridge because it is a bridge that is a portal to the entire Northeast corridor and carries passengers over a movable swing bridge across the Hack-

ensack River between Kearny and Secaucus, NJ. It is a portal into and out of Manhattan. It is one of the busiest sections of the corridor with hundreds of passengers and commuter trains crossing it every day.

You would think that given its importance to the Northeast and the millions who live in that region, it would be a state-of-the-art, reliable, world-class bridge that we would be willing to invest in, making it the best possible bridge. Unfortunately, the reality is quite different.

The Portal Bridge was built in 1910. It is over 100 years old and deteriorating—causing significant delays for Amtrak riders in New Jersey and throughout the system. Because of the low clearance over the Hackensack River, the bridge opens to allow ships to pass, thereby creating delays for rail passengers and then more delays come when the bridge doesn't lock into place because it is too old and doesn't work properly.

We have delay after delay all because we are unwilling to invest in our infrastructure, and that is simply unacceptable. When the bridge doesn't close, trains throughout the Northeast corridor are delayed while Amtrak workers scramble to fix it. Further adding to the problems are speed restrictions that have been in place on the bridge since 1996. These restrictions have been essential to allow trains to cross safely, hardly a comforting thought for riders traveling on the corridor.

The Northeast corridor is the Nation's busiest rail line and serves 700,000 people every day. The line supports eight commuter railroads every day, carrying over 200,000 New Jersey transit passengers. So failure to invest in a modern, state-of-the-art system does a disservice to all of us—certainly to the commuters. It is an economic hindrance in a region that supports 20 percent of the entire Nation's GDP.

There are other reasons to consider the importance of these investments and one is our economy and jobs. These intercity rail systems ultimately create an opportunity for people to get to employment and to reach out to find employment and find better employment.

It is also about companies that send their sales force up and down the Northeast corridor in a thorough and effective and efficient way. It is about those who might visit one of the great health institutions along the Northeast corridor for a health challenge they face. It is about tourism from anywhere—from the sights of New York or New Jersey or along the entire route, crossroads of the revolution, all the way to the Nation's Capital of Washington, DC. It is about visiting a loved one and having a way to do it that allows them to be able to afford to do so.

In the aftermath of September 11, we learned that a multiplicity of transpor-

tation modes was critical to security questions because on that fateful day when every trans-Hudson crossing closed down—the bridges closed down, the tunnels closed down, the ability to do intercity rail closed down—the one element that was open was a different form of transportation, and that was ferries. Imagine, in a different context, if you don't have intercity rail to move people away from a location in which there was a September 11-like event that, in fact, the consequences that would flow.

We learned after September 11 that transportation is more than about getting from one place to another, more than about sending a sales force, more than even about the quality of life and the environment by having more people on an efficient system, it is also another dimension of security in a post-September 11 world. We must do better.

As far as the Amtrak budget proposal, I am pleased that Amtrak's fiscal year 2015 budget request takes a step in the right direction to improve its record of good repair and reliability in the Northeast corridor. In spite of the challenges of aging infrastructure, Amtrak in the Northeast corridor is a profitable rail line, generating over \$300 million each year. Yet, under the current structure, Amtrak has been unable to invest those profits back into essential projects such as the Portal Bridge, which is ultimately the portal by which all of Amtrak's rail lines to the Northeast have to go through. These profits have instead been used elsewhere on Amtrak's system, subsidized long-distance services that were traditionally a core Federal responsibility.

For too long Congress has failed to meet its responsibility on these routes, relying on the riders of the Northeast corridor to subsidize other parts of the rail network. Riders on the Northeast corridor deserve to have profits generated along the line reinvested—not used as a substitute for insufficient Federal investment. Amtrak's new proposal will allow it to keep revenue generated by the corridor in the corridor—a commonsense solution and a successful business model for the Northeast.

At the same time, Amtrak proposes full funding for lines outside of the Northeast corridor, making this a win-win proposal for America's rail system.

Finally, making these investments now will help us prevent large-scale failures that could cripple our region in the future. Unfortunately, we in New Jersey know all too well the consequences of a significant transportation failure. When Hurricane Sandy crashed ashore in October of 2012, our transportation systems were inundated with water and severely damaged. We saw firsthand what happens when the transit and rail networks we often take for granted are rendered unusable. Residents were stranded—cut off from

their loved ones and their livelihoods. Sandy showed us just how much our region depends on its rail and transit networks.

As New Jersey and its networks work to rebuild, we must take every opportunity to strengthen our infrastructure and prevent future failures of our transportation system. Current Federal funding requirements leave the Northeast corridor vulnerable by preventing us from reinvesting in critical projects.

Amtrak's budget proposal is a straightforward solution, by keeping and allowing the Northeast to keep and reinvest its own profits. At the same time, the proposal would maintain funding for other rail lines to ensure a valuable, viable national network. The bottom line: This is a proposal whose time has clearly come.

So it is time that we as a Congress say enough is enough; 100-year-old infrastructure is simply unacceptable. It is time to make the investments that will support our economy and our quality of life and, I would add, our security. It is time to live up to our Federal commitments and fully fund our rail network.

I certainly wish to join my other colleagues in thanking our colleague from New York Senator SCHUMER for leading this important discussion about the future of Amtrak. I urge my colleagues to support this budget proposal, to fully fund Amtrak's operating and capital costs nationwide, and to take the long overdue step of allowing Northeast corridor profits to be reinvested into our critical infrastructure.

Now let me turn this over to my colleague Senator BOOKER who, until he came to the Senate, was the mayor of the State's largest city by which all of these different modes of transportation came together and through which the Northeast corridor has a major station. He saw, as it related to his own community, the realities of what the rail passenger system meant for consumers, what it meant for businesses, and what it meant for our security.

I yield the floor for the distinguished Senator from New Jersey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, Senator MENENDEZ is absolutely correct. When I was mayor of New Jersey's largest city, we sat upon a critical transportation superstructure—a key node in the larger region. I wish to thank my senior Senator, whom I relied upon then for being the champion he is for infrastructure investment, for the critical nature of the rail lines that crisscross our region, and really being a promoter of jobs, of business growth, of security, and of the health of this critical system. It is very good to have my senior Senator make such important remarks. I wish to pick up from there. It is a little uncomfortable not having

the Presiding Officer on the floor with me, but I will continue nonetheless.

I wish to thank all of my colleagues who have already spoken from neighboring States about this absolutely vital transportation corridor. If this were a country of its own, this corridor, from Washington to Boston—this area—we would be the fifth largest economy in the world. This region continues to grow, with more than 12 million residents projected by 2040.

In New Jersey, our tracks and tunnels are simply no longer able to meet the growing demand of our Amtrak and commuter rail lines. New Jersey commuters—passengers up and down the Northeast corridor—are profoundly frustrated by overcrowded trains and by delay after delay after delay. It inhibits their transportation. It inhibits their productivity. It inhibits their ability to be successful because of those delays. Our underfunded passenger rail network forces too many of our residents to then drive, where they end up stuck in traffic, contributing more greatly to smog and pollution, and really making it even more dangerous for them on our already overly congested highways.

Amtrak needs the ability to reinvest the growing profit from the Northeast corridor back into the critical Northeast corridor infrastructure. This much needed budget request would allow Amtrak to invest \$300 million of their profits back into this region and would allow Amtrak to make overdue updates and repairs. This would create jobs at this incredibly important time in our economic present. It would create jobs and allow our busy commuter lines to travel more safely and more reliably.

We need this economic growth. We need to alleviate the problems with this infrastructure. We need to make the daily lives of tens of thousands of people better.

One of the most important steps we can take to alleviate this congestion and delays in New Jersey and throughout this region is to make this investment. But I also say another critical aspect of making those investments is to make a strategic investment in the Gateway project. Amtrak's 2015 budget request seeks to continue investing in needed preliminary work on the Gateway project. The Gateway project is Amtrak's most important initiative—a project that is going to generate benefits throughout the Northeast region that will have a multiplier effect throughout our economy, enabling growth, enabling job creation, improving the quality of life, and helping one of the most prosperous regions on the globe continue to grow.

Currently, there are just two tunnels connecting New Jersey to New York via rail. These tunnels are currently operating at full capacity, with roughly 24 trains at peak hours carrying over 70,000 riders daily, with no space for ad-

ditional riders during rush hour. In order to execute repairs and safety checks on these 100-year-old tunnels, Amtrak is required to shut down the entire tunnel and suspend half the trips in and out of the city. This causes so much of a burden. This is an unnecessary burden. This is a threat to the safety of thousands of New Jersey Transit and Amtrak passengers.

Ridership demand in and out of Manhattan is actually predicted to double in the coming decades—double. It is critical for the economic health of our region to accommodate this increase and ensure that urgently needed growth and the safety and security of so many Americans. The Gateway project itself would build two new rail tunnels from New Jersey to New York City and expand Penn Station in New York to handle all of this additional capacity. This project alone would create thousands and thousands of jobs. It would reduce commuter times and make traveling by rail more flexible and, very importantly to resident after resident who has reached out to me, it would make it more reliable. This critical investment will drive economic growth throughout that entire region.

Upon completion, the Gateway project would allow Amtrak to run 8 more trains during peak hours and allow New Jersey Transit to run 13 more trains. This is a significant capacity increase that would take thousands of cars off the roads every single day. It would increase revenue for Amtrak and New Jersey Transit. It would allow intercity and commuting passengers shorter and easier trips up and down the Northeast and in and out of Manhattan, and it would improve significantly the air quality of our region, alleviating the respiratory challenges so many people unnecessarily face because of commuter car pollution.

In short, all of these reasons point to something critical: It would make it easier for our region to be prosperous, for businesses to grow, and American opportunity to increase. It is essential that Congress join with Amtrak in advancing this important regional project and support Amtrak's overall mission to deliver reliable, efficient passenger rail service across the United States. For Amtrak to be successful in the long term, Congress needs to become a more reliable investment partner and fund multiyear Amtrak budgets, to have predictability in that funding, making it again multiyear. Our current approach of lurching from annual budget to annual budget does not allow for Amtrak to flourish and serve our citizens as it could and as it should. We need a level of predictability to make these kinds of investments. Support for the Amtrak fiscal year 2015 budget request would be a step in the right direction.

I urge my colleagues to appreciate this critical understanding that we are

a people who thrive through connectivity, whether it is virtual connectivity on the Internet or even human connectivity; that we need to, in environments such as this, one to another, work together. Indeed, it is the words of Martin Luther King, written in a jail cell in Birmingham, AL, in 1963, in the spring of that year, almost 50 years ago—he wrote in profound manner, and I paraphrase it: We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a common garment of destiny. It was an elevation and understanding of the power of human connection, that we share one destiny, and that when we exalt our connections, prosperity grows, equality grows, opportunity grows. What King talked about in a spiritual way lives also in the physical: Country, from its transcontinental railroads, a country that united itself in early innovations and AM/FM dials; all the ways we as a nation have made more robust connectivity. It has spurred industry, it has spawned industry, and it has made jobs multiply and multiply—economic growth connecting American to American. Right now, in this critical time, we must continue.

I hope my colleagues will join me in making sure we support the Amtrak budget. I know from personal experience the challenges and the trials and the dangers from the status quo. It is time for us to advance. It is time for us to come to together, to invest in America, to expand opportunity, and make real, in a physical way, those deepening connections we have, one to another.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one of the privileges of addressing the Senate each morning is the opportunity to call attention to what I believe and what I think the country believes are noble causes. I certainly hope so.

Today is World Autism Awareness Day. To the Americans who have au-

tism and the millions of family and friends affected by this condition, one day is simply not enough to focus on this misunderstood illness, but it helps—and we certainly hope it does.

Autism is a general term for a group of complex disorders of brain development affecting social interaction, communication, and behavior. According to a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control—in fact, the report came out this week—1 in 68 children is diagnosed with having some form of autism in our country. As more and more children are identified as being autistic, it is important we in Congress do all we can to provide them, their families, and their caretakers, the help that is so vitally necessary.

Under the Affordable Care Act, autism screenings and other preventive services are available at no cost to families. For those diagnosed with autism, the days of being denied health insurance due to their preexisting condition ended with the passage and implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Today, because of the Affordable Care Act, adult children with autism may stay on their parents' policies through age 26, providing them with the stability and additional treatment they need.

With benefits such as these, it is no wonder that more than 7 million people have sought health coverage under the Affordable Care Act. This doesn't count the estimated 800,000 to 900,000 people on 14 State exchanges. But in addition, everyone who tried to sign up during the last many months and were unable to get through, for whatever reason, are also now going to be signing up, which will add hundreds of thousands of more people.

So the numbers are pretty clear. The estimate given by the White House many months ago, which my Republican colleagues made fun of, has now been exceeded. So maybe they will quiet down and stop talking about repealing this bill that affects millions and millions of people favorably.

While the health care law is helping autistic Americans who have been diagnosed and their families, researchers at the National Institutes of Health are tackling the question of why this disease is here, what are the origins of this condition.

Research is critical in supporting development tools, interventions, and evidence-based services to help provide a quality of life for people in the autism spectrum.

Over the last year, researchers funded by NIH have made significant advances in understanding the onset of autism. They have learned that brain changes that contribute to autism occur even during pregnancy and continue through the first years of life. They have also concluded that some of the possible signs of autism may begin

to appear within the first 6 months it can be identified. The work at the NIH in understanding the problem cannot be understated, but far more needs to follow to better comprehend autism.

Congress also has responsibilities. One is providing resources to the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, and we need to do that. My friend Senator DURBIN has introduced legislation that would focus on ways we can provide more help that is badly needed. With sequestration and the other cuts which have taken place it has been unfair to these two agencies.

The Achieving Better Life Experience Act—also known as the ABLE Act—would improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and other disabilities through tax-advantaged savings accounts. These special savings accounts would help disabled Americans and their loved ones plan for the future by setting aside money to cover future expenses, including education, housing, therapy, and rehabilitation.

I am a sponsor of the ABLE Act and proud to stand with all advocates in celebrating today World Autism Awareness Day.

UKRAINE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives passed Senate legislation to provide loan guarantees to Ukraine and to impose sanctions on certain Ukrainian and Russian officials.

This legislation comes at a time when Ukraine's future hangs in the balance between democracy and dictatorship. The brave Ukrainians who protested across the country and at Maidan square have shown an inspiring determination to defend their freedom. Many of them endured the brutal attacks of riot police, snipers, and below freezing temperatures. Some died in the mayhem. President Putin, who has long demonstrated his disregard for international law and human rights in his own country, has now extended that sphere of repression to Ukraine by violating its sovereignty and strong-arming its citizens.

This legislation exemplifies our support for a free and democratic Ukraine. The new government will face every imaginable economic, political, and security challenge, but the country's interim leaders have already indicated a willingness to implement austere reforms to put their country on the right track. It is important that during this time of uncertainty the people of Ukraine know that they have the full support of the United States and the international community.

In addition to the loan guarantees which will be available immediately to help facilitate the development of a more resilient economy, the legislation

authorizes funds for democracy and security assistance in future years. It also imposes sanctions against various Ukrainian and Russian officials who have been identified as principles in the subversion of democracy in Ukraine and who have treated the public treasury as their own personal bank account. While efforts to recover stolen assets will not restore the entire amount that has disappeared, it will further expose President Yanukovich and other corrupt officials for the criminals that they are.

I do want to say that I am very disappointed that domestic politics prevented inclusion of provisions, included in the version of the bill that was reported by the Foreign Relations Committee, authorizing U.S. support for reforms and participation in the quota increase at the International Monetary Fund. These reforms have been widely recognized as important for global economic stability, for maintaining U.S. leadership at the IMF, and for our efforts to maximize international assistance for Ukraine. Unfortunately, the House Republican leadership decided that partisan politics at home is more important than U.S. leadership in an international organization that we were instrumental in creating.

Ukraine and Russia have a shared history, but it is clear that the people of Ukraine see their future with Europe. That is why it is imperative that we support them at this critical time, and that we send a strong message to President Putin that there are real consequences to the use of brute force to violate the territorial integrity of Russia's neighbors.

As chairman of the appropriations subcommittee that funds our assistance for Ukraine, my subcommittee will not only provide the budget authority to pay the subsidy cost of the loan guarantees, we will also look for other ways in fiscal year 2015 to protect it and its neighbors from further Russian aggression.

VERMONT COMMISSION ON WOMEN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Vermont Commission on Women this year celebrates its 50th anniversary. Established in 1964 by Vermont Governor Philip Hoff, the commission was established in response to a challenge presented by President Kennedy, urging every State in the country to create such commissions "to encourage women to use their abilities, and to reduce discrimination against women." I am proud that Vermont's is one of the oldest continuously operating commissions in the United States.

The commission's work is fueled by 16 volunteer commissioners, a team of advisors and a small but energetic staff. By advocating for new State laws and strengthening old ones, the commission has fought to reduce gender

discrimination, achieve pay equity, support families and create job opportunities for women in my home State. Just last year, the commission was a strong force in strengthening provisions of Vermont's Equal Pay Act, so that women move closer to the reality of receiving equal pay for equal work. The law also extended protections so that employees could ask coworkers about their pay, and perhaps learn of disparities, without fear of retaliation.

I have no doubt the commission's ongoing efforts have helped Vermont women narrow the gender pay gap, to 84 cents for every dollar earned by a man. Vermont is leading the way in this area: the national level finds women earning 77 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. I am grateful to the commission for its ongoing support for the Paycheck Fairness Act, which the Senate will consider in the coming weeks.

The commission also serves as a needed source of information. Its handbook, *The Legal Rights of Women in Vermont*, serves as a valuable guide for women who may find themselves in need of advice on matters such as adoption, employment rights, housing and divorce. The commission also conducts research, coordinates conferences and workshops, and engages in partnerships, all in the interest of furthering gender equality.

Despite the great strides that have been made over five decades in Vermont and across the Nation, we know that many discriminatory issues affecting women still exist today, and that the need for the commission's work is still critical.

The State of Vermont is very fortunate to have such a strong group advocating for women's rights. I have been proud to work with the Vermont Commission on Women for over 15 years on Vermont's Women's Economic Opportunity Conference, an annual event in Vermont that brings women of all different backgrounds together to talk about the challenges facing women in the work place.

I am proud to acknowledge and honor the Vermont Commission on Women as it celebrates 50 years of leadership and achievement.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent from votes during today's session. Had I been present, I would have opposed the motion to table the Reid amendment to H.R. 3979 and I would have supported the motion to table the Vitter motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JIMMY NEWTON, JR.

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I come to the floor with a heavy heart to honor the memory of Chairman Jimmy Newton, Jr. of the Southern Ute Tribe. Chairman Newton was a tireless advocate for his fellow tribal members and passed away on Tuesday, April 1, 2014.

Chairman Newton began his career in public service in 2003 and was a strong and dedicated leader for a new generation. He was one of the youngest people ever to serve as tribal council member, vice chairman, and acting chairman before he was elected chairman of Southern Ute in 2012. Chairman Newton leaves behind a legacy of deep respect for Southern Ute culture and tradition.

I know I speak for our entire Colorado community when I extend my deepest sympathies to the Newton family and the Southern Ute tribe during this difficult time.●

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL DEMAIO

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I recognize Samuel DeMaio, the dynamic director of the Newark Police Department. A driving force for reform, Sammy is one of those people who talks the talk, walks the walk, and does both to the benefit of the community at large.

Samuel Anthony DeMaio was born on December 25, 1966, in Newark, where he was raised with his younger sister Sherri by his father Carmine, a Newark police officer, and his mother Marysue. In 1986, on what he would later say was "one of the happiest days in my life," Sammy followed in his father's footsteps and began his career with the Newark Police Department at the age of 19.

A hard worker from the start, Sammy proved his dedication and skill by consistently becoming the youngest officer to hold each position as he ascended the ranks of the Newark Police Department. His focus on transparency, officer training, and collaboration made our communities safer and more unified. It is that dedication and openness that helped set our community on its upward trajectory, and it is why his shoes will be so hard to fill.

Sammy was in and of the community. He is a cop's cop who is respected by everyone in the department, from rank and file to top brass. Sammy is held in high esteem in the greater community, from the city council that unanimously voted to appoint him, to once-skeptical community leaders won over by his commitment to transparency and accountability.

Sammy took great pride in collaborating with and incorporating the communities he policed. He began conducting the officers' roll call out on the

street in an effort to change the way the officers and residents viewed each other. When I started Newark's Super Summer program, aimed at keeping kids out of trouble during the summer months, Sammy was right there with me. He founded the Annual Youth Public Safety Academy, a hands-on, joint project of the City of Newark's Police and Fire Departments in conjunction with the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, where participants learned how to report crimes, prevent fires, and resist criminal activity.

Sammy retired from the police department on February 21, 2014, after 28 years on the Newark police force. These years of service were spent exclusively in New Jersey's largest municipal police department, and were marked by exemplary dedication to the best interests of the community and his fellow officers. When considering on the day of his retirement, Sammy said, "This is probably the saddest day I'm going to have in my life."

It is an honor to formally recognize the contributions that Sammy DeMaio made to the citizens of Newark throughout his career in law enforcement, to thank him for his tremendous service, and to wish him happiness in a well-deserved retirement.●

KICK FOR CANCER TOURNAMENT

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the participants in the "Kick for Cancer" charity martial arts tournament which is held annually in Gilmanton, NH. Since its founding the tournament has raised more than \$120,000 to benefit the Central New Hampshire Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice, helping this critical community resource serve 350 patients and their families each year. I am happy to report this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Kick for Cancer Tournament, which draws participants to our great State from all around the country.

The tournament was founded thanks to the hard work of Dr. Georganne Verigan, a long-time teacher and leader in the martial arts community. She founded the Kick for Cancer tournament to teach her students the importance of giving back to their communities, and also to demonstrate that giving can be fun and exciting. As evidenced by the popularity of the tournament, Dr. Verigan's lesson clearly resonates with young martial arts students.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire I would like to thank Dr. Verigan for her selfless work to improve the availability of home and hospice care, and her efforts to impart the value of community service onto a generation of young citizens. I look forward to hearing of the continued growth and success of the Kick for Cancer Tournament.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:58 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4152) to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1557. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

S. 2183. An act United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions.

At 1:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2413. An act to prioritize and redirect NOAA resources to a focused program of investment on affordable and attainable advances in observational, computing, and modeling capabilities to deliver substantial improvement in weather forecasting and prediction of high impact weather events, such as those associated with hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, floods, storm surges, and wildfires, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4005. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

H. Con. Res. 92. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1557. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

H.R. 4152. An act to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2183. An act United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2413. An act to prioritize and redirect NOAA resources to a focused program of investment on affordable and attainable advances in observational, computing, and modeling capabilities to deliver substantial improvement in weather forecasting and prediction of high impact weather events, such as those associated with hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, floods, storm surges, and wildfires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4005. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4278. An act to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2198. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies and disaster assistance to the State of California and other Western States due to drought, and for other purposes.

S. 2199. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 2, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1557. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5140. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report Pursuant to Section 1304 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014: Strategy to Modernize Cooperative Threat Reduction and Prevent the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Related Materials in the Middle East and North Africa Region" (OSS-2014-0461); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5141. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict), Performing the

Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2014 Global Defense Posture Report" (OSS-2014-0462); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5142. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's annual report concerning military assistance and military exports (OSS-2014-0460); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5143. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Swap Data Repositories—Access to SDR Data by Market Participants" (RIN3038-AE14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5144. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clomazone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9907-62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5145. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "S-metolachlor; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9907-61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5146. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Propiconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9907-05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5147. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Forchlorfenuron; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9907-47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5148. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Extension of Pilot Program on Acquisition of Military-Purpose Nondevelopmental Items" ((RIN0750-AI28) (DFARS Case 2014-D007)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5149. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Performance-Based Payments" ((RIN0750-AH54) (DFARS Case 2011-D045)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5150. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the

2013 annual report relative to the STARBASE Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5151. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the utilization of a contribution to the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5152. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Michael Ferriter, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5153. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Defense Production Act Annual Fund Report for Fiscal Year 2013"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5154. A joint communication from the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to maintaining the EP-3E Airborne Reconnaissance Integrated Electronic System II and Special Projects Aircraft platform in a manner that meets the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance requirements in performance and support of the Combatant Commanders; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5155. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, (2) two reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5156. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5157. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Council's 2013 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5158. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a rule entitled "Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests In, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5159. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5160. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" (Docket No. FEMA-2013-0002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5161. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5162. A communication from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Equal Access to Justice Act Implementation Rule" ((RIN3170-AA27) (Docket No. CFPB-2012-0020)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5163. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Turkey; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5164. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving Wells Fargo, N.A. and the Export-Import Bank's Working Capital Guarantee Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5165. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Maricopa County Area" (FRL No. 9904-75-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5166. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan" (FRL No. 9904-83-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5167. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan" (FRL No. 9908-25-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5168. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Update of the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the Reading 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Maintenance Area" (FRL No. 9908-50-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5169. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air

Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; PSD Rules for PM_{2.5}” (FRL No. 9908-72-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5170. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Kraft Pulp Mills NSPS Review” (FRL No. 9907-37-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5171. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Quality: Revision to the Regulatory Definition of Volatile Organic Compounds—Exclusion of 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol (AMP)” (FRL No. 9906-73-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5172. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Carbon Monoxide Second Limited Maintenance Plan for the Pittsburgh Area” (FRL No. 9908-48-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5173. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 9908-46-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5174. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Tennessee; Conflict of Interest” (FRL No. 9909-01-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5175. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to the Minor New Source Review (NSR) State Implementation Plan (SIP); Types of Standard Permits, State Pollution Control Project Standard Permit and Control Methods for the Permitting of Grandfathered and Electing Electric Generating Facilities” (FRL No. 9908-27-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5176. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of States’ Request to Relax the Federal Reid Vapor Pressure Volatility Standard in Florida, and the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill and Greensboro/Winston-Salem/High Point Areas in North Carolina”

(FRL No. 9908-13-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5177. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Commonwealth of Virginia; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units” (FRL No. 9908-89-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5178. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Approval of the Redesignation Requests and the Associated Maintenance Plans of the Charleston Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual and the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standards” (FRL No. 9908-88-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5179. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report on the Taxation of Social Security and Railroad Retirement Benefits in Calendar Years 2005 through 2009”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5180. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Issuance of Opinion and Advisory Letters for Pre-approved Defined Contribution Plans for the Second Six-Year Cycle, Deadline for Employer Adoption, and Opening of Determination Letter Program for Pre-approved Plan Adopters” (Announcement 2014-16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5181. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Payor to Perform Acts Required of an Employer” ((RIN1545-BJ31) (TD 9662)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5182. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Eligibility for Premium Tax Credit for Victims of Domestic Abuse” (Notice 2014-23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5183. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Postponement of Deadline for Making an Election to Deduct for the Preceding Taxable Year Losses Attributable to Colorado Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides” (Notice 2014-20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5184. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch,

Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Section 911(d)(4)—2013 Update” (Rev. Proc. 2014-25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5185. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Shared Responsibility for Employers Regarding Health Coverage” ((RIN1545-BL33) (TD 9655)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5186. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-143); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5187. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-001); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5188. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-010); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5189. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-004); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5190. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to overseas surplus property; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5191. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Vitamin D2 Bakers Yeast” (Docket No. FDA-2009-F-0570) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5192. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food” (Docket No. FDA-1999-F-2405) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5193. A communication from the Chair, Advisory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care, and Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report that includes recommendations for improving federally and privately funded Alzheimer’s programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5194. A communication from the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Railroad Retirement Board’s fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification

and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5195. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Board's compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5196. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Proliferation Security Initiative budget plan and review for fiscal years 2012-2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5197. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Metropolitan Police Department First Amendment Investigations Substantially Complied with District Law"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5198. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5199. A communication from the Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5200. A communication from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5201. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Proliferation Security Initiative budget plan and review for fiscal years 2012-2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5202. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Justice's 2013 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Litigation and Compliance Report; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5203. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updated Statements of Legal Authority for the Export Administration Regulations" (RIN0694-AG07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 384. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, resulting humanitarian and development challenges, and the urgent need for a political solution to the crisis.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

S. 2200. A bill to provide debit card holders with consumer protections equivalent to those available to credit card holders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 2201. A bill to limit the level of premium subsidy provided by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to agricultural producers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2202. A bill to provide for revenue sharing of qualified revenues from leases in the South Atlantic planning area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Res. 409. A resolution congratulating the Penn State University wrestling team for winning the 2014 National Collegiate Athletic Association Wrestling Championships; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 232

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 232, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to add Vietnam Veterans Day as a patriotic and national observance.

S. 433

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 433, a bill to establish and operate a National Center for Campus Public Safety.

S. 445

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 445, a bill to improve security at State and local courthouses.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1342

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1342, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit expensing of certain depreciable business assets for small businesses.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1623

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1623, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

S. 2118

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2118, a bill to protect the separation of powers in the Constitution of the United States by ensuring that the President takes care that the laws be faithfully executed, and for other purposes.

S. 2132

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms.

MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2132, a bill to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

S. 2140

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2140, a bill to improve the transition between experimental permits and commercial licenses for commercial reusable launch vehicles.

S. 2171

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2171, a bill to address voluntary location tracking of electronic communications devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2182

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2182, a bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2194

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2194, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 2198

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2198, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies and disaster assistance to the State of California and other Western States due to drought, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 18

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 18, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate corporations, limited liability companies or other corporate entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from

Montana (Mr. WALSH) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 364

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 364, a resolution expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

S. RES. 369

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 369, a resolution to designate May 22, 2014 as "United States Foreign Service Day" in recognition of the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States, and to honor those in the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty.

S. RES. 384

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 384, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, resulting humanitarian and development challenges, and the urgent need for a political solution to the crisis.

AMENDMENT NO. 2933

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2933 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3979, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 2934

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2934 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3979, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 409—CONGRATULATING THE PENN STATE UNIVERSITY WRESTLING TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2014 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 409

Whereas on March 22, 2014, the Penn State University Nittany Lions won the 2014 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Wrestling Championships in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma;

Whereas the Nittany Lions have won the last 4 NCAA Wrestling Championships and are 1 of only 3 wrestling teams in NCAA history to win 4 consecutive titles, joining Iowa State University and Oklahoma State University;

Whereas 7 members of the Nittany Lions were named All-Americans at the 2014 NCAA Wrestling Championships, with seniors David Taylor and Ed Ruth becoming the seventh and eighth 4-time All-Americans in the history of Penn State University;

Whereas junior Nico Megaludis became a 3-time All American, junior Matt Brown became a 2-time All-American, and senior James English, sophomore Morgan McIntosh, and freshman Zain Retherford became first-time All Americans;

Whereas crucial team points were earned by all 10 Nittany Lions competing in the 2014 NCAA Wrestling Championships, and the team finished with an overall record of 38 wins and 15 losses in championship matches;

Whereas Ed Ruth became the first Penn State University wrestler to win 3 NCAA individual championships, and David Taylor became the sixth Penn State University wrestler to win 2 NCAA individual championships; and

Whereas the Penn State University wrestling team concluded the 2013-2014 season with a record of 15 wins and only 1 loss, and won its fourth consecutive Big Ten Championships title: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Penn State University wrestling team, coaches, and staff for winning the 2014 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Wrestling Championships;

(2) commends the Penn State University wrestling team's wrestlers, coaches, and staff for their diligence, enthusiasm, and hard work; and

(3) recognizes the Penn State University students, faculty, alumni, and devoted fans who supported the Nittany Lions on their path to winning their fourth consecutive NCAA Wrestling Championships.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2958. Mr. COATS (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the

shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2959. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2958. Mr. COATS (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 8. REQUIREMENT THAT INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN A SYSTEMATIC AND SUSTAINED EFFORT TO OBTAIN SUITABLE WORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (h) of section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(h) ACTIVELY SEEKING WORK.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (b)(4), payment of emergency unemployment compensation shall not be made to any individual for any week of unemployment—

“(A) during which the individual fails to accept any offer of suitable work (as defined in paragraph (3)) or fails to apply for any suitable work to which the individual was referred by the State agency; or

“(B) during which the individual fails to actively engage in seeking work, unless such individual is not actively engaged in seeking work because such individual is, as determined in accordance with State law—

“(i) before any court of the United States or any State pursuant to a lawfully issued summons to appear for jury duty (as such term may be defined by the Secretary); or

“(ii) hospitalized for treatment of an emergency or a life-threatening condition (as such term may be defined by the Secretary), if such exemptions in clauses (i) and (ii) apply to recipients of regular benefits, and the State chooses to apply such exemptions for recipients of emergency unemployment benefits.

“(2) PERIOD OF INELIGIBILITY.—If any individual is ineligible for emergency unemployment compensation for any week by reason of a failure described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), the individual shall be ineligible to receive emergency unemployment compensation for any week which begins during a period which—

“(A) begins with the week following the week in which such failure occurs; and

“(B) does not end until such individual has been employed during at least 4 weeks which begin after such failure and the total of the remuneration earned by the individual for being so employed is not less than the product of 4 multiplied by the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the individual's benefit year.

“(3) SUITABLE WORK.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘suitable work’ means,

with respect to any individual, any work which is within such individual's capabilities, except that, if the individual furnishes evidence satisfactory to the State agency that such individual's prospects for obtaining work in his customary occupation within a reasonably short period are good, the determination of whether any work is suitable work with respect to such individual shall be made in accordance with the applicable State law.

“(4) EXCEPTION.—Extended compensation shall not be denied under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) to any individual for any week by reason of a failure to accept an offer of, or apply for, suitable work—

“(A) if the gross average weekly remuneration payable to such individual for the position does not exceed the sum of—

“(i) the individual's average weekly benefit amount for his benefit year, plus

“(ii) the amount (if any) of supplemental unemployment compensation benefits (as defined in section 501(c)(17)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) payable to such individual for such week;

“(B) if the position was not offered to such individual in writing and was not listed with the State employment service;

“(C) if such failure would not result in a denial of compensation under the provisions of the applicable State law to the extent that such provisions are not inconsistent with the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (5); or

“(D) if the position pays wages less than the higher of—

“(i) the minimum wage provided by section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, without regard to any exemption; or

“(ii) any applicable State or local minimum wage.

“(5) ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SEEKING WORK.—For purposes of this subsection, an individual shall be treated as actively engaged in seeking work during any week if—

“(A) the individual has engaged in a systematic and sustained effort to obtain work during such week, and

“(B) the individual provides tangible evidence to the State agency that he has engaged in such an effort during such week.

“(6) REFERRAL.—The State agency shall provide for referring applicants for emergency unemployment benefits to any suitable work to which paragraph (4) would not apply.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2959. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Good Jobs, Good Wages, and Good Hours Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—ENERGY

Subtitle A—Keystone XL and Natural Gas Exportation

Sec. 101. Keystone XL permit approval.

Sec. 102. Expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to Ukraine and North Atlantic Treaty Organization member countries and Japan.

Subtitle B—Saving Coal Jobs

Sec. 111. Short title.

PART I—PROHIBITION ON ENERGY TAX

Sec. 121. Prohibition on energy tax.

PART II—PERMITS

Sec. 131. National pollutant discharge elimination system.

Sec. 132. Permits for dredged or fill material.

Sec. 133. Impacts of Environmental Protection Agency regulatory activity on employment and economic activity.

Sec. 134. Identification of waters protected by the Clean Water Act.

Sec. 135. Limitations on authority to modify State water quality standards.

Sec. 136. State authority to identify waters within boundaries of the State.

Subtitle C—Point of Order Against Taxes on Carbon

Sec. 141. Point of order against legislation that would create a tax or fee on carbon emissions.

TITLE II—HEALTH

Sec. 201. Forty hours is full time.

Sec. 202. Repeal of the individual mandate.

Sec. 203. Repeal of medical device excise tax.

Sec. 204. Long-term unemployed individuals not taken into account for employer health care coverage mandate.

Sec. 205. Employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration may be exempted from employer mandate under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Sec. 206. Prohibition on certain taxes, fees, and penalties enacted under the Affordable Care Act.

Sec. 207. Repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

TITLE III—INCREASING EMPLOYMENT AND DECREASING GOVERNMENT REGULATION

Subtitle A—Small Business Tax Provisions

Sec. 301. Permanent extension of increased expensing limitations and treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

Sec. 302. Permanent full exclusion applicable to qualified small business stock.

Sec. 303. Permanent increase in deduction for start-up expenditures.

Sec. 304. Permanent extension of reduction in S-corporation recognition period for built-in gains tax.

Sec. 305. Permanent allowance of deduction for health insurance costs in computing self-employment taxes.

Sec. 306. Clarification of inventory and accounting rules for small business.

Subtitle B—Regulatory Accountability Act

Sec. 311. Short title.

Sec. 312. Definitions.

Sec. 313. Rule making.

- Sec. 314. Agency guidance; procedures to issue major guidance; presidential authority to issue guidelines for issuance of guidance.
- Sec. 315. Hearings; presiding employees; powers and duties; burden of proof; evidence; record as basis of decision.
- Sec. 316. Actions reviewable.
- Sec. 317. Scope of review.
- Sec. 318. Added definition.
- Sec. 319. Effective date.

TITLE IV—SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS

- Sec. 401. Short title.
- Sec. 402. References.
- Sec. 403. Application to fiscal years.
- Subtitle A—Amendments to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998

CHAPTER 1—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DEFINITIONS

- Sec. 406. Definitions.
- CHAPTER 2—STATEWIDE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS
- Sec. 411. Purpose.
- Sec. 412. State workforce investment boards.
- Sec. 413. State plan.
- Sec. 414. Local workforce investment areas.
- Sec. 415. Local workforce investment boards.
- Sec. 416. Local plan.
- Sec. 417. Establishment of one-stop delivery system.
- Sec. 418. Identification of eligible providers of training services.
- Sec. 419. General authorization.
- Sec. 420. State allotments.
- Sec. 421. Within State allocations.
- Sec. 422. Use of funds for employment and training activities.
- Sec. 423. Performance accountability system.
- Sec. 424. Authorization of appropriations.
- CHAPTER 3—JOB CORPS

- Sec. 426. Job Corps purposes.
- Sec. 427. Job Corps definitions.
- Sec. 428. Individuals eligible for the Job Corps.
- Sec. 429. Recruitment, screening, selection, and assignment of enrollees.
- Sec. 430. Job Corps centers.
- Sec. 431. Program activities.
- Sec. 432. Counseling and job placement.
- Sec. 433. Support.
- Sec. 434. Operations.
- Sec. 435. Community participation.
- Sec. 436. Workforce councils.
- Sec. 437. Technical assistance.
- Sec. 438. Special provisions.
- Sec. 439. Performance accountability management.

CHAPTER 4—NATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Sec. 441. Technical assistance.
- Sec. 442. Evaluations.

CHAPTER 5—ADMINISTRATION

- Sec. 446. Requirements and restrictions.
- Sec. 447. Prompt allocation of funds.
- Sec. 448. Fiscal controls; sanctions.
- Sec. 449. Reports to Congress.
- Sec. 450. Administrative provisions.
- Sec. 451. State legislative authority.
- Sec. 452. General program requirements.
- Sec. 453. Federal agency staff and restrictions on political and lobbying activities.

CHAPTER 6—STATE UNIFIED PLAN

- Sec. 456. State unified plan.
- Subtitle B—Adult Education and Family Literacy Education
- Sec. 461. Amendment.

Subtitle C—Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act

- Sec. 466. Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act.

Subtitle D—Repeals and Conforming Amendments

- Sec. 471. Repeals.
- Sec. 472. Amendments to other laws.
- Sec. 473. Conforming amendment to table of contents.

Subtitle E—Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- Sec. 476. Findings.
- Sec. 477. Rehabilitation Services Administration.
- Sec. 478. Definitions.
- Sec. 479. Carryover.
- Sec. 480. Traditionally underserved populations.
- Sec. 481. State plan.
- Sec. 482. Scope of services.
- Sec. 483. Standards and indicators.
- Sec. 484. Expenditure of certain amounts.
- Sec. 485. Collaboration with industry.
- Sec. 486. Reservation for expanded transition services.
- Sec. 487. Client assistance program.
- Sec. 488. Research.
- Sec. 489. Title III amendments.
- Sec. 490. Repeal of title VI.
- Sec. 491. Title VII general provisions.
- Sec. 492. Authorizations of appropriations.
- Sec. 493. Conforming amendments.

Subtitle F—Studies by the Comptroller General

- Sec. 496. Study by the Comptroller General on exhausting Federal Pell Grants before accessing WIA funds.
- Sec. 497. Study by the Comptroller General on administrative cost savings.

TITLE I—ENERGY

Subtitle A—Keystone XL and Natural Gas Exportation

SEC. 101. KEYSTONE XL PERMIT APPROVAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (delegating to Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations), Trans-Canada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. is authorized to construct, connect, operate, and maintain pipeline facilities for the import of crude oil and other hydrocarbons at the United States-Canada Border at Phillips County, Montana, in accordance with the application filed with the Department of State on May 4, 2012.

(b) PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding Executive Order No. 13337 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), Executive Order No. 11423 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and any other Executive order or provision of law, no presidential permit shall be required for the facilities described in subsection (a).

(c) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The final environmental impact statement issued by the Secretary of State on August 26, 2011, the Final Evaluation Report issued by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality on January 3, 2013, and the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement issued on March 1, 2013, regarding the crude oil pipeline and appurtenant facilities associated with the facilities described in subsection (a), shall be considered to satisfy—

(1) all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) any other provision of law that requires Federal agency consultation or review with

respect to the facilities described in subsection (a) and the related facilities in the United States.

(d) PERMITS.—Any Federal permit or authorization issued before the date of enactment of this Act for the facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States shall remain in effect.

(e) FEDERAL JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States, that are approved by this section, and any permit, right-of-way, or other action taken to construct or complete the project pursuant to Federal law, shall only be subject to judicial review on direct appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

SEC. 102. EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS TO UKRAINE AND NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION MEMBER COUNTRIES AND JAPAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (delegating to Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations), Congress finds that exports of natural gas produced in the United States to Ukraine, member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and Japan—

(1) necessary for the protection of the essential security interests of the United States; and

(2) in the public interest pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b).

(b) EXPEDITED APPROVAL.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended by inserting “, to Ukraine, to a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or to Japan” after “trade in natural gas”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall apply to applications for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) that are pending on, or filed on or after, the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle B—Saving Coal Jobs

SEC. 111. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Saving Coal Jobs Act of 2014”.

PART I—PROHIBITION ON ENERGY TAX

SEC. 121. PROHIBITION ON ENERGY TAX.

(a) FINDINGS; PURPOSES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) on June 25, 2013, President Obama issued a Presidential memorandum directing the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue regulations relating to power sector carbon pollution standards for existing coal fired power plants;

(B) the issuance of that memorandum circumvents Congress and the will of the people of the United States;

(C) any action to control emissions of greenhouse gases from existing coal fired power plants in the United States by mandating a national energy tax would devastate major sectors of the economy, cost thousands of jobs, and increase energy costs for low-income households, small businesses, and seniors on fixed income;

(D) joblessness increases the likelihood of hospital visits, illnesses, and premature deaths;

(E) according to testimony on June 15, 2011, before the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate by Dr. Harvey Brenner of Johns Hopkins University, “The unemployment rate is well established as a risk factor for elevated illness and mortality rates in epidemiological studies performed since the early 1980s. In addition to

influences on mental disorder, suicide and alcohol abuse and alcoholism, unemployment is also an important risk factor in cardiovascular disease and overall decreases in life expectancy.”;

(F) according to the National Center for Health Statistics, “children in poor families were four times as likely to be in fair or poor health as children that were not poor”;

(G) any major decision that would cost the economy of the United States millions of dollars and lead to serious negative health effects for the people of the United States should be debated and explicitly authorized by Congress, not approved by a Presidential memorandum or regulations; and

(H) any policy adopted by Congress should make United States energy as clean as practicable, as quickly as practicable, without increasing the cost of energy for struggling families, seniors, low-income households, and small businesses.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(A) to ensure that—

(i) a national energy tax is not imposed on the economy of the United States; and

(ii) struggling families, seniors, low-income households, and small businesses do not experience skyrocketing electricity bills and joblessness;

(B) to protect the people of the United States, particularly families, seniors, and children, from the serious negative health effects of joblessness;

(C) to allow sufficient time for Congress to develop and authorize an appropriate mechanism to address the energy needs of the United States and the potential challenges posed by severe weather; and

(D) to restore the legislative process and congressional authority over the energy policy of the United States.

(b) PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of a Federal agency shall not promulgate any regulation relating to power sector carbon pollution standards or any substantially similar regulation on or after June 25, 2013, unless that regulation is explicitly authorized by an Act of Congress.

PART II—PERMITS

SEC. 131. NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM.

(a) APPLICABILITY OF GUIDANCE.—Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) APPLICABILITY OF GUIDANCE.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) GUIDANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘guidance’ means draft, interim, or final guidance issued by the Administrator.

“(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘guidance’ includes—

“(I) the comprehensive guidance issued by the Administrator and dated April 1, 2010;

“(II) the proposed guidance entitled ‘Draft Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act’ and dated April 28, 2011;

“(III) the final guidance proposed by the Administrator and dated July 21, 2011; and

“(IV) any other document or paper issued by the Administrator through any process other than the notice and comment rule-making process.

“(B) NEW PERMIT.—The term ‘new permit’ means a permit covering discharges from a structure—

“(i) that is issued under this section by a permitting authority; and

“(ii) for which an application is—

“(I) pending as of the date of enactment of this subsection; or

“(II) filed on or after the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(C) PERMITTING AUTHORITY.—The term ‘permitting authority’ means—

“(i) the Administrator; or

“(ii) a State, acting pursuant to a State program that is equivalent to the program under this section and approved by the Administrator.

“(2) PERMITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in making a determination whether to approve a new permit or a renewed permit, the permitting authority—

“(i) shall base the determination only on compliance with regulations issued by the Administrator or the permitting authority; and

“(ii) shall not base the determination on the extent of adherence of the applicant for the new permit or renewed permit to guidance.

“(B) NEW PERMITS.—If the permitting authority does not approve or deny an application for a new permit by the date that is 270 days after the date of receipt of the application for the new permit, the applicant may operate as if the application were approved in accordance with Federal law for the period of time for which a permit from the same industry would be approved.

“(C) SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETENESS.—In determining whether an application for a new permit or a renewed permit received under this paragraph is substantially complete, the permitting authority shall use standards for determining substantial completeness of similar permits for similar facilities submitted in fiscal year 2007.”.

(b) STATE PERMIT PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) STATE PERMIT PROGRAMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At any time after the promulgation of the guidelines required by section 304(a)(2), the Governor of each State desiring to administer a permit program for discharges into navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the State may submit to the Administrator—

“(A) a full and complete description of the program the State proposes to establish and administer under State law or under an interstate compact; and

“(B) a statement from the attorney general (or the attorney for those State water pollution control agencies that have independent legal counsel), or from the chief legal officer in the case of an interstate agency, that the laws of the State, or the interstate compact, as applicable, provide adequate authority to carry out the described program.

“(2) APPROVAL.—The Administrator shall approve each program for which a description is submitted under paragraph (1) unless the Administrator determines that adequate authority does not exist—

“(A) to issue permits that—

“(i) apply, and ensure compliance with, any applicable requirements of sections 301, 302, 306, 307, and 403;

“(ii) are for fixed terms not exceeding 5 years;

“(iii) can be terminated or modified for cause, including—

“(I) a violation of any condition of the permit;

“(II) obtaining a permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts; and

“(III) a change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the permitted discharge; and

“(iv) control the disposal of pollutants into wells;

“(B)(i) to issue permits that apply, and ensure compliance with, all applicable requirements of section 308; or

“(ii) to inspect, monitor, enter, and require reports to at least the same extent as required in section 308;

“(C) to ensure that the public, and any other State the waters of which may be affected, receives notice of each application for a permit and an opportunity for a public hearing before a ruling on each application;

“(D) to ensure that the Administrator receives notice and a copy of each application for a permit;

“(E) to ensure that any State (other than the permitting State), whose waters may be affected by the issuance of a permit may submit written recommendations to the permitting State and the Administrator with respect to any permit application and, if any part of the written recommendations are not accepted by the permitting State, that the permitting State will notify the affected State and the Administrator in writing of the failure of the State to accept the recommendations, including the reasons for not accepting the recommendations;

“(F) to ensure that no permit will be issued if, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Army (acting through the Chief of Engineers), after consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, anchorage and navigation of any of the navigable waters would be substantially impaired by the issuance of the permit;

“(G) to abate violations of the permit or the permit program, including civil and criminal penalties and other means of enforcement;

“(H) to ensure that any permit for a discharge from a publicly owned treatment works includes conditions to require the identification in terms of character and volume of pollutants of any significant source introducing pollutants subject to pretreatment standards under section 307(b) into the treatment works and a program to ensure compliance with those pretreatment standards by each source, in addition to adequate notice, which shall include information on the quality and quantity of effluent to be introduced into the treatment works and any anticipated impact of the change in the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the publicly owned treatment works, to the permitting agency of—

“(i) new introductions into the treatment works of pollutants from any source that would be a new source (as defined in section 306(a)) if the source were discharging pollutants;

“(ii) new introductions of pollutants into the treatment works from a source that would be subject to section 301 if the source were discharging those pollutants; or

“(iii) a substantial change in volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the treatment works by a source introducing pollutants into the treatment works at the time of issuance of the permit; and

“(I) to ensure that any industrial user of any publicly owned treatment works will comply with sections 204(b), 307, and 308.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Administrator may not disapprove or withdraw approval of a program under this subsection on the basis of the following:

“(A) The failure of the program to incorporate or comply with guidance (as defined in subsection (s)(1)).

“(B) The implementation of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 309 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1319) is amended—

(i) in subsection (c)—

(I) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “402(b)(8)” and inserting “402(b)(2)(H)”; and

(II) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “402(b)(8)” and inserting “402(b)(2)(H)”; and

(ii) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by striking “402(b)(8)” and inserting “402(b)(2)(H)”.

(B) Section 402(m) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(m)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “subsection (b)(8) of this section” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(H)”.

(C) SUSPENSION OF FEDERAL PROGRAM.—Section 402(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) LIMITATION ON DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (3), the Administrator may not disapprove or withdraw approval of a State program under subsection (b) on the basis of the failure of the following:

“(A) The failure of the program to incorporate or comply with guidance (as defined in subsection (s)(1)).

“(B) The implementation of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).”.

(d) NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 402(d)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(2)” and all that follows through the end of the first sentence and inserting the following:

“(2) OBJECTION BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), no permit shall issue if—

“(i) not later than 90 days after the date on which the Administrator receives notification under subsection (b)(2)(E), the Administrator objects in writing to the issuance of the permit; or

“(ii) not later than 90 days after the date on which the proposed permit of the State is transmitted to the Administrator, the Administrator objects in writing to the issuance of the permit as being outside the guidelines and requirements of this Act.”;

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “Whenever the Administrator” and inserting the following:

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—If the Administrator”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) EXCEPTION.—The Administrator shall not object to or deny the issuance of a permit by a State under subsection (b) or (s) based on the following:

“(i) Guidance, as that term is defined in subsection (s)(1).

“(ii) The interpretation of the Administrator of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).”.

SEC. 132. PERMITS FOR DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and all that follows through “SEC. 404. (a) The Secretary may issue” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 404. PERMITS FOR DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL.

“(a) PERMITS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue”; and

(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(2) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL.—

“(A) PERMIT APPLICATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), if an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, as appropriate, is required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Secretary shall—

“(I) begin the process not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a permit application; and

“(II) approve or deny an application for a permit under this subsection not later than the latter of—

“(aa) if an agency carries out an environmental assessment that leads to a finding of no significant impact, the date on which the finding of no significant impact is issued; or

“(bb) if an agency carries out an environmental assessment that leads to a record of decision, 15 days after the date on which the record of decision on an environmental impact statement is issued.

“(ii) PROCESSES.—Notwithstanding clause (i), regardless of whether the Secretary has commenced an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement by the date described in clause (i)(I), the following deadlines shall apply:

“(I) An environmental assessment carried out under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be completed not later than 1 year after the deadline for commencing the permit process under clause (i)(I).

“(II) An environmental impact statement carried out under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be completed not later than 2 years after the deadline for commencing the permit process under clause (i)(I).

“(B) FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Secretary fails to act by the deadline specified in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A)—

“(i) the application, and the permit requested in the application, shall be considered to be approved;

“(ii) the Secretary shall issue a permit to the applicant; and

“(iii) the permit shall not be subject to judicial review.”.

(b) STATE PERMITTING PROGRAMS.—Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) AUTHORITY OF ADMINISTRATOR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) through (4), until the Secretary has issued a permit under this section, the Administrator is authorized to prohibit the specification (including the withdrawal of specification) of any defined area as a disposal site, and deny or restrict the use of any defined area for specification (including the withdrawal of specification) as a disposal site, if the Administrator determines, after notice and opportunity for public hearings, that the discharge of the materials into the area will

have an unacceptable adverse effect on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds or fishery areas (including spawning and breeding areas), wildlife, or recreational areas.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—Before making a determination under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consult with the Secretary.

“(3) FINDINGS.—The Administrator shall set forth in writing and make public the findings of the Administrator and the reasons of the Administrator for making any determination under this subsection.

“(4) AUTHORITY OF STATE PERMITTING PROGRAMS.—This subsection shall not apply to any permit if the State in which the discharge originates or will originate does not concur with the determination of the Administrator that the discharge will result in an unacceptable adverse effect as described in paragraph (1).”.

(c) STATE PROGRAMS.—Section 404(g)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(g)(1)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “for the discharge” and inserting “for all or part of the discharges”.

SEC. 133. IMPACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGULATORY ACTIVITY ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) COVERED ACTION.—The term “covered action” means any of the following actions taken by the Administrator under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.):

(A) Issuing a regulation, policy statement, guidance, response to a petition, or other requirement.

(B) Implementing a new or substantially altered program.

(3) MORE THAN A DE MINIMIS NEGATIVE IMPACT.—The term “more than a de minimis negative impact” means the following:

(A) With respect to employment levels, a loss of more than 100 jobs, except that any offsetting job gains that result from the hypothetical creation of new jobs through new technologies or government employment may not be used in the job loss calculation.

(B) With respect to economic activity, a decrease in economic activity of more than \$1,000,000 over any calendar year, except that any offsetting economic activity that results from the hypothetical creation of new economic activity through new technologies or government employment may not be used in the economic activity calculation.

(b) ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS OF ACTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.—

(1) ANALYSIS.—Before taking a covered action, the Administrator shall analyze the impact, disaggregated by State, of the covered action on employment levels and economic activity, including estimated job losses and decreased economic activity.

(2) ECONOMIC MODELS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator shall use the best available economic models.

(B) ANNUAL GAO REPORT.—Not later than December 31st of each year, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the economic models used by the Administrator to carry out this subsection.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—With respect to any covered action, the Administrator shall—

(A) post the analysis under paragraph (1) as a link on the main page of the public Internet Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(B) request that the Governor of any State experiencing more than a de minimis negative impact post the analysis in the Capitol of the State.

(c) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator concludes under subsection (b)(1) that a covered action will have more than a de minimis negative impact on employment levels or economic activity in a State, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing in each such State at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the covered action.

(2) TIME, LOCATION, AND SELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A public hearing required under paragraph (1) shall be held at a convenient time and location for impacted residents.

(B) PRIORITY.—In selecting a location for such a public hearing, the Administrator shall give priority to locations in the State that will experience the greatest number of job losses.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—If the Administrator concludes under subsection (b)(1) that a covered action will have more than a de minimis negative impact on employment levels or economic activity in any State, the Administrator shall give notice of such impact to the congressional delegation, Governor, and legislature of the State at least 45 days before the effective date of the covered action.

SEC. 134. IDENTIFICATION OF WATERS PROTECTED BY THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not—

(1) finalize, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed guidance described in the notice of availability and request for comments entitled “EPA and Army Corps of Engineers Guidance Regarding Identification of Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act” (EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0409) (76 Fed. Reg. 24479 (May 2, 2011)); and

(2) use the guidance described in paragraph (1), any successor document, or any substantially similar guidance made publicly available on or after December 3, 2008, as the basis for any decision regarding the scope of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or any rulemaking.

(b) RULES.—The use of the guidance described in subsection (a)(1), or any successor document or substantially similar guidance made publicly available on or after December 3, 2008, as the basis for any rule shall be grounds for vacating the rule.

SEC. 135. LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY TO MODIFY STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.

(a) STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—Section 303(c)(4) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking “(4) The” and inserting the following:

“(4) PROMULGATION OF REVISED OR NEW STANDARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The”;

(3) by striking “The Administrator shall promulgate” and inserting the following:

“(B) DEADLINE.—The Administrator shall promulgate;” and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, the Administrator may not promulgate a revised or new standard for a pollutant in any case in which the State has

submitted to the Administrator and the Administrator has approved a water quality standard for that pollutant, unless the State concurs with the determination of the Administrator that the revised or new standard is necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.”.

(b) FEDERAL LICENSES AND PERMITS.—Section 401(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) STATE OR INTERSTATE AGENCY DETERMINATION.—With respect to any discharge, if a State or interstate agency having jurisdiction over the navigable waters at the point at which the discharge originates or will originate determines under paragraph (1) that the discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307, the Administrator may not take any action to supersede the determination.”.

SEC. 136. STATE AUTHORITY TO IDENTIFY WATERS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE.

Section 303(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) STATE AUTHORITY TO IDENTIFY WATERS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall submit to the Administrator from time to time, with the first such submission not later than 180 days after the date of publication of the first identification of pollutants under section 304(a)(2)(D), the waters identified and the loads established under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (1).

“(B) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of submission, the Administrator shall approve the State identification and load or announce the disagreement of the Administrator with the State identification and load.

“(ii) APPROVAL.—If the Administrator approves the identification and load submitted by the State under this subsection, the State shall incorporate the identification and load into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

“(iii) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the identification and load submitted by the State under this subsection, the Administrator shall submit, not later than 30 days after the date that the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the submission of the State, to the State the written recommendation of the Administrator of those additional waters that the Administrator identifies and such loads for such waters as the Administrator believes are necessary to implement the water quality standards applicable to the waters.

“(C) ACTION BY STATE.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of the recommendation of the Administrator, the State shall—

“(i) disregard the recommendation of the Administrator in full and incorporate its own identification and load into the current plan of the State under subsection (e);

“(ii) accept the recommendation of the Administrator in full and incorporate its identification and load as amended by the recommendation of the Administrator into the current plan of the State under subsection (e); or

“(iii) accept the recommendation of the Administrator in part, identifying certain additional waters and certain additional loads proposed by the Administrator to be

added to the State’s identification and load and incorporate the State’s identification and load as amended into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

“(D) NONCOMPLIANCE BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator fails to approve the State identification and load or announce the disagreement of the Administrator with the State identification and load within the time specified in this subsection—

“(I) the identification and load of the State shall be considered approved; and

“(II) the State shall incorporate the identification and load that the State submitted into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

“(ii) RECOMMENDATIONS NOT SUBMITTED.—If the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the identification and load of the State but fails to submit the written recommendation of the Administrator to the State within 30 days as required by subparagraph (B)(iii)—

“(I) the identification and load of the State shall be considered approved; and

“(II) the State shall incorporate the identification and load that the State submitted into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

“(E) APPLICATION.—This section shall apply to any decision made by the Administrator under this subsection issued on or after March 1, 2013.”.

Subtitle C—Point of Order Against Taxes on Carbon

SEC. 141. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CREATE A TAX OR FEE ON CARBON EMISSIONS.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, or conference report that includes a Federal tax or fee imposed on carbon emissions from any product or entity that is a direct or indirect source of the emissions.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

(1) WAIVER.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

TITLE II—HEALTH

SEC. 201. FORTY HOURS IS FULL TIME.

(a) DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “by 120” and inserting “by 174”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “30 hours” and inserting “40 hours”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 202. REPEAL OF THE INDIVIDUAL MANDATE.

Section 1501 and subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 10106 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (and the amendments made by such sections and subsections) are repealed and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SEC. 203. REPEAL OF MEDICAL DEVICE EXCISE TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subchapter E.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subsection (a) of section 4221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the last sentence.

(2) Paragraph (2) of section 6416(b) of such Code is amended by striking the last sentence.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of subchapter for chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the item related to subchapter E.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to sales after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 204. LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE MANDATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) EXCEPTION FOR LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘full-time employee’ shall not include any individual who is a long-term unemployed individual with respect to such employer.

“(ii) LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘long-term unemployed individual’ means, with respect to any employer, an individual who—

“(I) begins employment with such employer after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, and

“(II) has been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, immediately before the date such employment begins.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 205. EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM EMPLOYER MANDATE UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an employer may elect not to take into account for a month as an employee any individual who, for such month, has medical coverage under—

“(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

“(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 206. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TAXES, FEES, AND PENALTIES ENACTED UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

No tax, fee, or penalty imposed or enacted under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall be implemented, administered, or enforced unless there has been a certification by the Joint Committee on Taxation that such provision would not have a direct or indirect economic impact on individuals with an annual income of less than \$200,000 or families with an annual income of less than \$250,000.

SEC. 207. REPEAL OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective as of the enactment of Public Law 111-148, such Act (including any provision amended under sections 201 through 205 of this Act) is repealed, and the provisions of law amended or repealed by such Act (including any provision amended under such sections) are restored or revived as if such Act had not been enacted.

(b) HEALTH CARE-RELATED PROVISIONS IN THE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010.—Effective as of the enactment of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), title I and subtitle B of title II of such Act (including any provision amended under sections 201 through 205 of this Act) are repealed, and the provisions of law amended or repealed by such title or subtitle, respectively (including any provision amended under such sections), are restored or revived as if such title and subtitle had not been enacted.

TITLE III—INCREASING EMPLOYMENT AND DECREASING GOVERNMENT REGULATION

Subtitle A—Small Business Tax Provisions

SEC. 301. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF INCREASED EXPENSING LIMITATIONS AND TREATMENT OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AS SECTION 179 PROPERTY.

(a) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—Section 179(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “shall not exceed” and all that follows and inserting “shall not exceed \$500,000.”.

(b) REDUCTION IN LIMITATION.—Section 179(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (C),

(2) by striking “, and” at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a period,

(3) by striking the comma at the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting “, and”, and

(4) by inserting “beginning before 2014” after “The limitation under paragraph (1) for any taxable year”.

(c) COMPUTER SOFTWARE.—Section 179(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and before 2014”.

(d) ELECTION.—Section 179(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and before 2014”.

(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR TREATMENT OF QUALIFIED REAL PROPERTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 179(f)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “beginning in 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013” and inserting “beginning after 2009”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 179(f) of such Code is amended by striking paragraph (4).

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 302. PERMANENT FULL EXCLUSION APPLICABLE TO QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESS STOCK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 1202(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “and before January 1, 2014”, and

(2) by striking “CERTAIN PERIODS IN 2010, 2011, 2012, AND 2013” in the heading and inserting “CERTAIN PERIODS AFTER 2009”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The heading for section 1202 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “PARTIAL”.

(2) The item relating to section 1202 in the table of sections for part I of subchapter P of

chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking “Partial exclusion” and inserting “Exclusion”.

(3) Section 1223(13) of such Code is amended by striking “1202(a)(2),”.

(c) ADJUSTMENT OF GROSS ASSET THRESHOLD FOR INFLATION.—Subsection (d) of section 1202 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2014, the \$50,000,000 amount in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, by substituting ‘calendar year 2013’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof. If any amount as increased under the preceding sentence is not a multiple of \$1,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$1,000.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to stock acquired after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 303. PERMANENT INCREASE IN DEDUCTION FOR START-UP EXPENDITURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (ii) of section 195(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “\$5,000” and inserting “\$10,000”, and

(2) by striking “\$50,000” and inserting “\$60,000”.

(b) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—Paragraph (3) of section 195(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(3) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2014, the \$10,000 and \$60,000 amounts in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, by substituting ‘calendar year 2013’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof. If any amount as increased under the preceding sentence is not a multiple of \$1,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$1,000.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 304. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF REDUCTION IN S-CORPORATION RECOGNITION PERIOD FOR BUILT-IN GAINS TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (7) of section 1374(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “10-year” in subparagraph (A) and inserting “5-year”,

(2) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively, and

(3) by striking “593(e)—” and all that follows in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, and inserting “593(e), subparagraph (A) shall be applied without regard to the phrase ‘5-year’.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 305. PERMANENT ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS IN COMPUTING SELF-EMPLOYMENT TAXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 162(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is

amended by striking “beginning before January 1, 2010” and all that follows and inserting “beginning—

“(A) before January 1, 2010, or

“(B) after December 31, 2010, and before January 1, 2013.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012.

SEC. 306. CLARIFICATION OF INVENTORY AND ACCOUNTING RULES FOR SMALL BUSINESS.

(a) **CASH ACCOUNTING PERMITTED.**—Section 446 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) **CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS TAXPAYERS PERMITTED TO USE CASH ACCOUNTING METHOD WITHOUT LIMITATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to an eligible taxpayer who uses the cash receipts and disbursements method for any taxable year, such method shall be deemed to clearly reflect income and the taxpayer shall not be required to use an accrual method.

“(2) **ELIGIBLE TAXPAYER.**—For purposes of this subsection, a taxpayer is an eligible taxpayer with respect to any taxable year if—

“(A) for all prior taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013, the taxpayer (or any predecessor) met the gross receipts test of section 448(c) (determined by substituting ‘\$10,000,000’ for ‘\$5,000,000’ each place it appears), and

“(B) the taxpayer is not subject to section 447 or 448.”.

(b) **INVENTORY RULES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 471 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) **SMALL BUSINESS TAXPAYERS NOT REQUIRED TO USE INVENTORIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A qualified taxpayer shall not be required to use inventories under this section for a taxable year.

“(2) **TREATMENT OF TAXPAYERS NOT USING INVENTORIES.**—If a qualified taxpayer does not use inventories with respect to any property for any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2013, such property shall be treated as a material or supply which is not incidental.

“(3) **QUALIFIED TAXPAYER.**—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘qualified taxpayer’ means—

“(A) any eligible taxpayer (as defined in section 446(g)(2)), and

“(B) any taxpayer described in section 448(b)(3) (determined by substituting ‘\$10,000,000’ for ‘\$5,000,000’ each place it appears in subsections (b) and (c) of section 448).”.

(2) **INCREASED ELIGIBILITY FOR SIMPLIFIED DOLLAR-VALUE LIFO METHOD.**—Section 474(c) of such Code is amended by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”.

(3) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Subsection (c) of section 263A of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) **EXCLUSION FROM INVENTORY RULES.**—Nothing in this section shall require the use of inventories for any taxable year by a qualified taxpayer (within the meaning of section 471(c)) who is not required to use inventories under section 471 for such taxable year.”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE AND SPECIAL RULES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

(2) **CHANGE IN METHOD OF ACCOUNTING.**—In the case of any taxpayer changing the tax-

payer’s method of accounting for any taxable year under the amendments made by this section—

(A) such change shall be treated as initiated by the taxpayer; and

(B) such change shall be treated as made with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Subtitle B—Regulatory Accountability Act
SEC. 311. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Regulatory Accountability Act of 2014”.

SEC. 312. DEFINITIONS.

Section 551 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) ‘guidance’ means an agency statement of general applicability and future effect, other than a regulatory action, that sets forth a policy on a statutory, regulatory or technical issue or an interpretation of a statutory or regulatory issue;

“(16) ‘high-impact rule’ means any rule that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs determines is likely to impose an annual cost on the economy of \$1,000,000,000 or more, adjusted annually for inflation;

“(17) ‘Information Quality Act’ means section 515 of Public Law 106-554, the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001, and guidelines issued by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs or other agencies under that Act;

“(18) ‘major guidance’ means guidance that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs finds is likely to lead to—

“(A) an annual cost on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more, adjusted annually for inflation;

“(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, local or tribal government agencies, or geographic regions; or

“(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets;

“(19) ‘major rule’ means any rule that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs determines is likely to impose—

“(A) an annual cost on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more, adjusted annually for inflation;

“(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, local, or tribal government agencies, or geographic regions; or

“(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets; and

“(20) ‘Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs’ means the office established under section 3503 of chapter 35 of title 44 and any successor to that office.”.

SEC. 313. RULE MAKING.

Section 553 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “(a) This section applies” and inserting “(a) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section applies”; and

(2) by striking subsections (b) through (e) and inserting the following:

“(b) **RULE MAKING CONSIDERATIONS.**—In a rule making, an agency shall make all preliminary and final determinations based on evidence and consider, in addition to other applicable considerations, the following:

“(1) The legal authority under which a rule may be proposed, including whether a rule making is required by statute, and if so, whether by a specific date, or whether the agency has discretion to commence a rule making.

“(2) Other statutory considerations applicable to whether the agency can or should propose a rule or undertake other agency action.

“(3) The specific nature and significance of the problem the agency may address with a rule (including the degree and nature of risks the problem poses and the priority of addressing those risks compared to other matters or activities within the jurisdiction of the agency), whether the problem warrants new agency action, and the countervailing risks that may be posed by alternatives for new agency action.

“(4) Whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency may address with a rule and whether those rules could be amended or rescinded to address the problem in whole or part.

“(5) Any reasonable alternatives for a new rule or other response identified by the agency or interested persons, including not only responses that mandate particular conduct or manners of compliance, but also—

“(A) the alternative of no Federal response;

“(B) amending or rescinding existing rules;

“(C) potential regional, State, local, or tribal regulatory action or other responses that could be taken instead of agency action; and

“(D) potential responses that—

“(i) specify performance objectives rather than conduct or manners of compliance;

“(ii) establish economic incentives to encourage desired behavior;

“(iii) provide information upon which choices can be made by the public; or

“(iv) incorporate other innovative alternatives rather than agency actions that specify conduct or manners of compliance.

“(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

“(A) the potential costs and benefits associated with potential alternative rules and other responses considered under paragraph (5), including direct, indirect, and cumulative costs and benefits and estimated impacts on jobs, economic growth, innovation, and economic competitiveness;

“(B) the means to increase the cost-effectiveness of any Federal response; and

“(C) incentives for innovation, consistency, predictability, lower costs of enforcement and compliance (to government entities, regulated entities, and the public), and flexibility.

“(c) **ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING FOR MAJOR RULES AND HIGH-IMPACT RULES.**—

“(1) In the case of a rule making for a major rule or high-impact rule, not later than 90 days before a notice of proposed rule making is published in the Federal Register, an agency shall publish advance notice of proposed rule making in the Federal Register.

“(2) In publishing advance notice under paragraph (1), the agency shall—

“(A) include a written statement identifying, at a minimum—

“(i) the nature and significance of the problem the agency may address with a rule, including data and other evidence and information on which the agency expects to rely for the proposed rule;

“(ii) the legal authority under which a rule may be proposed, including whether a rule making is required by statute, and if so, whether by a specific date, or whether the agency has discretion to commence a rule making; and

“(iii) preliminary information available to the agency concerning the other considerations specified in subsection (b);

“(B) solicit written data, views or arguments from interested persons concerning the information and issues addressed in the advance notice; and

“(C) provide for a period of not fewer than 60 days for interested persons to submit such written data, views, or arguments to the agency.

“(d) NOTICES OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING; DETERMINATIONS OF OTHER AGENCY COURSE.—Following completion of procedures under subsection (c), if applicable, and consultation with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, the agency shall publish either a notice of proposed rule making or a determination of other agency course, in accordance with the following:

“(1) A notice of proposed rule making shall include—

“(A) a statement of the time, place, and nature of public rule making proceedings;

“(B) reference to the legal authority under which the rule is proposed;

“(C) the terms of the proposed rule;

“(D) a description of information known to the agency on the subject and issues of the proposed rule, including—

“(i) a summary of information known to the agency concerning the considerations specified in subsection (b);

“(ii) a summary of additional information the agency provided to and obtained from interested persons under subsection (c); and

“(iii) information specifically identifying all data, studies, models, and other evidence or information considered or used by the agency in connection with the determination by the agency to propose the rule;

“(E)(i) a reasoned preliminary determination of need for the rule based on the information described under subparagraph (D); and

“(ii) an additional statement of whether a rule is required by statute;

“(F) a reasoned preliminary determination that the benefits of the proposed rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the costs of the proposed rule, including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6), based on the information described under subparagraph (D);

“(G) a discussion of—

“(i) the alternatives to the proposed rule, and other alternative responses, considered by the agency under subsection (b);

“(ii) the costs and benefits of those alternatives, including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6);

“(iii) whether those alternatives meet relevant statutory objectives; and

“(iv) why the agency did not propose any of those alternatives; and

“(H)(i) a statement of whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule; and

“(ii) if so, whether or not the agency proposes to amend or rescind any such rules, and why.

All information considered by the agency, and actions to obtain information by the agency, in connection with its determination to propose the rule, including all information described by the agency under subparagraph (D) and, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, information provided by that Office in consultations with the agency, shall be placed in the docket for the proposed rule and made accessible to the public for the public's use when the notice of proposed rule making is published.

“(2)(A) A notice of determination of other agency course shall include a description of the alternative response the agency determined to adopt.

“(B) If in its determination of other agency course the agency makes a determination to amend or rescind an existing rule, the agency need not undertake additional proceedings under subsection (c) before the agency publishes a notice of proposed rule making to amend or rescind the existing rule.

All information considered by the agency, and actions to obtain information by the agency, in connection with its determination of other agency course, including the information specified under paragraph (1)(D) and, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, information provided by that Office in consultations with the agency, shall be placed in the docket for the determination and made accessible to the public for the public's use when the notice of determination is published.

“(3) After notice of proposed rule making required by this section, the agency shall provide interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making through submission of written data, views, or arguments with or without opportunity for oral presentation, except that—

“(A) if a hearing is required under paragraph (4)(B) or subsection (e), reasonable opportunity for oral presentation shall be provided under that requirement; or

“(B) when other than under subsection (e) rules are required by statute or at the discretion of the agency to be made on the record after opportunity for an agency hearing, sections 556 and 557 shall apply, and paragraph (4), requirements of subsection (e) to receive comment outside of the procedures of sections 556 and 557, and the petition procedures of subsection (e)(6) shall not apply.

The agency shall provide not fewer than 90 days for interested persons to submit written data, views, or arguments (or 120 days in the case of a proposed major rule or high-impact rule).

“(4)(A) Within 30 days after publication of notice of proposed rule making, a member of the public may petition for a hearing in accordance with section 556 to determine whether any evidence or other information upon which the agency bases the proposed rule fails to comply with of the Information Quality Act.

“(B)(i) The agency may, upon review of the petition, determine without further process to exclude from the rule making the evidence or other information that is the subject of the petition and, if appropriate, withdraw the proposed rule. The agency shall promptly publish any such determination.

“(ii) If the agency does not resolve the petition under the procedures of clause (i), it shall grant any such petition that presents a prima facie case that evidence or other information upon which the agency bases the proposed rule fails to comply with the Informa-

tion Quality Act, hold the requested hearing not later than 30 days after receipt of the petition, provide for a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination at the hearing, and decide the issues presented by the petition not later than 60 days after receipt of the petition. The agency may deny any petition that it determines does not present such a prima facie case.

“(C) There shall be no judicial review of the agency's disposition of issues considered and decided or determined under subparagraph (B)(i) until judicial review of the agency's final action. There shall be no judicial review of an agency's determination to withdraw a proposed rule under subparagraph (B)(i).

“(D) Failure to petition for a hearing under this paragraph shall not preclude judicial review of any claim based on the Information Quality Act under chapter 7 of this title.

“(e) HEARINGS FOR HIGH-IMPACT RULES.—Following notice of a proposed rule making, receipt of comments on the proposed rule, and any hearing held under subsection (d)(4), and before adoption of any high-impact rule, the agency shall hold a hearing in accordance with sections 556 and 557, unless such hearing is waived by all participants in the rule making other than the agency. The agency shall provide a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination at such hearing. The hearing shall be limited to the following issues of fact, except that participants at the hearing other than the agency may waive determination of any such issue:

“(1) Whether the agency's asserted factual predicate for the rule is supported by the evidence.

“(2) Whether there is an alternative to the proposed rule that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives at a lower cost (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)) than the proposed rule.

“(3) If there is more than one alternative to the proposed rule that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives at a lower cost than the proposed rule, which alternative would achieve the relevant statutory objectives at the lowest cost.

“(4) If the agency proposes to adopt a rule that is more costly than the least costly alternative that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)), whether the additional benefits of the more costly rule exceed the additional costs of the more costly rule.

“(5) Whether the evidence and other information upon which the agency bases the proposed rule meets the requirements of the Information Quality Act.

“(6) Upon petition by an interested person who has participated in the rule making, other issues relevant to the rule making, unless the agency determines that consideration of the issues at the hearing would not advance consideration of the rule or would, in light of the nature of the need for agency action, unreasonably delay completion of the rule making. An agency shall grant or deny a petition under this paragraph within 30 days after the receipt of the petition.

Not later than 45 days before any hearing held under this subsection or sections 556 and 557, the agency shall publish in the Federal Register a notice specifying the proposed rule to be considered at such hearing, the issues to be considered at the hearing, and the time and place for such hearing, except that such notice may be issued not later than 15 days before a hearing held under subsection (d)(4)(B).

“(f) FINAL RULES.—(1) The agency shall adopt a rule only following consultation with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to facilitate compliance with applicable rule making requirements.

“(2) The agency shall adopt a rule only on the basis of the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, and other evidence and information concerning the need for and consequences of the rule.

“(3)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the agency shall adopt the least costly rule considered during the rule making (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)) that meets relevant statutory objectives.

“(B) The agency may adopt a rule that is more costly than the least costly alternative that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives only if—

“(i) the additional benefits of the more costly rule justify its additional costs; and

“(ii) the agency explains its reason for doing so based on interests of public health, safety or welfare (including protection of the environment) that are clearly within the scope of the statutory provision authorizing the rule.

“(4)(A) When the agency adopts a final rule, the agency shall publish a notice of final rule making. The notice shall include—

“(i) a concise, general statement of the rule’s basis and purpose;

“(ii) the agency’s reasoned final determination of need for a rule to address the problem the agency seeks to address with the rule, including a statement of whether a rule is required by statute;

“(iii) the agency’s reasoned final determination that the benefits of the rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the rule’s costs (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6));

“(iv) the agency’s reasoned final determination not to adopt any of the alternatives to the proposed rule considered by the agency during the rule making, including—

“(I) the agency’s reasoned final determination that no alternative considered achieved the relevant statutory objectives with lower costs (including costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)) than the rule; or

“(II) the agency’s reasoned final determination that its adoption of a more costly rule complies with paragraph (3)(B);

“(v) the agency’s reasoned final determination—

“(I) that existing rules have not created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the rule; or

“(II) that existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the rule, and, if so—

“(aa) why amendment or rescission of such existing rules is not alone sufficient to respond to the problem; and

“(bb) whether and how the agency intends to amend or rescind the existing rule separate from adoption of the rule;

“(vi) the agency’s reasoned final determination that the evidence and other information upon which the agency bases the rule complies with the Information Quality Act; and

“(vii) for any major rule or high-impact rule, the agency’s plan for review of the rule no less frequently than every 10 years to determine whether, based upon evidence, there remains a need for the rule, whether the rule is in fact achieving statutory objectives, whether the rule’s benefits continue to justify its costs, and whether the rule can be

modified or rescinded to reduce costs while continuing to achieve statutory objectives.

“(B) Review of a rule under a plan required by paragraph (4)(G) shall take into account the factors and criteria set forth in subsections (b) through (e) and this subsection.

“(C) All information considered by the agency in connection with its adoption of the rule, and, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, information provided by that Office in consultations with the agency, shall be placed in the docket for the rule and made accessible to the public for the public’s use not later than the date on which the rule is adopted.

“(g) EXCEPTIONS FROM NOTICE AND HEARING REQUIREMENTS.—(1) Except when notice or hearing is required by statute, subsections (c) through (e) of this section do not apply to interpretive rules, general statements of policy, or rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice.

“(2)(A) When the agency for good cause, based upon evidence, finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefor in the rules issued) that compliance with subsection (c), (d), or (e) or requirements to render final determinations under subsection (f) of this section before the issuance of an interim rule is impracticable or contrary to the public interest, including interests of national security, such subsections or requirements to render final determinations shall not apply to the agency’s adoption of an interim rule.

“(B) If, following compliance with subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the agency adopts an interim rule, it shall commence proceedings that comply fully with subsections (c) through (f) of this section immediately upon publication of the interim rule. No less than 270 days from publication of the interim rule (or 18 months in the case of a major rule or high-impact rule), the agency shall complete rule making under subsections (c) through (f) of this subsection and take final action to adopt a final rule or rescind the interim rule. If the agency fails to take timely final action, the interim rule shall cease to have the effect of law.

“(C) Other than in cases involving interests of national security, upon the agency’s publication of an interim rule without compliance with subsections (c), (d), or (e) or requirements to render final determinations under subsection (f) of this section, an interested party may seek immediate judicial review under chapter 7 of this title of the agency’s determination to adopt such interim rule. The record on such review shall include all documents and information considered by the agency and any additional information presented by a party that the court determines necessary to consider to assure justice.

“(h) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HEARINGS.—When a hearing is required under subsection (e) or is otherwise required by statute or at the agency’s discretion before adoption of a rule, the agency shall comply with the requirements of sections 556 and 557 in addition to the requirements of subsection (f) in adopting the rule and in providing notice of the rule’s adoption.

“(i) DATE OF PUBLICATION OF RULE.—The required publication or service of a substantive final or interim rule shall be made not less than 30 days before the effective date of the rule, except—

“(1) a substantive rule which grants or recognizes an exemption or relieves a restriction;

“(2) interpretive rules and statements of policy; or

“(3) as otherwise provided by the agency for good cause found and published with the rule.

“(j) RIGHT TO PETITION.—Each agency shall give an interested person the right to petition for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule.

“(k) RULE MAKING GUIDELINES.—(1)(A) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall have authority to establish guidelines for the assessment, including quantitative and qualitative assessment, of the costs and benefits of potential, proposed, and final rules and other economic issues or issues related to risk that are relevant to rule making under this section and other sections of this title. The rigor of cost-benefit analysis required by such guidelines shall be commensurate, in the Administrator’s determination, with the economic impact of the rule.

“(B) To ensure that agencies use the best available techniques to quantify and evaluate anticipated present and future benefits, costs, other economic issues, and risks as accurately as possible, the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall regularly update guidelines established under subparagraph (A).

“(2) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall also have authority to issue guidelines to promote coordination, simplification and harmonization of agency rules during the rule making process and otherwise. Such guidelines shall assure that each agency avoids regulations that are inconsistent or incompatible with, or duplicative of, its other regulations and those of other Federal agencies and drafts its regulations to be simple and easy to understand, with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty and litigation arising from such uncertainty.

“(3)(A) To ensure consistency in Federal rule making, the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall—

“(i) issue guidelines and otherwise take action to ensure that rule makings conducted in whole or in part under procedures specified in provisions of law other than those under this subchapter conform to the fullest extent allowed by law with the procedures set forth in this section; and

“(ii) issue guidelines for the conduct of hearings under subsections (d)(4) and (e), including to assure a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination.

“(B) Each agency shall adopt regulations for the conduct of hearings consistent with the guidelines issued under this subparagraph.

“(4) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall issue guidelines under the Information Quality Act to apply in rule making proceedings under this section and sections 556 and 557. In all cases, the guidelines, and the Administrator’s specific determinations regarding agency compliance with the guidelines, shall be entitled to judicial deference.

“(l) RECORD.—The agency shall include in the record for a rule making all documents and information considered by the agency during the proceeding, including, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, documents and information communicated by that Office during consultation with the agency.

“(m) EXEMPTION FOR MONETARY POLICY.—Nothing in subsection (b)(6), subparagraph (F) through (G) of subsection (d)(1), subsection (e), subsection (f)(3), or clauses (iii)

and (iv) of subsection (f)(4)(A) shall apply to rule makings that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.”.

SEC. 314. AGENCY GUIDANCE; PROCEDURES TO ISSUE MAJOR GUIDANCE; PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO ISSUE GUIDELINES FOR ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 553 the following:

“§ 553a. Agency guidance; procedures to issue major guidance; authority to issue guidelines for issuance of guidance

“(a) Before issuing any major guidance, an agency shall—

“(1) make and document a reasoned determination that—

“(A) assures that such guidance is understandable and complies with relevant statutory objectives and regulatory provisions;

“(B) identifies the costs and benefits (including all costs to be considered during the rule making under section 553(b) of this title) of conduct conforming to such guidance and assures that such benefits justify such costs; and

“(C) describes alternatives to such guidance and their costs and benefits (including all costs to be considered during rule making under section 553(b) of this title) and explains why the agency rejected those alternatives; and

“(2) confer with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs on the issuance of such guidance to assure that the guidance is reasonable, understandable, consistent with relevant statutory and regulatory provisions and requirements or practices of other agencies, does not produce costs that are unjustified by the guidance’s benefits, and is otherwise appropriate.

“(b) AGENCY GUIDANCE.—

“(1) is not legally binding and may not be relied upon by an agency as legal grounds for agency action;

“(2) shall state in a plain, prominent and permanent manner that it is not legally binding; and

“(3) shall, at the time it is issued or upon request, be made available by the issuing agency to interested persons and the public.

“(c) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall have authority to issue guidelines for use by the agencies in the issuance of major guidance and other guidance. Such guidelines shall assure that each agency avoids issuing guidance documents that are inconsistent or incompatible with, or duplicative of, its other regulations and those of other Federal agencies and drafts its guidance documents to be simple and easy to understand, with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty and litigation arising from such uncertainty.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 553 the following:

“553a. Agency guidance; procedures to issue major guidance; presidential authority to issue guidelines for issuance of guidance.”.

SEC. 315. HEARINGS; PRESIDING EMPLOYEES; POWERS AND DUTIES; BURDEN OF PROOF; EVIDENCE; RECORD AS BASIS OF DECISION.

Section 556 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e)(1) The transcript of testimony and exhibits, together with all papers and requests filed in the proceeding, constitutes the exclusive record for decision in accordance with section 557 and, on payment of lawfully prescribed costs, shall be made available to the parties. When an agency decision rests on official notice of a material fact not appearing in the evidence in the record, a party is entitled, on timely request, to an opportunity to show the contrary.

“(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, in a proceeding held under this section under section 553(d)(4) or 553(e), the record for decision shall include any information that is part of the record of proceedings under section 553.

“(f) When an agency conducts rule making under this section and section 557 directly after concluding proceedings upon an advance notice of proposed rule making under section 553(c), the matters to be considered and determinations to be made shall include, among other relevant matters and determinations, the matters and determinations described in subsections (b) and (f) of section 553.

“(g)(1) Upon receipt of a petition for a hearing under this section, the agency shall grant the petition in the case of any major rule, unless the agency reasonably determines that a hearing would not advance consideration of the rule or would, in light of the need for agency action, unreasonably delay completion of the rule making. The agency shall publish its decision to grant or deny the petition when it renders the decision, including an explanation of the grounds for decision. The information contained in the petition shall in all cases be included in the administrative record.

“(2) This subsection shall not apply to rule makings that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.”.

SEC. 316. ACTIONS REVIEWABLE.

Section 704 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “Agency action made” and inserting “(a) Agency action made”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b)(1) Except as provided under paragraph (2) and notwithstanding subsection (a), upon the agency’s publication of an interim rule without compliance with subsection (c), (d), or (e) of section 553 or requirements to render final determinations under subsection (f) of section 553, an interested party may seek immediate judicial review under this chapter of the agency’s determination to adopt such rule on an interim basis. Review shall be limited to whether the agency abused its discretion to adopt the interim rule without compliance with subsection (c), (d), or (e) of section 553 or without rendering final determinations under subsection (f) of section 553.

“(2) This subsection shall not apply in cases involving interests of national security.

“(c) For rules other than major rules and high-impact rules, compliance with subsection (b)(6), subparagraphs (F) through (G) of subsection (d)(1), subsection (f)(3), and clauses (iii) and (iv) of subsection (f)(4)(A) of section 553 shall not be subject to judicial review. In all cases, the determination that a rule is not a major rule within the meaning of section 551(19)(A) or a high-impact rule shall be subject to judicial review under section 706(a)(2)(A).

“(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit judicial review of an agency’s

consideration of costs or benefits as a mandatory or discretionary factor under the statute authorizing the rule or any other applicable statute.”.

SEC. 317. SCOPE OF REVIEW.

Section 706 of title 5, United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking “To the extent necessary” and inserting “(a) To the extent necessary”;

(2) in paragraph (2)(A) of subsection (a) (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section), by inserting after “in accordance with law” the following: “(including the Information Quality Act as defined under section 551(17))”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) The court shall not defer to the agency’s—

“(1) interpretation of an agency rule if the agency did not comply with the procedures of section 553 or sections 556 and 557 to issue the interpretation;

“(2) determination of the costs and benefits or other economic or risk assessment of the regulatory action, if the agency failed to conform to guidelines on such determinations and assessments established by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs under section 553(k); or

“(3) determinations under interlocutory review under sections 553(g)(2)(C) and 704(2).

“(c) The court shall review agency denials of petitions under section 553(e)(6) or any other petition for a hearing under sections 556 and 557 for abuse of agency discretion.”.

SEC. 318. ADDED DEFINITION.

Section 701(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end, and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ‘substantial evidence’ means such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion in light of the record considered as a whole, taking into account whatever in the record fairly detracts from the weight of the evidence relied upon by the agency to support its decision.”.

SEC. 319. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this title to—

(1) sections 553, 556, and 704 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) section 701(b) of title 5, United States Code;

(3) paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 706(b) of title 5, United States Code; and

(4) section 706(c) of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to any rule makings pending or completed on the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act” or the “SKILLS Act”.

SEC. 402. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the amendment or repeal shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

SEC. 403. APPLICATION TO FISCAL YEARS.

Except as otherwise provided, this title and the amendments made by this title shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2015 and succeeding fiscal years.

Subtitle A—Amendments to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998

CHAPTER 1—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DEFINITIONS

SEC. 406. DEFINITIONS.

Section 101 (29 U.S.C. 2801) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.—The term ‘adult education and family literacy education activities’ has the meaning given the term in section 203.”;

(2) by striking paragraphs (13) and (24);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (12) as paragraphs (3) through (14), and paragraphs (14) through (23) as paragraphs (15) through (24), respectively;

(4) by striking paragraphs (52) and (53);

(5) by inserting after “In this title:” the following new paragraphs:

“(1) ACCRUED EXPENDITURES.—The term ‘accrued expenditures’ means—

“(A) charges incurred by recipients of funds under this title for a given period requiring the provision of funds for goods or other tangible property received;

“(B) charges incurred for services performed by employees, contractors, subgrantees, subcontractors, and other payees; and

“(C) other amounts becoming owed, under programs assisted under this title, for which no current services or performance is required, such as amounts for annuities, insurance claims, and other benefit payments.

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The term ‘administrative costs’ means expenditures incurred by State boards and local boards, direct recipients (including State grant recipients under subtitle B and recipients of awards under subtitles C and D), local grant recipients, local fiscal agents or local grant subrecipients, and one-stop operators in the performance of administrative functions and in carrying out activities under this title that are not related to the direct provision of workforce investment activities (including services to participants and employers). Such costs include both personnel and non-personnel expenditures and both direct and indirect expenditures.”;

(6) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “Except in sections 127 and 132, the” and inserting “The”;

(7) by amending paragraph (5) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

“(5) AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.—The term ‘area career and technical education school’ has the meaning given the term in section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3)).”;

(8) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by inserting “(or such other level as the Governor may establish)” after “8th grade level”;

(9) in paragraph (10)(C) (as so redesignated), by striking “not less than 50 percent of the cost of the training” and inserting “a significant portion of the cost of training, as determined by the local board involved (or, in the case of an employer in multiple local areas in the State, as determined by the Governor), taking into account the size of the employer and such other factors as the local board or Governor, respectively, determines to be appropriate”;

(10) in paragraph (11) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II), by striking “section 134(c)” and inserting “section 121(e)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)(iii)—

(i) by striking “134(d)(4)” and inserting “134(c)(4)”;

(ii) by striking “intensive services described in section 134(d)(3)” and inserting “work ready services described in section 134(c)(2)”;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(D) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period and inserting “; or”;

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(E)(i) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days (as defined in section 101(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code) who has experienced a loss of employment as a direct result of relocation to accommodate a permanent change in duty station of such member; or

“(ii) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code) who meets the criteria described in paragraph (12)(B).”;

(11) in paragraph (12)(A) (as redesignated)—

(A) by striking “and” after the semicolon and inserting “or”;

(B) by striking “(A)” and inserting “(A)(i)”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days (as defined in section 101(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code) whose family income is significantly reduced because of a deployment (as defined in section 991(b) of title 10, United States Code, or pursuant to paragraph (4) of such section), a call or order to active duty pursuant to a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code, a permanent change of station, or the service-connected (as defined in section 101(16) of title 38, United States Code) death or disability of the member; and”;

(12) in paragraph (13) (as so redesignated), by inserting “or regional” after “local” each place it appears;

(13) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “section 122(e)(3)” and inserting “section 122”;

(B) by striking subparagraph (B), and inserting the following:

“(B) work ready services, means a provider who is identified or awarded a contract as described in section 117(d)(5)(C); or”;

(C) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C);

(14) in paragraph (15) (as so redesignated), by striking “adult or dislocated worker” and inserting “individual”;

(15) in paragraph (20), by striking “The” and inserting “Subject to section 116(a)(1)(E), the”;

(16) in paragraph (25)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “higher of—” and all that follows through clause (ii) and inserting “poverty line for an equivalent period”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (F) as subparagraphs (E) through (G), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.)”;

(17) in paragraph (32), by striking “the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia,”;

(18) by amending paragraph (33) to read as follows:

“(33) OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.—The term ‘out-of-school youth’ means—

“(A) an at-risk youth who is a school dropout; or

“(B) an at-risk youth who has received a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent but is basic skills deficient, unemployed, or underemployed.”;

(19) in paragraph (38), by striking “134(a)(1)(A)” and inserting “134(a)(1)(B)”;

(20) in paragraph (41), by striking “, and the term means such Secretary for purposes of section 503”;

(21) in paragraph (43), by striking “clause (iii) or (v) of section 136(b)(3)(A)” and inserting “section 136(b)(3)(A)(iii)”;

(22) by amending paragraph (49) to read as follows:

“(49) VETERAN.—The term ‘veteran’ has the same meaning given the term in section 2108(1) of title 5, United States Code.”;

(23) by amending paragraph (50) to read as follows:

“(50) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The term ‘career and technical education’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).”;

(24) in paragraph (51), by striking “, and a youth activity”;

(25) by adding at the end the following:

“(52) AT-RISK YOUTH.—Except as provided in subtitle C, the term ‘at-risk youth’ means an individual who—

“(A) is not less than age 16 and not more than age 24;

“(B) is a low-income individual; and

“(C) is an individual who is one or more of the following:

“(i) A secondary school dropout.

“(ii) A youth in foster care (including youth aging out of foster care).

“(iii) A youth offender.

“(iv) A youth who is an individual with a disability.

“(v) A migrant youth.

“(53) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ means a partnership of—

“(A) a State board or local board; and

“(B) one or more industry or sector organizations, and other entities, that have the capability to help the State board or local board determine the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries or sectors and other occupations important to the State or local economy, respectively.

“(54) INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL.—The term ‘industry-recognized credential’ means a credential that is sought or accepted by companies within the industry sector involved, across multiple States, as recognized, preferred, or required for recruitment, screening, or hiring and is awarded for completion of a program listed or identified under subsection (d) or (i) of section 122, for the local area involved.

“(55) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGY.—The term ‘pay-for-performance contract strategy’ means a strategy in which a pay-for-performance contract to provide a program of employment and training activities incorporates provisions regarding—

“(A) the core indicators of performance described in subclauses (I) through (IV) and (VI) of section 136(b)(2)(A)(i);

“(B) a fixed amount that will be paid to an eligible provider of such employment and training activities for each program participant who, within a defined timetable, achieves the agreed-to levels of performance based upon the core indicators of performance described in subparagraph (A), and may

include a bonus payment to such provider, which may be used to expand the capacity of such provider;

“(C) the ability for an eligible provider to recoup the costs of providing the activities for a program participant who has not achieved those levels, but for whom the provider is able to demonstrate that such participant gained specific competencies required for education and career advancement that are, where feasible, tied to industry-recognized credentials and related standards, or State licensing requirements; and

“(D) the ability for an eligible provider that does not meet the requirements under section 122(a)(2) to participate in such pay-for-performance contract and to not be required to report on the performance and cost information required under section 122(d).

“(56) **RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.**—The term ‘recognized postsecondary credential’ means a credential awarded by a provider of training services or postsecondary educational institution based on completion of all requirements for a program of study, including coursework or tests or other performance evaluations. The term means an industry-recognized credential, a certificate of completion of a registered apprenticeship program, or an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution described in section 122(a)(2)(A)(i).

“(57) **REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.**—The term ‘registered apprenticeship program’ means a program described in section 122(a)(2)(B).”.

CHAPTER 2—STATEWIDE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS

SEC. 411. PURPOSE.

Section 106 (29 U.S.C. 2811) is amended by adding at the end the following: “It is also the purpose of this subtitle to provide workforce investment activities in a manner that enhances employer engagement, promotes customer choices in the selection of training services, and ensures accountability in the use of taxpayer funds.”.

SEC. 412. STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

Section 111 (29 U.S.C. 2821) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—
(A) in paragraph (1)—
(i) by striking subparagraph (B);
(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B); and
(iii) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated)—

(I) by amending clause (i)(I), by striking “section 117(b)(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “section 117(b)(2)(A)”;

(II) by amending clause (i)(II) to read as follows:

“(II) represent businesses, including large and small businesses, each of which has immediate and long-term employment opportunities in an in-demand industry or other occupation important to the State economy; and”;

(III) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) a State agency official responsible for economic development; and”;

(IV) by striking clauses (iv) through (vi);
(V) by amending clause (vii) to read as follows:

“(vii) such other representatives and State agency officials as the Governor may designate, including—

“(I) members of the State legislature;

“(II) representatives of individuals and organizations that have experience with respect to youth activities;

“(III) representatives of individuals and organizations that have experience and exper-

tise in the delivery of workforce investment activities, including chief executive officers of community colleges and community-based organizations within the State;

“(IV) representatives of the lead State agency officials with responsibility for the programs and activities that are described in section 121(b) and carried out by one-stop partners; or

“(V) representatives of veterans service organizations.”; and

(VI) by redesignating clause (vii) (as so amended) as clause (iv); and

(B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) **MAJORITY.**—A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the members of the board shall be representatives described in paragraph (1)(B)(i).”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “(b)(1)(C)(i)” and inserting “(b)(1)(B)(i)”;

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) **FUNCTIONS.**—The State board shall assist the Governor of the State as follows:

“(1) **STATE PLAN.**—Consistent with section 112, the State board shall develop a State plan.

“(2) **STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.**—The State board shall review and develop statewide policies and programs in the State in a manner that supports a comprehensive statewide workforce development system that will result in meeting the workforce needs of the State and its local areas. Such review shall include determining whether the State should consolidate additional amounts for additional activities or programs into the Workforce Investment Fund in accordance with section 501(e).

“(3) **WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.**—The State board shall develop a statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(e)), which may include using information collected under Federal law other than this Act by the State economic development entity or a related entity in developing such system.

“(4) **EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT.**—The State board shall develop strategies, across local areas, that meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the State by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers.

“(5) **DESIGNATION OF LOCAL AREAS.**—The State board shall designate local areas as required under section 116.

“(6) **ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.**—The State board shall identify and disseminate information on best practices for effective operation of one-stop centers, including use of innovative business outreach, partnerships, and service delivery strategies.

“(7) **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.**—The State board shall conduct the following program oversight:

“(A) Reviewing and approving local plans under section 118.

“(B) Ensuring the appropriate use and management of the funds provided for State employment and training activities authorized under section 134.

“(C) Preparing an annual report to the Secretary described in section 136(d).

“(8) **DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**—The State board shall develop and ensure continuous improvement of comprehensive State performance measures, including State adjusted levels of performance, as described under section 136(b).”;

(4) by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e);

(5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by inserting “or participate in any action taken” after “vote”;

(6) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so redesignated), the following:

“(f) **STAFF.**—The State board may employ staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in subsection (d).”; and

(7) in subsection (g), by inserting “electronic means and” after “on a regular basis through”.

SEC. 413. STATE PLAN.

Section 112 (29 U.S.C. 2822)—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “127 or”; and

(B) by striking “5-year strategy” and inserting “3-year strategy”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) information describing—

“(A) the economic conditions in the State;

“(B) the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the State economy;

“(C) the knowledge and skills of the workforce in the State; and

“(D) workforce development activities (including education and training) in the State.”;

(B) by amending paragraph (7) to read as follows:

“(7) a description of the State criteria for determining the eligibility of training services providers in accordance with section 122, including how the State will take into account the performance of providers and whether the training services relate to in-demand industries and other occupations important to the State economy.”;

(C) by amending paragraph (8) to read as follows:

“(8)(A) a description of the procedures that will be taken by the State to assure coordination of, and avoid duplication among, the programs and activities identified under section 501(b)(2); and

“(B) a description of and an assurance regarding common data collection and reporting processes used for the programs and activities described in subparagraph (A), which are carried out by one-stop partners, including—

“(i) an assurance that such processes use quarterly wage records for performance measures described in section 136(b)(2)(A) that are applicable to such programs or activities; or

“(ii) if such wage records are not being used for the performance measures, an identification of the barriers to using such wage records and a description of how the State will address such barriers within 1 year of the approval of the plan.”;

(D) in paragraph (9), by striking “, including comment by representatives of businesses and representatives of labor organizations.”;

(E) in paragraph (11), by striking “under sections 127 and 132” and inserting “under section 132”;

(F) by striking paragraph (12);

(G) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through (18) as paragraphs (12) through (17), respectively;

(H) in paragraph (12) (as so redesignated), by striking “111(f)” and inserting “111(e)”;

(I) in paragraph (13) (as so redesignated), by striking “134(c)” and inserting “121(e)”;

(J) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated), by striking “116(a)(5)” and inserting “116(a)(3)”;

(K) in paragraph (16) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—
 (I) in clause (ii)—
 (aa) by striking “to dislocated workers”; and
 (bb) by inserting “and additional assistance” after “rapid response activities”;
 (II) in clause (iii), by striking “134(d)(4)” and inserting “134(c)(4)”;
 (III) by striking “and” at the end of clause (iii);
 (IV) by amending clause (iv) to read as follows:
 “(iv) how the State will serve the employment and training needs of dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), low-income individuals (including recipients of public assistance such as supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)), long-term unemployed individuals (including individuals who have exhausted entitlement to Federal and State unemployment compensation), English learners, homeless individuals, individuals training for nontraditional employment, youth (including out-of-school youth and at-risk youth), older workers, ex-offenders, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, refugees and entrants, veterans (including disabled and homeless veterans), and Native Americans; and”;
 (V) by adding at the end the following new clause:
 “(v) how the State will—
 “(I) consistent with section 188 and Executive Order No. 13217 (42 U.S.C. 12131 note), serve the employment and training needs of individuals with disabilities; and
 “(II) consistent with sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794, 794d), include the provision of outreach, intake, assessments, and service delivery, the development of performance measures, the training of staff, and other aspects of accessibility for individuals with disabilities to programs and services under this subtitle;”; and
 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “to the extent practicable” and inserting “in accordance with the requirements of the Jobs for Veterans Act (Public Law 107-288) and the amendments made by such Act”; and
 (L) by striking paragraph (17) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:
 “(17) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the State—
 “(A) to more fully engage employers, including small businesses and employers in in-demand industries and occupations important to the State economy;
 “(B) to meet the needs of employers in the State; and
 “(C) to better coordinate workforce development programs with economic development activities;
 “(18) a description of how the State board will convene (or help to convene) industry or sector partnerships that lead to collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across a targeted cluster of multiple firms for a range of workers employed or potentially employed by the industry or sector—
 “(A) to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement in the industry or sector;
 “(B) to address the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the State economy; and
 “(C) to address critical skill gaps within and across industries and sectors;
 “(19) a description of how the State will utilize technology, to facilitate access to

services in remote areas, which may be used throughout the State;

“(20) a description of the State strategy and assistance to be provided by the State for encouraging regional cooperation within the State and across State borders, as appropriate;

“(21) a description of the actions that will be taken by the State to foster communication, coordination, and partnerships with nonprofit organizations (including public libraries, community, faith-based, and philanthropic organizations) that provide employment-related, training, and complementary services, to enhance the quality and comprehensiveness of services available to participants under this title;

“(22) a description of the process and methodology for determining—

“(A) one-stop partner program contributions for the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers under section 121(h)(1); and

“(B) the formula for allocating such infrastructure funds to local areas under section 121(h)(3);

“(23) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, credentials (including recognized postsecondary credentials, such as industry-recognized credentials), and employment experience to succeed in the labor market, including—

“(A) training and internships in in-demand industries or occupations important to the State and local economy;

“(B) dropout recovery activities that are designed to lead to the attainment of a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or other State-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities); and

“(C) activities combining remediation of academic skills, work readiness training, and work experience, and including linkages to postsecondary education and training and career-ladder employment; and

“(24) a description of—

“(A) how the State will furnish employment, training, including training in advanced manufacturing, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans;

“(B) the strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist in and expedite reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force; and

“(C) the veterans population to be served in the State.”;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “period, that—” and all that follows through paragraph (2) and inserting “period, that the plan is inconsistent with the provisions of this title.”; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking “5-year” and inserting “3-year”.

SEC. 414. LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS.

Section 116 (29 U.S.C. 2831) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) PROCESS.—In order to receive an allotment under section 132, a State, through the State board, shall establish a process to designate local workforce investment areas within the State. Such process shall—

“(i) support the statewide workforce development system developed under section 111(d)(2), enabling the system to meet the workforce needs of the State and its local areas;

“(ii) include consultation, prior to the designation, with chief elected officials;

“(iii) include consideration of comments received on the designation through the public comment process as described in section 112(b)(9); and

“(iv) require the submission of an application for approval under subparagraph (B).

“(B) APPLICATION.—To obtain designation of a local area under this paragraph, a local or regional board (or consortia of local or regional boards) seeking to take responsibility for the area under this Act shall submit an application to a State board at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State board may require, including—

“(i) a description of the local area, including the population that will be served by the local area, and the education and training needs of its employers and workers;

“(ii) a description of how the local area is consistent or aligned with—

“(I) service delivery areas (as determined by the State);

“(II) labor market areas; and

“(III) economic development regions;

“(iii) a description of the eligible providers of education and training, including postsecondary educational institutions such as community colleges, located in the local area and available to meet the needs of the local workforce;

“(iv) a description of the distance that individuals will need to travel to receive services provided in such local area; and

“(v) any other criteria that the State board may require.

“(C) PRIORITY.—In designating local areas under this paragraph, a State board shall give priority consideration to an area proposed by an applicant demonstrating that a designation as a local area under this paragraph will result in the reduction of overlapping service delivery areas, local market areas, or economic development regions.

“(D) ALIGNMENT WITH LOCAL PLAN.—A State may designate an area proposed by an applicant as a local area under this paragraph for a period not to exceed 3 years.

“(E) REFERENCES.—For purposes of this Act, a reference to a local area—

“(i) used with respect to a geographic area, refers to an area designated under this paragraph; and

“(ii) used with respect to an entity, refers to the applicant.”;

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall, if requested by the Governor of a State, provide the State with technical assistance in making the determinations required under paragraph (1). The Secretary shall not issue regulations governing determinations to be made under paragraph (1).”;

(C) by striking paragraph (3);

(D) by striking paragraph (4);

(E) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3); and

(F) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “(2) or (3)” both places it appears and inserting “(1)”;
 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) SINGLE STATES.—Consistent with subsection (a), the State board of a State may designate the State as a single State local area for the purposes of this title.”; and
 (3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: “The State may require the local boards for the designated region to prepare a single regional plan that incorporates

the elements of the local plan under section 118 and that is submitted and approved in lieu of separate local plans under such section.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “employment statistics” and inserting “workforce and labor market information”.

SEC. 415. LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

Section 117 (29 U.S.C. 2832) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “include—” and all that follows through “representatives” and inserting “include representatives”;

(II) by striking clauses (ii) through (vi);

(III) by redesignating subclauses (I) through (III) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively and by moving the margins of such clauses 2 ems to the left;

(IV) by striking clause (ii) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

“(i) represent businesses, including large and small businesses, each of which has immediate and long-term employment opportunities in an in-demand industry or other occupation important to the local economy; and”;

(V) by striking the semicolon at the end of clause (iii) (as so redesignated) and inserting “; and”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) may include such other individuals or representatives of entities as the chief elected official in the local area may determine to be appropriate, including—

“(i) the superintendent or other employee of the local educational agency who has primary responsibility for secondary education, the presidents or chief executive officers of postsecondary educational institutions (including a community college, where such an entity exists), or administrators of local entities providing adult education and family literacy education activities;

“(ii) representatives of community-based organizations (including organizations representing individuals with disabilities and veterans, for a local area in which such organizations are present); or

“(iii) representatives of veterans service organizations.”;

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “A majority” and inserting “A ¾ majority”;

(ii) by striking “(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “(2)(A)”;

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “(2)(A)”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (C); and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by striking “paragraphs (1) through (7)” and inserting “paragraphs (1) through (8)”;

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL BOARD.—The functions of the local board shall include the following:

“(1) LOCAL PLAN.—Consistent with section 118, each local board, in partnership with the chief elected official for the local area involved, shall develop and submit a local plan to the Governor.

“(2) WORKFORCE RESEARCH AND REGIONAL LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The local board shall—

“(i) conduct, and regularly update, an analysis of—

“(I) the economic conditions in the local area;

“(II) the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries and other occupations important to the local economy;

“(III) the knowledge and skills of the workforce in the local area; and

“(IV) workforce development activities (including education and training) in the local area; and

“(i) assist the Governor in developing the statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(e)).

“(B) EXISTING ANALYSIS.—In carrying out requirements of subparagraph (A)(i), a local board shall use an existing analysis, if any, by the local economic development entity or related entity.

“(3) EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT.—The local board shall meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the local area by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers.

“(4) BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) BUDGET.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The local board shall develop a budget for the activities of the local board in the local area, consistent with the requirements of this subsection.

“(ii) TRAINING RESERVATION.—In developing a budget under clause (i), the local board shall reserve a percentage of funds to carry out the activities specified in section 134(c)(4). The local board shall use the analysis conducted under paragraph (2)(A)(i) to determine the appropriate percentage of funds to reserve under this clause.

“(B) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(i) GRANT RECIPIENT.—The chief elected official in a local area shall serve as the local grant recipient for, and shall be liable for any misuse of, the grant funds allocated to the local area under section 133, unless the chief elected official reaches an agreement with the Governor for the Governor to act as the local grant recipient and bear such liability.

“(ii) DESIGNATION.—In order to assist in administration of the grant funds, the chief elected official or the Governor, where the Governor serves as the local grant recipient for a local area, may designate an entity to serve as a local grant subrecipient for such funds or as a local fiscal agent. Such designation shall not relieve the chief elected official or the Governor of the liability for any misuse of grant funds as described in clause (i).

“(iii) DISBURSAL.—The local grant recipient or an entity designated under clause (ii) shall disburse the grant funds for workforce investment activities at the direction of the local board, pursuant to the requirements of this title. The local grant recipient or entity designated under clause (ii) shall disburse the funds immediately on receiving such direction from the local board.

“(C) STAFF.—The local board may employ staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in this subsection.

“(D) GRANTS AND DONATIONS.—The local board may solicit and accept grants and donations from sources other than Federal funds made available under this Act.

“(5) SELECTION OF OPERATORS AND PROVIDERS.—

“(A) SELECTION OF ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—Consistent with section 121(d), the local board, with the agreement of the chief elected official—

“(i) shall designate or certify one-stop operators as described in section 121(d)(2)(A); and

“(ii) may terminate for cause the eligibility of such operators.

“(B) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE TRAINING SERVICE PROVIDERS.—Consistent with this subtitle, the local board shall identify eligible providers of training services described in section 134(c)(4) in the local area, annually review the outcomes of such eligible providers using the criteria under section 122(b)(2), and designate such eligible providers in the local area who have demonstrated the highest level of success with respect to such criteria as priority eligible providers for the program year following the review.

“(C) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF WORK READY SERVICES.—If the one-stop operator does not provide the services described in section 134(c)(2) in the local area, the local board shall identify eligible providers of such services in the local area by awarding contracts.

“(6) PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.—The local board, in partnership with the chief elected official, shall be responsible for—

“(A) ensuring the appropriate use and management of the funds provided for local employment and training activities authorized under section 134(b); and

“(B) conducting oversight of the one-stop delivery system, in the local area, authorized under section 121.

“(7) NEGOTIATION OF LOCAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall negotiate and reach agreement on local performance measures as described in section 136(c).

“(8) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—The local board shall develop strategies for technology improvements to facilitate access to services authorized under this subtitle and carried out in the local area, including access in remote areas.”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by inserting “electronic means and” after “regular basis through”;

(B) by striking “and the award of grants or contracts to eligible providers of youth activities.”;

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “section 134(d)(4)” and inserting “section 134(c)(4)”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) WORK READY SERVICES; DESIGNATION OR CERTIFICATION AS ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—A local board may provide work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) through a one-stop delivery system described in section 121 or be designated or certified as a one-stop operator only with the agreement of the chief elected official and the Governor.”;

(6) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “or participate in any action taken” after “vote”;

(7) by striking subsections (h) and (i).

SEC. 416. LOCAL PLAN.

Section 118 (29 U.S.C. 2833) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “5-year” and inserting “3-year”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) CONTENTS.—The local plan shall include—

“(1) a description of the analysis of the local area’s economic and workforce conditions conducted under subclauses (I) through (IV) of section 117(d)(2)(A)(i), and an assurance that the local board will use such analysis to carry out the activities under this subtitle;

“(2) a description of the one-stop delivery system in the local area, including—

“(A) a description of how the local board will ensure—

“(i) the continuous improvement of eligible providers of services through the system; and

“(ii) that such providers meet the employment needs of local businesses and participants; and

“(B) a description of how the local board will facilitate access to services described in section 117(d)(8) and provided through the one-stop delivery system consistent with section 117(d)(8);

“(3) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area—

“(A) to more fully engage employers, including small businesses and employers in in-demand industries and occupations important to the local economy;

“(B) to meet the needs of employers in the local area;

“(C) to better coordinate workforce development programs with economic development activities; and

“(D) to better coordinate workforce development programs with employment, training, and literacy services carried out by non-profit organizations, including public libraries, as appropriate;

“(4) a description of how the local board will convene (or help to convene) industry or sector partnerships that lead to collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across multiple firms for a range of workers employed or potentially employed by a targeted industry or sector—

“(A) to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement in the targeted industry or sector;

“(B) to address the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the local economy; and

“(C) to address critical skill gaps within and across industries and sectors;

“(5) a description of how the funds reserved under section 117(d)(4)(A)(ii) will be used to carry out activities described in section 134(c)(4);

“(6) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with statewide workforce investment activities, as appropriate;

“(7) a description of how the local area will—

“(A) coordinate activities with the local area's disability community, and with transition services (as defined under section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401)) provided under that Act by local educational agencies serving such local area, to make available comprehensive, high-quality services to individuals with disabilities;

“(B) consistent with section 188 and Executive Order No. 13217 (42 U.S.C. 12131 note), serve the employment and training needs of individuals with disabilities, with a focus on employment that fosters independence and integration into the workplace; and

“(C) consistent with sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794, 794d), include the provision of outreach, intake, assessments, and service delivery, the development of performance measures, the training of staff, and other aspects of accessibility for individuals with disabilities to programs and services under this subtitle;

“(8) a description of the local levels of performance negotiated with the Governor and chief elected official pursuant to section 136(c), to be—

“(A) used to measure the performance of the local area; and

“(B) used by the local board for measuring performance of the local fiscal agent (where appropriate), eligible providers, and the one-stop delivery system, in the local area;

“(9) a description of the process used by the local board, consistent with subsection (c), to provide an opportunity for public comment prior to submission of the plan;

“(10) a description of how the local area will serve the employment and training needs of dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), low-income individuals (including recipients of public assistance such as supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)), long-term unemployed individuals (including individuals who have exhausted entitlement to Federal and State unemployment compensation), English learners, homeless individuals, individuals training for nontraditional employment, youth (including out-of-school youth and at-risk youth), older workers, ex-offenders, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, refugees and entrants, veterans (including disabled veterans and homeless veterans), and Native Americans;

“(11) an identification of the entity responsible for the disbursement of grant funds described in section 117(d)(4)(B)(iii), as determined by the chief elected official or the Governor under such section;

“(12) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, credentials (including recognized postsecondary credentials, such as industry-recognized credentials), and employment experience to succeed in the labor market, including—

“(A) training and internships in in-demand industries or occupations important to the local economy;

“(B) dropout recovery activities that are designed to lead to the attainment of a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or other State-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities); and

“(C) activities combining remediation of academic skills, work readiness training, and work experience, and including linkages to postsecondary education and training and career-ladder employment;

“(13) a description of—

“(A) how the local area will furnish employment, training, including training in advanced manufacturing, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans;

“(B) the strategies and services that will be used in the local area to assist in and expedite reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force; and

“(C) the veteran population to be served in the local area;

“(14) a description of—

“(A) the duties assigned to the veteran employment specialist consistent with the requirements of section 134(f);

“(B) the manner in which the veteran employment specialist is integrated into the one-stop career system described in section 121;

“(C) the date on which the veteran employment specialist was assigned; and

“(D) whether the veteran employment specialist has satisfactorily completed related training by the National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute; and

“(15) such other information as the Governor may require.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “such means” and inserting “electronic means and such means”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “, including representatives of business and representatives of labor organizations,”.

SEC. 417. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.

Section 121 (29 U.S.C. 2841) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(A) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—Each entity that carries out a program or activities described in subparagraph (B) shall—

“(i) provide access through a one-stop delivery system to the program or activities carried out by the entity, including making the work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) that are applicable to the program or activities of the entity available at one-stop centers (in addition to any other appropriate locations);

“(ii) use a portion of the funds available to the program or activities of the entity to maintain the one-stop delivery system, including payment of the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

“(iii) enter into a local memorandum of understanding with the local board, relating to the operation of the one-stop delivery system, that meets the requirements of subsection (c); and

“(iv) participate in the operation of the one-stop delivery system consistent with the terms of the memorandum of understanding, the requirements of this title, and the requirements of the Federal laws authorizing the program or activities carried out by the entity.”;

(B) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(i) by striking clauses (ii), (v), and (vi);

(ii) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

(iii) by redesignating clauses (vii) through (xii) as clauses (iv) through (ix), respectively;

(iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, by striking “adult education and literacy activities” and inserting “adult education and family literacy education activities”

(v) in clause (viii), as so redesignated, by striking “and” at the end;

(vi) in clause (ix), as so redesignated, by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(vii) by adding at the end the following:

“(x) subject to subparagraph (C), programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).”;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1)(B) the following:

“(C) DETERMINATION BY THE GOVERNOR.—Each entity carrying out a program described in subparagraph (B)(x) shall be considered to be a one-stop partner under this title and carry out the required partner activities described in subparagraph (A) unless the Governor of the State in which the local area is located provides the Secretary and Secretary of Health and Human Services written notice of a determination by the Governor that such an entity shall not be considered to be such a partner and shall not carry out such required partner activities.”; and

(D) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “section 134(d)(2)” and inserting “section 134(c)(2)”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking clauses (i), (ii), and (v);
(II) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) employment and training programs administered by the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration;

“(iv) employment and training programs carried out by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;

“(v) employment, training, and literacy services carried out by public libraries; and

“(vi) other appropriate Federal, State, or local programs, including programs in the private sector.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) provisions describing—

“(i) the services to be provided through the one-stop delivery system consistent with the requirements of this section, including the manner in which the services will be coordinated through such system;

“(ii) how the costs of such services and the operating costs of such system will be funded, through cash and in-kind contributions, to provide a stable and equitable funding stream for ongoing one-stop system operations, including the funding of the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

“(iii) methods of referral of individuals between the one-stop operator and the one-stop partners for appropriate services and activities, including referrals for training for non-traditional employment; and

“(iv) the duration of the memorandum of understanding and the procedures for amending the memorandum during the term of the memorandum, and assurances that such memorandum shall be reviewed not less than once every 3-year period to ensure appropriate funding and delivery of services under the memorandum; and”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the heading for paragraph (1), by striking “DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATION” and inserting “LOCAL DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATION”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “section 134(c)” and inserting “subsection (e)”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) shall be designated or certified as a one-stop operator through a competitive process; and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking clause (ii) and redesignating clauses (iii) through (vi) as clauses (ii) through (v), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical”;

(4) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

“(e) ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established in a State that receives an allotment under section 132(b) a one-stop delivery system, which shall—

“(A) provide the work ready services described in section 134(c)(2);

“(B) provide access to training services as described in paragraph (4) of section 134(c), including serving as the point of access to career enhancement accounts for training services to participants in accordance with paragraph (4)(F) of such section;

“(C) provide access to the activities carried out under section 134(d), if any;

“(D) provide access to programs and activities carried out by one-stop partners that are described in subsection (b); and

“(E) provide access to the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 15(a)(1) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(a)(1)).

“(2) ONE-STOP DELIVERY.—At a minimum, the one-stop delivery system—

“(A) shall make each of the programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) accessible at not less than one physical center in each local area of the State; and

“(B) may also make programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) available—

“(i) through a network of affiliated sites that can provide one or more of the programs, services, and activities to individuals; and

“(ii) through a network of eligible one-stop partners—

“(I) in which each partner provides one or more of the programs, services, and activities to such individuals and is accessible at an affiliated site that consists of a physical location or an electronically- or technologically-linked access point; and

“(II) that assures individuals that information on the availability of the work ready services will be available regardless of where the individuals initially enter the statewide workforce investment system, including information made available through an access point described in subclause (I).

“(3) SPECIALIZED CENTERS.—The centers and sites described in paragraph (2) may have a specialization in addressing special needs.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) CERTIFICATION OF ONE-STOP CENTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The State board shall establish objective procedures and criteria for certifying, at least once every 3 years, one-stop centers for the purpose of awarding the one-stop infrastructure funding described in subsection (h).

“(B) CRITERIA.—The criteria for certification of a one-stop center under this subsection shall include—

“(i) meeting the expected levels of performance for each of the corresponding core indicators of performance as outlined in the State plan under section 112;

“(ii) meeting minimum standards relating to the scope and degree of service integration achieved by the center, involving the programs provided by the one-stop partners; and

“(iii) meeting minimum standards relating to how the center ensures that eligible providers meet the employment needs of local employers and participants.

“(C) EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION.—One-stop centers certified under this subsection shall be eligible to receive the infrastructure funding authorized under subsection (h).

“(2) LOCAL BOARDS.—Consistent with the criteria developed by the State, the local board may develop, for certification referred to in paragraph (1)(A), additional criteria or higher standards on the criteria referred to in paragraph (1)(B) to respond to local labor market and demographic conditions and trends.

“(h) ONE-STOP INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING.—

“(1) PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS.—

“(A) PROVISION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as determined under subparagraph (B), a portion of the Federal funds provided to the State

and areas within the State under the Federal laws authorizing the one-stop partner programs described in subsection (b)(1)(B) and participating additional partner programs described in subsection (b)(2)(B), for a fiscal year shall be provided to the Governor by such partners to carry out this subsection.

“(B) DETERMINATION OF GOVERNOR.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Governor, in consultation with the State board, shall determine the portion of funds to be provided under subparagraph (A) by each one-stop partner and in making such determination shall consider the proportionate use of the one-stop centers in the State by each such partner, the costs of administration for purposes not related to one-stop centers for each such partner, and other relevant factors described in paragraph (3).

“(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—In those States where the State constitution places policy-making authority that is independent of the authority of the Governor in an entity or official with respect to the funds provided for adult education and family literacy education activities authorized under title II and for postsecondary career and technical education activities authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), the determination described in clause (i) with respect to the corresponding 2 programs shall be made by the Governor with the appropriate entity or official with such independent policy-making authority.

“(iii) APPEAL BY ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—The Governor shall establish a procedure for the one-stop partner administering a program described in subsection (b) and subparagraph (A) to appeal a determination regarding the portion of funds to be provided under this paragraph on the basis that such determination is inconsistent with the requirements described in the State plan for the program or with the requirements of this paragraph. Such procedure shall ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

“(C) LIMITATIONS.—

“(i) PROVISION FROM ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.—The funds provided under this paragraph by a one-stop partner shall be provided only from funds available for the costs of administration under the program administered by such partner, and shall be subject to the limitations with respect to the portion of funds under such program that may be used for administration.

“(ii) FEDERAL DIRECT SPENDING PROGRAMS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—A program that provides Federal direct spending under section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)(8)) shall not, for purposes of this paragraph, be required to provide more than the maximum amount determined under subclause (II).

“(II) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum amount for the program is the amount that bears the same relationship to the costs referred to in paragraph (2) for the State as the use of the one-stop centers by such program bears to the use of such centers by all one-stop partner programs in the State.

“(2) ALLOCATION BY GOVERNOR.—From the funds provided under paragraph (1), the Governor shall allocate funds to local areas in accordance with the formula established under paragraph (3) for the purposes of assisting in paying the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers certified under subsection (g).

“(3) ALLOCATION FORMULA.—The State board shall develop a formula to be used by

the Governor to allocate the funds provided under paragraph (1) to local areas. The formula shall include such factors as the State board determines are appropriate, which may include factors such as the number of centers in a local area that have been certified, the population served by such centers, and the performance of such centers.

“(4) COSTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘costs of infrastructure’ means the nonpersonnel costs that are necessary for the general operation of a one-stop center, including the rental costs of the facilities involved, and the costs of utilities and maintenance, and equipment (including assistive technology for individuals with disabilities).

“(i) OTHER FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the funds provided under subsection (h), a portion of funds made available under Federal law authorizing the one-stop partner programs described in subsection (b)(1)(B) and participating additional partner programs described in subsection (b)(2)(B), or the noncash resources available under such 2 types of programs, shall be used to pay the costs relating to the operation of the one-stop delivery system that are not paid for from the funds provided under subsection (h), to the extent not inconsistent with the Federal law involved. Such portion shall be used to pay for costs including—

“(A) costs of infrastructure (as defined in subsection (h)) that are in excess of the funds provided under subsection (h);

“(B) common costs that are in addition to the costs of infrastructure (as so defined); and

“(C) the costs of the provision of work ready services applicable to each program.

“(2) DETERMINATION AND STANDARDS.—The method for determining the appropriate portion of funds and noncash resources to be provided by each program under paragraph (1) shall be determined as part of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c). The State board shall provide standards to facilitate the determination of appropriate allocation of the funds and noncash resources to local areas.”.

SEC. 418. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

Section 122 (29 U.S.C. 2842) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 122. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

“(a) ELIGIBILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor, after consultation with the State board, shall establish criteria and procedures regarding the eligibility of providers of training services described in section 134(c)(4) to receive funds provided under section 133(b) for the provision of such training services and be included on the list of eligible providers of training services described in subsection (d).

“(2) PROVIDERS.—Subject to the provisions of this section, to be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list, the provider shall be—

“(A) a postsecondary educational institution that—

“(i) is eligible to receive Federal funds under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

“(ii) provides a program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential;

“(B) an entity that carries out programs under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the ‘National Apprenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.); or

“(C) another public or private provider of a program of training services.

“(3) INCLUSION IN LIST OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.—A provider described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of paragraph (2) shall comply with the criteria and procedures established under this subsection to be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list. A provider described in paragraph (2)(B) shall be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list with respect to programs described in paragraph (2)(B) for so long as the provider remains certified by the Secretary of Labor to carry out the programs.

“(b) CRITERIA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The criteria established by the Governor pursuant to subsection (a) shall take into account—

“(A) the performance of providers of training services with respect to the performance measures described in section 136, measures for other matters for which information is required under paragraph (2), and other appropriate measures of performance outcomes for those participants receiving training services under this subtitle;

“(B) whether the training programs of such providers relate to in-demand industries or occupations important to the local economy;

“(C) the need to ensure access to training services throughout the State, including in rural areas;

“(D) the ability of the providers to offer programs that lead to a recognized postsecondary credential, and the quality of such programs;

“(E) the performance of the providers as reflected in the information such providers are required to report to State agencies with respect to other Federal and State programs (other than the program carried out under this subtitle), including one-stop partner programs; and

“(F) such other factors as the Governor determines are appropriate.

“(2) INFORMATION.—The criteria established by the Governor shall require that a provider of training services submit appropriate, accurate, and timely information to the State for purposes of carrying out subsection (d), with respect to participants receiving training services under this subtitle in the applicable program, including—

“(A) information on recognized postsecondary credentials received by such participants;

“(B) information on costs of attendance for such participants;

“(C) information on the program completion rate for such participants; and

“(D) information on the performance of the provider with respect to the performance measures described in section 136 for such participants.

“(3) RENEWAL.—The criteria established by the Governor shall also provide for a review on the criteria every 3 years and renewal of eligibility under this section for providers of training services.

“(4) LOCAL CRITERIA.—A local board in the State may establish criteria in addition to the criteria established by the Governor, or may require higher levels of performance than required on the criteria established by the Governor, for purposes of determining the eligibility of providers of training services under this section in the local area involved.

“(5) LIMITATION.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, no entity may disclose personally identifiable information regarding a student, including a Social Security number, student identification number, or other identifier, without the prior written consent of the parent or student in compliance with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

“(c) PROCEDURES.—The procedures established under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) identify—

“(A) the application process for a provider of training services to become eligible under this section; and

“(B) the respective roles of the State and local areas in receiving and reviewing applications and in making determinations of eligibility based on the criteria established under this section; and

“(2) establish a process, for a provider of training services to appeal a denial or termination of eligibility under this section, that includes an opportunity for a hearing and prescribes appropriate time limits to ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

“(d) INFORMATION TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS IN CHOOSING PROVIDERS.—In order to facilitate and assist participants under chapter 5 in choosing providers of training services, the Governor shall ensure that an appropriate list of providers determined eligible under this section in the State, including information provided under subsection (b)(2) with respect to such providers, is provided to the local boards in the State and is made available to such participants and to members of the public through the one-stop delivery system in the State.

“(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The procedures established under this section shall provide the following:

“(A) INTENTIONALLY SUPPLYING INACCURATE INFORMATION.—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services, or individual providing information on behalf of the provider, intentionally supplied inaccurate information under this section, the eligibility of such provider under this section shall be terminated for a period of time that is not less than 2 years.

“(B) SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATIONS.—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services substantially violated any requirement under this title, the eligibility of such provider under this section shall be terminated for a period of time that is not less than 10 years.

“(C) REPAYMENT.—A provider of training services whose eligibility is terminated under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be liable for the repayment of funds received under chapter 5 during a period of noncompliance described in such subparagraph. For purposes of subparagraph (A), that period shall be considered to be the period beginning on the date on which the inaccurate information described in subparagraph (A) was supplied, and ending on the date of the termination described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1) shall be construed to provide remedies and penalties that supplement, but do not supplant, other civil and criminal remedies and penalties.

“(f) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES.—A State may enter into an agreement with another State, on a reciprocal basis, to permit eligible providers of training services to accept career enhancement accounts provided in the other State.

“(g) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In developing the criteria (including requirements for related information) and procedures required under this section, the Governor shall solicit and take into consideration the recommendations of local boards and providers of training services within the State.

“(h) OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT COMMENTS.—During the development of the criteria and procedures, and the list of eligible providers

required under this section, the Governor shall provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to submit comments regarding such criteria, procedures, and list.

“(i) ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OR CUSTOMIZED TRAINING EXCEPTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Providers of on-the-job training or customized training shall not be subject to the requirements of subsections (a) through (d).

“(2) COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—A one-stop operator in a local area shall collect such performance information from on-the-job training and customized training providers as the Governor may require, determine whether the providers meet such performance criteria as the Governor may require, and disseminate information identifying providers that meet the criteria as eligible providers, and the performance information, through the one-stop delivery system. Providers determined to meet the criteria shall be considered to be identified as eligible under this section, to be providers of the training services involved.”.

SEC. 419. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.

Chapter 5 of subtitle B of title I is amended—

(1) by striking the heading for chapter 5 and inserting the following: “**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES**”; and

(2) in section 131 (29 U.S.C. 2861)—

(A) by striking “paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of”; and

(B) by striking “adults, and dislocated workers,” and inserting “individuals”.

SEC. 420. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

Section 132 (29 U.S.C. 2862) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) reserve $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year, of which—

“(A) 50 percent shall be used to provide technical assistance under section 170; and

“(B) 50 percent shall be used for evaluations under section 172;

“(2) reserve 1 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to make grants to, and enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native entities, Indian-controlled organizations serving Indians, or Native Hawaiian organizations to carry out employment and training activities;

“(3) reserve not more than 25 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to carry out the Jobs Corps program under subtitle C;

“(4) reserve not more than 3.5 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to—

“(A) make grants to State boards or local boards to provide employment and training assistance to workers affected by major economic dislocations, such as plant closures, mass layoffs, or closures and realignments of military installations; and

“(B) provide assistance to Governors of States with an area that has suffered an emergency or a major disaster (as such terms are defined in paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, of section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)) to provide disaster relief employment in the area; and

“(5) from the remaining amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year (after reserving funds under paragraphs (1) through (4)), make allotments in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.”; and

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND.—

“(1) RESERVATION FOR OUTLYING AREAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount made available under subsection (a)(5) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent to provide assistance to the outlying areas.

“(B) RESTRICTION.—The Republic of Palau shall cease to be eligible to receive funding under this paragraph upon entering into an agreement for extension of United States educational assistance under the Compact of Free Association (approved by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188) after the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act.

“(2) STATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—After determining the amount to be reserved under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall allot the remainder of the amount referred to in subsection (a)(5) for a fiscal year to the States pursuant to subparagraph (B) for employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

“(B) FORMULA.—Subject to subparagraphs (C) and (D), of the remainder—

“(i) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in each State, compared to the total number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in all States;

“(ii) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in the civilian labor force in each State, compared to the total number of such individuals in all States;

“(iii) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in each State who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more, compared to the total number of individuals in all States who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more; and

“(iv) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of disadvantaged youth in each State, compared to the total number of disadvantaged youth in all States.

“(C) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES.—

“(i) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is less than 100 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is less than 90 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(ii) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Subject to clause (i), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(D) SMALL STATE MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for a fiscal year that is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of the remainder described in subparagraph (A) for the fiscal year.

“(E) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of the formula specified in this paragraph:

“(i) ALLOTMENT PERCENTAGE.—The term ‘allotment percentage’—

“(I) used with respect to fiscal year 2013, means the percentage of the amounts allotted to States under title I of this Act, title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.), the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code, and sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), as such provisions were in effect for fiscal year 2013, that is received under such provisions by the State involved for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) used with respect to fiscal year 2017 or a succeeding fiscal year, means the percentage of the amounts allotted to States under this paragraph for the fiscal year, that is received under this paragraph by the State involved for the fiscal year.

“(ii) AREA OF SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT.—The term ‘area of substantial unemployment’ means any area that is of sufficient size and scope to sustain a program of workforce investment activities carried out under this subtitle and that has an average rate of unemployment of at least 7 percent for the most recent 12 months, as determined by the Secretary. For purposes of this clause, determinations of areas of substantial unemployment shall be made once each fiscal year.

“(iii) DISADVANTAGED YOUTH.—The term ‘disadvantaged youth’ means an individual who is not less than age 16 and not more than age 24 who receives an income, or is a member of a family that receives a total family income, that in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of—

“(I) the poverty line; or

“(II) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level.

“(iv) INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘individual’ means an individual who is age 16 or older.”.

SEC. 421. WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.

Section 133 (29 U.S.C. 2863) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) RESERVATIONS FOR STATEWIDE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The Governor of a State shall reserve not more than 15 percent of the total amount allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) for a fiscal year to carry out the statewide activities described in section 134(a).

“(2) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amount reserved under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Governor of the State shall reserve not more than 25 percent for statewide rapid response activities and additional assistance described in section 134(a)(4).

“(3) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—Of the amount reserved under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Governor of the State shall reserve 15 percent to carry out statewide activities described in section 134(a)(5).

“(4) STATE ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—Not more than 5 percent of the funds reserved under paragraph (1) may be used by the Governor of the State for administrative costs of carrying out the statewide activities described in section 134(a).”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATION.—

“(1) METHODS.—The Governor, acting in accordance with the State plan, and after consulting with chief elected officials in the local areas in the State, shall—

“(A) allocate the funds that are allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) and not reserved under subsection (a), in accordance with paragraph (2)(A); and

“(B) award the funds that are reserved by the State under subsection (a)(3) through competitive grants to eligible entities, in accordance with section 134(a)(1)(C).

“(2) FORMULA ALLOCATIONS FOR THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND.—

“(A) ALLOCATION.—In allocating the funds described in paragraph (1)(A) to local areas, a State shall allocate—

“(i) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(i);

“(ii) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(ii);

“(iii) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(iii); and

“(iv) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(iv), except that a reference in a section specified in any of clauses (i) through (iv) to ‘each State’ shall be considered to refer to each local area, and to ‘all States’ shall be considered to refer to all local areas.

“(B) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES.—

“(i) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The State shall ensure that no local area shall receive an allocation under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is less than 100 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is less than 90 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(ii) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Subject to clause (i), the State shall ensure that no local area shall receive an allocation for a fiscal year under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is more than 130 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is more than 130 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(C) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of the formula specified in this paragraph, the term ‘allocation percentage’—

“(i) used with respect to fiscal year 2013, means the percentage of the amounts allocated to local areas under title I of this Act, title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.), the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code, and sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), as such provisions were in effect for fiscal year 2013, that is received under such provisions by the local area involved for fiscal year 2013; and

“(ii) used with respect to fiscal year 2017 or a succeeding fiscal year, means the percentage of the amounts allocated to local areas under this paragraph for the fiscal year, that is received under this paragraph by the local area involved for the fiscal year.”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor may, in accordance with this subsection, reallocate to eligible local areas within the State amounts that are allocated under subsection (b) for employment and training activities and that are available for reallocation.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b) for such activities” and inserting “subsection (b) for such activities”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) REALLOCATIONS.—In making reallocations to eligible local areas of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Governor shall allocate to each eligible local area within the State an amount based on the relative amount allocated to such local area under subsection (b)(2) for such activities for such prior program year, as compared to the total amount allocated to all eligible local areas in the State under subsection (b)(2) for such activities for such prior program year.”; and

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of”;

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—Of the amount allocated to a local area under this section for a fiscal year, not more than 10 percent of the amount may be used by the local board involved for the administrative costs of carrying out local workforce investment activities in the local area under this chapter.”.

SEC. 422. USE OF FUNDS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

Section 134 (29 U.S.C. 2864) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) DISTRIBUTION OF STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(1) and not reserved under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 133(a)—

“(i) shall be used to carry out the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (2); and

“(ii) may be used to carry out any of the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (3).

“(B) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(2) shall be used to provide the statewide rapid response activities and additional assistance described in paragraph (4).

“(C) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(3) shall be used to award statewide grants for individuals with barriers to employment on a competitive basis, and carry out other activities, as described in paragraph (5).

“(2) REQUIRED STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—A State shall use funds referred to in paragraph (1)(A) to carry out statewide employment and training activities, which shall include—

“(A) disseminating the State list of eligible providers of training services described in section 122(d), information identifying eligible providers of on-the-job training and customized training described in section 122(i), and performance information and program cost information described in section 122(b)(2);

“(B) supporting the provision of work ready services described in subsection (c)(2) in the one-stop delivery system;

“(C) implementing strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, recognized post-secondary credentials, and employment experience to succeed in the labor market;

“(D) conducting evaluations under section 136(e) of activities authorized under this chapter in coordination with evaluations carried out by the Secretary under section 172;

“(E) providing technical assistance to local areas that fail to meet local performance measures;

“(F) operating a fiscal and management accountability system under section 136(f); and

“(G) carrying out monitoring and oversight of activities carried out under this chapter.

“(3) ALLOWABLE STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—A State may use funds referred to in paragraph (1)(A) to carry out statewide employment and training activities which may include—

“(A) implementing innovative programs and strategies designed to meet the needs of all employers in the State, including small employers, which may include incumbent worker training programs, sectoral and industry cluster strategies and partnership initiatives, career ladder programs, micro-enterprise and entrepreneurial training and support programs, utilization of effective business intermediaries, activities to improve linkages between the one-stop delivery system in the State and all employers (including small employers) in the State, and other business services and strategies that better engage employers in workforce investment activities and make the workforce investment system more relevant to the needs of State and local businesses, consistent with the objectives of this title;

“(B) providing incentive grants to local areas—

“(i) for regional cooperation among local boards (including local boards in a designated region as described in section 116(c));

“(ii) for local coordination of activities carried out under this Act; and

“(iii) for exemplary performance by local areas on the local performance measures;

“(C) developing strategies for effectively integrating programs and services among one-stop partners;

“(D) carrying out activities to facilitate remote access to services provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology;

“(E) incorporating pay-for-performance contract strategies as an element in funding activities under this section and providing technical support to local areas and eligible providers in order to carry out such a strategy, which may involve providing assistance with data collection and data entry requirements;

“(F) carrying out the State option under subsection (f)(8); and

“(G) carrying out other activities authorized under this section that the State determines to be necessary to assist local areas in carrying out activities described in subsection (c) or (d) through the statewide workforce investment system.

“(4) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—A State shall use funds reserved as described in section 133(a)(2)—

“(A) to carry out statewide rapid response activities, which shall include provision of rapid response activities, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials in the local areas; and

“(B) to provide additional assistance to local areas that experience disasters, mass layoffs, or plant closings, or other events

that precipitate substantial increases in the number of unemployed individuals, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials in the local areas.

“(5) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds reserved as described in section 133(a)(3), the Governor of a State—

“(i) may reserve up to 5 percent to provide technical assistance for, and conduct evaluations as described in section 136(e) of, the programs carried out under this paragraph; and

“(ii) using the remainder, shall award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities (that meet specific performance outcomes and criteria established by the Governor) described in subparagraph (B) to carry out employment and training programs authorized under this paragraph for individuals with barriers to employment.

“(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity that—

“(i) is a—

“(I) local board or a consortium of local boards;

“(II) nonprofit entity, for-profit entity, or a consortium of nonprofit or for-profit entities; or

“(III) consortium of the entities described in subclauses (I) and (II);

“(ii) has a demonstrated record of placing individuals into unsubsidized employment and serving hard-to-serve individuals; and

“(iii) agrees to be reimbursed primarily on the basis of meeting specified performance outcomes and criteria established by the Governor.

“(C) GRANT PERIOD.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this paragraph shall be awarded for a period of 1 year.

“(ii) GRANT RENEWAL.—A Governor of a State may renew, for up to 4 additional 1-year periods, a grant awarded under this paragraph.

“(D) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—To be eligible to participate in activities under this paragraph, an individual shall be a low-income individual age 16 or older.

“(E) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this paragraph shall use the grant funds for programs of activities that are designed to assist eligible participants in obtaining employment and acquiring the education and skills necessary to succeed in the labor market. To be eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph for an employment and training program, an eligible entity shall submit an application to a State at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State may require, including—

“(i) a description of how the strategies and activities of the program will be aligned with the State plan submitted under section 112 and the local plan submitted under section 118, with respect to the area of the State that will be the focus of the program under this paragraph;

“(ii) a description of the educational and skills training programs and activities the eligible entity will provide to eligible participants under this paragraph;

“(iii) how the eligible entity will collaborate with State and local workforce investment systems established under this title in the provision of such programs and activities;

“(iv) a description of the programs of demonstrated effectiveness on which the provi-

sion of such educational and skills training programs and activities are based, and a description of how such programs and activities will improve education and skills training for eligible participants;

“(v) a description of the populations to be served and the skill needs of those populations, and the manner in which eligible participants will be recruited and selected as participants;

“(vi) a description of the private, public, local, and State resources that will be leveraged, with the grant funds provided, for the program under this paragraph, and how the entity will ensure the sustainability of such program after grant funds are no longer available;

“(vii) a description of the extent of the involvement of employers in such program;

“(viii) a description of the levels of performance the eligible entity expects to achieve with respect to the indicators of performance for all individuals specified in section 136(b)(2);

“(ix) a detailed budget and a description of the system of fiscal controls, and auditing and accountability procedures, that will be used to ensure fiscal soundness for the program provided under this paragraph; and

“(x) any other criteria the Governor may require.”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)—

“(1) shall be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (c); and

“(2) may be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (d).”;

(3) by striking subsection (c);

(4) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e), as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(5) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b) shall be used—

“(A) to establish a one-stop delivery system as described in section 121(e);

“(B) to provide the work ready services described in paragraph (2) through the one-stop delivery system in accordance with such paragraph; and

“(C) to provide training services described in paragraph (4) in accordance with such paragraph.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “CORE SERVICES” and inserting “WORK READY SERVICES”;

(ii) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “(1)(A)” and inserting “(1)”;

(II) by striking “core services” and inserting “work ready services”; and

(III) by striking “who are adults or dislocated workers”;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (K) as subparagraph (V);

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (J) as subparagraphs (C) through (K), respectively;

(v) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) assistance in obtaining eligibility determinations under the other one-stop partner programs through activities, where appropriate and consistent with the authorizing statute of the one-stop partner program involved, such as assisting in—

“(i) the submission of applications;

“(ii) the provision of information on the results of such applications; and

“(iii) the provision of intake services and information.”;

(vi) by amending subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(E) labor exchange services, including—

“(i) job search and placement assistance, and where appropriate, career counseling;

“(ii) appropriate recruitment services for employers, including small employers, in the local area, which may include services described in this subsection, including provision of information and referral to specialized business services not traditionally offered through the one-stop delivery system; and

“(iii) reemployment services provided to unemployment claimants, including claimants identified as in need of such services under the worker profiling system established under section 303(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(j));”;

(vii) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking “employment statistics” and inserting “workforce and labor market”;

(viii) in subparagraph (G), as so redesignated, by striking “and eligible providers of youth activities described in section 123,”;

(ix) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by inserting “under section 136” after “local performance measures”;

(x) in subparagraph (J), as so redesignated, by inserting “and information regarding the administration of the work test for the unemployment compensation system” after “compensation”;

(xi) by amending subparagraph (K), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(K) assistance in establishing eligibility for programs of financial aid assistance for education and training programs that are not funded under this Act and are available in the local area;”;

(xii) by inserting the following new subparagraphs after subparagraph (K), as so redesignated:

“(L) the provision of information from official publications of the Internal Revenue Service regarding Federal tax credits, available to participants in employment and training activities, and relating to education, job training, and employment;

“(M) comprehensive and specialized assessments of the skill levels and service needs of workers, which may include—

“(i) diagnostic testing and use of other assessment tools; and

“(ii) in-depth interviewing and evaluation to identify employment barriers and appropriate employment goals;

“(N) development of an individual employment plan, to identify the employment goals, appropriate achievement objectives, and appropriate combination of services for the participant;

“(O) group counseling;

“(P) individual counseling and career planning;

“(Q) case management;

“(R) short-term pre-career services, including development of learning skills, communications skills, interviewing skills, punctuality, personal maintenance skills, and professional conduct, to prepare individuals for unsubsidized employment or training;

“(S) internships and work experience;

“(T) literacy activities relating to basic work readiness, information and communication technology literacy activities, and financial literacy activities, if the activities involved are not available to participants in the local area under programs administered under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.);

“(U) out-of-area job search assistance and relocation assistance; and”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) **DELIVERY OF SERVICES.**—The work ready services described in paragraph (2) shall be provided through the one-stop delivery system and may be provided through contracts with public, private for-profit, and private nonprofit service providers, approved by the local board.”; and

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds described in paragraph (1)(C) shall be used to provide training services to individuals who—

“(i) after an interview, evaluation, or assessment, and case management, have been determined by a one-stop operator or one-stop partner, as appropriate, to—

“(I) be in need of training services to obtain or retain employment; and

“(II) have the skills and qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services;

“(ii) select programs of training services that are directly linked to the employment opportunities in the local area involved or in another area in which the individual receiving such services are willing to commute or relocate; and

“(iii) who meet the requirements of subparagraph (B).”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “Except” and inserting “Notwithstanding section 479B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087uu) and except”;

(iii) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) **TRAINING SERVICES.**—Training services authorized under this paragraph may include—

“(i) occupational skills training;

“(ii) on-the-job training;

“(iii) skill upgrading and retraining;

“(iv) entrepreneurial training;

“(v) education activities leading to a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent in combination with, concurrently or subsequently, occupational skills training;

“(vi) adult education and family literacy education activities provided in conjunction with other training services authorized under this subparagraph;

“(vii) workplace training combined with related instruction;

“(viii) occupational skills training that incorporates English language acquisition;

“(ix) customized training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of the training; and

“(x) training programs operated by the private sector.”;

(iv) by striking subparagraph (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively;

(v) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated)—

(I) in clause (ii)—

(aa) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “section 121”;

(bb) in subclause (I), by striking “section 122(e)” and inserting “section 122(d)” and by striking “section 122(h)” and inserting “section 122(i)”;

(cc) in subclause (II), by striking “subsections (e) and (h)” and inserting “subsections (d) and (i)”;

(II) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) **CAREER ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNTS.**—An individual who seeks training services and

who is eligible pursuant to subparagraph (A), may, in consultation with a case manager, select an eligible provider of training services from the list or identifying information for providers described in clause (ii)(I). Upon such selection, the one-stop operator involved shall, to the extent practicable, refer such individual to the eligible provider of training services, and arrange for payment for such services through a career enhancement account.

“(iv) **COORDINATION.**—Each local board may, through one-stop centers, coordinate career enhancement accounts with other Federal, State, local, or private job training programs or sources to assist the individual in obtaining training services from (notwithstanding any provision of this title) eligible providers for those programs and sources.

“(v) **ASSISTANCE.**—Each local board may, through one-stop centers, assist individuals receiving career enhancement accounts in obtaining funds (in addition to the funds provided under this section) from other programs and sources that will assist the individual in obtaining training services.”; and

(vi) in subparagraph (F) (as so redesignated)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS” and inserting “CAREER ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNTS”;

(II) in clause (i), by striking “individual training accounts” and inserting “career enhancement accounts”;

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “an individual training account” and inserting “a career enhancement account”;

(bb) by striking “subparagraph (F)” and inserting “subparagraph (E)”;

(cc) in subclause (II), by striking “individual training accounts” and inserting “career enhancement accounts”;

(dd) in subclause (II), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(ee) in subclause (III), by striking the period and inserting “; or”;

(ff) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) the local board determines that it would be most appropriate to award a contract to a postsecondary educational institution that has been identified as a priority eligible provider under section 117(d)(5)(B) in order to facilitate the training of multiple individuals in in-demand industries or occupations important to the State or local economy, that such contract may be used to enable the expansion of programs provided by a priority eligible provider, and that such contract does not limit customer choice.”;

(IV) in clause (iii), by striking “adult or dislocated worker” and inserting “individual”;

(V) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by redesignating subclause (IV) as subclause (V); and

(bb) by inserting after subclause (III) the following:

“(IV) Individuals with disabilities.”;

(6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) **DISCRETIONARY ONE-STOP DELIVERY ACTIVITIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)(2) may be used to provide, through the one-stop delivery system—

“(i) customized screening and referral of qualified participants in training services to employers;

“(ii) customized employment-related services to employers on a fee-for-service basis;

“(iii) customer supports, including transportation and child care, to navigate among

multiple services and activities for special participant populations that face multiple barriers to employment, including individuals with disabilities;

“(iv) employment and training assistance provided in coordination with child support enforcement activities of the State agency carrying out subtitle D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

“(v) incorporation of pay-for-performance contract strategies as an element in funding activities under this section;

“(vi) activities to facilitate remote access to services provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology; and

“(vii) activities to carry out business services and strategies that meet the workforce investment needs of local area employers, as determined by the local board, consistent with the local plan under section 118.”;

(B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3); and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The local board may use funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)(2) to carry out incumbent worker training programs in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) **TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—The training programs for incumbent workers under this paragraph shall be carried out by the local area in conjunction with the employers of such workers for the purpose of assisting such workers in obtaining the skills necessary to retain employment and avert lay-offs.

“(C) **EMPLOYER MATCH REQUIRED.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Employers participating in programs under this paragraph shall be required to pay a proportion of the costs of providing the training to the incumbent workers of the employers. The local board shall establish the required payment toward such costs, which may include in-kind contributions.

“(ii) **CALCULATION OF MATCH.**—The wages paid by an employer to a worker while they are attending training may be included as part of the required payment of the employer.”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **PRIORITY FOR PLACEMENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS.**—In providing employment and training activities authorized under this section, the State board and local board shall give priority to placing participants in jobs in the private sector.

“(f) **VETERAN EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (8), a local board shall hire and employ one or more veteran employment specialists to carry out employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection in the local area served by the local board.

“(2) **PRINCIPAL DUTIES.**—A veteran employment specialist in a local area shall—

“(A) conduct outreach to employers in the local area to assist veterans, including disabled veterans, in gaining employment, including—

“(i) conducting seminars for employers; and

“(ii) in conjunction with employers, conducting job search workshops, and establishing job search groups; and

“(B) facilitate the furnishing of employment, training, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans, in the local area.

“(3) **HIRING PREFERENCE FOR VETERANS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPERTISE IN SERVING VETERANS.**—Subject to paragraph (8), a local

board shall, to the maximum extent practicable, employ veterans or individuals with expertise in serving veterans to carry out the services described in paragraph (2) in the local area served by the local board. In hiring an individual to serve as a veteran employment specialist, a local board shall give preference to veterans and other individuals in the following order:

“(A) To service-connected disabled veterans.

“(B) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) is available, to veterans.

“(C) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) or (B) is available, to any member of the Armed Forces transitioning out of military service.

“(D) If no veteran or member described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) is available, to any spouse of a veteran or a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces transitioning out of military service.

“(E) If no veteran or member described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) is available and no spouse described in paragraph (D) is available, to any other individuals with expertise in serving veterans.

“(4) ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each veteran employment specialist shall be administratively responsible to the one-stop operator of the one-stop center in the local area and shall provide, at a minimum, quarterly reports to the one-stop operator of such center and to the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training for the State on the specialist's performance, and compliance by the specialist with Federal law (including regulations), with respect to the—

“(i) principal duties (including facilitating the furnishing of services) for veterans described in paragraph (2); and

“(ii) hiring preferences described in paragraph (3) for veterans and other individuals.

“(B) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Each State shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on the qualifications used by each local board in the State in making hiring determinations for a veteran employment specialist and the salary structure under which such specialist is compensated.

“(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate an annual report summarizing the reports submitted under subparagraph (B), and including summaries of outcomes achieved by participating veterans, disaggregated by local areas.

“(5) PART-TIME EMPLOYEES.—A part-time veteran employment specialist shall perform the functions of a veteran employment specialist under this subsection on a halftime basis.

“(6) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—Each veteran employment specialist described in paragraph (2) shall satisfactorily complete training provided by the National Veterans' Employment and Training Institute during the 3-year period that begins on the date on which the employee is so assigned.

“(7) SPECIALIST'S DUTIES.—A full-time veteran employment specialist shall perform only duties related to employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection, and shall not perform other non-veteran-related duties if such duties detract from the specialist's ability to perform the specialist's duties related to employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection.

“(8) STATE OPTION.—At the request of a local board, a State may opt to assume the duties assigned to the local board under paragraphs (1) and (3), including the hiring and employment of one or more veteran employment specialists for placement in the local area served by the local board.”.

SEC. 423. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

Section 136 (29 U.S.C. 2871) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraphs (1) and (2) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each State, the State performance measures shall consist of—

“(A)(i) the core indicators of performance described in paragraph (2)(A); and

“(ii) additional indicators of performance (if any) identified by the State under paragraph (2)(B); and

“(B) a State adjusted level of performance for each indicator described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(A) CORE INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The core indicators of performance for the program of employment and training activities authorized under sections 132(a)(2) and 134, the program of adult education and family literacy education activities authorized under title II, and the program authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741), shall consist of the following indicators of performance (with performance determined in the aggregate and as disaggregated by the populations identified in the State and local plan in each case):

“(I) The percentage and number of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second full calendar quarter after exit from the program.

“(II) The percentage and number of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the fourth full calendar quarter after exit from the program.

“(III) The difference in the median earnings of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second full calendar quarter after exit from the program, compared to the median earnings of such participants prior to participation in such program.

“(IV) The percentage and number of program participants who obtain a recognized postsecondary credential (such as an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program), or a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (subject to clause (ii)), during participation in or within 1 year after exit from the program.

“(V) The percentage and number of program participants who, during a program year—

“(aa) are in an education or training program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential (such as an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program), a certificate from an on-the-job training program, a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or unsubsidized employment; and

“(bb) are achieving measurable basic skill gains toward such a credential, certificate, diploma, or employment.

“(VI) The percentage and number of program participants who obtain unsubsidized employment in the field relating to the training services described in section 134(c)(4) that such participants received.

“(ii) INDICATOR RELATING TO CREDENTIAL.—For purposes of clause (i)(IV), program participants who obtain a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent shall be included in the percentage counted as meeting the criterion under such clause only if such participants (in addition to obtaining such diploma or its recognized equivalent), within 1 year after exit from the program, have obtained or retained employment, have been removed from public assistance, or have begun an education or training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential.

“(B) ADDITIONAL INDICATORS.—A State may identify in the State plan additional indicators for workforce investment activities authorized under this subtitle.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the heading, by striking “AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDICATOR”;

(II) in clause (i), by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator described in paragraph (2)(B)”;

(III) in clause (ii), by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator of performance, for the first 3” and inserting “, for all 3”;

(IV) in clause (iii)—

(aa) in the heading, by striking “FOR FIRST 3 YEARS”;

(bb) by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator of performance, for the first 3 program years” and inserting “for all 3 program years”;

(V) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by striking “or (v)”;

(bb) by striking subclause (I) and redesignating subclauses (II) and (III) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively; and

(cc) in subclause (I) (as so redesignated)—

(AA) by inserting “, such as unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries” after “economic conditions”; and

(BB) by inserting “, such as indicators of poor work experience, dislocation from high-wage employment, low levels of literacy or English proficiency, disability status (including disability status among veterans), and welfare dependency,” after “program”;

(VI) by striking clause (v) and redesignating clause (vi) as clause (v); and

(VII) in clause (v) (as so redesignated)—

(aa) by striking “described in clause (iv)(II)” and inserting “described in clause (iv)(I)”;

(bb) by striking “or (v)”;

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “paragraph (2)(C)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(B)”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending clause (i) of paragraph (1)(A) to read as follows:

“(i) the core indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for activities described in such subsection, other than statewide workforce investment activities; and”;

(B) in clause (ii) of paragraph (1)(A), by striking “(b)(2)(C)” and inserting “(b)(2)(B)”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) DETERMINATIONS.—In determining such local levels of performance, the local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall ensure such levels are adjusted based on the specific economic conditions (such as unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries), or demographic characteristics or other characteristics of the population to be served, in the local area.”;

(3) in subsection (d)—
 (A) in paragraph (1)—
 (i) by striking “127 or”;
 (ii) by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator” each place it appears; and
 (iii) in the last sentence, by inserting before the period the following: “, and on the amount and percentage of the State’s annual allotment under section 132 the State spends on administrative costs and on the amount and percentage of its annual allocation under section 133 each local area in the State spends on administrative costs”;
 (B) in paragraph (2)—
 (i) by striking subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D);
 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (A);
 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (B);
 (iv) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated—
 (I) by striking “(excluding participants who received only self-service and informational activities)”; and
 (II) by striking “and” at the end;
 (v) by striking subparagraph (F); and
 (vi) by adding at the end the following:
 “(C) with respect to each local area in the State—
 “(i) the number of individuals who received work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the number of individuals who received training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services, and the amount of funds spent on each of the 2 types of services during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 fiscal years;
 “(ii) the number of individuals who successfully exited out of work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the number of individuals who exited out of training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services; and
 “(iii) the average cost per participant of those individuals who received work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the average cost per participant of those individuals who received training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services; and
 “(D) the amount of funds spent on training services and discretionary activities described in section 134(d), disaggregated by the populations identified under section 112(b)(16)(A)(iv) and section 118(b)(10).”;
 (C) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “through publication” and inserting “through electronic means”; and
 (D) by adding at the end the following:
 “(4) DATA VALIDATION.—In preparing the reports described in this subsection, each

State shall establish procedures, consistent with guidelines issued by the Secretary, to ensure the information contained in the reports is valid and reliable.

“(5) STATE AND LOCAL POLICIES.—

“(A) STATE POLICIES.—Each State that receives an allotment under section 132 shall maintain a central repository of policies related to access, eligibility, availability of services, and other matters, and plans approved by the State board and make such repository available to the public, including by electronic means.

“(B) LOCAL POLICIES.—Each local area that receives an allotment under section 133 shall maintain a central repository of policies related to access, eligibility, availability of services, and other matters, and plans approved by the local board and make such repository available to the public, including by electronic means.”;

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or (B)”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “may reduce by not more than 5 percent,” and inserting “shall reduce”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) FUNDS RESULTING FROM REDUCED ALLOTMENTS.—The Secretary shall return to the Treasury the amount retained, as a result of a reduction in an allotment to a State made under paragraph (1)(B).”;

(5) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or (B)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by amending the matter preceding clause (i) to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If such failure continues for a second consecutive year, the Governor shall take corrective actions, including the development of a reorganization plan. Such plan shall—”;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A), the following:

“(B) REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF GRANT.—If such failure continues for a third consecutive year, the Governor shall reduce the amount of the grant that would (in the absence of this subparagraph) be payable to the local area under such program for the program year after such third consecutive year. Such penalty shall be based on the degree of failure to meet local levels of performance.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C)(i) (as so redesignated), by striking “a reorganization plan under subparagraph (A) may, not later than 30 days after receiving notice of the reorganization plan, appeal to the Governor to rescind or revise such plan” and inserting “corrective action under subparagraph (A) or (B) may, not later than 30 days after receiving notice of the action, appeal to the Governor to rescind or revise such action”; and
 (v) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesignated), by striking “subparagraph (B)” each place it appears and inserting “subparagraph (C)”;
 (6) in subsection (i)—
 (A) in paragraph (1)—
 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “subsection (b)(2)(C)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(B)”; and
 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “(b)(3)(A)(vi)” and inserting “(b)(3)(A)(v)”;
 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “the activities described in section 502 concerning”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “described in paragraph (1) and in the activities described in section 502” and inserting “and activities described in this subsection”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(j) USE OF CORE INDICATORS FOR OTHER PROGRAMS.—Consistent with the requirements of the applicable authorizing laws, the Secretary shall use the core indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) to assess the effectiveness of the programs described in section 121(b)(1)(B) (in addition to the programs carried out under chapter 5) that are carried out by the Secretary.

“(k) ESTABLISHING PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Governor of a State, a State may establish an incentive system for local boards to implement pay-for-performance contract strategies for the delivery of employment and training activities in the local areas served by the local boards.

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—A State that establishes a pay-for-performance incentive system shall reserve not more than 10 percent of the total amount allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) for a fiscal year to provide funds to local areas in the State whose local boards have implemented a pay-for-performance contract strategy.

“(3) EVALUATIONS.—A State described in paragraph (2) shall use funds reserved by the State under section 133(a)(1) to evaluate the return on investment of pay-for-performance contract strategies implemented by local boards in the State.”.

SEC. 424. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 137 (29 U.S.C. 2872) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 137. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 132, \$5,945,639,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.”.

CHAPTER 3—JOB CORPS

SEC. 426. JOB CORPS PURPOSES.

Paragraph (1) of section 141 (29 U.S.C. 2881(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) to maintain a national Job Corps program for at-risk youth, carried out in partnership with States and communities, to assist eligible youth to connect to the workforce by providing them with intensive academic, career and technical education, and service-learning opportunities, in residential and nonresidential centers, in order for such youth to obtain regular secondary school diplomas and recognized postsecondary credentials leading to successful careers in in-demand industries that will result in opportunities for advancement;”.

SEC. 427. JOB CORPS DEFINITIONS.

Section 142 (29 U.S.C. 2882) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “APPLICABLE ONE-STOP” and inserting “ONE-STOP”;

(B) by striking “applicable”;
 (C) by striking “customer service”; and
 (D) by striking “intake” and inserting “assessment”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “before completing the requirements” and all that follows and inserting “prior to becoming a graduate.”; and
 (3) in paragraph (5), by striking “has completed the requirements” and all that follows and inserting the following: “who, as a result of participation in the Job Corps program, has received a regular secondary school diploma, completed the requirements of a career and technical education and training

program, or received, or is making satisfactory progress (as defined under section 484(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(c))) toward receiving, a recognized post-secondary credential (including an industry-recognized credential) that prepares individuals for employment leading to economic self-sufficiency.”

SEC. 428. INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR THE JOB CORPS.

Section 144 (29 U.S.C. 2884) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) not less than age 16 and not more than age 24 on the date of enrollment.”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “secondary” before “school”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(E), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education and”.

SEC. 429. RECRUITMENT, SCREENING, SELECTION, AND ASSIGNMENT OF ENROLLEES.

Section 145 (29 U.S.C. 2885) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(C)(i) by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education and training”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “To the extent practicable, the” and inserting “The”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “applicable”; and

(II) by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(iii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C);

and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) organizations that have a demonstrated record of effectiveness in placing at-risk youth into employment.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and agrees to such rules” after “failure to observe the rules”; and

(ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) the individual has passed a background check conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary, which shall include—

“(i) a search of the State criminal registry or repository in the State where the individual resides and each State where the individual previously resided;

“(ii) a search of State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases in the State where the individual resides and each State where the individual previously resided;

“(iii) a search of the National Crime Information Center;

“(iv) a Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check using the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System; and

“(v) a search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.).”;

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF A CRIME.—An individual shall be ineligible for enrollment if the individual—

“(A) makes a false statement in connection with the criminal background check described in paragraph (1)(C);

“(B) is registered or is required to be registered on a State sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.); or

“(C) has been convicted of a felony consisting of—

“(i) homicide;

“(ii) child abuse or neglect;

“(iii) a crime against children, including child pornography;

“(iv) a crime involving rape or sexual assault; or

“(v) physical assault, battery, or a drug-related offense, committed within the past 5 years.”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “2 years” and inserting “year”; and

(ii) by striking “an assignment” and inserting “a”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “, every 2 years.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by inserting “the education and training” after “including”; and

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) the performance of the Job Corps center relating to the indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) in section 159(c), and whether any actions have been taken with respect to such center pursuant to section 159(f).”;

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “is closest to the home of the enrollee, except that the” and inserting “offers the type of career and technical education and training selected by the individual and, among the centers that offer such education and training, is closest to the home of the individual. The”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “that offers the career and technical education and training desired by” after “home of the enrollee”.

SEC. 430. JOB CORPS CENTERS.

Section 147 (29 U.S.C. 2887) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “vocational” both places it appears and inserting “career and technical”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “subsections (c) and (d) of section 303 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253)” and inserting “subsections (a) and (b) of section 3304 of title 41, United States Code”; and

(II) by striking “industry council” and inserting “workforce council”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(I) by amending subclause (II) to read as follows:

“(II) the ability of the entity to offer career and technical education and training that the workforce council proposes under section 154(c).”;

(II) in subclause (III), by striking “is familiar with the surrounding communities, applicable” and inserting “demonstrates relationships with the surrounding communities, employers, workforce boards,” and by striking “and” at the end;

(III) by amending subclause (IV) to read as follows:

“(IV) the performance of the entity, if any, relating to operating or providing activities described in this subtitle to a Job Corps center, including the entity’s demonstrated effectiveness in assisting individuals in achieving the primary and secondary indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c); and”;

(IV) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(V) the ability of the entity to demonstrate a record of successfully assisting at-risk youth to connect to the workforce, including by providing them with intensive academic, and career and technical education and training.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(I) by striking “, as appropriate”; and

(II) by striking “through (IV)” and inserting “through (V).”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “In any year, no more than 20 percent of the individuals enrolled in the Job Corps may be non-residential participants in the Job Corps.”;

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Job Corps centers may include Civilian Conservation Centers, operated under an agreement between the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, that are located primarily in rural areas. Such centers shall adhere to all the provisions of this subtitle, and shall provide, in addition to education, career and technical education and training, and workforce preparation skills training described in section 148, programs of work experience to conserve, develop, or manage public natural resources or public recreational areas or to develop community projects in the public interest.

“(2) SELECTION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall select an entity that submits an application under subsection (d) to operate a Civilian Conservation Center on a competitive basis, as provided in subsection (a).”;

(4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to operate a Job Corps center under this subtitle, an entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

“(1) a description of the program activities that will be offered at the center, including how the career and technical education and training reflect State and local employment opportunities, including in in-demand industries;

“(2) a description of the counseling, placement, and support activities that will be offered at the center, including a description of the strategies and procedures the entity will use to place graduates into unsubsidized employment upon completion of the program;

“(3) a description of the demonstrated record of effectiveness that the entity has in placing at-risk youth into employment, including past performance of operating a Job Corps center under this subtitle;

“(4) a description of the relationships that the entity has developed with State and local workforce boards, employers, State and local educational agencies, and the surrounding communities in an effort to promote a comprehensive statewide workforce investment system;

“(5) a description of the strong fiscal controls the entity has in place to ensure proper accounting of Federal funds, and a description of how the entity will meet the requirements of section 159(a);

“(6) a description of the strategies and policies the entity will utilize to reduce participant costs;

“(7) a description of the steps taken to control costs in accordance with section 159(a)(3);

“(8) a detailed budget of the activities that will be supported using funds under this subtitle;

“(9) a detailed budget of the activities that will be supported using funds from non-Federal resources;

“(10) an assurance the entity will comply with the administrative cost limitation included in section 151(c);

“(11) an assurance the entity is licensed to operate in the State in which the center is located; and

“(12) an assurance the entity will comply with and meet basic health and safety codes, including those measures described in section 152(b).

“(e) **LENGTH OF AGREEMENT.**—The agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A) shall be for not longer than a 2-year period. The Secretary may renew the agreement for 3 1-year periods if the entity meets the requirements of subsection (f).

“(f) **RENEWAL.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may renew the terms of an agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A) for an entity to operate a Job Corps center if the center meets or exceeds each of the indicators of performance described in section 159(c)(1).

“(2) **RECOMPETITION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not renew the terms of the agreement for an entity to operate a Job Corps center if such center is ranked in the bottom quintile of centers described in section 159(f)(2) for any program year. Such entity may submit a new application under subsection (d) only if such center has shown significant improvement on the indicators of performance described in section 159(c)(1) over the last program year.

“(B) **VIOLATIONS.**—The Secretary shall not select an entity to operate a Job Corps center if such entity or such center has been found to have a systemic or substantial material failure that involves—

“(i) a threat to the health, safety, or civil rights of program participants or staff;

“(ii) the misuse of funds received under this subtitle;

“(iii) loss of legal status or financial viability, loss of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds;

“(iv) failure to meet any other Federal or State requirement that the entity has shown an unwillingness or inability to correct, after notice from the Secretary, within the period specified; or

“(v) an unresolved area of noncompliance.

“(g) **CURRENT GRANTEES.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act and notwithstanding any previous grant award or renewals of such award under this subtitle, the Secretary shall require all entities operating a Job Corps center under this subtitle to submit an application under subsection (d) to carry out the requirements of this section.”

SEC. 431. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

Section 148 (29 U.S.C. 2888) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) **ACTIVITIES PROVIDED THROUGH JOB CORPS CENTERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees with an intensive,

well-organized, and supervised program of education, career and technical education and training, work experience, recreational activities, physical rehabilitation and development, and counseling. Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees assigned to the center with access to work ready services described in section 134(c)(2).

“(2) **RELATIONSHIP TO OPPORTUNITIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The activities provided under this subsection shall be targeted to helping enrollees, on completion of their enrollment—

“(i) secure and maintain meaningful unsubsidized employment;

“(ii) complete secondary education and obtain a regular secondary school diploma;

“(iii) enroll in and complete postsecondary education or training programs, including obtaining recognized postsecondary credentials (such as industry-recognized credentials and certificates from registered apprenticeship programs); or

“(iv) satisfy Armed Forces requirements.

“(B) **LINK TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.**—The career and technical education and training provided shall be linked to the employment opportunities in in-demand industries in the State in which the Job Corps center is located.”

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL” and inserting “ACADEMIC AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND”; and

(B) by striking “may” after “The Secretary” and inserting “shall”; and

(C) by striking “vocational” each place it appears and inserting “career and technical”; and

(3) by amending paragraph (3) of subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(3) **DEMONSTRATION.**—Each year, any operator seeking to enroll additional enrollees in an advanced career training program shall demonstrate, before the operator may carry out such additional enrollment, that—

“(A) participants in such program have achieved a satisfactory rate of completion and placement in training-related jobs; and

“(B) such operator has met or exceeded the indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c) for the previous year.”

SEC. 432. COUNSELING AND JOB PLACEMENT.

Section 149 (29 U.S.C. 2889) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education and”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “make every effort to arrange to”; and

(B) by striking “to assist” and inserting “assist”; and

(3) by striking subsection (d).

SEC. 433. SUPPORT.

Subsection (b) of section 150 (29 U.S.C. 2890) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) **TRANSITION ALLOWANCES AND SUPPORT FOR GRADUATES.**—The Secretary shall arrange for a transition allowance to be paid to graduates. The transition allowance shall be incentive-based to reflect a graduate's completion of academic, career and technical education or training, and attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential.”

SEC. 434. OPERATIONS.

Section 151 (29 U.S.C. 2891) is amended—

(1) in the header, by striking “OPERATING PLAN.” and inserting “OPERATIONS.”; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “IN GENERAL.” and inserting “OPERATING PLAN.”; and

(3) by striking subsection (b) and redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(4) by amending subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the heading by inserting “OF OPERATING PLAN” after “AVAILABILITY”; and

(B) by striking “subsections (a) and (b)” and inserting “subsection (a)”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—Not more than 10 percent of the funds allotted under section 147 to an entity selected to operate a Job Corps center may be used by the entity for administrative costs under this subtitle.”

SEC. 435. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

Section 153 (29 U.S.C. 2893) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 153. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

“The director of each Job Corps center shall encourage and cooperate in activities to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between Job Corps centers in the State and nearby communities. Such activities may include the use of any local workforce development boards established under section 117 to provide a mechanism for joint discussion of common problems and for planning programs of mutual interest.”

SEC. 436. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

Section 154 (29 U.S.C. 2894) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 154. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Job Corps center shall have a workforce council appointed by the Governor of the State in which the Job Corps center is located.

“(b) **WORKFORCE COUNCIL COMPOSITION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A workforce council shall be comprised of—

“(A) business members of the State board described in section 111(b)(1)(B)(i);

“(B) business members of the local boards described in section 117(b)(2)(A) located in the State;

“(C) a representative of the State board described in section 111(f); and

“(D) such other representatives and State agency officials as the Governor may designate.

“(2) **MAJORITY.**—A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the members of the workforce council shall be representatives described in paragraph (1)(A).

“(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The responsibilities of the workforce council shall be—

“(1) to review all the relevant labor market information, including related information in the State plan described in section 112, to—

“(A) determine the in-demand industries in the State in which enrollees intend to seek employment after graduation;

“(B) determine the skills and education that are necessary to obtain the employment opportunities described in subparagraph (A); and

“(C) determine the type or types of career and technical education and training that will be implemented at the center to enable the enrollees to obtain the employment opportunities; and

“(2) to meet at least once a year to re-evaluate the labor market information, and other relevant information, to determine any necessary changes in the career and technical education and training provided at the center.”

SEC. 437. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 156 (29 U.S.C. 2896) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 156. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CENTERS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From the funds reserved under section 132(a)(3), the Secretary shall provide, directly or through grants, contracts, or other agreements or arrangements

as the Secretary considers appropriate, technical assistance and training for the Job Corps program for the purposes of improving program quality.

“(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—In providing training and technical assistance and for allocating resources for such assistance, the Secretary shall—

“(1) assist entities, including those entities not currently operating a Job Corps center, in developing the application described in section 147(d);

“(2) assist Job Corps centers and programs in correcting deficiencies and violations under this subtitle;

“(3) assist Job Corps centers and programs in meeting or exceeding the indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c); and

“(4) assist Job Corps centers and programs in the development of sound management practices, including financial management procedures.”.

SEC. 438. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

Section 158(c)(1) (29 U.S.C. 2989(c)(1)) is amended by striking “title II of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 481 et seq.)” and inserting “chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code.”.

SEC. 439. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MANAGEMENT.

Section 159 (29 U.S.C. 2899) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “**MANAGEMENT INFORMATION**” and inserting “**PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY AND MANAGEMENT**”;

(2) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, or operating costs for such centers result in a budgetary shortfall”;

(3) by striking subsections (c) through (g); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) **INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.**—

“(1) **PRIMARY INDICATORS.**—The annual primary indicators of performance for Job Corps centers shall include—

“(A) the percentage and number of enrollees who graduate from the Job Corps center;

“(B) the percentage and number of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment related to the career and technical education and training received through the Job Corps center, except that such calculation shall not include enrollment in education, the military, or volunteer service;

“(C) the percentage and number of graduates who obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program; and

“(D) the cost per successful performance outcome, which is calculated by comparing the number of graduates who were placed in unsubsidized employment or obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential, to total program costs, including all operations, construction, and administration costs at each Job Corps center.

“(2) **SECONDARY INDICATORS.**—The annual secondary indicators of performance for Job Corps centers shall include—

“(A) the percentage and number of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment not related to the career and technical education and training received through the Job Corps center;

“(B) the percentage and number of graduates who entered into postsecondary education;

“(C) the percentage and number of graduates who entered into the military;

“(D) the average wage of graduates who are in unsubsidized employment—

“(i) on the first day of employment; and

“(ii) 6 months after the first day;

“(E) the number and percentage of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment and were retained in the unsubsidized employment—

“(i) 6 months after the first day of employment; and

“(ii) 12 months after the first day of employment;

“(F) the percentage and number of enrollees compared to the percentage and number of enrollees the Secretary has established as targets in section 145(c)(1);

“(G) the cost per training slot, which is calculated by comparing the program's maximum number of enrollees that can be enrolled in a Job Corps center at any given time during the program year to the number of enrollees in the same program year; and

“(H) the number and percentage of former enrollees, including the number dismissed under the zero tolerance policy described in section 152(b).

“(3) **INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE FOR RECRUITERS.**—The annual indicators of performance for recruiters shall include the measurements described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H) of paragraph (2).

“(4) **INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE OF CAREER TRANSITION SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—The annual indicators of performance of career transition service providers shall include the measurements described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) and subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) of paragraph (2).

“(d) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall collect, and submit in the report described in subsection (f), information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, regarding—

“(1) the number and percentage of former enrollees who obtained a regular secondary school diploma;

“(2) the number and percentage of former enrollees who entered unsubsidized employment;

“(3) the number and percentage of former enrollees who obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential;

“(4) the number and percentage of former enrollees who entered into military service; and

“(5) any additional information required by the Secretary.

“(e) **METHODS.**—The Secretary shall collect the information described in subsections (c) and (d), using methods described in section 136(f)(2) and consistent with State law, by entering into agreements with the States to access such data for Job Corps enrollees, former enrollees, and graduates.

“(f) **TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**—

“(1) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall collect and annually submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate, and make available to the public by electronic means, a report containing—

“(A) information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, on the performance indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

“(B) a comparison of each Job Corps center, by rank, on the performance indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

“(C) a comparison of each Job Corps center, by rank, on the average performance of

all primary indicators described in paragraph (1) of subsection (c);

“(D) information on the performance of the service providers described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c) on the performance indicators established under such paragraphs; and

“(E) a comparison of each service provider, by rank, on the performance of all service providers described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c) on the performance indicators established under such paragraphs.

“(2) **ASSESSMENT.**—The Secretary shall conduct an annual assessment of the performance of each Job Corps center which shall include information on the Job Corps centers that—

“(A) are ranked in the bottom 10 percent on the performance indicator described in paragraph (1)(C); or

“(B) have failed a safety and health code review described in subsection (g).

“(3) **PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT.**—With respect to a Job Corps center that is identified under paragraph (2) or reports less than 50 percent on the performance indicators described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall develop and implement a 1 year performance improvement plan. Such a plan shall require action including—

“(A) providing technical assistance to the center;

“(B) changing the management staff of the center;

“(C) replacing the operator of the center;

“(D) reducing the capacity of the center; or

“(E) closing the center.

“(4) **CLOSURE OF JOB CORPS CENTERS.**—Job Corps centers that have been identified under paragraph (2) for more than 4 consecutive years shall be closed. The Secretary shall ensure—

“(A) that the proposed decision to close the center is announced in advance to the general public through publication in the Federal Register and other appropriate means; and

“(B) the establishment of a reasonable comment period, not to exceed 30 days, for interested individuals to submit written comments to the Secretary.

“(g) **PARTICIPANT HEALTH AND SAFETY.**—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the General Services Administration or the appropriate State agency responsible for inspecting public buildings and safeguarding the health of disadvantaged students, to conduct an in-person review of the physical condition and health-related activities of each Job Corps center annually. Such review shall include a passing rate of occupancy under Federal and State ordinances.”.

CHAPTER 4—NATIONAL PROGRAMS

SEC. 441. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 170 (29 U.S.C. 2915) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b);

(2) by striking:

“(a) **GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—”;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subsections (a), (b), and (c) respectively, and moving such subsections 2 ems to the left, and conforming the casing style of the headings of such subsections to the casing style of the heading of subsection (d), as added by paragraph (7) of this section;

(4) in subsection (a) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by inserting “the training of staff providing rapid response services and additional assistance, the training of other staff of recipients of funds under this title, assistance regarding accounting and program operation practices (when such assistance would not be duplicative to assistance provided by the

State), technical assistance to States that do not meet State performance measures described in section 136," after "localities,"; and

(B) by striking "from carrying out activities" and all that follows up to the period and inserting "to implement the amendments made by the SKILLS Act";

(5) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking "paragraph (1)" and inserting "subsection (a)";

(B) by striking "or recipient of financial assistance under any of sections 166 through 169,"; and

(C) by striking "or grant recipient";

(6) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by striking "paragraph (1)" and inserting "subsection (a)"; and

(7) by inserting, after subsection (c) (as so redesignated), the following:

"(d) BEST PRACTICES COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall—

"(1) establish a system through which States may share information regarding best practices with regard to the operation of workforce investment activities under this Act; and

"(2) evaluate and disseminate information regarding best practices and identify knowledge gaps."

SEC. 442. EVALUATIONS.

Section 172 (29 U.S.C. 2917) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "the Secretary shall provide for the continuing evaluation of the programs and activities, including those programs and activities carried out under section 171" and inserting "the Secretary, through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, shall conduct, at least once every 5 years, an independent evaluation of the programs and activities funded under this Act";

(2) by amending subsection (a)(4) to read as follows:

"(4) the impact of receiving services and not receiving services under such programs and activities on the community, businesses, and individuals;";

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) TECHNIQUES.—Evaluations conducted under this section shall utilize appropriate and rigorous methodology and research designs, including the use of control groups chosen by scientific random assignment methodologies, quasi-experimental methods, impact analysis and the use of administrative data. The Secretary shall conduct an impact analysis, as described in subsection (a)(4), of the formula grant program under subtitle B not later than 2016, and thereafter shall conduct such an analysis not less than once every 4 years.";

(4) in subsection (e), by striking "the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate" and inserting "the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate";

(5) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g) and inserting after subsection (e) the following:

"(f) REDUCTION OF AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED FOR LATE REPORTING.—If a report required to be transmitted to Congress under this section is not transmitted on or before the time period specified for that report, amounts authorized to be appropriated under this title shall be reduced by 10 percent for the fiscal year that begins after the date on which the final report required under this section is required to be transmitted and reduced by an additional 10 percent each subsequent fiscal year until each such report is transmitted to Congress."; and

(6) by adding at the end, the following:

"(h) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The results of the evaluations conducted under this section shall be made publicly available, including by posting such results on the Department's website."

CHAPTER 5—ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 446. REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS.

Section 181 (29 U.S.C. 2931) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(6), by striking "including representatives of businesses and of labor organizations,";

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "shall" and inserting "may";

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking "training for" and inserting "the entry into employment, retention in employment, or increases in earnings of"; and

(B) by striking "subtitle B" and inserting "this Act";

(4) in subsection (f)(4), by striking "134(a)(3)(B)" and inserting "133(a)(4)"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(g) SALARY AND BONUS LIMITATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds provided under this title shall be used by a recipient or subrecipient of such funds to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or indirect costs, at a rate in excess of the rate prescribed in level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

"(2) VENDORS.—The limitation described in paragraph (1) shall not apply to vendors providing goods and services as defined in OMB Circular A-133.

"(3) LOWER LIMIT.—In a case in which a State is a recipient of such funds, the State may establish a lower limit than is provided in paragraph (1) for salaries and bonuses of those receiving salaries and bonuses from a subrecipient of such funds, taking into account factors including the relative cost of living in the State, the compensation levels for comparable State or local government employees, and the size of the organizations that administer the Federal programs involved.

"(h) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor (referred to in this Act as the 'Administration') shall administer all programs authorized under title I and the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.). The Administration shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Except for title II and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the Administration shall be the principal agency, and the Assistant Secretary shall be the principal officer, of such Department for carrying out this Act.

"(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Secretary shall be an individual with substantial experience in workforce development and in workforce development management. The Assistant Secretary shall also, to the maximum extent possible, possess knowledge and have worked in or with the State or local workforce investment system or have been a member of the business community.

"(3) FUNCTIONS.—In the performance of the functions of the office, the Assistant Secretary shall be directly responsible to the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary of Labor, as determined by the Secretary. The functions of the Assistant Secretary shall not be delegated to any officer not directly responsible, both with respect to program operation and administration, to the Assistant

Secretary. Any reference in this Act to duties to be carried out by the Assistant Secretary shall be considered to be a reference to duties to be carried out by the Secretary acting through the Assistant Secretary."

SEC. 447. PROMPT ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

Section 182 (29 U.S.C. 2932) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking "127 or"; and

(B) by striking "except that" and all that follows and inserting a period; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking "sections 128 and 133" and inserting "section 133"; and

(B) by striking "127 or".

SEC. 448. FISCAL CONTROLS; SANCTIONS.

Section 184(a)(2) (29 U.S.C. 2934(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(A)" and all that follows through "Each" and inserting "Each"; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B).

SEC. 449. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 185 (29 U.S.C. 2935) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting "and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) shall have the option to submit or disseminate electronically any reports, records, plans, or other data that are required to be collected or disseminated under this title."; and

(2) in subsection (e)(2), by inserting "and the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate," after "Secretary,".

SEC. 450. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Section 189 (29 U.S.C. 2939) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Appropriations for any fiscal year for programs and activities carried out under this title shall be available for obligation only on the basis of a program year. The program year shall begin on October 1 in the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made."; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking "each State" and inserting "each recipient (except as otherwise provided in this paragraph)"; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking "171 or";

(2) in subsection (i)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (2);

(C) by amending paragraph (2)(A), as so redesignated—

(i) in clause (i), by striking "and" and inserting a period at the end;

(ii) by striking "requirements of subparagraph (B)" and all that follows through "any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of subtitle B" and inserting "requirements of subparagraph (B) or (D), any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of subtitle B"; and

(iii) by striking clause (ii); and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) EXPEDITED PROCESS FOR EXTENDING APPROVED WAIVERS TO ADDITIONAL STATES.—The Secretary may establish an expedited procedure for the purpose of extending to additional States the waiver of statutory or regulatory requirements that have been approved for a State pursuant to a request

under subparagraph (B), in lieu of requiring the additional States to meet the requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C). Such procedure shall ensure that the extension of such a waiver to additional States is accompanied by appropriate conditions relating to the implementation of such waiver.

“(E) EXTERNAL CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall not require or impose new or additional requirements, that are not specified under this Act, on a State in exchange for providing a waiver to the State or a local area in the State under this paragraph.”.

SEC. 451. STATE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

Section 191(a) (29 U.S.C. 2941(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “consistent with the provisions of this title” and inserting “consistent with State law and the provisions of this title”; and

(2) by striking “consistent with the terms and conditions required under this title” and inserting “consistent with State law and the terms and conditions required under this title”.

SEC. 452. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Section 195 (29 U.S.C. 2945) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by inserting at the end the following:

“(D) Funds received under a program by a public or private nonprofit entity that are not described in subparagraph (B), such as funds privately raised from philanthropic foundations, businesses, or other private entities, shall not be considered to be income under this title and shall not be subject to the requirements of this paragraph.”;

(2) by striking paragraph (9);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (13) as paragraphs (9) through (12), respectively; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(13) Funds provided under this title shall not be used to establish or operate stand-alone fee-for-service enterprises that compete with private sector employment agencies within the meaning of section 701(c) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e(c)), except that for purposes of this paragraph, such an enterprise does not include a one-stop center.

“(14) Any report required to be submitted to Congress, or to a Committee of Congress, under this title shall be submitted to both the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.”.

SEC. 453. FEDERAL AGENCY STAFF AND RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL AND LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.

Subtitle E of title I (29 U.S.C. 2931 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

“SEC. 196. FEDERAL AGENCY STAFF.

“The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

“(1) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the SKILLS Act—

“(A) identify the number of Federal government employees who, on the day before the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act, worked on or administered each of the programs and activities that were authorized under this Act or were authorized under a provision listed in section ____ 71 of the SKILLS Act; and

“(B) identify the number of full-time equivalent employees who on the day before that date of enactment, worked on or administered each of the programs and activities described in subparagraph (A), on functions

for which the authorizing provision has been repealed, or for which an amount has been consolidated (if such employee is in a duplicate position), on or after such date of enactment;

“(2) not later than 90 after such date of enactment, publish the information described in paragraph (1) on the Office of Management and Budget website; and

“(3) not later than 1 year after such date of enactment—

“(A) reduce the workforce of the Federal Government by the number of full-time equivalent employees identified under paragraph (1)(B); and

“(B) submit to Congress a report on how the Director carried out the requirements of subparagraph (A).”.

“SEC. 197. RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

“(A) LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS.—

“(1) PUBLICITY RESTRICTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), no funds provided under this Act shall be used or proposed for use, for—

“(i) publicity or propaganda purposes; or

“(ii) the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, electronic communication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to—

“(i) normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships;

“(ii) the preparation, distribution, or use of the materials described in subparagraph (A)(ii) in presentation to the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body (except that this subparagraph does not apply with respect to such preparation, distribution, or use in presentation to the executive branch of any State or local government); or

“(iii) such preparation, distribution, or use of such materials, that are designed to support or defeat any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government.

“(2) SALARY PAYMENT RESTRICTION.—No funds provided under this Act shall be used, or proposed for use, to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment or issuance of legislation, appropriations, regulations, administrative action, or an Executive order proposed or pending before the Congress or any State government, or a State or local legislature or legislative body, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships or participation by an agency or officer of a State, local, or tribal government in policymaking and administrative processes within the executive branch of that government.

“(b) POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds received by a participant of a program or activity under this Act shall be used for—

“(A) any partisan or nonpartisan political activity or any other political activity associated with a candidate, or contending faction or group, in an election for public or party office; or

“(B) any activity to provide voters with transportation to the polls or similar assistance in connection with any such election.

“(2) RESTRICTION ON VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—No funds under this Act shall be used to conduct voter registration activities.

“(3) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this subsection, the term ‘participant’ includes any State, local area, or government, nonprofit, or for-profit entity receiving funds under this Act.”.

CHAPTER 6—STATE UNIFIED PLAN

SEC. 456. STATE UNIFIED PLAN.

Section 501 (20 U.S.C. 9271) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall receive and approve State unified plans developed and submitted in accordance with this section.”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) STATE UNIFIED PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may develop and submit to the Secretary a State unified plan for 2 or more of the activities or programs set forth in paragraph (2). The State unified plan shall cover one or more of the activities or programs set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and shall cover one or more of the activities or programs set forth in subparagraphs (C) through (N) of paragraph (2).

“(2) ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘activity or program’ means any 1 of the following 14 activities or programs:

“(A) Activities and programs authorized under title I.

“(B) Activities and programs authorized under title II.

“(C) Programs authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 710 et seq.).

“(D) Secondary career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

“(E) Postsecondary career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

“(F) Activities and programs authorized under title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251 et seq.).

“(G) Programs and activities authorized under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the ‘National Apprenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

“(H) Programs authorized under the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.).

“(I) Programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

“(J) Programs authorized under State unemployment compensation laws (in accordance with applicable Federal law).

“(K) Work programs authorized under section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)).

“(L) Activities and programs authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

“(M) Activities and programs authorized under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.).

“(N) Activities authorized under chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.”;

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) APPROVAL.—

“(1) JURISDICTION.—In approving a State unified plan under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(A) submit the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) to the head of the Federal agency who exercises administrative

authority over the activity or program for the approval of such portion by such Federal agency head; or

“(B) coordinate approval of the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) with the head of the Federal agency who exercises administrative authority over the activity or program.

“(2) **TIMELINE.**—A State unified plan shall be considered to be approved by the Secretary at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the day the Secretary receives the plan, unless the Secretary makes a written determination, during the 90-day period, that details how the plan is not consistent with the requirements of the Federal statute authorizing an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) and covered under the plan or how the plan is not consistent with the requirements of subsection (c)(3).

“(3) **SCOPE OF PORTION.**—For purposes of paragraph (1), the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program shall be considered to include the plan described in subsection (c)(3) and any proposal described in subsection (e)(2), as that part and proposal relate to the activity or program.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FUNDS.**—

“(1) **PURPOSE.**—It is the purpose of this subsection to reduce inefficiencies in the administration of federally funded State and local employment and training programs.

“(2) **IN GENERAL.**—In developing a State unified plan for the activities or programs described in subsection (b)(2), and subject to paragraph (4) and to the State plan approval process under subsection (d), a State may propose to consolidate the amount, in whole or part, provided for the activities or programs covered by the plan into the Workforce Investment Fund under section 132(b) to improve the administration of State and local employment and training programs.

“(3) **REQUIREMENTS.**—A State that has a State unified plan approved under subsection (d) with a proposal for consolidation under paragraph (2), and that is carrying out such consolidation, shall—

“(A) in providing an activity or program for which an amount is consolidated into the Workforce Investment Fund—

“(i) continue to meet the program requirements, limitations, and prohibitions of any Federal statute authorizing the activity or program; and

“(ii) meet the intent and purpose for the activity or program; and

“(B) continue to make reservations and allotments under subsections (a) and (b) of section 133.

“(4) **EXCEPTIONS.**—A State may not consolidate an amount under paragraph (2) that is allocated to the State under—

“(A) the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.); or

“(B) title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 710 et seq.).”.

Subtitle B—Adult Education and Family Literacy Education

SEC. 461. AMENDMENT.

Title II (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION

“SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

“This title may be cited as the ‘Adult Education and Family Literacy Education Act’.

“SEC. 202. PURPOSE.

“It is the purpose of this title to provide instructional opportunities for adults seeking to improve their literacy skills, including their basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, and support States and local communities in providing, on a voluntary basis, adult education and family literacy education programs, in order to—

“(1) increase the literacy of adults, including the basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, to a level of proficiency necessary for adults to obtain employment and self-sufficiency and to successfully advance in the workforce;

“(2) assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education (or its equivalent) and the transition to a postsecondary educational institution;

“(3) assist adults who are parents to enable them to support the educational development of their children and make informed choices regarding their children’s education including, through instruction in basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills; and

“(4) assist adults who are not proficient in English in improving their reading, writing, speaking, listening, comprehension, and mathematics skills.

“SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) **ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**—The term ‘adult education and family literacy education programs’ means a sequence of academic instruction and educational services below the postsecondary level that increase an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak English and perform mathematical computations leading to a level of proficiency equivalent to at least a secondary school completion that is provided for individuals—

“(A) who are at least 16 years of age;

“(B) who are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under State law; and

“(C) who—

“(i) lack sufficient mastery of basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills to enable the individuals to function effectively in society;

“(ii) do not have a secondary school diploma or its equivalent and have not achieved an equivalent level of education; or

“(iii) are English learners.

“(2) **ELIGIBLE AGENCY.**—The term ‘eligible agency’—

“(A) means the primary entity or agency in a State or an outlying area responsible for administering or supervising policy for adult education and family literacy education programs in the State or outlying area, respectively, consistent with the law of the State or outlying area, respectively; and

“(B) may be the State educational agency, the State agency responsible for administering workforce investment activities, or the State agency responsible for administering community or technical colleges.

“(3) **ELIGIBLE PROVIDER.**—The term ‘eligible provider’ means an organization of demonstrated effectiveness that is—

“(A) a local educational agency;

“(B) a community-based or faith-based organization;

“(C) a volunteer literacy organization;

“(D) an institution of higher education;

“(E) a public or private educational agency;

“(F) a library;

“(G) a public housing authority;

“(H) an institution that is not described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (G) and

has the ability to provide adult education, basic skills, and family literacy education programs to adults and families; or

“(I) a consortium of the agencies, organizations, institutions, libraries, or authorities described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (H).

“(4) **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.**—The term ‘English language acquisition program’ means a program of instruction—

“(A) designed to help English learners achieve competence in reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension of the English language; and

“(B) that may lead to—

“(i) attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

“(ii) transition to success in postsecondary education and training; and

“(iii) employment or career advancement.

“(5) **FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION PROGRAM.**—The term ‘family literacy education program’ means an educational program that—

“(A) assists parents and students, on a voluntary basis, in achieving the purpose of this title as described in section 202; and

“(B) is of sufficient intensity in terms of hours and of sufficient quality to make sustainable changes in a family, is evidence-based, and, for the purpose of substantially increasing the ability of parents and children to read, write, and speak English, integrates—

“(i) interactive literacy activities between parents and their children;

“(ii) training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children;

“(iii) parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency; and

“(iv) an age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

“(6) **GOVERNOR.**—The term ‘Governor’ means the chief executive officer of a State or outlying area.

“(7) **INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘individual with a disability’ means an individual with any disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990).

“(B) **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**—The term ‘individuals with disabilities’ means more than one individual with a disability.

“(8) **ENGLISH LEARNER.**—The term ‘English learner’ means an adult or out-of-school youth who has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or understanding the English language, and—

“(A) whose native language is a language other than English; or

“(B) who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.

“(9) **INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**—The term ‘integrated education and training’ means services that provide adult education and literacy activities contextually and concurrently with workforce preparation activities and workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster. Such services may include offering adult education services concurrent with postsecondary education and training, including through co-instruction.

“(10) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(11) **LITERACY.**—The term ‘literacy’ means an individual’s ability to read, write, and

speak in English, compute, and solve problems at a level of proficiency necessary to obtain employment and to successfully make the transition to postsecondary education.

“(12) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘local educational agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

“(13) OUTLYING AREA.—The term ‘outlying area’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of this Act.

“(14) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term ‘postsecondary educational institution’ means—

“(A) an institution of higher education that provides not less than a 2-year program of instruction that is acceptable for credit toward a bachelor's degree;

“(B) a tribally controlled community college; or

“(C) a nonprofit educational institution offering certificate or apprenticeship programs at the postsecondary level.

“(15) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Education.

“(16) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

“(17) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘State educational agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

“(18) WORKPLACE LITERACY PROGRAM.—The term ‘workplace literacy program’ means an educational program that is offered in collaboration between eligible providers and employers or employee organizations for the purpose of improving the productivity of the workforce through the improvement of reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills.

“SEC. 204. HOME SCHOOLS.

“Nothing in this title shall be construed to affect home schools, whether or not a home school is treated as a home school or a private school under State law, or to compel a parent engaged in home schooling to participate in adult education and family literacy education activities under this title.

“SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title, \$606,294,933 for fiscal year 2015 and for each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.

“Subtitle A—Federal Provisions

“SEC. 211. RESERVATION OF FUNDS; GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES; ALLOTMENTS.

“(a) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 2.0 percent to carry out section 242.

“(b) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award a grant to each eligible agency having a State plan approved under section 224 in an amount equal to the sum of the initial allotment under subsection (c)(1) and the additional allotment under subsection (c)(2) for the eligible agency for the fiscal year, subject to subsections (f) and (g).

“(2) PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a grant under paragraph (1) only if the eligible agency involved agrees to expend the grant in accordance with the provisions of this title.

“(c) ALLOTMENTS.—

“(1) INITIAL ALLOTMENTS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 and not re-

served under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency having a State plan approved under section 224—

“(A) \$100,000, in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area; and

“(B) \$250,000, in the case of any other eligible agency.

“(2) ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205, not reserved under subsection (a), and not allotted under paragraph (1), for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency that receives an initial allotment under paragraph (1) an additional amount that bears the same relationship to such sums as the number of qualifying adults in the State or outlying area served by the eligible agency bears to the number of such adults in all States and outlying areas.

“(d) QUALIFYING ADULT.—For the purpose of subsection (c)(2), the term ‘qualifying adult’ means an adult who—

“(1) is at least 16 years of age;

“(2) is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance under the law of the State or outlying area;

“(3) does not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; and

“(4) is not enrolled in secondary school.

“(e) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available under subsection (c) for the Republic of Palau, the Secretary shall award grants to Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Republic of Palau to carry out activities described in this title in accordance with the provisions of this title as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) TERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Republic of Palau shall be eligible to receive a grant under this title until an agreement for the extension of United States education assistance under the Compact of Free Association for the Republic of Palau becomes effective.

“(f) HOLD-HARMLESS PROVISIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (c) and subject to paragraph (2), for—

“(A) fiscal year 2015, no eligible agency shall receive an allotment under this title that is less than 90 percent of the allotment the eligible agency received for fiscal year 2012 under this title; and

“(B) fiscal year 2016 and each succeeding fiscal year, no eligible agency shall receive an allotment under this title that is less than 90 percent of the allotment the eligible agency received for the preceding fiscal year under this title.

“(2) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If, for any fiscal year the amount available for allotment under this title is insufficient to satisfy the provisions of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ratable reduce the payments to all eligible agencies, as necessary.

“(g) REALLOTMENT.—The portion of any eligible agency's allotment under this title for a fiscal year that the Secretary determines will not be required for the period such allotment is available for carrying out activities under this title, shall be available for reallocation from time to time, on such dates during such period as the Secretary shall fix, to other eligible agencies in proportion to the original allotments to such agencies under this title for such year.

“SEC. 212. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

“Programs and activities authorized under this title are subject to the performance accountability provisions described in para-

graphs (2)(A) and (3) of section 136(b) and may, at a State's discretion, include additional indicators identified in the State plan approved under section 224.

“Subtitle B—State Provisions

“SEC. 221. STATE ADMINISTRATION.

“Each eligible agency shall be responsible for the following activities under this title:

“(1) The development, submission, implementation, and monitoring of the State plan.

“(2) Consultation with other appropriate agencies, groups, and individuals that are involved in, or interested in, the development and implementation of activities assisted under this title.

“(3) Coordination and avoidance of duplication with other Federal and State education, training, corrections, public housing, and social service programs.

“SEC. 222. STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS; MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

“(a) STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Each eligible agency receiving a grant under this title for a fiscal year—

“(1) shall use not less than 82.5 percent of the grant funds to award grants and contracts under section 231 and to carry out section 225, of which not more than 10 percent of such amount shall be available to carry out section 225;

“(2) shall use not more than 12.5 percent of the grant funds to carry out State leadership activities under section 223; and

“(3) shall use not more than 5 percent of the grant funds, or \$65,000, whichever is greater, for the administrative expenses of the eligible agency.

“(b) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive a grant from the Secretary under section 211(b), each eligible agency shall provide, for the costs to be incurred by the eligible agency in carrying out the adult education and family literacy education programs for which the grant is awarded, a non-Federal contribution in an amount that is not less than—

“(A) in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area, 12 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs in the outlying area, except that the Secretary may decrease the amount of funds required under this subparagraph for an eligible agency; and

“(B) in the case of an eligible agency serving a State, 25 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs in the State.

“(2) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—An eligible agency's non-Federal contribution required under paragraph (1) may be provided in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, and shall include only non-Federal funds that are used for adult education and family literacy education programs in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of this title.

“SEC. 223. STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible agency may use funds made available under section 222(a)(2) for any of the following adult education and family literacy education programs:

“(1) The establishment or operation of professional development programs to improve the quality of instruction provided pursuant to local activities required under section 231(b).

“(2) The provision of technical assistance to eligible providers of adult education and family literacy education programs, including for the development and dissemination of

evidence based research instructional practices in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, and English language acquisition programs.

“(3) The provision of assistance to eligible providers in developing, implementing, and reporting measurable progress in achieving the objectives of this title.

“(4) The monitoring and evaluation of the quality of, and the improvement in, adult education and literacy activities.

“(5) The provision of technology assistance, including staff training, to eligible providers of adult education and family literacy education programs, including distance education activities, to enable the eligible providers to improve the quality of such activities.

“(6) The development and implementation of technology applications or distance education, including professional development to support the use of instructional technology.

“(7) Coordination with other public programs, including programs under title I of this Act, and other welfare-to-work, workforce development, and job training programs.

“(8) Coordination with existing support services, such as transportation, child care, and other assistance designed to increase rates of enrollment in, and successful completion of, adult education and family literacy education programs, for adults enrolled in such activities.

“(9) The development and implementation of a system to assist in the transition from adult basic education to postsecondary education.

“(10) Activities to promote workplace literacy programs.

“(11) Other activities of statewide significance, including assisting eligible providers in achieving progress in improving the skill levels of adults who participate in programs under this title.

“(12) Integration of literacy, instructional, and occupational skill training and promotion of linkages with employees.

“(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, eligible agencies shall coordinate where possible, and avoid duplicating efforts, in order to maximize the impact of the activities described in subsection (a).

“(c) STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS.—Whenever a State or outlying area implements any rule or policy relating to the administration or operation of a program authorized under this title that has the effect of imposing a requirement that is not imposed under Federal law (including any rule or policy based on a State or outlying area interpretation of a Federal statute, regulation, or guideline), the State or outlying area shall identify, to eligible providers, the rule or policy as being imposed by the State or outlying area.

“SEC. 224. STATE PLAN.

“(a) 3-YEAR PLANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible agency desiring a grant under this title for any fiscal year shall submit to, or have on file with, the Secretary a 3-year State plan.

“(2) STATE UNIFIED PLAN.—The eligible agency may submit the State plan as part of a State unified plan described in section 501.

“(b) PLAN CONTENTS.—The eligible agency shall include in the State plan or any revisions to the State plan—

“(1) an objective assessment of the needs of individuals in the State or outlying area for adult education and family literacy education programs, including individuals most in need or hardest to serve;

“(2) a description of the adult education and family literacy education programs that will be carried out with funds received under this title;

“(3) an assurance that the funds received under this title will not be expended for any purpose other than for activities under this title;

“(4) a description of how the eligible agency will annually evaluate and measure the effectiveness and improvement of the adult education and family literacy education programs funded under this title using the indicators of performance described in section 136, including how the eligible agency will conduct such annual evaluations and measures for each grant received under this title;

“(5) a description of how the eligible agency will fund local activities in accordance with the measurable goals described in section 231(d);

“(6) an assurance that the eligible agency will expend the funds under this title only in a manner consistent with fiscal requirements in section 241;

“(7) a description of the process that will be used for public participation and comment with respect to the State plan, which—

“(A) shall include consultation with the State workforce investment board, the State board responsible for administering community or technical colleges, the Governor, the State educational agency, the State board or agency responsible for administering block grants for temporary assistance to needy families under title IV of the Social Security Act, the State council on disabilities, the State vocational rehabilitation agency, and other State agencies that promote the improvement of adult education and family literacy education programs, and direct providers of such programs; and

“(B) may include consultation with the State agency on higher education, institutions responsible for professional development of adult education and family literacy education programs instructors, representatives of business and industry, refugee assistance programs, and faith-based organizations;

“(8) a description of the eligible agency's strategies for serving populations that include, at a minimum—

“(A) low-income individuals;

“(B) individuals with disabilities;

“(C) the unemployed;

“(D) the underemployed; and

“(E) individuals with multiple barriers to educational enhancement, including English learners;

“(9) a description of how the adult education and family literacy education programs that will be carried out with any funds received under this title will be integrated with other adult education, career development, and employment and training activities in the State or outlying area served by the eligible agency;

“(10) a description of the steps the eligible agency will take to ensure direct and equitable access, as required in section 231(c)(1), including—

“(A) how the State will build the capacity of community-based and faith-based organizations to provide adult education and family literacy education programs; and

“(B) how the State will increase the participation of business and industry in adult education and family literacy education programs;

“(11) an assessment of the adequacy of the system of the State or outlying area to ensure teacher quality and a description of how the State or outlying area will use funds re-

ceived under this subtitle to improve teacher quality, including evidence-based professional development to improve instruction; and

“(12) a description of how the eligible agency will consult with any State agency responsible for postsecondary education to develop adult education that prepares students to enter postsecondary education without the need for remediation upon completion of secondary school equivalency programs.

“(c) PLAN REVISIONS.—When changes in conditions or other factors require substantial revisions to an approved State plan, the eligible agency shall submit the revisions of the State plan to the Secretary.

“(d) CONSULTATION.—The eligible agency shall—

“(1) submit the State plan, and any revisions to the State plan, to the Governor, the chief State school officer, or the State officer responsible for administering community or technical colleges, or outlying area for review and comment; and

“(2) ensure that any comments regarding the State plan by the Governor, the chief State school officer, or the State officer responsible for administering community or technical colleges, and any revision to the State plan, are submitted to the Secretary.

“(e) PLAN APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) approve a State plan within 90 days after receiving the plan unless the Secretary makes a written determination within 30 days after receiving the plan that the plan does not meet the requirements of this section or is inconsistent with specific provisions of this subtitle; and

“(2) not finally disapprove of a State plan before offering the eligible agency the opportunity, prior to the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the eligible agency received the written determination described in paragraph (1), to review the plan and providing technical assistance in order to assist the eligible agency in meeting the requirements of this subtitle.

“SEC. 225. PROGRAMS FOR CORRECTIONS EDUCATION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONALIZED INDIVIDUALS.

“(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From funds made available under section 222(a)(1) for a fiscal year, each eligible agency shall carry out corrections education and education for other institutionalized individuals.

“(b) USES OF FUNDS.—The funds described in subsection (a) shall be used for the cost of educational programs for criminal offenders in correctional institutions and for other institutionalized individuals, including academic programs for—

“(1) basic skills education;

“(2) special education programs as determined by the eligible agency;

“(3) reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics programs;

“(4) secondary school credit or diploma programs or their recognized equivalent; and

“(5) integrated education and training.

“(c) PRIORITY.—Each eligible agency that is using assistance provided under this section to carry out a program for criminal offenders within a correctional institution shall give priority to serving individuals who are likely to leave the correctional institution within 5 years of participation in the program.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term ‘correctional institution’ means any—

“(A) prison;

“(B) jail;

“(C) reformatory;

“(D) work farm;

“(E) detention center; or

“(F) halfway house, community-based rehabilitation center, or any other similar institution designed for the confinement or rehabilitation of criminal offenders.

“(2) CRIMINAL OFFENDER.—The term ‘criminal offender’ means any individual who is charged with, or convicted of, any criminal offense.

“Subtitle C—Local Provisions

“SEC. 231. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.

“(a) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—From grant funds made available under section 222(a)(1), each eligible agency shall award multi-year grants or contracts, on a competitive basis, to eligible providers within the State or outlying area that meet the conditions and requirements of this title to enable the eligible providers to develop, implement, and improve adult education and family literacy education programs within the State.

“(b) LOCAL ACTIVITIES.—The eligible agency shall require eligible providers receiving a grant or contract under subsection (a) to establish or operate—

“(1) programs that provide adult education and literacy activities;

“(2) programs that provide integrated education and training activities; or

“(3) credit-bearing postsecondary coursework.

“(c) DIRECT AND EQUITABLE ACCESS; SAME PROCESS.—Each eligible agency receiving funds under this title shall ensure that—

“(1) all eligible providers have direct and equitable access to apply for grants or contracts under this section; and

“(2) the same grant or contract announcement process and application process is used for all eligible providers in the State or outlying area.

“(d) MEASURABLE GOALS.—The eligible agency shall require eligible providers receiving a grant or contract under subsection (a) to demonstrate—

“(1) the eligible provider’s measurable goals for participant outcomes to be achieved annually on the core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A);

“(2) the past effectiveness of the eligible provider in improving the basic academic skills of adults and, for eligible providers receiving grants in the prior year, the success of the eligible provider receiving funding under this title in exceeding its performance goals in the prior year;

“(3) the commitment of the eligible provider to serve individuals in the community who are the most in need of basic academic skills instruction services, including individuals with disabilities and individuals who are low-income or have minimal reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, or are English learners;

“(4) the program is of sufficient intensity and quality for participants to achieve substantial learning gains;

“(5) educational practices are evidence-based;

“(6) the activities of the eligible provider effectively employ advances in technology, and delivery systems including distance education;

“(7) the activities provide instruction in real-life contexts, including integrated education and training when appropriate, to ensure that an individual has the skills needed to compete in the workplace and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;

“(8) the activities are staffed by well-trained instructors, counselors, and administrators who meet minimum qualifications established by the State;

“(9) the activities are coordinated with other available resources in the community, such as through strong links with elementary schools and secondary schools, postsecondary educational institutions, local workforce investment boards, one-stop centers, job training programs, community-based and faith-based organizations, and social service agencies;

“(10) the activities offer flexible schedules and support services (such as child care and transportation) that are necessary to enable individuals, including individuals with disabilities or other special needs, to attend and complete programs;

“(11) the activities include a high-quality information management system that has the capacity to report measurable participant outcomes (consistent with section 136) and to monitor program performance;

“(12) the local communities have a demonstrated need for additional English language acquisition programs, and integrated education and training programs;

“(13) the capacity of the eligible provider to produce valid information on performance results, including enrollments and measurable participant outcomes;

“(14) adult education and family literacy education programs offer rigorous reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics content that are evidence based; and

“(15) applications of technology, and services to be provided by the eligible providers, are of sufficient intensity and duration to increase the amount and quality of learning and lead to measurable learning gains within specified time periods.

“(e) SPECIAL RULE.—Eligible providers may use grant funds under this title to serve children participating in family literacy programs assisted under this part, provided that other sources of funds available to provide similar services for such children are used first.

“SEC. 232. LOCAL APPLICATION.

“Each eligible provider desiring a grant or contract under this title shall submit an application to the eligible agency containing such information and assurances as the eligible agency may require, including—

“(1) a description of how funds awarded under this title will be spent consistent with the requirements of this title;

“(2) a description of any cooperative arrangements the eligible provider has with other agencies, institutions, or organizations for the delivery of adult education and family literacy education programs; and

“(3) each of the demonstrations required by section 231(d).

“SEC. 233. LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMITS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), of the amount that is made available under this title to an eligible provider—

“(1) at least 95 percent shall be expended for carrying out adult education and family literacy education programs; and

“(2) the remaining amount shall be used for planning, administration, personnel and professional development, development of measurable goals in reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics, and interagency coordination.

“(b) SPECIAL RULE.—In cases where the cost limits described in subsection (a) are too restrictive to allow for adequate planning, administration, personnel development, and interagency coordination, the eligible provider may negotiate with the eligible agency in order to determine an adequate level of funds to be used for noninstructional purposes.

“Subtitle D—General Provisions

“SEC. 241. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

“Funds made available for adult education and family literacy education programs under this title shall supplement and not supplant other State or local public funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs.

“SEC. 242. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

“The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program of national activities that may include the following:

“(1) Providing technical assistance to eligible entities, on request, to—

“(A) improve their fiscal management, research-based instruction, and reporting requirements to carry out the requirements of this title;

“(B) improve its performance on the core indicators of performance described in section 136;

“(C) provide adult education professional development; and

“(D) use distance education and improve the application of technology in the classroom, including instruction in English language acquisition for English learners.

“(2) Providing for the conduct of research on national literacy basic skill acquisition levels among adults, including the number of adult English learners functioning at different levels of reading proficiency.

“(3) Improving the coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness of adult education and workforce development services at the national, State, and local levels.

“(4) Determining how participation in adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs prepares individuals for entry into and success in postsecondary education and employment, and in the case of prison-based services, the effect on recidivism.

“(5) Evaluating how different types of providers, including community and faith-based organizations or private for-profit agencies measurably improve the skills of participants in adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs.

“(6) Identifying model integrated basic and workplace skills education programs, including programs for English learners coordinated literacy and employment services, and effective strategies for serving adults with disabilities.

“(7) Initiating other activities designed to improve the measurable quality and effectiveness of adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs nationwide.”

Subtitle C—Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act

SEC. 466. AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT.

Section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 15. WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.

“(a) SYSTEM CONTENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’), in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall oversee the development, maintenance, and continuous improvement of a nationwide workforce and labor market information system that includes—

“(A) statistical data from cooperative statistical survey and projection programs and data from administrative reporting systems that, taken together, enumerate, estimate, and project employment opportunities and

conditions at national, State, and local levels in a timely manner, including statistics on—

“(i) employment and unemployment status of national, State, and local populations, including self-employed, part-time, and seasonal workers;

“(ii) industrial distribution of occupations, as well as current and projected employment opportunities, wages, benefits (where data is available), and skill trends by occupation and industry, with particular attention paid to State and local conditions;

“(iii) the incidence of, industrial and geographical location of, and number of workers displaced by, permanent layoffs and plant closings; and

“(iv) employment and earnings information maintained in a longitudinal manner to be used for research and program evaluation;

“(B) information on State and local employment opportunities, and other appropriate statistical data related to labor market dynamics, which—

“(i) shall be current and comprehensive;

“(ii) shall meet the needs identified through the consultations described in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (e)(1); and

“(iii) shall meet the needs for the information identified in section 121(e)(1)(E) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841(e)(1)(E));

“(C) technical standards (which the Secretary shall publish annually) for data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) that, at a minimum, meet the criteria of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code;

“(D) procedures to ensure compatibility and additivity of the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) from national, State, and local levels;

“(E) procedures to support standardization and aggregation of data from administrative reporting systems described in subparagraph (A) of employment-related programs;

“(F) analysis of data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) for uses such as—

“(i) national, State, and local policy-making;

“(ii) implementation of Federal policies (including allocation formulas);

“(iii) program planning and evaluation; and

“(iv) researching labor market dynamics;

“(G) wide dissemination of such data, information, and analysis in a user-friendly manner and voluntary technical standards for dissemination mechanisms; and

“(H) programs of—

“(i) training for effective data dissemination;

“(ii) research and demonstration; and

“(iii) programs and technical assistance.

“(2) INFORMATION TO BE CONFIDENTIAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No officer or employee of the Federal Government or agent of the Federal Government may—

“(i) use any submission that is furnished for exclusively statistical purposes under the provisions of this section for any purpose other than the statistical purposes for which the submission is furnished;

“(ii) disclose to the public any publication or media transmittal of the data contained in the submission described in clause (i) that permits information concerning an individual subject to be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means; or

“(iii) permit anyone other than a sworn officer, employee, or agent of any Federal department or agency, or a contractor (includ-

ing an employee of a contractor) of such department or agency, to examine an individual submission described in clause (i),

without the consent of the individual, agency, or other person who is the subject of the submission or provides that submission.

“(B) IMMUNITY FROM LEGAL PROCESS.—Any submission (including any data derived from the submission) that is collected and retained by a Federal department or agency, or an officer, employee, agent, or contractor of such a department or agency, for exclusively statistical purposes under this section shall be immune from the legal process and shall not, without the consent of the individual, agency, or other person who is the subject of the submission or provides that submission, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial or administrative proceeding.

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide immunity from the legal process for such submission (including any data derived from the submission) if the submission is in the possession of any person, agency, or entity other than the Federal Government or an officer, employee, agent, or contractor of the Federal Government, or if the submission is independently collected, retained, or produced for purposes other than the purposes of this Act.

“(b) SYSTEM RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) shall be planned, administered, overseen, and evaluated through a cooperative governance structure involving the Federal Government and States.

“(2) DUTIES.—The Secretary, with respect to data collection, analysis, and dissemination of workforce and labor market information for the system, shall carry out the following duties:

“(A) Assign responsibilities within the Department of Labor for elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) to ensure that all statistical and administrative data collected is consistent with appropriate Bureau of Labor Statistics standards and definitions.

“(B) Actively seek the cooperation of other Federal agencies to establish and maintain mechanisms for ensuring complementarity and nonduplication in the development and operation of statistical and administrative data collection activities.

“(C) Eliminate gaps and duplication in statistical undertakings, with the systemization of wage surveys as an early priority.

“(D) In collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and States, develop and maintain the elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a), including the development of consistent procedures and definitions for use by the States in collecting the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1).

“(E) Establish procedures for the system to ensure that—

“(i) such data and information are timely;

“(ii) paperwork and reporting for the system are reduced to a minimum; and

“(iii) States and localities are fully involved in the development and continuous improvement of the system at all levels.

“(c) NATIONAL ELECTRONIC TOOLS TO PROVIDE SERVICES.—The Secretary is authorized to assist in the development of national electronic tools that may be used to facilitate the delivery of work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) of the Workforce Invest-

ment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c)(2)) and to provide workforce and labor market information to individuals through the one-stop delivery systems described in section 121 and through other appropriate delivery systems.

“(d) COORDINATION WITH THE STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, working through the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration, shall regularly consult with representatives of State agencies carrying out workforce information activities regarding strategies for improving the workforce and labor market information system.

“(2) FORMAL CONSULTATIONS.—At least twice each year, the Secretary, working through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall conduct formal consultations regarding programs carried out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics with representatives of each of the Federal regions of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, elected (pursuant to a process established by the Secretary) from the State directors affiliated with State agencies that perform the duties described in subsection (e)(1).

“(e) STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive Federal financial assistance under this section, the Governor of a State shall—

“(A) be responsible for the management of the portions of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) that comprise a statewide workforce and labor market information system;

“(B) establish a process for the oversight of such system;

“(C) consult with State and local employers, participants, and local workforce investment boards about the labor market relevance of the data to be collected and disseminated through the statewide workforce and labor market information system;

“(D) consult with State educational agencies and local educational agencies concerning the provision of workforce and labor market information in order to meet the needs of secondary school and postsecondary school students who seek such information;

“(E) collect and disseminate for the system, on behalf of the State and localities in the State, the information and data described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1);

“(F) maintain and continuously improve the statewide workforce and labor market information system in accordance with this section;

“(G) perform contract and grant responsibilities for data collection, analysis, and dissemination for such system;

“(H) conduct such other data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities as will ensure an effective statewide workforce and labor market information system;

“(I) actively seek the participation of other State and local agencies in data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities in order to ensure complementarity, compatibility, and usefulness of data;

“(J) participate in the development of, and submit to the Secretary, an annual plan to carry out the requirements and authorities of this subsection; and

“(K) utilize the quarterly records described in section 136(f)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(f)(2)) to assist the State and other States in measuring State progress on State performance measures.

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the ability of a Governor to conduct additional data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities with State funds or with

Federal funds from sources other than this section.

“(f) NONDUPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—None of the functions and activities carried out pursuant to this section shall duplicate the functions and activities carried out under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$60,153,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.”.

Subtitle D—Repeals and Conforming Amendments

SEC. 471. REPEALS.

The following provisions are repealed:

(1) Chapter 4 of subtitle B of title I, and sections 123, 155, 166, 167, 168, 169, 171, 173, 173A, 174, 192, 194, 502, 503, and 506 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act.

(2) Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.).

(3) Sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.).

(4) The Twenty-First Century Workforce Commission Act (29 U.S.C. 2701 note).

(5) Public Law 91–378, 16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq. (popularly known as the “Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970”).

(6) Section 821 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 1151).

(7) The Women in Apprenticeship and Non-traditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.).

(8) Sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 472. AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.—

(1) DEFINITION.—Section 3(t) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking “means (1) the agency” and inserting the following: “means—

“(A) the agency”;

(B) by striking “programs, and (2) the tribal” and inserting the following: “programs; “(B) the tribal””; and

(C) by striking “this Act.” and inserting the following: “this Act; and

“(C) in the context of employment and training activities under section 6(d)(4), a State board as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).”.

(2) ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.—Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(14) by striking “section 6(d)(4)(I)” and inserting “section 6(d)(4)(C)”, and

(B) in subsection (g)(3), in the first sentence, by striking “constitutes adequate participation in an employment and training program under section 6(d)” and inserting “allows the individual to participate in employment and training activities under section 6(d)(4)”.

(3) ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATIONS.—Section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

“(D) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—

“(i) IMPLEMENTATION.—Each State agency shall provide employment and training services authorized under section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864) to eligible members of households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program in gaining skills, training,

work, or experience that will increase their ability to obtain regular employment.

“(ii) STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.—Consistent with subparagraph (A), employment and training services shall be provided through the statewide workforce development system, including the one-stop delivery system authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

“(iii) REIMBURSEMENTS.—

“(I) ACTUAL COSTS.—The State agency shall provide payments or reimbursement to participants served under this paragraph for—

“(aa) the actual costs of transportation and other actual costs (other than dependent care costs) that are reasonably necessary and directly related to the individual participating in employment and training activities; and

“(bb) the actual costs of such dependent care expenses as are determined by the State agency to be necessary for the individual to participate in employment and training activities (other than an individual who is the caretaker relative of a dependent in a family receiving benefits under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) in a local area where an employment, training, or education program under title IV of that Act is in operation), except that no such payment or reimbursement shall exceed the applicable local market rate.

“(II) SERVICE CONTRACTS AND VOUCHERS.—In lieu of providing reimbursements or payments for dependent care expenses under clause (i), a State agency may, at the option of the State agency, arrange for dependent care through providers by the use of purchase of service contracts or vouchers or by providing vouchers to the household.

“(III) VALUE OF REIMBURSEMENTS.—The value of any dependent care services provided for or arranged under clause (ii), or any amount received as a payment or reimbursement under clause (i), shall—

“(aa) not be treated as income for the purposes of any other Federal or federally assisted program that bases eligibility for, or the amount of benefits on, need; and

“(bb) not be claimed as an employment-related expense for the purposes of the credit provided under section 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 21).”.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 11(e)(19) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(11)) is amended to read as follows:

“(S) the plans of the State agency for providing employment and training services under section 6(d)(4);”.

(5) ADMINISTRATIVE COST-SHARING AND QUALITY CONTROL.—Section 16(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “carry out employment and training programs” and inserting “provide employment and training services to eligible households under section 6(d)(4)”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “operating an employment and training program” and inserting “providing employment and training services consistent with section 6(d)(4)”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “participation in an employment and training program” and inserting “the individual participating in employment and training activities”; and

(ii) by striking “section 6(d)(4)(I)(ii)” and inserting “section 6(d)(4)(C)(i)(II)”; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking “for operating an employment and training program”

and inserting “to provide employment and training services”; and

(D) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(E) MONITORING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor, shall monitor each State agency responsible for administering employment and training services under section 6(d)(4) to ensure funds are being spent effectively and efficiently.

“(ii) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Each program of employment and training receiving funds under section 6(d)(4) shall be subject to the requirements of the performance accountability system, including having to meet the State performance measures described in section 136 of the Workforce Investment Act (29 U.S.C. 2871).”.

(6) RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATION, AND EVALUATIONS.—Section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(B)(iv)(III)(dd), by striking “, (4)(F)(i), or (4)(K)” and inserting “or (4)”; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) in subsection (g), in the first sentence in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “programs established” and inserting “activities provided to eligible households”; and

(ii) by inserting “, in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor,” after “Secretary”.

(7) MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PROJECT.—Section 22(b)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2031(b)(4)) is amended by striking “equivalent to those offered under the employment and training program”.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 412 OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—

(1) CONDITIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS.—Section 412(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “make available sufficient resources for employment training and placement” and inserting “provide refugees with the opportunity to access employment and training services, including job placement,”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “services,” and inserting “services provided through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(C)(iii)(II), by inserting “and training” after “employment”;

(C) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii)—

(i) by striking “insure” and inserting “ensure”;

(ii) by inserting “and training” after “employment”; and

(iii) by inserting after “available” the following: “through the one-stop delivery system under section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841)”; and

(D) in paragraph (9), by inserting “the Secretary of Labor,” after “Education.”.

(2) PROGRAM OF INITIAL RESETTLEMENT.—Section 412(b)(2) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) by striking “orientation, instruction” and inserting “orientation and instruction”; and

(B) by striking “, and job training for refugees, and such other education and training of refugees, as facilitates” and inserting “for refugees to facilitate”.

(3) PROJECT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES FOR REFUGEES.—Section 412(c) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting “and training” after “employment”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C);

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “paragraph—” and all that follows through “in a manner” and inserting “paragraph in a manner”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) In carrying out this section, the Director shall ensure that employment and training services are provided through the statewide workforce development system, as appropriate, authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.). Such action may include—

“(i) making employment and training activities described in section 134 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864) available to refugees; and

“(ii) providing refugees with access to a one-stop delivery system established under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841).”.

(4) CASH ASSISTANCE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES.—Section 412(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(i), by inserting “and training” after “providing employment”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “The” and inserting “Consistent with subsection (c)(3), the”.

(c) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007.—

(1) FEDERAL PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE.—Section 231 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17541) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(E)—

(i) by inserting “the Department of Labor and” before “other Federal agencies”; and

(ii) by inserting “State and local workforce investment boards,” after “community-based organizations,”;

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking at the end “and”;

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking at the end the period and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(D) to coordinate reentry programs with the employment and training services provided through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.).”; and

(C) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(F) INTERACTION WITH THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall ensure that employment and training services, including such employment and services offered through reentry programs, are provided, as appropriate, through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), which may include—

“(I) making employment and training services available to prisoners prior to and immediately following the release of such prisoners; or

“(II) providing prisoners with access by remote means to a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841) in the State in which the prison involved is located.

“(ii) SERVICE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘employment and training services’ means those services described in section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864) offered by the Bureau of Prisons, including—

“(I) the skills assessment described in subsection (a)(1)(A);

“(II) the skills development plan described in subsection (a)(1)(B); and

“(III) the enhancement, development, and implementation of reentry and skills development programs.”.

(2) DUTIES OF THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.—Section 4042(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E), as added by section 231(d)(1)(C) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199; 122 Stat. 685), as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(B) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(C) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking “Employment” and inserting “Employment and training services (as defined in paragraph (6) of section 231(d) of the Second Chance Act of 2007), including basic skills attainment, consistent with such paragraph”; and

(ii) by striking clause (iii); and

(D) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), (iv), (v), (vi), and (vii) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly.

(d) AMENDMENTS TO THE OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT OF 1968.—Section 2976 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797w) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) and training”;;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(D) coordinating employment and training services provided through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), including a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841), for offenders upon release from prison, jail, or a juvenile facility, as appropriate”;;

(2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “, including local workforce investment boards established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2832),” after “nonprofit organizations”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “victims services, and employment services” and inserting “and victim services”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(D) provides employment and training services through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), including a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841);”; and

(4) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, in accordance with paragraph (2)” after “under this section”;;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(B) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—The Attorney General shall require each grantee under this section to measure the core indi-

cators of performance as described in section 136(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A)) with respect to the program of such grantee funded with a grant under this section.”.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3672(d)(1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists under section 4103A” and inserting “veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”;;

(2) in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 41, by striking the items relating to sections 4103A and 4104;

(3) in section 4102A—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), and (7); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (5);

(B) by striking subsections (c) and (h);

(C) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f); and

(D) in subsection (e)(1) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “, including disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representatives providing employment, training, and placement services under this chapter in a State”;; and

(ii) by striking “for purposes of subsection (c)”;;

(4) in section 4104A—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(i) the appropriate veteran employment specialist (in carrying out the functions described in section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998);”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(i) collaborate with the appropriate veteran employment specialist (as described in section 134(f)) and the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801));”;;

(5) in section 4109—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representative” and inserting “veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”;; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representatives” and inserting “veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”;; and

(6) in section 4112(d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialist” and inserting “veteran employment specialist appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”;; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(f) COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT OF 1980.—Section 104(k)(6)(A) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “training, research, and” and inserting “research and”.

SEC. 473. CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents in section 1(b) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

“Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

“TITLE I—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS

“Subtitle A—Workforce Investment Definitions

“Sec. 101. Definitions.

“Subtitle B—Statewide and Local Workforce Investment Systems

“Sec. 106. Purpose.

“CHAPTER 1—STATE PROVISIONS

“Sec. 111. State workforce investment boards.

“Sec. 112. State plan.

“CHAPTER 2—LOCAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 116. Local workforce investment areas.

“Sec. 117. Local workforce investment boards.

“Sec. 118. Local plan.

“CHAPTER 3—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES PROVIDERS

“Sec. 121. Establishment of one-stop delivery systems.

“Sec. 122. Identification of eligible providers of training services.

“CHAPTER 5—EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

“Sec. 131. General authorization.

“Sec. 132. State allotments.

“Sec. 133. Within State allocations.

“Sec. 134. Use of funds for employment and training activities.

“CHAPTER 6—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 136. Performance accountability system.

“Sec. 137. Authorization of appropriations.

“Subtitle C—Job Corps

“Sec. 141. Purposes.

“Sec. 142. Definitions.

“Sec. 143. Establishment.

“Sec. 144. Individuals eligible for the Job Corps.

“Sec. 145. Recruitment, screening, selection, and assignment of enrollees.

“Sec. 146. Enrollment.

“Sec. 147. Job Corps centers.

“Sec. 148. Program activities.

“Sec. 149. Counseling and job placement.

“Sec. 150. Support.

“Sec. 151. Operations.

“Sec. 152. Standards of conduct.

“Sec. 153. Community participation.

“Sec. 154. Workforce councils.

“Sec. 156. Technical assistance to centers.

“Sec. 157. Application of provisions of Federal law.

“Sec. 158. Special provisions.

“Sec. 159. Performance accountability and management.

“Sec. 160. General provisions.

“Sec. 161. Authorization of appropriations.

“Subtitle D—National Programs

“Sec. 170. Technical assistance.

“Sec. 172. Evaluations.

“Subtitle E—Administration

“Sec. 181. Requirements and restrictions.

“Sec. 182. Prompt allocation of funds.

“Sec. 183. Monitoring.

“Sec. 184. Fiscal controls; sanctions.

“Sec. 185. Reports; recordkeeping; investigations.

“Sec. 186. Administrative adjudication.

“Sec. 187. Judicial review.

“Sec. 188. Nondiscrimination.

“Sec. 189. Administrative provisions.

“Sec. 190. References.

“Sec. 191. State legislative authority.

“Sec. 193. Transfer of Federal equity in State employment security real property to the States.

“Sec. 195. General program requirements.

“Sec. 196. Federal agency staff.

“Sec. 197. Restrictions on lobbying and political activities.

“Subtitle F—Repeals and Conforming Amendments

“Sec. 199. Repeals.

“Sec. 199A. Conforming amendments.

“TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION

“Sec. 201. Short title.

“Sec. 202. Purpose.

“Sec. 203. Definitions.

“Sec. 204. Home schools.

“Sec. 205. Authorization of appropriations.

“Subtitle A—Federal Provisions

“Sec. 211. Reservation of funds; grants to eligible agencies; allotments.

“Sec. 212. Performance accountability system.

“Subtitle B—State Provisions

“Sec. 221. State administration.

“Sec. 222. State distribution of funds; matching requirement.

“Sec. 223. State leadership activities.

“Sec. 224. State plan.

“Sec. 225. Programs for corrections education and other institutionalized individuals.

“Subtitle C—Local Provisions

“Sec. 231. Grants and contracts for eligible providers.

“Sec. 232. Local application.

“Sec. 233. Local administrative cost limits.

“Subtitle D—General Provisions

“Sec. 241. Administrative provisions.

“Sec. 242. National activities.

“TITLE III—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

“Subtitle A—Wagner-Peyser Act

“Sec. 301. Definitions.

“Sec. 302. Functions.

“Sec. 303. Designation of State agencies.

“Sec. 304. Appropriations.

“Sec. 305. Disposition of allotted funds.

“Sec. 306. State plans.

“Sec. 307. Repeal of Federal advisory council.

“Sec. 308. Regulations.

“Sec. 309. Employment statistics.

“Sec. 310. Technical amendments.

“Sec. 311. Effective date.

“Subtitle B—Linkages With Other Programs

“Sec. 321. Trade Act of 1974.

“Sec. 322. Veterans’ employment programs.

“Sec. 323. Older Americans Act of 1965.

“Subtitle D—Application of Civil Rights and Labor-Management Laws to the Smithsonian Institution

“Sec. 341. Application of civil rights and labor-management laws to the Smithsonian Institution.

“TITLE IV—REHABILITATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1998

“Sec. 401. Short title.

“Sec. 402. Title.

“Sec. 403. General provisions.

“Sec. 404. Vocational rehabilitation services.

“Sec. 405. Research and training.

“Sec. 406. Professional development and special projects and demonstrations.

“Sec. 407. National Council on Disability.

“Sec. 408. Rights and advocacy.

“Sec. 409. Employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

“Sec. 410. Independent living services and centers for independent living.

“Sec. 411. Repeal.

“Sec. 412. Helen Keller National Center Act.

“Sec. 413. President’s Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities.

“Sec. 414. Conforming amendments.

“TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 501. State unified plan.

“Sec. 504. Privacy.

“Sec. 505. Buy-American requirements.

“Sec. 507. Effective date.”

Subtitle E—Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

SEC. 476. FINDINGS.

Section 2(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) there is a substantial need to improve and expand services for students with disabilities under this Act.”

SEC. 477. REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3(a) (29 U.S.C. 702(a))—

(A) by striking “Office of the Secretary” and inserting “Department of Education”; and

(B) by striking “President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate” and inserting “Secretary”; and

(C) by striking “, and the Commissioner shall be the principal officer,”;

(2) by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears (except in section 21) and inserting “Director”; and

(3) in section 12(c) (29 U.S.C. 709(c)), by striking “Commissioner’s” and inserting “Director’s”; and

(4) in section 21 (29 U.S.C. 718)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) by striking “Commissioner” the first place it appears and inserting “Director of the Rehabilitation Services Administration”; and

(ii) by striking “(referred to in this subsection as the ‘Director’)”; and

(iii) by striking “The Commissioner and the Director” and inserting “Both such Directors”; and

(B) by striking “the Commissioner and the Director” each place it appears and inserting “both such Directors”; and

(5) in the heading for subparagraph (B) of section 100(d)(2) (29 U.S.C. 720(d)(2)), by striking “COMMISSIONER” and inserting “DIRECTOR”; and

(6) in section 401(a)(1) (29 U.S.C. 781(a)(1)), by inserting “of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research” after “Director”; and

(7) in the heading for section 706 (29 U.S.C. 796d–1), by striking “COMMISSIONER” and inserting “DIRECTOR”; and

(8) in the heading for paragraph (3) of section 723(a) (29 U.S.C. 796f–2(a)), by striking “COMMISSIONER” and inserting “DIRECTOR”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall—

(1) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply with respect to the appointments of Directors of the Rehabilitation Services Administration made on or after the date of enactment of this Act, and the Directors so appointed.

SEC. 478. DEFINITIONS.

Section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (35) through (39) as paragraphs (36) through (40), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (A)(ii) of paragraph (36) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking “paragraph (36)(C)” and inserting “paragraph (37)(C)”;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (34) the following:

“(35)(A) The term ‘student with a disability’ means an individual with a disability who—

“(i) is not younger than 16 and not older than 21;

“(ii) has been determined to be eligible under section 102(a) for assistance under this title; and

“(iii)(I) is eligible for, and is receiving, special education under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.); or

“(II) is an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504.

“(B) The term ‘students with disabilities’ means more than 1 student with a disability.”

SEC. 479. CARRYOVER.

Section 19(a)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 716(a)(1)) is amended by striking “part B of title VI.”

SEC. 480. TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

Section 21 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 718) is amended, in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A) of subsection (b), and in subsection (c), by striking “VI.”

SEC. 481. STATE PLAN.

Section 101(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 721(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “on the eligible individuals” and all that follows and inserting “of information necessary to assess the State’s performance on the core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A)).”; and

(B) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking “, to the extent the measures are applicable to individuals with disabilities”;

(2) in paragraph (11)—

(A) in subparagraph (D)(i), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, which may be provided using alternative means of meeting participation (such as participation through video conferences and conference calls).”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) COORDINATION WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit and the lead agency or implementing entity responsible for carrying out duties under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) have developed working relationships and coordinate their activities.”;

(3) in paragraph (15)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking “and” at the end;

(II) in subclause (III), by adding “and” at the end; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) students with disabilities, including their need for transition services.”;

(ii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) include an assessment of the transition services provided under this Act, and coordinated with transition services provided

under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), about the extent to which those 2 types of services meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “and under part B of title VI”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (iii), (iv), and (v) as clauses (iv), (v), and (vi), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) the methods to be used to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities, including the coordination of services designed to facilitate the transition of such students from the receipt of educational services in school to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title or to postsecondary education or employment.”; and

(iii) in clause (v), as redesignated by clause (i) of this subparagraph, by striking “evaluation standards” and inserting “performance standards”;

(4) in paragraph (22)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “STATE PLAN SUPPLEMENT”;

(B) by striking “carrying out part B of title VI, including”; and

(C) by striking “that part to supplement funds made available under part B of”;

(5) in paragraph (24)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “CONTRACTS” and inserting “GRANTS”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “CONTRACTS” and inserting “GRANTS”; and

(ii) by striking “part A of title VI” and inserting “section 109A”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(25) COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.—The State plan shall describe how the designated State agency will carry out the provisions of section 109A, including—

“(A) the criteria such agency will use to award grants under such section; and

“(B) how the activities carried out under such grants will be coordinated with other services provided under this title.

“(26) SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—The State plan shall provide an assurance satisfactory to the Secretary that the State—

“(A) has developed and implemented strategies to address the needs identified in the assessments described in paragraph (15), and achieve the goals and priorities identified by the State in that paragraph, to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities on a statewide basis in accordance with paragraph (15); and

“(B) from funds reserved under section 110A, shall carry out programs or activities designed to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities that—

“(i) facilitate the transition of students with disabilities from the receipt of educational services in school, to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title, including, at a minimum, those services specified in the interagency agreement required in paragraph (11)(D);

“(ii) improve the achievement of post-school goals of students with disabilities, including improving the achievement through participation (as appropriate when career goals are discussed) in meetings regarding individualized education programs developed under section 614 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414);

“(iii) provide career guidance, career exploration services, job search skills and

strategies, and technical assistance to students with disabilities;

“(iv) support the provision of training and technical assistance to State and local educational agencies and designated State agency personnel responsible for the planning and provision of services to students with disabilities; and

“(v) support outreach activities to students with disabilities who are eligible for, and need, services under this title.”

SEC. 482. SCOPE OF SERVICES.

Section 103 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 723) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (15) and inserting the following:

“(15) transition services for students with disabilities, that facilitate the achievement of the employment outcome identified in the individualized plan for employment involved, including services described in clauses (i) through (iii) of section 101(a)(26)(B).”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6)(A)(i) Consultation and technical assistance services to assist State and local educational agencies in planning for the transition of students with disabilities from school to post-school activities, including employment.

“(ii) Training and technical assistance described in section 101(a)(26)(B)(iv).

“(B) Services for groups of individuals with disabilities who meet the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) of section 7(35)(A), including services described in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (v) of section 101(a)(26)(B), to assist in the transition from school to post-school activities.”; and

(3) in subsection (b), by inserting at the end the following:

“(7) The establishment, development, or improvement of assistive technology demonstration, loan, reutilization, or financing programs in coordination with activities authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to promote access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and employers.”

SEC. 483. STANDARDS AND INDICATORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 726) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “EVALUATION STANDARDS” and inserting “PERFORMANCE STANDARDS”;

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) STANDARDS AND INDICATORS.—The performance standards and indicators for the vocational rehabilitation program carried out under this title—

“(1) shall be subject to paragraphs (2)(A) and (3) of section 136(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)); and

“(2) may, at a State’s discretion, include additional indicators identified in the State plan submitted under section 101.”; and

(3) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) on a biannual basis, review the program improvement efforts of the State and, if the State has not improved its performance to acceptable levels, as determined by the Director, direct the State to make revisions to the plan to improve performance; and”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 107 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 727) is amended—

(1) in subsections (a)(1)(B) and (b)(2), by striking “evaluation standards” and inserting “performance standards”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “an evaluation standard” and inserting “a performance standard”.

SEC. 484. EXPENDITURE OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.

Section 108(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 728(a)) is amended by striking “under part B of title VI, or”.

SEC. 485. COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended by inserting after section 109 (29 U.S.C. 728a) the following:

“SEC. 109A. COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.

“(a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For the purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a for-profit business, alone or in partnership with one or more of the following:

“(1) Community rehabilitation program providers.

“(2) Indian tribes.

“(3) Tribal organizations.

“(b) AUTHORITY.—A State shall use not less than one-half of one percent of the payment the State receives under section 111 for a fiscal year to award grants to eligible entities to pay for the Federal share of the cost of carrying out collaborative programs, to create practical job and career readiness and training programs, and to provide job placements and career advancement.

“(c) AWARDS.—Grants under this section shall—

“(1) be awarded for a period not to exceed 5 years; and

“(2) be awarded competitively.

“(d) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to a designated State agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as such agency shall require. Such application shall include, at a minimum—

“(1) a plan for evaluating the effectiveness of the collaborative program;

“(2) a plan for collecting and reporting the data and information described under subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 101(a)(10), as determined appropriate by the designated State agency; and

“(3) a plan for providing for the non-Federal share of the costs of the program.

“(e) ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out a program that provides one or more of the following:

“(1) Job development, job placement, and career advancement services for individuals with disabilities.

“(2) Training in realistic work settings in order to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment and career advancement in the competitive market.

“(3) Providing individuals with disabilities with such support services as may be required in order to maintain the employment and career advancement for which the individuals have received training.

“(f) ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.—An individual shall be eligible for services provided under a program under this section if the individual is determined under section 102(a)(1) to be eligible for assistance under this title.

“(g) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share for a program under this section shall not exceed 80 percent of the costs of the program.”.

SEC. 486. RESERVATION FOR EXPANDED TRANSITION SERVICES.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended by inserting after section 110 (29 U.S.C. 730) the following:

“SEC. 110A. RESERVATION FOR EXPANDED TRANSITION SERVICES.

“Each State shall reserve not less than 10 percent of the funds allotted to the State

under section 110(a) to carry out programs or activities under sections 101(a)(26)(B) and 103(b)(6).”.

SEC. 487. CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 112(e)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 732(e)(1)) is amended by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E) and inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) The Secretary shall make grants to the protection and advocacy system serving the American Indian Consortium under the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.) to provide services in accordance with this section, as determined by the Secretary. The amount of such grants shall be the same as the amount provided to territories under this subsection.”.

SEC. 488. RESEARCH.

Section 204(a)(2)(A) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 764(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “VI.”.

SEC. 489. TITLE III AMENDMENTS.

Title III of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 771 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 301(a) (21 U.S.C. 771(a))—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and” at the end;

(B) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3);

(2) in section 302 (29 U.S.C. 772)—

(A) in subsection (g)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING”; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) in subsection (h), by striking “section 306” and inserting “section 304”;

(3) in section 303 (29 U.S.C. 773)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “section 306” and inserting “section 304”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (4)—

(I) by amending subparagraph (A)(ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) to coordinate activities and work closely with the parent training and information centers established pursuant to section 671 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1471), the community parent resource centers established pursuant to section 672 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1472), and the eligible entities receiving awards under section 673 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1473); and”;

(II) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, and demonstrate the capacity for serving,” after “serve”; and

(i) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) RESERVATION.—From the amount appropriated to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year, 20 percent of such amount or \$500,000, whichever is less, shall be reserved to carry out paragraph (6).”;

(4) by striking sections 304 and 305 (29 U.S.C. 774, 775); and

(5) by redesignating section 306 (29 U.S.C. 776) as section 304.

SEC. 490. REPEAL OF TITLE VI.

Title VI of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 795 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. 491. TITLE VII GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) PURPOSE.—Section 701(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796(3)) is amended by striking “State programs of supported employment services receiving assistance under part B of title VI.”.

(b) CHAIRPERSON.—Section 705(b)(5) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796d(b)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

“(5) CHAIRPERSON.—The Council shall select a chairperson from among the voting membership of the Council.”.

SEC. 492. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is further amended—

(1) in section 100 (29 U.S.C. 720)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$3,066,192,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(B), by striking “2003” and inserting “2021”;

(2) in section 110(c) (29 U.S.C. 730(c)), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) The sum referred to in paragraph (1) shall be, as determined by the Secretary, not less than 1 percent and not more than 1.5 percent of the amount referred to in paragraph (1) for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020.”;

(3) in section 112(h) (29 U.S.C. 732(h)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$11,600,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(4) by amending subsection (a) of section 201 (29 U.S.C. 761(a)) to read as follows: “(a) There are authorized to be appropriated \$103,125,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years to carry out this title.”;

(5) in section 302(i) (29 U.S.C. 772(i)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$33,657,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(6) in section 303(e) (29 U.S.C. 773(e)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$5,046,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(7) in section 405 (29 U.S.C. 785), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$3,081,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(8) in section 502(j) (29 U.S.C. 792(j)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$7,013,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(9) in section 509(1) (29 U.S.C. 794e(1)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$17,088,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(10) in section 714 (29 U.S.C. 796e-3), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$22,137,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(11) in section 727 (29 U.S.C. 796f-6), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$75,772,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”; and

(12) in section 753 (29 U.S.C. 796l), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$32,239,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”.

SEC. 493. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 1(b) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended—

(1) by inserting after the item relating to section 109 the following:

“Sec. 109A. Collaboration with industry.”;

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 110 the following:

“Sec. 110A. Reservation for expanded transition services.”;

(3) by striking the item related to section 304 and inserting the following:

"Sec. 304. Measuring of project outcomes and performance.";

(4) by striking the items related to sections 305 and 306;

(5) by striking the items related to title VI; and

(6) by striking the item related to section 706 and inserting the following:

"Sec. 706. Responsibilities of the Director."

Subtitle F—Studies by the Comptroller General

SEC. 496. STUDY BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL ON EXHAUSTING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS BEFORE ACCESSING WIA FUNDS.

Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that—

(1) evaluates the effectiveness of subparagraph (B) of section 134(d)(4) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)(B)) (as such subparagraph was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), including—

(A) a review of the regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Labor to State and local areas on how to comply with such subparagraph;

(B) a review of State policies to determine how local areas are required to comply with such subparagraph;

(C) a review of local area policies to determine how one-stop operators are required to comply with such subparagraph; and

(D) a review of a sampling of individuals receiving training services under section 134(d)(4) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)) to determine if, before receiving such training services, such individuals have exhausted funds received through the Federal Pell Grant program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

(2) makes appropriate recommendations with respect to the matters evaluated under paragraph (1).

SEC. 497. STUDY BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL ON ADMINISTRATIVE COST SAVINGS.

(a) **STUDY.**—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that—

(1) determines the amount of administrative costs at the Federal and State levels for the most recent fiscal year for which satisfactory data are available for—

(A) each of the programs authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) or repealed under section 71, as such programs were in effect for such fiscal year; and

(B) each of the programs described in subparagraph (A) that have been repealed or consolidated on or after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) determines the amount of administrative cost savings at the Federal and State levels as a result of repealing and consolidating programs by calculating the differences in the amount of administrative costs between subparagraph (A) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1); and

(3) estimates the administrative cost savings at the Federal and State levels for a fis-

cal year as a result of States consolidating amounts under section 501(e) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 9271(e)) to reduce inefficiencies in the administration of federally-funded State and local employment and training programs.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this section, the term "administrative costs" has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the oversight hearing scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will now be held before the Subcommittee on Water and Power. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at 1 p.m., at the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii, Manoa Campus, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine the successes and challenges of meeting sustainability goals in Hawaii and the Pacific, including oversight of existing activities and Federal-Island partnerships in energy, water, land use, marine resources, and other sectors.

For further information, please contact Al Stayman at (202) 224-7865 or John Assini at (202) 224-9313.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 2, 2014, at 10:15 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Examining the GM Recall and NHTSA's Defect Investigation Process."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 2, 2014, at 10 a.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Data Breach on the Rise: Protecting Personal Information From Harm."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 2, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 2, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOW

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 2, 2014, at 9:15 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 2, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Braylin Cathey, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Theresa Harrison, a legislative fellow in Senator SCHUMER's office, be granted privileges of the floor for the duration of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APOLOGIES TO PRESIDING OFFICER AND STAFF

Mr. REID. Mr. President, from time to time I have to express my apologies to everyone—staff, the Presiding Officer—but I just can't come to the floor until we know what we are going to do tomorrow, and that takes a lot of time. That is what is going on while I am in my office.

So I apologize to everyone. I am sorry that things take so long, and it appears we are doing nothing, but there are things being done.

CONGRATULATING THE PENN STATE WRESTLING TEAM

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 409.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The resolution (S. Res. 409) congratulating the Penn State University wrestling team for winning the 2014 National Collegiate Athletic Association Wrestling Championships.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 409) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its

business tonight, we adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 3, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3979; and that all time during adjournment count postcloture on the Reed amendment to H.R. 3979.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are doing our best to reach an agreement both on the unemployment insurance and some executive nominations during tomorrow's session.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:02 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 3, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 2, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TOMASZ P. MALINOWSKI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

PORTIA Y. WU, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEBORAH L. BIRX, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE AND COORDINATOR OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS GLOBALLY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LYNDEN GIRLS
BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2014 Lynden Christian High School girls basketball team. On March 8, the Lynden Lyncs won the 1A state championship, culminating their impressive season with a record of 25–2. I congratulate them on this impressive achievement.

This title is Lynden's 10th and their first since 2008. The Lyncs had one focus all year, "Team is greater than I." Their motto was evident in the championship game as the Lyncs built an early lead that they never relinquished. In the final quarter, King's High School made a late push to bring the game within 4 points, 44–40. But the Lyncs stepped up, determined not to lose this one.

After consecutive scoring drives and solid defense, the Lyncs secured their spot as state champions by a score of 55–40.

I would like to give special recognition to Kara Bajema, the tournament MVP. Senior guard Courtney Hollander also played a pivotal role in the final game, finishing with 11 points and 13 rebounds. The Lyncs' impressive record this season is a testament to their incredible work ethic and the impressive coaching of Curt De Haan. Coach De Haan provided the girls with the training and encouragement necessary to achieve this notable feat.

Again, I congratulate the Lynden Christian High School girls basketball team on all of their success. Their victory was hard-earned and well-deserved.

RECOGNIZING DR. EDWARD LEE
FOR 40 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP
SERVICE WITH SHILOH BAPTIST
CHURCH IN McDONOUGH, GEOR-
GIA

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Dr. Edward W. Lee for his 40 years of servant leadership at Shiloh Baptist Church located in McDonough, Georgia. Over 148 years ago Shiloh Baptist Church opened its doors as the Colored Baptist Church of McDonough as one of the first churches in the area founded by former slaves. Since Shiloh's opening, the church continues to steadfastly serve the spiritual needs of the surrounding community.

On April 5, 2014, Shiloh will honor an essential leader in their community, Reverend

Dr. Edward W. Lee, as he marks 40 years of service and leadership with their congregation. Since the start of his tenure in 1974, Reverend Lee has shepherded in monumental growth. Under his guidance, the church moved into a new 30,000 square foot space, drastically increasing the number of available seats from 350 to 1100. Further, he has been instrumental in the fundraising and construction of a new Family Life Center which will house the Shiloh Youth Academy. Even after 40 years of tireless service, Reverend Lee remains steadfast in his commitment to growing and strengthening the Shiloh community.

In addition to serving Shiloh, Reverend Lee is an active member of the Henry County community, regularly volunteering his time to several organizations. Notably, he serves as the chaplain of the Henry County Police Department, chairman of the Henry County United Way Advisory Board, president of the Henry County Ministerial Alliance, board member of the McDonough Housing Authority, and moderator of the Shoal Creek Baptist Association. Further, he previously served as director of the New Era State Congress of Christian Education, board chair of the New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, and as a member of the Board of Directors for Henry County Residential Housing. As a result of his admirable efforts and status as a pillar of the McDonough community, Mayor Richard Craig marked Sunday April 3, 2005, as a day of honor for Reverend Lee.

Reverend Lee has been happily married for 45 years to his dynamic wife Betty. Together, they are the proud parents of two sons and five grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to thank Reverend Lee for his tireless engagement with Shiloh Baptist Church and the surrounding community of McDonough, Georgia. I ask my colleagues to do the same.

CONDEMNING KESSAB ATTACKS

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in Congress in condemning attacks on the Syrian Armenian population in Kessab by extremist fighters connected to al-Qaeda. On March 21, al-Qaeda affiliated terrorists out of Turkey attacked the peaceful Christian-Armenian community in a town that has served as a place of refuge for those trying desperately to escape the bloodshed of the past three years. This brutal assault is yet another consequence of the increasingly dangerous violence in Syria that leaves innocent civilians with no choice but to again flee as they have already done from their homes in Aleppo.

This war and the escalating brutality in the past months have put far too many innocent

civilians at risk and I am deeply troubled that recent events including mass exoduses and violent strikes upon the peaceful Armenian communities hark back to the early days of the Armenian Genocide under Ottoman rule nearly 100 years ago. No innocent civilian in any part of the world should be targeted because of their ancestry, ethnicity or religion, and I want to work with my colleagues to find a way to bring an end to such brutal attacks and the increasingly violent civil war ravaging the region that has left over 100,000 dead and forced over 2 million to flee their homes and communities. I will work with my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee to help find a diplomatic solution to this crisis and ensure that Armenians of Kessab and Aleppo can return to their peaceful lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on April 1, 2014, I was unavoidably absent and missed the following rollcall votes: No. 149, to Concur in the Senate Amendment to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine; No. 150 to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine; and No. 151 on approval of the Journal. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye" all three votes.

THE WOMEN OFFICIALS NETWORK
FOUNDATION WONDER WOMAN
AWARDS

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, the Women Officials Network Foundation will be honoring five extraordinary women at the WONder Woman Awards banquet April 30 at the San Marino Club in Troy. The award honors women who have improved the quality of life in Southeast Michigan through their civic, philanthropic and professional accomplishments. This year marks the 30th celebration of WONder Women and many past honorees will attend. The 2014 WONder Women are: Debra Ehrmann, Lisa Gorceyca, Mattie McKinney Hatchett, Ruth Holmes, and Cynthia Walker.

The Honorable Debra Ehrmann has held elected and appointed office including service on the State Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs and the Oakland County Employment Diversity Council. Debra has been Vice President of Centro Multicultural since 2007 and previously worked as the Health Care Coordinator of Clinica Santa Teresa. She is well

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

known and respected for developing networks of stakeholders and volunteers. She is recognized for her dedication to vulnerable populations and for providing interpretation, relationship-building and vital connections for their connection with community services. Debra currently serves on the Genisys Credit Union Board of Directors-VP Supervisory Committee.

The Honorable Lisa Gorcyca is Presiding Judge of the Family Division of the Oakland County Circuit Court. Before her election to the bench in 2008, she spent fifteen years working at the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office as Chief of the Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Unit. She chairs the Oakland County Coordinating Council Against Domestic Violence and is founder and member of the Oakland County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. She was recently recognized as a Top Circuit Court Judge for 2014.

The Honorable Mattie McKinney Hatchett was first elected to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in 2002 and made history in 2011, when she became the first African-American woman to serve as President of the Michigan Association of Counties. Known as "The Mother of Pontiac," Mattie served as Deputy Mayor and has spent more than fifty years advocating for her community. Since 1963, she has been actively involved with the Pontiac School District as an employee and volunteer. Presently, she is a Trustee on the Pontiac Board of Education.

Ruth Elliott Holmes is President of the International Women's Forum—Michigan which brings together a global membership of women to exchange ideas, to learn, to inspire and to promote better leadership for a changing world. In eleven years overseas, she worked for the African-American Institute in Abidjan in the Ivory Coast and was active in the international community in Brussels, Belgium. She serves on many professional boards and is a Trustee for the National Association of Document Examiners. A handwriting examiner and personnel consultant, Ruth owns her own business and was named 2010 Innovator of the Year, one of Michigan's Top 10 Women Business Owners and, in 2002, Corp! magazine listed her among Michigan's 95 Most Powerful Women.

The Honorable Cynthia Thomas Walker currently serves as Chief Judge of the 50th District Court in Pontiac and has been a district judge since 2003. Before taking the bench, she worked as Court Administrator of that court, as Pontiac City Attorney, and as a staff attorney for UAW Legal Services and for Legal Services of Eastern Michigan. She serves on the board of the Oakland County Bar Association and is active in judicial, professional and civic organizations. She supports the Teen Court program at her court and volunteers her time at local schools, churches, and non-profit organizations.

All WONder Women demonstrate achievement in each of the following areas: contribute to the community beyond that which is required in their employment; demonstrate character, commitment and leadership; and assist women/girls in reaching full leadership potential through civic engagement, personal and professional contacts, or resources.

The WON Foundation advances the vision and mission of the Women Officials Network:

empowering leaders of today and mentoring women leaders of tomorrow. The Women Officials Network envisions more women in Leadership positions at all levels of government.

TALLGRASS ENERGY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tallgrass Energy for being honored with the Business Recognition Award given by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Business Recognition Award is given to a Jefferson County company which shows growth in employment, sales and capital investment in the last year.

Tallgrass Energy provides natural gas transportation and storage services for customers in the Rocky Mountain region through its pipelines and natural gas processing assets. Tallgrass Energy is committed to public safety, monitoring their pipeline operation 24 hours a day every day. The company recently added 58 high paying jobs in 2013.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Tallgrass Energy for receiving the Business Recognition Award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your commitment to innovation high standards and delivering quality products.

RECOGNITION OF SHEN YUN PERFORMANCE AT PROCTORS THEATRE IN SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming Shen Yun Performing Arts presentation at Proctors Theatre in Schenectady, New York on April 27, 2014.

Shen Yun Performing Arts troupe performances incorporate Chinese dance, ethnic folk dance, and story-based dance, accompanied by an orchestra mixing modern and traditional Chinese instruments. These performances incorporate large groups of dancers presenting traditional vignettes spanning several millennia of Chinese history. Dancers wear ornate costumes and make use of a variety of props, while performing in front of a projected backdrop.

As the largest Chinese music and dance ensemble in the world, Shen Yun offers an opportunity for cultural and artistic enrichment this month at historic Proctors Theatre in Schenectady, New York.

COMMENDING THE ALL INDIA SHRI SHIVAJI MEMORIAL SOCIETY (AISSMS)

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the All India Shri Shivaji Memorial Society (AISSMS) established in 1917 by the late His Highness Shrimant Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur and His Highness Alija Bahadur Madhavrao Scindia Maharaj of Gwalior, with the foundation stone laid by the Prince of Wales on November 19, 1921 in Pune, India.

AISSMS was established for the purpose of "throwing open to all alike the doors of knowledge through liberal education." It was established to memorialize the great Shivaji, a statesman and warrior, a bold reformer who not only founded an Empire, but created a Nation, based on a vision of ideals and dreams which AISSMS is realizing.

From a renowned military school to Day schools to Junior Colleges to a foray into higher and technical education, AISSMS now runs world class institutions in various disciplines. AISSMS institutions have obtained accreditation from the National Board of Accreditation and have signed MOU's with Universities from the UK, the USA and Germany to run joint programs of global standards.

I am proud of AISSMS and recognize the importance of its history and impact on past, present and future generations. I especially commend its Office Bearers—H.H. Shrimant Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj who serves as President; Vice President Shrimant Yuvraj Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati; Honorary Secretary Shri Malojiraje Chhatrapati; Treasurer Shri Ajay Uttamrao Patil; Chairman of the Governing Council Shri Vishwas Bajirao Patil; Honorary Joint Secretary Shri Ratnakar K. Jitkar Shri Ajay Uttamrao; Chairman of the Managing Committee Shri Sahebrao R. Jadhav, the Governing Council, the Managing Committee and other notables.

I also pay tribute to Captain Shivaji Mahadkar, Managing Trustee of the Takshashila Education Trust, who visited my office in Washington, DC and personally extended an invite for me to speak to members of the esteemed All India Shri Shivaji Memorial Society and to a gathering of faculty, staff and students. In my absence, I have entered this Statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for historical purposes as a matter of appreciation for the invitation which was extended to me but moreover to recognize and commend AISSMS for the critical role it has played in shaping and defining India, and for bringing hope to all who are, have been, or will be associated with its noble cause.

As the former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, which has broad jurisdiction for U.S. policy affecting the region, including India, I am proud to be associated with AISSMS. The U.S. and India are on a path to expanding higher education partnerships with a focus to build more purposeful connections.

In doing so, it is my sincere hope that AISSMS and my alma mater, Brigham Young University, and other institutions of learning, will connect in ways that bring new hope and new ideas to both countries.

I thank Mr. Sanjay Puri, founder and Chairman of the Alliance for U.S.-India Business (AUSIB) for introducing me to AISSMS, and for the good work he continues to do for and on behalf of India and Indian Americans. In 2011 and 2013, AUSIB hosted two of the largest U.S.-India education conclaves and, on March 13, 2013, Mr. Puri testified as an expert witness before the House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, calling for enhanced education collaboration as a means to strengthen U.S.-India relations.

Now more than ever, the U.S. and India must be about academic collaboration and exchange, and I commend those with the foresight to march ahead, echoing the vision of the founders of AISSMS.

CONGRATULATING IRAM ALI

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend congratulations to my constituent, Iram Ali, on her appointment to the Senior Executive Service at the Department of Defense as the White House liaison. Iram served in this body as a distinguished professional staff member on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence under Chairman Reyes. After briefly working in the Senate, Iram was recruited by the Obama Administration to serve in the Department of Defense as the legislative lead for the Under Secretary for Policy.

She now returns to the Department with the duty of ensuring the President has the right personnel in place to implement his policies, a position of great responsibility and distinction. As one of the few Muslim-Americans serving in such senior positions, Iram represents the finest qualities of a public servant and is an asset to her nation. I am honored to have her as a constituent, and I wish her all of the best in her new position.

OUTLAST TECHNOLOGIES LLC

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Outlast Technologies LLC for being honored with the Business Recognition Award given by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Business Recognition Award is given to a Jefferson County company which shows growth in employment, sales and capital investment in the last year.

Outlast Technologies LLC, located in Golden, Colorado, was founded on technology developed by a group of NASA researchers. The

company develops temperature controlling technology that can absorb heat and reduce moisture in products such as ski jackets, socks, blankets and mattress pads. Outlast Technologies LLC owns over 96 issued patents and 59 pending patents related to thermally adaptive materials. They continue to explore medical, military, furnishings and other markets.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Outlast Technologies LLC for receiving the Business Recognition Award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your commitment to innovation, high standards and quality products.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 1, I missed 3 rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Nos. 149 and 151, and "yea" on No. 150.

HONORING THE REV. FRANCE DAVIS

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. France Davis for a remarkable 40-year career building bridges, fighting racial discrimination and living the principles he teaches his flock at the historic Calvary Baptist Church in Salt Lake City, Utah.

With his wife Willene by his side, Rev. Davis has both lived and taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ, advocating for the impoverished, inspiring the young and invigorating the fight against racism. He has been a powerful mentor to young people, sponsoring scholarships as well as educational programs. His belief that everybody has worth and value, nobody is nobody and everybody is somebody has influenced a generation of youth.

Born in 1946 in Gough, Georgia, Rev. Davis graduated from the segregated Waynesboro High and Industrial School. He went on to serve as an aircraft mechanic in the U.S. Air Force. He has earned five college degrees, including a B.A. in rhetoric from Berkeley, a B.S. in religion from Westminster College and an M.A. in mass communication from University of Utah. Rev. Davis came to Salt Lake City for a one-year teaching fellowship at the University of Utah, but became an integral part of the city's religious and cultural fabric over the next four decades.

Rev. Davis was a pioneer in his own right before coming to Utah in 1972. He participated in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, meeting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in person and marching from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama to promote voting rights. He has been a tireless advocate for minorities in Utah. His own experiences with racial discrimi-

nation only inspired him to fight harder for equality. An NAACP board member for many years, Rev. Davis was instrumental in making Martin Luther King, Jr. Day an official state-recognized holiday. It goes without saying that he has been an integral part of Utah's cultural evolution on civil rights.

In addition to his ministry, Rev. Davis is the author of several books, has taught at the University of Utah and served as a member of the Utah Higher Education Board of Regents. He is also the benefactor of a scholarship for minority students. Professionally, he has served as the secretary of the Salt Lake Ministerial Association, a member of the South Africa Preaching Team for the National Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission and as an advisor, vice-president and assistant to the Dean of the Intermountain General Baptist Convention.

Mr. Speaker, Utah is a better place because of the efforts of Rev. Davis. We honor his significant contributions, his willingness to be a voice for the voiceless, and his personal history of overcoming adversity. But most of all, we recognize his example as a teacher and follower of the teachings of Jesus Christ.

HONORING JOAN PRICE

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Joan Price, a leader in San Antonio whose life and work was a testament that neighborhood associations are vital to a democracy and in exercising civic responsibility and power.

Mrs. Price was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1932 but it was in San Antonio, TX where, as one of the founders of the Ingram Hills Neighborhood Association, she made an enduring mark. For 14 remarkable and trail-blazing years, she served as the association's president.

Earlier than most, Mrs. Price saw the democratic and communitarian potential of neighborhoods. She understood and demonstrated that neighborhood associations are ideal for building relationships, creating community, developing leadership, raising voices and keeping officials accountable. She knew that the advocacy of good neighborhood associations led to quality services such as public safety, parks, community centers and zoning laws that did not violate the character of a neighborhood.

Mrs. Price worked closely with all of her elected officials in thinking about and carrying out projects that would benefit not just the neighborhood she deeply loved but also the city she equally cherished. For many years, Mrs. Price successfully fought hard for a neighborhood park. In 2011, that park was renamed in her honor.

Mrs. Price wrote the award-winning Ingram Hills Neighborhood Association newsletter, "The Neighbor Connection." That title also speaks to her life and work. Not only was she the distinctive voice of a neighborhood but in the true spirit of neighborliness, she connected people with each other, connected them with

their elected officials and connected them with their civic ideals and responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have been blessed to have Joan Price as a friend and I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize this magnificent woman, great San Antonian and true neighbor to all she knew.

SPOTXCHANGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud SpotXchange for being honored with the Business Recognition Award given by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Business Recognition Award is given to a Jefferson County company which shows growth in employment, sales and capital investment in the last year.

SpotXchange is a digital video advertising technology company connecting thousands of publishers with trusted demand sources. Each month SpotXchange video inventory reaches over 200 million visitors in more than 80 countries. Their advanced transparency and unmatched customer service around the world is a testament to their success. SpotXchange hired 48 engineers and is poised to expand rapidly this year.

I extend my deepest congratulations to SpotXchange for receiving the Business Recognition Award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your commitment to outstanding customer service, high standards and quality products.

RECOGNIZING THE MANIGAULT-HURLEY FAMILY'S SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate to recognize the Manigault-Hurley Family for their dedicated service to the Midlands community. After 90 years of dedicated service to generations of South Carolinians, the oldest family-owned funeral home in the Columbia area, closed its doors earlier last month.

Founded in 1923, by William Manigault, the Manigault-Hurley Funeral Home was a family business in every sense of the word. After William's passing his wife, Annie Rivers Manigault continued to operate the funeral home until 1954. Anna May Manigault-Hurley, daughter of William and Annie, took over the business becoming the first female licensed embalmer in the state. She managed the successful business for 50 years. Anna's son and current owner Anthony (Tony) M. Hurley grew up helping with the family business which he operated with the help of his wife, Alice Wyche Hurley, and their three children, Brian, Kelly, and Michelle.

According to The State Newspaper's March 15th article 'Nothing is Forever,' "Manigault's was one of four black undertaking establishments operating in Columbia during the late 1920's according to the Roberts photo book, 'A True Likeness.' His shot of the storefront, in the 700 block of Main, shows a street lined with black Cadillacs.

Manigault expanded into caskets. During the Depression, his Congaree Casket Co. reportedly employed more black people than any other black-owned business in South Carolina."

Nate Abraham, Jr., in Carolina Panorama on March 20 reported "We have served four generations of the Columbia community," said Mrs. [Alice] Hurley. "And we are happy with that. We will certainly miss being a part of the business community, but like everything else, life goes in stages. We are just now moving into another stage."

With its closing, the Manigault-Hurley Funeral Home leaves behind a legacy of a family business dedicated to professionalism and compassionate service. The Wilson and Johnson families know firsthand of the Hurley Family's thoughtfulness in times of grief. They were instrumental in providing world-class arrangements. South Carolinians will offer the Manigault-Hurley family best wishes for success in future endeavors. May their lives be filled with health and happiness knowing they have made a lasting difference for so many families.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN FINN BRITA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Susan Finn Brita for her more than 29 years of dedicated public service, in both the legislative and executive branches. Susan was my closest committee advisor when I came to the House in 1991 and remained invaluable counsel until she became General Services Administration (GSA) Deputy Administrator in 2010.

Susan began her career in public service as Chief of Staff to then GSA Administrator Terence Golden in 1985, after earning her Master's degree in Public Administration from George Washington University. In 1992, Susan was recruited to become Staff Director for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, a position she held for 15 years. In 2010, Susan was recruited by the Obama administration to become GSA Deputy Administrator.

During her 29 years of federal service, Ms. Brita has mastered all phases of federal property management, including asset acquisition through construction, leasing, purchase, and long-term financing, repair and alterations, and surplus property disposal. She also has played a key role in the implementation of federal energy policy in federal buildings, including courthouses, as well as in the implementation of policies directed at building sustainability.

Ms. Brita was heavily involved in evaluating and making recommendations to improve GSA's nationwide leasing program, reforming the GSA Courthouse Construction Program, and giving GSA the authority to redevelop and sell underutilized federal property. In addition she played pivotal roles in many projects under the jurisdiction of GSA, including the redevelopment of the Old Post Office Building, the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, the Hotel Monaco, the Southeast Federal Center, and the West Campus of St. Elizabeths.

On March 31, 2014, Susan Brita retired from the GSA. Susan's advice and counsel have been indispensable to me, to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the Congress in helping to make GSA a true partner with the private sector to construct and redevelop property across the nation, while containing cost to federal taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Susan Finn Brita for a life of committed service to the people of the United States and the federal government, and in congratulating her on her extraordinary achievements as she retires from the administration and federal service.

TRIBUTE TO CLARKSON UNIVERSITY DIVISION I WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Clarkson University women's ice hockey team for winning the 2014 Women's "Frozen Four" NCAA Division I National Championship.

The Clarkson University women's ice hockey team also led the nation with the fewest goals allowed per game (1.12) and a top-ranked penalty kill of 92.5 percent. Their efforts earned them an impressive 31-5-5 record and the first NCAA Division I national championship in the history of Clarkson University athletics.

Numerous players on Clarkson's championship team were recognized for their individual achievements. Three players, forward Jamie Lee Rattray, defenseman Renata Fast, and goalie Erica Howe were named to the 2014 NCAA Frozen Four All-Tournament Team, with Rattray also recognized as the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Several days before the championship, Ms. Rattray was recognized with the prestigious Patty Kazmaier Award presented annually to the top player in NCAA Division I women's ice hockey. According to the USA Hockey Foundation, selection criteria for this award include outstanding individual and team skills, sportsmanship, performance in the clutch, personal character, competitiveness, and a love of hockey. Consideration is also given to academic achievement and civic involvement.

Clarkson players also led the nation in several categories this year. Ms. Rattray finished the season leading in total points with 66 and in power-play goals with 10. Erin Ambrose led

among defensemen with 50 points, 14 goals, and 36 assists. Clarkson goalie Erica Howe compiled the lowest goals against average, 1.10, and the most shutouts with 14.

This championship is an historic achievement for Clarkson University's women's ice hockey team. While I was unfortunately unable to attend the championship game, the team's success serves as an enduring example of what can be achieved through great teamwork and a shared commitment to excellence.

OZ SNOWBOARDS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Oz Snowboards for being honored with the Business Recognition Award given by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Business Recognition Award is given to a Jefferson County company which shows growth in employment, sales and capital investment in the last year.

Oz Snowboards manufactures integrated aerospace design concepts into its construction by replacing heavy fiberglass with high performance tri-axial grade carbon fiber to manufacture state of the art snowboards. In addition, Oz Snowboards is committed to maintaining its manufacturing operation here in Colorado.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Oz Snowboards for receiving this prestigious award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your commitment innovation, high standards and quality products.

RECOGNIZING THE JOURNEY HOME

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Journey Home, a veterans homeless shelter in east-central Indiana.

On March 21, 2014, The Journey Home started serving disadvantaged veterans throughout 5 Indiana counties. The program will help veterans overcome challenges such as homelessness, addiction, alcoholism, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The organization functions as a 6-month program in which veterans make a personal commitment to recovery and establish an environment of support for when they leave the shelter.

The Journey Home serves Delaware, Henry, Jay, Randolph, and Wayne Counties. I want to personally recognized Bill Davis, Linda DeHaven, and Mike Kennedy for the tremendous effort each individual contributed to make this project happen. Through passion for our veterans and dedication to seeing a positive change, these three people have helped create an organization that will benefit our veterans, their families, and their neighbors.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in recognizing the incredible potential impact The Journey Home will have on the 5 counties it serves in Indiana. This nonprofit organization demonstrates the great work that can be done when hardworking individuals come together to improve their community and the quality of life of others.

HONORING LAURYN WILLIAMS OF HOUSTON, TEXAS: 3-TIME OLYMPIAN, RECORD-SETTING ATHLETE, AND MENTOR AND ROLE MODEL FOR YOUNG PERSONS THE WORLD OVER

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in order to not only recognize but also honor Ms. Lauryn Williams for her extraordinary Olympic achievements and leadership.

Lauryn Williams is one of the greatest athletes in the history of track and field; a three-time Olympian, the Silver Medalist in the 100 meters at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens and a member of the team that won the Gold Medal in the 4 100 meters relay at 2012 Olympic Games in London.

As a collegian at the University of Miami from which she graduated with a B.A. in Finance, Lauryn Williams won the 100 meters at the 2004 NCAA Championship and followed that performance the next year by winning the Gold Medal in the 100 meters at the 2005 World Championship Games in Helsinki, Finland.

She solidified her place at the top of her sport in 2006 by winning Silver medals in the 60 meters at both the World Indoor Championships and the U.S. Championship.

In 2004, Lauryn Williams ran the fastest legal-wind time and the second fastest time in the world that year. She was named the 2004 Big East Most Outstanding Performer and honored as the 2004 Athlete of the Year by the Sports Council.

In 2007, at the World Championships in Osaka, Lauryn Williams once again showed that she is one the best. Using great form and her will to succeed, she took the Silver medal in one of the closest finishes ever seen in the history of track and field.

Lauryn Williams is one of only five persons in history to medal in both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

In December 2013, Lauryn Williams embarked upon the World Cup Race Circuit and won 2 silver and 1 gold medal in the four races.

In January 2014, she was named to the USA Olympic Bobsled Team representing the United States with just six (6) total months of participation in the sport.

Paired with Elana Meyers in the BMW USA-1 sled, Lauryn Williams won the Silver medal at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, missing out on winning the Gold Medal by a mere 0.10 second.

As a three-time Olympian, Lauryn Williams knows the hard work and dedication required

to take bobsled to the next level and bring home a medal; she has a work ethic matched by few.

From an early age, her parents stressed the importance of education and the message stuck. While succeeding on the track, she also succeeded and excelled in the classroom.

She received her Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Miami in 2004, and even gave the commencement address at her own graduation. She also obtained a Florida Real Estate Sale Associate license in 2006.

Additionally, during the 2008 Olympic year, while training full time to make the Olympic team, she also managed to simultaneously work on a Master of Business Administration degree, which she received from the University of Phoenix, AZ in 2009.

Recently, Lauryn Williams was struck with a passion for empowering athletes with financial literacy and stability so she completed the course work for Certified Financial Planning and will soon take the exam for CFP certification.

After Lauryn Williams returned home from the Sochi Olympic Games, she turned her focus to working with Olympians and other athletes to improve their financial literacy and stability in an effort to continue making a difference in the sporting world.

Lauryn's inspiring story of hard work, dedication and perseverance will motivate and inspire people of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, Lauryn Williams has been the recipient of many honors, including: Pennsylvania Sportswoman of the Decade 2009; member Iron Arrow Honor Society, highest honor attainable at The University of Miami; Jefferson Award for Public Service Dream Team 2009; Miami Alumni Association William R. Butler Community Service Award 2008; Women in Sports Foundation honoree 2007; Visa Humanitarian 2006; Dapper Dan Sports woman of the year 2005; Runner's World-Hero of Running 2005; University of Miami Athletic Department Community Service Award 2002-2003.

Mr. Speaker, as an athlete Lauryn Williams represented our country with skill and grace and excellence and has earned the respect and affection of millions around the world. I take pride in saluting the remarkable achievements of this remarkable woman and world class athlete.

IN TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DOCTOR CHARLES EVERTON THORNHILL

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Doctor, Charles Everton Thornhill will celebrate his 85th birthday on Friday, April 11, 2014. He will be celebrating this special occasion with members of his congregation, colleagues, family and friends. The Reverend Dr. Charles Everton Thornhill is pastor of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Reverend Thornhill said that God

chose his mate, Mary Catherine Thornhill, and they have been married for over 56 years.

Dr. Thornhill was born April 9, 1929 in Cambridge, Massachusetts and was educated in the Cambridge Public Schools. He graduated from Zion Bible College in East Providence, Rhode Island, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree and Doctorate of Ministry from St. Martin College & Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and a Doctorate of Divinity Degree from the Urban Bible College in Detroit, Michigan.

Reverend Thornhill has been a pastor both preaching and teaching for over 50 years. The first church he pastored was Zion Mission which he led for two years in Hyannis, Massachusetts. This was followed by his leadership at Beulah Temple Church for four years in Louisville, Kentucky. He moved to Milwaukee to join his friend, the late Reverend Kenneth Bowen pastor of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church. Rev. Bowen was also a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Reverend Thornhill served as the Assistant Pastor of Mt. Moriah for 12 years. He left Mt. Moriah to become Pastor of Greater Mount Eagle Baptist Church in Racine, Wisconsin where he served for 24 years. Reverend Thornhill was asked to return to Mt. Moriah Baptist Church and has continued to pastor for nearly 20 years.

Dr. Thornhill is in the midst of a rebuilding and renovation program for their worship facility. In April, 2014, a chapel will be completed where the Mt. Moriah Educational Building once stood. Further, the current church building will be razed and be replaced with a new church building. The chapel constructed in 2014 will then be converted to the fellowship hall.

Dr. Thornhill is in great demand as a speaker around his community, city, and this country. He is an instructor at the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education and the Wisconsin General Baptist State Congress of Christian Education. He teaches a theology class every Monday night in "Milwaukee to Pastors." He has served on boards of various social, economic, educational and philanthropic organizations. Pastor Thornhill has announced that this is his "Caleb Year" because Caleb was 85 years of age when he and descendants were rewarded by God with their promise. Caleb awaited his promise for 40 years remaining faithful and displaying triumphant faith; like Caleb, time has neither dimmed Reverend Thornhill's faith nor his spiritual vision.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise Reverend Dr. Charles Everton Thornhill who is my pastor and my friend. I honor his many accomplishments and life time commitment to the entire Milwaukee Community and the 4th Congressional District.

ZACHARY FOULKE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Zachary Foulke for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Zachary Foulke is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Zachary Foulke is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Zachary Foulke for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,601,227,291,213.89. We've added \$6,974,350,242,300.81 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the upcoming anniversary of the essential diplomatic relationship between the United States and Taiwan. This enduring partnership is built upon strong cultural ties and the shared values of democracy and the rule of law.

The Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which was passed by the United States Congress and signed into law on April 10, 1979, serves as the legal basis for relations between United States and Taiwan. 35 years later, the TRA remains the foundation of the continuous bilateral relationship between our two countries and represents the United States' commitment to the people on Taiwan.

I was proud to support US-Taiwan relations in 1979, and I am proud to support US-Taiwan relations today.

The TRA has enabled Taiwan to flourish as a democracy while at the same time achieving miraculous economic growth. The TRA provides the confidence that has allowed Taiwan to govern itself, expand trade with the global marketplace, and engage in cross-strait negotiations. We, as a Congress, are proud of what we created with the Taiwan Relations Act and will do everything in our power to uphold this

law that has proved so fruitful for Taiwan and the United States.

As we commemorate the 35th anniversary of the TRA, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new chief representative of Taiwan to the United States, Ambassador Lyushun Shen. Ambassador Shen is a seasoned diplomat with many years of experience working in Washington, D.C. I am confident that he will continue developing the common interests for our countries, and I look forward to working with him.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER WARHAWKS

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater's Warhawks, who won the Division III Basketball National Championship on March 22, 2014. The Warhawks, led by point guard KJ Evans and Head Coach Pat Miller, displayed a tremendous amount of grit, determination, skill, and athleticism throughout their season. In a hard-fought battle, Whitewater beat Williams College 75-73. The victory marked the fourth national title for the Warhawks. They now have the second-most basketball championships of all time in Division III.

The success of UW-Whitewater basketball has made the residents of Wisconsin proud and I salute the entire team: Alex Merg, Patrick Souter, Brian Roedl, Quardell Young, Cody Odegard, Sean Klomp, KJ Evans, Reggie Hearn, Eric Bryson, Terrence Bradley, Drew Bryson, Miles Chamberlain, Ryan McBride, Dylan Graf, Steve Egan, Alex LeGault, Clay Stevens, and Cole Van Schyndel.

Winning a national championship is never easy. On behalf of my congressional office and my constituents in Wisconsin's fifth district, I commend the coaches and players at UW-Whitewater for their hard work and dedication, and wish them continued success in the future.

YAMILE HERNANDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yamile Hernandez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Yamile Hernandez is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yamile Hernandez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of

their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Yamile Hernandez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING LES SOEURS
CHARMANTES SOCIAL AND CIVIC
CLUB

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a group of women who has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, the Les Soeurs Charmantes Social and Civic Club. This Social and Civic Club has served as an informational vehicle in the Warren County community and the State of Mississippi.

The Les Soeurs Charmantes Social and Civic Club was organized at the home of Mrs. Melissa L. Demby on November 3, 1968. The purpose of the organization is to promote service, philanthropic as well as cultural and social interests. Colors selected for the organization are blue and white. The club song was written to the tune of "My Fair Lady" by club member Daisy Bell. In 1970, the club became affiliated with the National Association of Colored Women's Club. Chartered members who are still active with the club today are: Mrs. Gwendolyn Brown, Mrs. Helen Bowman, Mrs. Beverly Gaskin and Mrs. Carolyn Strothers.

The first debutante ball was held in March, 1971 at the Vicksburg City Auditorium and 16 girls were presented to society. The purpose of the event was to encourage black girls to take pride in their character and scholarship. Proceeds from the debutante ball have provided scholarships to young ladies for over 40 years.

Also proceeds have been used to fund many civic projects in the Vicksburg, Mississippi community such as: donations to the local battered women's shelters, tutorial programs, art projects, NAACP, Meals-on-Wheels, Techno-Color Rewind (Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital), Patricia A. Segrest Memorial Sickle Cell Walk, Vicksburg Benevolent Homecoming Club Scholarship, donations of blankets to nursing homes and the We Care Community Service Organization Scholarship.

The club also provides the Clara Rhodman Prosser Scholarship, in honor of their beloved club member, to local high school graduates. Many of the debutantes have gone on to pursue various professional and educational paths as teachers, lawyers, doctors, entrepreneurs, military, etc.

The Les Soeurs Charmantes Social and Civic Club still stands strong as one of the few organizations still in existence today promoting achievement and academic excellence to young ladies ready to make their mark upon the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Les Soeurs Charmantes Social and Civic Club for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

TRIBUTE TO BILLY D. WILLIAMS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a loyal South Carolinian who has dedicated his life to public service.

Billy D. Williams is turning 75 on April 18 and will be celebrating with his wife, Anita Frazier, friends and family on April 5 at Savannah Grove Church.

Mr. Williams was born in Florence, South Carolina where he was the youngest of seven children. He graduated from Wilson High School and attended the Fashion Institute and Design. He is also a graduate of the Strom Thurmond Institute of Government.

As an African American growing up in the deep South just as integration was beginning to take hold, Billy made a commendable choice to take a life of public service in order to better the lives of his neighbors and the communities he has known all of his life.

In 1988, Billy was elected to the Florence City Council, where he served for 23 years. During that tenure, he also served as Mayor Pro Tem. During his time as an elected official, he served in several local, state and national capacities. He was one of the founders of the South Carolina Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials and served as its President for several years. He was a board member of the National League of Cities and the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO), and as a member of the Advisory Board of the National League of Cities.

During his tenure on the Florence City Council, Billy fought for and spearheaded reforms for better housing, improvements in education and access to affordable, quality health care for the citizens of Florence. His accomplishments included the construction of the Cambridge Apartments and Coit Village Apartments, an affordable housing subdivision in Williams Heights, 15 affordable houses in North Florence and several "Habitat for Humanity" houses in West Florence.

Billy also served as President of the Wilson High School PTA and was a member of the Wilson High School Alumni Association. He also organized the Latch Key Kids Program of America which is a partnership between Florence School District One and the National League of Cities.

Billy is a member of various social and civic organizations in South Carolina including the NAACP, Hiram Lodge #13 Prince Hall Masons, Pee Dee Consistory and Crescent Temple. He also served as a board member of the Pee Dee Transitional Shelter. He is currently the Vice President of the Pee Dee Healthy Start Board.

Most recently, Billy received the Palmetto Award and the National Service to Youth Award from the Boys and Girls Club of America for his 15 years of devoted service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Billy D. Williams on his 75th birthday and decades of dedicated and productive service to human kind. His commitment to his community is exemplary, and his contributions are incalculable. I wish him all the best and many more years of service.

APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATES,
INC.

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Applied Research Associates, Inc. for being honored with the Business Recognition Award given by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Business Recognition Award is given to a Jefferson County company which shows growth in employment, sales and capital investment in the last year.

Applied Research Associates, Inc. is an international research engineering firm that provides technical solutions to help solve problems of national importance. The company's philosophy incorporates a code of ethics and standard of conduct in everything they do.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Applied Research Associates, Inc. for receiving the Business Recognition Award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your commitment to our nation and the Jefferson County community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAY
HUTCHISON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ray Hutchison, the husband of former U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. Mr. Hutchison was a dedicated public servant and power broker who played a key role in the creation of many of North Texas' most important economic engines.

After serving in the Navy, Mr. Hutchison attended Southern Methodist University on the G.I. bill and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1957 and with a law degree in 1959. Mr. Hutchison, a lifelong active civil servant was elected to the Texas House Legislature in 1972. I consider it a privilege to have served in the Texas House Legislature with Mr. Hutchison from 1973 to 1977. It was in the State legislature where he and Mrs. Hutchison first met and began their 36 years of marriage. In 1976 Mr. Hutchison was elected as chairman of the Texas Republican Party and stepped down the following year in an unsuccessful run for governor.

Mr. Hutchison was known as a genius in the field of finance law. He served as senior counsel at the Dallas law firm of Bacewell & Giuliani where he worked as recently as this past Thursday. Mr. Hutchison used his expertise specializing in government finance to help implement major city improvements such as the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, DART and stadiums for the Mavericks, Cowboys and Rangers. He was a member of the Dallas Citizens Council, the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and served on the Executive Board of the Chancellor's Council for the University of Texas System.

I extend my deepest condolences to the Hutchison family during this time of grieving. Our country has benefitted immensely from his career in public service and his memory will continue to inspire others. I wish to commend Ray Hutchison and thank him for his service to this great Nation. Through his work he has created positive pathways many future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 149, 150, 151, weather issues in California caused me to miss my flight. Therefore I did not arrive in Washington, DC until late in the evening. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yes".

COMMENDING VIETNAM

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Viet Nam for its national report on the promotion and protection of human rights under the 2nd cycle universal periodic review.

The report is drafted in accordance with the guidelines of Resolution 60/251 dated 15 March 2006 of the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 5/1 dated 18 June 2007 of the Human Rights Council, and Decision 17/119 dated 19 June 2011 of the Human Rights Council.

The drafting of the report was carried out by an inter-agency working group composed of government agencies and National Assembly committees working in the field of human rights, including the Office of the Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Security, Government Committee for Religious Affairs (Ministry of Home Affairs), Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Information and Communications, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Committee of Ethnic Minorities, People's Supreme

Court, People's Supreme Procuracy, National Assembly's Committee on Law, and the National Assembly's Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In an effort to engage in international cooperation on human rights, Viet Nam holds annual human rights dialogues with a number of countries and partners including the United States, the European Union, Australia, Norway and Switzerland. These dialogues have produced positive outcomes. They not only enhance the understanding and relationship between Viet Nam and its partners, but also bring about discussions on best practices to address human rights matters of mutual concern.

On rights to freedom of expression, press and information, Viet Nam has made significant progress. Presently, there are 812 print newspapers and 1,084 publications; nearly 17,000 registered journalists; one national news agency, 67 radio and television stations; 101 TV channels and 78 broadcasting channels, 74 electronic newspapers and magazines; 336 social networks and 1,174 registered e-portals (compared to 46 e-newspapers and 287 e-portals in 2011). The Voice of Viet Nam (VOV) Radio Station broadcasts throughout 99.5 percent of Viet Nam's territory and many other countries via satellite. Today, the VOV reaches more than 90 percent of all households in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam law prohibits all actions harming the life, health, property, dignity and honor of detainees. Detainees have the right to meet their family, access to counsel or legal aid according to the law, access to information via newspapers, radio and television available in detention facilities and have the right to petition against violations of the law and detention regulations.

Prisoners have a right to education during their sentence and prisons strictly run education programs on literacy, elementary education, vocational training, laws and politics. Preventive healthcare and treatment for inmates are provided and prison health clinics have been upgraded or improved with professionally trained staff.

Freedom of association and assembly are guaranteed by the Constitution (Article 69) and are legally protected in laws and by-law documents. There currently are 460 social, professional organizations whose geographic scope of activity are nationwide or interprovincial; 20 profession-based trade unions; 36,000 associations, federations, and social organizations which are local and, in general, these organizations have made great contributions to the development of the country, serving as a bridge between their members and the government.

Viet Nam is a multi-religious society with many religions represented including Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Islam, Cao Dai, Hoa Hao Buddhism, Four Defts of Gratitude, and others. Ninety-five percent of all the people have some form of belief. There are about 25,000 places of worship and about 24 million followers of various faiths. The consistent policy and law of Viet Nam is to respect the right to freedom of religion. Yearly, there are about 8,500 religious festivals. The closing ceremony of the 2011 Holy Year of the Catholic Church was attended by more than

50 bishops, 1,000 priests, 2,000 dignitaries and nearly 500,000 believers. The 100th anniversary of Protestantism in Viet Nam was also celebrated in 2011 and the many activities associated with the celebration were widely attended by dignitaries and followers from Viet Nam and throughout the world. In 2013, Viet Nam and the Vatican conducted the fourth round of the joint working group meeting on the strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation. In 2014, the Buddhist Church of Viet Nam will host the UN Vesak Day which is also expected to attract thousands of followers.

When visiting Viet Nam in my official capacity as former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have attended different religious services in various houses of worship and did so unannounced. I have always found Viet Nam to be a place favorable for religious activities, and I appreciate that Viet Nam is working to protect activities of religious groups by law.

Much more could be said about the positive developments in Viet Nam regarding religious freedom, healthcare, the economy, education, gender equality and other areas of importance. As a Viet Nam veteran, I am proud of the progress Viet Nam is making. This is why I have entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a more accurate accounting of all Viet Nam is doing to promote and protect human rights so that history may counter any erroneous information that differs from the facts.

ZECH FRYE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Zech Frye for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Zech Frye is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Zech Frye is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Zech Frye for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF METROPOLITAN PHILIP SALIBA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Metropolitan Philip Saliba, who

led the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church in North America for nearly 50 years and who passed from this life on March 19, 2014. Metropolitan Philip was the longest-serving bishop in any branch of Orthodoxy in the United States and leaves behind a tremendous legacy of service to the Orthodox Christian community.

Metropolitan Philip began leading Antiochian Orthodoxy in 1996 and frequently visited St. George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Toledo and St. Elias Antiochian Church in Sylva. His leadership will be greatly missed, as he played a key role in inspiring unity among Orthodox churches during his tenure. His compelling vision for unity was noted by The Toledo Blade, where he was quoted as saying: "As long as we are fragmented and known by Antiochians and Greeks and Serbians and Bulgarians and Russians, we will have no impact as a church on this country".

His eminence is remembered fondly for his personal warmth and compassion and has been described by his parishioners as a "visionary". One of the metropolitan's many accomplishments includes the founding of a church camp, Antioch Village, in Bolivar, Pennsylvania, which flourished under his direction. Indeed, he was lauded for this achievement, and for his other successful endeavors in expanding the reach of the church.

A staunch advocate for inclusion, Metropolitan Phillip welcomed converts without connections to the church's Middle Eastern roots and expanded the role of women in the church. He insisted on the creation of a women's organization and appointed women to the archdiocese's board. The metropolitan also urged the church to modernize in other capacities, by using English during liturgies and by beginning a clergy retirement program.

Under his purview, the number of parishes in the diocese quadrupled in size—a true testament to the significant impact of his leadership. Indeed, his imprint on the Orthodox Christian community will live on, as will his memory. To his brothers Nassif and Najib Saliba, and all those whose lives he touched, we offer our heartfelt sympathy. We hope that they draw comfort in the days ahead and in the memories of this extraordinary man and the gift of his life.

HONORING MS. FLORENCE FANG

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of my dear friend, Ms. Florence Fang, as she celebrates her 80th birthday and a lifetime of serving her community.

In her historic trip to China, First Lady Michelle Obama highlighted the work of the 100,000 Strong Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening US-China relations by sending American students of all economic and social backgrounds to study abroad in China as exchange students. By emphasizing foreign exchange education, programs like the 100,000 Strong Foundation are

training young Americans to become global leaders in a new world where countries and economies are increasingly connected.

It comes as no surprise that the founders of the 100,000 Strong Foundation include leaders from the San Francisco Bay Area and Silicon Valley, notably the energetic and passionate Florence Fang. Ms. Fang is known internationally for her civic work, especially on building positive relationships with China, and in helping to develop our nation's future leaders.

Ms. Florence Fang was born in China and educated in Taiwan. In 1960, she immigrated to America, and was later adopted by the United States as an American citizen.

Ms. Fang and her husband, John T.C. Fang, had three sons who were born and raised in San Francisco: James, a graduate of Hastings Law School and currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system; Teddy, an Ethnic Studies graduate from UC Berkeley who was publisher of the Independent and SF Examiner newspapers; and Douglas, who received his Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Southern California and passed away in 2003.

In 1991, when the White House held a National Leadership Conference to discuss America giving China "Most Favored Nation" status, Ms. Fang was the only delegate invited to stand on the dais beside former U.S. President George H.W. Bush in the White House ceremony.

At the May 29, 1992 Asian/Pacific American Heritage Presidential Dinner, Ms. Fang shared the same stage with President George H.W. Bush, where she delivered a speech about her life in America, titled "An Asian American Story".

In 2006, she donated the priceless San Francisco Examiner newspaper archives to the UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library, where she delivered a speech and drew applause from UC Berkeley's Chancellor and professors. It is one of her most prized moments.

Also in 2006, she donated \$3 million to help build UC Berkeley's East Asian Library. And in 2008, she donated a building to Peking University for the School of Chinese as a Second Language Department to teach the whole world Chinese language and culture.

In January 2013, together with the Ford Foundation, she became a co-founder of the 100,000 Strong Foundation, which was born out of U.S. President Obama's initiative in 2008 when he visited China's then-president Hu Jintao, to send 100,000 American students to study in China.

On March 22, 2014, Ms. Fang accompanied First Lady Michelle Obama when she spoke to students in Peking University on the First Lady's trip to China.

On April 4, 2014, over 100 organizations will join together to host Ms. Fang's 80th birthday celebration. They also arranged to have two Kepler celestial bodies or stars named after Ms. Fang as recorded with the Space Telescope Science Institute.

Ms. Fang has held many local and national positions. She was appointed as National Small Business Commissioner by former U.S. President George H.W. Bush, Stature for Women Commissioner by California Governor, and San Francisco Film Commissioner by

former Mayor Willie Brown Jr. Currently, she holds the titles of: Honorary Trustee of Peking University, Honorary Professor of Wuhan University, Founder and Board Member of the 100K Strong Foundation, and Chairwoman of the Florence Fang Family Foundation.

As a result of her own life experiences, Ms. Fang has particularly focused her life on education and American and Chinese cultural exchange.

When she first immigrated to the United States in 1960, Ms. Fang did not speak any English and had never had a chance to study in an American school. Then, in the early 1970s, her husband suddenly became very ill and was hospitalized in the intensive care unit. Ms. Fang was forced to make a living for her family, and she had to singlehandedly run her husband's printing shop business. It was during these years that she learned much of her English from reading invoices coming into the business.

Today she has achieved her American dream, and it is articulated by what former U.S. President George H.W. Bush wrote in his 1999 preface for Ms. Fang's unpublished biography:

America is a tale of immigrants who came to this land to build a nation and better their own lives.

The Florence Fang story is yet another chapter on the American experience. Her pursuit and fulfillment of the American dream serves as a reminder that America is truly the land of opportunity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on March 27, due to a death in the family. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Thursday, March 27, 2014: rollcall No. 148: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 4278, "yea."

LAKEWOOD BRICK AND TILE
COMPANY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lakewood Brick and Tile Company for being honored with the Pioneer Award by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Pioneer Award is given to a Jefferson County company that provides standards for other businesses to follow and must demonstrate significant and sustained growth contributing to Jefferson County's economy.

Lakewood Brick and Tile Company has manufactured clay bricks in Jefferson County since 1932. You can find their products in everything from downtown residential lofts, school, libraries and the tallest skyscrapers in the world.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lakewood Brick and Tile Company for receiving this prestigious award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your many years of service to the Jefferson County community.

**TRIBUTE TO SUNY PLATTSBURGH
DIVISION III WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Women's Ice Hockey Team of the State University of New York at Plattsburgh for winning this year's NCAA Division III National Championship.

Winning their third national title was the capstone on a remarkable season. The team finished the season with a record of 28–1–1, setting a new school record for wins and tying the NCAA Division III record. The team also set records for fewest goals allowed in a season (19), fewest goals allowed per game (0.63) and lowest goals-against average (0.63).

The team included three American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) All Americans: Sydney Aveson, Allison Era and Shannon Stewart. Ms. Aveson was also recognized with the AHCA Laura Hurd Award for the Division III Women's Hockey National Player of the Year.

In his 11th season with the team, Head Coach Kevin Houle was named the AHCA Division III Women's Ice Hockey Coach of the Year, his second in a row and fifth during his coaching career.

Let me also add that I attended the championship game with my wife and two friends. It was exciting to be part of such an enthusiastic crowd cheering on these tremendous student athletes.

With their record-setting season, the SUNY Plattsburgh Women's Ice Hockey Team has earned the enduring support of thousands of loyal fans in their region and a special place in NCAA history. The great character these players have shown makes them worthy examples for young athletes across northern New York and throughout the nation.

**HONORING THE JACKSON ALUMNAE
CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA
THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, a public service sorority who is rich in its heritage and rich in its depth of leadership and services. The chapter is a member of the largest of sororities

organized by African American women. Initially, the chapter was listed under the nomenclature of Alpha Chi Sigma Chapter.

The idea of organizing the chapter in Mississippi grew out of a group of close friends who had been active members of undergraduate chapters in other states: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Ohio and Texas. They needed eight Deltas to charter the chapter and after a long delay, on May 3, 1941; Clara Marjorie Allen, Willie Dobbs Blackburn, Elsie Whitaker Blackman, Emily Johnson Hall, Thelma Weathers Johnson, Lorraine G. Crawford, Nellie Burbridge Williams, and Aurelia Norris Young made history. The chartering ceremony was held in the home of Aurelia Norris Young with the Southern Regional Director, Helen "Dolly" Work, conducting the ceremony. Aurelia Norris Young was elected the first Chapter President. Since the chapter's chartering, these ladies of vision have attracted many well-known women and outstanding students to become members of the sisterhood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated for their dedication to serving others.

RECOGNIZING BOSMA ENTERPRISES AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of a great Indiana organization, Bosma Enterprises. Bosma, working through the AbilityOne Program, has helped thousands of Hoosiers who are blind or visually impaired and is Indiana's largest employer of people with vision loss.

AbilityOne is an initiative to help people who are blind or have other significant disabilities. For over 75 years this critical program has helped thousands of Americans find employment by working within a network of nonprofit agencies that sell products and services to the U.S. government. More than 700 Hoosiers in 2013 alone were served through Community and Center-Based Services at Bosma. These services helped them achieve a greater level of independence and self-esteem and allowed many people to gain employment in good paying jobs in central Indiana.

I have had the opportunity to visit Bosma Enterprises and see first-hand the impact that the AbilityOne program is having in the lives of so many Hoosiers. Nearly 60 percent of all employees at Bosma Enterprises are blind or visually impaired. One such employee is Preston Richardson. Preston lost his sight in 1988 and after several years of struggling with his disability was officially diagnosed in 1997. It was then that he found Bosma Enterprises, where he went to work in production. Preston's handwork and dedication enabled him to excel at Bosma, becoming the first visually-impaired employee in the customer service department. Preston was then promoted to account manager with the sales team where he

now manages over 300 state and national accounts.

The largest AbilityOne contracts Bosma holds are with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Bosma supplies all of the VA hospitals and clinics with examination and surgical gloves. These contracts provide job opportunities to people who are blind or visually impaired while also providing the VA with the resources they need to take care of America's veterans.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in recognizing the life changing work done every day by the men and women of Bosma Enterprises and the importance of the AbilityOne program. They have helped improve the lives of Hoosiers throughout the 6th District and central Indiana by enabling them to learn skills, find employment, and lead a more independent and fulfilling life. The dedication and commitment of AbilityOne employees is an example we can all aspire to. They have helped strengthen our communities and make the state of Indiana a better place to live.

**MARTIN/MARTIN CONSULTING
ENGINEERS**

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Martin/Martin Consulting Engineers for being honored with the Genesis Award given by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Genesis Award is given to a Jefferson County company which contributes to the economic vitality in Jefferson County through leadership, innovation, facilitation and collaboration within and outside Jefferson County.

Martin/Martin Consulting Engineers, operating in Colorado since 1940, is a full service civil and structural engineering and surveying firm. The company experienced steady growth over the years and recently added 23 high paying jobs in Jefferson County, Colorado.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Martin/Martin Consulting Engineers for receiving this prestigious award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your many years of service to the Jefferson County community.

**REMEMBERING JEANNETTE M.
FORTUNATO**

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Jeannette M. Fortunato, who passed away on January 24, 2014, at the tender age of eighty. Jeannette was born on May 12, 1933, in Youngstown, Ohio, to Steve and Edith Glazzy. Jeanette enjoyed cooking and bird watching, but most of all, she loved the time she spent with her family.

Jeannette led an exemplary life of service and dedication. She was a member of New Life Lutheran Church in Liberty, where she taught as a Sunday School Teacher and later joined Zion Lutheran Church. Not only did Jeannette touch the lives of those in the church community, she was incredibly loved by her family and friends.

Jeannette has joined her loving parents, Steve and Edith. She will be missed by a countless number of people in the community, and most of all by her husband of 58 years, Louis Fortunato, Jr., her children, Louis Fortunato III, David Fortunato and Lee Ann Fortunato-Heltzel, her grandchildren, Lynn, Rich, Nick, Chris, and Danielle, her great-grandson, Landon, her sister, Betty Schumacher, and her brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Dorothy Glazzy.

Jeannette was an extraordinary woman, and will live on in the hearts and minds of those she has touched. The state of Ohio lost an outstanding citizen and her community will miss her dearly.

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 494, REAFFIRMING THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of House Resolution 494, a bill to reaffirm the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979.

I am proud to say I have long supported the Taiwan-American relationship, perhaps longer than most Members of Congress serving today. In fact, I cosponsored H. Res. 494 on March 13 of this year, exactly 35 years to the day after I voted in this chamber to support the original Taiwan Relations Act in 1979.

At that time, during the height of the Cold War, the United States was an essential ally and friend of Taiwan. Even as our nation sought to normalize relations with Mainland China, we were not about to abandon friends and allies, going back to the darkest days of World War II.

It was our hope then, and it remains our hope today, that Taiwan and Mainland China will peacefully resolve their differences. Thanks in part to the Taiwan Relations Act, Taiwan has enjoyed decades of peace and freedom as a successful representative Democracy.

Today, Taiwan's rightfully boasts of clean air and water, the rule of law in commerce and government, and enjoys a prosperous industry.

More than a political ally, Taiwan is also a vitally important American trade partner. In 2012, exports to Taiwan from my own State of Minnesota were valued at \$489 million a year. This makes Taiwan the 5th largest Asian export market and the 10th largest export market for Minnesota worldwide.

As Taiwan and Mainland China have gradually strengthened their economic ties, Taiwan has become a vital front door to the massive Mainland Chinese market of 1.3 billion people and to additional markets throughout East Asia.

Minnesota and the United States benefit from this relationship. Business, Industry, and Labor welcome Taiwanese investment and trade in Minnesota, as well as the opportunity to expand our export markets worldwide.

By passing House Resolution 494, it is my hope that we can build upon these past successes, and reaffirm our continued political and economic support in this Congress for Taiwan.

LEGISLATION REGARDING UKRAINE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today express my strong support for today's pending legislation on Ukraine.

These two important pieces of legislation are similar in many respects to the Ukraine Support Act, which was adopted by the House with overwhelming bipartisan support last week. These measures will provide much-needed assistance to the government and people of Ukraine in the wake of Russia's illegal invasion and occupation of Crimea. They complement IMF efforts to restore the health of Ukraine's economy. They will support free and fair presidential elections in May, and they will expand funding for efforts to fight corruption and strengthen democratic institutions, the rule of law, and civil society in Ukraine. Just as importantly, the legislation condemns Russia's illegal invasion and occupation of Crimea and provides for additional sanctions if President Putin does not reverse course. With Russian forces now consolidating their control of Crimea and with tens of thousands of additional Russian troops threateningly massed on Ukraine's eastern border, we must remain resolute in calling on Russia to withdraw its troops and to engage in constructive dialogue with the Ukrainian government. In addition, any diplomatic effort to resolve the crisis must include the full participation of Ukrainian government representatives. Continued Russian refusal to meet these basic conditions must be met with additional sanctions.

Mr. Speaker, I commend colleagues from both sides of the aisle and from both Houses, and in particular Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL, who have worked so quickly to pass legislation that reaffirms the United States' longstanding support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine. These measures send a clear signal to the people of Ukraine and other countries in the region that we will continue to support the principle that countries must be free to choose their own paths, free from outside pressure.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint commit-

tees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 4

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for March 2014.

SH-216

APRIL 8

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Army Active and Reserve force mix in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine advanced biofuels, focusing on creating jobs and lower prices at the pump.

SR-328A

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Nani A. Coloretto, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-538

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Janet Garvin McCabe, of the District of Columbia, and Ann Elizabeth Dunkin, of California, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Manuel H. Ehrlich, Jr., of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

SD-406

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine protecting taxpayers from incompetent and unethical return preparers.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed international affairs budget request for fiscal year 2015 for national security and foreign policy priorities.

SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine supporting broad-based economic growth and fiscal responsibility through a fairer tax code.

SD-608

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To hold hearings to examine the role of the Department of Defense science and technology enterprise for innovation and affordability in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the Open World Leadership Center.

SD-138

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Vice Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, to be Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, and Elliot F. Kaye, of New York, to be Chairman, and Joseph P. Mohorovic, of Illinois, both to be a Commissioner, both of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

SR-253

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism

To hold hearings to examine economic espionage and trade secret theft, focusing on if laws are adequate for today's threats.

SD-226

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

To hold hearings to examine tactical aircraft programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

APRIL 9

Time to be announced

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-124

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

To hold hearings to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine an assessment on how to keep our railways safe for passengers and communities.

SD-138

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Labor.

SD-192

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Science and Space

To hold hearings to examine from here to Mars.

SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging

To hold hearings to examine addressing primary care access and workforce challenges, focusing on voices from the field.

SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger and the impact on consumers.

SD-226

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine election administration, focusing on making voter rolls more complete and more accurate.

SR-301

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Ukraine, focusing on confronting internal challenges and external threats, including Russia's seizure of Crimea.

SD-215

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

Business meeting to consider S. 1728, to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, S. 1937, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to develop contingency plans to address unexpected emergencies or natural disasters that may threaten to disrupt the administration of an election for Federal office, S. 1947, to rename the Government Printing Office the Government Publishing Office, S. 2197, to repeal certain requirements regarding newspaper advertising of Senate stationery contracts, and the nominations of Thomas Hicks, of Virginia, and Myrna Perez, of Texas, both to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission.

SR-301

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Energy.

SD-192

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine National Nuclear Security Administration management of its National Security Laboratories and the status of the Nuclear Security Enterprise in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program

SR-222

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on Indian students in public schools, and cultivating the next generation.

SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

APRIL 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-106

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for international development priorities.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

To hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Environmental Management of the Department of Energy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

APRIL 30

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's 2014 Trade Policy Agenda.

SD-215

April 2, 2014

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5529

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SD-G50

11 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR-222

2 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR-222

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SD-G50

5 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SD-G50

MAY 21

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

tee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SD-G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR-222

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR-222

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR-222

SENATE—Thursday, April 3, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, descend on our hearts. Thank You that Your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who come to You with reverence.

Today, incline the hearts of our Senators to Your wisdom, empowering them to keep Your precepts and to accomplish Your purposes. Keep them mindful of life's brevity and their accountability to You. Lord, protect them from life's dangers as You guide them through the darkness to a safe haven.

Please be near to the families of the victims of the Fort Hood shooting.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BRINGING BACK MEMORIES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, every time I see the Presiding Officer introducing

the prayer and directing the attention of the Senate to follow the Presiding Officer in reciting the pledge of allegiance, it brings back to me a lot of memories.

When I first came to the Senate, we had several of Members of Congress who had been to war. Now that is not the case. We all look at JOHN MCCAIN with such idealism of what he did in the Vietnam war. There are others but there aren't many, and to have now the Presiding Officer having not only been to war but being a general and having led hundreds of people from Montana to war, I am sure when that Pledge of Allegiance is said by the Presiding Officer, your feelings are a little different from anyone else's because during those bitter battles in Iraq, members of your unit were killed and injured.

So even though we don't say much publicly about the new addition to the Senate, I want the record to reflect that the people of Montana are so fortunate to have this patriot here in the Senate.

We will miss Max Baucus tremendously. He was my friend. But I am really impressed with the Presiding Officer and—I repeat—his having been not only a warrior but a general who led a lot of warriors in war.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3979, which is the legislative vehicle for the unemployment insurance extension bill.

We are working on an agreement on the unemployment insurance bill as well as some executive nominations. Senators will be notified when we are able to arrange those votes.

FORT HOOD

Mr. REID. Talking about the military, as I just did, we have to reflect on what took place at Fort Hood yesterday—another tragedy. We have just a general understanding about the motives. But our hearts are all broken as a result of another tragedy at this great military training facility. It was just a few years ago that there were mass murders on that military base.

Our Nation mourns every casualty that befalls our brave servicemembers. These seem so unnecessary and such a sad event. Fort Hood has seen more than its fair share of tragedy in the last few years. We know this community of warriors and their families are grieving and questioning this latest act of senseless violence.

As the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, GEN Martin Dempsey, put it, "This is a community that has faced and overcome crises with resilience and strength." That is true.

We stand with the people of Fort Hood today. We stand with all of our military wherever they are situated in the world, admiring their strength and resilience.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, no one can dispute that Winston Churchill was a statesman and the most famous in the history of our world. This is what he said:

Of this I am quite sure, that if we open a quarrel between the past and the present, we shall find that we have lost the future.

Why do I say that? Even though those remarks were made more than 70 years ago, I believe there are many in Congress who should focus on what Winston Churchill said because it is true. For far too long Republicans have obsessed over the Affordable Care Act—ObamaCare. The Affordable Care Act is the law of the land. It has been for more than 4 years.

From the very day this law was signed, Republicans have zealously worked to undermine it in so many different ways. Day in and day out they have clamored for repeal of this bill. House Republicans have voted more than 50 times trying desperately to cripple ObamaCare. They shut down the government trying to defund health care reform. And how has that worked? While they have obsessed over the past, the country has moved forward.

Now Republicans have to face the fact that millions of their own constituents, millions of Republicans are benefiting from health care reform in record numbers. But my Republican friends still insist on nothing short of repeal. So I ask my Republican colleagues, what would they like to repeal? What would repeal look like?

Because of the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans can no longer be denied health insurance because of preexisting conditions. What are some of the preexisting conditions that caused so much trouble in the past? Diabetes. How about this one: You are a woman. Many insurance companies considered women having a preexisting disability because they were women. Millions of young adults are now able to stay on their parents' policies until age 26. That is more than 3 million. Millions of seniors are saving huge amounts of money on prescription drugs because

we are in the process of filling the doughnut hole. This year alone millions of Americans will receive maternity coverage. Repealing the Affordable Care Act would be repealing many of these and many more. I could spend a long time talking about what would be repealed.

My counterpart, the Senator from Kentucky, will probably address the Senate after I finish. In his home State of Kentucky, 360,000 people have signed up for coverage under the Affordable Care Act. Kentucky is not New York; it is not Texas; it is not California. It is a sparsely populated State, somewhat like Nevada. Yet 360,000 people have signed up for coverage. Of those, 75 percent were previously uninsured. That is approaching 300,000 people. Over a quarter million Kentuckians who did not have insurance now have health coverage under the Affordable Care Act. In other words, ObamaCare has reduced the uninsured population of Kentucky by 40 percent.

I wonder when my friend from Kentucky will explain to the 270,000 Kentuckians how he plans to repeal the law without stripping the new health benefits. How exactly will he and his Republican colleagues guarantee that their newly insured constituents have no lapses in coverage? Remember, they want to do away with 270,000 people who didn't have insurance. They want to do away with 360,000 people in Kentucky who are signed up for insurance. So I await their answer.

In the meantime, Democrats will keep looking to the future, and the future of the Affordable Care Act is bright. Every day more and more Americans are getting health coverage under the law. On Monday we learned that 7,045,000 people had already signed up and about 1 million people on the State exchanges—370,000 in Kentucky, for example. We know there are more than 3 million young people on their parents' insurance because of that. We know there are millions of people who are now covered because of their ability to become part of Medicaid. So we are talking about a lot of people.

Health reform is working, and the law is here to stay. The more Americans see the law is working, the more they want it to stay. The time of fighting over the past is over. Remember what Winston Churchill said:

Of this I am quite sure, that if we open a quarrel between the past and the present, we shall find that we have lost the future.

I say this very seriously: I invite my Republican friends to look to the future. Put this obstruction behind them. Work with us to make the Affordable Care Act even better for their constituents and our constituents and Americans generally. Together, we can help millions more Americans get the health coverage they deserve.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

FORT HOOD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to start this morning with a word about yesterday's tragic shooting at Fort Hood.

As the investigation continues, we will learn more facts, but what we already know is that Fort Hood has faced a great deal of adversity and challenges over the past few years and that the community there has rallied around our uniformed personnel. We also know that the on-base military police appear to have responded quickly, appropriately, and obviously at great personal risk to themselves. So, as always in a tragedy such as this, we admire the courage and commitment of those who rushed to help the victims. And of course we are all thinking and praying today for the victims, their families, and their fellow soldiers and civilians at Fort Hood.

JOB CREATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, all week Republicans have been coming to the floor to talk about our proposals to ignite job creation and get the economy back on track. We have been talking about ideas that can help middle-class Americans who have been struggling just to make it in the Obama economy. But our Democratic colleagues don't seem to care all that much. They seem too preoccupied with an election still 7 months away. Instead of working with us on ideas for job creation, they have been talking about pretty much anything else.

Time and again yesterday Republicans asked our Democratic colleagues for consideration of our amendments by the Senate. And time and time again those efforts were rebuffed.

Republicans have a lot of good ideas. All we are asking is for those ideas to get fair consideration. Let's get our amendments pending, have a debate, and actually take a vote.

Some Senate Democrats seem to see things entirely differently. They don't even want the elected representatives of the people to have a say—a say on what Americans say is the most important issue facing our country. This is especially galling because our friends across the aisle always seem to find time for poll-tested show votes aimed at firing up the left. They may not be overly concerned about passing jobs legislation for the American people, but we can bet they will be forcing everyone to endure plenty of political show votes as we get closer to November. The so-called agenda that rolled

out last week basically guarantees it. They have already admitted they don't intend to pass the things it contains. That is not the point, they say. The true end is to help Democrats retain their Senate majority. They have essentially already admitted that, which is somewhat dishonorable. No wonder Americans are so disillusioned with Washington.

Look, the American people want us to focus on their concerns, not political show votes talked about by a few political strategists over at the Democrats' campaign committee. As I indicated, jobs are right up there at the top of that list. We will see today whether Senate Democrats are actually serious about giving our constituents what they want. It appears our colleagues might allow consideration of one amendment—just one. We are not even sure about that yet.

At least the amendment we would be considering is a good one, and I appreciate the work of Senator THUNE and others in putting that together. This would reduce the tax burden on small businesses. It would provide relief to the Kentucky coal communities that have been under continual assault by this administration. It would approve the Keystone Pipeline, which would create thousands of jobs right away. It would repeal the medical device tax, which even many Democrats acknowledge is killing jobs. It would eliminate ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek rule which is cutting paychecks to the middle class. In other words, this is an amendment that seeks to take the causes of joblessness head on rather than simply treating the symptoms of a down economy. It is an amendment that aims to help Americans find jobs with a steady paycheck and the promise of a better life.

There are other amendments not contained within this package the Senate should be voting on too. For instance, the national right-to-work amendment Senator PAUL and I have just introduced—transformational legislation that would empower American workers and put our country on a path to greater prosperity.

But the larger point is this: The Senate needs to be allowed to function again. While Members file amendments on behalf of their constituents, those amendments should get due consideration. That is particularly true when those amendments have bipartisan support and aim to address our still-ailing economy and the families struggling in it. My hope is our Democratic colleagues will allow this to happen.

These are serious times and we cannot afford to waste months on purely partisan proposals that have no hope of passing. We need to work together to advance serious proposals that expand jobs and opportunity.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MATTHEW S. SLUSS-TILLER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a Kentucky Special Operations Forces soldier who was lost in service to his country, the life of SFC Matthew S. Sluss-Tiller of Catlettsburg, KY, which prematurely ended on February 3, 2010, in Pakistan, where he was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was killed when the enemy attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. He was 35 years old.

For his service in uniform, Sergeant First Class Sluss-Tiller received many awards, medals, and decorations, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, two Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, five Army Achievement Medals, five Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Stars, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, three noncommissioned officers professional development ribbons, the Army service ribbon, two overseas service ribbons, the NATO Medal, the combat action badge, and the senior parachutist badge; obviously a much decorated soldier.

Pictured behind me is Sergeant First Class Sluss-Tiller with his daughter Hannah, who was only 3 years old when he died. Matthew's wife Melissa proudly sent this picture to my office so it can be honored on the Senate floor. It was taken the summer before Matthew was killed, and it was his last picture with his daughter.

Melissa remembers the bond between Matthew and Hannah fondly. "He used to sing to me and Hannah," she says.

He would dance with her standing on his feet, singing loudly. Thinking of it makes me smile. He loved being a husband and a father, and he was great at both.

Born and raised in eastern Kentucky, Matthew graduated from Lawrence County High School in 1993. Brenda Thornbury, his former art teacher, remained friends with Matthew after he graduated and recalls he knew from a young age what he wanted to do. "Matthew was a wonderful person," she says.

He was always eager to do whatever he needed to do to serve his country . . . he knew he would serve his country. He loved the Lord, and he loved his family.

Matthew's father Edward Tiller agrees. "From the time I bought him his first GI Joe, he wanted to be an Army man," he said.

In short, it seems clear that for Matthew, the Army was not just a job, it

was a way of life. He was dedicated to justice and service in the name of our country.

In 1991, Matthew enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves as a heavy construction mechanic and served at the 261st Ordnance Company located at Cross Lanes, WV. In 1993, he left the family farm and enlisted in the Active-Duty Army as a signal specialist. He served at Fort Bragg, NC, as well as in Germany and in Kuwait.

SFC Jamie Mullinax, a friend of Matthew's who trained with him at Fort Bragg, knew well the look of happiness we can see in Matthew's face behind me. He says:

If you knew Matt, you knew that smile. He always strived to do the best at what he did. I know he believed in what he was doing and loved wearing the military uniform and believed in what it stood for.

As the list of awards, medals, and decorations I read earlier makes clear, Matthew excelled at being a soldier. In his many years of training, he successfully completed the U.S. Army Airborne course, the Jumpmaster course, the Master Jumpmaster course, the Air Movement Operations course, the Military Transition Team course, the Civil Affairs Qualification course, and the Advanced and Basic Noncommissioned Officer's courses.

Prior to his time of deployment, Matthew deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo. In his final deployment Matthew was assigned to the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade, based out of Fort Bragg.

In his free time Matthew loved golf, hunting, hiking, camping, and riding motorcycles, and he was a passionate fan of UK basketball.

The many people who came to pay their respects at Matthew's funeral in eastern Kentucky witnessed the recognition of Matthew's sacrifice when they saw a three-star general come to their small town to lead the honor guard.

LtG John Mulholland delivered these remarks at the service:

Matthew was part of America's Army Special Operations Forces and as such was one of the finest soldiers in the world.

He went on:

That's no exaggeration, that he was embarked on a very important if not critical mission that is directly tied to the security of this country.

Of course, as impressive as his service record was, I think the picture behind me makes clear that the most important job to Matthew was husband and father. I know his family misses him terribly.

Melissa says the following about her husband:

I believe that our souls are beacons glowing immensely with light so powerful and beautiful that only in heaven can we become a true vision of ourselves. I know my Mat-

thew is standing tall in heaven, his light so stunning a reflection of who he was. God needed him, and I cannot question that.

We are thinking of Matthew's loved ones today, including his wife Melissa, his daughter Hannah, his parents Edward Tiller and Jane Blankenship, his stepparents Von Tiller and Forest Blankenship, his siblings Selena Dawn Pack Blankenship, Michael Blankenship, and Annette Sorg, and many other beloved family members and friends.

Our country has lost a faithful and devoted hero with the passing of SFC Matthew S. Sluss-Tiller. I know my colleagues join me in expressing great condolences to his family for their loss, and great gratitude to them for lending our country such an honorable and noble patriot.

I hope Hannah and all of Matthew's loved ones know that America will always—always—be grateful for his sacrifice.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3979, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Pending:

Reid (for Reed) amendment No. 2874, of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 2875 (to amendment No. 2874), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 2877 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2874), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 2878 (to amendment No. 2877), of a perfecting nature.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of the 2.3 million Americans, including the 140,000 New Jerseyans who have been without a job for months and desperately need

our help. These Americans are Americans who are veterans who stood for us in the military and Armed Forces. These are families and individuals with children. These are our seniors. These are folks who have been working for decades and suddenly found themselves in the worst economy of my lifetime without a job.

I am very proud of this body. We are inching closer toward passing legislation to restore Federal unemployment insurance. What this money does is it takes families from crisis with these meager checks to give a little bit of stability so they can do what is necessary to look for work.

It helps them keep their car insurance so they can ride to interviews. It helps them keep the cable service going so they can apply online and actually file their résumés as they look for jobs. It helps them meet mortgage payments, so they can keep a roof over their heads or rental payments as well.

I want to thank the incredible bipartisan leadership of DEAN HELLER and JACK REED. Senator HELLER and Senator REED have been working hard together with a group of us relentlessly to bring us this far. I have been so grateful for the leadership of those two Senators and others because it made us so close in this body to getting unemployment insurance extended.

This is a bipartisan bill. It involves compromise. It is what the American people want us to do, Republicans and Democrats coming together for millions of Americans that are in crisis right now through no fault of their own, in an economy where there are three people looking for a job for every single job that is available.

I want to express my gratitude to the entire bipartisan group cosponsoring the bill. My colleagues, Senator REED, Senator HELLER, Senator MERKLEY, Senator SHERROD BROWN, Senator DURBIN, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, Senator ROB PORTMAN, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, and Senator MARK KIRK, Republicans and Democrats alike who hammered out a compromise, have done the difficult work and are pushing to move this forward.

I also want to thank people from New Jersey who have shared their stories with me, who have been active and engaging from online posts, letters, and phone calls—all of them fighting to find work. I have heard from Republican New Jerseyans and Democratic New Jerseyans. I have heard from military veterans and single moms. I have heard from folks who are so hungry to work. But while they are looking, they are looking to this body, to all of Congress to help them meet the basic minimum needs so that they can continue to have some stability and not be swallowed up by the quicksand of economic crisis and to be able to continue to find a job.

They are living examples. Each and every one of those millions of Ameri-

cans are examples of what is at stake if we do not act. I have heard painful stories of people facing real crises, from homelessness to skipping medications, doing everything they can to keep some semblance of stability so that they can find a job. Unfortunately, many are falling through the cracks. Many are facing the darkest of days.

As the Senate prepares to vote on this incredibly vitally important bill, I want to stress that this legislative body is only as effective as both Chambers and parties being able to come together, to really follow in that great American tradition that for the last 50 years, Democrats and Republicans during times of economic crisis, have come together and found a way to hammer out compromises to extend unemployment insurance under Reagan, under Bush, under Clinton, and under Carter. We found a way to get forward, both Chambers being there for Americans in the economic crisis.

Today is a significant step in our fight to restore hope to America's unemployed but only if this bill is also voted on and passed in the House of Representatives.

I have sat in living rooms, diners, and soup kitchens all across the State of New Jersey, and I can tell you the crisis is real. I am hopeful that if my colleagues in the House of Representatives listen to the voices—Republicans and Democrats, red and blue, North and South, all across this country—of their unemployed constituents, they will do what is right. They will shun that intellectually unreal idea that Americans are lazy, that they don't want to work. We have millions of Americans out there fighting for their hope of finding a job, and they need the help of the House of Representatives, as I believe they will get it from the Senate this week.

No matter our party, all of us have folks in our home States who are unemployed and suffering because we have thus far failed to do what every other Congress has done in the past when long-term unemployment rates have been so high, as they are today. We must extend Federal unemployment insurance. America needs our House of Representatives to listen to the pleas of those who are barely making ends meet.

I remember Joan and her daughter, a recent Rutgers University graduate. They live together and were both cut off from unemployment insurance the same week in December. The modest unemployment checks that Joan and her daughter were receiving had helped them to keep up with mortgage payments. While they waited for us to vote, their home was placed into foreclosure.

Then there is Lauren from Clifton, who wrote my office saying she had sent out close to 1,000 resumes without luck and had reached the point where

she couldn't pay to keep the heat on in her house during this brutal winter and she feared her phone was going to have to be cut off next. She wrote:

I've been looking for work tirelessly. What does someone in my situation do?

These folks have worked hard all of their lives. They have played by the rules but unfortunately happen to be in a bad economy not of their making, which they did not contribute to, and are caught in these difficult times. They are doing everything right and so should their representatives in Congress.

Today we are casting a vote for them. Today I am proud to say that in the Senate we are coming together, Democrats and Republicans, hammering out a compromise, meeting each other in the middle, and doing what is expected of us by Americans—reaching out, lending a hand, in a time of crisis. I implore my colleagues in the House of Representatives to do the same.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise to speak to my amendment No. 2959 to the unemployment insurance legislation that is before us. The amendment is called the Good Jobs, Good Wages, and Good Hours Act.

Twelve times Congress has voted to extend emergency unemployment benefits since 2008, and what do we have to show for those 12 extensions of these benefits. More than 10 million Americans remain unemployed. Of those, more than 3.8 million Americans have been unemployed for longer than 6 months. Millions more remain underemployed or have simply dropped out of the workforce altogether, too discouraged to even look for work in this stagnant economy.

Over that same period a Democrat-led Senate and the Obama White House have done little but grow the size of the government and shrink the size of the middle class.

In 2009, Congress passed a \$1 trillion stimulus bill that poured taxpayer dollars into projects such as Solyndra and a battery manufacturer that is now owned by the Chinese. It failed to create the jobs and economic growth that was promised by the White House, but it succeeded in creating 5 straight years of record deficits.

In 2010 Congress enacted ObamaCare—essentially a government takeover of one-sixth of our economy with 2,700 pages of new laws and 25,000 pages of new regulations. It didn't fulfill the President's promise of lowering

health care costs or letting families keep their doctors, but it has succeeded in canceling health plans and raising taxes.

In 2010 Congress enacted Dodd-Frank. It hasn't fixed too big to fail, but in one respect it has succeeded in creating jobs. It is estimated that more than 30,000 employees will be required to file the paperwork associated with the \$18 billion in Dodd-Frank compliance costs for our financial sector.

Meanwhile, Congress has failed to put a check on the EPA, which continues pushing regulations that have record-setting price tags. These regulations aren't creating jobs, but they are fulfilling the President's promise to make energy prices skyrocket.

Five years into the Obama administration and the scorecard doesn't look very good, with \$456 billion in new regulations, \$1.7 trillion in new taxes, 10.4 million people unemployed, and economic growth far behind the pace of other post-World War II recoveries.

So here we are debating the 13th extension of emergency unemployment benefits in the past 5 years because we have 3.8 million people in this country, workers who have been out of work for more than 6 months. If enacted, these benefits would last until June. Then what? Are we going to have a 14th extension, perhaps a 15th extension? Without job creating policies, this 13th extension is just another bandaid that doesn't address the true causes of chronic joblessness that plague the Obama economy.

My Republican colleagues and I came to the floor yet again this week to debate and to vote on amendment ideas that will change the course the Obama administration has put the country on. We have offered dozens of amendments that will stimulate private-sector investment, create jobs, and make energy and health care more affordable. I have worked with many of my colleagues on a package of job-creating ideas that we would like to add to this 13th extension of emergency unemployment insurance benefits. My amendment, as I said, is called the Good Jobs, Good Wages, Good Hours Act, and it includes many of these ideas.

I would like to share a few of them with my colleagues in the Senate so people understand that when we come to the floor to talk about offering amendments and getting votes on amendments, we are serious. We have real substantive ideas that we believe will address the fundamental issue—the underlying cause of chronic high unemployment—by getting people back to work through job creation, through an expanding and growing economy.

My amendment includes a provision that has been pushed by Senator HOEVEN that would finally approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. After 5 years of delay, it is time to approve the pipeline and the 40,000 jobs it will support. Sen-

ator HOEVEN has been the leading advocate of that here in the Senate.

The amendment I am offering includes Leader MCCONNELL's legislation to stop EPA's war on affordable energy. Leader MCCONNELL's bill puts consumers ahead of liberal and environmental groups by stopping costly regulations that will make it even more difficult for the middle class to make ends meet.

My amendment includes a provision pushed by Senators BARRASSO and HOEVEN to approve more LNG exports to our NATO allies and to the Ukraine, something that is especially timely in light of what is going on in that part of the world. Now is the ideal time to create more domestic jobs while breaking our allies' dependence on Russian energy supplies.

My amendment also addresses the problems created by ObamaCare. It includes a provision pushed by Senator COLLINS that will restore the 40-hour workweek. It will finally repeal the job-destroying medical device tax, which Senators TOOMEY and HATCH have been tirelessly fighting, which has cost us, by some estimates, 30,000 jobs already in our economy because of this new job-killing tax.

My amendment ensures that veterans and the long-term unemployed are not punished by the costs of the ObamaCare employer mandate. It includes a provision Senator BLUNT has authored that raised this issue in the Senate on behalf of veterans, and in the House a similar bill passed by a vote of 406 to 1. Certainly we can find few Democrats who are willing to provide ObamaCare relief to veterans and the long-term unemployed.

My amendment also provides permanent targeted tax relief to millions of small businesses. Small businesses create 65 percent of all new jobs. Yet this administration has done little more than punish them with more regulations and higher taxes. This amendment makes permanent higher expensing levels, provides capital gains tax relief for investing in small businesses, and expands options to increase cashflow at Main Street businesses across the country. It allows small businesses to deduct more startup costs, and puts the selfemployed on an equal playing field when paying for health care costs.

This amendment also includes commonsense regulatory reform put forward by Senator PORTMAN that will ensure taxpayers know the true cost of new regulations. It requires agencies to conduct a cost-benefit analysis and provide advanced notice of any major new regulations.

Finally, this amendment includes the House-passed SKILLS Act, which Senator SCOTT has introduced as an amendment to the UI bill. Currently, we have 50 Federal worker training programs spread across nine Federal

agencies. Many of them are duplicative and few of them have been evaluated for whether or not they are effective. This amendment would combine 35 of those programs into one Workforce Investment Fund that will empower governors to tailor programs to their States and benefit employers and employees alike.

My point simply is that Senate Republicans stand ready to offer more than just the status quo. We understand the long-term unemployed want more than just 20 more weeks of unemployment benefits. They want a job. We understand those who are struggling to adapt in a changing economy want more than a morass of broken worker training programs. They want relevant training that prepares them for the jobs that are in demand today. We understand that low-income families want more than government programs designed to help them just get by. They want more opportunity and a better future for their children. We understand that Main Street businesses across the country cannot afford endless regulations coming from Washington, DC. They want a chance to succeed and to fulfill their American dream.

I am hopeful that at least some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle understand that basic principle too and will join us in including job-creating measures as part of this 13th extension of emergency unemployment benefits. We can do better for the American people. We should do better by the American people.

We have serious proposals, serious job-creating proposals that don't get a chance to see the light of day because the majority party in the Senate blocks amendments from being offered, blocks amendments from being debated, and blocks amendments from being voted on.

So what do we have. We have the status quo. That means that for the 13th time we have to extend unemployment insurance benefits to people who have been unemployed for way too long because we have failed to put policies in place that are actually good for job creation, that are actually the right types of incentives for our small businesses to hire, that take away the burdensome cost of taxes and regulations that make it more expensive and more difficult for our small businesses to hire, and because we fail to take into consideration the impact that so many of these things we do here in Washington have on hardworking people in this country who are trying to lift their families into the middle class and to provide a better future for their children and grandchildren.

That is what every American wants. That is what every family in America aspires to. We ought to do something about it. Another meager government check that helps people get by isn't the way to a brighter and better future.

The way to a brighter and better future is a good-paying job with an opportunity for advancement. That is what we ought to be focused on, and that is what the provisions I just mentioned, that are included in my amendment, would do.

My amendment incorporates many of the ideas Members on our side have advanced, all with an eye toward creating jobs and growing and expanding the economy in a way that will create those good-paying opportunities and give people a better chance at a better future. So I really hope we will get the chance to vote. We can't, evidently, get individual amendments that have been offered by individual Members voted on, so we have taken a number of ideas and incorporated them into this amendment, an alternative to what is being proposed by the Democrats, which simply treats the symptom of this problem but does nothing to address the underlying cause of the problem.

We want to focus on the problem; we want to focus on the cause; we want to focus on solutions; and we believe the Senate ought to be the place where we have an opportunity to vote on those very solutions. So I encourage my colleagues on both sides to open this process. Let us allow the American people to have their voices heard—not just the voices of a few but the voices of the many people in the Senate who have good ideas about how to create jobs, grow the economy, and build a better future for our children and grandchildren.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak to the Senate as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CREATING REAL VALUE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, in Kansas there is a company called Koch Industries that is an important component of our State, its economy, and many, several thousand Kansans work there. Unfortunately, in the political discourse of our country, Koch Industries and its owners are often subject to attacks.

I happened to be reading the Wall Street Journal this morning, and I noticed a column, an opinion piece written by the chairman of the board of Koch Industries, Charles G. Koch, and I wish to share that with my colleagues today.

It seems to me the things that are outlined in Mr. Koch's opinion piece,

while not everyone would agree, they are certainly within the wide mainstream of American thought and certainly reflect opinions that are worthy of debate and discussion in our country and on the Senate floor.

We all bring diversity, a different set of values, opinions, beliefs of political philosophy to the debate on the Senate floor, and I wanted to share one of Koch Industries owner's beliefs about those values and his philosophy and how it affects Americans today.

This is an opinion piece from today's Wall Street Journal written by a Kansan, Charles Koch. Mr. Koch says:

I have devoted most of my life to understanding the principles that enable people to improve their lives. It is those principles—the principles of a free society—that have shaped my life, my family, our company and America itself.

Unfortunately, the fundamental concepts of dignity, respect, equality before law and personal freedom are under attack by the nation's own government. That's why, if we want to restore a free society and create greater well-being and opportunity for all Americans, we have no choice but to fight for those principles. I have been doing so for more than 50 years, primarily through educational efforts. It was only in the past decade that I realized the need to also engage in the political process.

Again, Mr. Koch speaking:

More than 200 years ago, Thomas Jefferson warned that this could happen. "The natural progress of things," Jefferson wrote, "is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground." He knew that no government could possibly run citizens' lives for the better. The more government tries to control, the greater the disaster, as shown by the current health-care debacle. Collectivists (those who stand for government control of the means of production and how people live their lives) promise heaven but deliver hell. For them, the promised end justifies the means. A truly free society is based upon a vision of respect for people and what they value. In a truly free society, any business that disrespects its customers will fail, and deserves to do so. The same should be true of any government that disrespects its citizens. The central belief and fatal conceit of the current administration is that you are incapable of running your own life, but those in power are capable of running it for you. This is the essence of big government and collectivism.

Instead of encouraging free and open debate, collectivists strive to discredit and intimidate opponents. They engage in character assassination. . . . This is the approach that Albert Schopenhauer described in the 19th century, that Saul Alinsky famously advocated in the 20th, and that so many despots have infamously practiced. Such tactics are the antithesis of what is required for a free society—and a telltale sign that the collectivists do not have good answers.

Rather than try to understand my vision for a free society or accurately report the facts about Koch Industries, our critics would have you believe we're "un-American" and trying to "rig the system," that we're against "environmental protection" or eager to "end workplace safety standards."

These falsehoods remind Mr. Koch of the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan's observation, "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts."

Here are some facts about my philosophy and our company: Koch companies employ 60,000 Americans; who make many thousands of products that Americans want and need. According to government figures, our employees and the 143,000 additional American jobs they support generate \$11.7 billion in compensation and benefits. About one-third of our U.S.-based employees are union members.

Koch employees have earned well over 700 awards for environmental, health and safety excellence since 2009, many of them are from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. EPA officials have commended us for our "commitment to a cleaner environment" and called us "a model for other companies."

Our refineries have consistently ranked among the best in the nation for low per-barrel emissions. In 2012, our Total Case Incident Rate—

That is a safety measure—

was 67% better than a Bureau of Labor Statistics average for peer industries. Even so, we have never rested on our laurels. We believe there is always room for innovation and improvement.

Far from trying to rig the system, I have spent decades opposing cronyism and all political favors, including mandates, subsidies, and protective tariffs—even when we benefit from them. I believe that cronyism is nothing more than welfare for the rich and powerful, and should be abolished. Koch Industries was the only major producer in the ethanol industry to argue for the demise of the ethanol tax credit in 2011. That government handout . . . needlessly drove up food and fuel prices as well as other costs for consumers—many of whom were poor or otherwise disadvantaged.

Mr. Koch says:

Now the mandate needs to go, so that consumers and the marketplace are the ones who decide the future of ethanol.

Instead of fostering a system that enables people to help themselves, America is now saddled with a system that destroys values, raises costs, hinders innovation and relegates millions of citizens to a life of poverty, dependency and hopelessness. This is what happens when elected officials believe that people's lives are better run by politicians and regulators than by the people themselves. Those in power fail to see that more government means less liberty, and liberty is the essence of what it means to be American. Love of liberty is an American ideal. If more businesses (and elected officials) were to embrace a vision of creating real value for people in a principled way, our nation would be far better off—not just today, but for generations to come. I'm dedicated to fighting for that vision. I'm convinced that most Americans believe it's worth fighting for, too.

That is the opinion piece from the Wall Street Journal this morning, written by a Kansan, Charles Koch.

I commend that opinion piece and its thoughts to my colleagues in the Senate.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I come to the floor today to address the unemployment benefits legislation. This legislation is, frankly, an admission that after 5 years of spending more money for costly government stimulus—all of it borrowed—to try to increase employment in America, we still have an unemployment crisis.

Not long ago at the White House, Mr. Sperling said that there are three applicants for every job in America and wages are down. In effect, this legislation is an admission that taxing, spending, regulating, and borrowing has not worked. Indeed, those policies will never work. More regulation, more taxing, more borrowing, and more debt will not improve the economy. We know that. Despite what some so-called experts say, we know that is not a policy that will work, but urgent action is needed.

According to testimony we heard this week in the Budget Committee, if you adjust for the retirement of the baby boomers, the labor force is still short 4.5 million people, the equivalent of \$500 billion in national income lost each year. But the majority has circled their wagons around this spend-and-borrow agenda.

For instance, our friends are blocking a Republican amendment requiring companies to hire legal workers, not unlawful workers. The E-Verify system should be required nationwide. It would simply check the Social Security number of applicants, which would identify many people who have no right to be employed in America because they are not here lawfully. In a time of high unemployment, we ought not to be filling our jobs with people who are not lawful and not lawfully able to work in America, while at the same time financially supporting people who are unemployed in the country. At the same time, congressional Democrats have pushed for a bill that would more than double the future H-1B guest worker visas that are frequently used for offshore jobs.

As ranking member of the Budget Committee, I have to inform my colleagues that this unemployment bill is not honestly paid for, and that it violates the Ryan-Murray budget agreement that was signed into law just over 3 months ago. We said we were not going to spend above a certain amount.

Actually, Ryan-Murray raised the amount the Budget Control Act had limited spending to when we were in a tight fix. I think this year in particular was probably the toughest year under the Budget Control Act, so relief was provided and it raised the spending limits for a fifth year and it helped. Just 3 months ago we reaffirmed those spending limits and said we were not going to go above them.

Yet just this past Monday, the Senate passed the so-called doc fix which

exceeded the Ryan-Murray spending limits by \$6.1 billion this year alone. We adopted a limit, and what do we do? We want to help our doctors, but instead of reducing spending somewhere else in this massive government, we come up with a gimmick argument to say we are paying for it and add, in effect, \$6.1 billion to the expenditures this year. We objected to that, but people voted to waive the budget with an up-or-down vote. Do you want to stick by the agreement we reached 3 months ago or do you want to raise it and spend more? The majority in the Senate voted to spend more, and this is why we have such an extreme debt threat in America today.

The bill that is before us now is the unemployment insurance legislation, which exceeds the 2014 limit on spending by another \$9.9 billion. Our Federal budget is \$3.5 trillion—\$3,500 billion—and we can't find some other reductions if we want to fund a new expenditure, such as unemployment compensation? We can't find someplace that we can tighten our belts and pay for it?

My colleagues say that while spending increases this year, the bill is paid for over the next decade. They promised that although we will spend more this year, a decade later—10 years—we are going to get around to paying for it. There are three major problems with this contention, and we just have to address them so there is no mistake about it. This is not legitimate, and it threatens the financial integrity of the country.

The Ryan-Murray budget deal established spending limits. You cannot get out of those spending limits by raising fees and taxes. Taxing more to spend more was not the deal. The deal in the Budget Control Act said that we are going to reduce the growth in spending. We were on track—over 10 years—to grow spending \$10 trillion. Under the Budget Control Act, we were going to allow spending to increase, but it would only increase \$8 trillion, not \$10 trillion.

Now we are told that the Budget Control Act, which includes the sequester—we can't live with it. Growing and spending \$8 trillion is not enough; we have to grow spending even more. Every time some worthy cause is brought before the Senate, we take the easy way out. We come up with a gimmick pay-for or we just violate the budget and spend the money anyway. What good is it to have a Ryan-Murray budget agreement or a Budget Control Act if nobody adheres to it?

Second, one of the big reasons our country is going broke is the philosophy of “spend today and promise to pay for it tomorrow.” Here is what a new Bloomberg analysis—an independent group—concluded:

Since December 2013 [three months ago] the Republican House and the Democratic Senate have approved more than \$40 billion

worth of spending “offsets” in the form of cuts that would take place in 2023 at the earliest or timing shifts in policy to bring savings into the 10-year window . . .

Both of these gimmicks are not legitimate, will not work, and have been criticized by independent groups that are concerned about the future of the Republic.

Third, the promised revenue offsets are phony savings. The offsets come from something called “pension smoothing”—wow, what is “pension smoothing”?—and “prepayment of premiums to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.” These are two popular schemes—double counting and timing shifts—that allow companies to prepay their payments for up to 5 years. In good times companies can pay ahead to the PBGC trust fund and Congress can take the money out the backdoor and spend it on—in this case—unemployment. In bad times this will leave the taxpayer further on the hook if PBGC has to take over a failed pension plan. It is taking money out of the plan that was supposed to be set up to guarantee and insure pensions.

I realize some of this sounds complex, but that is the problem: the big spenders in Washington have turned bilking taxpayers into an art form. Some spend their whole time trying to come up with a gimmick to get around the actual requirement, which is for us to set priorities and to recognize we cannot fund everything we would like to fund.

If we have a new idea for a new program, the Budget Control Act says: OK, do it, but you have to do it within the spending limits. You have to find some spending reduction to justify a new spending increase. That is what we agreed to, and that is what the President of the United States signed into law. He also signed Ryan-Murray into law. Is he here advocating responsible action? No, he is here supporting the Democratic leadership to push these budget-busting provisions and is not properly paying for them. Frankly, that is a disappointment.

The President of the United States is the chief person who talks to the American people. He has yet to look them in the eye and tell them we are on an unsustainable course, and we are going to have to tighten our belts. Instead, every time he talks, he talks about a new spending. A new program that spends more, in essence, is borrowing more and increasing our debt even further.

In the few months since Ryan-Murray was passed, the Senate—driven by a Democratic majority—has passed five bills that busted through the Ryan-Murray limits. There have been five bills that busted the budget. We just agreed to it, and they just voted for it 3 months ago.

They say these are all important measures and we have to pass them, so we should disregard those prior promises we made to the American people.

The whole point of a spending limit is to make Congress set priorities. If you feel you have legislation that needs to pass, it is your duty to find a way to pay for it within the limits of spending we agreed to.

This is not a radical concept. This is responsible governance. It is done in cities and States all over America. They are living within their means. They are tightening up their efficiencies in productivity. People holler and wail whenever they make those cuts, but those cities, counties, and States are still standing. They have not been sucked into the ocean. They are still operating. They are going to be leaner, more efficient, and more productive as the result of going through a tight budget time. As money rises, and hopefully the economy bounces back, they will be in a better position in the future to serve the taxpayers of their communities efficiently.

Here are the budget violations in the pending bill, and these budget violations were all confirmed. I am the ranking Republican of the Budget Committee, and the Democratic chairman, Senator MURRAY, is a fine and fair chairman of the committee. Her team has acknowledged these violations of the budget, and as a result, it is subject to a budget point of order. There is not a dispute about what I am saying today.

There is \$9.9 billion in spending in excess of the top-line outlays for fiscal year 2014 set by the Ryan-Murray spending agreement. There is also another violation of the Budget Control Act because there is \$9.9 billion of spending in excess of the Finance Committee's allocations.

The committees have certain allocations. The Finance Committee has a certain allocation, and now it is spending \$9.9 billion more. How much is \$9.9 billion? Well, in Alabama we have a lean State government, and I am proud of it. My State's budget is about \$2 billion. This is \$9.9 billion, and it is in violation of our agreement.

Also, there is a \$10.7 billion increase in long-term deficits in the decade beyond the budget window that is subject to a budget point of order, and that is in violation of the budget.

Ordinarily, we would be able to raise a point of order to enforce all three of these violations. However, two of these points of order were wiped away by a loophole created in the language of the Ryan-Murray legislation. I warned them that it was in there, and I urged my colleagues not to adopt it, but it was adopted anyway. Two of the budget points of order I just mentioned are not subject to floor action and have been eliminated, basically, through the use of the deficit-neutral reserve fund. At the time of the Ryan-Murray deal's consideration, the Budget Committee staff—my staff—did the work and we warned that the 57 deficit-neutral re-

serve funds in the Ryan-Murray bill would be used to increase spending above the spending limits. We warned that would happen. The way that works is the majority can get around the budget rules that limit spending if they propose to offset new spending with new higher taxes.

So we are witnessing today exactly what I warned would happen: The minority has lost the procedural tool to block spending increases as long as they pay for it with more taxes.

What we agreed to under the Budget Control Act was that we couldn't spend above this limit, and if we raised taxes, it would be used to reduce the deficit. So now we have been able to switch that around so the raising of taxes is allowed to increase new spending.

These deficit reserve funds have been used by Senator REID and the majority to pass a proposed additional \$13 billion in spending above the caps already. However, the unemployment bill still triggers a long-term deficit point of order because it uses revenue timing shifts to conceal long-term deficit impact. So it is still in violation of the budget, even though two of the points of order are gone.

We do need to look at the long-term deficit picture. It is good that we still at least have that point of order we can raise. We can't just spend today because it fits within the 10-year window and somehow looks OK, when we know in the outyears it is going to add to the deficit of the United States. So the budget drafters and the BCA people have language in to prohibit that, rightly so. The problem is we won't adhere to it.

Last year, we paid our creditors \$221 billion in interest payments—\$221 billion on our roughly \$17 trillion debt. That is a huge amount of money. The Federal highway bill is \$40 billion. Aid to education—a whole bunch of programs we have—\$100 billion in total. The Defense budget is \$500 billion. We paid our creditors last year \$221 billion in interest alone on the debt. That is enough to pay for 172 weeks of unemployment benefits for everyone collecting at the end of last year. Over the course of the next 10 years, according to CBO, we will spend a cumulative \$5.8 trillion in interest payments on our debt. Over the next 10 years, CBO—our accounting firm that tries to do the right thing every day and tells us what is going to happen with our budget—tells us we are going to spend over \$5 trillion, almost \$6 trillion, in interest in the next 10 years—money that could be used to help people, to rebuild our infrastructure, to fix crumbling roads and bridges. At today's levels, that \$5.8 trillion could pay for a great amount of great things.

The CBO also told us that 10 years from today, the 1-year annual interest payment will not be \$221 billion, it will be \$880 billion—\$880 billion, an increase

of over \$650 billion in interest payments each year—not one time, but that year alone we will pay \$600 billion more in interest. So how can we fund programs? Isn't it going to crowd out spending we need?

Washington is squandering our national inheritance. We are a nation deeply in debt. I would say to my colleagues that every time you violate our budget limits—because I am not voting for it—every time you add more to the Nation's credit card, you are increasing the interest burden that is crushing America, and you reduce the amount of money that will be available to spend on whatever program you would like to spend it on as the years go by. Interest costs represent the fastest growing item in our budget. How much money will there be left over for your chosen government projects when our interest payment reaches almost \$1 trillion a year? CBO says that by 2024, it will hit \$880 billion. How many more years will it take, 2 or 3, to reach \$1 trillion?

We must help the unemployed, no doubt about it. We need to help them get better jobs, more jobs, and better pay, and we have to do so without adding more to the debt. That is what is placing a wet blanket over the American economy.

We need to produce more American energy. We can do that.

We need to streamline our Tax Code to lower rates, close loopholes, and boost economic growth. We need to eliminate regulations that are reducing productive activities and sending jobs overseas.

We need to endorse a trade policy that defends the American worker from unfair trade practices. Too much of that is occurring. We don't need to lose a single job to unfair trade practices.

We need an immigration policy that serves the interests of the American worker. At a time of high unemployment, the very idea the Senate would pass a bill that would permanently double the number of guest workers who can enter the country boggles the mind. That, in addition to the fact they would legalize 11 million and increase the annual flow of immigrants into the country from 1 million a year—the most generous of any Nation in the world—to 1.5 million. In effect, under the bill that passed this Senate, we would be providing permanent legal status to about 30 million people in the next 10 years. Our current law allows for 1 million a year—about 10 million over the next 10 years. Is it any wonder people are having a hard time getting a job today?

There is not a tight labor market out there; there is a loose labor market. How do I know? Because wages are going down. If employers are desperate and need more workers and can't find them, why aren't they having to pay higher wages to get good workers?

We have to stand up. The American people need to know what is happening to them.

What is the solution, our colleagues say? Well, unemployment is too high and wages are not going up; let's borrow more money and spend it by sending out unemployment checks to people who are unemployed because somebody illegally here took a job they could have taken.

There is no doubt about this: We need to create and transform the welfare office into an office that transforms the lives of people who are struggling today. We have 40 job programs, at least. We have more than 80 different means-tested social programs. Those all need to be consolidated. There needs to be one central place where an American who is hurting, who is out of work and needs help, may be given financial help, but also counseled and provided training in the things they might need to get a job. Maybe instead of a subsidy while they're unemployed, individuals need help with transportation to go to work. Maybe they need help relocating to another town where the jobs are readily available.

This idea that we just continue to spend more and more on attempting to help people by giving them money without helping them transform their lives and become productive has to end. In fact, all the means-tested programs all added up amount to more than \$750 billion, which is more than all the other individual programs we spend money on—more than Social Security, more than Medicare, more than Medicaid, more than the Defense Department.

This country has some challenges in front of it. If we would respond with classic American values of hard work, individual responsibility, and our technology and training, we could turn this country around. But we don't have any leadership in that regard. Any change, any suggestions that we would reduce a subsidy program in order to fund job training or even fund unemployment compensation is a nonstarter around here, it appears.

I am worried about where we are. This unemployment insurance violates the budget. We should not pass it. We should do it within the budget and we need to analyze it carefully to make sure we are doing it in a way that actually helps those we intend to help.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I came to the floor today with the inten-

tion of asking unanimous consent to pass H.R. 3521, which we have heard a lot about on the floor lately between Senator VITTER and Senator SANDERS. This bill would authorize the construction of 27 veterans clinics—2 of them in our State, Louisiana, 1 in Lake Charles and 1 in Lafayette.

It is a long and sad story about why these clinics have not been built. I will get into that in a minute. As you can see, Texas, California, Florida, Georgia, and other States are affected. I know the Senators from those States support what we are trying to do.

Yesterday or the day before, my colleague came to the floor to call me "ineffective." I would like to say that I was a little bit shocked to hear that. I have been called many things on the floor of this Senate—hardheaded, stubborn, tenacious, the Senator who never quits. I have never been called ineffective, so it was a little bit shocking.

What I can say is that I think I have spent 18 years on the floor of the Senate and here working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle and developing very strong friendships, very good relationships and trusting friendships that I think have accrued in large measure in a very beneficial way to the State I represent and to the region of the country I am also so proud to represent, the gulf coast.

Maybe my colleague was having a bad day. I am going to let it go, but it was a little shocking to hear that word.

Back to the issue. The issue is quite serious. The issue is that we have had a process of building veterans clinics in this country a certain way for a very long time. About 3 years ago CBO kind of out of the blue decided to change the scoring mechanism—instead of the way we were doing it through a leasing process, change the scoring system to cause the budget problem, the constraints in the budget to not allow us to move forward with the construction of these veterans facilities.

But added to that change, what is really happening in Louisiana and why this is such an important issue for us is that we were scheduled to build our two clinics and had waited in line patiently for many years. Our clinics were getting ready to be built in Lafayette and Lake Charles, which are a very important part of our outreach to the tens of thousands of veterans in our State.

The Veterans' Administration itself made a very serious mistake, which they have admitted in writing, verbally. General Shinseki has been down to our State to visit these sites, to talk with many of us in Louisiana about how unfortunate it was that mistakes in the bidding process were made—not by us, not by the State, not by the locals, but by the Federal Government. Because of these mistakes, our process of building these clinics was delayed.

That is why House Member BOUSTANY—a wonderful colleague and a dear friend and a great leader—has been leading the effort. These are basically in his district. He and I have been working very closely to try to bring to the attention of the leadership here the fact that they made the mistake, not us. We should not have to pay the penalty because of that.

Then, in the midst of that fight, this new scoring mechanism came down.

Now we cannot get out from underneath either the offset required or the new process required to get our clinics built. It has nothing to do with need—we are at the top of that list. We have the need. We have the veterans. We have the commitment of the Federal Government to get these built.

All of our delegation has been working very closely to try to get these clinics built. I am happy to say that I am here today—as I have always been on this issue—supporting it and will ask in just a minute—I wanted to ask but will not ask in just a minute—for unanimous consent to build these clinics without an offset, just as the House bill passed. It is a \$1.6 billion charge. It would move without an offset. That is what the House voted on. It was a huge vote, 346 votes, Republicans and Democrats. I think when we have a vote like that, we need to really pay attention over here. They voted to build these clinics at a cost of \$1.6 billion without an offset.

That is what I am going to ask for. Senator COBURN will object. He has let me know he will object. Unfortunately, because of personal reasons, he is unable to be here today. So out of respect for the process of the Senate and out of courtesy, I will not be asking for that unanimous consent now, but I will be asking for it early next week.

Just to be clear, it will be a unanimous consent to build these 27 clinics based on the House vote without this bill going back to the House, going straight to the President's desk for signature by the President.

The offset the Senator from Louisiana offered is a bogus offset. We have a letter from CBO that I would like to read into the RECORD. The junior Senator from Louisiana offered his offset to supposedly raise the \$1.6 billion that will pay for this. This is from the CBO analysis.

It says: Based on preliminary estimates of the amendment offered by Senator VITTER, based on the information of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs and their current practices and joint purchases of prescription drugs, I do not estimate any savings for drug purchases relative to current law. My preliminary estimate of the amendment would be a minimal discretionary cost of less than \$500,000.

There is no money to be saved by the amendment offered by Senator VITTER,

so I would be offering the bill to build these clinics with no offset, and that is what the House passed. It will go directly to the President's desk, and we will resolve the problem for these States. Then we will finally figure out a way to get back on track building clinics that we need and figure out a way to pay for these clinics in the future, but these clinics got stuck in kind of a technical bureaucratic mess in the recalculation. Ours, in particular, were caught because they should have been built in the 2 years before this new scoring process came to be, which is why Louisiana is having a particularly difficult time.

But as the record will show, our entire delegation has supported this effort. I honor the leadership of Congressman BOUSTANY from the House, who has literally worked on this tirelessly for 6 years. I thank the House delegation for sending this bill over.

I will not require an offset. The offset Senator VITTER offered is bogus.

As soon as Senator COBURN can get back, which will be early next week, I will be offering this unanimous consent. Unfortunately, I understand he will object to it because he believes we should find a way to pay for it. There might be other objections as well, but I am looking forward to the debate with Senator COBURN next week.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GM RECALL

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, yesterday's hearing of the commerce committee's subcommittee on consumer safety provided a powerful and important moment in our legislative process, and I want to thank my colleague, the chairman of that subcommittee, Chairman McCASKILL, for enabling us to come together, as well as my other colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Senators KLOBUCHAR and BOXER and AYOTTE, for their very insightful and significant questions and comments on a challenge that should unite us on both sides of the aisle—the tragic events, death and life-changing injuries to unsuspecting drivers who were victims of a defective ignition switch in automobiles manufactured by GM; a car defect that should have been fixed, disclosed, and remedied before these deaths occurred.

I want to thank the families of the victims of these defective cars for coming forward and being at that hearing yesterday and sharing their stories with me and others. They are doing a great public service through their courage and strength.

I want to also thank Mary Barra, the CEO of GM. As I said to her then, and I will repeat now, I admire her fortitude and her service in coming forward to face the questions of our committee and be the face of General Motors on the issues that confront us now in car safety. I admire her career at GM—an engineer who has risen through the ranks, a second-generation employee at an iconic, great American manufacturing company.

I have long admired that company and the products it has produced. They have enriched the lives of so many Americans over the years. My hope is this hearing and this process will be a turning point for the company in facing these car safety challenges.

I admire greatly also its dealers and employees. Some of them have contacted me, especially Connecticut dealers, telling me how they are reaching out proactively to the drivers of these defective vehicles, asking them to bring them to their company so they can be repaired before they do further damage.

This great company can reclaim its iconic brand and luster by breaking with its past, and Mary Barra has the opportunity for this historic contribution. As I said to her yesterday, she may be surrounded by a phalanx of lawyers and public relations people who will advise her to be cautious, to be timid, and to be reactive, but now is the time for her to seize the initiative and take three simple steps as a beginning.

No. 1, establish a compensation fund for all who have suffered damage from this defective ignition switch which caused cars to crash, some of them to burn—victims who have suffered injuries and death as well as economic damage. No. 2, provide a warning—a clear, strong warning—to drivers still behind the wheels of vehicles that still have this defective ignition switch. The cars are under recall but unrepaired. People are still driving them, many not knowing the full risk they have undertaken by continuing to drive. A strong warning to ground those vehicles until they are repaired is what is needed now.

Third, support our legislation. Senator MARKEY and I have offered legislation that would provide for better reporting by car companies, a stronger accountability system, and better disclosure through a database to consumers so they will know what the risks are before they take them and can make informed choices about what they drive and when.

These steps are well warranted by the past misconduct of GM, but they are also potentially a model for other companies in doing the right thing—facing the truth, telling truth to power, and making sure innocent consumers are protected against harms that may not be known to them.

She had the opportunity to break with the past culture—a culture of deniability and of deception. Deception is what happened at GM. These ignition switches were known to be defective. As early as 2001, year after year there were reliable and material facts indicating to GM it had a responsibility to fix these vehicles. Yet they took no action to repair them, to recall them, to inform consumers. And the fix was not a major costly one. It was \$2 per vehicle—easily done. Yet in 2005, 2006, GM made a business decision that the price was too high, the time was too long, and it continued to provide those vehicles for sale to consumers.

Then it deceived the U.S. Government. I have already spoken on the floor about section 612 of the agreement GM signed that indicated there were no material adverse facts at the time it was bailed out in 2009 as part of the reorganization. That deception is bad enough, but what happened as a result of that reorganization was a shield from liability, a form of immunity against legal accountability granted only because GM failed to disclose to the United States and to the bankruptcy court that it might well be liable and in fact was responsible for these defective vehicles. That shield from liability still bedevils the victims of injuries, death, and economic damage as they seek to hold GM accountable because GM itself is invoking that shield in courts today around the country and seeking to dismiss actions brought against it, seeking to return them to the bankruptcy court where the black hole of discharge will prevent recovery.

I welcome the independent investigation GM has undertaken by a very credible and respected former U.S. attorney. I welcome the appointment of consultant Ken Feinberg, also well respected, with experience and expertise in providing compensation. But GM itself has still said there is no compensation fund and it will not commit to one. And as able as these two individuals are, the question remains, what will it take? What facts or evidence will be required to persuade GM to do the right thing?

I think there is more than ample evidence—in fact, abundant evidence now—as to what the path should be, and I urged it yesterday on Mary Barra. GM should very simply do the right thing now: Establish a compensation fund sufficient to seek to make these victims whole. Nothing will erase or even ease the pain and grief suffered by these families and loved ones, but justice has its own virtue. GM has the rare opportunity in American corporate life to do justice and not wait for its consultants and its investigators to “work through the issues here.” Working through the issues here means doing right by those victims.

Yesterday I asked Ms. Barra about the safety of the vehicles still on the

road. She assured me they were fine to drive—as long as the key was not overloaded, as long as the ignition switch was used alone without additional keys. She assured me there was no more risk to drive one of those vehicles than any other in use today.

I asked her about the contradiction of that statement with the recall notice itself. I am going to display it here. It says that these vehicles are risky to drive, in effect, if your keyring is carrying added weight or—and I emphasize that it is an “or”—there are rough road conditions or jarring or impact-related events.

Unfortunately, too many of our highways and our byways have rough road conditions or provide the opportunity for jarring events.

Ms. Barra may believe tests and analyses done by her company she referred to yesterday assured her and GM that driving these defective vehicles is safe as long as it is done with only the ignition key, without the added weight of additional keys, but she must know, because she has children—as do I and most Members of this body—that they will drive with additional keys on that ignition switch. In fact, hundreds of thousands—millions of Americans have no idea that driving these vehicles with added keys provides that kind of potentially fatal risk. When these cars lose power, they lose steering, they lose their brakes, and they lose their airbags. Losing power, brakes, and steering is terrifying, but airbags are essential if power is lost and the car crashes, as victims of these crashes have discovered, to their sorrow and the grief of their families.

This kind of pothole, a rough road condition, a potentially jarring event—how common are they? This photograph is from Surf Avenue in Stratford, a beautiful town along the coast of Connecticut. I could take hundreds of these photographs from Connecticut, which has better roads than many other places in our State or country. They are as common as the roads themselves.

Those risks are GM's responsibility to warn. It has failed to do so. I asked Ms. Barra what evidence or facts would persuade her to issue a stronger warning. The recall notice itself said that risk increases if your keyring is carrying added weight—such as more keys or the key fob itself; the key fob alone adds additional weight—or your vehicle is experiences rough road conditions or other jarring or impact-related events. What would persuade her to issue this warning to consumers: Stop driving these cars until they are repaired.

I specifically asked her whether evidence about drivers who have, in fact, experienced the power loss without adding additional weight to their keyrings—if they encountered these kinds of conditions and their cars shut down—would persuade her to change her view. She answered to me:

Senator, if I had any data, any incidents where with just the key, or the key and the ring, there was any risk, I would ground these vehicles across the country.

Ms. Barra, let me tell you about Laura Valle. In March of 2014, Ms. Valle, who owns a 2007 silver Chevrolet Cobalt, received GM's recall letter instructing her to remove all items from her keyring, leaving only the vehicle key. As the recall notice instructed, she continued to drive her vehicle using only the vehicle key. Yet, while driving with a friend, she lost power. Fortunately, she was on the right side of the road and she was able to pull the vehicle to a stop.

There will be other instances. I know they will come forward to me, to my colleagues, and to lawyers who may represent them.

Today I call on GM to issue that warning. There is more than ample evidence or, as Ms. Barra said, “data,” “incidents” where the key or just the key and the ring led to the vehicle stopping not because there was added weight but because they encountered rough road conditions or jarring events, which could consist of simply leaning the wrong way or the driver's knee moving.

These vehicles create unacceptable risks before they are repaired. The advice GM should give to people is this: Bring these cars to be repaired immediately. Stop driving them. In the meantime, use the loaners GM has offered.

GM has the opportunity to avoid another business decision. It may be more costly to provide loaners, but in the long run they will save lives and dollars.

Finally, I ask GM to do the right thing again by supporting the legislation Senator MARKEY and I have introduced. This legislation is critically important to the future. It can't correct the past, but it can make sure that accidents are reported; that defects are made known to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration; and that there are not only incentives for reporting but there is increased accountability for failing to do so; and require NHTSA to establish a publicly accessible, searchable database that will allow drivers and consumer safety advocates to connect the dots. Companies that are unwilling to connect those dots will be brought to justice, will be required to recall these vehicles and find out about defective models in time to save lives.

Ms. Barra has not yet committed to supporting this bill. In my view, it is her responsibility to do so. It is the responsibility of GM to take this action now. She and GM have the opportunity to change corporate culture not only in that company but in others by setting a model—leading by example, not by their words at a Senate hearing or letters of apology but by action. Action

speaks louder than words. Action speaks louder than the appointment of a consultant or an investigator whose report may not be made fully public.

Ms. Barra was unwilling to make that commitment yesterday. It is a corporate culture that refused to make a 57-cent change to car ignitions—or a \$2 change—even though that change would have saved lives. Now is the time to hold GM accountable, for GM to issue that warning that will help save others from a fate known only too well by those families who came to be with us yesterday.

I look forward to working with Ms. Barra, GM, my colleagues, and with all who are interested in improving car safety and to using this sad, tragic, unfortunate experience as a turning point and a teaching moment—a rare moment—of bipartisan action to make our roads safer.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. SCOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCOTT. Thank you, Madam President.

I rise today to discuss my two amendments to the legislation we have been debating this week. I think most of us would agree we need to give folks a hand up. That makes a lot of sense. But we also need to ensure they have a solid foundation on which it stands. The best way we can help the unemployed is to help them find a job. My amendments aim to do just that. First, we will restore the 40-hour workweek which was destroyed by ObamaCare. The employer mandate currently requires employers to provide health insurance to full-time employees, and the new definition of a full-time employee is 30 hours per workweek. As a result, employers are cutting hours for many of the employees to fewer than 30 hours per week.

I have heard from several employers at home in South Carolina, representing institutions as large as Clemson University and as small as the local surf shop that are suffering the consequences of this new 30-hour definition.

A few weeks ago I was on a bus in Charleston talking with some of my constituents. I started speaking with one young man who had just moved to South Carolina from Georgia looking for new opportunities. He worked for a restaurant and had recently received notice that his hours were getting cut. After talking with this young man for

a few minutes, it became very clear to me that his pay was cut and his hours were dwindling as a direct result of the 30-hour rule. Not only was he losing 25 percent of his pay, he was losing the ability to work overtime.

According to the Hoover Institution, 2.6 million Americans are especially at risk of having their hours and wages cut like the young man with whom I was speaking. Of those 2.6 million Americans, 59 percent of them are between the ages of 19 and 34, 63 percent are women, and 90 percent do not have a college degree. Further, families most at risk are those with a median income, \$29,126.

Many of these millions of Americans who are earning hourly wages to support their family will see a 25-percent cut in their pay as employers struggle with the massive new costs forced on them by the Federal Government—their Federal Government. Thanks to ObamaCare, not only will these workers not have health insurance but they will no longer have full-time jobs. We must—and I want to emphasize we must—restore the 40-hour workweek, period.

My second amendment is the same as my SKILLS Act which I introduced as a part of my opportunity agenda earlier this year. It provides much needed reforms to modernize the government's bureaucratic means of workforce development and training programs. With 4 million jobs currently unfilled across our Nation today, including 65,000 jobs in South Carolina, job skills training is critical for folks looking for work. We have to make sure people are prepared for continued success, and that starts with education and workforce training.

Thanks to the leadership of my colleague, Mrs. Foxx in the House, the SKILLS Act has already passed with some Democratic support on the other side of the Capitol. It is well past time for that to happen in the Senate, and I hope my colleagues will join me in providing more skills and more opportunities to develop the skills to put Americans back to work.

This is truly a conversation about jobs. How do we encourage job growth and stop the government from blocking job creation? It is a simple answer. These two amendments are steps in the right direction. Let's not let politics dictate the future of these two amendments. We can do better, and we should.

Thank you, Madam President, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:30 p.m. today all postcloture time on the Reed of Rhode Island amendment No. 2874 be considered expired; that the following amendments be withdrawn: Nos. 2875, 2877, 2878; that Senator SESSIONS or designee then be recognized to raise a

point of order against the Senator REED of Rhode Island amendment No. 2874; once the budget point of order is raised, Senator MURRAY or designee be recognized to make a motion to waive; the Senate then proceed to vote on the motion to waive; if the motion to waive is agreed to, the Senate then proceed to vote on adoption of the Reed of Rhode Island amendment No. 2874; that upon disposition of the Reed amendment, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 3979; that if cloture is invoked on the bill, no other amendments or motions be in order to the bill; that at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7, all post-cloture time be considered expired and the bill as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mrs. MURRAY. There are a number of women who are going to be joining me today. They are leaders in this Capitol who are working each and every day, both here and back in their home States, to give more of their constituents a chance to succeed. Today we are here to talk about one small idea that stands to make a huge difference in the lives of our constituents, and for women in particular, and that is the idea that if you are putting in 40 or 50 or 60 hours of work per week you should be able to put food on your table and pay your bills, and you won't be stuck below the poverty line.

This idea could change the lives of millions of Americans if Congress simply acted and raised the minimum wage. We need to act now because right now one in four women—one in four women—is making minimum wage today. That is 15 million American women who are making the equivalent of about 2 gallons of gas per hour. Are we prepared to tell them that should be enough to support themselves and their kids?

In fact, as I am sure you will hear repeated by others today, nearly two-thirds of those who earn minimum wage or less are women. This is coming at a time when more women are now depended upon as the sole income earners in their families. Right now in cities and towns across America there are millions of those women who are getting up at the crack of dawn for work every day. They are stuck living in poverty. They cannot save for a car, much less a house. They cannot pay for school so they can get better skills and a better paying job. They cannot even afford to provide their children with more winter clothes or basic medical care. That is not how it is supposed to work in America, the country where you are told if you work hard and play by the rules you can get ahead.

So when we talk about the minimum wage, let's be clear: Raising the minimum wage is about bringing back our middle class. I am proud that in my State of Washington we are taking the lead. In our State our workforce enjoys the highest minimum wage in the country, and I am glad to point out to all of our friends on the other side of the aisle, Washington State's economy has not been negatively impacted by our high minimum wage. In fact, our economy has benefited from a high minimum wage.

Job growth has continued at a rate above the national average. Payrolls in our restaurants and bars have expanded due to people having more money in their pockets to spend at dinner or a night on the town, and poverty in Washington State has trailed the national level for at least 7 years now. That is why I support making the national minimum wage \$10.10 for families from Washington to Wisconsin, from Massachusetts to Minnesota and Hawaii and everywhere in-between.

It is not enough to make you rich, but it is a small raise for millions of families who desperately need it. It is a small raise for moms and dads who need help. We have to do more. Today, two-thirds of families rely on income from both parents, but thanks to our outdated Tax Code, a woman thinking about reentering the workforce as a second earner in her family may face higher tax rates than her husband. That is unfair, and it has to change.

Last week I introduced the 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act which will help solve that problem by giving struggling two-earner families with children a tax deduction on that second earner's income.

My hope is that over the coming weeks we can all come together in this Chamber on behalf of millions of American women who—like my own mother when I was growing up—are the sole caregiver and breadwinner in their families.

I hope our colleagues have gotten a sense of how the current \$7.25 an hour translates to a grocery trip for a family of four, shopping for school supplies or even how it impacts people's daily commutes.

That is why we are here today—to give that mom or that dad a fair shot at succeeding in America. I am proud to be joined today by a number of my colleagues in the Senate who are strong women and fighting for women and men in their home States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, when my grandparents were raising me, I learned that if you work hard and play by the rules, you should be able to get ahead. As I traveled throughout the State of Wisconsin meeting with Wisconsinites I know that my fellow Wisconsinites learned that very same

thing when they were growing up. Today people are working as hard as ever, and they deserve to get ahead, but many are working full time and even two jobs to make ends meet. Yet far too many are just barely getting by or living in poverty.

As I have traveled my State, Wisconsinites have told me that the powerful and the well-connected seem to get to write all of their own rules, while the concerns and struggles of the working poor and middle-class families go unnoticed here in Washington. They feel like our economic system is tilted towards those at the very top and that our political system exists to protect those unfair advantages. The House budget introduced by Congressman PAUL RYAN—from my own home State—is a perfect example of that. Instead, we should make sure that everybody gets a fair shot.

I am really proud to join my colleagues this afternoon to deliver our own call for action. It is simple. The time is now to give hard-working Americans a raise. We can do that if both parties work together to reward hard work so an honest day's work pays more. We can do that by raising the minimum wage.

I believe we need to build a fairer economy and grow the middle class. I believe our economy is strongest when we expand opportunity for everyone, and that is why I am an original cosponsor of the Minimum Wage Fairness Act. Raising the minimum wage would improve the economic security of families across the country and strengthen the overall economy. It would give 28 million American workers a raise—including over 595,000 Wisconsinites—and will benefit more than a quarter million Wisconsin children who would have at least one parent getting that raise.

It would mean workers in Wisconsin would have \$816 million more to spend in local businesses, which according to the Economic Policy Institute would boost Wisconsin's GDP by \$516.6 million and generate 1,800 new jobs after only 3 years.

Because women are disproportionately low-wage workers—making up two-thirds of low-wage workers in the country—raising the minimum wage would also directly impact millions of women across America.

Nadine, from Appleton, WI, would directly benefit from a raise. Nadine is a 20-year-old woman who makes the tipped minimum wage. She works as a server in a family restaurant. I probably need to remind some people that the tipped minimum wage is only \$2.13 an hour. Nadine got her first job at age 14 so she could start saving for college. She started college but had stopped attending because she simply could not afford it. She even moved from her small hometown to a larger city in search of a better job so she would be able to return to school.

In telling her story, Nadine writes:

Raising the minimum wage is not an abstract notion in my life. It is a real factor that affects me in several important ways. First, and most importantly, it is important to me because I am a young woman and I am working to support myself. I had to put going to college on hold because I couldn't afford it. Without a higher income, I worry I won't ever be able to transition from dead-end jobs into a long-term career.

Nadine currently averages \$200 to \$300 per week. She spends \$50 on gas every week because she can't afford a more fuel-efficient car. She eats simply in order to budget \$30 each week for food. The rest of her income goes to rent and other bills. Needless to say, it doesn't go far.

Nadine picks up every shift available to her and doesn't rely on government assistance of any kind. She worries she will never be able to experience having a family and finishing college, traveling, and just having a fair shot at building a stronger future for herself.

Women such as Nadine make up 72 percent of workers in predominately tipped occupations. Workers in tipped occupations are twice as likely as other workers to experience poverty, and servers are almost three times as likely to be in poverty.

If for no other reason, we need to raise the minimum wage because in America no one who works full time should have to live or raise a family in poverty. Raising the full minimum wage and the tipped wage will give 15 million women a raise—including 330,000 in my State of Wisconsin. Women who make up 80 percent of America's 2.8 million working single parents would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage, thereby reducing child poverty among female-headed households.

According to the Center for American Progress, raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour would reduce dependence on government programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which we commonly call SNAP, which would see nearly 3.5 million fewer enrollments and save \$46 billion over the decade. Raising the minimum wage will help make progress towards closing the gender pay gap.

I look forward to getting the job done and reward the hard work of women across our great country.

I look forward to getting the job done and passing the Minimum Wage Fairness Act so American women will get the raise they deserve.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am so proud to join Senator MURRAY, who organized several of the women here, to speak out in favor of the minimum wage increase for the workers of America.

My colleagues have said it well, but it bears repeating: No one in America—

male or female—should have to live in poverty after putting in a full day's work. Yet that is the case today.

We should give hard-working Americans a fair shot to get ahead so they can raise their families. Everyone deserves that fair shot, and that is why Democrats have a fair-shot agenda. Right now we don't seem to have many Republicans joining us in our desire to raise the minimum wage so that it gets people above the poverty line when they work full time.

I would argue that anyone who votes against that level of pay—which is about \$10.10 an hour to get a worker right above poverty—simply wants to keep people in poverty, and that is not the American way. Right now a mom who is working full time and makes minimum wage earns just \$290 a week. That is just \$15,000 a year, which is below the poverty rate for a single mom.

No mom or dad should come home from a full day's work and have to worry about whether they can feed their children or whether they can afford a roof over the heads of their kids.

I see Senator WARREN is here, and she has brought such attention and focus to the unfairness in the number I am about to say. There are 400 families in America that control as much wealth as 150 million Americans. To hear people in this Chamber—who do just fine supporting their families—oppose the minimum wage is absolutely, in my view, a morally wrong position. They have their right to it, but I think it is morally wrong.

The minimum wage is a two-thirds problem for women. Let's be clear. Almost two-thirds of workers earning minimum wage or less are women, two-thirds of tipped minimum wage workers are women, and in two-thirds of American families, women are the breadwinners or co-breadwinners. We have a two-thirds problem. Women are overrepresented in low-wage jobs, and that is why I am so proud that next week Senator MIKULSKI is going to lead us toward equal pay for equal work. It is a wonderful bill. I think it is called the Paycheck Fairness Act.

When we lift the salaries of these workers, it helps entire families. Senator HARKIN's bill, which we are all supporting, will benefit 14 million children. We have to do it for workers like Wendy Arellano, who works directing vehicles at an airport and has two other jobs, but she still doesn't make enough to support her two daughters.

We should do it for women like Shareeka Elliot, who works all night as a janitor scrubbing the floors and cleaning the toilets but still doesn't make enough to get her kids above the poverty line.

We should do it for women like Nyah Potts, who is working so hard to finish

her college degree, but she is struggling to make enough to support herself and her son. I joined Nyah at a press conference last week.

In closing, I want to talk for a minute about the tipped minimum wage. This is a disgrace because the tipped minimum wage at the Federal Government is \$2.13 an hour. We all know—because it has been studied—that there are waitresses and there are waiters, and most of the less-expensive restaurants hire women, and they don't get big tips. If there is a storm, and suppose nobody comes into the restaurant that day, they get paid \$2.13 an hour. This bill does move us up to 70 percent of minimum wage for tipped workers. Personally, I think there ought to be no difference. In California, we pay our workers—all of them, tipped or not—the full minimum wage. And no one can tell me that California's restaurants are suffering. They are some of the most successful in the country and in the world.

So let's be clear. History shows raising the minimum wage doesn't hurt the economy.

Now we will hear our colleagues on the Republican side cite the CBO study that said we could lose hundreds of thousands of jobs. That study is an outlier.

In 1956, the minimum wage was a buck. I hate to say it, but I remember those days. It was a dollar. And I remember, I worked my first job as a telephone operator for Hilton Hotels, and I earned the minimum wage. Actually, then, because I was a teenager, it was half the minimum wage, so I worked for 50 cents an hour. I was not very good at that job, but I tried hard. But let's say Congress had that attitude then: We are not going to raise the minimum wage because we will lose jobs. The minimum wage would still be a dollar an hour. How ludicrous.

Since then—since 1956—we have raised the minimum wage 18 times. Guess what. Did we lose jobs? No. The economy grew by more than 80 million jobs.

I know others are waiting to speak. I am so excited to finally get to vote on paycheck fairness and on minimum wage. All we Democrats are saying is, let's give Americans a fair shot.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I will be making a point of order in a moment against the bill before us because it violates the budget we agreed to. I will share briefly for a few moments—the order is that we are to commence voting at 2:30. I believe that is correct. I think I was approved for 5 minutes. If the Chair would notify me when my time is up, because others I see here might want to speak.

In August of 2001, this Congress—House and Senate, Republicans and

Democrats—along with the President of the United States, agreed on the Budget Control Act. It limited spending—the growth of spending only. How much did it limit the growth? Well, at that time we were projected to spend \$10 trillion more over the next 10 years than we were currently spending. So the Budget Control Act didn't cut the budget, really, although a few agencies in the short term have had reductions, Defense being the primary one. But over the 10 years, under the Budget Control Act we would grow spending \$8 trillion instead of \$10 trillion—not enough of a reduction in spending, I say to my colleagues, to cause this country to sink into the ocean; that is for sure. Really, not enough, because our deficits are so high.

In December of last year, this Congress passed the Ryan-Murray Budget Act which amended the spending agreement we struck in the Budget Control Act. The Ryan-Murray bill broke the budget agreement and allowed more money to be spent than we had agreed to in the BCA, but it capped overall spending for the next 8 years. So that was the agreement. It passed, and the President signed it 3 months ago. It is now the law of the land.

What I would say to my colleagues is this—today is the third or fourth time we will vote on legislation, since the Ryan-Murray spending agreement passed, that busts the budget—that busts the spending limits we agreed to.

There are multiple budget violations against this bill. Two of them are voided by loophole language in the Ryan-Murray legislation that people didn't fully understand at that time. That loophole language allows the use of a deficit-neutral reserve fund to, in effect, erase budget points of order. So two of the budget points of order that lie against this bill cannot be raised because a deficit-neutral reserve fund—which I think is a gimmick—essentially erases them. But one of the violations still remains, because this bill will add to the debt outside the 10-year window.

One of the things we have learned is that when we pass laws today that sound good—and sometimes those laws, even if they are within the budget window, they may, indeed, in the out years add to the debt of the United States. Kent Conrad, a Democrat and former chairman of the Budget Committee—it was his language that created this long term point of order, because he was concerned we were passing things that might be OK within the budget window but were adding to the debt in the long term. So that is why we have this point of order.

The cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office clearly shows that this UI bill violates that principle of the budget, and lays out the numbers that so say. Our chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator MURRAY, has

acknowledged that this bill does, in fact, violate the budget.

But we need to stay within our budget. Violating the budget agreement is simply a refusal to make tough choices. We spend \$3,700 billion a year, and we can't find \$8 billion or \$9 billion in savings to fund a program that we think needs to be funded today like unemployment insurance? People want to deal with that and help people who are unemployed, and I understand that desire. But if we do so, we should do it by finding offsets, not spending more than we agreed.

People say we can raise taxes to pay for the new spending. Well, that violates the budget too, because our agreement says we can spend only so much. And if my colleagues want to raise taxes, I believe we ought to use that money to pay down the deficit, not grow the government.

This past year, we spent \$233 billion on interest on the debt, an amount that is virtually half the Defense budget. The highway bill is \$40 billion. In 10 years, the Congressional Budget Office—Dr. Elmendorf testified before the Budget Committee a few weeks ago—says that in 10 years, 1 year's interest payment on the debt of the United States of America would be \$880 billion. That is over \$650 billion more in 1 year on interest than we are paying today.

So you can see why we have to adhere to our promises to contain spending. We cannot continue to vote time and time again to violate the spending limits we agreed to. It just adds to the debt and to our interest payments on the debt. No wonder the American people are unhappy with us. This is irresponsible. I am confident we can find the \$9 billion or whatever we need to fund any program in this bloated government of ours. But, no, it won't even be discussed. There is no discussion about finding honest reductions in spending from places where money is wasted. Instead, we just come up with a plan that gimmicks the spending and adds to the long-term debt of the United States.

In conclusion, I would say it is quite clear that this legislation—the unemployment extension—will add to the long-term debt of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has spoken for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the pending measure, amendment No. 2874 to H.R. 3979, the vehicle for the unemployment insurance extension, violates section 311(b) of the fiscal year 2009 budget resolution by causing a net increase in the deficit over \$5 billion in the 10-year period from 2024 to 2033.

Therefore, I raise a point of order against this measure pursuant to section 311(b) of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for fiscal year 2009.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of the pending amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote occur at the time set under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for an extension of time for 6 minutes to be divided equally between myself and Senator STABENOW.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I will keep my remarks short because I know there are others who want to speak on why we need to raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10. I will focus on Hawaii.

In Hawaii, nearly 100,000 women would get a raise if we were to do this. That is one out of five women workers in Hawaii. The Presiding Officer and I are both from Hawaii. We know the high cost of living in Hawaii. Minimum wage amounts to about \$14,500 a year. The average rent for a one-bedroom residence in Hawaii is almost \$1,300 a month. That is more than \$15,000 a year. It is no wonder people in Hawaii have to work more than one job.

In Hawaii, tourism is our No. 1 industry. We have a lot of tipped workers. They work in our restaurants. Do my colleagues know there are many people who work in our restaurants who can't even afford to eat in the restaurant in which they work?

When we raise the minimum wage, we are going to enable a lot of families to not have to rely on various programs such as SNAP. In Hawaii, over 15,000 workers would no longer need these kinds of benefits.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, first let me say that we should be congratulating everyone who has gotten us to a point where we are going to be able to help people who have been working hard to find a job and still have not found a job to put food on the table for their families and pay their rent. To be able to allow them to receive emergency unemployment assistance is incredibly important. The votes we are doing here are very important

to give people who want a job and need a job a fair shot to be able to survive until they can get a job.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

I also want to speak for just a moment, as so many of my colleagues have today, about what it means for women to have a pay raise through the minimum wage because the minimum wage is very much a women's issue, as you have heard, because a disproportionate number of folks who are earning the minimum wage are, in fact, women. And it is not college students; the average age is about 30, 35 years old.

This is a critical issue for Michigan families, including 416,000 women in Michigan who would directly benefit from raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour and another 141,000 whose wages would also increase. This is not just about people earning the minimum wage; it is about lifting up wages, increasing purchasing power, and helping businesses large and small be able to get more customers because people can buy things because they have money in their pockets.

Let me repeat, in terms of the numbers for Michigan, 557,000 women in Michigan who are working hard and just want a fair shot—just a fair shot—to get ahead would benefit from the legislation the Senate will soon be voting on called the Minimum Wage Fairness Act.

Too many people, including far too many women, are simply trying to stay afloat, let alone get ahead. The minimum wage used to be worth more. Its value has eroded since it peaked back in 1968, and it is harder and harder for people to put food on the table and a roof over their family's heads.

Today, a single mom can clean houses and scrub floors for 40 hours a week—working hard—and still find that she earns less than the poverty level. There is something wrong with that. If you are going to work hard 40 hours a week, you ought to be able to lift your family out of poverty.

Work ought to be valued in this country. In fact, for a family of three, you are \$4,000 below the poverty line if you are working for the minimum wage. It is just not right.

To add insult to injury, if you compare that to the average CEO's salary today, you could put 933 minimum-wage workers, 933 women working hard—and I would daresay maybe harder than the folks who are at the top as CEOs—trying to put food on the table for their kids, buy them cloths, make sure they can care for them, 933 minimum-wage workers combined equals the salary of the average CEO.

So I would urge that we come together and look at this as Henry Ford did 100 years ago in 1914 when he doubled the salary of his workers to \$5 a day. He lifted them up. The small businesses around his plant saw increases

in their business and hired more people because more people had money in their pockets. They could come in and buy the food and goods.

We are talking about people working hard, again, every single day—moms who are cleaning hotel rooms and are on their feet all day; they are mopping floors, preparing food; they go home; they take care of their families. All they want is a fair shot to succeed and be able to make their lives and their children's lives better.

Let's have a strong, bipartisan vote on raising the minimum wage.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise in support of increasing the minimum wage. Congress needs to do away with wages that don't reward hard work and workplace policies that belong in an episode of "Mad Men." This Congress needs to do two things to make sure we give a fair shot to everyone and build a stronger middle class: raise the minimum wage and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

The minimum wage is at an historic all-time low. It has lost 30 percent of its buying power compared to its peak buying power in 1968. The minimum wage only pays \$15,000 a year. That is \$4,000 below the poverty line for a family of three. Increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour would pay \$20,200 a year—lifting that family of three out of poverty.

What does increasing the minimum wage mean for Maryland? Increasing the minimum wage will give 450,000 workers in Maryland a raise. Increasing the minimum wage will improve the lives of 210,000 Maryland children because their parent just got a raise. When we raise the minimum wage, we all move a rung up on the opportunity ladder.

I am on the side of economic fairness and building a stronger middle class to bring opportunities to families across the Nation. That is why I am an enthusiastic cosponsor of the Fair Minimum Wage Act. This bill raises the minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 an hour over 3 years and indexes the minimum wage to inflation in the future.

Everyone who works hard and plays by the rules deserves a fair shot at the American dream. That means raising the minimum wage so that hard work is worth it—because a full-time job shouldn't mean full time poverty.

The minimum wage for employees who earn tips is barely over \$2 per hour. The Fair Minimum Wage Act will slowly increase that base wage by less than \$1 a year until it reaches 70 percent of the regular minimum wage. Women are nearly three-quarters of workers earning tips at their jobs. For a hotel housekeeper in the western Maryland mountains, a hairdresser on the Eastern Shore, or a restaurant server in Baltimore or Bethesda, this raise is economic security so that a

slow week in an off-peak season doesn't mean below-poverty wages.

The minimum wage is a women's issue. Women make up two-thirds of minimum-wage workers nationwide. Congress needs to raise their wages and make sure they are not being redlined or sidelined by outdated policies or harassed and intimidated when seeking justice for pay discrimination.

Being a woman costs more, and women pay more for everything. Women pay more in medical costs than men—an estimated \$10,000 over a lifetime. Women are often responsible for child care. Women even get charged more for dry cleaning. We are charged more for our blouses than men's shirts, and we are tired of being taken to the cleaners. When we earn less, we are asked to pay more.

Women are almost half of the workforce and 40 percent of them are the sole breadwinners in their families. They are tired of being paid crumbs.

Women continue to make less. Women are still making only 77 cents for every \$1 a man makes. Women of color suffer even greater injustice. If you are African American, you earn 62 cents for every \$1 a man makes. If you are Hispanic, you earn 54 cents for every \$1 a man makes.

Everybody likes to say to us: Oh, you have come a long way. But I don't think we have come a long way. We have only gained 18 cents in 50 years.

By the time she retires, the average woman will lose more than \$431,000 over her lifetime because of the wage gap. That affects your Social Security and pension. It weakens your retirement security.

This is not about men versus women. It is about building a middle class. Wages have been flat for everyone. Men need a pay raise too. When they get it, we will stand shoulder to shoulder with them—because we all need a raise to raise our families.

The Fair Minimum Wage Act is about putting change in the lawbooks and change in family checkbooks. Women of America, it is time to suit up, square our shoulders, put on our lipstick, increase the minimum wage for everyone, and fight the fair pay revolution.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 2878, 2877, AND 2875

WITHDRAWN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendments Nos. 2878, 2877, and 2875 are withdrawn.

VOTE ON MOTION TO WAIVE

Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the motion to waive.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 99 Leg.]

YEAS—60

Baldwin	Heinrich	Murray
Begich	Heitkamp	Nelson
Bennet	Heller	Portman
Blumenthal	Hirono	Pryor
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reed
Boxer	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Kirk	Sanders
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schatz
Carper	Landrieu	Schumer
Casey	Leahy	Shaheen
Collins	Levin	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Tester
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Menendez	Walsh
Franken	Merkley	Warner
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Warren
Hagan	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Harkin	Murphy	Wyden

NAYS—36

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hatch	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Scott
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Coburn	Cruz
Cornyn	McCain

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 60, the nays are 36. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2874

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2874.

The amendment (No. 2874) was agreed to.

Mr. REID. For the knowledge of all Members, we are going to have one more vote today and the next vote will be Monday at 5:30 p.m.

I just want to tell everyone, sometimes people get upset at Senator MCCONNELL and me because we don't know what is going on. Well, I hate to admit this, but sometimes he and I don't know what is going on. It is hard to get, sometimes, where we are. So I appreciate that even though Senator MCCONNELL and I have a few little dustups on the floor in front of everybody, whenever we are in private we work well together to try to do the best things for this body.

To get to where we are today wasn't easy, and we should have a good week next week. I know there is a lot of angst on both sides with the things they want to get done, but everyone should be patient. We are trying to work through the process.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 3979, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Harry Reid, Jack Reed, Patrick J. Leahy, Thomas R. Carper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Harkin, Cory A. Booker, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Barbara Boxer, Angus S. King, Jr., Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Bernard Sanders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on H.R. 3979, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirement contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 61, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 100 Leg.]

YEAS—61

Ayotte	Heinrich	Nelson
Baldwin	Heitkamp	Portman
Begich	Heller	Pryor
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Rockefeller
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Kirk	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	
Harkin	Murray	

NAYS—35

Alexander	Boozman	Coats
Barrasso	Burr	Cochran
Blunt	Chambliss	Corker

Crapo	Isakson	Rubio
Enzi	Johanns	Scott
Fischer	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Flake	Lee	Shelby
Graham	McConnell	Thune
Grassley	Moran	Toomey
Hatch	Paul	Vitter
Hoeben	Risch	Wicker
Inhofe	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—4

Coburn	Cruz
Cornyn	McCain

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 61, the nays are 35. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Montana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2259

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 314, H.R. 2259; that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I want to inform the Chair that two of our colleagues have concerns about this legislation—Senators COBURN and CRUZ—and would like to address those concerns with the sponsors. So on their behalf, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Montana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 255

Mr. WALSH. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 173, S. 255; that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, this is the same legislation, and so for the same reason, on behalf of Senators COBURN and CRUZ, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, in the far northwestern corner of Montana is one of the most special places on Earth—the North Fork of the Flathead River. The North Fork is a spectacular gravel-bed river that starts in British Columbia and runs along the western half of Glacier National Park before arriving in Flathead Lake.

The North Fork is a world-class trout fishery, with bulltrout and cutthroat trout sharing the same winding waters that grizzly bears rely on for huckleberries. It is the most important wildlife corridor between the Great Plains and the Cascades, and Mon-

tanans have always enjoyed rafting, hiking, fishing, and hunting in it.

Today, about 2 million people visit Glacier National Park each year, bringing \$170 million into the local economy and supporting 2,750 jobs.

For 40 years, Montanans have fought to keep the North Fork pristine. My colleague Senator JON TESTER and I are committed to taking this across the finish line.

Four years ago, Montana and British Columbia reached a historic agreement to protect the river on both sides of the border. Two years ago Canada upheld its end of the bargain. Today, the U.S. Congress has the opportunity to do the same. The entire Montana congressional delegation is in bipartisan agreement that the North Fork deserves to be withdrawn permanently from future mineral development. Montanans of all stripes have endorsed this action, including the local chambers of commerce and energy companies such as ConocoPhillips.

In fact, the primary interest in more than 80 percent of existing Federal leases in the watershed have voluntarily been relinquished. Everyone recognizes how important it is to keep the North Fork pristine. It is just the right thing to do.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed the North Fork Watershed Protection Act with no opposition last June. The House passed the North Fork Watershed Protection Act by voice vote last month. This bill is our chance to leave a jewel in the crown of the continent in better shape than we found it.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Montanans in that effort. We can send this bill to the President to sign today.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, will the junior Senator from Montana yield for a question?

Mr. WALSH. I will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, when my colleague's motion was objected to, the good Senator from Pennsylvania, Senator TOOMEY, said he understood Senators COBURN and CRUZ wished to have further conversation. Has my colleague had a chance to visit with Senators COBURN and CRUZ already about this bill?

Mr. WALSH. Yes, I have.

Mr. TESTER. So that has already been done.

I want to thank my colleague Senator WALSH for attempting to bring up the North Fork Watershed Protection Act for a vote. I also want to echo his frustration that once again politics is trumping good policy.

The North Fork bill is a Montana-made bill. Folks back home who support this bill are from all political sides of the spectrum. It has wide bipartisan support. Members of both par-

ties, as Senator WALSH pointed out, voted it out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Yet today two Senators—whom I would challenge to find the North Fork on a map—have decided to hold this bill up.

Let me remind them what this bill does. It ensures access along the North Fork for hunters and anglers who contribute to Montana's \$6 billion outdoor economy. If you want to talk about economic development, this is an incredible driver.

The bill also honors a commitment to our neighbor to the north, Canada. Three years ago British Columbia signed an agreement to retire oil and gas leases on their side of the border, expecting us to protect the region as well. This bill guarantees we hold up our end of the bargain, and it ensures we pass along our outdoor way of life.

I should also point out that Exxon and Conoco both have also given up their leases in this region. Why? Because this drainage feeds Flathead Lake, which is the largest freshwater body of water west of the Mississippi. It is an incredible ecosystem.

I think what has happened today is a loss not only for Montana, not only for America's great outdoors, but for this entire country.

This fight is not over. For far too long in this body we have had people who obstruct just because they can. It is time to start working together and doing what is right, whether we are talking about conservation issues, tax issues, unemployment issues, or whatever it might be. It is time to start moving the country forward because people are suffering out there.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Montana.

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I am so disappointed my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are blocking the desire of Montanans to protect the North Fork. This bill is a no-brainer. I invite my colleagues to visit Montana and see the North Fork for themselves. Their actions today show why Washington is broken. Despite years of bipartisan hard work, narrow interests can trump responsible leadership.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor this afternoon to request unanimous consent to pass a bill

that is a very small step in what will be a very long recovery process for a community in my home State of Washington that was devastated by a landslide less than two weeks ago.

This is the Green Mountain Lookout bill, which will be passed shortly. It is not going to rebuild anybody's home—which needs to be done—or provide desperately needed human aid that we are supporting through our recent Federal disaster designation. What this small, little bill does is provide a glimmer of hope for the long-term recovery of this region, and in particular of the community of Darrington.

For years now, along with Senator CANTWELL, I have fought to pass this bill through procedural and political hurdles because I know what it means to Snohomish County and that region of my State. The Green Mountain Lookout is more than a hiking destination. It is part of the Pacific Northwest heritage. It is a cherished historical landmark. It is a place where parents have brought their kids for generations to appreciate the splendor of the great outdoors in the Northwest, and it is a place that has been a vital source of tourism-related income for the people who have been impacted by this deadly landslide that struck this region.

I was in Darrington this weekend and had an opportunity to sit down with the mayor and many of the town officials—a town of about 1200 people—and they told me tremendous stories about the families that have been lost, about people who had driven to the store on that Saturday morning and now only had what they wore when they left their homes a few hours earlier. I heard about the needs this community is going to have for a long time and the emotional impact.

After finishing our official meetings, the mayor took us aside and told me, Senator CANTWELL, and Congresswoman DELBENE that the one glimmer of hope he thought he could provide for this community was passage of this Green Mountain Lookout bill that we are going to pass in just a few moments.

So I want to extend truly heartfelt thanks to both Senator LANDRIEU and Senator MURKOWSKI, who have been incredibly understanding, and to all the Members of the Senate who have been helpful in going through the process of getting the bill to the floor today. They know what it means when communities large or small are impacted by a disaster of this size, and both of them know that the Federal Government needs to be there quickly to provide support.

Madam President, the people of Oso, Arlington, and Darrington have a very long road to recovery ahead, so I was very pleased when the President granted a major disaster declaration just last night which will be vital to meeting many of the immediate human needs that we are going to be facing.

It is important that these communities know we are in it for the long term as well. Even a small step like this one that supports the region's tourist economy and brings that little bit of hope is critical to showing them that all of us and the Federal Government will be there for them. So as they mourn their loved ones and work hard to recover and ultimately rebuild, I am proud that we will not forget them.

With that, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 338, S. 404.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 404) to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment.

(Insert the part printed in *italic*.)

S. 404

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act".

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF LEGAL AUTHORITY OF GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT.

(a) **LEGAL AUTHORITY OF LOOKOUT.**—Section 4(b) of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-339; 98 Stat. 300; 16 U.S.C. 1131 note) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: "; and except that with respect to the lands described in section 3(5), the designation of such lands as a wilderness area shall not preclude the operation and maintenance of Green Mountain Lookout."

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984.

SEC. 3. PRESERVATION OF GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT LOCATION.

The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may not move Green Mountain Lookout from its current location on Green Mountain in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest unless the Secretary determines that moving Green Mountain Lookout is necessary to preserve the Lookout or to ensure the safety of individuals on or around Green Mountain. If the Secretary makes such a determination, the Secretary shall move the Green Mountain Lookout to a location outside of the lands described in section 3(5) of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 and designated as a wilderness area in section 4(b) of such Act.

SEC. 4. ALASKA NATIVE VETERAN ALLOTMENT.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPLICATION.**—The term "application" means the Alaska Native Veteran Allotment application numbered AA-084021-B.

(2) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term "Federal land" means the 80 acres of Federal land that is—

(A) described in the application; and

(B) depicted as Lot 2 in U.S. Survey No. 13957, Alaska, that was officially filed on October 9, 2009.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) **ISSUANCE OF PATENT.**—Notwithstanding section 41 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1629g) and subject to subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

(1) approve the application; and

(2) issue a patent for the Federal land to the person that submitted the application.

(c) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The patent issued under subsection (b) shall—

(A) only be for the surface rights to the Federal land; and

(B) be subject to the terms and conditions of any certificate issued under section 41 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1629g), including terms and conditions providing that—

(i) the patent is subject to valid existing rights, including any right of the United States to income derived, directly or indirectly, from a lease, license, permit, right-of-way, or easement on the Federal land; and

(ii) the United States shall reserve an interest in deposits of oil, gas, and coal on the Federal land, including the right to explore, mine, and remove the minerals on portions of the Federal land that the Secretary determines to be prospectively valuable for development.

(2) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary may require any additional terms and conditions for the issuance of the patent under subsection (a) that the Secretary determines to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 404), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mrs. MURRAY. Thank you, Madam President.

I know the town of Darrington will thank you as well.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—Continued

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RODRIGUEZ NOMINATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the Judiciary Committee, of which I am a member, voted out the nomination of Leon Rodriguez to be Director of the

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, also known as USCIS. This agency has been at the center of the collapse of immigration enforcement in America, and Mr. Rodriguez, if confirmed, will—it seems certain—continue to accelerate that collapse. I think it is an important issue for all of us to talk about. It is not so much about him personally, but it is what he is going to be asked to do.

This is about what has been happening at Homeland Security—and USCIS is an important part of that—and how it is impacting the rule of law in America and immigration enforcement in America—or nonenforcement. It is a very serious matter. What I am going to say today is based on my best judgment of how and why it is happening and why this Congress needs to speak up about it.

I have an article from the Washington Post, which is dated December 18, a few months ago. The article in the Washington Post is headlined “Federal Workers’ Job Satisfaction Falls, with Homeland Security Depart. Ranking Lowest Again.”

It goes on to say:

Federal employees who deal with homeland security matters remain some of the government’s least-satisfied, as overall workforce morale hit its lowest point in a decade, according to a report that began ranking agencies on such issues in 2003.

It goes on to say:

The Department of Homeland Security, a perennial bottom-dweller in the “Best Places to Work in the Federal Government” rankings, marked its third consecutive year of decline and its second straight year of being last among the 19 largest agencies. This is not acceptable, and I raised that issue with Secretary Napolitano repeatedly at the hearings.

I will remind my colleagues that the officers association of another one of the three core immigration agencies—the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service—unanimously voted no confidence in their then-Director John Norton mainly because he refused to allow them to comply with their duty under the law to enforce immigration laws in America. We had the Director of ICE and—you will learn—the Director of USCIS, and I suggest the Homeland Security Director, investing their time and effort in seeing that the laws of the United States were not enforced rather than being enforced.

This gentleman is not prepared to lead this job if he were to be supported in his activity, but, in fact, he was sent here because he will not rock the boat. He will be given this position to continue this policy of nonenforcement, even against the will of the officers who serve under him.

The last thing we should do is put someone in a critical law enforcement position, as these are, who doesn’t know anything about it, No. 1, and who is going to carry out President Obama’s policies, which is fundamen-

tally not to enforce the law. I know there are people who think that is an exaggeration, but I am going to talk about it, and we are going to keep talking about it, and we are going to show what the facts are. This is a serious matter.

Mr. Rodriguez is not a trained administrator. He has never led a police department. He has never led and managed a real law enforcement agency. He has been a prosecutor of white-collar crime cases. He served for several years in the civil rights part of Homeland Security, but he has not managed the officers out there on the ground who are trying to deal with violent criminal aliens and get them deported and all the gimmicks that they use to get around that. He was a chief of staff to Mr. Perez, the head of the civil rights division in the Department of Justice. Mr. Perez is nearly a radical pro-amnesty nonenforcement leader himself. They were both members of CASA de Maryland, which is very much a pro-amnesty activist group that proposes ideas that are outside the mainstream.

I assume Majority Leader REID will bring this nomination up for a vote in the Senate, and it will be an important moment. Will the Senators vote to defend the integrity of the immigration laws we passed or will they help install someone to one of the most important positions in government who will further erode and undermine those laws? This is the question we are dealing with. We need to be honest about it. I don’t think there is any mystery here.

First, Mr. Rodriguez lacks the normal background and experience for a position such as this. He doesn’t have it. I am not saying he is not a good civil rights lawyer or white-collar crime lawyer, but he doesn’t have the leadership experience to lead an agency such as this. His only apparent encounter with immigration was his service on the board of CASA de Maryland, which encourages illegal immigrants to defy law enforcement. It has been a very active group.

Tellingly, Mr. Rodriguez refused to answer questions regarding whether he believes an illegal immigrant who is ordered deported or convicted of a felony criminal offense or convicted of multiple misdemeanors or convicted of a single sex-related offense or convicted of a single drunk driving offense or known to be a gang member should be eligible for legal status in America. That is a pretty fair question to ask a nominee to this important position because USCIS evaluates people as to whether they have the requisites to be given legal status and a pathway to citizenship in America.

Mr. Rodriguez would not even say whether someone who has been denied legal status should be deported. So they come in and ask for legal status, and it is turned down, and he was asked: Should that person get to stay

in the country or should that person be deported? There is only one answer to that question. If you are not eligible to be in the country and you had your hearing and you have been denied legal status, there is only one answer, and that is you should be deported. These should not be difficult questions for someone who wants to head an agency that is charged with ensuring the integrity of our system.

The President has summarily suspended entire portions of immigration law, granting unilateral reprieve to people based on everything from family connection to age of illegal entry, and criminal record. He just issues an order.

The Los Angeles Times reported earlier this week on the collapse of interior enforcement. They reported that “immigrants living illegally in most of the continental U.S. are less likely to be deported today than before Obama came into office.” Boy, that is an understatement. That is an absolute fact. It went on to state:

Expulsions of people who are settled and working in the United States have fallen steadily since his first year in office, and are down more than 40% since 2009.

It is really a lot more than 40 percent. They went on to quote the former Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, John Sandweg, who left a little over a month ago. He was a top official in the Obama administration. He said: “If you are a run-of-the-mill immigrant here illegally, your odds of getting deported are close to zero.” This is a guy who held an important position in the Department of Homeland Security. His duty was to identify people who are here illegally.

In effect, the administration’s policy is that unless you commit a felony or other serious crime, you are free to illegally work here, claim certain tax benefits, and obtain fraudulent documents so you can get a job. Apparently having a fraudulent document to get a job you are not lawfully entitled to get is not something that gets you deported in this administration. Not apparently, that is the policy if truth be known.

It is an open invitation to every would-be illegal immigrant to come to the United States unlawfully and to every visa holder who is here lawfully on a visa for a limited time to ignore the expiration date of their visa and remain unlawfully in the country. That is the law the President has set.

If the immigration laws are not enforceable by virtue of the plain fact that they are duly passed laws by the Congress of the United States, then there is no real immigration law. Anyone who wishes is free to come on visa, let the visa expire and never leave. If you can get past the border in some fashion unlawfully, they can stay and nobody is going to impact you.

Yet, on March 13, after meeting with representatives of various amnesty groups, the Homeland Security Secretary—the top man, Mr. Johnson—reaffirmed that he is working to fulfill the President's request to reduce enforcement even further. It is astonishing that the President would order a review of enforcement policies, not for the purpose of repairing enforcement flaws but to weaken it even more.

According to a March 14, 2014, Los Angeles Times article quoting administrative officials:

The changes under review would effectively stop most deportations of [illegal immigrants] with no criminal convictions other than violations.

So any fraudulent documents that are used to come here and violate immigration laws or get a job or get into the country unlawfully don't count. You can do this all day. Come on down. This means that even fugitive aliens, and those who have committed immigration felonies would now be exempt from enforcement. It would represent a total evisceration of immigration law, including those laws designed to protect the wages and jobs of working Americans.

I will say parenthetically—we just had a vote on unemployment insurance because we continue to have a very high unemployment rate. We extended the normal limit on unemployment benefits to people who don't have a job, and now we are doing nothing to protect American workers from people who are illegally here and taking jobs they need for their families.

In addition to that, the Senate passed a comprehensive immigration bill that would double the number of guest workers—the people who come here just to work—at a time of high unemployment.

We have a bill that will be coming up soon, I suppose, to raise the minimum wage. Why? Because wages have not risen sufficiently. We are not happy about that. In fact, wages have been declining for over a decade. This is a serious trend.

Dr. Borjas at Harvard attributes a good deal of that to the large flow of immigration, particularly in lower income Americans who are being hampered by this large flow of lower skilled foreign workers. It is supply and demand.

Why are wages not going up, colleagues? Do you believe in the free market? They are not going up because we have more workers than we have jobs.

Mr. Sperling, the President's former top economic adviser, admitted a few weeks ago that there are three applicants for every job in America. The last thing we need to be doing is doubling the number of foreign workers brought into the country and not enforcing the law with regard to people who have entered illegally, isn't that

correct? I mean, can't we agree on issues such as that?

In 2012—go back to this, the problems—and people need to know this. The mainstream media does not want to talk about it. They don't tend to report it, but it has been out there for months—years. It is the reality. This is what a 2012 inspector general report of the Department of Homeland Security—this is their own inspector general, who serves at the pleasure of the Homeland Security Secretary. They issued a report which found that senior officials at USCIS—that is the Citizenship and Immigration Services, where this individual will be the head—they found that senior officials at USCIS have been pressuring employees to rubberstamp applications for immigration benefits despite obvious signs of fraud.

Kenneth Palinkas, president of the National Citizenship and Immigration Services Council—the union representing 12,000 adjudicators, officers, and staff—issued a statement in May of 2013 that echoed the findings of the report. This is what Mr. Palinkas's group said:

USCIS adjudications officers are pressured to rubberstamp applications instead of conducting diligent case review and investigations. The culture at USCIS encourages all applications to be approved, discouraging proper investigation into red flags and discouraging denial of applications. USCIS has been turned into an approval machine.

This is not acceptable. What are we paying 18,000 officers to do? Don't the American people expect that they are supposed to be reviewing applications, not rubberstamping them; identifying people who may be terrorists or criminals or have no likelihood of producing anything worthwhile in America, who are not going to be successful in America, and who may be otherwise unlawfully eligible to enter, while we turn people down who have the lawful right to enter and put them on a backlog? It doesn't make any sense.

According to Mr. Palinkas:

USCIS has created an almost insurmountable bureaucracy which often prevents USCIS adjudications officers from contacting and coordinating with ICE agents and officers in cases that should have their involvement.

Look, the ICE officers are kind of like the criminal investigators. They deal with people who are apprehended inside the country. They deal with people who have been arrested or in jail on one cause or another—assaults, drugs, violence, criminality. So USCIS is evaluating paperwork to see if somebody is qualified, and they have some red flag, and they would like to call the ICE officers to see if this is the same guy who committed an assault or an armed robbery a few years ago, and they are being discouraged from doing that. What is this? It is exactly the opposite of what we are paying them to do.

Mr. Palinkas continues:

USCIS officers are pressured to approve visa applications for individuals that ICE agents have determined should be placed into deportation proceedings.

So they are pressuring them to approve these individuals who have not been approved.

I see Senator WARREN is here, and I will wrap up. I didn't realize she had been approved to speak at this time, and I will wrap up briefly.

We need to put an end to this lawlessness, and the next Director of USCIS must ensure the integrity of our immigration system—it is just that simple—as his mission statement calls for him to do. They must be independent and able to stand up for the rule of law under what undoubtedly will be tremendous political pressure from an administration and pro-amnesty activist groups who seem to be dominating the agenda and who have little interest in seeing the great classical American rule of law enforced.

Mr. Rodriguez, unfortunately, I am convinced is not that person. He would not be the right person if he really had the support of his leadership. He just doesn't have the background. He has never managed a major agency with 18,000 employees or anything like it. He does not have any experience on the frontlines of what they do every day and how they do it. But it is even worse because—look, why didn't they choose somebody who is experienced in DHS? Why didn't they choose a police chief or a military officer, someone who knows how to lead and manage a big agency such as this one, somebody with independence and integrity? Why? Because they don't want somebody with independence and integrity committed to the enforcement of law. They have already decided they are not enforcing the law, and they want somebody such as this Casa de Maryland protegee to go into that agency who is not going to enforce the law.

It is a serious statement I make, and I think it is fundamentally accurate. I am just baffled that this is the fact.

Mr. Jonathan Turley, a constitutional lawyer who has written about government issues and constitutional issues for quite a number of years—Professor Turley has written recently and participated in a discussion where he said that what the President is doing with regard to immigration is beyond any justifiable utilization of prosecutorial discretion, that it amounts to a nullification of law by the President, who takes an oath and is constitutionally required to see that the laws of this country are faithfully carried out.

This is a very serious matter. We need to talk about it. This nomination sort of provides us an opportunity to recognize what is happening, and the American people are going to need to speak up. We need to be able to change

what is happening to restore the great American heritage of law.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

MINIMUM WAGE

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, it has taken us 4 months, but we are finally on the verge of passing a long-overdue emergency extension of unemployment benefits. So I come to the floor this afternoon to urge my colleagues to continue supporting America's working families by raising the minimum wage.

Over the past 50 years the value of the minimum wage has sharply declined. In 1968 the minimum wage was high enough to keep a working parent with a family of three out of poverty. In 1980 the minimum wage was at least high enough to keep a working parent with a family of two out of poverty. Today the minimum wage isn't even high enough to keep a fully employed mother and a baby out of poverty. This is fundamentally wrong. Anyone who works full time should not live in poverty.

For nearly half a century, as we came out of the Great Depression, we lived by the basic principle that we all do better when we work together and build opportunities for everyone. For nearly half a century, as our country got richer our workers got richer, and as our workers got richer our country got richer. As the pie got bigger, we all got a little bit more. That is how it was, and that is how we built America's great middle class.

But that is not how it works now for low-income workers. Dr. Arin Dube of the University of Massachusetts has explained that if the minimum wage had kept up with increases in productivity, it would be \$22 an hour today. But it didn't keep up. So today, while corporate profits soar, millions of hard-working moms and dads are left behind, working full time and still living in poverty.

Democrats aren't proposing to increase the minimum wage to \$22 an hour. Our proposal is much more modest—a raise to \$10.10 an hour. That is modest by comparison, but for at least 14 million children who depend on a parent whose wages would go up as a result of this legislation, this increase will make their lives a whole lot more secure.

This bill is about the lives of minimum-wage workers, but it is also about every taxpayer in America and about the corporate welfare taxpayers are forced to dole out when these companies pay poverty-level wages.

More than half of low-wage working families participate in government assistance programs for food, for health care, and for other expenses. A study by researchers at UC Berkeley and the University of Illinois show that we spend about \$240 billion a year providing benefits to working families

through food stamps, Medicaid, and other antipoverty programs.

When big companies pay poverty-level wages and then count on the government to cover basic expenses for their employees, they get a boost from every American taxpayer who helps pick up the ticket for food stamps and Medicaid. Taxpayer dollars are being used to boost the profits of private companies that don't want to pay their employees enough to keep them out of poverty. That is corporate welfare, plain and simple.

I understand why some businesses might like to keep it that way, but American taxpayers have had enough of this corporate welfare. American workers have had enough of this corporate welfare. America has had enough of this corporate welfare.

This is an uphill fight. Those big corporations that pay poverty-level wages want to keep wages the way they are. And why not? It is more money for corporate dividends and CEO bonuses. So those companies hire armies of lobbyists and lawyers who lean on Washington politicians to keep things exactly the way they are. Minimum-wage workers don't have an army of lobbyists and lawyers, and American taxpayers don't either. But Congress doesn't work for those big companies. We work for the workers and the taxpayers and the voters who sent us here.

It is time to call out this corporate welfare for what it is, and it is time to fight back. It has been 7 years since Congress last increased the minimum wage. Senator Ted Kennedy led that fight, and I am proud to carry that fight forward today. It is time to honor work again, time to honor people who get up every day and bust their tails to try to build a life for themselves and their children. It is time to increase the minimum wage.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak and that Senators MURKOWSKI, BEGICH, and WICKER be allowed to join me in a colloquy as they come to the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, thank you very much.

PIRATE FISHING

Mr. President, we are coming to the floor today because the four of us serve as the cochairs of the Senate Oceans Caucus. I know the Presiding Officer

from Delaware has a keen interest in oceans issues as well, and we appreciate his support for the caucus.

We have worked very hard in this caucus to find bipartisan common ground on issues that relate to the seas and to our oceans, and one of the areas we have worked on is the area that is described in the jargon as IUU fishing, which means illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. The better word for it, the clearer word for it, the more accurate word for it is pirate fishing.

These are fishermen around the world who go to sea and they fish above legal limits, they fish out of season, they fish for catches they are not allowed to catch, they fish in waters they are not allowed to fish in, and then they come to shore and market their illicit product. When they do that, they hurt legitimate fishermen and they hurt American fishermen in two ways. First of all, fish migrate around the globe. If they are knocked down, damaged, and caught illegally in other areas, then the American fishery for that same species is hurt. The second is that depresses the global price for fish. These people can flood the market with illegal fish. That drops the price through the law of supply and demand, and now our American fishermen—who are fishing lawfully, who are abiding by the catch limits, who are fishing in the right seasons and places—suffer a disadvantage in the pricing when their fish get to market.

So this is an important issue for our States, and it is not for nothing that we are all coastal State Senators who are here to express our support for action on these treaties.

In the United States, commercial fish landings are over \$5 billion in revenue a year. Recreational anglers spend more than \$25 billion a year. So this is big business, and pirate fishing is a big hit to our big business. Pirate fishing losses have been estimated at between \$10 billion and \$24 billion every year. When you consider that our whole recreational fishing industry is only roughly \$26 billion—and this is a \$24 billion raid, basically, on the international fisheries—it is important that we can do this.

So there is a package of treaties that has come out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. There are four of them. Three of them are traditional fishing treaties covering the South Pacific, the North Pacific, and the Northwest Atlantic fisheries. You can only imagine what the North Pacific fishery means for Alaskan fishermen and what the Northwest Atlantic fishery means for our northeastern fishermen. It is very important that we get these treaties cleared through the Senate.

I am delighted that Chairman MENENDEZ and his ranking member Senator CORKER have passed these bills through the Foreign Relations Committee with very strong bipartisan support. I think we have a really good

chance to get something done in a bipartisan fashion that is good for our industry and also the right thing to do.

It is simply unfair when international pirate fishers are able to knock down the fisheries market internationally and take away product that we would otherwise catch.

I see the senior Senator from Alaska has joined me on the floor. I just mentioned the North Pacific treaty, which I know has specific relevance to her State.

We are in a parliamentary position where we have unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy—Senator MURKOWSKI and I and Senator WICKER and Senator BEGICH as they arrive. So I now yield the floor to Senator MURKOWSKI. Let me say how much I appreciate her leadership. She has been the cochair of the Oceans Caucus. It was significantly her initiative that we should focus on pirate fishing, and I applaud all the work she has done, together with Senator WICKER, who has now joined us.

I yield to the Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank my friend and my colleague from Rhode Island, who also is my cochair on the Senate Oceans Caucus. As he has noted, this is an issue of IUU fishing—illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing—and, really, that is too polite a term for it. It is really piracy—piracy of our fisheries.

Senator WHITEHOUSE has been very engaged in working on so many of these key issues. I think this is quite important what we are discussing today—the positive step forward, not only for fishermen in my State but for fishermen around the Nation.

I would like to thank those who have been involved in this effort in addition to Senator WHITEHOUSE—Senator WICKER, as well as Senator BEGICH, for their efforts to help advance these treaties. I would also like to recognize Senator MENENDEZ and Senator CORKER for their support through the Foreign Relations Committee process.

It should come as no surprise to any of my colleagues here in terms of Alaska's role with our fisheries. Alaska leads all States in terms of both volume and value of commercial fisheries, with approximately 1.84 million metric tons, worth \$1.3 billion. The seafood coming out of Alaska accounts for over 52 percent of our Nation's commercial seafood harvest. Our commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries are really at the heart of coastal Alaska. They are the source of economic livelihood for more than 80,000 Alaskans who are directly or indirectly employed in the industry. I count my family as part of Alaska's fishing families who support very well managed, sustainable fisheries.

But what we have seen from these acts of piracy—this illegal fishing—let's take, for instance, the crab fish-

eries, is very serious. Illegally harvested Russian king crab has been a real problem for us in Alaska since the early 1990s. In 2011 NOAA law enforcement seized 112 metric tons of illegally harvested Russian king crab that was being shipped to U.S. markets through the Port of Seattle. So what happens here is you have the Russians, who are taking too many of the king crab, illegally harvesting them and then effectively dumping them on the U.S. markets. Well, what do you think that does, then, to the price of the crab we are catching here lawfully in the United States? It is depressing the price of crab. Now, I know this. I mentioned that my family is in the fishing business. My cousin is involved in the crab industry. They have seen the prices of crab go down between 20 and 25 percent because of this illegal harvesting by the Russians.

This is not just a small problem. This is not something that is just happening right now. This has been happening for decades now, and it needs to be stopped. I do want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the amazing work our U.S. Coast Guard does, as well as the other agencies, NOAA and the State Department, their combined efforts they are making to combat pirate fishing. It is greatly appreciated by me and my constituents.

We have four treaties in front of us that will help to level this playing field and ensure that our coastal fishing communities will face less unfair competition from pirate fishing vessels that simply have not been held to the high fisheries management standards we have here in the United States.

Two of the treaties we are looking at are particularly important for my State. One is the Port State Measures Agreement. This sets global standards to combat IUU fishing, and it helps to protect our U.S. fishermen by keeping the foreign, illegally caught fish from entering the global stream of commerce. It is hugely important for us.

The other one I would like to highlight is the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean. This will ensure that the North Pacific Fisheries Commission is established and also helps to ensure that there is a fisheries management regime in place to deter this IUU fishing within the region adjacent to Alaska. So it is critically important when it comes to our fisheries and the sustainability of our fisheries and how we manage our fisheries.

We are trying to play by the rules. We expect others to be doing the same.

So, again, I appreciate the work so many have done to help advance these treaties that are before us.

I see my colleague from Mississippi on the floor, and I would like to hear again from him in terms of support for these treaties.

With that, I yield to my friend from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. I thank my colleague.

Mr. President, I do not know if I need to seek recognition to be in a colloquy, but I do appreciate the remarks of the Senator from Rhode Island and the Senator from Alaska.

I rise this afternoon to join them in wholehearted support of these four important measures. They are an important step in combating—the term we use, as the Senator from Alaska said—is illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, IUU fishing, but I will also join my colleagues in saying that it is nothing short of pirate fishing.

It has broad economic, social, and ecological consequences. I am glad to join in support of these four measures. They have been hotlined. For those within the sound of our voices today that do not understand that, it is an expedited way to move things on a unanimous basis. I have every reason to believe that it will only be a matter of time before we have these hotline requests cleared on both sides of the aisle.

Alaska and Rhode Island have their interests in this. I can assure you that Mississippi does too. Mississippi is home to many hard-working fishing communities. They depend on the oceans for their livelihoods. We are the sixth largest seafood-producing State in the country. Many people might not realize that. We are second in the Gulf of Mexico to the State of Louisiana.

Pirate fishing hurts our fishermen. Our fishermen abide by the law. Pirate fishing puts them at a competitive disadvantage, as the Senator said. These fishermen who are small business owners, for the most part, should not be penalized for playing by the rules. International cooperation and standards are needed to protect local commerce and the environment. That is what the Agreement on Port State Measures would do.

Under the agreement, vessels carrying illegally harvested fish would not be allowed to enter our ports and thereby dilute the market with fraudulent product. In this way, the agreement would protect U.S. fishermen, seafood buyers, and consumers, while also supporting marine habitat, coastal economies, and coastal communities.

Estimates show that pirate fishing costs as much as \$23 billion per year globally and poses a serious threat to the sustainability of marine habitat. In parts of the world it accounts for up to 40 percent of the wild marine fish caught.

Other treaties under consideration address high seas fisheries resources. As the Senator from Alaska said, one in the North Pacific, yet another in the South Pacific, as well as amendments to the 1978 Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Convention. These amendments simply update the conventions with standards similar to

those that we in the United States use for our domestic waters.

These treaties can serve as powerful tools for showing that the United States is committed to enforcing fisheries laws and encouraging other countries to follow suit. Like other fisheries treaties that the Senate has ratified, they would protect America's interests, and they would protect American workers.

Our commercial and recreational fishing industries are responsible for 1.7 million American jobs and countless more at docks and facilities for processing and distribution. In summary, these four measures are good for the economy, they are good for the seafood industry, they are good for consumers, they are good for small business people, and they are good for our commercial fishermen.

It is an opportunity for us to strike a blow for bipartisanship and internationalism. I am glad to see the widespread support. I look forward to the measures being cleared on both sides of the aisle. I see my other distinguished colleague from Alaska here.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, what you will find with these issues is that they are bipartisan. Fish know no boundaries of political persuasion. They look at what is important to them. We like to catch them and eat them. So it does not matter where they come from, whether from the seas of Alaska or from the gulf. So I thank the Senator for the opportunity to say a few words.

To Senator WHITEHOUSE, my thanks for organizing and allowing this opportunity. I will tell you, we do not mean to outnumber you, having two Alaskans here. We are so dedicated to this issue. I can tell you having this opportunity to have these four treaties ratified is incredibly important for us.

I know lots of times we talk about illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing. I like to simply call it pirate fishing. These are people who steal our fish out of our waters and then try to sell them back to us. Clearly it is what it is: stealing our stock and packing our fisheries and passing, as was just mentioned, the cost to our markets of \$23 billion a year nationwide—worldwide—because of these pirate fishermen and fisherwomen.

Alaskan crab fishermen, for example—for people who like to watch a reality show, "The Deadliest Catch" is one of those. "The Deadliest Catch" guys tell me that there is over a half a billion dollars in lost crab because of illegal imports that are coming in. They may be stolen or labeled incorrectly.

The human impact is even more appalling, when you think about it. The working conditions on those boats are deplorable. They do not call them "rust buckets" for nothing. They are.

They are dangerous. They are unsafe. There is forced labor, human trafficking, slavery. You name the list; it is everything you can imagine in these ships.

Again, you can call it what you want, but at the end of the day, what is happening is pirate fishing. They are stealing the fish. Again, illegal fishing is a stateless criminal enterprise. There are no flags. They steal fish with impunity. They victimize their workers. We need to fight back. These treaties help do it.

The Coast Guard—we love our coasties. It does not matter if they are in Alaska or around the country. They do an incredible job. They track down these criminals on the high seas and chase them down. You can see in this picture where they have caught one of the ships—our Coast Guard cutters in the North Pacific a few years back.

There is no question when they catch these ships what should happen to them, from my perspective. I am a little more radical on this. I know we will have these treaties, which are important. But you know, in my view, if they catch a ship like this, they should take the crew off, take the hazardous waste off, and sink it to the bottom of the ocean. Then we are done. The people will get a clear message.

I know some lawyers object to my idea. I recognize that. But let me tell you, we had some ships—this one, for example. As you can see, it is not only a rust bucket; you can see the rust bleeding off of it. This is one of these ships that was washed into our waters from the tsunami in Japan. You can see a well-placed artillery shell hit it in the middle because they decided to sink it.

So after the Coast Guard's lawyers thought it was not a good idea, we had a piece of equipment that they then went ahead and sunk. I will tell you, you do this kind of activity, and I guarantee you the pirates of this country who are trying to steal our fish will get a clear and simple message.

But it is important to go after these pirates. The Coast Guard—in this case it was an old rust bucket they sunk to the bottom. I have taken to the floor many times to say they need better tools, more cutters, more patrol aircraft to do their job and increase their capacity in going after these pirates—not only pirates on fishing, but also smuggling drugs and all the other work that these illegal ships are doing that they need to go after. We need to have tougher laws. That is what these treaties do. They strengthen the laws. They are bipartisan. The Port State Measures Agreement tightens rules on seafood imports, provides for better inspection, and lists the pirate boats so we know who to keep out of our waters.

Others deal with protecting high seamounts and other needed provisions specific to the North Pacific, the South Pacific, and the Atlantic. They have

been in years of negotiations. I applaud our teams at the State Department and NOAA and the many Senators who have engaged in this issue to solve this problem, to create more tools for us to enforce.

We need to do our part. We need to support these treaties. Again, it is a bipartisan effort. We need to support these treaties because it will support our fishermen, support our economies throughout the ocean States and the Gulf States and throughout the States that impact with fisheries. We also need to do it because of the rule of law and protecting and respecting the rule of law and human dignity that we insist on.

When we think of the impact of these individuals who are trapped on these boats—literally, the human trafficking, slavery, and forced work that these guys are taken to on these pirate ships is appalling. We should be appalled just by that fact alone, besides the billions they steal from the waters and try to resell from their harvest in our oceans illegally.

So let me just sum up by saying again that I know my idea of sinking a pirate ship may be a little radical. But the Coast Guard did it on one ship. My view is, why not more? But at least we will have some treaties, maybe with this work on the floor tonight. Again, to Senator WHITEHOUSE, I thank him for organizing all of us who care so deeply about the fishing industry and these treaties that will make a difference. When you put more tools in the toolbox, it will have an impact.

You can rest assured I will do everything I can to gather the support necessary to make sure these treaties pass. I will stop at this point. I appreciate the effort. Thank you for allowing me to have visual aids. Sometimes words are great, but visual aids make impact. Hopefully, people can see. Hopefully, these pirates will see we are serious and this is not some movie that Johnny Depp is in either. We are going after those pirate ships.

Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Mississippi and the two Senators from Alaska for participating in this bipartisan effort. Let me conclude by reading something that Chris Lischewski, who is the CEO and President of Bumble Bee Foods, wrote to me:

Everybody loves a tuna fish sandwich. And Bumble Bee has been in that industry for a long time. They are a proud American company. But tuna travel great distances. They are a fish, that if foreign pirates go after them and fish them illegally, and fish them unsustainably and knock that population down, that comes home to roost for good old Bumble Bee Foods.

Here is what the CEO of that company said:

IUU fishing is a multi-billion dollar industry that undermines our global conservation and sustainability efforts.

By that he means his company.

Illegal fishing penalizes legitimate fishermen and processors and it must be stopped. While the United States has done a good job at developing laws to detect and deter IUU fishing, other nations have not. We strongly support the agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, because it creates an obligation for other nations to take action against IUU fishing.

I yield the floor. If any of my colleagues wish to speak, let me just say that they do so with my gratitude for this bipartisan moment in the Senate and in support of the jobs that the fishing industry provides for our constituents.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I think we are waiting here for a couple of minutes. I will use a couple of minutes to speak again to those who come to our assistance when it comes to the enforcement of our fisheries laws—the men and women of our Coast Guard, NOAA, and our other enforcement agencies.

Senator BEGICH has somewhat dramatically shown some of the scenes. This is not easy stuff out there. When you have somebody who we have reason to believe has been operating illegally in violation of our agreed fisheries laws, more likely than not they are not just going to stand by and let you board and take a peek. They are going to take chase.

As we are hearing, as we are trying to find some evidence of the missing Malaysian jetliner, the oceans out there are pretty darn big. Usually, the conditions are not ones in which you would want to go out on a pleasure cruise.

Our men and women who are engaged in those enforcement efforts are truly heroes to us in terms of the efforts that they make, the energy that they expend, and the risk that they place themselves at.

So day after day, as they cover our waters, as they work to ensure that there is an effective management of our fisheries, their efforts to enforce these laws, their efforts to provide for a level of protection and safety, their efforts to bring the pirates to justice are truly to be applauded.

I thank the Senator for the opportunity to make that brief statement. I see my friend and colleague is at the ready, hopefully to announce that we will be able to move to passage of these significant treaties.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. It appears that we will shortly be able to do that. This is a happy coincidence in which four Senators in bipartisan fashion have come to the floor to support action on four treaties that will help protect our fishing industry, and it turns out that at this moment the treaties have been cleared for ratification on both sides of the aisle. In a moment I will be able to take us through those parliamentary steps, but on behalf of all four of us, I

should express my appreciation to Chairman MENENDEZ and to his ranking member Senator CORKER for the leadership they have shown in getting these treaties through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I know it was in a strongly bipartisan fashion. I think it was in a unanimously bipartisan fashion.

The Presiding Officer is a member of that distinguished committee, and I want to express my appreciation to the Presiding Officer, Senator COONS of Delaware.

It is good to be able to do these kinds of things in a bipartisan fashion. It reminds me a little bit of our friend Senator ENZI's 80/20 rule: We get 80 percent done in the Senate without incident, but then, of course, nobody notices. The other 20 percent we fight over, and the fight gets 80 percent of the attention.

So it is a happy moment when we can do something good for our industry, good for our fisheries, do it in a bipartisan fashion, and do it smoothly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES TO PREVENT, DETER, AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE HIGH SEAS FISHERIES RESOURCES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGH SEAS FISHERIES RESOURCES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

AMENDMENT TO THE CONVENTION ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, treaty document Nos. 112-4, 113-1, 113-2, 113-3, en bloc; that the treaties be considered as having advanced through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification; that any committee declarations be agreed to as applicable; that any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read; further, that when the votes on the resolutions of ratification are taken, they be in the order reported, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be

immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The treaties will be stated.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Treaty document No. 112-4, a resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing;

Treaty document No. 113-1, a resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fisheries Resources in the South Pacific Ocean;

Treaty document No. 113-2, a resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean; and

Treaty document No. 113-3, a resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask for a division vote on each of the resolutions of ratification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

A division vote has been requested.

On treaty document No. 112-4, Senators in favor of the resolution of ratification will rise and stand until counted.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

On a division vote, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution of ratification is agreed to.

The resolution of ratification is as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein).

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing, done at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in Rome, Italy, November 22, 2009, and signed by the United States November 22, 2009 (the "Agreement") (Treaty Doc. 112-4), subject to 12 the declaration of section 2.

Sec. 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section is subject to the following declaration: The Agreement is non self-executing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division vote has been requested.

On treaty document No. 113-1, Senators in favor of the resolution of ratification will rise and stand until counted.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

On a division vote, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution of ratification is agreed to.

The resolution of ratification is as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, done at Auckland, New Zealand, November 14, 2009, and signed by the United States January 31, 2011 (the "Convention") (Treaty Doc. 113-1), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Sec. 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Convention is not self-executing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division vote has been requested.

On treaty document No. 113-2, Senators in favor of the resolution of ratification will rise and stand until counted.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

On a division vote, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution of ratification is agreed to.

The resolution of ratification is as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, done at Tokyo February 24, 2012, and signed by the United States May 2, 2012 (the "Convention") (Treaty Doc. 113-2), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Sec. 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Convention is not self-executing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division vote has been requested.

On treaty document No. 113-3, Senators in favor of the resolution of ratification will rise and stand until counted.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

On a division vote, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution of ratification is agreed to.

The resolution of ratification is as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, adopted at the Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) (the 10 "Amendment") in Lisbon, Portugal, September 28, 2007 (Treaty Doc. 113-3), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Sec. 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Amendment is not self-executing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the Presiding Officer.

If there is no further business regarding these treaties, I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ALVIN BRENSING

Mr. MORAN. The story of Kansas is one that involves many people, many jobs, much ado about caring for others. Our State is a State of manufacturing workers, factory workers, teachers, farmers, and people who work hard every day to make a difference in their community and to make a difference in our State and Nation. Today I wish to pay tribute to one of those unsung heroes. In this case, it is a businessman, a volunteer, a husband, and a father who lived a full life before passing away in December of last year.

Alvin Brensing was born and raised on a farm outside of Hudson, a rural Central Kansas town with a population of 125. After high school, Brensing graduated with honors from Salt City Business College in Hutchinson and in May 1937, at the age of 21, started working as a bookkeeper at the Stafford County Flour Mills.

As German immigrants, the Krug family realized that their American dream was going to be accomplished by establishing the flour mill more than a century ago. Alvin worked under William Krug and then Leonard Brim to help grow the company before being named its president in 1986. Under his leadership, Stafford County Flour Mills doubled its capacity and grew 2½ times its size. It was one of the last independent flour mills remaining in the United States, and the mill produces Hudson Cream Flour. Many of my colleagues and many Americans will have seen the bag of flour with the great symbol and emblem—Hudson Cream Flour. Hudson Cream Flour has a reputation around the Nation as a top-notch baking flour for its consistency and texture. It also serves as a tradition for this West Virginia family who wrote the company saying:

After using Hudson Cream Flour for all the years I have cooked . . . and can remember even my grandmother and mother using nothing else . . . I read for the first time the "absolute satisfaction guarantee" and really had a good laugh! I thought, if those people in Kansas only knew the absolute satisfaction my family has enjoyed from their prod-

uct. The things we pass down in our family are good morals, good cooking, and Hudson Cream flour!

After Alvin's wife died in 1993, he came to miss the smell of fresh bread and soon began experimenting with ingredients. Alvin came up with three recipes, including "Al's Cinnamon Raisin Bread," which is included on the back of every Hudson Cream Flour bag.

Alvin always put farmers and customers first. Current Stafford County Flour Mills president Reuel Foote reflected that Alvin often said, "Our word is our bond—if you agree to do something, you do it."

While Alvin dedicated most of his life to ensuring the success and future of the mill, he was also a tireless volunteer in the Hudson community. Brensing took it upon himself to maintain Hudson's Trinity Cemetery, where his parents and his wife Zelda are buried. In fact, he upgraded a shed on the property into a building where loved ones can now comfortably look up the location of their loved ones' graves.

Alvin was also known as the local weatherman, collecting data for the National Weather Service from a local grain elevator. His daughters remember their dad turning the furnace on each Sunday morning to heat up the Trinity Community Church.

His legacy of leadership and volunteerism is what will live on as the Stafford County Flour Mills continue to support the community and educate youth, whether through the county 4-H Program or through the dozens of mill tours each year. The mill also continues Alvin's tradition of giving each schoolkid a 5-pound bag of flour after each tour to encourage them to experiment with recipes and baking.

Alvin taught through his actions that satisfaction in life comes from what you do for others rather than what you do for yourself. This is the legacy I want to pay tribute to today, and this is the legacy he lived and leaves behind for the next generation.

We want those who follow him and us to know they have their chance to return home, put down their roots, and raise their own families in places such as Hudson, KS. Our Nation faces so many challenges today, but we must remain committed to doing what it takes so that tomorrow and every day thereafter our children and grandchildren have the opportunity to enjoy that special way of life in places like Kansas and to pursue their own American dream.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute and remembering the life of a great Kansan, Alvin Brensing.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DELTA XI CENTENNIAL

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to honor my brothers of Sigma Nu Fraternity, especially the Delta Xi Chapter at the University of Nevada, which is celebrating 100 years of leadership, service, and brotherhood this year.

Since its founding in 1869 at the Virginia Military Institute, Sigma Nu has installed over 279 chapters and initiated more than one-quarter of a million members, including myself, an initiate and alumni of the Epsilon Omicron Chapter at the University of Southern California. It is an honor to know our fraternity's mission—to develop ethical leaders inspired by the principles of love, honor, and truth—has prevailed for nearly a century.

The Delta Xi Chapter of our fraternal network is a standout among chapters in the Nation. Established by the Nevada Club at the turn of the 20th century, the brothers of Delta Xi have since initiated well over 1,900 members and awarded more than 100 deserving scholarships.

Their members not only prioritize their academic involvement within the University of Nevada system, but also give back to their local community through service. Their achievements and contributions to the community will only continue to grow as Sigma Nu is dedicated to fostering the personal growth of each man's mind, heart, and character. Through its dedication to leadership and philanthropic commitments, our fraternity has sustained a nationally renowned reputation.

As Delta Xi celebrates its centennial year, its members have much to be proud of and look forward to for many years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Delta Xi Chapter of Sigma Nu. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE UNUSUAL AND EXTRAORDINARY THREAT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES POSED BY THE SITUATION IN AND IN RELATION TO SOUTH SUDAN—PM 38

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") declaring a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in and in relation to South Sudan.

The order does not target the country of South Sudan, but rather is aimed at persons who threaten the peace, stability, or security of South Sudan; commit human rights abuses against persons in South Sudan; or undermine democratic processes or institutions in South Sudan. The order provides authority for blocking the property and interests in property of any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

To be responsible for or complicit in, or to have engaged in, directly or indirectly, any of the following in or in relation to South Sudan:

actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of South Sudan;

actions or policies that threaten transitional agreements or undermine democratic processes or institutions in South Sudan;

actions or policies that have the purpose or effect of expanding or extending the conflict in South Sudan or obstructing reconciliation or peace talks or processes;

the commission of human rights abuses against persons in South Sudan; the targeting of women, children, or any civilians through the commission of acts of violence (including killing, maiming, torture, or rape or other sexual violence), abduction, forced dis-

placement, or attacks on schools, hospitals, religious sites, or locations where civilians are seeking refuge, or through conduct that would constitute a serious abuse or violation of human rights or a violation of international humanitarian law;

the use or recruitment of children by armed groups or armed forces in the context of the conflict in South Sudan; the obstruction of the activities of international peacekeeping, diplomatic, or humanitarian missions in South Sudan, or of the delivery or distribution of, or access to, humanitarian assistance; or

attacks against United Nations missions, international security presences, or other peacekeeping operations;

to be a leader of (i) an entity, including any government, rebel militia, or other group, that has, or whose members have, engaged in any of the activities described above or (ii) an entity whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order;

to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, any activity described above or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; or

to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 3, 2014.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 3, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2183. An act United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5204. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the National Security Education Program for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5205. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report entitled "Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) 2013 Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5206. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-Research and Development Contracting" ((RIN0750-A110) (DFARS Case 2013-D026)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5207. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-Quality Assurance" ((RIN0750-AH95) (DFARS Case 2013-D004)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5208. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Application of the Revised Capital Framework to the Capital Plan and Stress Test Rules" (RIN7100-AE-01 and RIN7100-AE-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5209. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 560) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5210. A communication from the Director, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's annual report on recruitment and retention, training and workforce development, and workforce flexibilities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5211. A communication from the Executive Director of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2013 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5212. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendments: Removal of Rules Transferred to the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau; OCC Address Change" (RIN1557-AD76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5213. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of

Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigeration Equipment" (RIN1904-AC19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5214. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Chesapeake Bay Program 2013"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5215. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Virtual Currency" (Notice 2014-21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5216. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Application of One-Per-Year Limit on IRA Rollovers" (Announcement 2014-15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5217. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Revenue Procedure 2013-22" (Rev. Proc. 2014-28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5218. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance on Section 1.1502-75(b)" (Rev. Proc. 2014-24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5219. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—April 2014" (Rev. Rul. 2014-12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5220. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements" (Announcement 2014-14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5221. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-169); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5222. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities of the Millennium Challenge Corporation during fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5223. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 20-303, "Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5224. A communication from the Regulatory Coordinator, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Sexual Abuse and Assault in Confinement Facilities" (RIN1653-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5225. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled "Executive Summary of the 2013 Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts" and "Judicial Business of the United States Courts"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5226. A communication from the Chairman of the National Health Care Workforce Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Commission; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5227. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at the Joslyn Manufacturing and Supply Co. in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-209. A concurrent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio urging the President of the United States, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Congress to take prompt action to reduce the processing time for veterans' disability benefit claims; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 21

Whereas, The men and women of the United States armed forces have bravely and selflessly served our country; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits program provides monetary support to veterans whose military service has caused or aggravated a disabling medical condition; and

Whereas, The number of veterans applying for disability benefits has increased in recent years because of the large number of new veterans and the expansion of eligibility for benefits for certain service-connected diseases; and

Whereas, The United States Government Accountability Office reports that between fiscal years 2009 and 2012, the average length of time for the Department of Veterans Affairs to complete a disability claim increased from 161 days to 260 days; that the number of backlogged claims, which have been awaiting a decision for more than 125 days, has more than tripled since September 2009; and that appeals processing at the Department's regional offices has slowed by 56 per cent over the last several years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the President of the United States, the

United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Congress of the United States to take prompt action to reduce the processing time for veterans' disability benefit claims; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 161. A bill to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes.

S. 1074. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe.

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1219. A bill to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

Staci Michelle Yandle, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

Damon Paul Martinez, of New Mexico, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2203. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the tax treatment for certain build America bonds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2204. A bill to establish the Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2205. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain small businesses from the employer health insurance mandate and to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of such mandate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mrs. McCASKILL):

S. 2206. A bill to streamline the collection and distribution of government information; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KING:

S. 2207. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require all political committees to notify the Federal Election Commission within 48 hours of receiving cumulative contributions of \$1,000 or more from any contributor during a calendar year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2208. A bill to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KAINE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2209. A bill to require a report on accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2210. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2211. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to protect the enrollment of incarcerated youth for medical assistance under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2212. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2213. A bill to replace the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection with a five-person Commission; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

S. Res. 410. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COBURN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 411. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 132

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of New Columbia into the Union.

S. 315

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to reauthorize and extend the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Amendments of 2008.

S. 452

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 452, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the incidence of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries.

S. 530

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 530, a bill to make participation in the American Community Survey voluntary, except with respect to certain basic questions, and for other purposes.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, *supra*.

S. 642

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the names of the Senator from Missouri

(Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1029

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1029, a bill to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents.

S. 1143

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1143, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to provide additional flexibility to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to establish capital standards that are properly tailored to the unique characteristics of the business of insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1694

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1694, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1733

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 1996

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from New

Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1996, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

S. 2171

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2171, a bill to address voluntary location tracking of electronic communications devices, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 33

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 33, a concurrent resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the nationwide Cooperative Extension System.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2204. A bill to establish the Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2204

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—The term "executive officer", with respect to a proprietary institution of higher education that is a publicly traded corporation, means—

(A) the president of such corporation;

(B) a vice president of such corporation who is in charge of a principal business unit, division, or function of such corporation, such as sales, administration, or finance; or

(C) any other officer or person who performs a policy making function for such corporation.

(2) FEDERAL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.—The term "Federal education assistance" means any Federal financial assistance provided under any Federal law through a grant, a contract, a subsidy, a loan, a guarantee, an insurance, or any other means to a proprietary institution of higher education, including Federal financial assistance that is disbursed or delivered to such institution, on behalf of a student, or to a student to be used to attend such institution, except that such term shall not include any monthly housing stipend provided under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) PRIVATE EDUCATION LOAN.—The term "private education loan"—

(A) means a loan provided by a private educational lender (as defined in section 140(a) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650(a))) that—

(i) is not made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

(ii) is issued expressly for postsecondary educational expenses to a borrower, regardless of whether the loan is provided through the educational institution that the subject student attends or directly to the borrower from the private educational lender (as so defined); and

(iii) is not made, insured, or guaranteed under title VII or title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq. and 296 et seq.); and

(B) does not include an extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, a reverse mortgage transaction, a residential mortgage transaction, or any other loan that is secured by real property or a dwelling.

(4) PROPRIETARY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "proprietary institution of higher education" has the meaning given the term in section 102(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(b)).

(5) RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term "recruiting and marketing activities" means activities that consist of the following:

(i) Advertising and promotion activities, including paid announcements in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards, electronic media, naming rights, or any other public medium of communication, including paying for displays or promotions at job fairs, military installations, or college recruiting events.

(ii) Efforts to identify and attract prospective students, either directly or through a contractor or other third party, including contact concerning a prospective student's potential enrollment or application for a grant, a loan, or work assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or participation in preadmission or advising activities, including—

(I) paying employees responsible for overseeing enrollment and for contacting potential students in-person, by phone, by email, or by other internet communications regarding enrollment; and

(II) soliciting an individual to provide contact information to an institution of higher education, including through websites established for such purpose and funds paid to third parties for such purpose.

(iii) Such other activities as the Secretary of Education may prescribe, including paying for promotion or sponsorship of education or military-related associations.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Any activity that is required as a condition of receipt of funds by

an institution under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), is specifically authorized under such title, or is otherwise specified by the Secretary of Education, shall not be considered to be a recruiting and marketing activity under subparagraph (A).

(6) **STATE APPROVAL AGENCY.**—The term “State approval agency” means any State agency that determines whether an institution of higher education is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education.

(7) **VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.**—The term “veterans service organization” means an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a committee to be known as the “Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee” (referred to in this Act as the “Committee”) and to be composed of the head (or the designee of such head) of each of the following Federal entities:

- (1) The Department of Education.
- (2) The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- (3) The Department of Justice.
- (4) The Securities and Exchange Commission.
- (5) The Department of Defense.
- (6) The Department of Veterans Affairs.
- (7) The Federal Trade Commission.
- (8) The Department of Labor.
- (9) The Internal Revenue Service.
- (10) At the discretion of the President, any other relevant Federal agency or department.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The Committee shall have the following purposes:

(1) Coordinate Federal oversight of proprietary institutions of higher education to—

(A) improve enforcement of applicable Federal laws and regulations;

(B) increase accountability of proprietary institutions of higher education to students and taxpayers; and

(C) ensure the promotion of quality education programs.

(2) Coordinate Federal activities to protect students from unfair, deceptive, abusive, unethical, fraudulent, or predatory practices, policies, or procedures of proprietary institutions of higher education.

(3) Encourage information sharing among agencies related to Federal investigations, audits, or inquiries of proprietary institutions of higher education.

(4) Increase coordination and cooperation between Federal and State agencies, including State Attorneys General and State approval agencies, with respect to improving oversight and accountability of proprietary institutions of higher education.

(5) Develop best practices and consistency among Federal and State agencies in the dissemination of consumer information regarding proprietary institutions of higher education to ensure that students, parents, and other stakeholders have easy access to such information.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.

(1) **DESIGNEES.**—For any designee described in subsection (a), the head of the member entity shall appoint a high-level official who exercises significant decision making authority for the oversight or investigatory activities and responsibilities related to proprietary institutions of higher education of the respective Federal entity of such head.

(2) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Secretary of Education or the designee of such Secretary

shall serve as the Chairperson of the Committee.

(3) **COMMITTEE SUPPORT.**—The head of each entity described in subsection (a) shall ensure appropriate staff and officials of such entity are available to support the Committee-related work of such entity.

SEC. 4. MEETINGS.

(a) **COMMITTEE MEETINGS.**—The members of the Committee shall meet regularly, but not less than once during each quarter of each fiscal year, to carry out the purposes described in section 3(b).

(b) **MEETINGS WITH STATE AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS.**—The Committee shall meet not less than once each fiscal year, and shall otherwise interact regularly, with State Attorneys General, State approval agencies, veterans service organizations, and consumer advocates to carry out the purposes described in section 3(b).

SEC. 5. REPORT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Committee shall submit a report each year to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and any other committee of Congress that the Committee determines appropriate.

(b) **PUBLIC ACCESS.**—The report described in subsection (a) shall be made available to the public in a manner that is easily accessible to parents, students, and other stakeholders in accordance with the best practices developed under section 3(b)(5).

(c) CONTENTS.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The report shall include—

(A) an accounting of any action (as defined in paragraph (3)) taken by the Federal Government, any member entity of the Committee, or a State—

(i) to enforce Federal or State laws and regulations applicable to proprietary institutions of higher education;

(ii) to hold proprietary institutions of higher education accountable to students and taxpayers; and

(iii) to promote quality education programs;

(B) a summary of complaints against each proprietary institution of higher education received by any member entity of the Committee;

(C) the data described in paragraph (2) and any other data relevant to proprietary institutions of higher education that the Committee determines appropriate; and

(D) recommendations of the Committee for such legislative and administrative actions as the Committee determines are necessary to—

(i) improve enforcement of applicable Federal laws;

(ii) increase accountability of proprietary institutions of higher education to students and taxpayers; and

(iii) ensure the promotion of quality education programs.

(2) DATA.

(A) **INDUSTRY-WIDE DATA.**—The report shall include data on all proprietary institutions of higher education that consists of information regarding—

(i) the total amount of Federal education assistance that proprietary institutions of higher education received for the previous academic year, and the percentage of the total amount of Federal education assistance provided to institutions of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) for such previous academic year that reflects such total amount of Federal education assistance provided to proprietary institutions of high-

er education for such previous academic year;

(ii) the total amount of Federal education assistance that proprietary institutions of higher education received for the previous academic year, disaggregated by—

(I) educational assistance in the form of a loan provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

(II) educational assistance in the form of a grant provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

(III) educational assistance provided under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code;

(IV) tuition assistance provided under section 2007 of title 10, United States Code;

(V) assistance provided under section 1784a of title 10, United States Code; and

(VI) Federal education assistance not described in subclauses (I) through (V);

(iii) the percentage of the total amount of Federal education assistance provided to institutions of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) for such previous academic year for each of the programs described in subclauses (I) through (V) of clause (ii) that reflects such total amount of Federal education assistance provided to proprietary institutions of higher education for such previous academic year for each of such programs;

(iv) the average retention and graduation rates for students pursuing a degree at proprietary institutions of higher education;

(v) the average cohort default rate (as defined in section 435(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1085(m)) for proprietary institutions of higher education, and an annual list of cohort default rates (as defined in such section) for all proprietary institutions of higher education;

(vi) for careers requiring the passage of a licensing examination—

(I) the passage rate of individuals who attended a proprietary institution of higher education taking such examination to pursue such a career; and

(II) the passage rate of all individuals taking such exam to pursue such a career; and

(vii) the use of private education loans at proprietary institutions of higher education that includes—

(I) an estimate of the total number of such loans; and

(II) information on the average debt, default rate, and interest rate of such loans.

(B) **DATA ON PUBLICLY TRADED CORPORATIONS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The report shall include data on proprietary institutions of higher education that are publicly traded corporations, consisting of information on—

(I) any pre-tax profit of such proprietary institutions of higher education—

(aa) reported as a total amount and an average percent of revenue for all such proprietary institutions of higher education; and

(bb) reported for each such proprietary institution of higher education;

(II) revenue for such proprietary institutions of higher education spent on recruiting and marketing activities, student instruction, and student support services, reported—

(aa) as a total amount and an average percent of revenue for all such proprietary institutions of higher education; and

(bb) for each such proprietary institution of higher education;

(III) total compensation packages of the executive officers of each such proprietary institution of higher education;

(IV) a list of institutional loan programs offered by each such proprietary institution

of higher education that includes information on the default and interest rates of such programs; and

(V) the data described in clauses (ii) and (iii).

(ii) **DISAGGREGATED BY OWNERSHIP.**—The report shall include data on proprietary institutions of higher education that are publicly traded corporations, disaggregated by corporate or parent entity, brand name, and campus, consisting of—

(I) the total cost of attendance for each program at each such proprietary institution of higher education, and information comparing such total cost for each such program to—

(aa) the total cost of attendance for each program at each public institution of higher education; and

(bb) the average total cost of attendance for each program at all institutions of higher education, including such institutions that are public and such institutions that are private;

(II) total enrollment, disaggregated by—

(aa) individuals enrolled in programs taken online; and

(bb) individuals enrolled in programs that are not taken online;

(III) the average retention and graduation rates for students pursuing a degree at such proprietary institutions of higher education;

(IV) the percentage of students enrolled in such proprietary institutions of higher education who complete a program of such an institution within—

(aa) the standard period of completion for such program; and

(bb) a period that is 150 percent of such standard period of completion;

(V) the total cost of attendance for each program at such proprietary institutions of higher education;

(VI) the average cohort default rate, as defined in section 435(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1085(m)), for such proprietary institutions of higher education, and an annual list of cohort default rates (as defined in such section) for all proprietary institutions of higher education;

(VII) the median educational debt incurred by students who complete a program at such a proprietary institution of higher education;

(VIII) the median educational debt incurred by students who start but do not complete a program at such a proprietary institution of higher education;

(IX) the job placement rate for students who complete a program at such a proprietary institution of higher education and the type of employment obtained by such students;

(X) for careers requiring the passage of a licensing examination, the rate of individuals who attended such a proprietary institution of higher education and passed such an examination; and

(XI) the number of complaints from students enrolled in such proprietary institutions of higher education who have submitted a complaint to any member entity of the Committee.

(iii) **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS ASSISTANCE.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—To the extent practicable, the report shall provide information on the data described in clause (ii) for individuals using, to pay for the costs of attending such a proprietary institution of higher education, Federal education assistance provided under—

(aa) chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code;

(bb) section 2007 of title 10, United States Code; and

(cc) section 1784a of title 10, United States Code.

(II) **REVENUE.**—The report shall provide information on the revenue of proprietary institutions of higher education that are publicly traded corporations that is derived from the Federal education assistance described in subclause (I).

(C) **COMPARISON DATA.**—To the extent practicable, the report shall provide information comparing the data described in subparagraph (B) for proprietary institutions of higher education that are publicly traded corporations with such data for public institutions of higher education disaggregated by State.

(3) **ACCOUNTING OF ANY ACTION.**—For the purposes of paragraph (1)(A), the term “any action” shall include—

(A) a complaint filed by a Federal or State agency in a local, State, Federal, or tribal court;

(B) an administrative proceeding by a Federal or State agency involving noncompliance of any applicable law or regulation; or

(C) any other review, audit, or administrative process by any Federal or State agency that results in a penalty, suspension, or termination from any Federal or State program.

SEC. 6. FOR-PROFIT COLLEGE WARNING LIST FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each academic year, the Committee shall publish a list to be known as the “For-Profit College Warning List for Parents and Students” to be comprised of proprietary institutions of higher education—

(1) that have engaged in illegal activity during the previous academic year as determined by a Federal or State court;

(2) that have entered into a settlement resulting in a monetary payment;

(3) that have had any higher education program withdrawn or suspended; or

(4) for which the Committee has sufficient evidence of widespread or systemic unfair, deceptive, abusive, unethical, fraudulent, or predatory practices, policies, or procedures that pose a threat to the academic success, financial security, or general best interest of students.

(b) **DETERMINATIONS.**—In making a determination pursuant to subsection (a)(4), the Committee may consider evidence that includes the following:

(1) Any consumer complaint collected by any member entity of the Committee.

(2) Any complaint filed by a Federal or State agency in a Federal, State, local, or tribal court.

(3) Any administrative proceeding by a Federal or State agency involving noncompliance of any applicable law or regulation.

(4) Any other review, audit, or administrative process by any Federal or State agency that results in a penalty, suspension, or termination from any Federal or State program.

(5) Data or information submitted by a proprietary institution of higher education to any accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education pursuant to section 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b) or the findings or adverse actions of any such accrediting agency or association.

(6) Information submitted by a proprietary institution of higher education to any member entity of the Committee.

(7) Any other evidence that the Committee determines relevant in making a determination pursuant to subsection (a)(4).

(c) **PUBLICATION.**—Not later than July 1 of each fiscal year, the Committee shall publish the list described in subsection (a) prominently and in a manner that is easily accessible to parents, students, and other stakeholders in accordance with any best practices developed under section 3(b)(5).

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2210. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join my friend from North Dakota, Senator HEITKAMP, in introducing the School Food Modernization Act to assist schools in providing healthier meals to students throughout the country.

School meals play a vital role in the lives of our young people. More than 30 million children participate in the National School Lunch Program every schoolday. In Maine, 40 percent of children qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on household income.

The food served to these children has a demonstrable effect on their health and well-being. Many children consume up to half their daily caloric intake at school. In fact, children often get their most nutritious meal of the day at school instead of at home.

At the same time, too many of our children are at risk of serious disease. One-third of the children in this country are overweight or obese, which increases their risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes and other chronic diseases. These ailments may have a lifelong effect on their health as they grow to adulthood.

Given the concerns about the health of our children, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued updated school meal nutrition standards that call for increased servings of fruit, vegetables, low-fat products, and whole grains while limiting the intake of fats, sugar, salt, and excess calories.

In response, our schools have stepped up to the plate. Nationwide, schools are working diligently to meet the standards and serve healthier meals. For example, in the New Sweden Consolidated School in Aroostook County, ME, food service manager Melanie Lagasse prepares meals from scratch instead of opening cans or pushing a defrost button. The school's 64 students, ranging from preschool to eighth grade, have grown to relish the chicken stew, baked fish, and whole grain pasta and meatloaf that she makes fresh every day.

Many schools, however, lack the right tools for preparing meals rich in

fresh ingredients and must rely on workarounds that are expensive, inefficient, and unsustainable. Schools built decades ago lack the tools and the infrastructure necessary to comply fully with the new USDA guidelines. In fact, many lack any capacity beyond reheating and holding food for meal service.

To serve healthier meals to their students, 99 percent of Maine school districts need at least one piece of equipment and almost half—48 percent—of districts need kitchen infrastructure upgrades. While some of the needs appear quite simple—food processors, knives, serving-portion utensils, scales, utility carts—there is still a cost. The median equipment need per school is \$45,000.

Even more costly would be making the required changes to infrastructure. Forty-eight percent of Maine schools need some kind of infrastructure change to serve healthy meals. For example, 41 percent of schools need more physical space, 22 percent need more electrical capacity, 21 percent need more plumbing capacity, and 19 percent need more ventilation. In addition, for Maine, 82 percent of school districts are in areas defined as rural.

Add the equipment costs together with the infrastructure costs and it is estimated that overall, \$58.8 million would be needed just in Maine to serve healthy meals to all of our students. That far exceeds the \$74,000 grant the USDA awarded Maine in March for new equipment.

Our bill aims to make better use of current resources by authorizing loan guarantee assistance and grants for school equipment and infrastructure improvements and by helping food service personnel meet the updated nutrition standards. First, it would establish a loan guarantee assistance program within USDA to help schools acquire new equipment to prepare and serve healthier, more nutritious meals to students. School administrators and other eligible borrowers could obtain Federal guarantees for 80 percent of the loan value needed to construct, remodel, or expand their kitchens, dining, or food storage infrastructure.

Second, it would provide targeted grant assistance to give school administrators and food service directors the seed funding needed to upgrade kitchen infrastructure or to purchase high-quality, durable kitchen equipment such as commercial ovens, steamers, and stoves.

Finally, to aid school food service personnel in meeting the updated nutrition guidelines, the legislation would strengthen training and provide technical assistance by authorizing USDA to provide support on a competitive basis to highly qualified third-party trainers to develop and administer training and technical assistance.

We need to start our schoolchildren off on the right food every day. If they

are going to compete in the global arena, they need to be healthy and their minds and bodies fully nourished. This bill will help us achieve that goal.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 410—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 410

Whereas the Armenian Genocide was conceived and carried out by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulting in the deportation of nearly 2,000,000 Armenians, of whom 1,500,000 men, women, and children were killed and 500,000 survivors were expelled from their homes, and the elimination of the over 2,500-year presence of Armenians in their historic homeland;

Whereas, on May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers of England, France, and Russia jointly issued a statement explicitly charging for the first time ever another government of committing crimes “against humanity and civilization”;

Whereas Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term “genocide”, and whose draft resolution for a genocide convention treaty became the framework for the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, recognized the Armenian Genocide as the type of crime the United Nations should prevent and punish through the setting of international standards;

Whereas Senate Concurrent Resolution 12, 64th Congress, agreed to February 9, 1916, resolved that “the President of the United States be respectfully asked to designate a day on which the citizens of this country may give expression to their sympathy by contributing funds now being raised for the relief of the Armenians”, who at the time were enduring “starvation, disease, and untold suffering”;

Whereas Senate Resolution 359, 66th Congress, agreed to May 11, 1920, stated that “the testimony adduced at the hearings conducted by the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations have clearly established the truth of the reported massacres and other atrocities from which the Armenian people have suffered”;

Whereas House Joint Resolution 148, 94th Congress, agreed to April 8, 1975, resolved, “That April 24, 1975, is hereby designated as ‘National Day of Remembrance of Man’s Inhumanity to Man’, and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day as a day of remembrance for all the victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry . . .”;

Whereas House Joint Resolution 247, 98th Congress, agreed to September 10, 1984, resolved, “That April 24, 1985, is hereby designated as ‘National Day of Remembrance of Man’s Inhumanity to Man’, and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day as a day of remembrance for

all the victims of genocide, especially the one and one-half million people of Armenian ancestry. . .”;

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, an independent Federal agency, unanimously resolved on April 30, 1981, that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum would document the Armenian Genocide in the Museum, and has done so through a public examination of the historic record, including lectures and the maintenance of books, records, and photographs about the Genocide;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Turkey has continued its international campaign of Armenian Genocide denial, maintained a blockade of Armenia, and continues to pressure the small but growing Turkish civil society movement for acknowledging the Armenian Genocide;

Whereas, in April 2011, the month of remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, the Government of the Republic of Turkey demolished a 100-foot-high statue in the city of Kars which was erected to promote reconciliation with Armenia;

Whereas the denial of the Armenian Genocide by the Government of the Republic of Turkey has prevented the meaningful advancement of a constructive political, economic, and security relationship between Armenia and Turkey; and

Whereas the teaching, recognition, and commemoration of acts of genocide and other crimes against humanity is essential to preventing the re-occurrence of similar atrocities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to remember and observe the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 2014;

(2) that the President should work toward an equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relationship that includes the full acknowledgment by the Government of the Republic of Turkey of the facts about the Armenian Genocide; and

(3) that the President should ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide.

SENATE RESOLUTION 411—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COBURN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 411

Whereas, since 1992, the Republic of Moldova has been recognized by the international community and the United Nations;

Whereas, on March 3, 2014, the United States Government “reaffirmed the United States’ strong support for Moldovan sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders”;

Whereas the annexation of Crimea and violation of Ukrainian territorial integrity by the Russian Federation on the false premise

of defending Russians and Russian speakers abroad violates the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has threatened to use its supply of energy resources as a means of intimidation in order to influence the Government of Moldova;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has been actively issuing Russian passports to the residents of Transnistria;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation maintains a contingent of Russian troops and a stockpile of Russian military equipment and ammunition within the Moldovan territory of Transnistria;

Whereas the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Government of Moldova have called upon the Government of the Russian Federation to remove its troops from the territory of Moldova;

Whereas, at the 1999 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, the Russian Federation committed to complete withdrawal of its military forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas Moldova has been a participant in NATO's Partnership for Peace Program and has deployed military personnel in support of the NATO-led mission in Kosovo; and

Whereas the stability and economic vitality of the Eastern European region is in the national interest of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that it is the policy of the United States to support the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and the inviolability of its borders;

(2) calls upon the Government of the Russian Federation to take steps to remove its military forces and materiel from within the internationally recognized territory of the Republic of Moldova;

(3) supports constructive engagement and confidence-building measures between the Government of Moldova and the authorities in Transnistria in order to secure a peaceful resolution to the conflict;

(4) expresses its belief that finding a lasting resolution to the Transnistria issue can only be accomplished by ensuring the freedom of the Government and the people of Moldova to determine their own future without external pressure or coercion;

(5) urges the President to consider increasing security and intelligence cooperation with the Government of Moldova; and

(6) affirms that lasting stability in Europe is a key priority for the United States and that it can only be achieved if the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all parties is respected.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Addressing Primary Care Access and Workforce Challenges: Voices from the Field."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Bill

Gendel of the committee staff on (202) 224-5480.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on April 10, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Expanding Access to Quality Early Learning: the Strong Start for America's Children Act."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Aissa Canchola of the committee staff on (202) 224-5363.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 3, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 3, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate office building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 3, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 3, 2014, at 10 a.m., to hold an East Asia and Pacific Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled "Evaluating U.S. Policy on Taiwan on the 35th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA)."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 3, 2014, at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "Closed/TS/SCI: Russia Briefing."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on

the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 3, 2014, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. REID. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 3, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator BEGICH's NOAA fellow, Bill Mowitt, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 113th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SYRIA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 346.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 384) expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, resulting in humanitarian and development challenges, and the urgent need for a political solution to the crisis.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 384) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 13, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

GOLD STAR WIVES DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be charged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 394.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 394) designating April 5, 2014, as "Gold Star Wives Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 394) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 24, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to H. Con. Res. 88, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 88) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 88) was agreed to.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces on behalf of the Committee on Finance, pursuant to section 8002 of title 26, U.S. Code, the designation of the following Senators as members of the Joint Committee on Taxation: the Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN; the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. ROCKEFELLER; the Senator from Michigan, Ms. STABENOW; the Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH; and the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m., Monday, April 7, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; and that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3979, the vehicle for the unemployment insurance extension, postcloture, with the time until 5:30 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees prior to the vote on passage of H.R. 3979, as amended, as provided for under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. There will be a rollcall vote on passage of the unemployment insurance bill, which takes a simple majority, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:37 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 7, 2014, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

ANDRE BIROTTE, JR., OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE GARY ALLEN FEESS, RETIRED.

RANDOLPH D. MOSS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE ROBERT LEON WILKINS, ELEVATED.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) RAQUEL C. BONO

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, April 3, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PITTENGER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 3, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT PITTENGER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL JOSEPH BUCHE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize Colonel Joseph Buche, who will retire next month after 30 years of commissioned service in the United States Army.

Colonel Buche was born and spent the first 12 years of his life in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where he attended St. Joseph's Elementary School.

His father taught electrical engineering at the University of Arkansas, and Colonel Buche still remembers walking from his family's home down to Razorback Stadium to see President Nixon arrive for the 1969 Texas-Arkansas football game, also known as the game of the century. While it didn't end well for the Razorbacks, few Arkansans who were alive then have forgotten that day.

Following his father's death, Colonel Buche moved with his family to Wisconsin, where he received a 4-year Army ROTC scholarship from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

He was commissioned as an infantryman upon his graduation with a bach-

elor of science in 1984 and began what would become an exemplary career in the United States Army.

As a lieutenant and captain, Colonel Buche was a platoon leader and commanded four infantry platoon companies. Colonel Buche also served in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom, as well as with the Old Guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

His military honors include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with oakleaf cluster, two Combat Infantryman Badges, and the Ranger tab.

On a personal note, Colonel Buche was my commander while I was stationed at the Old Guard in Arlington National Cemetery in 2007 and 2008 and while I was deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 and 2009. He set the highest standard for leadership, professionalism, and duty for every Old Guard soldier.

Finally, I also want to thank his wife, C.J., and their two daughters, Megan and Shelby. Military families carry a heavy load, too, and they also sacrifice much for our country.

C.J., Megan, and Shelby endured many days without their loving husband and dad, all so he could stand guard on the front lines of freedom around the world on our behalf. We are grateful to them.

On behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, I want to thank Colonel Buche and his family for their service and wish him all the best in retirement.

CONGRATULATING HOWARD ELEMENTARY READING CHAMPIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, reading is a fundamental education skill that provides a foundation for academic and life success.

On March 29, the Central Intermediate Unit No. 10, located in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, hosted their Elementary School Inter-scholastic Reading Competition. This is a great event that is integrated throughout the school year to promote reading.

Each year, the IU chooses a list of books to be read, and this year, 41 books were utilized for the competition. Students read books from the list and answer test questions that are created to measure the students' comprehension and recall of the books.

On competition day, students learn the value of hard work, the importance of reading, as well as teamwork. Along the way, they also have some fun.

The team with the highest number of points overall is awarded the grand championship. Clearly, every child that participates in this event benefits, as they are encouraged and motivated to expand their horizons through reading comprehension.

Congratulations to the students and faculty of the Howard Elementary School for being the 2014 Reading Grand Champions.

The Howard team, coached by Mrs. Amber Buchanan and Ms. Jalynn Wolesslagle, scored a total of 68 points. Congratulations to Mia Simoncek, Noah Giedroc, Brayden Comly, Jayden Bechdel, Carter Rhoades, Olivia Reed, Hannah Ternent, Thomas Beck, Elyssa Greene, and Mikayla Irvin for a job well done.

This is the first time that Howard Elementary has ever won grand champion. Congratulations, and keep on reading.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Lord, You have promised to be with all people wherever they are, whatever their need. We reach out in prayer for the homeless, the poor, those anxious about the future, those who are ill, or those to whom freedom has been denied.

Bless the Members of this people's House. Inspire them, as representatives of the American people, to labor for justice and righteousness in our Nation and our world, mindful of Your concern for those most in need.

For all the riches of our human experience, O Lord, we give You thanks.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Make us aware of our responsibilities as stewards of Your divine gifts, and empower us with Your grace to faithfully and earnestly use our talents in ways that bring understanding to our communities and our Nation, and peace to every soul.

May all we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today's debate over the Save American Workers Act, which will attempt to fix another unintended consequence of ObamaCare, reminded me of the recent CBO report which estimated that regulatory changes created by ObamaCare would remove the equivalent of 2.3 million Americans from the full-time workforce.

Putting aside the tremendous human costs of this loss, let's simply consider the economic damage done to our Nation. Journalist Kevin Williamson compared removing 2.3 million from the full-time workforce to "burning down 1,000 factories" and further noted that "that 2.3 million workers exceeds the current workforces of McDonald's, IBM, UPS, Target, Hewlett-Packard, and General Electric, combined."

The Save American Workers Act will likely proceed to the Senate today, where it will join a cue of 30-plus other House-passed bills that would help the economy and create jobs.

Americans want to work. Why won't the Senate do its job and consider those bills?

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to bring the Senate's bipartisan compromise on extending unemployment insurance to the House floor for a vote.

Our economy is recovering, but not fast enough. We need to continue helping our businesses create jobs that pay living wages; but, in the meantime, we can't forget about those who lost their jobs in the downturn. Many of them have families to support while looking for jobs in a tough economy.

An analysis by Moody's found that for every dollar spent on unemployment benefits the economy generates \$1.64 in economic activity. That is money that gets spent on basic necessities like food; so the grocery checker gets paid; the truck driver that delivered the food gets paid; and the farmer who grows the food gets paid. It doesn't take a Ph.D. to do the math.

And speaking of math, the Senate deal is paid for, so unemployment insurance doesn't add to the deficit.

For all these reasons, I call on my Republican colleagues to bring this to the floor for a vote today.

HELPING THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, according to a Hoover Institute study, 2.6 million Americans are at risk of receiving smaller paychecks because of reduced hours as a result of ObamaCare's harsh regulations on small businesses.

It is obvious that the President's broken health care promises have made lives more difficult. What do we tell single mothers who have been forced to pick up an additional job because their hours have been reduced? And what about the college students who are paying their way through school but are struggling to achieve an education because their paychecks will not cover expenses?

At a time with record unemployment and a record number of people not seeking work, the government should not make it more difficult for employers to hire workers. Later today, the House will vote on a bill, which I have gratefully cosponsored, that provides relief for millions of Americans who have received smaller paychecks because of the President's health care takeover which destroys jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Welcome, Mead Hall Episcopal School of Aiken, South Carolina.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, across the Nation, Social Security offices are experiencing increased backlog, longer wait times, and insufficient staff levels. Despite this, the Social Security Administration has proposed the closing of four New York regional offices, including the Amherst office in my western New York community.

Since 2010, 96 field offices have been consolidated into 46 without a uniform closure process. In response, I have introduced H.R. 3997, the Social Security Administration Accountability Act, which brings transparency to the Social Security field office closure process.

This legislation requires the Social Security Administration to consult with local officials and the public before deciding to relocate or merge offices. In my own community, after the notice of proposed closure of the Amherst field office, we learned from the Buffalo Fire Department that the new office has insufficient capacity and would be a fire hazard. If this bill were already law, this would have been discovered before a proposed closure was announced.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting our communities from hastily planned and ill-conceived Social Security field office closures.

CONGRATULATING BLACKMAN HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. DESJARLAIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Blackman High School boys' and girls' basketball teams for winning State championships last week.

The boys' team defeated Oak Ridge by a score of 60-58 by making an exciting comeback in the final minutes. In doing so, they captured their first State title and the first boys' basketball championship for a Rutherford County team since 1965.

The girls' team, the Lady Blazes, had captured the school's first State championship in any team sport a week earlier.

I especially want to acknowledge the Lady Blazes' Crystal Dangerfield for her work both on and off the court. Named the No. 7 college prospect for 2016 by ESPN, Dangerfield was also awarded this year's Tennessee Gatorade Player of the Year. This prestigious accomplishment recognizes a

student's athletic achievement, as well as academic success and overall character. Ms. Dangerfield certainly fits the bill, with volunteer work with her church and active involvement in the local literacy outreach program.

I know the city of Murfreesboro is so incredibly proud of these young men and women, and I wish them continued success in the future.

NO MORE SNAP CUTS

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, over the past 6 months, this Nation's premier antihunger safety net program, SNAP, has been cut by nearly \$20 billion. Forty-six million Americans saw a cut of about \$30 a month for a family of three, and hundreds of thousands more will see a cut of about \$90 because of two separate cuts that took effect in November and in February.

But those pale in comparison to the Ryan budget. This budget, which will be voted on by this House next week, cuts at least \$137 billion from SNAP—\$137 billion. That is simply devastating.

Budgets are moral documents, and the Ryan budget is immoral. What kind of nation are we if all we do is continue to take food from the mouths of the hungry?

We can't keep balancing our budgets on the backs of poor. It is time to say enough is enough, no more cuts to SNAP. We should protect the vulnerable and the least well off in this country instead of punishing them simply for being poor.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my Hoosier colleague, Representative TODD YOUNG's excellent bill, the Save American Workers Act of 2014.

We are a country built on hard work. We are a country where people want to work. But right now, the Affordable Care Act is stopping people from working the hours they need and the hours they want to work. By redefining a full-time employee as someone who works 30 or more hours a week, the Affordable Care Act has caused workers' hours to be reduced in vital industries across the Nation. 2.6 million workers are losing because of this provision. America is losing because of this provision.

A school employee from my district in Elwood, Indiana, recently shared with me the pain losing 10 hours from her workweek has caused. She said:

It just doesn't make sense to me. I'm trying to be a self-supporting person and was

doing good. It could have been better, but I was making it. How am I supposed to pay a house payment, utilities, car insurance, let alone food?

This is an unwise provision that must be repealed. That is why we must take action and restore the traditional 40-hour workweek. Let's pass the Save American Workers Act of 2014. If we do, our workers win, our employers win, and our Nation will win.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on just 25 Republicans to join 195 Democrats to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour and to raise wages for tip workers whose \$2.13-an-hour wages haven't been raised in 23 years. The current minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour has failed to keep pace with the cost of living, leaving families struggling to fill the gap.

Even if you work 40 hours a week at minimum wage, you still live below the poverty line. You rely on taxpayer-funded programs such as nutrition assistance, energy assistance, and housing assistance.

In short, the profit lines of multinational corporations are being subsidized by taxpayers who fill the gap between the mandated minimum wage and what constitutes a fair wage, what people need to live on.

This has an even greater impact for women, who often work for only 77 cents on a dollar; for African American women, 64 cents on a dollar; for Latinos, 58 cents on a dollar. Seventy percent of low-wage workers in this country are women.

So, essentially, we need to raise the tip minimum wage and raise the regular minimum wage. It is the fair thing to do. I call on my Republican colleagues, just 25 of them, to raise the minimum wage.

THROW-BACK THURSDAY

(Mr. DUFFY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUFFY. Madam Speaker, if it is Thursday, it is throw-back Thursday.

I want to take a look back to April 15, 2011, the House Republicans passed a budget that balanced.

March 29, 2012, House Republicans led the charge to pass a budget that balanced.

March 21, 2013, we passed a budget that balances in 10 years.

Just last night, we passed a budget that is again going to balance in 10 years.

The bottom line is that we can't do it by ourselves. If you look to the Presi-

dent who introduces budgets that never, ever, ever balance, and you look to the Democrats in the Senate who don't even introduce budgets, we can't get this job done.

We have Americans who are young that want opportunity, that want jobs and don't want to pay higher taxes. If we don't balance our budgets, they are the ones who are going to pay.

But it is the poorest among us who look to government for a little bit of help. If we have a debt crisis, we won't be there to help them.

Let's work together. Let's balance our budget. Let's be sustainable in government spending.

□ 1215

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS BUDGET

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, yet again, we have been presented with a budget that stands at odds with the morality of this Nation. The Ryan budget attempts to balance our budget on the backs of the middle class and low-income families while bowing to special interest groups and giving billionaires unnecessary tax cuts.

This out of touch budget leaves hard-working families in my district in California and across this country in the cold by cutting more than \$135 billion from the food stamp program. PAUL RYAN's budget also eliminates the Affordable Care Act and breaks our promise to seniors by fundamentally ending the Medicare program as we know it. With one in three women struggling on the brink of poverty in this country, this budget would effectively push them over the edge.

Americans deserve better.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus' Better Off Budget, in stark contrast, restores critical social safety nets such as SNAP benefits and unemployment insurance, programs that many American families rely on to make ends meet. This budget also protects and strengthens Medicare and Medicaid without cutting benefits for our seniors. It is a budget I stand by because it is right for the country, for working families, for seniors, and for our future.

SAVE THE AMERICAN WORKERS

(Mr. COLLINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor today to express my support for the Save American Workers Act. This legislation will repeal ObamaCare's definition of full-time employment as 30 hours a week.

Every American knows that full time is 40 hours a week, so it is time to reverse this ill-advised provision of ObamaCare. Redefining full time as 40 hours a week will have a big impact. Constituents like Colden Repka of Attica, New York, and Richard Markel of Clarence, New York, have shared with me their stories of lost wages and lost hours due to this provision of ObamaCare. Testimony at the Small Business hearing I chaired on this matter was clear—the 30-hour definition of full time must be revised.

ObamaCare is turning our Nation into a part-time economy. It discourages economic growth and results in the erosion of our Nation's middle class. The Save American Workers Act will do just what the title says. It will put hardworking Americans back where they want to be—working and supporting their families.

SUPPORTING THE SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, most people agree that a 40-hour workweek is considered the average for a full-time American worker. However, ObamaCare defines full-time employment as being only 30 hours a week. The legislation before us will restore the commonly held 40-hour workweek standard.

Unless we take action, many businesses in my district will reduce the hours of their employees or will be unable to hire new workers. This will hurt many hardworking Americans who want to work more to provide for their families but who will not be able to do so because of the changes in ObamaCare.

Washington should not place barriers in front of job creation. Washington should not discourage people from working more to provide for their families or to further their careers. We can change this. I urge all of my colleagues to join me today in supporting the Save American Workers Act.

BUTLER GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, there is only one way to finish a season on a 20-game winning streak, and Louisville's Butler High School Bearettes girls' basketball team just did it, taking the Kentucky State championship and cementing the school's legacy as a powerhouse in our Commonwealth.

With a deep 10-player rotation that had perfected its stifling press by tournament time, the Bearettes used defen-

sive pressure to drive their offense, romping through the Sweet 16 on the play of outstanding underclassmen and the steady hand of senior Danielle Lawrence. In the championship game, the second-ranked Bearettes shut down top-ranked Elizabethtown High School, relentlessly dismantling the E-town offense and holding their opponent scoreless in the final 5 minutes and 27 seconds.

A great defense wins championships, the saying goes, but it also helps create unbreakable bonds among teammates. This team truly functioned as a unit, both on and off the court, maintaining a cumulative 3.7 GPA in the classroom while taking the Louisville Invitational Tournament championship earlier this year and adding the school's fourth State title last month.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Coach Larry Just and the Butler High School girls' basketball team on an amazing championship season.

Go, Bearettes.

THE RYAN BUDGET HAS THE WRONG PRIORITIES

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, we are at that time of the year when we are dealing with another set of budget decisions. A budget is supposed to be a demonstration of this Congress' and our Nation's values and priorities, a plan that helps lift people up and ensure that everyone, if you play by the rules, has got a fair shot at success.

But budgets require tough choices.

The Ryan budget, which passed out of committee yesterday, unfortunately chooses to make things more difficult for hardworking middle class Americans in order to subsidize big tax breaks to big oil companies, to multinational corporations, and to the wealthiest Americans.

Yesterday, I introduced a very simple amendment to the Ryan budget in the Budget Committee, one that would simply say this: if you make more than \$1 million, which is a very small percentage—97 percent of small business owners make less than that—you pay your fair share. Warren Buffett famously observed that he pays a lower tax rate than his own secretary. My amendment would have said, if you make over \$1 million, you pay at least 30 percent. Unfortunately, that amendment failed on a party-line vote.

I hope we have an opportunity to offer that amendment here on the floor, and I urge my colleagues, if they have the chance to do so, to support that.

IN MEMORY OF CARLTON MOORE

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, the day before yesterday, I lost a dear friend. Carlton Moore was a former city commissioner and president of the NAACP. To his mother, Ada, and family, I offer my heartfelt condolences.

I had the good fortune of witnessing Carlton's entire career. He served with distinction in our community, and he was a businessman par excellence. He was a visionary, and fortunately, many of the things that were his concepts did come to fruition.

My community, Florida, and this Nation have lost a warrior for truth and justice.

KATYN MASSACRE REMEMBRANCE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the Katyn Annual Remembrance at the National Katyn Memorial in Baltimore, Maryland.

This Sunday, April 6, Polish Americans and other liberty lovers will gather at the National Katyn Memorial after a remembrance Mass is said at the Holy Rosary Church in honor of the victims of the Katyn massacre.

In 1940, the Soviet secret police were directed by dictator Joseph Stalin to systematically murder over 22,000 of Poland's most important leaders, including military officers, religious leaders, educators, and intellectuals, in and around the Katyn Forest in Russia.

In 1951, a U.S. House of Representatives select committee was tasked with conducting an investigation into the Katyn genocide, and it concluded that the Soviets were responsible for this mass murder.

In 2010, after decades of denial and despite protests from its Communist members, the Russian Parliament approved a statement that ultimately acknowledged Stalin's complete responsibility in perpetrating these heinous crimes.

While we honor the memory of the Polish victims of Katyn at this time every year, it is especially important this year as Eastern Europe, Crimea, and Ukraine once again face the illegal aggression of their territorial sovereignty from Russia and its leader.

Let the world of nations continue to work in conjunction with the Polish government and with victims' families to uncover the complete truth of what happened at the Katyn Forest and nearby killing fields. Our world holds a moral obligation to honor the victims and to reveal the whole truth to enlighten future generations.

Madam Speaker, history must record fully these mass crimes against humanity, and it must heal the fissures of tyranny to prevent such grave atrocities into the future.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT

(Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, at a time when our economy is sluggish and job creation is stagnant, the last thing American workers can afford are reduced hours. Yet, because of the redefined 30-hour full-time employee definition in ObamaCare, that is exactly what many Americans are facing.

In addition to higher premiums and canceled coverage, millions of Americans are at risk of losing hours. Many of them are women, young moms and dads, and those working hard to support their families and to make ends meet. Now they are paying the price for the President's broken health care law.

The Save American Workers Act will help them. It will restore the 40-hour workweek. It will help Americans bring home their paychecks, and it will provide relief to those who need it most.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT
OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2575) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 1 hour and 46 minutes of debate remained on the bill, as amended.

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) has 54½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) has 51½ minutes remaining.

Without objection, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN) will control the time of the gentleman from Indiana, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) will control the time of the gentleman from New York.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act. This Act would restore the traditional 40-hour definition of a full-time job.

Washington may think that it knows best, but that is simply not true. This provision in ObamaCare is a perfect example of how the law hurts the very people it was intended to help. In Arkansas, we try to apply a little common sense. We all know 30 hours isn't

full time, but that is what ObamaCare says, and no one seems to know why. We had a hearing in the Ways and Means Committee, and many of those who testified were puzzled as to why 30 hours was chosen. Even in France, a full-time job is 35 hours a week. Because of ObamaCare's mandates and taxes, employers are cutting workers' hours and are replacing full-time folks with part-time folks. This is real. We have seen this in Arkansas.

Let me give you some examples:

Arkansas State University reduced some workers to a maximum of 29 hours per week. The Area Agency on Aging of Western Arkansas cut hours for hundreds of home health aides and drivers to 28 hours per week. Pulaski Technical College limited hours for adjunct faculty, directly impacting students' education choices.

□ 1230

Just yesterday, I received a letter from the Arkansas Hospitality Association. They say ObamaCare's 30-hour rule will hurt roughly 100,000 hospitality workers.

These are folks who are working hard, playing by the rules, and trying to make it. All they want is a fair shot at success. That is what they deserve, but ObamaCare has taken that away.

According to research by the Hoover Institution, this ObamaCare rule puts 2.6 million workers making under \$30,000 a year at risk. Almost 90 percent of these workers do not have college degrees. Over 60 percent of them are women. These are good, hardworking Americans, but they may lose their hours or even their jobs thanks to ObamaCare.

Wasn't this law supposed to help people get health insurance? But what are they getting? They are getting no insurance and less pay. Incredible.

I want to thank my colleague and good friend, Mr. YOUNG, for introducing this important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan solution that will help people keep their jobs and higher wages.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman who has just spoken has it backwards. What would hurt American workers is not the Affordable Care Act. Millions have signed up to be covered. What would hurt American workers is this bill.

I said yesterday—and no one has refuted it—this bill would mean that 1 million people, according to CBO, would lose their employer-based health insurance. By definition, these are people who are working. They would lose their employer-based health insurance. That is what CBO has estimated, and no one has refuted it.

It would increase the number, according to CBO, of uninsured by half a million. No one has refuted this.

CBO also says that it would add \$74 billion to the deficit—again, this is CBO—and no one on the Republican side has refuted this.

This would put five times more people at risk of adverse effects than would be true under any other circumstance.

So, essentially, you have a bill that would cost 1 million people their employer-based health insurance, would increase the number of uninsured by about half a million, and would add \$74 billion to the deficit.

Instead of talking about unemployment insurance, instead of talking about minimum wage, instead of talking about immigration legislation, we have a bill up today that would have these adverse consequences.

We would be passing a bill that will never go anywhere in the Senate, and because we aren't acting on these other measures, they are spreading out debate on this bill for 2 days. When it leaves here, it goes nowhere. It will be vetoed by the President, if it ever passed the Senate, which it never will.

So this is worse than an exercise in futility. This is an exercise in doing harm, when ACA is bringing benefits to millions and millions of people. It is deeply unfortunate.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of my time be controlled by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Mr. MULLIN. I would like to thank my colleague from Arkansas for bringing this to the people's attention.

Madam Speaker, it is almost funny. The President wants to take something that is the heartbeat of America—and that is our work ethic—and redefine it by saying that 30 hours is considered full time now. What are we teaching the generations that are coming behind us if we say you can work less and still be considered full time?

The backbone of this country was created by entrepreneurs and individuals that got up and worked hard, worked long hours, and they did what it took to be successful.

Now, this President has given the generation coming behind us, which is my five kids, and redefining what is called full time by saying it is okay to work 30 hours because it is convenient to a piece of legislation that is bankrupting this country called ObamaCare.

Now, what is it that we are really trying to teach this generation? Are we trying to teach this generation that staying home and working fewer hours is okay?

My colleagues on the opposite side stood up and said that it is good for

people to work less hours because they can spend more time at home, but yet the people this is going to affect want to work more. They are trying to pull themselves out of the situations they are in.

My goal as a father is to teach my kids the value of work. We want to make sure our kids get a great education. I get that. But what is an education without a work ethic?

And yet this administration, the one that is trying to say they are going to protect the youth, is making excuses and excuses and excuses for them to sit home and be okay with 30 hours a week.

Being okay isn't what drove this country to be the greatest country in the world. We are better than okay. We are above being okay. We are the best, and it is because of our work ethic. This shouldn't be used as a political ploy by this President.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, on a rainy September day in 2008, a constituent of mine named Ingrid was badly injured after a terrible fall in her home. She was rushed to the emergency room, where she was cared for and her life was spared, yet Ingrid came out of that experience stuck with a \$23,000 hospital bill because she couldn't afford to have health insurance. A few months later, Ingrid was forced to sell her home to pay off that enormous hospital bill.

Today, on a rainy day in April of 2014, there is a different story to tell. It is a rainy day in Seattle, not here. It is the story of the Affordable Care Act, the story of 7.1 million mothers and sons, fathers and daughters, who have a newfound sense of health security and peace of mind.

That is 7.1 million honest, hard-working Americans, in addition to the 2 million young adults who are protected by staying on their parents' plan, in addition to the millions more who are now covered through the Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid expansion. One of them is Ingrid.

Ingrid's life is vastly different now from what it was in 2008. She still is one of the hardest working people her friends and neighbors have ever met. She still loves the outdoors and drives a pickup truck, but today, she is happy, healthy, and covered because of the ACA.

So as this Chamber, for the 52nd time, considers a radical and extremist Republican bill to kill the Affordable Care Act, I stand with millions of people who have been covered because of the ACA and the millions who still need health security. I stand in opposition to the idea that this Nation is incapable of guaranteeing health security for all its citizens.

Republicans have no plan to cover the American people. Speaker BOEHNER earlier this week would not commit to releasing a Republican plan until after the election. How transparent can you be? Proof that this is political.

So the introduction of this bill is simply surrender in the face of the health care crisis in America. How else can you explain the Republicans' introduction of a bill that cancels the health insurance policies of 1 million Americans? That sounds like surrender to me.

How else can you explain a bill that raises the deficit by \$75 billion? More surrender.

How else can you explain a bill that puts five times the number of American workers at risk of losing hours at work? How else do you explain a bill that does anything but dare employers to slash work hours for workers in order to avoid the responsibility to offer health insurance coverage?

How can they say this bill solves a problem of employers cutting hours and refusing benefits when it really only makes it worse?

It is unconditional surrender by the Republicans, pure and simple, to force yet another vote on a bill that has no chance of becoming law. There isn't one chance in a million.

One thing I learned in medicine was you never say never, but this is one time I can say it. It will never, ever pass the Congress. It is a bill crafted purely to appeal to the Koch brothers and the producers of FOX News, rather than forged to protect honest Americans like Ingrid.

The latest Republican bill also denies a confirmed truth; the ACA is succeeding in its primary mission to expand access to quality health care for each and every American.

So make no mistake. I have got news for you. The ACA is not going away. It is not going away. It is here to stay.

The mission before the Congress now should be—in fact, must be—to move forward to further implement the ACA and to improve the law, where needed.

I talked to Bill Frist about a year ago, former Republican leader of the Senate. He said: Don't repeal; fix.

That is what we ought to be about doing—but we are not doing that—in order to guarantee not just access for each and every American, but to lower health care costs across the board; yet this rather perverse bill raises health care costs for everyone by increasing the number of uninsured. That is surrender, pure and simple surrender.

It is surrendering to an idea that our Nation is no longer capable of accomplishing great things and surrendering to the idea that America, the richest and the most advanced country on the Earth, can't guarantee that its citizens won't lose their homes when they get sick. That is what you are admitting by this bill.

You are saying they have to choose between food on the breakfast table instead of medicine on their bedside table. That, in my view, is a situation that has no explanation, other than the fact that you have surrendered. You have given up the idea that America can take care of its own people.

It was a choice that Ingrid once had to make, but she will never have to make again. That is what is true about the ACA. She has health care coverage. That is what is right about the ACA, and this bill under consideration, H.R. 2575, has nothing to do with what is either true or right.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I think it is instructive to think about what this bill does in the context of the ACA.

ObamaCare defines full time as 30 hours. That doesn't surprise me coming from this administration; but we all know that just because Washington says it is so, doesn't make it so.

□ 1245

Thirty hours isn't full time. When we asked some experts who testified in Ways and Means, they had no idea where the 30 hours came from. They surmised that people were sitting around at the White House and just said 30 is a good number. They could have said 20. How about 10? How about 1 hour a week is full time?

If we tried to change it, and it was 1 hour, of course people that had insurance would have their situation changed. But this is about what is full time and what isn't.

The French consider 35 hours full time. Can we not at least agree that in this country 40 hours used to be full time?

That is the issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my good friend from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we are here yet again talking about another failed aspect of ObamaCare. It is simply unacceptable that a law meant to improve our health care system has not only failed to do that, it has actually become a job killer for this country.

The need to change the 30-hour work-week is personal.

My dad started out working at a local McDonald's as an hourly employee and eventually worked his way up to become a franchise owner. Not only did my dad teach me that anyone could achieve the American Dream if they just worked hard enough, but he also taught me that policies, policies passed right here in this Chamber, have real-life consequences.

If this provision is not fixed, workers are going to see fewer hours, which

means they are going to see smaller paychecks. Studies show that there could be upwards of 2 million less full-time workers by 2017 and the potential to short workers out of \$75 billion in wages.

Supporters of ObamaCare want the American people to believe that we are just wasting our time talking about changing ObamaCare and that we should just simply move on. I want folks in the 13th District of Illinois to know I will not move on. I will not quit talking about the complete failure of ObamaCare, and I will continue to advocate for commonsense fixes to this disastrous bill which will protect hard-working Americans in my district.

I also want to point out, you are going to hear a lot of discussion from the other side of the aisle that this will take hardworking Americans off of employer-based insurance. I want to remind my colleagues that the architect of ObamaCare, Zeke Emanuel, it was reported just a few weeks ago that he expected that the private insurance-based health care system, coverage system, would be gone by the year 2025. Well, that means the employer-based health care system will be gone by the year 2025.

He also said he expects 1,000 hospitals to close. I ask my colleagues, which hospitals, especially those like in my small town of Taylorville, Illinois, which is our largest employer? Which hospitals will close?

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, last night in the House Budget Committee, we had a big debate, and at the end of the debate, we voted on the House Republican budget.

During that debate, there was a lot of talk about how we can reduce our long-term deficits. Our Republican colleagues in their budget said they didn't want to close one special interest tax break to help reduce our long-term deficit. They would rather cut the budget that helps provide for our kids' education. They wanted to reopen, in their budget, the doughnut hole so seniors with high prescription drug costs will pay \$1,200 more per year.

So they were willing to do all that, but they wouldn't close a single tax loophole. But they said they cared about reducing the deficit. Now, lo and behold, we have a bill on the floor of the House that, in one fell swoop, if it is voted on, will increase the deficit by \$74 billion.

Republicans have a rule that they put into the rules of the House that says you can't do that. You shouldn't be increasing the deficit. There should be some offset. You should cut somewhere else. We think you should also be able to cut some tax expenditures for very special interests. But the idea is that we shouldn't be doing things

that increase the deficit. But those rules were waived for this, a little special wand in the Rules Committee: we are not going to abide by the rules, and so \$79 billion increase to the deficit.

Now, here is the really interesting thing. We had a debate last night in the Budget Committee about the Affordable Care Act. We made the point that the Republican claim that their budget is balanced in year 10 is totally inconsistent with the claim that they want to get rid of the Affordable Care Act, and here is why:

In the Republican budget—and we all hope it will come to the floor next Thursday. In the Republican budget, they get rid of all the benefits for people in the Affordable Care Act. Right? They get rid of the tax credits that help more Americans purchase insurance. They get rid of the provision that says you can keep your child on your insurance policy until age 26. They get rid of that. But you keep very important parts of the Affordable Care Act. You keep all the revenues, \$1 trillion in revenues. And you know what else you keep? You keep all the Medicare savings. In fact, you have \$2 trillion embedded in the Affordable Care Act in your budget from the Affordable Care Act.

Today is the smoking gun, because if you pass this bill, the budget that was claimed to be balanced yesterday in the Budget Committee is no longer in balance. You know why? You claimed that in year 10, under your budget, in year 10, that you would have a surplus of \$5 billion. But that's not true, because you can't at the same time claim with a straight face that you are getting rid of the Affordable Care Act because the Affordable Care Act provides, as I said, \$2 trillion in your own budget.

In that year 10, when you pass this, \$9 billion disappears from the Treasury in year 10. So today, by your own accounting, the budget that Republicans claimed to be balanced last night in the Budget Committee today will already be unbalanced, and that is just getting rid of a little piece of the Affordable Care Act. If you get rid of all of it, then you get rid of all the revenues that are in your budget, and you get rid of the savings in your budget, and your budget will not possibly balance.

So, Madam Speaker, it is a fraud to claim that the Republican budget balances and, at the same time, for Republicans to say they are in favor of getting rid of all of the Affordable Care Act. Both things cannot be true at the same time.

So either Republicans level with the American people that their budget is not in balance—and starting today, it won't be, by their own terms—or they acknowledge to the American people that they have gotten rid of all the good stuff in the Affordable Care Act,

the stuff that helps people afford health care, but they kept all the savings.

So the moment of truth is today. The smoking gun is today. We had this big debate. I hope the Budget Committee members on the Republican side will come down here and fess up.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and, also, Mr. YOUNG for his authorship of this bill.

It changed dramatically what I had to say when I came down here when I heard that the Republican endeavor to reestablish the 40-hour workweek, which is a practical thing that is good for people, is a fraud. A fraud? People that have been the advocates for ObamaCare are using the word "fraud"?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Will the gentleman yield, because that is not what I said was the fraud.

Mr. KING of Iowa. No, I won't yield. I heard what the gentleman had to say.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland will suspend. The gentleman from Iowa will suspend.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I ask for a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland may state his point of order.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, what recourse, if any, do I have when the gentleman misstated my point totally?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not provide an advisory opinion.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Well, if the gentleman would yield, we could clarify it, but apparently he won't.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not yielded.

The gentleman from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I might have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Iowa has 1 minute and 25 seconds remaining.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, the gentleman used the term "fraud."

It is ironic that ObamaCare itself has been so misrepresented to the American people that, for the top three things that were stated by those who advocated for ObamaCare—if you like your policy, you can keep it; if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor, and, by the way, we are going to save these families \$2,500 a year. There is not a single family in America that that promise has been kept for, and yet I hear the word "fraud" from the other side of the aisle.

It is not very far down to Mount Vernon where, at least by legend, it is

alleged that George Washington was asked who chopped down the cherry tree. He said: I cannot tell a lie. I chopped down the cherry tree.

Well, calling the Affordable Care Act the "Affordable Care Act" is not true. George Washington could not utter these words. He might be able to say the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," because that is technically the name for it, but to utter those words and try to tell the American people it is affordable by anybody is not true, and I don't think George Washington could state that.

So we are watching here as people have jobs where they get paid overtime, 56 hours a week, 45 hours a week. They are getting paid time-and-a-half over 40 hours because that is the standard workweek, and now we see ObamaCare dropped it down to 30.

Employers did the rational thing, and we are hearing that that gap between 30 and 40 cancels insurance policies. It doesn't cancel any insurance policies. Instead, it gives people an opportunity to work, work longer, earn overtime, and for the employers and the employees to keep their contract with each other.

I strongly support this bill, H.R. 2575.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK).

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act.

Simply put, this bill just reestablishes what most Americans think is full-time work—40 hours. It is what I grew up knowing. It was what my parents and grandparents grew up knowing.

Interestingly, we have been talking a lot about jobs here in America. The President continues to call on Congress to pass more jobs legislation. Well, let's look at jobs in his home State, where I hail from in Illinois.

The Illinois Policy Institute, since 2011, says that Illinois has lost 66,000 jobs just in retail, food, and beverage since 2011. Ironically, that is more job loss than job gains—jobs added—in every sector in the President's home State. His unemployment in his home State in Illinois stands at 8.7 percent, a full 2 percentage points higher than the national average. And among young people and minorities, it is even worse. Among African American men, the rate of unemployment is 19.6 percent; among Hispanics, over 11 percent; and among young men and women, young people, ambitious people, a whopping 30 percent rate of unemployment.

Six years since the economy tanked, 5 years into the Obama administration, 4 years after ObamaCare has become law, this is what we are left with.

Now, I recently met with a manufacturer in Quincy, Illinois, who had me

meeting with several hundred of his employers—Knapheide Manufacturing, people that they like, people who are doing a good job, people who are getting paid a fair wage, people who like their job, but people whose jobs are being cut back by 25 percent because of the Affordable Care Act. In true dollars and cents, this is about \$330 a month that they are losing in take-home pay. Now, to put this in perspective, every time the President gets on Air Force One, it costs about 500 times that amount for every hour on Air Force One.

I would suggest the best jobs bill that Congress can pass is a jobs bill that insures people who have a job and like it can keep it, and that is what this jobs bill does.

I urge passage.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

A little history might be helpful here. There was a time in this country where people worked 60 hours a week, 7 days a week, 6 days a week. The only reason we have a 40-hour week at all were labor unions who went out and struck and forced the process to get a 40-hour workweek.

□ 1300

They also were the ones who created the health care system in this country after the Second World War. People didn't have health insurance prior to that. When the President said, we can't have an increase in wages, that we can't have an increase in benefits, that prices can't go up, the labor unions said, well, let's have something called a benefits package.

The benefits package that was created in the middle forties included health care and pensions. It came from the union movement. They are the ones that stood in the rain and the sleet and the snow on the picket lines to get these changes.

Now, we have a law that comes in and says, let's deal with everybody in this country, and the judgment of this Congress was that an employer had the responsibility to provide health insurance for his or her employees if they worked 30 hours a week. That was considered full time.

It doesn't change the other laws, the labor laws or any of the other things. It is for the purpose of this act that employers must consider their people full time if they work 30 hours.

Now, if employers don't care, if they say, well, let me figure out how I can cheat my people out of any benefits, I am going to drop them down to 29 hours—well, you know, there are people like that. But the law says, if do you that, then you have to pay a penalty for everybody you didn't cover.

So we tried in every way possible to make it possible to give people flexibility. But this law will not work, ac-

cording to the American Enterprise Institute, without a mandate that everybody be covered.

We are not changing the labor law. We are not changing overtime rules. We are not changing any of that stuff. We are saying, for the purpose of this law, an employer must cover anybody who works 30 hours. And if they don't care about their employees, if they run a restaurant, and they don't want their employees to be healthy, knock them all down to 29 hours, and let them come in sick. Then you have got a restaurant where you are going to eat lunch, and the employees haven't been able to see a doctor. That is what you are asking for.

We are saying everybody in this country ought to have health insurance, and they ought to have the access to go to a doctor when they need it. So this business about we are somehow destroying the work ethic in this country and all that kind of nonsense is simply nonsense. That is not what this is about. This is about another way to destroy the act. And you know it. We know it. And the world should understand that this is the 52nd attempt to repeal the law, to undermine it so it will not work. I urge people to vote "no."

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation today, the Save American Workers Act.

Let's face it. The health care law has redefined what it means to be a full-time worker in this country. Notwithstanding the comments of my colleague from Washington, I must disagree with what he has been saying about it.

This bill does not in any way repeal the health care law. What it does do, it amends the law. It does not end it. Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have said, "Amend it; don't end it." This amends it. Let's be very clear about that.

In my district, let me tell you who is affected by this. Cafeteria workers who work in school districts, like East Penn School District or the Southern Lehigh School District, they are getting their hours reduced below 30.

I have a major national employer who just opened a major distribution facility in my district with over 500 employees. They have over 50,000 people nationwide. More than half of their employees are part time. Many of those are being reduced below 30 hours per week as a result of this law.

This is a targeted fix. We know that these hourly workers are going to see wage reductions up to 25 percent as a direct result of the law. There are consequences to this law.

It is not about some employers wanting to cheat their employees, quite

frankly. It is about many employers not being able to afford the people they have. If they don't reduce their hours, many will be laid off. They will have no wages at all. That is the worst of all worlds. But that is a real consequence of this particular law. We are all hearing it in our districts.

And, by the way, we should point out one other thing too. The folks who are most directly impacted by this particular provision of the health care law are the young, are women. They are the ones who are more likely to be affected by this. There is no question about that. And I think we should be clear on those who are most directly impacted.

There was a Hoover Institution study that pointed that out, that the young, women, and those without a college education are the most likely to be impacted by the loss of hours, loss of wages. That means less money in their pockets.

We are having a debate about the minimum wage over in the Senate right now. Well, why don't we talk about letting people work, letting them work more hours than what this law allows them to.

I urge my colleagues to support the Save American Workers Act.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT).

Mr. HURT. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Save American Workers Act. This important bill will restore the traditional 40-hour definition of full-time employment as it relates to the President's health care law.

Under the Affordable Care Act, the 30-hour rule has resulted in fewer jobs and has reduced working hours for Virginians and for Americans, putting 2.6 million workers with a median income of under \$30,000 at risk of losing their jobs and losing their working hours.

In Virginia's Fifth District, we have heard from many constituents who have seen their hours cut due to this 30-hour rule. When hours are cut and wages are cut, the American people suffer. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill so that America can get back to work.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), my friend, and I ask unanimous consent that she control the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JENKINS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the gentleman from Indiana, Congressman YOUNG, for introducing this important legislation and Chairman CAMP for making it a top priority.

We have heard from employees and employers alike about the negative consequences of the employer mandate penalty. More specifically, we have heard firsthand that defining a full-time employee as one who works no more than 30 hours per week hurts the ability of employers to hire workers and grow their businesses, and it hurts the efforts of low-wage workers trying to enter the middle class.

Even though the President has unilaterally delayed the employer mandate twice, employers are already reacting to the employer mandate by reducing their employee hours. I spoke with one business owner in my district this week who told me that although he will not reduce the hours of current employees, he has not hired a single employee for more than 30 hours of work per week in over a year. Additionally, he told me that the number of his employees working 40 hours per week has naturally declined by 25 percent and that he will continue to replace these full-time employees with part-time employees.

It is also concerning that the employer mandate penalty is disproportionately affecting Americans who can least afford it—women, young people, and low-wage earners. A study done by the Hoover Institution concluded that Americans most at risk of having their hours reduced are the 2.6 million Americans who currently work over 30 hours but have an income slightly above poverty level. Madam Speaker, 1.64 million of these folks are women and another 1.56 million are young people.

I am proud to support this legislation to restore certainty to our employers and opportunity to employees by defining a full-time workweek as 40 hours.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT,
Alexandria, VA, April 2, 2014.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and our 275,000 members, I urge you to support the "Save American Workers Act" (H.R. 2575) when it is brought to the House floor for a vote tomorrow, Thursday, April 3. Specifically, H.R. 2575 would amend the Internal Revenue Code to modify the definition of a full-time employee from 30 hours to 40 hours of service per week for purposes of the employer mandate, which requires employers to provide health care coverage for their employees under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

As you may know, SHRM is the world's largest HR membership organization devoted to human resource management. SHRM members implement critical workplace policies every day. To that end, employers are encountering difficulties implementing the new PPACA requirements. Specifically, de-

fining "full-time" as an employee working 30 hours a week is inconsistent with standard employment practices and benefits coverage requirements in the U.S. and conflicts with other federal laws. Some employers have opted to eliminate health care coverage for part-time employees, while others have re-engineered their staffing models to reduce employee work hours below the 30-hour threshold that triggers the coverage requirements. According to a recent CBO report, the U.S. economy will have the equivalent of 2.3 million fewer full-time workers by 2021 as a result of the PPACA—nearly three times previous estimates. The Save American Workers Act restores a common understanding in America, spanning over half a century, of what constitutes full-time work.

SHRM and its members believe that effective health care reform should expand access to coverage, while not inhibiting or altering employer business models. The PPACA's definition of full-time as 30 hours of service per week severely restricts an employer's flexibility to offer a benefits package that best meets the needs of their employees.

I strongly urge you and your colleagues in the House of Representatives to vote in favor of the Save American Workers Act. If you have any additional questions about how amending the definition of a full-time employee would impact workplace operations please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
MIKE AITKEN,
Vice President of Government Affairs.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I understand my friend and colleague from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was on the floor talking about the disingenuous approach here and the discontinuity between what we are talking about today and what we did yesterday in the Budget Committee.

It is an unusual approach to public policy. Where there is a claim that they are, under their budget, if they are able to enact it, going to completely eliminate the Affordable Care Act, but they are going to keep all of the taxes, and they are going to keep the adjustment to the Medicare Advantage Program that was such a focal point in their campaign attacks last year. It was bad when Democrats did it with the Affordable Care Act, but they are going to keep all of those changes.

Last week, we had, by a legislative sleight of hand, a short-term fix for the sustainable growth rate. Now, that is the adjustment that is made on an ongoing basis on physician reimbursement under Medicare that has gotten wildly out of whack. It was something that I voted against when it was first enacted. It is an annual charade that goes on here, where we force people in the medical space to come to Washington, D.C., to plead against draconian cuts.

We actually had been working in the Ways and Means Committee and the Commerce Committee on a bipartisan approach that would actually solve

this problem permanently. Then last week, we had an approach that was advanced on the floor of the House by our friends from the majority side that turned its back on the carefully negotiated bipartisan solution that we were close to being able to move forward and patched together another 1-year extension that was going to continue this abuse of people in the medical space, having the threat of dramatic cuts hanging over them.

And what happened? We had a vigorous debate on the floor of the House, where it was pretty clear that this was not going to pass, where we had the medical association and a number of medical professions just opposed to the so-called “doc fix” because of the way that it was being done, because of the short-term expedience, because cherry-picking items that were going to make a long-term solution even harder and subject them to that same treatment.

It was clear to a number of us that it was very questionable whether that would pass. It looked like there would be enough votes to defeat it on the suspension calendar, which would require two-thirds of us to vote in favor of it and is reserved for noncontroversial issues, but this certainly no longer was noncontroversial.

And what happened? The Republican leadership put somebody in the Chair. They went ahead and effectively orchestrated a voice vote that nobody knew was coming. I know that there are Republicans that were outraged about that treatment.

And now, what are we looking at today? We are looking at another effort to undermine the Affordable Care Act. We have people talking about problems with changing the definition of “part-time employment,” of people having their working conditions changed for something that—excuse me—is not going to be enforced for larger firms until 2016 and for smaller firms until 2017.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. So they are conjuring up a problem here that—maybe people will use it as an excuse for things that they want to do. But nobody is forced to do this at this point. It is not going to take effect for years.

Their proposed solution to probably a nonexistent problem is to blow another hole in the budget of over \$70 billion. And, oh, this isn't paid for. It was a requirement to pay for the doc fix. But this little maneuver, \$70 billion worth, isn't paid for.

□ 1315

The hypocrisy and the double-dealing here really frustrates me more than I can explain. If we would be able to deal with things in a straightforward fashion,

let people know what they are voting on, and try and solve real problems rather than trying to undermine the Affordable Care Act, we would all be a lot better off.

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), my friend and colleague on the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Mrs. BLACK. Madam Speaker, I would like to say thank you to my colleague from Kansas for yielding.

Madam Speaker, ObamaCare's arbitrary 30-hour, full-time workweek puts about 2.6 million American workers making under \$35,000 a year at risk of having their hours and wages cut. And 63 percent of those adversely affected by this arbitrary, 30-hour rule are female workers, according to the Hoover Institution.

It is no wonder that a majority of Americans oppose this law—and certainly no wonder that a majority of women oppose it. For all the talk about the supposed “war on women,” it is ObamaCare that is waging a war against female workers. That is why I am proud to stand in support of women across this country to repeal this arbitrary, 30-hour, full-time workweek.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, first the facts—not the facts from this side of the aisle, not the facts from the other party, but the facts that we get from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which is in charge of telling all of us—Congress and the rest of the country—what does legislation that is proposed by Democrats and Republicans actually cost, and what will it actually do. They are the nonpartisan referee that we are supposed to rely on to sort of give us the facts without getting into these political battles.

What do the folks at the Congressional Budget Office say about this bill? One, it will increase the deficit by \$75 billion; two, around a million American workers will lose their health insurance coverage that they get through their employer today; and three, around five times as many workers in America will be at risk of losing hours at work as a result of this bill should it become law. Okay, so those are the facts not from Republicans, not from Democrats, but from the nonpartisan CBO.

So let's now talk a little bit about those facts a bit more, because I think a lot of folks are very confused. What the heck is going on? We are going to lose hours at work? We are going to gain? What is going on? Essentially it is this. We have got to figure out how we make sure that employers who currently offer health insurance to their employees don't say, hey, I don't want

to do it anymore, so I am going to stop offering it. How can I do that? I can make sure I keep my employees employed for less hours than is required by the law.

This bill says if you have that threshold that the number of hours you have to work is 30, well, a whole bunch of employers are going to say, hey, I can game the system if I drop the number of hours my employee works at the job to less than 30. That is true.

The problem is this. The vast majority of Americans don't work 31 hours, 32 hours a week. They work 40. A lot of Americans, in fact, work 42, 44. They work overtime. So what the Affordable Care Act did was made sure that most employers who currently offer employer-covered insurance to their employees continue to do it because very few employers are going to say, I can game the system by dropping my 40-hour worker to 29 hours. That is 11 quality hours, unless you were just letting these folks just sit on a couch.

What happens if you raise the number of work hours to qualify for the affordable care coverage to 40 hours? Well, that is why the CBO says about 1 million Americans will lose their insurance coverage, because if you are working a 40-hour workweek, an employer would say, gosh, it would be tough for me to drop you to 29 hours, it would be a lot easier to say, I will drop you to 39½ hours, in which case I no longer have to offer you insurance.

That is why the Congressional Budget Office said that over 1 million Americans would lose their health insurance coverage and why it would cost about \$75 billion to do this legislation, because guess what? If the employers are no longer offering you insurance and you still have to go to the doctor for your child and you can't afford it anymore because you don't have insurance, guess who gets to pay? The folks up there in the audience in the gallery and those of us here who pay taxes, because guess what? They will go to the emergency room, and now they will use the Medicaid program to help cover that bill they can no longer afford because the employer cut them back a little bit.

If we all really want to make sure Americans get to work, then let's separate the myth from the fact. Remember 4 years ago death panels? If the Affordable Care Act, this new health security law, takes effect, death panels are going to decide if your grandmother gets to live. How many death panels have you heard that have told your family member he or she will have to die? Okay, I ask anyone in this audience, do you have a doctor? Do you have insurance? Do you know your doctor? Ask yourself this question: What is the name of your government doctor? You have a doctor. Did you know your doctor works for the government? You are going to say, no, I have known

my doctor for a long time. He or she doesn't work directly for the government. If you believe the myth, yes, your doctor does because, remember, this was a government takeover of health care. It was a myth.

In fact, this Affordable Care Act's law requires you to use private health insurance coverage to get your health care through private doctors and private hospitals. But what it does is it requires you to do it, and it requires employers to do it, as well. That is what the law did. It didn't say, you are going to go to a government doctor or a government hospital.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the gentleman.

So once you separate the facts from the myth, it becomes pretty clear what we have to do. We have to make sure if you are an American we reward you for your work. If you are an American and you get health insurance through your employer, we don't want your employer to game the system and put the burden on you now. And so what we want is to make it affordable for the employee and affordable for the employer.

This bill makes it unaffordable for the employee moving forward, and it makes it, quite honestly, for the employer, as well, because you are losing your good workers. We need to defeat this bill and try to make the Affordable Care Act work for everyone.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to refer to occupants of the gallery.

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to our colleague from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. I thank the gentlelady for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, helping those without health insurance to get coverage certainly is a very noble goal, but the method that was used to achieve it under ObamaCare has just done so much more harm than good. And a very vivid example of this is a provision that you are talking about today that requires employers to provide health insurance for any employee that works 30 hours or more a week. Their thinking must have been that more part-time workers would receive employer-sponsored care and that employers would not change their behavior and, simply, they would absorb these new costs.

Well, I guess when you think like the government, maybe you would think that you are unconcerned about costs and you are unconcerned about balancing your books, and so that thinking sort of makes sense. But in the real world, it just does not work. Employers need to live in the real world. They are in business to make money, and they

have to balance their books. And these very onerous provisions of ObamaCare make it very, very difficult for them to continue with business as usual, to comply with the law and to stay in business. So employers have been forced to cut workers' hours.

We also need to look for a moment, Madam Speaker, at those who have been most negatively impacted by ObamaCare and this particular provision of it. According to a study done by the Hoover Institution, the 30-hour rule puts 2.6 million workers with a median income of under \$30,000 a year at risk of losing their job or having their hours cut. And guess what? Eighty-nine percent of the impacted workers do not have a college degree, 59 percent are between the ages of 19 and 34, and 63 percent of these workers that are so negatively impacted are women, Madam Speaker.

So this rule impacts the most vulnerable in our economy who are just starting to make their way in the world or who are working hard to support their families. And do you know I didn't need a study to actually tell me that because I am hearing it directly each and every day from those whom I am so proud to serve.

I will just give you one example—a vivid example—of many, many that we got, especially women who have contacted my office. This is from a mother named Tracy in Macomb County, Michigan, who said:

My daughter who is a single mom and struggles to make ends meet has had her hours at work cut by over 50 hours a month so that her company doesn't have to provide her with health care. So she is now looking for a second job, which means less hours for her and less time, of course, that she is able to spend with her children.

Madam Speaker, being a single mom is tough—it is really tough, and what we do here in Washington shouldn't make it tougher. Being a small business owner and a job creator is tough. Again, what we do here in Washington shouldn't make it tougher. The 40-hour workweek has been the bedrock of our economy for decades, and workers and families have come to depend on it—that is, of course, until ObamaCare changed the rules.

It is time for us to correct this mistake and repeal this terrible provision.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER), my good friend.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose H.R. 2575. The majority's obsession with attacking the Affordable Care Act is unprecedented, and they have never let the truth stand in their way. Today's bill is no exception. Let's call this bill for what it really is. It is a big favor to millionaires and billionaires at the expense of working families.

This legislation is perfect for the owners and CEOs of big, low-wage companies like Walmart and McDonald's. It says that you can have your employees work 30, 35, 39 hours a week without providing one iota of health care coverage. That is a great deal for the Walton family, which already has a net worth of nearly \$145 billion—one family, \$145 billion. And that is a great deal for the CEO of McDonald's, who makes \$9,200 an hour.

But it is a terrible deal for America's workers. It means that not a penny of the revenues from these hugely profitable companies will go toward supporting health insurance for the bulk of their workers. All the while those employees continue to make as little as \$7.25 an hour, and it means that the American taxpayers will be stuck with picking up the tab.

The Republicans have decided to bring this bill to the floor even though they have no pay-for, which means that this is a very pure form of deficit spending. You are incurring \$75 billion worth of expenses for the taxpayers, and you have no way to pay for it. But rather than have these companies provide health insurance to their workers, you are willing to add it to the deficit of the United States for the next 40 or 50 years.

I remember when that party stood for deficit reduction. Now it is deficit creation. It is deficit creation. So let's get it straight so everyone can understand: The American people will be paying \$75 billion more so that the likes of Walmart don't have to provide their employees with health care. Walmart made \$16 billion in profits last year. Target made \$2 billion in profits. McDonald's made more than \$5 billion in profits. And they can't afford to provide hourly employees with health care? Give me a break.

And all of this to solve a problem that doesn't exist. Because let's be clear: there is nothing in the Affordable Care Act that forces an employer to cut workers' hours. In fact, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office stated:

There is no compelling evidence that part-time employment has increased as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

So, to benefit the richest of the rich, the Republicans want to pass this bill. The very week that we learned that more than 10 million people have gained coverage under the Affordable Care Act, the Republicans want to strip a million people of their employer-based health coverage, tossing them into government programs and leaving the rest uninsured, and having the taxpayers pick up the bill.

And this is all while the Republicans continue to block a minimum-wage increase for these very same workers—a minimum-wage increase that Goldman Sachs says will give the economy “a bigger than usual” boost. But they are

not going to vote for the minimum-wage increase, is what they tell us. So what are they going to do instead? They are going to continue to stand on the throat of the American economy because all over this country where we have raised the minimum wage in cities, States, and towns, small businesses are hiring. There are more customers on Main Street.

□ 1330

But they are not going to allow that to happen nationwide. Instead, they are going to provide \$75 billion of new deficits for these businesses who pay their taxes, for these workers who pay their taxes.

Then they will continue to block unemployment insurance, another boost to the economy. People with unemployment insurance that has run out—and if we extend it—they will spend that money immediately because they have to take care of their families and they have to pay their rent, these are customers on Main Street; but Republicans are not going to do that.

Economists left and right tell us one of the biggest boosts to the American economy is immigration reform, but they are not going to do that. They are not going to give our economy that boost, but they are going to add \$75 billion to the deficit, but they are not going to let somebody have food stamps for the deficit.

They are not going to let somebody have health care for the deficit, but they are going to reward the big employers for throwing people off their health care rolls.

This is some plan you have for America. This is some plan you have for working families. Clearly, when the newspapers and the editorial boards accuse you of doing nothing in Washington, they misread you.

You are doing great harm to the budget, you are doing great harm to health care, and you are doing great harm to these low-income workers; but you are doing a great favor for the richest of the rich in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this commonsense proposal to change the Affordable Care Act definition of full-time employment back to 40 hours per week, where it belongs.

The 40-hour workweek has been recognized for decades as the standard for full-time employment. Small business owners, union leaders, and individual workers have recognized that the ACA's definition of full-time employment risks damaging the traditional 40-hour workweek and the paychecks that those 40 hours bring.

As we have heard with the Hoover Institution study, the 30-hour rule puts 2.6 million workers at risk of losing their jobs or losing their work hours, harming those who can least afford to take a pay cut.

Those workers have a median income of \$30,000. More than half of them have a high school diploma or less, and more than half of them are women. In practice, many of these workers will have to find two part-time jobs to equal what they were bringing home.

Balancing two jobs means less time with your family, not to mention the tremendous stress that folks who will have to go in this direction will feel.

Passing this bill will help create jobs. One-half of small businesses recently surveyed said they will either cut hours for full-time employees or replace them with part-time employees.

We need to make it easier for businesses to hire full-time employees, not harder, but the ACA's mandate and the administration's repeated delays have only created more uncertainty for businesses and moms throughout this country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in helping working families and working women and job-creating small businesses by voting for the Save American Workers Act.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time; but could you give us an accounting of our time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 19½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Kansas has 30½ minutes remaining.

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I am so appreciative of the opportunity for us to be able to come to the floor and have this discussion today. I think our constituents are just shocked with what they see happening because of the President's health care law. They can't believe it.

They had heard the rhetoric from the minority leader that it was going to create 4 million jobs. What they have found out is that it is costing them their jobs. It is costing them wage increases. It is costing them certainty in the job market.

I have to tell you, it really is a war on jobs. It is a war on women, and we are seeing that because women—63 percent of those affected by the adverse impact of the President's health care law are women.

Let me give you one example of this. I was in the grocery store recently. I passed a lady with two children in her grocery cart, and we chatted, nodded at each other.

The next time around, the next aisle, she said: Are you MARSHA BLACKBURN? I said: Yes, I am. She asked: Can I tell you my story? I said: Absolutely.

This is her story: She worked in the office park where this grocery store was located. Her husband is self-employed. The family's benefit structure, insurance, was through her job, an employer with just over 50 people.

Her hours as an office manager and assistant were cut to 29 hours a week. Her time was cut. Every week impacts her, impacts her husband. In one day, she lost her insurance, she lost her wage increases, and she was forced to healthcare.gov.

Also, what she had to do—she is a survivor. She said: I went to the mall, and I went to a retailer and got a part-time job. She said: Thank goodness I have great in-laws. They are going to help watch the children.

Here is what is so sad: She now is working two jobs, and she is losing time to be with those children as they are playing soccer and baseball, as they are doing Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, as they are trying to get to church to sing in the choir.

She has had to rely on her in-laws to handle those, so that she can work a second job to pay for a program that she doesn't want and pay her taxes to a government that refuses to live within its means. I support the SAW Act.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague.

Madam Speaker, throughout this debate, Republicans have been claiming that they are champions of working people, but that is not the case here. This is not the Save American Workers Act; it is the Sabotaging American Workers Act.

The Affordable Care Act is based on the premise that the large businesses can afford to offer health coverage to their workers, and they should do the responsible thing and offer coverage. That is only fair.

Ninety-six percent of all businesses don't have to offer any of their workers coverage under the ACA, but for the 4 percent of businesses that have the means, the law says they need to do the right thing by their full-time workers and offer them health coverage.

Republicans don't think businesses owe their employees anything at all. The Family and Medical Leave Act, Republicans say: that is not important. Equal pay for equal work, Republicans say: women don't deserve that. A fair minimum wage, Republicans say: absolutely not. And quality, affordable health care, Republicans say: Who cares?

Well, I think bigger businesses should do the right thing by their workers, and that is what the ACA asks them to do.

So what does this bill that is before us today actually do? This bill says big businesses could deny health coverage to someone working 39 hours a week, 52

weeks a year. That is not a part-time worker. Their employer should provide them health coverage.

Five times more people work around 40 hours a week than work around 30 hours a week. That is why this bill will throw 1 million Americans off of their employer's health coverage. That is why it would result in millions and millions of workers seeing their hours cut below 40 hours a week.

What is it—why are Republicans claiming people are losing hours right and left because of the ACA? But the Congressional Budget Office told them flatly, "There is no compelling evidence that part-time labor has increased as a result of the Affordable Care Act."

But I doubt that means much to my Republican friends because they do not look at the facts. We have added 8.6 million private sector jobs since the law passed, but Republicans simply ignore that. There are fewer part-time workers than there were before the law passed, but that doesn't get in the way of the Republican talking points.

Madam Speaker, 7.1 million people have enrolled through the exchanges. Millions and millions more have signed up through Medicaid or directly with an insurer, but Republicans still claim people don't want health insurance coverage, or they claim the numbers are made up.

The ACA is working. Millions are getting coverage for the first time. We are adding jobs to the economy. Giving big business a green light to drop coverage for their workers is not the way to move this country forward.

Workers have the right to decent health care, and businesses should help them get it. That is the fair thing, that is the right thing, and this bill takes us in the total wrong direction.

So I urge my colleagues, vote "no." This is a very bad bill for America's workers. Don't let the Republicans kid you otherwise.

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS).

Mrs. ELLMERS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague who is working so hard on the Ways and Means Committee and also as vice chair of our conference.

I rise today in support of the Save American Workers Act, an important bill that I am proud to say I am a co-sponsor of as well. Every day, we learn more and more of the dangers facing millions of Americans due to the Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare.

Just last week, in North Carolina, we learned that substitute teachers will be getting their hours cut and their incomes cut because of this irresponsible mandate. North Carolina teachers are being notified of their cuts, and millions of hardworking Americans across this country will work less and suffer more in order to comply with this law.

In my own district, substitute teachers are facing the same problem. In Lee County, an official confirmed to my office:

We are cutting the hours of our part-time people, our substitute teachers.

Nationwide, 76 percent of public school teachers are women. This is a direct assault on women. This so-called law is a complete and total assault on women. More than half of the workforce today, of the 72 million women in the workforce, are the primary wage earners for their family.

Across this country, women stand to lose the most. Sixty-three percent of them are women, those who are at risk of losing their hours. The facts speak for themselves. I encourage my colleagues to vote for this bill, another changing bill, changing this very bad law known as ObamaCare.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN).

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Kansas for sponsoring this extremely important time we are taking today. It is so important because this is a law, the signature piece of the President's legislative agenda, the ObamaCare act that we are dealing with today has impacted people's lives in such a profound way.

I am reminded of the President of the United States who, five days before he assumed office, said he was planning to fundamentally transform the United States of America.

We didn't know if that was rhetorical flourish or exactly what it would mean. It has taken many forms since that time, but one thing I didn't think I would ever see in my district on the faces of beautiful, innocent people is a fundamental transformation.

But I can tell you very clearly, Madam Speaker, that I have seen a fundamental transformation in the face of a lot of women, women's faces in my district, and it is this: I am seeing them, for the first time, not be able to look me in the eye.

There is a loss of dignity. There is a sense of shame, and there is an embarrassment because there are women, Madam Speaker, who had full-time jobs who could support their families, and now, they don't have them.

They have been lost because their employer no longer can keep the full-time jobs. I have seen women who have lost their jobs altogether. I have seen women whose hours have been backed off to the extent that they can hardly afford to pay the gas to go in the car to get to work. Life has really changed for women in my district.

This isn't made up. This is real. That is the fundamental transformation, and I am sorry to say, Madam Speaker, it is not for the better. You see, we all hoped that, perhaps once this bill

passed, that maybe we would be proven wrong. Maybe this bill actually would help a lot of women in our district.

□ 1345

I am not denying that there aren't a few people who have been helped—there are some—but what is remarkable is the number of men and women who I have met who lost health insurance, who said to me: MICHELE, what happened? The President promised me if I liked my plan, I could keep it. Why can't I keep it? They have said to me: MICHELE, I relied on my doctor.

One woman who called me was scheduled for cancer surgery. She was denied. She wasn't able to go through. The hospital canceled it. Then her doctor was changed out from under her and she was depressed. She didn't know where she could go. We spent hours on the phone to try and help find someone who could take care of her.

Then I got a call, Madam Speaker, from a female physician who said: I want you to know, in my practice, I spend 90 percent of my time speaking to my patients, diagnosing them, and giving them advice, and now I spend 50 percent of my time doing that because I have to spend 50 percent of my time filling out paperwork.

Madam Speaker, let's listen to the women of this country and fundamentally transform their lives for the better. That is why I support H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act.

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington State (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS), our honorable chair of the Republican Conference.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Kansas for her leadership on this important issue.

I rise to join in expressing strong support for H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act. This is to restore the 40-hour workweek and to save jobs. All across this country, people continue to struggle under this economy. They see it when they look at their paycheck and their take-home pay. They see it at the doctor's office, and they see it in the workforce.

Today, too many hardworking Americans are feeling the impact of higher premiums and higher deductibles. Too many people are having their hours cut, losing their jobs, and losing their health insurance—all because of ObamaCare. In fact, CBO recently reported that 2.5 million Americans are at risk of having their hours cut because of this law. These are the very people that are often struggling to make ends meet, whether it is the young people, recent college grads, or single moms trying to provide for their families.

The President likes to suggest that his policies are helping women, but actually what is happening is that his

policies are setting women back. Women are being hurt by these policies. Hundreds of them have already lost their jobs in the home health care industry. Nearly 2 million people will see their hours cut or their jobs lost in the service industries.

You know, for the first time, earlier this year with the jobs report, we actually saw where the health care sector lost jobs where women disproportionately are actually employed. Women, single moms, young people who work late nights at a McDonald's drive-through, bag groceries at the local market, or serve as teachers' aides in the classroom will be impacted because of this law.

Women, and all across America, people succeed when our economy succeeds, when jobs are created and you can take home more pay. That is the definition of good policy. That is what this bill actually achieves, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to point out to my colleagues that CBO did not say people would lose their jobs. They said because they have health care, they no longer have to stay in the job that they have, and they will be able to stay home or do something else, and that will reduce the number of hours of work. They did not say the bill cuts them out or knocks them out of work.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I am listening to the stories here on the floor. I must say I am a little surprised at this newfound commitment on the other side of the aisle to women.

So how about raising the minimum wage for women? How about joining with us in extending unemployment insurance for women? How about the fact that 7.1 million Americans have enrolled in this program you don't like, that you want to call a failure? 7.1 million of our fellow Americans beg to differ, and a lot of them are women.

It is not true what you are selling today on the floor, I would say to my friends, Madam Speaker. In fact, women will be the biggest beneficiary of ObamaCare, protecting their families, protecting their health care, protecting their reproductive rights, which you—I would say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, Madam Speaker—would deny. Other than that, yes, you are protecting women.

If we are going to be serious about this, Madam Speaker, let's recognize the truth. The truth is this ObamaCare protects the interests of women. This bill would undo it. In fact, the biggest victims of legislative action, if we pass this bill today, will in fact be the very women some of my colleagues have been talking about today.

I urge my colleagues who say they are committed to the interests of

women to vote against this bad bill and to support the expansion of health care, especially for working women in America.

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, before I yield to the gentlewoman from Wyoming, I just want to highlight that, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a substitute teacher earning \$11.07 an hour, if that substitute teacher's hours were cut back from 39 to 29 hours, she would lose \$125 per week, or \$6,484 per year, or nearly a 26 percent pay cut. These are the folks we are here fighting for.

With that, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, I come from the wild West. I come from a place of wide open opportunity. And women in the West want freedom and liberty and the ability to create their own business. Women want to expand the businesses they already have and play a bigger role in the American entrepreneurial dream.

But ObamaCare makes it more affordable for women entrepreneurs to keep their employee numbers below 50 and their employee hours below 30. This makes no one's life better—not women entrepreneurs and not for their women employees. In fact, two-thirds of those most at risk of losing work hours because of ObamaCare are women.

Let's fix this. Let's save American workers. Let's pass the Save American Workers Act.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the courtesy of yielding, especially today as I rise in support of H.R. 2575.

I was first approached about the problem with the 30-hour full time definition by Steve Palmer, one of the owners of Palmer Place restaurant, an institution in LaGrange, Illinois. This is a family business committed to their community and their employees. They offer insurance coverage to their workers when possible. Because of the nature of the business, many of their employees are part-time and work flexible schedules. But the ACA's definition of full-time work has put the Palmer family's one restaurant on the cusp of being classified as a large business. The family, thus, finds itself facing a hefty new expense for health insurance or a fine.

This is the scenario being faced by many family-owned businesses struggling to plan for the future. The workers at some of these businesses are about to get a far different deal than they bargained for when they accepted their jobs. As a result of the 30-hour rule, some part-time employees are seeing their hours reduced.

The CBO has confirmed that shifting to a 40-hour full time definition would

lead some workers to seeing an increase in their take-home pay. In addition to lost wages, many workers could lose scheduling flexibility so that they won't cycle in and out of full-time status from week to week. These are ways that workers will lose.

The administration has already acknowledged the difficulty in implementing the employer coverage rules of the ACA through two delays in substantial administrative changes. Clearly, the administration knows there are problems with the employer coverage rules as currently contained in the law. Today, it is reported that former White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs said: "I don't think the employer mandate will go into effect."

Madam Speaker, let's do right by America's part-time workers and by family businesses. Let's pass this bill and fix this broken part of the ACA. That is what the American people are looking for. That is what we should do.

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI).

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Save American Workers Act. ObamaCare redefines full-time employment as 30 hours per week, rather than the traditional 40 hours per week, and mandates that any business with more than 50 full-time equivalent employees must provide health insurance. If these businesses do not provide insurance, they face a tax penalty.

My district is ripe for job growth. Indiana's manufacturing industry is booming. Yet, as I travel throughout the district, I speak frequently with business owners afraid to expand due to this rule.

Other Hoosier businessowners will be forced to lay off employees if this 30 hour definition is not changed. Women are disproportionately affected. Sixty-three percent of those most at risk of lost hours in my district are female.

The Save American Workers Act will unleash job creation by repealing this 30 hour definition and replacing it with the traditional 40 hour definition.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, would you give us an accounting of the time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The gentleman from Washington has 12 minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from Kansas has 19 minutes remaining.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), a colleague on the House Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2575. You know, sometimes you

have to figure out, first of all, where did you come from to find out to where you got.

I was trying to understand the 40-hour workweek. Where could it possibly have started? How did we come to accept that, and for 70-some years that is full-time employment, 40 hours? I found out it was actually the product of the Depression. When they did the Fair Labor Standards Act, they said we need to have a measure, so it will be 44 hours—part of the New Deal, by the way. In 1940, they changed it to 40 hours a week was full-time employment. Then, all of a sudden, ObamaCare comes along and the New Deal has been replaced by a bad deal. We told people, no, no, no. It is not 40; it is 30 hours. That is what full-time employment is.

Now, when you go back to 1937 and 1940, what were they trying to do? They were trying to get America back to work. It was after the Great Depression, so it was about getting folks back to work. Now, you fast-forward to today, and it is not about getting people back to work. It is about getting ObamaCare to work.

This makes absolutely no sense. Who does it hurt the most? It has hurt low-income and middle-income people. 2.6 million folks have been affected by either losing a job or losing hours.

□ 1400

So you have got to scratch your head and say, Wait a minute. If we are really trying to get America back to work, why would we take their hours from them? Why would we slash their workweeks by 25 percent and think it is going to work? It has nothing to do with working people. It has to do with making ObamaCare work.

I have got to tell you that we have the New Deal that got replaced with a bad deal, and now we have H.R. 2575. Do you know what it is? It is a good deal. This is a good deal. With 435 Members, any one of us could say that this just doesn't make sense right now for the folks we represent. Why would we do this to them? Why would we take their work hours away? Why would we put in jeopardy 2.6 million people just in an effort to make ObamaCare work?

If it is about making it easier for Americans to work, then it is high time we start to turn the tide. It is time we look at what is going on and that we say to ourselves, If it worked before, why can't it work again? Why can't we go back to 40 hours? Why can't we make it easier for American families to get through the hard times that they are going through right now?

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM).

Mrs. NOEM. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill to change the definition of "full time" in the IRS code to 40 hours per week on average.

The 30-hour workweek instituted in ObamaCare is limiting economic opportunity across the country. It is especially harmful for women when 63 percent of those who are most at risk are women. South Dakota has one of the highest rates in the country of working women, and I have had them come up to me time and time again, talking about how this regulation has impacted them. They no longer are getting the hours that they need to pay their bills as their hours have been cut. Where they are working, they may be forced to take on another part-time job. If you want to talk about putting challenges in their way when they are trying to fulfill all the requirements of work, of paying their bills, of being with their children, of having successful family lives, this regulation is one of the worst.

ObamaCare pressures employers to restrict their full-time ranks in order to avoid the employer mandate, putting millions of workers at risk of having their hours cut. Now we have two definitions—the Department of Labor definition and then the new IRS definition defined by ObamaCare. Only here in Washington, D.C., do things like that happen. There are two different and exclusive definitions for the very same thing. Thus, many workers have had their workweeks cut down to a maximum of 29 hours. In many instances, the possibility of their being promoted to full time no longer rests on their dedication or on their achievements but now on their bosses' abilities to weed through the regulatory environment here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I used to run a small family business, so let me close by saying that women-owned businesses have surged over the past 20 years. We should not be putting obstacles in their way, making it more difficult for them to own those businesses, to undermine their growth and their ability to create jobs. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Let's take a step towards restoring economic freedom in this country.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Chicago, Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, there has actually been a debate on this floor by all of my colleagues, women, coming down from the Republican side, talking about how wonderful this bill is for women and how bad ObamaCare is for women.

I want to make this point, which is that, before the Affordable Care Act was passed, there was gender discrimination against women. The standard body was clearly the male body because women were paying about 48 per-

cent more for health care before this law went into effect, a law that said there would be no more gender discrimination, that women could not be charged more because things like pregnancy might take place. Women became among the biggest winners under the new Affordable Care Act.

In talking about protecting women, it is interesting to me that the Republicans, including my women colleagues, oppose the raising of the minimum wage. Two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women. They oppose the Paycheck Fairness Act. Isn't it time in 2014 that women get paid equal pay for equal work? They oppose the funding of preschool. They support a budget that would cut Pell Grants for colleges. They oppose making sure that the Affordable Care Act will provide contraceptives as a preventative service to women.

I am also hearing about the economics of freedom. Under the Affordable Care Act, now you don't have to be locked into a job because you need the health insurance. That is what I call freedom. Suddenly, entrepreneurialism is unleashed because women, and men are able to say, I am going to take a risk, but I am going to still be able to find health insurance.

The other thing I hear is that it is a job killer. Actually, H.R. 2575 would force 1 million people to lose their employer-provided coverage, and it would increase the number of uninsured up to 500,000. This is not a number that has come out of some Democratic think tank. This is a number that comes from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Ask the workers themselves, and this is what they will tell you. The National Education Association says, We oppose this bill because we believe it would create a disincentive for employers to provide health coverage.

They act like we are changing what full-time employment is, from 30 to 40 hours.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield the gentlelady an additional 1 minute.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Here is what we are changing. We are saying, if you work 30 hours, your employer should provide you with health insurance.

What this bill says is, now, if you work 39 hours, your employer can deny you health care coverage. So it actually raises the bar and says that workers can no longer get coverage between the 30 and 39 hours that they work. This is not a good thing.

The American Federation of Labor represents millions of workers. This bill not only fails to address the problem it was intended to solve, but it makes the problem worse. Raising the threshold of how many hours will only move the cliff and will actually increase employers' incentives to reduce

workers' hours. The Communications Workers of America say the threshold from 30 to 40 hours per week doesn't help. It would actually encourage employers to lower the number of hours.

There has been some implication, I think, that the Teamsters Union is supporting this bill. That is not true. The Teamsters are not supporting this legislation. I would urge my colleagues to oppose it as well, and I encourage my women colleagues to stand up for women.

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), my colleague on the Committee of Ways and Means, control the remainder of the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), my friend and colleague.

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration has done a clever thing over these past years, and that is to redefine things.

They redefined the word "balance," not to mean the traditional understanding of "balance," but they said, No, no, no. That really means long-term fiscal sustainability. That is the new definition of "balance."

They did the same thing on tax reform. The common understanding of "tax reform" is that you lower rates; you use loopholes to bring rates down; and you simplify the Code. Instead, they said, No. "Tax reform," for us, means, yes, let's close loopholes, but let's use those closures to fuel more spending.

The richest one I have heard so far is to hear a White House spokesman make the claim, basically, that a job is now a burden and that now, with ObamaCare, there are going to be over 2 million Americans who are shed from that burden. Mr. Speaker, and that they don't have to worry about working anymore because they have got this new health care plan.

It is now finding itself coming true in this bill as well, and what the Obama administration has said is, We are just going to create a new definition of "full-time work." Full-time work has meant 9 to 5. Full-time work has meant 40 hours a week. Not with ObamaCare. ObamaCare has now redefined it. It is a long pattern of redefinitions, and these redefinitions have led to failure.

So here is the thing. We have got an opportunity to remedy this. We have got an opportunity to make it right. We have got an opportunity to recalibrate full-time work to what it has historically meant, and here is what the

bottom line is: if we recalibrate it, we will get more work to the very people whom our opponents on the other side claim to speak for, and the irony is that their remedies mean less work for the very groups that they speak to advocate for.

Mr. Speaker, we have got a chance today, and that is to support this bill, to do it quickly and to get us back to the normal definition of "full-time work," which is 40 hours a week.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), another colleague and good friend of mine.

Mr. SCALISE. I want to thank my friend from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

Of course, President Obama's own health care law has now resulted in the direct loss of work for millions of people across this country. One of the perverse incentives in ObamaCare actually forces employers through incentives in the law to drop the number of hours that their employees work. This isn't something employees want, and it is not something employers want; yet it is directly there in the law where you get penalized—you actually get fined by the IRS—if you are not doing this. When you talk about these impacts of the law, it is having devastating impacts on families across this country. The President was talking about the minimum wage. The President has literally forced a 25 percent pay cut for millions of Americans through his incentive in the law that is encouraging employers to drop their workforce hours below 40 hours a week to 30 hours and 28 hours a week.

I represent parts of the city of New Orleans. Some of the best restaurants in the world are in the city of New Orleans. We love going to those restaurants, and so many people from all over the world love going to those restaurants, but many of those restaurant owners tell me that they love their workforces, that they love the employees who work for them. They are like family businesses. Yet they are being forced because of this law to drop the hours of those workers below 30 hours.

There is no reason for this, Mr. Speaker. This bill fixes this problem.

President Obama and the White House said, Hey, look. This is a burden for poor workers. This is freeing them up to do things that they really want to do—as if people don't want to be working. One of the things they said is that you could go sit in a park and write poetry. These people don't want to be sitting in a park, writing poetry, at 2 o'clock on a Thursday afternoon. They want to be at their jobs, working, and the law doesn't let them do that.

Let's fix this. We can get this economy moving again. These are crazy

policies, like this component of ObamaCare that literally forces people to be dropped below 30 hours to address some new definition of "part-time worker" and "full-time worker."

These are the kinds of policies that are devastating American families. This is what we are here to fix. We need to pass this bill, fix this problem and get people back to work so they don't have to sit on a park bench on a Thursday afternoon, and they can actually be at their jobs, working.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 11 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Washington has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleagues out here today have really had a good time telling personal stories, so I have got a few of them for them.

Last week, the distinguished Senator from Texas, Senator CRUZ, put a poll up on his Facebook, asking if people are better off under the law. The responses were not what he expected. The overwhelming number of responses—he got nearly 56,000 responses—were in support of the ACA. If you look at it online, of the most recent 100 comments, there are just two that appear more negative than positive, so that is 2 percent that are against it.

One of them said:

Not only am I better off now, but I have friends who are better off, too.

The second one said:

Yes. I have MS, and I lost my job, and I wasn't able to get any other insurance because of my preexisting condition. Thank you, President Obama.

Another one said:

This Nation is better off for helping people avoid the devastation that poor health can bring. Thank you, ACA.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Senator Ted Cruz

Quick poll: Obamacare was signed into law four years ago yesterday. Are you better off now than you were then?

Comment with YES or NO!

Like—Comment—March 24 at 5:45am—

Martha Hall Hansen, Pat White Garcia, Linda Hidy and Top Comments 10,204 others like this.

5,120 shares

Carol Rietz Gates: Not only am I better off, but I have friends that are better off. Furthermore, this nation is better off for helping folks avoid the devastation that poor health can bring. Thank you, ACA!

1,359—March 25 at 6:46pm

13 Replies—1 hr

Kris Williams: I and a few million other people are a lot better off. I hope you are enjoying your Cadillac plan given to you by your wife's employer, Goldman Sachs. Stop trying to deny the rest of us the peace of mind that quality, affordable health insurance provides us.

1,342—March 24 at 10:13pm

16 Replies—11 mins

Benjamin Corey Feinblum: Yes. Costs stopped climbing. I'm a small business guy

and I don't have to worry because insurance companies can't drop us anymore.

2,901—March 24 at 3:14pm

52 Replies—10 mins

Lili Ann Fuller: YES, best law ever! And way overdue! I spent all my retirement savings on overpriced insurance in order to save my life when I got cancer in 2005. I had no income and now have no savings. If it had been in place back then, I wouldn't be looking at a poor retirement, but at least I am not worried about having care anymore.

2,300—March 24 at 2:04pm—Edited

25 Replies—7 hrs

Lashawn Bell: Yes I have MS and I lost my job I wouldn't be able to get any other insurance because of my pre existing condition thank you President Obama. If people get sick they will realize how this is good.

1,288—March 24 at 2:00pm

16 Replies—1 hr

Anne Wittig Pryor: I don't have Obamacare, but someone I know who had bad mouthed it for the past for years, recently had to get coverage after her husband recently passed away. The first words out of her mouth, "Thank God for Obamacare." She is a staunch Republican and believes everything she hears on Fox News. And those who are saying they won't comply are cutting off their noses to spite their faces. Wake up!

2,798—March 24 at 1:49pm

52 Replies—2 hrs

Paige Brennan: Impeach Ted Cruz! He caused the shutdown that hurt this country badly!

3,188—March 24 at 1:18pm

73 Replies—1 hr

Joe Caparco: Isn't it funny that the government "makes" you buy car insurance and home owners insurance and no one says a word. For those of you who say you can't afford health insurance what will you do when you need your health insurance. No need to answer I alre . . . see more

1,984—March 24 at 1:11pm

68 Replies

Larry E White: Absolutely better off, now lets push for universal healthcare for everyone.

2,705—March 24 at 1:08pm

26 Replies—1 hr

Sherry Scott Stewart: Absolutely Yes! I have pre-existing condition that I was born with but didn't appear until later in life and could not get health insurance at all. I finally have decent affordable insurance.

What a huge relief!

1,134—March 24 at 1:05pm

4 Replies

Dave Ninehouser: Yes, my wife's little niece who is very sick would have hit her lifetime limit by now if not for the ACA. The nation is better off.

1,684—March 24 at 11:44am

10 Replies

Kris Williams: What is really sad is how the American people have been kept in the dark as to what the ACA really is. The whole purpose and driving force behind the ACA was to Improve care and lower costs. The majority of the law deals with Medicare. The medical cost . . . See More

1,047—March 25 at 1:08am—Edited

32 Replies

Robin Conrad: Yes, my son has Healthcare for the first time and I know many friends it is helping. The ACA is awesome.

1,101—March 24 at 7:16pm

18 Replies

Shelley Laysi Peterson: hummmm something tells me this isn't quite the response Mr Cruz was hoping for ROFLMAO

1,828—March 24 at 5:58pm

36 Replies—4 hrs

Shelley Laysi Peterson: YES, YES & YES!! Hands Off My Obamacare!!

1,076—March 24 at 5:52pm

16 Replies—14 mins

Felicia Willems: Yes! Everyone in my family has a pre-existing condition that range from minor to serious. We were uninsurable on the individual market Now we've got great coverage through healthcare.gov. We did NOT get a subsidy but it still fits our budget!

2,711—March 24 at 3:19pm

69 Replies

Meredith Stark: Oh Senator Cruz, four years ago we didn't have health insurance, and now we do. It's helping my husband and I.

914—March 24 at 2:26pm

11 Replies—1 hr

Laura Eakes: Only in America would people be cursing other people for finally being able to get health insurance, and calling them mooches and socialists. I'd rather be a socialist than a selfish psychopath like many right wingers on here

1,081—March 24 at 2:09pm

27 Replies—9 hrs

Jeffrey Albuna: Well Mr. Cruz, firstly I want to say, I think your actions putting our country hostage for your 21 hour publicity stunt were awful and despicable. You stood up there for 21 hours railing against Obamacare, to show the Tea Party you "care" about their v . . . See More

1,444—March 24 at 1:53pm

18 Replies

Brenda Myrick Yasulevicz: For those of you who think that anyone who answered yes "is a part of the problem", I have worked hard my entire life and done fairly well. I always had jobs with insurance. Then I became self employed and found out I couldn't get insured because of pre-existing conditions. (None are serious or life threatening, or even require much care) I am very grateful for this insurance!

997—March 24 at 1:26pm

16 Replies—2 hrs

David C. Brown: Yes Ted. In spite of your empty pandering rhetoric I am better off now that I was four years ago. I now have an insurance plan, purchased from a private company, that must insure me rather than suck profit from me. Before, I was dumped from insurance f . . . See More

2,071—March 24 at 11:47am

47 Replies—2 hrs

Art Zimmerman: Damn straight I am . . . we all are after the Bush/Cheney near destruction of our country and the bullshit trickle-down Republican garbage!!

576—March 24 at 6:34pm—Edited

Joy Williams: Of course we are better off. We will now have consistent care without it destroying our finances.

491—March 24 at 4:32pm

2 Replies

Chuck Provonchee: Yes, Cruz, you pitiful waste of space, we are all much better off under the ACA. The only ones who would not agree with that are the mindless people who blindly follow the GOP and vote against their own best interests. You should enjoy your time as senator because I don't think you will ever win another election.

548—March 24 at 2:45pm

11 Replies—2 hrs

Russ Campbell: Thank God for Obama Care. I now have health care and they discovered I have cancer. I'm going to have surgery in one week and I might live. Without Obamacare I would just die.

576—March 24 at 1:10pm

34 Replies—2 hrs

Terry Kelley-King: YES . . . I have insurance and am very happy to have it . . . of course it could be better by making it single payer . . . but this is a republican health plan so it can't be perfect

1,699—March 24 at 1:05pm—Edited

47 Replies

Dave Posmontier: Definitely YES!. We now have drug coverage and do pay a little bit more in co-pays but get this—My wife and I are saving \$550 a month in premiums. Thanks you President Obama . . .

609—March 24 at 1:04pm

4 Replies

Kevin Lawton: Much better off. We'd be even better off if people like you weren't in the US Senate.

1,736—March 24 at 12:15pm

32 Replies

Barbara J Cobuzzi: Yes, much better off.

1,042—March 24 at 12:06pm

11 Replies—1 hr

LN Winchester: YES, It's great! Not only for myself and my kids, but for the other five million people who can now get the medical care they need! I'm actually paying a bit more, but I don't mind because so many families are getting the medical services they need, in some cases desperately. That makes it all worthwhile.

1,169—March 24 at 11:56am

28 Replies

Amanda Rosales: YES . . . I was denied health insurance because of having MS as a pre-existing condition and would soon be going medically bankrupt or stop getting treatment. I now have excellent coverage and have a brighter future!

1,205—March 24 at 11:52am

33 Replies—6 hrs

Bruce Lindner: I just left my insurance agent's office. He walked me through my options with the ACA, and to put it mildly, I'm one happy customer! As a self-employed cancer survivor and a heart attack survivor—factoring in the outrageous prices they've been gouging . . . See More

397—March 28 at 3:56pm

11 Replies

Alisha Clark: Obamacare does not regulate health care, it regulates health insurance companies. Who in their right mind wouldn't want health insurance companies to be regulated?

472—March 26 at 12:26pm

15 Replies—1 hr

Alisha Clark: This morning I received a private message from one of my many fb friends This person would like me to share her story. I can only imagine what this person is going through and I want her to know that we are now in this fight together.

Hi Alisha: I am n . . . See More

434—March 26 at 5:48am

23 Replies—4 hrs

Cathy Paganelli Kaelin: YES! Saving \$350 per month, preventative care plus dental & vision. And now my 2 adult children have health insurance which they went without for 2 years. Yes, this family is grateful for the ACA. Thank you, President Obama, for taking this country into the direction of health care for all!

434—March 25 at 5:17am

13 Replies

Bonnie Flournoy: Yes. Previously, I had your plan whereby the ER was my primary physician. Having a strategy alone to seek medical help has lifted a burden. The burden was making me just as sick as my condition. In fact, I think the stress caused the illness.

874—March 24 at 2:08pm

15 Replies

Kathe Mendelsohn-White: YES! Without the ACA, my 21 year old autistic son would not have any insurance. Thank you President Obama.

1,778—March 24 at 1:12pm

66 Replies

Paulina Trefault: At the same time, costs are coming down. The Congressional Budget Office found the health care law is making significant contributions to fiscal responsibility. The CBO's most recent estimates show that repealing the law would actually increase deficit . . . See More

435—March 24 at 12:15pm

8 Replies

Tricia Barsamian-Wise: Yes . . . I no longer work 2 jobs and have the security of not being denied, my insurance going up or being canceled. I clearly understand Ted Cruz's POV on this, his financial backers only hired him to do their dirty work. But what I find so hard to comprehend is average Americans being so cruel and hateful.

950—March 24 at 11:52am

28 Replies—6 hrs

Vik Verma: Yes

404—March 24 at 11:34am

Charles Reff: Yes, it allowed me to get better insurance then my job was offering and for less.

1,368—March 24 at 6:38am

28 Replies

Chuck Myers: What I'd REALLY like to know, Senator Cruz, is are you a big enough man to READ the tens of thousands of comments below and admit that just MAYBE, you were WRONG!!!! If you were truly a representative OF THE PEOPLE you would instantly see how desperat . . . See More

351—March 29 at 10:51pm

13 Replies—4 hrs

Ilene Leftwing: Yes, but would be even better off if my Republican Governor, Nathan Deal, saw fit to help the citizens of Georgia by implementing the medicaid expansion. Anyone who stands against the ACA does not get MY vote.

316—March 25 at 9:26am

11 Replies—33 miss

Sandie Cohen: Please do not take away our health coverage.

357—March 24 at 3:43pm

11 Replies—32 mins

Scotty-Miguel Sandoe: YES! Access to Obamacare saves me money, and as former cancer patient, it means I can no longer be denied health insurance because of a pre-existing condition. This is the best government program since Medicare—thank heavens we have a President who cares about American citizens for a change!

1,404—March 24 at 11:38am

54 Replies

Jeanne Carver: Yes I am. I had a junky plan, which paid nothing until after 7500 per year. I now have affordable healthcare, which costs much less.

780—March 24 at 1:12pm

14 Replies

David Davis: No. I couldn't afford healthcare before and I still can't and now will also have to pay a fine. Wish I could fine the government for making my life hell everyday.

1,458—March 24 at 5:47am

322 Replies—4 hrs

Rick LaCrosse: The politicians that rule should live by their rules & laws!!!

253—March 24 at 5:52am

13 Replies—1 hr

Elizabeth Dubrulle: What an incredibly stupid and badly written question! Were you actually trying to start a discussion about

healthcare, in which case your question should have been: is your health care better today than it was four years ago? (my answer would have been . . . See More

406—March 24 at 8:05am

23 Replies—2 hrs

Chris Marko: As a concerned Canadian, I apologize for both Ted Cruz and Justin Beiber, that being said, you can keep both of them, we have a no return policy for defective merchandise.

135—March 29 at 8:28pm

Breana Corea: LMAO!!! Nice!

14—March 29 at 9:40pm

Something Liberal: please take them back . . . you can imprison them or torture them . . . we don't care.

15—March 29 at 10:22pm

View more replies

Lamar Birdsey: In 1995 I had my first heart attack. At that point I was insured. However, my coverage was immediately terminated by my insurance company. Six months later I had my second heart attack and had no insurance. Subsequently I have had two more attacks and was not covered. I have spent my life savings attempting to stay alive. In 2014, I purchased a wonderful Florida Blue policy. My premium is \$88.73 per month. My deductible is \$600.00 annually and any co-payments are extremely low. EVERYTHING IS COVERED! The most out of pocket expense I will have to pay in a given year is \$2250.00. I am much better off now that the ACA has become law. Senator Cruz, I suggest you pack your bags and go back to where you came from, Canada. You are a scourge on this great nation. We do not need or want your ilk here. If you want to screw up a health care program, by all means return to Canada and mess with that one. DO NOT TREAD ON MY OBAMACARE!

129—March 24 at 8:26pm

View more replies

Smooth Stone: No I'm not better off—only because my Koch bought governor nikki haley refused to expand medicaid in my state. Otherwise I would have subsidies to help me live a longer, better life. As a woman who was able to work wonderful jobs with health insurance for 36 years until I had my son. Then I relied on my husband's job to supply me with benefits as I raised our child and only worked 'part time' as a school teacher substitute. But what happens when that husband is mutilated by a stoned driver and can no longer work. Goes on social security and medicaid and his family is left to flounder because the now 58 year old mother can no longer get a decent job, no matter her experience but the age matters. So go F**K YOURSELF Ted Cruz.

128—March 24 at 2:17pm

Deb Larsen: I am so sorry to hear about your situation.

11—March 30 at 3:42pm

Elizabeth Fisher Jeffery Wood: Red states that have chosen not to expand medicaid are not really better off, but that is not the fault of the ACA. (btw, I live in one of those states . . .) What we need to do is grassroots it here until all of the red states accept all of what the ACA has to offer.

24—March 30 at 6:57pm

View more replies

George Rivas: The ACA would've been better with a public option. It's a shame the GOP didn't try to make it more effective instead of grandstanding and wasting everyone's time and money on futile efforts to stop it.

123—March 24 at 1:30pm

Ambrosia Rose: Like the half billion dollars Obama spent on a website . . . that

money could have gone for actual health care.

2—March 30 at 3:05am

Teresa Gottier: Yeah because nobody uses a website today except Obama . . .

16—March 30 at 12:47pm

View more replies

Terri K Mattingly Puryear: YES, ABSOLUTELY!!! although I am really ashamed of being on your website.

122—March 24 at 3:18pm

Mary Duff Henry: It's for a good cause.

32—March 30 at 8:54am

View more replies

Bobby Joe Lyle: Yes! I have been unable to have health insurance for 2 decades because of a preexisting condition. Last week I was finally able to have a colonoscopy thanks to the Affordable Care Act. Today I was informed by the gastroenterologist that the polyps he removed were cancerous. The Affordable Care Act may well have saved me from dying of colon cancer.

118—March 24 at 1:10pm—Edited

Sarah A. McCloud:

11—March 26 at 10:39am

Lisa Brayer:

13—March 27 at 2:22am

View more replies

Malina Lobel-karimi: Yes, yes and HELL Yes. I had been without insurance for years when we were systematically rejected by ALL carriers due to . . . PREEXISTING CONDITIONS. My son had to have his gallbladder removed WITHOUT insurance. It cost us \$80,000.00 Can you imagine eighty thousand dollars for a gallbladder and a weeks stay in a hospital? That's inhuman!

109—March 26 at 8:33pm

Wrenn Simms: I can. I was lucky. After i was laid off in 09, I ended up in the hospital with emergency gall bladder surgery that turned into an emergency on the operating table. They kept me a week, with two other procedures needing to be done.. I was lucky, that I was still covered by my former employers insurance (it was within the 60 day separation window). The bill was \$101,000. I paid less than \$200.

9—March 31 at 5:36pm

Laura Woller Bishin: Holy crap! 80k?!!

3—Yesterday at 12:59am

View more replies

Julie Pippert: YES! My pregnancy caused me to be excluded from health care—the VERY worst time!—because Texas allowed that. Then I caught an infection in the hospital that left me with a "preexisting condition" because I had no insurance at the time. I am SO GLAD I have protection now! THANK GOODNESS! Thanks for the ACA.

114—March 25 at 5:45am

Dani Golightly: Holy crap, that's HORRIBLE!!!!

6—March 30 at 8:51am

Laura Harper: Women in Texas are an endangered species if Mr. Cruz and his merry band of misogynists have their way.

45—March 30 at 10:00am

View more replies

Caleb Caraway: My healthcare is better, but I live in Texas so lots of other things suck. If we could get Ted Cruz out of office it would be a whole lot better.

114—March 24 at 2:45pm

Cody Edge: THIS! But we have to all work to get people like him out of office! Lets get Wendy Davis INTO office too!

6—6 hrs

Samantha Scott: I'm an American expat living in Canada. We pay a monthly premium and all the basics are covered; no charge for low income folks. Drawbacks? Sometimes I wait over an hour to see a doctor during walk-in clinic peak hours.

waves tiny maple leaf flag

feels bad for anyone who thinks Obamacare is a step backward

109—March 24 at 2:06pm

Candace Marley: I think waiting and waiting at any doctor even in the US is becoming the norm.

15—March 25 at 12:42pm

Brilliant Chick: My daughter waited 4 hours in a us er and was told at that point could be 4 more. She left untreated.

9—March 29 at 8:46pm

View more replies

Jeff Sanderson: YES! "Obamacare" saved my grandson's life. He was born with multiple birth defects, and their insurance specifically stated that a birth defect was considered a pre-existing condition. Obamacare eliminated pre-existing conditions, so the family insurance covered the multiple surgeries he needed to stay alive. Today he is a happy, bright little boy. In addition, when his mom had to quit work to take care of him, Obamacare made sure that they would still be insured. Thank you President Obama.

114—March 24 at 1:29pm

Jane Foster: Your story touched my heart Jeff. So happy your grandson got the care he needs.

19—March 29 at 11:37pm

Kevin Young: And all this happened in 6 months. Sounds like BS]

March 30 at 8:44am

View more replies

Chris Stout: Yes. Being self-employed with a pre-existing condition, the premiums always ended up being extremely high and wouldn't cover what I needed the most.

I now have a Gold plan with a premium I can afford and all my conditions are covered, so yes, yes, YES!

107—March 24 at 12:26pm

Alvin Bates: Yes. Business owner from Oklahoma!

108—March 24 at 10:03am

Brandy Mohar:

2—March 31 at 10:20am

Rhonda Savage: Oh yes! Saved me 4k out of my pocket in Premiums. AND, I have a better plan. And, I do not qualify for tax credits and am still saving!! Thank you Dems and Mr. President! Your willingness to assure our right to pursue happiness has been much appreciated by millions! As for you Mr. Cruz—I remain very, very ashamed that I used to belong to your party!

106—March 24 at 8:12pm

Drew Denega: You lie.

March 25 at 12:11am

Lisa Brayer: She doesn't lie. Same for me!

41—March 27 at 2:33am

View more replies

Pearson Klein: YES! I'm better off because those who previously couldn't get it now can. HOW YOU CAN SLEEP AT NIGHT WANTING TO SCREW OVER THE LESS FORTUNATE IS BEYOND ME.

106—March 24 at 4:13pm

Greg Zagel: I'm MUCH better-off with Obamacare. This is a fact! The U.S. Senate was better-off without Ted Cruz.

105—March 24 at 1:24pm

Barbara Dobriansky: The ACA is a LAW that requires you to obtain insurance—it is not insurance itself. So all of you saying your doctor won't take Obamacare are inaccurate in that perception. You DO know the mandate is a conservative idea? To make EVERYONE pay into the system so that no one is subsidizing anyone else? The level of ignorance is striking.

This isn't a real poll, it's a Facebook comment screed to get us all to fight one an-

other and look stupid to the world—most of which has universal health care. By a Communist-raised, now Fascistic, religious fanatic naturalized citizen who wants us to change our Constitution so he can run for president. You can't make this stuff up.

105—March 24 at 11:56am

Michael Jennings: The fact that this is a Republican (Newt Gingrich, Heritage Foundation) idea that is now being called Socialism just blows my mind! These people will believe anything that they are told.

56—March 29 at 8:06pm

Bobbie Scott: Thank you! Someone has some sense!

16—March 29 at 9:02pm

View more replies

Christina Zadorozny: Seeing you deleted my other comment, LET ME REPEAT, MR CRUZ! The ONLY people who would say NO would be your top 1% friends who because of the ridiculous tax cuts they got, can afford to buy any sort of medical care they want, and it's us in the LOWER AND MIDDLE CLASSES who are giving welfare for the RICH because they are UNAMERICAN, and who refuse to pay their fair share in taxes! Shame on you all, if Eisenhower was here, he would be taxing the rich at 91% like he did in the 50s, because after WWII, there was a huge deficit, and he knew he couldn't have a deficit like that hanging over America, so he did what he thought was RIGHT (A NOVEL IDEA, DOING WHAT'S RIGHT, AND NOT JUST WHAT IS GOOD FOR YOUR BASE), and taxed the rich heavily, which guaranteed that there was enough money flowing throughout the economy, so average people were able to create jobs, and they then hired people; everyone had a job if they wanted one, and the 50s women were able to stay home and take care of the kids, and the men were the ones who went to work, and with only one salary, a whole family was supported, houses were bought, cars were bought, the economy boomed! I have NEVER heard anyone complain about the 50s, everyone remembers it as a wonderful time, it's the first time a middle class was invented! We sure do know NOW trickle down doesn't work, look at all the rich with the lowest taxes ever, what jobs were created by them? NONE! It's been proven that the people who create jobs are small business owners! NOT the rich, and NOT the big established companies! I wish Eisenhower could come back and tell you republicans off! I'm sure he would have a few choice words for you and your rich friends! Mr Cruz, you and your rich friends disgust me, and go ahead, delete my statement, since you hate the truth so much!

100—March 29 at 8:03pm

Lisa Carpenter: There are plenty of us who say NO, that are not in the 1%. But then it looks like this post was hijacked by obama ops.

4—March 31 at 4:23pm

Christina Zadorozny: Why no? I want to know why you would deprive people who need insurance this very necessary law! If you don't need it, great for you! How about the millions who now have it, and for the first time in years are getting the diagnosis and treatments they needed? I can give you plenty of stories of people I know personally who couldn't get insurance any other way, like specifically my brother, who was born with a congenital heart condition that didn't show up til he was an adult; the first attack almost killed him, the 2nd attack, recently, (a couple decades after the first) he just got the ACA, had the attack, they did what needed to be done, which was to laser the part in the heart that was causing the problem, and

now he'll have a normal life span without having to worry about possibly dying from that condition! After his first attack, his insurance dropped him immediately, and no other insurance would cover him; about time Americans now have a way of getting treated and being able to work and contribute to society!

20—March 31 at 4:30pm

View more replies

Forrest Erickson: My company has 6 part time employees. Prior to Obama care and when we were 5 employees, the cost for health insurance for us as part time meant that two of us had to remain on our spouses coverage and one went uninsured as the cost was nearly twice what it would be if we were full time. My employees would have been working for insurance and had no take home pay at that rate. Now that employee has coverage on the individual market and so we are all covered one way or another. I will be watching for 2015 to see if it makes sense for us to do the coverage through the exchange with a cafeteria plan so that everyone can get a plan optimum for them. Yeaah Obamacare! Yes I and my small company are better off.

100—March 28 at 6:03pm—Edited

Michael Jennings: Wonder why Fox has not reported your story?

25—March 29 at 8:13pm

Forrest Erickson: I have gotten some letters to the editor published locally prior to this year. Thanks for reading and caring enough to leave the comment.

24—March 29 at 9:52pm

View more replies

Alisha Clark: When you spend all your time telling me what you are against, rather than what your are FOR, that tells me more about you than your ideology.

100—March 26 at 5:45am

Jodell Bumatay: But what does it tell us about Ted Cruz when he spent all of time one a Congressional mike reading Doctor Seus? LOL

1—12 hours ago

Samuel Shropshire: Yes. My wonderful daughter who is disabled can now come back to America because her "pre-existing" condition is now covered!

95—March 24 at 9:23pm

Liz Huls: Beautiful!!

5—March 31 at 6:40pm

Jeffrey Albuna: Doesn't it make you shake your head at just how much of a heartless person these R can be?

6—Yesterday at 12:00am

Carl Birk: I suffer from Hemochromatosis, diabetes and two minor strokes. I could never get insurance due to pre conditions. This year my insurance coverage increased while my insurance cost was lower by 20%. Stop trying to fight this law. It is in the best interest of the American people. Set aside your beliefs and hatred for the commander in chief and help people better their lives.

95—March 24 at 8:20pm

Erma Couey: my daughter has diabetes and was not able to get insurance until the ACA now she payes 500.00 a month with real good insurance that is for husband and herself

40—March 25 at 4:48am

Candace Marley: the hatred will stay in the way for most of the pubs. most of them won't even take the time to apply for coverage with the ACA to see what they would get through it.

18—March 25 at 12:47pm

View more replies

Christopher Hausen: I am part of a self-insured group, by virtue of my membership in

a Building Trades Union. As of this moment, my hourly contribution hasn't changed, my monthly premium cost hasn't changed, my co-pay, & deductible amounts haven't changed, my "choice" of in-network providers hasn't changed, and my coverage has improved. I would have to answer the Senator with a resounding "Yes!". More importantly, by any metric, more American citizens have access to health care than prior to 2008. Not only has the PPACA Improved my health care service, it has Improved health care accessibility for the Country, as well.

100—March 24 at 2:33pm

James Rowland: Same here. We are looking at a possible small increase next year but our contributions haven't gone up since 2011 and even that was only a small increase.

1—3 hrs

Patty Kennedy: Most definitely YES! America is the only Western Industrialized country without nationalized healthcare for all. America is the only industrialized country that allows corporations to earn a profit on the suffering and dying of it's people. Which is why until the ACA passed we were paying DOUBLE what Canadians pay for their better rated Healthcare system that covers everyone. Our "for profit" healthcare system was chewing up an incredible 17.6% of our entire GDP when Obama took office.

It is not "free enterprise" when a group of corporations set an artificially high price for something everyone needs, it is an Oligopoly; something Adam Smith warned against in "The Wealth of Nations" as always being bad for the consumer.

The insurance exchanges of the ACA mark the first time in American history the Health Insurance Oligopoly has ever competed one with another for business in a genuine Free Market.

99—March 24 at 12:00pm

Ellen Hunt: I'd like to add that we didn't try to force our jackedup system on the countries we invaded—even Iraqis have nationalized health care. Nobody's stupid enough to try to adopt our atrociously horrible health care insurance system.

32—March 30 at 6:28am

Deb Lindstrom: Good point. We support Israel by sending them the equivalent of about \$8.5 Million Dollars per DAY. They have nationalized health care for all citizens, and just this past February created a new law (the most liberal on the planet) that allows their female citizens to get on demand abortions, fully paid for by the Israeli government. So now, Republicans, how do you like knowing that your tax dollars are going to subsidize both health care coverage and free abortions in the nation of Israel?

36—March 30 at 2:03pm

View more replies

Eric Koenig: Yes; my Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance lapsed in the Fall of 1985 because I was late in paying a quarterly premium and, as I have epilepsy, they were all too happy to cite "pre-existing conditions" as grounds for refusing to re-enroll me. The Affordable Care Act enabled me, in early 2010, to once again acquire Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance and it has been of great benefit to me. Without the Affordable Care Act, I'd still be subsisting on County health care, meaning at taxpayer expense. Which do you think sounds better?

91—March 25 at 9:36pm

Sandie Cohen: Yes . . . much better off. Go ACA. Now we have coverage. !!

93—March 24 at 3:42pm

Pamela John: FANTASTIC!

29—March 24 at 4:51pm

Elvira Ramirez: Obamacare is working and yes we are better off today than then!

94—March 24 at 3:02pm

Deb Lindstrom: Economies in most all red states suck. Take it from me. I grew up and lived for three decades in a blue state where the quality of life was excellent. Then my post-graduate career took me first to one red state, then to two more. In all cases, the quality of life stunk, the wages for almost all people were much lower, the public schools systems far more inferior, everybody hated unions but didn't know why (unions help the common citizen enjoy the fruits of capitalism—which means the ability to acquire more capital just like corporations do), and to top it off . . . I had never heard of state sales taxes on food and clothing. Worse still, it is fact that the blue states give some of their state income tax revenue to the federal government who redistributes it to the red states to help prop them up. So there you have it. It is not the Democrats who are the welfare freeloaders . . .

45—March 30 at 1:57pm

Lorie DeBehnke: Yes I am better off. I was injured by a drunk driver while crossing the street. That injury gave me a preexisting condition. After I was laid off of my last corporate job I lost any coverage I had. Because of that pre existing condition I was quoted between 1000-1500 a month for coverage just for myself. More than my rent and utilities.

Thanks to Obamacare I now have insurance for the first time in 7 years . . .

Thanks obamacare.

21—March 31 at 10:09am—Edited

Dorothy Sasser: I'm not impacted by this but so many of my friends are AND IT'S BEEN A MIRACLE FOR THEM! They have healthcare now—affordable healthcare—with better coverage. And they don't have to worry about GETTING healthcare because of a pre-existing condition!

ACA IS WORKING FOR WORKING AMERICANS!

92—March 24 at 1:56pm

Boutwell: YES! We were going to lose our insurance because my late spouse had MS, thanks to Obamacare they could not drop us, made his last months better knowing we could keep our home and not be totally broken by medical bills. Thank God every day for Obamacare. It made me a democrat.

93—March 24 at 11:33am

LN Winchester: PETITION TO REPUBLICANS TO ALLOW MEDICAID EXPANSIONS! CLICK ON LINK: https://www.facebook.com/daillykos?v=app_335652843138116 . . .

22—March 30 at 7:20pm—Edited

View more replies

Kent Hill: . . . Yes, and with the obstructive anti-American stances of most republicans in congress, I will find it hard to vote with anyone with an (R) behind their name.

85—March 27 at 7:51pm

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to enter into the RECORD two letters—one from the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America, which is in strong support of H.R. 2575, and then another letter from the National Federation of Independent Business—and I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT), my good friend and a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Washington, DC, April 2, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of

Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports H.R. 2575, the "Save American Workers Act of 2014," which would redefine a "full-time employee" for purposes of the employer mandate provision in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) to reflect the traditional 40-hour work week constituting full-time employment. This bill would be a critical step in helping protect employees and employers against what would amount to a significant redefinition of workforce status.

Under the employer mandate provision of the PPACA, businesses with 50 or more full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) are required to provide affordable, minimum value, health care coverage to all full-time employees as well as coverage to their dependents, or potentially pay significant penalties. For the first time in history, the PPACA defines a full-time employee as an individual working 30 hours per week or more averaged over the course of a month. In an attempt to mitigate the anticipated high costs of providing coverage to all employees now considered full time, businesses are restructuring their workforces. Despite the one-year delay of the employer mandate, a recent report by the Chamber and the International Franchise Association confirmed that businesses are already experiencing increased costs causing them to reduce employee hours, limit full-time jobs, and drop health coverage. While the Chamber welcomes and appreciates the administration's "transition relief" announced in February, it fails to adequately mitigate the harmful impacts of the PPACA's 30 hour workweek definition.

Returning to the widely-accepted 40-hour definition of a full-time employee would allow businesses to focus on generating jobs, rather than making them choose between reducing growth and unfortunate personnel changes or going bankrupt from employer mandate penalties. By reverting back to the traditional definition, employees and employers would both be protected. Particularly during this time when our economic recovery remains fragile, it is crucial we provide an atmosphere where employers can focus on strengthening their businesses, employing workers in traditional full-time positions, and revitalizing the economy.

The Chamber continues to champion health care reform that builds on and reinforces the employer-sponsored system while improving access to affordable, quality coverage. The Chamber urges you and your colleagues to support H.R. 2575, and may consider including votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN,
Executive Vice President,
Government Affairs.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INDEPENDENT BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I am writing in support of H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act of 2013. H.R. 2575 will be considered an NFIB Key Vote for the 113th Congress.

This legislation would replace the new 30-hour per week full-time or full-time equivalent (FTE) employee definition in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) with a 40-hour per week definition. PPACA defines full-time employee for the purpose of the employer mandate as an employee who works an average of 30-hours per week (130-hours per month). The employer mandate is a requirement that businesses with 100 or more full-time or FTE employees offer qualified, "affordable" health insurance to 70 percent of full-time employees or pay costly penalties beginning in 2015. In 2016, businesses with 50 or more full-time or FTE employees must offer qualified, "affordable" health insurance to full-time employees and their dependents or pay costly penalties.

Last year, NFIB testified before the House Committee on Small Business that the new definition is "one of the most dangerous parts in the law." PPACA marks the first time that "full-time" is expressly defined in law. Prior to PPACA's enactment, the determination was left up to the employer. Similarly, the Fair Labor Standards Act has long dictated that overtime pay starts after 40-hours per week. Thus, employers and employees have long understood "full-time" to be equivalent to 40-hours per week.

The 30-hour full-time definition is already resulting in less opportunities, fewer hours and lower incomes for employees. Small businesses are already being forced to shrink their workforce below and restricting workforce growth above the 50 employee threshold in preparation for the costly mandate.

H.R. 2575 would provide some immediate relief for small-business owners and employees. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), H.R. 2575 would reduce taxes on employers by \$63.4 billion over the next ten years. For employees, the bill would prevent decreases in take home pay.

NFIB supports H.R. 2575 and will consider it an NFIB Key Vote for the 113th Congress. We look forward to working with you to protect small business as the 113th Congress moves forward.

Sincerely,

DAN DANNER,
President and CEO, NFIB.

□ 1415

Mr. REICHERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few things going on here.

One, you have American families working hard every day to juggle their lives to provide for their children and their families. They are trying to make ends meet and put food on the table and clothes on their backs. What happens is this ObamaCare 30-hour rule could seriously jeopardize all of those efforts, 30 hours instead of 40 hours.

Secondly, under ObamaCare, employers are already cutting workers' hours just to avoid the employer mandate, so there is another burden that is placed on our employees and our employers.

Third, the law is changing the standard definition of a full-time employee to someone who works 30 or more hours rather than 40 or more hours. Workers are taking home less pay each month as a result of that. Instead of having 38 hours of pay, they might have only 15 or 28 hours of pay, or maybe they just lose their jobs, Mr. Speaker.

Much of that impacted workforce would be restaurants, retailers, and hospitality businesses. Eighty-nine percent of those who would be impacted do not have college degrees. Talk about helping those that need help. ObamaCare's reduction from 40 hours to 30 hours doesn't help those people.

People that don't have college degrees are going to be hurt the worst. Over 50 percent do not even have high school diplomas. If they lose their job, there may not be somewhere else for them to turn.

The Save American Workers Act would prevent this from happening. It would save jobs, and it would provide relief for everyday Americans from the enormous tax burden of ObamaCare, repealing \$63.4 billion of tax increases.

I know this is right for my constituents in Washington State, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation today.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I will include letters from the Employers for Flexibility in Health Care Coalition and the NRF. We have a lot of these letters. I think I will read more of them as we go on.

I am fascinated by the results of Senator CRUZ's request online to hear from people. We will see if we can get some other accurate numbers.

At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED), my good friend and another member of the Ways and Means Committee.

EMPLOYERS FOR FLEXIBILITY
IN HEALTH CARE COALITION,
February 4, 2014.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. SANDER LEVIN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and
Means, House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP AND RANKING MEMBER LEVIN, The Employers for Flexibility in Health Care (E-FLEX) is a coalition of leading trade associations and businesses in the retail, restaurant, hospitality, supermarket, construction, temporary staffing, agriculture, and other service-related industries, as well as employer-sponsored health plans insuring millions of American workers. The E-FLEX Coalition represents employers who create millions of jobs each year, employ a significant workforce in the U.S., offer flexible working environments for employees, and are a leading contributor to the nation's economic job recovery.

The common thread among Coalition members is that our workforces are of a variable nature, and not traditional 9-5 workforces. Maintaining the ability to offer affordable coverage options to our unique workforces under the new requirements of the law is of special concern to us. The Affordable Care Act's (ACA) definition of full-time employee is of particular importance to the E-FLEX Coalition because of our industries' unique reliance on large numbers of part-time, temporary, and seasonal workers with fluctuating and unpredictable work

hours, as well as unpredictable lengths of service.

While transition relief for 2014 and flexibility in the proposed rules are greatly appreciated, the E-FLEX Coalition and many in the employer community remain concerned that the ACA employer requirements are fundamentally unworkable and require legislative changes, especially the 30 hours per week definition of full-time employee status. It is critically important to change the law's definition of full-time as 30 hours of service to a definition more in line with employment practices. The law's definition of full-time as 30 hours of service per week does not reflect employers' workforce needs or employees' desire for flexible hours. A change is needed to avoid disruptions in the workforce and maintain flexible work options for employees.

Better aligning the ACA's definition of full-time employee status with current employment practices would help avoid unnecessary disruptions to employees' wages and hours, and would provide critical relief to employers. Increasing the ACA's rigid 30-hour per week definition for full-time status would:

Make it easier for employers to provide more hours to all employees, thereby increasing their take-home pay;

Help employers offer more generous health coverage to full-time employees without making employers' share of premiums cost prohibitive;

Help ensure that lower-income employees have access to more affordable coverage options.

Using a definition of full-time that better reflects current employment practices would not cause employees to lose coverage. In fact, setting the definition of full-time employee status at a higher level would help eliminate a coverage gap for lower income employees in some states and make it easier for employees to increase their income by requesting work schedules according to their particular needs.

Although sharp differences in opinion about the ACA remain, well-intentioned people on both sides of the debate can agree that using a higher threshold for defining full-time would be better for American workers and businesses than the ACA's lower full-time definition. Committee consideration of H.R. 2575—Save American Workers Act of 2013—is a first step in the process of realigning this threshold.

The E-FLEX Coalition looks forward to continuing to work with the Committee and your colleagues in Congress on a bipartisan basis to strengthen and preserve employer-sponsored coverage.

Sincerely,
EMPLOYERS FOR FLEXIBILITY IN HEALTH
CARE (E-FLEX) COALITION.

NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION,
Washington, DC, April 2, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington,
DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER PELOSI: I write to share the strong support of the National Retail Federation (NRF) for H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act. Please note that NRF will consider votes on H.R. 2575 and related procedural motions as Key Retail Votes for our annual voting scorecard.

NRF is the world's largest retail trade association, representing discount and department stores, home goods and specialty

stores, Main Street merchants, grocers, wholesalers, chain restaurants and Internet retailers from the United States and more than 45 countries. Retail is the nation's largest private sector employer, supporting one in four U.S. jobs—42 million working Americans. Contributing \$2.5 trillion to annual GDP, retail is a daily barometer for the nation's economy. NRF's This is Retail campaign highlights the industry's opportunities for life-long careers, how retailers strengthen communities, and the critical role that retail plays in driving innovation. www.nrf.com

NRF greatly appreciates the bipartisan support for changes to the Affordable Care Act's definition of full-time work for benefit eligibility. It is, after all, a common sense approach: if asked, most Americans would identify full-time work to be 40 hours per week. Most employers have also long assumed the full-time mark to be 40 hours, consistent with federal overtime rules. In an effort to attract desired employees, many employers have set eligibility for benefits at lower points, but still higher than the ACA's arbitrary 30-hour definition.

The 30-hour definition will force retailers to manage to a new standard: whether or not an employee is above or below the 30-hour level on average. For part-time employees—who will now likely work 30 or fewer hours per week—it will mean lost income. The 40-hour full-time definition proposed in H.R. 2575 will return flexibility to employers to set benefit eligibility at lower levels. We strongly support this necessary and common sense change.

By any measure, the ACA is bringing profound changes to the labor market—both positive and negative. We hope to continue to work with you to help mitigate the negative effects on the retail industry and retail employees. NRF strongly urges you to vote in favor of H.R. 2575.

Sincerely,

DAVID FRENCH,
Senior Vice President,
Government Relations.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for the bill, the Save American Workers Act, introduced by my good friend, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fundamental question about what is fair, what is fair for the American worker.

We have had a long history in America of protecting the 40-hour workweek. This mandate—this requirement under the Affordable Care Act to go to 30 hours as the definition of full-time work is going to hurt. It is not fair to the American worker.

I would just offer comments that I just received from a constituent in the 23rd Congressional District, which I have the honor to represent.

Carol Tyler, the owner of Hager's Flowers and Gifts in Gowanda, New York, writes:

As a business owner, I encourage you to vote in favor of legislation that better reflects my business' workforce needs while maintaining wages and flexible health benefits options for my employees.

The ACA's definition of full-time employee status must align with a standard that better reflects current employment practices within our industry. Increasing the ACA's 30-hour per week definition would make it easier for employers to provide additional hours to all employees.

That means more money in hard-working taxpayers' pockets across America.

I urge my colleagues to join with Ms. Tyler's plea to support this legislation, to stand with the American worker, and protect the 40-hour workweek, which means more money in American workers' pockets as they go forward.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, there is a contrast between our side and the other side. When I hear the other side argue that what this will allow people to do is to not have to work, what I hear is they are not championing the concept of work.

I believe in the American work ethic, Mr. Speaker. I believe in the strong work ethic that allows people to work a 40-hour workweek has made this Nation strong for generations.

I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to please stand with us to protect that which has made America great, and this is the 40-hour workweek in the American workplace and environment.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I also have a letter from the Small Business Coalition for Affordable Healthcare. There are 43 members signed onto this one.

I reserve the balance of my time.

SMALL BUSINESS COALITION FOR
AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE,
April 2, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI, Representing the country's largest, oldest and most respected small business associations, which have spent more than a decade working to improve access to and affordability of private health insurance, the Small Business Coalition for Affordable Healthcare (the Coalition) is writing in support of H.R. 2575, Save American Workers Act of 2013. This legislation would repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's (PPACA) 30-hour per week full-time employee definition and replace it with a 40-hour per week full-time employee definition.

Beginning in 2015, PPACA requires businesses with 100 or more full-time equivalent (FTE) employees to offer affordable health insurance to full-time employees or potentially pay significant penalties. Businesses with 50 or more FTEs must offer affordable health insurance to full-time employees and their dependents or potentially pay penalties beginning in 2016. PPACA defines a full-time employee as an employee who averages 30-hours of service per week, or 130-hours of service per month. PPACA's definition of full-time is counter to the traditional 40-hours of service threshold that most American businesses use to define full-time for benefits and other purposes. Implementing this new definition will require most businesses to change both their policies and their practices.

Despite the one year delay of the employer mandate requirement for 2014 and more re-

cent transition relief for midsize businesses in 2015, employers have been preparing to closely track employee hours and make these complicated administrative calculations this year, as business size calculations are based on an employer's workforce during the preceding calendar year. Without H.R. 2575, employers will face higher employer mandate penalty taxes, and employees will see reduced hours and take home pay.

The Coalition urges all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to support H.R. 2575.

Sincerely,

Aeronautical Repair Station Association; American Apparel & Footwear Association; American Bakers Association; American Farm Bureau Federation; American Foundry Society; American Hotel & Lodging Association; American Staffing Association; American Supply Association; Asian American Hotel Owners Association; Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.; Associated Equipment Distributors; Associated General Contractors; Association for Manufacturing Technology; Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association; International Housewares Association; Metals Service Center Institute; National Association of Convenience Stores; National Association of Home Builders; National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds; National Association of Theatre Owners; National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors; National Club Association.

National Federation of Independent Business; National Restaurant Association; National Retail Federation; National Roofing Contractors Association; National Small Business Association; National Systems Contractors Association; National Tooling and Machining Association; North American Die Casting Association; North American Equipment Dealers Association; Precision Machined Products Association; Precision Metalforming Association; Professional Golfers Association of America; Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades; Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council; Small Business Council of America; Society of American Florists; Specialty Equipment Market Association; Textile Rental Services Association; Tire Industry Association; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; WMDA Service Station and Automotive Repair Association.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, can you tell us how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 7 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Is the gentleman ready to close?

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. We are prepared to close.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO).

Mr. CAPUANO. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I was sitting back in my office trying to get some desk work done and watching this debate. I had no intention of speaking, but I have just heard these arguments so many times, and they are tiring, to be perfectly honest.

So I did a little bit of work and came up with a couple of quotes I wanted to read.

This is relating to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which I have

heard referenced on the other side, that talked about a 44-hour workweek and minimum wage at the time.

Here are a couple of quotes.

The act will destroy small industry . . . these ideas are the product of those whose thinking is rooted in an alien philosophy and who are bent upon the destruction of our whole constitutional system and the setting up of a red-labor communist despotism upon the ruins of our Christian civilization.

That is a quote from Representative Cox of Georgia.

The Fair Labor Standards Acts constitutes a step in the direction of communism, bolshevism, fascism, and nazism.

That is a quote from the National Association of Manufacturers.

The Fair Labor Standards Act would create chaos in business never yet known to us . . . no decent American citizen can take exception to this attitude. What I do take exception to is any approach to a solution of this problem which is utterly impractical and in operation would be much more destructive than constructive to the very purposes which it is designed to serve.

That was from Representative Lamneck of Ohio.

These arguments are not new. When are you going to get tired of being behind history? When are you going to get tired of holding the American people back?

Please find an opportunity at any case—health care, housing, education, minimum wage, anything—to move us forward. We have 80 years-plus of the same arguments against the typical legislation that simply tries to move America forward and take care of our people.

It is the same old argument, the same old rhetoric. It was wrong then, and it is wrong now.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is an old political tactic to use confusion. We have watched for almost 4 years the Republican Party try to confuse the American people about the Affordable Care Act. It was the worst thing that was ever going to happen on the face of the Earth. We would have storms, hurricanes, unemployment, wars, and famines, all because of the Affordable Care Act.

Well, we are up here today with yet another attempt to confuse people about the 40-hour workweek and whether or not we are going to cause people to lose their jobs.

On page 125 of the CBO report on the budget outlook for 2004 to 2024, it says:

In CBO's judgment, there is no compelling evidence that part-time employment has increased as a result of the ACA.

Everything you have learned out here about losing jobs is not true. There is nothing in the law that says people have to shorten the workweek.

I don't know if anybody on the other side understands the free enterprise

system. Businesses are run by entrepreneurs who decide what kind of product they are going to produce. They hire people to do that. They decide the hours. They decide the pay. They decide everything.

You keep saying that ObamaCare came in and it is forcing these entrepreneurs in America to cut their employees' wages and hours. There is no such thing in the law. That is not true.

In fact, my colleague from Washington State (Mr. REICHERT) just said, Mr. Speaker, that people's hours were already being cut before ObamaCare.

It is not ObamaCare that decides how much somebody works. It is the person who runs the company. If he doesn't care about his employees and doesn't want to give them health care, that is one thing. There are people like that, but there are a lot of people who would like to give health insurance to their people, and we are trying to help them do that with the subsidies in this bill.

Let me come to one other issue, and that is this whole question of women.

I have flown back and forth across the country every week, 35 flights a year, for 25 years, and I know most of the flight attendants on United Airlines between Seattle and Washington, D.C.

I can't tell you how many of those women are working because they get health care benefits. Their husband has a job, but has no benefits, and if they don't have their job, they simply won't have health care in their family.

United Airlines has been through two bankruptcies. They have lost pay increases. They have lost their pension rights. The only thing they have left is that health care benefit, and that is what is holding the family together.

I am sort of interested to watch what happens to the older flight attendants I know, to see whether they leave flying, because they would like to. Their husband has a job, but before, he couldn't get health insurance, and now, he can under the Affordable Care Act, and they can quit working.

When the CBO talks about people working less, it is because the job lock is gone. People are not locked into their jobs because of the fact that they can't get health insurance anyplace else. It makes it available for any American.

The fact is that the cuts you are seeing—if you see employers that are going to take people down from 40 hours a week to 39 so that they can avoid giving benefits, take a look at the morals. I wonder if that person goes to church and talks about how they take care of the poor and the weak and the sick and all the rest.

No, no. You can't have it both ways. You cannot cut your people down 1 hour just to get out of giving them benefits, and that is what you are suggesting is going to go on in this country.

□ 1430

I don't think that badly of owners of businesses myself. Now, there may be some people out there looking for a way to get around the law, but this law doesn't make anybody do anything, and this law is going to create more problems.

You hear 1 million people are going to lose their health care benefits, and that is not good. This whole idea of continuing to undermine this law by confusing the American people, and making them think it bad isn't working. 1.7 million joined.

LABOR MARKET EFFECTS OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT: UPDATED ESTIMATES

OVERVIEW

The baseline economic projections developed by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) incorporate the agency's estimates of the future effects of federal policies under current law. The agency updates those projections regularly to account for new information and analysis regarding federal fiscal policies and many other influences on the economy. In preparing economic projections for the February 2014 baseline, CBO has updated its estimates of the effects of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on labor markets.

The ACA includes a range of provisions that will take full effect over the next several years and that will influence the supply of and demand for labor through various channels. For example, some provisions will raise effective tax rates on earnings from labor and thus will reduce the amount of labor that some workers choose to supply. In particular, the health insurance subsidies that the act provides to some people will be phased out as their income rises—creating an implicit tax on additional earnings—whereas for other people, the act imposes higher taxes on labor income directly. The ACA also will exert conflicting pressures on the quantity of labor that employers demand, primarily during the next few years.

HOW MUCH WILL THE ACA REDUCE EMPLOYMENT IN THE LONGER TERM?

The ACA's largest impact on labor markets will probably occur after 2016, once its major provisions have taken full effect and overall economic output nears its maximum sustainable level. CBO estimates that the ACA will reduce the total number of hours worked, on net, by about 1.5 percent to 2.0 percent during the period from 2017 to 2024, almost entirely because workers will choose to supply less labor—given the new taxes and other incentives they will face and the financial benefits some will receive. Because the largest declines in labor supply will probably occur among lower-wage workers, the reduction in aggregate compensation (wages, salaries, and fringe benefits) and the impact on the overall economy will be proportionally smaller than the reduction in hours worked. Specifically, CBO estimates that the ACA will cause a reduction of roughly 1 percent in aggregate labor compensation over the 2017–2024 period, compared with what it would have been otherwise. Although such effects are likely to continue after 2024 (the end of the current 10-year budget window), CBO has not estimated their magnitude or duration over a longer period.

The reduction in CBO's projections of hours worked represents a decline in the number of full-time-equivalent workers of about 2.0 million in 2017, rising to about 2.5 million in 2024. Although CBO projects that

total employment (and compensation) will increase over the coming decade, that increase will be smaller than it would have been in the absence of the ACA. The decline in full-time-equivalent employment stemming from the ACA will consist of some people not being employed at all and other people working fewer hours; however, CBO has not tried to quantify those two components of the overall effect. The estimated reduction stems almost entirely from a net decline in the amount of labor that workers choose to supply, rather than from a net drop in businesses' demand for labor, so it will appear almost entirely as a reduction in labor force participation and in hours worked relative to what would have occurred otherwise rather than as an increase in unemployment (that is, more workers seeking but not finding jobs) or underemployment (such as part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours per week).

CBO's estimate that the ACA will reduce employment reflects some of the inherent trade-offs involved in designing such legislation. Subsidies that help lower-income people purchase an expensive product like health insurance must be relatively large to encourage a significant proportion of eligible people to enroll. If those subsidies are phased out with rising income in order to limit their total costs, the phaseout effectively raises people's marginal tax rates (the tax rates applying to their last dollar of income), thus discouraging work. In addition, if the subsidies are financed at least in part by higher taxes, those taxes will further discourage work or create other economic distortions, depending on how the taxes are designed. Alternatively, if subsidies are not phased out or eliminated with rising income, then the increase in taxes required to finance the subsidies would be much larger.

CBO's estimate of the ACA's impact on labor markets is subject to substantial uncertainty, which arises in part because many of the ACA's provisions have never been implemented on such a broad scale and in part because available estimates of many key responses vary considerably. CBO seeks to provide estimates that lie in the middle of the distribution of potential outcomes, but the actual effects could differ notably from those estimates. For example, if fewer people obtain subsidized insurance coverage through exchanges than CBO expects, then the effects of the ACA on employment would be smaller than CBO estimates in this report. Alternatively, if more people obtain subsidized coverage through exchanges, then the impact on the labor market would be larger.

WHY WILL THOSE REDUCTIONS BE SMALLER IN THE SHORT TERM?

CBO estimates that the ACA will cause smaller declines in employment over the 2014-2016 period than in later years, for three reasons. First, fewer people will receive subsidies through health insurance exchanges in that period, so fewer people will face the implicit tax that results when higher earnings reduce those subsidies. Second, CBO expects the unemployment rate to remain higher than normal over the next few years, so more people will be applying for each available job—meaning that if some people seek to work less, other applicants will be readily available to fill those positions and the overall effect on employment will be muted. Third, the ACA's subsidies for health insurance will both stimulate demand for health care services and allow low-income households to redirect some of the funds that they would have spent on that care toward the purchase of other goods and services—there-

by increasing overall demand. That increase in overall demand while the economy remains somewhat weak will induce some employers to hire more workers or to increase the hours of current employees during that period.

WHY DOES CBO ESTIMATE LARGER REDUCTIONS THAN IT DID IN 2010?

In 2010, CBO estimated that the ACA, on net, would reduce the amount of labor used in the economy by roughly half a percent—primarily by reducing the amount of labor that workers choose to supply. That measure of labor use was calculated in dollar terms, representing the approximate change in aggregate labor compensation that would result. Hence, that estimate can be compared with the roughly 1 percent reduction in aggregate compensation that CBO now estimates to result from the act. There are several reasons for that difference: CBO has now incorporated into its analysis additional channels through which the ACA will affect labor supply, reviewed new research about those effects, and revised upward its estimates of the responsiveness of labor supply to changes in tax rates.

EFFECTS ON RETIREMENT DECISIONS AND DISABLED WORKERS

Changes to the health insurance market under the ACA, including provisions that prohibit insurers from denying coverage to people with preexisting conditions and those that restrict variability in premiums on the basis of age or health status, will lower the cost of health insurance plans offered to older workers outside the workplace. As a result, some will choose to retire earlier than they otherwise would—another channel through which the ACA will reduce the supply of labor.

The new insurance rules and wider availability of subsidies also could affect the employment decisions of people with disabilities, but the net impact on their labor supply is not clear. In the absence of the ACA, some workers with disabilities would leave the workforce to enroll in such programs as Disability Insurance (DI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and receive subsidized health insurance. (SSI enrollees also receive Medicaid; DI enrollees become eligible for Medicare after a two-year waiting period.) Under the ACA, however, they could be eligible for subsidized health insurance offered through the exchanges, and they cannot be denied coverage or charged higher premiums because of health problems. As a result, some disabled workers who would otherwise have been out of the workforce might stay employed or seek employment. At the same time, those subsidies and new insurance rules might lead other disabled workers to leave the workforce earlier than they otherwise would. Unlike DI applicants who are ineligible for SSI, they would not have to wait two years before they received the ACA's Medicaid benefits or exchange subsidies—making it more attractive to leave the labor force and apply for DI.

POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON LABOR SUPPLY THROUGH PRODUCTIVITY

In addition to the effects discussed above, the ACA could shape the labor market or the operations of the health sector in ways that affect labor productivity. For example, to the extent that increases in insurance coverage lead to improved health among workers, labor productivity could be enhanced. In addition, the ACA could influence labor productivity indirectly by making it easier for some employees to obtain health insurance outside the workplace and thereby prompt-

ing those workers to take jobs that better match their skills, regardless of whether those jobs offered employment-based insurance.

Some employers, however, might invest less in their workers—by reducing training, for example—if the turnover of employees increased because their health insurance was no longer tied so closely to their jobs. Furthermore, productivity could be reduced if businesses shifted toward hiring more part-time employees to avoid paying the employer penalty and if part-time workers operated less efficiently than full-time workers did. (If the dollar loss in productivity exceeded the cost of the employer penalty, however, businesses might not shift toward hiring more part-time employees.)

Whether any of those changes would have a noticeable influence on overall economic productivity, however, is not clear. Moreover, those changes are difficult to quantify and they influence labor productivity in opposing directions. As a result, their effects are not incorporated into CBO's estimates of the effects of the ACA on the labor market.

Some recent analyses also have suggested that the ACA will lead to higher productivity in the health care sector—in particular, by avoiding costs for low-value health care services—and thus to slower growth in health care costs under employment-based health plans. Slower growth in those costs would effectively increase workers' compensation, making work more attractive. Those effects could increase the supply of labor (and could increase the demand for labor in the near term, if some of the savings were not immediately passed on to workers).

Whether the ACA already has or will reduce health care costs in the private sector, however, is hard to determine. The ACA's reductions in payment rates to hospitals and other providers have slowed the growth of Medicare spending (compared with projections under prior law) and thus contributed to the slow rate of overall cost growth in health care since the law's enactment. Private health care costs (as well as national health expenditures) have grown more slowly in recent years as well, but analysts differ about the shares of that slowdown that can be attributed to the deep recession and weak recovery, to provisions of the ACA, and to other changes within the health sector. Moreover, the overall influence of the ACA on the cost of employment-based coverage is difficult to predict—in part because some provisions could either increase or decrease private-sector spending on health care and in part because many provisions have not yet been fully implemented or evaluated. Consequently, CBO has not attributed to the ACA any employment effects stemming from slower growth of premiums in the private sector.

EFFECTS OF THE ACA ON THE DEMAND FOR LABOR

The ACA also will affect employers' demand for workers, mostly over the next few years, both by increasing labor costs through the employer penalty (which will reduce labor demand) and by boosting overall demand for goods and services (which will increase labor demand).

EFFECTS OF THE EMPLOYER PENALTY ON THE DEMAND FOR LABOR

Beginning in 2015, employers of 50 or more full-time equivalent workers that do not offer health insurance (or that offer health insurance that does not meet certain criteria) will generally pay a penalty. That penalty will initially reduce employers' demand

for labor and thereby tend to lower employment. Over time, CBO expects, the penalty will be borne primarily by workers in the form of reduced wages or other compensation, at which point the penalty will have little effect on labor demand but will reduce labor supply and will lower employment slightly through that channel.

Businesses face two constraints, however, in seeking to shift the costs of the penalty to workers. First, there is considerable evidence that employers refrain from cutting their employees' wages, even when unemployment is high (a phenomenon sometimes referred to as sticky wages). For that reason, some employers might leave wages unchanged and instead employ a smaller workforce. That effect will probably dissipate entirely over several years for most workers because companies that face the penalty can restrain wage growth until workers have absorbed the cost of the penalty—thus gradually eliminating the negative effect on labor demand that comes from sticky wages.

A second and more durable constraint is that businesses generally cannot reduce workers' wages below the statutory minimum wage. As a result, some employers will respond to the penalty by hiring fewer people at or just above the minimum wage—an effect that would be similar to the impact of raising the minimum wage for those companies' employees. Over time, as worker productivity rises and inflation erodes the value of the minimum wage, that effect is projected to decline because wages for fewer jobs will be constrained by the minimum wage. The effect will not disappear completely over the next 10 years, however, because some wages are still projected to be constrained (that is, wages for some jobs will be at or just above the minimum wage).

Businesses also may respond to the employer penalty by seeking to reduce or limit their full-time staffing and to hire more part-time employees. Those responses might occur because the employer penalty will apply only to businesses with 50 or more full-time-equivalent employees, and employers will be charged only for each full-time employee (not counting the first 30 employees). People are generally considered full time under the ACA if they work 30 hours or more per week, on average, so employers have an incentive, for example, to shift from hiring a single 40-hour, full-time employee to hiring two, 20-hour part-time employees to avoid bearing the costs of the penalty.

Such a change might or might not, on its own, reduce the total number of hours worked. In the example just offered, the total amount of work is unaffected by the changes. Moreover, adjustments of that sort can take time and be quite costly—in particular, because of the time and costs that arise in dismissing full-time workers (which may involve the loss of workers with valuable job-specific skills); the time and costs associated with hiring new part-time workers (including the effort spent on interviewing and training); and, perhaps most important, the time and costs of changing work processes to accommodate a larger number of employees working shorter and different schedules. The extent to which people would be willing to work at more than one part-time job instead of a single full-time job is unclear as well; although hourly wages for full-time jobs might be lower than those for part-time jobs (once wages adjust to the penalty), workers also would incur additional costs associated with holding more than one job at a time.

In CBO's judgment, there is no compelling evidence that part-time employment has in-

creased as a result of the ACA. On the one hand, there have been anecdotal reports of firms responding to the employer penalty by limiting workers' hours, and the share of workers in part-time jobs has declined relatively slowly since the end of the recent recession. On the other hand, the share of workers in part-time jobs generally declines slowly after recessions, so whether that share would have declined more quickly during the past few years in the absence of the ACA is difficult to determine. In any event, because the employer penalty will not take effect until 2015, the current lack of direct evidence may not be very informative about the ultimate effects of the ACA.

More generally, some employers have expressed doubts about whether and how the provisions of the ACA will unfold. Uncertainty in several areas—including the timing and sequence of policy changes and implementation procedures and their effects on health insurance premiums and workers' demand for health insurance—probably has encouraged some employers to delay hiring. However, those effects are difficult to quantify separately from other developments in the labor market, and possible effects on the demand for labor through such channels have not been incorporated into CBO's estimates of the ACA's impact.

EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN THE DEMAND FOR GOODS AND SERVICES ON THE DEMAND FOR LABOR

CBO estimates that, over the next few years, the various provisions of the ACA that affect federal revenues and outlays will increase demand for goods and services, on net. Most important, the expansion of Medicaid coverage and the provision of exchange subsidies (and the resulting rise in health insurance coverage) will not only stimulate greater demand for health care services but also allow lower-income households that gain subsidized coverage to increase their spending on other goods and services—thereby raising overall demand in the economy. A partial offset will come from the increased taxes and reductions in Medicare's payments to health care providers that are included in the ACA to offset the costs of the coverage expansion.

On balance, CBO estimates that the ACA will boost overall demand for goods and services over the next few years because the people who will benefit from the expansion of Medicaid and from access to the exchange subsidies are predominantly in lower-income households and thus are likely to spend a considerable fraction of their additional resources on goods and services—whereas people who will pay the higher taxes are predominantly in higher-income households and are likely to change their spending to a lesser degree. Similarly, reduced payments under Medicare to hospitals and other providers will lessen their income or profits, but those changes are likely to decrease demand by a relatively small amount.

The net increase in demand for goods and services will in turn boost demand for labor over the next few years, CBO estimates. Those effects on labor demand tend to be especially strong under conditions such as those now prevailing in the United States, where output is so far below its maximum sustainable level that the Federal Reserve has kept short-term interest rates near zero for several years and probably would not adjust those rates to offset the effects of changes in federal spending and taxes. Over time, however, those effects are expected to dissipate as overall economic output moves back toward its maximum sustainable level.

WHY SHORT-TERM EFFECTS WILL BE SMALLER THAN LONGER-TERM EFFECTS

CBO estimates that the reduction in the use of labor that is attributable to the ACA will be smaller between 2014 and 2016 than it will be between 2017 and 2024. That difference is a result of three factors in particular—two that reflect smaller negative effects on the supply of labor and one that reflects a more positive effect on the demand for labor:

The number of people who will receive exchange subsidies—and who thus will face an implicit tax from the phaseout of those subsidies that discourages them from working—will be smaller initially than it will be in later years. The number of enrollees (workers and their dependents) purchasing their own coverage through the exchanges is projected to rise from about 6 million in 2014 to about 25 million in 2017 and later years, and most of those enrollees will receive subsidies. Although the number of people who will be eligible for exchange subsidies is similar from year to year, workers who are eligible but do not enroll may either be unaware of their eligibility or be unaffected by it and thus are unlikely to change their supply of labor in response to the availability of those subsidies.

CBO anticipates that the unemployment rate will remain high for the next few years. If changes in incentives lead some workers to reduce the amount of hours they want to work or to leave the labor force altogether, many unemployed workers will be available to take those jobs—so the effect on overall employment of reductions in labor supply will be greatly dampened.

The expanded federal subsidies for health insurance will stimulate demand for goods and services, and that effect will mostly occur over the next few years. That increase in demand will induce some employers to hire more workers or to increase their employees' hours during that period.

CBO anticipates that output will return nearly to its maximum sustainable level in 2017 (see Chapter 2). Once that occurs, the net decline in the amount of labor that workers choose to supply because of the ACA will be fully reflected in a decline in total employment and hours worked relative to what would otherwise occur.

DIFFERENCES FROM CBO'S PREVIOUS ESTIMATES OF THE ACA'S EFFECTS ON LABOR MARKETS

CBO's estimate that the ACA will reduce aggregate labor compensation in the economy by about 1 percent over the 2017–2024 period—compared with what would have occurred in the absence of the act—is substantially larger than the estimate the agency issued in August 2010. At that time, CBO estimated that, once it was fully implemented, the ACA would reduce the use of labor by about one-half of a percent. That measure of labor use was calculated in dollar terms, representing the change in aggregate labor compensation that would result. Thus it can be compared with the reduction in aggregate compensation that CBO now estimates to result from the act (rather than with the projected decline in the number of hours worked).

The increase in that estimate primarily reflects three factors:

The revised estimate is based on a more detailed analysis of the ACA that incorporates additional channels through which that law will affect labor supply. In particular, CBO's 2010 estimate did not include an effect on labor supply from the employer penalty and the resulting reduction in wages (as the

costs of that penalty are passed on to workers), and it did not include an effect from encouraging part-year workers to delay returning to work in order to retain their insurance subsidies.

CBO has analyzed the findings of several studies published since 2010 concerning the impact of provisions of the ACA (or similar policy initiatives) on labor markets. In particular, studies of past expansions or contractions in Medicaid eligibility for childless adults have pointed to a larger effect on labor supply than CBO had estimated previously.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have had an interesting conversation today. We have talked about the 40-hour workweek and what was established back in the 1930s under the New Deal, how it switched then under ObamaCare to a bad deal. Thirty hours is considered now full-time employment.

Now we talk about Mr. YOUNG's bill, H.R. 2575, that will be a good deal for American workers; actually gives them back those 25 percent of the hours that they were going to lose each week.

Now, we can play ring around the rosy with this and talk about who doesn't like whom and how these terrible, terrible businessowners don't go to church, they don't have a heart, they don't seem to worship anywhere, but they want to make sure that they take advantage of their very associates with whom they have a close relationship.

I can just tell you, after being in business my entire life—I am the son of a parts picker from a General Motors warehouse, a guy who worked his fingers to the bone to have something. I have got to tell you, it is really important, though, sometimes to step out of this room and go out into the marketplace and sit down with people who actually sit across the desk from somebody and hire them. There is no greater thrill for an employer than to be able to tell somebody: You know what? We are going to bring you on our team. You are going to be able to work with us. You are going to have wages that can support your family, plan for the future, do things that you never thought you were going to do, and you can do that because of a job.

Then, suddenly, because the numbers just weren't working for ObamaCare—and as the President says all too often, it is just the arithmetic—we are going to do something that makes it work for us, not for you, but for us. We are going to make full-time employment 30 hours. We are going to take 25 percent of your workweek away from you, and we are going to say it is 30 hours now. And now we say to these people who have a great association and a great relationship with the people they work with every day, because the success of

the business is also the success of the employee, we are dividing these people and making them enemies in the marketplace. You don't need to do that.

But only in this great House and only in this great town and only in the place that is so out of touch with everyday America can we stand up and make these statements and think that they stick.

2.6 million people are affected by this in a very negative, negative way. They are going to lose jobs and they are going to lose hours. It is not the fault of the employer because he is trying to make his model work. It is the fault of the government who works at such great deficits that people can't even begin to understand what it is.

My little 9-year-old grandson says to me all the time when he looks at these things: Grandpa, it just doesn't make sense. A child can get it, but we can't get it. And in a time when we need to be more united than ever as a country, as we make our way back through a very tough time, we need to stand together on these things.

What I have heard since I got here is: You guys just don't like this Affordable Care Act. Help us make it work.

So we said: Why don't we give people full-time employment, 40 hours again?

That is not the kind of help we want. That doesn't fit our narrative. Don't you get it?

So we stand here today and we have this debate. I told you how the New Deal got replaced by the bad deal, and I also told you how this bad deal is going to get replaced by a good deal by Mr. YOUNG. H.R. 2575, that is going to help America get back to work.

Honestly, if that is not why we are here today, if that is not what our main purpose is, why are we here? What are we doing? Why do we continue to spin this so much?

Hardly any American can walk straight anymore because they get spun every day by a message from Washington. We continue to do it, and we continue to thump our chest and say we did good, we did really good.

The lowest labor rate participation in 35 years in a country that has been so blessed by our Creator that the rest of the world looks at us and says: What in the world are you doing? What is holding you back? You have every asset you could possibly want. You have great workers. You have great energy sources.

We have sources of energy that would last for several decades, several centuries. Great, great abundance and affordable and accessible energy, but we hold back on it. We have assets that make sense to everybody in the world but us. We have one-fifth of the world's freshwater sitting right in our Great Lakes, and our production per acre exceeds anybody's wildest dreams. We can have energy independence. We can feed ourselves, and we have drinking

water. Everybody else in the world wants to have it.

Let me just ask the gentleman and the rest of the Congress—listen, there are 435 of us—if it is really about getting people back to work, let's do things that make sense. Let's not beat around the bush about some type of an ideological debate over what we are trying to do to each other.

Forty hours a week was always considered full-time employment. It is just that simple. It is not hard to figure out.

I can tell you, as an employer, having to let somebody go is the worst feeling you can ever have, and I do go to Mass every day, and I do pray about it every night, and I do pray about the future of this country. To suggest that anybody, any of the great employers we have and the job creators we have around this country are all somehow godless, heartless people who don't have feelings is absolutely absurd.

And it is what continues to make it hard to come to this House every day and say: You know what? We are going to fix this for America. We are going to get America back to work. We are going to do the right thing every day, in every way.

No, that just doesn't fly here.

Well, we could go on with this for hours, Mr. Speaker. But I would just tell you this. Returning America to a 40-hour workweek just makes sense. This is not a hard thing to figure out. If a 9-year-old child can understand it, why can't the Congress of the United States? If we are truly going to turn this economy around, if we are truly going to get people back to work again, let's make sure that we renew that great sense of dependency that we have on each other, not divide ourselves between those who don't like you and those who do like you.

By the way, Senator CRUZ's poll, I know that the gentleman referred to several replies that had gone to that poll. There were 57,444 people that actually answered that poll, so I am sure there was probably some good stuff on there, too.

But that is not my point. My point is we have an opportunity here in this House like no other place in the world. When something is wrong, we can fix it.

I have heard from the time I came here the problem with a lot of these laws that are passed are the unintended consequences. Well, let me tell you there may be unintended consequences, but there are not uninsured people. There are not people out there that are not feeling the pain. There is a lot of pain out there right now. So the unintended consequences have certainly not been unpainful.

You know the other thing? They are also not unfixable. Do you know we can fix this today? Do you know we can fix this and send it over to the Senate? Do

you know we can make people go back to work, make their futures look brighter? Do you know we can do that in this House of Representatives?

So forget about whether you are wearing a blue tie or a red tie. Forget about whether you have an R on your back or a D on your back, and start thinking about who you really represent, because each of us in our districts represent not just Republicans, not just Democrats, but every single American.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, as I have said since the law was passed, parts of the Affordable Care Act need to be improved or fixed. The employer mandate is no exception. For example employers in many sectors, from farmers to municipalities, face unacceptable uncertainty surrounding the definition of seasonal and part-time workers. The federal government needs to provide clear guidance to these employers. As some Senators have proposed, I also support giving businesses with between 50 and 100 full-time employees the option to either provide employer sponsored insurance or have their employees buy plans on the individual exchange. Instead of focusing on reasonable reforms like these, Republican House leadership today brought up H.R. 2575, a bill that the President has already promised to veto.

H.R. 2575 would not provide any more certainty to employers with seasonal workers. It would not give businesses with between 50 and 100 full-time employees any more flexibility with regard to how their employees get insurance. What it would do, according to the Congressional Budget Office, is increase the deficit by \$73 billion. It would also increase the number of uninsured Americans. For these reasons, I voted against the bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass real fixes to the ACA that will make the law work better for consumers and employers alike.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act. This bill is not only our 52nd repeal vote and another effort to undermine the Affordable Care Act, it actually worsens the problem it purports to fix.

Raising the threshold for full-time employees from 30 hours per week to 40 hours will result in lost work hours for 6.5 million people and essentially eviscerate the employer responsibility requirement.

According to the Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation, H.R. 2575 will cause a million people to lose their employer-based health insurance coverage, increase the number of uninsured Americans by 500,000, and add \$74 billion to the deficit over 10 years.

This bill will make a shift towards part-time employment much more likely, not less so.

I urge my colleagues to protect American workers and vote against H.R. 2575.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2575, the so-called Save American Workers Act. This is yet another attempt

to chip away at the Affordable Care Act and it should be rejected. Just this week we saw 7.1 million people enroll in a health plan through the marketplaces, which met the goal set by the Obama Administration. For many people, this is the first time they have had access to quality, affordable health insurance. We should be building on the successes of the law, rather than working to turn back the clock.

There is much misinformation regarding the responsibilities of employers under the ACA. The law requires most employers to offer health insurance to employees who work more than 30 hours a week, and they must pay a penalty if one of these workers gets a subsidy through the marketplace. The threshold was set at this level because a large share of companies employ their workers for much more than 30 hours a week, and they would have to significantly restructure their business model and drastically reduce their hours to avoid their responsibility under the law. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, eight percent of employees work between 30 and 34 hours per week, but 43 percent of employees work 40 hours per week. Therefore, CBPP concludes that five times as many workers are at risk of having their hours cut if this legislation was signed into law.

The Congressional Budget Office projects H.R. 2575 would reduce the number of people receiving employer based coverage by 1 million, and would increase the number of uninsured by 500,000. This would be a drastic step backward from the progress we have seen enrolling millions of Americans in health coverage. Another claim made by my friends on the other side of the aisle is that this provision of ACA is leading to an increase in part-time work, when nothing is further from the truth. In fact, CBO concluded in February that "there is no compelling evidence that part-time employment has increased as a result of ACA."

This bill would cause more problems than it purports to solve. I urge my colleagues to vote down this misguided legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act. This bipartisan legislation is urgently needed to address yet another poorly-conceived provision of Obamacare that will harm American workers and further slow economic growth.

Under Obamacare, "full-time" work is defined as a 30-hour work week—a quarter less than the traditional 40-hour work week. Because the law imposes certain penalties on businesses based upon their number of full-time employees, many businesses are forced to move a number of their employees from full-time to part-time work. This is a dangerous and fundamental change that will result in less hours and lower paychecks, affecting millions of Americans who plan their budget around the traditional 40-hour work week.

We cannot continue down a path that disincentivizes full-time employment, yet this is exactly where we are headed. While part-time work is a great option for many, it should not be the norm for those who have the desire and ability to work full-time. There is a serious problem when the government creates a complicated regulatory maze that increases ineffi-

ciency and incentivizes businesses to reduce their full-time workforce. As a Chicago Tribune editorial stated, "[p]art-time work does become a problem when Washington tilts the balance of incentives against full-time work. Not only will Obamacare raise costs for the government, it stands to make one of the most competitive features of the U.S. economy—a flexible labor market—less efficient. One more reason to rewrite, or halt, Obamacare."

Obamacare was sold to the American people with affordability as its centerpiece. We were promised time and time again that "if you like your plan, you can keep it," and "if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor." Instead, reports of sticker-shock and mass cancellations of plans have been the norm. Many are finding that their preferred doctor is now out-of-network and thus out of their coverage. A recent survey conducted by the Associated Press found that many of our nation's world-class cancer hospitals are off-limits to those with certain insurance carriers.

Now, in addition, workers are seeing their hours cut and their paychecks lowered. A recent study by the Hoover Institution found that 2.6 million workers are vulnerable to work hour reductions under 30-hour work week definition—with women and low-income Americans especially vulnerable. Last August, a township in my district cut the hours of 25 employees due to the new definition. My colleagues and I continue to hear from our constituents from both sides—those who cannot afford to keep full-time workers, and those who have had their hours reduced.

Last July, the leaders of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), and UNITE HERE sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID and House Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI warning that Obamacare could "destroy the foundation of the 40-hour work week that is the backbone of the American middle class." The letter states that "[t]he unintended consequences of the ACA are severe. Perverse incentives are already creating nightmare scenarios." Further, "[n]umerous employers have begun to cut workers' hours to avoid this obligation, and many of them are doing so openly." They stressed the same point we have stressed here today: "[t]he impact is two-fold: fewer hours means less pay while also losing our current health benefits."

This commonsense legislation we are voting on today will simply restore the definition of full-time employment to its traditional 40-hour work week. I have long believed that the federal government must play an appropriate role in providing a health care safety net for those in need of support. That goal can be achieved without the burdensome rules, regulations, and definitions imposed by Obamacare such as the one addressed today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 530, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. TAKANO. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. TAKANO moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 2575, to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill add the following:

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by section 2 shall not take effect if it results in any of the following:

(1) PROHIBITION ON LOSS OF WORK HOURS OR WAGES.—A reduction in hours worked, and subsequent loss of wages, in order to skirt requirements to help pay for employee health care costs.

(2) ENSURING FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND A LOWER DEFICIT.—Any increase in the Federal deficit.

(b) PROTECTING HEALTH INSURANCE FOR VETERANS AND WOUNDED WARRIORS.—The amendments made by section 2 shall not apply to veterans or their families.

(c) BEING A WOMAN MUST NOT BE A PRE-EXISTING CONDITION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize an employer to—

(1) eliminate, weaken, or reduce health coverage benefits for current employees;

(2) increase premiums or out-of-pocket costs;

(3) deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions; or

(4) discriminate against women in health insurance coverage, including by—

(A) charging women more for their health care than men;

(B) limiting coverage for pregnancy and post-natal care; or

(C) restricting coverage of preventive health services, such as mammograms and contraception.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans need to get with the program. It is over. Their sorry attempts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act must come to an end. My Republican colleagues have become so desperate to repeal the Affordable Care Act that they are willing to pass legislation that would increase the deficit by \$74 billion.

I am not sure if they are aware, but this is a bill that violates their own budget rules and what they claim to be the foundation of their political philosophy. But it is okay. I realize they may be caught up in their obsession to repeal the ACA. I am here to help my friends on the other side of the aisle.

My final amendment prohibits their bill from taking effect if it results in an increase in the deficit or if employers begin to reduce hours or wages for workers. My final amendment would also protect veterans from the harmful

impact of this legislation, and would prohibit employers from raising premiums or denying coverage to women.

No longer is being a woman a pre-existing condition. Before the Affordable Care Act, women paid 48 percent more for health insurance than men. Those days are over and done with. We should not go back to them.

Earlier this week, it was announced that more than 7 million Americans have signed up for private health coverage. That is in addition to the 3 million who are able to stay on their parents' plans until they are age 26 and the millions more who are receiving Medicaid for the first time.

But according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the bill before us today would cause 1 million workers to lose their employer-sponsored health coverage. A great number of Americans finally have access to affordable coverage. Now is not the time to take a step back. Here is proof. A resident in my district named Karrie Brooks wrote to me, saying:

The individual coverage that I could afford as a healthy 54-year-old woman has been \$418 a month, with a \$5,000 deductible. Yes, this would keep me from going under in an emergency, but I avoided going to the doctor, mostly for the fear that if I used the insurance my policy might be canceled. I found myself skipping annual physicals and mammograms, labs, et cetera, because of the \$1,200 tab. I was on a continual quest for something better and more secure.

She goes on to say:

Recently, Anthem let me know that I would have to change to a compliant plan. The plan they suggested to me is similar to what I had, but it will cost me \$53 less a month. Yes, less. Most important, I know I cannot be canceled.

I might mention that the annual physical exams, mammograms and other preventative services that Ms. Brooks once avoided are now provided at no cost to patients under all health plans.

The Affordable Care Act is a law that millions of Americans like Ms. Brooks have embraced and benefited from. Why would anyone want to take that away? Do we really want to go back to the days when insurance companies had free rein to do as they pleased? Do we really want to go back to the days when one illness or one accident could completely bankrupt your family? Do we really want to go back to the days when premiums skyrocketed year after year with no end in sight?

My Republican friends, this addiction to repealing the ACA is not doing anyone any good. We need an intervention here. This is a safe place. Stop standing on the wrong side of history. Let's move on. Let's accept that the Affordable Care Act is the law of the land and get back to being a productive legislative body.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion to recommit, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1445

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, let me just make one thing really clear. The legislation before the House is really to address the problems of ObamaCare, which have reduced hours and reduced wages for workers in America.

If you really cared about the loss of work hours, which this motion purports to do, you vote for this bill because it is ObamaCare that is causing workers to go from 40 to 30 hours. If you really cared about the deficit—and we know what ObamaCare does in the long term; it increases the deficit hugely—you would support this bill so that you can get a job, a job that you can work 40 hours, so that you can increase your income. And then you can pay taxes on that income, and then our economy and our country will be better off, and the American Dream won't be in jeopardy. Vote “no” on this motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 191, nays 232, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 155]

YEAS—191

Barber	Clyburn	Farr
Bass	Cohen	Fattah
Beatty	Connolly	Foster
Becerra	Conyers	Frankel (FL)
Bera (CA)	Cooper	Fudge
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Gabbard
Bishop (NY)	Courtney	Gallego
Blumenauer	Crowley	Garamendi
Bonamici	Cuellar	Garcia
Brady (PA)	Cummings	Grayson
Braley (IA)	Davis (CA)	Green, Al
Brown (FL)	Davis, Danny	Green, Gene
Brownley (CA)	DeFazio	Grijalva
Bustos	DeGette	Gutiérrez
Butterfield	Delaney	Hahn
Capps	DeLauro	Hanabusa
Capuano	DelBene	Hastings (FL)
Cárdenas	Deutch	Heck (WA)
Carney	Dingell	Higgins
Carson (IN)	Doggett	Himes
Cartwright	Doyle	Hinojosa
Castro (TX)	Duckworth	Holt
Chu	Edwards	Honda
Cicilline	Ellison	Horsford
Clark (MA)	Engel	Hoyer
Clarke (NY)	Enyart	Huffman
Clay	Eshoo	Israel
Cleaver	Esty	Jackson Lee

Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsock
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks

Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Pelosi
Perlmuter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky

Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)

Sanford
Scalise
Shock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi

Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—8

Castor (FL)
Lankford
Lynch
Murphy (PA)
Payne
Salmon

□ 1510

Messrs. BROOKS of Alabama, CHABOT, GINGREY of Georgia, and Mrs. HARTZLER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. CARTER was allowed to speak out of order.)

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PRAYER FOR THE FORT HOOD SHOOTING VICTIMS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE COMMUNITY

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon, tragedy struck the heart of Texas at Fort Hood, which we know as “The Great Place.” A gunman whose motives we do not understand took the lives of three American soldiers and wounded 16 more before taking his own life.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time Fort Hood has had to endure a tragedy like this.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families, and the Fort Hood community. We pray for a speedy recovery to the wounded and extend our deepest condolences to the friends and families of those soldiers who lost their lives.

We stand ready to provide any and all assistance we can to support Fort Hood, the soldiers serving there, and the surrounding community.

Now I yield to my good friend and colleague and ally in supporting this incredible community which we both have the honor to represent, Congressman WILLIAMS.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, it is said that all give some, and some give their all. Once again, we have seen tragedy at Fort Hood, “The Great Place,” and already we are witnessing the strength and resilience of a com-

munity of brave men and women who not only serve our country overseas in enemy territory, but right here at home on military posts around the Nation.

Our prayers are with the fallen troops, those who were injured and are still in recovery, and the families of all those involved. Our thoughts are with the entire Fort Hood community and great leadership team under General Milley as they stand together and push through this tough time. We will continue praying for the excellent medical team assisting the injured.

And perhaps most importantly, we will not forget the troops whose lives were lost yesterday. The best and the brightest is what we offer at Fort Hood. Their service and sacrifice are an inspiration reminding us that America doesn't give because it is rich, America is rich because it gives, and it has given us all of those we honor today.

May God bless all of the Fort Hood community during this time, and may God bless America.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to ask the House to join me in a moment of silence and hopefully prayer for the Fort Hood community and all those families of the injured and dead at Fort Hood today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All present rise for a moment of silence.

Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 248, noes 179, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 156]

AYES—248

Aderholt	Buchanan	Crenshaw
Amash	Bucshon	Cuellar
Amodei	Burgess	Culberson
Bachmann	Byrne	Daines
Bachus	Calvert	Davis, Rodney
Barber	Camp	Delaney
Barletta	Campbell	Denham
Barr	Cantor	Dent
Barrow (GA)	Capito	DeSantis
Barton	Carter	DesJarlais
Benishak	Cassidy	Diaz-Balart
Bentivolio	Chabot	Duffy
Bera (CA)	Chaffetz	Duncan (SC)
Bilirakis	Coble	Duncan (TN)
Bishop (GA)	Coffman	Ellmers
Bishop (UT)	Cole	Farenthold
Black	Collins (GA)	Fincher
Blackburn	Collins (NY)	Fitzpatrick
Boustany	Conaway	Fleischmann
Brady (TX)	Cook	Fleming
Bridenstine	Costa	Flores
Brooks (AL)	Cotton	Forbes
Brooks (IN)	Cramer	Fortenberry
Broun (GA)	Crawford	Foxx

NAYS—232

Aderholt	Duncan (TN)	King (IA)
Amash	Ellmers	King (NY)
Amodei	Farenthold	Kingston
Bachmann	Fincher	Kinzinger (IL)
Bachus	Fitzpatrick	Kline
Barletta	Fleischmann	Labrador
Barr	Fleming	LaMalfa
Barrow (GA)	Flores	Lamborn
Barton	Forbes	Lance
Benishak	Fortenberry	Latham
Bentivolio	Foxx	Latta
Bilirakis	Franks (AZ)	LoBiondo
Bishop (UT)	Frelinghuysen	Long
Black	Gardner	Lucas
Blackburn	Garrett	Luetkemeyer
Boustany	Gerlach	Lummis
Brady (TX)	Gibbs	Marchant
Bridenstine	Gibson	Marino
Brooks (AL)	Gingrey (GA)	Massie
Brooks (IN)	Gohmert	Matheson
Broun (GA)	Goodlatte	McAllister
Buchanan	Gosar	McCarthy (CA)
Bucshon	Gowdy	McCaul
Burgess	Granger	McClintock
Byrne	Graves (GA)	McHenry
Calvert	Graves (MO)	McIntyre
Camp	Griffin (AR)	McKeon
Campbell	Griffith (VA)	McKinley
Cantor	Grimm	McMorris
Capito	Guthrie	Rodgers
Carter	Hall	Meadows
Cassidy	Hanna	Meehan
Chabot	Harper	Messer
Chaffetz	Harris	Mica
Coble	Hartzler	Miller (FL)
Coffman	Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)
Cole	Heck (NV)	Miller, Gary
Collins (GA)	Hensarling	Mullin
Collins (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Mulvaney
Conaway	Holding	Neugebauer
Cook	Hudson	Noem
Cotton	Huelskamp	Nugent
Cramer	Huizenga (MI)	Nunes
Crawford	Hultgren	Nunnelee
Crenshaw	Hunter	Olson
Culberson	Hurt	Palazzo
Daines	Issa	Paulsen
Davis, Rodney	Jenkins	Pearce
Denham	Johnson (OH)	Perry
Dent	Johnson, Sam	Peterson
DeSantis	Jolly	Petri
DesJarlais	Jones	Pittenger
Diaz-Balart	Jordan	Pitts
Duffy	Joyce	Poe (TX)
Duncan (SC)	Kelly (PA)	Pompeo

Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Gallego
 Gardner
 Garrett
 Gerlach
 Gibbs
 Gibson
 Gingrey (GA)
 Gohmert
 Goodlatte
 Gosar
 Gowdy
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (MO)
 Griffin (AR)
 Griffith (VA)
 Grimm
 Guthrie
 Hall
 Hanna
 Harper
 Harris
 Hartzler
 Hastings (WA)
 Heck (NV)
 Hensarling
 Herrera Beutler
 Holding
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurt
 Issa
 Jenkins
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jolly
 Jones
 Jordan
 Joyce
 Kelly (PA)
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline
 Labrador
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Latham
 Latta
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Long

NOES—179

Bass
 Beatty
 Becerra
 Bishop (NY)
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Brady (PA)
 Braley (IA)
 Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Capps
 Capuano
 Cardenas
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Castro (TX)
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Courtney
 Crowley
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)

Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lummis
 Marchant
 Marino
 Massie
 Matheson
 McAllister
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McHenry
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 Meadows
 Meehan
 Messer
 Mica
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, Gary
 Mullin
 Mulvaney
 Murphy (FL)
 Murphy (PA)
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Nunnelee
 Olson
 Palazzo
 Paulsen
 Pearce
 Perry
 Peters (CA)
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poe (TX)
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Rahall
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)

Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Royce
 Runyan
 Ryan (WI)
 Sanford
 Scalise
 Schneider
 Schock
 Schrader
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Sinema
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Southerland
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stockman
 Stutzman
 Terry
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tipton
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walorski
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Williams
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IN)

Luján, Ben Ray
 (NM)
 Maffei
 Maloney,
 Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Matsui
 McCarthy (NY)
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McNeerney
 Meeks
 Meng
 Michaud
 Miller, George
 Moore
 Moran
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Negrete McLeod
 Nolan
 O'Rourke
 Owens
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor (AZ)

Castor (FL)
 Lankford

Payne
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Peters (MI)
 Pingree (ME)
 Pocan
 Polis
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rangel
 Richmond
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Rumpersberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Sanchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schwartz
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Shea-Porter

NOT VOTING—4

Lynch
 Salmon

□ 1521

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 217

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 217.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

Speaker JOHN BOEHNER,
The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I wanted to inform you that today I am resigning from the Homeland Security Committee. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

TULSI GABBARD,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATIONS AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resigna-

tions as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Homeland Security:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
4th District, Nevada, April 1, 2014.

JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, I am writing to step down from my current assignments on the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Homeland Security Committee, allowing me to fill the current vacancy on the House Financial Services Committee.

It has been an honor to serve on both of these committees, and I look forward to continuing my work on behalf of the people of Nevada's 4th Congressional District.

Sincerely,

STEVEN A. HORSFORD,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 537) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 537

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Ms. Gabbard.

(2) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Mr. Horsford.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IOWA'S NATIONAL GUARD

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, last month, after proposed cuts to the Iowa National Guard, I asked Iowans for their comments and stories about the impact the Guard has had on their lives. Today, I will be turning those responses in to Secretary Hagel and the Pentagon to make sure that the Pentagon hears, not just from me, but from the Iowans who have seen the tremendous good done by the Iowa National Guard. I want to share several of the responses I will be turning in.

Donna from Ankeny, who has a nephew in the Guard, told me:

The National Guard is an investment in our safety and security, but it is also an investment in many young people—a huge employer.

Nancy from Dubuque, Iowa, wrote:

Not only do they fight for our country overseas, but they do so much for our country, such as helping with the floods in Iowa or with the aftermath of 9/11 in New York. The National Guard is an important part of our safety at home and abroad.

These are just some of the hundreds of responses I have received, and I am submitting many of these for the RECORD.

The Iowa National Guard served the longest deployment of any combat unit in Iraq. They came back and helped deal with the most powerful tornado in the United States that hit my district in 2008 and the worst flooding in our State's history, and that is why we shouldn't cut their funding.

The following individuals also indicated that they do not support the Pentagon making cuts to the National Guard to reduce spending:

Kevin Burke—Grimes, IA; John Moore—Grinnell, IA; Kathryn Bly—Grinnell, IA; Jacob Knott—Liscomb, IA; Chris Brodin—Marshalltown, IA; Bing McHone—Marshalltown, IA; Carolyn Peters—Montour, IA; Rachael Johnson—Rhodes, IA; Bonnie Coble—Rhodes, IA; Darlene Eckhart—State Center, IA; Nancy Croy—Des Moines, IA; Deborah Mikelson—Des Moines, IA.

Julia Taylor—Urbandale, IA; Rob Maser—Urbandale, IA; David Bryant—Mason City, IA; Stacy Baumgartner—Joice, IA; Hope Hartwig—Manly, IA; Sloane Morrow—Fort Dodge, IA; Londa Dawkins—Ackley, IA; Dawn Shepard—Aplington, IA; James Meehan—Cedar Falls, IA; Emilee Leonard—Cedar Falls, IA; Barb Hazen—Cedar Falls, IA; Kristine Grummitt—Cedar Falls, IA.

Janet Nieman—Cedar Falls, IA; Suman Kandula—Cedar Falls, IA; Lance Dewein—Denver, IA; Randy William's—Dike, IA; Patricia Ohrt—Fairbank, IA; Merle Wilson—Fairbank, IA; Raymond Rich—Fairbank, IA; Glen Hockemeyer—Grundy Center, IA; Ronald Crooks—LaPorte City, IA; Juanita Vanlaningham—Independence, IA; Todd Marsh—Jesup, IA.

Dave Smith—Hudson, IA; Mary Brown—LaPorte City, IA; Eugene Knoploh—Sumner, IA; Steve Smothers—Oelwein, IA; RaeLynn Osmanski—Plainfield, IA; Maggie Monaghan—Masonville, IA; Myron Dinsdale—Traer, IA; Jeffery Traeger—Waverly, IA; James Campbell—Waverly, IA; Pam Hogan—Winthrop, IA; Rebecca Hurd—Westgate, IA; Verilyn Savage—Waverly, IA; Wesley Pilkington—Waterloo, IA; Suzanne Rigdon—Waterloo, IA.

Thomas Richter—Waterloo, IA; Duwayne Gray—Waterloo, IA; Lisa Goedken—Waterloo, IA; Sharon Holdiman—Waterloo, IA; Laverne Bovy—Waterloo, IA; Myles Douglass—Waterloo, IA; Tom Robinson—Waterloo, IA; Megan Troyer—Waterloo, IA; Nathan Heyerhoff—Waterloo, IA; Cindy Heyerhoff—Waterloo, IA; Debra Floyd—Waterloo, IA; Steve Lumsden—Waterloo, IA; Mary Klingaman—Waterloo, IA.

January Matney—Waterloo, IA; George DeBord—Evansdale, IA; Terrence Martin—Sioux City, IA; Vonda Maggert—George, IA; Janice Thompson—Council Bluffs, IA; Maureen Barry—Dubuque, IA; Jason Peterson—Dubuque, IA; Chad Streff—Dubuque, IA; Marie Therese Coleman—Dubuque, IA; Stacey Moore—Dubuque, IA; Galen Smith—Dubuque, IA; Rich Hatcher—Dubuque, IA; Betty Kilburg—Bellevue, IA; Joe Manternach—Cascade, IA.

Marji Franzen—Delmar, IA; Neal Franzen—Delmar, IA; Susan Konzen—

Dyersville, IA; Sally Knepper—Farley, IA; GERALYN Torkelson—Elkader, IA; Jeanette Kremer—Epworth, IA; Paul Kremer—Epworth, IA; James Bergin—Epworth, IA; Jason Heisler—Dyersville, IA; Wayne Frantzen—Maquoketa, IA; Kathy Dolan—Manchester, IA; Kathryn Guilgot—Manchester, IA; Randy Smith—Manchester, IA.

Lois Eads—Maquoketa, IA; Hannah Davison—Maquoketa, IA; Michael Cahill—Farley, IA; Michael Cline—Decorah, IA; Doris Engen—Decorah, IA; John Meyer—Decorah, IA; Dean Beinborn—Decorah, IA; Rick Cameron—Calmar, IA; Lucille Severson—Clermont, IA; Galen Kelly—Fayette, IA; Jane Regan—Harpers Ferry, IA; Michael Froehlich—Marquette, IA; Lisa McDanel—Protivin, IA; Kay Carter—Waukon, IA.

Donna Oltmann—Anamosa, IA; Jason Schwendinger—Anamosa, IA; Sarah George—Center Point, IA; Katy Diltz—Coggon, IA; Mona Reilly—Coggon, IA; Terri Staner—Delhi, IA; Pat Cook—Fairfax, IA; Robert Arbuckle—Iowa City, IA; Dwight Felling—Marengo, IA; Deb Conner—Marion, IA; Kathryn Baclet—Marion, IA; Dennis Lewis—Monticello, IA; Jay Currie—Mount Vernon, IA.

Scott McKnight—North Liberty, IA; Shiloh Herr—Palo, IA; Lynn Kramer—Robins, IA; Diana Muchmore—Rowley, IA; Steve Cavanaugh—Cedar Rapids, IA; Annette Rink—Cedar Rapids, IA; Greg Sohl—Cedar Rapids, IA; Larry Freese—Cedar Rapids, IA; Bill Crosser—Cedar Rapids, IA; Justin Kratts—Cedar Rapids, IA; Tim Watson—Cedar Rapids, IA; Sheree Martinez—Cedar Rapids, IA; Larry Donaldson—Cedar Rapids, IA; Joseph Berry—Cedar Rapids, IA.

Michael Graves—Cedar Rapids, IA; Andrew Kidd—Cedar Rapids, IA; David Owens—Cedar Rapids, IA; Marcus Beebe—Cedar Rapids, IA; Kathy Tedesco—Cedar Rapids, IA; Tom Miller—Cedar Rapids, IA; Tony Schmidt—Cedar Rapids, IA; David Farland—Cedar Rapids, IA; Danielle Ellickson—Cedar Rapids, IA; Thomas High—Cedar Rapids, IA; Janette Benzing—Cedar Rapids, IA; Garnett Helming—Cedar Rapids, IA; Patti Sampson—Cedar Rapids, IA.

Jim Doerzman—Bettendorf, IA; James Stopulos—Bettendorf, IA; Jeanette White—Bettendorf, IA; Rick Seibel—Buffalo, IA; Renee Williams—Camanche, IA; Carla Edfors—Clinton, IA; Suzanne Reed—Eldridge, IA; Paul Fahrenkrug—McCausland, IA; Carolyn Kemper—Muscatine, IA; Edith Koehn—Davenport, IA; Sandra Davis—Davenport, IA; Roger Hutchison—Davenport, IA; Ron Huber—Davenport, IA.

Margaret Raibley—Davenport, IA; Kent Dexter—Davenport, IA; Sharon Carlson—Davenport, IA; Bekky Anderson—Davenport, IA; Jeanna Wonio—Davenport, IA; George Rasmussen—Davenport, IA; Jeffrey Arthur—Westgate, IA; Romaine Pickart—Dubuque, IA; Ann Schooley—Cedar Rapids, IA; Brenda Klenk—Hudson, IA; Sarah Croft—Pensacola, FL; Paul Olds—Gulf Port, MS.

CUBAN PEOPLE DESERVE FREEDOM

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, there has been a lot of misinformation today about the Cuban Twitter program. This is not a secret program. Cuba democracy programs are public.

Both USAID and State publicly put out requests for proposals from dif-

ferent NGOs or private businesses to administer and implement our Cuba democracy programs.

The objective of these programs is to provide greater access to information to those suffering under the repressive regime. The Cuban dictatorship controls, censors, and blocks information going into the island to deny Cubans the ability to hear about world events or about the human rights violations occurring throughout the island in their very own country.

The funds help provide technology-based training to get through—to cut through the censorship of the Castro brothers. Our goal is to stimulate new ideas to help the Cuban people tackle pressing issues such as human rights abuses.

These new technology programs are also aimed at reaching out to the Cuban youth to share experiences and provide them with the tools to build their capacity for grassroots organizing to promote democracy, liberty, and freedom. The Cuban people deserve freedom.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT LESSENS BURDEN

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, businesses across the country have stopped hiring, and millions of Americans are beginning to see less take-home pay as a result of the Affordable Care Act's 30-hour workweek requirement.

That is the crux of the problem with the Affordable Care Act, Madam Speaker. The law's burdensome employer requirements dissuade businesses from expanding and encourage shifting current workers from full to part-time work.

Congress should be advancing policies to expand employment opportunities, especially during tough economic times, rather than undercutting the ability of Americans to earn more.

This is the reason that the House today passed H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act, legislation that will allow businesses the opportunity to expand workers' hours by redefining full-time employees under the Affordable Care Act and reverting back to the traditional 40-hour workweek definition.

The Save American Workers Act will lessen the burden being imposed on employers and help to increase wages so that Americans, especially those with limited means, can better provide for their families.

□ 1530

GLOBAL BATTLE AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the British Embassy for including me in an exchange program with scientists, policy leaders, and members of the British Parliament who are on the front lines of our global battle against Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's attacks our oldest population, stripping our grandparents of their memory and their dignity, and placing debilitating stress on devoted caretakers.

Forty-four million worldwide and 5 million right here in America are affected. In fact, an American develops Alzheimer's disease every 68 seconds, which means by the time I finish this speech someone in our country will have this heartbreaking disease.

Through the Affordable Care Act and the National Alzheimer's Project Act, Congress and President Obama have taken important steps to address this growing crisis. It is a moral and economic imperative that we continue to escalate our efforts.

THE PRESIDENT'S PEP RALLY SPEECH ON OBAMACARE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the head cheerleader in charge held a pep rally this week. Standing in front of a boisterous pep squad of bureaucrats from HHS and Democrats who support ObamaCare, the President declared his mission accomplished.

However, not there and not invited were millions who had lost their plans and lost their doctors that the President promised that they could keep. Many citizens have seen their health insurance costs rise, their deductibles increase, and their coverage decrease, and they weren't there either.

One single mom in my district wrote me that she had to send her son off to live with her parents because she could no longer afford to support him due to the rise in her health care costs under ObamaCare. She wasn't there either.

But the President declared the debate over repealing ObamaCare is over. Not so fast, Mr. President. College pep rally campaigning in front of a hand-picked audience won't change the fact that ObamaCare is bad medicine for America.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WAGNER). The Chair would remind Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues that have joined me this evening to talk about an issue that is very personal to me and I think something that we need to discuss across America in an open and honest fashion.

Madam Speaker, this month, April, is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. I am joined with many of my colleagues here today to discuss the issue of sexual assault, domestic violence and, in particular, a national effort that we have become familiar with in our office and in my household called the NO MORE campaign. NO MORE is a group that is represented by numerous entities across the country that are coming together to say "no more" to sexual assault and domestic violence.

Madam Speaker, you may recall I came to this floor of this Chamber back on March 14 and I discussed the issue of NO MORE Week at that point in time. I shared my family's personal story that moved us in our household—my wife, my brother, my sister, my 11 older brothers and sisters—to say "no more."

Madam Speaker, over the last year and a half, we dealt with a situation where my niece was raped. I will tell you, going through that experience, it is time to say "no more."

I just am humbled to see the outpouring of support that my colleagues are showing me this evening and coming together to say we need to talk about sexual assault, we need to talk about domestic violence across the country. We can't be shameful, we can't hide any longer. We need to stand with the victims and say this isn't something that is just going to be brushed aside and there are going to be excuses of, well, she wanted it or they deserved it or they were drinking, and therefore it is okay. "No more," Madam Speaker, no more to sexual assault and domestic violence.

Earlier today, my colleague across the aisle, GWEN MOORE, and I introduced a resolution supporting the goals and ideas of April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. I am glad to see that we are coming together in this Chamber on a bipartisan basis to identify this issue, speak about this issue, and coming together to solve this critical problem for Americans across the Nation.

Also, I just wanted to say, from this personal experience as a husband, as a father of a beautiful girl who is 15, the uncle of my beautiful niece who went through this horrific situation, that we just can't express enough how horrific and tragic sexual assault is when it comes to families, young men and women, just men and women across the country, and I stand here today to say "no more."

With that, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), my good colleague, to speak on this important issue.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for bringing highlight to an issue that we all feel a certain sadness that has to be highlighted. I am sorry for his personal tragedy for his niece, and I wish her much healing and a bright future for her.

I rise today to, too, speak, as he did, about April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

As we know, sexual assault can happen to anyone, regardless of gender, age, race, or religion, and it is always heartbreaking. Those are the ones that we actually hear about. Many go unreported. So we must say "no more," no more to sexual assault and the culture of silence and shame.

One in six women in this country have been sexually assaulted, most by someone they know. Hence, the area of deeply troubling behaviors in the realm of domestic violence.

College women have an even higher rate of sexual victimization than most women in the United States. Our colleges and universities can and must play an important role in stopping sexual assault and joining this campaign in April by saying "no more" to sexual assault. This must be a priority in every college campus in America.

As a mother of a daughter and now a grandmother of a daughter and also two sons who were lucky enough to go to college, I want to make sure that when they are on those college campuses they are safe and that they know how to get help and that they know how to recognize the signals that they might be getting into trouble.

Many of those affected with sexual assault struggle with depression, drug and alcohol abuse, or even thoughts of suicide. We have to make sure that they know they are not to blame and that help is available.

So many people care. Local organizations, like the local Charleston YWCA, which runs the Resolve Family Abuse Program, with which I was an active board member for many years, they stand ready to help. They have counseling programs, they have residential programs, they have programs for batterers, programs to try to alleviate the scourge of domestic violence.

We in Congress have passed laws to provide Federal funding for programs

and organizations to help women seeking help from domestic abuse, stalking, and sexual assault.

I will continue to work to help the men and women affected by these heinous crimes and am proud to stand here today and say “no more” to sexual assault.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from West Virginia for her words and offer of support.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), a good friend from the other side of the aisle, the cochair of the Victims' Rights Caucus.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, as a co-chairman of the Crime Victims Caucus, along with our good friend and colleague Congressman TED POE, our caucus wants to join in this effort to say “no more.” The Crime Victims Caucus is active in a host of different areas, and this is one that deserves our attention.

As we mark the National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we must remember that every day millions are struggling with the aftermath of sexual assault. We remember the survivors, and we honor the advocates who support them.

Awareness and action can help end the cycle of sexual assault and domestic violence. One in five women in this country, sadly, are raped over the course of their lifetime, and half of all women will experience some type of sexual assault. These are horrific, horrific numbers. These are our sisters, our mothers, and our wives.

We must act. Millions of victims are not receiving the assistance they need, and Congress must act. A national survey in 2013 showed that 75 percent of the rape crisis centers have lost funding, resulting in layoffs and reduced services and program closures when, in fact, we need 24/7 service for this very, very important matter. Those numbers mean communities with shuttered emergency shelters that could have helped women and men find safe haven are no longer available. We must do better.

That is why, I along with many of my colleagues here today, are fighting to raise the cap on the Crime Victims Fund that is one of the top priorities of the Victims' Rights Caucus. More than 80 Members of Congress signed our bipartisan legislation. Congressman TED POE and I carried a letter to the Appropriations Committee urging them to raise the cap to \$1.5 billion from its current level of \$745 million. This fund is oversubscribed.

The fact of the matter is this fund does not contain one ounce of taxpayer dollars. It is, in fact, ill-gotten gains by criminals of all kinds in which those ill-gotten gains are confiscated and placed in this restitution fund that President Reagan signed into law in 1981 with then a Democratic-controlled Congress. So we must raise these funds.

The Crime Victims Fund provides money for our domestic violence shelters that provide shelter for families and women and children who are victims of domestic violence. It funds rape crisis centers and child abuse treatment centers and programs.

We must fund the rape prevention and education fund that provides monies to our States in order to support this very important issue of rape prevention and education programs conducted by these rape crisis centers, sexual assault coalitions, and other non-profit organizations that are attempting to educate to help to assist and to be there when these victims are violated by this most horrific crime.

Awareness, education, and empowerment, we all have a role to play in combating the sexual assault. That is why we are honoring those this month. Until we eliminate sexual assault and domestic violence and rape, we must continue to educate people on where to seek help when tragedy strikes. Survivors must know that they are not alone, and it is not their fault, and that there is help and that we care so that they can come out of the shadows and live a productive life.

In closing, it is our job and solemn promise here in Congress to guarantee that there is help for every victim in our country. “No more” to sexual assault.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his kind words. What I will say is, it is awareness, education, and empowerment.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Judge POE, a good friend and cochair of the Victims' Rights Caucus.

□ 1545

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time, and I thank him for having this Special Order regarding the dastardly crime of sexual assault.

I also want to thank my friend Mr. COSTA from California for his work. We serve as cochairs on the Victims' Rights Caucus, and it is a caucus that does exactly what it says. We promote and advocate on behalf of crime victims throughout in the country here legislatively.

Mr. COSTA, as some of you may know his history from California and he was the author of the Three Strikes, You're Out law that many States now have adopted. It is good law, and I want to commend him for his work on the caucus and also his comments.

Madam Speaker, I spent all my career before I came to Congress at the criminal courts building in Houston, first as a prosecutor and then about 22 years as a criminal court judge. I heard about 25,000 cases as a judge. I heard a lot as a prosecutor. All of those cases dealt with people, not just the defendant, but the victims of crime as well.

I would like to talk about just one person. It happened a long time ago in a case I prosecuted. I am going to change the names to protect the privacy of the family of the victim. This young student went to one of our schools in Houston, Texas. She is working in the daytime, went to night school to get a second degree. She is driving home on one of our freeways at night. She had car trouble. She pulled over to a service station, looking for some help because all the lights had come on.

She gets out of the car and she talked to a person that she thought was a service station attendant. Billy Smith wasn't a service station attendant. He was just hanging around. He pulls out a gun. He kidnaps Lucy and takes her to a remote place of our county. He did a lot of bad things to her, including beating her up and abandoning her, left her for dead. In fact, when he was later arrested by the Houston Police Department, he was mad that he hadn't killed her.

A remarkable lady. She recovered those physical wounds. Her medical needs were met. The bad guy was caught. I prosecuted him in front of a jury of 12 right-thinking Americans in Houston, and he was convicted of sexual assault of Lucy and received the maximum sentence of 99 years in a Texas penitentiary.

We would hope, as a society, that all would be well, life would go on, and good things would happen. That is not reality. That is not the world we live in now or then. Because when you deal with a victim of a sexual assault, they are a special person. Everything about their identity, in many cases, has been destroyed. In fact, defendants, I think, try to destroy the soul of sexual assault victims.

Lucy testified at that trial, but her life fell apart. She dropped out of school. In fact, she never went on that campus again. She lost her job, her husband. The kind of guy he was, he divorced her and left her. She started using drugs, and she used drugs for a while.

Not too long after the trial was over with, I received a phone call from her mother telling me that Lucy had taken her life. And she left a note, and in that note she said: I am tired of running from Billy Smith in my nightmares. You see, she got the death penalty because she was a victim of crime, a real person. We would hope for the best. That is not reality.

So we, as a society, have to understand the plight of victims. When the crime is committed against them, it is not like a theft case. It is a personal crime. And some don't make it; they don't recover. And society needs to be there to help them, as Mr. COSTA says, to let them know they are not alone anymore, that we are on their side and we are going to do what we can to see

that justice occurs in their case, because, Madam Speaker, justice is what we do in this country.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the words. I am so pleased that this is a bipartisan Special Order, where Members from the other side of the aisle are joining us tonight to talk about the issue of sexual assault, domestic violence, and us saying "no more."

With that, I yield to my good friend from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentleman from New York for organizing this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, today I join my colleagues in recognizing the importance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Sexual assault is far too prevalent in modern society. It is estimated one in five girls and one in twenty boys will be a victim of child sexual assault. Nearly a quarter of all women attending college will also become victims during their academic career.

This issue has been a key issue for the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, which I have the privilege to serve as ranking member. The subcommittee is not only focused on investigating and prosecuting offenders, it also looks to provide law enforcement with the necessary funding and resources and training to immediately help survivors beginning the healing process.

Just yesterday, the full Judiciary Committee reported a bill that will reauthorize the Debbie Smith Act. This will provide funding to reduce the DNA analysis backlog in our Nation's laboratories and speed up justice to victims of sexual assault.

Debbie Smith is a constituent of mine, and the horror she endured while waiting 6½ years for the DNA to be tested is beyond unacceptable. What is even more unacceptable is that during the time of delay, her attacker abducted and robbed two other women. If the DNA sample had been tested in a timely manner, it is almost certain that those two women would not have been victims of crime. The Debbie Smith Act helps ensure that we can bring perpetrators to justice more quickly and helps survivors on the road to recovery.

Madam Speaker, during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we need to focus on actions that we can take to reduce the incidence of sexual assault. For example, we have a profound responsibility to the children within our foster care system, and unfortunately we have found that those in foster care have experienced sexual assault at a much greater rate than average. Ensuring safety is a responsibility that we have.

Studies show that nearly 70 percent of children who fall victim to child sex-

ual trade are runaways from the foster care system. By the time they run away, they have already been molested or assaulted by either a family member or somebody in the foster care system.

When we find children that are victims of sex trafficking, we must ensure that these children are treated as victims, not as criminals. A child cannot consent to sex. Sex with a child is rape and needs to be prosecuted as such. I urge my colleagues and my counterparts in the States to implement safe harbor laws so that victims of child sex trafficking are not victimized again when they encounter the law enforcement officials.

When rescued, efforts to support these children must be improved. These survivors require multidisciplinary care and resources that recognize the distinct and severe physical and psychological harms inflicted on them.

The potential for victimization does not end at childhood. The rates of campus sexual assault far exceed the rates during any time of a young person's life. Most of the victims know their attackers. Colleges need to ensure the safety of those entrusted in their care. A recently established campus safety center can go a long way in setting up the protocols to both reduce sexual assault for those on campuses and to properly respond when the assaults occur.

Last year we reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act to ensure stronger protections for female victims of crime. Since its passage in 2000, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act has significantly increased prosecutions of adult and child sex traffickers.

We just recently, in the last few months, the new regulations under the Prison Rape Elimination Act has also gone a long way in reducing sexual assault in our prisons.

As I said before, prosecution of offenders is a critical part of the equation, but it is not the only part. We need to ensure that we prevent such assaults from occurring in the first place and ensure that survivors are provided with the resources they need and support that they need. Strategies will evolve over time, but during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we need to encourage actions to eliminate sexual assault.

Again, I thank the gentleman from New York for his support for this awareness month and for organizing this Special Order.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for joining us.

At this point in time, I would like to yield to a good friend of mine from the great State of North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS).

Mrs. ELLMERS. Madam Speaker, thank you to the gentleman. And I would like to say thank you for helping out with this Special Order, being here,

holding this Special Order along with Mr. COSTA as part of the caucus in this bipartisan effort.

As you know and as we need to talk about with the American people, this is an issue that defies logic and it defies socioeconomic background. There are no barriers to sexual assault, human trafficking, violence, domestic violence.

I will say, I recently met a young lady who was the victim of human trafficking, not with sexual assault, but with labor, essentially. She was brought here to this country at the age of 3, and she was beaten every day by the woman that put herself forward as her mother, along with the two other young ladies that were brought here that she knew as her sisters. And until, I would say, 2007, she said every day that is what they endured, beatings by this woman that they referred to as Mom.

The reason that the woman said that they can't speak out and seek help was because they were brought here illegally and they were illegal. So, you see, this problem is pervasive and it is one we have to deal with, and we are doing exactly what needs to be done.

To my good friend from New York, thank you again for holding this, because we have to show the American people this is an issue we care about, this is an issue that we need to solve, and we need to work together for that effort. April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a perfect time for us to take part in this effort.

I was very distressed to find out recently that the county that I live in in North Carolina, Harnett County, as of 2013, is the fifth highest county level of domestic-related homicide. That is not a number that I want to associate myself with in the very county in which I live.

This month serves as an opportunity for all of us to unite on this issue, both Democrat, Republican, every American, to speak candidly about the prevalence of abuse and generate a much-needed change in our culture. Whether we are talking about our society, whether we are talking about those that are in the military, whether we are talking about those who come to this country for different purposes, we need to be a voice for all of those individuals.

Sexual assault is a persistent problem. It affects both women and men and, again, as I pointed out, regardless of socioeconomic status. To bring an end to this problem, we must equip young people with the knowledge and the resources needed to feel empowered, ask questions, and seek support. Sexual Assault Awareness Month is about education and informing one another so that we can bring about an end.

It is time to speak up and raise awareness, and I hope all that are listening will help in this effort to support this effort.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from North Carolina for coming today. I am pleased to yield to a good friend from the other side of the aisle to talk about this important issue of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the NO MORE campaign. I can't encourage people enough across America to go online, become aware of the NO MORE campaign, and the Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

With that, I yield to my good friend from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL).

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am very honored to be here in a bipartisan manner to talk about a subject that we can all agree on, which is that freedom from sexual assault is a basic human right. It is not to be tolerated in any corner of society. And the issue is not talked about enough, so I am glad we are bringing it up today.

I want to focus today on sexual assault that is taking place at an alarming rate in a place that we would not expect, and that is in our military.

□ 1600

The reports of sexual assault in the military are mind-boggling. The Defense Department estimated that there were 26,000 sexual assaults in 2012. Those numbers are shocking, but this isn't just about statistics. It is about real people.

I want to share a story about one of my constituents. Elisha Morrow joined the Coast Guard at age 22. She started boot camp with so much pride and hope. She joined the Coast Guard because she believed deeply in their mission to save lives, which they do every day.

Her hope turned to humiliation and sorrow as her company commander sexually harassed her with innuendos and advancements night after night. The commander became even more emboldened and eventually raped the female recruit.

Shockingly, the commander was convicted of lesser charges of cruelty and maltreatment and adultery and not rape because the victim could not prove that her life wasn't under physical threat and that she didn't fear for her life. She had committed to his sexual advances under command.

The law did not take into account situations in which a superior abuses his or her position to take advantage of victims. That is not full justice. That is why the victim felt even more humiliated.

As a mother of a marine war veteran, when I heard this story, I knew I had to do something about it, and I want to thank my colleagues because we joined together when we passed the National Defense Authorization Act to direct the military to examine the need for a

new definition of rape and sexual assault in cases when someone abuses their position in command.

No military recruit or servicemember should endure sexual abuse. Our sons and daughters put on the uniform to protect us, and now, we must protect them.

So we have made some good progress, Madam Speaker, which I am proud of, but there is so much more to do. We have to be vigilant.

There still remains a debate, even within our Congress, whether to remove these type of cases from the chain of command. We have to be vigilant and make sure our laws are working and make sure our sons and daughters are protected and get the full support they need to heal when they are assaulted.

In this country, every citizen has the right to be safe and protected. There should be no exceptions.

Mr. REED, I want to thank you again for allowing me to share this moment with you.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentlelady for coming tonight and joining us and raising awareness on this critical issue facing men and women across the country. I appreciate the gentlelady's words.

From the gentlelady's words, I am reminded how pervasive this is across our country. It does remind me also why we have to remain diligent and continue to raise awareness and educate people on these issues and to empower victims and stand with victims such as my niece.

With that, I yield to my good friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. Allow me to express my appreciation to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for your leadership in putting together this very important opportunity for us to talk to not just our colleagues, but citizens all across this country, as we jointly focus on this issue of sexual assault and domestic violence.

I am moved by my colleagues who are telling stories from so many different perspectives. Many of them are personal. I think that is really the way we have to explain these kinds of circumstances, through the personal stories in which it is driven home, because you can understand how it affects real people on an everyday basis.

I was a former prosecutor before I came here to Washington, D.C., and while this story is about 20 years old, it defines a particular problem at a particular point in time.

I remember distinctly engaging with a young woman. She had been the victim of a sexual assault. She met a young man at a party. She returned to a dorm room, believing that everything was going to be safe. He sexually and violently violated her.

This was a very prestigious school in New England. She reported it later

that week to the school authorities, but they took a position that, since she really hadn't reported it immediately and she didn't have any other kind of particular evidence, it was her word against his word, and they took no further action.

This young woman was completely abandoned on this campus, but worse yet, her perpetrator used that opportunity thereafter to jeer at her and to taunt her, and not only was she the one who was violated, but she was the one who was finally driven to a point where she was so uncomfortable, having to confront this guy each and every day, she is the one who had to leave her college. She had to go home and start to heal and try to start a life all over again and a whole new experience.

I ran into her because, 2 years later, she came to my district in Pennsylvania. She came there as a witness because, only weeks before she had arrived, there was another party on a college campus nearby me and this same perpetrator happened to come to that college, visiting a friend, where he met a woman. He went back to that woman's dorm, and another woman was violently raped.

Fortunately, this victim, for the first time, was able to testify against him. We used pattern evidence to give her her first chance to hold him accountable. Based on that rape that we were able to prosecute, I think he may still be in jail.

But her life didn't get put together immediately by virtue of that. In fact, she represents a story that is too infrequently understood, as has been demonstrated by some of my colleagues.

One in five women on college campuses today will report being victims of an attempted or actual sexual assault, yet only about 5 percent of those are being reported to law enforcement, so we have got this huge disconnect.

While it is 20 years after the incident that I experienced and a great deal more work has been done on college campuses, many of which have taken prudent steps to deal with this issue, we have to do a lot of more.

I am encouraged. Just recently, President Obama—and this demonstrates the bipartisan nature of this effort—has appointed a White House task force to protect students from sexual assault. I am pleased to be able to be participating with some local folks in my community to help advise that committee.

We are using the experiences that we have from experts at local colleges like Drexel, Villanova, and Penn State and campus experts who have worked in this area on the campuses. We are seeing some issues that need to be addressed.

We are looking at issues like reporting procedures that require victims of sexual assault, once they report the story, to sometimes have to retell it

two and three different times, in order for them to fulfill the requirements of reporting either at colleges, rape crisis centers, or with law enforcement. We are violating these victims again and again with procedures like that.

We are seeing women who are subjecting themselves to rape kits. It is appropriate and may be necessary for the collection of evidence, but we are finding, a year later, they haven't even taken the time to process the rape kit.

How many years do we have to continue to deal with dramatic backlogs in just the identification of straightforward evidence that would help us put some of these perpetrators in jail, where they belong?

We are examining the convoluted patchwork of Federal rules and regulations that, while well-intentioned, often work at cross-purposes. We are trying to strengthen the way partnerships can be generated between victims' services groups, college representatives, and among law enforcement.

The biggest challenge we face from the victims is the confusion about the process. They don't know who to turn to or who to report to. That is why we must continue to work together as colleagues to help clarify the rules and regulations that we are creating to send the kinds of signals so there is certainty and the ability of these victims to reach out for help.

I thank you, Mr. REED, for your leadership on this. I pledge my intention to continue to work with you and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to assure that we are making not only good, sound law, but making the procedures work for the benefit of the victims.

Mr. REED. I so appreciate the work, leadership, and experience of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) on this issue. I don't think I could have said it any better in the sense of the victims being victimized repeatedly not just by the perpetrator, but by the system.

Hearing the gentleman from Pennsylvania give a firsthand account as to what that means, I think, is very important as we deal with the NO MORE campaign and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield to a new Member, but a great Member of this great Chamber, Mrs. BROOKS from Indiana.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise today to say "no more."

I want to thank my dear colleague, Representative REED from New York, for bringing the attention of this body and to the country to this campaign of no more to sexual violence. It is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and we need to take this opportunity to speak harsh but true words.

Every 2 minutes, which is about how long my remarks are going to be, an-

other American is sexually assaulted. That is 237,868 victims a year. This is a crime that touches people of all backgrounds and all walks of life.

Madam Speaker, we have a sexual assault crisis in this country. It is time to do something about it. It is time to say "no more."

Perhaps nowhere is the pain and suffering caused by this crisis more apparent than on our great college campuses. Nineteen percent of women on campus—almost one in five—will be the victim of an attempted or a completed sexual assault during their college experience.

Madam Speaker, we have a sexual assault crisis on our college campuses. It is time to do something about it. It is time we say "no more."

As a mom who has sent two kids off to college in recent years, these numbers scare me. I know the truth of these numbers, having counseled one of my daughter's friends in college about 4 years ago and having recently counseled the mother of another person who had been assaulted on a college campus.

This makes me angry. There is no excuse in this country for this problem. There is no valid reason for anyone to look in the other direction or to pretend this problem doesn't exist. Let's once and for all say "no more" to this problem.

We have to work together. I am very pleased that the Democrats and the Republicans in this body are working together.

We have to offer victims more support. We have to bring offenders to justice. We have to analyze these daunting statistics and find real solutions.

Eighty-four percent of women who experience sexually coercive behavior while in college are victimized during their first four semesters on campus. Forty-three percent of sexual victimization incidents on campuses do involve alcohol by the victim and about 69 percent by the perpetrator.

Let's have a real conversation with our freshmen and with our young people in college about those risky decisions that they make.

More than half of the raped college women tell no one about the horrendous crime that can change their lives forever. We have to support the organizations, coalitions, and families that are helping these women—and yes, some men—and empower them to come forward and seek justice. That is only a part of the healing process, but it is a critical part.

No one should get away with sexual assault. We have to say "no more" to free passes. We have the greatest university system in the world. We educate the best and the brightest. We graduate 21st century innovators with the talent and the dedication necessary to make our Nation and world a better place.

Surely, this is a sad challenge that we can work together on to address. This is an opportunity for us to say "no more" and mean it. Let's take this opportunity. We have a sexual assault crisis on our college campuses, but it is also in our Nation, so let's do something.

I want to thank my colleague from New York for leading. Let's say "no more."

□ 1615

Mr. REED. I thank the gentlelady for her comments and joining us in this effort to say "no more." The gentlelady's comments about the use of alcohol and other intoxicants being a part of, sometimes, these situations, I can't express enough how many times I hear that story and how we need to make sure that we are talking to our kids, we are talking to folks as they are going off to college or in our high schools about the danger associated with the use of alcohol and being put into this situation.

Just be honest, just be honest and just say with that decision comes risk, and with those risks are often horrific events such as what we are talking about tonight, young men and women being sexually assaulted, domestically abused by partners, people that they know. It is time we raise this in a way that we speak openly and honestly about this issue.

Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to be joined by a new Member of the House, my good friend from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), and I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you to my great colleague from the great State of New York.

It is humbling for me to stand here with you and the others who have spoken before me, those of you who have a family member who has experienced such a traumatic, traumatic event.

I have been here with prosecutors who have convicted those criminals who deserve to go to jail and to stand here with somebody like Mrs. BROOKS, who worked in the college arena and saw devastation, now, for me to come up here, I have got to tell you, I am here as a dad. I am here as a father to a 17-year-old daughter who, in a year and a half, will go to college.

In my district in central Illinois, we have nine universities and colleges, over 45,000 female students. With the CDC estimating that 19 percent of women have experienced sexual assault since entering college, let me do the math for you. That is 8,500 women in my district that, if the statistics remain true, will experience sexual assault.

I represent a district of 14 counties. This is unacceptable. That is why I rise with you, Mr. REED, to say "no more" today.

I am alarmed by the fact that my daughter is going to go off to school,

get in her car, and my wife and I are going to be very, very sad when we drop her off at school. And I hope and pray that these statistics don't come right to my mind, but, you know, as a dad, they will. We have to do something in this institution about it.

I am proud to be a part of the Victims' Rights Caucus with you and Mr. COSTA and my other colleagues, and I am committed to being a champion for the rights of victims.

There are numerous events. I want to remind people, it is not enough to stand and be silent. It is not enough to recognize we have a problem. Go participate in your local events that are going to be happening in your communities throughout the month of April—as we know, it is Sexual Assault Awareness Month—including tomorrow's Paint the Town Teal, where hundreds of people will wear this color to raise awareness and support survivors of sexual assault. I encourage everyone to get involved in these local events.

I want to make sure that everyone here knows, this is an issue that I and my colleagues will not forget about after the month of April. I look forward to the day when sexual assault is no longer a chronic problem that deserves national attention. However, until that day, the responsibility is on all of us to do what we can to stop sexual assault in this country and to say "no more."

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman from Illinois for those very good and eloquent remarks on this important issue of "no more."

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be joined by a Member from the great State of Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI), and I yield to her.

Mrs. WALORSKI. I thank the gentleman from New York for organizing tonight's discussion on this important topic.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I rise today to say "no more" to sexual assault. This tragic epidemic impacts every community. Most of us know at least one sexual assault survivor.

In my area, a report released by Saint Mary's College, found an alarming number of Hoosier girls affected by acts of sexual violence. Indiana ranks second out of 46 States for the highest number of rapes among female high school students, and this is unacceptable. 14.5 percent of Indiana's female high school students and 5.2 percent of Indiana's male high school students have reported being raped. This shocking number only accounts for those attacks that are reported. As we all know, most assaults go unreported.

Since joining Congress, I have worked to put an end to sexual violence. Working with the House Armed Services and the House Veterans' Affairs Committees, I have authored and supported a number of provisions

aimed at combating the growing number and the epidemic of military sexual assault trauma.

Today I call on my colleagues to raise awareness of about sexual assault and how we can all work together to prevent it, to respond to it, and to say "no" to sexual assault together.

I thank the gentleman from New York for this opportunity to join you in saying "no more" to sexual assault.

Mr. REED. I can't agree any more with my colleague from Indiana. "No more." It is time. No more excuses. No more across America.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to be joined by a great friend from our State of New York (Mr. GIBSON), one of the leaders down here in the House, and I yield to him.

Mr. GIBSON. I thank my friend and neighbor from New York.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to be here today with my colleagues as we jointly pursue the effort to prevent sexual assault. I think this is something that really goes to the core of who we are as a people.

I am reminded at this moment of some of our ideas at the very founding, inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These inalienable rights come from God, but governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed to secure these rights.

We have taken action here in this Chamber. We have worked together to do that. The Violence Against Women Act we passed a little over a year ago, and then the budget agreement that we enacted at the end of last year increased by \$10 million. Certainly we need to do more than that, but we are taking some action.

I want to highlight how that can make a difference right at the local level. These resources go towards education for law enforcement professionals and for conduit with the judicial system. It is also for shelters and for supporting infrastructure and health care networks.

I am reminded of one of the visits my wife and I made recently to the Washbourne House in Kingston. That is the largest city in my district, the 19th district in New York, where I met with Michael Berg, who heads the Family of Woodstock shelters, and Cathy Moriarty, who actually runs the Washbourne House.

Madam Speaker, this is really hard work. These victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, when they first show up at the doorstep of the Washbourne House, security, the most basic of human needs, that is their biggest concern, and for these leaders, providing that security and helping the family to be able to trust again; then, for basic needs, some of these victims come with children, and providing for them to get back into a sense of nor-

malcy, to get them back into school, all the while, to help our victims to get back up on their feet and to be self-reliant going forward, these resources are just critical to support these programs.

I am very proud of the work that is done there. I think it is illustrative of the kind of work that is done by very special people in our country all across our land. But there is more to be done, and there is an opportunity for us to do more. I am talking about, now, H.R. 3571. This is the International Violence Against Women Act, and this provides resources to help coordinate USAID and Department of State efforts about our funding programs to make them more effective as we work with our friends and allies across the world.

I will tell you, this will not only help, I think, prevent sexual assault and bring more security, but it will also make us a stronger country. It will make us a stronger country, and it will bring us truer and in line with our founding principles. I argue that when we do that, on our best day, other countries want to be like us; and in that regard, it actually makes us safer as well.

So I just want to thank the organizations that work with us on this effort. I am talking about a number of organizations, but I would like to point out Amnesty International, CARE USA, and Futures Against Violence. I thank them for their leadership on this issue.

I thank everyone for being here today, and I thank my friend from New York.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman from New York for joining us tonight, and I appreciate the friendship and the support for the NO MORE campaign tonight.

Madam Speaker, one of my best friends here in this great Chamber, my fellow member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) is joining us this evening, and I yield to her.

Mrs. BLACK. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand here with my good friend from New York and to say "no more" to sexual assault. This April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I commend Mr. REED for leading this effort to raise awareness and bring attention to this crucial issue.

Every 2 minutes, an American is assaulted in this country, and one in five women is a survivor of rape. This is sad and deplorable, and we must do more to share the daunting facts about sexual assault in this country as well as let people know where they can go to get help.

We must act to protect our Nation's women, but it goes further than this. You see, in this country, one in six men have been victims of sexual abuse before they reach the age of 18. This kind of child abuse must be brought to light, and perpetrators must be severely punished.

During my time of working in the Tennessee State Legislature, I was proud to support numerous measures to help protect women and children—and, in particular, children—from sexual assault. I sponsored legislation strengthening the penalties for the crime of rape of a child.

But in order to root out perpetrators of sexual violence, victims need to know where they can turn. I am grateful for the work of nomore.org for raising the awareness on this issue and for offering resources where victims can get the help that they so greatly need.

These heinous crimes are unacceptable, and it is why it is so important to say “no more” this Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

I thank my friend for bringing this issue to the floor tonight. It is so important.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentlelady for her remarks and comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. REICHERT), our great sheriff and co-chair of the Law Enforcement Caucus.

Mr. REICHERT. Thank you, Mr. REED, for inviting me to speak this evening on this important topic.

I don't come here tonight with statistics. I come here with 33 years of experience in law enforcement. I was a cop for a long time before I came to Congress. I have been to the homes. I have seen the faces of the mothers and the fathers. I have seen the faces of the victims of sexual assault. I have held them in my arms while they cried and fell to the floor in a puddle of tears. These are real people. These are our children.

When I was on patrol back in the early seventies, I had a case where I was driving around all night. It was 2 in the morning. I found this young man wandering the streets. I pulled up and asked him what was wrong. He was sobbing and crying and asking for help. It took him at least an hour, Madam Speaker—an hour—before he could really finally tell me what happened to him. He had been abducted and taken to a remote home and raped and assaulted, humiliated and beaten for 2 days.

Imagine being in that position. Imagine being a victim of such a horrendous crime.

My own family has been touched by this, as I know some folks may be listening and some speaking tonight may have mentioned that. One of my own family members was raped.

But I know this from a deeper experience. When I was a homicide detective for the King County Sheriff's Office in the early eighties, I was assigned a case called the Green River serial murder case, where 50-plus women were killed.

Now, how did those young girls and women get on the streets? They were abused. They were sexually assaulted

at home. They were physically assaulted. They were emotionally assaulted, and they left home. They were raped at home. They were raped by their neighbors. They were raped by their family members, and they ended up on the street.

□ 1630

And whose arms did they fall into, Madam Speaker, but the arms of a pimp, again to be victimized and raped over and over and over, sometimes for money, sometimes not. Lives destroyed. Some survived physically but were mentally and emotionally drained. Their lives and spirit ripped from their hearts.

This is a crime that until you see, until you look into the eyes of the person who has been victimized in such a horrendous way, you never really truly understand the pain and the suffering that they have been through.

If they survive, they have a long, long road of recovery. And we call these people survivors. We call them survivors. If they don't, like in the Green River case, they die; their lives are taken.

Madam Speaker, we cannot allow this to continue in this country. I know that every day, there is a cop on the street, there is a social worker out there that is dealing with this crime. We have got to stop this. We have got to save the lives of our children.

Thank you, Mr. REED for holding this hour tonight. Thank you for the opportunity to share some of my story.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman from Washington State, the sheriff, for the words and the experience and sharing tonight in our efforts to say “no more” to sexual assault.

Madam Speaker, I know we are coming to the end of the Special Order this evening. So I will just close with a few words.

Madam Speaker, I stand in this Chamber today joined by my niece, who is with us this evening. I can't tell you how impressed, how proud I am of that young lady who has now turned one of the most negative experiences, horrific experiences in her life and is doing something positive about it.

It is her voice that has moved me to stand with my colleagues, to work across the country, to work with organizations like NO MORE and Sexual Assault Awareness Month to say, I am going to do my part, Madam Speaker. I am going to do my part to make sure that we scream from the mountains, across this land, that sexual assault—be it man, woman, child, adult—we have heard the stories all night tonight. But in the great land of the United States of America, we are going to say “no more” because it tears lives apart.

Victims are not only victimized by the perpetrators who do these horrific acts, but they are revictimized over

and over again. And it is time we, as a Nation, come together and say, you know what, we are going to stand with the victims. We are going to educate and make people aware of this issue so that we can empower people—our law enforcement agencies, our prosecutors, the people that do God's work and tending to the people when they need the services that rape victims and sexual assault and domestic violence victims need and turn to in their time of need.

So we are going to continue this battle. We are going to continue this fight. And I just have to applaud the efforts of the men and women across the country that are coming together to say in one voice, “no more.”

All 300-plus million people in America need to come together to highlight this issue. And I can tell you, if we unite as a Nation, we can bring to an end sexual assault and domestic violence.

And to my niece, I just say, I will always have your back. I will always stand with you shoulder to shoulder. And to anyone who wants to say she deserved it or she wanted it or that she was drinking and it was the alcohol that caused it, “no more.” She is not the person that is responsible for this. As I said on March 14, when I asked her what I should tell the American Nation on her behalf, say “no more” because there are no excuses.

I appreciate my colleagues, my friends and the folks from the other side of the aisle coming together tonight to talk about this, which is such an important issue that we need to talk about and to, for once and for all, say “no more.”

I ask every American, have a conversation with your daughter, your spouse, your son, your mother, your father, your aunt, your uncle. Speak about this issue. Empower each of us, as individuals, to say, we are not going to accept this in our midst any longer. I am confident, Madam Speaker, if we do that, that we won't have to say in the last 60 minutes that we have joined here together, that 30 more of our fellow American citizens have just suffered from one of the most horrific crimes on the face of the Earth, and that is sexual assault.

It is time to say “no more,” and I ask everyone to join us in that campaign.

I yield back the balance of my time.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1874, PRO-GROWTH BUDGETING ACT OF 2013; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1871, BASELINE REFORM ACT OF 2013; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1872, BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-400) on the resolution (H. Res. 539) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1874) to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of legislation, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1871) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to reform the budget baseline, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1872) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROTECTING MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, there are currently many concerns regarding health insurance in our country, especially among our Nation's seniors. At this time of major transition in our Nation's health care industry, it is critical that seniors enrolled in traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage can keep the coverage on which they depend.

Unfortunately, proposed cuts to Medicare Advantage are putting these important benefits at risk. This is a very serious situation across the country, and it is of great concern to me, with Florida being home to over 4 million seniors. My district alone has over 160,000 seniors, with more than one-third of them choosing a Medicare Advantage plan whose coverage would be severely impacted by the proposed cuts released in the draft rule that CMS put out in February.

We are already seeing what last year's cuts to Medicare Advantage

have meant: smaller networks of doctors, cuts to add-on benefits, and higher out-of-pocket limits. The additional proposed cuts to the program released in February have raised great concerns from my constituents about their coverage and about the potential of having to pay more and having fewer benefits. That is why we are here today, urging the administration to reverse course and keep rates flat for 2015.

At this point, I would like to yield to my good friend Ms. SINEMA from Arizona, who has been fighting tirelessly to protect the seniors in her area as well.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you, Congressman MURPHY, for hosting this Special Order so that we can stand up and speak out for seniors in our districts. We are here today because CMS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, has proposed cuts to Medicare Advantage.

Next week, CMS will publish its final rule. I urge CMS to not cut Medicare Advantage. These cuts will decrease choice, create uncertainty, and undermine access to care for our seniors.

I oppose these cuts. Like Mr. MURPHY and many of our colleagues participating in this Special Order, I have repeatedly called on the Federal Government to reconsider its proposal and make no further cuts to Medicare Advantage.

Medicare Advantage is a popular and effective alternative to traditional fee-for-service Medicare, especially in Arizona, where statewide, 38 percent of Medicare-eligible beneficiaries choose a Medicare Advantage plan. In my district, nearly 43 percent of Medicare-eligible beneficiaries choose a Medicare Advantage plan.

Medicare Advantage plans consistently receive high customer satisfaction ratings and are helping to control cost, drive innovation, and improve health outcomes for beneficiaries. I keep saying "beneficiaries." But what I should say is, our parents, our grandparents, and our loved ones. These plans provide affordable, high-quality care for our loved ones.

Bonnie Grant, a proud Arizonan in my district, is in her sixties and lives in Phoenix. Through her Medicare Advantage plan, she has access to a transportation system called Van Go. Bonnie uses the service to go shopping and to go other places "instead of being stuck at home." She said that it helps because "instead of being holed up in your home," she can be engaged in the community and enjoy her life. The Van Go benefit is the type of creative service offered by Medicare Advantage plans that improves the well-being of enrollees.

Joseph Ford, another constituent, lives in suburban Phoenix. He was disabled in a car accident. The hands-on managed care he receives through his Medicare Advantage plan, including in-

home visits, allows Mr. Ford to stay in his home and live a fuller life. Keeping individuals like Mr. Ford in his home instead of in institutional care facilities is better for the beneficiary and presents a significant cost savings to the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

I am concerned that the proposed payment reductions for 2015 will undermine the choices made by my fellow Arizonans, by Ms. Grant, by Mr. Ford, and by others in my congressional district by causing our loved ones to lose needed services and to experience increases in premiums. These cuts could also have the unintended and costly consequence of putting our seniors at risk of being placed in institutions, rather than staying in their homes.

Instead of cutting funding for these popular plans, we should work together to find reasonable solutions that drive down cost, increase choice, address waste, fraud, and abuse, spur innovation, and ultimately improve the quality of life provided to our seniors.

Again, I urge CMS to maintain payment levels for Medicare Advantage so that our loved ones do not experience increased out-of-pocket costs, negative disruptions, or confusion in 2015.

Thank you, Congressman MURPHY, for working with me on this important issue and for hosting this Special Order today.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I thank the gentlelady from Arizona for her comments and for reminding us that these aren't simply numbers on a ledger, that all of these beneficiaries are folks we know. These are our parents. These are our grandparents. They are more than just numbers.

And like Ms. SINEMA, I am constantly hearing from residents in my district about the negative impact these cuts would have on the well-being of their spouses, their parents, or personally, including Cheryl from Palm Beach Gardens, in my district.

After doing everything right to plan for her retirement, like many seniors do, Cheryl and her husband saw their savings cut in half during difficult economic times. Now they are seeing their health care options limited and their out-of-pocket costs going up. These are changes they simply cannot afford.

I agree with Cheryl that it is unfair to shift the burden onto those on fixed incomes, those who have little resources to make up the difference. Seniors cannot afford further cuts and the negative consequences if these misguided proposals move forward.

At this point, I would like to take a moment to yield to the general, Mr. ENYART from Illinois, and thank him for his leadership in fighting for seniors on behalf of Illinois and the rest of our country.

Mr. ENYART. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to show support for the 50 million Americans

enrolled in Medicare. Medicare is vital not only to my district, like Mr. MURPHY's district in Florida, but our entire Nation, which is why my fellow colleagues and I should support its promise to all our citizens who have earned it, who have paid for it through their taxes, and who now rely on it for a stable health care system and for their medical care.

Medicare has a long and valued history since its inception in 1965. Social Security recipients have consistently benefited from the opportunity to access quality, affordable health care, a right now guaranteed to those who worked hard for that privilege.

There are 122,380 constituents from the 12th District of Illinois who participate in the Medicare program. That is one out of every seven citizens in my district.

□ 1645

Many of these constituents are disabled, and almost all are on a fixed or limited income. Medicare gives these citizens the opportunity to receive essential medical care and to take part in preventive care programs designed to maintain good health, which lowers the cost of health care—lowers the cost of health care.

Of those 122,000 southern Illinoisans, over 28,000 also participate in Medicare Advantage. That is one in four of those Medicare participants taking part in a program specifically designed for those seniors who have high rates of chronic disease. Medicare Advantage focuses on prevention and on disease management, which reduces the need for unnecessary hospitalizations—keeping our most vulnerable populations healthier and out of the hospital waiting room.

Medicare and Medicare Advantage serve our seniors, low-income families, and those susceptible to disease. I ask, are these the populations we want to cast aside? Are these the citizens that we need not care for? I say no. Yet, the proposed budget unveiled this week virtually eliminates Medicare for future enrollees. It includes plans to shift health care costs to seniors. It removes the guarantees provided by our current Medicare system to make quality, affordable health coverage available for those who need it most. It undermines the promise our Nation made to its citizens—that if you work hard and you pay your taxes, some day, should you need it, your health care needs will be met.

The recently proposed budget also implements what they label a premium support system. That is a plan to move Medicare to a voucher program. I vehemently oppose this proposition. Our seniors don't need a health care coupon—they need health care.

They need the ability to choose their own doctor. They need the ability to access billions in savings for prescrip-

tion drugs. They need access to wellness visits—all of which are in jeopardy under this Republican budget plan.

I am tired of hearing proposals to eliminate vital government services simply because of party ideology. Let us not govern blindly through rhetoric and sound bites, but rather, let us work for our constituents to better serve those who have paid into the Medicare system their entire working life and now need it most.

Medicare serves those who have earned it, who have paid for it, and who deserve it. Should we take away that service, I fear what the future may hold for our seniors—seniors like Carolyn Morgan from Du Quoin, Illinois. Carolyn needed Medicare's help in March of 2013, when she became ill and hospitalized, put on oxygen, and given a daily regimen of prescription drugs.

I hold her letter to my office in my hand.

Carolyn states:

I cannot afford out-of-pocket health care. My supplemental insurance is useless without Medicare, so it would have been wasted money every month.

I know I will be spending the remainder of this congressional term fighting for Carolyn and fighting for our seniors and disabled to make sure that the health care promises we made so many years ago are not in danger from partisan budget cuts.

My fellow colleagues, I urge you to join me. Let's avoid a grim future for the elderly, for the disabled, and the fixed-income citizens of this great Nation. Let's help Carolyn and the many more American citizens just like her. Let's fight to keep Medicare.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois for his generous words and reminding us of the importance of Medicare and Medicare Advantage and what it means to so many folks across our great country.

At this point, I would like to take a minute to let the gentleman from Georgia talk about what is happening in his district. Mr. BARROW has been fighting for years up here in D.C. for Medicare and seniors across the country.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. MURPHY, for gathering us all here to talk about this important issue. This is an issue that affects folks in every part of this country, and in my view, is one of the most important issues facing seniors in our communities today.

I applaud all of my colleagues gathered here for taking a leadership role in our efforts to fight proposed reductions to the Medicare Advantage program.

Nearly 15 million seniors across the country are enrolled in Medicare Ad-

vantage, including more than 300,000 in my home State of Georgia. This program serves our seniors well, particularly those with high rates of chronic disease. Nearly 30 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries turn to Medicare Advantage to cover their health care costs.

By focusing on prevention and disease management, Medicare Advantage plans reduce the need for hospitalization, and that, in turn, reduces health care costs. It is a proven program that folks in my district have come to rely on.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently proposed a 5.9 percent cut to this program, which could result in a reduction of benefits and increased premiums on Medicare beneficiaries by \$35 to \$75 a month. That is an added cost that many seniors simply cannot afford to pay every single month.

My colleague from the other side of the aisle, Dr. BILL CASSIDY, and I have been leading the charge to urge the Federal Government to take any and all steps necessary to preserve this program. Just last month, more than 200 Members of Congress from this House joined us in our effort to urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to preserve the standard of care that seniors are currently getting. I, for one, do not want to put our seniors, men and women who have worked their entire lives, in the financial trouble these reductions would cause.

I have urged the administration to take a long, hard look at how these cuts would affect everyday lives of our seniors. If the goal here is to save money, there are better, more suitable ways to do it than on the backs of our seniors.

Again, I would like to thank my colleague for getting folks together to talk about how we can work together to make sure Medicare Advantage isn't jeopardized. It is an issue that isn't for Democrats or Republicans, but one that we all need to address. I have been proud to work on this issue in a bipartisan fashion with Dr. CASSIDY, and it is my hope that all of our colleagues will get on board and help us preserve Medicare Advantage.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for sharing your thoughts and stories and reminding us that this isn't a partisan issue. It shouldn't be a Republican, Democratic, or Independent issue. These are seniors. These are folks that built this great country, many of whom are veterans who fought for our country and laid the foundation which we have today.

So thank you for reminding us of that and being here today and taking a moment out of your busy schedule to share your thoughts.

I would now like the gentleman from Arizona, who has been championing

this issue back home, to talk about what he is doing with Medicare Advantage and why he is here today. Mr. BARBER, thank you.

Mr. BARBER. I want to thank the gentleman for bringing us together tonight to talk about the importance of preserving and protecting Medicare Advantage.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens that I represent all across southern Arizona—thousands and thousands of seniors who have come to rely on Medicare Advantage to keep them in their homes, to keep them well, and to provide them with the support that they so dearly need as they age in place.

They live in communities all across my district, from Tucson to Sierra Vista, to Douglas, to Benson, to Bisbee, to Willcox, and to “the town too tough to die,” Tombstone. And I am determined to fight on their behalf to make sure that Medicare Advantage continues to serve them and does not disappoint the delivery of services by losing funding, as is proposed by the President this month.

Medicare Advantage offers seniors and individuals with disabilities quality and affordable health care that they can depend on. And they depend on us—those of us who represent them—to fight for their right to continue this program.

Medicare Advantage focuses on prevention and innovation. It is a proven fact that this program improves health outcomes and contains costs. Isn't that what we should be doing for our seniors and for everyone in America? But now, as I said, the President is proposing harmful cuts to Medicare Advantage.

So let's examine what these cuts would mean if they go into effect. They will mean fewer benefits, fewer doctors, and less choice. This is wrong, and we cannot let it happen. I oppose these cuts, and I have called upon the President to reverse course and protect this critical program.

For the people in my Second District of Arizona and for seniors all across this great Nation, there are over 390,000 Medicare Advantage enrollees or recipients in the State of Arizona alone, and it is working for them. They will attest to that, and they have to me. They have contacted my office in person and by phone, they have met with me in community gatherings all across the district over the last several weeks, and they have expressed their deep concerns that they will lose this valuable program that they have come to rely upon that keeps them well and keeps them in their homes.

Before I came to the Congress and before I worked for Congresswoman Giffords, I administered a regional and then a State program for people with disabilities that focused on the same kinds of services that are provided to seniors and individuals with disabili-

ties under the Medicare Advantage program—cost effective, in-home support, keeping people well, and preventing more illness. This makes sense. It makes sense for them, it makes sense for our country, and it makes sense for the appropriations that we are trying to protect in this Congress.

I certainly urge the President to reverse course and stop these cuts. We cannot stand for it. I will not stand for it, and I will not back down until we are successful in reversing this impossible and irresponsible decision.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona for his leadership and for continuing to fight for seniors back home and continuing to be a champion here in Washington, D.C., for those folks. Thank you, also, for reminding us that this is a successful Medicare program that has already had a solid success record at reducing hospital readmissions and improving health outcomes, and continues to be a popular option for seniors, reducing annual out-of-pocket expenses from traditional Medicare and offering expanded benefit packages that include important dental, hearing, vision, and chiropractic care.

Medicare Advantage plans also normally include the successful and cost-saving part D prescription drug plan and come without an annual deductible. By offering great coordinated care and innovative health care approaches, this program is highly effective at keeping seniors out of the hospital. But, if they do end up in the hospital, Medicare Advantage helps them recover more quickly and with less chance of returning. We should be building on this success, not stifling it.

At this time, I would like to take a moment to yield to the gentleman from Florida who, similar to myself, has many seniors in the great State of Florida and will continue to be a champion for the seniors and is going to share with us some stories.

Mr. GARCIA. I would like to thank my colleague from Florida and my good friend, Mr. MURPHY, for his fight for seniors.

I rise today to express my strong support for Medicare and my opposition to any cuts to Medicare. Medicare is one of our Nation's greatest achievements. For half a century, this program has lifted millions of seniors out of poverty and provided seniors with the health care they need, they have earned and they deserve.

In Congress, we have a responsibility to strengthen and modernize Medicare to ensure that it continues to provide seniors who have worked all their lives to receive those Medicare benefits they have earned and they depend on.

Medicare Advantage serves over 1 million seniors in Florida, and it provides innovative treatments and care. In my district, I hear firsthand from so many seniors how well Medicare is serving them.

This is not a political issue. This is not a partisan issue. While outside groups have been misleading my constituents and others on my record on Medicare, I have been working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose cuts to Medicare.

My colleagues and I are strongly advocating against changes to Medicare that would disrupt the lives of seniors.

□ 1700

I have spoken to the President about this. I have spoken to the Secretary and CMS about this issue. We have written letters to the administration, and we stand here today. I am committed to continuing to do everything I can to protect Medicare for our Nation's seniors.

With that, I want to again thank Mr. MURPHY for all of his efforts. He has been a leader in our caucus, he has been a leader in this Congress in fighting for seniors, and I am proud to stand by his side, just as I am sure that Mr. MURPHY will fight against cuts like the ones proposed in the Ryan budget, which cuts over \$800 billion from seniors and Medicare, which puts the hole back in the doughnut, and I just want to thank him again for his leadership.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I want to thank the gentleman from Florida for continuing to fight for seniors and reminding us of what proposals on the other side might entail.

The political games being played are not necessary in today's environment. These are real people. These are seniors. They are not just numbers on a spreadsheet. These are our grandparents and parents. These are folks who fought for our country and fought for our freedoms.

Thank you for reminding us not to make this a political puck. This is serious, and we must work together as a Congress and the United States Government to ensure seniors are protected.

I want to take a second to look at another scenario, gym memberships. A common add-on benefit for Medicare Advantage plans is free or discounted gym memberships. Cut Medicare Advantage too deeply, too quickly, and gym memberships are gone. Some think that is a good thing. I disagree.

A recent study found that regular balance exercise for seniors reduces falls that cause injuries by 37 percent and broken bones by 61 percent. Most elderly Americans survive a broken hip, but it often undercuts confidence and diminishes quality of life.

If a fall robs an elderly woman of her independence, it is a financial and emotional hardship. Whether it is the cost of Medicare of a hospitalization or 2 months of therapy, the cost to Medicare and Medicaid for a nursing facility, or most importantly, the cost to the senior of her quality of life and independence, Silver Sneakers doesn't

seem like much of a cost at all in comparison.

That is why, even during a time of great partisanship and gridlock in Congress, there is a growing bipartisan coalition calling on the administration to keep the rates flat for this year, putting the well-being of our Nation's seniors before party lines.

Together, we are making several recommendations for changes to CMS' proposals that we believe could contribute to stabilizing the program while preventing devastating impacts on the program and the beneficiaries it serves.

For example, providing more care at home, CMS could narrow the proposals on in-home health risk assessments and protect the benefit of medication management and continuity of care. If the visits are an important component of the disease management and provide value to seniors and taxpayers, they should be maintained. This is exactly the type of innovation we need.

At this point, I would like to take a moment to yield to the gentleman from California who has been a champion for seniors in his great State. He will share with us his leadership and what he has heard back home.

Mr. PETERS of California. I thank you, Mr. MURPHY. I appreciate you and your work on behalf of seniors in Florida and around the country on this important issue.

I just want to recognize you and the bipartisan group we have here standing up for our seniors and Medicare Advantage. I was honored to be part of a group of freshmen in our party who met with Secretary Sebelius yesterday, and we were able to, with the help of our leadership, express to the Secretary our concern about the proposed cuts.

Part of what we told her was that Medicare Advantage continues to offer seniors and individuals with disabilities additional choices for high-quality, coordinated care in their communities.

With a focus on innovative services, prevention, and disease management, these plans have consistently delivered improved health outcomes while containing costs and requiring copayments or deductibles from beneficiaries.

Further, consistent with the goals of HHS, these plans reduce hospitalizations and readmissions, decrease the length of stay in nursing facilities, and manage high-risk, high-need patients more effectively.

I thank the gentleman for letting me add my voice to folks who don't want to see us do something that is penny-wise and pound foolish. We have a system that is incentivizing well-being and focusing on prevention.

It can really add a lot for the benefit of our seniors, and we all want to see it preserved as it is. Thank you very much for the time.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I thank the gentleman from California for taking a minute out of his busy schedule to come and talk about how important Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans are to you and your constituents back home.

Finding ways to collect better and more thorough health information allows for better coordinated care with convenience to our seniors. We should also continue to reward programs that are performing the highest and providing the best care to seniors.

To do that, CMS should also increase the percentage of rebates to reward and promote higher quality while averting negative consequences for beneficiaries.

Other recommendations include keeping beneficiary stability and continuous plan improvement paramount when Medicare Advantage's benchmark calculations and bidding rules.

By rewarding performance, while taking into account the challenges faced in low-income populations, Medicare would accelerate delivery system innovation and keep Medicare Advantage as a viable option.

These are just a few of the smart changes that we should be making to build off the success of this program, instead of cutting these beneficial plans to the detriment of our Nation's seniors.

I am proud to stand with my colleagues today to once again call on the administration to preserve the Medicare Advantage choice for beneficiaries after a lifetime of hard work.

Madam Speaker, we could be facing a serious situation throughout the country. Both sides of the aisle are concerned about the proposed cuts to Medicare Advantage.

Further cuts not only risk new health care efficiencies and innovation, but the health and well-being of seniors who depend on these plans. Simply put, these cuts are counterproductive if it means more hospital readmissions and worse health outcomes.

Cuts already happening this year have resulted in a 10 percent increase in overall out-of-pocket costs for seniors relying on Medicare Advantage, with the annual maximum for these expenses increased by \$560.

For seniors on fixed incomes, that can mean the difference between being able to fill a needed prescription, making a mortgage payment, or putting food on the table.

If further cuts are made to this important program, it would be even worse, costing seniors an estimated \$50 more a month in out-of-pocket expenses. It is wrong to shift this burden onto seniors.

From Cheryl and her husband from Palm Beach Gardens to Walter from Tequesta to Robert from Palm City to Gary from Port St. Lucie to Lorraine from Fort Pierce, this touches the lives

of seniors across my district and across this country.

They deserve better after a lifetime of hard work than having to worry about losing their doctor or the affordable health coverage that works for them.

This doesn't just impact my constituents across the Treasure Coast and palm beaches, but seniors and families across this great Nation.

I thank my colleagues who stood with me today to urge the administration to protect seniors from further cuts, keeping rates flat for this year.

I am committed to fighting for the well-being for seniors on the Treasure Coast and palm beaches, the great State of Florida, and across our Nation, protecting their earned benefits.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE WORLD OF NATIONS HOLDS A MORAL OBLIGATION TO UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WALORSKI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) will control the remainder of the hour.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman MURPHY for yielding. You are such a refreshing, brilliant, positive Member of this House, and I thank the people of your State for sending you here.

I thank you for all the citizens you are fighting for to bring new energy and to bring new vision to our country. Thank you so very much.

Madam Speaker, I entitle my remarks this evening "The World of Nations Holds a Moral Obligation"—and underline "moral obligation"—"to Ukraine."

Seventy years after World War II, let us provide some historical context in which to view Russia's illegal invasion of Crimea and potentially other nations.

Scholars, historians, and diplomats still are piecing together the annals of the horrific slaughter and political oppression of the past century that has plagued the region we call Central and Eastern Europe. The full truth of what happened remains to be told as far too much was locked behind the Iron Curtain.

Masterful books like "Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin" by Dr. Timothy Snyder of Yale begin to present the unfathomable dimension of the horror.

If there is any place on the Earth the world community of nations owes a moral obligation and should seek to pull forward, it is Ukraine.

The suffering and death endured by millions of innocent people inside Ukraine and nations in her immediate environs had no equal any place on Earth. There, the crushing of human life and human spirit were so diabolical

and of such gigantic proportion, it is hard for us as human beings to wrap our minds around it.

With clarity, let us recall that American soldiers who liberated Europe during World War II never ventured far enough eastward into Soviet-held territory to witness the grip of that tyranny; thus, the West still holds some naivete about the depths of depravity to which millions of innocent civilian people—mothers, fathers, children, grandparents—fell victim.

George Will quotes Dr. Snyder in a recent piece titled, "Russia's brutality with Ukraine is nothing new." During the 1933 Stalinist-forced famine—here is a quote from the book "Bloodlands."

Boys from another school pulled out the severed head of a classmate while fishing in a pond. His whole family had died. Had they eaten him first? Or had he survived the deaths of his parents only to be killed by a cannibal? No one knew; but such questions were commonplace for the children of Ukraine in 1933. Yet cannibalism was sometimes a victimless crime. Some mothers and fathers killed their children and ate them. But other parents asked their children to make use of their own bodies if they passed away. More than one Ukrainian child had to tell a brother or sister: "Mother says we should eat her if she dies."

Additionally:

In January 1933, Stalin, writes Snyder, sealed Ukraine's borders so peasants could not escape and sealed the cities so peasants could not go there to beg. By spring, more than 10,000 Ukrainians were dying each day, more than the 6,000 Jews who perished daily in Auschwitz at the peak of extermination in the spring of 1944.

Snyder is judicious about estimates of Ukrainian deaths from hunger and related diseases, settling on an educated guess of approximately 3.3 million from 1932 to 1933. He says that when "the Soviet census of 1937 found 8 million fewer people than projected," many of the missing being victims of starvation in Ukraine and elsewhere, and the children that those adults did not have, Stalin "had the responsible demographers executed."

Ukraine was hell on Earth.

With the able assistance of Ukrainian Museum and Archives in Cleveland, Ohio, and its incredible resident scholar Andrew Fedynsky, let us take a look back before we look forward.

Beginning with the year 1933, as millions of Ukrainians were dying of starvation at the hands of their own government in its forced famine genocide, that terror has gone down in history as the Holodomor, murder by famine; yet few in America or anywhere noted them, even fewer spoke out, to condemn the extinction as American and other western companies were working with the Soviet Government to realize its 20th century industrialization campaign glorified recently at the Sochi Olympics.

Soviet industrialization was paid for by the sale of grain brutally seized from peasants—or Kulaks—who paid dearly for Soviet progress—so-called progress—with their lives by the millions.

Much of the U.S. media at the time either ignored the catastrophe or actually collaborated with Stalin to cover up that genocide. For this contortion of truth, The New York Times reporter Walter Duranty was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, one of the worst instances of the denial of truth in the history of journalism.

□ 1715

During this fateful period, the United States chose to recognize the Soviet Bolshevik Government. It was not until 50 years later, through legislation I introduced as a first-term Member of Congress in 1983 in this House, that Congress authored the creation of the Commission on the Ukraine Famine to finally acknowledge and recognize the extinction of millions of innocent lives in Ukraine. That ink remains wet on the pages of history.

But to return to the World War II years, by 1938, when Nazi Germany forcibly annexed Austria, in what was termed the Anschluss, too many in the West took at face value Adolph Hitler's assurances that he was merely reuniting German-speaking people.

That same year, Nazi Germany proceeded to annex Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland, as the West negotiated what was called "Peace in Our Time," accepting Hitler's assurances that this was the extent of his ambitions. When his militarized Wehrmacht took over the rest of Czechoslovakia, there was no security response from the West, only petulant words.

Then came 1939, when Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union jointly invaded neighboring Poland in September of that year. Verbally, France and Britain condemned the aggression, but then did nothing. It was only after Hitler turned against his Soviet ally in 1941 and invaded France that the West took the threat seriously. By that time, hundreds of thousands had already been killed. Millions more would die as Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia divided Poland, killing 20 percent of its people, a higher percentage than any other nation engaged in World War II, and began the outsized carnage that carved up Europe between their dictatorships.

By 1944, in a valiant fight to the death struggle, the Polish Home Army, the Armia Krajowa, rose up in a 63-day heroic battle to liberate Warsaw from Nazi occupation. Across the Vistula River, the nearby Red Army refused to join the struggle and instead stood by as Poland's hopelessly outnumbered warriors died. This June in Poland will mark the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising.

Then, in 1945, immediately after the end of World War II, the United States, France, and Germany withdrew their recognition of the long-suffering Polish Government in exile, which had been established after the Nazi-Soviet invasion in September 1939. The West opted

in favor of recognizing the Soviet-imposed government that would forcibly rule half of Europe until the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, after which began a disassembly of that brutal system of Soviet human domination. And I might add, it was Poland and her spies that broke the Nazi code, and yet this is what the governments of the West did to Poland.

At the end of World War II, in 1945, at the Yalta Conference, ironically held in Crimea, the heads of governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, headed by Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin, met for the purpose of determining Europe's postwar configuration. Their fateful agreement cordoned off and consigned Central Europe to the yoke of oppression for half a century more, subjugating millions. How many tens of thousands more died within the confines of the Soviet Union? Only God knows.

In furtherance of repressive rule, between 1945 and 1948, the Soviets forcibly imposed puppet regimes across their captive nations like Poland, absorbed them into their empire, and repeated this pattern in nearly a dozen other Central and Eastern European countries through military occupation, government censorship, mass arrests, and rigged elections as an Iron Curtain separated the free world and the subjugated. That was the world that I and millions of liberty-loving people grew up in.

In 1956, the Hungarian people became the first to bravely rise up to cast off the boot of communism and assert their human rights. The Soviet Union dispatched armed tanks, brutally invaded, and imposed mass arrests and executions. You can still see the shots in the buildings inside of Budapest when you travel there. You can see the marks of what those tanks did.

Roman Catholic Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty was forced to take protective refuge in the U.S. Embassy, where he remained for 15 years in Budapest as a global symbol of noble defiance against Soviet repression and a distant hope that life could change for the better.

The ugly pattern of national theft repeated in 1968 when the Czechs and Slovaks moved to restore freedom in their country. The Soviets invaded again with mass arrests and reimposed their brutal rule.

Starting in 1959, throughout this era of forced nationhood, U.S. and Western support for shortwave Radio Free Europe broadcasts across these captured nations gave hope to the people of Central and Eastern Europe, held as prisoners in their own lands.

When, a decade later, in 1978, Roman Catholic Cardinal Karl Wojtyla of Poland was elected Pope, he became the first non-Italian Pontiff from Central Europe, taking the name John Paul II.

His incredible life story in building a religious alternative to the communist dictatorship in his homeland reawakened the worldwide effort to defeat Soviet communism.

An enlivened Solidarity movement that had begun during the 1950s in Poland through courageous labor activists spread to Lithuania's Sajudis and Ukraine's Helsinki Monitoring Group. America's AFL-CIO, along with united bipartisan support of our government, our Atlantic allies in NATO, and the American public who understood liberty's struggle hung in the balance, remained firm as the cold war tested our resolve.

In 1986, the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, Ukraine, exposed the incompetence and bankruptcy of the Soviet system as the Soviet Government ordered hundreds of unprotected workers into that radioactive zone, consigning them to certain death. The work of a few brave activists from that horror evolved into a citizen's movement that matured into a forum for popular expression.

By 1989, as the Soviet economy finally collapsed, propelled by its ill-fated decision to wage war in Afghanistan, the Berlin Wall dividing East and West came crashing down as students from Europe danced on the wall, and we could see Central and East European nations one at a time begin to regain their independent, sovereignty, and chance—chance—for freedom.

Then in 1991, 46 years after the end of World War II, the Soviet Union itself collapsed. And in its Ukrainian Republic, more than 90 percent of Ukrainians voted to become an independent nation, including over half of the people in Crimea.

In an act of complete demilitarization in 1994, independent Ukraine gave up the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world. Inasmuch as these weapons were intended to be used against the United States and other Western countries, this gesture immeasurably enhanced American security and world peace. In return, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia provided assurances for Ukraine's independence, its territorial integrity, its freedom and economic viability contained in the operative document known as the Budapest Memorandum.

For two decades, the people of Ukraine, digging out of deep repression, have fought to build forward a nation that can govern, feed, and educate its people. They surely dream of becoming the great nation of which they are fully capable, a borderland nation reaching in all directions, west and east and south and north. Ukraine's potential is unlimited. She is already the third largest exporter of grain on the face of the Earth.

But in this new century, the same country of Ukraine found itself in a timeless struggle to elect honorable

public officials that would treat people with dignity. Those who assumed power too often stole from the people. Others like President Victor Yushchenko were poisoned as he tried to transition Ukraine to a modern state. Other leaders were imprisoned. And the latest kleptocratic government, just deposed, stole billions from its own nation, threatening economic growth and democratic progress.

As negotiations to include Ukraine in an economic trade union with Europe were nearly complete last year, the now-deposed, disgraced President Viktor Yanukovich rejected the agreement, triggering mass demonstrations across the nation. The only power the people there have is to stand up and speak out for themselves.

So, in 2013 and this year, we saw hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians begin demonstrating when their government, reacting to Russian economic and political coercion, reneged on its commitment to sign the Association Agreement with Europe. I say to the American people, if you had lived the lives of their great-grandparents, their grandparents, their parents, would you have had the courage to stand in the Euromaidan, would you have had the courage to stand there against the Berkut, against the police that had weapons and you had nothing, nothing but your voice?

The peaceful Euromaidan movement was shattered by government-led violence, scores of deaths and injuries, the ultimate impeachment of a corrupt President who fled his post and his country when mass killings made it impossible for him to stay. His kleptocratic thievery from his own people disgraced him and his administration for all the world to see.

Under Ukraine's constitution, Ukraine's legislative branch, their Rada, their congress, passed succession legislation to elect a new President, a new Prime Minister, and a speaker on an interim basis until free elections can be held this May 25, not long from now.

With Ukraine's eastern region of Crimea now invaded illegally by Russian aggressors, with its sovereignty and territorial integrity violated, and with Crimea forcibly annexed by Russia through a phony election, one must ask why the Atlantic Alliance and NATO, for two decades, left Ukraine largely undefended without a military security umbrella.

What is liberty worth? Have too many people become too middle class to understand the principle of liberty? She stands atop the dome of this Capitol, the Statue of Freedom. It is more than a statue. It is how we live. It is what we stand for. It is why the world respects us.

Is Ukraine to be a nation perpetually stuck in a time warp of history repeating itself? How many more have to die?

Do the Budapest Accords mean nothing? Do the words mean nothing on the pages on which they are written?

This past week, this House distinguished itself by passing two measures relating to Ukraine that place our Nation squarely in liberty's corner at this time of testing. Make no mistake; this is a time of testing. Yet the United Nations, our world's institution charged with assigning peacekeeping forces to troubled hotspots, seems frozen due to the power of Russia's veto inside the Security Council.

Can our world community of nations muster the will to meet this latest threat to liberty? The question is: Can a dictatorship acting unilaterally overrule the aspirations for liberty?

American and international commitments have to mean what they say. History shows us that ignoring the word and substance of those precious documents leads to ever greater challenges ending with potential catastrophe. But international agreements aside, it is a moral obligation of our world community of nations to stand with Ukraine based alone on her tragically brutal history to which her people were subjected over the last century. No people on Earth, no place on Earth suffered more.

So I say to the world community of nations and liberty lovers everywhere: Where do you stand? Where do you stand diplomatically, economically, politically, and militarily? I say to the world community of nations and liberty lovers everywhere: Where do you stand?

A new diplomatic and security architecture is needed to strengthen Ukraine's precarious situation. Her people long for liberty. They have sung to the world, yet they remain undefended against the worst aggression since the fall of the communist empire.

□ 1730

Ukraine—her people—have earned her right for a better day. It is not only in Ukraine's interest, it is in our interest. It is in the interest of what we stand for as the oldest democratic republic on the face of the Earth, yet one of her youngest nations.

William Faulkner's writings remind us:

The past is never dead. It is not even past.

So I say to those who are listening this evening that Russia's brutality with Ukraine is nothing new. The question for us is: What do we stand for? What does this country stand for? What can our leadership provide to the world community of nations to give this great country of Ukraine, whose potential is unlimited, the chance for liberty in this new millennium?

May God bless America, and may God bless those who understand the price of liberty.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 17, 2014]

RUSSIA'S BRUTALITY WITH UKRAINE IS
NOTHING NEW

(By George F. Will)

"Boys from another school pulled out the severed head of a classmate while fishing in a pond. His whole family had died. Had they eaten him first? Or had he survived the deaths of his parents only to be killed by a cannibal? No one knew; but such questions were commonplace for the children of Ukraine in 1933. . . . Yet cannibalism was, sometimes, a victimless crime. Some mothers and fathers killed their children and ate them. . . . But other parents asked their children to make use of their own bodies if they passed away. More than one Ukrainian child had to tell a brother or sister: 'Mother says that we should eat her if she dies.'"

—Timothy Snyder, "Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin" (2010)

While Vladimir Putin, Stalin's spawn, ponders what to do with what remains of Ukraine, remember: Nine years before the January 1942 Wannsee Conference, at which the Nazis embarked on industrialized genocide, Stalin deliberately inflicted genocidal starvation on Ukraine.

To fathom the tangled forces, including powerful ones of memory, at work in that singularly tormented place, begin with Timothy Snyder's stunning book. Secretary of State John Kerry has called Russia's invasion of Ukraine "a 19th-century act in the 21st century." Snyder reminds us that "Europeans deliberately starved Europeans in horrific numbers in the middle of the 20th century." Here is Snyder's distillation of a Welsh journalist's description of a Ukrainian city: "People appeared at 2 o'clock in the morning to queue in front of shops that did not open until 7. On an average day 40,000 people would wait for bread. Those in line were so desperate to keep their places that they would cling to the belts of those immediately in front of them The waiting lasted all day, and sometimes for two. . . . Somewhere in line a woman would wail, and the moaning would echo up and down the line, so that the whole group of thousands sounded like a single animal with an elemental fear."

This, which occurred about as close to Paris as Washington is to Denver, was an engineered famine, the intended result of Stalin's decision that agriculture should be collectivized and the "kulaks"—prosperous farmers—should be "liquidated as a class." In January 1933, Stalin, writes Snyder, sealed Ukraine's borders so peasants could not escape and sealed the cities so peasants could not go there to beg. By spring, more than 10,000 Ukrainians were dying each day, more than the 6,000 Jews who perished daily in Auschwitz at the peak of extermination in the spring of 1944.

Soon many Ukrainian children resembled "embryos out of alcohol bottles" (Arthur Koestler's description) and there were, in Snyder's words, "roving bands of cannibals": "In the villages smoke coming from a cottage chimney was a suspicious sign, since it tended to mean that cannibals were eating a kill or that families were roasting one of their members."

Snyder, a Yale historian, is judicious about estimates of Ukrainian deaths from hunger and related diseases, settling on an educated guess of approximately 3.3 million, in 1932–33. He says that when "the Soviet census of 1937 found 8 million fewer people than projected," many of the missing being victims of starvation in Ukraine and elsewhere (and the children they did not have), Stalin "had the responsible demographers executed."

Putin, who was socialized in the Soviet-era KGB apparatus of oppression, aspires to reverse the Soviet Union's collapse, which he considers "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the [20th] century." Herewith a final description from Snyder of the consequences of the Soviet system, the passing of which Putin so regrets:

"One spring morning, amidst the piles of dead peasants at the Kharkiv market, an infant suckled the breast of its mother, whose face was a lifeless gray. Passersby had seen this before . . . that precise scene, the tiny mouth, the last drops of milk, the cold nipple. The Ukrainians had a term for this. They said to themselves, quietly, as they passed: 'These are the buds of the socialist spring.'"

U.S. policymakers, having allowed their wishes to father their thoughts, find Putin incomprehensible. He is a barbarian but not a monster, and hence no Stalin. But he has been coarsened, in ways difficult for civilized people to understand, by certain continuities, institutional and emotional, with an almost unimaginably vicious past. And as Ukraine, a bubbling stew of tensions and hatreds, struggles with its identity and aspirations, Americans should warily remember William Faulkner's aphorism: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 404. An act to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

TIME FOR A PARADIGM SHIFT IN AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. YOHIO. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for joining me tonight to talk about foreign aid and saving hard-earned American taxpayers' dollars.

With April 15 fast approaching, Americans will be filling out their tax returns and sending a portion of their hard-earned tax money to the Federal Treasury. It is up to us as Members of Congress to be good stewards of these funds, making sure that they are used to the best ability that we can to get the results desired. Time and again, we hear of wasteful spending in Washington, D.C., and it is long overdue that we commit ourselves to giving proper oversight to how we spend the people's money.

I have made it a priority of mine since having the honor of joining the people's House to commit myself to doing the proper oversight of government. There are numerous examples of domestic programs that are a questionable use of taxpayers' dollars, and

many of them should be eliminated. However, there is a United States foreign aid program that caught my eye and the eyes of my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

On March 5, 2014, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade held a hearing: "Threats to Israel: Terrorist Funding and Trade Boycotts." Through that hearing, it was brought to our attention that United States' foreign aid given to the Palestinian Authority has the potential to be funneled into a fund that pays monthly salaries to Israeli-convicted Palestinian terrorists.

Back in April 2011, the Palestinian Authority Registry published the PA Government Resolution of 2010, resolution Nos. 21 and 23, which formalized the long-held practice of the PA's paying a monthly salary to all Palestinians imprisoned in Israel for security- and terror-related offenses. The salaries are paid from the PA's general budget to the prisoners on a sliding scale based on quality, which in this world means, the more vicious the act of terrorism, the more that is paid out. The payments can range from 2,400 to 12,000 shekels per month, roughly \$680 to \$3,400 per month.

It doesn't take a genius to know that money is interchangeable and that, once out of the hands of the American foreign aid, the dollars can easily be used to pay these salaries. It is reported, as of December 2012, salaries have gone to more than 4,500 prisoners who have committed acts of terror, acts of terror that have killed at least 54 U.S. citizens since 1993 and have injured another 83 Americans.

This is totally unacceptable. It is absurd that the United States remains one of the largest donors to the Palestinian Authority while these heinous practices remain on the books.

It is for this reason that my colleagues and I introduced a resolution in Congress that simply says that, until the Palestinian Authority repeals the resolution supporting convicted terrorists, all U.S. foreign aid to the PA should be halted. Representatives WEBER, PERRY, POE, WESTMORELAND, COLLINS, JOHNSON, KING, and FRANKS all feel the same way I do—cut off the funding. I believe this is only fair and should have been done a long time ago. The American taxpayers should not be funding anyone who wishes death upon them or conspires to inflict harm on us or our allies.

According to Palestinian definition, again, more than 4,500 Palestinian prisoners who are serving time for terror-related offenses are recipients of the PA salaries. This means that Palestinians convicted of crimes, such as theft, do not receive a salary, but Hamas and Fatah prisoners receive hefty payments for acts of terrorism.

Madam Speaker, take a moment to think about this. Steal a loaf of bread,

and you don't get a check. Blow up a building and commit murder, and you receive a nice stipend from the Palestinian Authority which is funded by the hardworking American taxpayers. The thought of this angers me, and I know it angers the American taxpayers.

Since 2011, Palestinian Media Watch has been documenting international donors' aid money to the Palestinian Authority that is given for salaries and the general budget but that ends up paying the salaries of Palestinian terrorists imprisoned in Israel. These monthly payments to prisoners are paid from the Palestinian general budget fund. According to the language of the Palestinian regulation as well as Palestinian economic reports on government salaries, the monthly salaries to prisoners range, again, from 2,400 shekels to 12,000 shekels a month. That is \$680 to \$3,400 a month. The average income in that region is between \$4,000 and \$5,000 a year. The Palestinian Authority economic report listed the prisoners' salaries as part of the Palestinian general salary budget, which includes civil servants, military personnel, and others. It was not listed as a social service payment.

Two national bodies exist to process those salaries and other benefits. The Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs, established in 1998, is an official bureaucracy of the Palestinian Authority that commands as much priority as the Ministries of Health or Education but with far more gravitas. The Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs works in tandem with the semi-official Prisoners' Club, established in 1994. The ministry dispenses the salary. The club functions as an advocate for the prisoners, and it is quite willing to publicly needle Palestinian leadership generally and the Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs specifically into providing ever-greater payments and benefits. The ministry channels certain payments and benefits through the Prisoners' Club.

In May 2009, our own GAO issued a report on this very subject, entitled, "Measures to Prevent Inadvertent Payments to Terrorists under Palestinian Aid Programs have been Strengthened but Some Weaknesses Remain." The report explained:

The U.S. Government is one of the largest donors to the Palestinians. It provided nearly \$575 million in assistance in fiscal year 2008.

At least 54 U.S. citizens have been killed in Palestinian terror attacks since 1993, and another 83 have been wounded. The attacks have targeted American tourists, students, and expatriates living in Israel or in areas under Palestinian control.

Ahlan Tamimi helped to mastermind the deadly 2001 bombing of the Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem, which killed 15 people. Among those murdered was

New Jersey schoolteacher Shoshana Greenbaum. Tamimi, who was released in the Shalit deal, now lives in Jordan, and is unrepentant about her actions. It is terrorists like these who receive monthly salaries from the Palestinian Authority.

Madam Speaker, at a time in the world that is becoming more dangerous, when there are individuals and organizations that wish the United States harm, when the administration is proposing cutting our military to pre-World War II levels, and when we as Americans are \$17.6 trillion in debt, is it smart to be giving money to people in the name of peace who wish to do Americans and Israeli citizens harm?

Our national security is paramount, and as a Member of Congress, I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. I intend to stay true to that oath and defend the country I love and all who call it home. It is time that we as Americans in government have a paradigm shift in our foreign policy.

At this time, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank my friend, the gentleman from Florida.

Madam Speaker, I will tell you what the gentleman from Florida is describing is American and Israeli blood on the hands of terrorists who now have American cash in their back pockets. It is unbelievable.

The history is that, since 2003, the Palestinian Authority has provided government salaries to Palestinians imprisoned in Israeli jails—let me again say—with Israeli blood on their hands. These are prisoners who have actively participated in terrorist activities. According to the Palestinians' language of their own law, "Anyone imprisoned in the occupation's, or Israel's, prisons as a result of his participation in the struggle against the occupation" is eligible for a monthly salary.

Let me be clear.

Prisoners may qualify for a government salary if—and only if—they have killed an Israeli and/or participated in terrorist activities. As an extra, dare I call it, "bonus," if their crimes are so extensive as to warrant imprisonment for 5 years or more, the government salaries will continue until 3 years following their release from jail. Salaries are also given to the families of suicide bombers or to those who die "while participating in the struggle."

Originally, these salaries were set at a minimum of \$250 per month, American dollars. The payments were increased by 300 percent in January of 2011. At present, the PA is paying up to \$15 million in government salaries to those convicted of crimes each month. It seems like a pretty good deal to me. Commit a terrorist attack and get yourself caught and imprisoned by the

Israelis, and you can win free food, shelter, education, medical care, and a salary that is significantly higher than what you can collect on your own in the outside world.

How are we to believe the sincerity of a government that incentivizes violent acts of terror against the very nation with which they are supposedly negotiating a treaty for peace?

In a meeting with the Palestinian chief negotiator, Saeb Erekat, while in Ramallah, I told him that actions speak louder than words—that they need to stop glorifying terrorists and, instead, glorify peace and renounce terrorism, that they need to admit that Israel has the right to exist as a Jewish state. He was not a happy camper.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority doled out \$100 million in salaries to 4,762 prisoners last year. An additional \$46 million has already been allocated this year, and we are only 4 months into the year. Let me tell you that that averages out to \$2,400 per prisoner per month—all for participating in terrorism. What is worse is that we are helping the Palestinian Government in their efforts. Did I mention they have got Israeli and American blood on their hands and American cash in their back pockets? Approximately 85 percent of all international aid money sent to the West Bank and Gaza goes to government salaries.

In spite of multiple congressional freezes on government aid, President Obama has continued to use his waiver authority to release millions in American taxpayer dollars to that same Palestinian Authority. In fact, since 2008, we have averaged \$500 million a year in bilateral assistance. How does that protect our Nation or our very best ally, Israel? Where is the sense in that?

In the words of the Texas revolutionary, Lieutenant William Barret Travis:

I call on you, members, in the name of liberty, patriotism and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid. We have got to stop this foolishness.

□ 1745

We require foreign contractors, vendors, and employees to be properly vetted prior to receiving government grant funds to ensure that we are not unintentionally contributing to terror around the world. Why are we allowing it to happen here, for heaven's sake?

You are right, Congressman YOH, at a time when our constituents are pulling out their receipts, drafting their tax returns, planning their annual budgets, we should be ever more diligent on spending their tax dollars.

The Appropriations Committee must ensure that the language they craft and the authority they give safeguards against us ever contributing to the financial well-being of those who seek the destruction of our allies or our great Nation.

Foreign aid is not a right; it is a gift from the American people. Terrorists with blood on their hands, we don't want to support terrorists with American and Israeli blood on their hands and with American cash in their back pockets. We must not let that happen.

I am RANDY WEBER, and you know I am right.

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for your passion. I think it is so true, that we see this so many times. You said that foreign aid is not—it's a gift from the American taxpayers.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. It is not a right.

Mr. YOHO. It is a gift, and it is also not constitutional, and it doesn't say in there that we need to do that. So we need to look at all these things that we are doing, and that is why I say this is a time for a paradigm shift in foreign aid.

What we are actually doing—we are doing this in the name of peace, trying to promote peace, but then we turn around with the other hand, and they are giving money to our enemies, so it makes no sense.

At this moment, I yield to the great gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, many people that each of us meet as Representatives in our home district say that things are wrong with Washington, and they give us a list.

Of course, one of the big things is the mispending of their money, and they are right. They say: Why aren't you doing something about it?

Oftentimes, the answer is: look, it is complicated, we have a House of Representatives, we have a Senate, and we don't always agree, and then we have to get the President to sign something.

On this occasion, something can be done; it is just not being done. In April 2011, the Palestinian Authority registry published a government resolution granting all Palestinian prisoners imprisoned in Israel for security and terror-related offenses a monthly salary from the authority—a monthly salary, like a job.

Imagine if your job was to blow up people, tear their limbs off, and send hot pieces of metal through their bodies and watch their bloody corpses being dragged through the street.

If that was your job, you would get a salary for that. Who in America pays—we put people in prison for that, we put people to death for that; yet American taxpayers are paying people overseas to do just that. Words mean things. They pay a salary.

The Authority defined eligible beneficiaries as anyone imprisoned in Israel's prison as a result of his participation in the struggle against the occupation, as is already stated, the occupation; again, words mean things.

I wonder, people complain, and they call it an occupation of the Palestinian

lands. Let's remember who attacked Israel. I wonder if the war had ended inside of Israel's borders, if the attackers would have given Israel's borders back. I wonder, but I doubt they would have. Words mean things. So if you are involved at all in this struggle, in this fight, in this killing, you get a salary.

Now, according to the Palestinian Authority's definition, as was already stated, more than 4,500 Palestinian prisoners, as of December 2012, serving time for terror-related offenses are recipients of these salaries.

This means that Palestinians convicted of crimes such as theft do not receive a salary. However, Hamas and Fatah prisoners receive hefty payments—hefty.

According to the regulation and economic reports on government salaries, the monthly salaries to these prisoners range from \$680 to \$3,400 a month. Who couldn't use \$3,400, especially at tax time? Yet we are sending it to people to kill people, literally.

Like many salaries, payments to prisoners follow a sliding scale based on quality—quality of work. If your work is murdering other people, as Mr. WEBER from Texas already stated, the more murder, the more mayhem, the higher the salary. It is unfathomable to us as Americans.

This is happening, and there is a few of us on the floor, but where is the rest of the Federal Government, Madam Speaker? Where is the Senate? Where is our President? Where is the Secretary of State? He knows this is happening, but it is us folks on the floor that are talking about it. He is not saying a word.

In this world, the more heinous the act of terrorism, the greater the salary; the more violent the terrorist act, the longer the Israeli prison sentence and, in turn, the higher the monthly compensation—compensation for killing, so we are hiring hit men. American tax dollars are hiring hit men and hit women, and the policy literally incentivizes terrorism.

In May of 2009, GAO issued a report on this very subject, the Government Accountability Office. This is not Perry's rules; it is not Yoho's statistics. It is the GAO.

The report explained:

The U.S. Government is one of the largest donors to the Palestinians.

One of the largest donors. Yet the GAO found incomplete compliance with even the minimal paperwork requirements for vetting procedures.

So we are giving them a pile of money, and as usual with the Federal Government, we are not checking up on them. We have no idea what they are spending it on. Well, we just found out, right? We just found out.

In many cases, it seems Federal agencies and offices merely went through the motions without proper

vetting—so surprising. It is shocking to me that U.S. taxpayer dollars have been indirectly used to pay Palestinian terrorists' salaries.

Let me explain the indirectly part of it because it amounts to this year—this fiscal year—\$440 million. \$17 trillion in debt. Annual deficits for the last 5-6 years averaging about a trillion dollars; yet we are happy to hand away \$440 million and some of which—a great deal of which is used to kill people.

So the Congress allocates that money to the Department of State. The Department of State then allocates a portion of that money to USAID, who then gives it to the Palestinian Authority general budget, which is extremely fungible, which means the first dollar or the last dollar—the dollars don't care—of the \$440 million, we are spending about \$60 million—well, someone is—the Palestinian Authority's paying \$60 million to these terrorists in salaries. \$60 million of that \$440 million is going to terrorists' salaries.

Now, I wonder how much we spent tracking down Nidal Hassan and convicting him. How much time did we spend? What about those victims? How much time, energy, and resources did we spend on the Tsarnaev brothers?

Terrorism, people that kill other people, yet while we spend American tax dollars to track them down, imprison them—in the case of Nidal Hassan, his rightful punishment, which is the death sentence—on this occasion, we actually pay people to kill our allies and even other Americans.

State and Federal Government sanction other nations for this kind of behavior. We sanction them. We say we are not going to give you things, we are going restrict you; yet on this occasion, the Palestinian Authority, we actually pay them.

I don't get it. As an American, I don't get it. I wonder too, in this time of executive orders, this is wholly within the purview of the executive branch.

There have been many times when people in this House have objected to the executive orders moved on by this administration, but on this occasion, I can't think of one person in this room that would say: oh, no, Mr. President, please don't stop the State Department from giving \$440 million to the Palestinian Authority, so they can spend \$60 million of hard-earned taxpayer money to pay for criminals that kill people.

Yet crickets, Madam Speaker, crickets.

Mr. YOHO. I appreciate the gentleman from Pennsylvania and your passion on that also.

This is the time, like you brought up and we have talked about, \$17.5 trillion roughly in debt, if we go back to when we first got here, all being freshman, one of the first things that we had to deal with—it was right before we came in, it was the fiscal cliff, then it was sequester, then it was the furloughing, and then the government shut down.

Why? From a lack of money, right? It wasn't an excess of money; yet we have given over \$5 billion since 1988 to the Palestinian Authority, which is not a country. It is a loosely-knit organization.

We have to go back to our taxpayers and to our constituents back home and say: we need more money, we have got to do this. And they look at us, like they say to you: When are you guys going to start fixing it?

This is the time.

At this moment, I yield to the gentleman from the State of Iowa (Mr. KING), my friend.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding and for pulling this Special Order together here and bringing out this case as something that all the American people aren't going to realize what is taking place here, if we don't have this discussion here. It takes leadership in this Congress to do this. I appreciate the strong voice of Mr. PERRY and Mr. WEBER.

I look back at it this way. On my first trip to Israel some time more than 10 years ago, I looked across at what was taking place from Israel proper and West Bank, the Palestinian area.

I went through the briefings and saw the data of a culture of people that raise their little girls to put on these fake suicide vests in order to make sure that they entrench deeply in them a multigenerational hatred towards Israelis and Jewish people. Now, why?

It is not a rational thing for a culture and a civilization to be so full of hate; yet all they really need to do is accept the existence of Israel, and a lot of us, this resistance we have within us would start to dissipate.

It wouldn't be gone because you don't just accept somebody's word who has such a history of doing what they have done. The hatred goes deep.

I think of Congressman GOHMERT of Texas, if he were standing here tonight, he would say: you don't have to pay people to hate you, they'll hate you for free.

So all these billions of dollars—\$5 billion since 1988, as Mr. YOHO just said, the idea of trying to trade off land for peace, and what you get back is a poke in the eye with a sharp stick, in a more violent and a bloody and a brutal way.

You see that there is a fundraising mechanism worldwide that pours dollars into the Palestinian Authority, and they then use it to pay the payroll of people that are sitting in a prison for crimes against—let me say it this way, crimes against humanity, not necessarily the technical definition of the convictions that they have—who get a payroll check for demonstrating hatred, acting on it, in a kinetic fashion, being locked up to protect the rest of society, and then being paid in reward for that.

This is an appalling circumstance, tapping into the United States of America where—we have to think about this—if we want to pay people that hate Israel, who are prisoners for committing crimes, and we grant that over to the Palestinian Authority in our foreign aid package or whatever particular line item it might be, so we have to go to China: Will you loan us some money, so that we can run it through our Treasury, so we can funnel it in to go in to pay people that have been—in any measure of decency, what they are committing is wrong?

They need to have their hearts softened. They need to raise their children to love their neighbor as they love themselves. They need to understand that there is a good functional government going on in Israel proper and still likely the only place in the Middle East where an Arab can get a fair trial is in Israel, where Arabs serve in the Knesset, where they serve in the supreme court, where they have the rights of land ownership.

That is the way you run a country that has a multidimensional ethnicity and religion in it.

Mr. PERRY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KING of Iowa. I would yield.

Mr. PERRY. So based on this, how should our great ally Israel—how should the people of Israel view us, knowing that this is happening and knowing that no one outside these four walls right now is talking about this? How should they view us?

Mr. KING of Iowa. Well, I think they will view us as a foolish country that doesn't understand our priorities and doesn't understand where the money is coming from or where it goes.

I would say this call out: Mr. Netanyahu, why don't you just ask us to take that money and give it to Israel instead? Give it to the people that are promoting peace, the people that are surrounded by enemies throughout, the people that had to stand there and face the all-out attacks over and over again.

They are a democracy in the Middle East, a stabilizing force in the Middle East; and if we allow them to be weakened—sometimes by the willful actions of this administration—if we allow them to be weakened, if they collapse, so does a lot of freedom in the Middle Eastern part of world.

It threatens Europe, and in the end, it threatens us. So our safety and our security is tied together. We need to protect our brethren who believe in freedom, who believe in a form of democracy, and we need to encourage that everywhere in the world.

□ 1800

There are good people in the Palestinian lands. They need to have good leadership, and if we give them the right incentive, they are going to perhaps produce good leadership.

But if we pay them to hate people, there are going to be more people hating people. I think we should turn that money back around and reward the people that don't, those who need to be defended.

Mr. YOHO. I appreciate your participation in this and your leadership on so many other things that you have done. Thank you for being here.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Special Order of Ms. KAPTUR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

BLOCKING PROPERTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH SUDAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-102)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") declaring a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in and in relation to South Sudan.

The order does not target the country of South Sudan, but rather is aimed at persons who threaten the peace, stability, or security of South Sudan; commit human rights abuses against persons in South Sudan; or undermine democratic processes or institutions in South Sudan. The order provides authority for blocking the property and interests in property of any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

To be responsible for or complicit in, or to have engaged in, directly or indirectly, any of the following in or in relation to South Sudan:

actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of South Sudan;

actions or policies that threaten transitional agreements or undermine democratic processes or institutions in South Sudan;

actions or policies that have the purpose or effect of expanding or extending the conflict in South Sudan or obstructing reconciliation or peace talks or processes;

the commission of human rights abuses against persons in South Sudan; the targeting of women, children, or any civilians through the commission of acts of violence (including killing, maiming, torture, or rape or other sexual violence), abduction, forced displacement, or attacks on schools, hospitals, religious sites, or locations where civilians are seeking refuge, or through conduct that would constitute a serious abuse or violation of human rights or a violation of international humanitarian law;

the use or recruitment of children by armed groups or armed forces in the context of the conflict in South Sudan;

the obstruction of the activities of international peacekeeping, diplomatic, or humanitarian missions in South Sudan, or of the delivery or distribution of, or access to, humanitarian assistance; or

attacks against United Nations missions, international security presences, or other peacekeeping operations;

To be a leader of (i) an entity, including any government, rebel militia, or other group, that has, or whose members have, engaged in any of the activities described above or (ii) an entity whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order;

To have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, any activity described above or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order;

To be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 3, 2014.

MONEY DOESN'T BUY RESPECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I so much appreciate my friends, the Honorable Mr. YOH, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. KING, discussing the issue that is very dear to my heart. And I appreciate my very dear friend, Mr. KING, quoting me accurately, because you don't have to pay people to hate you. They will do it for free.

We have spent billions and billions of dollars over the years paying people that have contempt for us. They don't like us. And from anybody that has ever tried to pay a bully their lunch money, they find they don't buy respect. They buy more contempt and more evil actions coming your way.

So it just makes no sense, especially when money is fungible, and we continue to send money to the Palestinians. We continue to see outrageous examples in the Palestinian textbooks of just raw, unbridled hatred and demeaning of the Jewish people.

And why should the textbooks among the Palestinians for their children be any different than what the adults are doing, when you find that Palestinian leaders are naming streets and holidays for people who have walked in and murdered groups of people with a bomb, children, innocent women, men, out with their families. They come in and kill them when they have done no harm, no wrong.

We still hear people talking about Samaria and Judea, written in the Bible hundreds, maybe 1,600 years before the birth of Mohammed, about the areas that were the promised land for the children of Israel.

So it becomes difficult for a people that didn't exist in 1000 B.C. to claim that someone who lived in that land, cultivated that land, had the prior claim to that land, somehow have a lesser right than people that came along hundreds and hundreds of years later.

But America has a financial problem, and we shouldn't be just squandering money, paying people that hate us to educate their children to hate us, to educate the population to hate us, to teach songs that glorify hatred against Israel.

As our dear friend Prime Minister Netanyahu has pointed out, Iran itself is developing intercontinental ballistic missiles, and they certainly don't need those to deliver a nuclear weapon to Israel. Those are coming for the Great Satan. That would be us.

So people wonder, well, what are we doing to protect ourselves?

Back after the fall of the Soviet Union, the United States of America's leaders pressured Ukraine to deliver nuclear weapons in their possession to Russia. Now, the Ukrainians have never really trusted the Russians. And, yes, the Russians have put people out of their homes in some areas, filled them with Russian people. There are areas that today feel like they are

loyal to Russia because they are Russians. They sent them there. They displaced the Ukrainians.

But the Ukrainians went ahead and turned over possession of nuclear weapons to Russians whom they distrusted because they trusted America. And the United States' leaders made sure they understood: we have got you covered. We will protect you. You don't have to worry. Go ahead and give nuclear weapons to Russia.

Now the trust that the Ukrainian people put in the United States' leaders is coming back, potentially, to haunt them. That should never be the case. If we want to be taken seriously in the world, we can't be breaking promises to countries who rely on our integrity. We can't be doing that.

So as people ask when we travel around the world in the past 6 months or so, they ask: What are you doing to prevent more terrorism when you won't even acknowledge the source of the terrorism? As one of the Egyptian leaders asked: Why are you not helping us in the war on terror? Now you are helping the people that supported the terror.

They don't understand, and neither do I.

I was asked today, Madam Speaker: What has the military done to avoid another Fort Hood incident since 2009? Madam Speaker, it appears the answer is quite embarrassing.

What have we done to protect the country when this President has made our military so much smaller?

What are we doing to protect the country when this President canceled agreements that had been made, promised, relied upon to other countries' detriment, missile defense? What are we doing to protect our country?

This policy that this administration has had internationally to think that evil, hateful people will love us and want to be very good friends if we just downsize our military, we tie our own hands, we don't let our military really protect themselves adequately, that surely they will come to appreciate and like us and they won't consider us divisive, derisive, dismissive, well, that is not what they are thinking. This Nation has lost respect around the world, and it is heartbreaking.

So they wonder, what are we doing to protect ourselves, because if we can't protect ourselves, how can we help stop evil people around the world?

Some say, and I think there are people in this administration that think we need to follow the European example where we don't have to have much of a military at all and we just show, look, we want to get along and go along. The trouble with that idea is the Europeans have had the benefit of downsizing their military and having smaller militaries because they knew the United States existed and that we would not let an evil power take over

Europe, Britain, that we would stop it because we would not want another Hitler to get as far as he did last time.

We want to stop them before that happens because, assuredly, if Europe falls, England falls, they are coming for the United States. And now we know, because of radical Islam, they are more concerned about destroying America than they are even taking on Europe and England.

So these are serious issues. So what have we done to protect the men and women in our military who are protecting us?

It is heartbreaking. This administration, after 2009's horrendous accident—not accident—incident where a radical Islamist Muslim killed 13 fellow military members. They were not allowed to have weapons on post. And we start digging and we find out, well, gee, when the Democrats controlled the House and the Senate, apparently, back in 1992, there was a bill passed back around that time that prevented military members from carrying weapons on military installations.

Mr. PERRY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOHMERT. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. First I want to say thank you for your service as a Member of this body who has also served his Nation in uniform. Thank you, and how well you know and what you just spoke of.

□ 1815

I found it fascinating, on my most recent deployment to Iraq—it has been years now—we were mobilized to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. I am sure you know it well. So you carry your weapon around with you 24 hours a day in your training because you must always be prepared, except—this is the fascinating part—except when you go to the PX, except when you go to the chow hall. Then you must find a place for your weapon. You must leave a soldier out in the parking lot to guard all the weapons, or what have you. And I am thinking to myself: Here I am, a commander of this task force. I have got men and women of all ages and all different backgrounds, and we are training and refining ourselves to go to war, to fight the enemy, to defend our Nation in arms, wearing your ballistic vest and all your gear, wearing a ballistic helmet so that if you do get shot, you are protected from that fire. But yet I am not trusted to carry my firearm on a military base.

So what we have seen during this administration is this horrific incident, the previous one with Nidal Hasan, and nothing has really changed. And now we see a repeat of it. Meanwhile, soldiers—men and women who are willing and ready to serve their country—are left defenseless and can't even turn to their own Constitution, which they

take an oath to uphold and defend to protect them.

I find it the height of the dereliction of duty of this body and of this administration.

Mr. GOHMERT. During the time that my friend was in the military, what weapons were you required to qualify using?

Mr. PERRY. Well, as an officer, I qualified with a .9 millimeter, but of course everybody qualifies at some point M16, or an M4 now.

Mr. GOHMERT. And that really is amazing about the military in a military installation because, like the gentleman said, when I was at Fort Benning, we had to qualify every year. And here at Fort Hood, one of the largest military installations anywhere, it adjoins Killeen, Texas. And many people—most people, I think, in Texas recall that there was a terrible shooting incident in a cafeteria in Killeen that adjoins Fort Hood where a man went in and started killing people in the cafeteria.

And there was a woman there who had to put her gun in the glove compartment because we didn't have laws that allowed you to carry weapons around Texas. And she realized that she could have saved her parents from being murdered if she had been able to carry her concealed weapon. So she got elected to the State legislature. She is a hero. She got the concealed-carry bill through and signed into law. And that had been used in other States to get concealed-carry bills passed.

So when people say, well, how horrible, there had been a prior mass shooting before. Actually, there had been two right there, just right so close together. Killeen, though, civilians, who are not required to qualify with weapons every year, like you and I have been in the military.

Yet if, as someone trained with weapons, qualifying every year, you step one foot off that military installation, now you can start carrying a concealed weapon if you just got the permit. But if you step back on the military installation, where everyone is required to be qualified to use weapons, you can't have one.

We are working on a bill which will not just create the power, but it will require that military installations allow people there to go through and apply for and get a permit to carry a concealed weapon, just as they could in Fort Hood if they put one foot off post into Killeen. And they ought to be able to step back on the installation.

Mr. PERRY. If the gentleman would yield, I am just curious—you have spent more time here than I have—what was the impetus for the current law which restricts DOD and commanders, as an installation commander myself, from exacting our own authority based on the Constitution?

Mr. GOHMERT. And actually, that was back around the time I became a

district judge in Texas. And I didn't learn until I was here in Congress just recently that they had ever passed such a law. There was a Democratic majority in the House, a Democratic majority in the Senate.

I can't imagine why they were thinking they had to protect our military members from themselves when we give them far more lethal weapons—I mean, you give somebody an RPG.

Mr. PERRY. Who is better trained than the United States military, the different branches serving on those bases and posts all around the country, all around the world, dealing with weapons on a daily basis, dealing with ammunition and its effects on a daily basis? Most of what you do revolves around ranges, firing, qualifications because we train. Readiness is important, and using the tools of the trade; whether you like it or not, they are weapons, because there are bad actors out there. And that is what they have to use to be able to fight back.

So that is the one place, specifically the one place on the planet where you would think that people would be able to. As you said, they are trained, are prepared, are knowledgeable, are familiar, are comfortable with. And yet this United States Government does not allow them to defend themselves and, more importantly, the oath and the very Constitution, the set of rules with which we govern this Nation.

When you raise your right hand and take that solemn oath, unfortunately under the current paradigm, under this current administration, when you take the oath to join the military, you are giving away the right to defend yourself while you are on a military base.

Mr. GOHMERT. The gentleman makes so many good points. I would like to yield to the gentleman to answer a question.

Having been a commander, we have talked about how military were qualified, were required to qualify to use weapons. But as a commander, do you know of any one civilian in the civilian world who has more training about not misplacing your weapon or setting your weapon down or leaving your weapon than somebody in the military? The gentleman knows what I talk about.

Mr. PERRY. Certainly you and I can both attest to this. It is a sensitive, it is a controlled item. And from day one, you learn the very harsh reality that you do not ever, ever misplace your weapon. There are very serious penalties for misplacing your weapon. You learn to live with it, to sleep with it, to shower with it. It is you, and you are it. You are together at all times and all things. And accountability is paramount. That is what I mean. There can be no breach of this standard. And there is none. And the military trains you in that very acutely.

So, once again, I would say, there is no place where individuals—men and

women—are more familiar, better trained, and more well equipped to deal with firearms than in the military, especially—specifically on a military base.

Mr. GOHMERT. I was talking with one of our Capitol Police yesterday after this shooting at Fort Hood, again. One of our great Capitol Police. We are so blessed with such great qualified protectors of the Capitol area. And he was in the military for 13 years and left the military and became a Capitol policeman. Well, I trust that gentleman now to have a weapon at all times. I am delighted if he will carry a weapon at all times.

But Washington, D.C., has these really well-intentioned laws. Let's eliminate weapons in Washington, D.C. They have been struck down by the Supreme Court because they are unconstitutional. But I want somebody like that, that I could trust, whether he was still in the military, as he was, or as a Capitol policeman. I am very comfortable with him carrying a weapon and feel better knowing that there were people like him around carrying weapons.

So when that question was asked, what has the military done since 2009's Fort Hood mass shooting to prevent this kind of thing from happening, I know that the military cannot do any more than the Commander in Chief orders them to do. I don't know of anything that the Commander in Chief has done, as the commander, where the buck stops, to provide more protection from an incident like as now happened again.

If the gentleman knows of anything that has been done.

Mr. PERRY. I do not. And I thank you for asking. But just thinking about it, the process by which a person joins and maintains the attendance, so to speak, in the military requires an investigation of your person, of your background, who you are, your capabilities, and so on and so forth. And for an administration, rightly so, very concerned about background checks and making sure that only those in our free country avail themselves of their Second Amendment right and not those who shouldn't, such as criminals, who would also not be allowed to either join the military or stay in the military, once again, I would say, there is no safer, no better a place than on a military base because all those folks have been vetted, have been checked, do carry a weapon.

So I find it interesting that maybe the military, maybe DOD has made a recommendation to the administration and said, part of the solution to Nidal Hasan and his heinous acts are to make sure that people can defend themselves, soldiers, servicemembers at different bases and different branches of the services can protect themselves under force of arms, if necessary, on base. But that has yet to be found out.

But it would be very interesting to know if DOD did make that recommendation and nothing was done about it, and nothing was done about it. If there was no cry from the administration to say, hey, Congress, this is a problem. Here is part of the solution set. Get to work.

As you said, we have already gotten to work on that here. But I suspect that that bill—well-intentioned, the right thing to do—will make it out of the House in due course but under this Senate and under this administration will languish. That is what my suspicion will be.

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, I would think, though, that at this point in time, with so many Senators of the Democrat persuasion being concerned about elections and the disaster ObamaCare has been, if we pass a bill that provides for military installations to allow permits to be applied for and obtained for a concealed-carry on a military installation, that the Senate will be in a difficult position if they don't take it up. And the President would hurt his party dramatically if it passed out of the Senate as well and he refused to sign it.

There will be other incidents like Fort Hood again. It appears that we have not been adequately addressing post-traumatic stress disorder. And you never know if someone is going to go off, like we see with Washington, D.C., having such a high murder rate. Just like the old bumper stickers have said in the past, When guns are outlawed, only outlaws have guns. That is exactly what has happened at Fort Hood both times. It is what happened in Killeen with the mass shooting in the cafeteria. And the problem is not honest, honorable, law-abiding Americans having a gun under their Second Amendment rights; it is the outlaws having guns.

There were thousands of cases that came through my court as a district judge, felonies—all of them felonies. And I couldn't remember any cases involving guns where the guns were lawfully acquired. The criminals get guns, and they don't care. The name "criminal" comes from the fact that they commit crimes, and they don't care what the law is. They break the law. So the people that are disarmed are those law-abiding citizens.

I really think we cannot stand another 5 years of calling such a terrible disaster just "workplace violence" when it is a tragedy that can be prevented, can be stopped. And since the Commander in Chief has not taken action that would impede it or stop it, we need to do that.

And we need to reverse the law that was passed by the Democratic House and Democratic-controlled Senate back in the early nineties and get a bill to the President's desk. And if the Democrats—at least some of them in

the Senate—are not willing to pass such a law or HARRY REID is not willing to bring that to the floor, the answer is very simple: We vote in Republican Senators so that they will bring it to the floor. And next January, then we can present it to the President.

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And then if he does not and is not willing to sign it at that point, then we will either have enough to override the veto or we will have a President from a different party come November of 2016 who will allow the military to protect themselves instead of condemning them to helplessly watch while they and their friends are gunned down by an outlaw.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. PERRY. I agree with you on your assessment. I hope you are right about that. I hope you are right, that we accomplish something. It would be great if it wasn't partisan, if we could just do the right thing and allow people who have agreed to serve and take the oath to uphold and defend the Constitution to then have the same protections of that Constitution availed to themselves. And that would be, in my opinion, the right thing to do regardless—regardless—of your party.

So I would hope that we would see that now, see that as a solution set to—look, on this current case, it appears that when confronted with a firearm, this individual who carried out this most recent crime and these atrocities at Fort Hood, when confronted with a firearm himself, that is when the carnage ended.

So it seems to me that maybe it won't stop it, but it certainly can mitigate it, and maybe if these folks in the future that would ponder such an act, if they knew that other members on post would be carrying, as well, they might be reluctant to do the same thing.

Mr. GOHMERT. In the 1 minute we have got left, I just want to thank my friend from Pennsylvania for all of his service to our country in the military and here in Congress. I hope that we are able to get a bill passed through the House, through the Senate, and to the President's desk.

Let me just finish by saying there was an atrocity here on Capitol Hill yesterday with the testimony of the former Acting Director of the CIA. Our military has become an international—it is tragic, but a laughing—

If they are not defending themselves, then how can we count on them to defend us? And after the testimony under penalty of perjury yesterday by a former acting director of the CIA, it has told the world that the only place there has been worse intelligence than we have had, particularly during Benghazi, would have been back at Little Big Horn by General Custer.

We have got to turn this place around so that Americans can protect

Americans and Americans serving our military can protect themselves and our intelligence does start living up to the name instead of making it such a tragedy.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CASTOR of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and April 4 on account of family obligation in district.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, April 4, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5179. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the internal and independent reviews of Department of Defense (DoD) programs, policies, and procedures regarding security at DoD installations and the security clearance process; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5180. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of 10 officers to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of major general or brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5181. A letter from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Annual Report on the Bureau's activities to administer the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5182. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Turk Hava Yollari, A.O. (Turkish Airlines) of Istanbul, Turkey; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5183. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on a request from Wells Fargo, N.A. for a 90 percent guarantee on a 36-month revolving credit facility; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5184. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of 10 Synthetic Cathinones Into Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-386] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5185. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Birmingham, Alabama) [MB Docket No.: 13-261] [RM-11707] received February 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5186. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Secretary of State, transmitting notification that effective February 23, 2014, the danger pay allowance for the Cote D'Ivoire has been eliminated, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5928; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5187. A letter from the Acting Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5188. A letter from the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's annual report on the No FEAR Act for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5189. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5190. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5191. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5192. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5193. A letter from the Deputy Associate Director for Management and Administration and Designated Reporting Official, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5194. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France (Eurocopter) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0697; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-015-AD; Amendment 39-17733; AD 2014-02-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5195. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited (Bell) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0525; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-063-AD; Amendment 39-17730; AD 2014-02-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5196. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Beechcraft Corporation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0611; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-019-AD; Amendment 39-17731; AD 2014-02-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5197. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. (Type certificate currently held by Agusta Westland S.p.A.) (Agusta) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0478; Directorate Identifier 2012-SW-092-AD; Amendment 39-17736; AD 2014-02-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5198. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0538; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-212-AD; Amendment 39-17728; AD 2014-01-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5199. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France (Eurocopter) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0039; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-058-AD; Amendment 39-17737; AD 2014-02-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5200. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Costruzioni Aeronautiche Tecnam srl Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0888; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-024-AD; Amendment 39-17735; AD 2014-02-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5201. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0997; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-060-AD; Amendment 39-17729; AD 2014-02-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5202. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE SYSTEMS (Operations) LIMITED Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0793; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-138-AD; Amendment 39-17727; AD 2014-01-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5203. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Application of Section 871(m) to Specified Equity-Linked Instruments [Notice 2014-14] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5204. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Correction to Revenue Procedure 2014-4 (Revenue Procedure 2014-19) received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5205. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Information Reporting of Minimum Essential Coverage [TD 9660] (RIN: 1545-BL31) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5206. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Information Reporting by Applicable Large Employers on Health Insurance Coverage Offered Under Employer-Sponsored Plans [TD 9661] (RIN: 1545-BL26) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5207. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Withholding of Tax on Certain U.S. Source Income Paid to Foreign Persons, Information Reporting and Backup Withholding on Payments Made to Certain U.S. Persons, and Portfolio Interest Treatment [TD 9658] (RIN: 1545-BL18) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5208. A letter from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Security, transmitting follow up reports to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 539. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1874) to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of legislation, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1871) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to reform the budget baseline, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1872) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-400). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PITTENGER (for himself and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 4383. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish a Small Business Advisory Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. PETERS of California):

H.R. 4384. A bill to provide for the establishment of a fund to provide for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be sub-

sequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mrs. CAPPES):

H.R. 4385. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the designation of maternity care health professional shortage areas; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 4386. A bill to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 4387. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to hold open meetings and comply with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to provide additional improvements to the Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. COLE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SALMON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FALCOMA, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK):

H.R. 4388. A bill to establish the American Indian Trust Review Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 4389. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from granting a work authorization to an alien found to have been unlawfully present in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDENAS (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 4390. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to protect the enrollment of incarcerated youth for medical assistance under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 4391. A bill to establish the Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 4392. A bill to align exemptions for general solicitation of investment in commodity pools similar to the exemption provided for general solicitation of securities under the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 4393. A bill to prohibit any Federal agency or official, in carrying out any Act or program to reduce the effects of greenhouse gas emissions on climate change, from imposing a fee or tax on gaseous emissions emitted directly by livestock; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 4394. A bill to prohibit the awarding of contracts to contractors responsible for de-

layed openings of Veterans Affairs facilities; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 4395. A bill to amend part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act to improve essential oral health care for lower-income individuals by breaking down barriers to care; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, and Mr. LONG):

H.R. 4396. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from implementing certain rules relating to the health insurance coverage of sterilization and contraceptives approved by the Food and Drug Administration; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 4397. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require all political committees to notify the Federal Election Commission within 48 hours of receiving cumulative contributions of \$1,000 or more from any contributor during a calendar year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BECERRA:

H. Res. 537. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 538. A resolution expressing support for designation of May as "National Bladder Cancer Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. COFFMAN):

H. Res. 540. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week on May 6, 2014, through May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. MOORE):

H. Res. 541. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. PERRY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H. Res. 542. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that United States foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority should be suspended until Palestinian Authority Government Resolutions relating to providing a monthly salary to anyone imprisoned in Israel's prisons as a result of participation in the struggle against the Israeli occupation are repealed; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. PITTENGER:

H.R. 4383.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 4384.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, the General Welfare Clause and the Necessary and Proper clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 4385.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight, Clause Three "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 4386.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3.

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 4387.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (The Congress shall have Power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States and with the Indian Tribes") and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (The Congress shall have Power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof").

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 4388.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is constitutionally appropriate pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause) which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among several states and with the Indian Tribes; Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 (the Treaty Clause) which gives the President the Power to make Treaties; Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause) which gives Congress the Power to make all Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.

The Supreme Court, in *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832), reasoned that Indian Nations have always been considered as distinct, independent political communities, as the undisputed possessors of the soil, from time immemorial. Thus, conducting a review of by Congress of the United States' trust relationship with American Indian tribes is constitutionally permissible.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 4389.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution of the United States: To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization.

By Mr. CARDENAS:

H.R. 4390.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 4391.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 4392.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 4393.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 4394.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Clause 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 4395.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clauses 3

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4396.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I submit the following statement regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill cited as the "Religious Liberty Protection Act of 2014."

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to ensure that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof as enumerated in the First Amendment.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 4397.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. MESSER, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. POLIS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 50: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 494: Mr. BARBER.

H.R. 498: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 508: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 515: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 526: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 543: Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 677: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 708: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 792: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 809: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 1008: Mr. CARTER and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1037: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 1074: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 1281: Mr. BURGESS and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 1313: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 1338: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 1502: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 1507: Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 1553: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HARPER, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 1563: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MAFFEI, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 1699: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1725: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1750: Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 1776: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 1812: Mr. POE of Texas and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1852: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 2053: Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 2084: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 2101: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 2224: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2247: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 2364: Mr. TIERNEY and Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 2366: Mr. LATTA, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. LONG, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 2429: Mr. MCALLISTER, Mr. WOODALL, and Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 2648: Mr. MEEKS and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 2690: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 2706: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2807: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 2825: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 2841: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 2847: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 2870: Ms. BASS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2902: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2939: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MCALLISTER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 3155: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 3282: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3335: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 3344: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3352: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 3377: Mr. BARTON and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 3382: Mr. SANFORD, Mr. STEWART, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 3400: Mr. KLINE and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 3408: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3451: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VELA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. WALZ, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 3481: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. NUGENT, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 3508: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 3530: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 3544: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 3576: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 3583: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 3593: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 3601: Mr. MCALLISTER and Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 3624: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3658: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BARBER, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. YODER, and Mr. JOYCE.
 H.R. 3662: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 3698: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
 H.R. 3707: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
 H.R. 3708: Mr. BARR.
 H.R. 3740: Mr. McDERMOTT.
 H.R. 3836: Mr. McINTYRE, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. TIBERI, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 3847: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
 H.R. 3929: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. RANGEL, and Mrs. BEATTY.
 H.R. 3978: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. PETERS of California, and Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 3991: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. BARR.
 H.R. 4031: Ms. FOXX, Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. ROONEY.
 H.R. 4035: Mr. WESTMORELAND and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 4042: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. HUELSKAMP.
 H.R. 4060: Mr. MULVANEY and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 4069: Mrs. CAPITO.
 H.R. 4079: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 4080: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 4108: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RUSH.
 H.R. 4112: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 4119: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 4122: Mr. DeFAZIO.
 H.R. 4124: Mr. RANGEL.
 H.R. 4158: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. JOYCE.
 H.R. 4168: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
 H.R. 4188: Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 4225: Mr. MULLIN, Ms. JENKINS, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. NUGENT.
 H.R. 4226: Mr. POE of Texas.
 H.R. 4234: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
 H.R. 4285: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
 H.R. 4299: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 4303: Mr. VARGAS.
 H.R. 4304: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
 H.R. 4318: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. STOCKMAN.
 H.R. 4336: Mr. PETERSON.
 H.R. 4342: Mr. LoBIONDO.
 H.R. 4347: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 4352: Mr. NUGENT.
 H.R. 4357: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. DeSANTIS, Mr. POSEY,

Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SALMON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. KLINE.
 H.R. 4370: Mr. HUELSKAMP.
 H. Res. 231: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. BARLETTA.
 H. Res. 412: Mr. HONDA.
 H. Res. 494: Mr. GARDNER and Mr. McDERMOTT.
 H. Res. 509: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. PERRY, Mr. PITTS, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
 H. Res. 527: Mr. RUSH.
 H. Res. 529: Mr. SERRANO.
 H. Res. 532: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. POLIS.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 217: Mr. REED.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING BOB CASALE OF
DEVO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Bob Casale, who passed away on February 17, 2014, at the age of sixty-one. Bob was raised in Akron, Ohio. He led an exemplary life while in pursuit of his dream of writing, producing, and performing music. Bob helped create a body of work with his band Devo that put the "new" in new wave music. He ultimately changed the way a lot of people viewed both music and culture at the time.

As one of the original members of the band Devo, Bob came of age in the middle of a huge cultural war in Akron, Ohio. There, Bob and his fellow band members Mark Mothersbaugh, Bob Mothersbaugh, Alan Myers, and his brother Gerald Casale were inspired to form Devo after witnessing the Kent State massacre in 1970.

In remembrance of his late brother, Gerald stated that, "as an original member of Devo, Bob Casale was there in the trenches with me from the beginning. He was my level-headed brother, a solid performer and talented audio engineer, always giving more than he got."

In more recent years, Devo actively toured around the country and performed at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada. "He was excited about the possibility of Mark Mothersbaugh allowing Devo to play shows again," stated Gerald. "His sudden death from conditions that led to heart failure came as a total shock to us all."

In addition to performing with Devo, Bob Casale worked for twenty years at Mutato creating and developing the sounds on various films and television shows. Prior to Bob's passing, he and his brother Gerald were working on what Gerald calls a "Devo online school." The trade school project would teach participants how to write music with digital tools or how to score a commercial. The school would be taught by professionals who work in the field and have a track record of success, including former band member Mark Mothersbaugh. Though Bob is no longer around to see the project through, his family and friends will continue to spearhead the project in his name.

Bob Casale was an extraordinary man with a great set of values who will live on in the hearts and minds of his friends, family, and fans. Bob is survived by his son Alex, his daughter Samantha, and his wife, Lisa. His long and productive life set an example to all of us and all who knew him. Bob's memory will continue to live on through the revolutionary music he left behind. Whip it!

HONORING MR. NICHOLAS P.
DINAPOLI

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Nicholas P. DiNapoli, an esteemed citizen of my congressional district who holds the distinction of being a lifelong resident of the Town of North Hempstead. Mr. DiNapoli was born on April 6, 1924, to Pete and Jeanette DiNapoli in Roslyn Heights, New York, and has resided in Albertson, New York since 1953. He is a New Yorker, born and bred.

After graduating from Roslyn public schools, Nicholas served our country in World War II as a member of the Army Air Force. I thank him for his service during this historic time and for his contribution to a United States victory.

When he returned home, he built a model life for himself and his family. He married Adeline, his late wife of 43 years, and raised two sons, Thomas and James. As the years passed, he has also been able to enjoy spending time with his two grandchildren, Victoria and Nicholas. Mr. DiNapoli served a forty year career at the New York Telephone Company, where his hard work enabled him to rise all the way from a splicer's helper to foreman.

What is truly inspirational is Mr. DiNapoli's devotion to his community. Over the years, he has served as a volunteer firefighter with the Roslyn Highlands Fire Department, and has been involved with the American Legion, Albertson Little League, Boy Scouts of America Troop 481 and St. Aidan's Parish.

Mr. DiNapoli will turn 90 on April 6, 2014, and his positivity, independence and generosity has cemented his legacy as a devoted and loving family man, and as a strong role model for his children and grandchildren. I am honored to be able to represent him here in Congress.

TRIMBLE NAVIGATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Trimble Navigation for being honored with the Business Recognition Award given by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Business Recognition Award is given to a Jefferson County company which shows growth in employment, sales and capital investment in the last year.

Trimble Navigation is a leading provider of advanced location based solutions found in everyday products from commercial vehicles,

construction equipment to cell phones. Their products reach over 150 countries around the world. Trimble Navigation recently invested in a \$22 million 125,000 square foot campus in Westminster, Colorado, creating an additional 100 high paying jobs.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Trimble Navigation for receiving the Business Recognition Award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your commitment to innovation, high standards and quality products.

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH
PROGRAM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker,

Ev'ry day we say our prayer, Will they change the bill of fare, Still we get the same old grub . . . el, There's not a crust, not a crumb can we find, Can we beg, can we borrow, or cadge, But there's nothing to stop us from getting a thrill, When we all close our eyes and imag . . . ine, Food, glorious food!

There is no limit to how far the federal government arms can reach.

"Please, sir, I want some more," is not just a quote from the movie Oliver, but a phrase that I am sure has been heard throughout schools by students from 2012 till just recently.

Through the Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the federal government's arms have become stronger and longer, allowing them to snatch kids' lunch bags and replace it with what they believe our kids should be eating.

So long gone are the days of parenting, we have the government to do it for us.

Now it's the USDA who teaches our children about what they should and should not be eating.

Children are more likely to choose a peanut butter and jelly sandwich over a salad or vegetables, but the USDA determined that the best way to have the kids make the "healthy" choice is to eliminate their options altogether.

Although the USDA recently eliminated the grain and protein limits under the National School Lunch Program, they should have never had that kind of power to begin with.

The federal government may have decided to stop telling our children whether to have a whole or half sandwich, but its influence is still strong.

The feds force our children to pick 1/2 cup serving of fruits or vegetables with their breakfast or lunch—whether they eat it or not.

In their attempts to make our young students healthier, the USDA has unmasked the myth that drinking whole and 2% milk is bad because of the vitamins and nutrients.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Apparently it is so bad that USDA has removed them from being available at schools altogether.

Even though the USDA believes the National School Lunch Program changes are sensible, they ignore the additional costs on schools and disregard concerns that the mandated fruit and vegetables serving will go to waste.

There goes common sense right out of the window.

But then again what does the state, local school boards, individual schools, or parents know?

The federal government knows best or at least that's what they think.

Time to let local schools and parents decide what children should eat—not Washington, DC bureaucrats.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF DR. MAURICE
WATSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Man of God, Dr. Maurice Watson, who will celebrate his 10th anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Beulahland Bible Church as well as thirty-seven remarkable years in the gospel ministry. A celebration will be held on Thursday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Beulahland Bible Church in Macon, Georgia.

On July 21, 1960, Dr. Watson was born the seventh of eight children to Ulysses and Juanita Watson in Little Rock, Arkansas. He accepted the call to preach the Word of the Lord at the young age of sixteen and two years later, he was ordained.

Dr. Watson earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Philander Smith College in Little Rock, where he was Valedictorian of his class. He earned a Master's in Theology from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. Watson's first pastorate was at St. Mark Baptist Church in Little Rock, where he served for seven years. In November 1988, Dr. Watson was called to pastor the Salem Baptist Church in Omaha, Nebraska, where he served for fifteen and a half years. During his tenure, the church's membership almost tripled from 1,200 to 3,500 souls.

Middle Georgia gained an extraordinary leader when Dr. Watson accepted the senior pastorate of Beulahland Bible Church in early 2004. With the vision of "Changing the World from Middle Georgia," Beulahland opened a second location of worship in Warner Robins, Georgia in February 2005 under Dr. Watson's leadership. The church also constructed a second worship facility on its Macon campus. The congregation now enjoys a state-of-the-art 3,000 seat sanctuary in which to rejoice the Word of the Lord. Using Dr. Watson as a vessel, God has reached into the hearts of many so that Beulahland has welcomed thousands of souls to this prolific ministry.

Dr. Watson's vision of "Faith on the Fast Track" has taken Beulahland Bible Church to greater heights than ever before. A dynamic and ever faithful pastor, his ministry has stretched across the globe. As one of the premier preachers of our generation, Dr. Watson is well-known and sought after for his anointed sound and understandable proclamation of God's Word. He is motivated by his love for people, his love for preaching, and his belief that no one is beyond God's reach.

Dr. Watson has achieved numerous successes in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and his loving wife, Janice, and their two beautiful daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Dr. Maurice Watson for ten wonderful years of changing Middle Georgia for the better, thirty-seven remarkable years of ministry, and a lifetime of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY D. BUSH

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable Hoosier, Beverly D. Bush, who passed away on Saturday, March 29, 2014. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for her leadership and service to our community, state, and country.

Mrs. Bush was a lifelong Hoosier and she served as the Clinton County Republican Chairwoman from 1994 to 2009 and served as Vice Chair of the party for eight years. She served as a Delegate to the Republican State Convention from 2002–2012 and was a 2004 Delegate to the Republican National Convention. She received the honor of being an elector for the 2012 Presidential and Vice Presidential election. Mrs. Bush, also known by her friends and fellow party members as "Mrs. Republican" mentored several people in party politics. Mrs. Bush also served as the Kirkland Precinct Committeeman for many years and was past treasurer of the Indiana Federation of Republican Women. She also attended the inaugurations of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush.

Mrs. Bush was one of the first people I met in politics. As a friend of my mentor, Sue Anne Gilroy, Mrs. Bush was always helpful and willing to share her gentle wisdom to this young inexperienced candidate. Even after many years of public service, she still was able to teach me a thing or two about the business and life.

Mrs. Bush will be greatly missed by the Clinton County Republican Party, the entire Clinton County community, and many leaders across the state both past and present. Mrs. Bush was a kind and caring woman. She was someone who would do whatever she could to help a friend or stranger in need and she volunteered as a member of the St. Vincent Hospital Pink Ladies organization.

Mrs. Bush leaves her loving husband, Dr. Charles Bush, children, grandchildren and

great grandchildren and her extended Clinton County Republican family. Her legacy is one that will be remembered and honored by those who knew and loved her. Rest in peace my friend, and thank you for your leadership and service.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,578,141,920,035.68. We've added \$6,951,264,871,122.60 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING DON GEAN FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF
MAINE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a tireless and visionary leader in my state who is retiring after several decades of working to improve the lives of homeless Mainers.

In 1985, Don Gean took over as director of the York County Alcoholism Center, which was housed in a crumbling former jail. Today, that organization is called the York County Shelter Programs, an innovative network of facilities and services that serves 400 clients. Among its facilities are a bakery where clients learn vocational skills while preparing the food served at several shelter sites; a working farm that produces eggs for the bakery and houses one of the largest solar arrays in the state; and 36 residences for transitional housing. Under Don's leadership, the organization has come a long way from a condemned jail.

Early on in his tenure, Don resolved that his organization needed to do more than provide beds and meals if it was going to make a lasting impact on its clients. To that end, he developed a range of vocational, medical, mental health and substance abuse programs to give people the support, tools, and self-confidence they needed to turn their lives around. Today, the shelter's recidivism rate is an astonishingly low 5.3 percent. It has become a model program for dealing with the challenges of homelessness.

But the best way to mark Don's legacy is in the words of the people he served. One man who first came to the shelter in 2007 now owns his own home and regularly volunteers for the organization. "This is a lifesaving organization," he said. "Don is a big part of saving people's lives, but he won't tell you that. He'll take no credit."

I had the pleasure of serving with Don in the Maine State Legislature in the early 1990s, where he became a statewide leader on the issue of homelessness. He was then and continues to be a practical, shrewd, and effective advocate, but above all a kind, good-hearted person who reminds us that no one in our society should ever be written off.

I wish Don all the best in his retirement and thank him wholeheartedly for his incredible work.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT
COLONEL KEVIN S. COCHIE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Lieutenant Colonel Kevin S. Cochie, a true gentleman, a Soldier's Soldier, and friend. Lieutenant Colonel Cochie retires from the US Army on June 31st after serving the US Army in uniform for over 20 years. A veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq, he faithfully served the Special Operations community and the Secretary of the Army with distinction.

Kevin served as a Special Operations helicopter pilot in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, the Night Stalkers. His operational experience served as the catalyst for a successful acquisition career. Because of his efforts, highly advanced and specially modified helicopters were made even better, resulting in life saving survivability improvements and mission essential improvements that directly contributed to the removal of multiple high value enemy targets from the battlefield.

LTC Cochie's career culminated with an assignment serving the Secretary of the Army as a Legislative Liaison, advocating for Army Aviation. He quickly rose to the status of "Master Jedi Knight" among all Defense Department legislative liaisons. His ability to socialize to Congress program details and urgent requirements was nothing short of impressive. For years to come, Kevin's example of how to engage Congress will serve as a benchmark for other legislative liaisons to follow.

In conclusion, God bless Kevin, his wife Sara, and daughter Madison for their service to the Army, the Defense Department, and our great Nation.

HONORING ROBERT HARBULA

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents who is truly an American hero.

Mr. Robert Harbula of West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, fought bravely as a U.S. Marine in the Korean War—including the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. Private First Class Harbula served in G Company of the Third Battalion of the

First Marine Regiment, part of the First Marine Division, in the Korean War. His unit was referred to initially as "George Company" and then, later, after Chosin Reservoir, as "Bloody George."

Private First Class Bob Harbula was assigned to the Marine unit guarding Camp David, the Presidential retreat, when he served as an usher for the Washington, DC, premiere of "Sands of Iwo Jima" in January of 1950. After seeing the movie, he decided that he ought to get a more dangerous posting, so he volunteered for a marine raider unit several months later. Soon thereafter, he ended up in Camp Pendleton as part of the First Marine Division—and in August 1950, he found himself on a troopship headed for Japan with the First Marines as one of the early reinforcements for the hard-pressed UN forces in Korea. Mr. Harbula was part of the machine gun squad attached to G Company's First Platoon.

Korea had been occupied for 35 years by Japan until the end of World War II, at which point it was partitioned at the 38th Parallel. South Korea was occupied and protected by US forces. North Korea was occupied by the Soviet Union. UN plans to hold elections and unify the country were rejected by the Soviets, and a communist dictatorship was established in the north.

On June 25th, North Korean troops crossed the boundary separating North and South Korea, taking the ill-prepared South Korean Army by surprise and overwhelming it. Three days later, the North Korean army occupied Seoul, the South Korean capital. US troops from the Eighth Army based in Japan rushed to aid the South Koreans. They were thrown into battle piecemeal in a desperate effort to gain time for more reinforcements to arrive. South Korean troops and the US 24th Infantry Division fought the North Korean troops relentlessly, inflicting substantial casualties, but they were repeatedly defeated by superior numbers and forced to retreat. By August, US and South Korean forces had been pushed back to a fragile perimeter around the port city of Pusan in the southwest corner of the Korean peninsula. Despite repeated North Korean attacks, the Pusan Perimeter held and bled the North Koreans dry.

General Douglas MacArthur, commander of US forces in the region, decided to launch a major amphibious landing deep in the North Korean army's rear at the port city of Inchon on Korea's west coast. Mr. Harbula's unit was in the first wave of the assault craft, which landed under heavy fire on September 15th. From that moment on, George Company was in nearly constant combat as US forces captured Inchon and fought their way into Seoul, where the fighting often deteriorated into vicious house-to-house combat. On the night of September 25th, George Company—heavily outnumbered—stopped a major North Korean counterattack by tanks, self-propelled artillery, and hundreds of men along Seoul's Ma Po Boulevard. Mr. Harbula and his section did what they could, firing a machine gun non-stop at the lead tank. With artillery support, George Company withstood and repelled the attack—but at a terrible cost.

The Inchon landing and the liberation of Seoul caused the weakened and over-ex-

tended North Korean forces in the south to collapse and beat a panicked retreat northward. The US Eighth Army began pressing northward in aggressive pursuit along Korea's west coast. The X Corps, which included the First Marine Division, was pulled out of the line and loaded onto amphibious transport ships. They sailed around the Korean Peninsula and disembarked at the end of October in the port of Wonsan on North Korea's southeastern coast, which had already been secured by South Korean units.

George Company's first assignment after landing at Wonsan was holding a village called Majon-ni several miles inland at the junction of roads leading to Seoul, Wonsan, and Pyongyang. On November 2nd, PFC Harbula's machine gun squad was helping to escort a re-supply convoy through a treacherous mountain gorge when it was ambushed. Bob Harbula provided cover, firing a .30 caliber machine gun from the hip, while the surviving trucks were carefully turned around on the one-lane, cliff-edged road and driven out of the ambush to Wonsan, where they reported to headquarters and requested a rescue mission for the remaining survivors.

George Company garrisoned Majon-ni for several weeks after the ambush. PFC Harbula took command of his 10-man machine gun squad after the sergeant who had been in charge was seriously wounded in the ambush. On November 14th, George Company moved north to the Hungnam-Chigyeong region. That same day, a cold front moved into the region from Siberia, sending temperatures as low as -35 degrees each night. Such brutal weather would continue for the next two weeks, making weapons and equipment inoperable and causing thousands of injuries and deaths from frostbite and exposure over the course of the battle.

The rugged Taebaek Mountains that ran up the middle of the Korean peninsula divided the Eighth Army from X Corps as each force pushed north. On November 24th, MacArthur ordered the "Home by Christmas" offensive to conquer all of North Korea up to the Yalu River, which formed the boundary between North Korea and China. The Eighth Army was to push north, while the First Marine Division was to push west from the Chosin Reservoir, cut off a North Korean major supply line, and link up with the Eighth Army.

Unbeknownst to General MacArthur and his advisors, hundreds of thousands of Chinese troops had begun infiltrating into North Korea in mid-October. The General and his staff thought that there were only a few small Chinese units fighting in North Korea. In fact, Chinese troops were massing for attacks in both the east and west. In the east, the 9th Army Group of the Chinese "People's Volunteer Army" had encircled most of the Chosin Reservoir, a large man-made lake north of Wonsan and 65 miles northwest of the port city of Hungnam.

On November 25th, nearly two hundred thousand Chinese troops launched a surprise attack on the Eighth Army, defeating it resoundingly in the Battle of the Ch'ongchion River and sending it retreating southward in what came to be called "the Big Bug-out."

On November 27th, however, the First Marine Division's orders were still to attack

northwestward. Most of the Division's combat troops, primarily thousands of Marines from the First Marine Division's 5th and 7th Regiments, were positioned around the village of Yudam-ni west of the reservoir. An understrength regimental combat team from the 7th Infantry Division held territory on the east side of the reservoir up through the village of Hudong-ni to Sinhung-ni. A winding narrow road led through the mountainous terrain from each village to the bottom of the lake, where they met in the village of Hagaru-ri, which was lightly defended by a hodgepodge of units from the First Marine Division, including a number of companies from George Company's First Marine Regiment. Essential supplies had been stockpiled at Hagaru-ri, and engineers were desperately trying to build a small airstrip when they weren't fighting off enemy attacks.

It was 14 miles of treacherous terrain from Yudam-ni to Hagaru-ni. To the east of the reservoir, it was a similar distance from Sinhung-ni to Hagaru-ri. From there, the road wound 11 miles through more mountainous terrain to the town of Koto-ri, where the 1st Marine Regiment's headquarters was located—defended by the Regiment's Second Battalion—and then another 10 miles to Chinhung-ni, defended by First Battalion, First Marine Regiment. From there, it was another 37 miles to the port city of Hungnam. That one narrow road was the only way First Marine Division and the other units from X Corps could get out of the mountains and back to the coast.

Meanwhile, George Company was stuck somewhere in the rear echelons for lack of transportation.

On the night of November 27th, all hell broke loose. The 9th Army Group of the People's Volunteer Army attacked the X Corps forces on either side of the Chosin Reservoir and at various points along the road as far south as Koto-ri. Tens of thousands of Chinese soldiers attacked the outnumbered Americans' positions. The Marines at Yudam-ni were surrounded and cut off, as were the soldiers of the 7th Infantry's Regimental Combat Team 31 on the east side of the reservoir—and the Divisional headquarters and elements of the 1st Marine Regiment at Hagaru-ri.

On the morning of November 28th, George Company finally got some wheels. They were ordered into trucks and headed north, arriving in Koto-ri at nightfall.

That night, the Chinese launched a massive attack on Hagaru-ri. They almost succeeded in overwhelming the outnumbered Marines, who had thrown every able-bodied man who could fire a rifle into the front line—down to, and including, the cooks and truck drivers. When dawn came, the defenses had held, but Chinese forces occupied the strategic high ground—East Hill—and unless reinforcements arrived, it seemed inevitable that Hagaru-ri would fall and the units around the Chosin Reservoir would be doomed.

George Company's 200 men formed part of the 900-man "Task Force Drysdale" that was rapidly thrown together on the morning of November 29th in Koto-ri to reinforce Hagaru-ri. It took the column all day to fight their way up the 11 miles of road between Koto-ri and Hagaru-ri. They had to stop repeatedly to

clear enemy roadblocks, and they were under fire the whole time from thousands of Chinese soldiers dug in on either side of the road. The route was subsequently given the name "Hell Fire Valley."

Late in the day, the rear of the convoy was stopped by a burning truck and surrounded by Chinese troops. Fighting through the night until their ammunition was nearly all gone, the surviving soldiers finally had no choice but to surrender.

The front of the column, consisting of the surviving tanks, George Company, and some of the Royal Marines pushed on and finally broke through to Hagaru-ri. Only a third of the men who set out that morning in Task Force Drysdale made it to Hagaru-ri, but the 300 soldiers and the tanks that made it through Hell Fire Valley at such a terrible cost significantly bolstered the town's defenses.

The next morning, November 30th, George Company was given the daunting mission of retaking East Hill. They slowly advanced up the hill, slipping and falling repeatedly on the ice and taking heavy rifle and machine gun fire. By the end of the day, they held the south end of the ridge, but the Chinese still held the center. George Company dug in as best they could, but the temperature that night dropped below -20 degrees and the ground was frozen hard. Private Harbula was forced to resort to piling dead Chinese soldiers around his machine gun like sand bags.

Once it was dark, Chinese forces counter-attacked, charging down the hill several thousand strong. The men of George Company fought bravely—eventually hand-to-hand. Private Harbula's machine gun jammed, and his position was overrun by the enemy. An officer ordered the men to pull back. He remembers hitting one Chinese Soldier in the face with his helmet and firing his pistol at several others. As he slipped and slid back down the hill, he fell into a shell crater. In the crater, he found several dead Americans and one of his comrades, Richard Haller, still alive but wounded in both legs. Private Harbula carried Haller down the hill to safety, but he ruptured his Achilles tendon in the process. Private Harbula was out of the fight, but the surviving members of George Company fought on. Finally, near dawn on December 1st, the Chinese attack petered out.

December 1st was something of a turning point. That day, the Marines in Yudam-ni began a break-out to the south. By nightfall, they had fought their way to Toktong Pass, halfway to Hagaru-ri. In addition, the engineers who had been working on the airstrip completed enough of the runway that C-47 transport planes could use it. That afternoon, planes started bringing in supplies and reinforcements and flying out the wounded.

There was bad news on December 1st as well, however. With half of the men in Regimental Combat Team 31 dead or wounded, its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Don Carlos Faith, ordered his troops to destroy any equipment they couldn't carry and attempt to break through to Hagaru-ri. As the column advanced, it was attacked constantly by thousands of Chinese soldiers on each side of the road to Hagaru-ri. As night fell, Lieutenant Colonel Faith was killed trying to take a roadblock and the column disintegrated. Many

small groups of soldiers fled through the night and made it to the Hagaru-ri perimeter alive, but everyone who stayed with the convoy was killed.

Most of the First Division was now reunited in Hagaru-ri. The remaining able-bodied but exhausted members of George Company continued to defend the perimeter, moving to one end of the runway on December 5th and repulsing another large Chinese attack.

On December 6th, the First Marine Division began its breakout effort—or as its commanding officer General O.P. Smith put it, not so much retreating as attacking in a different direction. George Company fought its way back down Hell Fire Valley—but this time as part of a unit powerful enough to defend itself. They reached Koto-ri by the end of the next day. The retreat continued the following day with the 5th and 7th Regiments pushing ahead and the 1st Regiment and George Company acting as a rear guard. Finally, they reached the port of Hungnam, where an armada of ships evacuated a quarter of a million soldiers and civilians, as well as a great deal of equipment.

The "advance in a different direction" by the "Chosin Few" has become a legendary example of heroism, sacrifice, endurance, and suffering. Thousands of American soldiers rebuffed surprise attacks by overwhelming numbers of enemy forces and then conducted a 70-mile fighting retreat through treacherous mountain terrain in subfreezing weather.

George Company, now "Bloody George," did their part, fighting their way into Hagaru-ri, up East Hill, and then—outnumbered 10 to 1—holding their perimeter against determined enemy counterattack. Private First Class Bob Harbula served bravely in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir until he was injured.

Remarkably, several months later, Bob's brother, John, who was a Marine stationed in Norfolk, saw a Marine on crutches hitchhiking. John picked him up and they got to talking, and the Marine mentioned that he was at the Chosin Reservoir with G-3-1. John told his passenger that he had a brother who had also fought there with G-3-1. The hitchhiker asked John what his brother's name was, and when John told him that it was Bob Harbula, the Marine's face turned white and he said, "that's the SOB that saved my life!" John had given a lift to Richard Haller!

Chosin Reservoir didn't mark the end of Bloody George's or Bob Harbula's combat action in Korea by any means. Soon after, he was back in combat. On April 15th, 1951, he was promoted to Corporal and put in charge of 2 machine guns and 20 men at the start of Operation Ripper. He fought again with G Company in North Korea at the Hwachon Reservoir, where the First Marine Division was awarded its third Presidential Unit Citation for action on Hill 902. He was finally rotated home on June 6, 1951.

Mr. Harbula was recently quoted in the McKeesport Daily News as saying, "I don't consider myself a hero." Well, I think it's safe to say that the rest of us do. I am grateful to U.S. Marine Corporal Robert Harbula for his heroic service to our country, and I am very proud to represent him in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Harbula may not consider himself a hero, but he believes deeply that his comrades in George Company, especially those who gave their lives for this country, are heroes who never got the recognition they deserved. He has endeavored for years to educate the American public about the critical role George Company played in reinforcing and defending Hagaru-ri and holding it until the 5th and 7th Marine Regiments could reach it and the First Marine Division could carry out its legendary fighting withdrawal.

That may finally be happening some 60-odd years after the fact. In 2010, a writer named Patrick K. O'Donnell published "Give Me Tomorrow: The Korean War's Greatest Untold Story—the Epic Stand of the Marines of George Company." The book is based on extensive interviews with the surviving members of G Company. In addition, earlier this week, the story of George Company's actions in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir was the subject of an episode of "Against All Odds"—a six-part series about battlefield heroism on the American Heroes Channel—which until recently was known as the Military Channel.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans can be proud of the fact that in the course of our nation's history, there have been many inspiring, often heartbreaking stories of heroes who have given their lives for this country. There are many, many more Americans who have served this country who have risked their lives for this country. Many have come home wounded and disabled. We owe them all a debt we can never begin to repay. It's my belief, though, that we should remember them and honor them as best we can for what they've done. That's why, when I learned about Bob Harbula and George Company's service in the Korean War, I felt it was only right that I share their story with you and have it included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Harbula has spent much of his life trying to call attention to his brothers in arms—the Chosin Few—so I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the bravery and tremendous sacrifices of Bob Harbula and the men of Company G, Third Battalion, First Marine Regiment for their heroic service in the Korean War. God bless them, and God bless everyone who serves or has served our nation in its armed forces.

YETI CYCLES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yeti Cycles for being honored with the Innovative Technology Award given by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Innovative Technology Award is given to a Jefferson County company that is on the forefront of new and advanced technologies.

Yeti Cycles, headquartered in Golden Colorado, is a leading mountain bike manufacturer with decades of experience in product development. The company created many patented technologies and consistently pushes development to the next level.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Yeti Cycles for receiving this prestigious award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your innovation, high standards and quality products.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKFORCE BOARDS W.O. LAWTON BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER AND HONOREES

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate this year's National Association of Workforce Boards W.O. Lawton Business Leadership Award winner and honorees.

The 2014 winner, Michigan Works! The Job Force Board, and honorees ExxonMobil Chemical Company and Qualcomm deserve recognition for their commitment of time, resources, and leadership to better their communities' workforce and economy.

NAWB established the W.O. Lawton Business Leadership Award to annually honor forward-looking businesses and public partners, such as economic development organizations, education providers, and community and faith-based organizations.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when businesses and organizations across the country are still coping with an extraordinarily slow economic recovery, these groups should be commended for taking the initiative to train today's workers for the jobs of the future. Their efforts to establish partnerships between workforce boards, community colleges, businesses, and other area economic and workforce development leaders has garnered real results for their communities.

Michigan Works! The Job Force Board, ExxonMobil Chemical Company, and Qualcomm have implemented policies similar to those promoted by policymakers in the House and Senate to support a highly-trained workforce and stronger economy. As Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I recognize the critical need to improve our nation's workforce development system, and appreciate the important role these organizations play in helping achieve this shared goal.

Once again, I congratulate these organizations and salute their diligent work to improve their communities and local economies.

OPPOSITION TO NATIONAL GUARD SPENDING CUTS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, the following in individuals indicated that they do not support the Pentagon making cuts to the National Guard to reduce spending:

DOUG BETTS—ALBION, IA

I am not in favor of cutting funding for our military at all. I believe we should keep a

strong defense, but also keep that defense close to home and only on foreign soils when needed to protect US citizens and strategic interests. Specifically, I'm not in favor of deploying large numbers of our Iowa Guard troops overseas, as then they are not here to help in case of an emergency like a natural disaster.

If defense must be cut, down-sizing bases in foreign countries and other foreign aid should be the first consideration.

KEN WILLOUGHBY—MELCHER DALLAS, IA

No way! With climatic events etc., etc. it's the last place they should cut. There are dozens of areas to make cuts other than the guard.

After using the guard for overseas wartime service then making cuts after all they've sacrificed is ridiculous!!

JOHN IRWIN—GRINNELL, IA

I don't think we should cut any defense spending other than the gift industries charge for items purchased by the govt.

FRANKLIN CURTIS—IOWA FALLS, IA

The guard is needed as a backup to local emergency and national disaster assistance to law enforcement and first responders. Reduction in some active duty and equipment storage of un-needed aircraft is a better plan.

BETTY REYNOLDS—LE GRAND, IA

This country has been depending on the National Guard to fight in the war. My son has been over twice. Some families may depend on the extra income from the Guard also. Thank you for sticking up for them.

DEBRA DOWNS—MARSHALLTOWN, IA

Cut the waste—not the people.

SANDRA PATTERSON—MARSHALLTOWN, IA

How about cutting government corruption instead?

ROGER LAKEY—MARSHALLTOWN, IA

States needs the Guard for natural disasters and state functions. Like the floods of 2008 in Iowa; who would be called up for duty if we were to cut the Guard? Iowa has no active duty base or fort in the state so the Guard is our only state military asset.

PEDRO AQUERO—MARSHALLTOWN, IA

We need the troops to keep our DEMOCRACY safe. If you need more comments and exact comments I can explain.

STEVEN AIKIN—RHODES, IA

I was in the Guard and Guard units are essential in deployments.

DIANNA BUTCHER—STATE CENTER, IA

I do believe it is wrong to cut funding for the National Guard. I would rather see our troops brought home and the money used to keep our national borders secured. We need the young men and women to assist in times of disaster within our own State... Maybe it is time that monetary support for the Iowa National Guard comes from the Iowa state budget to keep them available. In any event we need to maintain our National defenses, not lessen them.

PHYLLIS STADTLANDER—WAUKEE, IA

Please use my tax dollars to preserve the National Guard. It is a safety net for the safety for my family. Thank you very much for your work on our behalf.

MIKE VANDELUNE—URBANDALE, IA

The military needs to be treated as a business. You have a workforce (active duty) for your basic manufacturing or business needs. Then when you have a unexpected need, you bring on the part-time (National Guard) workforce. The last thing you want is to not

have what you need for a workforce when there is an emergency.

JIM MAYLAND—BUFFALO CENTER, IA

I am commander of the local VFW Post. I have seen some waste in the military and I think that is where the cuts should come not in reducing the National Guard.

ROSS KUPER—OSAGE, IA

Do not make cuts to the military in any way shape. They need to have the best care provided to the service person and their families. We need the best military in the world.

RANDY MARTIN—ROCKWELL CITY, IA

I do not want to see the country go back to the era where our military was cut so low that we were open to terrorist attacks. Remind them of 911.

ANNA FREMONT—CEDAR FALLS, IA

Besides we all know we will need the guard in active duty when all this snow melts and we are flooded again. Then what?

DIANE SIEBEL—CEDAR FALLS, IA

Absolutely not!

KATHY DOYLE—CEDAR FALLS, IA

My husband is active duty National Guard/Army. He would lose his position and now he's currently at the Arizona border patrol as a pilot. If we lose that we lose our careers our income and insurance and that would mean that the unemployment rate will go sky high. I am totally against this and not happy about it either.

RALPH PRUNTY—CEDAR FALLS, IA

Redefine and reduce the scope of the NSC and Keep the National Guard.

CARL MEYER—CEDAR FALLS, IA

The National Guard is not only capable of being deployed to places like Afghanistan but also is used for all kinds of national disasters. The Guard numbers are right where we need them.

ROBERT YUSKA—HUDSON, IA

They protect our state in disasters as well as protecting our nation in emergencies.

DEBRA NOESEN—INDEPENDENCE, IA

I'm sick & tired of hearing about cuts to our military when the cuts should be made in our Congress & Senate, that's where the waste is. By the time Congress gets done with this, we will have no security in this country. I served in the US Women's Army Corp and am still extremely proud of my service but I'm fed up with the way the military and veterans are treated in this country.

DAN CALLAHAN—INDEPENDENCE, IA

Our aviation assets are better than the Army's. Our soldiers bring a wealth of experience from their civilian jobs that make our units far more flexible than active units. Paying so much for weapons systems that don't work and being unable to retain and train our soldiers is silly. Active duty generals and lobbyists are frightened by how effective our Guard units are at a much lower cost than a similar active unit. They worry about protecting their jobs, not the effectiveness of the fighting force.

TED LANSKE—WAVERLY, IA

The last time we had troop cuts this low was right after WWII and for the same reason. Guess what, Korean conflict came along. We are about to make the same stupid political mistake and history will repeat itself. Drones cannot fight hill to hill, valley to valley, nor door to door.

KATHLEEN SCHUHMACHER—WAVERLY, IA

We are weakening our defense system in the United States. Please do what you can to

maintain (at least) what we already have in place.

JOSEPH SEITZ—WATERLOO, IA

As you say, they could make cuts to military weapon development and to cut waste. It's nice that the Secretary of Defense wants to make cuts but maybe the cuts need to be toward that first before reducing our National Guard.

CHIP WOOD—WATERLOO, IA

Much more savings achieved cutting regular forces.

ANGIE GILBERT—WATERLOO, IA

My husband is in the Iowa National Guard and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2010. He works very hard to do a great job at any task he is appointed to and is always ready to do whatever he is asked to serve our state and our country. These men and women do a great service and deserve great respect. I believe budget cuts could be made elsewhere.

BRENDA DOUGLASS—WATERLOO, IA

My son is a member of the Iowa National Guard. He takes his job as an Army National Guard soldier very seriously and has great pride in being ready to serve his country when needed.

NANCY STIRM—WATERLOO, IA

Our National Guard does so much more than protect our country. Let's keep them available to all needs of the state and country.

CINDY BENGSTON—WATERLOO, IA

Thank you Rep. Braley!

SANDIE DEAHL—WATERLOO, IA

I believe funding within the Iowa National Guard should be redistributed. Outdated or mostly vacant posts should be closed or sold. Funding previously spent on maintenance should be used for recruitment/training of recruits. Please give Tim Orr a call, he represents the National Guard well and has quite a few good ideas about future direction(s) of the guard.

TIONA JOHNSTON—WATERLOO, IA

I do not believe that we should cut any of our military. My oldest son is in the Reserves. I also believe that someone should be FIGHTING for our Veterans' rights.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ST. PAUL, ST. CLARE CRUSADERS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the St. Paul, St. Clare Crusaders 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Team, who ended a great season Friday, March 28, 2014. For the seventh year in a row, the Crusaders went undefeated as champions of the Luzerne, Lackawanna League and went on to compete in the Pennsylvania CYO Championship at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, where they faced the best teams that the state's eight Dioceses had to offer. Under the leadership of Mike Brown, and assistant coaches John Murray, Patrick Sweeney, and Jamie Dempsey, the team of 20 ranked 6th in the entire state with an overall 36-2 record.

It is with great pride that I honor the team and the coaching staff of St. Paul, St. Clare.

The sportsmanship, athleticism, and teamwork that these young people displayed on the court brought their community together. I congratulate the Crusaders on their hard work and success, and I thank them for inspiring us all.

COMMEMORATING PATRICIA "PATTY" LYONS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Patricia "Patty" Lyons. Patty passed away on March 26, 2014 after a long courageous and hard fought battle with cancer.

Patty was a dedicated nurse in Bucks County for 35 years. It has been said of nurses, that with each patient and family they work with over the years, they give a little piece of themselves and each of those threads, make up the beautiful tapestry that is the career of nursing. Patty's career and life was indeed a beautiful tapestry. She dedicated her life to improving the care of older Americans particularly those in home care and hospice. She established and operated Bucks County Special Care for 28 years. Patty worked tirelessly advocating for legislation requiring non-medical home cares to be licensed and direct care workers to pass criminal background checks, which ultimately became law.

Patty was very generous with her time and dedicated hours of service to numerous boards, community organizations and commissions including the Long Term Care Advisory Panel serving the 8th Congressional District. I had the honor and pleasure of knowing Patty. She left a lasting impression on those she touched and she will be dearly missed and fondly remembered.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM N. PHILLIPS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant General William N. Phillips, United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and selfless service to our nation as the Military Deputy Director to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. Lieutenant General Phillips will retire after 38 dedicated years and exceptional service to this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, let me be the first to say that there is no mission too great for this incredible individual. Bill's tremendous vision, leadership, and dedication to excellence has ensured our beloved Soldiers fighting on behalf of the Nation have always had and will continue to have well into the future, the most technologically advanced and reliable equipment whenever and wherever they need it most. A true champion for Soldier's and their Families, his efforts

have proven to be exponential and his example unwavering.

Lieutenant General Phillips earned his commission as a Field Artillery Officer in the United States Army from Middle Tennessee State University and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on the first of July, 1976. Excelling in a multitude of positions spanning from Army aviator to defense procurement and contracting expert, Lieutenant General Phillips has performed at an elite level in business, academia, and combat. He humbly served with great pride as a warrior and scholar.

Lieutenant General Phillips' assignments have been some of the most challenging and diverse his profession has to offer. He served impeccably in positions to include but not limited to: the Commanding General, Joint Contracting Command-Iraq/Afghanistan in Baghdad, Iraq, the Commanding General of Picatinny Arsenal in the great State of New Jersey, as well as the Program Executive Officer for Army Ammunition, and the Deputy Program Executive Officer for Army Aviation.

Mr. Speaker it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Lieutenant General William "Bill" N. Phillips as he proceeds into the next chapter of his life. Bill is leaving a legacy that will be remembered for the years to come. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Lieutenant General William N. Phillips for almost four decades of tremendous Service to his Country in the United States Army. I wish Bill and his loving and dedicated wife Marilyn Phillips, the very best as they begin their new journey that is sure to be filled with continued success and adventure.

**HONORING CAPTAIN MARK E.
CEDRUN**

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Captain Mark E. Cedrun as he retires from the United States Navy after 31 remarkable years of service.

In 1979 as a young constituent of California's 24th Congressional District, then high school senior Mark Cedrun came to me seeking a nomination to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. I was thoroughly impressed with Mark's intellect, maturity, and enthusiasm. He stood out among an extremely competitive candidate pool. I was delighted to grant Mark the nomination. At that time, Mark was accepted to the United States Military Academy Preparatory School in Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey. After one year, I was honored to once again nominate Mark for the Naval Academy in Annapolis where he was ultimately commissioned as an ensign in 1984.

Mark went on to have an exemplary naval career, serving multiple sea assignments. He was deployed to the Arabian Gulf in early 2003 in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and most recently served as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Throughout his long career Mark has received

numerous awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

I am honored to have played a small part in such an impressive and honorable naval career. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of Captain Mark Cedrun and wishing him all the best for the future.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE ALEX G.
SPANOS HEART AND VASCULAR
CENTER AT MERCY GENERAL
HOSPITAL**

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the opening of the Alex G. Spanos Heart and Vascular Center at Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento. The Alex G. Spanos Heart and Vascular Center builds upon the foundation of excellence that has made Mercy General Hospital a proven leader in cardiovascular care. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mercy Hospital's Alex G. Spanos Heart and Vascular Center and all who have made the Center a reality, as they commemorate this important milestone.

Mercy General Hospital is home to the highest-volume heart surgery program in California, and the Alex G. Spanos Heart and Vascular Center was created to help meet the needs of those with cardiovascular diseases. This center will grant patients access to a state-of-the-art diagnostic cardiopulmonary care area, a cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation center, and four cardiac surgery operating rooms, including an innovative hybrid operating room. The new facility will be of great value to the entire Northern California region, with its cutting edge technology and highly advanced procedures.

With the renovations and additions, the Center will now allow for more rooms to be available for both scheduled and emergency cardiovascular procedures. This allows patients to have access to world class technology, and an integrated care model, creating greater efficiencies and a continuum of care. I am confident that the Center's impact will be felt across California and not just in Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker, as the Spanos family, who made this Center possible, Mercy General staff and community supporters gather for the blessing of this building, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them the best of luck moving forward.

**RECOGNIZING PARKLAND HEALTH
AND HOSPITAL SYSTEM'S
STROKE PROGRAM**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Parkland Health and Hospital System's stroke program. Parkland recently received the Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold-Plus Achievement Award and the Target: Stroke Honor Roll for its implementation of quality improvements laid out by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

Parkland is Dallas County's public hospital and serves as one of the area's three Level 1 Trauma Centers and the primary care center for the county. Parkland is also one of the largest providers of uncompensated care in Texas. However, Parkland's dedication to community health programs remains unwavering.

Parkland's commitment to improving stroke care means that patients receive personalized care based on clinical guidelines. The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association note that hospitals that follow the Get With The Guidelines-Stroke see a reduction in length of stay and readmission rates for stroke patients, ultimately reducing disparity gaps in care.

Landing on the Target: Stroke Honor Roll demonstrates Parkland's commitment to reducing the time between hospital arrival and treatment. People who suffer a stroke and receive the clot-buster tPA, the only approved drug to treat ischemic stroke, within three hours may recover more quickly and are less likely to suffer from a stroke-related disability.

Parkland Health and Hospital System has worked diligently to implement guidelines from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds. I encourage hospitals nationwide to use these internationally respected clinical guidelines. It is imperative that we use the medications and risk-reduction therapies aimed at the reduction of death and disability in stroke patients. I urge my colleagues to support the hospitals in each district in this country by helping stroke patients and spreading awareness about stroke risk factors and treatment.

WADSWORTH CONTROL SYSTEMS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Wadsworth Control Systems for being honored with the Business Recognition Award given by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Business Recognition Award is given to a Jefferson County company which shows growth in employment, sales and capital investment in the last year.

Wadsworth Control Systems is a family owned and operated company and is one of the oldest and reliable environmental control companies in North America. The company manufactures climate controls, energy curtains and vent automation for greenhouses around the world. Wadsworth Control Systems is constantly innovating to produce the best product for their customers.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Wadsworth Control Systems for being honored with the Business Recognition Award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your commitment to high standards, innovation and quality products.

TRIBUTE TO TONY COLLINS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Clive Assistant Fire Chief Tony Collins of Dallas Center, Iowa, for his lifesaving efforts on March 14, 2014.

Don Reese, an 83-year-old Pomeroy resident, was enjoying a Friday night with his daughter-in-law at a Waukee establishment when tragedy struck. Near midnight, Don fell to the ground unconscious after experiencing a severe heart attack caused by complete blockage in two major arteries. As the bar patrons' mood shifted from relaxed to panic, it was Mr. Tony Collins, at the bar celebrating his 53rd birthday, who took the situation into his own hands.

Mr. Collins immediately began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while directing four other customers to check for vital signs and perform chest compressions. For nearly fifteen minutes, Tony and his team continued to work on resuscitating Mr. Reese with no signs of hope. Finally, Don regained his pulse and began breathing again, ultimately conscious and alert by the time the ambulance arrived. There is no doubt that Tony's quick thinking and heroic actions saved Mr. Reese's life that night.

Mr. Speaker, Assistant Fire Chief Collins' instinct and brave actions to save a fellow Iowan's life embody the selfless attributes we all should strive for. His extraordinary response to this life-threatening situation should give us all pause as we offer gratitude to our local heroes. It is a great honor to represent Tony in the United States Congress, and I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating and thanking him for his outstanding performance and commitment when it truly mattered most.

RECOGNIZING INDIANA LEGISLATORS: SENATORS ALLEN PAUL AND JOHNNY NUGENT

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the careers of two extraordinary In-

diana legislators: Senators Allen Paul and Johnny Nugent. These two friends have served the state of Indiana for decades, and I want to personally thank them for all of their hard work and recognize them for their many accomplishments.

Let me tell you a little bit about Senator Allen Paul. Allen volunteered for the U.S. army in 1967 and is a decorated Vietnam Veteran. He was awarded the Bronze Star for saving a man's life and also earned a Combat Infantry Badge and four Air Medals. After being honorably discharged from the Army, Allen was elected to the State Senate in 1986 where he was a tireless advocate for military members and their families. He passed important legislation to help veterans receive a college degree and supported legislation to offer in-state tuition for veterans.

Senator Paul has the distinction of being the first legislator from Eastern Indiana to serve in a leadership position within the caucus. During his 28 year tenure in the Senate, He served as Majority Whip, Chairman of the Insurance Committee and Chair of the Financial Institutions Committee. His political savvy and institutional knowledge will certainly be missed by his colleagues in the State Legislature.

Senator Paul's dear friend Senator Johnny Nugent has also decided to retire after more than 30 years in office. He too is a veteran of the U.S. Army and Army Reserve. At the age of 26, Johnny was elected Dearborn County Commissioner—the youngest commissioner ever elected in Indiana. As a State Senator, Johnny held numerous leadership positions including Majority Floor Leader, Chair of the Agriculture and Small Business committee and ranking member of the Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee.

Senator Nugent has been a tireless defender of the 2nd Amendment and served two terms on the NRA's Board of Directors. The only individual in Indiana to serve on the board. During his tenure in the Senate, he successfully sponsored Indiana's "Castle Doctrine," as well as the nation's first lifetime concealed carry permit. Senator Nugent is also known for his involvement in his local community. He is a member of the Dearborn County Chamber of Commerce and the Southeastern Indiana Shrine Club. He is a successful small business owner and ran Nugent Tractor sales of Lawrenceburg for decades.

Both Allen Paul and Johnny Nugent serve as shining examples of what it means to be a public servant. I ask the entire 6th Congressional district to join me in recognizing these two outstanding Hoosier legislators. I have no doubt these great men will bring the same commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm they had for serving their constituents and their communities to the next chapter of their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I missed several votes this week to attend some services for Lieutenant Walsh and Firefighter Kennedy.

I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present: rollcall No. 149—"yes"; rollcall No. 150 "yes"; rollcall No. 152 "no"; rollcall No. 153 "no".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, I recorded an erroneous vote on the vote to approve the resolution H. Res. 530. I intended to vote "no" on rollcall vote No. 153, on agreeing to resolution H. Res. 530.

A REAL TASTE OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every morning for the past fifteen years, Southeast Texans have turned on their radios to AM 700 on their morning drive and heard my good friend, Edd Hendee. On his show, Edd talks about everything from hot political topics to the Texans. It's hard to believe that his time on Houston radio will soon come to an end. Edd will be missed on the airwaves, but I have no doubt that he will continue to impact Houston.

Edd is a fourth generation Texan, skilled entrepreneur, brilliant business owner, patriot and Texan to the bone. Edd Hendee and his wife, Nina, operate the best steak restaurant in Texas, the Taste of Texas. The Hendees opened the doors of the Taste of Texas in 1977. Today, over three decades later, the Taste of Texas is a Houston landmark. The restaurant is known not only for its outstanding, high quality food but also its first rate service and superb wait staff of mostly young Texans.

The Hendees are remarkable business owners who know that a hard working staff is key in the hospitality business. Since the restaurant first opened, the Hendees have employed more than 10,000 people—young adults—at their restaurant. Over the years, the Hendees have learned some valuable lessons on management and mentoring. They don't just treat their staff like employees; they treat them like family. But, then again, Edd and Nina are not your average employers. They treat their employees well but require that their employees live their lives to certain standards: be polite, be punctual, study and prepare for school, work hard and stay away from drugs. Edd and Nina serve as mentors for their employees, requiring them to make certain grades and helping them stay on track in school. They also hold their employees accountable, drug testing them regularly. The Hendees not only teach their employees how to work in a professional setting, but they also teach them how to succeed in life through hard work and dedication. It is certainly remarkable and rare for employers to care that

much about their excellent employees. The Hendees go above and beyond for their extended family.

I always enjoy the opportunity to visit with the Hendees at The Taste of Texas. In the kitchen, one can see where the magic happens. They have an impeccable, efficient operation that is built upon the finest quality beef, an abundant salad bar and friendly Texas service. It's name—the Taste of Texas—is well-suited because it really showcases Texas' finest.

As a Texas history lover, perhaps my favorite part about the Taste of Texas is its extensive collection of historical Texana documents and artifacts. Over the years, the Hendees have given almost daily tours to hundreds of thousands of young Texans, including many school children. Nina, a Texas Historian, also gives Texas history lessons almost every Saturday to different groups. Of course, it is a requirement for my staff to go hear one of Nina's Texas talks. A visit to the Taste of Texas is simply a journey through the long, glorious history of Texas highlighting Texas' 9 years as an Independent Nation. (Some say we are still an independent country).

I have always appreciated Edd's perspective and radio commentary because as a business owner, he has seen it all. In his fifteen years on the radio, he has spent each morning advocating for issues that are important to Texans. Like me, he often pontificates on issues, such as the Second Amendment, individual liberty, a secure border and a limited federal government. As an entrepreneur, he is a strong advocate for lower taxes and a smaller, more accountable government because he has seen firsthand how the government can stand in the way of business. And, as the husband of Nina, Edd's commentary often touches upon Texas history and explanations as to why things are the way they are. That's why Houston loves listening to Edd in the mornings.

Edd's voice will be greatly missed on the airwaves, but he and his wife's impact on Houston will continue because of their devotion to the community, their commitment to their employees and the well-deserved success of the Taste of Texas. As proud Texans who want to give back to their nation, I am also grateful that Edd and Nina serve on my Service Academy Advisory Board, helping to interview and nominate some of Houston's best and brightest to attend our nation's military academies. These are the people who will defend our nation in the future. I congratulate Edd on his fifteen years of on-air success and wish him all of the best in his next chapter of Texas History.

And that's just the way it is.

**HONORING EXXONMOBIL FOR ITS
RECOGNITION BY THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF WORKFORCE
BOARDS FOR ITS ROLE IN JOB
CREATION IN TEXAS**

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the outstanding and proactive lead-

ership in Texas by ExxonMobil and its recognition by the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB). NAWB works to create a relationship between businesses and Workforce Investment Boards to coordinate and maximize employment potential for employers and workers. ExxonMobil was recognized at the Annual Excellence Awards in Washington D.C. for creating training programs and high-paying careers for over 10,000 Texans.

This large job growth is made possible by the billions of dollars of capital investment in the Texas economy. ExxonMobil has established partnerships with local workforce boards to find unemployed workers that would be best suited for immediate employment or training. In line with training, they have also committed \$500,000 to fund the Community College Petrochemical Initiative, expanding training programs to quickly recruit workers to long-term careers.

In addition to creating jobs, ExxonMobil has partnered with schools and other community collaborators to improve primary and secondary education in Texas. For instance, "Introduce a Girl to Engineering" provides 180 middle school girls with hands-on activities that help them learn about career opportunities in the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematical (STEM) fields. STEM education is important, as the number of job openings is expected to grow nearly twice as fast as the number of jobs in non-STEM sectors in the next 5 years. Another program, called the Advancement Via Individual Determination helps more than 400 students improve their academic and organizational skills, increasing their chances of attending college. ExxonMobil has also partnered with Lee College to provide paid internship opportunities. An impressive 100% of students that completed the internship program to date have been hired by ExxonMobil.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring this recognition from the National Association of Workforce Boards.

**THE REPUBLICAN FISCAL YEAR
2015 BUDGET**

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to the Republican budget for fiscal year 2015.

This Republican budget is yet another attack on America, especially our seniors, students, workers, and middle class families.

Yet again, this irrational budget guts federal investments in education, research, innovation, and infrastructure.

It would dramatically slash the social safety net by privatizing Medicare, turning Medicaid into a block grant program, and cutting SNAP benefits.

With cuts like these, Mr. Speaker, everyone gets left behind and our economy only gets weaker.

Instead, our budget should present a blueprint toward prosperity.

Our government should be investing in programs that strengthen our economy, grow our middle class, lift people out of poverty, and help more Americans achieve the American Dream. This budget fails on all these fronts and should be rejected.

AZERBAIJAN TRAGEDY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the tragic events that began on February 25, 1992 in the Azerbaijan town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabakh region.

On that fateful day Armenian forces began a brutal attack on the 7,000 Azerbaijani citizens of Khojaly. During the attack 613 Azeris were killed, 1,275 were taken hostage, and 487 were seriously injured. Of the dead 106 were women and 83 were children. Many of those killed were first brutally tortured.

In blatant disregard of four UN Resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, Armenia continues to occupy Khojaly and surrounding territories. The occupied area constitutes twenty percent of Azerbaijan.

The Minsk Group, comprised of the United States, France and Russia, works with Armenia and Azerbaijan to reach a peaceful settlement to no avail. Nothing can change the tragedy that occurred at Khojaly but with a peaceful settlement and the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories, what remains of the 900,000 Azeris displaced from the entire conflict can return to the land they call home and rebuild their lives.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the victims of this tragedy and do all we can to further the Minsk Group's efforts so there is a peaceful resolution and the people of Nagorno Karabakh can return home.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGIZE
EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES ACT**

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my bill, the Energize Emerging Opportunities Act. My legislation simply requires the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to harmonize their rules for general solicitation and marketing with rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act, passed by the House and Senate and signed into law in 2012, directed the SEC to provide an exemption for general solicitation and marketing for companies. My legislation simply corrects an oversight and harmonizes the rules of the CFTC with the SEC.

This alignment will allow companies to provide information to the public and enhance opportunities to grow our economy.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. economy is in a fragile state, any hurdle, fee, or foreign advantage, will cost the U.S. economy valuable jobs. It is time we act to remove barriers that hinder growth and unleash the economic engine in this country.

My legislation will clarify and harmonize the CFTC and SEC rules so emerging companies will have a clear understanding of the rules and the ability to fully participate in growing the economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the Energize Emerging Opportunities Act, in order to ensure clarity in the rules.

HONORING RAYFORD GUZARDO

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the 90th birthday of Mr. Rayford Guzardo of Nederland, Texas. Mr. Guzardo is a remarkable and respected member of our community on the Texas Gulf Coast. His life and career exemplify a selfless and tireless commitment to his family, community, and to our great nation. This weekend, Mr. Guzardo will gather with his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to celebrate a life of what is rightly called a member of our greatest generation.

Rayford Guzardo was born on April 6, 1924 in Nederland, Texas. He enlisted in the United States Air Force after the start of World War II, after he served in Italy. He flew heroically as a tail gunner on a B-24 "Liberator", and bravely weathered a year's captivity as a prisoner of war when his plane crashed during a mission over Hungary. Upon returning home from his military service, he married his lovely wife, Virginia, in 1949. Together, they built a family and a business in Nederland. Never opposed to honest, hard work, Rayford labored long hours as the owner of the family business; a local feed store that supplies the Jefferson County community with everything from livestock feed and garden necessities, to knowledge and know-how which he offered with traditional southern hospitality. Rayford has dedicated his life to family, community and to the Lord, our God. He has spent the past 90 years setting an example of courage, honor, loyalty and kindness to which we can all aspire.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Rayford Guzardo on this milestone. I thank him for his outstanding service to our nation. I am proud to join his friends and family in celebrating his 90th year, and I wish him continued health and happiness.

HONORING MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT JOEL D. ROGERS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Gunnery Sergeant Joel D. Rogers, who will retire this year from the United States' Marine Corps after 28 years of outstanding service to our country.

Upon completing recruit training, Private First Class Rogers attended Marine Corps Engineer School specializing in the Journeyman Electrical Equipment Repair Course. He completed training before being assigned to the Selected Marine Corps Reserve at Engineer Maintenance Company in Omaha, NE.

In January 2003, Master Sergeant Rogers deployed to Iraq serving as the Maintenance Chief of Combat Service Support Company-146 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following his tour overseas, Master Sergeant Rogers was assigned to the Pentagon serving a vital role as a Congressional Liaison to the Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.

After serving at the Pentagon, Master Gunnery Sergeant Rogers returned to Omaha and Offutt Air Force Base as a Protocol Action Officer before later serving as a Legislative Liaison for U.S. Strategic Command. As a member of the legislative staff, Sergeant Rogers served a crucial role interacting directly with members of Congress.

As a civilian, Rogers finished 24 years with the State of Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services before retiring in 2012 as an Administrator. He is an alumnus of Bellevue University where he holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Services Administration and a Master's in Organizational Leadership.

In November 2012, Master Gunnery Sergeant Rogers assumed his current role as Action Officer of Command Protocol. In this role, he coordinates and assists in visits for the command's various distinguished visitors including members of Congress, military and civilian leaders, as well as foreign government officials.

Rogers and his wife Felicia, who serves as my District Director, have seven children and live in Papillion, NE. Three of their sons have followed their dad's lead in serving our country by also enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps. Rogers and his family are outstanding members of our community and this past November received the Community Service Award from Heartland Family Service, an award given to those exemplifying strong family life and community service in the Omaha area.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Rogers is the recipient of various personal decorations including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Services Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Master Gunnery Sergeant Rogers for his outstanding service to our country and in particular, Offutt Air Force Base and STRATCOM.

TRIBUTE TO ADAM KADUCE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Adam Kaduce for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Adam Kaduce is a Greater Des Moines native through and through. Raised in Urbandale, Adam began making his mark on the area at just 13-years-old by starting a lawn care business with his brother, Michael. Mr. Kaduce's business sense, work ethic, and intuition have only grown from his humble beginnings as he has become a proud Drake Law School graduate working in his current role as a Commercial Real Estate Manager with R&R Realty Group. Outside of his professional career, Adam is an adjunct professor at Drake University and serves as a member of the Urbandale Economic Development Advisory Board, the Capitol City Connection, and the Urbandale Education Foundation. In all aspects of his life, Mr. Kaduce is an example of service, hard work, and Iowa values that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Adam in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Kaduce for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Adam on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT WALTER H. RICHARDSON, USAF, RETIRED

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Chief Master Sergeant Walter H. Richardson, USAF, Retired, who passed away on March 29, 2014. Walt, who built his life "on three pillars of faith, hope, and love," was dedicated to his country, his community, his family, and above all, the Lord. I am privileged to honor a truly remarkable man and American hero.

Born and raised in Pensacola, Florida, Walt joined the Armed Forces to serve his country and help provide for his family. His career in the Armed Forces spanned thirty years and included service in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Walt was an original member of the revered Tuskegee Airmen, training at Tuskegee Army Airfield in a variety of disciplines that would serve him well throughout his entire career. A few years ago, I had the honor of presenting Walt the Congressional Gold Medal for his service as a Tuskegee Airman.

During his time in the military, Walt was one of over 1,000 enlisted men selected to integrate the Armed Forces. Walt's unwavering commitment to service and immense leadership skills were recognized when, while stationed at Dover Air Force Base, he became the first African-American to be promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant in the field main-

tenance squadron. He retired at the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant, as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commanding General of the 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Florida.

Beyond his military service, Walt was an accomplished writer, whose personal memoir is titled *How Great Thou Art: A Black Boy's Depression-Era Success Story*, in addition to a dedicated member of the Northwest Florida community, who served as a deacon of St. Mary Parish in Fort Walton Beach for three decades. Walt was known throughout the Gulf Coast as a kind and warm-hearted man who was always willing to help his fellow citizens. To his family, he was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

The legacy left by Walt Richardson and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen had a profound im-

pact on the course of our history. Our Nation is proud and grateful for the brave men and women like Walt Richardson who stared into the face of racial discrimination and said we are "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Walt led an exemplary life of courage, service, patriotism, and devotion to faith and family, and his service to God, family, and country will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am humbled to honor Chief Master Sergeant Walter H. Richardson, USAF, Retired. My wife Vicki and I send our sincerest condolences to his wife of 60 years, Helen; his eight children, Walter, Pat, Lillie, Carmen, Henri, Donna, William, and Carl; nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and the entire Richardson family.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Friday, April 4, 2014*

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. There are many important issues to be considered, with multiple interests and priorities dividing the House in its deliberations.

May the inertia of habit that has solidified various blocs of opinion be stirred to productive action, and grant that a new light might shine on creative solutions to longstanding and vexing disagreement.

The benefit of so many Americans depends on the creativity and intentions of those who serve here. May their hopes and prayers for constructive legislation be satisfied to Your divine grace and the goodwill of all in this Chamber.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches.

RECOGNIZING BELL STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bell Street Middle School in Clinton, South Carolina, for the outstanding accomplishment of winning their 12th consecutive Science Olympiad State Championship.

You hear a lot about sports teams, but this is a science olympiad team. Each year, the South Carolina Science Olympiad competition brings together schools from all over the State to compete in science-related contests, with the goal of changing the way science is perceived and taught.

Bell Street Middle School has repeatedly excelled in the competition, leading the State for over a decade. This year, Bell Street finished first in 12 of the 20 individual competitions in the State tournament.

Last year, the school placed in the top six in the Dynamic Planet competition in the Science Olympiad national tournament.

We are very proud of these students and what they accomplished. I am confident they will go on to represent South Carolina well in the national competition.

I want to thank the students, teachers, the parents, and the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make the dream a reality.

I wish the team great success in the upcoming national competition and continued success in the State tournament for years to come.

RAISE THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the urgent need to raise the Federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour.

Since 2009, we have had the same \$7.25 per hour minimum wage. Over the last 5 years, inflation rates caused the value of that to decrease by an average of 13.6 cents per year.

Today, \$7.25 is worth 9 percent less than it was in 2009. For someone working full time on minimum wage, this is like getting a \$26 decrease in pay. Meanwhile, the cost of everyday necessities continues to increase. Between basic needs like gas, milk, heat, and electricity, Americans are paying \$23.19 more per month.

Many times, I have urged my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to do the right thing and allow a vote to

ensure American families can have the comfort of a livable wage.

For those who are not working and struggling to keep afloat in these tough times, let's vote to extend the unemployment benefits that expired.

I urge my colleagues to stop brushing working Americans under the rug and pass a fair minimum wage.

SAVE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mr. SMITH of Missouri asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, the problems with ObamaCare never seem to stop hurting families and individuals in Missouri's Eighth District. They are experiencing huge increases in their monthly premiums, and bureaucrats are continuing to get between doctors and patients.

Additionally, workers are seeing reduced hours because of the 30-hour rule contained in ObamaCare. The Save American Workers Act will repeal ObamaCare's 30-hour rule.

Because of this legislation, small businesses will no longer be forced to choose between providing health insurance to part-time workers or drastically cutting jobs or even eliminating employees.

A recent study estimated a 30-hour workweek rule could cost as many as 2.6 million Americans jobs.

Make no mistake, I am still fighting to fully repeal ObamaCare, but the Save American Workers Act will not fix every problem with the ObamaCare health care mandate, but it will immediately save millions of American jobs, and it will help families who are struggling to make ends meet.

BARROW'S BOOKWORMS CHALLENGE

(Mr. BARROW of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the elementary school students in my district in Georgia who are part of the inaugural class of Barrow's Bookworms.

Last fall, I challenged students in my district to read 20 books over the course of the semester. Upon completion, they would be recognized for their good work with a ceremony in the district.

For this first-ever Barrow's Bookworms program, more than 1,300 students in Georgia's 12th District accepted the challenge and completed the program, collectively reading more than 27,000 books.

As part of this program, students were also asked to create a bookmark that would be distributed to all of the participants. Bekah McCord, an outstanding third grade student at Southwest Laurens Elementary School in Dublin, successfully completed the Barrow's Bookworms reading program and was selected as the winner of our first bookmark design contest. Bekah is an exceptional student and a great example to peers.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Bekah and all of the students who participated this year, and I look forward to next year's Barrow's Bookworms challenge.

CONDOLENCES FOR THE TRAGEDY AT FORT HOOD

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my thoughts and prayers to the individuals, families, and loved ones of those affected by the tragedy at Fort Hood. To have this happen a second time adds more heartbreak to a community still grieving from the tragic events of 2009.

There are still a lot of questions to be answered. Assuredly, like many cases where suicide is involved, we may never know the motive. Undoubtedly, the gunman's mental wellbeing, along with many other variables, continue under investigation.

Not until we know more from the leadership in charge of the investigation would it be appropriate to speculate facts or other variables.

Yes, given a preliminary description of events, it is hard not to place a tragedy in perspective—in the context of the grave challenge our Nation faces when it comes to better addressing issues of behavioral health, mental illness, and suicide.

For now, we pray. For now, we praise. For now, we honor each individual and each sacred life lost.

A TRIBUTE TO MARLAN BOURNS

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marlan Bourns, a local Riverside County inventor and philanthropist who recently passed away at the age of 93.

Marlan and his wife Rosemary founded what was then known as Bourns Laboratories out of their garage in

Michigan, but its quick growth propelled their relocation to my hometown of Riverside, California.

There, Mr. Bourns' business grew to become a significant contributor in the fields of engineering and technology. His inventions would be used by NASA, the medical device industry, telecommunication companies, and personal computer manufacturers.

His fair pay for employees and respectful treatment of them are several of the reasons why some stayed with the company for 50 years. He was able to pour much of his success back into the community through his generous endowment for the University of California at Riverside, which is now home to the Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering.

His friends and family will always remember a creative and inventive man who carried with him an incredibly gentle nature and giving spirit. He will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CASTLE RED HURRICANES

(Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to offer congratulations to the New Castle Red Hurricanes for winning their first-ever Pennsylvania AAAA State championship, with an undefeated 31-0 record.

The 'Canes pulled this off with a 52-39 victory over Philadelphia's La Salle College High School 2 weeks ago in Hershey, Pennsylvania, making them only the fourth undefeated Pennsylvania class AAAA boys' basketball champions in State history.

I send a special congratulations to the players' families, as well as head coach Ralph Blundo and New Castle superintendent John Sarandrea.

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the day after the 'Canes won, Coach Blundo told a group of kindergartners that the 'Canes aren't special because they won the State championship.

He says they are special because of their good grades and the fact that every one of his seniors are going to college next year. He says his players just do things the right way. I couldn't agree more. Go 'Canes.

HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S ASSASSINATION

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 46th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King being gunned down in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. King is well-known for his speech, "I Have a Dream," about civil

rights and social justice. When he died, he was fighting for economic justice. He was fighting for the right to organize and for better wages for human beings and to attack poverty.

Unfortunately, in this House, too often we hear about opposition to jobs bills, opposition to the minimum wage, opposition to health care for individuals who cannot afford it.

We even see the voting rights bill being struck down by the Supreme Court and the difficulty of getting a new one in this House, and we see people in the other Chamber who even question the need for the civil rights bill.

Dr. King's dream is still just that, a dream. Many of us share that dream. One day, all of us will wake up and see reality, that the dream must be fulfilled. I hope that day comes soon.

In Memphis, it is a holiday for Dr. King. It should be a holiday for everyone, and we remember a great man and his great works.

CONGRATULATING WOMEN VETERANS CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an inspiring leader from Illinois' 14th District. For her exemplary service last month, Erica Borggren was named one of only 10 of the White House's Women Veterans Champions of Change.

Since August 2011, Erica has served as director for Illinois' Department of Veterans Affairs. Under her leadership, IDVA has launched, among other successful programs, the nationally acclaimed Illinois Joining Forces, which connects veterans with more than 200 veterans-serving organization.

She is a Rhodes scholar, Truman scholar, and was valedictorian at West Point. Her military service spans from South Korea, as an Army Medical Service Corps officer, to Iraq, as commanding General David Petraeus' trusted speech writer.

General Petraeus calls her:

One of the most talented officers with whom I have ever served and exemplary in every respect.

Erica's strong leadership and record of excellence ensures a bright future for Illinois' military servicemembers and veterans.

REMEMBERING THE PASSAGE OF THE BRADY HANDGUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, February of this year marked the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Brady

Handgun Violence Prevention Act. Since becoming law, it is credited with stopping more than 2.1 million gun sales to prohibited purchasers, including convicted felons, domestic abusers, and fugitives.

The recent tragedy of 2 days ago at Fort Hood brings to light again the issues of PTSD, mental illness, and what our men and women in uniform have suffered throughout all of our wars, and I mean all of our wars.

We cannot continue to ignore Virginia Tech; Fort Hood; what our colleagues Gabby Gifford and RON BARBER endured; Aurora, Colorado; Sandy Hook; Washington Navy Yard; Littleton; and Fort Hood again, just to name a few. These incidents—the families, communities, the friends—cry for action.

Mr. Speaker, let us act by at least bringing H.R. 1565, the King-Thompson bill, to this floor.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1874, PRO-GROWTH BUDGETING ACT OF 2013; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1871, BASELINE REFORM ACT OF 2013; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1872, BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 539 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 539

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1874) to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of legislation. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendments recommended by the Committee on the Budget now printed in the bill and the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be sub-

ject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1871) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to reform the budget baseline. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment recommended by the Committee on the Budget now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1872) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Budget now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 0915

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, this is a big day for me down here on the

House floor. I don't know if you were catching every word of the rule as it was being read, but what you've got here in a nutshell, Mr. Speaker, is a rule that makes in order absolutely every germane amendment that was offered, not to one budget reform bill, not to two budget reform bills, but to three budget process reform bills.

We talk so much about numbers in this institution, Mr. Speaker. We talk about baselines. We talk about CBO scores. We also talk a lot about people. We talk a lot about families. We talk about why what we do here matters in the lives of folks back home.

Father Conroy prayed this morning, Mr. Speaker, that we could get out of some of our old habits that the inertia leads us to disagree and find those things around on which we do agree. There is one thing that is undisputed in this Chamber—in fact, on Capitol Hill; in fact, in this entire town—Mr. Speaker, when it comes to budget process, and that is that every time we decide we are going to spend money today, we get a little boost in the economy, and that boost comes from a mortgaged future. We can get a little today at the expense of a little tomorrow, or, conversely, we can lose a little bit today in exchange for gaining a little bit tomorrow.

There is no free lunch when it comes to budgeting, Mr. Speaker. I only get to spend each dollar once in this institution, and I can either raise that dollar from today's taxpayers or I can borrow that dollar from tomorrow's taxpayers. There are arguments on both sides. Daniel Patrick Moynihan was fond of saying: Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but they are not entitled to their own facts.

What these three budget process bills before us today, Mr. Speaker, will do is make sure we are working from the same shared set of facts. Now, again, this rule, Mr. Speaker, provides for these three bills. It is H. Res. 539. It is a structured rule for H.R. 1874, the Pro-Growth Budgeting Act. That is going to be on the floor today immediately following this rule. If we are able to secure passage, and I certainly hope that we can, we will be debating H.R. 1874.

H.R. 1874 will instruct the Congressional Budget Office to calculate, when we make these decisions, whether we are going to spend a little today and mortgage tomorrow or whether we are going to save a little bit today in exchange for growth tomorrow, to calculate that impact. It is not enough to spend the dollar, it is not enough to save the dollar. We have to explain, not just to our colleagues, but to the American people, what the benefit or the burden of that decision is going to be. H.R. 1874 brings some clarity to that decision.

One of my personal favorite bills, Mr. Speaker, is H.R. 1871. H.R. 1871 and H.R. 1872 are also made in order by this

bill. H.R. 1871 happens to be the Woodall bill, Mr. Speaker. It is the Baseline Reform bill. Candidly, I can't claim credit for it. I want to, pride of authorship and all. But, Mr. Speaker, the truth is it is the gentleman from the great State of Texas, Mr. LOUIE GOHMERT has been fighting for this bill long before I arrived in this institution. I happened to get a seat on the Budget Committee; he happens to serve elsewhere; so I am carrying this language. I couldn't be prouder to do it, but I want to give credit where credit is due.

The fight that the gentleman from Texas has been making over the years—and it is not a fight against one another; it is a fight against inertia, as Father Conroy talked about this morning—is to say that it is just crazy in today's tight economic environment to assume that if the government spent X dollars this year, we are going to give them X plus 3 percent next year, that irrespective of what your mission is, irrespective of what your productivity is, irrespective of what your success is, we are just going to assume that your agency is going to get more money next year than it got this year. That is not the way anybody operates at home. That is not what we do around the dinner table. That is not what any business in America does. That is not what we should be doing.

So H.R. 1871 says we are going to assume you are going to get next year what you got this year, with absolutely no inflation whatsoever.

Now, this is not an area of wide agreement. I would argue what you get next year ought to be less than what you get this year, because we ought to expect some productivity increases from you. It is fair in the industrious society in which we live that we expect you to do more with less next year. But we are not trying to achieve all of that today. We are just saying that what you get next year is going to be what you get this year. Eliminate those automatic inflators that bias us towards less productivity and more cost.

Finally, H.R. 1872, Mr. Speaker, that is a bill from my friend from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT). That bill says we ought to have accurate accounting, fair cost accounting, of government loan programs.

We are in the business of guaranteeing a whole lot of loans in this institution, Mr. Speaker, loans for all sorts of meritorious activities that we would agree on both sides of the aisle are worthy of being carried on, but the question is how do we account for that in the budget process.

Today we assume that those loans will never go bad—that those loans will never go bad—and that we will only reflect a cost of the American taxpayer guaranteeing those loans when and if those loans do go bad. But that is not what happens in the real world. That is

not what we ask of our bankers down on Main Street. That is not what we ask of any financial institution. We would run you right out of town if you tried to do your accounting that way in the real world, Mr. Speaker.

So what Mr. GARRETT says is: Why can't we apply real world accounting to this institution? Why can't we hold ourselves to the same high standard that we hold folks back home? I applaud him for that. I think that is something, again, that brings us together rather than divides us.

What I like most about this rule, though, Mr. Speaker, is that when the amendments were offered—and that is the way the process goes, for folks who don't watch the Rules Committee as closely as my friend from Florida and I do. Members of Congress come; they submit their amendments to the Rules Committee; and the Rules Committee decides what is made in order. But we do that in consultation with the Parliamentarians. We need to make sure that amendments are germane. We want to make sure that the conversation is on the topic that the bill is on. We don't allow nongermane amendments most of the time, but sometimes Members submit amendments in good faith that don't comply with the rules as they were submitted, but they can be worked on to make them better.

What I am particularly proud of, Mr. Speaker, is that, when we received some amendments that were not quite within the four corners of the rules, rather than just rejecting those amendments out of hand, which would have been a perfectly appropriate response, we didn't do what was appropriate; we did what was right. And that was to go and work with those Members to improve those amendments, get them within the four corners of the parliamentary process, and make those in order today.

So, again, every single germane amendment that was submitted to the Rules Committee on each of these three bills was made in order for debate under the bill. We will do the first of those bills today. If this rule passes, we will do the remaining two next week, and all done in the name of transparency and accurate information for the American people.

It is perfectly legitimate to have your own opinion about what the Federal budget ought to look like, but you are not entitled to your own facts about what the impact of those decisions will be.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), my friend, for yielding the customary 30 minutes for debate.

I rise today in opposition to the rule and underlying bills.

In my friend's commentary, I perceived him as being very reasonable, particularly when he gets to the part of the rule that deals with those amendments that were made in order that are germane. It is a particular concern that he has demonstrated in the period that he has been on the Rules Committee. He also is an advocate for open rules.

That said, one of the down sides to our process, in my judgment, is that I would imagine that at least a significant portion of this body—not the majority—don't even know what we are debating today and won't know until they come here to vote. For that reason, we should make open rules; whereas, ideas that germinate during the course of the debate could be put forward by Members under our rules process.

Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for consideration of three bills. Before getting into it, normally when people leave our offices or when we complete the process of debating a measure and want to give kudos to the staff, we do so at the end of the process. But today I want to recognize the rather extraordinary staff on both sides of the Rules Committee, and particularly the young man seated next to me, Ian Wolf, who labors actively to help me put words together to come here with, and two young men that are working in the office with me: Tom Carnes, who recently came to me as a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Maine, and Mike Sykes, a wounded warrior. Many of the words that I will speak henceforth are from those three gentlemen, and I thank them for that.

Normally, like my friend from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), we both are, in my judgment, good extemporaneous speakers. But today, I am going to stick to the script because of these two young men. Then, if I am provoked by my friend from Georgia, I will speak extemporaneously.

□ 0930

Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for the consideration of three bills, all of which impose tortuous new rules on an already convoluted budget process and attempt to embed Republican dogma into what is intended to be an objective analysis based on reality, not fantasy.

The bouquet of imagery to explain this latest budgetary behavior is certainly painful: Yogi Berra and déjà vu all over again; Groundhog Day with Bill Murray's character, Phil Connors, doomed to repeat the same day over and over again; Sisyphus sentenced for his hubris to push a boulder up a mountain only to see it careen to the bottom and have to start all over again.

We have seen these proposals before, Mr. Speaker. Yet, once again, my friends across the aisle try their best to throw up smokescreens right and further right. Once again, my friends,

led by Chairman PAUL RYAN, present reforms that are not common sense but that are actually nonsense. Once again, Republicans propose budget process changes that are nothing more than gimmicks to eliminate the spending on essential government services and to dress up tax cuts for the wealthy. Once again, we have to waste time considering budgetary gimmicks like “dynamic scoring” and whether we should factor in inflation when accounting for future spending instead of dealing with the important issues of the day.

The need for immigration reform isn't going anywhere, friends. The need for investment in our infrastructure isn't going anywhere. The need to provide health care for our veterans is not going anywhere, and will I tell you that your budget gimmicks aren't going anywhere either, and you know it. You can pass these gimmicks all day long. You are in the majority. You can pass them all day—24 hours a day—and twice and three times on Sunday, but you know that they are dead on arrival in the Senate.

So let's turn to serious business, business the American people would like us to take up, rather than wasting our time and the time of millions of Americans. The changes envisioned within these bills tie Congress and the Congressional Budget Office up in knots in an effort to prove that conservative ideology about taxes and spending is going to grow our Nation's economy—not create more jobs, not stimulate demand, not invest in infrastructure or in education or in any of the many endeavors that are critical to improving the lives of all Americans.

In H.R. 1871—Mr. WOODALL's favorite bill and for good reason as he is the author of this iteration of it, and he gave attribution to the person who has struggled to put this measure forward—it is proposed that the Congressional Budget Office not include annual inflation when making its budget baselines. This seems like a rather mundane, technical change, but it isn't.

I would be pleased to support this, Mr. Speaker, because it means that, in making my own personal budget projections, I can simply ignore the fact that the costs for everyday items and activities tend to go up every year. I can just assume that what I am paying today I can keep paying 10 years from now and still expect the exact same number of goods and services. But, of course, we all know that isn't true. Simply wishing away inflation won't make it so. Fuzzy math, as it has been described by some, does not equal fiscal responsibility.

By eliminating inflation adjustments from discretionary spending projections, Republicans are actually reducing the funding for a Federal program. Since the dollar amount would stay the same every year, the number of services that could be covered would de-

crease. I hasten to add that I agree with my friend Mr. WOODALL that accountability ought to be factored in and that these programs should be able to perform in a way that is accountable to the public. When they do not, they should be dispensed with, and that is a prerogative that we can exercise, but it doesn't have to be done the way that it is put forward. It is our responsibility to have the oversight of these structures in our government.

Over the long term, this results in a massive decrease in essential services that millions of Americans rely on. This technical change then is actually a backdoor effort to slowly starve necessary government programs. Rather than be up front about which programs my friends on the other side want to eliminate, they would rather put sneaky rules into place to guarantee the outcome they want without having to have an open debate.

Through H.R. 1874, Mr. Speaker, Republicans want to introduce dynamic scoring into the CBO's projection process. Dynamic scoring? Take a closer look. It is more like dynamic stealing. By implementing this fantasy math, the Republicans artificially inflate the costs of important programs as a way to steal them out from underneath those who are most in need of them. They tweak the CBO's analysis so that tax cuts for the wealthy seem like they grow the economy while investments in programs that help everyday Americans do not. Let me repeat that. They tweak the CBO's analysis so that tax cuts for the wealthy seem like they grow the economy while investments in programs that help everyday Americans do not. I have lived here long enough to see “trickle down” fail repeatedly. Republicans make it easier to cut taxes for the rich rather than to build bridges and schools for the rest of us.

This bill specifically instructs the CBO to ignore the positive economic effects that would come about from investments in things like infrastructure and education. I want to underscore the word “infrastructure.” We talk about it all the time around here, and a decade ago, one of our colleagues spent a portion of his career here asking us to spend money on bridges. When I came here in 1992, we had 14,000 bridges in this Nation that were in need of repair, and we have not addressed the circumstances surrounding that, and we need to and we can. It is as if dealing with infrastructure and education—as if spending on things that Americans want and need—won't boost the economy, which is the way their approach suggests.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are at it again with H.R. 1872. This proposal seeks to significantly change how the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office calculate the costs of government loans

and loan guarantees. This bill would just add an extra price tag to programs based on what an individual would pay for a loan in the private market. Never mind the fact that the United States Government is not an individual acting in a private credit market.

What this bill really represents is another attempt by the Republicans to make important programs for the poor and middle class families appear too expensive to be continued—programs meant to help young people get an education, programs that help struggling families afford homes, programs that help the elderly in their need of security in their failing health, programs that help farmers and small businesses grow this economy. By artificially inflating the costs of these programs, the Republicans hope to fool us into thinking that we can't afford them.

But as far as I know, April Fool's Day started and ended on Tuesday. I will tell you this: I am not going to be fooled; my constituents aren't going to be fooled; and the American people aren't going to be fooled by your gimmicks—and these budget bills are only the appetizers.

The entree was served up by Chairman RYAN when he recently introduced his next budget, which he dubbed—and I was reading it last night—the Path to Prosperity, but it would be more accurately called a path to poverty. As much as I had hoped for the opportunity to turn down a path where we consider meaningful legislation, we are again forced to battle against Chairman RYAN's latest march down his path to poverty, and since we have already adopted top-line numbers for the next two budget cycles, there is no reason for this budget beyond feeding the political base of my friends on the other side.

We will see the bumper stickers. We will hear the talk. We will hear the echo chamber recite the mantra of those who would feed their base. I suppose this budget is a solid start for a 10-minute standup set at your local yuck-yucks, but that is about the best that I can say for it.

I mean, you are going to cut spending by \$966 billion over the next 10 years by cutting funding for food stamps, by cutting funding for income assistance to help needy families, by cutting Pell grants for kids to go to college. You can't be serious. You are going to implement draconian cuts to programs millions of Americans rely upon, but you make sure that we increase defense spending. You can't be serious.

Mr. Speaker, what the Republicans are really showing us here is their blueprint for America's future. You don't even have to look that closely to see that this blueprint creates nothing but structural integrity problems for our economy. The Republicans' blueprint lays bare their full frontal assault on middle class families and the

poor. Their blueprint calls for turning Medicare into a voucher program. They will describe it differently, but it comes out to nothing more than a voucher program. Their blueprint calls for non-defense discretionary spending to be cut to the tune of \$791 billion. This will result in draconian cuts to education, public works, medical research, and the list continues. It goes on and on.

Do you want to better yourself by obtaining a college degree? RYAN's road to ruin is going to make sure that there is no money there for you to do so.

Do you want to help grow our economy by shipping your goods on our roads and bridges? Good luck, since your goods will undoubtedly be held up at one of the many Ryan roadblocks to prosperity that will strip the budget of much-needed infrastructure investments.

Are you or is any member of your family suffering from a disease, the cure for which would certainly be furthered by Federal medical research dollars? Sorry, but with this Republican budget proposed by Mr. RYAN, you have found yourself on Mr. RYAN's fast track to despair.

Rather than using the budget process to lead this country into a new era of economic growth, Republicans want to cut taxes for the rich, cut programs for everyone else, and then feel like they have set this country on the right track. This is no way to run an economy, no way to run a budget process, and it is no way to stick up for the millions of struggling Americans, as my friends on the Democratic side are doing and have done for years, who need us to focus on improving the economy.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I thank Mike and Tim and Ian and the Rules Committee staff who are working with me.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 0945

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes to thank my friend from Florida for laying out exactly what the case is that needs to be made today.

It just so happens all of those spending priorities that the gentleman from Florida mentioned are spending priorities I share—investments in education; investments in roads and bridges; investments in cutting-edge research that makes a difference in people's lives, not just in terms of treatments, but in terms of cures.

In the absence of crystal-clear budgeting, in the absence of the reforms that we have proposed here today, the \$5 trillion that the Budget Committee passed that proposes to reduce Federal spending over the next 10 years is exactly the same as the interest that that very same budget proposes to pay over the next 10 years.

I want you to hear that, Mr. Speaker. Every single reduction in spending that the gentleman just laid out is necessitated because, dollar for dollar, we are wasting those same amounts on paying the debts that previous Congresses have racked up.

That is a Budget Committee-passed budget. The President's budget, Mr. Speaker, proposes to spend \$6 trillion over the next 10 years on interest alone—interest alone.

Mr. Speaker, by not taking responsibility today, not only are we mortgaging our children's future by piling these debts on them, we are trading away opportunities to make a difference in their future.

Because those dollars that we are sending to the Chinese and Germans who loan us money and the money that we are spending to pay our debts is money that we could be spending on those shared investment priorities that the gentleman from Florida and I have in common.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from the State of Florida (Mr. NUGENT), one of the great members of the Rules Committee, a former sheriff.

Mr. NUGENT. Thank you, Mr. WOODALL. I certainly do appreciate it; and to my colleague from Florida on the other side of the aisle, once again, it is always a pleasure.

Mr. Speaker, only in Washington can politicians pat themselves on the back for cutting spending while actually increasing spending. That is a novel idea.

Say, for example, we spent \$100 on a program 1 year. The next year, we automatically assume that we are going to spend \$103 on that same program, due to inflation. If we only end up spending \$102 versus the \$103, according to official government accounting, we have cut spending, but we increased spending by \$2.

In the real world—at least back home—you can't simultaneously cut spending while increasing spending and then say you cut spending. You can't do both. It is one or the other.

Families don't budget this way. Businesses don't budget this way. It would have made my life a whole lot easier as sheriff if my budget automatically increased 3 percent because of inflation that may or may not exist within the program.

If you change the baseline every year by inflation, no one has to justify what their increase is; but then, again, we live in this fantasy world called Washington, D.C. This is where we live today.

The fantasy is that we can spend more money than you take in, and it will all work out in the end. We can be \$17 trillion in debt today, but don't worry about it because it will get better on its own.

How does it work? It doesn't work that way. Mr. Speaker, our current

budget process is broken. By assuming automatic increases in spending, our system favors more and more spending without any accountability.

Under this scenario, programs don't receive a real examination as to whether or not they deserve the increases. They just get it anyway. Just because they exist, they get more money; not that they need it, not that they can show folks that they absolutely have to have it, we just get it.

As Chairman RYAN pointed out last night in the Rules Committee, our current budget process has not been significantly reformed since the Budget Control Act of 1974. That is 40 years ago. We haven't done a thing. Given our fiscal situation, it is about time we do something to try to get this on the right track.

I appreciate the committee's work, and I particularly appreciate Mr. WOODALL's bill today. These are important steps to refine and reform the budget process.

You hear folks from the other side of the aisle say that these are gimmicks. Well, I will tell you that, back home, it is not a gimmick when I stand there and have to justify why I need more money in my budget as sheriff.

I had to stand there with the appropriators and say: Here are the reasons why I need more money; and by the way, here is what we have done with the money.

So we show that we have actually earned it, and the taxpayers can see that there was a reward at the end of the day and that they got what they paid for.

There is none of that up here. I sit in committee meetings, day in and day out, in regards to seeing money being spent by government. Nobody is held accountable. We give people five-digit bonuses, Mr. Speaker, for doing a lousy job, but that is the way government works. We reward mediocrity.

This budget idea, if enacted, actually reins that in and makes people accountable for the dollars they are given from the American public so they can say: Listen, we are not talking about it; we are doing it.

So to Mr. WOODALL and to Mr. RYAN, I do appreciate all their hard work and what they have done and where they are trying to move this process forward.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Now, I turn to the extemporaneous side. Mr. Speaker, on Monday evening of next week, my friend Mr. WOODALL and I will be in the Rules Committee, and we will be taking up the Ryan budget. I might add that we use the names of individuals.

I have great respect for PAUL RYAN. I think he is a brilliant young man; and clearly, ideologically, he and I have our differences.

I remember being on the floor and hearing the two best speeches in the 21 years I have been here that were made pertaining to issues of the moment. One was made by Ron Dellums, chairman of Armed Services at the time, and the other by John Kasich, who is now the Governor of Ohio.

I still consider those two speeches to be the best that I have heard in the time that I am here, mine and Mr. WOODALL's notwithstanding.

On that night that Mr. Kasich made his remarks, I listened very intently to him. I forget the exact numbers that the budget was proposing, but after he finished his remarks, I went up to him and congratulated him on his remarks.

I then said to him what I will say to Mr. RYAN at some point in the future: I understand what it is that you want to spend, and I believe that we would probably spend right at or about the same amount of money. The difference is what you want to spend it on and what I want to spend it on.

That is what I said to John that night. I find myself in that situation repeatedly through the years. I myself, and certainly many others, am a champion of those who are less fortunate in our society, and I don't believe that my friends are unmindful of the great need that our constituents have, be they Republican, Democrat, Independent, or otherwise situated politically.

The simple fact of the matter is that there are people in this country who are not as well off as some others in the country. There should be nothing to decry the fact that there are some in our society who have done exceedingly well, even during recessions.

I have a friend that is a billionaire. He told me he made money during the Depression, he made money before the Second World War, after the Second World War, and made money after every recession, largely for the reason that he knows how to make money; and I don't begrudge him that.

But that same individual told me that any amount of taxes that he paid, he would prefer to see that it goes to educating our children appropriately, and if it required him to pay more taxes, he would have no problem doing so, and toward that end, I feel the same way.

People think that those of us up here in Congress live a life of luxury with a high salary of \$174,000 a year. Well, the simple fact of the matter is—and rightly, perhaps—we have not had a raise for Congress Members for 5 years.

At the very same time, if I use myself as an example, my rent here in this town has gone up \$600 during that period of time. My salary didn't go up. So where was I supposed to meet these needs?

The simple fact is that, when we talk about a household budget, that is an entirely different set of circumstances than a Federal budget or a State bud-

et or a city budget. They do not operate the same, and we should stop making that analogy.

It is not like I sit down and fill out my budget. This is an extremely complex process. The Congressional Budget Office only gives us the numbers that we tell them that the policy is going to be, and they tell us what the numbers are going to look like. They don't provide the numbers. They don't do the oversight on the programs that we make here.

We don't have to just give them the money, but if we set a baseline and if we do allow for inflation, when those programs have failed or those that are sunset—and more of them should sunset and too many of them have failed—then that is our responsibility.

When we cut poor people, when we cut middle class people in this country—that is the base of this country, that is the bedrock of this country. It has been and will continue to be.

If we go the path that my friends want us to pass through, what we will do is allow for those people that are better off in our society—who could afford to help more the poor and the middle class—to get richer, and it will cause more middle class people to become poorer; and then the needs will be greater. If we don't see ourselves as a better society than that, then something is drastically wrong with us.

I don't begrudge a single rich person on Earth, but I do feel strongly responsible for those that are poor and not poor necessarily by virtue of their circumstances.

What we tend to do to poor people here is, rather than ask them what we can do with them to lift them out of poverty, we do things to them. That is why most of us know that they won't vote at voting time, largely for the reason that they have the most reasons to vote and, at the same time, have the relative least reasons to vote.

The insufferable triumvirate of inadequate jobs, inadequate housing, inadequate educational opportunity persists in this country, and the fact of the matter is that we can do better—and we should do better—by those that are poor. We should do something meaningful to create jobs.

After Monday of next week, when we talk about this budget, I defy my friends to tell me that they are going to put that budget on the floor. When we vote on it Wednesday, I say let's go into debate Thursday and debate it until its conclusion and then vote on it.

I guarantee you we are not going to vote on the Ryan budget, everybody knows that, and I challenge my friends to bring it forth any day after next Monday when we do the rule. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The gentleman from Florida

has 5 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Georgia has 16 minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1000

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It never surprises me how much I have in common with my friend from Florida. We come from very different parts of the world, Mr. Speaker. If you go to many events in this town, they will generally have a Southeastern State section and a Florida section. Florida is a little bit different from the rest of those Southeastern States. Our constituencies may not look the same demographically, may not look the same on paper, but when it comes to caring about one another, I have no doubt that our communities are incredibly similar, as the gentleman from Florida and I are very similar.

The debate is not about whether or not we have an obligation to our neighbors. We do. The question is are we meeting our obligation to our neighbors, and I will tell you that we are not. The pathway up in this country is what our obligation is here. I would say to my friends that providing a safety net that has no ladder out is a cruel and unsatisfactory path for this House.

I was talking with a gentleman down in southeast D.C., Mr. Speaker, and he runs a project that takes folks from homelessness and drug addiction to employment. He said: The problem with you Republicans is all you do is offer people hope: pick yourself up by your bootstraps; tomorrow will be better than today. He said hope in the absence of access is futile. He said: But Democrats offer help. If you are naked, I will clothe you. If you are hungry, I will feed you. If you are in prison, I will visit you. But he said help in the absence of a pathway out is to condemn someone to a life of poverty. He said: What you all have to do is to come together. You have to provide that help to meet people's immediate needs, but you have to provide that pathway out.

Mr. Speaker, I don't care if you are rich today; I care whether or not the opportunity exists in America for you to be rich tomorrow. And I don't mean rich by having six figures or seven figures or eight figures; I mean rich because you have got a roof over your head and you can feed your family.

The American Dream, Mr. Speaker, is not to be the next Bill Gates. I don't know where that ever got started. The American Dream is to be able, by the sweat of your brow and the power of your ideas, to be your own man or woman, to make your own decisions.

I listened deeply to the words of my friend and I looked for where we might find that common ground, because, Mr. Speaker, I would say to my friend from

Florida, if you go into any public housing facility in my district, they will tell you that the Federal Government prevents them from succeeding. The residents would say: You have got to let us kick the bad actors out. The residents would say: We have got folks here who are trying to make a difference, and we have got folks here who are bringing us down. You have got to give us the ability to keep our kids safe. You have got to give us the ability to keep our community safe. You have got to give us the ability to run our lives.

But Federal law says no, Mr. Speaker. Federal law says we know what is fair; we know what is best.

But I know the gentleman from Florida and I share a heart for letting folks in these communities take control of their lives, make those choices that will enable tomorrow to be better than today.

Mr. Speaker, with this budget—again, I can't make this point sharply enough—the President proposes to spend \$6 trillion on interest alone over the next 10 years—\$6 trillion. Now, at the President's spending levels, Mr. Speaker, that is almost 18 months of running this country. Understand that because of the borrowing patterns of past Congresses and administrations, we are losing 18 months of the very services the gentleman from Florida proposes that we provide. Eighteen months are eroded out of the next 10 years with interest alone.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that the Pro-Growth Budgeting Act does, for example, is say you have got to project out over 40 years.

You will remember, when the President proposed his health care bill, no question, his intention was to help folks; no question, his intention was to make life better for folks. We can absolutely debate whether or not those were successes or failures, but this is the way that budget sorted itself out. He said: I am not going to spend more than \$1 trillion on this program.

Now, I don't know when in the world, Mr. Speaker, \$1 trillion became the low number that we decided would be tolerable as a program, but he said: I don't want to spend more than \$1 trillion on this program.

So, instead of creating a 10-year program, he created a 6-year program, put the implementation off for 4 years. Critical health care services, absolutely necessary we provide these services to the American people, but they can wait 4 years. We have got families in need, families that don't have options, families that don't have choices, but I am not going to help them get choices for another 4 years. Six-year program, \$1 trillion.

The Pro-Growth Budgeting Act says we need to look at programs over 40 years because that \$1 trillion, 6-year program explodes in years 7 and 8 and

9 and 10. And it may be money well spent. I hope that is what the gentleman from Florida believes because I know he supported the program. I don't believe it is money well spent. I think we are losing trillions of dollars in health care costs that could be better controlled. I think we are losing trillions of dollars in care that could have been provided to folks but, instead, is being lost in an inefficient health care system.

But we don't have those answers when those bills come to the floor of this House for a vote. Who is it that opposes that, Mr. Speaker? Who is it that opposes, when we make trillion-dollar decisions that are multigenerational, that we don't have access to long-term data?

The gentleman from Florida says it seems disingenuous for us to pretend inflation does not exist. That is not what I am proposing, but disingenuous to pretend that it does. I think it is similarly odd to pretend that the program stops after 10 years instead of it continuing on in perpetuity, as these programs do. These bills do nothing but provide us with other information.

I will close with this, Mr. Speaker. My experience in this House with a voting card began in 2011. And while the gentleman is absolutely right, Mr. Speaker, when he talks about inflation and how services can be eroded, my experience in this House, your experience in this House, Mr. Speaker, is that we spent less in 2011 than we did in 2010, not more. Inflation was there, but we spent less. My experience, Mr. Speaker, is that we spent less in 2012 than we did in 2011, less in 2013 than we did in 2012, less in 2014 than we did in 2013. Every year I have been here we have spent less. I think that is what our constituency expects from us, not to cut critical service programs, but to increase our productivity and prioritize their dollars, prioritize their dollars to those places where they can do the most good.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire and ask the Speaker to inquire if my colleague is prepared to close. I have no further speakers at this time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. WOODALL. I would say to my friend from Florida, Mr. Speaker, I, too, am prepared to close.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 5 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

My colleague just concluded his remarks by saying in 2011, 2012, 2013 they spent less, and he is correct. But in 2011, more people needed food stamps; in 2012, more people needed housing; in

2013, more people needed to get across safe bridges and safe roads. So I am not sure where the twain meets.

I agree with my colleague that he and I have more in common than we do differences, but I hearken back to my earlier comment. He wants to spend or not spend on what he wants to spend or not spend, and I want to spend or not spend on what I want to spend or not spend.

I want to spend on roads. I want to spend on children's education. I want to spend on people who are hungry. And I believe he does as well, but you cannot do that if you keep cutting everything all the time.

Mr. Speaker, these bills and Chairman RYAN's budget are nothing more than base attempts to rally the fringe of the Republican Party, and I stand steadfastly against each one of these attempts to drag us down a Ryan road to ruin.

To quote the great American poet, Robert Frost:

I shall be telling this with a sigh somewhere ages and ages hence. Two roads diverged in a wood and I took the one less traveled, and that has made all the difference.

Mr. Speaker, friends, today we stand before two roads: one, a road to ruin paved with pummeling cuts to hurt the poor and attack middle class families, simply put, to protect the better off in our society, the real rich; the other road, a road that helps the poor ascend out from poverty, not a ladder out that has its ladder rungs with holes in it, as my friend discussed that ladder out, a road that helps middle class families more fully achieve their dreams, a road that helps our businesses and economy grow, a road that embraces our veterans and fights for them as vigorously as they fought for us. And if Fort Hood doesn't teach us anything about the mental health of our soldiers and our society, then I don't know what will.

Unfortunately, I believe this latter road traveled by my fellow Democrats and by me today will be the road less traveled, and this fact will certainly make a significant difference for the millions of Americans trying to fully realize their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 1010, our bill to raise the Federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question, vote "no" on the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Two paths diverged in the wood, and I took the path less traveled, and that has made all the difference.

Mr. Speaker, this is Washington, D.C. There is a term called "Washington, D.C., math," which, as my friend from Florida, the sheriff, described earlier is when you can raise spending by \$5 and call it a cut. That is Washington, D.C., math.

The path less traveled in this town is the path of fiscal responsibility; the path less traveled in this town is the path of accountability; the path less traveled in this town is the path of transparency, and that is what these three measures before us today propose, Mr. Speaker.

I held a townhall meeting, Mr. Speaker, about 12 months ago. They asked if I was going to support the congressional pay raise. I said: Well, we are not going to do a congressional pay raise this year, but I hope one day to come home and tell you that I have earned it.

I do. I want to show up back home, Mr. Speaker, and tell folks that, dadgummit: I have earned it. Be proud of what we have done in Washington, D.C. I have earned it.

I think that is true of every dime of spending the Federal Government does. I don't think we ought to assume, as the current baseline does, that every single Federal agency is going to have their budget increase next year by the cost of inflation. I think those agencies should come to this institution, as they do in an annual appropriation process, and say: I have earned it. I have earned it.

I am not just talking about making a difference in people's lives; here are the results. I am not just talking about lifting people up; here are the results.

The hardest thing to end in this town, Mr. Speaker, is a Federal program. Once they get started, they seem to last forever. Mission creep. If they solve one mission, they are going to adopt a new mission, roll right on down the line. Nobody wants to work themselves out of a job.

Is it so outrageous, is it the role only of the fringe, as my friend from Florida proposed, to suggest that, if we are going to borrow and spend more of our children's money, we should come and justify it?

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, that kind of budget transparency has become relevant only to the fringe of America. It is not the America I know.

I tell the young people—and I try to start every day back home with young people, Mr. Speaker. I say, listen, just tell me what you want in terms of support for higher education because the only dollars I am going to spend, I am going to borrow from you. I am borrowing it from you.

We all love our children. We all want our children to succeed. But we are borrowing from them. Every decision we make. These three bills ask for three things, and three things only before we make the decision to borrow from our children:

Number one, the Pro-Growth Budgeting Act. It asks that for those programs that are going to have a big impact on our economy, that we look not just at what the 1-year impact is, not just at what the 10-year impact is, but that we look at a generation of impact.

Before we start down that road less traveled, Mr. Speaker, we should know what it is going to cost us and how it is going to benefit us. We don't get that information today, as the gentleman from Florida, the sheriff, noted. We have not reformed the Congressional Budget Act since 1974. That kind of multigenerational information is worthy of this body. This bill would provide it to us for the very first time.

The Budget and Accounting Transparency Act. If you are going to lend money, you ought to account for it; you ought to evaluate it.

We often talk about our \$17.5 trillion debt, Mr. Speaker. That comes from Washington math because if we were anywhere else other than this town, we would have to evaluate all the promises that we have made. I mean, you know how Social Security is funded, for example, Mr. Speaker. It is today's workers that are paying for today's retirees. There is not a dime set aside for today's workers when they retire.

The true cost of government, the true national debt, as recently calculated by Dr. Larry Kotlikoff of Boston University, not a conservative by any stretch of the imagination, is over \$200 trillion—\$200 trillion. "Trillion"—we throw these words around as if they are nothing—that is 1 million millions. We have not had 1 million days since the birth of Christ, Mr. Speaker. We won't for another 730 years. Mr. Speaker, 1 million millions is 1 trillion. We have borrowed and promised on behalf of our children \$200 trillion.

The fair value accounting request is only that we be honest with the American people. I am prepared to live by whatever decision the American people make. I believe in our Republic. But we cannot ask people to make decisions without providing people with good information. This bill does that.

Then finally, Mr. Speaker, the bill, again, sponsored by my good friend from Texas, LOUIE GOHMERT, a long champion that I have the privilege of serving with in this Congress, the Baseline Reform Act. The Baseline Reform Act says, if you are going to raise spending by \$1, you are actually raising spending by \$1.

I know it sounds radical, Mr. Speaker. I know it sounds like the province of the fringe, but it is not. If you are going to raise spending by \$1, you

should say you are going to raise spending by \$1. Dadgummit, Mr. Speaker, I can't even have a town hall meeting these days and talk about budget numbers—because I am a budget guy—I can't talk about budget numbers without someone raising their hand and saying, now, ROB, when you talk about spending reductions, is that really a spending reduction, or is that just a reduction in the rate of growth? That is how it has become.

For 4 years in this institution, we have spent less each and every succeeding year. Now, I would argue, contrary to what my friend from Florida suggested, that we are prioritizing spending on shared goals, and we are deprioritizing spending on which we do not have those shared goals. It seems fair in these difficult economic times, as we are taking those dollars from hardworking American taxpayers across the country, that we identify high-priority spending and low-priority spending.

I will take the work at NIH, as I mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker. That is high-priority spending. That is basic research that is going to make a difference in people's lives and not a difference in something minor, Mr. Speaker, but perhaps a life-and-death difference. It is a goal that we share. It is a goal that the Appropriations Committee shares. It is a goal that we are going to be able to realize.

But I don't think there is a single man or woman at NIH, I don't think there is a single professor at NIH, I don't think there is a single Ph.D. candidate at NIH who is embarrassed to come up here and say, I have done well. I am a good steward of the taxpayers' money. Trust me again.

Mr. Speaker, that is where I want to take us with these budget bills. I want to have folks proud of how they are spending the dollars, proud to come and share that with us here in this Congress and have the American people proud to get onboard with renewing those dollars once again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support this rule. This rule has made in order every amendment that was germane to these three bills. I ask them to support this rule so that we can begin voting these bills this very day.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 539 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1010) to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate

shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1010.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he

then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. WOODALL. With that, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 193, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 157]

YEAS—222

Aderholt	Collins (NY)	Gingrey (GA)
Amash	Conaway	Gohmert
Bachmann	Cook	Goodlatte
Bachus	Cotton	Gowdy
Barletta	Cramer	Granger
Barr	Crawford	Graves (GA)
Barton	Crenshaw	Graves (MO)
Benishek	Culberson	Griffin (AR)
Bentivoglio	Daines	Griffith (VA)
Bilirakis	Davis, Rodney	Grimm
Bishop (UT)	Denham	Guthrie
Black	Dent	Hall
Blackburn	DeSantis	Hanna
Boustany	DesJarlais	Harper
Bridenstine	Diaz-Balart	Harris
Brooks (AL)	Duffy	Hartzler
Brooks (IN)	Duncan (SC)	Hastings (WA)
Broun (GA)	Duncan (TN)	Heck (NV)
Buchanan	Ellmers	Hensarling
Bucshon	Farenthold	Herrera Beutler
Burgess	Fincher	Holding
Byrne	Fitzpatrick	Hudson
Calvert	Fleischmann	Huelskamp
Camp	Fleming	Huizenga (MI)
Campbell	Flores	Hultgren
Cantor	Forbes	Hunter
Capito	Fortenberry	Hurt
Carter	Fox	Issa
Cassidy	Franks (AZ)	Jenkins
Chabot	Frelinghuysen	Johnson (OH)
Chaffetz	Gardner	Jolly
Coble	Garrett	Jones
Coffman	Gerlach	Jordan
Cole	Gibbs	Joyce
Collins (GA)	Gibson	Kelly (PA)

King (IA)	Olson	Shimkus
King (NY)	Palazzo	Shuster
Kingston	Paulsen	Simpson
Kinzinger (IL)	Pearce	Smith (MO)
Kline	Perry	Smith (NE)
Labrador	Petri	Smith (NJ)
LaMalfa	Pittenger	Smith (TX)
Lamborn	Pitts	Southerland
Lance	Poe (TX)	Stewart
Latham	Pompeo	Stivers
Latta	Posey	Stockman
LoBiondo	Price (GA)	Stutzman
Long	Reed	Terry
Lucas	Reichert	Thompson (PA)
Luetkemeyer	Renacci	Thornberry
Lummis	Ribble	Tiberi
Marchant	Rice (SC)	Tipton
Marino	Rigell	Turner
Massie	Roby	Upton
McAllister	Roe (TN)	Valadao
McCarthy (CA)	Rogers (AL)	Wagner
McCaul	Rogers (KY)	Walberg
McClintock	Rogers (MI)	Walden
McHenry	Rohrabacher	Walorski
McKeon	Rokita	Weber (TX)
McKinley	Rooney	Webster (FL)
McMorris	Ros-Lehtinen	Wenstrup
Rodgers	Roskam	Ross
Meadows	Ross	Rothfus
Meehan	Rothfus	Whitfield
Messer	Royce	Williams
Mica	Runyan	Wilson (SC)
Miller (MI)	Ryan (WI)	Wittman
Mullin	Sanford	Womack
Mulvaney	Scalise	Woodall
Murphy (PA)	Schock	Yoder
Neugebauer	Schweikert	Yoho
Nugent	Scott, Austin	Young (AK)
Nunes	Sensenbrenner	Young (IN)
Nunnelee	Sessions	

NAYS—193

Barber	Engel	Lujan Grisham
Barrow (GA)	Enyart	(NM)
Bass	Eshoo	Lujan, Ben Ray
Beatty	Esty	(NM)
Becerra	Farr	Lynch
Bera (CA)	Fattah	Maffei
Bishop (GA)	Foster	Maloney,
Bishop (NY)	Frankel (FL)	Carolyn
Blumenauer	Fudge	Maloney, Sean
Bonamici	Gabbard	Matheson
Brady (PA)	Galleo	Matsui
Braley (IA)	Garamendi	McCarthy (NY)
Brown (FL)	Garcia	McCollum
Brownley (CA)	Grayson	McDermott
Bustos	Green, Al	McGovern
Butterfield	Green, Gene	McIntyre
Capps	Grijalva	McNerney
Capuano	Hahn	Meeks
Cárdenas	Hanabusa	Meng
Carney	Hastings (FL)	Michaud
Carson (IN)	Heck (WA)	Miller, George
Cartwright	Higgins	Moore
Castro (TX)	Himes	Moran
Chu	Hinojosa	Murphy (FL)
Cicilline	Holt	Nadler
Clark (MA)	Honda	Napolitano
Clarke (NY)	Horsford	Neal
Clay	Hoyer	Negrete McLeod
Cleaver	Huffman	Nolan
Clyburn	Israel	O'Rourke
Cohen	Jackson Lee	Owens
Connolly	Jeffries	Pallone
Conyers	Johnson, E. B.	Pascarell
Cooper	Kaptur	Pastor (AZ)
Costa	Keating	Payne
Courtney	Kelly (IL)	Pelosi
Crowley	Kennedy	Perlmutter
Cuellar	Kildee	Peters (CA)
Cummings	Kilmer	Peters (MI)
Davis (CA)	Kind	Peterson
Davis, Danny	Kirkpatrick	Pingree (ME)
DeFazio	Kuster	Pocan
DeGette	Langevin	Polis
Delaney	Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)
DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Quigley
DelBene	Lee (CA)	Rahall
Deutch	Levin	Richmond
Dingell	Lewis	Roybal-Allard
Doggett	Lipinski	Ruiz
Doyle	Loeb sack	Ruppersberger
Duckworth	Lofgren	Rush
Edwards	Lowenthal	Ryan (OH)
Ellison	Lowey	

Sánchez, Linda T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Shea-Porter

NOT VOTING—16

Amodei
 Brady (TX)
 Castor (FL)
 Gosar
 Gutierrez
 Johnson (GA)

□ 1047

Mr. RICHMOND changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. POSEY and LONG changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 220, noes 194, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 158]

AYES—220

Aderholt
 Amash
 Bachmann
 Bachus
 Barletta
 Barr
 Barton
 Benishek
 Bentivolio
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (UT)
 Black
 Blackburn
 Boustany
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Broun (GA)
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Burgess
 Byrne
 Calvert
 Camp
 Campbell
 Cantor
 Capito
 Carter
 Cassidy
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Coble
 Coffman
 Cole
 Collins (GA)
 Collins (NY)
 Conaway
 Cook
 Cotton
 Cramer

Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Culberson
 Daines
 Davis, Rodney
 Denham
 Dent
 DeSantis
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Eilmers
 Farenthold
 Fincher
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foxx
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Gardner
 Garrett
 Gerlach
 Gibbs
 Gibson
 Gingrey (GA)
 Gohmert
 Goodlatte
 Gowdy
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (MO)
 Griffin (AR)
 Griffith (VA)
 Grimm
 Guthrie

Hall
 Hanna
 Harper
 Harris
 Hartzler
 Hastings (WA)
 Heck (NV)
 Hensarling
 Herrera Beutler
 Holding
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurt
 Issa
 Jenkins
 Johnson (OH)
 Jolly
 Jones
 Jordan
 Joyce
 Kelly (PA)
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline
 Labrador
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Latham
 Latta
 LoBiondo
 Long
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lummis

Marchant
 Marino
 Massie
 McAllister
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McHenry
 McKeon
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 Meadows
 Meehan
 Messer
 Mica
 Miller (MI)
 Mullin
 Mulvaney
 Murphy (PA)
 Neugebauer
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Nunnelee
 Olson
 Palazzo
 Paulsen
 Pearce
 Perry
 Petri
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poe (TX)
 Pompeo

NOES—194

Barber
 Barrow (GA)
 Bass
 Beatty
 Becerra
 Bera (CA)
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Brady (PA)
 Braley (IA)
 Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Capps
 Capuano
 Cárdenas
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Castro (TX)
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costa
 Courtney
 Crowley
 Cuellar
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle
 Duckworth
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Engel
 Enyart
 Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Fattah

Posey
 Price (GA)
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Royce
 Runyan
 Ryan (WI)
 Sanford
 Scalise
 Schock
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)

Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garcia
 Grayson
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva
 Hahn
 Hanabusa
 Hastings (FL)
 Heck (WA)
 Higgins
 Himes
 Hinojosa
 Holt
 Honda
 Horsford
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Israel
 Jackson Lee
 Jeffries
 Johnson, E. B.
 Kaptur
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kind
 Kirkpatrick
 Kuster
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lee (CA)
 Levin
 Lewis
 Lipinski
 Loebsack
 Lofgren
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lujan Grisham (NM)
 Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
 Lynch
 Maffei
 Maloney
 Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McCarthy (NY)

Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Southerland
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stockman
 Stutzman
 Terry
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tipton
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walorski
 Weber (TX)
 Wenstrup
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Williams
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IN)

Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Tierney
 Titus
 Tonko
 Tsongas

NOT VOTING—17

Amodei
 Brady (TX)
 Castor (FL)
 Duncan (TN)
 Gosar
 Gutierrez

Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, Sam
 Lankford
 Miller (FL)
 Miller, Gary
 Noem

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1054

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRO-GROWTH BUDGETING ACT OF 2013

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1874.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 539 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1874.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1057

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1874) to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of legislation, with Mr. COLLINS of Georgia in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read for the first time.

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, before I begin, I want to thank Chairman RYAN of the Budget Committee for his tireless work and activity, especially in the area of budget

process reform. He understands, as we all do, that the budget process is broken, clearly by the results that we have had or have not had here in Congress over the past number of years. I also want to commend the Budget staff and my staff for the work that they have done on bringing this bill forward and the work they have done on the commonsense kinds of reforms that are necessary in the budget process.

Mr. Chairman, this is a simple and a commonsense piece of legislation.

□ 1100

What we do here has consequences. What we do in Congress has consequences. Some of them are good; some of them are bad.

This amendment, when adopted, will allow us to have more information upon which to make decisions here in Congress. This is especially helpful in the area of economic activity. Economists from across the political spectrum agree that legislation considered by Congress can have significant effects on economic growth, what happens in the real world.

Major legislation, such as the tax reform legislation that is being discussed right now, is likely to have longer-term macroeconomic effects that will increase growth and, as a result, produce increased revenues, reduce spending, or some combination of the two. For example, the Congressional Budget Office's, CBO's, prior macroeconomic work has shown that deficit reduction has positive economic effects. I will quote from one of their reports:

Over the medium term and long term, when economic output is determined by the supply of labor and capital in the productivity of those inputs, the reduction in Federal borrowing that would result from smaller deficits would induce greater national saving and investment and, thereby, increase output and income.

In another report, Congressional Budget Office work concluded that:

Higher marginal tax rates tend to discourage some economic activity.

Now, while the current law that we operate under requires that the Congressional Budget Office provide Congress with information on the fiscal impact—what something costs—of all legislation reported from a committee, there is no systematic requirement for analysis of the economic impact, the realistic effects in the real world out there in the economy. This bill remedies that shortcoming.

This bill would require that the Congressional Budget Office provide a macroeconomic impact analysis for legislation that the CBO—that the Congressional Budget Office—estimates would have a budgetary impact of more than .25 percent of the annual gross domestic product. That is about \$43 billion. In addition, the bill would require that the Congressional Budget Office pro-

vide a statement of the critical assumptions and sources of data underlying their estimate.

This new macroeconomic impact analysis would not, Mr. Chairman—would not—replace the current work that CBO does, but it would provide more important information. I can't imagine anybody in this House who desires us not to have more information on the pieces of legislation that we are dealing with.

So, again, this is a simple, commonsense, and, I hope, bipartisan bill that we will be talking about and voting on today. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in opposition to this legislation.

I was interested to hear my colleague from Georgia end his comments by saying we should have more information rather than less. As I look at this legislation, on page 3, they say they want more information on the dynamic effects of different policies but specifically exclude, for example, the Committee on Appropriations; investments that we might make in our kids' education; or investments that we might make in other areas to power our economy—research and development, for example.

It is particularly interesting because the Republican budget that was just released and voted on the other night in the Budget Committee, according to CBO, in the next couple of years will create a drag on the economy, will actually hurt jobs in the next couple of years. Why is that? That is, in part, due to the fact that they make deep cuts in parts of the budget for investment in research and development and other areas that help power our economy. So it is kind of interesting, Mr. Chairman, that they specifically excluded the CBO from doing an analysis on that.

Now, a couple of my colleagues will have amendments to the bill, and if our Republican colleagues don't somehow mean to ignore those important investments, hopefully they will join us in supporting those amendments.

If you were the CEO of a company and you were projecting your growth and you were projecting your income, you would want to look at how much you are going to make from certain investments you make in your workforce and those kinds of investments. According to this bill, you don't want that. What this bill is after is simply to do an analysis primarily on a tax policy. It is motivated primarily by this idea that, if you provide big tax breaks to people at the very high end of the income ladder, it will trickle down and lift up all the boats, everybody else, trickle-down theory.

We saw how well that worked in the 2000s. We had big tax cuts in 2001 and

2003. A few years later, for a variety of reasons, the economy tanked. You heard the former Chairman of the Federal Reserve who predicted that those tax cuts would generate growth come back and say, you know, he was wrong.

So, I am all for additional information. On that point, I want to say to my colleagues that, on the most recent tax reform proposal that came out of the Ways and Means Committee, you actually do have a number of scores from the Joint Tax Committee, from our nonpartisan scores.

They have eight. They have eight scenarios. One projects .1 percent growth; one projects 1.6 percent growth. That is, of course, the one that Chairman CAMP ran with in all the information he put out. But what he failed to mention is they came up with eight scenarios. The reason they came up with eight scenarios is because they couldn't boil it down to say this will be the dynamic impact of that particular legislation because there are too many unknown variables. That is why they had eight.

Now you want them to somehow come up with one when they have repeatedly informed this Congress that it depends so much on the different assumptions that you make, that you can't make one prediction on that kind of legislation.

I have trouble with this legislation for a variety of reasons; one being, when it comes to tax policy, we have been informed by the experts that it is hard to pinpoint one number and boil it down to a growth figure. Then, as I mentioned, my colleagues have left out the benefits of investing in things like infrastructure, things like our kids' education, things like scientific research, so they are certainly not asking for more information when it comes to those important investments.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I urge my friend from Maryland to read the bill. Read the bill. This isn't about tax increases or tax decreases specifically.

Page 4, the macroeconomic impact analysis. An estimate of the changes of economic output: employment, interest rates, capital stock, tax revenues, all. In fact, the kinds of things that the gentleman points to in infrastructure or education, if they have an economic impact of greater than .25 percent of the gross domestic product, they would be evaluated and we would get a report from CBO on that.

I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah, CHRIS STEWART.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Chairman, I thank Dr. PRICE, who is one of the really bright lights here in Congress, for his leadership on this.

Imagine the CEO of a business telling the board of directors that he would like to buy a new piece of equipment. Unfortunately, this piece of equipment

is fairly expensive. But there is good news, and that is, by buying and making this investment, they are going to become more profitable; they are going to improve their cash flow; they are going to be able to hire more people and grow the business. That is a beautiful thing.

But then imagine that the board of directors goes back to the CEO and says, yes, you have to consider the cost of this equipment but you cannot consider the benefits of buying this piece of equipment, so it messes up entirely his profit projections. They are not able to consider the higher revenue and the growth that this company would undertake. That would be absurd and, of course, that wouldn't be a sound business decision. But that is exactly the situation that we find ourselves in right now.

The Congressional Budget Office does not have the ability to account for economic growth, specifically, the impact on GDP when it comes from tax cuts. CBO is, unfortunately, in the role of the board of directors telling the businessowner—or the business CEO, in my example—that it can't use the full toolkit of economic modeling in making projections upon which to make these critical decisions.

I have a degree in economics. I was a small business owner. I understand this isn't rocket science. The modeling of this is relatively simple. It is certainly something that we could do, and we hurt ourselves when we don't allow us to take advantage of this modeling.

There is something that Members from both sides of the aisle can agree upon, and it is that many times the numbers provided by CBO are simply not accurate. This is a way that will fix that. Part of the reason they object, frankly, is that it underestimates the impact of tax cuts.

Mr. Chairman, this is something that could help us make better decisions. I implore Members to support it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, look, the gentleman who just spoke mentioned some important examples. If you are a CEO, you want to know when you buy a piece of equipment or capital what the economic dividend is going to be on that. But I go back to the fact, on page 3, our Republican colleagues are asking for information on economic growth impacts of all sorts of things, but they specifically exclude anything that comes out of the Appropriations Committee.

It is not a surprise, because the Congressional Budget Office, in its analysis of the Republican budget, says that during the next couple of years it will actually slow down economic growth. In fact, if you look at their proposal, it calls for deep cuts in important investments. CBO says that will have a negative economic impact over the next couple of years. So it is not surprising that they don't want that information provided as part of this analysis.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER), a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1874 and to explain to my Republican colleagues why their tax policies have not worked and will not work to produce economic growth and jobs.

I am a scientist who has spent over 20 years at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory conducting research and a successful businessman before that, and a scientist proceeds on the basis of facts. The historical facts on Republican tax policies are clear.

Tax policies during the Clinton years, predicted by the Republicans to restrict economic growth, in fact generated the strongest uninterrupted period of job growth in our lifetimes—over 22 million new American jobs in 8 years.

Then the Bush tax cuts enacted in 2001 reversed those policies, and in the following 8 years, the net number of new jobs was essentially zero—actually, slightly negative. Twenty million Americans entered the workforce during the Bush years, and the Republican policies produced zero net jobs for them, opening up a jobs gap of over 20 million jobs, a jobs gap that we are still closing today.

So to the extent that there is a causal link between tax policies and job creation, the data is clear: Republican policies have destroyed jobs and Democratic policies have created them.

I will now attempt to explain why this is and why the simplified macroeconomic modeling promoted by this legislation will fail to match the real world.

Generally speaking, Democratic tax breaks deliver benefits to the middle class while Republican tax breaks deliver benefits to the very wealthy, and, as it turns out, the very wealthy spend and invest their money very differently than the middle class.

Mr. Chairman, the macroeconomic models promoted in this legislation typically model our economy with a single aggregated consumer. Like the Republicans, they pretend that giving an extra dollar to a billionaire is no different than giving an extra dollar to a working class family. However, if you give an extra dollar to a middle class family, they will spend it in the local economy, increasing local economic growth, or they will invest it in some of the highest return investments available to anyone, investing in their children's college education or, perhaps, buying a second car so that their spouse can get a job.

Now, if you give that same dollar to a very wealthy individual, they will not change their spending habits because they are already spending as much as they feel like spending and this will not change, so there will be no local economic growth.

The investments of the very wealthy are also very different since they no longer have available to themselves the high-return investments available to the middle class. The very wealthy have already spent everything they can to send their children to the finest schools. They already have seven Cadillacs in their garages. So the marginal investments of the wealthy are intrinsically less productive due to the basic principle of economics known as the "law of diminishing returns."

Since economic growth is equal to investments times return on investment—sorry about the equation—the economic growth from channeling money to the wealthy is far less than the same relief being given to the middle class.

□ 1115

Democratic middle class policies are pro-growth policies, and Republican policies are not.

Mr. Chairman, there is also another important effect not captured by the single-consumer macroeconomic models in this legislation, which is the increasing propensity for wealthy people to move their money offshore.

If you give an extra dollar to wealthy people, they will turn it over to their money managers, who look around for high yields and who will increasingly invest those dollars overseas, perhaps increasing the net worth of the wealthy investors but competing with and destroying American jobs. Had that same dollar been given in tax relief to middle class families, it would have been much more likely to stay in America.

So, in the real world, Republican policies trickle down, but they trickle down to jobs in China, and that is why the Bush tax cuts have generated zero jobs in the 8 years after having been enacted.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of the proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), the chairman of the Budget Committee and an individual who knows well the imperative of reforming the budget process.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to thank the vice chair of the Budget Committee for bringing this bill forward and for his hard work on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is really pretty simple. It will help Members understand how legislation affects the economy. Under current law, the CBO doesn't have to provide that kind of big picture analysis. It usually assumes

the economy will stay the same no matter how much in government taxes is spent. Think about that. We all know that that is not true. People respond to incentives. Federal policy changes the economy, and under this administration, the economy has consistently failed to meet expectations.

This is the chart that the CBO has shown over the years where they have consistently lowered their economic outlook. This has had a huge effect on our budget, and it has made balancing the budget that much harder. Traditionally, our economy has grown at about 3 percent a year, but over the past 4 years, it has grown only by 2 percent a year. It has grown less than half the average rate of other recoveries since World War II. The labor force participation rate has fallen to 63 percent. That is close to the lowest level in over 35 years. There are 10.5 million Americans who are now unemployed, and 7.2 million Americans are working part time for economic reasons. Those who are working have seen meager growth in their wages. The typical household income for families has actually declined. In fact, it is at the lowest level since 1995.

This weak recovery isn't something that just happened to us. It is not just by accident. It is clear that now that we are 5 years into this that the President's policies are weighing down the economy and are hurting the budget outlook.

The Congressional Budget Office now expects us to take in much less revenue, and that makes it much harder to balance the budget because of this poor economy. Since just last year, the baseline deficit has grown by \$1.2 trillion. The top line shows you last year's estimate, and the bottom red line shows you this year's estimate. Just from last year's estimate of where the economy was heading to this year's estimate of where the economy is heading by the Congressional Budget Office, it tells us there will be \$1.2 trillion in more deficits because of these failed economic policies.

We want to stop the failure. We want to get this economy growing. The CBO knows that if you actually have a better policy that actually grows the economy, you will help the budget outlook, and you will help get people back to work. You will help increase take-home pay. Just as a weak economy can drag us into the red, a good budget can push the economy forward. That is why Members need to know this before they vote on legislation. They need to know what the world might look like under a new law. It is common sense to ask how legislation will affect the economy.

This bill requires the CBO to give Members just that estimate. We are asking the CBO to give the same kind of analysis that we use in our own budget. In an analysis provided by the

CBO, they find the deficit reduction like we are proposing will help the economy grow. In 2024, economic output will be 1.8 percent higher per person than it otherwise would be. That is about \$1,100 per person. That is a pretty crucial piece of information. So we are adding to the toolkit. We are not taking anything away.

To the criticism I am hearing from others that, gosh, you are not doing this on every piece of legislation, you need to do this for the appropriations process, do you have any idea how many thousands of estimates come from the Appropriations Committee? If you actually gummed up the works like that, you would bring this place and the estimating agencies to a screeching halt. That is why there is an important threshold that is for significant pieces of legislation, legislation that is a quarter a point of the economy or higher, so that we can be well informed on big pieces of fiscal policy and so that we don't gum up the works and bring this agency and this institution to a screeching halt.

We think this hits the fine balance between the two. We think it is important that Members of Congress have a sense of how their votes will be affecting the economy. That is only common sense, and I urge the adoption of this bill.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia for actually bringing this to our attention.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Just to respond to the last point of the chairman of the Budget Committee with respect to the appropriations process, as I indicated earlier, this bill specifically exempts those pieces of legislation even if they meet the threshold with respect to the other legislation in here.

Again, it is, perhaps, not surprising. I think the American public knows that we have a short-term budget agreement, the Murray-Ryan agreement, but if you look at the budget that Republicans in Congress are proposing, it calls for a 24 percent cut to the current services in the recent bipartisan legislation over a 10-year period.

Let's just take one category of investments—in our kids. That means about an \$18 billion cut in early education. It means about an \$80 billion cut in K-12 education. It means about a \$205 billion cut in current policy higher education. It calls for charging college students higher interest rates for the period of time when they are in college. That raises about \$40 billion at a time when that same budget doesn't ask for anything from the highest-income individuals and doesn't raise one penny to reduce the deficit from closing special interest tax breaks.

So it is no surprise to me that they would want to exclude the economic

impacts of those investments that they are dramatically cutting. As I said earlier, the CBO, in its most recent analysis of the House Republican budget, says it will slow down economic growth in the next couple of years. It is very interesting that they don't want that quantified with respect to the appropriations bills. At the same time our Republican colleagues are saying they want more information, they specifically limit the information to certain areas.

The other thing I want to mention, Mr. Chairman, is immigration reform. We want the CBO to give us an analysis, when they have a specific bill, so they can determine the economic benefit and the impact of it. That is a good thing, and the CBO has done that for immigration reform. In fact, of all of the pieces of legislation that are before this House right now, one of the things that could have the most immediate economic growth benefit is the bipartisan immigration bill before this House.

The Congressional Budget Office has looked at that. They say that will generate a lot more economic activity. In fact, they say, over year 10, it will actually boost economic growth by 5 percent compared to what it would otherwise be. They say it will reduce the deficit in this 10-year window by almost \$200 billion and, in the 20-year window, by almost \$1 trillion. That is an analysis that we all should benefit from.

Interestingly, while that would provide great economic growth, based on CBO reports, and when Democrats the other night proposed an amendment in the House Budget Committee to adopt that bipartisan immigration reform bill which would generate economic growth, all of our Republican colleagues voted "no." We want more information—the more the better—but it needs to be information that the economists say they can usefully provide us.

I get back to the fact that, when it comes to the tax reform proposal, for example, that Chairman CAMP put in, they said that they couldn't narrow it down to one answer. They gave eight different models based on different assumptions. Our Republican colleagues are trying to say to professional economists, We really don't care what you say; you come up with a particular answer. Whereas, we think we should be asking for information in every case where it can be plausibly provided. Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues don't want it everywhere it can be plausibly provided because they specifically exclude the economic benefit of important investments in our economy and jobs.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK), a very productive member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his kind words.

Mr. Chairman, the question before the House is whether we are going to continue to ignore the economic consequences of the major actions that we take or whether we are going to start recognizing that incentives matter and that the legislation we pass has profound economic consequences that must be taken into account.

Why does Amsterdam have the narrowest houses on Earth? It is because they tax by street frontage.

Incentives matter.

What happens to our revenues if we tax all of a person's \$100,000 income? The static scoring on which we now exclusively depend says that that would raise us \$100,000, but we all know the correct answer is that we would raise zero dollars because that person now has no incentive to work.

Macroeconomics gives us tools to anticipate the real-world effect of major policy changes, and we ought not to be blind to them. It is not perfect, but it comes far closer to the mark than does a static model that assumes that people are mindless automatons whose behavior never varies despite major changes in the economic environment that our laws create.

This measure doesn't presume to tell the CBO how to do its job or what formula to use in its analysis. We will still get all of the static scoring the same as before, but on major legislation that greatly impacts the overall economy, this bill says: give us the complete picture. If a proposal is going to affect the economy by more than a quarter percent for good or ill, then tell us. Tell us what you think, and show us why you think so.

For too long, Congress has blundered from one economic policy to another with its eyes wide shut, and it is time we got the complete picture and took into account the real-world consequences of our actions.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time remains on both sides.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 16 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Georgia has 17½ minutes remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), the chairman of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I really want to thank the vice chairman of our Budget Committee for his leadership in trying to continually protect the working family budget from the onslaught of the Federal budget.

I am a little bit in disbelief, Mr. Chairman, from what I hear on the

floor. Rarely has there been a more commonsense bill that has come to this floor. It simply says two things. As we make important legislative decisions in this body, we should have more information instead of less, and we should think longer term as opposed to shorter term. Yet it is opposed by our friends on the other side of the aisle.

I am somewhat incredulous. I would say, if my Democratic colleagues don't want the information, maybe they don't have to pay attention to the information. I have heard, Well, not all of the information I want is going to come from this particular piece of legislation. I would encourage the distinguished gentleman from Maryland to encourage his staff to provide him then with the information that he wants.

What is really important here, Mr. Chairman, is that we understand in an economy in which millions of our fellow countrymen are unemployed or are underemployed how major pieces of legislation will impact the economy and their hopes, their dreams, their aspirations as they lay awake at night, wondering how they are going to make ends meet. I just wonder if one of the reasons that our Democratic colleagues are opposing this bill is that they know the Congressional Budget Office has now told us that ObamaCare is going to cost this economy 2.5 million jobs that otherwise we would have had.

□ 1130

What if we had that information before the bill instead of after the bill? Maybe the crown jewel would not have appeared.

So maybe they don't want the American people or Members of Congress to have that information, but the American people deserve this information, and we demand it on their behalf.

We need to support this commonsense bill.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I keep hearing our Republican colleagues say they want the "complete picture" and "more information is better than less." We agree. This is why it is so interesting, that they specifically exclude information based on bills that come out of the Appropriations Committee that call for investments in our economy and in areas that can help promote job growth.

They say they want more information, but their bill says they want it only in one area and not in another.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I guess I am not surprised, given the fact that the budget that the Republicans just voted out of the Budget Committee and expect to be on the floor next week makes dramatic, historic cuts to important investments that this country has made in the past. In fact, it is 40 percent below the lowest investments

as a share of the economy we have made since the 1950s.

This country has been able to compete and has been an economic powerhouse, in part, because of the great investments we have made as a Nation in important areas like science, research, infrastructure, and education; and yet Republicans want to exclude that in this bill.

Again, it is not surprising because the Congressional Budget Office, the very entity that they say they want to provide us this analysis, has said, over the next couple of years, their budget is going to slow down the economy and economic growth, in part, because of the deep cuts they make in this one area of budget that they don't want this information about. Surprise, surprise.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from the State of Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the distinguished ranking member and the manager of this bill.

I want to associate myself with Mr. VAN HOLLEN's analysis and add some other thoughts.

We are on the floor today, April 4, and might I make mention of two points that are not particularly related, but I do want to, again, acknowledge the men and women at Fort Hood, Texas.

I was there in 2009 to mourn with those families. Today, I mourn as well with those families whose loved ones have lost their lives and those who suffer. It is important for us as a Nation to be responsive to their needs. I know that we will do so in a bipartisan manner.

I also want to make mention that today is the date of the assassination of one of the greatest peacemakers in the world, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Besides his concern for those who did not have equal rights, he was also an economist, to the extent that his advocacy was to extinguish poverty.

The last days of his life were spent planning the Poor People's March in 1968 to raise incomes and the quality of life of men and women across America.

So I raise the question of where we are in 2014. This is not a conversation that we easily engage with our friends on the other side of the aisle.

As you are passing the budget resolution, the process that you are in, to my knowledge, there was no effort to include an increase to the minimum wage.

There was no effort to ensure that 164,000 persons in the State of Texas would get an unemployment insurance extension, thereby ceasing them from losing their homes or being evicted from their rental properties or literally not being able to support their families.

Now, we have on the floor of the House legislation that simply exacerbates the circumstance of those who

are aspiring to be in the middle class. It is a push toward dynamic scoring.

Dynamic scoring is an attempt to measure the microeconomic effects of policy changes before they happen and continue to pop up everywhere. In fact, it was even in negotiations of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, also known as the supercommittee, which, by the way, with no condemnation, did not work. It could not get a common ground.

You would wonder why Republicans are pushing this dynamic scoring bill. It is because they claim the traditional cost estimates prepared by the CBO are not enough, when we have used the Congressional Budget Office for decades, and it has been an effective tool to balance between revenue and tax.

So you wonder why the dynamic scoring comes in because it breaks the backs of poor people and the middle class.

We believe that it is simply an attempt to force Congress and the CBO to accept this concept of dynamic scoring and promote the efforts of the Republicans to, again, give more tax cuts.

We know that tax cuts did not work. In the good intentions of the Bush administration, those tax cuts put us in the predicament we are in, after leaving the Clinton administration with a billion-dollar surplus and the ability to invest in infrastructure.

I remember the smiles on those citizens during that timeframe that the economy was turning.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. In the context of this particular legislation, a budget bill led by Mr. RYAN has now given a \$200,000 tax cut already to those who hold most of the wealth, but yet cutting Medicaid and cutting food stamps to give an opportunity for soldiers' families to be able to eat.

I am against this bill because I think CBO has an effective structure to give us the information we need, and cutting taxes is not going to move America forward to be the greatest Nation in the world with research, with infrastructure rebuild, education, and good health care.

I ask my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to explain my amendment to H.R. 1874, The Pro-Growth Budget Act of 2013.

My amendment requires the Congressional Budget Office to include as part of their macroeconomic analysis, estimates of the potential impact, if any, on HUBZone areas as defined by the Small Business Act.

My amendment only seeks to look at the effect, should this measure pass, on HUBZones, as defined in the Small Business Act.

In all actuality, Mr. Chairman, this bill could very well be entitled the Revenge of Dynamic Scoring Champions Act, because that's in essence what's going on here.

Dynamic scoring is an attempt to measure the macroeconomic effects of policy changes before they happen, and continues to pop up everywhere; in fact, even in negotiations of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, also known as the Super Committee.

Dynamic scoring finds its roots in the anti-tax movement. Dynamic scoring is problematic for the agencies that score and estimate the cost of legislation, and has been soundly rejected.

It is clear from the bill's language and approach that it is designed to make it easier to enact deficit-increasing tax cuts.

The bill requires CBO to produce supplementary estimates of the economic impact of major bills using dynamic scoring, an approach that involves more uncertainty and subjectivity than current scoring rules.

None other than Former Republican Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle opposed moving to dynamic scoring, noting that CBO "generally have done a better job than some of the dynamic score-keeping. That has been part of the challenge of moving to something called dynamic scoring is that we have not found anything that was any more accurate than the current way."

Believers in dynamic scoring argue that tax cuts pay for themselves, generally by spurring so much economic growth, to the extent that revenues will actually increase. If I didn't know any better, Mr. Chairman, I'd think they were talking to us about trickle-down economics.

Mr. Chairman, where have we heard that before?

I recall that the Bush administration attempted to impose the use of dynamic scoring to estimate the cost of its tax cuts, asserting that tax cuts would increase revenue enough to pay for themselves, sort of a trickle-down form of budgeting.

Unfortunately Mr. Chairman, the Bush tax cuts did no such thing, but instead caused our national debt to explode. My amendment only seeks to look at the effect, should this measure pass, on HUBZones, as defined in the Small Business Act.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) administers several programs to support small businesses, including the Historically Underutilized Business Zone Empowerment Contracting, better known as the HUBZone program.

The HUBZone program is a small business federal contracting assistance program "whose primary objective is job creation and increasing capital investment in distressed communities."

It provides participating small businesses located in areas with low income, high poverty rates, or high unemployment rates with contracting opportunities in the form of "set-asides," sole-source awards, and price-evaluation preferences.

According to the Congressional Research Service, in FY2010, the federal government awarded contracts valued at \$12.7 billion to HUBZone certified businesses, with about \$3.6 billion of that amount awarded through the HUBZone program.

Mr. Chairman, that's the gist of my amendment—job creation—because that's what we should be talking about in this Committee today.

The Budget Committee has held hearings on the general topic of budget process reform and the recommendations crossed party lines. Former Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle, a Republican witness, testified that, "It may not be that the budget process is broken. It may not be, in other words, that tools are broken, but it may be the fact that the tools are not even being used."

Similarly, Dr. Philip Joyce, former Congressional Budget Office (CBO) staff member and a Democratic witness, testified that "My main message is that most of the tools that you need to solve the budget problems faced by the country are already in your toolbox. If the goal is to deal with the larger fiscal imbalance that faces us, the most important thing to do is to make use of them, not search for more tools."

Mr. Chairman, dynamic scoring is the wrong tool at the wrong time—though—in the interest of fairness to the small businesses in distressed communities around this country, I ask my colleagues to support my amendment, even though I have serious reservations about dynamic scoring.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

Mr. MEADOWS. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for this common-sense piece of legislation.

Mr. Chairman, to hear the debate on the floor this morning about Mr. RYAN's budget, you would think that we are arguing about increases or decreases in taxes, but indeed, we are debating more information to make informed decisions, Mr. Chairman. It has nothing to do with those.

There will be a time to debate the new budget, but this is about job creation, Mr. Chairman. This is about the CBO and the flawed method—many times—that they use in preparing documents for us to make informed decisions.

I will give you a prime example. We had CBO come in and talk to us about energy policy. I said: Well, if we start to tax some of our natural resources so that we can lower gas prices for those people that are having to fill their tanks and having to make decisions between food on the table and gas in their tank, if we tap that, what would be the impact?

They say: Oh, well, you would get a negative CBO score. I said: Well, how could that be? Because, if we had revenues from that, it would create \$1.7 trillion over 10 years; and yet what we have somehow is a justification. He says: Well, we are making the assumption that you have already tapped that.

As a business guy, when you have that kind of logic, you can't make correct decisions.

This is about job growth, Mr. Chairman. We lost 400 jobs in the last 48 hours in my district. That is 400 families that are going to have to start to worry about putting food on the table.

Mr. Chairman, we need to get behind this and have informed decisions so

that we can make good decisions on legislation going forward.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I just ask one more time, if our Republican colleagues want information to make informed decisions, why did they specifically exclude one whole category of information based on legislation coming out of the Appropriations Committee to make some important investments that can help our economy grow? They say they want all this additional information, but apparently, they didn't.

Again, I say it is not surprising because some of the changes that the Republican budget makes in that area do, according to the Congressional Budget Office, create a drag on the economy in the coming few years.

So, again, you are going to have an amendment later on offered by Mr. CONNOLLY—and he will talk about that point—to find out if our Republican colleagues really do want full information, but at least in the current form of this bill, they don't.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN).

Mr. STUTZMAN. I thank Congressman PRICE and the Budget Committee for their hard work in trying to give Members of this body better information.

Families and small businesses back home didn't need to read today's jobs report to know that this isn't the strong recovery they deserve. They know that, with Washington's \$17 trillion of debt, it isn't hard to see why our economy isn't creating enough jobs.

Hoosiers understand the problems, but they wonder if Washington even cares.

Republicans owe taxpayers a clear plan to tackle the debt and jumpstart the economy with private sector job growth. That is why my colleagues and I are offering a commonsense reform to Washington's broken budget process.

We have to force the Federal Government to take an honest look at how its policies affect Americans struggling in this real economy. It is not too late to save the American Dream from a future of debt and decline, but we have to do that work now.

We owe taxpayers a clear vision for how we can force Washington to stop spending money we don't have and make ends meet without raising taxes. That starts with reforms like the Pro-Growth Budgeting Act.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr.

WILSON), a senior member of the House Republican Conference.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As an original cosponsor, I am very grateful to Congressman Dr. TOM PRICE for his insight and leadership on this very important issue.

It is no secret that Washington's budget process is broken. The over \$17 trillion debt jeopardizes our national fiscal security and threatens future opportunities for our children and grandchildren.

I appreciate House Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN's work to produce a path forward that restores prosperity and makes substantial reductions to our debt over the next 10 years.

For far too long, Congress has passed bills without a full understanding of how policies will affect jobs and our economy. The Congressional Budget Office, the body we as lawmakers depend upon to provide fiscal and economic impacts of all legislation, has a bad track record of providing accurate information due to a significant loophole.

House Republicans have made meaningful strides in restoring fiscal accountability and responsibility back to Washington. We recognize, as the Lexington County Chronicle promotes, it is the taxpayers' money, not money the government allows citizens to hold temporarily.

Providing the CBO with the necessary toolkit to determine a bill's potential fiscal impacts on every aspect of our economy is a step in the right direction.

Take ObamaCare, for example. Seeing its failed implementation, which has destroyed jobs, proves we must see how a law will impact American job creators and the way families spend hard-earned paychecks.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation and give CBO the likely consequences that may occur.

□ 1145

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The CBO provides lots of information right now. I hope all Members of Congress will take advantage of the information they provide.

We have now heard, for the second time today, that the Affordable Care Act has cost the economy jobs. Well, the CBO looked at that. They studied it. They gave the Congress information just like our colleagues are asking for. They didn't say that it had any negative job impact at all right now. Now, they said, in the outyears, that now that people are able to go into exchanges to afford health care, that people may decide to not go to a job where the job had been the only way to get taxpayer-benefited health care.

Under our current system, if you want a tax benefit for your health care, if you want preferential tax treatment on your health care, where do you go? You go to a job. That is where the tax benefit comes from. As a result of the Affordable Care Act, people now can get a tax credit and go into the exchange. So they can decide to launch a business from their home and get health insurance without having been locked into another job which had been the only place where they got tax-benefited health care.

So I encourage my colleagues to read the CBO reports that have already been issued on the Affordable Care Act. I also urge them to read the CBO reports that have already been issued on the recovery bill because the Congressional Budget Office has indicated that, as a result of the recovery bill, the economy actually saved millions of jobs, that that helped the economy from falling farther and farther.

Remember, when President Obama was sworn in, we were losing 800,000 jobs every month, and the recovery bill helped stop that free fall and turned that around. That is what the Congressional Budget Office said, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office.

So it is great our colleagues are asking the Congressional Budget Office for more information, and we welcome that. It would be great if they read the information the Congressional Budget Office has already issued.

I just want to make one final point, Mr. Chairman. I have made it before, but it is important because we keep saying we want more information, more complete information, and if you read this legislation, it says that. Then it says: except. We want information except. We don't want any information on the job impact of those parts of our budget that invest in jobs and our economy, like R&D at places like NIH, National Institutes of Health, like our kids' education. We want all the information, but don't tell us about the benefits of those investments.

And I wonder why. It is because the Republican budget slashes our investments in those areas. So don't tell us about the impact of that, Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Pro-Growth Budgeting Act of 2013.

I thank Dr. PRICE for his leadership on this issue.

Now, this issue may strike many Americans as somewhat arcane, but it has very important and real-world implications for our Nation's economic growth, for job creation, and for wage levels.

Under current law, when legislation is introduced, our Budget Office is prevented from taking into account how

individual Americans will actually respond to that legislative proposal; so our Budget Office has to produce this artificial sort of analysis, failing to accurately estimate the true costs or benefits of a given proposal. This obscures, for policymakers, for members of the media, and for many rank-and-file Americans, the true negative impact that tax hikes can have on our Nation's economy, on the private sector, and so forth; and it fails to recognize how tax cuts can actually stimulate the very work, savings, and investment that lead to jobs, higher wages, and a secure retirement.

So the Price bill takes an important first step to eliminating CBO's unrealistic economic analysis by requiring CBO to apply real-world analysis of the impact a proposal will have on our Nation's economy.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), who will be offering an amendment a little bit later.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Maryland.

Listening to the debate on the floor, one feels one is living out an "Alice in Wonderland" chapter. My friends on the other side of the aisle continue to repeat their orthodoxy that slashing taxes and slashing spending leads to prosperity. We went down that road in spades under the previous President's administration, President Bush's, and it led to the most ruinous economic performance since the Great Depression.

Now they want to sell us a budget, once again, that slashes \$5 trillion in this investment. This is actually disinvesting in America. It is disinvesting in research and development. It is disinvesting in human capital. It is disinvesting in education. It is disinvesting in infrastructure.

We are handing over our future with this budget and this philosophy to our world competitors, and somebody is going to have to stand on this floor 20 years hence and explain to that generation how a great Congress handed over the country's future to foreign competition.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

Mr. OLSON. I thank my friend from Georgia.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of a commonsense budget proposal, the Pro-Growth Budgeting Act of 2014.

This bill is genius. It is simple and it is darn important. It requires the Congressional Budget Office to analyze the macroeconomic impacts of major bills before they pass Congress. What a concept. This tool will give Congress and the American people a real-world picture of how the laws we pass impact our economy before we pass them.

Current law requires CBO to provide Congress with information from fantasyland on the fiscal impact of legislation. There is no requirement to stay in our world and analyze the economic impact of legislation, of jobs.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle argue that such scoring is impossible, yet they proudly tout that CBO used a macroeconomic analysis in its report on the impact of the Senate's immigration bill last year. They left fantasyland, joined our world. Welcome.

The more information we have about the economic impacts of bills, the better decisions we can make. Mr. Chairman, a simple but important policy change like this will help get our economy back on track, create jobs, protect hardworking Americans, and keep us in their world.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I was glad the last speaker mentioned the CBO report on immigration reform. I just wish that, if they really wanted to have a pro-growth policy, they would adopt the bipartisan immigration legislation that the CBO wrote about, because what the CBO report said was that would be a great boost to economic growth in our country. It would create more jobs. It would create more economic activity. As I said, because it would generate more economic activity and more pro-growth revenue, it would actually reduce the deficit over the next 10 years by \$190 billion, and almost a trillion over 20. So, great.

I haven't really heard a response to this, Mr. Chairman, but we want more information. CBO does reports all the time. But they have this big except. We want more information, except we don't want information about this part of our budget that deals with important investment in our future.

As Mr. CONNOLLY said, a lot of our economic competitors have been copying successful models from the United States. For example, the Chinese are trying to hire more scientists in the areas of biomedical research, yet the Republican budget, if you apply it across the board, cut 24 percent—cut—over the next 10 years from the amount for research at NIH that was in the Ryan-Murray document. Again, not surprising they don't want the Congressional Budget Office to look in detail at that.

When the Congressional Budget Office looked at the budget that just came out of the Budget Committee the other night, which will be on the floor next week, they said, over the next couple of years, these fiscal policies would reduce output and employment below the levels projected in CBO's baseline—translation: it would reduce economic activity and reduce job growth over the next couple of years.

So, again, not surprising that in the legislation before us, pro-growth budgeting, our Republican colleagues don't want the CBO to tell us about the pro-growth benefits of those important investments.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the time remaining on each side?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia has 6½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Maryland has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer my support for the Pro-Growth Budgeting Act, and I thank Dr. PRICE for his leadership on this issue.

This simple legislation would require the Congressional Budget Office to provide a full analysis of major legislation so that we know how bills will impact our economy and our Nation's employment.

It appears today that Democrat opposition to this bill seems to indicate their satisfaction with the anemic job growth, a historic \$17 trillion debt and growing, no attempt to balance our budget, and devastation of the middle class.

Before Congress even considers passing another legislative overhaul like the Dodd-Frank or stimulus or the President's health care law, let's understand exactly how these thousand-page bills will impact our economy and potentially result in lost jobs and lost futures.

As we craft fiscal policy to get our economy back on track and improve the livelihoods of our constituents, I would ask my colleagues: Is it better for us to have more information or less? understanding or ignorance? reality or spin?

Supporting the Pro-Growth Budgeting Act is a commonsense step that will help us judge the long-term impact of legislation, and I would urge my colleagues to join me in support.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY).

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding.

It is time to end the budget games in Washington, D.C., and this bill is one way to bring more accountability and more honest budgeting to Washington.

Four years ago, when the President's health care law was passed, it included a number of budget gimmicks so that it appeared to be cheaper than it really was. The gimmicks included collecting

premiums for 10 years but only paying benefits for 5, delaying some provisions to the year 11, 12, or 13.

We need commonsense budgeting, like the rest of America has to budget. The Pro-Growth Budgeting Act simply allows the Congressional Budget Office to take a policy proposal and measure its impact on future growth. And understand, that also means future generations. That way we can tell if it is a good or a bad policy and make more informed decisions. Some people really don't want to do that.

This bill is about doing what is right for the next generation. No more passing the buck. Let's bring realistic budgeting and accountability to Washington, D.C. Let's pass this bill today.

□ 1200

The CHAIR. The Chair wishes to make a clarification on the time remaining. The gentleman from Maryland has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I know I sound like a broken record. Our colleagues keep saying they want more information, but the bill specifically excludes a major portion of information.

I now yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), a terrific new member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this bill. Dynamic scoring, as contemplated in this legislation, is nothing more than a wolf in sheep's clothing. It is a desperate attempt to revive a failed theory of trickle-down economics that has been widely discredited by academics but, more importantly, has been discredited in practice.

Let's just look at a side-by-side comparison: Eight years under Bill Clinton, he raises the top tax rate to 39.6 percent, and 20.3 million jobs were created. George Bush comes into office. He lowers the top tax rate from 39.6 percent to 35 percent, and what happens? Did the economy grow? Did the rich invest more in the economy? Does the economy take off? No. We lose 650,000 jobs. A side-by-side comparison.

Dynamic scoring is just designed to revive a theory that has hurt the American people when put into practice by a Republican Congress and George Bush.

We should be investing in job training, investing in education, investing in transportation and infrastructure, investing in research and development, and investing in technology and innovation. Instead of trying to promote progress for the greatest number of Americans possible, this budget, this bill, this Republican majority is simply trying to protect prosperity for the few. And that is why we should reject this bill.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have to admit, I am puzzled. All this bill does is say that Members of Congress ought to have more information about the decisions that we are making here on behalf of the American people, not less. That is a pretty simple concept in the real world. Only here in Washington do we not want more information. I guess we want to stick our heads in the sand.

The gentleman who just spoke said that this bill's purpose is to trot out and continue to put in place a failed theory.

This bill doesn't do anything about the outcome of the results that CBO would give us under this bill. We don't game the system at all. What we do is want the Congressional Budget Office to give us more information. If the gentleman is correct, then that is the information that we will get. Why would he not want more information?

What else has been said here this morning, Mr. Chairman? We had a scientist take the floor and say that he was against using more information. A scientist.

As a physician, I can tell you that I never met an individual—any of my medical colleagues—who didn't want all of the information that they could get. In fact, that is what happens in the real world. In families and in communities and in businesses, people want as much information as they can so that they can make wise decisions. And that is what this bill would do, give us more information so that hopefully, hopefully Congress would be able to make more wise decisions.

I will tell you, I am puzzled by the gentleman from Maryland who stands up over and over and talks about the benefits of dynamic scoring on a particular piece of legislation that he supports. But then he doesn't want dynamic scoring or a macroeconomic analysis of legislation on anything else, just what he supports. You talk about being duplicitous, Mr. Chairman. I am telling you.

The gentleman from Maryland keeps talking about slower growth in the budget that we are going to be talking about next week, and he always adds "over the next few years" because he doesn't want to talk about the out-years, where the growth explodes, and we have that pro-growth economy and getting people back to work and the jobs that are going to be created.

So, Mr. Chairman, this really is pretty doggone simple. Either we want more information or we don't. Republicans in this House at this point want more information. In fact, in the Senate, a piece of legislation that is similar to this—asking for macroeconomic analysis, offered by Senator PORTMAN—was voted on in a bipartisan way. The Senate, in a bipartisan way, supported that amendment.

So I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, to stand up today and say to the American people, yes, we want more information, so that, hopefully, we are able to make more wise decisions. And I urge adoption of the underlying piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chair, as chair of the Committee on Rules, I submit my exchange of letters with the chair of the Committee on the Budget regarding the provisions that warranted a referral of H.R. 1874 to the Committee on Rules.

COMMITTEE ON RULES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 27, 2013.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Cannon
House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RYAN: On June 19, 2013, the Committee on the Budget ordered reported H.R. 1874, the Pro-Growth Budgeting Act of 2013. As you know, the Committee on Rules was granted an additional referral upon the bill's introduction pursuant to the Committee's jurisdiction under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives over the rules of the House and special orders of business.

Because of your willingness to consult with my committee regarding this matter, I will waive consideration of the bill by the Rules Committee. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, the Rules Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 1874. In addition, the Committee on Rules reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Rules for conferees on H.R. 1874 or related legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response as part the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

PETE SESSIONS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, August 27, 2013.

Hon. PETE SESSIONS,
Chairman, Committee on Rules, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SESSIONS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1874, the Pro-Growth Budgeting Act of 2013, which the Committee on the Budget ordered reported on June 19, 2013.

I acknowledge that certain provisions in this legislation are in your Committee's jurisdiction. I appreciate your decision to facilitate prompt consideration of the bill by the full House. I understand that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Rules is not waiving its jurisdiction.

Per your request, I will include a copy of our exchange of letters with respect to H.R. 1874 in the Congressional Record during House consideration of this bill. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with you as this bill moves through the Congress.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The amendments recommended by the Committee on the Budget, printed in the bill, and the amendment in part A of House Report 113-400, shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows.

H.R. 1874

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Pro-Growth Budgeting Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. MACROECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of title IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"MACROECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS OF MAJOR LEGISLATION

"SEC. 407. (a) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.—The Congressional Budget Office shall, to the extent practicable, prepare for each major bill or resolution reported by any committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate (except the Committee on Appropriations of each House), as a supplement to estimates prepared under section 402, a macroeconomic impact analysis of the budgetary effects of such bill or resolution for the ten fiscal-year period beginning with the first fiscal year for which an estimate was prepared under section 402 and each of the next three ten fiscal-year periods. The Director shall submit to such committee the macroeconomic impact analysis, together with the basis for the analysis. As a supplement to estimates prepared under section 402, all such information so submitted shall be included in the report accompanying such bill or resolution.

"(b) ECONOMIC IMPACT.—The analysis prepared under subsection (a) shall describe the potential economic impact of the applicable major bill or resolution on major economic variables, including real gross domestic product, business investment, the capital stock, employment, interest rates, and labor supply. The analysis shall also describe the potential fiscal effects of the bill or resolution, including any estimates of revenue increases or decreases resulting from changes in gross domestic product. To the extent practicable, the analysis should use a variety of economic models in order to reflect the full range of possible economic outcomes resulting from the bill or resolution. The analysis (or a technical appendix to the analysis) shall specify the economic and econometric models used, sources of data, relevant data transformations, and shall include such explanation as is necessary to make the models comprehensible to academic and public policy analysts.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section—

"(1) the term 'macroeconomic impact analysis' means—

"(A) an estimate of the changes in economic output, employment, interest rates, capital stock, and tax revenues expected to result from enactment of the proposal;

"(B) an estimate of revenue feedback expected to result from enactment of the proposal; and

"(C) a statement identifying the critical assumptions and the source of data underlying that estimate;

"(2) the term 'major bill or resolution' means any bill or resolution if the gross budgetary effects of such bill or resolution for any fiscal year in the period for which an estimate is prepared under section 402 is estimated to be greater than .25 percent of the current projected gross domestic product of the United States for any such fiscal year;

"(3) the term 'budgetary effect', when applied to a major bill or resolution, means the changes in revenues, outlays, deficits, and debt resulting from that measure; and

"(4) the term 'revenue feedback' means changes in revenue resulting from changes in economic growth as the result of the enactment of any major bill or resolution."

"(d) LEGISLATION WITH REVENUE PROVISIONS.—The macroeconomic analysis described in subsection (c) shall rely on macroeconomic analysis prepared by the Joint Committee on Taxation for any provisions of such legislation that are described in section 201(f). For legislation consisting solely of provisions described in section 201(f), the macroeconomic analysis described in subsection (c) shall be prepared by the Joint Committee on Taxation."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 406 the following new item:

"Sec. 407. Macroeconomic impact analysis of major legislation."

The CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 113-400.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, lines 16 and 17, strike "(except the Committee on Appropriations of each House)";

Page 3, line 18, before the comma, insert "or as a standalone analysis in the case of the Committee on Appropriations of each House";

Page 5, lines 13 through 15, strike ".25 percent of the current projected gross domestic product of the United States for any such fiscal year;" and insert "\$1,000,000,000 for any such fiscal year;"

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 539, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

You know, I listened to my friend from Georgia, and Lord Almighty, do I agree with him. We should have all that information available to us on dynamic scoring, including—and I assume the gentleman will support my amendment—to correct what must have been a mistake in the Republican majority's bill on page 3. Because knowing my friend's commitment to full information available to the public and Members of Congress, I can't imagine line 16 got it right. It must have been a typo because it says here, yes, dynamic scoring by CBO, except—except the Committee on Appropriations of each house.

Think about what that means, Mr. Chairman. Every single appropriations bill, the entire funding of the Federal Government, is exempted. I thought my friends wanted full disclosure. I thought they wanted full information.

I heard my friend talk about the parallel with the medical profession. No doctor wants to be deprived of key information when making a key decision about a patient, a client. It could be life-and-death. Well, it is no less than here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Chairman, I would say that in response to my friend from Georgia, I have a simple but important amendment to ensure that the broader economic analysis required by the bill is applied equally to all congressional actions. The bill, as currently drafted, as I said, it exempts all appropriations bills.

Now, I know some of my friends on the other side of the aisle don't want to acknowledge this, but funding basic research, making transportation improvements, and purchasing ships for the Navy, to name just a few examples in which we invest taxpayer money, have a stimulative effect on the economy. For example, it is estimated that 28,000 construction jobs are created with every \$1 billion we invest in transportation infrastructure. In addition, the Federal Government spent \$13 billion over the past 25 years supporting the Human Genome Project. That \$13 billion Federal investment, it is estimated, had a receipt to it of \$780 billion, and counting.

We have arrived at the point, Mr. Chairman, sometimes in our debate here on the floor, where we know the cost of everything but the value of nothing. Investments have returns on them.

Whatever the cost of the Internet, which originally started out as entirely a Federal investment, ARPANET, whatever that cost, it was worth every penny because the return on it has been transformative throughout the globe.

Dwight D. Eisenhower's decision to invest in infrastructure in the interstate highway system, whatever it

cost, is a gift that keeps on giving. Its returns continue to this day, and it has helped America.

Let's not disinvest in America, and let's make sure we do have full dynamic scoring for all appropriations bills in the spirit that my friend from Georgia has laid down.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), a senior member of both the Appropriations and the Budget Committees.

Mr. COLE. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment. If I did not know my friend from Virginia as well as I do, I would have thought I had detected a little sense of sarcasm in his remarks, but, frankly, I know that is not the case. I know it is a sincere proposal.

I must say, though, as chairman of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee of Appropriations, which has jurisdiction over the CBO, I am pretty familiar with its operations, its resources, and its capabilities, and the simple fact of the matter is that the amendment would create an unsustainable amount of work for the CBO for no benefit in new or additional information to the Congress of the United States. By arbitrarily picking \$1 billion as the threshold for the analysis, this amendment would force CBO to conduct analyses on dozens of additional bills.

CBO Director Elmendorf wrote to Chairman RYAN yesterday to explain the limits of their capability and capacity. Let me quote from his letter:

The CBO would not be able to perform the analyses envisioned by that set of amendments: We do not have the analytical capabilities or the level of staffing that would be needed to undertake and complete the tasks that would be assigned to us, nor would the usual timetable for considering legislation allow the time that would be required to complete such analyses, even if we did not face those analytical and staffing constraints.

The time that it would take the CBO to produce these additional estimates showing no discernible impact would delay Congress' legislative work at both the committee level and on the floor. The simple fact is, the amendment is unworkable and ill-conceived, and I urge its rejection.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Let me just say, Mr. Chairman, that I have the utmost respect—and he knows it—of my friend from Oklahoma. No sarcasm was meant.

But he might forgive me for being shocked at a speech I took certainly at face value about the need for full infor-

mation and then a carve-out explicitly in the law, the draft law, that exempts all appropriations.

Now, if my friend feels that it is too much work for the CBO with this threshold, then let's name a threshold. But his threshold in this bill is zero. There will be no dynamic scoring by CBO on any appropriations. I think that is not serving the American people well. I don't think that is full disclosure. I don't think that is transparency in government. I don't think that is good government. And I think that suggests we have something to hide around here. And I am sure that is not the message we intended to send.

That is the spirit of my amendment, full disclosure. And I am sorry if this means that CBO has to work harder, but we need full disclosure for our citizenry. And that is what this amendment does.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. ISRAEL

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 113-400.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 9, strike “, and labor supply” and insert “, labor supply, and State and local governments”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 539, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is very simple. It would direct the CBO to analyze the impact of our major bills here in Congress on some of the Nation's most critical institutions, our State and local governments, and State and local taxpayers.

The State Budget Crisis Task Force is cochaired by former Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York Richard Ravitch and the former Federal Reserve Board Chair Paul Volcker. They spent a great deal of time analyzing the impacts of what we do here on State and local governments and taxpayers.

What did they find? They found that fiscal stress runs downhill, and very often, local taxpayers are the recipient

of that stress. Everything we do here in Congress, Mr. Chairman, or everything that we don't do has significant implications on broader levels of government and local taxpayers.

But no mechanism exists at all to assess the fiscal impact of Federal actions on those taxpayers. I am offering this amendment today because if we are going to analyze how our fiscal actions affect the economy, we need to make sure we are not just pushing off the hard decisions to local taxpayers.

Let me give you an example. The Republican budget, offered by my good friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin, cuts over \$50 billion from road repair and infrastructure investments.

□ 1215

And so the implication of that budget is that the Federal Government does less but local taxpayers have to pay the bill to fill in the potholes. That is just fundamentally wrong. That is a wrong priority. We have to stop staying in this position where we are cutting taxes and spending here only to increase taxes and spending in our local communities. We can't keep pushing off these costs and the accompanying uncertainty surrounding this funding. That is why my amendment is so important, Mr. Chairman. It would tell us if we are actually being fiscally responsible at all levels, or are we simply moving costs from one level of government to the other?

I hope my friends will support this amendment. We all represent not just Federal taxpayers but local taxpayers, and we should protect the interests of both.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this truly is a great idea. There is no question that Congress ought to have more information about the legislation that we are going to consider and how it affects State and local governments. Far too often, we in Washington decide that we are smarter than everyone else and choose to impose burdens on those governments that are closer to the people.

Frankly, far too many of us here in Congress simply don't take the principle of federalism seriously. In fact, this is such a great idea that a Republican Congress passed it and a Democratic President signed it into law in 1995. It is called the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act or, more popularly, UMRA. This law requires CBO to analyze every piece of legislation for the burdens that it imposes on State and local governments.

Here is how CBO describes their work under the law:

In 1995, the UMRA was enacted to ensure that the Congress receives information, during the legislative process, about Federal

mandates—requirements that would be imposed on State, local, and tribal governments and on entities in the private sector.

So, as with this amendment we are debating, the job is already done; and, as with the next amendment, the job is already done. The issue is already addressed. So I appreciate the gentleman's interest in the issue, but there is simply no need for the amendment, and, consequently, we will have to oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, two responses to my friend from Georgia:

Number one, the law that he cites does not analyze the impact of budget and tax decisions that we engage in here in Washington, D.C. So the gentleman's response, with all due respect, in the world, is wrong.

Secondly, I do find it ironic that this entire debate has focused on the critical need for more information. I have heard my friends talk about the need for a complete picture; except when it comes to local taxpayers, we don't want that information, we don't need to see that picture, and we will continue to pass legislation and pass the bill to those local taxpayers.

So, for all the high-minded speeches that we hear from my friends about needing to protect the taxpayer, opposing this amendment essentially says to the taxpayer you foot the bill for the decisions we make here.

So we talk about cutting taxes and we put out our press releases and we pat ourselves on the back for cutting Federal taxes and cutting spending when what we are really doing is stabbing local taxpayers in the back with those decisions.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 113-400.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, after line 20, insert the following new subsection:

“(c) JOBS IMPACT.—The analysis prepared under subsection (a) shall also, using analytical principles and procedures consistent with section 402, provide an estimate of the number of jobs which would be created, sustained, or lost in carrying out the applicable

major bill or resolution in the fiscal year in which it is to become effective and in each of the 4 fiscal years following such fiscal year, together with the basis for each such estimate, and to the extent practicable, the analysis shall include regional and State-level estimates of jobs that would be created, sustained, or lost.

Page 4, line 21, strike “(c)” and insert “(d)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 539, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, the most important issue confronting our Nation today is the jobs crisis, something my constituents and I know all too well as my home State of Rhode Island continues to be plagued with the highest unemployment rate in the Nation, currently 9 percent.

While most Members would agree that the best way to address this jobs crisis is to pass legislation that gets our economy growing more quickly, we clearly have different ideas on how best to achieve such growth. But we will have that important conversation in great detail next week as the House is scheduled to consider the Republican budget authored by Chairman RYAN and the substantive alternatives on the floor.

Today, however, we have before the House a bill that modifies the budget process. Specifically, this bill changes the rules that our independent umpire, the Congressional Budget Office, uses to determine the costs of implementing major pieces of legislation, defined as those impacting gross domestic product by more than approximately \$40 billion.

While your new rules would supplement—not replace—existing scoring rules, let's be clear, the macroeconomic impact analysis, or dynamic scoring process, that is called for under the bill is something my colleagues and I on this side of the aisle view with great apprehension and serious concern, as it relies upon much more uncertain and subjective analytical principles, procedures, and assumptions than what the Congressional Budget Office currently utilizes for scoring the costs of legislation.

So while my colleagues across the aisle pursue what they believe is an ideal set of scoring rules, I rise today with a proposal to give a more targeted and specific picture of the impact pending legislation will have on jobs in our communities.

The amendment I offer does not change your desired dynamic scoring analysis; it merely requires production of a separate estimate, using CBO's existing analytical principles and procedures, of the number of jobs that will be created, sustained, or lost, including regional- and State-level estimates when practicable, for the same pro-

posals my colleagues wish to score using their preferred set of rules.

Keep in mind, this is not a partisan proposal. This amendment is derived from legislation, the Jobs Score Act, which I introduced along with Senator MANCHIN, and has received balanced, bipartisan support in both Chambers.

So I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and help ensure that Members of Congress are fully prepared to conduct their due diligence and have the most complete understanding possible of how the major bills considered in Congress impact jobs in our communities.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Rhode Island for bringing the amendment. He and I were elected in the same class together just 3 years ago, and I think we have been able to work together to make a difference in the short time that we have been here.

I share his commitment to making sure that we have jobs estimates coming out of legislation, which is why I am so proud that as drafted—as drafted—this bill, introduced by my friend from Georgia, Dr. PRICE, requires “employment and labor supply analysis” in subsection B.

Now, that is incredibly important, Mr. Chairman, because what we do in Washington absolutely has consequences, and what those consequences are is a fair subject of debate here in the Chamber. But today there is no mechanism for determining, again, employment and labor supply numbers on a dynamic basis over time recognizing what those actions are.

Now, my concern about the amendment from my friend is that, rather than scoring those jobs dynamically—again, understanding that for every action there is a reaction—it scores in a static methodology assuming that the government creates jobs, that there is anything at all that the government does that actually creates a job.

Now, we can redistribute the wealth, but short of putting someone on the Federal payroll, this amendment perpetuates the myth that the government is in the job-creation business. The government is absolutely in the job-destroying business, and we both work together on that facet, and we can make some decisions that help the private sector to succeed. It is those decisions, Mr. Chairman, that the bill, as drafted, will make sure are measured, recorded, and reported here on the House floor for the first time.

Again, I very much appreciate the intent of the gentleman to make sure that this Congress is focused like a laser on job creation, but scoring it as if the government is creating jobs instead of recognizing it is only our actions that the private sector is being

impacted on that creates those jobs, I believe, would take what is a very good underlying bill and move it in the wrong direction.

With that, I urge a “no” vote on the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Well, I thank my colleague for his kind words, but I think he is actually missing the point.

The dynamic scoring, in fact, does allow you to assess the employment impact, and, obviously, we think it does that through a tainted lens because such analysis will be subjective and uncertain, and we have made the arguments about dynamic scoring. But it doesn't impact that at all. That remains in the bill.

This simply adds a provision that would require an analysis be done under the traditional methods that the CBO uses. It will ensure that CBO conducts the same kind of analysis of jobs impact when using the static method currently used by CBO. And we can and should do both.

The fact of the matter is this is an opportunity to be sure that we have as much information as possible about the impact of actions that we take on job creation, on the ability to sustain or cost jobs. In fact, providing this amendment will only ensure that that analysis happens in both places.

You have recognized in the underlying bill that jobs impact matters—we agree—but let's not limit that information. Let's be sure there is a jobs impact both in the static analysis that is done by CBO as well as in your new provision for dynamic scoring. Let's have an assessment in both of those side by side. It will provide a full picture of the potential range of likely employment effects in our communities. We certainly have a responsibility to understand that and to deal with as much information as we can about the impact on jobs.

There is no more urgent issue, and we have heard lots of conversations this morning about how important it is that we have good data, good information. This simply supplements that. Let's make sure that jobs analysis happens in both places at the CBO.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF NEW YORK

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 113-400.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, after line 20, insert the following new subsection:

“(c) REPORTING ON ACCURACY OF MACROECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSES.—Upon completion of the fifth fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of any major bill or joint resolution for which the Congressional Budget Office prepared an analysis under subsection (a), the Congressional Budget Office shall report on the accuracy of the original macroeconomic impact analysis of such enacted bill or joint resolution and submit these reports to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Page 4, line 21, strike “(c)” and insert “(d)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 539, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is straightforward but one that I think is important to consider. Simply put, my amendment requires the Congressional Budget Office to review and report on the accuracy of dynamic scoring estimates 5 fiscal years after any dynamically scored bill is enacted.

Under H.R. 1874, very few pieces of legislation are likely to meet the threshold for requiring this type of macroeconomic analysis. However, as we have heard during this debate, the use of these estimates is controversial. There is a body of opinion that says that this type of scoring is legitimate, and there is a body of opinion that asserts that this type of scoring undermines the budget process and produces highly uncertain projections. My amendment would provide a way to follow up on estimates performed under H.R. 1874 and help shed light on whether those estimates, in fact, offered accurate data.

I will confess that I, for one, remain skeptical of dynamic scoring; but if we proceed in this vein and enact dynamic scoring, I think having the accountability put in place by having the CBO come back to Congress with information on whether the actual economic impact of certain legislation turns out to be, in fact, accurate would be very helpful in helping us assess whether or not this particular form of scoring is, in fact, legitimate and fact-based.

So, Mr. Chairman, I urge support for this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, although I don't oppose the amendment, I ask unanimous consent that I may claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes. There was no objection.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), the chairman of the Budget Committee.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I thank the vice chairman for his time.

Looking at the amendment, it makes sense. It looks like the right thing to do. I think it is important that we always reassess these models to make sure that we are getting it right. People call this dynamic scoring. I like to call it reality-based scoring, and we always want to have a better measurement of reality. So I think the gentleman's amendment makes sense, and we would accept it.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chair, I thank the majority for accepting the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time, as well.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1230

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 113-400.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, after line 23, insert the following: “(d) HUBZONE.—The Director shall include in any macroeconomic impact analysis submitted pursuant to this section the impact, if any, of the applicable major bill or resolution on any historically underutilized business zone, as that term is defined in section 3(p)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)(1)).”

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 539, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise with the spirit of cooperation and recognition that there are definitive distinctions and differences of opinion on the underlying legislation. I am trying to make this bill better.

My amendment requires the Congressional Budget Office to include as part of their macroeconomic analysis, if this bill passes, estimates of the potential impact, if any, on HUBZone areas as defined by the Small Business Act. My amendment only seeks to look at the effects, should this measure pass, on HUBZones as defined in the Small Business Act.

In all actuality, Mr. Chairman, this bill could be entitled the “Revenge of Dynamic Scoring Act.” If that is the essence of the bill, we need to find the impact of it.

Dynamic scoring is an attempt measure that macroeconomic effects of policy changes before they happen. We want to know in the defined areas that deal with underserved areas all around America, in everyone's State, whether or not there is an impact on these important areas.

I believe that dynamic scoring has an impact on the outreach and the funding that we have to support the concept of a HUBZone, and therefore, my amendment is clear in its effort to make sure that those particular areas are in fact impacted.

The Small Business Administration administers several programs that support small businesses, including the Historically Underutilized Business Zone Empowerment Contracting, better known as the HUBZone.

I recall that the Bush administration tried to use dynamic scoring to estimate the cost their tax cuts—asserting that tax cuts would increase revenue in sort of a trickle-down budgeting, but the question is, these smaller businesses that are attempting to thrive and impacted by Small Business Administration programs, how would this type of structure impact them.

The HUBZone program is a small business Federal contracting assistance program whose primary objective is job creation and increasing capital investment in distressed communities.

That is an important responsibility, and it is an important goal for this Nation because we know that small businesses can help generate any number of jobs; and the assistance, I know, personally, to small business has been effective and productive.

With that, I ask my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate the opportunity to explain my amendment to H.R. 1874, The Pro-Growth Budget Act of 2013.

My amendment requires the Congressional Budget Office to include as part of their macroeconomic analysis, estimates of the potential impact, if any, on HUBZone areas as defined by the Small Business Act.

My amendment only seeks to look at the effect, should this measure pass, on HUB Zones, as defined in the Small Business Act.

In all actuality, Mr. Chair, this bill could very well be entitled the, *Revenge of Dynamic Scoring Champions Act*, because that's in essence what's going on here.

Dynamic scoring is an attempt to measure the macroeconomic effects of policy changes before they happen, and continues to pop up everywhere; in fact, even in negotiations of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, also known as the Super Committee.

Dynamic scoring finds its roots in the anti-tax movement. Dynamic scoring is problematic for the agencies that score and estimate the cost of legislation, and has been soundly rejected.

It is clear from the bill's language and approach that it is designed to make it easier to enact deficit-increasing tax cuts.

The bill requires CBO to produce supplementary estimates of the economic impact of major bills using dynamic scoring, an approach that involves more uncertainty and subjectivity than current scoring rules.

None other than Former Republican Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle opposed moving to dynamic scoring, noting that CBO "generally have done a better job than some of the dynamic score-keeping."

That has been part of the challenge of moving to something called dynamic scoring is that we have not found anything that was any more accurate than the current way."

Believers in dynamic scoring argue that tax cuts pay for themselves, generally by spurring so much economic growth, to the extent that revenues will actually increase. If I didn't know any better Mr. Chair, I'd think they were talking to us about trickle-down economics.

Mr. Chair, where have we heard that before?

I recall that the Bush administration attempted to impose the use of dynamic scoring to estimate the cost of its tax cuts, asserting that tax cuts would increase revenue enough to pay for themselves, sort of a trickle-down form of budgeting.

Unfortunately Mr. Chair, the Bush tax cuts did no such thing, but instead caused our national debt to explode. My amendment only seeks to look at the effect, should this measure pass, on HUBZones, as defined in the Small Business Act.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) administers several programs to support small businesses, including the Historically Underutilized Business Zone Empowerment Contracting, better known as the HUBZone program.

The HUBZone program is a small business federal contracting assistance program "whose primary objective is job creation and increasing capital investment in distressed communities."

It provides participating small businesses located in areas with low income, high poverty rates, or high unemployment rates with contracting opportunities in the form of "set-asides," sole-source awards, and price-evaluation preferences.

According to the Congressional Research Service, in FY2010, the Federal Government awarded contracts valued at \$12.7 billion to HUBZone certified businesses, with about \$3.6 billion of that amount awarded through the HUBZone program.

Mr. Chair, that's the gist of my amendment—job creation—because that's what we should be talking about in this Committee today.

The Budget Committee has held hearings on the general topic of budget process reform and the recommendations crossed party lines. Former Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle, a Republican witness, testified that, "It may not be that the budget process is broken. It may not be, in other words, that tools are broken, but it may be the fact that the tools are not even being used."

Similarly, Dr. Philip Joyce, former Congressional Budget Office (CBO) staff member and a Democratic witness, testified that, "My main message is that most of the tools that you need to solve the budget problems faced by

the country are already in your toolbox. If the goal is to deal with the larger fiscal imbalance that faces us, the most important thing to do is to make use of them, not search for more tools."

Mr. Chair, dynamic scoring is the wrong tool at the wrong time—though—in the interest of fairness to the small businesses in distressed communities around this country, I ask my colleagues to support my amendment, even though I have serious reservations about dynamic scoring.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HOLDING). The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlelady for offering this amendment and for recognizing the value and importance of economic analysis for legislating here in Congress.

Too often, we hear from the other side of the aisle these taunts about magic asterisks and phony numbers, but your amendment rightly recognizes that legislation can make a difference on the economy.

However, what we can't accept about the amendment is the idea that CBO should try to estimate its effects on only small sections of the country rather than the Nation as a whole.

Instead of dictating every detail of the macroeconomic analysis for CBO, we think that we need to give them the flexibility to adapt their analysis to the specifics of particular legislation. This amendment would unnecessarily limit that flexibility, so we urge its defeat.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the ranking member of the full Budget Committee and thank him again for his leadership.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague Ms. JACKSON LEE. We have heard from our colleagues all morning that they want more information, a more complete picture of the impact of legislation on our economy.

Well, the legislation before us, as we have pointed out repeatedly today, exempts the part of the budget that deals with investments in discretionary spending. From the start, it does that.

Then they said no to amendments on the impact on jobs. They have said no to getting more information on the impact on State and local governments and local taxpayers, and now, they are saying no to getting more information on vital portions of our economy.

This doesn't say the CBO can't look at other things. It just says that it is important that they look at this part of the economy. There are HUBZones in every part of the country, and they

are an important part of our strategy that a lot of us are working towards to try to make sure that everyone in this country has an opportunity to move forward and succeed.

So it is discouraging to hear our colleagues reject a request for more information on jobs, local taxpayers, and now in this particular area.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman for his astute comments and build on the comments made by the ranking member.

Let me put into the record that the Congressional Research Service, in FY2010, the Federal Government awarded contracts valued at \$12.7 billion to HUBZone certified businesses, with about \$3.6 billion of that amount awarded through the HUBZone program. That is an investment in small business. That is the creation of jobs.

Mr. Chairman, the gist of my amendment is jobs and what will be the impact of this type of budget structuring on the HUBZones. Why wouldn't we want that information?

Let me quote former Budget chairman Jim Nussle, a Republican witness who testified:

It may not be that the budget process is broken. It may not be, in other words, that tools are broken, but it may be the fact that the tools are not even being used.

If you are going to add more responsibilities to the CBO, give them additional tools to assess who the job-creating small businesses are going to be impacted by this bill.

Dr. Philip Joyce, former CBO staff member, said:

My main message is that most of the tools that you need to solve the budget problems faced by the country are already in your toolbox.

Therefore, I am saying if we are putting another tool in the toolbox, if this bill passes, then give them the ability to make sure that we are not killing small businesses that are impacted by the HUBZone funding and assistance.

We already see that small businesses create jobs. I would make the argument to my colleagues, and I thank Dr. PRICE for his earlier kind words about the gist of this legislation, and I would ask for his reconsideration. This is a good amendment, and I ask my colleagues to support it. I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Jackson Lee amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 113-400 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. ISRAEL of New York.

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. CICILLINE of Rhode Island.

Amendment No. 5 by Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 182, noes 214, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 159]

AYES—182

Barrow (GA)	Deutch	Kennedy	Payne	Sarbanes	Thompson (CA)
Bass	Dingell	Kildee	Perlmutter	Schakowsky	Tierney
Beatty	Doggett	Kilmer	Peters (CA)	Schiff	Titus
Becerra	Doyle	Kind	Peterson	Schneider	Tonko
Bera (CA)	Duckworth	Kirkpatrick	Pingree (ME)	Schrader	Tsongas
Bishop (GA)	Edwards	Kuster	Pocan	Schwartz	Van Hollen
Bishop (NY)	Ellison	Langevin	Polis	Scott (VA)	Vargas
Blumenauer	Engel	Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)	Scott, David	Veasey
Bonamici	Enyart	Larson (CT)	Quigley	Serrano	Vela
Brady (PA)	Eshoo	Lee (CA)	Rahall	Shea-Porter	Velázquez
Braley (IA)	Esty	Levin	Richmond	Sherman	Walz
Brown (FL)	Farr	Lewis	Roybal-Allard	Sinema	Wasserman
Brownley (CA)	Fattah	Lipinski	Ruiz	Sires	Schultz
Bustos	Foster	Loeb sack	Ruppersberger	Slaughter	Waters
Butterfield	Frankel (FL)	Lowenthal	Ryan (OH)	Speier	Waxman
Capps	Fudge	Lowe y	Sánchez, Linda T.	Stockman	Welch
Capuano	Gabbard	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Sanford	Swalwell (CA)	Wilson (FL)
Cárdenas	Gallego	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)		Takano	Yarmuth
Carney	Garamendi	Maloney, Sean			
Carson (IN)	Gibson	Matsui			
Cartwright	Gohmert	McCarthy (NY)			
Castro (TX)	Grayson	McCollum			
Chu	Green, Al	McDermott			
Cicilline	Green, Gene	McGovern			
Clark (MA)	Grijalva	McNerney			
Clarke (NY)	Hahn	Meadows			
Clay	Hanabusa	Meeks			
Cleaver	Hastings (FL)	Meng			
Clyburn	Heck (WA)	Michaud			
Cohen	Higgins	Miller, George			
Connolly	Himes	Moore			
Conyers	Hinojosa	Murphy (FL)			
Cooper	Holt	Nadler			
Courtney	Horsford	Napolitano			
Crowley	Hoyer	Neal			
Cuellar	Huffman	Negrete McLeod			
Cummings	Israel	Nolan			
Davis (CA)	Jackson Lee	O'Rourke			
Davis, Danny	Jeffries	Owens			
DeFazio	Johnson, E. B.	Pallone			
DeGette	Jones	Pascarell			
Delaney	Kaptur	Pastor (AZ)			
DeLauro	Keating				
DelBene	Kelly (IL)				

NOES—214

Aderholt	Graves (MO)	Perry
Amash	Griffin (AR)	Petri
Amodei	Griffith (VA)	Pittenger
Bachmann	Grimm	Pitts
Bachus	Guthrie	Poe (TX)
Barber	Hall	Pompeo
Barletta	Hanna	Posey
Barr	Harper	Price (GA)
Benishek	Harris	Reed
Bentivolio	Hartzler	Reichert
Bilirakis	Hastings (WA)	Renacci
Bishop (UT)	Heck (NV)	Ribble
Black	Hensarling	Rice (SC)
Blackburn	Herrera Beutler	Rigell
Boustany	Holding	Roby
Bridenstine	Hudson	Roe (TN)
Brooks (AL)	Huelskamp	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (IN)	Huizenga (MI)	Rogers (KY)
Broun (GA)	Hultgren	Rogers (MI)
Buchanan	Hunter	Rohrabacher
Bucshon	Hurt	Rokita
Burgess	Issa	Ros-Lehtinen
Byrne	Jenkins	Roskam
Calvert	Johnson (OH)	Ross
Camp	Jolly	Rothfus
Cantor	Jordan	Royce
Capito	Kelly (PA)	Ryan (WI)
Carter	King (IA)	Scalise
Cassidy	King (NY)	Schock
Chabot	Kingston	Schweikert
Chaffetz	Kinzinger (IL)	Scott, Austin
Coffman	Kline	Sensenbrenner
Cole	Labrador	Sessions
Collins (GA)	LaMalfa	Shimkus
Collins (NY)	Lamborn	Shuster
Conaway	Lance	Simpson
Cook	Latham	Smith (MO)
Cotton	Latta	Smith (NE)
Cramer	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
Crawford	Long	Smith (TX)
Crenshaw	Lucas	Southerland
Culberson	Luetkemeyer	Stewart
Daines	Lummis	Stivers
Davis, Rodney	Maffei	Stutzman
Denham	Marchant	Terry
Dent	Marino	Thompson (PA)
DeSantis	Massie	Thornberry
DesJarlais	Matheson	Tiberi
Diaz-Balart	McAllister	Tipton
Duffy	McCarthy (CA)	Turner
Duncan (SC)	McCaul	Upton
Duncan (TN)	McClintock	Valadao
Ellmers	McHenry	Visclosky
Farenthold	McIntyre	Wagner
Fincher	McKeon	Walberg
Fitzpatrick	McKinley	Walden
Fleischmann	McMorris	Walorski
Fleming	Rodgers	Weber (TX)
Flores	Meehan	Webster (FL)
Forbes	Messer	Wenstrup
Fortenberry	Mica	Westmoreland
Fox	Miller (MI)	Whitfield
Franks (AZ)	Mullin	Williams
Frelinghuysen	Mulvaney	Wilson (SC)
Gardner	Murphy (PA)	Wittman
Gerlach	Neugebauer	Wolf
Gibbs	Nugent	Womack
Gingrey (GA)	Nunnelee	Woodall
Goodlatte	Olson	Yoder
Govdy	Palazzo	Yoho
Granger	Paulsen	Young (AK)
Graves (GA)	Pearce	

NOT VOTING—35

Barton	Johnson, Sam	Pelosi
Brady (TX)	Joyce	Peters (MI)
Campbell	Lankford	Rangel
Castor (FL)	Lofgren	Rooney
Coble	Lynch	Runyan
Costa	Maloney,	Rush
Garcia	Carolyn	Salmon
Garrett	Miller (FL)	Sanchez, Loretta
Gosar	Miller, Gary	Sewell (AL)
Gutiérrez	Moran	Smith (WA)
Honda	Noem	Thompson (MS)
Johnson (GA)	Nunes	Young (IN)

□ 1303

Messrs. LOBIONDO, BROOKS of Alabama, CAMP, STUTZMAN, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. MESSER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. HECK of Washington, STOCKMAN, CLEAVER, MEADOWS, and PETERSON changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 159 I missed the vote, but I would have voted “yes.”

Stated against:

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 159 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. ISRAEL

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 189, noes 211, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 160]

AYES—189

Barber	Cicilline	Doggett
Barletta	Clark (MA)	Doyle
Barrow (GA)	Clarke (NY)	Duckworth
Beatty	Clay	Edwards
Becerra	Cleaver	Ellison
Bera (CA)	Clyburn	Engel
Bishop (GA)	Cohen	Enyart
Bishop (NY)	Connolly	Eshoo
Blumenauer	Conyers	Esty
Bonamici	Cooper	Farr
Brady (PA)	Costa	Fattah
Braley (IA)	Courtney	Foster
Brown (FL)	Crowley	Frankel (FL)
Brownley (CA)	Cuellar	Fudge
Bustos	Cummings	Gabbard
Butterfield	Davis (CA)	Galleo
Capps	Davis, Danny	Garamendi
Capuano	DeFazio	Gibson
Cárdenas	DeGette	Grayson
Carney	Delaney	Green, Al
Carson (IN)	DeLauro	Grijalva
Cartwright	DelBene	Hahn
Castro (TX)	Deutch	Hanabusa
Chu	Dingell	Hanna

Hastings (FL)	Massie	Sánchez, Linda
Heck (WA)	Matheson	T.
Higgins	Matsui	Sarbanes
Himes	McCarthy (NY)	Schakowsky
Hinojosa	McCollum	Schiff
Holt	McDermott	Schneider
Honda	McGovern	Schrader
Horsford	McIntyre	Schwartz
Hoyer	McNerney	Scott (VA)
Huffman	Meeks	Scott, David
Israel	Meng	Serrano
Jackson Lee	Michaud	Sewell (AL)
Jeffries	Miller, George	Shea-Porter
Johnson, E. B.	Moran	Sherman
Jones	Murphy (FL)	Sinema
Kaptur	Nadler	Sires
Keating	Napolitano	Slaughter
Kennedy	Neal	Speier
Kildee	Negrete McLeod	Stockman
Kilmer	Nolan	Swalwell (CA)
Kind	O'Rourke	Takano
Kirkpatrick	Owens	Thompson (CA)
Kuster	Pallone	Tierney
Langevin	Pascarella	Titus
Larsen (WA)	Pastor (AZ)	Tonko
Larson (CT)	Payne	Tsongas
Lee (CA)	Pearce	Van Hollen
Levin	Perlmutter	Vargas
Lewis	Peters (CA)	Veasey
Lipinski	Pingree (ME)	Vela
Loeb sack	Pocan	Velázquez
Lofgren	Polis	Visclosky
Lowenthal	Price (NC)	Walz
Lowe	Quigley	Wasserman
Lujan Grisham	Rahall	Schultz
(NM)	Reed	Waters
Luján, Ben Ray	Richmond	Waxman
(NM)	Roybal-Allard	Welch
Maloney,	Ruiz	Wilson (FL)
Carolyn	Ruppersberger	Yarmuth
Maloney, Sean	Ryan (OH)	

NOES—211

Aderholt	Fincher	Lamborn
Amash	Fitzpatrick	Lance
Amodei	Fleischmann	Latham
Bachmann	Fleming	Latta
Bachus	Flores	LoBiondo
Barr	Forbes	Long
Benishek	Fortenberry	Lucas
Bentivoglio	Fox	Luetkemeyer
Bilirakis	Franks (AZ)	Lummis
Bishop (UT)	Frelinghuysen	Maffei
Black	Gardner	Marchant
Blackburn	Garrett	Marino
Boustany	Gerlach	McAllister
Bridenstine	Gibbs	McCarthy (CA)
Brooks (AL)	Gingrey (GA)	McCaul
Brooks (IN)	Gohmert	McClintock
Broun (GA)	Goodlatte	McHenry
Buchanan	Gowdy	McKeon
Bucshon	Granger	McKinley
Burgess	Graves (GA)	McMorris
Byrne	Griffin (AR)	Rodgers
Calvert	Griffith (VA)	Meadows
Camp	Grimm	Meehan
Cantor	Guthrie	Messer
Capito	Hall	Mica
Carter	Harper	Miller (MI)
Cassidy	Harris	Mullin
Chabot	Hartzler	Mulvaney
Chaffetz	Hastings (WA)	Murphy (PA)
Coffman	Heck (NV)	Neugebauer
Cole	Hensarling	Nugent
Collins (GA)	Herrera Beutler	Nunnelee
Collins (NY)	Holding	Olson
Conaway	Hudson	Palazzo
Cook	Huelskamp	Paulsen
Cotton	Huizenga (MI)	Perry
Cramer	Hultgren	Peterson
Crawford	Hunter	Petri
Creshaw	Hurt	Pittenger
Culberson	Issa	Pitts
Daines	Jenkins	Poe (TX)
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (OH)	Pompeo
Denham	Jolly	Posey
Dent	Jordan	Price (GA)
DeSantis	Kelly (PA)	Reichert
DesJarlais	King (IA)	Renacci
Diaz-Balart	King (NY)	Ribble
Duffy	Kingston	Rice (SC)
Duncan (SC)	Kinzinger (IL)	Rigell
Duncan (TN)	Kline	Roby
Ellmers	Labrador	Roe (TN)
Farenthold	LaMalfa	Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY)	Shuster	Walberg
Rogers (MI)	Simpson	Walden
Rohrabacher	Smith (MO)	Walorski
Rokita	Smith (NE)	Weber (TX)
Rooney	Smith (NJ)	Webster (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen	Smith (TX)	Wenstrup
Roskam	Southerland	Westmoreland
Ross	Stewart	Whitfield
Rothfus	Stivers	Williams
Royce	Stutzman	Wilson (SC)
Ryan (WI)	Terry	Wittman
Sanford	Thompson (PA)	Wolf
Scalise	Thornberry	Womack
Schock	Tiberi	Woodall
Schweikert	Tipton	Yoder
Scott, Austin	Turner	Yoho
Sensenbrenner	Upton	Young (AK)
Sessions	Valadao	Young (IN)
Shimkus	Wagner	

NOT VOTING—31

Barton	Johnson (GA)	Pelosi
Bass	Johnson, Sam	Peters (MI)
Brady (TX)	Joyce	Rangel
Campbell	Kelly (IL)	Runyan
Castor (FL)	Lankford	Rush
Coble	Lynch	Salmon
Garcia	Miller (FL)	Sanchez, Loretta
Gosar	Miller, Gary	Smith (WA)
Graves (MO)	Moore	Thompson (MS)
Green, Gene	Noem	
Gutiérrez	Nunes	

□ 1308

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chair, on Friday, April 4, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on No. 160.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 186, noes 219, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 161]

AYES—186

Barber	Carson (IN)	Davis, Danny
Barrow (GA)	Cartwright	DeFazio
Bass	Castro (TX)	DeGette
Beatty	Chu	Delaney
Becerra	Cicilline	DeLauro
Bera (CA)	Clark (MA)	DelBene
Bishop (GA)	Clarke (NY)	Dent
Bishop (NY)	Clay	Deutch
Blumenauer	Cleaver	Dingell
Bonamici	Clyburn	Doggett
Brady (PA)	Cohen	Doyle
Braley (IA)	Connolly	Duckworth
Brown (FL)	Conyers	Edwards
Brownley (CA)	Cooper	Ellison
Bustos	Costa	Engel
Butterfield	Courtney	Enyart
Capps	Crowley	Eshoo
Capuano	Cuellar	Esty
Cárdenas	Cummings	Fattah
Carney	Davis (CA)	Foster

Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis

Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond

Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—219

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)

Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Jolly
Jones

Jordan
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson

Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Sherman
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus

Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi

Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Barton
Brady (TX)
Campbell
Castor (FL)
Coble
Farr
Gosar
Gutiérrez
Johnson (GA)

Johnson, Sam
Joyce
Lankford
Lynch
Matsui
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Noem
Pelosi

NOT VOTING—26

□ 1312

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 185, noes 222, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 162]

AYES—185

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brady (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)

Cartwright
Castro (TX)
Chu
Ciilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio

DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard

Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildeer
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal

Lowe y
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz

Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—222

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)

Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Jolly
Jordan

Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)

Peterson	Rothfus	Tipton
Petri	Royce	Turner
Pittenger	Ryan (WI)	Upton
Pitts	Sanford	Valadao
Poe (TX)	Scalise	Wagner
Pompeo	Schock	Walberg
Posey	Schweikert	Walden
Price (GA)	Scott, Austin	Walorski
Reed	Sensenbrenner	Weber (TX)
Reichert	Sessions	Webster (FL)
Renacci	Shimkus	Wenstrup
Ribble	Shuster	Westmoreland
Rice (SC)	Simpson	Whitfield
Rigell	Smith (MO)	Williams
Roby	Smith (NE)	Wilson (SC)
Roe (TN)	Smith (NJ)	Wittman
Rogers (AL)	Smith (TX)	Wolf
Rogers (KY)	Southerland	Womack
Rogers (MI)	Stewart	Woodall
Rohrabacher	Stivers	Yoder
Rokita	Stutzman	Yoho
Rooney	Terry	Young (AK)
Ros-Lehtinen	Thompson (PA)	Young (IN)
Roskam	Thornberry	
Ross	Tiberi	

NOT VOTING—24

Barton	Johnson, Sam	Rangel
Brady (TX)	Lankford	Runyan
Campbell	Lynch	Rush
Castor (FL)	Miller (FL)	Salmon
Coble	Miller, Gary	Sanchez, Loretta
Gosar	Noem	Smith (WA)
Gutiérrez	Pelosi	Thompson (MS)
Johnson (GA)	Peters (MI)	Waxman

□ 1317

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) having assumed the chair, Mr. HOLDING, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1874) to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of legislation, and, pursuant to House Resolution 539, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with a further amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Ms. KUSTER. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Kuster moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1874, as reported, to the Committee on

the Budget with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

Page 3, lines 16 and 17, strike “(except the Committee on Appropriations of each House)”.

Page 4, line 4, insert “AMERICA’S FIRST PRIORITY IS JOB CREATION, INVESTING IN AMERICA’S FUTURE, AND” before “ECONOMIC IMPACT”.

Page 4, line 12, insert “The analysis shall include the impact of Federal expenditures contained in the applicable bill or resolution, including investments in education, transportation, and infrastructure, in promoting job creation and economic growth.” after “product.”.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to suspend with the reading of the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Hampshire is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

Mr. Speaker, some of us will support this bill, and some of us will oppose it; but Republican and Democrat alike, we can all agree on the need for both parties to work together, invest in our future, and help create jobs and opportunity for all Americans.

Yes, we must reduce the deficit and tackle our national debt, and yes, we need to cut wasteful spending whenever we can, but to get the Federal budget in order, we need to make smart investments to help grow our economy.

To help American workers and businesses compete and win, we need to double down on education, job training, research, and infrastructure, the very foundation of our economy; and yet the legislation we are debating today disregards the importance of these investments.

This bill will require the Congressional Budget Office to study the long-term benefits of some proposals, but not others. Under this bill, the CBO would have to tell us how another tax break would help billionaires, but not how early investments in education will help middle class families and long-term economic growth.

That just doesn’t make any sense to my constituents in New Hampshire.

Under this bill, the CBO would not analyze the impact of investments to revitalize our bridges and highways; train our veterans for good jobs when they return home; prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; fund cutting-edge medical research; or expand our National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, which is already helping more workers and businesses make it in America.

These investments make our economy stronger and are of long-term benefit to our economy. If we are going to pass this bill, we should recognize their value. To that end, my amendment would broaden the underlying bill and apply it to major investments in education, infrastructure, economic growth, and job creation—smart investments to help hard-working families all across our Nation.

These are the issues that the American people want us to focus on, so let’s work together across the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, to improve this bill and to invest in a better future for our children.

I urge support for my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have very good news for my friend from New Hampshire. The underlying bill would include macroeconomic analysis on all of these items: education, infrastructure, employment, growth, and so much more. Therefore, we must oppose the MTR, as it is redundant and unnecessary.

I urge a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 187, noes 218, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 163]

AYES—187

Barber	Cartwright	DeFazio
Barrow (GA)	Castro (TX)	DeGette
Beatty	Chu	Delaney
Becerra	Cicilline	DeLauro
Bera (CA)	Clark (MA)	DeBene
Bishop (GA)	Clarke (NY)	Deutch
Bishop (NY)	Clay	Dingell
Blumenauer	Cleaver	Doggett
Bonamici	Clyburn	Doyle
Brady (PA)	Cohen	Duckworth
Braley (IA)	Connolly	Edwards
Brown (FL)	Conyers	Ellison
Brownley (CA)	Cooper	Engel
Bustos	Costa	Enyart
Butterfield	Courtney	Eshoo
Capps	Crowley	Esty
Capuano	Cuellar	Farr
Cárdenas	Cummings	Fattah
Carney	Davis (CA)	Foster
Carson (IN)	Davis, Danny	Frankel (FL)

Fudge	Lowenthal	Rahall	Pittenger	Royce	Tiberi	Hall	McHenry	Royce
Gabbard	Lowey	Roybal-Allard	Pitts	Ryan (WI)	Tipton	Hanna	McIntyre	Ryan (WI)
Gallego	Lujan Grisham	Ruiz	Poe (TX)	Sanford	Turner	Harper	McKeon	Sanford
Garamendi	(NM)	Ruppersberger	Pompeo	Scalise	Upton	Harris	McKinley	Scalise
Garcia	Luján, Ben Ray	Ryan (OH)	Posey	Schock	Valadao	Hartzler	McMorris	Schock
Grayson	(NM)	Sánchez, Linda	Price (GA)	Schweikert	Wagner	Hastings (WA)	Rodgers	Schweikert
Green, Al	Maffei	T.	Reed	Scott, Austin	Walberg	Heck (NV)	Meadows	Scott, Austin
Green, Gene	Maloney,	Sarbanes	Reichert	Sensenbrenner	Walden	Hensarling	Meehan	Sensenbrenner
Grijalva	Carolyn	Schakowsky	Renacci	Sessions	Walorski	Herrera Beutler	Messer	Sessions
Hahn	Maloney, Sean	Schiff	Ribble	Shimkus	Weber (TX)	Holding	Mica	Shimkus
Hanabusa	Matheson	Schneider	Rice (SC)	Shuster	Webster (FL)	Hudson	Miller (MI)	Shuster
Hastings (FL)	Matsui	Schrader	Rigell	Simpson	Wenstrup	Mullin	Huelskamp	Simpson
Heck (WA)	McCarthy (NY)	Schwartz	Roby	Smith (MO)	Westmoreland	Mulvaney	Huizenga (MI)	Smith (MO)
Higgins	McCollum	Scott (VA)	Roe (TN)	Smith (NE)	Whitfield	Murphy (PA)	Hultgren	Smith (NE)
Himes	McDermott	Scott, David	Rogers (AL)	Smith (NJ)	Williams	Hunter	Neugebauer	Smith (NJ)
Hinojosa	McGovern	Serrano	Rogers (KY)	Smith (TX)	Wilson (SC)	Hurt	Nugent	Smith (TX)
Holt	McIntyre	Sevell (AL)	Rogers (MI)	Southerland	Wittman	Issa	Nunes	Southerland
Honda	McNerney	Shea-Porter	Rohrabacher	Stewart	Wolf	Jenkins	Nunnelee	Stewart
Horsford	Meeks	Sherman	Rokita	Stivers	Womack	Johnson (OH)	Olson	Stivers
Hoyer	Meng	Sinema	Rooney	Stockman	Woodall	Jolly	Palazzo	Stockman
Huffman	Michaud	Sires	Ros-Lehtinen	Stutzman	Yoder	Jones	Paulsen	Stutzman
Israel	Miller, George	Slaughter	Roskam	Terry	Yoho	Jordan	Pearce	Terry
Jackson Lee	Moore	Speier	Ross	Thompson (PA)	Young (AK)	Joyce	Perry	Thompson (PA)
Jeffries	Moran	Swalwell (CA)	Rothfus	Thornberry	Young (IN)	Kelly (PA)	Petri	Thornberry
Johnson, E. B.	Murphy (FL)	Takano				King (IA)	Pittenger	Tiberi
Jones	Nadler	Thompson (CA)				King (NY)	Pitts	Tipton
Kaptur	Napolitano	Tierney	Barton	Johnson, Sam	Rangel	Kingston	Poe (TX)	Turner
Keating	Neal	Titus	Bass	Lankford	Richmond	Kinzinger (IL)	Pompeo	Upton
Kelly (IL)	Negrete McLeod	Tonko	Brady (TX)	Lynch	Runyan	Kline	Posey	Valadao
Kennedy	Nolan	Tsongas	Campbell	Miller (FL)	Rush	Labrador	Price (GA)	Wagner
Kildee	O'Rourke	Van Hollen	Castor (FL)	Miller, Gary	Salmon	LaMalfa	Reed	Walberg
Kilmer	Owens	Vargas	Coble	Noem	Sanchez, Loretta	Lamborn	Reichert	Walden
Kind	Pallone	Veasey	Gosar	Nunnelee	Smith (WA)	Lance	Renacci	Walorski
Kirkpatrick	Pascarell	Vela	Gutiérrez	Pelosi	Thompson (MS)	Latham	Ribble	Weber (TX)
Kuster	Pastor (AZ)	Velázquez	Johnson (GA)	Peters (MI)		Latta	Rice (SC)	Webster (FL)
Langevin	Payne	Visclosky				LoBiondo	Rigell	Wenstrup
Larsen (WA)	Perlmutter	Walz				Long	Roby	Westmoreland
Larson (CT)	Peters (CA)	Wasserman				Lucas	Roe (TN)	Whitfield
Lee (CA)	Peterson	Schultz				Luetkemeyer	Rogers (AL)	Williams
Levin	Pingree (ME)	Waters				Lummis	Rogers (KY)	Wilson (SC)
Lewis	Pocan	Waxman				Marchant	Rogers (MI)	Wittman
Lipinski	Polis	Welch				Marino	Rohrabacher	Wolf
Loebback	Price (NC)	Wilson (FL)				Massie	Rokita	Womack
Lofgren	Quigley	Yarmuth				Matheson	Rooney	Woodall
						McAllister	Ros-Lehtinen	Yoder
						McCarthy (CA)	Roskam	Yoho
						McCaul	Ross	Young (AK)
						McClintock	Rothfus	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—26

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1332

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 224, noes 182, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 164]

AYES—224

Aderholt	Duncan (SC)	Jolly	Carter	Fincher
Amash	Duncan (TN)	Jordan	Cassidy	Fitzpatrick
Amodei	Ellmers	Joyce	Chabot	Fleischmann
Bachmann	Farenthold	Kelly (PA)	Chaffetz	Fleming
Bachus	Fincher	King (IA)	Coffman	Flores
Barletta	Fitzpatrick	King (NY)	Cole	Forbes
Barr	Fleischmann	Kingston	Collins (GA)	Fortenberry
Benishek	Fleming	Kinzinger (IL)	Collins (NY)	Fox
Bentivolio	Flores	Kline	Conaway	Franks (AZ)
Billirakis	Forbes	Labrador	Cook	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (UT)	Fortenberry	LaMalfa	Cotton	Gardner
Black	Fox	Lamborn	Cramer	Garrett
Blackburn	Franks (AZ)	Lance	Crawford	Gibbs
Boustany	Frelinghuysen	Latham	Crenshaw	Gibson
Bridenstine	Gardner	Latta	Culberson	Gingrey (GA)
Brooks (AL)	Garrett	LoBiondo	Daines	Gohmert
Brooks (IN)	Gerlach	Long	Davis, Rodney	Goodlatte
Broun (GA)	Gibbs	Lucas	Denham	Goody
Buchanan	Gibson	Luetkemeyer	Dent	Granger
Bucshon	Gingrey (GA)	Lummis	DeSantis	Graves (GA)
Burgess	Gohmert	Marchant	DesJarlais	Graves (MO)
Byrne	Goodlatte	Marino	Duffy	Grayson
Calvert	Goody	Massie	Duncan (SC)	Griffin (AR)
Camp	Granger	McAllister	Duncan (TN)	Griffith (VA)
Cantor	Graves (GA)	McCarthy (CA)	Ellmers	Guthrie
Capito	Graves (MO)	McCaul	Farenthold	
Carter	Griffin (AR)	McClintock		
Cassidy	Griffith (VA)	McHenry		
Chabot	Grimm	McKeon		
Chaffetz	Guthrie	McKinley		
Coffman	Hall	McMorris		
Cole	Hanna	Rodgers		
Collins (GA)	Harper	Meadows		
Collins (NY)	Harris	Meehan		
Conaway	Hartzler	Messer		
Cook	Hastings (WA)	Mica		
Cotton	Heck (NV)	Miller (MI)		
Cramer	Hensarling	Mullin		
Crawford	Herrera Beutler	Mulvaney		
Crenshaw	Holding	Murphy (PA)		
Culberson	Hudson	Neugebauer		
Daines	Huelskamp	Nugent		
Davis, Rodney	Huizenga (MI)	Nunes		
Denham	Hultgren	Olson		
Dent	Hunter	Palazzo		
DeSantis	Hurt	Paulsen		
DesJarlais	Issa	Pearce		
Diaz-Balart	Jenkins	Perry		
Duffy	Johnson (OH)	Petri		

NOES—182

Barber	Deutch	Kirkpatrick
Bass	Dingell	Kuster
Beatty	Doggett	Langevin
Becerra	Doyle	Larsen (WA)
Bera (CA)	Duckworth	Larson (CT)
Bishop (GA)	Edwards	Lee (CA)
Bishop (NY)	Ellison	Levin
Blumenauer	Engel	Lewis
Bonamici	Enyart	Lipinski
Brady (PA)	Eshoo	Loebback
Braley (IA)	Esty	Lofgren
Brown (FL)	Fattah	Lowenthal
Brownley (CA)	Foster	Lowey
Bustos	Frankel (FL)	Lujan Grisham
Butterfield	Fudge	(NM)
Capps	Gabbard	Luján, Ben Ray
Capuano	Gallego	(NM)
Cárdenas	Garamendi	Maffei
Carney	Garcia	Maloney,
Carson (IN)	Green, Al	Carolyn
Cartwright	Green, Gene	Maloney, Sean
Castro (TX)	Grijalva	Matsui
Chu	Hahn	McCarthy (NY)
Cicilline	Hanabusa	McCollum
Clark (MA)	Hastings (FL)	McDermott
Clarke (NY)	Heck (WA)	McGovern
Clay	Higgins	McNerney
Cleaver	Himes	Meeks
Clyburn	Hinojosa	Meng
Cohen	Holt	Michaud
Connolly	Honda	Miller, George
Conyers	Horsford	Moore
Cooper	Hoyer	Moran
Costa	Huffman	Murphy (FL)
Courtney	Israel	Nadler
Crowley	Jackson Lee	Napolitano
Cuellar	Jeffries	Neal
Cummings	Johnson, E. B.	Negrete McLeod
Davis (CA)	Kaptur	Nolan
Davis, Danny	Keating	O'Rourke
DeFazio	Kelly (IL)	Owens
DeGette	Kennedy	Pallone
Delaney	Kildee	Pascarell
DeLauro	Kilmer	Pastor (AZ)
DelBene	Kind	Payne

Perlmutter	Schneider	Tonko
Peters (CA)	Schrader	Tsongas
Peterson	Schwartz	Van Hollen
Pingree (ME)	Scott (VA)	Vargas
Pocan	Scott, David	Veasey
Polis	Serrano	Vela
Price (NC)	Sewell (AL)	Velázquez
Quigley	Shea-Porter	Visclosky
Rahall	Sherman	Walz
Roybal-Allard	Sinema	Wasserman
Ruiz	Sires	Schultz
Ruppersberger	Slaughter	Waters
Ryan (OH)	Speier	Waxman
Sánchez, Linda	Swalwell (CA)	Welch
T.	Takano	Wilson (FL)
Sarbanes	Thompson (CA)	Yarmuth
Schakowsky	Tierney	
Schiff	Titus	

NOT VOTING—25

Barton	Johnson, Sam	Richmond
Brady (TX)	Lankford	Runyan
Campbell	Lynch	Rush
Castor (FL)	Miller (FL)	Salmon
Coble	Miller, Gary	Sanchez, Loretta
Farr	Noem	Smith (WA)
Gosar	Pelosi	Thompson (MS)
Gutierrez	Peters (MI)	
Johnson (GA)	Rangel	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1341

Mr. DEFAZIO changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to attending the funeral of Tuskegee Airman, Chief Master Sergeant Walter H. Richardson, USAF, Retired, I missed the following rollcall votes: No. 157 through 164 on April 4, 2014. If present, I would have voted:

Rollcall vote No. 157—H. Res. 539, On Ordering the Previous Question, “aye.”

Rollcall vote No. 158—H. Res. 539, On Agreeing to the Resolution, “aye.”

Rollcall vote No. 159—Connolly of Virginia Amendment to H.R. 1874, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 160—Israel of New York Amendment to H.R. 1874, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 161—Cicilline of Rhode Island Amendment to H.R. 1874, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 162—Jackson Lee of Texas Amendment to H.R. 1874, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 163—H.R. 1874, Motion to Recommit, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 164—H.R. 1874, Pro-Growth Budgeting Act of 2013, “aye.”

□ 1345

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the majority leader, for the purpose of inquiring about the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland, the Democratic whip, for yielding.

On Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business. On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m. On Friday, no votes are expected.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the House will consider three bills from the Budget Committee.

The first bill, H.R. 1871, the Baseline Reform Act, authored by Representative ROB WOODALL of Georgia, would require CBO and OMB, when scoring legislation, to assume that the baseline does not increase or decrease for discretionary spending, which they do now. This practice added \$1.2 trillion to the baseline in 2013.

The second bill, H.R. 1872, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act, written by Representative SCOTT GARRETT of New Jersey, brings off-budget programs on-budget to provide a more accurate accounting of these programs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the House will consider and pass a budget resolution on time for a fourth consecutive year. The Republican budget, under the leadership of Chairman PAUL RYAN of Wisconsin and the Budget Committee members, will adhere to the agreed-upon spending limits and balance the budget in 10 years, as we did last year, increase economic growth and job creation, create opportunity, lessen the middle class squeeze, cut wasteful government spending, and strengthen our entitlement programs.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information. It is wonderful news that that budget is going to do all of those things, I want you to know. And we are pleased that a budget is coming forward. We may not be pleased with the budget, but we are pleased that it is coming forward.

As the gentleman knows, we have already had the budget levels for fiscal year '15. You indicate that the budget will adhere to the Ryan-Murray agreement. I assume that also means that it will adhere to the firewall division between defense and nondefense discretionary spending as well.

Is that accurate, Mr. Leader?

Mr. CANTOR. I would say to the gentleman, for this fiscal year, he is correct.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

I will tell my friend, the majority leader, The Wall Street Journal had an editorial of about 13 or 14 paragraphs. I disagreed with the first 13 paragraphs, but I did agree with the last paragraph.

It said, “But the Ryan outline does the service of showing the policy direc-

tion in which Republicans would head if they regain control of the Senate next year.”

Then it goes on to say, “Senate Democrats don’t want to declare themselves with any votes, but they favor higher taxes and much more spending for everything other than defense. Voters will have to decide on the direction they want Congress to go.”

So, Mr. Leader, as I said, we welcome a debate on this budget. We do believe it expresses the priorities of your party, and, as you know, we differ with those priorities in many instances. So I think the American people will get a spirited, informative, and educational debate on the Ryan budget, and I think that that will do much to inform them of the priorities of both parties. As I say, we look forward to that budget.

Unemployment insurance, Mr. Leader, is being considered on the Senate floor. I know the cloture vote has been taken. I don’t know whether final passage has been taken.

Does the gentleman have any expectation that if the Senate passes that bill today whether or not that bill might be on the floor next week?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, first I would ask the gentleman just to refer to a letter by the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, dated March 19, to the Majority Leader and the minority leader in the other body. This letter essentially lays out the case for why their bill is unworkable. Again, these are the folks that are in the business of administering these programs.

I would also say to the gentleman, I think the gentleman knows our position on that bill. It doesn’t create any jobs. Right now, we are in the business of trying to see how we can get people back to work, for an America that works for more people, and I would say to the gentleman, I look forward to joining him and focusing on that.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I am informed by the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee that we also have a letter from the Secretary of Labor, or one of the people that works with him, indicating that, in fact, they believe this would be workable. But very frankly, notwithstanding the letters, let me ask the majority leader: If, in fact, we made it prospective—which, of course, would clearly be workable—and made it 5 months prospectively, rather than 3 or 3.5 months retrospectively and a month and a half prospectively, as you know, through May 30, would that be an acceptable alternative, Mr. Majority Leader?

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say back to the gentleman, it is my opinion that what the gentleman asked for is a continuance of the status quo.

We want to get people back to work. We are in the business of job creation.

We want to provide a better environment for businesses to hire folks. We want to help those folks who are chronically unemployed access the skills necessary to fill the job openings today. As the gentleman knows—and I am sure his district is not unlike mine and many others—there are a lot of job openings that are left open because the workforce doesn't have access to proper training and skills.

I look forward to joining with the gentleman in looking towards the future and to how we can help those who are out of work get a job.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his response, Mr. Speaker.

But it seems to me that it begs the question. The question is, yes, we want to get people back to work. Everybody on this floor wants to get people back to work. I don't think there is any doubt about that. Hopefully we would be at full employment, however one defines that—whether it is 3 percent, 4 percent unemployment, which would be transition employment or unemployment. But yes, we want to have everybody back to work.

The issue that I ask about, Mr. Speaker, is that if we don't get everybody back to work—and we haven't gotten everybody back to work. There were 192,000 new jobs created this past month. That is good, but it is not good enough. And that is why we have a continuing 6.7 percent unemployment rate.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the majority leader was to assume, for argument, that the letter to which he refers is accurate. I don't accept that premise. But accepting that premise for the minute, would the majority leader be amenable to, rather than to do as the Senate does, making it retrospective so that the 3.5 months that would have gone from December 29 of last year to today and paying that back, simply extending for 5 months while people continue to look for employment but have been unable to find it because there are three times as many people looking for jobs as there are jobs available—and we are adding 72,000 people on a weekly basis to the unemployed roles. So if we made it prospective, that would save an awful lot of people the pain and suffering that they are experiencing because they can't find a job.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman that what we are amenable to is looking to try to fix the problem. I would also refer the gentleman to the fact that the emergency unemployment insurance that the gentleman speaks of was in place for the longest time, I am told, in history, and that it was in place for an emergency.

As the gentleman well knows, we have in place 6 months of unemployment insurance benefits for those who are out of work. I know that what those who are out of work beyond that,

who are deemed chronically unemployed, want most is an opportunity to get back to work. That is where I believe we ought to focus our efforts and really help people get back into a job so that they can support themselves, their families, and create a better future.

So I hope the gentleman will join us in refocusing away from accepting the status quo as the new norm and, instead, try to enhance the prospects for the pursuit of happiness for more people. And we are about an America that works for everybody, including those who are chronically unemployed.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments. As he knows, we have an agenda to do just that. It is called Make It In America, to expand manufacturing, create the kinds of jobs where people can make good salaries, have good benefits, and have good security for the long term. There is no disagreement on that, Mr. Speaker. The only disagreement seems to be, while we are trying to get that done, whether or not we try to assure that those who have fallen through the cracks do not find themselves in dire circumstances because we have eliminated the safety net that we constructed.

I would say to the gentleman, this is the longest time in history—and we are going to hear a lot of information from members of the Ways and Means Committee—the longest time in history that we have had this level of long-term unemployment. One of the reasons for that is, obviously, the dislocations in the marketplace and that we experienced the deepest recession that anybody—maybe RALPH HALL is an exception—that anybody in this body has experienced.

□ 1400

In other words, the last time we had as deep a recession as we had at the end of the last administration that carried over into this administration was the deep Depression, and you have to be 90 years or older to have really remembered and experienced that.

So there is a lot of pain out there. All I am saying is we agree there is no disagreement. We want to get people to work. We want to take actions that give them the skills.

As I have told you—and we haven't done this as vigorously, and that is as much my fault as anybody—I want to do that. You were focused on your SKILLS Act. Clearly, we want to make sure people have the skills to get employment.

I would hope that we could look at—assuming the Senate passes this bill—to give relief to 2.8 million people who are in dire straits, increasing by 72,000 a week, give them some support while we are trying and, hopefully together, create the kind of jobs and skills necessary to get them out of the hole that they are in.

If I might note, there are 193 Democrats who have signed a discharge petition to bring the unemployment insurance to the floor. If I might do one other issue, last week, we had the sustainable growth rate. We extended it. We worked together to get that done.

Without going into it at length, I know the gentleman and I have had discussions about the sustainable growth rate, the so-called doc fix. We put a temporary patch on it.

That was, in my opinion, the wrong thing to do. It was the right thing to do temporarily, but it was the wrong thing to do. The gentleman knows that fixing the sustainable growth rate is now, from a scorable standpoint, less expensive to do than it has been in over 5 years.

I would hope that, Mr. Leader, working together, that we could address this issue at some time before this Congress adjourns sine die. We need to fix this, and we need to fix it permanently.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, we, too, would like to see the SGR overhaul replaced with something that works. Our Physician's Caucus on the majority side of the aisle has put a lot of work into this issue, together with the Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee, have come up with a plan, as the gentleman knows, that had bipartisan support.

The problem is how to pay for it, and as I think the gentleman would agree, we can't go and continue to incur costs without finding out ways to pay for it, and that seems to continue to vex—many of the problems around here are trying to discover bipartisan pay-fors.

We made a commitment to continue to work with those Members who are most engaged in this issue and look forward to continue working with the gentleman to try to find those pay-fors, so we can put in place a long-term plan to give some certainty to our providers under Medicare.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I look forward to working with him. I would observe, as he well knows, and I have discussed with the Speaker, the pay-fors that were included in the temporary patch were as elusory as any other pay-for we could find.

We simply accelerated dollars. We didn't have due dollars. We didn't really pay for it. We just simply put the debt off a month or so and collected the money early and pretended that that was going to pay for it.

Whether that is any more real than doing any of the other options that have been suggested, I think, is questionable, but I look forward to working with the gentleman.

Because I mention it every time, but I want to mention it in a slightly different context, I will bring up comprehensive immigration reform again. The majority leader says it is a broken

system. We all agree on that, and we ought to move forward.

We are going to be considering the budget. The budget, we don't think is paid for. We will have a discussion about that as we go down. We think it increases the deficits; it is not balanced in 10 years.

But that aside, comprehensive immigration reform, the CBO released its score on our bill H.R. 15, which we think is a bipartisan bill, found it would reduce the deficit by \$900 billion over the next 2 decades, including \$200 billion over the first 10 years.

Therefore, comprehensive immigration reform, in our opinion, is not only the right thing to do, it is economically the smart thing to do. That is in the context of a bill that was brought to the floor this week that increases the deficit by nearly \$74 billion, dealing with the ACA.

It is a bit ironic that, during the time of enormous deficits, that we have been unwilling to bring to the floor a bill that is scored by CBO as close to a trillion dollars positive reduction of our deficit in the coming 20 years. I would hope that we could look at that.

As I say, it is not only the right thing to do, but it is supported across the board, the bill that the Senate passed by a 68-32 margin, supported by the Chamber of Commerce, supported by the AFL-CIO, supported by growers, farmers, ag interests, as well as farm workers, supported by the faith community across the board, and supported by 70-plus percent of the American people.

You would think, in the context of that broad base of support, that we could bring a bill which has such positive affects for human beings, for individuals, and for our country, as well as a positive economic affect.

I would hope, very sincerely, that once we get past the budget and come back after the Easter break, that we address comprehensive immigration reform.

I yield to my friend if he has any comments.

Mr. CANTOR. I would just say to the gentleman, as he knows, both the Speaker, I, and others have said we reject the comprehensive approach taken by the Senate.

Also, as the gentleman correctly states, we are in favor of trying to fix a very broken, antiquated, legal immigration system, as well as trying to do something to stop illegal immigration. We just have an issue about the President's insistence on, first of all, saying it is his way or the highway.

Secondly, the gentleman and I have talked before about the growing frustration that many Americans have, as well as Members on our side of the aisle, about the seeming disregard for the law by this administration in selectively implementing laws that have passed, specifically as it relates to the Affordable Care Act.

How would one know provisions that will be upheld, implemented, executed in whole or not, given this situation surrounding the ACA? Those are the kinds of challenges we face.

I would also note to the gentleman that the kind of thing that he refers to, comprehensive immigration, we reject that notion that the Senate bill, and we reject comprehensive efforts that have been undertaken over the last several years because they haven't worked so well.

Instead, we should be looking to try and do the things that we agree on. What about border security—border security itself? If we can agree to say that is going to be our position, we are not negotiating on a comprehensive bill, that we have to take care of that.

What about the kids? The gentleman knows I am very focused on trying to do something that we can agree on, but without saying that that has to be a precursor to something that the President insists, or otherwise, we can't even have the discussion.

So, again, we have got a lot of issues with regards to immigration. I would say to the gentleman I understand his frustration. I think that we have plenty of people who are also frustrated, given how things have gone with this White House.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I want to say on border security, H.R. 15, we refer to as a comprehensive bill, as you know, included the border security provision passed out of the Homeland Security Committee, chaired by your Republican chairman, passed out on a voice vote, essentially unanimously, is included in our bill.

So, on the border security issue, we apparently have a very broad-based agreement on that issue. The gentleman says you want to do it individually. The gentleman knows that the Judiciary Committee has passed out individual, discrete bills dealing with discrete parts of the immigration issue, what you say is a broken system.

Bring out discretely those bills. The bill that the Homeland Security reported out unanimously has not been brought to the floor. The four bills that have been reported out of the Judiciary Committee have not been brought up to the floor. They were passed months and months and months ago.

So that if you don't want to do a comprehensive—if that is the view of the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, then I would suggest to the majority leader that he bring out discrete bills, individual bills, not comprehensive, and see if we can deal with those.

I will tell you our disappointment also is that it was not only the Senate bill that was rejected, but the Speaker put out some principles with respect to comprehensive—or immigration reform, I won't call it comprehensive, put out some principles.

We received those positively. We thought that was a positive step. Unfortunately, those—the Speaker's proposal were rejected apparently by a very large number of your party in and outside of this institution. As a result, 6 days after he issued the principles, he said that they were not going to be pursued.

Yes, we were frustrated and disappointed with that because we thought the Speaker had taken a positive step forward. I don't know whether the majority leader was, Mr. Speaker, part of those principles, but in any event, we accepted them as good-faith efforts to come to an agreement, and we were prepared to pursue discussions on those principles. Unfortunately, as I say, the Speaker withdrew them.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to yield back the balance of my time, unless the majority leader wants me to yield to him.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers has proposed under waterways of the United States rules that the EPA claims jurisdiction not just over nearly every navigable waterway, but virtually every body of water in the Nation, no matter how large or how small.

Using a creative interpretation of a 40-year-old law, the EPA argues that it holds jurisdiction over any activities that could conceivably impact not just navigable waters, but any waterway that eventually flows into a river, even a waterway or wetland, which is simply near a navigable waterway.

Furthermore, the EPA doesn't stop at claiming control over water. It also claims control over any activity that could impact those waters in any way. This rule drastically limits private property rights by inserting the Federal Government into local land use decisions.

The rule would also expand EPA's authority from rivers, bays, and wetlands into manmade waterways like storm drains, drain ditches, farm ponds—unconnected in any way to a waterway—and even puddles. That's right, puddles.

EPA's first draft of that rule specifically exempted puddles. Tellingly, the final draft does not exempt them anymore.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. It is time to put an end to the government overreach and defund these efforts in the appropriations process and ensure that only America's elected representative make the laws that govern the Nation.

VERA HOUSE'S WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

(Mr. MAFFEI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, with what is left of my voice, to support Vera House's 20th annual White Ribbon campaign. For more than 35 years, Vera House has played a crucial role in combating domestic and sexual violence.

Located in the Syracuse area in my district, Vera House provides a safe shelter, counseling services, and other services for rape and sexual abuse victims and helps survivors rebuild their lives. It also provides life-saving prevention and education throughout central New York.

It is critically important that we continue to support Vera House's ongoing mission to end domestic abuse and sexual violence and to empower the victims to promote equality and respect in relationships.

The White Ribbon campaign encourages all members of the community to join those efforts and to demonstrate such support by wearing a white ribbon.

I urge my colleagues to support Vera House's White Ribbon Campaign to raise awareness of sexual and domestic violence.

□ 1415

COMMENDING CHICAGO ON INITIATING NEW POLICIES

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the mayor of the city of Chicago for initiation of a new set of policies designed to help facilitate the reentry of individuals with criminal records back into normal and productive life.

These policies include apprenticeship and job opportunities with the Chicago Transit Authority, city departments, and other municipal agencies, and—on a limited basis—the ability to access public housing as a place to live.

These are important initiatives for the reentry into community and for the citizens of Chicago. I commend Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, several of us come together to talk about unemployment insurance.

The majority leader said to accept the Senate bill is to accept the status quo. That is simply not correct. No, it is not accepting the status quo; it is whether we will penalize over 2 million long-term unemployed looking for work who have lost their unemployment insurance because of the overall economic situation in this country that is getting better, but for them, not nearly good enough. So don't raise the issue of the status quo as a reason to penalize over 2 million Americans.

Mr. Speaker, 2 months ago, a number of us invited a number of unemployment workers to be our guests at the President's State of the Union Address. We wanted to give a voice to the over 2 million Americans who have had their unemployment benefits cut off.

When these jobseekers told their stories one by one, I thought to myself: This is America, these are folks who come from every walk of life, who have worked hard, very hard, and who have played by the rules in pursuit of the American dream; now, they have lost their jobs, through no fault of their own, and they are desperately seeking new employment.

You can understand their complete bewilderment when uninformed people call them lazy, and you can feel their utter disbelief that their government apparently has abandoned them.

My guest for the State of the Union Address was Josie Maisano from St. Clair Shores, Michigan. Josie proudly told us she had worked since she was a teenager, but now, at age 60, she could not find a job.

Her unemployment benefits were helping her to keep her head above water as she searched for work, but when her benefits were cut off, she fell behind on her mortgage payments, struggled to keep the power on, and worried about becoming homeless, worried about that every day.

Josie and over 2 million Americans just like her are desperately waiting to see if this Congress will finally act to help those seeking jobs, not saying we are ratifying the status quo, but as I said to the majority leader, not letting the status quo—which is changing a bit but not enough—let that status quo penalize her.

Indeed, the good news is that the Senate is expected to take that critical step on Monday by passing bipartisan legislation—bipartisan legislation—to retroactively extend the unemployment insurance program through May.

So the question is this: Whether this House will also act or will it leave town and leave America's jobseekers in the lurch?

If every Member of this Chamber will simply take a few minutes to talk with unemployed workers in their district, to people like Josie, I have no doubt we will do the right thing and act; but up to this point, action has been scant, while the excuses have been plentiful.

We have heard that an extension of unemployment benefits must be paid for, even though these emergency benefits have traditionally not been offset, but the Senate unemployment extension is fully paid for with bipartisan offsets, so end of excuse.

We have heard that any legislation extending unemployment benefits must also create jobs, but the CBO has estimated that continuing emergency unemployment benefits would create 200,000 jobs by raising consumer demand, so, again, end of excuse.

We have heard that extended unemployment benefits aren't needed any more because the economy has recovered. The economy certainly has improved from the depths of the Great Recession, but we continue to have near-record rates of long-term unemployment.

Indeed, the percentage of those long-term unemployed in this country are the largest in our records, and we have never cut off these benefits in the past with anything close to this level of long-term unemployment, so end of that excuse.

Again, we have heard that it is too late to help the unemployed because the Federal UI program has been expired for too long, but as the whip said, the Secretary of Labor has sent a letter saying that it can be implemented.

Governors and State UI directors have said they stand ready, willing, and able to restore these critical benefits, as has been done after prior lapses in benefits, so let there be an end of that excuse.

So let's get past any excuses and focus on the facts. Anyone receiving an unemployment benefit must look for work, and they have ample reason to do so, given that the average unemployment benefit is only \$300 a week.

Even at that modest level—and I want to emphasize this—unemployment benefits have lifted 11 million Americans out of poverty since 2008, according to the Census Bureau.

The end of the Federal emergency unemployment program in December has left only one out of every four jobseekers receiving unemployment benefits, the lowest coverage in over 50 years.

The bipartisan Senate bill that will be voted on—we now expect Monday—would restore this vital lifeline to nearly 2.8 million Americans, including Josie Maisano, and 106,000 other jobseekers in my home State of Michigan.

Someone recently asked me if this issue is personal to me. It is. When you hear the unemployed tell their stories, when you see the anguish in their faces, and when you know how hard they are struggling to find work, it is impossible to not take it personally. America, these are our friends, our neighbors, our fellow Americans. How can we give them the cold shoulder?

This poster, 2.8 million Americans, these are the people whose livelihoods, whose lifelines are at stake here. I fervently hope that this institution will rise up to its greatest traditions, to respond to the needs of Americans out of work through no fault of their own, looking hard for work, unable to find it.

Often, people who are in their forties, fifties, and older find it difficult to find someone who will give them a fair shot. These are people like us, and they are everywhere. We need to act.

I now yield to a colleague and friend of mine, a member of our committee, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ).

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LEVIN for yielding and for his leadership on that committee.

I rise to join Mr. LEVIN today in lending a voice to the 2.8 million American workers who are waiting for Congress to act and renew unemployment insurance benefits.

These people have been waiting 17 weeks for Congress to reinstate the benefits that help them stay afloat as they search for a job. Imagine having to decide between putting food on the table and having a roof over your head, but these are the decisions that millions of workers, including more than 514,000 in California alone, continue to face.

It is a hardship they have to face because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle refuse to extend unemployment insurance benefits.

Over the last several weeks, my office has heard from dozens of constituents who are struggling because of congressional inaction. In fact, I have had the opportunity to talk with some of them and hear their stories personally.

They come from all walks of life, from working class backgrounds to even educated professionals who hold master's and doctorate degrees, and they all share one thing in common, they want to work.

If I may, I would like to share one of their stories with you. One of my constituents wrote to me:

Linda, in the past, I benefited from unemployment insurance when I was between jobs. Part of my responsibility every time I went to pick up a check was to certify that I was actively searching for a job.

This motivated me to continue searching for a job because I knew that the small income from unemployment benefits allowed me to pay for my needs, such as copies of my resume, gasoline to travel to prospective

work sites and interviews, and the phone calls I made to potential employers who were looking for employees.

Nowadays, it seems that the unemployed are being punished for being jobless through no fault of their own.

That is just one of the many letters my office has received, but all of them share the same message: they want my colleagues on other side of the aisle to know they are not lazy or unmotivated; they want to work.

As they continue to navigate the tough labor market, they need unemployment benefits to provide for their families and pay for the gas and phone bills that help them look for work and connect with potential employers.

Mr. Speaker, unemployment insurance is not a handout. Workers earned those benefits. They paid into the unemployment insurance program, so they would have a safety net when times got tough. Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't seem to agree, so perhaps an economic argument might sway them.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that an extension of unemployment insurance benefits would grow our GDP by 0.2 percent and add 200,000 jobs to our economy in this year alone.

That is because recipients are more likely to take the money they receive and spend it on essential goods and services. As a result, employers would hire more people to meet consumer demand for those goods and services. It is simple economics, Mr. Speaker.

My Republican colleagues say they care about creating jobs and growing our economy, but when an opportunity comes around to do exactly that, they refuse to act.

It has been 17 weeks since millions lost their unemployment insurance benefits, so what are they waiting for? Each week that we delay, 72,000 new unemployed Americans lose their benefits. That is one more household, one more family that will have to decide whether they keep a roof over their head or food on their table.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of these Americans are part of the group of long-term unemployed. These are people who, despite their best attempts, have not been able to find work in over six months. The reality that these Americans face is abysmal.

Research by Princeton University shows that, in any given month, the long-term unemployed have only a one in 10 chance of finding work, and a big reason for this is because employers are more likely to discriminate against long-term unemployed, even if they have the same skills and experience as other applicants.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, these people are waiting for Congress to act.

I will share one more note from Ron in Pasadena, California, who says:

I just hope that our representatives are able to see beyond political polarities to the

faces of those families to whom this issue does not merely exist as a statistic or a theory, but more genuinely as a question of survival.

Next week, the Senate is set to vote and pass an extension of unemployment insurance benefits. The measure would reinstate Federal unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed and allow for retroactive payments to go out to more than 2 million Americans who lost their benefits in late December.

I hope that my colleagues here in the House summon the courage to act and follow the Senate's lead. It is time to stop disrespecting people who are working hard to try to find work.

Mr. Speaker, don't leave millions of millions behind. Give unemployment insurance the vote that it deserves.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her moving remarks. I hope the country is listening.

Now, another person who has devoted so much time as Ms. SÁNCHEZ has to this effort to bring to the attention of this country what this is really all about, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD).

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

First, I would like to extend my appreciation to my colleague, my good friend, and the ranking member, Mr. LEVIN, from the great State of Michigan, for hosting this critically important Special Order hour on extending unemployment insurance benefits for over 2.2 million people who have been cut off since the end of last year. Thank you for your leadership and tenacity in making sure that this issue remains a priority here in this House. I commend you, sir, for your leadership.

The timing of this Special Order hour in this session is not coincidental. The Senate is well on their way towards passing a bipartisan bill to restore this critical financial lifeline that the people in this country depend on while they search for work.

I want to commend my Majority Leader, Senator HARRY REID, from the great State of Nevada, and the other great U.S. Senator from Nevada, DEAN HELLER, a Republican, who have worked in a bipartisan manner with Senator JACK REED to get to the point they are in the Senate.

I want to go further in recognizing Senator DEAN HELLER in calling Speaker BOEHNER just recently to ask him what it would take to bring up a clean vote on extending unemployment insurance benefits, because this is not a partisan issue—at least it shouldn't be. Helping 2 million Americans who rely on unemployment insurance as a bridge while they search for work is basic, fundamental, and should be supported by Members on both sides of the aisle, extending the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program

through May and restoring the financial bridge to nearly 2.8 million Americans. These are our neighbors. They are people that we know.

Now, the Democratic Caucus in the House comes to the floor today with a unified voice to respectfully ask the Speaker of this House for a vote. We have heard the calls from our constituents, and they cannot wait another day for the Republican leadership to continue to play political games.

My colleague, Representative SÁNCHEZ, just said it has been 17 weeks since these unemployment insurance benefits have expired. For each week, that is \$300, on average, that family members who use this to pay the rent, to keep the utilities on, to put some gas in the car so that they can search for work have been lost.

So we come here today to talk about the lives that have been affected by this Congress' inaction at a time when the American people expect us to act. We are here to put the face to the numbers, because there are real people behind the 2.8 million Americans who are suffering, to give voice to those who are being ignored while they struggle to stay in their homes and to put food on their table for themselves and their family.

Now, I am from Nevada. In our State, we recently had our numbers released today, and fortunately the numbers are getting better. Now we are the third worst in unemployment. So that is good news, but it is still not good enough. Nevada, along with other States like Rhode Island, continue to face higher unemployment in the Nation, not because the people in our States don't want to work, but because the environment in our States hasn't recovered fast enough from the recession.

Now, in Nevada, we like boasting more about being the entertainment capital of the world and the fact that we have some of the most magnificent natural resources anywhere, but, unfortunately, the prolonged recession has hit our State and the people of Nevada to our core.

As I said, it is because, in large part, our economy was a growth economy. For nearly 20 years, year over year, we had double-digit growth, and people were moving to the great State of Nevada to help us build and to grow.

But during the recession that changed, and so now over 100,000 Nevadans are unemployed and have been primarily from the construction, engineering, and architecture sectors of our economy. These aren't people who don't want to work. There is an environment that is not allowing them to go to work.

Now, if we pass the Senate bill, 31,500 Nevadans would see their unemployment benefits extended. It is not a lot of money. As I said, it is not enough to live off of, but for these families and

the stories that they have told us, it can make all the difference between being on the brink and literally falling off.

Now, I want to share a couple of stories of constituents whom I have met over the last few weeks as we have tried to bring attention to this issue.

Before coming to Congress, I ran an employment and training agency that helped thousands of people get training to go to work in Las Vegas. I know what it takes to put people back to work. So I went and visited one of our workforce centers and met with a group of unemployed workers to hear directly what they are facing and what it has meant to lose their unemployment insurance. They told us that they didn't know where else to turn. And they surely, if Speaker BOEHNER could hear from them, they want him to know that they want to do right by our fellow citizens and return to work.

Now, among the Nevadans who have been cut off from unemployment insurance is Monty. He was laid off from his job on December 4, 2013, and he lost his benefits on December 28, 2013. When he called my office in February, his life had gone from bad to worse. Monty told my staff:

I've had to basically pawn everything of value that I own to try and stay in my apartment. That came to an end last week when I couldn't afford to stay there anymore and I was evicted. Right now, I am sleeping on rocks outside of a brick wall at night with a blanket to keep me warm, and during the daytime I go out and look for work.

Prior to losing unemployment benefits, I was able to pay my rent on a weekly basis, have bus fare to get around and look for jobs, and provide a little bit of food for myself and keep looking.

Monty hasn't given up because he is determined to get back on his feet. He has never been in this situation before and, Mr. Speaker, he is not a lazy person. When he was employed, he hadn't missed a day of work in 25 years. Now he just can't understand why Congress has turned its back on him. Unemployment benefits were providing him the opportunity to keep looking for work and to stay in his home so that he could have a bed to sleep in and a hot shower before he goes on work interviews.

Now, there was recently some good news for Monty. He recently signed up for Medicaid because of the Affordable Care Act. It is a small victory for him, but his story of losing his home is the same as thousands of people around this Nation.

That is why I am proud to be a lead sponsor of the Stop Foreclosures Due to the Congressional Dysfunction Act introduced by Congressman MATT CARTWRIGHT from Pennsylvania. The legislation would impose a 6-month moratorium on foreclosures for individuals who have lost their unemployment insurance compensation due to the recent congressional inaction.

Until we do the right thing, Mr. Speaker, by extending unemployment insurance, we must do everything that we can to keep families with a roof over their heads. Congressman CARTWRIGHT and I have also sent a letter to Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Mel Watt requesting that he take action and use his regulatory authority to establish the 6-month moratorium if Congress fails to act to pass this important legislation.

Another constituent who I talked with recently is Elizabeth. Like my colleague Representative SÁNCHEZ said, many of these workers, or unemployed people who want to work, happen to be older Americans who feel that age has something to do with why they are not able to get back into the workforce. She lost her job with the Nevada Division of Insurance last year after suffering a stroke and two severe concussions. She has been searching every single day for work. She, like Monty, was uninsured until receiving coverage under the Affordable Care Act. Her unemployment benefits helped pay her premium and for the expense of medications that help prevent her seizures.

After losing her benefits, she had to cut down on taking her medication, now taking it every other day instead of daily, and now risks suffering another accident. Given her new condition, she made it her goal to become a caretaker and companion for senior citizens, which requires she attend classes and trainings. The unemployment benefits that she was receiving helped pay to put gas in her car to attend those classes. When she lost her benefits, she had to stop taking the classes, which was devastating, because this was part of her goal and the transition that she was trying to make to return to work.

But like many people, she had tough choices to make. She told us it wasn't a lot of money when she had a job, but now her family barely has enough to stay in their home and to pay their bills. Elizabeth wants to work. She told us: Do you think it is fun sitting around every day feeling like you are worthless, like you are nothing? She told us that most of all she wants to be able to get back to work to help provide for her neighbors, for those senior citizens that need that care and attention, for those who are worse off than she is.

One of the hardest parts of being in financial straits, for her, is not being able to give to charity. That is true citizenship, Mr. Speaker, and House Republicans could learn a lot from Elizabeth.

These are the personal stories of those who have been hurt by Congress' failure to act. If Republicans don't want to extend unemployment insurance because it is the right thing to do for our fellow Americans, then maybe—then maybe—you will do it because it

is the right thing to do for the economy.

Overall, failing to renew the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program will cost the economy 200,000 jobs this year, according to the Congressional Budget Office, including 3,000 jobs in my home State of Nevada. Failing to extend unemployment insurance has drained, already, nearly \$5 billion from our State economies, including \$70 million from Nevada's economy, at a time when economic growth is needed the most.

□ 1445

For every \$1 that is spent on unemployment insurance, it grows the economy by \$1.52. So, whichever way you look at it, there is no excuse for inaction.

When the Senate acts next week, the country's attention will turn to the House, and I am here with my colleagues today to urge the Speaker to listen to the Americans in this country who are desperately depending on us to act. At the end of next week, we will go into a work period for 2 weeks. During those 2 weeks, Americans will suffer if we don't act.

Mr. Speaker, we must be ready to act, and I urge my colleagues to do the right thing by extending unemployment insurance for the millions of Americans who need it now.

Again, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan and my other colleagues who have joined for this Special Order.

Mr. LEVIN. Thank you so much for your eloquence. I hope this country is listening as well as your beloved State.

Now I yield to another friend of mine and, most importantly, to somebody whose life embodies caring for others, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee. I am pleased to join with him and others of my colleagues as we come to the floor to call for the immediate passage of legislation in the House to concur with the Senate in the restoration of unemployment benefits to the more than 2.2 million Americans who have been cut off of extended unemployment insurance because our Republican colleagues continue to block an extension of the program.

Mr. Speaker, it is inconceivable to me that, as a government, as a nation, we would leave all of these individuals hanging, many of them since December 28 of last year, in 2013. Nationally, nearly 72,000 people are losing unemployment insurance, on average, every week, adding to the 202 million people who have already lost their benefits. The Department of Labor estimated that the bipartisan Senate agreement to extend emergency unemployment insurance would benefit nearly 2.8 mil-

lion people. That is a big part of America.

Long-term unemployment wrecks people's lives. It makes it almost impossible for them to ever catch up because they have gotten behind. They have lost what they had. They have been evicted from their homes. Their children have had to leave college. They just have not known which way to turn except to turn to their government, which they believe has their interests at heart and will do the right thing by and for them.

Illinois, my State—the home of Lincoln—is estimated to have lost \$296,763,435, just under \$300 million, in unemployment benefits during the first 3 months of the year. Any way you count it, that is a lot of money, and it takes that money away from and out of the economy. Those of us who understand a certain kind of economics know that, if you are not able to exchange goods and services, if people are not able to go to the store and get a bottle of milk or to stop at the service station and buy gasoline, there is no point in talking about economic recovery. So, not only is it in the best interests of those individuals who are in need of unemployment benefits, but it is also in the best interest of our Nation as a whole.

Mr. LEVIN. I want to commend you for the leadership that you have provided on this issue. I want to thank you for the tremendous leadership and for your understanding of the issues facing America.

I hope that, next week, when we return, that our colleagues will realize that we, too, can make a difference, that we can join with the Senate and pass unemployment insurance benefits for more than 2.8 million Americans.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank you for your eloquent remarks.

Mr. Speaker, how much time is left in our hour?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 25 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. Before I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) for the remainder of my time, I just want to conclude in this way.

This is a bipartisan bill that is coming over from the Senate. This country has asked for bipartisanship. That bill embodies it. This country has asked for fiscal care. Traditionally, unemployment insurance has not been paid for. This bill is paid for on a bipartisan basis.

So what more is America asking for?

It is asking for people in this institution to step into the shoes of several million people who are hardworking, who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, who are looking for work, many of them never having been unemployed before. If there is a vote allowed in this institution, this bill will pass. There is only one obstacle to

our doing what is right, and that is whether there will be a decision on the part of the leadership of this House to let us vote, and it won't be ourselves voting. It will be America voting. America wants a vote to help the several million and their families.

So I leave here, going out of Washington, hoping that when all of us return that we will have looked into the eyes of fellow and sister Americans out of work, that we will have reached out and will have listened to their stories, and that we will come back with a sense of urgency, with a sense of decency, and with a conscience. This issue should be on the consciences of every Member of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE RYAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) for the remainder of the hour.

Mr. NOLAN. Thank you, Mr. LEVIN, for this Special Order and for bringing to the attention of our colleagues and the country the importance of providing unemployment insurance for the millions of people who are struggling and who are in danger of losing their homes and the ability to feed their families.

As a businessman over the last 32 years, I would like to point out to these people who somehow like to characterize these people as scofflaws who don't want to work and remind them that you don't qualify for unemployment insurance unless you are a worker and have found yourself unemployed by virtue of circumstances you had no control over.

You are so right that this is the right thing to do. It is bipartisan, and there is a pay-for here. We should have the good judgment and the decency to extend the unemployment insurance for these people. So I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address another issue, and it is the fact that most of us here in the Congress grew up at a time when our leaders weren't afraid to invest in our country, to invest in human development, and because of them, education was affordable. Guess what? That is no longer true.

Now we are faced with a Ryan budget that cuts Pell grants for poor and needy kids who would like to get a postgraduate education.

Medicare. Nothing has ever done more to extend the lives of more people than Medicare. In a little over a generation, we went from a nation with a life expectancy of about 47 to over 77. What does the Ryan budget do with Medicare? It eliminates it as we know it. It turns the elderly back over to the insurance industry.

Our leaders in the past invested in transportation, in health, in education. They created the strongest economy and the strongest and largest middle class in the history of the world, and now our bridges are falling down. What does the Ryan budget do? It cuts funding for transportation.

Mr. Speaker, let's be honest. The simple truth is that the Ryan budget guts funding for all of the investments that created and were responsible for the incredible national and individual success that our generation has enjoyed. It cuts everything from Head Start to health to essential air service, funding for basic research for health and technology—so many of the things that made us a great Nation. Now, after being the beneficiaries of what our generation before us did, we don't want to invest in the future of our children and their children.

It is time for a budget that acknowledges the real foundations of our prosperity, of our opportunities, and of our freedom here in this country. Let's put forth a budget that shows our gratitude for the next generation. Let's pay it forward. Let's be mindful of how many important things that leaders in the past did for us in laying this foundation. Where I come from there is a wonderful, old Biblical saying that says, "For those to whom much is given, much is expected"—not less but more. Let's do for the next generation what the past generation did for us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LET'S DO FOR THE NEXT GENERATION WHAT THE LAST GENERATION DID FOR US

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I just want to chime in in agreement with the last thing that my colleague across the aisle said. He said let's do for the next generation what the last generation did for us.

Mr. Speaker, I think that is incredibly important. What a great thing my Democratic friend said, because every generation before ours has tried to live within its means.

□ 1500

This generation that is in power in this Congress is the first generation that continues to spend not only children's money, but grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's money.

We have accumulated such debt that our children are not only not going to rise up and call us blessed, they are going to rise up and swear at our names. Because this is the generation that has felt that it was so incredibly

important that we needed to put our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in hock just so we would not have to quit spending money so irresponsibly.

I could not agree more with that last statement. Let's do for the next generation what the last generation did for us. Thank goodness I have a friend on the other side saying that. He pointed out the verse of Scripture:

To whom much is given, much is required.

We have been given much. We have been blessed more than any nation in the history of the world. We have got more freedoms than Solomon's Israel could have ever dreamed of and more individual assets than any nation in history could have dreamed of. We have been given much.

As a result, this generation has become so self-centered, so narcissistic, so self-indulgent, so obese that we want to engorge ourselves at the expense of future generations.

Let me just say I haven't decided what I am going to do about the Ryan budget. I am still going through it. PAUL RYAN and I have had some very severe disagreements during my 9-plus years here, but I know this: he does not want to hurt future generations. He wants to do for the next generation what the last generation did for us.

And we will not—we cannot—do that if we are spending money so irresponsibly that generations to follow us will be paying the debts and the interest on those debts without getting a dime of the benefits that we engorged ourselves with in this generation. So it is time to be responsible.

I disagree with something my colleague said when he said, basically, the Ryan bill destroys Medicare as we know it. I don't know if I like what PAUL RYAN has been able to do about Medicare. I would have handled it differently. It is one of the things I am struggling with.

What he is trying to do is what Democrats should have done for 40 years before the Republicans took office. They had the majority before the 1994 election. They put us on a course to destroying Social Security. Since the sixties, after Medicare was passed, we have been on a course to bankrupt Medicare so our children and grandchildren will have nothing for themselves because we spent it all on ourselves.

So I don't know if it was the best way to do it, but I know what PAUL RYAN was trying to do. He is trying to make sure that we protect our seniors and we make sure that we can have future generations have some of the same protections. And from what I was reading, he is trying to do that. Some changes would come in Social Security, from what I am reading, but not for anybody 56 or older.

Anyway, I am still making up my mind on the bill, but I know what PAUL

RYAN was trying to do. He was trying to do an honorable thing for future generations, just like my colleague said he felt we should be doing.

I also want to get to another topic today that has been so much on the minds and hearts of people all over the country this week as Killeen, Fort Hood, Texas, has had another mass shooting.

The first one was in the civilian sector in a cafeteria. That caused Texas to rise up and pass a concealed-carry permit law, which was driven by a woman whose parents were killed there. She had to put her gun in the glove compartment and couldn't take it in. She could have saved her parents had we had a concealed-carry permit law in place at the time of that mass shooting.

I have had people ask, as I know my friend from Georgia has: What have you guys in Congress done since the last shooting at Fort Hood to protect our soldiers? What has the Commander in Chief done to protect the military members under his command?

Under this Commander in Chief, we saw in Afghanistan that in half the time he had twice as many fatalities—even more than that in injuries—of our military members in Afghanistan. That is half the time of the Bush administration and about twice as many fatalities.

We have seen what happened there. But what about right here?

After the first Fort Hood shooting, it was an outrage—as it should be to every military member and everybody that understands anything about the military—when this Commander in Chief allowed the incident to be called workplace violence when, clearly, Nidal Hasan, according to all the witnesses, stood up, made the universal cry that a radical Islamist terrorist makes, claiming, in essence, that he is going to kill innocent people on behalf of a god who likes people like him to kill innocent people, just as they think there is a god that liked planes being flown into buildings to kill thousands of innocent men, women, and children. That is a god I don't know, and I know that is a god I will never meet.

But I want to talk at this time about what we should be doing for our soldiers.

I have got a bill that legislative counsel is working on right now. We will be filing it early next week. We anticipate calling it the Save Our Soldiers bill, or SOS. They have been crying "SOS." It is just that nobody in their highest chain of command has listened.

Well, Congress is listening and we are going to get something done, if there are enough people down the hall in the Senate who worry about their election next November that they will actually take this bill up and do something to protect our soldiers, other than lip

service. Lip service doesn't really protect you against an incoming round.

At this point, I would yield to my dear friend from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas.

There was a tragedy this week at Fort Hood, Texas. The folks in South Carolina once again stand with the people in Texas.

The President's former Chief of Staff, and now the mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel, infamously said:

Never let a crisis go to waste.

That is what we are seeing going on today with HARRY REID looking to use the recent Fort Hood tragedy to pursue his agenda of control. HARRY REID said this week that the recent shooting should renew discussion about gun control, and then went on to talk about background checks and mental health issues.

Mr. Speaker, these comments have nothing to do with the facts at hand. However, HARRY REID wants to use this as a way to restrict Americans' Second Amendment rights. I don't agree with his motives, but I do agree with his suggestion that we need to revive a discussion on the Second Amendment. It should reawaken our discussions about Americans' constitutionally affirmed rights to keep and bear arms to defend ourselves, to defend our families, to defend our property, and, ultimately, to defend this great Nation.

With regard to our military, the gentleman from Texas and I had a conversation earlier. I fully understand that when you join the military, you give up some rights. You give up the right to speak unless you are spoken to or it is appropriate. You give up the right to assemble peacefully. You assemble when they tell you to on the parade ground, I have been told, but you don't have the right to assemble. You don't have a right to trial by jury. We set the jury of court-martial for the military. I get that.

Yet we trust these soldiers with both high-tech and low-tech weapon systems that they use to defend this great Nation, but then we turn around and create these gun-free zones on their bases, which have resulted in two incidents. Gun-free zones have resulted in two incidents at Fort Hood and the killing of unarmed and law-abiding citizens.

I will mention, as the gentleman from Texas did, that the President wants to call this an episode of workplace violence. Well, nothing could be further from the truth. Major Hasan was an Islamist jihadist intent on doing harm in the war against America that we see raging all over the world in places like Afghanistan and Iraq.

The folks that were wounded there and the soldiers that were killed at Fort Hood deserve the medals that they have earned, and it is time to call

this for what it was. It was an episode of terrorism, and the original Fort Hood shooting incident requires, I believe, that those victims receive the medals. That is something I renew the call on.

I raised this issue about the travesty this week and the gun-free zones to my constituents via Twitter and Facebook. These are some of the things they had to say.

A lady named Carolyn Chandler says:

Our own soldiers, without guns, shot down on our own base in our own country. A ban on guns gives the criminals free targets. The criminals will have the guns. Criminals do not obey laws.

Steve Carey says:

The victims at Fort Hood are not dangerous. The politicians who have disarmed the soldiers at a military base are dangerous.

Ken Crowe says:

We don't need more gun laws; we need fewer gun-free zones.

I agree with him on that.

It is time for America to wake up. The only lawbreakers in Fort Hood, Texas, in both of these tragic events were the killers themselves who took a firearm into a gun-free zone.

I am reminded of an old adage that says, when seconds count, the police that can protect you in these gun-free zones are just minutes away.

When seconds count, the police are just minutes away. Think about that, America. It is time to let our soldiers and law-abiding Americans defend themselves and reaffirm our Second Amendment and constitutional rights in this country.

I appreciate the gentleman bringing forth the SOS law. I look forward to cosponsoring that. Let's allow law-abiding Americans, soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines to defend themselves. SOS sends a warning signal. It is an alarm. It is put on the beach when someone needs to be rescued. Well, guess what? The people in gun-free zones need to be rescued as well by having the ability to defend themselves.

So I thank the gentleman from Texas for giving me the time to talk about this important area issue. May God bless him, may God bless the Republic of Texas, and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. GOHMERT. The gentleman from South Carolina has just made clear why I am such a big fan of his.

And, yes, I was in the Army. By naming the bill "Save our Soldiers," I am not saying the Army is more important, because it is, generically speaking, inclusive of our soldiers, sailors, marines, Coast Guard, and everybody that is in the uniformed military. That is who it pertains to.

□ 1515

But we wanted a title that people would remember and think of all of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines,

Coast Guard, people that are protecting us.

The greatest irony still comes back to this: we have military members who are qualified to fire tank weapons. We have got military members—I think the largest thing I fired in the Army was a 105 Howitzer. But we have a massive number of weapons, rocket-propelled grenades of different kinds, SAM missiles. We have got all kinds of things that our military are able to utilize.

We have got airmen who operate airplanes that drop thousands and thousands of pounds of bombs, and yet for too long political correctness has said, even though they may fire 105 Howitzers or some of the most modern weapons we have, tanks, drop thousands of pounds of bombs, we probably can't trust them to carry a little pistol. Yeah, they may be on a ship. They may fire rounds that are bigger than I am, but, gee, we might not better trust them with a pistol.

And what we have seen over and over in the tragedies here in the United States, the norm is for a criminal who wants to shoot and hurt and kill people to go to a gun-free area. That is why the shooter in the theater in Colorado could have gone to much closer theaters, but those theaters did not restrict the right to have weapons in them, so they probably would have had someone who could have pulled a gun very quickly and ended the rampage.

From the reports of what happened this week at Fort Hood, when the hero, female military member pulled her weapon, he took his own life rather than risk ending up in a wheelchair or worse. He wasn't going to take chances on firing at anyone else once someone had a weapon leveled on him.

We have lost enough lives in gun-free zones. It is time to allow the law-abiding, the qualified, to protect themselves, to save our military.

I hope that our leadership will allow the bill to be brought to the floor here because I know good and well, if we bring it to the floor here—I am open to amendments, suggestions—we get a bill like that passed here, then the pressure will be on the Senate.

Yes, I know Senator REID protects his Democratic Members all he can. If there is a bill that his Members would get defeated for voting against, then he just doesn't bring it to the floor for a vote. Protecting his Members from having to cast a vote for a bill that is a good bill or against a bill that would get them defeated because it was a good bill, he just keeps it from going to the floor. We have seen that in so many of the bills we have passed here from the House that would have an immediate helpful effect on our economy. It would have had an immediate helpful effect on our government.

For heaven's sake, I know the mainstream media will never get this right.

Even our own Speaker didn't understand what happened that day, apparently. But last fall, our House of Representatives—a majority, at least—believed that ObamaCare was very detrimental to this Nation, to its economy, to people's health. So what did we do? We did what we believed, and we voted to completely defund ObamaCare. That is what we believed. That was the vote we did first.

But understanding that in Washington you have to have two Houses pass a bill, we passed a compromise measure that simply said, look, obviously ObamaCare is not ready for prime time. You have had going on 4 years to get ready, and it is not ready for prime time, so we are offering you a gift, Democrats in the Senate and Democrats in the House. We are offering a gift. Our compromise is this: we passed the bill. It said let's suspend ObamaCare for a year. Clearly, it is not ready. Many people will be hurt.

That was an incredible gift of a compromise to the Senate Democrats and the House Democrats and even to the President himself. But our Democratic friends down the hall had bought in to the mainstream conventional wisdom that if the Democrats could cause a shutdown, the mainstream media would protect them by blaming Republicans, and then that would help them win the majority in the House in the next election. So HARRY REID refused to even bring that gift that Republicans in the House offered to the Senate Democrats, the President, and House Democrats. He wouldn't accept it.

I bet there are times that their Democrats in the House and Senate really wish they had accepted our offer of compromise and said: Okay. All right. We don't want to do it; but, okay, we will suspend ObamaCare for a year.

There were some in our party that felt like, gosh, if we suspend it for a year, who knows what will happen in a year from now. Maybe we are better off letting America find out how bad it is so then we can get it repealed outright. But we knew the suffering that would ensue once that bill fully kicked in, and how could we want people to suffer like we knew they would once ObamaCare kicked in?

But HARRY REID wouldn't bring that to the floor. I didn't think it was wise when they rejected a clear offer of compromise down the hall by refusing to even bring it to the floor for a vote. We funded everything HARRY REID wanted. We just had a 1-year suspension on ObamaCare.

So then we came back and said, okay, the President has unconstitutionally signed an executive order that put off the business mandate for a year, so we will offer what was an incredible compromise. We will agree to postpone the individual mandate in a

legal manner—not unconstitutional, but a legal manner—and we will go ahead and put in writing that the business mandate would be suspended for a year, and that would protect the President's order.

HARRY REID wouldn't bring it to the floor for a vote. He knew good and well if he brought either one of our compromise bills to the floor that there would be Democrats that would either have to vote for the bill or, for sure, lose their Senate seat come November—Democrats in the Senate, that is. So he protected them and didn't allow that to come to the floor. And his Members seemed quite happy to just sit back and let HARRY REID try to protect them by not allowing them to vote.

Then, at 1:10 a.m. on October 1, when it was clear to us here in the House that HARRY REID was not going to even accept a gift of a 1-year suspension or the following compromise offered gift of a year suspension of the individual mandate and a year suspension of the business mandate, then we did what was almost unthinkable—bid against ourselves for the third time. We voted to approve conferees from the House. These are people who would have reached an agreement if the Senate had bothered to even appoint conferees or negotiators.

It was understood here, if HARRY REID will go ahead and appoint Senate conferees, they can start immediately, and before even anybody is required to be at work at 8 a.m., we could probably have a deal worked out, get it passed, and people would have never known there was a shutdown for 8 hours. But HARRY REID was so determined to follow through on what was the mainstream conventional wisdom: HARRY, if you can just cause a shutdown, the Republicans will be blamed—they didn't even know the Speaker would accept the blame because he didn't know what we did that day—but they will be assessed the blame by the mainstream media, and then you can get the majority back.

So he forced a shutdown. Actually, he tried to do that a few years ago, and our leadership and the Republican side capitulated at 10:30 the night that the shutdown was going to begin at 12 midnight. Probably, if the truth be known, the Democratic Leader, HARRY REID, may have hoped that he would have a shutdown at midnight that night because he consistently said: It is my way or nothing, my way or nothing, no compromise whatsoever. Of course, our leadership came back and said: Well, we actually cut \$26 billion. And it turned out we did no such thing. But, anyway, we came so close to a shutdown that night.

But some of us still have enough faith in the American people that we believe a majority will ferret out the truth, come to the truth, regardless of

what the mainstream media says, regardless of what anybody on television who gets a thrill up their leg when they see certain Democrats, no matter what they say, eventually the majority of the American people will eventually come to the truth and that will save our Nation.

So, clearly, there are areas in which we agree, as my Democrat friend indicated when he said let's do for the next generation what the last generation did for us. That is all I want to try to do. Let's give our children and grandchildren a nation where they have the freedoms that we have enjoyed, where they have the privacy that we used to enjoy, where they don't have \$20 trillion of debt from the prior generation because the prior generation was so selfish, so self-centered that they didn't even care to clean up the waste, fraud, and abuse in the government.

I read an article that talked in terms of the massive amount of fraud just at the State Department. Here is an article, April 4, today, from *The Fiscal Times*, Brianna Ehley:

The State Department has no idea what happened to \$6 billion used to pay its contractors. In a special "management alert" made public Thursday, the State Department's inspector general, Steve Linick, warned "significant financial risk and a lack of internal control at the Department has led to billions," that is with a b, "billions of unaccounted dollars over the last six years."

Mr. Speaker, by the way, that is while this President was in office.

The unaccountability is dramatic. Future generations will have to pay for the waste, fraud, and abuse that not only will we not clean up, but we borrowed money in our children and grandchildren's name to lavish on massive, wasteful, fraudulent government, abusive government, because we couldn't control ourselves.

□ 1530

There is going to be a price to pay for the irresponsibility of this government in the decades ahead. If we do not get this country turned around and back on a responsible track, then there will be books written about the rise and fall of the United States of America. And our generation will be blamed, and the line of my Democratic friend will be at the forefront in that book, that this generation refused to do for the next generation what was done for us.

Mr. Speaker, I had hoped—that is why I am still here. That is why I have run again. I have hoped that we are going to get back on track, that we will be able to rein in the government, that at some point, HARRY REID will be willing to bring bills to the floor that we have sent down there passed by a majority here in the House that do things like get the economy going, that allow businesses to start hiring again without worry about just irresponsibility and overregulation.

We need to be providing privacy for Americans that began deteriorating in

prior administrations before this but that this administration has taken to an all-time high with regard to individual privacy information taken away and held onto by the government.

People want to know, gee, well just what does the government have that would be invasive of our privacy? Well, for one thing, we now know the NSA has logs of every call that every American makes. That is outrageous. It is unnecessary. And we can't go into classified briefings. But, Mr. Speaker, I stand here to tell you that even though there are some in our intelligence that have said, gee, if we had not gathered every log of every phone call ever made, we may not have stopped a subway bombing, like we did. And from the evidence that we know from the public arena, it was clear—it sure seemed to me, as a former prosecutor and judge and chief justice—that there was plenty of evidence for an officer of the law—Federal, State, or local—to go before a judge and swear this information and get a warrant from the judge and go after an individual that was about to try to set off a bomb. It looked like, to me, from just what is available in the public, that there was plenty of information that would have allowed a judge to sign a warrant. So not only are they getting every log of every phone call made, but we are not quite sure, even now, whether some are right to say, well, actually, they could pull the actual discussions of the conversation, or whether they couldn't.

But we also know that under ObamaCare, the Federal Government gets every record of everyone's most personal and private health insurance. And for so long in this body, I have heard my friends on this side of the aisle complain about, we don't want government in the bedroom. And then without a single Republican vote, they passed the ObamaCare bill that not only put the government in your bedroom, but it is in your bathroom, your kitchen, your living room, your garage. It is with your Realtor. It is just everywhere you can imagine. The government is there. That is with the health care law and the other bills that the Democrats have passed while they were in the majority.

So if it is not enough that the Federal Government—and, of course, we have to give credit to General Electric, because I understand they have got the contract to gather this information. So it is not just the government. It is cronies of this administration in private business that also have this information.

Anyway, the government has got your most private secrets, health care-wise. They know everybody you are calling. There is information in the public press that says they can comb through every email you send.

And then we find out that one of the bills that the Democrat majority in the

House and Senate passed was involving the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. That group has apparently decided that in order to protect us, they need to gather everybody's credit card, debit card information just so they can protect us.

So there we go. The Federal Government has got all of your medical information. They have got all of your credit card and debit card information, purchases, loans, all of those kinds of things. You have got regulators, Federal regulators going into banks, checking on your loans and things like that. I mean, is there anything left in the way of privacy that this Federal Government has not already co-opted and gotten access to without a warrant?

I mean, I was very serious, and the judges I knew were very serious about making sure there was probable cause because that is the constitutional requirement. You have to have probable cause before you get a warrant. And there were times when law officers would come to me in my judge's chambers or on the bench during a recess or at my home at 2 or 3 a.m., and I would read the affidavit and the officer would swear to the information. But if it wasn't adequate, I, along with other judges I know would say, I am sorry. Probable cause is not here. There are not enough facts provided to justify going after somebody's private property or private information. I can't sign the warrant. And there were times where officers would say, give us another chance, a little more time. We see your point. We will be back. And they would come back later, and then you go, okay, well, yes, this is probable cause. Certainly this raises probable cause. Sometimes they wouldn't be able to get it. But that was the constitutional standard by which law officers and courts are supposed to live.

And now, in the name of a little security, we have to stand there—I can't even count the number of times I have had to stand there with my arms open and be groped by Federal agents. Sometimes you can tell they have got a little bit of a grudge. And we giving that away because we want security.

Okay. We want health care, so let's let the government know every one of our most intimate private secrets in our health care records. And, you know, we want to make sure that some bank doesn't take advantage of us. Heaven forbid the investment banks take any more advantage of us. Man, the investments banks brought us to the brink of ruin.

And by the way, for those who don't know, Mr. Speaker, Wall Street executives and their spouses donate four-to-one for Democrats over Republicans. I know people think it is the Republicans that have all the rich people on their side. People are beginning to find out, it is middle class. And actually,

poor people in America are coming to the conclusion, wait a minute. We have one party that keeps us dependent upon the government for the little crumbs it throws out. We have got another party over here that wants us to be president of the company, president of the country. They want us to have the best education possible. And they want us to be able to speak the language of this country that gets you to be president of the country, of the corporation, of the business, English. And gee, they want us to have a job. They don't want us to be beholden and having to beg the government all the time. They want us to be able to have independence and have our own money and make our own decisions. Gee, maybe, as a poor person, I would be better off supporting the Republican Party.

As I taught a combined sociology class at Texas College not that long ago—Texas College started as an African American college and is still prominently African American. But I am telling you, the African Americans in that class had some good ideas about how we straighten up welfare, how we get people more independent, how we get our government on track. Those are folks that had some good ideas. And some of the things that they proposed, like a work requirement, well, that was put on when Republicans took the majority back in January of '95. And then this President stripped that out—I would say unconstitutionally. He did it with an executive order. He changed a law that was duly passed and signed into law by Bill Clinton. And it ended up being one of his most proud accomplishments because what we saw after the requirement for work for welfare was, for the first time in 30 years, single moms' incomes, when adjusted for inflation, started going up. It had been flatlined for about 30 years, since aid to dependent children had started, since welfare had started, single moms' incomes, adjusted for inflation, had been flatlined for about 30 years.

And once the Gingrich-led Republican revolution took hold and a work requirement was put on for the first time in 30 years, single moms had more take-home money. They had more freedom. They had more autonomy away from the government, where they didn't have to be dependent on the government. They could make their own decisions without some law being passed by Congress to send them another crumb. It gave them money, more than they had ever had, and it gave them independence.

That is what the people I know want for women, for African Americans, for everyone in America, for Hispanic Americans, for anyone, Asian Americans. It is what we want for Americans.

One of the things that meant so much to me on 9/12/2001, as we stood out there, hundreds—maybe thousands of people in our town of Tyler—and I

know it was going on in Longview. And actually, all over east Texas it was going on. People came out to the town square, and they prayed together. And no court would have had the nerve to tell America on 9/12, you have no right to pray in public. They wouldn't have had the right to say that on 9/12/2001. So we were praying together as citizens out there.

We sang hymns. We sang "Amazing Grace" and "God Bless America." What is "God Bless America"? It is a prayer asking for God's blessing to continue on this country. We held hands as we sang "God Bless America." People by the millions did this all over America on 9/12/2001.

And as I looked around among all of those people, my American friends, there was not a hyphenated American in the group. We had all national religions, races, genders. I mean, we had all kinds of groups represented, but we were Americans. There were no Euro Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, Irish Americans, Hispanic Americans. There were Americans. And we stood together. We prayed together. We sang together. And there was no mess out there. We were together, one people.

As that great speech given by Senator Barack Obama pointed out, there shouldn't be a red America and a blue America; a white America and a black America. There ought to be one America. But we have gotten into the politics of division. That is why the Senate refused to take up our repeated efforts at compromise to avoid shutting down the government.

The politics of division, that is why the World War II memorial was barricaded and massive man- and woman-hours were utilized to try to keep veterans out of the Iwo Jima Memorial for Marines, the World War II Memorial. I couldn't believe they had the nerve to put up a barrier to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

And I, along with my friend from Mississippi, opened up the streets, opened up the barriers there at the World War II Memorial. I clipped the yellow ribbon, the crime scene tape. I moved one barricade. He moved the other. The World War II vets came in.

□ 1545

STEVE KING, a few others, and I went out to the marine memorial, and we opened up that memorial. We checked out their other days and made sure that that was accessible. One day, it turned out there was a bus of World War II veterans that had come out there. There was a big, plastic barricade shaped like the concrete barricades. This was plastic, and it was filled with water, a wooden barricade there. And that bus of World War II veterans—many of them that had fought in the Philippines, that had been to the top of the mountain and

seen that flag be planted up there—their bus ran over that barricade.

I was so proud of them. I ran up there, and I got up there, they were already out there enjoying the memorial. These people that saw that flag that was planted there now were enjoying the memorial to them.

When we came back by, we were going to stop at the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. They had barricades up all up there. And I was so proud that there were a slew of Americans. Most were African Americans. I was so proud of them. They didn't let the barricades stop them. They climbed right over and went in to that wonderful memorial. And I didn't even have to stop to open that up. They had already taken care of it.

That is the politics of division: try to make people suffer and blame it on the other party. We need to be back to being Americans, not hyphenated, not Republican Americans, Democrat Americans, Tea Party Americans. For Heaven's sake, the Tea Party, all it means and all it is is a group who have been Taxed Enough Already. They are tired of the waste, fraud, and abuse in government. They want a responsible government so that we can do, as my Democratic friend said just a while ago that he wanted for us to do, for the next generation what the last generation did for us. That is all the Tea Party wants. They are not racist. They got all races in the meetings I go to. They just want us to be responsible and do for the next generation what the last one did for us.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will be able to bring Save Our Soldiers to the floor. I know back 3 years ago, when I was concerned that our military was going to be used as a pawn to try to get people to vote for a bad continuing resolution under the threat that, gee, if you don't vote for this bad continuing resolution, our military members won't be paid, so shame on you. Well, I was furious that our military members had to even have it cross their minds that they might not get paid. So I filed a bill that would ensure that if there were a government shutdown that our military members' pay would be treated like Social Security is. I know there is a lot of fear mongering about that. But if there is a shutdown, the law is and continues to be and was 3 years ago, that it is basically on automatic pilot. If there is a shutdown, then the Social Security checks continue to go out. If someone is entitled to more Social Security during the shutdown, they don't get the increase until after the shutdown is over, and then they would get it. But that is what the bill would do for the military.

I am grateful—even though our Speaker did not let that bill come to the floor, I was grateful that so many millions of Americans came on to some

Web site set up for that purpose to say put our military pay on automatic pilot just like Social Security is so if there is a shutdown, people that have their lives in harm's way don't have to worry about their loved ones getting paid.

Even last fall, we saw military members whose families—when they were dying in harm's way for us, this administration wasn't even going to let them get paid. It was really outrageous. We even passed a bill last fall to make sure that finally the military wouldn't have to worry about it, and the Defense Department and this administration interpreted it in such a way to inflict as much harm on survivors of our military heroes as this administration could. It was wrong. But they did it. It is the politics of division.

It is going to be important, Mr. Speaker, that we let people know who the real heroes are for this country. Heroes would include those who are willing to lay down their lives for others.

John 15:13:

Greater love knows no man than this, that a man lays down his life for his friends.

That includes generically men and women, anyone willing to lay down their lives, not to kill innocent people, but to save lives. That is what we have always attributed as a hero here in America. And yet we find out—I didn't know until I read an article by my friend, Andy McCarthy, about this on the President's Web site, but whitehouse.gov regularly profiles young, left-wing radicals that it calls "Champions of Change."

I am quoting from the article of Andrew McCarthy. It is dated today:

Now, in a space of just a few days, two of the President's champions have made news.

One is Linda Sarsour, described by the White House as a "community activist" who specializes in "community organizing" and "immigrants' rights advocacy," and who "conducts training nationally on the importance of civic engagement in the Arab and Muslim American community." Evidently, civic engagement need not be civil engagement. Ms. Sarsour has joined her voice to that of CAIR.

CAIR is the Council on American-Islamic Relations that two Federal courts have declared is a front organization for the Muslim Brotherhood, which has appropriately been declared as a terrorist organization by Egypt, and others are looking at doing the same, including even Great Britain. But not here. No. We take our lead from whatever CAIR says in this administration.

But this so-called Champion of Change, according to the White House Web site, has reacted to the widely viewed acclaimed film "Honor Diaries," a film about the brutalization and systematic inequality faced by women in Muslim majority society. And this is what Ms. Sarsour had said:

How many times do we have to tell white women that we do not need to be saved by

them? Is there code language I need to use to get through?

As Mr. MCCARTHY notes, he said:

I would note that the executive producer of "Honor Diaries" is the heroic Somali human rights activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali. It features several courageous Muslim women, including Pakistani-born Qanta Ahmed, a medical doctor who has an important column about the film and the campaign to suppress it at NRO today.

He also points to Bonnie Youn as a Champion of Change as so named by the White House. And Matt Boyle with Breitbart has a column that says:

An amnesty advocate that President Obama's White House publicly promoted as part of its Champion of Change series has been indicted in Federal Court on charges of fraud.

And it goes on down. Part of it reads:

The second indictment count alleges that Youn violated a Federal immigration law that prohibits bringing illegal aliens into the United States and harboring them, alleging she did so "for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain."

So, apparently, a Champion of Change is someone who there is probable cause to believe is engaged in human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, this country has to re-awaken. If we are going to do for the next generation what the last generation did for us, we have got to stop the indebtedness that is growing every second of every day. And we keep adding to the debt and the interest that mounts on top of that. We have got to get more responsible in protecting privacy and not allowing this administration to further go into people's bedrooms, bathrooms, credit card records, phone calls, and emails. We have got to stop the insanity, or not only will the next generation rise up and not call us blessed, they will curse our names.

I am here because I have hope. We are going to turn things around. We have just got to keep fighting. With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REGULAR ORDER IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RICE of South Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

We are constantly confronted with agendas and issues, some of which are good for the country, and some of which are bad for the country. That is why we debate here in this Congress.

I would like to think that anything that passes off the floor of the House of Representatives enjoys the full support of at least a majority of the Members

of the House of Representatives. I would like to think that is also the case with the Senate. I would like to think that when we disagree, we come together in conference and we produce a conference report that can achieve and enjoy the majority support of the House and the Senate of the conference report and go on its way to the President's desk, where it is either signed into law or vetoed and sent back to the Chamber of origin, as the Constitution directs.

There are also tactics and maneuvers that go on in this Congress, and this more than two centuries of the structure of this great deliberative body has developed a system within our committee process to define jurisdiction committee by committee. More committees have been created over the years, some committees have been abolished over the years, but it is designed to function so that this constitutional Republic—which is guaranteed in our Constitution, by the way—brings the best judgment of the people in America through their elected representatives.

There are 435 House districts and 100 Senators from the 50 States. The good ideas that come from our neighborhoods need to go into the eyes and ears of their Member of Congress, and we need to bring it here and bring those best ideas forward and compete. Put those ideas together in a competitive fashion so that as we sit down and first we draft a bill, that bill gets assigned to the committee of jurisdiction where the people have accumulated expertise on the topic are seated. There will be hearings for them to get better informed about the bill in question itself, and then in the subcommittee, a markup of the base bill that allows every member of the subcommittee to offer an amendment, any series of amendments, that are germane to the topic and the subject of the bill, which is assigned to the committee because of the jurisdiction of the committee, and then that subcommittee acts, in which case then the bill goes to the full committee for a similar process to the broader committee.

If it comes out of that committee improved in theory—and actually improved in practice most of the time—then that bill goes on the calendar here on the floor, where in which case it is subjected to the amendments that might come from all of the other Members, the Members that are on the committee of jurisdiction and the Members who are not on the committee of jurisdiction.

When this Congress is set up to function accurately, when we are defending, protecting, and respecting the jurisdiction of the various committees, we get the best product because we have the people on the committees that have—at least in theory—the most knowledge about the topic that

comes before the committee. Some have years and years of expertise accumulated, some not quite as long, but they might bring that interest from their private life into the committee, as well.

I get very concerned when I see a bill come to the floor that didn't go through the committee process, that didn't have a legitimate hearing process, that didn't go through subcommittee or the full committee and comes to this floor because someone decided that it was so urgent that we act on a subject that we didn't have time to go through regular order.

□ 1600

That concerns me a lot. I get concerned when there is an expectation that we will have a full debate here on the floor on a bill, and it is brought to the floor and voice-voted on a weekend, going into a weekend, without the knowledge of most of the Members of Congress. I get concerned about regular order.

I have had my conversations with our leadership regarding that. I am not yet satisfied that this is the last time. However, Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor to address a different kind of regular order, a kind of regular order that is this: if we have committees that are not committees of jurisdiction of a subject or a topic and that subject or topic outside their jurisdiction is slipped into a must-pass piece of legislation from another committee, now they have usurped the jurisdiction of the committee that actually has that jurisdiction, and they have placed a topic into a subject matter that must pass, and the people who have allowed that to happen on their watch, at least in theory, don't possess the expertise that exists within the committee of jurisdiction.

Now, all of this gibberish that I am talking about now, this technical explanation of what goes on here in this Congress boils down to this, Mr. Speaker—and I want to speak specifically to this issue. There is a bill that is floating around this Congress that is referred to as the ENLIST Act.

I can't read for you the name of this bill because it is about as accurate as the Affordable Care Act is to naming ObamaCare; but it is one that grants amnesty to people who come into the United States—are unlawfully present in the United States.

Many of them committed the crime of unlawful entry. A good number of others may have overstayed a visa or come into America on a visa waiver program. In any case, they are unlawfully present in America. They might sign up for the military. If they do that, they are defrauding the Department of Defense.

We don't recruit people into our military who are unlawfully present in the United States. They have to have a

green card, at a minimum; citizenship, better.

Now, one might presume that we are having trouble recruiting people to come into the military, so therefore, we should bring in mercenaries from outside the United States and take the oath to uphold, preserve, protect, and defend our Constitution and go out and defend the liberty of Americans.

That actually happens, but when it happens, it is a violation of the law. If they take that oath of office, illegal aliens into our military have to misrepresent themselves in order to be accepted into the military, so that is fraud. It might well be document fraud.

This bill called the ENLIST Act would reward them for doing so, for defrauding the Department of Defense and, yes, putting on the uniform and, at least in theory, defending America. They take an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. They salute our flag.

They may mean it; they may not mean it. But we know the very act of entering the military was a dishonest act on their part. So why would we accept their oath to have more value—the oath to defend the Constitution, to have more value than their word that they gave when they misrepresented themselves to join the military?

In any case, this ENLIST Act bill rewards people who broke our immigration law by putting them on a path to citizenship, giving them a green card. The only qualifications you need is you are unlawfully in the United States, you enter into the military, you misrepresent yourself to do that because we are not taking them into the military if they are unlawfully present.

Then they have to assert they were in the United States continuously since before December 31, 2011, which happens to be the date that is in the Gang of Eight's bill, and they have to assert that they were brought into this country or came into this country by the time they were 15 years old—they might be in their 30s when they sign up for the military, who knows—but those have to be the assertions.

Then if they are in the military at the time, then they have to be either honorably discharged or on the path to honorable discharge, and they will then have a path to citizenship.

I think this is a misguided bill. I think it is misguided to think that we need to reward people for breaking the law. It is misguided to believe that Americans will not sign up for our military. We are shrinking our military. We are not expanding our military.

We have high-quality Americans who are lining up to join in all of our branches of service. Yes, I am sure there are recruiters who would like to do a little more, but this is not an expanding Department of Defense budget; this is a shrinking Department of De-

fense budget. It is not an expanding military; it is a shrinking military.

But that, Mr. Speaker, isn't so much the point as it is what is right and what is wrong, what is justice and what is equity and what is not.

I understand there are people who have sympathy, and they say: this pulls on my heart strings; I think, if they are willing to defend America, I think we ought to give them a path to citizenship.

I understand that, but do the advocates for this ENLIST Act, do they understand that it is a reward for lawbreakers?

They are not just someone who came across the border illegally or someone who overstayed their visa. They are the ones who misrepresented themselves to get into the United States military; we would then trust them with perhaps military secrets and the security of Americans and American installations around the world?

It is not that I don't trust them. I just don't believe that we should be rewarding people who have already proven they have broken the law. If they take the oath to the Constitution and if they are not on a path to citizenship already, if they are unlawfully present in the United States, then they violated the law already, and we are supposed to accept their word for it. I think it is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

I look at some of the press that has come out on this, the tactic and the effort that seems to be that they think they can slip a provision into the NDA bill, the National Defense Authorization bill, a provision in there that would legalize people who illegally entered into the United States military and reward them with a path to citizenship for their trouble?

There are many countries in the world where you are a lot better off in the United States Marine Corps than you would be, say, on the streets of many cities in the countries of the world. That is true.

So this would put out the advertisement, this bill, this ENLIST—badly named ENLIST Act would put out the advertisement, which is sneak into America, sneak into the military, and that is going to be the most expeditious path to American citizenship and the whole smorgasbord of benefits that comes from American citizenship.

Citizenship must be precious, not handed out like candy in a parade. We don't ride along and throw out citizenship like you do M&Ms or Tootsie Rolls or whatever it is that we are tossing out in our parades.

Citizenship must be precious. The rule of law is precious. It is the center core argument on the immigration issue, the rule of law.

We can't grant amnesty to people because our hearts tell us we have sympathy for individuals. I have sympathy for individuals. In fact, if I am ever de-

clared a liberal, it is because of how I deal with some people individually, because I see something in their eyes and hear something in their voice and see how they carry themselves.

I see something in how they conduct themselves and what they do that convinces me that this is a good person, and I want to invest in them, whether it is my capital, my time, my trust, or recommendations that others do the same. I actually do that on occasion because I have faith in an individual.

But when you set policy—policy for the United States of America because your heart tells you to have sympathy for some people you know, keep in mind there are thousands, hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of people that are impacted by that decision, and you have to say: I trust every one of those people the same way I trust the individual or the individuals that I know that bring the sympathy from my heart.

We aren't charged with having sympathy here in setting foreign policy or setting our national policy because of the sympathies of our heart. We are charged with providing justice and equity, and that is laid out in the Constitution.

To me, it is a clear charge; so when I take an oath to preserve, protect, and defend this Constitution, I mean it. It is the supreme law of the land, the Constitution, and it is the foundation for the rest of the laws.

Congress passed a law that says we are not going to bring people into our military that are unlawfully present in the United States, and when I hear from let's say other Members, in particular an individual Member that says STEVE KING is dead wrong on this issue, Mr. Speaker, I take issue with that.

I am right with the rule of law. I am right with current law. The policy is right because, otherwise, you fill our military up with people who may and likely do and some certainly will have foreign interests.

It is not to the interest of the United States to replace on our ranks, our troops, people who are American citizens or people who are on a path to citizenship, replace them with people who came into the United States illegally.

How poor would we be as a people? How empty our soul as a people if we say: Well, that is another job that Americans won't do? They don't want to put on a uniform and go defend our country, so we will have to reward illegal immigrants, if they will just lie to us, we will let them in the military, and we will give them a path to citizenship.

That is what the ENLIST bill does. It does damage to the rule of law. It is misguided, however good the hearts are of the people who advocate for this.

I think this is an important debate, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't belong on the

defense authorization bill. This debate doesn't belong in the Defense Committee, the Armed Services Committee. This debate belongs, if it is going to take place at all, in the committee of jurisdiction, the Immigration Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, where it ought to have—if it deserves any debate at all, it ought to have witnesses who agree with people like me.

I have seen these hearings come out before, even in our Judiciary Committee, where someone gets the idea that we ought to grant a path to citizenship to several million people who are unlawfully here, and I have seen the committee, even there where there were four witnesses, no questions, another round of four witnesses, now the chairs and the ranking members get to ask questions, 90 minutes after the beginning of the hearing, the first voice of dissent might be heard.

That is not a very good committee, in my opinion; but at least it was in the committee of jurisdiction. I would like to expect that the subcommittee chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee would defend the jurisdiction of his committee and reject the idea that they sneak this bill into the defense authorization bill.

I would like to see that the chairman of the full committee defend the jurisdiction of the committee, as he did so effectively last year, and deny this end round that they are attempting to run this poorly named ENLIST Act around an end run of the Judiciary Committee and to slip it into a must-pass piece of legislation that would come to the floor here under the National Defense Authorization Act.

Our country will be stronger. The security of the country will be at least as strong. The heart of our country will be just as strong. We can still have sympathy for people without turning them all into Americans, and our defense will be stronger because we will have more American citizens step up and actually qualify to get into the service.

Just think, across this country, you go to work, whether you punch a time-clock, whether you are on salary or whatever it might be, you walk into that workplace, and you are there, and let's just presume you are on a production line making an American car.

Let's call it a "Hord." On your right hand is someone working who is unlawfully present in the United States and can't work legally in the United States. On your left hand, there is somebody who fits that same category.

Do the workers standing there realize that there are two good, well-paying jobs that Americans aren't doing, not because they won't, but someone else who is unlawfully in the United States has stepped into their stead and taken that good-paying job, that job that actually pays taxes and contributes to

the benefits of people who aren't working?

So if you look on your right and you look on your left and you see somebody working who is unlawfully present, and you say, I like him, I enjoy working with him, he is efficient, probably that is true.

But what is it doing to America? What is it doing to the soul of America? And what is it doing to the rule of law to reward people who break the law while this Congress borrows money every year, 42 cents or so off of every dollar we spend from places like China, Saudi Arabia?

And with the bonds that are out there, about half of our debt to the American people that so far are willing to reinvest in the debt we have, what does that do to America when we are borrowing money to fund the more than 80 different Federal welfare programs that are there?

We have a population of some 316 million Americans. 101.4 million of those 316 million are of working age and simply not in the workforce, and some of the biggest reasons are right there in the list of the 80 different means-tested welfare programs.

So what should we do in this Congress, Mr. Speaker? We should have policies that increase the average individual annual productivity of our people. Each one of us should get out of bed and go forward to contribute to the gross domestic product that day.

□ 1615

That means we come in an hour or 8 hours or 24 hours, if you can. You are contributing to the GDP. That will increase your income. You can pay your share of the taxes. When you make that contribution, you are helping pull the load.

If you are sitting, though, and you are one of those people that has taken this safety net that we offer that I support and turned it into a hammock for yourself and you are riding here when you should be contributing off of somebody else's labor, it is wrong.

We need more Americans going to work. We need a higher percentage of Americans working. There is no work that Americans won't do, including putting on a uniform, going into basic training, being trained up in AIT or wherever you might be assigned to go and step up and defend our country. It has been done with honor. It has been done with dignity. It has been done gloriously by Americans since before there was an America, and it needs to be so for the duration of this Republic.

Mr. Speaker, I would say, furthermore, the idea that there are jobs that Americans won't do, I looked at this and I thought: what would be the toughest, dirtiest, nastiest, most dangerous job that Americans are ever asked to do? When I think of this, I think, I bet I know somebody that is an

authority on that, and that would be one of the gentlemen in my Conference from Colorado that served in the Marine Corps. The toughest, dirtiest, nastiest, most dangerous job we ask Americans to do is how about rooting terrorists out of a place like Fallujah. What does that pay? How do we get Americans to do that if we can't get Americans to cut meat or pick tomatoes or whatever it might be? How do we get them to do that?

I went back and ran the numbers on that. So a marine in the streets of Fallujah in the line of fire, if you figure him at a 40-hour week, instead of about a 70- or 80- or 90-hour week or more, at a 40-hour week, they were getting paid right at about \$8.09 an hour. If a marine will go into the line of fire for God and country for \$8.09 an hour—and God bless him—I bet we can find some Americans for \$20 an hour to go out there and cut meat and \$20 an hour that might go out and pick lettuce, as the Senator from Arizona used to talk about during his Presidential campaign.

So here is my point, Mr. Speaker. I think this Enlist Act is misguided. I think the press that has spilled out on this has illuminated a deft maneuver to try to circumvent the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. I reject that. I am here defending the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. I think that those who have a heart that tells them, "I want to pass some legislation because I have sympathy for individuals that I know who will make good Americans," I understand that. I have some sympathy for individuals I know that will make good Americans, too, but I am not about—I am not about to usurp and undermine the rule of law, because I didn't run for office telling my constituents my heart is going to overrule my head, my heart is going to overrule human experience and human history and the rule of law and the Constitution. We should know better. We are here to be analytical, to lead and not let the emotions drive us.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I remember a display at the National Archives as I was waiting some years ago to be able to walk up there where the Declaration of Independence is on display. There I see they had the display of the Greeks who had demagogues in their communities. They had the pure democracy. They found out that there were demagogues that could get the masses all ginned up and they would storm off in a direction that was bad for the city-state of Greece. They couldn't control the overheated rhetoric of the very effective and persuasive demagogues, so they had a system to blackball them. If three of the members of the city-state—men of voting age in those days—dropped a black ball into the pottery that was the voting one and discarded a white one in the nonvoting one, then they would banish

that demagogue from the city-state for 7 years. But that was emotionalism.

Our Founding Fathers understood we didn't want to form a democracy here. We created a constitutional Republic. It is guaranteed in our Constitution. And it has done so because it charges each of us to have a cool head. And I owe my constituents, as everyone here does, my best effort and my best judgment. That includes listening to my constituents, all of them. But it includes also, step back, take a look at it from 10,000 feet; analyze the policy; understand my oath to the Constitution and the supreme law of the land; and act accordingly for the long-term best interest of the United States of America.

This Enlist Act is not in the long-term best interest of the United States of America. It is not in the best interest of America that we circumvent the jurisdiction of the committees. That is not either in the best interest of America. What is in the best interest is we preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and the rule of law and recognize that this immigration debate is driven by emotion on their side. The open borders, amnesty people are driven by emotion, and there are others that stand here and say: We are going to protect the rule of law.

So here is what I would submit, Mr. Speaker. If they are successful in passing a Gang of 8's bill in this House or bringing it to the floor and trying to get it passed, if they are successful in eroding the rule of law with regard to the Enlist Act, if they are successful in getting passed what they call the DREAM Act, that also erodes the rule of law. Anything that rewards people for breaking the law is a continuation of the Amnesty Act that was signed by Ronald Reagan in 1986. We are debating the results of the signature on that bill today.

It was passed this way. It said we are going to legalize a million people who are here illegally because we don't know what to do, and then the promise is we are going to enforce the law hereafter and there will never be another amnesty so long as anyone shall live. That was the promise of the '86 Amnesty Act, and Reagan was honest about it.

So we live with that, but they are pushing on the other side. We never got the enforcement. The 1 million became 3 million plus. The enforcement didn't come, but the implied promise of amnesty exists, and that is what they are pushing on.

If any amnesty is passed now, that perpetuates the promise that there will be another amnesty, which turns up the current end of the huge electromagnet that draws people to come into America, the promise that they will receive citizenship, a path to citizenship, some kind of amnesty.

We have to restore the rule of law, the respect for the rule of law. If there

is a provision that is an amnesty provision that passes, then that promise exists in perpetuity that there will be another one, which means we will not be able to restore the rule of law in this country—at least with regard to immigration—again. I don't know that I can say "ever," but I can say never again would we see the rule of law with regard to immigration within the duration of this Republic, not as long as I shall live or as long as we shall live, not until death do us part. But until the death of this Republic, we will not be able to restore the rule of law, at least with regard to immigration. And the argument goes to the next and the next and the next, Mr. Speaker.

So this is a critically important issue. I am happy to debate this with the colleagues from my Conference in any State where they would like to take this up, be it California, be it Colorado, be it anyplace else around the country.

This debate is one that is important. We need more American people that are aware that our hearts cannot overrule our heads. We cannot allow the rule of law to be torn asunder because we have sympathy for certain people.

Let's have sympathy for Americans first. Let's understand that America can be defended by Americans, and if people want to come and join and defend and help protect America, go get in line the right way. Because the advocates for this kind of legislation will tell you, well, they go to the back of the line. Except this bill isn't the back of the line. It is we create a new line and you are in the front of it. They are not going to allow them to go to the back of the line. They don't really believe it. They will just tell you that.

They will say there is work Americans won't do. Defending America, then how is it that marines will step in the line of fire for \$8.09 an hour? How is it that we have Americans working in every single job and profession that is listed in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site?

Americans are doing every work there is to do in this country. They just need to be paid what the work is worth. The wages are being suppressed by elitists who are making millions of dollars off of the cheap labor that is subsidized by the taxpayers who are backfilling and funding these households with the 80 different means tests and welfare programs, and we are borrowing the money from China to do it. So let's have that discussion.

Tell me how we get this budget back to balance. How do you do that while you are rewarding people for not working and you are rewarding people for breaking the law? What kind of country do you want?

I think the advocates for this bill that I so oppose actually want the same kind of country that I want. I just don't think that they see what

they are doing to erode the progress that we need to be making.

I think that when they declare that I am dead wrong, the real result is, if they get their way, there will be more Americans that eventually are actually dead, because there is not a day that goes by in this country that there isn't at least one American citizen that dies at the hands of someone who is unlawfully present in the United States. Whether it is an act of homicide, whether it is an act of willful manslaughter, whether it is an OWI on the streets of America, hardly anybody has gone through the last 10 years and doesn't at least see that show up in their local newspaper, if it doesn't show up in their neighborhood.

So STEVE KING is not dead wrong. Let's keep more Americans alive. If I need to go to those States and have those debates, that is what I will do. But I call upon our committee chairs especially to defend the jurisdiction of our committee. If you are chairing a subcommittee or a committee in the United States House of Representatives that happens to be the Judiciary Committee, the rule of law and the Constitution are essential. I also expect and call upon those who have that special charge to renew their vigorous defense of the rule of law, the jurisdiction of the committee, and the supreme law of the land, the Constitution.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on April 3, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 4152. To provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 7, 2014, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5209. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Farm Storage Facility Loan Program, Security Requirements (RIN: 0560-AI19) received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5210. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final

rule — Importation of Jackfruit, Pineapple, and Starfruit from Malaysia Into the Continental United States [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0019] (RIN: 0579-AD46) received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5211. A letter from the Chief, Planning and Regulatory Affairs Office, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Revisions in the WIC Food Packages [FNS-2006-0037] (RIN: 0584-AD77) received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5212. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program [Docket ID: ED-2013-OPE-0066] (RIN: 1840-AD13) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5213. A letter from the General Counsel, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities, transmitting the Foundation's final rule — Public Access to NEH Records Under the Freedom of Information Act (RIN: 3136-AA32) received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5214. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Regulations, Areas of the National Park System, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Bicycling [NPS-LAMR-15022; PPIMLAMRS0,PPMPSPDIZ.YM0000] (RIN: 1024-AE12) received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5215. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Wyoming Regulatory Program [Stats No.: WY-044-FOR; Docket ID: OSM-2013-0001; S1D1SS08011000SX066A00067F144S180110; S2D2SS08011000SX066A00033F14XS501520] received March 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5216. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2014-16] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5217. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Per Capita Distributions of Funds Held in Trust by the Secretary of the Interior [Notice 2014-17] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1192. A bill to redesignate Mammoth Peak in Yosemite National Park as "Mount Jessie Benton Fremont" (Rept. 113-401). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3366. A bill to provide for the release of the property interests retained by the United States in certain land conveyed in 1954 by the United States, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to the State of Oregon for the establishment of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center of Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon, with an amendment (Rept. 113-402). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on the Budget. H. Con. Res. 96. Concurrent resolution establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024 (Rept. 113-403). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 4398. A bill to prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from relinquishing responsibility with respect to the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 4399. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the performance appraisal system for senior executives of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself, Mr. BARTON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 4400. A bill to protect consumers by requiring reasonable security policies and procedures to protect data containing personal information, and to provide for nationwide notice in the event of a security breach; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHRADER (for himself and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 4401. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the immediate designation of substitute representative payees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 4402. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to establish a surface danger zone over the Guam National Wildlife Refuge or any portion thereof to support the operation of a live-fire training range complex; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIMM, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 4403. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive the 10-percent penalty on qualified natural disaster distributions from qualified retirement plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas):

H.R. 4404. A bill to direct the Attorney General to acquire data, for each calendar

year, about sexual offenses, including rape, that occur aboard aircraft; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4405. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the possession of a firearm by a person who is adjudicated to have committed a violent juvenile act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANCE:

H.R. 4406. A bill to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to impose restrictions on the risk corridor program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself and Mr. HARPER):

H.R. 4407. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to set reasonable limits on the stringency and timing of proposed regulations for new residential wood heaters, new residential hydronic heaters, new forced-air furnaces, and new residential masonry heaters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MAFFEI:

H.R. 4408. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a task force on Agent Orange exposure; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. HARPER, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. NUNNELEE):

H.R. 4409. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner to commemorate the lives they lost 50 years ago in an effort to bring justice and equality to Americans in Mississippi during Freedom Summer; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. TSONGAS (for herself, Mr. LANDEVIN, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 4410. A bill to improve the national defense laboratories by increasing retention and hiring flexibility to enable the laboratories to perform breakthrough scientific research and effectively fulfill the needs of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. TURNER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. BENTIVOLIO):

H. Res. 543. A resolution affirming the support of the United States for Macedonia's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 4398.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among

the several States, and with the Indian tribes

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 4399.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 4400.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

“The Congress shall have power ‘To regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes’”

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 4401.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 4402.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 4403.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Sec. 8 regarding Congressional authority to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 4404.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4405.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LANCE:

H.R. 4406.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 1, of the United States Constitution This states that “Congress shall have power to . . . lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4407.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution. The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes.

By Mr. MAFFEI:

H.R. 4408.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 4409.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 4410.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 10: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 20: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 29: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 118: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 148: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 292: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 460: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 482: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 494: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 521: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 778: Mr. POSEY and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 916: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 929: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 942: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SHUSTER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. STIVERS, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 956: Mr. HUNTER and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 988: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1015: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1180: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1188: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 1192: Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 1199: Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 1201: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1209: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 1318: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1340: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 1343: Mr. JEFFRIES and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1351: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1507: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1563: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 1750: Mr. PETRI and Mr. GARDNER.

H.R. 1812: Mr. RUSH, Mr. COBLE, and Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 1821: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 1827: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 1851: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1852: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1941: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 1998: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 2041: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 2093: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 2160: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 2203: Mr. CARTER, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BUCSHON, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 2309: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2329: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 2364: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2377: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 2426: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 2452: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2499: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2504: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 2527: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2548: Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 2553: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 2663: Mr. OLSON and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 2672: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 2707: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 2746: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 2750: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2803: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 2807: Mr. HECK of Washington and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 2870: Mr. TIBERI and Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 2918: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 2932: Mr. CARTER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. ISSA, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 2939: Mr. POCAN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 2955: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 2959: Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 2971: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2972: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2996: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. Cárdenas.

H.R. 3077: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 3086: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 3112: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 3121: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 3135: Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 3199: Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 3211: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

H.R. 3367: Ms. SINEMA, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 3384: Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 3395: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 3471: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 3482: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

H.R. 3489: Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 3494: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 3508: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 3530: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 3580: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3601: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 3602: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 3604: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

H.R. 3673: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 3708: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. MICA.

H.R. 3712: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 3717: Mr. BARR, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 3723: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 3726: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 3728: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 3740: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 3854: Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 3969: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.

H.R. 3992: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 4006: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 4007: Mr. PERRY and Mr. VELA.

H.R. 4012: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 4013: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 4031: Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. McMorris Rodgers, Mr. COOPER, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 4035: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 4056: Mr. VELA and Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 4060: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4119: Mr. CONYERS and Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 4129: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 4136: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4190: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.
H.R. 4200: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 4217: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 4225: Mr. JOLLY and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 4232: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 4237: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4241: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 4277: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 4286: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 4306: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 4310: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 4320: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 4321: Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 4323: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. CHU, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. NADLER, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4344: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 4348: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 4349: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 4352: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 4365: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 4366: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 4370: Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 4384: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 4387: Mr. PITTENGER.
H.J. Res. 34: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.J. Res. 113: Mrs. BUSTOS.
H. Con. Res. 16: Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. MCALLISTER, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, and Mr. O'ROURKE.
H. Res. 417: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H. Res. 476: Mr. PITTENGER.
H. Res. 494: Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. PITTENGER.
H. Res. 525: Mr. COSTA, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 526: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. WELCH.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—
ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 1 by Ms. DELAURO on the bill (H.R. 377): Katherine M. Clark.

Petition 9 by Mr. GARCIA on the bill (H.R. 15): Rosa L. DeLauro, David Scott, William L. Enyart, Bennie G. Thompson, John Conyers Jr., Allyson Y. Schwartz, Eliot L. Engel, Brad Sherman, Suzan K. DelBene, Donald M. Payne Jr., Carolyn McCarthy, Theodore E. Deutch, John B. Larson, Henry A. Waxman, Emanuel Cleaver, G.K. Butterfield, André Carson, William R. Keating, Terri A. Sewell, and Tim Ryan.

The following Member's name was deleted from the following discharge petition:

Petition 1 by Ms. DELAURO on H.R. 377: Edward J. Markey.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF KINGSOLVER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECEIV-
ING THE NATIONAL BLUE RIB-
BON AWARD

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kingsolver Elementary School. Located in Fort Knox, KY, Kingsolver Elementary was presented with the National Blue Ribbon Award earlier this year.

I would like to commend Kingsolver Elementary School's educators and administrators on their many hours of hard work and service to Kentucky's students. Your commitment and devotion to the education of future leaders is commendable and I hope you are very proud of this achievement.

I join with all of Kentucky's Second District in congratulating everyone at Kingsolver Elementary School on this honor.

SUPPORTING VERA HOUSE'S
WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Vera House's 20th Annual White Ribbon Campaign.

For more than 35 years, Vera House has played a key role in combating domestic and sexual violence in Central New York.

Vera House provides a safe shelter and counseling services for victims of rape and sexual abuse and helps survivors rebuild their lives.

This organization also provides life-saving prevention and education services to people across my district.

Vera House serves over approximately 1,000 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes in a year.

They also provide nearly 20,000 people in our local community with prevention and education services annually.

It is critically important that we continue to support Vera House's ongoing mission to end domestic abuse and sexual violence, to empower victims, and to promote equality and respect in relationships.

The White Ribbon Campaign is led by men and encourages all members of the community—men and women, young and old—to join these efforts.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand in support of Vera House's White Ribbon campaign to raise awareness of domestic and sexual violence.

MR. ROBERT SILBERNAGEL
TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Robert Silbernagel, Editorial Page Editor for the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel in Grand Junction, Colorado since 1995. After 18-plus years and through four publishers, Mr. Silbernagel retired from the Sentinel in March, 2014.

Mr. Silbernagel moved to Colorado in 1973 after receiving his degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin and after meeting his wife, Judy. In the same year, he began his career writing news for the Vail Villager Weekly and the Glenwood Post. In 1980, he moved to the Grand Junction Sentinel to write for the political, environmental, and business beats, where he also became the city editor and bureau reporter. He served for 15 years in this role and in 1995 became the editor of the Editorial page, where he recently finished his distinguished career.

In addition to writing news, Mr. Silbernagel has published three books, contributed to countless magazine articles, and even developed his own website. In addition to his robust career, he has received many awards, most recently for winning first place in editorial writing from the Colorado Associated Press Editors and Reporters Association in 2012.

When not writing, Mr. Silbernagel has been very active in his community, serving as Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Bureau of Land Management's McInnis Canyons National Conservation area, Chairman of Palisade High School's Accountability Committee, and as a member of the United Way of Mesa County distribution committee. Mr. Silbernagel's dedication to the community is unquestionable and I have no doubt he will continue to have an impact there for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Robert Silbernagel for his contributions through his writing with the Grand Junction Sentinel and his civic service to the Grand Junction community, and the State of Colorado. I wish him the very best in his retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS WAYZATA
BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING
TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wayzata High School's Boys Swimming

and Diving Team who recently won the Minnesota Class 2A state title. The Trojans were able to secure the school's first championship with a balanced effort in the finals. Led by a first place performance from Greg Arnold in the 100 freestyle, Wayzata was able to secure the title before the last race even began.

Coach Dave Plummer, in his first season as head coach, pointed to the full team effort necessary to qualify in the preliminary races. Six top-four finishes in the finals also helped put the Trojans over the top.

The dedication it takes to excel in swimming and diving is to be commended. It means that these athletes push themselves every day to shave hundredths of a second off their personal best or repeat dive after dive until it's perfect. When adding in schoolwork, family obligations, and other time commitments, it is remarkable these student-athletes accomplish all that they do.

Once again, congratulations to the Wayzata High School Boys Swimming and Diving Team on a job well done.

HONORING CHERYL DIEHM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cheryl Diehm upon her retirement as the District Representative in my Congressional office. Cheryl has been an integral member of my staff, both in the California State Senate and in Congress for the past twenty-six years. The unwavering dedication, loyalty and compassion she has displayed throughout these twenty-six years is both admirable and deserving of recognition.

Cheryl came to work on my staff after my first campaign and has been the best person to work with, both in the State Senate and in Congress. In twenty-six years, there is no part of our district that Cheryl has not touched. From our offices in Vallejo to Napa to Santa Rosa, wherever I needed her to go, she went. No matter what office she was in, and no matter what her role in the office was, she made the office better and she made the community those offices served better.

Cheryl is loyal, compassionate and committed to our office, our district and the institution of representative government. She knows that government has a responsibility to make sure things are fair and she's always working for what is best for the American people. When constituents called with problems, she solved them. She has helped countless constituents navigate everything from Medicare benefits to mortgage problems, and VA payments. She spearheaded our office's Military Service Academy nominations. She organized interviews, sorted through applications, and

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

worked with liaison officers to help make sure that young people who wanted to serve our country had the opportunity to do so.

Cheryl has an unrivaled political antenna, and she always took time to nurture and mentor young staff. She shared her skills and traits with the other people in our office and because of that, her service to our county and country will endure long past her retirement from our office.

Cheryl is an asset to our district, a role model to our younger staff, and a best friend to me. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Cheryl for her invaluable service and wish her a most enjoyable retirement.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND
MARK A. DENNIS, JR.

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 4, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Mark A. Dennis, Jr., Senior Pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Evanston, Illinois.

Ten years ago, this visionary leader took his place as the eleventh Senior Pastor of the historic Second Baptist Church, Evanston's first black Baptist Church, organized in 1882. He was called to provide greater leadership in spiritual formation, strategic visioning, community development, and pastoral care.

Reverend Dennis came with outstanding academic and professional credentials. He holds several degrees including a Master of Divinity, cum laude, from Howard University School of Divinity; a Master of Music from Bowling Green University; and a Bachelor of Arts from Morehouse College. Many honors have been bestowed on him, including admission to the prestigious Preacher's Hall of Fame at Morehouse College.

Second Baptist is a highly-respected Church in the Evanston community with a dedicated congregation whose vision is to be "A beacon of light: A Christ-centered Church celebrating faith, freedom, stewardship and the social responsibility of caring for souls."

Reverend Dennis has more than lived up to that mission, reaching well beyond the walls of Second Baptist to become an inspiring and energetic leader in all aspects of the religious and civic life of our community.

Under Reverend Dennis's leadership, Second Baptist partners with my synagogue, Beth Emeth, on meaningful youth programs including a joint Civil Rights Pilgrimage to the Southern United States to visit civil rights landmarks. Along with Temple Beth Israel in Skokie, Second Baptist hosts a weekly soup kitchen. Reverend Dennis has spearheaded programs at Second Baptist that lift our entire community, such as "Cradle to Career," which helps young people to take full and equal advantage of the opportunities before them and Pioneering Healthier Communities, a partnership with the City of Evanston, the YMCA, and health providers, which is improving individual lives and community well-being. Reverend Dennis serves as a leader in Interfaith organizations and efforts in our region.

Reverend Dennis has been a treasured friend and mentor to countless people inside and out of his congregation, including me. I congratulate him on his tenth anniversary as Senior Pastor at Second Baptist Church and wish him many more years in the pulpit and the community.

TO RECOGNIZE RALPH
DIGUISEPPE, JR.

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bristol Borough Council President, Ralph DiGuiseppe, Jr.

Strong values and close family ties are the hallmark of the DiGuiseppe family. Ralph's grandparents journeyed here from Italy, passing through Ellis Island just as many of our own ancestors had, and then settled in the Delaware Valley. Ralph's parents met at a dance in Bristol Borough. They eventually married and made Bristol Borough their home.

Ralph is a proud, lifelong resident of Bristol Borough—a true "Bristolian." He is proud to serve as President of the Bristol Borough Council and has passed on the value of service to the next generation of DiGuisepes as his son, Ralph DiGuiseppe III, serves on the Bristol Borough School Board.

Ralph has volunteered countless hours at St. Ann's Parish as a project manager and a laborer, and strengthened the parish's finances by reinstituting the annual carnival, an iconic Bristol event. Kind and generous, Ralph donates to ensure traditional Thanksgiving feasts can be enjoyed by local families who would otherwise go without.

Ralph has been described as an "idealist, a dreamer, always thinking in long term." He believes the American Dream is a dream come true for the DiGuiseppe family. From his first day on council, his goal has been simply to improve the quality of life for the residents of Bristol Borough.

"Welcome Friend" has been Bristol's motto since a wooden sign greeted the Marquis de Lafayette on his "Farewell Tour of America" in 1824. The original sign still hangs within the Borough Hall, where it continues to greet locals and newcomers. Ralph views every individual he meets as important. He truly embodies this simple gesture, "Welcome Friend," and graciously welcomes all into the Bristol Borough family.

I commend Ralph DiGuiseppe Jr. for his selfless dedication to his community and his never ending pursuit of the American Dream for his family and fellow Bristolians.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM DEAN
MCKAMEY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today a memorial service is being held for Wil-

liam Dean McKamey at the United States Naval Academy.

Will was a young man for whom I had the privilege of nominating to the Naval Academy. A former Mr. Football winner from Grace Christian Academy, Will unfortunately passed away on March 25 after having collapsed during football practice the previous Saturday.

Will was one of the most outstanding men I have had the privilege of meeting. From all of the things I have read and heard, this young man had an incredibly bright future. He was outstanding in every way.

Will was only 19 years-old when he died, but, in his short life, he touched many lives personally and has inspired thousands of lives in my home state of Tennessee and around the Country as people learn about him.

Will was a committed Christian, and his mother Kara has noted that "Will was able to change the spirit of a community, a school and a Navy football team . . . without really saying a word."

I had the honor to attend Will's funeral service, and I saw firsthand the impact Will has had on his community.

Tennessee and the Navy football family mourn the loss of such a great young man: a son, a friend, a teammate, and a Christian.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE
OF KASSAB, SYRIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the people of Kassab, Syria. Their town was overtaken by Islamist rebels late last month. The town's inhabitants, who are largely Armenian Christians, have been forced by jihadist rebels to evacuate their homes and seek refuge in Lebanon and the nearby city of Latakia. I submit an article which ran in yesterday's Washington Post which paints a deeply disturbing picture of the events unfolding in Kassab.

This is yet another case of Christians and other religious minorities being pulled into violent conflicts in the Middle East. Throughout the region, small and peaceful minority groups are often the first to suffer collateral damage, as we have seen in recent years not only in Syria, but also in Iraq, in Egypt, and elsewhere.

It is especially poignant to recognize the people of Kassab at this time of year, since April 24 is the Genocide Remembrance Day observed by Armenians around the world to commemorate the atrocities committed against their people nearly a hundred years ago.

I have advocated for a non-governmental bipartisan Syria Study Group to bring a fresh approach and possibly creative solutions forward to address the ongoing conflict in that country. It is inexcusable for the world to stand by while families are being driven from their homes, children are being killed and ancient communities' very existence threatened.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 2, 2014]

SYRIAN ARMENIANS, WHO HAD BEEN INSULATED FROM WAR, FORCED TO FLEE AFTER REBEL OFFENSIVE

(By Loveday Morris)

ANJAR, LEBANON.—Some fled in their nightclothes, others in their farming boots straight from the fields. Many thought they'd be able to return in a few hours but now fear they may never again.

Until the shells started raining down late last month, the tiny Syrian village of Kassab and surrounding villages had been largely sheltered from the three-year-old conflict that has devastated other parts of Syria. But now the area is the focus of a rebel offensive in the coastal province of Latakia, and an accompanying social-media storm of disinformation.

Kassab, a lush, mountainous idyll abutting the Turkish border, is an ancestral home of Syria's minority ethnic Armenians, Christians who have lived on the land for a millennium. But the attack by jihadist rebels sparked a mass exodus from Kassab and nearby villages.

The picturesque Armenian hillside villages in the north of Latakia provide a foothold for a push into the rest of the province—a heartland of Syria's minority Alawites, who are largely supportive of President Bashar al-Assad.

The area holds little other strategic value for the opposition, but the limited gains there have boosted rebel morale amid a string of defeats elsewhere, with the leader of the main opposition body, Ahmad al-Jarba, making a rare visit to Syria this week to tour the area and meet with fighters.

The Armenian diaspora, including some celebrities, has expressed outrage, demanding that the United States act to protect the Armenian community in Syria. The State Department has said it is "deeply troubled" by the developments.

Some Syrian government loyalists have launched a propaganda campaign accusing rebels of mass killings and desecrating churches in the area, sparking fierce rebuttals from opposition activists.

But the people of Kassab, like the 7 million others who have been displaced by the civil war, are focusing on trying to rebuild their lives after being torn from their land. At least 30 families have fled to neighboring Lebanon, seeking refuge in the Armenian village of Anjar and in the capital, Beirut, and the testimonies of more than a dozen shed some light on the events surrounding the offensive.

All but about 30 of the area's roughly 2,500 residents fled within 48 hours of the attack, they said. The fate of those who remained, who were too old or unwilling to leave, is unknown, with communications to the villages cut. There was no major loss of life, they say, with just one known death, that of a local teacher who was hit in her car by a sniper as she tried to flee. Still, the mass exodus is particularly emotional, with Armenians from Kassab having been forced to leave their homes twice in the past century because of persecution by the Turks.

The Armenians first fled during the Adana massacre of 1909, when tens of thousands died at the hands of the Ottomans.

Then, in 1915, as many as 5,000 residents of Kassab died during the fracturing empire's murderous campaign against the Armenians, which is widely recognized as a genocide.

"Now it's 2014, and we are being displaced again," said a 41-year-old farmer's wife who arrived in Lebanon a week ago. Like others fleeing the loyalist area, she spoke on the

condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals if she and her family return.

"But thank God that this time there is no massacre," she said. "We believe that, as Armenians, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

Once again, the Armenians see the hand of their long-standing enemy behind their displacement, saying the rebel attack was launched from Turkish soil. Many of the farms and homes in what was once a popular tourist spot offer sweeping views of the Turkish border.

The offensive, they say, began about 5 a.m. on March 21, with villagers waking to the sound of heavy machine-gun fire, followed by shelling.

Two Syrian border posts were first struck, according to the accounts of several residents. With the posts manned only by lightly armed Syrian border police, residents said there was little in the way of defense against the push by jihadist rebel groups, which included the al-Qaeda-linked Jabhat al-Nusra and the Islamist Ahrar al-Sham.

Not long after, the main border crossing to Turkey fell, residents said.

Villagers had prepared evacuation plans. In case of an attack, instructions were for women and children to congregate in Nabaeen, a village farthest from the Turkish border, with a back road to the city of Latakia.

By 7 a.m., one Nabaeen farmer said, about 50 people had gathered at his house. "People were crying and yelling that they had nothing with them. Some were in their slippers and pajamas," he said. "It was a sad situation."

Despite the chaos, many grabbed the deeds to their houses—an instinct, they say, for a people with a history of displacement. Some of the men stayed behind to see how the situation developed.

"We left all our valuables and had nothing more than the clothes we were wearing," said one 40-year-old mother of three. As the shelling picked up, by 11 a.m. most of the families had left Nabaeen for the safety of Latakia, 35 miles south, as Syrian army reinforcements made their way north.

By March 23, the rebels had reached the center of Kassab. Villagers point to Turkey's shooting down of a Syrian jet attempting to hit the invading fighters later that day as further evidence of Turkish support for rebels.

A Turkish diplomat, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, said that no rebels are "deliberately" allowed to use the Turkish border and that if there was shelling into Kassab from Turkey on March 21, it was because of new rules of engagement, which allow the country's armed forces to retaliate when fired at to deter further attacks.

Turkey also said that the jet it shot down had strayed into its airspace.

Jihadist fighters who entered Kassab have gone to great lengths to stress that they are not desecrating churches or hurting civilians.

The mother of three said that after she arrived in Latakia with her children, she called home, and a man who identified himself as a member of Ja'hat al-Nusra answered.

"He said, 'Come back, why did you leave your home? We have come here to protect you,'" she recalled, though she added that he later said she should convert to Islam before returning. "I pleaded with him, 'Eat and drink whatever you like, but please don't destroy the house.'"

But Kassab's displaced residents are not convinced by the jihadists' assurances, and

some fear they will never be able to feel safe in the area again, even if the government succeeds in pushing out the rebels.

One farmer, who sold his car in Latakia to afford the journey to Lebanon, said his grandmother survived a notorious death march from the village to the city of Homs during the genocide but still returned to Kassab.

This time, he's not sure his family will make it back.

"Our roots are there, everything is there," his wife said, "but we can't."

HONORING THE BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE ALUMNI CHAPTER OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of men who established the Brentwood Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. These men have shown that positive outcomes can be made across the board through hard work, dedication, and a desire to serve their community.

This alumni chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi has served as a lightning rod for other members; wherein, these members collectively seek to indoctrinate and instruct fraternity members in brotherhood, reclamation, community service, history, and protocol; to unite in a fraternal bond college men of culture, vision and honor who possess a high degree of commitment to serving mankind; to encourage through fraternal brotherhood honorable achievement in every field of human endeavor; to mentor young men through the chapter's Guide Right students; to sponsor community service to support local schools, youth and provide charitable services to low-income residents and seniors; and to promote the social intellectual, and moral welfare of brothers and service in the public interest.

The Brentwood (TN) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. was organized in the home of Vincent Abernathy, and on October 2, 2010, the Brentwood Alumni Chapter was established. Under the leadership of the chapter's first Polemarch, Dewayne Collier, and current Polemarch, Jeff Wilson, The Brentwood Alumni Chapter has become the second largest chapter in the Middle Tennessee area.

The Brentwood Alumni Chapter's Guide Right Program has adopted New Hope Academy School, the Boys & Girls Club of Franklin and Ravenwood High School as partners in its initiative to support young men 9th–12th who show academic potential and a desire for leadership.

The Brentwood Alumni Chapter has charted The Brentwood Leadership Foundation and awards scholarships to seniors and juniors further promoting the educational advancement of young people.

Other event that The Brentwood Alumni Chapter participates in include: St. Jude Sunday of Hope, Kappa Choir, the Pepsi Refresh Project, Piney Woods, Kappa on the Hill, Student of the Year, Kappa Foundation, United

Way of Williamson County, and Mercy Children Clinic Christmas Party.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Brentwood Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, I was not present for 3 votes. I wish to submit my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 152, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 153, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 154, I would have voted "nay."

RECOGNIZING JAMES BERGERON

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Education and Human Services Policy Director James Bergeron for his years of service to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce—and the American people.

James Bergeron, who joined the Committee nearly a decade ago under then-Chairman HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON, will soon depart the Committee for a new endeavor. He leaves an indelible mark not only on this institution, but also on the landscape of education policy.

During his tenure with the Committee, James worked tirelessly on legislation to improve workforce development, revamp K–12 education, support students with disabilities, enhance early childhood care and development, and strengthen the nation's higher education system. Many of the policies James championed have become key provisions in federal law, helping improve the lives of countless workers, students, teachers, and children.

James is a consummate professional, a skilled negotiator, and a trusted advisor who will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Committee and the whole House, I thank James for his dedication, and wish him the very best in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF THE ARSENAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM, 2014 STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the boys' basketball team at

Arsenal Technical High School which is part of Indianapolis Public School district. The Titans were crowned the Division 4A Indiana State Boys Basketball Champions on March 30, 2014 after capturing the state title with a 63–59 victory in front of a sold out crowd at Indianapolis Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

As a graduate of Arsenal Tech, I am proud of this team's achievements. The Titans made their first appearance in the state finals in 1929, and 85 years later they earned their first state championship. Their accomplishment is also significant because it has been 34 years since an Indianapolis Public School program has won this title. Additionally, all the Tech fans, in particular the energetic student body should be recognized for their enthusiasm and pride in their team.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Arsenal Technical High School Titans, coaches, school officials, teachers and the greater Indianapolis community on their accomplishments this season.

IN RECOGNITION OF LPL FINANCIAL'S NEW, SUSTAINABLE OFFICE TOWER

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the leadership, employees and partners of LPL Financial—the nation's largest independent broker-dealer and a RIA custodian—for their dedication to sustainability and social responsibility, demonstrated by the opening of the firm's new San Diego headquarters, Tower II at La Jolla Commons, on April 2, 2014. La Jolla Commons II was designed to be the largest net-zero energy commercial office building in the United States.

The focus of this project was to build an environmentally friendly workplace that would be reflective of LPL's values and work styles. With that in mind, the building design was guided by four pillars: sustainability, health and wellness, connectivity and flexibility. This design is currently under consideration for LEED Platinum certification, the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) highest standard for environmental design.

Among other sustainability features, the 13-story, 416,000-square-foot office tower will result in an estimated \$300,000 annual savings in electricity costs due to the incorporation of fuel cell technology, and nearly 2.5 million gallons—about 88 percent of the water used in the building—will be reclaimed and reused. Additionally, the building boasts a number of health and wellness-related amenities including a state-of-the-art gym for employees.

I ask all Members to join me in applauding this incredible effort that demonstrates LPL's commitment to its employees, the city of San Diego, and to our environment.

H.R. 2824

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2824, which would roll back a Reagan-era rule to protect Appalachian streams and communities from mining waste contamination.

In 1983, in order to protect ground and surface water, the Reagan Administration implemented a rule that said mountaintop mining operations could not dump their waste too close to streams. Today's bill would require states to replace those existing protections with a 2008 rewrite of the rule that would weaken standards and fail to safeguard water resources from the impacts of mining waste. States would not be permitted to enact stronger standards to shield their drinking water from contamination. I offered an amendment with my colleagues Representatives CARTWRIGHT and LOWENTHAL to ensure States have the right to take additional action if they find it necessary, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

This legislation is particularly egregious because just last month, the DC Circuit Court vacated the 2008 rule because the Bush Administration failed to consider the impact of waste dumping on threatened and endangered species. Not only would this bill write that illegally-drafted rule into statute, it would set a five-year moratorium on any new rules to protect streams from coal mining waste.

The Interior Department is currently in the process of developing new rules to reflect advances in mining practices and mitigate environmental and health impacts from mining operations. Rather than forcing implementation of a rule so flawed that it's been tossed out by the courts, we should allow this process to go forward to safeguard Appalachian communities. I urge a no vote on the bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 149, 150, 151, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Tuesday, April 1, 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 149, "yea" on rollcall vote 150, and "yea" on rollcall vote 151.

I was also absent for the following votes on Friday, April 4, 2014. Had I been present, I

would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 157, "nay" on roll call vote 158, "yea" on rollcall vote 159, and "yea" on rollcall vote 160, "yea" on roll call vote 161, "yea" on rollcall vote 162, "yea" on rollcall vote 163, and "nay" on rollcall vote 164.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. ALBERT L. NELLUM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Albert L. Nellum. Al transitioned peacefully on March 1, 2014. His impact on this city and our country may not be as well known, but it is indelible. Al was a pioneer consultant, businessman, and activist in his own way.

Al was born in the heart of the Deep South: Greenville, Mississippi and later grew up in Chicago, Illinois as well. He, like a number of us, arrived to a Washington that now barely resembles its former self. And yet, he set out to change it for the better. Opportunities were scarce for African Americans, and Al paved the way for the presence of future black consultants in the District. During the height of the Civil Rights Movement in 1964, he established A.L. Nellum and Associates Inc., the oldest black-owned management consultant firm in the United States.

He also supported and worked with us in forming what would become the Congressional Black Caucus. We relied on Al's expertise and advice over the years, and welcomed his input at various stages. He helped to organize the first CBC Foundation dinner as well as the scholarship program, which he and fellow business leaders spearheaded. Al also worked with Rep. Parren Mitchell on the first CBCF Braintrust on Black Business.

Al's activism was not limited to the U.S., but his impact can be felt internationally. His efforts against anti-black racism in Japan are a testament to his commitment to making the world a better place. He organized a full page ad to oppose Japanese racism and advocated for the fair depiction of blacks. He even traveled to Japan and met with its leaders at his own expense, to protest these offensive products and derisive images. Al's ties to Japan stretched back to the 1950s when he was a serviceman in the U.S. Army there.

I salute Al Nellum, and extend my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. May the memories of him sustain all of us at this time.

RECOGNIZING JAKE CRAIN AND THE PEARLAND OILERS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake Crain of Pearland High

School. This young man pitched an impressive no-hitter on Tuesday, March 25 when the Pearland Oilers defeated the Pasadena Memorial Mavericks. Crain led the Oilers to an 8-1 victory, improving their overall record to 5-0 in district play.

Professional pitchers play their entire careers without pitching a no-hitter, and Jake achieved this as a senior in high school. The contributions of his teammates were also integral to Jake's achievement. He relied on his defense to back him up and the Oilers offense to put runs on the board. This was a team effort. Great athletes are an extension of great teams.

The Pearland Oilers baseball team is full of great teammates. I wish the Pearland Oilers the best of luck this season. On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Jake Crain and all of his Oiler teammates on recording a no-hitter.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,585,625,829,197.83. We've added \$6,958,748,780,284.75 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CHAIRMAN JIMMY R. NEWTON, JR. TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Chairman Jimmy R. Newton, Jr., of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in Colorado. Chairman Newton, after over 10 years of service to his tribe, passed away on April 1, 2014, at the age of 37.

Beginning his service in politics at the age of 26, Chairman Newton served as a Tribal Council member, Vice Chairman, and Acting Chairman before becoming permanent Chairman in 2012. Though he spent much of his life in public service, he earned a degree in Visual Graphic Design from Al Collins Graphic Design School in Arizona, after which he worked as a reporter & photographer for the tribal newspaper, the Southern Ute Drum. Chairman Newton frequently sang at tribal ceremonies, exemplifying the love of his culture. He also used his voice as a dedicated servant of the Southern Ute people, working to ensure his tribe's wellbeing in every level of government.

Chairman Newton's commitment to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the State of

Colorado has been a blessing to many communities, families, and individuals, and he will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife, Flora Murphy-Newton and daughter, Maylon K. Newton. I extend my deepest sympathies and prayers to his family and friends during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, though his life was tragically short, Chairman Newton maximized his time leading with strength and an exemplary heart. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize Chairman Jimmy R. Newton, Jr. for his many accomplishments and distinguished service.

CELEBRATING THE CENTER FOR VOLUNTEER AND NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Excellence on the occasion of the organization's 50th Anniversary Celebration on April 5, 2014.

For the last five decades, the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL) has advanced nonprofits and volunteerism by strengthening leadership, encouraging innovation and empowering individuals to develop a vital and engaged community. CVNL is committed to creating a stronger nonprofit sector and a more engaged community by offering comprehensive leadership programs, organizing community fundraisers, coordinating volunteer opportunities, and providing many other resources and services.

The Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership is a community treasure, and Marin County has benefitted greatly from this organization's many years of fostering volunteerism and supporting the nonprofit sector. Please join me in expressing deep appreciation to CVNL, and congratulations on fifty years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE SYRACUSE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Syracuse Housing Authority, celebrating its 75th Anniversary in providing quality, affordable housing to the residents of Syracuse.

Established as one of the first housing authorities in the nation, the Syracuse Housing Authority opened the doors to its first development, Pioneer Homes, in 1938. This development began the continued success of the Syracuse Housing Authority, which now owns and manages 15 housing developments and over 2,500 apartments throughout the City of Syracuse.

The Syracuse Housing Authority provides a home to over 15,000 individuals and families, while also supporting the health and well-being of its residents. Opportunities are available for residents of the Syracuse Housing Authority for education, medical services and homeownership.

Under the leadership of Director Bill Simmons, the Syracuse Housing Authority cares deeply about its role as a leader in the City of Syracuse and provides safe, affordable housing to many members in our community, from young families to those neighbors who are elderly or living with disabilities.

Aside from a place to call home, the Syracuse Housing Authority also offers a variety of programs to its residents to promote educational achievement, economic independence and job training. The Syracuse Housing Authority assists residents pursue their ambitions, building a stronger community for us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize and commend the Syracuse Housing Authority on its 75th Anniversary of public service to our community. I look forward to its continued legacy and the exciting things yet to come from this outstanding organization.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN GERRAL K. DAVID

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend a distinguished career of public service. On April 4, 2014 Captain Gerral K. David will relinquish his command of the Naval Support Activity Monterey and retire from the Navy later this year.

Public service careers are often measured by either their long duration or some particularly distinguished accomplishment. The measure of Captain David's career invariably involves both. His Navy career will extend to thirty years by the time he retires. And each of those years was marked by distinguished service.

Captain David grew up in Conroe, Texas. In 1984, he graduated from the Naval Academy and began his Naval career as a flight officer. His early career took him many places, including deployments to Sigonella, Sicily, Bermuda, as well as numerous Special Project detachments throughout the Atlantic Fleet. He later served aboard the USS *Kitty Hawk* during various deployments in the Pacific that included the support of operations in Somalia and Iraq. Other flight assignments took him to Diego Garcia, and Japan. In 2002, Captain David assumed command of Patrol Squadron 46, based in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Under Captain David's command, the "Golden Swordsmen," won numerous unit awards and commendations, as well as deploying after 2003, to help support the U.S. war efforts in Iraq.

Interspersed with his flight commands, Captain David took on various shore duties. Early on, he served as a recruitment officer in Houston. In 1997, he assumed duties as the Flag Secretary for the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy. In 2007, Captain David took

command of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. Under Captain David's command, the Navy recognized Team Whidbey as the top Naval Air Station three years in a row and awarded it with a Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Then in 2010, Captain David took command of the Naval Support Activity Monterey. In essence, he became the city manager for the naval facilities that house the Naval Postgraduate School, the Navy's Fleet meteorology forecasting and research center, and a variety of other U.S. Navy shore functions. And it is in this capacity that I have come to know Captain David. He has helped steer several significant new construction projects to completion and has deftly managed his facilities relationship with the surrounding communities. He never fails to combine an understanding of the issue at hand with a deft personal diplomacy.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in extending our most sincere gratitude for Captain David's service to our Nation. The United States is a more secure and fruitful place as a consequence of his efforts. I want to wish Captain David and his wife Anne all the best as they transition from active duty to continued public service in what will surely be an active and fruitful retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED COMMISSIONER JIM WILLIAMSON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Commissioner Jim Williamson, who passed away on April 2, 2014. Throughout his long and distinguished career in public service, Jim served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals. All those who have been blessed by his presence mourn the loss of a great man and accomplished public servant.

A life-long native resident of Santa Rosa County, Florida, Jim graduated from Milton High School in 1964. He enjoyed a four-year professional baseball career with the St. Louis Cardinals, before establishing his own business, Williamson Electrical Co., Inc., in Northwest Florida.

In 1977, Jim began his career in public service when he was elected as a member of the Milton City Council, where he served until 1985. He then continued his dedicated service to the community when he won a seat on the Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners in 1996. Thanks to his leadership and strong work ethic, Jim achieved rapid success, and he was re-elected without opposition in 2000. He then went on to serve as Chairman of the Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners until his recent retirement just days ago.

Jim served Santa Rosa County with the utmost integrity. During his time in office, he contributed greatly to the growth of Santa Rosa County and worked tirelessly to promote economic and cultural growth as well as fiscal

accountability. His efforts included streamlining the building permit and inspection process, enhancing recreational opportunities for Santa Rosa County residents, constructing county buildings, and implementing safety improvements at Peter Prince Airport. His achievements did not go unrecognized, as he received several accolades, most notably the God in Government award and Santa Rosa County Chamber Leader of the Year. Aside from his leadership in Santa Rosa County, Jim was actively involved in many other aspects of the community, including coaching youth athletics and worshipping the Lord at Immanuel Baptist Church.

Throughout his life, Jim served his community with humility. For more than twenty years, I have had the privilege of working closely with him on a bevy of issues that affected Santa Rosa County and the entire Florida Gulf Coast. Jim represented everything that is great about Santa Rosa County. There is no question he will be remembered as a man of unquestionable character, unwavering resolve and unmatched determination. To his family and friends, he will be remembered as a man of great faith and compassion, and a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Commissioner Jim Williamson. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our sincerest condolences and our prayers to his wife, Paulette; sons, Jayer, Jeremy, Jarrod, Randy, and David; 11 grandchildren; and the entire Williamson family. Jim's presence will be deeply missed, but his example will always be with us.

A TRIBUTE TO SACRED HEART
PREP'S FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Football Team of Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton, California for winning the Central Coast Championship and the Northern California CIF Championship. They made history by being the first team in San Mateo County to play in the California CIF Championship Game.

The Sacred Heart Prep Football Team is a combination of talent and competitive spirit with the highest ideals of good sportsmanship and has established itself as an exceptional group. With great dedication, the Gators worked diligently and ended their season on this historic note.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Head Coach Pete Lavorato, Assistant Head Coach Matt Moran, and Assistant Coaches Ed Larios, Mark Modeste, and Greg Sutter on an extraordinary season! The entire team can look back on this season with tremendous pride. I wish the seniors the best of luck in your next endeavors, and their younger teammates the best of luck in next year's season. Go Gators!

TRIBUTE TO DAVE HAUGEBOG

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dave Haugeberg, community stalwart, citizen activist, Newberg-Dundee Bypass champion—and today, 2013 Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

Former Oregon Governor Tom McCall once said, "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say, 'This is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better.'" Dave Haugeberg epitomizes this spirit—combining great determination with a hero's tendency toward humility.

In addition to a lengthy and distinguished legal career, Dave has a remarkable track record of community service. He is currently Chair of the Board of Trustees at Linfield College and serves as President of the Board at Mid-Valley Rehabilitation, which provides employment, community inclusion services, residential support, and transportation services to adults with disabilities in order to maximize their potential.

His imprint on Yamhill County is enormous, and soon to be very visible along a several mile section of Highway 99W. Nearly three decades ago, Dave began his legendary volunteer efforts for the Newberg-Dundee Bypass, hoping to summon enough community, regional, and State resolve to construct a new highway, circumventing traffic around the historic and traffic-plagued cities of Newberg and Dundee. This effort, forged through decades of teamwork, frustration, partnership, and dogged persistence in the face of doubt, has now paid off. On August 29, 2012, Dave dug his ceremonial shovel into the ground, kicking off construction of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass.

To be sure, he had partners along the way, but it is no accident that Dave Haugeberg is affectionately known as the 'Grandfather of the Bypass.' With Phase I construction well underway, I'm hopeful he took a brief victory lap before, undoubtedly, redoubling his efforts to complete the entire corridor.

Dave Haugeberg is a remarkable citizen, the kind of person who willingly, even eagerly, gives more to his community than he anticipates receiving in return. His contributions to Yamhill County will always be remembered fondly by those he worked with—and for, including the hundreds of thousands of people who will eventually traverse the Newberg-Dundee Bypass, and the local citizens who will live in transformed communities where it is safe to work, live, and play.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Dave on this eminently deserved award, and wish him and his wife Kathy, and his children and grandchildren of whom he is so proud, continued health, happiness, and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO NIKI DePHILLIPS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Niki DePhillips of Kum & Go for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 600 business leaders and growing.

Niki DePhillips began her career with Kum & Go 12 years ago as an administrative assistant. Today, Ms. DePhillips is the youngest female executive in the company's history and serves as the Senior Vice President of Store Development and Interim Vice President of Human Resources. Niki credits her impressive and expeditious climb to senior management at such an esteemed company to utilizing the strong worth ethic instilled by her mother to pursue her inspiring passions for both real estate and the people she assists every day. As a 2012 recipient of the Industry Impact Award from the Iowa Commercial Real Estate Association, Niki's influence in her company and the state of Iowa as a whole cannot be understated.

Outside of work, Niki gives back to her community in numerous ways. She volunteers on the United Way of Central Iowa Retail Committee, is a member of the Commercial Real Estate Women, helps lead the Iowa Expo Committee, and chairs Couture for a Cause—a benefit for Children's Cancer Connection. Niki, a graduate of Valley High School, now resides in Waukee with her husband Joe and their daughter Samantha. In all aspects of her life, Ms. DePhillips is an example of service, hard work, and Iowa values that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to represent leaders like Niki in the United States Congress and it is with great pride I applaud Ms. DePhillips for utilizing her talents to better both her community and our state. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Niki on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

CONGRATULATING CHANCELLOR DEBRA SAUNDERS-WHITE IN RECOGNITION OF HER INSTALLATION AS THE 11TH CHANCELLOR OF NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my dear friend Dr. Debra Saunders-White on her installation as the 11th Chancellor of North Carolina Central University. Dr. Saunders-White will be formally installed as Chancellor on April 4, 2014 and will become the first female to hold that post at NCCU.

Great leaders motivate others to reach their full potential and show others through their actions that they can make a difference. Dr. Saunders-White is a great leader who will lead current and future generations of NCCU Eagles by motivating them through her leadership, her words, and her actions. Like many students at NCCU, she is a first-generation college graduate. Her mother grew up a sharecropper in North Carolina while her father was a car salesman. Dr. Saunders-White's journey to become leader of a world-class research university will show students what is possible through lifelong commitment to bettering the lives of others.

As institutions of higher learning like NCCU face pressure to do more with less, we increasingly rely on strong leaders with innovative perspectives to shape the future of education. Dr. Saunders-White brings valuable business experience, administrative knowledge from outstanding institutions like Hampton University and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and a comprehensive understanding of higher education from serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education. Those experiences will enable NCCU to become more connected to the Durham community, the state, and our global economy. Her vision of leveraging resources, preparing students for an ever-changing world, and guiding NCCU to the forefront of affordable and quality academics will position the University to excel for years to come.

Dr. Saunders-White understands that quality higher education has never been as important to succeeding in a global economy as it is for today and tomorrow's young minds. I congratulate Dr. Saunders on her installation. NCCU is blessed to have such an experienced, innovative, and inspirational leader as its 11th Chancellor.

LOU DURANTE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and service of Lou Durante. Lou was a beloved member of the

Bronx community and passed away this year at 85 years of age.

Lou was born in East Harlem and lived most of his life in Pelham Bay. He was immensely proud of his country and served with distinction and valor during World War II, when he was stationed in Europe. After finishing his service, Lou returned to the United States and began his career as an electrician. He also joined the Lawrence Keane Memorial Post 1458, where he was a member for 65 distinguished years, recently serving as Commander.

I will never forget the passion that Lou displayed for his fellow veterans, past and present, including his efforts to recognize deceased veterans on a monument in Keane Square Park. While visiting the monument during one of the annual ceremonies that Lou put together, I could see firsthand how lucky the Lawrence Keane Memorial Post and the Bronx were to have someone like Lou, who did so much for his community.

Lou's efforts went far beyond the monument at Keane Square Park. He also made sure current Bronx veterans and residents had a second home at the Lawrence Keane Memorial Post. Year after year, Lou worked with local leaders and elected officials to ensure the post had the funding necessary to remain a place where both veterans and community members could come together.

Mr. Speaker, Lou's commitment to both community and country was, and will continue to be, an inspiration to all of us. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Commander Lou Durante. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE 95TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. FRED A. CURLS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the 95th birthday of Mr. Fred Curls, a pioneer for civil and political rights and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. On March 31, 2014, Mr. Curls turned 95 years young. Last weekend on March 29th, he was honored in Kansas City, Missouri, by family, friends, and acquaintances.

Mr. Curls is one of the original founders of Freedom Incorporated, an African-American political organization which at one time could generate nearly 70,000 votes. Freedom Inc. was and has been a very influential political action group. The organization has been at the forefront in serving as a catalyst for change in civil rights, public accommodations, and the election of candidates at all levels of government. Freedom Inc.'s office has been visited by City Councilpersons, Jackson County Executives, Mayors, Missouri State Senators and Representatives, Governors, Congresspersons, Senators, Presidents, and those who have Presidential aspirations.

For more than fifty years, Mr. Curls has dedicated his life to the Greater Kansas City community, promoting and improving political

empowerment and the civil rights of people of color. His children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren have followed in his footsteps in acknowledging their responsibility of giving back to the community. His son, State Senator Phil B. Curls, Sr. was the President of Freedom Inc. during a period when it was recognized as one of the most potent political organizations in the United States and brought about the election of the first African-American Congressman from the Fifth District of Missouri, U.S. Representative Alan Wheat.

Since the mid-1950s, Mr. Curls has been involved in real estate sales and appraisals, most notably in the African-American community of Kansas City. He fought against "restrictive covenants" whereby residential homes could not be sold in certain areas to minorities. He was part of a class action lawsuit which resulted in the United States Supreme Court outlawing such covenants.

In all of his activities, Mr. Curls demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. He is actively involved with his high school graduating class, the Class of 1937, which has been very close to this day. He was honored by Jackson County, Missouri, as one of its "Legacy Awardees" for its 175th anniversary as a political subdivision. He also has been honored by fellow Missourian U.S. Representative William Lacy Clay of St. Louis and myself as an awardee of the "Missouri Walk of Fame" designation, as one of the pioneers of Kansas City's African-American political struggle.

Throughout his life, he has believed in the saying "make it happen." He has put his principles into practice, and the results of his efforts have "made it happen" throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to recognize Mr. Fred Curls on his 95th birthday celebration. Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Fred Curls and his endless commitment to serving the residents of Kansas City and the State of Missouri. Whatever we, as African-Americans, may attain in the political arena, Fred Curls and those who labored to act on our behalf as political pioneers have helped to change the course of history. He is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire community at large.

IN DEFENSE OF AMERICA'S COAL MINERS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE UBB DISASTER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today, on the eve of the 4th Anniversary of the tragic explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in Raleigh County, West Virginia—a disaster that took the lives of 29 miners. I take this opportunity to remind my colleagues and all Americans of that terrible day, of the good men we lost far too young, of those injured, of the families that still mourn and the communities that were forever altered.

I come here, also, to remind my colleagues that the Upper Big Branch miners are still owed our full energies and every effort to ensure that such a tragedy will never occur again.

And I take this time to caution my colleagues—and the public—not to be duped by the self-serving sack of utter baloney being circulated on the internet. The so-called documentary "Never Again" is nothing more than a piece of carefully crafted fiction—a transparent attempt to white wash history and revise reality.

Four separate studies found that Massey Energy, with Don Blankenship at the helm, created a callous corporate culture in which production was valued over safety, in which profit was valued over people. The families of the victims of UBB are rightly livid over the release of this fantasy film, and I stand with them, sharing their complete disdain.

Failing to legislate to close safety loopholes exploited by Massey is akin to condoning that corrupt culture and its fatal results. And Mr. Blankenship is not alone in his dangerous, fantasy view of mine safety. There are deep-pocketed individuals who have funded studies which actually suggest that mine safety rules are un-needed. Nothing could be further from the truth and it is immoral that the Congress has not acted to protect coal miners further.

So many of my colleagues in this body are defenders against what we sagely see as a war on coal. It is common these days for us to come to this floor, red-faced with anger to shout about the unfair treatment of coal by an overzealous and ideological EPA. We are disgusted and rightly so.

But I believe that to be a champion for coal, one has to be a champion for the coal miner.

Defense of the coal miner cannot stop at the mouth of the mine. It must follow him into the mine, ensuring that working conditions are as safe and healthy as we possibly can make them.

Defense of the coal miner must follow after a miner leaves the mine, so that the promises of retirement and health benefits made to miners and their families are honored. And so that the opportunities every American is entitled to are made available to every coal miner as well.

This Congress, however, has yet to take up a package of reforms I worked on with the late great Senator Robert C. Byrd—reforms that we know are necessary to save lives in the wake of the UBB tragedy. It has, frustratingly, yet to act on legislation to protect the health and retirement security of miners.

What this Congress has done, and it has done it over and over again, is tried to repeal the law containing the reforms I fought for over many years to better enable our miners stricken with black lung—and their spouses and widows—to get the benefits they are owed.

I believe that the fight for the coal miner should not end when a miner retires. That has been the long-time policy of our government—during both Republican and Democratic Administrations going all the way back to Harry Truman and Franklin Roosevelt. But this Congress seems utterly indifferent and ignorant of that commitment.

This Congress is bent on cutting budgets for the agencies that help to provide medical care

and monthly benefit payments to miners stricken with black lung. It seems content to allow black lung victims to languish for years in a legal limbo, waiting for review of their claims.

This Congress is bent on cutting funds for the health and safety protections that ensure miners return home after every shift.

This Congress, which boasts about its commitment to the future of coal, is bent on cutting funds for the research and development of new technologies critical to ensuring coal's place in our Nation's long-term energy portfolio.

This Congress, in the worst and most callous way, has been utterly indifferent to the plight of retired miners whose health and retirement benefits are stripped away in bankruptcy proceedings.

The closure of the mine research facility in Pennsylvania, the rewrite of grant guidelines for black lung clinics, the denial of sufficient funding for long-time organizations providing essential mine rescue team training required by Federal and State laws—these are all priorities that have fallen by the wayside in the bureaucracy of this Administration and, apparently, in this uncaring and indifferent Congress.

I have always felt that fighting for our miners meant fighting for a decent wage, fighting to ensure that they could retire with dignity, fighting to ensure that they had access to medical care, and that their children had access to the opportunities afforded by a college education.

But the leadership in this House is blocking an increase in the minimum wage. It is promoting cuts to Medicare and is prepared to put Social Security on the chopping block. It is axing worker training and college grants. It is refusing to close the loopholes that allow unscrupulous operators to walk away from the health and retirement benefits promised to their workers.

Where is all the anger when it comes to the coal miner now? Where is all the rage?

There is much more to defending coal country than fighting against the EPA.

I say to all my colleagues who regularly come to this floor and raise the roof in defense of coal, we must recommit ourselves not just fighting the anti-coal zealots of this Administration, but also to the intense and long-term battle for the well-being of America's coal miners.

We should start by moving meaningful mine health and safety legislation that honors the memories of the 29 miners who perished in the Upper Big Branch Mine on April 5th, 2010. Our obligation to them is long overdue.

RESTORATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with the Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee and my colleagues to call for the immediate passage of legislation in the House concur with the Senate in the restoration of unemployment bene-

fits to the more than 2.2 million Americans who have been cut off extended unemployment insurance because Republicans continue to block extension of the program.

It is inconceivable that as a government and as a nation, we would leave all of these people hanging, many of them since December 28 of last year 2013. Nationally, nearly 72,000 people are losing unemployment insurance on average every week, adding to the 202 million people who have already lost their benefits.

The Department of Labor estimated that the bipartisan Senate agreement to extend the emergency unemployment insurance program would benefit nearly 2.8 million people.

Illinois, my state of Illinois is estimated to have lost 296,763,435 just under 300 million dollars in unemployment dollars in unemployment benefits during the first three months of 2014 due to the Republican shutdown of the Federal benefits program. 153,400 Illinoisans would benefit from extending emergency unemployment benefits. And let's do it now.

SECOND ANNUAL TURQUOISE ART AND LANGUAGE CONTEST

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, The Chicagoland area is proud to host the Second Annual Turquoise Art and Language Contest, organized by the Turkish American Society, to be held at the Rosemont Theater in Rosemont, Illinois on April 12, 2014; and

Whereas, The Turquoise Art and Language Contest is held annually to promote intercultural understanding, friendship, and dialogue; and

Whereas, The contestants will demonstrate diverse talents such as folk dancing, singing and poetry recitation, in a multitude of languages including English, Spanish, and Turkish; and

Whereas, The Turkish American Society began operating in 2005 in the city of Mount Prospect, Illinois to facilitate and encourage cross-cultural experiences and interfaith cooperation; and

Whereas, The Turkish American Society is involved in generous philanthropic ventures and projects benefiting the people of the State of Illinois while addressing the social and cultural needs of the Turkish-American community living in the Chicago area; creating a welcoming environment for new immigrants adjusting to life in the United States; providing communities with educational services; introducing Turkish culture to the Chicago area; uniting the Turkish-American community; and establishing dialogue between diverse communities with the goal of leading to global peace; and

Whereas, The Turkish American Society's efforts to forge a stronger bond amongst all Illinoisans and spread the wonders of Turkish culture are worthy of the greatest respect; now therefore be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the United States of America,

that best wishes are extended to the participants of the Turkish American Society's Second Annual Turquoise Art and Language Contest, and the Turkish American Society is honored and commended for its wonderful work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2014 HEFLIN TAEKWONDO TIGER PRIDE DEMO TEAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to pay special tribute to a group of young people in my Congressional district from Heflin, Alabama. These boys and girls, the Heflin Taekwondo Tiger Pride Demo Team, recently traveled to Jackson, Mississippi to compete in a National Taekwondo competition. They were awarded with the 2014 Taekwondo United Demo Team National Championship, the highest honor.

The Tiger Pride team consists of 14 kids that range in age from 8 to 15. These students have shown tremendous dedication as they have practiced over the past 10 months to perfect a six-minute routine they performed at the competition. The Tiger Pride team competed against four other teams from California, Texas, Louisiana and North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this team for their extraordinary efforts that led to their National Championship title.

HAJJI SALEEM AAKHIR MUHAMMAD

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the very distinguished Hajji Saleem Aakhir Muhammad for his service in our armed forces.

Mr. Muhammad of Elizabeth, New Jersey, departed this life on January 6, 2012, at the age of 83. He served in the United States Army Air Force and was a decorated World War II veteran. Mr. Muhammad was also an original member of the 332nd Fighters Group Squadron, an all Black unit known as the Tuskegee Airmen, for which he received Congress' highest and most distinguished civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. Following his service, Mr. Muhammad was a small business owner and entrepreneur in New Jersey.

Last week the City of Elizabeth saluted a legend and honored the life of Mr. Muhammad and his dedication to our country. Mr. Muhammad and his contributions are outstanding examples of service in our military and service to our communities.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF FORT
LAUDERDALE CITY COMMIS-
SIONER CARLTON MOORE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, scripture tells that "joy cometh in the morning." I don't know, but I certainly hope so. I do know, however, that heaven has gained an angel. Carlton Moore, a tireless advocate for the poor, and my friend, passed away on April 2, 2014. He will certainly be missed by his loving family and those of us honored enough to call him a friend.

I had the good fortune of witnessing Carlton's entire career. He served with distinction in our community, and he was a businessman par excellence. He was first elected City Commissioner in 1988, a position from which he was a tireless champion of the poor. Carlton worked passionately for the impoverished northwest section of Fort Lauderdale. Indeed, the people of Fort Lauderdale can thank Carlton for the Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Agency; the post office on Northwest Seventh Avenue; the Negro Chamber of Commerce building; a \$550 million water and sewage project; and the Seventh Avenue Family Health Center. These accomplishments led to public housing that had swimming pools, tennis courts and child care centers. Carlton was also the first black City Commissioner to be elected Vice Mayor.

Mr. Speaker, no one could ever accuse my friend Carlton of sitting on the sidelines while others did the work. As if the accomplishments noted above were not enough, Carlton was the President of the Fort Lauderdale Branch of the NAACP and did endless hours of work for many boards that benefited our community. He sat on the board for the Broward League of Cities; the Broward County Water Advisory Board; the Florida League of Cities' Blue Ribbon Committee; the Strategic Planning Committee; and the Broward Commission on Substance Abuse and Leadership. Carlton garnered many accolades for his dedicated efforts, including the 2008 National Forum of Black Public Administrators' National Leadership Award, and the Broward League of Cities' President's Award.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Carlton achieved so much in his all too brief time with us—so many things that we can point to with pride and say "look what he did." However, perhaps his greatest legacy will not be the tangible achievements he leaves us with. Perhaps his greatest gift will be the inspiration he instilled in others to work for the common good. As many of my friends in Fort Lauderdale know, Carlton was a surrogate father to many of our young people. It will be upon Carlton's shoulders that these young people stand as they strive to continue the work that Carlton so ably accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, we all have that person in our life that inspired us to achieve more than we ever thought possible. For Carlton, that person was his mother, Ada Moore. Carlton rightly gave Ada the credit for instilling in him a social

consciousness—a sense of civic responsibility—that gave him the fuel to work tirelessly on behalf of the poor. As Carlton's friend who saw his work up close, I can tell you that Ada did a magnificent job, and we thank her. Indeed, Carlton often referred to Ada as his "hero." I hope the knowledge of his love for her provides solace in these undoubtedly dark hours. I know his friendship does so for me.

Mr. Speaker, when asked how he was doing, Carlton would often reply, "better than good!" Yes you were my friend, yes you were. I will miss his good cheer and friendship. My thoughts and prayers are with his mother Ada, and with his sons, Martin and Forrest Moore. My thoughts and prayers are also with Carlton's sister DeNese Moore as well as his two brothers, Benjamin Moore, Jr. and Dennis Ronald Moore.

46TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASSAS-
SINATION OF REV. DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, 46 years ago today, one of the greatest leaders in the history of our country was felled by an assassin's bullet in Memphis, Tennessee.

The assassin may have killed the dreamer, but he could not kill the dream because as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said in August 1963, the dream is "deeply rooted" in the American Dream.

The life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature.

So it is fitting that we pause to remember the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America.

It is proper that we remember the man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day.

Dr. King knew that it was not enough just to talk the talk, that he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible.

Dr. King walked the walk. He went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others. He knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership, but kept on marching and protesting and organizing anyway.

Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we "will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness."

"Life's most persistent and nagging question," he said, is "what are you doing for others?"

And when Dr. King talked about the end of his mortal life in one of his last sermons, on February 4, 1968 in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted up the value of service as the hallmark of a full life:

I'd like somebody to mention on that day Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others," he said. "I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity."

Above all, Dr. King was always willing to speak truth to power.

When the life of Dr. Martin Luther King was stolen from us, he was a very young 39 years old.

People remember that Dr. King died in Memphis, but few can remember why he was there.

On that fateful day in 1968 Dr. King came to Memphis to support a strike by the city's sanitation workers.

The garbage men there had recently formed a chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees to demand better wages and working conditions.

But the city refused to recognize their union, and when the 1,300 employees walked off their jobs the police broke up the rally with mace and billy clubs.

It was then that union leaders invited Dr. King to Memphis.

Despite the danger he might face entering such a volatile situation, it was an invitation he could not refuse.

Not because he longed for danger, but because the labor movement was intertwined with the civil rights movement for which he had given up so many years of his life.

The death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will never overshadow his life. That is his legacy as a dreamer and a man of action.

It is a legacy of hope, tempered with peace. It is a legacy not quite yet fulfilled.

I hope that Dr. King's vision of equality under the law is never lost to us, who in the present, toil in times of unevenness in our equality.

For without that vision—without that dream—we can never continue to improve on the human condition.

It is for us, the living, to continue that fight today and forever, in the great spirit that inspired the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HAY-
WARD POLICE DEPARTMENT'S
REACCREDITATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I want to take this opportunity to recognize the Hayward Police Department, which was recently recredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This is an honor received by very few of the thousands of state and local law enforcement agencies across the country, and it is one that is well deserved.

CALEA is a joint effort of major law enforcement executive associations. It seeks to improve the workings of public safety organizations, in part by offering its accreditation program.

The program is voluntary, so public safety departments have to want to go through the process. I applaud Hayward Police Chief Diane Urban for being willing to take on the challenge.

To be recredited, the Hayward Police Department had to meet a variety of standards. They were reviewed by independent assessors, which closely observed officers in action as well as spoke with community members.

The Department passed with flying colors. The assessment summary noted that out of the applicable mandatory standards, it was not out of compliance with any of them. It added that the Department "commits considerable resources to creating and maintaining community partnerships, and in return, enjoys equally considerable overwhelmingly positive community support and recognition." CALEA officials involved in the formal hearing at which the Department was reaccredited were equally laudatory. Lead CALEA Commissioner Richard Myers said that he had "nothing but praise."

As a former Alameda County prosecutor, I know Hayward faces a challenging law enforcement environment. That the Hayward Police Department is operating in such an environment makes its achievement all the more impressive.

I want to congratulate Hayward Mayor Michael Sweeney, Police Chief Urban, and the entire Hayward Police Department on its success. Keep up the good work.

THE SHOOTING AT THE FORT HOOD ARMY BASE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my condolences to the victims and their families of the senseless shooting at the Fort Hood Army Base, which took place on Wednesday, April 2, 2014. To date, three soldiers have died and many others were wounded in the aftermath of this grievous violence.

We must not let the untimely demises of those who have bravely served our country eclipse the noble sacrifices that they made in this life. We must commemorate and respect each of them for their many individual achievements and with hearts of love celebrate their lives.

While we are devastated by this violence, faith will console and nurture our broken hearts where reason cannot. Fort Hood and the surrounding community have endured tragedy before, and will once again rebuild and learn from this incident. Our nation will honor the fallen and continue to support our armed forces.

U.S. FOREIGN AID AND PALESTINIAN PRISONER

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank my dear friend from Florida for bringing this issue to Congress' attention. To know that the Palestinian Authority provides salaries to former prisoners of Israeli jails is alarming. To discover a Government Accountability Office report that U.S. government agencies may have inadvertently given money to these terrorist is a flagrant breach of fiduciary responsibility.

In 2011 an Israeli research institute discovered international aid to the Palestinian Authority was paying for the salaries of Palestinian terrorist once imprisoned in Israel. Documents were discovered listing prisoner's salaries as being a part of the general fund, the same general fund which is partially comprised of foreign aid.

Over the last fifteen years the U.S. government has committed around \$5 billion in bilateral assistance to Palestinians. As recent as FY2013 annual assistance to Palestine was about \$440 million.

A Palestinian Authority report shows prisoner's salaries as part of the Palestinian Authority's general salary budget which consists of civil servants and military personnel.

Former prisoners receive salaries around \$680 to \$3,400 a month. The reason for the range in salary is due to the perverse nature of this program. The more protracted the stay in an Israeli prison, the more egregious the terrorist act, the higher the monthly compensation. Since December of 2012 more than 4,500 Palestinian prisoners who serve time for terrorist related charges receive a monthly salary. This means members of Hamas and Fatah are able to subsidize their professional activities.

In addition to the monthly salaries the Palestinian Authority covers prisoner's legal fees, Israeli fines, and post-prison pensions.

A Government Accountability Office report titled, "Measures to Prevent Inadvertent Payments to Terrorists under Palestinian Aid Programs Have Been Strengthened, but Some Weaknesses Remain," found problems with U.S. paperwork vetting financial assistance to Palestine.

GAO found U.S. sub-awards were not properly following rules requiring they follow U.S. antiterrorism statutes before issuing aid.

One such example cited was when a sub-awardee, the United Nations, was found to not properly check a list of personnel against known terrorist organizations.

The United Nations is supposed to screen all staff, contractors, and beneficiaries to ensure they have no known terrorist affiliation. It was noted that the U.N. screened all related people against a U.N. Security Council list of potential terrorist, the list did not include members of Hamas and Hezbollah, which the U.S. designated as foreign terrorist organizations. These and other missteps in choosing the appropriate venues by which to send financial aid to Palestine is why Congress should be concerned.

GAO, since the issuing of the report, has stated all recommendations have been implemented but the Palestinian Authority has not stopped subsidizing prisoner's cost of living.

In accordance with Congressman's Yoho's resolution Congress should not allow foreign aid dollars to an entity that feels it is okay to provide welfare for terrorist.

During this latest iteration of Israel-Palestinian peace negotiations, Israel has already offered up three rounds of prisoners to the Palestinian Authority. All Israel gets in return is an extended stay of Palestine at the negotiation table, nothing concrete.

Even with three rounds of prisoner releases, the Palestinian Authority begs for the worst of the worst to be sent home. Two senior pris-

oners Palestine is requesting to be released are Marwan Barghouti and Ahmed Saadat.

Marwan Barghouti, a senior official in the U.S. terrorist designated Fatah party is serving five life sentences for murdering Israeli citizens.

Ahmed Saadat, head another terrorist affiliated organization is serving a life sentence for the murder of an Israeli cabinet minister.

If these two prisoners are released they will enter the rolls of preceding radicals who receive a monthly pension because of their profession, killing innocent Israelis.

I beg this body to pay close attention to this issue and bring into debate the distribution of international aid to governing bodies who reward the malignant in their society.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CALIFORNIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE CITY'S 50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Hawaiian Gardens, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents on the city's 50th Anniversary of Incorporation. I am proud to represent this growing city as part of the 38th Congressional District of California.

The City of Hawaiian Gardens was incorporated on April 9, 1964 and earned its name from a popular fruit stand that featured bamboo stalks and palm leaves. Within the first five years, the city quickly began its rapid and continued growth.

The city's motto is "Our Youth Our Future", which perfectly captures the ambition and dedication to improving community and living standards. Education is a priority for Hawaiian Gardens, as exemplified by its annual awards ceremony where the city provides scholarships for youth reaching for higher education. It has also made great strides through the Youth Activity League, a partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department which shows local youth a path to success through mentoring and by providing safe facilities, planned programs and the vital tools they need to thrive and succeed.

The City of Hawaiian Gardens is dedicated to its citizens, taking steps to better its transportation for the elderly and the disabled, maintaining an impressive public library, and offering child care services as well as a food bank. Its population of over 16,000 residents has been steadily increasing in recent years and is projected to continue to grow.

The city's forward focus has been evident through its prudent financial planning, which has resulted in the saving of over \$13 million dollars. The city continues to make great leaps in regards to human services and has been recognized by First Lady Michelle Obama for its activism in fighting childhood obesity. Investment in youth is an investment in the future, one that is opportune and bright for the city of Hawaiian Gardens.

The city will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary of Incorporation with a weekend of festivities which will include a parade and a carnival. As the city commemorates this occasion, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the city and residents of Hawaiian Gardens as they celebrate the past and focus on a prosperous future.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, each year, March is designated as National Women's History Month to ensure the contributions of American women will be recognized and celebrated in schools, workplaces, and communities throughout the country.

Uplifting women of character, courage and those who have made a lifelong commitment to serve should be acknowledged and honored. Throughout history, women are found on the forefront of leadership when dealing with troubling issues inflicting our great country. Currently, women face a pay gap in almost every occupation. Women are often paid less than men in female-dominated and gender-balanced professions. This is awful and we must work to make a change! We shouldn't have to explain this disparity to our daughters or nieces, should they have their true worth and value diminished. We must stand together and fight against the inequality; no one should be valued as superior over another. We must continue to work and end the injustice now.

As we embark on the journey of equal rights for all women, let us acknowledge and be conscious of those remarkable and unforgettable leaders who struggled for equality before us—Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and many more. As we champion this year's theme, "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment," we reflect on those women, and how they can be an inspiration to us as we continue to push forward for equality. It would be my pleasure to recognize these women from my district who has done outstanding work, your efforts does not go unnoticed and continue to be great. When Women Succeed, America Succeeds.

OUR SALUTE TO WOMEN OF THE 5TH DISTRICT
OF FLORIDA

Thank you for your service and contributions to our community.

The Hon. Mabel Butler: Orange County Commissioner, 1st African American to serve; elected in 1984 for 8 years.

The Hon. Daisy Lynum: City of Orlando Commissioner of District 5 elected in 1998 retiring in 2014.

The Hon. Mildred Dixon (Deceased): City of Winter Garden Commissioner, 1st African American and woman to serve on the city commission elected in 1985 and serving 7 terms, three of which she was unopposed.

The Hon. Yvonne Scarlett-Golden (Deceased): First African American Mayor of Daytona Beach, FL (elected in 2003 and 2005).

The Hon. Linda Chapin: Orange County Chairperson (now known as Mayor) of County Commissioners from 1990–1998.

Dr. Barbara Jenkins: Superintendent of Orange County Public Schools named in 2012. Was former Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Staff and Senior Director for Elementary Education for Orange County Public Schools

The Hon. Kat Gordon: School Board Member of Orange County Public Schools elected in 2000, served as Vice-Chair in 2013. Has been a librarian and counselor for 25 years in Orange County.

Thelma Dudley (Deceased): Retired as an Adjunct Professor at UCF and working with Teacher Education for America's Minorities program recruiting and helping black students become teachers. However, she began her career as a teacher at a then all-black high school, Jones High School, teaching there for 25 years.

Susie Boatman Forehand, RN: Former Nursing Professor at Valencia College who retired after 35 years.

Dr. Felicia Williams: President of West Campus of Valencia College. She was former Assistant Vice President of Workforce Development at Valencia and has worked for 13 years as an adjunct professor that led a team to create the college's first bachelor degrees.

Val Demings: Former Police Chief of the Orlando Police Department from 2007 to 2011 until her retirement. She was the first female to hold the position.

Natalie Jackson, Esq.: Founder of Women's Trial Group, and lawyer for the Family of Trayvon Martin.

Kelda Senior: Public Communications Office for City of Mount Dora since 2012 and former Staff Assistant for United States Senate.

Jean Butler: Founder of JCB Construction established in 1987. A leading minority firm in Central FL for site development and construction management services.

Lynn Mims: Founder of Mims Construction established in 1989 and ranked as one of the top ten concrete and masonry service providers in central Florida. Minority owned and operated

Carolyn Fennell: Director of Public Affairs for the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority that oversees the airport and general aviation Orlando Executive Airport. She is the 1st female director and 1st female to hold the position of Director of Community Relations, Marketing and Public Affairs

Jennie Joseph: Owner and Clinical Director of The Birth Place Birthing Center, a full-service midwifery clinic. Designed and developed unique model of care to address inequities in health care service and delivery for minorities.

Mercedes Clark (Deceased): Nurse at Orange Memorial Hospital and Winter Park Memorial Hospital. The 1st African American female to be the Director of Orange County Health Department in Orlando, Florida. At the time of her retirement, she worked as a Nursing Care Coordinator at Orlando Veteran Administration Outpatient Clinic.

Ericka Dunlap: American Beauty Pageant titleholder who earned title of Miss Florida 2003 (the 1st African American) and subsequently crowned Miss America 2004.

Stephanie Henry: Founder and CEO Step by Step Expressions, Married to Mayor of Daytona Beach, FL., Derrick Henry

Tameka Gaines Holly, MPH: Community Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

HONORING BILL CRONK

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry County Commissioner Bill Cronk, who is retiring after three decades of public service.

After first being elected as County Commissioner in 1987, Bill Cronk went on to serve five nonconsecutive terms in that position. Bill became a community leader in Henry County, working tirelessly to address the concerns of those he served. He also mentored and befriended countless public officials and community members. Even during a brief hiatus from his work as commissioner, Bill continued serving Henry County as the head crew chief for the Henry County surveyor.

During his time as commissioner, Bill was a key figure in the forming of the solid waste district that continues to serve the county, and in the opening of the Henry County Youth Center. He was also instrumental in bringing Ivy Tech to New Castle. Bill's commitment to his community and to improving the lives of his constituents is an example of public service to which we can all aspire.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in honoring Bill Cronk for a long and distinguished career dedicated to serving the people of Henry County. I have no doubt that Bill will bring the same dedication and enthusiasm to the next chapter of his life as he did in the previous one.

HONORING ROBERT GABLE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frankfort resident Robert Gable, who celebrated his 80th birthday on February 20.

Bob Gable is an important part of the foundation of the modern Republican Party in Kentucky. The one-time Kentucky Commissioner of Parks became the Republican nominee for Governor of Kentucky in 1975 and ran on a platform that largely continues to be relevant today—competitive rates of taxation, repeal of the death tax, protecting Kentucky's natural beauty and the Red River Gorge, and even advocating zero-based budgeting.

Bob did not win that race, but he continued to be a leader of the Republican Party in Kentucky serving as chairman and continuing to be sought out for advice and council by candidates. I was very fortunate and honored that Bob was one of the first to endorse my original candidacy in 2009. On behalf of Kentucky Sixth Congressional District, I would like to wish Mr. Gable a very happy 80th birthday and many more years to come.

PARK CENTER GIRLS' BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Park Center Girls' Basketball team for winning the Minnesota State High School Championship, the first title for any sport in their school's history. While any championship season is going to have its trials and tribulations along the way, many do not include the obstacles that Park Center had to overcome in their championship game.

The triple overtime victory for the Pirates did not come easy. Park Center came back from a nine point deficit and relied on a Danielle Schaub buzzer-beater to tie the game up at the end of regulation. At the end of the game, because of foul trouble, Park Center did not have a player older than a sophomore on the floor.

The perseverance and competitive spirit that the Pirates showed is commendable. Winning a state title does not just happen; it takes years of dedication and hard work to reach that goal. When adding in schoolwork, family obligations, and other time constraints, it is remarkable these student-athletes accomplish all that they do.

Congratulations to the Park Center Girls' Basketball team on their first state title.

HONORING JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of young ladies who has shown what can be done through hard work and dedication, the John F. Kennedy Lady Hornets.

On March 13th, the John F. Kennedy Memorial High School of Mound Bayou, Mississippi girl's basketball team won the State of Mississippi 1-A championship with an undefeated season record.

The starting line-up is composed of all seniors, but the combined efforts of each player is what made their team so triumphant. They are as follows: Natassjha Anderson, Guard; Latina Jones, Guard; Jarvis Malone, Point Guard; Aleghsa Haywood, Guard; Jakerria Malone, Forward; Victoria Brown, Forward; Tanielle Woods, Point Guard; Kayela Franklin, Forward; Kenish Coleman, Forward; Shina Blunt, Forward; Jerterika Holmes, Forward; Amiya

Clifton, Guard; Frederica Haywoor, Forward and Center; Ieysha Mays, Forward and Center; Danielle Thompson, Center.

The Lady Hornets reigned supreme with a 32-0 season, and for the first time in the school's history, they were victorious in winning the gold ball as undefeated champions.

The history that was made and the work that they put forth—as individuals and as a team—will forever remain in the hearts and minds of their school, and this profound achievement will carry them forward for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the John F. Kennedy Memorial High School's girl's basketball team for their astounding achievement and making history through perseverance, hard work, and team effort.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLEY CAMPBELL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Charley Campbell of Kum & Go for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Charley Campbell has been with Kum & Go for 14 years where he now serves as General Counsel and Corporate Secretary. Originally from Oskaloosa, Charley attended Iowa State University and graduated with a degree in finance before obtaining his law degree from Drake Law School. Mr. Campbell received his start at Kum & Go while in college when he was selected to sit on the company's board of directors for a semester. That experience with the company and the Krause family ultimately paved the way for him to garner an internship in May of 2000. Today, Charley is an integral part of Kum & Go's rapidly expanding operation and has had his great work recognized through the company's Founders Award and Values Award for Integrity. Charley was also recently honored with the 2013 Association of Corporate Counsel Value Champion Award.

Outside of work, Mr. Campbell gives back to his community in a variety of ways. Charley

serves on the board of directors of the Iowa Grocery Industry Association, volunteers as a youth basketball coach at the YMCA, is an active member at Lutheran Church of Hope, and is guest speaker at both Drake Law School and Iowa State University. Charley resides in Waukee with his wife Nicole and their children Thomas, Grant, Blake and Kirsten. In all aspects of his life, Mr. Campbell is an example of service, hard work, and Iowa values that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Charley in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I applaud Mr. Campbell for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Charley on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHILLY MACARONI COMPANY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Philadelphia Macaroni Company now celebrates a century of success as a leading pasta manufacturer in Pennsylvania. This small, family-owned business has surpassed the five-year life span of the average, small business in America through five generations. The company was launched by Antonio Marano and his son, Vincent, on South 7th Street in 1914 and today has locations beyond Philadelphia and across the nation. The Philadelphia Macaroni Company is a leading manufacturer of pasta for many other national companies. Its first major contract came in the mid-1920s from the Campbell Soup Company—a request to make the small, letter-shaped noodles for its popular and long-lived alphabet soup. Many other ideas followed from soup marketers over the years. In the 1970s, some companies were searching for an instant noodle that could be packaged dry in a pouch and the Marano family delivered. There are many other inspiring stories associated with this family-owned business, but none more telling than the true spirit of American entrepreneurship we honor here today. We congratulate the Philadelphia Macaroni Company and the Marano family for setting an example of business acumen, hard work and a timeless belief in the American dream.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, April 7, 2014

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 7, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

HONORING RETIRED STATE SENATORS ALLEN PAUL AND JOHNNY NUGENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of two extraordinary Indiana State legislators: Senators Allen Paul and Johnny Nugent. These two close friends have served the State of Indiana for decades.

I want to personally thank them for all of their hard work and recognize them for their many accomplishments.

First, let me tell you a little bit about Senator Allen Paul. Allen volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1967 and is a decorated Vietnam veteran. He was awarded the Bronze Star for saving a man's life and also earned a Combat Infantry Badge and four Air Medals.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, Allen was elected to the State senate in 1986, where he was a tireless advocate for military members and their families. He passed important legislation to help veterans receive a college degree and supported legislation to offer in-state tuition for veterans.

Senator Paul has the distinction of being the first legislator from eastern Indiana to serve in a leadership position within his caucus. During his 28-year tenure in the senate, he served as majority whip, chairman of the Insurance Committee and chair of the Financial Institutions Committee. His political savvy and institutional knowledge will certainly be missed by his colleagues in the State legislature.

Senator Paul's dear friend Senator Johnny Nugent has also decided to retire after more than 30 years in office. He too is a veteran of the U.S. Army and Army Reserve.

At the age of 26, Johnny was elected Dearborn County commissioner, the youngest commissioner ever elected in Indiana. As a State senator, Johnny Nugent held numerous leadership positions, including majority floor leader, chair of the Agricultural and Small Business Committee and ranking member of the Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee.

Senator Nugent has been a tireless defender of the Second Amendment and served two terms on the NRA's board of directors. During his tenure in the senate, he successfully sponsored Indiana's "Castle Doctrine," as well as the Nation's first lifetime concealed-carry permit.

Senator Nugent is also known for his involvement in his local community. He is a member of the Dearborn County Chamber of Commerce and the southeastern Indiana Shrine Club. He also served on the Dearborn County Hospital board of trustees.

Both Allen Paul and Johnny Nugent serve as shining examples of what it means to be a public servant. I ask the entire Sixth Congressional District to join me in recognizing these two outstanding Hoosier legislators.

I have no doubt these great men will bring the same commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm that they have had during their service to their constituents and their communities, and apply that in the next chapter of their lives.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, our Nation was founded on two core principles: freedom of speech and freedom of religion, both of which are contained in

the First Amendment of the Constitution. No one in America is arrested for criticizing elected officials, including the President. No one in America is imprisoned for going to a mosque on a Friday, a synagogue on a Saturday, or a church on a Sunday.

The fact that we as Americans can express ourselves so freely and choose to worship whenever and wherever we want are at the heart of America's greatness. That is why I am so troubled by the recent events surrounding the high-tech entrepreneur and Mozilla co-founder, Brendan Eich, who, despite his unquestioned professional credentials, was forced to resign because of a \$1,000 personal donation he made in 2008 in support of Proposition 8, the California ballot initiative in support of traditional marriage.

Regardless of your views on marriage, any American who values the First Amendment should be deeply troubled that this man was essentially driven from his job because of his personal beliefs. I want to stress his personal beliefs, not his company's, but his own.

Nowhere have I read that Mr. Eich ever discriminated against coworkers. In fact, by all accounts, he is a fair and honorable employer. Yet, because of his private beliefs about traditional marriage, which I share, he has been demonized and his livelihood has been compromised.

As troubling as this particular incident is, the chilling effect it will have on the broader issues of free speech cannot be overstated.

I find it notable that Andrew Sullivan, a leading activist in the gay community, has come to Mr. Eich's defense. Mr. Sullivan has been widely quoted as writing:

The whole episode disgusts me, as it should anyone interested in a tolerant and diverse society. If this is the gay rights movement today, hounding our opponents with a fanaticism more like the religious right than anyone else, then count me out.

Yes, public opinion on gay marriage has shifted since 2008, when both then-Presidential candidates Barack Obama and JOHN MCCAIN supported defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman. But America has never been defined by mob rule.

Even if just 1 percent of the country supported defining marriage as between a man and a woman, which is hardly the case, that 1 percent still has a right to hold that view, particularly when it is a view based, in many cases, on one's most deeply held faith convictions.

I understand that reasonable people can disagree on issues. In fact, robust debate in the public square is itself an American hallmark. What happened last week was not debate. It was stifling of the debate. It was the silencing of dissent. It was compromising of our Nation's most cherished principles: freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

The implications are vast and deeply troubling. We should all be concerned. I know I am.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

At the beginning of a new workweek, we use this moment to be reminded of Your presence, and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this people's House to do their work as well as it can be done.

We ask that You send Your spirit upon them, giving them the gifts of patience and diligence. With all the pressures for action that cry out each day, and with all the concern and worry that accompanies any responsibility, we pray that they might know Your peace, which surpasses all human understanding.

May Your voice speak to them in the depths of their hearts, illuminating their minds and spirits, thus enabling them to view the tasks of this day with confidence and hope. All this day, and through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to the pressing issues facing our Nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr.

WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

OBAMACARE IS HURTING SOUTH CAROLINA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, when Mary West purchased insurance through the government health care Web site, she didn't expect to lose access to her doctor.

Ms. West struggles with diabetes and high blood pressure. Because of these health concerns, she has developed a relationship with the doctors she trusted at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System.

She was devastated when she realized that her policy was not accepted by her local hospital. Trying to obtain an alternative policy that would be taken at Spartanburg Regional has been even more difficult due to the lack of communication between the provider and the hospital.

This story, highlighted over the weekend in the Spartanburg Herald Journal, reveals the nightmares South Carolinians and millions of Americans are experiencing as a direct result of ObamaCare's failures.

This unworkable law is tragically flawed. It is not fair that the President's broken promises have created barriers when making a trip to the doctor.

ObamaCare will continue to hammer down on our families if it is not repealed and replaced with a common-sense solution that maintains the doctor-patient relationship, instead of Big Government's dictates destroying jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THE FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, today marks the 100th day that unemployed Americans have been cut off the Federal unemployment insurance program.

Let me give voice to how they have spent the last 100 days. A woman from Pennsylvania wrote:

It's scary, Mr. Levin, not knowing what will happen from day to day. My landlord has tried to be as patient as he could, and now, he had no choice but to serve me an eviction notice. It is scary to think that my America is this cruel.

Carol from New York:

I have been in the medical field for over 25 years and unable to find work. I can't pay my rent, electric bill, phone bill, no money for gas, no money for food. I can't even print out my resume for a job because I can't afford to buy ink for my printer.

This is the first time in my life I had to go to a food pantry. I was ashamed. Never in a million years would I imagine this is where I would be. I am not looking for a handout. I just need a little help to get back on my feet until I find a job.

Tonight, the Senate will pass a bipartisan UI extension. This House must not ignore these stories. We must act.

ABILITYONE PROGRAM

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the outstanding work of the AbilityOne Program and Bosma Enterprises in my district, in Indiana.

AbilityOne is an outstanding program committed to providing employment opportunities for people suffering from vision loss. Since 1915, Indiana's very own Bosma Enterprises has been a partner of the program, with the goal of changing lives.

In fact, Bosma is Indiana's largest employer of people with vision loss, helping acclimate over 700 people last year alone and helping over 50,000 people find employment since it started.

It is about more than the numbers, though. Take Chris McKirahan. She was born with glaucoma, meaning she had the eyes of an 80-year-old at the time she was born. At the age of 43, she lost all of her vision and began orientation and mobility training at Bosma Enterprises.

Following that training, she began volunteering as a Braille and keyboarding instructor. In November of 2010, she was hired on full time as a production employee; but she continues to volunteer in her free time, teaching Braille and keyboarding in the very center she graduated from 4 years ago.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to extend my support to the AbilityOne Program and Bosma Enterprises. They are difference makers; they are changing lives.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT CHIEF OF STAFF, THE HONORABLE JOSEPH R. PITTS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Thomas Tillett, District

Chief of Staff, the Honorable JOSEPH R. PITTS, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I, as custodian of records for Congressman Joe Pitts, have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, requesting documents in a third-party civil case.

As I have determined that there are no documents responsive to the subpoena, it is not necessary for me to determine whether compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

THOMAS TILLET,
District Chief of Staff,
Congressman Joe Pitts.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 7, 2014 at 10:19 a.m.:

That the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 88.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-103)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive

Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2014.

On January 17, 2013, the United States Government announced its recognition of the Government of Somalia. The United States had not recognized a government in Somalia for the previous 22 years. Although the U.S. recognition underscores a strong commitment to Somalia's stabilization, it does not remove the importance of U.S. sanctions, especially against persons undermining the stability of Somalia. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Somalia and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 7, 2014.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1602

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER) at 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this bill, which is H.R. 1872, which is the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 539, I call up the bill (H.R. 1872) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 539, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Budget, printed in the bill is adopted. The bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1872

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014".

TITLE I—FAIR VALUE ESTIMATES

SEC. 101. CREDIT REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended to read as follows:

"TITLE V—FAIR VALUE

"SEC. 500. SHORT TITLE.

"This title may be cited as the 'Fair Value Accounting Act of 2014'.

"SEC. 501. PURPOSES.

"The purposes of this title are to—

"(1) measure more accurately the costs of Federal credit programs by accounting for them on a fair value basis;

"(2) place the cost of credit programs on a budgetary basis equivalent to other Federal spending;

"(3) encourage the delivery of benefits in the form most appropriate to the needs of beneficiaries; and

"(4) improve the allocation of resources among Federal programs.

"SEC. 502. DEFINITIONS.

"For purposes of this title:

"(1) The term 'direct loan' means a disbursement of funds by the Government to a non-Federal borrower under a contract that requires the repayment of such funds with or without interest. The term includes the purchase of, or participation in, a loan made by another lender and financing arrangements that defer payment for more than 90 days, including the sale of a Government asset on credit terms. The term does not include the acquisition of a federally guaranteed loan in satisfaction of default claims or the price support loans of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

"(2) The term 'direct loan obligation' means a binding agreement by a Federal agency to make a direct loan when specified conditions are fulfilled by the borrower.

"(3) The term 'loan guarantee' means any guarantee, insurance, or other pledge with respect to the payment of all or a part of the principal or interest on any debt obligation of a non-Federal borrower to a non-Federal lender, but does not include the insurance of deposits, shares, or other withdrawable accounts in financial institutions.

"(4) The term 'loan guarantee commitment' means a binding agreement by a Federal agency to make a loan guarantee when specified conditions are fulfilled by the borrower, the lender, or any other party to the guarantee agreement.

"(5)(A) The term 'cost' means the sum of the Treasury discounting component and the risk component of a direct loan or loan guarantee, or a modification thereof.

"(B) The Treasury discounting component shall be the estimated long-term cost to the Government of a direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification thereof, calculated on a net present value basis, excluding administrative costs and any incidental effects on governmental receipts or outlays.

"(C) The risk component shall be an amount equal to the difference between—

"(i) the estimated long-term cost to the Government of a direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification thereof, estimated on a fair value basis, applying the guidelines set forth by the Financial Accounting Standards Board in Financial Accounting Standards #157, or a successor thereto, excluding administrative costs and any incidental effects on governmental receipts or outlays; and

"(ii) the Treasury discounting component of such direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification thereof.

"(D) The Treasury discounting component of a direct loan shall be the net present value, at

the time when the direct loan is disbursed, of the following estimated cash flows:

“(i) Loan disbursements.
“(ii) Repayments of principal.
“(iii) Essential preservation expenses, payments of interest and other payments by or to the Government over the life of the loan after adjusting for estimated defaults, prepayments, fees, penalties, and other recoveries, including the effects of changes in loan terms resulting from the exercise by the borrower of an option included in the loan contract.

“(E) The Treasury discounting component of a loan guarantee shall be the net present value, at the time when the guaranteed loan is disbursed, of the following estimated cash flows:

“(i) Payments by the Government to cover defaults and delinquencies, interest subsidies, essential preservation expenses, or other payments.

“(ii) Payments to the Government including origination and other fees, penalties, and recoveries, including the effects of changes in loan terms resulting from the exercise by the guaranteed lender of an option included in the loan guarantee contract, or by the borrower of an option included in the guaranteed loan contract.

“(F) The cost of a modification is the sum of—
“(i) the difference between the current estimate of the Treasury discounting component of the remaining cash flows under the terms of a direct loan or loan guarantee and the current estimate of the Treasury discounting component of the remaining cash flows under the terms of the contract, as modified; and

“(ii) the difference between the current estimate of the risk component of the remaining cash flows under the terms of a direct loan or loan guarantee and the current estimate of the risk component of the remaining cash flows under the terms of the contract as modified.

“(G) In estimating Treasury discounting components, the discount rate shall be the average interest rate on marketable Treasury securities of similar duration to the cash flows of the direct loan or loan guarantee for which the estimate is being made.

“(H) When funds are obligated for a direct loan or loan guarantee, the estimated cost shall be based on the current assumptions, adjusted to incorporate the terms of the loan contract, for the fiscal year in which the funds are obligated.

“(6) The term ‘program account’ means the budget account into which an appropriation to cover the cost of a direct loan or loan guarantee program is made and from which such cost is disbursed to the financing account.

“(7) The term ‘financing account’ means the nonbudget account or accounts associated with each program account which holds balances, receives the cost payment from the program account, and also includes all other cash flows to and from the Government resulting from direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments made on or after October 1, 1991.

“(8) The term ‘liquidating account’ means the budget account that includes all cash flows to and from the Government resulting from direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments made prior to October 1, 1991. These accounts shall be shown in the budget on a cash basis.

“(9) The term ‘modification’ means any Government action that alters the estimated cost of an outstanding direct loan (or direct loan obligation) or an outstanding loan guarantee (or loan guarantee commitment) from the current estimate of cash flows. This includes the sale of loan assets, with or without recourse, and the purchase of guaranteed loans (or direct loan obligations) or loan guarantees (or loan guarantee commitments) such as a change in collection procedures.

“(10) The term ‘current’ has the same meaning as in section 250(c)(9) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

“(11) The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(12) The term ‘administrative costs’ means costs related to program management activities, but does not include essential preservation expenses.

“(13) The term ‘essential preservation expenses’ means servicing and other costs that are essential to preserve the value of loan assets or collateral.

“SEC. 503. OMB AND CBO ANALYSIS, COORDINATION, AND REVIEW.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For the executive branch, the Director shall be responsible for coordinating the estimates required by this title. The Director shall consult with the agencies that administer direct loan or loan guarantee programs.

“(b) DELEGATION.—The Director may delegate to agencies authority to make estimates of costs. The delegation of authority shall be based upon written guidelines, regulations, or criteria consistent with the definitions in this title.

“(c) COORDINATION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.—In developing estimation guidelines, regulations, or criteria to be used by Federal agencies, the Director shall consult with the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

“(d) IMPROVING COST ESTIMATES.—The Director and the Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall coordinate the development of more accurate data on historical performance and prospective risk of direct loan and loan guarantee programs. They shall annually review the performance of outstanding direct loans and loan guarantees to improve estimates of costs. The Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office shall have access to all agency data that may facilitate the development and improvement of estimates of costs.

“(e) HISTORICAL CREDIT PROGRAMS COSTS.—The Director shall review, to the extent possible, historical data and develop the best possible estimates of adjustments that would convert aggregate historical budget data to credit reform accounting.

“SEC. 504. BUDGETARY TREATMENT.

“(a) PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.—Beginning with fiscal year 2017, the President’s budget shall reflect the costs of direct loan and loan guarantee programs. The budget shall also include the planned level of new direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments associated with each appropriations request. For each fiscal year within the five-fiscal year period beginning with fiscal year 2017, such budget shall include, on an agency-by-agency basis, subsidy estimates and costs of direct loan and loan guarantee programs with and without the risk component.

“(b) APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, new direct loan obligations may be incurred and new loan guarantee commitments may be made for fiscal year 2017 and thereafter only to the extent that—

“(1) new budget authority to cover their costs is provided in advance in an appropriation Act;

“(2) a limitation on the use of funds otherwise available for the cost of a direct loan or loan guarantee program has been provided in advance in an appropriation Act; or

“(3) authority is otherwise provided in appropriation Acts.

“(c) EXEMPTION FOR DIRECT SPENDING PROGRAMS.—Subsections (b) and (e) shall not apply to—

“(1) any direct loan or loan guarantee program that constitutes an entitlement (such as the guaranteed student loan program or the veteran’s home loan guaranty program);

“(2) the credit programs of the Commodity Credit Corporation existing on the date of enactment of this title; or

“(3) any direct loan (or direct loan obligation) or loan guarantee (or loan guarantee commit-

ment) made by the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

“(d) BUDGET ACCOUNTING.—

“(1) The authority to incur new direct loan obligations, make new loan guarantee commitments, or modify outstanding direct loans (or direct loan obligations) or loan guarantees (or loan guarantee commitments) shall constitute new budget authority in an amount equal to the cost of the direct loan or loan guarantee in the fiscal year in which definite authority becomes available or indefinite authority is used. Such budget authority shall constitute an obligation of the program account to pay to the financing account.

“(2) The outlays resulting from new budget authority for the cost of direct loans or loan guarantees described in paragraph (1) shall be paid from the program account into the financing account and recorded in the fiscal year in which the direct loan or the guaranteed loan is disbursed or its costs altered.

“(3) All collections and payments of the financing accounts shall be a means of financing.

“(e) MODIFICATIONS.—An outstanding direct loan (or direct loan obligation) or loan guarantee (or loan guarantee commitment) shall not be modified in a manner that increases its costs unless budget authority for the additional cost has been provided in advance in an appropriation Act.

“(f) REESTIMATES.—When the estimated cost for a group of direct loans or loan guarantees for a given program made in a single fiscal year is re-estimated in a subsequent year, the difference between the reestimated cost and the previous cost estimate shall be displayed as a distinct and separately identified subaccount in the program account as a change in program costs and a change in net interest. There is hereby provided permanent indefinite authority for these re-estimates.

“(g) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—All funding for an agency’s administrative costs associated with a direct loan or loan guarantee program shall be displayed as distinct and separately identified subaccounts within the same budget account as the program’s cost.

“SEC. 505. AUTHORIZATIONS.

“(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR FINANCING ACCOUNTS.—In order to implement the accounting required by this title, the President is authorized to establish such non-budgetary accounts as may be appropriate.

“(b) TREASURY TRANSACTIONS WITH THE FINANCING ACCOUNTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall borrow from, receive from, lend to, or pay to the financing accounts such amounts as may be appropriate. The Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe forms and denominations, maturities, and terms and conditions for the transactions described in the preceding sentence, except that the rate of interest charged by the Secretary on lending to financing accounts (including amounts treated as lending to financing accounts by the Federal Financing Bank (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as the ‘Bank’) pursuant to section 405(b)) and the rate of interest paid to financing accounts on uninvested balances in financing accounts shall be the same as the rate determined pursuant to section 502(5)(G).

“(2) LOANS.—For guaranteed loans financed by the Bank and treated as direct loans by a Federal agency pursuant to section 406(b)(1), any fee or interest surcharge (the amount by which the interest rate charged exceeds the rate determined pursuant to section 502(5)(G) that the Bank charges to a private borrower pursuant to section 6(c) of the Federal Financing Bank Act of 1973 shall be considered a cash flow to the Government for the purposes of determining the cost of the direct loan pursuant to

section 502(5). All such amounts shall be credited to the appropriate financing account.

“(3) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—The Bank is authorized to require reimbursement from a Federal agency to cover the administrative expenses of the Bank that are attributable to the direct loans financed for that agency. All such payments by an agency shall be considered administrative expenses subject to section 504(g). This subsection shall apply to transactions related to direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments made on or after October 1, 1991.

“(4) **AUTHORITY.**—The authorities provided in this subsection shall not be construed to supersede or override the authority of the head of a Federal agency to administer and operate a direct loan or loan guarantee program.

“(5) **TITLE 31.**—All of the transactions provided in the subsection shall be subject to the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 15 of title 31, United States Code.

“(6) **TREATMENT OF CASH BALANCES.**—Cash balances of the financing accounts in excess of current requirements shall be maintained in a form of uninvested funds and the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay interest on these funds. The Secretary of the Treasury shall charge (or pay if the amount is negative) financing accounts an amount equal to the risk component for a direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification thereof. Such amount received by the Secretary of the Treasury shall be a means of financing and shall not be considered a cash flow of the Government for the purposes of section 502(5).

“(c) **AUTHORIZATION FOR LIQUIDATING ACCOUNTS.**—(1) Amounts in liquidating accounts shall be available only for payments resulting from direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments made prior to October 1, 1991, for—

“(A) interest payments and principal repayments to the Treasury or the Federal Financing Bank for amounts borrowed;

“(B) disbursements of loans;

“(C) default and other guarantee claim payments;

“(D) interest supplement payments;

“(E) payments for the costs of foreclosing, managing, and selling collateral that are capitalized or routinely deducted from the proceeds of sales;

“(F) payments to financing accounts when required for modifications;

“(G) administrative costs and essential preservation expenses, if—

“(i) amounts credited to the liquidating account would have been available for administrative costs and essential preservation expenses under a provision of law in effect prior to October 1, 1991; and

“(ii) no direct loan obligation or loan guarantee commitment has been made, or any modification of a direct loan or loan guarantee has been made, since September 30, 1991; or

“(H) such other payments as are necessary for the liquidation of such direct loan obligations and loan guarantee commitments.

“(2) Amounts credited to liquidating accounts in any year shall be available only for payments required in that year. Any unobligated balances in liquidating accounts at the end of a fiscal year shall be transferred to miscellaneous receipts as soon as practicable after the end of the fiscal year.

“(3) If funds in liquidating accounts are insufficient to satisfy obligations and commitments of such accounts, there is hereby provided permanent, indefinite authority to make any payments required to be made on such obligations and commitments.

“(d) **REINSURANCE.**—Nothing in this title shall be construed as authorizing or requiring the purchase of insurance or reinsurance on a direct loan or loan guarantee from private insurers. If

any such reinsurance for a direct loan or loan guarantee is authorized, the cost of such insurance and any recoveries to the Government shall be included in the calculation of the cost.

“(e) **ELIGIBILITY AND ASSISTANCE.**—Nothing in this title shall be construed to change the authority or the responsibility of a Federal agency to determine the terms and conditions of eligibility for, or the amount of assistance provided by a direct loan or a loan guarantee.

“SEC. 506. TREATMENT OF DEPOSIT INSURANCE AND AGENCIES AND OTHER INSURANCE PROGRAMS.

“This title shall not apply to the credit or insurance activities of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Credit Union Administration, Resolution Trust Corporation, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, National Flood Insurance, National Insurance Development Fund, Crop Insurance, or Tennessee Valley Authority.

“SEC. 507. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

“(a) **EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.**—This title shall supersede, modify, or repeal any provision of law enacted prior to the date of enactment of this title to the extent such provision is inconsistent with this title. Nothing in this title shall be construed to establish a credit limitation on any Federal loan or loan guarantee program.

“(b) **CREDITING OF COLLECTIONS.**—Collections resulting from direct loans obligated or loan guarantees committed prior to October 1, 1991, shall be credited to the liquidating accounts of Federal agencies. Amounts so credited shall be available, to the same extent that they were available prior to the date of enactment of this title, to liquidate obligations arising from such direct loans obligated or loan guarantees committed prior to October 1, 1991, including repayment of any obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Federal Financing Bank. The unobligated balances of such accounts that are in excess of current needs shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury. Such transfers shall be made from time to time but, at least once each year.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by striking the items relating to title V and inserting the following:

“TITLE V—FAIR VALUE

“Sec. 500. Short title.

“Sec. 501. Purposes.

“Sec. 502. Definitions.

“Sec. 503. OMB and CBO analysis, coordination, and review.

“Sec. 504. Budgetary treatment.

“Sec. 505. Authorizations.

“Sec. 506. Treatment of deposit insurance and agencies and other insurance programs.

“Sec. 507. Effect on other laws.”.

SEC. 102. BUDGETARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 251(b)(1) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “A change in discretionary spending solely as a result of the amendment to title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 made by the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014 shall be treated as a change of concept under this paragraph.”.

(b) **REPORT.**—Before adjusting the discretionary caps pursuant to the authority provided in subsection (a), the Office of Management and Budget shall report to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the amount of that adjustment, the methodology used in determining the size of that adjustment, and a program-by-program itemization of the components of that adjustment.

(c) **SCHEDULE.**—The Office of Management and Budget shall not make an adjustment pursuant to the authority provided in subsection (a) sooner than 60 days after providing the report required in subsection (b).

SEC. 103. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by section 101 shall take effect beginning with fiscal year 2017.

TITLE II—BUDGETARY TREATMENT

SEC. 201. CBO AND OMB STUDIES RESPECTING BUDGETING FOR COSTS OF FEDERAL INSURANCE PROGRAMS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Directors of the Congressional Budget Office and of the Office of Management and Budget shall each prepare a study and make recommendations to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate as to the feasibility of applying fair value concepts to budgeting for the costs of Federal insurance programs.

SEC. 202. ON-BUDGET STATUS OF FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the receipts and disbursements, including the administrative expenses, of the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation shall be counted as new budget authority, outlays, receipts, or deficit or surplus for purposes of—

(1) the budget of the United States Government as submitted by the President;

(2) the congressional budget; and

(3) the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 203. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 202 shall not apply with respect to an enterprise (as such term is defined in section 1303 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4502)) after the date that all of the following have occurred:

(1) The conservatorship for such enterprise under section 1367 of such Act (12 U.S.C. 4617) has been terminated.

(2) The Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency has certified in writing that such enterprise has repaid to the Federal Government the maximum amount consistent with minimizing total cost to the Federal Government of the financial assistance provided to the enterprise by the Federal Government pursuant to the amendments made by section 1117 of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-289; 122 Stat. 2683) or otherwise.

(3) The charter for the enterprise has been revoked, annulled, or terminated and the authorizing statute (as such term is defined in such section 1303) with respect to the enterprise has been repealed.

TITLE III—BUDGET REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

SEC. 301. CBO AND OMB REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS RESPECTING RECEIPTS AND COLLECTIONS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall prepare a study of the history of offsetting collections against expenditures and the amount of receipts collected annually, the historical application of the budgetary terms “revenue”, “offsetting collections”, and “offsetting receipts”, and review the application of those terms and make recommendations to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate of whether such usage should be continued or modified. The Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall review the history and recommendations prepared by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and shall submit comments and recommendations to such Committees.

SEC. 302. AGENCY BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.

Section 1108 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following new subsections:

“(h)(1) Whenever any agency prepares and submits written budget justification materials for any committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate, such agency shall post such budget justification on the same day of such submission on the ‘open’ page of the public website of the agency, and the Office of Management and Budget shall post such budget justification in a centralized location on its website, in the format developed under paragraph (2). Each agency shall include with its written budget justification the process and methodology the agency is using to comply with the Fair Value Accounting Act of 2014.

“(2) The Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office, shall develop and notify each agency of the format in which to post a budget justification under paragraph (1). Such format shall be designed to ensure that posted budget justifications for all agencies—

“(A) are searchable, sortable, and downloadable by the public;

“(B) are consistent with generally accepted standards and practices for machine-discoverability;

“(C) are organized uniformly, in a logical manner that makes clear the contents of a budget justification and relationships between data elements within the budget justification and among similar documents; and

“(D) use uniform identifiers, including for agencies, bureaus, programs, and projects.

“(i)(1) Not later than the day that the Office of Management and Budget issues guidelines, regulations, or criteria to agencies on how to calculate the risk component under the Fair Value Accounting Act of 2014, it shall submit a written report to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate containing all such guidelines, regulations, or criteria.

“(2) For fiscal year 2017 and each of the next four fiscal years thereafter, the Comptroller General shall submit an annual report to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate reviewing and evaluating the progress of agencies in the implementation of the Fair Value Accounting Act of 2014.

“(3) Such guidelines, regulations, or criteria shall be deemed to be a rule for purposes of section 553 of title 5 and shall be issued after notice and opportunity for public comment in accordance with the procedures under such section.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the chairman of the Budget Committee, Chairman PAUL RYAN, and the Budget Committee staff as well for their hard work on H.R. 1872, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act.

As many have talked about before, our budget process in this country is broken. Simply put, we need to make the budget process more transparent. So the bill before the House today, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act, is, as we like to say, a common-

sense attempt to introduce more sunshine and common sense into our budget process. So what would this legislation do?

Most importantly, the bill will require that the Federal Government apply something called fair value accounting. Now, that is the same credit accounting standards as the private sector uses when making or guaranteeing loans. So fair value accounting provides a more robust or more complete picture of the cost to the taxpayer of government loan programs or government lending programs. So fair value accounting accomplishes this how? By accounting for an additional market-risk premium.

Also, the bill recognizes the budgetary impact of government-sponsored enterprises of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. So this bill would then bring these wards of the taxpayer from out of the shadows and onto the budget.

So why exactly do we need this specific piece of legislation here today? Well, without getting into the weeds too much, the simplest explanation is that there is no such thing in this country or in the world as a free lunch when it comes to a government program. The costs are always borne by someone, and in this case, it is borne by the American people.

The facts indicate that not only is government costly, but also government costs more than we all initially expected. So the burden of government rarely comes in under budget. Nowhere does this ring truer than the Federal Housing Administration program, also called FHA, and their mortgage insurance. See, it defies common sense FHA, according to administration's Federal accounting rules, that they actually make money, they say, for the government.

How do they do so? Well, it is only through the alchemy of government accounting can you transform a mortgage portfolio of figurative lead into gold and still remain true to the law.

So this free money comes courtesy of what? It comes courtesy of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990. This is the Federal accounting program and the standard that we operate today.

Under FCRA's cooked accounting rules, the cost of Federal mortgage insurance is determined on the basis of a subsidy cost, including the risk that the borrowers default on a mortgage; and by using the Treasury rate, it does not account for market risk or overall systemic risk.

So, what does that mean? Unlike fair value accounting, which appropriately incorporates a premium for market risk, the current law fails to reflect the true cost to the American taxpayer of these FHA mortgage-backed insurance.

Let me give you an example. In the 2011 report, the nonpartisan CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, compared the cost of the current system of FHA

of a single-family mortgage insurance on both the current law and what we have here, which is fair value basis.

What did CBO find? Well, CBO estimated that, under the current accounting, FHA would actually raise—raise—\$4.4 billion for the government in 2012. Sounds pretty good. But if you actually dug into the numbers and use fair value basis—which, as I said before, is what the private sector would be forced to do—with an appropriate accounting of market risk—and of course, market risk is there—then what did CBO find? CBO then estimated that FHA would not gain \$4.4 billion, but that FHA would actually lose \$3.5 billion over the exact same period.

Why is this? Because CBO believes that fair value provides a fuller picture of a program's budgetary impact. So it now employs fair value basis accounting as a standard procedure for Federal loan programs and Federal loan guarantee programs such as FHA.

However, where is the problem? The problem is the Obama administration has strongly resisted the move to fair value accounting, and instead, they cling to the current program instead.

Let me give you another example. In 2010, President Obama effectively nationalized the Federal student lending program. The President then immediately spent the savings, if you will—remember, I talked about some of these before—on his signature health care law.

What is the problem? The problem is that there is a growing gap now between how much money was borrowed and backed by the U.S. taxpayer—that means you and I—and how much money is actually being repaid by the graduates.

Let me give you some numbers. Based on the Department of Education data, there is a \$99 billion gap between what has been borrowed and what has been paid back since only 2010. Remember, the President said these loans would actually make money for the Federal Government. Instead, the actual numbers are coming in that it is costing a \$99 billion gap.

So, the bill before us today, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act, fixes these shortcomings by requiring that market risk to be explicitly included in estimates of Federal credit programs. What will that do? That will bring Federal budget practice in line with what has long been standard practice in the private sector.

Specifically, it requires the executive branch and Congress to use fair value accounting in calculating the cost of Federal credit programs that consider not only the borrowing cost of the Federal Government, but also the cost of the market risk of the Federal Government in incurring or issuing any of these loans or loan guarantee programs.

And so, with mounting debt and a lackluster job growth, it is time to

force the government to play by the same economic rules as every single American family and business has to. It is not fair to keep putting the American taxpayer on the hook.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Let me say at the outset that we welcome any proposals to improve the budget process, but it is a mistake to suggest that simply tinkering with the budget process will somehow solve our problems.

The bigger issue in the Congress has been an unwillingness of many people to compromise, and at the end of the day, in order to make budgets work, you have to have give-and-take. So, for example, the reason we saw our government shut down last October had nothing to do with the budget process. It had to do with the fact that our Republican colleagues said they were going to shut down the government as a means to try and shut down the Affordable Care Act, to shut down ObamaCare.

It was clear that that was not going to work. We are not about to strip millions of Americans from the new insurance protections they have. Despite that, our colleagues pursued that strategy, and we saw 16 days of unnecessary and unproductive government shut-down. That was not a problem of process; it was a problem of politics.

Now, with respect to this bill, I would say to the gentleman from New Jersey that, if your bill were limited to bringing Fannie and Freddie on budget, we would join you. We would welcome you in that. But, as you know, this bill does much more than that. In fact, it fundamentally changes the way we account for credit programs, Federal credit programs, including things like the student loan programs.

Now, the gentleman from New Jersey mentioned the impact on the FHA. A couple years ago—I think it was 3 years ago—on the Budget Committee we actually had a hearing on this subject. This bill was then on the floor in 2012. At that time, many of us said that, before we consider the other changes that this bill proposes, at least we should have a hearing in the Budget Committee to determine what the impact will be on student loan programs, Small Business Administration programs, veterans loan programs, at least we should have that information. Yet 3 years have gone by. We are now back with the same bill on the floor with no hearings to try and judge what impact it would have on student loan programs.

I want to mention the student loan programs in particular.

The gentleman said that the President had “nationalized” the student loan program. Let me just translate what that means. It had been that the

big banks were essentially a conduit for all of our student loan programs. They were taking very little risk, but they were pocketing big profits just as a middle man, a middle man without risks but taking the profits. So Democrats proposed that we go to a direct loan program to try and make sure the taxpayer dollar actually did what we hoped it would do, which was provide more students with loans to help more of them afford college. So, yes, we got rid of the middle man and we used the savings to try to increase—and in fact, did increase—the amount of funds available so more students could afford to go to college.

Now, this bill comes along, and it would actually change the way we account for student loans, to artificially make those student loans look more expensive on the budget than they would otherwise be from a budget perspective.

Now, maybe this isn't surprising. After all, just last week in the House Budget Committee, we debated the House Republican budget. In fact, that Republican budget is going to be here and debated on the floor of the House tomorrow. We will start debate on that budget. That budget significantly cuts the student loan program. So one of the things it does is it charges students interest on their loans while they are still in college.

□ 1615

That is about \$41 billion of additional interest costs they put onto students. At the same time, in their budget, they protect special interest tax breaks for hedge fund owners, big oil companies and the like. So that is what their budget does.

Now, this piece of legislation would address that from a different direction. It actually would artificially increase the cost on the budget books of student loans going forward.

Let me just read from a letter from a Dr. Reischauer, who was the former head of the Congressional Budget Office. He writes:

The accounting convention used since enactment of the Credit Reform Act of 1990 already reflects the risks that borrowers will default on their loans or loan guarantees. Under Credit Reform, costs are already based on the expected actual cash flow from the direct loans and guarantees. This bill proposes to place an additional budgetary cost on top of the actual cash flows.

Then he goes on to point out that that may be something that Members want to consider during debate, but to actually put that artificial inflation in the budget actually is potentially misleading to people who are looking at the budget.

So, like so many bills around here that are misnamed, this one, named the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act, actually reduces budget transparency by putting in the budget a cost for student loans that is actually artificially increased.

I would suggest to my colleagues that we reject this particular proposal.

Again, if the gentleman had brought to the floor a bill that simply put Freddie and Fannie on budget that would be fine. But this bill actually is a vehicle to inflate the actual costs of things like student loans, at the same time where we have a Republican budget coming to the floor that actually cuts those student loans.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the balance of my time be controlled by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and if I can catch him before he leaves, the ranking member of the Budget Committee, I appreciate all of your comments. I won't touch on all of them, but I will touch on one or two.

In a sign of bipartisanship, I would like to extend to you, not knowing where this bill may end up in the future of things here in the House and the Senate, but extend to you an invitation to cosponsor with me what you said twice during your remarks that you seemed to be on the same page as I am and as I have been for a long time with regard to the GSEs and have fair value accounting applied to them and on budget.

I would extend that invitation to you.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARRETT. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. GARRETT, what I said was I support the part of your amendment that puts them on budget.

Mr. GARRETT. Right.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. So, to the extent that that is your question on the budget, I am happy to join with you on that. I wish you would join with us now in reconsidering your proposals to change the student loan calculations, but we may be asking too much at this point.

Mr. GARRETT. So, as I say, my staff will talk to your staff on that, and thank you for your other comments.

Mr. Speaker, I will insert into the RECORD a letter dated January 30 from the American Action Forum, which is an organization run by former CBO Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin—and I won't go into detail—but he basically wrote to express his complete support of H.R. 3581, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014, for the very reasons that we have set forth here already.

Mr. Speaker, I am not seeing any other speakers at this time. I do see

there are several other speakers on the other side, so I reserve the balance of my time.

AMERICAN ACTION FORUM,
January 30, 2012.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RYAN: I am writing to express my support for H.R. 3581, "The Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2011," in particular those provisions that would incorporate fair value accounting (FVA) into the federal budget process. As you are well aware, a core objective in federal budgeting is to accurately display the scale and timing of the expenditure of taxpayer resources. Since sovereign tax and borrowing powers should always be used judiciously, there is a premium on doing so as accurately as possible.

In some cases this is straightforward. Consider, for example, a discretionary appropriation. The scale of the overall commitment is clear and in some cases it is straightforward to budget the timing of the ultimate outlays as well. Federal credit programs, however, present particular difficulties. The timing of budgetary cash flows differs dramatically between direct loans and federal loan guarantees—even in cases when the ultimate economic impact is identical. The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (FCRA) took an important step forward by equalizing the timing of their budgetary treatment. Direct loans and loan guarantees are both recorded in the budget during the year in which the commitment is incurred, regardless of the duration and timing of the federal assistance.

This was an important step in the right direction. However, estimating the scale of required taxpayer resources remains problematic. In particular, the ability of loan recipients to make timely and complete repayments will be influenced by future individual, household, and economy-wide economic conditions. In the same way, the obligation of the federal government to undertake guarantee payments will be driven by similar forces.

While such future individual and economic conditions are uncertain, reliable techniques exist to estimate the likely size of the taxpayer obligation. Unfortunately, FCRA needlessly restricts the analyses to credit risk—the probability of failure to fully repay—while ignoring the fact that the timing of those failures matters enormously. As the past few years have starkly reminded every American, the need to tax, borrow and otherwise deprive the private sector of another dollar has far greater implications during the depths of economic distress than during periods of robust economic growth. Adoption of FVA would rectify this oversight.

I recognize that significant reform to budget procedures should not be undertaken lightly. However, my views are informed by the fact that during my tenure as director, the Congressional Budget Office undertook a number of studies of the implications of accounting fully for economic risks in the budgetary treatment of financial commitments like credit programs. In example after example (pension guarantees; deposit insurance; flood insurance; student loans; and assistance for Chrysler and America West Airlines), it becomes clear that an incomplete assessment of risks leads to misleading budget presentations and may engender poor policy decisions. FVA would be a significant step toward improving this informational deficit.

My views are echoed by a wide array of budget experts. In March 2010, CBO issued a

new report recommending the use of FVA for federal student loan programs on the grounds that budget rules do "not include the costs to taxpayers that stem from certain risks involved in lending." In addition, the Pew-Peterson Commission on Budget Reform proposed "fair-value accounting" for credit programs and the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform advocated for reform of budget concepts that would more accurately reflect costs.

In addition to these research views, there is a track record of success. FVA has already been used successfully for the budgetary treatment of the Temporary Asset Relief Program of 2008 (TARP) and the federal assistance to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Last but not least, H.R. 3581 would also fix another shortcoming of FCRA; namely that the administrative costs associated with federal operations are not included in the budget cost and must be provided for elsewhere. H.R. 3581 would require that administrative costs (called "essential preservation services") to be accounted for up-front, thereby balancing the playing field.

In sum, I believe that the Congress should adopt fair value accounting and, in particular, pass H.R. 3581 in a timely fashion. I would be happy to discuss any aspect of this issue in greater detail.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation. This is an illusion, another one.

The NCAA Men's Basketball National Championship game is tonight. I know that many of my colleagues are looking forward to watching some high-level competition from these two great squads. However, at some point, you can be assured, you will see one team's coach yelling at the referees. Guaranteed. They will be screaming in their faces, convinced that they are calling too many fouls and that they are being biased against their team. You can be assured that the coach yelling at the refs the most will be the one whose team is losing.

This is basically the same thing that is happening here on the floor today, Mr. Speaker, on this bill, and all the other so-called budget process. You can't get away from process. You don't want to talk about results. You are always talking about process, process, and process, trying to work the refs because you are losing this argument.

The ref in this case is the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. You referred to that many, many times, nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The bill before us today, offered by my colleague from New Jersey, would require the Congressional Budget Office to score Federal loan guarantee programs in a way that makes them appear more expensive than they actually are. That is what you are all about.

I have served on this Budget Committee for the last 4 years. We can't do

our job right if we don't have accurate estimates of what Federal programs really cost.

This bill will absolutely make our job harder by making us work with inaccurate data. In fact, all in all, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that this bill, your bill, would have increased the estimated cost of Federal credit programs in 2014, would have increased them by \$50 million, all by waving your magic wand.

Now, this isn't really about finding the best technical way to measure the costs of each program. That is what you say. It is working the refs in a way that would make even Coach K proud.

It is nothing but a dishonest attempt to make worthy government programs appear more costly, so that those who are ideologically opposed to government and government spending can more easily undermine those very programs. That is what this is all about.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. YARMUTH. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. PASCRELL. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't like the Federal loan guarantee programs that help first-time homebuyers, that help less fortunate Americans pay for their education. They are willing to cook the books in order to make a better case for their elimination.

Mr. Speaker, we could do better than this. We can argue about these programs on their merits instead of resorting to budgeting sleight-of-hand, process.

I am strongly opposed to the bill. We could be voting to raise the minimum wage and give a raise to 27.8 million Americans to \$10.10 per hour. That is what we should be debating on this floor.

We could finally consider the immigration reform legislation that the Senate passed nearly a year ago. We should be debating the UI—unemployment insurance—rates to restore unemployment benefits to more than 2 million Americans, including 125,000 in our own State of New Jersey.

But, instead, we are here today considering a bill that does nothing except enable the majority's fringe ideology, pave the way for even more cuts to the most vulnerable in the future.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Just two couple of points. Process is important. I guess you could be opposed to process—the gentleman from New Jersey referenced the NCAA. If there were no rules and all the players could just go out and do anything they wanted to, I guess we could say we could rack up a lot of points and scores and do very well.

But there is a reason and there is a method to the game, and that is why you do have rules. And that is actually why you do have the refs. Yeah, the

coaches on both sides will complain, but the refs, at the end of the day, are the ones that say, hey, these are what the rules are, and let's play within the confines of them.

Now the second point I was going to make is, I understand this issue is pretty difficult and pretty complicated. The bill is not that long. But the gentleman from New Jersey has it completely backwards when he says, look, Mr. GARRETT, you want to go by the CBO, don't you? You want to apply this to the CBO, and that is what your bill is going to do.

No, that is not what I said. I do agree with the CBO. The CBO already does this. It is the CBO that is calling for this. It was the past chairman, the past director of the CBO who says what I just entered into the RECORD—that we should be doing this. This is already done that way, I inform my colleague from New Jersey.

What we are saying is, if he and I agree that the CBO is, as he just said, this nonpartisan entity which has the right way of handling it, they are handling it the right way.

We are now simply saying, administration, you should be doing what the gentleman from New Jersey and I both say should be done here, what the CBO is saying should be done here, and apply it to OMB and how the administration does it.

So the gentleman has it completely reversed as to what the bill actually says.

Mr. PASCRELL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARRETT. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCRELL. Thank you very much to my colleague from New Jersey.

First of all, no one on this side of the aisle ever suggested that we need no rules.

See, what you are trying to do is put everyone at extremes, and that is where we are many times because you are the majority and we are the minority. And I respect that.

But don't say we don't want the rules. We fought for rules.

Mr. GARRETT. Reclaiming my time, what I was just pointing out is you are saying that both sides' coaches were going to be yelling at the refs and they wanted their side, win or lose.

If you want to use your analogy, in a game there has to be rules, and we are saying that the rules that should apply are the rules that—you indicated the CBO is a nonpartisan entity, that they are doing it the right way, and we are saying, exactly.

The CBO is nonpartisan. They are calling for this type of application of the rules. And if we agree on that point, and if you dig into the bill and realize that we are saying it is not to make sure that CBO does it, but that the administration does it.

So reread the bill. You will understand what we are trying to do. And I think, at the end of the day, you and I may actually agree.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time we have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 19½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 18½ minutes remaining.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't as complicated as one would pretend it to be. First of all, the CBO says, if this was the law of the land, in other words, if this bill would have been passed by both the House and the Senate when it first came up, it would have cost us \$50 billion more in the 2014 budget.

Now, I find that hard to believe that you would accept that, when you practically, the gentleman that I am speaking to right now, through the Chair, has voted "no" on everything under the Sun. So I find that difficult to believe.

There need to be rules, particularly in all financial matters. Those rules have a purpose.

I am telling you, this is a process question and this does not, in any manner, shape, or form enhance the passage of a budget that we can live with, we Americans.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

One of the interesting elements of this debate is, and I think it is pretty clear that we have not a total disagreement of opinion on the two sides, we both want the same objective, which is a fair and honest accounting of what programs cost the taxpayer or how they may benefit the taxpayer.

We do know that it is pretty generally agreed that by moving toward the fair accounting method, the fair value method, that we would be creating a higher cost, or at least the budget would indicate a higher cost for many of the loan programs that we have been talking about. But we don't know exactly what the ultimate impact would be and which method would be more accurate.

□ 1630

But we don't know exactly what the ultimate impact would be and which method would be more accurate.

OMB does not support this proposal. OMB says it has a hard time figuring out how it could assess market-based value, so we don't have total disagreement here.

We are in search of the same objective; but there is another element of

this that I think we have to consider, in that, when we compare loan programs in the private sector to loan programs from the government, we are not always comparing apples and apples. We are comparing two very different motivations.

In the private sector, when a financial institution makes a loan, its entire objective is to create return for its investors and stockholders. The loan is essentially isolated in purpose. You advance funds, you expect a return, and that is the ultimate objective.

When the government creates a loan program, it is not just to make money for the government. In fact, that is often not even considered. What we are trying to do in many cases is to create an additional outcome—an ancillary outcome that is the primary objective of the program.

For instance, with student loans, we are trying to create more college graduates throughout this country. Understanding that the more college graduates we have, from a strictly financial standpoint, the Treasury will benefit because people will be earning higher incomes and paying higher tax rates.

When we are talking about housing programs, we are looking at things like the VA—the VA housing program. We are trying to find a way to help veterans, many of whom come back from deployments disoriented, dislocated, and without any way to find housing. We are trying to create programs that will help repay our obligations to our veterans.

There are many other areas. We have an advanced vehicle manufacturing loan program. I know about this program very well because it was part of that loan program that resulted in a \$600 million investment in the Louisville assembly plant in my district in Kentucky and now has added more than 3,000 new employees in my district.

So the objective there was not necessarily—as a matter of fact, it wasn't at all to make money for the government. It was to help stimulate the production of energy-efficient appliances and to promote advanced technologies throughout our vehicle sector.

So, again, just to say because there is an associated risk that is recognized in the private sector by financial institutions does not imply that we should necessarily say that that same risk is equally important in the Federal budgeting process because, again, we have essentially ulterior motives in virtually every loan program that we have.

So we understand, again, as the ranking member Mr. VAN HOLLEN of Maryland said: We do want transparency; we want to make sure that the American people know exactly what the programs cost.

Probably, more importantly, internally, we need to know what these programs cost because we have to make

policy decisions as to whether they are benefiting the country as a whole, benefiting the taxpayers, and benefiting the Treasury.

The question is, without the kind of analysis that the ranking member suggested, what we actually determined through hearings and discussions, what the cost of the student loan program would be, how many students we potentially are cutting out of the student loan program, what we might be doing in the energy sector by imposing higher costs through the budgeting process and, therefore, a lower participation rate through the actual program, whether we are actually damaging the economy and the budget in different ways, not just on the direct costs versus benefits of the actual loan program; so these are some of the considerations.

This is why we say this is a bill that is not ready for prime time, and we think that we could be spending a better time in this body on more important measures to help the American people.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before I yield to the chairman of the full committee, I want to go back to the gentleman from New Jersey who made the point as to which side of this issue is OMB and CBO on, and it is a process issue.

But it is important that, during an appearance before the House Budget Committee, where we considered this legislation, the director of the—and I will stress this point again—the nonpartisan CBO, Congressional Budget Office, stated, “We believe that the fair value method of accounting”—which is what is in this bill—“for Federal credit transaction programs provides a more comprehensive measure of a program’s true cost.”

This is exactly why we bring this bill to the floor. I know the gentleman indicated that a partisan OMB takes a different view, but the nonpartisan CBO takes the view of this legislation, that we should make sure that there is complete transparency.

Then all the points that the gentleman makes, as far as making the decision as to how many students we should be able to have in these programs, how large is the housing program, and so on and so forth, then we can more accurately make those final determinations once we have the actual numbers accurately before us, and that is all this legislation really does.

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), who was able to get a budget out of the Budget Committee in record time the other night, the chairman of the Budget Committee.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GAR-

RETT) for yielding, and I also want to thank him for his hard work on this issue and for bringing this to our attention.

Look, it is really simple, Mr. Speaker. When Washington makes or guarantees a loan, it is putting taxpayers at risk. Our budget rules don’t account for all of that risk.

We understate the cost of Federal credit programs by about \$50 billion a year. That is what the current accounting rules do. Current accounting rules make it look like the government is making all this money from all these loans when, in reality, we are consistently overstating their profitability.

Let me give you one example. Our current rules led to the projections that the FHA—those loans made between 1992 and 2012 would save us \$45 billion. It sounded like a great deal, a \$45 billion boon to the Federal Government.

In reality, those loans cost us \$15 billion of hard-working taxpayer dollars. That is a swing of \$60 billion. It is not about imposing costs. This bill is about recognizing the actual costs of what this government does. That is really what this is all about.

CBO has reviewed this time and again. The gentleman from New Jersey just mentioned this, and they have very much concluded, like the private sector, that budgeting Federal credit programs should use fair value accounting as the most accurate method for these programs.

Washington needs to be up front with taxpayers about the true cost of its decisions because the taxpayers themselves are the ones who are on the hook, but that is what the Garrett bill would do.

We can’t also forget that the Office of Management and Budget—which is a more political office under the service of the President—they are ignoring the cost of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. In fact, OMB shows them as saving money when they are huge liabilities.

Since 2008, Fannie and Freddie have been wards of the State. They are wholly-owned subsidiaries of the Federal Government, and in 2013, the GSEs accounted for 60 percent of first lien mortgage originations. Taxpayers are exposed to over \$5 trillion of outstanding liabilities. OMB keeps it off budget.

Despite the fact that, if they ever go under, if anything happens again, like it did recently, guess who gets stuck with the tab—the taxpayers. We cannot look at our budget through rose-colored glasses. We have to be as clear-eyed as possible. We need transparency. We need real accounting. We owe it to our taxpayers.

So this bill would require the government to use fair value accounting. It would require OMB to be more honest about Fannie and Freddie’s true costs, and it would build on the best practices

in the private sector, so that we, in Congress, can make better-informed decisions about the hard-working taxpayers and what we are committing for them on their behalf.

That is all this is. It doesn’t impose a cost on anybody. It simply recognizes the actual costs that are occurring.

Mr. YARMUTH. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate Chairman RYAN’s comments and agree with many of them.

I think one of the points that is important to consider here though is, while he mentions one case involving FHA, there are a number of loan programs throughout the government which don’t necessarily fall into that same category; and many of them are very, very critical to our Nation.

If you talk about water supply loans, water system loans, there are many loan programs that affect rural America. In addition to the student loans, we have, again, the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program.

There are many across the board, and what this legislation would do would essentially treat them all as exactly the same, and we know that that is not necessarily necessary.

Under the TARP program—TARP was actually accounted for in the budget using the fair value standard that is proposed in this legislation, so we actually have a history of treating some loan programs differently than others.

What we would say is: Why don’t we take the time to have hearings on this proposal to actually consider the impact of an across-the-board standard on a variety of different kinds of loan programs? This is why we keep saying this is a bill that is not ready for prime time.

There may be a considerable amount of merit in applying this accounting standard to some of the loan programs in the Federal portfolio, but that doesn’t mean it is appropriate or helpful in assessing the impact on every loan program.

Furthermore, what we do know about virtually every analysis is that using the market-based risk analysis that Mr. GARRETT’s bill proposes would, under our budgeting rules, do two things.

One, it would add to the cost of virtually every loan program. There certainly is no instance in which his analysis would say a loan program would cost any less, and what that would also do is create a misleading picture of how much that loan program actually ends up costing the taxpayers on a cash basis.

Just because there is an intangible risk factor attached to a loan program in the budget does not mean that that will ultimately be realized, and, in fact, we may never understand if it is realized by the taxpayers.

So for all of these reasons, again, we would oppose the legislation and not because we think it is a horrible idea. We just think it is an idea that has not been vetted nearly sufficiently enough and could have a serious detrimental impact on many very, very important loan programs that benefit the American people.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Just one point to that. I have sat through that committee now for a number of years, and since this is an issue that I have been somewhat following for that period of time, I knew that your statement saying that we haven't had the time and haven't spent the time on hearings and what have you just did not ring true.

So I dug through it, and the fact of the matter is that we have actually had two hearings and two related markups on this legislation, and I think that gives us the information we need now to go forward.

Secondly, to the point that you make that the various programs are unique in their nature, absolutely, and that is why this legislation allows fair value accounting to be applied individually and evaluate each program accordingly.

We do all that in this legislation. It comes about through the multiple hearings and markups that we have had, and I think now is the time to go forward and give the American public the transparency that they are asking for.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct, but not in a totally accurate way. We have had a hearing about budget processes in which this was discussed. We have not had a hearing dedicated solely to this legislation in which we could actually flesh out the impact on these various loan programs that I mentioned.

So in conclusion, I think, to kind of summarize where we are, this proposal may be a perfectly appropriate proposal. We wish that we could have more time and more analysis to determine whether we do more damage than good.

We both seek to have the most accurate budgeting process and the most accurate process for assessing the value of important government loan programs. That is a shared goal of both Republicans and Democrats.

We think that this bill is not effectively and sufficiently fleshed out to make that kind of determination at this point. We think there are far more important things that this body ought to be dealing with, including raising the minimum wage, extending unem-

ployment benefits, working on developing infrastructure for this country, as we all know is critically needed, all of those things that would help stimulate the economy and create jobs.

□ 1645

For all of these reasons that I have mentioned and my ranking member, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, mentioned, we oppose this legislation and urge a vote "no."

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I will be brief, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Just to set the record straight, actually, we did have hearings on this, and we did have markup hearings on this back in June of 2011. We dug into it at that period of time. The legislation, essentially the same, just in a different cycle, is, in essence, what we have before us today, so we have had that opportunity.

But I will say this. If we see this legislation continue on the floor today and if we see this bill actually pass today, I extend to the gentleman and the members of the committee—or anyone on the other side of the aisle—that my door is open to try to make changes to it that you see appropriate, to make it have the flexibility that you think is not in the bill, which I think is in this bill, and so on and so forth. So I stand ready to continue to work with you on it. But I think that after the hearings we have had and the importance of this legislation, now is the time to move forward.

One last point on this, and I think the chairman of the committee made the point, but let me just reiterate this. At the end of the day, it does not add any additional costs to the American taxpayer. What this bill does is just make transparent the cost that is already there. I am trying to come up with a simple analogy, but fair value accounting is not necessarily one of the simplest things you can find an analogy for, but I guess it might be like this:

You would not go to the store and just go through with your credit card swiping it along, buying the things that you need or think that you need not knowing what they actually cost as you leave the store, just putting them on your bill, knowing that at the end of the day, at the end of the month, you may get a statement. Knowing that you are going to have to pay for that bill, you wouldn't go to the store and do that any more than you should right now with the American public, put them, by using the taxpayers' credit card for all these programs, worthwhile as they may, necessary as they may be, you shouldn't just be swiping that credit card not knowing exactly what the bottom line is, not knowing what the actual cost to the American taxpayer is.

That is all this bill does is just give us that information. And with that information in hand, then we can come together, Republican and Democrat alike, on those areas that we all agree on are necessary for this country and necessary that we expend funds on, with that information in hand, and do it in a more prudent, efficient, and effective manner than we have been in the past where we have done without the information.

With that, then, I urge a "yes" vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address H.R. 1872, the Budget Accounting Transparency Act. While the current accounting methodology for federal credit programs does not fully capture the financial risk assumed by the Federal Government, I am concerned that the fair-value estimates required by this legislation could over calculate the risk of default, potentially resulting in an overestimation of the costs associated with certain federal credit programs. I will be following this legislation and any methodological transition to fair-value estimates closely.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 539, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1872 is postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AFFIRMATION AND NAVAL VESSEL TRANSFER ACT OF 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3470) to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3470

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Taiwan Relations Act Affirmation and Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2014”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

TITLE I—AFFIRMATION OF IMPORTANCE OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AND TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO TAIWAN

Sec. 101. Statement of policy relating to Taiwan Relations Act.

Sec. 102. Transfer of naval vessels to Taiwan.

TITLE II—TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN OTHER FOREIGN RECIPIENTS

Sec. 201. Findings.

Sec. 202. Transfer of naval vessels to certain other foreign recipients.

TITLE III—ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS

Sec. 301. Increase in congressional notification thresholds.

Sec. 302. Licensing of certain commerce-controlled items.

Sec. 303. Amendments relating to removal of major defense equipment from United States Munitions List.

Sec. 304. Amendment to definition of “security assistance” under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

Sec. 305. Amendments to definitions of “defense article” and “defense service” under the Arms Export Control Act.

Sec. 306. Technical amendments.

TITLE IV—APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT

Sec. 401. Application of certain provisions of Export Administration Act of 1979.

TITLE I—AFFIRMATION OF IMPORTANCE OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AND TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO TAIWAN**SEC. 101. STATEMENT OF POLICY RELATING TO TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific since its enactment in 1979, and it is in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States.

(2) The Taiwan Relations Act affirmed that the United States’ decision to establish a diplomatic relationship with the People’s Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means.

(3) The Taiwan Relations Act also states that “it is the policy of the United States to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character and to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan”.

(4) The Taiwan Relations Act also states that “it is the policy of the United States to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan, as well as the people on the China mainland and all other peoples of the Western Pacific area”.

(5) The relationship between the United States and Taiwan has been strengthened with—

(A) Taiwan’s evolution into a free society and a full-fledged, multi-party democracy;

(B) the development of Taiwan’s robust market economy;

(C) Taiwan’s collaboration with the United States to combat terrorism, as demonstrated in part by its participation in the Container Security Initiative; and

(D) the role Taiwan has played in addressing transnational and global challenges, including its active engagement in humanitarian relief measures, public health endeavors, environmental protection initiatives, and financial market stabilization efforts.

(6) The United States is the third largest trading partner and the largest investor in Taiwan, while Taiwan is the twelfth largest trading partner of the United States and the eighth largest United States agricultural market.

(7) Taiwan’s democracy has deepened with the second peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another after the presidential election in March 2008.

(8) The United States and Taiwan are united in our shared values in free elections, personal liberty, and free enterprise.

(b) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—Congress—

(1) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act as the cornerstone of relations between the United States and Taiwan;

(2) reaffirms its support for Taiwan’s democratic institutions;

(3) reaffirms that peace in the Taiwan Strait should be maintained to the benefit of the Asia-Pacific region;

(4) supports the United States commitment to Taiwan’s security in accord with the Taiwan Relations Act, including Taiwan’s procurement of sophisticated weapons of a defensive character, such as F-16 C/Ds aircraft and diesel electric submarines;

(5) reaffirms its commitment to deepen United States-Taiwan trade and investment relations as well as support for Taiwan’s inclusion in bilateral and regional trade agreements at the appropriate time and under the right conditions in which outstanding issues affecting United States exports are being addressed; and

(6) supports the strong and deepening relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

SEC. 102. TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO TAIWAN.

(a) **TRANSFER BY SALE.**—The President is authorized to transfer the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS TAYLOR (FFG-50), USS GARY (FFG-51), USS CARR (FFG-52), and USS ELROD (FFG-55) to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office of the United States (which is the Taiwan instrumentality designated pursuant to section 10(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3309(a))) on a sale basis under section 21 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2761).

(b) **COSTS OF TRANSFERS.**—Any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized by this section shall be charged to the recipient notwithstanding section 516(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(e)).

(c) **REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.**—To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel under this section, that the recipient to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed, before the vessel joins the naval forces of that recipient, performed at a shipyard located in the United States, including a United States Navy shipyard.

(d) **EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority to transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this section.

TITLE II—TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN OTHER FOREIGN RECIPIENTS**SEC. 201. FINDINGS.**

(a) **RELATING TO MEXICO.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The partnership between the United States and Mexico helps the economic and national security of both countries, including in the area of energy.

(2) The United States and Mexico share a common goal of reducing the flow of narcotics and the influence of transnational gangs in the Hemisphere.

(3) The partnership between the United States and Mexico helps the economic competitiveness and national security of both countries.

(4) The economies of the United States and Mexico are increasingly interdependent, with bilateral foreign direct investment increasing more than six-fold over the past two decades.

(5) In 2012 alone, bilateral trade in goods and services between the United States and Mexico exceeded \$500,000,000,000.

(6) The transfer of naval vessels to Mexico authorized under section 202 supports the modernization efforts of the Mexican Navy.

(7) Such naval vessels are suitable to support Mexico’s offshore maritime surveillance, counter trafficking, interdiction, and oil platform security.

(8) The transfer of such naval vessels will contribute to United States interests in promoting increased maritime awareness to support security and protection of the people of the United States and the people of Mexico.

(b) **RELATING TO THAILAND.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) Thailand was the first treaty ally of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region and remains a steadfast friend of the United States.

(2) In December 2003, the United States designated Thailand as a major non-NATO ally, which improved the security of both countries, particularly by facilitating joint counterterrorism efforts.

(3) For more than 30 years, Thailand has been the host country of Cobra Gold, the United States Pacific Command’s annual multinational military training exercise, which is designed to ensure regional peace and promote regional security cooperation.

(4) The Royal Thai Navy has commanded Combined Task Force 151 (CTF 151) of the Combined Maritime Forces, a multinational naval partnership consisting of 30 nations operating in and around the Gulf of Aden and off the eastern coast of Somalia.

(5) With the assistance of the Royal Thai Navy’s Counter Piracy Task Group, CTF 151 is helping to expressly disrupt and suppress piracy, protect all vessels in the region and secure their free navigation.

(6) The Royal Thai Navy is also participating in the multilateral Malacca Straits patrols with other regional partners to promote maritime safety and security.

(7) The transfer of naval vessels to Thailand authorized under section 202 will support enhanced interoperability between the Royal Thai Navy and United States Navy forces.

(8) The transfer of such naval vessels underscores the United States commitment to

United States–Thai relations and to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

SEC. 202. TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN OTHER FOREIGN RECIPIENTS.

(a) **TRANSFERS BY GRANT.**—The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign countries on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j), as follows:

(1) **MEXICO.**—To the Government of Mexico, the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS CURTS (FFG–38) and USS MCCLUSKY (FFG–41).

(2) **THAILAND.**—To the Government of Thailand, the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS RENTZ (FFG–46) and USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG–48).

(b) **ALTERNATIVE TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**—Notwithstanding the authority provided in subsection (a) to transfer specific vessels to specific countries, the President is authorized, subject to the same conditions that would apply for such country under this section, to transfer any vessel named in this section to any country named in this section such that the total number of vessels transferred to such country does not exceed the total number of vessels authorized for transfer to such country by this section.

(c) **GRANTS NOT COUNTED IN ANNUAL TOTAL OF TRANSFERRED EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.**—The value of a vessel transferred to another country on a grant basis pursuant to authority provided by subsection (a) or (b) shall not be counted against the aggregate value of excess defense articles transferred in any fiscal year under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

(d) **COSTS OF TRANSFERS.**—Any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized by this section shall be charged to the recipient notwithstanding section 516(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(e)).

(e) **REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.**—To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel under this section, that the recipient to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed, before the vessel joins the naval forces of that recipient, performed at a shipyard located in the United States, including a United States Navy shipyard.

(f) **EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority to transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS

SEC. 301. INCREASE IN CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION THRESHOLDS.

(a) **FOREIGN MILITARY SALES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”;

(II) by striking “\$200,000,000” and inserting “\$300,000,000”; and

(III) by striking “\$14,000,000” and inserting “\$25,000,000”; and

(ii) in the matter following subparagraph (P)—

(I) by inserting “of any defense articles or defense services under this Act for \$200,000,000 or more, any design and construction services for \$300,000,000 or more, or any

major defense equipment for \$75,000,000 or more,” after “The letter of offer shall not be issued, with respect to a proposed sale”; and

(II) by inserting “of any defense articles or services under this Act for \$100,000,000 or more, any design and construction services for \$200,000,000 or more, or any major defense equipment for \$50,000,000 or more,” after “or with respect to a proposed sale”; and

(B) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$75,000,000”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$100,000,000” and inserting “\$200,000,000”.

(b) **COMMERCIAL SALES.**—Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “\$14,000,000” and inserting “\$25,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”; and

(2) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$75,000,000”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$100,000,000” and inserting “\$200,000,000”.

SEC. 302. LICENSING OF CERTAIN COMMERCE-CONTROLLED ITEMS.

Section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) **LICENSING OF CERTAIN COMMERCE-CONTROLLED ITEMS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A license or other approval from the Department of State granted in accordance with this section may also authorize the export of items subject to the Export Administration Regulations if such items are to be used in or with defense articles controlled on the United States Munitions List.

“(2) **OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**—The following requirements shall apply with respect to a license or other approval to authorize the export of items subject to the Export Administration Regulations under paragraph (1):

“(A) Separate approval from the Department of Commerce shall not be required for such items if such items are approved for export under a Department of State license or other approval.

“(B) Such items subject to the Export Administration Regulations that are exported pursuant to a Department of State license or other approval would remain under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce with respect to any subsequent transactions.

“(C) The inclusion of the term ‘subject to the EAR’ or any similar term on a Department of State license or approval shall not affect the jurisdiction with respect to such items.

“(3) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term ‘Export Administration Regulations’ means—

“(A) the Export Administration Regulations as maintained and amended under the authority of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

“(B) any successor regulations.”.

SEC. 303. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO REMOVAL OF MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FROM UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.

(a) **REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL OF MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FROM UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.**—Section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the President shall take such actions as may be necessary to require that, at the

time of export or reexport of any major defense equipment listed on the 600 series of the Commerce Control List contained in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, the major defense equipment will not be subsequently modified so as to transform such major defense equipment into a defense article.

“(B) The President may authorize the transformation of any major defense equipment described in subparagraph (A) into a defense article if the President—

“(i) determines that such transformation is appropriate and in the national interests of the United States; and

“(ii) provides notice of such transformation to the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate consistent with the notification requirements of section 36(b)(5)(A) of this Act.

“(C) In this paragraph, the term ‘defense article’ means an item designated by the President pursuant to subsection (a)(1).”.

(b) **NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT REMOVED FROM UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.**—Section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(f)), as amended by this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) The President shall ensure that any major defense equipment that is listed on the 600 series of the Commerce Control List contained in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, shall continue to be subject to the notification and reporting requirements of the following provisions of law:

“(A) Section 516(f) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(f)).

“(B) Section 655 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2415).

“(C) Section 3(d)(3)(A) of this Act.

“(D) Section 25 of this Act.

“(E) Section 36(b), (c), and (d) of this Act.”.

SEC. 304. AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF “SECURITY ASSISTANCE” UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.

Section 502B(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(C) to read as follows:

“(C) any license in effect with respect to the export to or for the armed forces, police, intelligence, or other internal security forces of a foreign country of—

“(i) defense articles or defense services under section 38 of the Armed Export Control Act; or

“(ii) items listed under the 600 series of the Commerce Control List contained in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.”.

SEC. 305. AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS OF “DEFENSE ARTICLE” AND “DEFENSE SERVICE” UNDER THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

Section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3), by striking “includes” and inserting “means, with respect to a sale or transfer by the United States under the authority of this Act or any other foreign assistance or sales program of the United States”; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “includes” and inserting “means, with respect to a sale or transfer by the United States under the

authority of this Act or any other foreign assistance or sales program of the United States.”.

SEC. 306. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in sections 3(a), 3(d)(1), 3(d)(3)(A), 3(e), 5(c), 6, 21(g), 36(a), 36(b)(1), 36(b)(5)(C), 36(c)(1), 36(f), 38(f)(1), 40(f)(1), 40(g)(2)(B), 101(b), and 102(a)(2), by striking “the Speaker of the House of Representatives and” each place it appears and inserting “the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and”;

(2) in section 21(i)(1) by inserting after “the Speaker of the House of Representatives” the following “, the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services of the House of Representatives,”;

(3) in sections 25(e), 38(f)(2), 38(j)(3), and 38(j)(4)(B), by striking “International Relations” each place it appears and inserting “Foreign Affairs”;

(4) in sections 27(f) and 62(a), by inserting after “the Speaker of the House of Representatives,” each place it appears the following: “the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives,”; and

(5) in section 73(e)(2), by striking “the Committee on National Security and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives” and inserting “the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives”.

(b) OTHER TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.—The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(A) in section 38—

(i) in subsection (b)(1), by redesignating the second subparagraph (B) (as added by section 1255(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (Public Law 100-204; 101 Stat. 1431)) as subparagraph (C);

(ii) in subsection (g)(1)(A)—

(I) in clause (xi), by striking “; or” and inserting “; or”;

(II) in clause (xii)—

(aa) by striking “section” and inserting “sections”; and

(bb) by striking “(18 U.S.C. 175b)” and inserting “(18 U.S.C. 175c)”;

(iii) in subsection (j)(2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “in” after “to”; and

(B) in section 47(2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “sec. 21(a),” and inserting “section 21(a),”.

(2) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking “Wherever applicable, a description” and inserting “Wherever applicable, such report shall include a description”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(2)(B), by striking “credits” and inserting “credits”.

TITLE IV—APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT

SEC. 401. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 1979.

(a) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Section 12(c) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2411(c)) has been in effect from August 20, 2001, and continues in effect on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.

1701 et seq.) and notwithstanding section 20 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2419). Section 12(c)(1) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 is a statute covered by section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

(b) TERMINATION DATE.—Subsection (a) terminates at the end of the 4-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to put any extraneous material on this measure into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3470. This legislation that I authored reaffirms the United States' steadfast support for Taiwan and provides the legal authority to sell naval vessels to Taiwan.

I very much appreciate the bipartisan support that we have received from Mr. ENGEL and other members of the committee across the aisle. This legislation passed unanimously out of our committee, and the bill makes several changes also to improve U.S. security assistance to friends and allies.

On April 10, 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted to govern America's relationship with the Republic of China-Taiwan. For 35 years, the act has helped maintain peace and security across the Taiwan Strait and the Asia-Pacific region.

During this time, Taiwan has undergone a monumental transformation from grinding poverty and from dictatorship to, today, a vibrant multiparty democracy. Taiwan's economy has evolved, too, to where it is today, our 10th top trading partner. This week, we recognize this 35-year transformation. Few other pieces of foreign policy legislation have been as consequential as the Taiwan Relations Act.

America's support for Taiwan has allowed this island nation to realize its full potential. It is now more important than ever that we reaffirm our strong commitment to Taiwan and to the Taiwan Relations Act. And as chairman, I led two bipartisan delegations to Taipei, to Kaohsiung, and to Tainan to examine Taiwan's economy and to look at its defense capabilities. Today's legislation is the product of the committee's bipartisan effort to prioritize the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. By incorporating two pieces of legisla-

tion, both which passed the committee unanimously, the House of Representatives is now in a position to fulfill both the spirit and the letter of the Taiwan Relations Act.

This legislation allows the President to transfer for sale four Perry-class guided missile frigates to Taiwan, which are greatly needed to augment Taiwan's defense capabilities. I have seen firsthand the World War II-era submarines and the 50-year-old fighter jets that form the core of Taiwan's military. Congress has made it clear to the administration that it wants more defense sales to Taiwan. These four ships would bolster Taiwan's defense to ensure that peace in the Taiwan Strait continues to benefit the entire region.

In addition to supporting Taiwan, this legislation also authorizes the transfer of excess decommissioned naval vessels to Thailand and Mexico. These transfers help support the priorities of the U.S. Navy while strengthening the capability of allies and other close partners to meet our shared maritime security objectives.

The bill also makes long overdue improvements to the timeliness of U.S. arms sales to friends and allies while maintaining appropriate congressional oversight. It also makes technical amendments to update certain notification and reporting requirements under the Arms Export Control Act. Finally, the bill also clarifies that certain business confidentiality protections of the Export Administration Act continue to protect information related to export licensing.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, April 4, 2014.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,

Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H.R. 3470, “Taiwan Relations Act Affirmation and Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2014.” Title I of which was favorably reported out of your Committee on March 25, 2014 as H. Res. 494.

As you know, H. Res. 494, which has been incorporated into Section 101 of H.R. 3470, has been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. I appreciate that, in response to the concerns raised by the Committee on Ways and Means concerning aspects of Title I within our Committee's jurisdiction, you have agreed to modify H.R. 3470 prior to its consideration in the House. As a result, in order to expedite floor consideration of the bill, the Committee on Ways and Means will forgo action on H.R. 3470. Further, the Committee will not oppose the bill's consideration on the suspension calendar, based on our understanding that you will work with us as the legislative process moves forward to ensure that the Committee's concerns continue to be addressed. This is also being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3470, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
Chairman.

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CON-
GRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES,

Washington, DC, April 4, 2014.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: Thank you for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 494, "Affirming the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act," and forgoing a request for a sequential referral of the suspension text for H.R. 3470, "Naval Vessel Transfer and Arms Export Control Amendments Act," in which the text of H. Res. 494 has been inserted as a new section 101. The suspension text contains agreed revisions, made at your request, to content that is within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

I agree that your forgoing further action on these measures does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Ways and Means, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on these measures or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 3470. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on Ways and Means as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my colleague, Mr. ROYCE, the distinguished chairman of our committee, once again for his bipartisan collegiality in the workings of our committee, especially on this important piece of legislation.

I want to also rise in strong support of the Taiwan Relations Act Affirmation and Naval Vessel Transfer Act.

I am proud to serve, Mr. Speaker, as the cochair of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, which has worked to ensure the Taiwan Relations Act remains the linchpin in U.S.-Taiwan relations. I am also proud of the fact, I would say to my friend, the chairman of our committee, that, since 1988, I have actually been to Taiwan 23 times and have seen extraordinary change over those three decades.

Since the signing of the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979, the U.S. and Taiwan have forged a closer partnership to improve cultural and economic relations between our nations. Our partnership has been instrumental in maintaining peace and security across the Taiwan Strait and throughout East Asia.

While it is important to mark this historic anniversary, we also should take this opportunity to affirm our—

that is to say the American—commitment. As a reflection of that, today's bill authorizes the President to transfer up to four surplus U.S. naval vessels to Taiwan. Taiwan has been a valued partner in combating global terrorism and delivering humanitarian relief when needed.

China's recent declaration of an Air Defense Identification Zone and subsequent provocation toward other ships in the region has raised concerns about the possibility of escalation and provocation. That makes the security posture of friends like Taiwan even more precarious and more important and underscores the need for us to continue this defense partnership.

The bill also, as the chairman indicated, authorizes the transfer of surplus naval vessels, two each to Mexico and Thailand, both critical defense partners of this Nation. These transfers will enhance the ability of those countries to collaborate with the U.S. Navy on joint or support operations. The bill also provides an overdue modernization of the congressional review process for the licensing of U.S. defense exports. Under the new criteria, congressional review will focus on major defense exports.

The bill also will help advance the President's Export Control Reform initiative, which has long been a priority for the high-tech community which I am proud to represent in northern Virginia. I have been working with the House Foreign Affairs Committee for years to reform Federal export controls, which have stifled innovation in the American commercial defense industry and put U.S. exports at a disadvantage.

Today's bill updates the process for congressional review of exports to reflect regulatory changes now being implemented by the Departments of State, Commerce, and Defense.

As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the adoption of the Taiwan Relations Act, I look forward to working with other friends of Taiwan to reaffirm America's unwavering commitment to this partnership, including trade and investment activities that will benefit both of our nations moving forward.

Over the past 60 years, the United States-Taiwan relationship has undergone dramatic changes, but Taiwan's development into a robust, lively democracy underpins the strong U.S.-Taiwan friendship we enjoy today. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join the chairman and me in supporting this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Chairman ROYCE for his steadfast leadership on the Foreign Af-

fairs Committee on this legislation that we have before us today.

□ 1700

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3470 strengthens the bilateral relationship between the United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan in two very important ways. First, it reaffirms Congress' commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act that for 35 years has served as the foundation of our relationship with the Republic of China on Taiwan. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, it authorizes the transfer of additional Perry-class guided missile frigates to Taiwan. And I should point out that I have seen firsthand in Taiwan the threat that the People's Republic of China constantly presents to Taiwan. They are there, right across a very short distance body of water, ready to strike at any time, so reaffirming our military commitment to Taiwan is critical.

As we have seen the Chinese Government continue to escalate tensions in the region, Mr. Speaker, making certain that we enhance this security cooperation is important. As Chairman ROYCE pointed out, Taiwan is a superior trading partner with the United States. They are in the top 10 trading partners, and I point out that the trade with Taiwan represents about 500,000 jobs here in the United States.

I would like to thank the chairman for his work to further the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and certainly look forward to working with him to determine what else we can and should be doing to support an unwavering ally in an increasingly important part of the world.

My view of successful foreign policy is that your friends trust you and your enemies fear you, and this legislation today is a good step in the direction of our enemies fearing us and our friends trusting us.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation. Just as important as arms sales to Taiwan, the U.S. must support efforts to maintain and expand Taiwan's diplomatic presence. I am pleased to report to the House that legislation signed into law last year, another bipartisan product of this committee, helped Taiwan participate in the International Civil Aviation Organization for the first time since 1976.

Taiwan's participation in regional trade agreements could greatly benefit American consumers and exporters as well.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should be proud of the role that the Taiwan Relations Act has had in helping Taiwan become what it is today. Taiwan is a beacon of hope and democracy in a part of the world that still yearns for the

basic freedoms that Americans and Taiwanese enjoy on a daily basis. As we commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, let us speak with one voice and offer our strong support of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the passage of this reaffirmation of the Taiwan Relations Act and to the longstanding relationship between the United States and Taiwan. The Taiwan Relations Act, TRA, helped codify our pledge to the people of Taiwan and serves as a reminder that the continued support and strengthening of U.S.-Taiwan relations aids our mutual interests and shared values.

Over the last few decades, Taiwan has emerged as a global leader in innovative technology and the heart of Asia's IT and Knowledge Economy sectors. Through the implementation of sound free-market policies and promotion of democratic ideals, we have seen a small agrarian economy transform itself into a growing global leader in the technology sector. Taiwan is now the world's second largest producer of ICT goods, and companies like Acer and HTC are now household names.

Our mutually beneficial cooperation and exchange with Taiwan has helped dozens of American companies meet their ever-growing demand for equipment and expertise. The partnerships between American and Taiwanese innovators and job creators ensured a virtuous cycle of economic development in Taiwan and lower costs for American consumers.

The U.S. should welcome Taiwanese participation in efforts to advance regional economic integration, such as the Trans Pacific Partnership. Taiwan is one of the region's most dynamic economies and its entry into the TPP will substantially expand the market encompassed by the agreement. Additionally, Taiwan's recent experience transitioning from a developing, domestically focused economy to a globally integrated economy will be invaluable as TPP partners make difficult choices and reforms to comply with higher standards set by TPP.

As a longstanding friend of Taiwan, I am proud to voice my support for this resolution today. Few could have foreseen the political and economic progress that Taiwan has undergone since 1979. Our commitment to broadening and deepening our commercial and investment linkages with Taiwan will ensure that the spirit of the TRA endures and contributes to mutual prosperity on both sides of the Pacific.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I had the honor of taking part in a video conference with President of Taiwan, Mr. Ma Ying-jeou, at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. President Ma offered his insights on the U.S.-Taiwan bilateral relationship, especially timely given the 35th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. President Ma's speech follows below:

OPENING REMARKS

I would first like to extend my appreciation to the Center for Strategic and International Studies for organizing this video-conference for the third time. I believe this

is the second time Dr. Hamre has hosted this event, and I want to thank him wholeheartedly. On the eve of the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), a landmark piece of legislation that has laid the cornerstone of the robust relationship between the Republic of China and the United States, I am especially pleased to have this opportunity to discuss the unique partnership between our two countries with such a distinguished audience.

A STRONG AND LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP

The friendship between the Republic of China and the U.S. dates back over one century. It all began with a desire for mutual understanding. The Boxer Indemnity Scholarship Program was established by the U.S. in 1909 with an endowment of \$10.8 million U.S. dollars. The scholarship allowed Chinese students to study in the U.S., and in 1911 helped establish the forerunner of the prestigious National Tsing Hua University, which has educated generations of young talent in mainland China and Taiwan, including three Nobel laureates. My hat is off to my American friends for having the foresight to initiate such a beneficial scholarship program. The idea behind it was the American vision to provide educational opportunities for a vast but poor and backward Asian country surrounded by insatiable imperialist powers.

During the first half-century of our partnership, the United States played a vital role in ensuring the Republic of China's survival and development. In August 1941, for instance, four months before the Pearl Harbor attack, the U.S. dispatched the Flying Tigers to help in China's difficult war against Japan. They shot down more than 200 Japanese military aircraft during the first seven months after their arrival in China.

In January 1943, the U.S. abrogated the 100-year old unequal treaty system, with its extraterritoriality and consular jurisdiction, and signed the Sino-American New Equal Treaty with us in Washington, a signal that the U.S. sought a truly equitable partnership with the Republic of China.

On December 1st, 1943, the United States, United Kingdom, and Republic of China issued the historic Cairo Declaration, in which they demanded that Japan restore all territories stolen from the Chinese, such as Manchuria, Taiwan, and the Pescadores, to the Republic of China. This position was reconfirmed in the Potsdam Proclamation on July 26th, 1945 and realized 38 days later with the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on September 2nd. We truly appreciate America's vital military and diplomatic role during this period in helping the Republic of China recover sovereignty over Taiwan.

From 1950 to 1965, the U.S. provided Taiwan with \$1.5 billion U.S. dollars in economic aid. Our two countries signed a Mutual Defense Treaty in 1954 under which the U.S. guaranteed our security. This provided a peaceful external environment that enabled Taiwan to create an economic miracle. Since then, the U.S. has stood by Taiwan through thick and thin.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

Relations between the ROC and U.S. changed drastically in 1978, a year that I look back upon with profound regret. In December that year, President Jimmy Carter decided to switch diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing. To remedy the situation, the Carter administration submitted a

draft version of the TRA to the Congress. But because of the inadequacies of the draft, Congress made many crucial improvements. On April 10th, President Carter signed the bill into law, and made it retroactively effective from January 1st, 1979. The TRA, according to an American scholar at the time, re-recognized Taiwan after it had been de-recognized by the Carter administration.

I was glad to learn that just two days ago, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill reaffirming the unwavering commitment of the U.S. to the TRA. The TRA provides the legal framework for many agreements signed between Taiwan and U.S., including a potential bilateral investment agreement. With solid bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress, our two countries have maintained strong political, security, economic, and cultural ties that have helped ensure and enhance peace and stability in East Asia. Another U.S. commitment was the Reagan administration's Six Assurances to Taiwan in July 1982, in which the U.S. reiterated its continued commitment to Taiwan's security.

When I took office in May 2008, I made it my top priority to improve Taiwan's relationship with the U.S. by restoring high-level mutual trust, which was nearly nonexistent at the time. Today, ROC-U.S. relations are the strongest they've been in 35 years or more. With U.S. support, Taiwan has been able to improve cross-strait relations and confidently engage Beijing from a position of strength.

Continued American backing, under the mandate of the TRA, for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations is another present-day example of U.S. support for our foreign policy goals. In May 2009, the ROC health minister attended the World Health Assembly in Geneva after an absence of 38 years. In September last year, the Director-General of our Civil Aeronautics Administration was invited as a guest of the President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to attend ICAO's 38th Assembly in Montreal, Canada, after an absence of 42 years. These were major steps forward in our efforts to achieve more international participation.

THE ROC: A PEACEMAKER AND HUMANITARIAN AID PROVIDER

Using what I call the policy of "viable diplomacy," we have expanded Taiwan's international space, and strengthened relations with our allies and neighbors. Taiwan contributes to regional peace, prosperity, and stability through timely and concrete actions.

As many of you know, Taiwan, mainland China, and Japan all claim sovereignty over a group of small islets in the East China Sea known as the Diaoyutai Islands. These islands are uninhabited, but are located near rich fishing grounds, undersea hydrocarbon deposits, and some of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

In recent years, the danger of confrontation over the Diaoyutai Islands has grown tremendously. That is why I proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative in August 2012. I wanted to demonstrate that a different path and a more hopeful outcome are possible. This initiative elevates peaceful negotiation over confrontation. It de-emphasizes the territorial nature of the dispute and focuses on resource sharing and cooperation.

On April 10th last year, exactly a year ago tomorrow, we signed the Taiwan-Japan Fisheries Agreement. There had been 16 rounds of fruitless negotiations in the previous 16

years, but we were able to get it done in the 17th round. We achieved success by proceeding on the basis that “while sovereignty cannot be compromised, resources may be shared.” The agreement allows fishing boats from both countries to operate, for the first time in more than 40 years, in disputed waters twice the size of Taiwan near the Diaoyutai Islands. Meanwhile, the territorial claims of both sides remain intact thanks to the inclusion of a “without prejudice” clause. The agreement embraces the spirit of the East China Sea Peace Initiative, and has won wide support within Taiwan and Japan, from the U.S., and in the international community in general.

We also acted in line with the East China Sea Peace Initiative to resolve a dispute with the Philippines after the Philippine Coast Guard shot a Taiwan fisherman dead in May last year. After months of intense negotiations, the Philippine government made an official apology, provided compensation for the victim’s family. The perpetrators were charged with homicide by the Philippine Department of Justice last month. In addition, the two sides agreed to refrain from the use of force in law enforcement actions, to notify the other side before taking any enforcement action, and to promptly release detained fishing vessels and crew in case of arrest.

Then, in November last year, when the Philippines was hard hit by Typhoon Haiyan—known there as Typhoon Yolanda—causing more than 6,000 deaths, we immediately delivered 680 tons of relief supplies to the devastated area on 18 air force cargo flights and one naval vessel. The donations were worth \$12 million U.S. dollars.

After the Japanese earthquake in March 2011, which took more than 18,000 lives, my government immediately announced a donation of \$3.3 million U.S. dollars to assist in the rescue effort. In the following two months, the people of Taiwan donated around \$230 million U.S. dollars. This was the single largest amount of foreign assistance ever donated by the people of Taiwan. In fact, it exceeded the sum total of donations provided to Japan by 93 other countries that provided assistance. I would add that my wife and I also played a small part when we joined a telethon to solicit donations.

These measures reflect our determination to be a peacemaker and a provider of humanitarian aid in the international community.

To forestall the possibility of military conflict over the East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone, I issued the Statement on East China Sea Air Space Security on February 26 this year. In this statement, I proposed that all parties concerned should seek to resolve disputes by peaceful means pursuant to international law and the East China Sea Peace Initiative. I also proposed that the parties should formulate an East China Sea Code of Conduct and set up a multilateral negotiation mechanism.

I was pleased to learn of the testimony given by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel on February 5 this year before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. He mentioned that the principles of the East China Sea Peace Initiative “are at the heart of the U.S. strategy and the U.S. effort, namely respect for international law and peaceful resolution of disputes.” In fact, the spirit of the East China Sea Peace Initiative could also apply to the South China Sea.

A PEACEFUL TAIWAN STRAIT

Now, let us turn to cross-strait relations. Since I took office in 2008, I have pursued a

cross-strait policy of maintaining the political status quo. This means “no unification, no independence, and no use of force” under the framework of the ROC Constitution. It also means maintaining peaceful cross-strait relations on the basis of the 1992 Consensus, namely, “one China, respective interpretations.” And in order to ensure sustainable peace across the Taiwan Strait, I have also formally announced that we will not pursue policies such as “two Chinas,” “one China, one Taiwan,” or “Taiwan independence.”

Thanks to the joint efforts of both sides, cross-strait relations are at their best state in over six decades. To date, the two sides have completed 10 rounds of talks, signed 21 agreements, and plan to exchange representative offices in the future. Some of the main areas covered under the 21 agreements include economic cooperation, transportation, health, science, agriculture, and mutual judicial assistance. The number of regularly scheduled direct cross-strait flights has increased from zero to 118 per day. The number of mainland visitors per year has gone up from 290,000 to 2.8 million, nearly a tenfold increase. And the number of mainland students in Taiwan has jumped from 800 to 24,000, a thirtyfold increase. Meanwhile, law enforcement agencies from Taiwan and the mainland have cooperated to arrest nearly 6,000 criminal suspects. As a result, the number of scam cases has been cut by 60% from its peak, and the resulting financial losses to victims in Taiwan have fallen by 80% from its peak. It is evident that improved cross-strait relations bring tangible benefits to Taiwan.

We’ll continue to focus on similar topics. We do not exclude political topics, however, if the people of Taiwan support it.

Our Mainland Affairs Minister Wang Yu-Chi visited mainland China last February to meet in Nanjing with his counterpart, Minister Zhang Zhijun of the Taiwan Affairs Office. This was the first official meeting of its kind since the two sides came under separate rule 65 years ago. This meeting represented the gradual institutionalization of the cross-strait relationship, and was a historic milestone on the path toward sustainable peace and prosperity. These developments prove that viable diplomacy and cross-strait relations are indeed complementary and constitute a virtuous cycle.

Again, I want to thank the United States for Assistant Secretary Daniel Russel’s recent testimony in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he said, and I quote, “we very much welcome and applaud the extraordinary progress that has occurred in cross-strait relations under the Ma administration.”

ENHANCING ROC-U.S. ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Trade and investment relations between the ROC and U.S. have always been close. In 2013, Taiwan was the 12th largest trading partner of the U.S. for goods, with \$57.7 billion U.S. dollars in two-way trade. The United States is the largest source of foreign direct investment in Taiwan, cumulatively investing \$23 billion U.S. dollars as of January 2014.

In March last year, we resumed talks under the 1994 Taiwan-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), and we just successfully concluded the 8th TIFA meetings last week in Washington. I want to praise the hard work of both sides and the positive outcome achieved in the meetings. I hope that we can launch the negotiation of a bilateral investment agreement (BIA) in the near future. A BIA would serve as the beginning of a more robust and comprehensive

economic relationship between our two countries.

Taiwan is an important security and economic partner of the U.S., as former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated in 2011. To further demonstrate our commitment to enhancing trade and investment relations with the U.S., Taiwan sent a delegation of 42 business leaders to the SelectUSA Investment Summit last fall. Our delegation was the third largest among over 60 participating countries. We also dispatched a high-level CEO delegation led by former ROC Vice President Vincent Siew to the U.S. last November to promote investment in the U.S. from Taiwan.

ROC’S DETERMINATION TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

To improve Taiwan’s competitiveness and avoid the danger of being marginalized, I began pursuing deregulation and market opening immediately after taking office in 2008. The lack of diplomatic ties makes it difficult for us to negotiate free trade agreements (FTAs) with our major trading partners. To break the isolation, we decided to start with mainland China, our largest trading partner since 2003. We successfully concluded the Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in 2010. This was followed in 2011 by an investment agreement with Japan, our second largest trading partner and investor. Last year, we signed an economic cooperation agreement (ANZTEC) with New Zealand in July, and an economic partnership agreement (ASTEP) with Singapore in November. We are also in contact with other potential partners in Asia and Europe in the hope of concluding more such accords.

In addition to bilateral trade negotiations, we must also take part in regional arrangements. Taiwan has highly developed markets, and shares Pacific borders with the world’s three largest economies—the U.S., mainland China, and Japan. The ASEAN nations are also nearby. Taiwan should not be excluded from the process of economic integration in East Asia.

Given that Taiwan’s trade with the 12 members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in 2013 came to nearly \$200 billion U.S. dollars and accounted for 34% of Taiwan’s total external trade, we believe Taiwan’s membership in the TPP would definitely be beneficial not only for Taiwan, but also for all TPP member states.

Moreover, a TPP with Taiwan’s membership would not only assure Taiwan’s economic security, but would also help strengthen the economic presence of the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific region. In this regard, I am pleased to acknowledge the statements made by Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Kin Moy recently at Congressional hearings. At the hearings, they both stated that the U.S. welcomed Taiwan’s interest in the TPP.

In the meantime, Taiwan also trades heavily with the 16 member countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). In 2013, our trade volume with RCEP countries came to \$325 billion U.S. dollars, or about 57% of Taiwan’s total external trade. It is only natural that Taiwan is also seeking membership in the RCEP.

A recent effort by our government for a TPP and RCEP membership is the free economic pilot zones (FEPZs). The goal of the FEPZs is to establish a good environment for doing business, and to pave the way for Taiwan’s membership in the TPP and RCEP. The American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei puts out a magazine called Taiwan Business Topics that has commented on our

FEPZs. Allow me to quote from the magazine: "The (Taiwan) government's initiative in establishing Free Economic Pilot Zones is an indication of its seriousness in seeking innovative new directions for the Taiwan economy." The new directions that the Chamber is referring to here are liberalization and globalization.

CONCLUSION

Ladies and gentlemen, Taiwan and the U.S. are determined to maintain peace and stability in East Asia, and we are working together to do so. If actions speak louder than words, then the U.S. has certainly spoken loudly and forcefully in support of our century-long partnership. We continue to be grateful for America's political, economic, and security support.

And, as I have noted, with admission to the TPP and RCEP a top priority for my administration, I hope, on this 35th anniversary of the TRA, that the United States will join us in this effort. I do believe we can approach this goal as the beginning of a bright new chapter in the Taiwan-U.S. partnership. The sky is the limit, so let's soar on the wings of this unique partnership!

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention. I now look forward to your questions.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) which has governed our relationship with Taiwan since its enactment.

The TRA was signed into law April 10, 1979, by President Carter in order to maintain economic, cultural, and security ties with Taiwan in the absence of an official diplomatic relationship. The TRA has been vital in strengthening this mutually-beneficial partnership over the last 35 years. The U.S. enjoys no closer friend than Taiwan. Our friendship is built on a firm foundation of shared values—democracy and freedom, free and fair elections, a free press, and a free economy.

Taiwan has created a vibrant economy and is a significant trading partner to the United States. It is also a major innovator and producer of IT products—many of which are assembled in China. Taiwan already plays a critical role in the global supply chain and has proven they would be an asset to the Trans-Pacific Partnership if included.

Taiwan has used thoughtful dialogue and trade to help ease cross strait tensions, ensuring peace in the Western Pacific and resulting in greater security for the United States. I invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 35th anniversary of the TRA and in expressing our commitment to our relationship with Taiwan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3470, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to affirm the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act, to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 404) to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 404

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act".

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF LEGAL AUTHORITY OF GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT.

(a) **LEGAL AUTHORITY OF LOOKOUT.**—Section 4(b) of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-339; 98 Stat. 300; 16 U.S.C. 1131 note) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: "; and except that with respect to the lands described in section 3(5), the designation of such lands as a wilderness area shall not preclude the operation and maintenance of Green Mountain Lookout."

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984.

SEC. 3. PRESERVATION OF GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT LOCATION.

The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may not move Green Mountain Lookout from its current location on Green Mountain in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest unless the Secretary determines that moving Green Mountain Lookout is necessary to preserve the Lookout or to ensure the safety of individuals on or around Green Mountain. If the Secretary makes such a determination, the Secretary shall move the Green Mountain Lookout to a location outside of the lands described in section 3(5) of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 and designated as a wilderness area in section 4(b) of such Act.

SEC. 4. ALASKA NATIVE VETERAN ALLOTMENT.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPLICATION.**—The term "application" means the Alaska Native Veteran Allotment application numbered AA-084021-B.

(2) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term "Federal land" means the 80 acres of Federal land that is—

(A) described in the application; and

(B) depicted as Lot 2 in U.S. Survey No. 13957, Alaska, that was officially filed on October 9, 2009.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) **ISSUANCE OF PATENT.**—Notwithstanding section 41 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1629g) and subject to subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

(1) approve the application; and

(2) issue a patent for the Federal land to the person that submitted the application.

(c) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The patent issued under subsection (b) shall—

(A) only be for the surface rights to the Federal land; and

(B) be subject to the terms and conditions of any certificate issued under section 41 of the

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1629g), including terms and conditions providing that—

(i) the patent is subject to valid existing rights, including any right of the United States to income derived, directly or indirectly, from a lease, license, permit, right-of-way, or easement on the Federal land; and

(ii) the United States shall reserve an interest in deposits of oil, gas, and coal on the Federal land, including the right to explore, mine, and remove the minerals on portions of the Federal land that the Secretary determines to be prospectively valuable for development.

(2) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary may require any additional terms and conditions for the issuance of the patent under subsection (a) that the Secretary determines to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 404 would preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness area of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in my home State of Washington.

The Green Mountain Lookout was constructed in 1933 on the summit of Green Mountain for the purpose of fire detection. It was also used to look for enemy aircraft during World War II. While the lookout is no longer used for fire detection, it has, however, become a favorite destination for hikers.

Several years ago, after the lookout was damaged in a snowstorm, the Forest Service disassembled and removed the lookout by helicopter with the intent of replacing the foundation and reassembling the lookout. In 2009, the lookout was reassembled, again using helicopter.

But in 2010, Mr. Speaker, an environmental group from out of State, from the State of Montana, filed and won a lawsuit claiming that the repairs violated both the Wilderness Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. As a result, a Federal judge in Seattle ordered the Forest Service to remove the historic lookout. Elimination of this popular hiking destination by this order would have begun this summer. This bill puts a stop to that nonsense and it protects the lookout.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately this is not an isolated incident. Too often, lawsuits from extreme groups seek to close off public access to public lands, and too often bureaucracies are happy to comply with eliminating existing recreation from public lands. At times they even take the lead in pushing such restrictions. Credit, however, is due to the Forest Service for using common sense in this case. In other cases, such as the subsistence cabin of the Alaska Native veteran addressed also in this bill, or the halting of stocking fish in the North Cascades, which is the subject of another bill, common sense hasn't always prevailed, so it falls to Congress to fix the problem.

The House has already acted once on this piece of legislation regarding the Green Mountain Lookout, in February, by protecting this lookout. By voting on this Senate bill today, the House will send the measure to the President to be signed and to become law.

The Senate approved the measure by unanimous consent last week at the request of our Senator from Washington, Senator PATTY MURRAY. This action was prompted by a visit from Senator MURRAY to the Washington State communities affected by the tragic mudslide that claimed the lives of over two-dozen citizens. The Senator called me a week ago last Saturday morning. When she asked what she and her congressional colleagues could do to help, the mayor of Darrington, one of the communities that is affected, asked for enactment of this bill to save the lookout. It is a small action that cannot undo the tragedy, but it will help protect a recreation and economic asset in this corner of Washington State.

It goes without saying to all affected by the mudslide that our hearts go out to those of you who lost loved ones, and our sincere thanks is owed to all who have assisted in the rescue, search, recovery, and rebuilding of that area.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my optimism that this is just the first of other bills affecting public lands that will become law this year. There has been bipartisan communication between the House and the Senate on finding agreement on a number of bills of local importance to communities across the country—bills to solve problems, foster economic development, and to protect historic and special places. Had not the special circumstances prompted action on this bill today, I am confident it would have become law soon enough. Senator MURRAY and I, along with Senator CANTWELL, also from Washington State, have been discussing a number of bills of interest to our particular State. I hope and believe these will be among those that can be accomplished later on this year. It takes one step at a time, so I urge my colleagues to support this bill and send it to the President for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Green Mountain Lookout tower is perched on a bluff overlooking Washington State's Cascade Mountains in what is now the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the tower is a popular destination for hikers and a testament to our long tradition of public lands-based service and training programs.

A lawsuit challenged the tower's presence in the wilderness area, and a judge ruled it be removed. Passage today of S. 404 will ensure the tower remains where it is, which we feel is important and appropriate. I want to thank Senator MURRAY of Washington and Representative DELBENE, the sponsor of the House companion. It is thanks to their hard work that we are considering this legislation today.

□ 1715

While it will not take away from the tragedy of the recent mudslide, passing this bill today will be a big win for the local community and the State of Washington as a whole.

We support the legislation and thank the majority and the chairman for bringing it up under suspension of the rules.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), who is the author of the House version of the Alaska provisions in this Senate bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

The Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act includes a provision that I offered as an amendment on the House floor in February. The amendment to the omnibus Public Access and Lands Improvement Act passed the House by voice vote, and I am pleased it has come before the House again as part of the Senate-passed legislation.

During the debate on that measure, I told a story that led to this provision, and how the Federal Government failed one of my constituents, Mr. William Alstrom, endangering his Alaska native veterans allotment and the cabin he and his family built on their own effort on his land the Federal Government conveyed to him and then took back due to a bureaucratic error.

At its core, fixing issues like this is one we are all sent here to Washington to accomplish, and the way in which this has been fixed, merely months after I was first made aware of this issue, is an example of how Congress should function as we work together.

Today, after the House sends S. 404 to the President, I am pleased that William and his family can put this head-

ache behind them, and William can put his time to better use by continuing to serve St. Mary's, Alaska, as mayor and president of his village corporation.

May I, again, thank the chairman, the ranking member, the two Senators, and the total Larsen delegation for this legislation, especially recognizing the mudslide.

But I hope we all recognize that the Federal Government is not a good manager of land. There are too many times that logic does not prevail and too many times they are being sued by interest groups that understand logic. I am suggesting respectfully, as the chairman has said, we ought to work together, both parties together, on solving land issues that are really created by our own government—both sides. I have been under eight Presidents, and I have watched these Presidents all not take into consideration individuals, their rights, their prerogatives, as free Americans.

So I, again, thank you for the efforts put forth in this legislation. I commend the chairman and ranking member for the work they put forth, and God bless you.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Washington (Ms. DELBENE), the sponsor of the legislation.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their help in considering the Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act today, a bill close to the hearts of many of my constituents who have been struck by a terrible tragedy.

As many in this Chamber know, on Saturday, March 22, on a mountainside in my district near the towns of Oso and Darrington, an enormous landslide occurred, almost unthinkable in size and scope, wiping out an entire neighborhood and destroying an important stretch of State Route 530, the primary transportation artery between Arlington and Darrington, and other communities to the east.

At least 33 people have lost their lives, and more are still missing. The damage and loss caused by this disaster are heartbreaking, but the community response has been equally inspiring. People throughout the region have come together to support each other and do their part to aid in the search and recovery.

In the days after the tragedy occurred, members of the community and the mayor of Darrington asked for support on issues important to the region. One of their requests to our congressional delegation, to Senators MURRAY and CANTWELL and Congressman LARSEN and myself, was for our help to pass this bill.

Last year, I introduced the Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act in the House, and, with unanimous

Senate passage last week, we are one step closer to providing this community with a piece of good news about a treasured local landmark. The Green Mountain Lookout, located in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, was built in 1933 as a Civilian Conservation Corps project to detect fires and spot enemy aircraft during World War II. The lookout is a popular destination for hikers near and far, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also an important, historic, and unique part of community of Darrington.

Unfortunately, severe weather caused the Green Mountain Lookout to fall into disrepair in 2001, and the U.S. Forest Service began taking steps to preserve the historic structure for future generations. However, an out-of-state group filed a lawsuit against the Forest Service for using machinery to conduct repairs and, unfortunately, a U.S. District Court ordered the Forest Service to remove the lookout. If Congress does not act soon, the lookout will be removed for good.

This lookout is a local landmark for the Darrington community and the Pacific Northwest, and is also a critical tourist attraction and economic driver in the region. At a time when this community is faced with a long, difficult road to recovery, we must do everything we can to help, including supporting the region's economy, and, in this case, protecting the Green Mountain Lookout saves a cherished landmark and supports outdoor recreation and tourism, both critically important to the local economy.

This bill is simple. It would allow routine maintenance while keeping this iconic structure where it is meant to be, and always has been, on Green Mountain near Darrington. Local governments in the area, my constituents, as well as a number of environmental and historic preservation groups, support saving the lookout. This bill also saves money because it would cost more money to remove the lookout than to keep it where it is.

The Green Mountain Lookout represents a significant piece of the Pacific Northwest's history. It deserves to be protected for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy for many years to come.

This bill can't undo what has been done. But, as the mayor of Darrington told me, it can be a piece of good news and a victory for an inspiring community that has gone through so much.

Today, I ask all Members of the House to vote for this bill and do their part to support this remarkable community and this historic landmark.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 15½ minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the full committee, the ranking member of the full committee, and the ranking member of the subcommittee for helping to bring S. 404 to the floor, the Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act.

The lookout symbolizes a unique and vanishing part of the Pacific Northwest's heritage, and this bill symbolizes Congress' solidarity with a hard-hit part of our State.

The Green Mountain Lookout is one of few surviving fire lookouts in the West. It is one of only six such lookouts within a wilderness area. It was an early warning station during World War II to alert citizens to possible aerial invasion.

The communities in nearby Darrington and Oso are recovering from last month's tragic landslide that has taken the lives of dozens of people and shut the communities off from much of the outside world. First responders, FEMA, and other Federal agencies have been extraordinary in their efforts to help with recovery.

Passing this bill invests in a longer-term economic recovery of the region. Many of the people in these communities rely on outdoor recreation and the tourism that it brings for their livelihoods. Part of that economy is based on access to its historic and beautiful location, like Green Mountain Lookout.

Keeping the lookout in place means Darrington has one more reason to tell people from across this country that Darrington is open for business. With the summer recreation season coming up, protecting Green Mountain Lookout sends a message from Congress to these communities as well that we are with you.

For 12 years, I represented these communities in Congress and for 3 years before that on the local county council. I introduced legislation identical to this bill in June 2012 right after an ill-advised court decision suggested that Green Mountain Lookout should be taken down.

I was pleased that Senators MURRAY and CANTWELL followed that with the introduction of companion legislation in December of 2012.

In February 2013, Congresswoman DELBENE reintroduced this bill, along with our Senate colleagues.

I appreciate my colleagues' willingness to protect the lookout, and I appreciate the support of Chairman HASTINGS, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and others to put this bill on the President's desk.

By protecting the lookout, we will protect the economic livelihoods of many of those who have struggled after last month's tragic landslide.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to vote for S. 404.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I advise my friend from Arizona I am prepared to close if he is prepared to close.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I think the Representatives from Washington stated the case for the legislation. All of us concur with that.

I urge all Members to vote for this piece of legislation. It is thoughtful, it is pragmatic, and it is necessary to do it with some urgency so that that historic site is not lost.

With that, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a good piece of legislation. I want to congratulate my colleagues from the western part of the State for introducing it and persevering on it.

It is just one of those issues, as I mentioned in my opening statement, where we many times in the West get influenced by somebody out of State. This is just one of those classic examples. There is no reason why the lookout should not be there for the people that surround the community of Darrington, and for the people that hike in that area.

But so many times I have come to the floor, and colleagues on my side, arguing about lawsuits, especially from the environmental emphasis. This is just one more example that we are correcting. In fact, I hope we can have more of those in the future.

This is a good piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. I urge adoption of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 404.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEBBIE SMITH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4323) to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4323

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. GENERAL REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2010 through 2018” and inserting “2014 through 2019”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “2018” and inserting “2019”; and

(2) in subsection (j), by striking “2009 through 2014” and inserting “2015 through 2019”.

SEC. 3. TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

Section 303(b) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136(b)) is amended by striking “2009 through 2014” and inserting “2015 through 2019”.

SEC. 4. SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM GRANTS.

Section 304(c) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136a(c)) is amended by striking “2009 through 2014” and inserting “2015 through 2019”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4323, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In 1989, Debbie Smith was kidnapped from her Williamsburg, Virginia, home while her husband, a police officer, was sleeping upstairs. Her assailant dragged her into the woods behind her home and raped her.

Despite being threatened with further harm, she bravely came forward, reported the assault, and consented to a forensic exam with hopes that her attacker would be quickly identified and apprehended. Unfortunately, this did not happen.

In the years following the sexual assault, Debbie Smith, stricken with thoughts of suicide, struggled with the paralyzing fear that her unknown attacker would return to inflict harm on her and her family. The traumatic effect remained with Debbie and her family for over 6 years until an offender was identified and convicted using DNA analysis.

I am pleased to sponsor H.R. 4323, the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2014, to ensure victims of rape, sexual assault, and other violent crimes do not have to endure similar experiences to Debbie Smith in the future. I would

like to acknowledge the bipartisan support received from the numerous cosponsors of this important legislation, including lead cosponsor Congresswoman BASS of California and original cosponsors Ranking Member CONYERS, Crime Subcommittee Chairman SENBRENNER, and Ranking Member SCOTT. I also would like to recognize the efforts of my colleague from New York, CAROLYN MALONEY, in cosponsoring this bill reauthorizing the program she helped create in 2004. Finally, the gentleman from Texas, Judge TED POE, has also been a strong leader in this area for many years, and we are all very appreciative of his efforts.

With the goal of eliminating the backlog of untested DNA samples, the Debbie Smith program awards grants to State and local governments to fund the collection of samples from offenders and crime scenes, including rape kits, increased laboratory capacity, and the analysis of DNA samples in a timely and appropriate manner.

□ 1730

Additionally, grants are authorized to provide training, technical assistance, and education to law enforcement officials, court officers, corrections personnel, and forensic science and medical professionals.

The effectiveness of DNA evidence in criminal investigations and prosecutions is unquestioned. As of January 2014, the use of the FBI's National DNA Index has provided important assistance in more than 224,000 investigations. In my home State of Virginia, the database contains more than 366,000 offender profiles and has aided in nearly 8,500 criminal investigations.

Due to a number of factors, including the expansion in recent years of the number of States requiring arrestees to submit DNA samples, the demand for the testing of these samples continues to outpace the capacity of State and local government laboratories.

In 2011, laboratories processed 10 percent more DNA cases than in 2009. However, backlogs persisted as demand grew by 16 percent during the same period, illustrating the need for the continued support of this vital program.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, reauthorizing the Debbie Smith program, to continue the reduction of DNA backlogs nationwide.

I thank Debbie Smith for her contribution to this effort and for her courage in standing up for millions of others.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4323, the Debbie Smith Act, which was originally enacted in 2004. During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we have the opportunity to take an important step

in continuing a program that helps address the problem of sexual assault.

The Debbie Smith Act has helped State and local law enforcement reduce the Nation's large backlog of untested DNA samples. Grants are used to hire personnel and to purchase supplies for processing samples and for including them in the Combined DNA Index System.

Grants have also been directed to DNA training and technical assistance for law enforcement and courts and to sexual assault nurse examiner programs. Crime laboratories have almost unanimously reported that the DNA Backlog Grant Program is essential to their capacity to process samples, but the backlog still remains.

Hundreds of thousands of DNA samples, each representing an unsolved crime, remains untested. Regrettably, over 200 untested samples remain in Los Angeles alone that have outlasted the statute of limitations for prosecuting cases, so we have to do everything we can to process these samples.

We must also do everything we can to strengthen the nationwide database and reduce the DNA backlog, so that cases of sexual assault can be solved and prosecuted without delay. Reauthorizing the Debbie Smith Act will bring perpetrators of sexual assault to justice before they can attack more victims.

I am proud to acknowledge that Debbie Smith is a constituent of mine. She lives in Charles City County, Virginia. She waited more than 6 years for the DNA from her rape kit to be processed and checked against the national database in order to identify her attacker.

Her attacker was identified, but unfortunately, during those 6 years, he attacked at least two other women—crimes that would not have happened if his DNA had been tested in a more timely manner.

Debbie has spent her time and effort over the last few years with her organization, HEART, which stands for Hope Exists After Rape Trauma. She has been advocating for a reduction in the DNA backlog and has been offering assistance to victims of sexual assault.

I commend my colleague from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and the ranking member, Mr. CONYERS, for working together to expedite the consideration of this bill.

I also want to acknowledge the original author of the Debbie Smith Act, the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), for her hard work and continued advocacy on behalf of sexual assault victims.

I urge my colleagues to join me in further honoring the work of Debbie Smith's by voting for this bill—to reauthorize the bill that bears her name. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member of the full committee.

Mr. CONYERS. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that demonstrates that members of different parties with different philosophies can come together when the cause is so clear and straightforward, and we come here today, supporting the 4-year reauthorization of three programs established under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

These programs facilitate a holistic approach to the use of DNA in sexual assault cases by providing Federal grants to address the huge DNA backlogs and to provide DNA training and technical assistance to States and local law enforcement agencies.

The Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program is named for Debbie Smith who, as my dear friend Mr. SCOTT has indicated, was kidnapped from her home and was raped in nearby woods.

The attacker remained unidentified for more than 6 years until a DNA sample, collected from a convicted person who was serving time in a Virginia State prison for other crimes, revealed his identity as her attacker. The delay in identifying her attacker caused Debbie Smith untold psychological and emotional torture.

I am very pleased by the fact that, along with Chairman BOB GOODLATTE and Mr. SCOTT and Judge POE, we were able to meet with Mrs. Smith and her husband, who honor us by witnessing this proceeding that is now going on.

I want to commend not only the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, and the ranking member of the Crime Subcommittee, BOBBY SCOTT, but also JIM SENSENBRENNER of Wisconsin and Judge POE, who all have worked so hard to make this law work.

We are reducing the backlog, but the person who championed this issue the most was CAROLYN MALONEY, and I am happy to recommend her for the commendation that she deserves.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), who has been working hard on this issue for a number of years.

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4323, the Debbie Smith Act.

Every 2 minutes in this country, someone is sexually assaulted. That means, by the time I finish my remarks today, at least one man, woman, or child will have been brutally attacked.

By the end of this year, more than 200,000 people—nearly all of them

women and girls—will have been victimized in the most inhuman way. Only 60 percent of victims will ever report their attacks, and barely 3 percent of attackers will ever serve a day in prison.

These statistics are staggering, and we are not doing all we can to ensure that every victim has access to the justice he deserves. Too often, victims who are willing to report their attacks face invasive examinations, which leave them feeling victimized all over again.

They then wait, often living in fear and with no information from law enforcement, while their rape kits collect dust in evidence lockers or sit on lab shelves. Every untested rape kit is a lost opportunity to provide justice and to catch dangerous criminals.

To see the importance of rape kit testing, look no further than New York City. In 1999, the city enacted a policy to test every rape kit and to eliminate its backlog of over 17,000 kits, and 15 years later, that policy has made a world of difference.

Every kit collected in New York is tested within 30 to 60 days, and the arrest rate for rape has skyrocketed from 40 percent to 70 percent. Compare that to the national rate of 24 percent. Clearly, the more rape kits we test, the more rapists we get off the streets.

Imagine what would happen if we tested all of the 400,000 rape kits that are still sitting on the shelves today around the country.

I have fought to end the rape kit backlog for nearly 15 years. In 2000, I supported the passage of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act, which provided \$40 million to help States analyze DNA evidence.

When the rape kit backlog failed to decrease by 2002, I introduced the Rape Kit DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act, which would have authorized \$250 million to help police departments finance rape kit testing.

In 2004, I cosponsored and worked closely with Mr. SENSENBRENNER and others to enact the Justice for All Act that created the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, which authorized hundreds of millions of dollars for DNA testing and strengthened the ability of State and local law enforcement to test rape kits.

While I am pleased that we will reauthorize the Debbie Smith Grant Program today, I am disappointed that we are not considering a complete reauthorization of the Justice for All Act, including the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant programs.

DNA evidence is vital to providing justice for all people by putting violent criminals behind bars and by exonerating wrongfully convicted individuals. We should not allow a vital program to lapse because it is less politically expedient.

It is my hope that we can work together to pass a complete reauthorization of the Justice for All Act as our colleagues in the Senate claim to do shortly. In the 10 years since the creation of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, we have seen much progress, but the backlog continues to be a major problem, and prosecuting is uneven across the country.

I commend the chairman of the committee and the ranking member and all of the other Members who have worked on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support the bill and to work towards a day when no rape kit goes untested and every victim of sexual assault sees justice.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the author of the original legislation.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Thank you, and I thank all of my colleagues for this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, there is no more important thing a government can do than protect its citizens from violent crime, and today's reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act, until 2019, does just that. It will protect women, and it will save lives.

The Debbie Smith Act has been called the most important antirape legislation ever to have passed this Congress. During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, April, we are presented with the grim statistics that every 2 minutes, someone is sexually assaulted in our country.

This bill was first introduced in 2001, after a hearing Steve Horn and I organized on the use of DNA to convict and exonerate. Since first being signed into law in 2004, the Debbie Smith Act funds have provided State and local governments with the tools to eliminate the backlog that exists around this country.

It is estimated the backlog is of roughly 400,000 kits that are sitting in warehouses and police departments, and each one of these kits is representing a life of a woman who has been raped.

It not only represents a peace of mind for her to know that her rapist will be convicted and put behind bars, but it will prevent future rapes because the FBI tells us that most rapists will attack another seven times; so, if we can convict, we can save seven other lives.

□ 1745

I want to recognize two extremely brave women who are speaking out on this issue and have testified before Congress. It is very difficult to do. I have tried to get people to testify. The

only person I could get to testify was my good friend, Debbie Smith, who inspired me and others after her wonderful testimony in 2001. She is also joined by Natasha Alexenko, founder of Natasha's Justice Project, working to completely eliminate the backlog. Natasha's and Debbie's stories tell the need of this legislation.

My friend, Congressman SCOTT, spoke about his constituent, Debbie. Natasha was raped, and it took 15 years for them to process her kit. During that 15 years, her rapist raped other women, was involved in sex trafficking, selling drugs, and a slew of other crimes across this country. When her kit was processed, he was put behind bars. If they had processed it earlier, it would have prevented all of this other damage to women and to society as a whole.

One of the tragic costs of this type of crime is that those who survive a sexual assault carry wounds that are not readily visible. They are 3 times more likely to suffer from depression, 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs, and 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide. Each rape kit that gets tested brings these survivors closer to justice and prevents future rapes.

Since I introduced the first version of this legislation in 2001, it has always received wide bipartisan support. I thank Chairman GOODLATTE, Ranking Member CONYERS, members of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. POE, Ms. BASS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SCOTT, and former Congressman Mark Green for all of their hard work.

I hope that this bill will quickly pass the Senate and become law. This is one of those rare bills that virtually guarantees that it will put real criminals behind bars and protect people more effectively from one of the most traumatic assaults imaginable: rape. The grants provided to States and local governments will allow them to significantly reduce or eliminate their backlogs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. By using a national DNA database, it helps them identify criminals.

The bill that Mr. POE and I passed earlier this year, the SAFER Act, will direct that 75 percent of this money go directly for the backlog. It is roughly \$113 million. It is important. It is a moral imperative to eliminate the rape backlog so that women will not be victimized simply because their government failed to act and failed to process this important evidence.

This is an important day. I urge my colleagues to unanimously pass this bill and move it to the Senate and unanimously pass it there.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, the chairman and ranking member of the full committee, and Mrs. MALONEY for their leadership.

I was on the Crime Subcommittee as this bill was introduced. I was eager to see it work its will in that early timeframe in the backdrop of the courage of Debbie Smith. I also recognize Natasha Alexenko, who I understand is a constituent of Mr. SCOTT. Those were the early days in 2001 when we were finding out all over the Nation that rape kits were actually lost. My city was no different.

This is an important reauthorization because of the grant programs that are provided. In particular, the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act authorizes \$151 million in grants for State and local DNA labs to address DNA backlogs. As I indicated, in my own hometown, we were faced with backlogs and lost kits as well.

The DNA training and technical assistance is extremely important, helping law enforcement, courts, and forensic scientists. For DNA training and technical assistance, \$30 million is directed to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs.

There is nothing more lonely than to be raped and then, on top of it, not see your case pursued.

I want to thank the Houston Area Women's Center, which involves itself in sexual violence against women, as well as Kathryn Griffin, who has worked with prostitutes and others who have actually been raped.

In Houston, decades-old rape kits that sat untested have identified at least one-third of potential offenders in cases where there was sufficient DNA, according to the Houston Police Department. And I congratulate the city of Houston. Combined with dollars from the Debbie Smith Reauthorization and the city's own investment, we now have a new DNA lab that is open and ready for business to ensure that the victims of crime and sexual assault are not left along the highway of despair. In my district alone, 6,600 rape kits have been cleared as of August 2013. That is an important step forward.

I also look forward to continuing to work on issues dealing with DNA of those who involve themselves in human trafficking in a national database.

I also want to give another reason why this is extremely important. As I left Houston, in my own congressional district, we found that, unfortunately, the State of Texas decided to put 23 violent sexual offenders in a neighborhood in what is called a halfway house.

Those individuals are at the back side of their incarceration. Mr. Speaker, I would say that it is a dangerous set of circumstances when these individuals will be among children and women and be without the necessary security in a neighborhood.

And so this DNA for rape kits is one aspect of the need that is being addressed in helping women, again, not feel lonely and left without refuge and the ability to access justice.

I support H.R. 4323. I ask my colleagues to support it, and remember there is a larger and broader picture we must look at in order to address the violence against women.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of both the Judiciary Committee and a co-sponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4323, the "Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2014," which reauthorizes three grant programs to address DNA backlogs and provide DNA training and technical assistance on local, state, and federal levels.

It is essential that these programs be reauthorized so that the backlog of unprocessed rape kits can be reduced and then eliminated and perpetrators of sexual assault crimes can be prosecuted and convicted.

There is an ever-present need to continue robust funding for programs such as the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program in order to make sure victims do not fall through the cracks of the system.

Women who have been raped have a right to expect police to thoroughly investigate the case and prosecute the offenders; however, many rape kits across the country are never even tested, and the perpetrators never face justice.

Mr. Speaker, the number of backlogged DNA samples was in excess of 100,000 nationwide as recently as January 2010.

H.R. 4323 reauthorizes for four years (until the end of fiscal year 2019) the following programs:

1. "Debbie Smith Reauthorization" (\$151 million/fiscal year): grants for state and local DNA crime laboratories to address DNA backlogs and enhance their capacity.

2. DNA training and technical assistance (\$12.5 million/fiscal year): directed to law enforcement, courts, forensic scientists, and corrections.

3. DNA training and technical assistance (\$30 million/fiscal year): directed to sexual assault nurse examiner ("SANE") programs.

In my congressional district, these grant programs have resulted in forensic laboratories being hired to clear much of the Houston Police Department's backlog of untested DNA benefit from this type of legislation.

Just within the past year, decades-old rape kits that sat untested in Houston have identified at least one-third of potential offenders in cases where there was sufficient DNA, according to the Houston Police Department.

In my district more than 6,600 rape kits have been cleared as of August 2013 because of the funding made possible by the grant programs that H.R. 4323 will reauthorize. This record of success highlights the importance and continuing need to provide adequate funding so law enforcement agencies can conduct necessary DNA testing and training.

Mr. Speaker, the DNA Initiative is an invaluable tool for law enforcement today, and it will continue to be a legislative priority of mine. That is why I am pleased to co-sponsor H.R. 4323 and urge my colleagues to join me in voting to approve this critically important legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to encourage my colleagues to support the reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act. I thank my colleague from Virginia for his support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I recognize the many people who have worked very hard to bring us to the reauthorization today of this important legislation.

I particularly want to thank Congresswoman MALONEY for her leadership from the original legislation to today. Congresswoman KAREN BASS of California unfortunately could not be with us for this debate this evening, but she has played a role as the lead cosponsor of this legislation. I thank the ranking member of the full committee and the ranking member of the Crime Subcommittee, Mr. CONYERS and Mr. SCOTT, for their hard work on this as well.

I certainly thank the chairman of the Crime Subcommittee, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, for his contribution, as well as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for his work in this area on this and other legislation affecting crimes against women.

Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation that will help avoid many, many future victims. I really thank Debbie Smith and Natasha Alexenko for being with us when we talked about this issue this afternoon. I want to thank them for their courage in speaking out about it. They are not only helping to have a better understanding on the part of the public of the nature of this problem, but they are actually helping to fight crime.

This Congress will be helping to fight crime when we get these perpetrators of these horrific events much, much more quickly than these multiyear delays that we have heard about tonight. We need to get them quickly. We need to prosecute the guilty. We need to exonerate the innocent and put the guilty ones in prison, where they cannot perpetrate more of these crimes. Some of them are out on the streets for additional years perpetrating multitudinous crimes. This is a serious problem. It will save the taxpayers money by reducing the amount of crime that is perpetrated in our society.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4323.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1820

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1872 will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. DeLauro moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1872, as reported, to the Committee on the Budget with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following new title:

TITLE IV—EQUAL PAY AND PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS

SEC. 401. EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN AND PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS FROM HIGHER LOAN COSTS.

(a) **EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN.**—This Act shall not take effect until the female-to-male earnings ratio of full-time, year-round workers is at least 100 percent, as reported by the Bureau of the Census pursuant to the data collected from any Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

(b) **PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS.**—This Act shall not apply to any loan for a small business, student, agriculture, or for veterans' housing if such Act increases the cost of such loan and credit programs for small businesses and consumers due to the elimination or reduction of Federal support.

Ms. DELAURO (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Connecticut?

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, this is a final amendment to the bill. It will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

This amendment works to end pay discrimination against women, and it helps to ensure a very simple principle, one I hope that everyone in this body agrees with: men, women, same job, same pay, because it is true in this body.

Tomorrow is the dubious milestone of Equal Pay Day, the day a women's earnings catch up to what a man made last year. We are now over 3 full months into 2014. Women should not have to work an extra quarter of a year to be paid what they are due.

My amendment would postpone the effective date of the bill under consideration until Congress has worked to close this pay gap. It also ensures that this act does not increase the cost of loan and credit programs for small businesses, students, farmers, and veterans as a result of an elimination or reduction of Federal support.

Paycheck discrimination is not a partisan issue. It affects every woman. It affects every family in America. Nearly 60 years ago, a Republican President, Dwight Eisenhower, told the Congress that "legislation to apply the principle of equal pay for equal work without discrimination because of sex is a matter of simple justice."

Over 50 years ago, Congress came together in a bipartisan fashion to pass the Equal Pay Act and end what President Kennedy called "the serious and endemic problem of unequal wages."

In 2014, women are still making 77 cents on average for every dollar made by a man. This wage gap is only closing at a rate of less than one-half a cent a year. That means we still have 40 more years before women will get paid what they deserve for the same work.

Families cannot afford to wait that long. They should not have to. That is why we just saw the Republican-controlled Senate in New Hampshire pass a paycheck fairness bill unanimously because this is an issue of simple fairness—same job, same pay—that affects everyone.

Women are half the workforce in America today, two-thirds of the primary breadwinners in American families. The poverty rate among women is

as high as it has been in 17 years. Women have less retirement security, less protection on their pension, and more reliance on Social Security, but they receive lower payments because of this continuing wage gap.

As a result, two-thirds of seniors living in poverty today in the United States of America are women. These disproportionate financial pressures that women are facing are very much a product of this wage gap.

According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, women lose \$11,000 in income every year as a result of pay discrimination. This pay gap has not budged in a decade. For women of color, it is even worse. African American women make only 62 cents as compared to the average White male; Hispanic women, only 54 cents.

The pay gap holds true across occupations and education levels. This is not just a problem for women. Less pay for women means less income. That affects an entire family. Two-income households are already struggling.

This is not a partisan issue. Unequal pay affects families all across our country. What are they trying to do? Pay their bills, achieve the American Dream, and they are getting less take-home pay for their hard work.

We have heard it from AnnMarie DuChon in Massachusetts. She found out years into her job that the university she worked for was paying men more for the same work.

Terri Kelly in Tennessee only discovered she was making less than she deserved because her husband held the exact same job, and she saw his paycheck.

ReShonda Young of Iowa discovered that her own father was paying women less when she went to work in the family business. This is real.

Both Republicans and Democrats agree that people doing the same job should receive the same pay. This amendment reaffirms our commitment to this basic principle.

It also says that we are not going to force small businesses and consumers, who are working hard, playing by the rules, and trying to make a better future for themselves, to pay more because of their skill.

Mr. Speaker, we made an enormous difference for women and families when we passed the Affordable Care Act in March 2010. We said to insurance companies: you cannot charge women more than men.

That is the law of the land today. It is real, it is being implemented, and it is happening right now. Now, we should build on that.

Let us make sure that employers cannot pay women less for the same job. This makes all the difference in their lives and the lives of their families. I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, a number of questions come to my mind after just hearing the sponsor of the motion. They don't necessarily go in this order.

One is: Why does she want to hide from the American public the actual facts of what they are doing to the American public, as far as spending the taxpayers' money?

The second question that comes to mind is: Why, when the opportunity was given to the other side of the aisle to work with us, to amend the bill or change the bill on those areas that they disagree with on its merits, why did they instead come with this proposal, this motion on the floor totally extraneous to the underlying message and purpose of the bill?

□ 1830

Mr. Speaker, many times we come to the floor and people say that the bill before us is a commonsense piece of legislation. Well, I am going to say it again because this is a commonsense piece of legislation. The underlying bill, maybe we should have had a different name to it. Maybe if we simply called the bill what it is, the "Knowing What You Are Spending Bill," then the other side of the aisle would have agreed with us, wrapped their arms around the bill and us and said let's move forward, because who can disagree with actually know what you are spending?

That is all this bill does. It doesn't eliminate any programs; it doesn't cut any programs; and it doesn't diminish any programs. All it does is allow Congress and the American public to understand what we are spending and what the costs are to the various programs that both sides of the aisle support.

The proponent just now of the motion didn't get into the weeds at all. But let me just, for those just coming to the floor, remind them of what the major provisions of the underlying bill do. There are a number of them. I will give you three highlights.

First and foremost, it brings Federal budgeting in line with what the private sector has already been doing for a long time. It requires the executive branch and Congress to use something called fair value accounting when estimating the cost of Federal credit programs. What does that mean? Again, it just means that, when we spend American taxpayers' dollars, we have to let the taxpayers know how much it is actually costing.

This is not just my idea. This is what the private sector has been doing. This is even what the nonpartisan CBO, Congressional Budget Office, says we should be doing as well.

The second point is it brings Fannie and Freddie on budget. Why do we do that? To recognize the enormous and potential budgetary impact that these housing-related enterprises can and have had on our government. I don't think I have to remind either side of the aisle that they have cost upwards to \$187 billion in taxpayer dollars to get it done, and we want to make sure it is on the budget so we can see it clearly.

Thirdly and lastly, this bill would require agencies to make public the budgetary justification for the materials prepared in support of their programs. What is that saying? It just means that, if you have an agency out there that wants to spend your tax dollars, they have to have the justification for it.

I think those are three honest and fair proposals that the American public has a right to know. We can continue to help the poor; we can continue to have ag programs; we can continue to have energy programs; and we can continue to have programs that facilitate housing in this country. But as we do on those programs that we both agree on, let's make sure that we are being honest with the American public and telling them and knowing what it actually costs.

For that reason, I recommend a "no" on this motion to recommit that would eliminate that possibility for transparency, accountability, and openness, and a "yes" on the final passage of the legislation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 179, nays 217, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 165]

YEAS—179

Barber	Butterfield	Cleaver
Barrow (GA)	Capps	Clyburn
Beatty	Capuano	Cohen
Becerra	Carney	Connolly
Bera (CA)	Carson (IN)	Conyers
Bishop (GA)	Cartwright	Courtney
Bishop (NY)	Castor (FL)	Crowley
Blumenauer	Castro (TX)	Cuellar
Bonamici	Chu	Cummings
Brady (PA)	Cielline	Davis (CA)
Braley (IA)	Clark (MA)	Davis, Danny
Brownley (CA)	Clarke (NY)	DeGette
Bustos	Clay	Delaney

Maloney,	Pingree (ME)	Sires
Carolyn	Pocan	Slaughter
Maloney, Sean	Polis	Smith (WA)
Matheson	Price (NC)	Speier
Matsui	Rahall	Swalwell (CA)
McCarthy (NY)	Rangel	Takano
McCollum	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (CA)
McDermott	Ruiz	Thompson (MS)
McGovern	Ruppersberger	Tierney
McNerney	Rush	Titus
Meng	Ryan (OH)	Tonko
Michaud	Sánchez, Linda	Tsongas
Miller, George	T.	Van Hollen
Moore	Sanchez, Loretta	Vargas
Nadler	Sarbanes	Veasey
Napolitano	Schakowsky	Vela
Negrete McLeod	Schiff	Velázquez
Nolan	Schneider	Walz
O'Rourke	Scott (VA)	Waters
Pallone	Scott, David	Waxman
Pascrell	Serrano	Welch
Pelosi	Sewell (AL)	Wilson (FL)
Peters (MI)	Shea-Porter	Yarmuth
Peterson	Sherman	

NOT VOTING—36

Barr	Gingrey (GA)	Pastor (AZ)
Bass	Gohmert	Payne
Black	Griffin (AR)	Perlmutter
Brown (FL)	Gutiérrez	Richmond
Buchanan	Hanna	Schock
Campbell	Harris	Schwartz
Cárdenas	Keating	Stewart
Carney	Larson (CT)	Visclosky
Carter	McAllister	Wasserman
DeFazio	Meeks	Schultz
Denham	Miller, Gary	Moran
Diaz-Balart	Moran	Westmoreland
Fincher	Neal	

□ 1904

Mr. ELLISON changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY AS PART OF THE COMMEMORATION FOR THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 90, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 90

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY.

Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on April 30, 2014, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. Physical prepara-

tions for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. CON. RES. 94

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Washington, Mr. DENNY HECK, be removed as a cosponsor from H. Con. Res. 94.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

SHANNON MELENDI'S DEATH STINGS, 20 YEARS LATER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share some words written by Anne Vasquez about the tragic loss of a teen from my Miami high school:

Shannon Melendi and I became fast friends. Tears still sting my eyes when I think of the final chapters of Shannon's short life.

At 19, a sophomore at Emory, she disappeared on a Saturday afternoon lunch break from her job at a softball field in suburban Atlanta.

The year was 1994. It would be another painful 12 years before the suspect confessed.

Shannon's body was never found. No funeral, no official moment to mourn. The last 20 years have unfolded in surreal fashion.

A smart 19-year-old with quick wit, the president of her high school senior class, an aspiring lawyer, a champion debater, the daughter of present and caring parents—it can happen to anyone, anywhere.

Indeed.

Thank you, Anne. Shannon, we'll always remember you.

A THREAT TO LIBERTY IN UKRAINE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, a threat to liberty anywhere is a threat to liberty everywhere.

Freedom's bell rings now for nations around our world to choose between the fledgling democracy of Ukraine or the dictatorship of Russia.

As the Russian bear eats its way through Ukraine's easternmost regions with abandon, the scene seems almost surreal as the world waits while Putin's pushes his illegal aggregation further.

The questions for freedom loving nations are:

Who defines freedom's edge for Ukraine? Surely, not Russia. Where does the edge of defiance stop? And who will push the bear back in its cage?

Aggressor Putin says he will send Russian peacekeeping forces to the nation he has just invaded illegally. That would be a line for "Saturday Night Live" if it were not so real.

When the Budapest Accords were signed in 1994 and Ukraine voluntarily gave up the third-largest cache of nuclear weapons on Earth, it was left defenseless, but was promised by our government, the United Kingdom, and Russia to respect the independence, sovereignty, and existing borders of Ukraine.

So let me ask our government, the United Kingdom, and Russia: Do words mean anything, or were they merely artful conveniences at the time?

Now, let me ask NATO nations: Where is the edge of liberty you will defend?

THE CAMEL STATUE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the United States State Department is on an art spending spree.

First, it spent \$1 million for a granite statue at the London Embassy. It is modern art. It looks like a stack of bricks.

Now it has spent \$400,000 for a statue of a camel that will be sent to the Embassy in Pakistan. Is this really necessary? I mean, a camel?

This is an example of spending somebody else's money. This ought to be embarrassing to the State Department.

Mr. Speaker, there is more.

This is the same State Department that the inspector general has recently said has lost or misplaced \$6 billion. The State Department cannot account for this money. Where, oh, where has the taxpayer money gone? If any business lost \$6 billion its shareholders would be mad and want answers. But the government gives no answers, and what money it has it wastes on camel statues.

Congress should pass my bipartisan bill with Mr. CONNOLLY, the Foreign Aid Accountability Act, and make the State Department account for the money it spends, otherwise more lost money, more camel statues, more art spending sprees.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1915

AMERICA'S MORAL COMPASS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I have always viewed the budget document that is produced by this House

and the Senate and the President as a moral compass of America's commitment to her people.

That is why I rise with such great disappointment on the Republican Ryan budget in that today, as we speak in the Rules Committee, we are gutting investments in education, scientific research, advanced manufacturing. We are cutting from those vital transportation investments by over \$52 billion when we have crumbling highways and crumbling dams and crumbling infrastructure. We are slashing \$145 billion from the very heart of our children's opportunity for education out of the Pell grants, providing millionaires with over \$200,000 in a tax break, ending Medicare as we know it by vouchering it—almost like the privatization of Social Security—and cutting Medicaid by \$732 billion, then ending the opportunity for Americans to have access to affordable health care, preventative health care, so as to be able to allow those who need health care to have it—to avoid being a third world country.

There are 25 million Americans who need access to health care. Let's get a better moral document and reject this present Republican budget.

IN RECOGNITION OF TROOPS TO THE TRACK

(Mr. GUTHRIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Troops to the Track's fifth anniversary.

A partnership between the Armed Forces Foundation and NASCAR, Troops to the Track is a recreational group therapy program for service-members, veterans, and their families. Now in its fifth year, Troops to the Track has reached more than 2,000 individuals since its inception. I am humbled to be part of this initiative.

Last year, I was honored to join participating soldiers and their families from the 19th Engineer Battalion at Fort Knox for last year's Quaker State 400 at the Kentucky Speedway.

I would like to commend the Armed Forces Foundation and NASCAR for joining together in the creation of this important partnership and in giving our troops the recognition they so richly deserve.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PAYMENTS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, the United States Department of Agriculture announced that over \$300 million would soon be paid out to States through the Secure Rural Schools program in order to compensate for the lost local revenue because of a lack of timber harvesting in national forests.

Last year, the administration decided to retroactively apply 2013 sequestration cuts to the 2012 SRS funds, and it requested the repayment of \$17.9 million that has already been distributed to States and counties. This decision immediately sparked bipartisan opposition, prompting the House Committee on Natural Resources to conduct an investigation into the administration's legally questionable actions. The investigation found that the White House ordered the sequestration cuts for the SRS program and that the administration chose to apply the reductions in a manner that made certain that all Secure Rural Schools counties felt the hurt.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad the administration chose against playing more politics with this program at the expense of our rural communities, including those which I represent in the Allegheny National Forest, but in the long run, rural communities wouldn't need additional funding through this program if we actually harvested the proper levels of timber on these taxpayer-owned lands.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DANIEL FERGUSON

(Mr. ROONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant First Class Daniel Ferguson.

Sergeant Ferguson grew up in Polk County, Florida, where he attended Mulberry High School and played tight end for the football team. He was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. His classmates and teachers remember him fondly as a person of great character, kindness, and respect.

After graduating, he joined the Army in 1993. He served with distinction in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait, earning a Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, and five Army Commendation Medals, amongst many others. He returned from Afghanistan last year.

Last week, on April 2, Sergeant Ferguson was shot and killed on Fort Hood in a tragedy that left three killed and 16 more wounded.

On behalf of the people of the 17th District of Florida and Florida's heartland, I send my deepest condolences to the family of Sergeant First Class Ferguson as well as to the families of Sergeant Carlos Rodriguez and Sergeant Timothy Owens.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2030

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS) at 8 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 96, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 11, 2014, THROUGH APRIL 25, 2014

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-405) on the resolution (H. Res. 544) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, and providing for proceedings during the period from April 11, 2014, through April 25, 2014, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2014 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BELGIUM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 15 AND FEB. 20, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Michael Turner	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		1,870.00				3,188.00
Hon. Lois Frankel	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		9,755.00				11,073.00
Hon. Brett Guthrie	2/15	2/17	Belgium		947.00		2,510.00				3,457.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	2/15	2/20	Belgium		1,318.00		10,760.00				12,078.00
Hon. Rob Bishop	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		1,835.00				3,153.00
Hon. Tom Marino	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		8,105.00				9,423.00
Jeff Dressler	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		1,835.00				3,153.00
Janice Robinson	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		1,835.00				3,153.00
Marcus Micheli	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		1,835.00				3,153.00
Committee total					11,491.00		40,340.00				51,831.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER, Mar. 17, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5218. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Benzoic Acid [Docket No.: FDA-2012-F-1100] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5219. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Third Party Payment of Qualified Health Plan Premiums [CMS-9943-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AS28) received March 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5220. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — New Animal Drug Applications; Confidentiality of Data and Information in a New Animal Drug Application File [Docket No.: FDA-2014-N-0108] received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5221. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Vitamin D2 Bakers Yeast [Docket No.: FDA-2009-F-0570] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5222. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans; (Negative Declarations) for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont; Withdrawal of State Plan for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; New Hampshire; Technical Corrections to Approved State Plans (Negative Declarations): Rhode Island and Vermont [EPA-R01-OAR-2012-0707; A-1-FRL-9908-37-Region 1] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5223. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Heat-killed Burkholderia spp. Strain A396 Cells and Spent Fermentation Media; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0012; FRL-9907-41] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5224. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Ipconazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0796; FRL-9907-25] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5225. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Nevada; Infrastructure Requirements for Lead (Pb) [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0663; FRL-9908-09-Region 9] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5226. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Idaho State Implementation Plan; Approval of Fine Particulate Matter Control Measures; Franklin County [EPA-R10-OAR-2013-0002; FRL-9908-38-Region 10] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5227. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality: Revision to the Regulatory Definition of Volatile Organic Compounds — Exclusion of 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol (AMP) [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0775; FRL-9906-73-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR92) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5228. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; PSD Rules for PM_{2.5} [EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0646; FRL-9908-72-Region 5] received

March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5229. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Carbon Monoxide Second Limited Maintenance Plan for the Pittsburgh Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2012-0248; FRL-9908-48-Region 3] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5230. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Update of the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the Reading 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Maintenance Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0589; FRL-9908-50-Region 3] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5231. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0211; FRL-9908-46-Region 3] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5232. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Approval of the Redesignation Requests and the Associated Maintenance Plans of the Charleston Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual and the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0090; FRL-9908-88-Region 3] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5233. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Tennessee; Conflict of Interest [EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0285;

FRL-9909-01-Region 4] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5234. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Commonwealth of Virginia; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0164; FRL-9908-89-Region 3] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5235. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans Texas; Revisions to the Minor New Source Review (NSR) State Implementation Plan (SIP); Types of Standard Permits, State Pollution Control Project Standard Permit and Control Methods for the Permitting of Grandfathered and Electric Generating Facilities [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0191; FRL-9908-27-Region 6] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5236. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of States' Requests to Relax the Federal Reid Vapor Pressure Volatility Standard in Florida, and the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill and Greensboro/Winston-Salem/High Point Areas in North Carolina [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0787; FRL-9908-13-OAR] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5237. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clomazone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0056; FRL-9907-62] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5238. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Forchlorfenuron; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0011; FRL-9907-47] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5239. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Kraft Pulp Mills NSPS Review [EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0640; FRL-9907-37-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR64) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5240. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Propiconazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0051; FRL-9907-05] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5241. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0171; FRL-9908-25-Region 9] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5242. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Maricopa [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0576; FRL-9904-75-Region 9] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5243. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — S-metolachlor; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0926; FRL-9907-61] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5244. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; (GSAR); Electronic Contracting Initiative (ECI) [(Change 56); GSAR Case 2012-G501; Docket No. 2013-0006; Sequence No. 1] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5245. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Individual Fishing Quota Program [Docket No.: 120416009-4095-02] (RIN: 0648-BB78) received March 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5246. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Commercial, Limited Entry Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Program Improvement and Enhancement; Correction [Docket No.: 130528511-4171-03] (RIN: 0648-BD31) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5247. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Amendment 14 [Docket No.: 100120035-4085-03] (RIN: 0648-AY26) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5248. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2014 and 2015 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XC895) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5249. A letter from the Acting Deputy, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 121009528-2729-02] (RIN: 0648-XD116) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5250. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

tion, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollack in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD158) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5251. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XD148) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5252. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Golden Tilefish Longline Component [Docket No.: 12040257-3325-02] (RIN: 0648-XD118) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5253. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No.: 130312235-3658-02] (RIN: 0648-XD117) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5254. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD160) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5255. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish Managed Under the Individual Fishing Quota Program [Docket No.: 111207737-2141-02 and 1112113751-2102-02] (RIN: 0648-XD159) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5256. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XD133) received March 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5257. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Change to Start of Pacific Sardine Fishing Year [Docket No.: 130822744-4144-02]

(RIN: 0648-BD63) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5258. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Highly Migratory Species; Withdrawal of Emergency Regulations Related to the Deepwater Horizon MC252 Oil Spill [Docket No.: 100510220-4111-06] (RIN: 0648-AY87 and 0648-AY90) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5259. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalties [Docket ID: OSM-2013-0003; S1D1S SS08011000 SX066A00067F 134S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX066A00 33F 13XS501520] (RIN: 1029-AC67) received March 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5260. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Adjustments to Civil Penalty Amounts received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5261. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0984; FRL-9904-83-Region 9] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5262. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — VA Dental Insurance Program-Federalism (RIN: 2900-AO85) received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

5263. A letter from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program: Changes Related to the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (RIN: 2900-AO87) received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

5264. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Disclosures to Participate in State Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (RIN: 2900-AO45) received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4323. A bill to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-404). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 544. Resolution providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, and providing for proceedings during the period from April 11, 2014, through April 25, 2014 (Rept. 113-405). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 4411. A bill to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALAZZO (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 4412. A bill to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 4413. A bill to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CARNEY (for himself, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. DENT, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. KIND, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. ESTY, Mr. MATHEWSON, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. BARBER, and Ms. HANABUSA):

H.R. 4414. A bill to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 4415. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of

such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Mr. BARBER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 4416. A bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 161 Live Oak Street in Miami, Arizona, as the "Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4417. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to determine the suitability and feasibility of entering into public-private partnerships to operate federally owned golf courses in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 4418. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase access to Medicare data; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H. Res. 545. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should adopt and use accrual basis generally accepted accounting principles for Government budgeting, financial reporting, and performance evaluation purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

180. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, relative to House Resolution No. 340 commending Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and Ohio; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

181. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1006 urging the Congress to provide full, sustainable funding for the PILT program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

182. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Ohio, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 5 urging the Congress to propose a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 4411.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of Article I

By Mr. PALAZZO:

H.R. 4412.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 4413.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The ability to regulate interstate commerce and with foreign Nations pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 includes the power to regulate commodity prices by insuring fair, open and transparent commodity futures and swap markets and the practices affecting them.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 4414.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, CLAUSE 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 4415.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 4416.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 (18) To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4417.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 2 of section 3 of article IV of the Constitution.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 4418.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. TERRY and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 10: Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 32: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 78: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CARTER, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. BARR, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CULBERSON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DOG-

GETT, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HALL, Mr. BARTON, Mr. FLORES, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VELA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. HOYER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Ms. PELOSI.

H.R. 270: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 411: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 460: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 498: Mr. FLEMING and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 523: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 524: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 543: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 683: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 713: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 718: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. HUELKAMP, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 808: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 886: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1070: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1146: Mr. FORBES and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1199: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 1281: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1354: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1428: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1508: Mr. DELANEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 1563: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 1652: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 1696: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 1698: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1795: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1843: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 2415: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 2510: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 2619: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2648: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 2662: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 2707: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2727: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 2807: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 2935: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2939: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. JONES, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. STEWART, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. TERRY, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 3055: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 3240: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 3335: Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 3339: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 3395: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 3461: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 3470: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 3529: Mr. GARDNER.

H.R. 3530: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 3539: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 3546: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 3580: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 3600: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3717: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 3723: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 3725: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 3776: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 3852: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 3864: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 3877: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 3921: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3929: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 3930: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3933: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

H.R. 3992: Mr. COOK and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 3996: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 4031: Mrs. ROBY, Mr. HURT, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 4045: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 4060: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 4103: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 4157: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 4158: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

H.R. 4187: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 4219: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 4225: Mr. FORBES, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 4227: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 4241: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 4250: Mr. FORBES, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. LANCE, and Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 4261: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 4305: Ms. CHU and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 4321: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 4323: Mr. GARCIA and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 4330: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 4336: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 4342: Mr. KLINE and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 4344: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 4348: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 4357: Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. COOK, Mr. LANCE, Mr. JONES, Mr. COLE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 4366: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 4370: Mr. NUNES, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 4396: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 4399: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 4407: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H. J. Res. 20: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H. J. Res. 25: Mr. NOLAN and Mr. ENYART.

H. J. Res. 34: Ms. MENG.

H. J. Res. 110: Mr. HUELKAMP, Mr. OLSON, Mr. LONG, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H. Con. Res. 86: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H. Res. 148: Ms. SPEIER.
H. Res. 190: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H. Res. 440: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. MCCARTHY of

New York, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H. Res. 480: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H. Res. 494: Mr. DEFazio, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. MULVANEY.
H. Res. 509: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. SCHOCK.
H. Res. 519: Mr. TIERNEY.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H. Con. Res. 94: Mr. HECK of Washington.

SENATE—Monday, April 7, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of life, hear our prayers. Fill us with Your spirit so that we may please You. Today, empower our lawmakers. Help them not to have an excessive focus on temporary things while ignoring the eternal. May their lives bring glory and honor to Your Name as they receive Your approbation for their faithfulness. Lord, create in them humble and contrite hearts that are willing to serve You and humanity. Shelter them in their coming in and going out, so that You can use them to advance the work of Your kingdom.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Repub-

lican leader, if there are any, the Senate will be in morning business until 5 p.m.

At 5 p.m. the Senate will resume H.R. 3979, as amended, the unemployment insurance extension, postcloture.

At 5:30 p.m. there will be a rollcall vote and passage of that legislation.

SPONSORING AMERICANS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, NASCAR fans can easily find their favorite drivers simply by looking at the cars as they fly by because of corporate emblems on the hood of the car. In fact, they are all over the car. For our clothing here in the Senate, we don't bear any commercial logos. Many Republican leaders these days may as well wear the Koch Industries insignia, but as Members of the Senate, there should never be any doubt as to our sponsors—the American people.

We are in the Senate for one reason: To give Americans a fair shot at providing for their families and having their voices heard, but Republicans seem more willing to identify themselves by their billionaire sponsors. While they don't wear Koch Industries ties and jackets, they display their sponsors proudly through their actions in the Senate. So it comes as no surprise Republican Senators stood on the Senate floor and voiced their support for Charles and David Koch. Senate Republicans depend on the Koch brothers to make their job easier.

I appreciate the forthrightness of those who expressed their support of the Koch brothers. The chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee came to this floor praising the richest brothers in the world. If Charles and David Koch helped Republican Members in this Chamber, they should not be ashamed to defend the Kochs' power. If the Koch brothers have bankrolled efforts to keep Senators in their seats, those Members should publicly acknowledge their providers.

If my Republican colleagues find my criticism of the Kochs' shadowy influence unjust, they should take their case to the American people. Senate Republicans should come to the Senate floor and take up the cause of the persecuted multibillionaires, but Senate Republicans shouldn't expect Americans to be easily fooled into ignoring the fact that the Koch brothers are trying to sweep middle-class families under the rug.

Regardless of the words Charles Koch espouses, for example, in his Wall Street Journal op-ed last week, he and

his brother don't have the interests of average Americans in mind. They have in mind increasing their wealth and hiding their efforts behind words such as dignity, respect, equality, and freedom. That ran throughout the column they wrote.

Dignity? What about the dignity of struggling, long-term unemployed families? The Koch brothers continue closing plants and laying off employees in Alaska, Arkansas, North Carolina, and other places, devastating the economies in those communities. Americans need a fair shot at getting back on their feet and finding work, but Koch-backed groups are actively opposing the extension of benefits for the long-term unemployed.

What about the dignity of a single mother from Las Vegas, Christina, who is stuck living in her elderly grandmother's living room because she and her son were evicted when Christina's benefits were cut off? Perhaps Charles and David Koch should spend their nights sharing one air mattress, as Christina and her son do, and see what dignity there is living as Christina and her boy do. The Koch brothers want Americans to be dignified as they lose their cars and homes and security.

The Koch brothers hide behind words such as "respect." What about treating the American voter with respect? Instead, the Koch brothers have dumped hundreds of millions of dollars in dishonest ads about health care reform, trying to fool American families into thinking that affordable health care is bad for them. It is good for them. If the Affordable Care Act was so awful, why did Koch Industries use it to their advantage? Koch Industries applied for and participated in the temporary program called the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program, part of the Affordable Care Act. This program helped the company Koch Industries pay health insurance costs to retirees who were not covered by Medicare. In other words, the government helped subsidize health care which Koch Industries promised to its retiring employees. So it is OK for Koch Industries to save money through ObamaCare, but if an American family wants a fair shot at health care, they risk being labeled as collectivists. That was all through the article, the op-ed piece, "collectivists." Is that the new rightwing buzz word for Communists? That doesn't sound like respect to me.

The Kochs throw around phrases such as "equality under the law." What about equality for hard-working American women? Yet the Republicans in Congress who carry water for the

Kochs are actively campaigning against legislation that will ensure that women are paid equally with their male counterparts for doing the exact same work.

I have a daughter. I have four sons. My daughter, if she does the same work as any of my four boys, should be paid the same as they are, but that isn't how it is in America. She is paid only 76 or 77 cents on the dollar for what men make doing the same work.

One of the Koch organizations is ironically called the Independent Women's Forum. They do this all the time. They fund money for the Chamber of Commerce, many other organizations, but one of their organizations is called the Independent Women's Forum, which is making the argument that the disparity between men's and women's salaries is a myth. But this tactic shouldn't surprise anyone, given the Republicans' utter disregard for women that is on display here in Washington.

We are going to vote on Wednesday on a fair pay piece of legislation, simply saying women should get the same amount of money a man does doing the same work—not too absurd, not too radical. That is what we are trying to do. I repeat. This tactic shouldn't surprise anyone, given the Republicans' disregard for women that is on display here in Washington.

For example, on one of the Sunday shows yesterday comments were made by former Director of the CIA Michael Hayden, who was there for a long time. In responding to the Senate Intelligence Committee's attempts to shed light on the CIA's questionable interrogation methods, General Hayden condescendingly accused DIANNE FEINSTEIN of being too emotional. How about that—DIANNE FEINSTEIN being too emotional. This woman has been an outstanding leader of the Senate Intelligence Committee. She has been fearless. She has been thorough and fair. For this man to say that because she criticizes tactics led by General Hayden as torture she was too emotional—I don't think so. Does this sound like a person or a party who respects women? So much for equality under the law as seen by the Koch brothers.

Finally, the Koch brothers claim they are fighting to restore a free society—also some buzz words: "Free society." Free in what way? They single-handedly turned the American electoral process into a pay-to-play scheme. The Koch brothers' endgame is to elect officials, to elect people who will help overhaul our system of government and replace it with something more to their liking to increase their wealth. Even though they are the richest people in the world, they want to be richer.

So I again extend the invitation to my colleagues, if you bear the logo of the Koch brothers, come on down and announce your affiliation openly. The

Koch brothers' agenda is an agenda that is not my agenda, it is not our agenda, but is it your agenda, my Republican friends? If it is, come and tell your constituents that is the case. Let this Nation know where you stand. As for we Democrats, we will continue to defend American families from these oil baron bullies who want nothing more than to enrich themselves. We will continue to oppose their efforts to buy our democracy because we work for America, not just rich Americans.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business for today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m. with Senators therein being permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have come to the floor today to discuss the opportunity we have as a nation to truly take a leadership role when it comes to responsible development of the Arctic region. As we discuss the great opportunities and the challenges that face us, I think it is fair to say that I will also be expressing some disappointment with the general lack of resources our Federal Government has invested in this important issue, including, just most recently, through the President's annual budget request.

Back in May 2013 the Obama administration released its "National Strategy for the Arctic Region." The national strategy was really designed to set forth this government's strategic priorities for the Arctic—pretty important to recognize what our priorities are going forward. While that might sound impressive—a national strategy for the Arctic region—what we ended up seeing was just an 11-page document, and it is really hard to describe it as strategic. Perhaps a more accurate description is that it was a glorified memo, a general outline, but there were a lot of gaps that needed to be filled.

Recognizing that this is a new area for us in terms of opportunities and, really, for vision, I was prepared to sit back and listen to what the administration had to say and work with them as they built this strategic vision. So when they released their implementation plan for the national strategy in late January, I was looking forward to it. I was looking forward to what had been gathered in meetings not only in Alaska—the State of Alaska is what makes the United States an Arctic nation—but it was broader than just Alaskans' input; it was input from so many of our agencies, so many of our departments. Yet, when the implementation of our national strategy was released, I have to admit that, again, I was underwhelmed.

I made certain the President and members of the administration knew my concerns, and I told him—these were my words when I wrote to him—my concern was that his plan does not offer a vision to make the United States a leader in the Arctic, particularly as we prepare for the chairmanship of the Arctic Council in May 2015, nor does it suggest that the Arctic is a national priority. Instead, the plan provides a snapshot of existing Arctic-related programs and projects with numerous assessments to be undertaken but no real path of action.

It was important to me as someone who cares very deeply about our role as an Arctic nation and our role not only within the confines of the Federal Government but our role going forward in the world among the other Arctic nations and truly all of the nations throughout our planet in terms of where the United States sits when it comes to our vision and our view for the Arctic.

The administration's plan would maintain our rather meager status quo in the Arctic while the other Arctic nations—the rest of the international community—seem to be devoting increasing amounts of resources to the region.

It would also leave the residents of the Far North—U.S. citizens up there in Alaska—out in the cold when it comes to the U.S. Government's own priorities. Rather than advance an agenda that will benefit those who live in the Arctic, they are, instead, regulated to being part of a science project for observation and conservation.

Let me give you an example of that.

One of the proposed initiatives within the implementation plan is to "Improve Arctic Community Sustainability, Well-being, and Cultural and Linguistic Heritage." I have to say, that is a pretty laudable goal. We certainly want to maintain, we certainly want to pass down the culture of our indigenous populations to future generations. We certainly want to improve their quality of life. Yet within this initiative, the administration has designated the Smithsonian Institution to

be the lead agency for this particular initiative. It is as if the people of the Far North—it is as if the Inuit, the Eskimo, the Aleut, the Yupik—are somehow or other people to be observed as part of a museum exhibit or perhaps placed under a glass bubble.

Combine this with the implementation plan's heavy emphasis on conservation, research into climate change, and preemption of development on State Native and Federal lands, and it is difficult for me to see any support by this administration for economic development, for job creation, or really for a better quality of life for the people who live in the Far North.

So again, when we talk about the "Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region," climate is absolutely an issue that needs to be discussed and addressed—absolutely. Development issues clearly need to be addressed. Conservation clearly needs to be addressed. But we have to remember there are people who live and raise their families and work up in the Arctic. So making sure we are thinking about them as we advance an implementation plan is key.

But even with the implementation plan being rolled out in January, I thought: OK, there is still not enough meat on the bones here for me to understand how we move forward with a set of priorities, a real vision for the Arctic. But I knew the President's budget was going to be coming out in March, and that is the opportunity for any President to establish his or her priorities when it comes to the budget.

So I held out hope that when we saw the fiscal year 2015 budget request that was where we would finally start to see some kind of a coherent strategy come together. I expected it would at least demonstrate the administration's desire to show some level of leadership in the Arctic. My office was told that part of the purpose of the implementation plan and the designation of lead and support agencies was to gain an ability to propose jointly supported Arctic projects that OMB would then deem important enough to be included in the budget request.

But, again, we looked through the budget, and I am disappointed, sorely disappointed. My immediate reaction to the budget request was we are seeing so much spending here through the budget proposal, but yet so very little attention paid to our needs and our opportunities in the Arctic.

A search of the 1,400-plus page detailed appendix for the administration's budget reveals only 5 requests—5 requests—for Arctic-related activity. Two are for longstanding programs that have been funded for many years. One is the U.S. Arctic Research Commission—very important—and then, of course, the North Pacific Research Board. Another is for international

fisheries work done through the Arctic Council. And the last two are for climate change-related activities. That is it. Five references—five references—out of a 1,400-plus page appendix for the budget speak to any Arctic-related activity.

Now, you may ask why I am disappointed, underwhelmed, perhaps a little bit agitated about where we are with advancing an implementation plan, a strategic vision for the Arctic. Well, in about a year from now, the United States will take over the chair of the Arctic Council. That chairmanship is currently held by Canada.

I have had opportunities to sit down with the chair of the Arctic Council, Leona Aglukkaq, who is from the Nunavut area, and talk about what Canada is doing to really lead in so many different areas when it comes to Arctic policy and Arctic strategy—not only for their nation but all the Arctic nations and beyond.

I look with a little bit of longing at how Canada has truly embraced their leadership role as an Arctic nation, not only with statements of intention that are backed up by real resources, but an appreciation for what the future can hold for the Arctic.

So over the last several weeks we have had our Appropriations subcommittees that are really starting to kick into gear here, and I have had the opportunity to ask several Cabinet members—Secretary Johnson from the Department of Homeland Security and Secretary Jewell from the Department of Interior—I have had a chance to ask both of them about their Departments' budget priorities for the Arctic and, specifically, the programs for which their Departments have been designated as the lead agency within this implementation plan for fiscal year 2015. And both Cabinet members have assured me, they have said, yes, the Arctic is a priority, it is important to the United States. But neither one of these Cabinet members could tell me what their Department's budget request contained for the Arctic. They have assured me they are going to be going back and seeing if they cannot fill in those details for me, but, to me, that is symbolic of the Arctic's overall standing within the administration. There are lots of good words when asked about it. Everyone is saying, yes, it should be a priority. But yet it does not seem to be important enough to be proactive on or to even be familiar with without prompting.

We all know that any President's budget request, regardless of party, is not likely to be enacted word for word, and, quite honestly, recognizing politics, more likely than not it is not going to be enacted at all. But if a budget request does signify something, it is the message, it is the signal of what the administration's priorities for that fiscal year and beyond are.

So it is apparent, at least in my view, that this administration is not willing to devote the resources necessary to make the Arctic a true priority. That, to me, is very shortsighted. I think it is a failure of leadership, a failure to think ahead and to take the long view.

I recognize, as we all do, that we are at a time of budget constraint and restraint, that there is competition for all dollars, as we look to make wise decisions here. But as we are setting priorities, as we are thinking toward the future and a longer term view, we have to ensure—we have to ensure—that the Arctic is placed as a priority. Some people would ask why we should care about it. Is this just an Alaska-specific issue? Are these just Alaska projects we are talking about? Why should the Arctic really matter to the United States?

First, the reality is that the Arctic is a relatively blank slate right now. It is not presently an area that is subject to longstanding disputes or entrenched views. Think about the significance of that. When you look at the Arctic, you have your eight Arctic nations around it, but whether it is Finland, Norway, Canada, the United States, Russia, the area that occupies the Arctic is not one that is known for conflict.

Think about the role Secretary Kerry has. He does not have to worry about hotspots in the Arctic in the sense of political hotspots. You just do not have those longstanding disputes. It is not a hotspot for potential conflict. It is, however, a region that is garnering increased international attention and recognition because of its tremendous potential, and it is generating cooperation amongst Arctic nations. Now, isn't that a concept—that something is actually generating cooperation?

Let me give you an example. I was at the 2013 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Sweden, and I was there with Secretary Kerry. When you think about the issues in front of our Secretary of State, at that time back in May, there was no shortage of differences and disagreements with the Russian Government at that moment. Yet at that ministerial meeting, we had Secretary of State Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov side by side signing a binding agreement on oilspill preparedness and response capabilities in the Arctic. But this was all going on while differences over Syria and U.S. Embassy spy charges were hanging over their heads. So despite all the other issues those two gentlemen were dealing with, they were able to come together in Sweden and join on to a joint document of cooperation among Arctic nations as it related to oilspill preparedness and response capabilities. From a foreign policy perspective, the Arctic is an area for cooperation and relationship building, and that is a good and a positive that we should look to build on.

From an economic perspective, our neighbors—Russia to the west and Canada to the east—continue with aggressive national plans that include state investment to develop northern resources and advance commerce in the region. They know—they know all too well—that this will help create jobs and economic growth in areas that face extraordinary challenges.

A recent report by the Norwegian Shipowners' Association shows that the regions bordering the Arctic Ocean are experiencing higher annual economic growth than the rest of their respective nations on average and are considered drivers for economic growth in the Arctic countries.

Russia's territorial claim to a large swath of the Arctic seabed received a boost when an area in the Sea of Okhotsk was recognized as part of its extended continental shelf by the same commission examining its Arctic claims. These are territorial claims that Russia is able to make because they are a party to the Convention of the Law of the Sea, while the United States is not.

I will just make a particular aside at this point in time that I have long been a proponent of the U.S. Senate ratifying the Convention on the Law of the Sea. As we engage in the Arctic, as we not only work on areas of cooperation, I think we need to ensure that we, as an Arctic nation, have a seat at the table on the issues that face the Arctic. While we sit on the sidelines, because we have failed to ratify the law of the sea, we miss out. We miss out.

Even non-Arctic nations are embracing the opportunities that come with diminished polar sea ice representing the transit benefits, conducting scientific research and moving ahead with resource exploration and development activities. Nations such as China, South Korea, and Japan each have icebreakers. China is in the process of constructing a second larger icebreaker. It is even India's intention to have an icebreaker by the end of 2016. Think how far India is from the Arctic.

You may ask the question: Well, where is the United States when it comes to its number of icebreakers?

We have one heavy icebreaker, the *Polar Star*. We have a second, the *Polar Sea*, which is going to effectively be mothballed. We have a medium breaker, the *Healy*, which is primarily used for research missions, and the useful life of the *Polar Star* is expected to be concluded in less than 10 years.

Right now, as I talk to those within the administration about the plans to move forward on a polar icebreaker, it is pretty dismal. The proposal thus far in the President's budget is that there will be \$6 million to advance, as far as studies go. We know we need a heavy polar-class icebreaker. In fact, we know we need three heavy icebreakers and three medium icebreakers. But it

is a big capital investment. It has not been made a priority. It is yet one of those initiatives that I think we look at from a shortsighted perspective by failing to place an imperative on it now.

Even Singapore—not exactly synonymous with the Arctic—has designated an Arctic ambassador and is actively participating in the Arctic Council and other Arctic-related forums around the globe.

So there are non-Arctic nations that are building ice-capable ships. There are non-Arctic nations that are asking to be observers in the Arctic Council. There are non-Arctic nations stepping forward and saying: We want to have an Arctic ambassador, somebody who is there as part of the discussions on issues in an area of the globe that is evolving so quickly; where there are so many opportunities; where there are challenges, yes, but where there are so many opportunities. We want to be part of that.

You would think the United States would not only jump in and say “me too,” but that we would be leading as one of the eight Arctic nations. This activity by other nations is going to continue—in fact, accelerate—regardless of whether the United States engages. But if we do engage, we will also benefit and we will also be in a better position to ensure that any development, that any commerce, that any activity is carried out safely and responsibly.

There is a lot of discussion about the energy potential, the potential for natural resource wealth and what that might bring to the Arctic. This is a map that shows the extent of the year-long ice in the Arctic. Setting aside the natural resource potential, which is in the range of 30 billion barrels of oil and 220 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the United States Arctic OCS alone—we recognize that the natural resource potential is significant, but it is not just about the natural resources. Let me give an example of the activity that is already underway in the Arctic, its impact on us here in the United States, and the opportunity our Nation has to embrace that potential.

With the decreasing amount of sea ice in the Arctic, we are seeing a corresponding increase in maritime activity.

So, again, this is a chart that shows the extent of the sea ice in the year 2000. So your sea ice is the whiter area, with your opportunities for maritime activity limited as you are moving through Canada here and even through Russia there.

This next chart shows the extent of the sea ice and vessel activity in the Arctic in 2011. So you can see increased activity is taking place where the sea ice used to be. So here is the sea ice now, but notice the passage you have transiting through the Bering Strait,

over the top of Alaska, through the Northwest Passage, and out over to Europe.

Notice also going through the Northern Sea Route from Russia over to the Baltic States. The colored lines you see are not necessarily oil and gas exploration ships; they are cargo ships, they are tankers, and they are icebreakers. They are fishing vessels, research vessels, passenger vessels, cruise ships, and others. So in a decade, what you are seeing is a level of maritime traffic that is really unprecedented—and unprecedented because we have not had the ability to transit in these waters because they were locked by ice for almost the full extent of the year.

So here is a closer look at the vessel activity in the Bering Strait region in 2013. So this is going to look like this amazing blur of color. But here we have Alaska. This is Russia. Where all of these lines seem to be converging, at the center here, is where we have Little Diomedes and Big Diomedes. Big Diomedes is owned by Russia, Little Diomedes is held by the United States, and 2.5 miles separates the two islands. In truth, we can see Russia from Little Diomedes. I was there last summer.

But when you appreciate that the distance between Alaska and Russia outside of the very narrow area between Big and Little Diomedes is just 57 miles—we have a 57-mile choke point here in the Bering Strait where we have incredible amounts of maritime commerce coming through: tankers, cargo ships, tugs, towing ships, passenger vessels, fishing vessels, search and rescue, military, law enforcement, and others. This is what we are seeing in the year 2013. Transits have doubled in the past 5 years.

The next chart comes from the recently released U.S. Navy Arctic Roadmap. This map shows the predicted sea ice coverage by the year 2030. So here we were at 2012 with the sea ice covering all of this. By 2020 it is shrinking. Here it is by 2025, by 2030. This is the predicted model for our sea ice coverage by 2030. We can see an even larger portion of the Arctic is expected to be open to maritime commerce.

The Navy predicts that the traffic through the Bering Strait will double again in the next 10 years. Again, that is going to happen whether or not the United States participates. Foreign vessels, if not American vessels, will be traveling across Alaska's western and northern coast. That is a given.

The last chart I have shows the Bering Strait as the gateway between the Pacific and the Arctic Oceans. Again, when we talk about Alaska, we are talking about its strategic geographic location, where it is on the globe. We are very proud of the military opportunities we have for amazing training ranges in Alaska when it comes to our assets in the air and on the ground.

But look at where Alaska sits in terms of its strategic location to not

only Asia—we are sitting literally halfway between Nagoya, Japan, and Seattle, Washington, when you are at Adak. It is just as easy for me to get to Japan as it is to get to Seattle if I go as the crow flies. Unfortunately, I do not have anything that will take me as the crow flies.

But I think it is important for us to recognize this: That whether it is passage over the Northwest Passage, which is still relatively problematic, the increased traffic we are seeing from the Northern Sea Route coming over Russia, or potentially the transpolar route at some point in time, everything funnels through the Bering Strait here—the 57 miles between Russia and the United States—and then has to exit or cut through the Aleutian chain here.

So when we think about where Alaska sits, we truly are the gateway between the Pacific and the Arctic Oceans. With the predicting of a doubling of vessel activity in the Arctic via the Bering Strait in the next 10 years, the time to develop the infrastructure and support capacity to handle this growing amount of traffic is now—actually, it was yesterday.

This is not a region that is devoid of activity, but it is a region that lacks adequate levels of investment, government resources, and attention. Deep-water ports, navigational aids, search and rescue capabilities, and ice-breakers are all needed now and, in addition, the basic charting of many of our Arctic waters, which some of us have recognized is seriously lacking. This is going to take a very collaborative effort across all of our agencies and working with our Arctic neighbors to achieve that.

With a vision, it is not difficult to see how we could have a transshipment facility developed in the Aleutian chain to capitalize on the intersection between the North Pacific great circle route and the three Arctic Sea routes. Imagine you have cargo that is transiting the Arctic from Europe, coming from the Northwest Passage or coming over the Northern Sea Route.

Imagine that cargo then being offloaded at Adak. Adak is a former Navy base and, quite honestly, the infrastructure that is there is—well, it is a little bit old—pretty amazing. You could then offload in either Adak or Unalaska and load that cargo onto ships transiting the North Pacific and to the west coast—and vice versa.

Ice-strengthened ships could be used entirely within the Arctic, rather than traveling all the way to Singapore or Hong Kong. It would save time, it would save money, and it would allow for an increased number of transits. I am looking at it and saying: This could be a real win, a win for consumers, a win for business, and a win for national security by being able to keep a closer eye on commerce traveling to the United States.

It is clear—I hope it is clear—that people recognize that we have such opportunity, we have such capacity for opportunity and growth within the Arctic. But we have to be careful, we have to be considerate, and we have to be sure that the necessary resources and infrastructure necessary are there.

The United States has never been last in a race to the future, but absent visionary leadership and meaningful resourcing, we will continue to take a back seat and fail to capitalize on all that the Arctic has to offer. We will miss out on resource development and shipping efficiencies and, in turn, new opportunities to create new jobs and generate needed economic growth.

I don't believe that we can afford to sit idle any longer, which means that it is time for our Federal Government and this administration to really start taking the Arctic seriously and dedicate the necessary resources to the region.

I don't mean to suggest that the efforts that have been made to date are not important. We have come quite far in the past few years, but you have to remember, we were starting from ground zero. There was nothing, really. We have made some strides, and it is important that we have these documents coming out of our agencies, and it is important that we have framework because it is on these that we will build. But I feel like I need to lend an air of urgency that it is not just about methodically chipping away year by year with yet another document—another strategy plan that will sit on the bookshelf.

I have a lot of those on the Arctic. I think many do. It is how we are a true participant in a level of engagement in a region that holds such excitement and such potential that nations around the world are turning their eyes northward with excitement and enthusiasm.

The United States should be leading with equal enthusiasm about what our opportunities hold.

I thank the Chair, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENSION

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss the vote that is about to occur on the unemployment benefits extension act. I have repeatedly said that the Senate should have a full and open debate on this important issue and that debate should include the opportunity for those of us in the

minority—and perhaps those in the majority—to offer amendments and changes that would represent the view of the people they represent in Congress. Those amendments could strengthen the bill, make it better, and perhaps make it something that the House could consider, since they have not taken up this legislation.

Clearly, for those who are truly in need and for those who have played by the rules, the issue of extended unemployment benefits is a legitimate issue for debate—and for many here, for passage. I have not only worked with my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle, but also with my Democratic colleagues, to secure two items which would give me a better sense of where we are going and would provide for better legislation—legislation that could perhaps work its way through the Congress and onto the President's desk.

One of those two items was a legitimate pay-for. We clearly have a fiscal situation where, if we can't offset new spending with spending on programs that have not proven their worth, then we are going to continue to spend more than we take in, continue to add to our national debt, and continue to trot down the precipitous road to a fiscal crisis—\$17 trillion-plus and counting, an ever-accumulating debt and continued unbalanced budgets. You can only run a business, a family or a government for so long when you do not make ends meet by having your revenues there to pay for your expenses. So having a legitimate pay-for was one of the criteria that I was trying to address along with my colleagues.

Secondly was reforms to the program. It was the President himself who publicly acknowledged that the unemployment insurance program needed reforms. There were abuses in the program. It was not reaching all of the people it was intended to reach. It had some flaws and needed to be fixed. Once again, all of those attempts for reasonable reforms—not only by me, but by a number of my colleagues—were to provide what I believe is deemed, even on a bipartisan basis, as reasonable, but they have been rejected. They have been rejected not because we had a debate and voted and didn't achieve the requisite number of votes for passage, but they were rejected because the majority leader simply used procedures, once again, to deny the minority any opportunity—and, of course, that also includes the majority—to stand on this floor, to offer an amendment, to debate that amendment, to have a vote on it, to accept the result, and then move to forward.

The two reforms I had mentioned—and that I thought made eminent sense—didn't really have much opposition to them. One was to simply end a process that resulted in a waste of taxpayers' money by violation of the law. The law requires that if you apply for

unemployment benefits, you must prove you are able to work and that you have been seeking work—but most importantly, you are capable of working.

The Social Security Disability Insurance Program requires, by law, that you are unable to work. Therefore, you cannot be eligible for those benefits unless you can prove—through a medical process or evidence—your inability to work. Yet the Government Accountability Office has found a significant number of folks in our country who are receiving checks from both programs. You can't have it both ways. You can't say you are not able to work and therefore receive a disability payment, and at the same time—and in the same mailbox—receive a government check for unemployment insurance where you have to prove you are willing to work. I don't know what provision might be more logical than that in terms of reforming the program. It saves the taxpayer money, it eliminates fraud, and it simply puts the program on better footing. Given our fiscal plight today, it is the least we can do. Yet I have been denied—and my colleagues who have tried to offer the same amendment have been denied—the opportunity to do just that.

Had we had the opportunity to come down here and offer that amendment, we could have had a debate. Those who saw it another way or didn't agree with what we were saying would have had every opportunity to vote no and turn down that amendment. They would then be accountable for their no or yes when they went back home—one way or another. There are people on both sides of the reform issue, and that is how the Senate is designed to work.

The Senate is not designed to simply shut off a debate and deny the minority the opportunity to offer amendments. We are not asking for passage. We are simply saying: Give us a chance to make our case, and we will have to accept the outcome. That way every Member of this body will be responsible for how they voted and will go home and tell folks: This is why I did such and such. That is how the system is designed to work.

Yet we find ourselves in a dysfunctional situation where there is no opportunity to have a debate and no opportunity to vote and to let people know where we stand. Maybe it is designed that way. Maybe we don't want people to know where we stand. I don't think anyone in this body can go home and tell the people they represent—their constituents: We are not going to tell you how we feel about that. I didn't want to put my vote on the record, and therefore, we are not going to have an opportunity to do that.

It is a black mark on the Senate. It is a dysfunctional situation. It is no wonder that the American public holds us in such low regard. This body, which

was created by our Founding Fathers, enshrined in the Constitution, and labeled as the greatest deliberative body in the world has simply turned into something totally different and totally opposite from that. We are a rubberstamp Senate, depending on what the majority leader decides he wants or doesn't want. I think that is a great disservice to the American people, and it is a great disservice to this institution.

Having had the opportunity to serve here on two different occasions, the contrast between my two tenures in the Senate could not be more stark. When I first came, the rights of the minority were recognized by a variety of majority leaders who simply said: This is the Senate. You take tough votes, you have the debate, and you allow the minority their rights. As a consequence, the Senate has functioned as the world's greatest deliberative body for more than 200 years.

Suddenly, we are now in a situation where that is not the case, and we have turned this simply into somewhat of a fiefdom where the majority leader has the full power to deny the minority their rights.

I think we will come to rue the day when this practice was first initiated and rue the day when it has been accepted because it denies those of us who have had the great honor and privilege of representing our States the opportunity to do just that.

Along with the amendment that I had for suitability, which simply gives States more flexibility in terms of providing suitable work for the unemployed—if it is provided to them, they have to accept it or they don't receive the unemployment checks. Those two amendments are two of the many suggested reforms that I think would make sense. But whether you agree with that or not, shouldn't we have the opportunity to present to the American people an honest, intellectual, rational debate on legislation—whether it fails or passes—so we can have a full understanding and they can have a full understanding of how to measure us in terms of whether we are true representatives of those who sent us here?

Having said that, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I hope for and expect a strong bipartisan vote today for legislation to extend emergency unemployment benefits through the end of May and applies retroactively from the point emergency benefits expired in December.

This is an important victory I wish had come much sooner—sooner for the 80,000 Michiganders who already have gone without unemployment benefits and for the thousands more who stand to lose them if Congress fails to act.

These benefits keep food on the table and a roof overhead for families affected by job loss through no fault of their own. The idea that some of our colleagues have advanced—that unemployment insurance gives workers an excuse not to find a job—is as inaccurate as it is insulting. For all but a handful of recipients, unemployment benefits are not a free pass from working but the economic lifeline that keeps them going while searching for the job they so desperately want and need.

I wish to commend Senators on both sides of the aisle who have not given up on this issue and who worked so hard to forge a compromise, led by Senators JACK REED and DEAN HELLER. Republicans have joined with Democrats on the procedural votes necessary to move this bill forward, and I hope the bipartisan support for this measure in the Senate will prompt Speaker BOEHNER to bring it to a vote in the House. There is a strong bipartisan majority for passage in the House. It is now up to Speaker BOEHNER to respond to the will of the American people who understand that people who are unemployed don't want to be unemployed. There may be a few exceptions and a few stories and a few anecdotes, but that is about it. The unemployed in this country are suffering. They have suffered for too long. The job growth that has come following the recession has been weak, and the least we can do is respond.

There is a bipartisan majority to do that here. It will be strong. My hunch is it will be well over 60, perhaps over two-thirds of the Senate, and there is no excuse for Speaker BOEHNER not to bring this bill to the floor of the House. I hope he does so. It is just in all conscience essential that he do so.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on H.R. 3979, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 688, 706, and 549; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each

vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote, without intervening action or debate, on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes be 10 minutes in length; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3979, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that all time be charged equally during quorum calls.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to discuss the unemployment insurance extension bill currently being considered. There is little question that the job market remains tight providing few job opportunities for those who are currently unemployed. The unemployment rate remains at historically high levels of around 6.7 percent. However, the unemployment rate only tells part of the story. Millions of Americans have become discouraged and left the labor market entirely or are underemployed. When you consider these Americans, the unemployment rate isn't 6.7 percent, but a much starker 12.7 percent.

It is obvious from these numbers that many Americans continue to struggle in the face of a historically tepid recovery. Republicans and Democrats agree that there are things we can and should do to help the millions of Americans who are out of work and strug-

gling to make ends meet. However, we have conflicting views on the best way to achieve this goal.

In 2008, Congress established the extended Emergency Unemployment Compensation program that provided Federal funded unemployment insurance benefits to the long-term unemployed. This benefit was on top of the 26 weeks of unemployment compensation ordinarily provided by the States. This program was never meant to go on forever. It is a temporary program that was designed to provide relief while we were in the depths of a recession.

This program has since been extended 11 times and we are now debating extending it for the 12th. There are reasonable arguments that at this time the emergency unemployment benefits should be extended once more. But if we are to extend the emergency unemployment program it should be done in a fiscally responsible way.

While the majority argues that the extension is fully offset, this is only true through a budgetary sleight of hand. The largest offset used to pay for the unemployment program is a so-called pension smoothing provision. This provision essentially allows sponsors of pension plans to underfund their pensions over the next few years. This raises concerns that pensions could be underfunded in future years, hurting pensioners, and potentially putting taxpayers on the hook for these plans should they need be taken over by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

The Joint Committee on Taxation, JCT, estimates that over the long term the provision will actually cost the Treasury billions of dollars in revenue. As a result, the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, and JCT estimate that overall the bill before us would increase deficits by more than \$5 billion between 2024 and 2033.

Moreover, while an extension of emergency employment benefits is well intentioned, it serves only to treat the symptoms of unemployment, while doing nothing to address its cause. Instead of the debate we are having on extending unemployment benefits we should be focused on what can be done to ensure those who want to work are able to find good paying jobs.

Republicans have offered such an approach with the Good Jobs, Good Wages, and Good Hours Act, which was filed as an amendment to the underlying unemployment insurance bill.

This amendment is targeted at job creation by providing small businesses who are responsible for creating 70 percent of jobs in our economy with permanent tax relief aimed at incentivizing new investments. It would further cut red tape that imposes unnecessary burdens on job creators and would modify or repeal provisions of Obamacare that are proven job killers. Moreover, the amendment

would spur job creation by increasing energy development by, amongst other things, authorizing the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. I ask unanimous consent that a summary of this amendment be printed in the RECORD.

Unfortunately, the majority leader filled the amendment tree, thereby blocking all amendments. This prevented us from having an up-or-down vote on the jobs amendment I just described as well as several other amendments that sought to improve the underlying bill. As a result, the underlying bill is not fiscally responsible and would do nothing to address the causes of weak job creation. As such, I cannot in good conscience vote in favor of extending unemployment insurance at this time.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

GOOD JOBS, GOOD WAGES, GOOD HOURS ACT— OMNIBUS ALTERNATIVE TO UI

TITLE I—ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Approve Keystone XL and LNG Exports: This provision would approve the Keystone XL pipeline by removing the requirement of a presidential permit. It would also require the Department of Energy to automatically approve LNG export applications to Ukraine, Japan, and other NATO countries. (Hoeven UI Amdt. #2891)

The Saving Coal Jobs Act: This provision would block EPA regulations of greenhouse gas emissions for new and existing power plants. It would also streamline the mine permitting process and automatically approve permits the EPA has not acted on after a certain period of time. (McConnell UI Amdt. #2955)

Prohibit a Carbon Tax: This provision would create a point of order against any legislation that would establish a carbon tax. (Blunt UI Amdt. #2885)

TITLE II—OBAMACARE RELIEF

Restore the 40-hour Workweek: This provision would amend the definition of a full-time employee under ObamaCare from an employee who works 30 hours per week to an employee who works 40 hours per week. (S. 1188—Collins)

Repeal the ObamaCare Individual Mandate: This provision would permanently repeal the individual mandate under ObamaCare. (S. 40—Hatch)

Repeal the Medical Device Tax: This provision would repeal the 2.3% ObamaCare medical device tax, which has already destroyed over 30,000 jobs. (S. 232—Hatch/Toomey/Coats)

Exempt the Long-Term Unemployed from ObamaCare Employer Mandate: This provision would exempt long-term unemployed from the ObamaCare employer mandate headcount. (Thune UI Amdt. #2899)

Hire More Heroes Act: This provision would exempt veterans from the ObamaCare employer mandate headcount. A similar provision passed that House 406-1. (S. 2190—Blunt)

Full Repeal of ObamaCare: This provision repeals those sections of ObamaCare that were not repealed by the preceding sections.

TITLE III—TAX AND REGULATORY RELIEF

Permanent Expansion Section 179 Expensing: This section would make the \$500,000 Section 179 expensing permanent. Without any changes to the current law, the Section

179 expensing allowance would drop to \$25,000 for qualified assets acquired and placed in service in 2014.

Permanent Expansion of Section 1202 Stock: This provision would make permanent the 100 percent exclusion for Section 1202 small business stock, increase the gross asset limit to \$150 million, and index this limit for inflation. To encourage investment in start-up businesses, investors may exclude 100 percent (reverted back to 50 percent in 2014) of the capital gains from selling Section 1202 stock that was acquired at original issue and held for more than five years.

Permanent Double Deductions for Start-up Businesses: This provision would permanently double the maximum allowable deduction for start-up costs to \$10,000.

Permanent Reduction in S-Corporation Built-In Gains Tax: Corporations that convert to S-corporation status are subject to a tax on appreciated assets that the corporation held before the conversion. The required holding period was shortened from 10 years to five years for sales of assets in 2012 and 2013. This provision would make permanent the five-year holding period.

Permanent Deduction for Health Insurance Costs in Computing Self-Employment Taxes: This provision would permanently place the self-employed on a level playing field with other businesses that currently exclude health insurance costs for both income and payroll tax purposes.

Permanent Expansion of Cash Accounting: This provision would permanently expand cash accounting to firms with annual gross receipts of up to \$10 million and inventories of up to the \$10 million—current law is \$5 million. Cash accounting affords small businesses greater flexibility in managing their cash flow, as it allows recognition of income and expenses when they are realized rather than when events give rise to the income (such as when a contract is signed).

Regulatory Accountability: This provision would enact targeted reforms of the federal rulemaking process. It would require that agencies conduct a cost-benefit analysis and consider alternatives to proposed regulations, and it would require advanced public notice of major rulemakings with greater than \$100 million in annual costs. (S. 1606 from the 112th Congress—Portman)

TITLE IV—SKILLS ACT

Strengthen Federal Worker Training Programs: This provision includes the House-passed SKILLS Act, which reforms and streamlines federal worker training programs and empowers Governors to further improve worker training programs. (Scott UI Amdt. #2899)

Mr. DURBIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is considered expired.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been

read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 101 Leg.]

YEAS—59

Ayotte	Harkin	Nelson
Baldwin	Heinrich	Portman
Begich	Heitkamp	Pryor
Bennet	Heller	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Kirk	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Walsh
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—38

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Chambliss	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—3

Coburn	Landrieu	McCaskill
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The bill (H.R. 3979), as amended, was passed, as follows:

H.R. 3979

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 3979) entitled “An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.”, do pass with the following amendment:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Extension of emergency unemployment compensation program.

Sec. 3. Temporary extension of extended benefit provisions.

Sec. 4. Extension of funding for reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities.

Sec. 5. Additional extended unemployment benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

Sec. 6. Flexibility for unemployment program agreements.

Sec. 7. Ending unemployment payments to jobless millionaires and billionaires.

Sec. 8. GAO study on the use of work suitability requirements in unemployment insurance programs.

Sec. 9. Funding stabilization.

Sec. 10. Prepayment of certain PBGC premiums.

Sec. 11. Extension of customs user fees.

Sec. 12. Emergency services, government, and certain nonprofit volunteers.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Section 4007(a)(2) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “January 1, 2014” and inserting “June 1, 2014”.

(b) **FUNDING.**—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (J), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

“(K) the amendment made by section 2(a) of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014;”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–240).

SEC. 3. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF EXTENDED BENEFIT PROVISIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111–5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note), is amended—

(1) by striking “December 31, 2013” each place it appears and inserting “May 31, 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “June 30, 2014” and inserting “November 30, 2014”.

(b) **EXTENSION OF MATCHING FOR STATES WITH NO WAITING WEEK.**—Section 5 of the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–449; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “June 30, 2014” and inserting “November 30, 2014”.

(c) **EXTENSION OF MODIFICATION OF INDICATORS UNDER THE EXTENDED BENEFIT PROGRAM.**—Section 203 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “May 31, 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “May 31, 2014”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–240).

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND REEMPLOYMENT AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4004(c)(2)(A) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2014” and inserting “through the first five months of fiscal year 2015”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this subsection shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

(b) **TIMING FOR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4001(i)(1)(A) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence:

“At a minimum, such reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities shall be provided to an individual within a time period (determined appropriate by the Secretary) after the date the individual begins to receive amounts under section 4002(b) (first tier benefits) and, if applicable, again within a time period (determined appropriate by the Secretary) after the date the individual begins to receive amounts under section 4002(d) (third tier benefits).”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply on and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **PURPOSES OF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.**—The purposes of the reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities under section 4001(i) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) are—

(1) to better link the unemployed with the overall workforce system by bringing individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits in for personalized assessments and referrals to reemployment services; and

(2) to provide individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits with early access to specific strategies that can help get them back into the workforce faster, including through—

(A) the development of a reemployment plan;

(B) the provision of access to relevant labor market information;

(C) the provision of access to information about industry-recognized credentials that are regionally relevant or nationally portable;

(D) the provision of referrals to reemployment services and training; and

(E) an assessment of the individual's on-going eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits.

SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS UNDER THE RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Section 2(c)(2)(D)(iii) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 352(c)(2)(D)(iii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “June 30, 2013” and inserting “November 30, 2013”; and

(2) by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “May 31, 2014”.

(b) **CLARIFICATION ON AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS.**—Funds appropriated under either the first or second sentence of clause (iv) of section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act shall be available to cover the cost of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D) by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a) as well as to cover the cost of such benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) **FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATION.**—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Railroad Retirement Board \$105,000 for administrative expenses associated with the payment of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a), to remain available until expended.

SEC. 6. FLEXIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENTS.

(a) **FLEXIBILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (g) of section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall not apply with respect to a State that has enacted a law before December 1, 2013, that, upon taking effect, would violate such subsection.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Paragraph (1) is effective with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after December 29, 2013.

(b) **PERMITTING A SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT.**—Nothing in title IV of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall preclude a State whose agreement under such title was terminated from entering into a subsequent agreement under such title on or after the date of the enactment of this Act if the State, taking into account the application of subsection (a), would otherwise meet the requirements for an agreement under such title.

SEC. 7. ENDING UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS TO JOBLESS MILLIONAIRES AND BILLIONAIRES.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds may be used for payments of unemployment compensation under the emergency unemployment compensation program under title IV of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) to an individual whose ad-

justed gross income in the preceding year was equal to or greater than \$1,000,000.

(b) **COMPLIANCE.**—Unemployment Insurance applications shall include a form or procedure for an individual applicant to certify the individual's adjusted gross income was not equal to or greater than \$1,000,000 in the preceding year.

(c) **AUDITS.**—The certifications required by subsection (b) shall be auditable by the U.S. Department of Labor or the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

(d) **STATUS OF APPLICANTS.**—It is the duty of the States to verify the residency, employment, legal, and income status of applicants for Unemployment Insurance and no Federal funds may be expended for purposes of determining whether or not the prohibition under subsection (a) applies with respect to an individual.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall apply to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. GAO STUDY ON THE USE OF WORK SUITABILITY REQUIREMENTS IN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the use of work suitability requirements to strengthen requirements to ensure that unemployment insurance benefits are being provided to individuals who are actively looking for work and who truly want to return to the labor force. Such study shall include an analysis of—

(1) how work suitability requirements work under both State and Federal unemployment insurance programs; and

(2) how to incorporate and improve such requirements under Federal unemployment insurance programs; and

(3) other items determined appropriate by the Comptroller General.

(b) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall brief Congress on the ongoing study required under subsection (a). Such briefing shall include preliminary recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SEC. 9. FUNDING STABILIZATION.

(a) **FUNDING STABILIZATION UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.**—The table in subclause (II) of section 430(h)(2)(C)(iv) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“If the calendar year is:	The applicable minimum percentage is:	The applicable maximum percentage is:
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, or 2017	90%	110%
2018	85%	115%
2019	80%	120%
2020	75%	125%
After 2020	70%	130%”.

(b) **FUNDING STABILIZATION UNDER ERISA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The table in subclause (II) of section 303(h)(2)(C)(iv) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended to read as follows:

“If the calendar year is:	The applicable minimum percentage is:	The applicable maximum percentage is:
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, or 2017	90%	110%
2018	85%	115%
2019	80%	120%
2020	75%	125%
After 2020	70%	130%”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Clause (ii) of section 101(f)(2)(D) of such Act is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2020”.

(B) **STATEMENTS.**—The Secretary of Labor shall modify the statements required under sub-

clauses (I) and (II) of section 101(f)(2)(D)(i) of such Act to conform to the amendments made by this section.

(C) **STABILIZATION NOT TO APPLY FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN ACCELERATED BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION RULES.**—

(1) **INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.**—The second sentence of paragraph (2) of section 436(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “of such plan” and inserting “of

such plan (determined by not taking into account any adjustment of segment rates under section 430(h)(2)(C)(iv)).”

(2) **EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.**—The second sentence of subparagraph (B) of section 206(g)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1056(g)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “of such plan” and inserting “of such plan (determined by not taking into account any adjustment of segment rates under section 303(h)(2)(C)(iv)).”

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2014.

(B) **COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED PLANS.**—In the case of a plan maintained pursuant to 1 or more collective bargaining agreements, the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2015.

(4) **PROVISIONS RELATING TO PLAN AMENDMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If this paragraph applies to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract, such plan or contract shall be treated as being operated in accordance with the terms of the plan during the period described in subparagraph (B)(ii).

(B) **AMENDMENTS TO WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—This paragraph shall apply to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract which is made—

(I) pursuant to the amendments made by this subsection, or pursuant to any regulation issued by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of Labor under any provision as so amended, and

(II) on or before the last day of the first plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2016, or such later date as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

(ii) **CONDITIONS.**—This subsection shall not apply to any amendment unless, during the period—

(I) beginning on the date that the amendments made by this subsection or the regulation described in clause (i)(I) takes effect (or in the case of a plan or contract amendment not required by such amendments or such regulation, the effective date specified by the plan), and

(II) ending on the date described in clause (i)(II) (or, if earlier, the date the plan or contract amendment is adopted),

the plan or contract is operated as if such plan or contract amendment were in effect, and such plan or contract amendment applies retroactively for such period.

(C) **ANTI-CUTBACK RELIEF.**—A plan shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements of section 204(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 411(d)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 solely by reason of a plan amendment to which this paragraph applies.

(d) **MODIFICATION OF FUNDING TARGET DETERMINATION PERIODS.**—

(1) **INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.**—Clause (i) of section 430(h)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “the first day of the plan year” and inserting “the valuation date for the plan year”.

(2) **EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.**—Clause (i) of section 303(h)(2)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1083(h)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “the first day of the plan year” and inserting “the valuation date for the plan year”.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (d) shall apply with respect to plan years beginning after December 31, 2012.

(2) **ELECTIONS.**—A plan sponsor may elect not to have the amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (d) apply to any plan year beginning before January 1, 2014, either (as specified in the election)—

(A) for all purposes for which such amendments apply, or

(B) solely for purposes of determining the adjusted funding target attainment percentage under sections 436 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and 206(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 for such plan year. A plan shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements of section 204(g) of such Act and section 411(d)(6) of such Code solely by reason of an election under this paragraph.

SEC. 10. PREPAYMENT OF CERTAIN PBGC PREMIUMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4007 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1307) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) **ELECTION TO PREPAY FLAT DOLLAR PREMIUMS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The designated payor may elect to prepay during any plan year the premiums due under clause (i) or (v), whichever is applicable, of section 4006(a)(3)(A) for the number of consecutive subsequent plan years (not greater than 5) specified in the election.

“(2) **AMOUNT OF PREPAYMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The amount of the prepayment for any subsequent plan year under paragraph (1) shall be equal to the amount of the premium determined under clause (i) or (v), whichever is applicable, of section 4006(a)(3)(A) for the plan year in which the prepayment is made.

“(B) **ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS.**—If there is an increase in the number of participants in the plan during any plan year with respect to which a prepayment has been made, the designated payor shall pay a premium for such additional participants at the premium rate in effect under clause (i) or (v), whichever is applicable, of section 4006(a)(3)(A) for such plan year. No credit or other refund shall be granted in the case of a plan that has a decrease in number of participants during a plan year with respect to which a prepayment has been made.

“(C) **COORDINATION WITH PREMIUM FOR UNFUNDED VESTED BENEFITS.**—The amount of the premium determined under section 4006(a)(3)(A)(i) for the purpose of determining the prepayment amount for any plan year shall be determined without regard to the increase in such premium under section 4006(a)(3)(E). Such increase shall be paid in the same amount and at the same time as it would otherwise be paid without regard to this subsection.

“(3) **ELECTION.**—The election under this subsection shall be made at such time and in such manner as the corporation may prescribe.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The second sentence of subsection (a) of section 4007 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1307) is amended by striking “Premiums” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (f), premiums”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 11. EXTENSION OF CUSTOMS USER FEES.

Section 13031(j)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “September 30, 2024”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “September 30, 2024”.

SEC. 12. EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) **SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.**—

“(A) **EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.**—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms ‘qualified services’, ‘bona fide volunteer’, and ‘eligible employer’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

“(B) **CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

“(ii) **BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.**—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘bona fide volunteer’ means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

“(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

“(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, customarily paid by similar entities in connection with the performance of services by volunteers.

“(iii) **SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.**—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified employer’ means—

“(I) any government entity, and

“(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

“(iv) **COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).**—This subparagraph shall not fail to apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(1)(C)).”

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF FRANCIS XAVIER TAYLOR TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NOMINATION OF L. REGINALD BROTHERS, JR., TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NOMINATION OF MARK BRADLEY CHILDRESS TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider

the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Francis Xavier Taylor, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security; L. Reginald Brothers, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security; Mark Bradley Childress, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tanzania.

TAYLOR NOMINATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I support the confirmation of Gen. Frank Taylor to be the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis at the Department of Homeland Security, DHS.

General Taylor has a long and distinguished career in national security, starting with his 31 years in the U.S. Air Force, most of which was spent in counterintelligence. In his final assignment for the Air Force, General Taylor led the Air Force Office of Special Investigations where his office provided independent investigations of fraud, counterintelligence, and major criminal matters.

In 2001, he was named Coordinator for Counterterrorism, the top counterterrorism position in the State Department, where he was a key advisor to Secretary of State Colin Powell. After that position, General Taylor served as the Assistant Secretary of State in charge of diplomatic security where he was in charge of security for over 250 U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide.

General Taylor has spent the past 9 years in the private sector, most as the chief security officer for General Electric where he was responsible for GE's global security operations and crisis management. In that position, he has seen the government's homeland security functions from the outside, giving him an important perspective on the Department of Homeland Security's support to the private sector.

General Taylor will have to put his extensive experience and leadership skills to good use as Under Secretary of DHS for Intelligence and Analysis. The Office of Intelligence and Analysis has been without a leader confirmed by the Senate for over a year now, and it has a large number of missions, like DHS as a whole.

I hope and expect that General Taylor will provide strong leadership to the Office of Intelligence and Analysis at DHS and I look forward to working with him.

General Taylor was approved by the Intelligence Committee on March 4, 2014, and the committee received several letters supporting him, including from the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Major Cities

Chiefs Association which represents the law enforcement agencies in large cities in the U.S.

I fully support General Taylor's confirmation.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back all time on those nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON TAYLOR NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Francis Xavier Taylor, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BROTHERS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of L. Reginald Brothers, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CHILDRESS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mark Bradley Childress, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Republic of Tanzania?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. Under the previous order, the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 345, S. 2199.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 345, S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 345, S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara A. Mikulski, Patty Murray, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Brian Schatz, Heidi Heitkamp, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Barbara Boxer, Debbie Stabenow, Mazie Hirono, Kay R. Hagan, Mary Landrieu, Claire McCaskill, Jeanne Shaheen, Dianne Feinstein, Amy Klobuchar.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Colorado.

WIND ENERGY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about jobs and about one sector in particular that has created tremendous economic growth in Colorado and across the United States, and that is wind energy and the jobs it has brought to our State.

During last Thursday's markup in the Finance Committee, we worked in a bipartisan fashion to include a 2-year extension of the production tax credit, known as the PTC, and the investment tax credit, known as the ITC, for wind energy.

The wind credit has enjoyed broad bipartisan support from both sides of the aisle over a number of years, ranging from its original champion—who continues to be a champion—Senator GRASSLEY from Iowa, to my friend and colleague from Colorado Senator MARK UDALL, who has been a tireless and relentless supporter over the years for wind energy jobs in Colorado. I know he will be a supportive advocate when the extenders bill reaches the floor. If enacted into the law, the extension of the production tax credit and investment tax credit will continue to drive job growth in my State of Colorado.

Sometimes I hear people say the government should not pick winners and losers in their critique of the wind energy tax credits. I actually agree with that notion, but what I would say to people who are listening to this on the TV is that when you hear someone in Washington say you shouldn't pick winners and losers, that is when you should hold onto your wallet. They say that is as if those decisions haven't already been made—as if winners haven't already been produced somewhere deep in the Tax Code in the last century or the regulatory code or the statute books. It is a reminder to ask yourself: Who is more likely to have benefits in this town? Is it the incumbent industries that have been working on these for decade after decade or is it the innovators in our economy? And, of

course, time and time again it is the legacy firms that have the upper hand in these debates. I don't blame them for fighting for that advantage. But I also know they are not necessarily going to be the industries that are going to create the 21st century jobs we need, and whether we know it or not that is fundamentally the debate we are having. It is not a left-right debate in this town. It is future versus past debate, and it is critically important to the next generation of Americans that we get this right.

This is an updated version of a chart I have been bringing to the floor for the last 4 years that shows some interesting relationships of lines relating to our economy. The top chart is GDP growth in the United States, and that is the green line. Here is the recession right here. You can see we are actually producing much more as an economy today than when we went into the recession. There is much greater gross domestic product.

This is the unemployment level. You can see at the depths of the recession the destruction in jobs the Presiding Officer saw in his home State, and we saw it in my home State. We were in a very difficult period at that time. We have actually begun to add jobs again, and we are almost back to where we were. I think we are back to where we were in terms of job creation.

This is a very stubborn and difficult issue for the people at home and the people I represent. This shows what has happened to median family and household income over periods of economic growth and over periods of economic decline. A way of thinking about that line is: What is happening to the middle-class income in this country? What is happening is the growth of middle-class income has decoupled from our economic growth. That, among other causes, has produced the worst income inequality we have seen in this country since 1928, I would argue, with the educational outcomes we have seen for kids, the most significant opportunity gap we have had in our lifetimes.

Why has this happened? There are a variety of reasons, but let me call your attention to this line. This is the productivity index in the United States. This shows how productive and efficient our economy has become. It has become incredibly efficient partly because of the use of technology, that is true, partly because of reaction to competition from overseas from China and India, and partly because the recession itself, which you can see, drove the line straight up because firms had to figure out how to get by with fewer people. That is our challenge. That is our central economic dilemma as we move into the second decade of this 21st century.

It is my view that there are two principal answers to that challenge. The first is education. I am not here to talk

about that tonight, but just as a reminder, we are not going to recognize ourselves in this new century if we continue to perpetuate a set of outcomes in our K-12 system where if you are born poor in the United States, your chances of graduating with the equivalent of a college degree are roughly 9 in 100. That is completely unsatisfactory and outrageous, particularly for the kids we are talking about.

The other is innovation. We have to make sure we have the most innovative economy in the United States, and whether we are willing to lead the world; it is the companies that will start next week, the week after that, and the week after that, and the venture-backed companies that are somebody's bright idea today in their garage, but tomorrow could become the next Apple or Google. That is where the job growth and the wage growth is going to come from.

In my view the wind credit cuts right to the core of whether we are going to compete in a global economy. We are not talking about a fly-by-night experimental industry. This credit has triggered tremendous economic growth in Colorado and across the country. In Colorado alone, these tax credits directly support 5,000 jobs.

Vestas, which manufactures wind turbines, employs over 1,400 workers across four factories in our State from Pueblo all the way up I-25 to Brighton and Windsor. They have hired 400 new workers this year with another 450 projected to be added before the end of 2014. This is it. Right here. Bricks and mortar. Real jobs. Made in America. It is not just manufacturing and design jobs near urban centers; it is also construction and operation jobs at the actual wind farms.

One Thursday night I left this floor, as I do almost every week—or it was a Friday morning, I guess. I flew back to Colorado. I got in the car and drove up to Peetz, where we have a wind farm. I climbed up to the top of a wind turbine. I thought that was it. I was in the pod at the top. That is not the technical term, but that is what it was. I thought I could then go home. When I got up there, they opened a trap door in the ceiling, and then I had to climb out on the roof of this thing, swaying over the Wyoming border, in the very shoes I wear on the floor of the Senate. That was an uncomfortable feeling, even though I was clipped in.

There was a guy up there who was one of the operators, one of the workers. He said: I would never have had this job in this community if it were not for this wind farm. If it were not for a vision somebody imagined several years ago but was unimaginable a decade ago, I would not have this job in this community.

This industry drives economic growth across our State from the conference rooms of tech startups in Boul-

der and Denver and all the way to 6,000-acre Kit Carson Wind Power Generating Site just west of the Kansas State line.

These are good jobs. In 2012, median household income for a single male in this country was just under \$37,000. Compare this figure to jobs in the wind industry—and these are all from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Crane and wind tower operators have a median annual wage of over \$47,000. These are jobs that can't be exported overseas. They can't be exported overseas. The electricians on wind projects average nearly \$50,000 annually. Land acquisition specialists who secure the land where wind projects are located have a median salary of \$74,000, and site managers for wind projects make over \$100,000 a year.

So if we are looking for a way to say we would like to see median family income start to rise again in this country instead of going down whether we are in a period of economic growth or decline, we might start to look at things such as the wind industry. These are good-paying jobs, and we are seeing it more and more in Colorado and all across the country.

The production tax credit has driven \$105 billion in private investment, opened 550 industrial facilities, and provided \$180 million in lease payments to farmers, ranchers, and landowners who host wind farms. Wind power accounts for more than a third of all new U.S. electric generation in recent years. It has moved our State toward a more diversified and cleaner energy portfolio. Colorado is in the lead in many ways, and we are proud of that. Most importantly, 70 percent of a U.S. wind turbine is produced right here in the United States, and that creates 80,000 American jobs. When we travel the highways of my State, we see the component parts of these wind turbines moving from one plant to another, reflecting manufacturing jobs right here in the United States of America.

So I am delighted, I am glad, that we are moving to restore the wind credit that expired at the end of last year. We have seen this before where the PTC expired without a prompt extension, and it doesn't end well. Each time the credit has expired in the past, new installations fell between 76 and 93 percent, dealing a blow to the industry and its employees—and a reminder once again that what we don't do here actually matters out there in the real lives of people.

I know I sound like a broken record, but the world is not waiting for us to get out of our own way. We can't keep going through this unnecessary political boom-and-bust cycle. I am pleased the Senate Finance Committee took an important first step last week by reporting out a 2-year extension. We need to follow that with good work by bringing the extenders package to the floor

and passing it into law. That outcome will give much-needed certainty to our industries and help secure the economic future for Colorado families who work in the wind industry.

With that, I thank the Chair for allowing me to speak this evening, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

DENYING ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, the nomination of Hamid Aboutalebi to be the Ambassador from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations is a deliberate and unambiguous insult to the United States. Mr. Aboutalebi was an active participant in the terrorist group that took 52 Americans hostage on November 4, 1979, and held them for 444 days. There are no circumstances under which the United States should grant such a person a visa, and our immediate concern is to prevent Mr. Aboutalebi from ever setting foot on American soil.

But this nomination is not an isolated incident that is taking place in a vacuum. It is part of Iran's clear and consistent pattern of virulent anti-Americanism that has defined their foreign policy since 1979.

Given the larger strategic threat to the United States and our allies represented by Iran's nuclear ambitions, this is not the moment for diplomatic niceties. We need to send Tehran an equally clear message: The Senate is not going to ignore this most recent insult but, rather, is going to give our President the authority to affirmatively reject it. Unanimous passage of the bill I have introduced, which specifies that engaging in terrorism against the United States is a basis to deny a foreign U.N. ambassador a visa to enter our country, will do just that, while also signaling to other unfriendly nations that we see this kind of offensive behavior for what it is, and we will not tolerate it.

I wish in particular to thank Senator COATS, who is a cosponsor of this bill, as well as Senator GRAHAM, Senator MCCAIN, and Senator KIRK for their leadership. I also wish to thank my friends across the aisle and, in particular, Senator SCHUMER, Senator LEAHY, and Senator MENENDEZ for working together with my office to reach bipartisan agreement. I am proud to join with all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in this effort, and I am encouraged that we can all come together in a bipartisan manner on this national security issue that transcends political parties. I am encouraged that the Senate can speak unanimously in a bipartisan voice defending the interests of our Nation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judici-

ary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2195 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2195) to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has engaged in espionage activities against the United States, poses a threat to United States national security interests, or has engaged in a terrorist activity against the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cruz amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed, the Cruz amendment to the title be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2960) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 2, line 4, insert "been found to have been" after "has".

The bill (S. 2195), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2195

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. VISA LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

Section 407(a) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (8 U.S.C. 1102 note) is amended—

(1) by striking "such individual has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities" and inserting the following: "such individual—

"(1) has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity (as defined in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)(iii)))"; and

(2) by striking "allies and may pose" and inserting the following: "allies; and

"(2) may pose".

The amendment (No. 2961) was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I know my colleagues and good friends are waiting. I will be very brief. I agree with the Senator from Texas that it was totally inappropriate that Mr. Aboutalebi was nominated in the first place. He was a member of the Muslim Student Followers of the Imam's Line,

the group that seized the embassy on November 4, 1979, and held American staff hostage until 1981. There were New Yorkers I knew among that group.

While I believe that Mr. Aboutalebi's actions certainly would have made him ineligible for a visa under the Immigration and Nationality Act, I believe it is worth it to clear up all doubt about our ability to deny him a visa under U.S. law by passing this bill.

I am fully aware that now is a sensitive time in our negotiations with Iran regarding the future of the nuclear program. Nevertheless, it is exactly for this reason that Iran's leadership should not have unnecessarily escalated tensions with the United States by seeking to appoint an ambassador to the United Nations who materially aided terrorists who abducted American citizens. We should not further aggravate the pain of the individuals and families who suffered through the hostage crisis by allowing this individual to have a visa and diplomatic immunity within the United States.

So I support this legislation. I am glad it has moved forward in a bipartisan way. I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for supporting this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I wish to recognize that this is a very important moment for the Senate to speak with one voice at a time when I think it matters to former hostages and their families. We heard you, Senator CRUZ heard you, I heard you, and our friends on the other side heard you. So it is good to know that the Senate is listening to people who have suffered in the past from this regime and Iran.

To Senators LEAHY, MENENDEZ, and SCHUMER, thank you very much for working with Senator CRUZ so we could reach this moment. I will do everything I can to get the House to act accordingly.

At the end of the day, it is very important that the Iranians not mistake how we view them. We have had our differences about Syria. We have had foreign policy disputes between the administration and Republicans, and sometimes Democrats, regarding how to move forward in the world. But this is a unique moment when all 100 Senators support the following statement to the Iranians: We remember who you are. We remember what you have done to our country and to our fellow citizens, and we are not going to forget. If you are listening in Iran, we have a very clear-eyed view in the Senate of who we are dealing with. So this is a very appropriate time to speak with one voice. I hope the Iranians will understand that we are resolved, Republicans and Democrats, to make sure they never possess a nuclear weapon.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, as a cosponsor of this legislation, I applaud my colleagues who are here tonight. I think this is the right message to send. It is a sensitive time, so therefore we need to stand and be counted. I hope the House will act swiftly on this legislation.

**PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT—
MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued**

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise tonight at a time when we face a quiet crisis in this country. President Obama and many on the other side of the aisle tell us the economy has improved, we have turned a corner, we are out of the woods, but I can tell my colleagues too many Americans are being left behind. In fact, historic numbers of Americans are disconnected from work. It is a quiet crisis. It is affecting them and their families. It is affecting our economy in very fundamental ways. It is one of the reasons we haven't seen the economic growth we had hoped for because not enough Americans are involved in active work because so many are out of work. The unemployment numbers, by the way, don't show the degree of the problem. An unemployment number around 7 percent doesn't show the fact that a lot of folks have left the work force all together.

This crisis includes also 3.7 million long-term unemployed. These are people who have been out of work for 6 months or more. This is also at historic levels. During this recent recession and during this weak recovery over the last 5 years, we have had numbers of long-term unemployed, over 6 months, at historic levels. In fact, the number of long-term unemployed right now is higher than it has been during any recession in our Nation's history, except for the most recent one 5 years ago.

Second, we have a lot of people who have left looking for work all together. So a lot of these folks were long-term unemployed, and they have now given up looking for work. Some 10.5 million Americans aren't even counted in the unemployment numbers because they have given up looking for work. The economists call this the labor participation rate. It is at historic lows for men, going back to the 1940s. In other words, more men are out of work—and that means not working or not even looking for a job—than we have ever had as a percentage of our population since we started keeping track of these statistics in the 1940s.

For men and women combined, we can go back to the 1970s—the numbers are so low for the participation rate in work. That goes back to the Carter era, when we had double-digit unemployment, double-digit inflation, and dou-

ble-digit interest rates. We have to go back to that economy that was cratering in order to see the numbers of people who are out of work, not looking for work, and not even trying.

So we have a real problem in this country, and we are not addressing it. To make matters worse, people are saying: Well, ROB, this is actually the baby boomers, and it is people retiring early, so it is not that bad. That is not true. To make matters worse, it is a lot of young people. There was a recent Brookings study that came out a couple weeks ago which indicates that actually a lot of the problem is young men, single men, who are choosing not to work or cannot find a job and, therefore, they drop out of the workforce altogether. Again, this is not reflected in the unemployment numbers. This is not even reflected in the long-term unemployment numbers.

Disappointment after disappointment for many of these workers leads them to give up looking for work altogether. These Americans feel as if what we are doing here in Washington does not really affect them and their lives. They feel as if we are not dealing with this issue, so the underemployed, the unemployed, the long-term unemployed—the folks who are so disconnected from work that they are not even looking for a job—they are looking at us in Washington saying: What are you going to do to help?

They are the reason I supported tonight this extension of unemployment insurance. Now, this was not exactly the legislation I wanted. But, also, it is not exactly the legislation that was brought to the floor. The other side of the aisle, the Democrats, brought legislation to the floor that was a long-term extension on an emergency basis. This is for people who have been out of work for over 26 weeks. This is the Federal addition to the State unemployment insurance that generally is in place for people for up to 26 weeks. The Democratic version was long-term—over a year. It also was not paid for, which would take us further into debt and deficit, which would hurt the economy. It also did not have any reforms.

The legislation that passed tonight with my vote—and some other Republicans—had three things. No. 1, it is short term—5 months instead of a year. No. 2, it is paid for, so it does not take us further into debt and deficit. No. 3, it does have some reforms to try to make the unemployment system work better to help these people who are long-term unemployed who otherwise have very little prospect of getting gainful employment, being productive members of our economy.

In fact, there are some studies out there saying that only 10 to 15 percent of them would normally be likely to get a job once they are out of work for 6 months or more because of the resume gap, because of the skills gap. So

we have in this legislation—that I will talk about later in more detail—some reforms that add some skills training for the long-term unemployed. The notion here is that there are jobs available out there, and there are a lot of people, as we talked about, who are out of work—or the long-term unemployed, in this case—but they do not have the skills to match the jobs that are out there. So the notion is to bring the skills and the jobs together to deal with the skills gap.

Most on my side of the aisle—all but, I think, six of us—were against this unemployment extension because they argued that, instead, we need progrowth policies to get this economy moving. I totally agree with them about the progrowth policies. The ultimate solution here is not another extension of unemployment insurance; it is to reform the program rather than just have another check, to add the skills training, which we will talk about in a second. We need to do more there, but we also have to do what Jack Kennedy used to talk about. President Kennedy said, famously: A rising tide lifts all boats.

We need a rising tide. We need to create more economic growth and opportunity, and there is a plan to do this. It is called the Jobs for America Plan. The Senate Republicans have all signed off on it. It has seven elements, all of which make a lot of sense.

One is to ensure, on health care, we actually reduce the cost, increase choice. The economy is hurting now because the costs are going up, not down, and sometimes dramatically.

Another is an all-of-the-above energy strategy, to use the energy here in the ground; having an all-of-the-above energy strategy to get America's economy going, moving our economy forward. We can do a lot more there.

Another is living within our means. The reason this unemployment insurance extension was paid for is because we Republicans insisted on it. Why? Because the debt and deficit are like a wet blanket over the economy. We do have to keep ourselves from going further into debt with our \$17 trillion debt.

Another is having Tax Code reforms that are necessary to spur economic growth. Both on the individual side and the business side our Tax Code is antiquated and inefficient. It will help to give the economy a shot in the arm if we can reform the Tax Code.

Another deals with regulations, unshackling job creators, helping to ensure that regulations are sensible, that they are not making it more difficult for small businesses to create jobs and opportunity. This is something we should be doing on a bipartisan basis.

Another is increasing exports. That means jobs. This President, this administration, has not been able to move

forward with any export agreements because the President has not been able to get trade promotion authority. In fact, some on the other side of the aisle have said he will not get it. That would be tragic for America's workers, for America's farmers, for the people who provide services, who want to push for more exports because they create good-paying jobs and good benefits.

Then, finally, and significantly, part of this Republican plan for jobs is to create a competitive workforce to close the skills gap. That is what we are talking about here with the unemployment insurance issue. We need to ensure that our workforce is meeting the needs of the 21st century—meaning a lot of technology jobs, even in manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, bioscience jobs, information technology jobs. Those jobs are out there, as I said earlier. But, unfortunately, the Federal Government has not done a good job in providing the skills, giving people the tools to access those jobs.

So we have made some steps in this legislation. The legislation we passed tonight ensures that job training reforms are part of long-term unemployment insurance. The reforms require officials to connect with the unemployed early in the process and provide important information they are now not getting about the skills and credentials that businesses in their area, in their region, are looking for.

We have also included provisions to strengthen the skills assessment process to ensure that the long-term unemployed have a better idea of the specific skills necessary to become more competitive in the job market. That assessment is really important. A lot of these folks are starting to give up hope. The assessment is important for them to understand where they are and where they can be.

These measures are intended to give the unemployed the opportunity to attain critical skills and credentials that are regionally relevant and nationally portable so they can access not only available jobs in their area but so that they can find other jobs around the country. There are some States, as you know, where you have unemployment as low as 3 percent, and other States where unemployment is as high as 9 percent. So people do need to know what the opportunities are, should they be able and willing to move.

So that is part of this unemployment extension we did tonight, and that is something that was put in place because of negotiations between Republicans and Democrats alike to ensure that, yes, it was paid for, and, yes, it was not long term—it was short term—and, third, that we did put some skills training in place. I want to thank Senator JACK REED, Senator DEAN HELLER, and others who worked with us to ensure that was part of this package.

But, folks, that is just the beginning. We have to do a lot more in terms of

ensuring that our workforce programs in the Federal Government are meeting the needs of the 21st century.

So part of the Republican jobs plan is to say: Let's take the next step. By the way, there is a commitment from both sides of the aisle, from the people who worked this out, to work during this short-term extension to try to increase the opportunities to provide people the tools they need.

We have big problems, as I said. We have a lot of people who are long-term unemployed. It is at historic levels. We have historic levels of people who are disconnected from work altogether, and yet we have jobs that are out there and available.

They say there are 3.9 million jobs around the country currently available and unfilled—3.9 million jobs. That means about 25 percent of those who are out of the workforce could have an opportunity for a job if they had the skills and had the ability to meet the requirements for those jobs.

In Ohio, we have over 100,000 jobs available. You can go on the Web site and see them. These are not just part-time or minimum-wage positions. According to a recent study, Ohio is third—behind only California and Texas—in skilled factory job openings, full-time jobs with benefits that often turn into long-term careers.

The problem of chronic unemployment is holding back our economy. By not having the people to fill those jobs, the economy is not reaching its potential. In fact, some of those jobs are going overseas to find those skilled workers. The Manufacturing Institute recently concluded that 74 percent of manufacturers are experiencing workforce shortages or skills deficiency that keeps them from expanding their operations; 74 percent of manufacturers are not expanding plants and equipment and creating more jobs, as they could, because they do not have the workforce.

So I view this unemployment insurance debate as an opportunity—an opportunity to talk about this issue, an opportunity to put in place some initial reforms, some first steps for more skills assessment, more training, to encourage people to get the credentials they need to get a job. But it is only the first step. We should do much, much more.

The Federal Government is already very involved, by the way, in work retraining—not in a very productive way but very involved. There are 47 different Federal workforce training programs spread over 7, 8 or 9 departments and agencies, often overlapping. Often the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing. It costs us, by the way, as taxpayers about \$15 billion a year. So about \$15 billion a year is going into worker retraining. Yet look at the results—again, record numbers of the long-term unemployed, record

numbers of men disconnected from work. Something is not working.

The Government Accountability Office found that very little is known about the effectiveness of these 47 programs. They have said, unbelievably, that only five of these Federal programs have conducted an impact study of their efforts since 2004. So 47 programs and only 5 have conducted the kind of performance measures you would expect the government to do to be sure the taxpayers' money is being spent right and that you certainly would be doing in the private sector.

The GAO is kind of generous in its assessment because those millions of unfilled jobs and millions more struggling workers are as incriminating an indictment of our worker training programs as any impact study could ever be.

This is the story I hear all the time. Back home in Ohio, when I talk to workers, when I talk to businesses, when I talk to educators, people are frustrated. People are seeing these Federal dollars being spent but not for actual training. What is unbelievable to me is recent data shows us that the number of credentials people are getting through these Federal workforce training programs is actually going down, not up—at a time when it is clear that credentials are a key way to get a job.

It is unfair to employers who have open positions that they cannot find qualified candidates to fill them. It is unfair to taxpayers who send money to Washington believing the government is going to be a good steward of those funds, and it is not. And, of course, it is unfair to the millions of Americans who want to build a better life for themselves and for their families, but they need the tools.

A lot of jobs were lost in this last recession. Unfortunately, I believe a lot of them are not coming back. But other jobs are being created. But, again, they are jobs that require a higher level of skill. We have to be sure we are doing a better job providing people with those tools to get the skills they need. It is part of the plan that Senate Republicans are talking about.

A small step was taken tonight with the unemployment insurance extension. I do not think we necessarily explained it very well to all of our colleagues, but it was part of what happened tonight on the floor of the Senate. I am hopeful over the next few months we will take the next important step, which is actually to change the way these Federal programs work so they are more effective at dealing with this crisis.

I have a specific proposal that I like. It is called the CAREER Act. The CAREER Act—you can look at it on line. Go to portman.senate.gov. My cosponsor is MICHAEL BENNET, who spoke here earlier tonight. He is a Democrat from

Colorado. He is a former education superintendent. He understands we need to change these programs to make them more efficient. To incentivize success, we have performance measures in our proposal, for instance. We do need to streamline and consolidate these programs. We also need to be sure we are rewarding job training providers that produce measurable results in actual job placement. It seems it is a pretty simple concept, but it is not happening now, as the GAO told us.

The unemployment extension, in my view, buys us a couple more months. But that is time where we ought to be doing the hard work to ensure that workers have the skills they need to compete in this global economy. Again, companies look globally for workers these days—particularly larger companies. If we are not providing the skilled workforce here, our economy is not as productive as it could be, not meeting its potential, the rising tide is not lifting all boats because it is not rising. But we are also going to lose jobs overseas where there is more focus on the STEM disciplines, on engineering and math, on skills training.

We have to do a much better job at the Federal Government level, working with the States, working with the private sector. One thing we do in the CAREER Act is we connect the Federal funds with the actual private-sector jobs that out there to ensure we are getting a better result—not training people for jobs that are not even available.

So let's spend these next few months working on more strategies to help folks get jobs. Let's work on all of this because we need to have a growing economy. But with regard to the training part, let's fix a system that is not serving the unemployed. It is not serving the taxpayer. Let's deal with this crisis. Let's restore hope and opportunity to America's workers.

With that, I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

WAGE DISCRIMINATION

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I rise to join with my colleagues in addressing an issue that affects women and families across America every day; that is, wage discrimination. Over 50 years have passed since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law to require that men and women earn equal pay for equal work. Yet the wage gap between men and women remains persistently wide.

Tomorrow, April 8, is Equal Pay Day, the day that women's earnings finally catch up to what men earned during the previous calendar year. Women across our country have had to work more than 3 months into this year to match what their male colleagues made in 2013. It is time to end gender discrimination in pay.

That is why I am proud to again stand on the Senate floor as a cospon-

sor and strong supporter of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This important bill would close loopholes in our existing equal pay laws and ensure that gender-based pay discrimination cannot happen in the first place.

Some still question why we need this legislation. The numbers make it pretty clear. More than 50 years after the Equal Pay Act was passed women in America still earn only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. In North Carolina it is a little better but still far from equal. Women earn 82 cents for every dollar earned by men doing the same work. To be sure, we have seen remarkable progress among women in North Carolina over the last 20 years.

Women have higher levels of education than men of the same age, and the share of employed women in my State who work in managerial and professional occupations has increased from 26 to 40 percent. While increased education has improved women's pay, it has not reduced the pay gap. Men are earning more money than women across all major sectors of the economy and at every educational level.

In fact, women in North Carolina who have some college education or an associates degree still earn less on average than men who have only received a high school diploma. In 2014, that is simply unacceptable.

I will never forget a constituent whom I met at an event back home in North Carolina. A woman had her young son with her. They both had T-shirts on that had a number on the front. The mother's shirt said "94." The son's shirt said "50." If earnings continue at the slow pace at which they are growing now, those numbers, the 94 and the 50, signify the ages those two individuals will be when pay equality is finally achieved.

Sadly, at the rate we are progressing, most of us in the Senate will not live to see that day. We cannot afford to wait another few decades for this change. This wage gap has real consequences, not just for women but for their families too. In North Carolina alone, women head over 500,000 households. Women and families' economic security is put at risk when they are paid less than men for performing the same job.

In North Carolina women who are employed full time lose approximately \$9.8 billion each year due to the wage gap. Once again, just in North Carolina, these women, employed full time, lose approximately \$9.8 billion. That is real money. That is money that could be spent on a downpayment or a mortgage for a home, put away for their child's college savings or invested in a secure retirement.

Also in North Carolina there are 108,000 households with incomes below the poverty line headed by women. Closing the wage gap would help put

food on the table for them, gas in their car, and pay basic necessities such as rent and utilities. In fact, closing the wage gap would allow a working woman in North Carolina to afford 63 more weeks of food, 6 more months of mortgage and utility payments, 10 more months of rent or 2,200 additional gallons of gas by changing that wage gap.

Addressing those disparities is critical to promoting the well-being of local economies across North Carolina and nationwide. When women thrive at work, their families and communities prosper as well. Later this week I will be voting for equal pay and to end wage discrimination. I am hopeful that partisan gamesmanship does not get in the way of a bipartisan issue that Democrats and Republicans, women and men across the country, overwhelmingly support. Congress needs to come together and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act because we need a stronger equal pay law to prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who discuss salary information with their coworkers. We need a stronger equal pay law to empower women to better negotiate their salaries and wages. We need a stronger equal pay law to provide businesses, especially small ones, assistance with equal pay practices.

On this eve of the anniversary of the Equal Pay Act, we need to close the loophole that allows pay discrimination to happen in the first place. The Paycheck Fairness Act would do just that by helping women successfully fight for the equal pay they have earned. In today's tough economic landscape, equal pay is about more than just principle, it is about ensuring an economically sound future for all of our families.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COLOMBIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak to two issues, both in the Western Hemisphere, that I think are incredibly important. I come to the floor to speak about labor rights in Colombia and labor rights of workers around the world.

Three years ago today the U.S. and Colombian Governments announced the creation of a Labor Action Plan that identified concrete steps to address the challenges faced by Colombian workers—threats, deadly violence, and widespread informality that opens the door to worker abuse.

Both governments said that the implementation of the plan would be a

precondition to enacting the free-trade agreement between our two countries. At the time I advocated that the standards laid out in the Labor Action Plan should have been part of the formal free-trade agreement and should have included provisions for monitoring the plan's implementation.

It is true that the Colombian Government initially made impressive steps, but unfortunately other aspects of the plan have not been fulfilled. Today the AFL-CIO and Colombia's National Union School have released reports evaluating the Labor Action Plan and identifying key areas where implementation has fallen short. I come to the floor to share these key findings.

In February I traveled to Colombia and met with Colombian union leaders and representatives of the National Labor School. I had a chance to meet with President Santos and Minister of Labor Rafael Pardo. We had the opportunity to review the important steps the Colombian Government has taken and what still needs to be done.

Shortly after the Labor Action Plan was established in April of 2011, nearly overnight Colombia established an independent Ministry of Labor. To date, the Ministry has hired more than 480 new labor inspectors and created a formal complaint mechanism for workers and unionists.

The Colombian Government reformed its penal code to strengthen sanctions against employers violating rights to free association. The Ministry of Labor has opened nearly 400 investigations of violations and issued nearly 70 sanctions. The government has directed its protection units to concentrate efforts on labor activists who are under threat. As a result of these steps, Colombia has made progress. According to the Colombian Government's own statistics, more than 530,000 jobs have been formalized in accordance with government standards.

While it is important to acknowledge the progress that has been made, the reports released today by the AFL-CIO and Colombia's National Union School remind us that much more needs to be done. Aspects of the Labor Action Plan remain unfinished and risks to Colombian workers continue, specifically in the palm oil industry, sugar sector, oil industry, and ports sector.

Both reports point out, while some trade unionists have seen better protection from the government, others continue to face threats and violence. In 2013, 26 trade unionists were murdered. Equally troubling was the fact that in the cases of murdered trade unionists, 86.8 percent go unresolved in terms of the cases. The two reports recognize that in response to the Labor Action Plan, the Colombian Government took steps to address irregular contracting practices, specifically focusing on associated work cooperatives or CTAs as they are known.

But given the loopholes in new labor regulations that have come to light, the government has been unable to stem the rise of alternate hiring, such as simplified joint stock companies that keep workers from being directly hired and being entitled to benefits and collective bargaining rights. So there has been progress but clearly more needs to be done.

The report rightfully applauds the creation of the Ministry of Labor but also notes that the hiring of labor inspectors did not comply with international labor organization standards, severely affecting these inspectors' autonomy and technical capacity. As further evidence of the challenges of informal labor arrangements, a majority of labor inspectors are provisional hires.

When it comes to finding those guilty of violations, the Colombian Government has levied millions of dollars in fines against companies violating labor standards, but both the AFL-CIO and the National Labor School point out that not a single dollar of those millions of fines has been collected—not one.

Fines hardly constitute a deterrent if companies know they will never have to pay the bill. As the U.S. and Colombian Governments along with organized labor in the United States and Colombia look forward, it is important that everyone come to the table, identify targeted goals, and establish benchmarks that will bring the kind of change we are all looking for, lasting change that protects workers and worker rights.

Given that the United States and Colombia renewed the Labor Action Plan through the end of 2014, now is the time to renew political commitment. Now is the time for collective action. Having met with Minister Pardo and knowing our colleagues in the Department of Labor, I know the political will is there. Now is the time for swift action.

Lessons from Colombia should be lessons for all of us, as the United States continues to engage in trade negotiations around the world. Our trade agreements must include the highest labor standards, concrete benchmarks for guaranteeing compliance with these standards, and a clear plan to monitor implementation. Anything less will leave the most vulnerable around the world at risk.

We are moving in the right direction when it comes to protecting workers and workers' rights in Colombia and around the world. Let's keep moving forward and aspire to the highest labor standards in every nation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CUBA

Mr. MENENDEZ. As the attention of the world has been focused on the pre-1991 Soviet behavior of President Putin in Crimea, I come to the floor to remind the American public and Members of this body that there is also a full-fledged humanitarian rights crisis ongoing in our own hemisphere, just 90 miles away from our shores in Cuba.

As Ukrainians courageously fight to protect the democracy they won when the Berlin Wall fell 25 years ago this summer, the Cuban people continue to suffer from the oppression of a Soviet-style dictatorship that denies them the most basic rights. When the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, millions of people—from Kiev to Budapest to Africa to Asia—were given their first chances in decades to build their own governments, a first chance to organize democratic elections, the chance to begin to determine their own futures.

Since the end of the Cold War, peace, prosperity and progress has largely been the order of the day for hundreds of millions of people but not for the people of Cuba. Not one of those core principles of democracy can be found on the island. Fidel and Raul Castro have been the only names on any ballot in over 50 years. Not one free election has been held, not one Cuban has been allowed to own their own company, not one legitimate trade union has been allowed to be organized, and not one peaceful protest has occurred without being brutally squashed by the regime.

No, this is the reality of Cuba today. It was the reality when the Berlin Wall fell, and it has been Cuba's reality for almost 60 years since Fidel Castro began taking control of every aspect of Cuban life. This reality in Cuba, a decades-long brutal oppression of simple human democratic rights, with total disdain for the aspirations of a people by the Castro regime, its military and communist lackey thugs who penetrate and control people's lives at all levels, should not be overlooked, should not be romanticized and it can never be explained away.

But, unlike Ukraine, where we have watched in horror as people have been ruthlessly beaten and killed for simply aspiring to democratic and transparent government, the Castro regime does not allow images of its oppression to be broadcast around the globe, let alone at home. Just because we do not see those images streaming across television sets and in the newspapers does not mean the world should not be watching. It does not mean we have turned the other way, and it does not mean we have overlooked the brutal and oftentimes lethal oppression of the Castro regime.

The number of people the regime has murdered or abducted is in the tens of thousands. Hundreds of thousands of

children have been separated from their parents, maybe hundreds of thousands of families have been torn apart. We don't even know how many have died in the Florida straits in search of freedom.

Millions of men, women, and young people have been forced into fields to cut sugarcane and perform other hard labor against their will. The average human worker lives on an income of less than \$1 a day. The Castro regime has been most adept—not at spreading education and prosperity—I listened to some of my colleagues recently on the floor and, oh my God, what a paradise, a paradise that people are willing to take to makeshift rafts to flee from and die on the high seas, a paradise that has long lines at the U.S. interests section waiting to be able to come to the United States, such a paradise that there are well over 1 million Cuban Americans in the United States and others in Spain and throughout the world.

It is not a paradise that I think people flee from. But they are great—not at spreading education and prosperity, but at instilling a penetrating fear and terror in the style of a Stalinist police state. It has been going on since 1959. Unfortunately, these are all of the realities. It is not a thing of the past.

Let us not overlook the fact that arbitrary and politically motivated arrests in Cuba reportedly topped 1,000 for a third straight month this February, according to the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation, a group inside of Cuba, formed and founded by Elizardo Sanchez Santa-Cruz—whose mission is to bring change and freedom—to report to the world. The commission reported that:

... arrests in the past three months have nearly doubled from the monthly averages of the previous 2 years.

We must remind ourselves every day of the continued oppression and human suffering that is happening, not half-way around the world but 90 miles from our own shores. The ongoing oppressive behavior of the Cuban regime we saw for the last half of the 20th century still haunts our hemisphere today.

While Putin has annexed Crimea, while one wonders what is next, while Assad continues to kill his own people in Syria, while the world is watching the Taliban in Afghanistan, and violence continues in the Central African Republic taking countless lives, the oppression of the Castro regime keeps rolling along unabated.

If there is a single symbol of that oppression, of the longing for freedom in Cuba, it is the Ladies in White, Damas de Blanco, and their leader Berta Soler.

This is a picture of Berta. The courage she has displayed, along with all the other women, to promote democracy and political freedom in Cuba has served as an extraordinary example for

all of us and everyone around the world who longs to be free. Every Sunday they protest the jailing of their relatives by attending mass and quietly marching through the streets of Havana, praying for nothing more than the freedom of their relatives and respect for the human rights of all Cubans.

But, as we see in this picture, often arrested, roughed-up—let's go to the previous picture. These are some of the Ladies in White. All they do is dress up in white, they march with a gladiola—quietly—toward church. The response of the state regime is to detain them, beat them, jail them, and hold them for days, maybe weeks. They are released, then jailed again.

The Ladies in White are the symbol of freedom, and women such as Laura Pollan represent the story of thousands. She was a schoolteacher living with her husband Hector, the leader of the outlawed Cuban Liberal Party. They were living a normal life in a small house on Neptune Street in Havana.

Early one morning there was a pounding on the front door. The police came in, searched everything. There was a sham trial held in Cuba. Hector was imprisoned, sentenced to 20 years in jail, and accused of acting against national security. His crime was dreaming of a free Cuba and putting that dream in writing.

Since I last came to the floor to speak about Cuba, I met Rosa Maria Paya, the daughter of the long-time political activist Oswaldo Paya. He was a Catholic and head of the Christian Liberation Movement who collected 25,000 signatures under a project called the Varela Project, a peaceful effort to petition the regime under the existing Cuban Constitution for freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. For his peaceful efforts he was awarded the Sakharov prize by the European Parliament.

His peaceful efforts were seen as a danger to the regime, a threat for which he was detained and arrested many times. Many times he suffered at the hands of the regime, and last year he died in Cuba, killed as Cuban state security rammed his car off the road.

What we know is that the car, driven by a Spanish politician from Spain, Angel Carromero, a citizen of Spain, and Jens Aron Modig, a party activist in Sweden, was involved in the fatal automobile accident that killed Paya and his Cuban colleague Harold Cepero. The circumstances surrounding Paya's death lead any reasonable person to conclude what really happened on that road in eastern Cuba that took the life of Oswaldo was an assassination. His daughter Rosa Maria immediately challenged the regime's version of events, stating that the family had received information from the survivors that their car was repeatedly rammed by another vehicle. She said:

So we think it's not an accident. They wanted to do harm and then ended up killing my father.

Ms. Paya was in Washington not long ago accepting a posthumous award from the National Endowment for Democracy on behalf of another Cuban activist who died alongside her father. At the time the U.N. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power had come before the Foreign Relations Committee during the nominations process and assured me she would reach out to Ms. Paya when confirmed. Since then, she has not only met with Rosa Maria but also to directly challenge Cuba's Foreign Minister to permit an independent international investigation into Mr. Paya's death.

I want to commend Ambassador Power for standing with those still suffering in Cuba and with the family of Oswaldo Paya who died for advocating peaceful, democratic change and Christian values.

But Cuba's reach doesn't end with the detention or the death of dissidents such as Paya. It doesn't end at the water's edge. It goes much farther.

Cuba is the head of a new and dire crisis in our hemisphere that we cannot ignore, and now we see the same oppression of peaceful activists in Cuba on the streets of Caracas.

Venezuela's political crisis is growing: 40 dead, hundreds injured, the nation's economy deteriorating, inflation at record levels, and a scarcity of basic food and goods. It sounds like Cuba to me.

But behind Venezuela's economic crisis we can see Cuba's failed policies, expropriation, and nationalization of various sectors of the economy, fixed prices in the consumer economy, criminalization of business leaders and their companies, currency manipulation, and rationing of basic foodstuffs. Behind Venezuela's political crisis we can clearly see familiar Cuban tactics—the demonization of the dissent, intolerance, and oppression of any form of opposition, politicizing of the military and judiciary, the silencing of independent television and radio stations, the shutting down of newspapers, and the arrests of political opponents doing nothing more than exercising basic rights to freedom of assembly.

We see Cuba's destabilizing presence is deeply intertwined in Venezuela's crisis, not simply because of the actions but because of these facts. It started with the discovery of 29 Cuban spies on Margarita Island in Venezuela.

It grew steadily and insidiously throughout the Chavez years with the Cuban presence and key advisers from Havana in almost every institution of national government in Venezuela, from the military, to intelligence agencies, to the health sector, to industrial policy. And the result? Democracy subverted and innocent people dying from bullets fired by the government and its thugs, just like in Cuba.

Yet knowing the instability the Cuban regime continues to spread, amazing, amazing European nations, nations in Latin America, then the Caribbean, some of my colleagues in this Chamber are seeking new opportunities to engage the Cuban regime by easing sanctions at a critical moment and fundamentally redefining our relationship with Cuba.

I couldn't disagree more. We can never turn our back on what has happened and continues to happen inside of Cuba. We can never have a wink and a nod and say, well, it has been almost 50 years, that is long enough. Things are changing for the better in Cuba so we should ease sanctions when, in fact, that is not the case at all.

As I listen to these human rights activists who finally have been able to come from Cuba and visit with us, to a person, they have said to me when I have asked them, is there change? They laugh and say: Senator, no, of course, there is no change. Is there a change in the economic system? No, there is no change. Is there change in your ability to organize? No, there is no change.

They call for some of the most significant measures that I could imagine—based upon them being in the belly of the beast, not some romanticism from outside. So, no, we should not ease sanctions. That is not what they are calling for. We should not let up and we should not reward the Castro regime for its human rights violations, for the suffering it continues to cause the people of Cuba. We should not reward the regime of the long dark years that have been brought to the island. And we should not ease tourism restrictions simply because the clock is ticking. Those who wish to pursue that type of engagement with Cuba must not forget Cuba's history. It is also its present state of torture and oppression, its systemic curtailment of freedom.

Recent events tell us a different story than those who have the sense of romanticism about the Castro regime. It is the story of two terrorist states: Cuba and North Korea.

There is unshakable, undeniable, incontrovertible proof that the Cuban Government, colluding with North Korea, violated United Nations security sanctions regimes.

In July of last year, a North Korean ship was docked in Cuba's new Mariel Port facility. The North Korean ship—suspicious even to the most untrained observer—left the dock, and it wasn't long afterward it was seized by the Panamanian Government when it attempted to enter the Panama Canal. Panamanian authorities boarded the ship and what did they find? There in the cargo bays, under some 200,000 bags of sugar, authorities discovered 240 tons of weapons—bound for where? For where? North Korea, another terrorist state.

Apparently this evidence, to some of my colleagues, is not of concern, but that is not the end of the story. When authorities inventoried the 240 tons of weapons hidden beneath the 200,000 bags of sugar they found on the North Korean ship, they found 2 MiG aircraft, several SA-2, SA-3 surface-to-air missile systems, missile and radar components, and a cache of small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

This is a depiction from the U.N. sources of what was found. I ask my colleagues, is this the behavior of a tired and old, benign regime, one that deserves our sympathy? Is there a misunderstanding that does not check enough terrorist boxes? Is this something we should justifiably ignore, falling under the category of Castro will be Castro or is this, at its core, the active and dangerous play of a terrorist state that we would not tolerate from any other Nation?

It seems to me that supplying a rogue nation such as North Korea with a secret cache of weapons demands something more than the loosening of travel restrictions and the opening of trade. It demands exactly the opposite. We should treat Cuba and the Castro regime as we would treat any other state sponsor of terrorism, because it is. Yet here I am once again forced to come to the floor of the Senate to point to pictures of a North Korean ship in a Cuban port smuggling MiG aircraft and surface-to-air missiles and ask: Why should we turn a blind eye to what we clearly would not accept from Iran, Syria or Sudan? And why in God's name would we want to take this opportunity to reward the regime with cashflow so they can continue to oppress their people and subvert neighboring countries? Why should we accept the lame excuses given by the Cuban regime that somehow—despite the fact that many of the arms were still in their original packaging, despite the fact that others had been recently calibrated, despite the fact there was a fresh coat of paint over the insignia of the Cuban Air Force on the side of the MiGs to hide their origin, despite the fact that the entire shipment was covered with 200,000 bags of sugar to deceive—this was a purely innocent business transaction, an innocent business transaction, and that the arms were being sent to North Korea for maintenance and would have been returned to the island?

Does anyone actually believe such a ludicrous claim? Can we and should we simply ignore it and move on, even though U.N. weapons inspectors found that the shipment was a clear violation—a clear violation—of U.N. sanctions, that Cuba was the first country in the Western Hemisphere to violate international sanctions related to North Korea and that the shipment constituted the largest amount of arms shipped to or from North Korea since

the adoption of Security Council resolution 1874 in 2009 and resolution 2094 in 2013? I repeat, the largest amount of arms shipped to or from North Korea. If that is not food for thought when it comes to easing restrictions against a terrorist state to our south, I don't know what is.

In recent years some would have us believe—and I have listened to some of my colleagues—that reforms led by Raul Castro placed Cuba on a path to economic progress, but if we look at the new law on foreign investment Cuba just passed last week, we get a clearer picture of the truth behind Cuba's economic model.

Let's be clear about this economic model. Under Cuba's new foreign investment law, investment projects will be allowed to be fully funded by foreign capital, business taxes on profits would be cut by 50 percent, foreign companies would be exempt from paying taxes for the first 8 years of operations in Cuba, and many foreigners living in Cuba would be let off the hook from paying income taxes at all. Think about it. The question is, Who wins? Who wins? Not the people of Cuba.

The most glaring omission in this law is any benefit at all to the Cuban people. Instead of receiving a new investment opportunity or benefiting from tax cuts—although Cubans don't make enough to benefit from any tax cuts—they will continue to live under restrictive laws and regulations, unable to start their own business, unable to follow a dream or build a better life. They are left to live under the most restrictive laws preventing them from ever realizing their dreams for themselves and their families.

In fact, the Cuban regime has permitted people to work for themselves but only in 200 types of jobs the government officially sanctions. They have a list of authorized jobs that includes sewing buttons, filling cigarette lighters, street performing—not exactly lucrative startups that can build an economy. These authorized jobs bear more resemblance to a feudal economy than anything we would recognize as economic opportunity.

At the same time the government has moved aggressively to close inhome movie theaters, secondhand clothing markets, and fledgling private restaurants that it considers too large or too successful. Why? Because anything that allows Cubans to meet legally, lawfully, and as a group is seen as a threat to the regime. Simply allowing people to come together for what we take for granted in our country and most countries in the world is seen as a threat to the regime because God knows what those Cubans would do if they started talking to each other in a place where they had no fear.

While the Cuban Government offers new incentives to foreign investors and continues to clamp down on self-employed workers, the real economic

change in Cuba is the growing role of the Cuban Armed Forces in the country's economy. Under the watchful eye of Raul Castro's son-in-law, a general in the Cuban Armed Forces, the military holding company, GAESA, has amassed control of more than 40 percent of Cuba's economy. Through companies such as GAESA, the government and the Armed Forces—those most loyal to the Castros—are laying a foundation for its future control of Cuba and the Cuban economy.

On the economic front, I think it is important to make the point that when people argue for travel and trade with Cuba, they are arguing to do so with who—with Castro's monopolies. Let us be clear: Regular Cubans are prohibited from engaging in foreign trade and commerce. So do we want to trade with Castro's state-owned monopolies—monopolies that are largely controlled by the Armed Forces of Cuba? Do we? Do we truly want to reward a regime that sends the biggest amount of weapons to North Korea in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions?

The U.S. Government's own report of agricultural sales to Cuba states how every single transaction with Cuba, by hundreds of American agricultural companies, has only one counterpart—Castro's food monopoly through a state-owned company named Alimport. That hasn't helped the people one bit. So do we truly want to unleash billions to Castro's monopolies?

Also, every single foreign people-to-people traveler who currently stays at a hotel or resort owned by whom? By the Cuban military. No exceptions. So how does that promote independence of the Cuban people from the regime as President Obama's policy statement upon release of this regulation states? At the very least they should be compelled to stay at what we call a casa particular, which means a private home that used to be able to take in a visitor, but staying at the military facilities owned by the military or copartnering by the military with some foreign private sector contravenes the President's own policy statement.

This hardly constitutes an economic opening for the people of Cuba. By the way, if you are an individual Cuban, you can't go to a foreign company. You can't even go to the hotels in your own country unless you are invited in by a foreigner. You work there if the state sends you there. Those of us who get to work here, we actually would only be here because the state would send us here, not because through our abilities and competency we would have earned the opportunity to be employed here or anywhere else in this country or in the private sector. That is not possible for the average Cuban. So in their own country they cannot go to a hotel unless they are invited in by a foreigner. Imagine visiting throughout our coun-

try and not being able to go into a hotel unless somebody from some other country tells you you can go into it.

However, if there is one positive trend to be found in Cuba today it is that after decades of fear and self-imposed silence there is a growing and growing number of Cuban citizens beginning to speak out critically, increasingly in public.

In June of 2012, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez—known as Antunez—testified at my invitation before the Foreign Relations Committee via Skype from the U.S. intrasection, as you can see in this photograph. After he testified he was beaten and detained for his testimony on human rights abuses on the island, but that didn't stop him. It didn't stop the bloggers from the Cuban diaspora from getting the word out.

After decades of being manipulated by the Castros, the people of Cuba no longer identify with the government. While the government still holds power through its security operations, its legitimacy is plummeting in the opinions of its people. So after 55 years of dictatorship, it is our responsibility in the international community to encourage this independence and help the people of Cuba reclaim their rights—rights to freedom of expression, rights to organize unions, rights to freedom of assembly, rights to freedom of the press, rights to freedom of religion—universal human rights, the rights and freedoms that will be the building blocks of a new and Democratic Cuba of the future.

But let us not be misled. Although Berto Soler—the ladies in white that I showed earlier—is now allowed by the regime to visit the United States and Europe after an enormous amount of international pressure, when she returns to Cuba there is no change in the status of the ladies in white. The pictures I showed of the beatings and the arrests is still their reality. Every move she and her courageous partners make is monitored by the Castro regime. They are physically harassed intimidated and arrested. Why? For simply wanting what any mother in any country on the face of the Earth wants—to learn the fate of her husband, her son or daughter who has been harassed, beaten and jailed by an aging, illegitimate regime.

According to the Cuban Commissioner for Human Rights and National Reconciliation, there were more than 15,000 cases of arbitrarily, politically motivated detentions since the start of 2012. In January of this year, when 30 heads of State from Latin America and the Caribbean came together, as well as the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Secretary General of the OAS, at a summit in Havana, there were more than 1,050 detentions over the course of 1 month.

In one prominent case, a leading Afro-Cuban political activist, intellec-

tual, and known leftist Manuel Cuesta Morua was arrested after attempting—to do what? To organize a parallel civil society summit during the visit by the heads of state.

This simple practice—a practice not uncommon and, in fact ubiquitous throughout Latin America and the world—is not tolerated by the Castro regime.

Instead, Mr. Cuesta Morua faced 5 days of intensive interrogation and has been charged with “disseminating false news against international peace,” joining prominent activists Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez and Guillermo Farinas—who was awarded the Sakharov Prize by the European Parliament—simply because they knew there were heads of state throughout Latin America and of major international organizations wanting to hold a parallel meeting, peacefully doing so to promote their vision of what human rights and democracy should be inside of their country. Their result was to ultimately be jailed and face the charges which can leave them for many years in jail.

Unfortunately, except for one or two, most of the leaders of the hemisphere who went to that meeting didn't even try to meet with the human rights activists, political dissidents, or independent journalists because they did not want to insult the Castro regime.

Here is Farinas shown being taken away by the police. These activists have faced repeated brutal acts at the hands of the Castro regime—no less violent than the regimes of any other terrorist state.

Finally, it is important to note that detentions, violence, and harassment are not reserved for political activists alone but also directed at labor rights activists as well. In early March of this year AFL-CIO President Trumka called on the Cuban Government to end its harassment of Mr. Cuesta Morua and all independent union activists advocating for labor rights to protect Cuban workers, such as Morua and Maria Elena Mir and her colleagues.

American workers are not turning a blind eye to what the Cuban regime is doing to limit worker rights, and we should not turn a blind eye either. We must support those such as Morua and Maria who are willing to step forward for labor rights in the face of a repressive regime that will not stop at anything to silence them.

As the people of Cuba look to cast off the shackles of five decades of dictatorial rule, we must stand with and speak out in support of all those who seek to reclaim their civil and political rights and promote political pluralism and democratic values. We cannot turn our back on Cuba's human rights violations record for decades simply because “enough time has passed.” If that is the case, enough time has surely passed in places such as Syria, Sudan, Iran, and North Korea.

To me and to the thousands who have suffered at the hands of this regime, the clock has nothing to do with our policy options. Engagement and sanctions relief have to be earned. It can't be timed out. It must come through real change, not Xs on a calendar or the ticking of a clock. And the clock is ticking for Alan Gross.

On December 4, 2009, Alan Gross, a private subcontractor for the U.S. Government, working to bring information to the Jewish community inside of Cuba, was arrested in Cuba. Mr. Gross, a 64-year-old development professional who worked in dozens of countries around the world with programs to help people get access to basic information, was doing nothing different. That is why I am amazed with this uproar which exists by some who want to paint this picture that, my God, we actually were trying to assist the Cuban people to have greater access to the Internet through a Twitter program. That is what we do throughout the world. Even the foreign operations legislation talks about tens of millions of dollars—not several hundred million dollars—to be promoting Internet access in closed societies.

It seems to me that freedom of information is one of the most fundamental elements, and yet we have this bit of a firestorm going on over simply creating the possibility for people to have access to information so they can speak for themselves and hear unfettered what is happening in the outside world. We all condemned what is happening in Turkey when the head of Turkey ultimately tried to shut down Twitter, but somehow it is OK to shut down the people of Cuba.

Since 2009, Alan Gross has been detained in Villa Marista, a prison in Havana notorious for its treatment of political prisoners by the Cuban National Security Agency. This is not a minimum-security prison where foreigners are routinely held. It is a harsh, repressive prison reserved for Cuban dissidents. He is still being held at Villa Marista, and it is time for the Castro regime to let this American be released. He did nothing wrong. After serving 4 years now of a 15-year sentence, this 64-year-old American's mental health is reported to be deteriorating and his life may well be in danger.

The case of Alan Gross is only one example of why we cannot let up until the dead weight of this oppressive regime is lifted once and for all.

We have supported democracy movements around the world. I have been a big advocate of that in my 21 years in the Congress, in the House and the Senate, serving on both foreign policy committees. I am a big advocate because freedom and democracy and human rights, when they are observed, mean we deal with countries in which we will have less conflict and more op-

portunity. It is the idea upon which this Nation was founded, and it is who we are as a people and what we stand for in the eyes of the world.

We can no longer condone, through inaction and outright support—in some cases even from some of my colleagues in this Chamber—the actions of a repressive regime 90 miles from our own shores simply because of the passage of time or because of some romantic idea of what the Castro regime is all about.

So to my colleagues, let me say, I know I have come to this floor on many occasions demanding action. I have come to this floor demanding that we live up to our rhetoric and our values. I ask that we hold the Castro brothers accountable for the suffering of the Cuban people—not only the years of brutality and oppression which have deprived the Cuban people of the basic human rights we so proudly proclaim to support around the world, but also for the continuing reality of the suppression of those human rights today. I will come to the floor again and again to ask for nothing less, to ask that we never allow the Castro regime to profit from increased trade which would benefit the regime and will use these dollars for repression but not put one ounce of food on the plates of Cuban families.

I will end with this photograph of a man being arrested in Havana and flashing a sign recognized across Cuba and throughout the world. The sign is "L" for liberty. Libertad. That is all we ask for the people of Cuba, and I won't rest until we achieve it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the 50th anniversary for the League of Women Voters of the Las Vegas Valley. On May 7, 1964, the league held their first meeting, which was attended by just a handful of women in Las Vegas. Fifty years later, because of the hard work and relentless service of its founding mem-

bers and their predecessors, the league today continues to be a resounding voice for Southern Nevadans on issues that matter most to women, families, and communities.

Upon the league's inception and formal recognition from the National League of Women Voters in 1965, the group began organizing around issues such as school integration, open housing, environmental conservation, and education. By coming together, league members found great success on many of the issues they championed. Today, the league remains a vital force in the Las Vegas Valley around similar, important social causes. Some of the league's earliest members included distinguished Southern Nevadans, many of whom are personal role models of mine, like Flora Duncan, Margaret Quinn, and Jean Ford. Over the years, countless others began their path to leadership with the League.

As I stand to honor the league on this special occasion, it is also important to recognize that this year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women having the right to vote in Nevada. In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed to prohibit any United States citizen from being denied the right to vote on the basis of sex. I am proud that in my home State, we had already recognized women's right to vote 6 years earlier.

Nevada was a leader among States in the fight for women's suffrage—undoubtedly, this achievement was due to the remarkable and pioneer-like spirit of those Nevadans behind the movement. This spirit still exists today among organizations like the league and its members.

Across the U.S. and in every State, women have had the constitutional right to vote for just short of a century. It is important that citizens, both women and men, do not take for granted their right to be heard. For this reason, it is fitting that we honor the League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley as their work offers each new generation the reminder that civic engagement has been, and continues to be, one of the most important rights we have as we strive to make our community and our country a better place to live. I applaud and celebrate with the League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley on their 50th anniversary.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am particularly proud of my home State, as we commemorate the fifth anniversary of the passage of Vermont's law guaranteeing marriage equality.

Throughout history, Vermont has taken a leadership role in America's journey to build a more just society. Vermont was the first State in the

Union to outlaw slavery, and Vermonters offered shelter to runaway slaves seeking refuge while in transit to Canada—serving as one of the last stops on the Underground Railroad. Vermont was also the first to adopt universal manhood suffrage, regardless of property ownership.

It is because of this history that it is not surprising that Vermont has been at the forefront of our Nation's march toward marriage equality: Vermont was the first State to provide civil unions to same-sex couples back in 2000. On April 7, 2009, Vermont took the next step, overriding a veto to pass legislation affording marriage equality to all Vermonters in loving relationships who wanted their commitment recognized by the State. Once again Vermont led the Nation by granting marriage equality for the first time through democratically elected officials on a bipartisan basis, instead of through the courts.

This is not to say that it was easy. The initial move toward civil unions fomented heated debate among Vermonters and throughout the Nation. Several courageous leaders, such as the late Republican U.S. Senator from Vermont Bob Stafford, and State Representatives Bill Lippert and Marion Milne, among others, showed us the way, and their advocacy for equality was powerfully moving. Like many Vermonters, I listened to advocates, friends, and neighbors who reminded us that love and commitment are values to encourage and not to fear. I continue to be inspired by the inclusive example set by Vermont.

Now, 5 years later, 3,766 same-sex couples have married in the State of Vermont, 17 States and the District of Columbia have marriage equality, and the Supreme Court has decided a landmark case on the issue of same-sex marriage. In that case—*United States v. Windsor*—the Court struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage for purposes of Federal law as “only a legal union between one man and one woman.” The Court reasoned that the law deprived couples of equal liberty as protected by our Fifth Amendment. All Americans deserve equal justice under the law, and Marcelle and I, married for more than 50 years, celebrated this important decision, which pushed the Nation farther on its path toward equality.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have long worked to make civil rights a focal point of our committee's agenda and a priority in the Senate. I often hear from those who think that the struggle for civil rights is over—that this issue is one for the history books. I remind them that this is our recent history and that while we have made great strides, there is still much work to be done. The march toward equality must continue

until all individuals—regardless of sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, or disability—are protected and respected, equally, under our laws. I am confident that Vermont will continue to lead the way, and I am proud of all that we have already accomplished.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, and it is an important reminder of the ongoing problem of sexual assault in our nation.

The Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, which first passed in 1994, has had an astounding impact on reducing sexual and domestic assault in our country. The annual incidence of domestic violence has dropped more than 50 percent since VAWA became law. This groundbreaking bipartisan legislation included many provisions critical to supporting and improving services for all victims of sexual assault and ensuring that law enforcement has the tools it needs to find and prosecute perpetrators. I was proud to author the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which was signed into law by President Obama last year.

The Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Act built upon past successes and expanded its protections to more inclusive to the victims most at risk of domestic violence and sexual assault, including LGBT, Native American, and immigrant victims. One aspect of this important effort that did not receive much attention is how it increased focus on sexual assault prevention, enforcement, and services to encourage reporting. It also increased support for programs that improve law enforcement and forensic responses to sexual assault and to address backlogs of untested rape kits. These improvements, along with the many others made in the reauthorization, will continue to advance the national response to sexual assault.

Our bipartisan effort last year is making lives better today, but there is much more we must do. The National Network to End Domestic Violence, in their annual National Domestic Violence Counts Census, found that every day 9,000 service requests go unmet because of a lack of resources. This is not acceptable. Every day tens of thousands of victims turn to domestic and sexual violence services providers for support through emergency safe shelters, legal assistance, and child support groups, and we must do all we can to ensure these needs are met.

We cannot stop by simply supporting a strong VAWA law. That is why I was proud to support the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, which included historic reforms to sexual as-

sault prevention and response within the military. I was also heartened last month when the Senate came together to pass the Victims Protection Act of 2014 by a vote of 97 to 0. This legislation takes even greater steps to encourage military servicemembers to come forward and report sexual assault. As I have said many times, a victim, is a victim, is a victim. We must protect all victims, including our Nation's service men and women, and that means working to decrease the fear of stigma or inaction that can often deter reporting.

Following the reauthorization of VAWA, the passage of the NDAA, and the Victims Protection Act, I hope the Senate will soon approve the bipartisan Justice for All Act reauthorization that I authored with Senator JOHN CORNYN. I was proud to author the original legislation, and our reauthorization includes many critical provisions for victims. Importantly, our bill reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, which seeks to reduce the backlog of untested rape kits and other DNA evidence. This program is named after Debbie Smith, who waited years after being attacked before her rape kit was tested and the perpetrator was caught. Every Senate Democrat has cleared the way for passage of the bipartisan Justice For All Act reauthorization, and I hope Senate Republicans will act quickly so we can pass this measure that means so much to rape survivors and all victims of crime.

I applaud the tireless work of the many advocates who work on behalf of victims each day and thank them for their dedication to this critical problem. Together we have taken significant steps to ensure victims of sexual assault have access to the services they need to rebuild their lives, that law enforcement have the tools they need to prosecute those who commit these horrific crimes, and to reduce future incidences of sexual assault through education and prevention efforts. Last year, the Senate stood up for the survivors of rape by passing the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Act reauthorization. Today, as we mark Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month, I hope Senate Republicans will join Senate Democrats to stand with them again by passing the Leahy-Cornyn Justice For All Act.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JESSE T. WETHINGTON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this past Saturday, April 5, I was extremely pleased and honored to be a part of the awarding of the Purple Heart Medal to a brave soldier Kentucky is proud to call one of its own. SGT Jesse T. Wethington of Liberty, KY, received his Purple Heart for wounds suffered while serving our country in Iraq. I

want to share the honor and majesty of this event with my colleagues and so therefore ask unanimous consent that the full text of my remarks at the ceremony to award SGT Jesse T. Wethington his Purple Heart, as well as the text of the proclamation for the Purple Heart be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATOR MCCONNELL'S REMARKS AT AWARDING OF PURPLE HEART TO SERGEANT JESSE T. WETHINGTON, APRIL 5, 2014

Thank you for that kind introduction. Thank you, General Dolan, for the invocation. It is my great honor to be here for the presentation of the Purple Heart Medal to Sergeant Jesse T. Wethington of Liberty, Kentucky, for wounds received in action while in service to our country in Iraq. It is an honor that is long overdue.

Because we are here to recognize the service of a brave soldier, it is fitting to be at VFW Post 1170. I want to thank our hosts, led by VFW Post Commander Dwight Riggle. I also want to thank VFW State Commander Joe Schnitterbaum and VFW leaders Brian Duffy and Carl Kaelin for all they have done in support of America's veterans.

It's a pleasure to have Chris Smrt and the Kentucky chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart here today to welcome Sergeant Wethington into their ranks. Chris and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, like the VFW, are strong advocates for our veterans.

And on this day when we're honoring a Kentucky Guardsman, it's wonderful to see so many Kentucky Guard soldiers and airmen here today, including our outstanding Adjutant General, Ed Tonini.

Finally, I'd like to welcome the folks who came here from Jesse's hometown of Liberty, including Jesse's wife, Ashley; his daughter, Hannah; his mother, Gayle; Jesse's brother, Chris, and Chris's wife, Dorothy; Jesse's mother-in-law, Mrs. Hope Metz; and Liberty VFW Post Commander and former State VFW Commander Claude Wyatt. Welcome to VFW Post 1170.

The original Purple Heart, also known as the Badge of Military Merit, was established by George Washington himself, and as such, the Purple Heart is the oldest existing military award that is still given to servicemembers.

I think the commander of the Continental Army and our first president can speak better than I to the courage and bravery which this award represents. In July of 1776, at the outbreak of the War for Independence, General Washington wrote in his own hand the weight of the task that had befallen him and his army. He said:

"The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this Army . . . we have therefore to resolve to conquer or die. . . . Let us therefore rely upon the goodness of the cause, and the aid of the Supreme Being, in whose hands victory is, to animate and encourage us to great and noble actions. The eyes of all our countrymen are now upon us."

That same patriotism—that same Spirit of '76—which was embodied by the leader of the Revolutionary Army lives on today in those in uniform such as Jesse. Perhaps that is inevitable in Jesse's case, given that he hails from a place called Liberty, a town founded by Revolutionary War veterans in 1806.

Although warfare has changed dramatically since the Revolutionary Era, the valor of our warfighters, such as Jesse, remains the same. That valor would have been instantly recognizable to George Washington.

It is the same valor that propelled Americans to victory against the mighty British Empire. The same valor that propelled Americans to die for other men's freedoms in the Civil War. The same valor we remember in the Greatest Generation, men and women who sacrificed halfway around the globe to save democracy. The same valor displayed in Cold War conflicts in Korea and Vietnam.

Sergeant Wethington's service is simply the latest chapter in a long and unbroken line of heroism and sacrifice, a line that is as old as our country.

The story of Jesse Wethington, the soldier from Liberty, is like that of those who served in the Revolutionary War—it is the story of a volunteer. Jesse could have chosen any number of paths, paths that would not have involved protecting "the fate of unborn millions," paths that would not have placed him in imminent danger.

Instead, Jesse volunteered to serve in the Kentucky Army National Guard. He volunteered to go on the road in a Humvee that would be targeted by the enemy in Iraq. He volunteered to sit in the gunner's turret. And even after his injury in combat, Jesse volunteered again to sit right back in that gunner's turret through the end of his tour of duty.

Jesse was mobilized with Battery B, First Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery of the Kentucky Army National Guard in late 2004, and he deployed to Iraq in January 2005. He served as a communications specialist and worked in the tactical operations center at the forward operating base.

In his communications role, Jesse had a view of his entire unit's activities. He saw the gun trucks and Humvees that deployed every day, and how often they were targeted by the enemy's IEDs. He saw good men, friends of his, injured. He saw the deaths of three soldiers in his unit, Kentuckians all.

Knowing these things, knowing all the risks involved, Jesse still volunteered. And when a spot opened up in a gun truck, Jesse stepped forward and said, "Send me." Jesse volunteered yet again to serve as a gunner. He encountered several IEDs on the road, but always came away uninjured. Until the fateful day of September 30, 2005.

On that day, Jesse's Humvee was moving slowly through congested traffic as part of a convoy. It stopped, and Jesse stood up in the gunner's hatch to direct traffic. Suddenly, an IED struck the right side of the truck with devastating force. The impact from the blast was so great it sent shrapnel hurdling through the back window, just missing Jesse's right leg and embedding itself into a storage bin within the Humvee.

Jesse suffered injury to his throat and the back of his head. After the explosion, he could not hear, and his vision and thoughts were blurred. Yet, amazingly, he continued his mission. Upon returning to the base, Jesse received medical care, and after a few days of light duty returned to the gunner's turret. He finished out his tour of duty through the end of the year and returned from Iraq in January 2006.

Unfortunately, Jesse's departure from the battlefield didn't end his struggles. He suffered traumatic brain injury, hearing loss, and post-traumatic stress disorder, and he is continually confronted by the effects of his injuries.

Through all these difficulties, I know Jesse's greatest source of strength and support is his family, especially, Ashley and Hannah.

Coincidentally, the very same day Jesse found out he would be receiving this Purple Heart, he and Ashley also discovered they would be having a baby boy. It is entirely fitting that news of both events arrived on the same day, given Jesse's valor in defending the "fate of unborn millions."

Before the presentation of the Purple Heart Medal, I want to note that there is another hero in this story. It's Jesse's friend and fellow soldier, retired Staff Sergeant Glen Phillips, who we heard from earlier this morning.

It was Staff Sergeant Phillips who gathered the facts in order for Jesse to receive his Purple Heart today. Glen, who is also from Liberty, has helped look out for Jesse and many other veterans over the years.

When Jesse told Glen he didn't think anyone would care that he had yet to receive his Purple Heart, this is what Glen had to say: "Jesse, I care, the VA cares, the U.S. Army cares, and people you don't even know care across this great land."

I couldn't agree more. I think the witnesses here today for this solemn occasion are proof positive that Kentucky does indeed care and cares deeply about you, Jesse, and your bravery in uniform. And we are grateful for all you have done and continue to do to make us proud.

And I believe that many people who are not present today—including, one day, your son—will see how you served in Iraq with dignity and honor, will see that you continue to carry yourself with dignity and honor here at home, and will see the Purple Heart proclamation of your heroism. And they too will be moved by your service and your sacrifice.

The presentation of this Purple Heart Medal is just a small recognition of the wealth of respect you deserve for your service to our country. Your service in protecting all of us. And your service to the values that make America the greatest nation on earth—values expressed by General Washington and the men who founded a place called Liberty more than two centuries ago.

Now, the solemn moment we're gathered here today for has arrived. Sergeant Jesse T. Wethington, Ashley, and Hannah—please join me for the reading of the proclamation and the presentation of the Purple Heart Medal.

TEXT OF PURPLE HEART MEDAL PROCLAMATION

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greeting:

This is to Certify That the President of the United States of America Has Awarded the PURPLE HEART

Established by General George Washington At Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782 to: Specialist Jesse T. Wethington United States Army For Wounds Received in Action On 30 September 2005 in Iraq Given Under my Hand in the City of Washington

This 5th Day of March 2014

David K. MacEwen

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Permanent Order 064-08, 5 March 2014

United States Army Human Resources Command

Fort Knox, Kentucky 40122-5408

John M. McHugh

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

SCHOOL FOOD MODERNIZATION ACT

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, our kids spend at least 7 hours a day at school working, learning, growing, and trying to build themselves into the people they want to grow up to become. It is our job to help them. That means giving them the education they deserve. It means giving them the support they need to keep working hard. And it means making sure they get healthy meals to keep them strong and to give them the fuel they need to focus in class.

That is why Senator SUSAN COLLINS from Maine and I introduced the School Food Modernization Act, which would help schools provide healthier meals to students in North Dakota and throughout the country. This bill would continue ongoing efforts to provide healthy meals for our children during the school day and make sure schools have the resources they need to get the most nutritious food to students.

Providing healthy meals is particularly important as childhood obesity rates in the U.S. have tripled over the last three decades. More than 23 million adolescents and children in our country—nearly 1 in 3 young people nationwide—are obese or overweight. According to the American Heart Association, it is the No. 1 healthy concern among parents—more than drug abuse and smoking. Even in my State of North Dakota, which is consistently ranked as one of the healthiest States in the country, more than 1 in 8 adolescents are overweight or obese.

Improving the nutritional quality of school meals can help fight the obesity epidemic, putting children on strong footing to prevent long-term health concerns related to obesity, such as diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. In 2010, Congress passed the Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act to improve the school nutrition standards. It made important improvements to nutrition standards in school meals, but was not perfect. Most importantly, it mandated school lunch requirements without offering real support to reach those standards.

Senator COLLINS and I are working to improve these standards in order to provide greater flexibility to school meal planners to make sure they can provide students with the nutrition they need in workable fashion. We are also offering grant assistance to help schools get resources to comply with standards.

Another way we can help provide more nutritious meals to students is by providing our schools with the necessary tools to prepare meals and store fresh produce. While nutritional standards for meals served in our schools have increased considerably, support for schools to implement these important changes has lagged behind.

Many school kitchens were built decades ago and designed with little capacity beyond reheating and holding food for dining service. In fact, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts, 74 percent of school districts in North Dakota need at least one piece of kitchen equipment to better serve healthy meals. We can do better than that.

The legislation we introduced would give schools greater access to the equipment they need to prepare healthy meals, reduce waste, and make resources stretch further.

Specifically, our legislation would provide targeted grant assistance to school administrators and food service directors to upgrade kitchen infrastructure or purchase high-quality, durable kitchen equipment such as commercial ovens, steamers, and stoves. Additionally, our legislation would establish a loan assistance program within USDA to help schools acquire new equipment to prepare and serve healthier, more nutritious meals to students. School administrators and other eligible borrowers would be able to obtain Federal guarantees for 90 percent of the loan value needed to construct, remodel, or expand their kitchens, dining, or food storage infrastructure. Finally, our legislation would strengthen training and provide technical assistance to aid school food service personnel in meeting the updated nutrition guidelines. Not every school food service employee is equipped with the expertise to comply with healthier meal and food preparation standards. Our bill authorizes USDA to provide support on a competitive basis to highly qualified third-party trainers to develop and administer training and technical assistance.

USDA has a long history of providing support for schools to upgrade meal preparation equipment; however, this support has been sporadic and unreliable for long-term planning. And in recent years, the demand for support has been great with requests for assistance far outpacing availability.

As the Senate agriculture committee begins to consider reauthorization of the school nutrition program, I look forward to working with my colleagues on improving school meal offerings and providing schools with the tools needed to give our children the nutritional fuel necessary to learn and grow.

As the daughter of a school cook, I understand the work that goes into preparing many healthy meals each day for kids, and this bill would help make limited resources stretch as far as possible to provide support to communities that need it in North Dakota and throughout the U.S. That just makes sense for our students, parents, teachers, and school cooks.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, growing up, my mother was a single parent. She

raised three children by herself. I know what it is like to run out of money at the end of the month, what it is like when every dime matters.

The minimum wage is a poverty wage. Today, the minimum wage hasn't kept up with inflation. If the minimum wage had kept up with inflation in 1968, the minimum wage today would be \$10.68. If you do the math, minimum wage workers today earn less than \$15,000 per year. If you are supporting a child or an elderly parent, that is a family income below the Federal poverty line. Raising the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 would help lift nearly a million workers and their families out of poverty. In Hawaii, nearly 100,000 women would get a raise.

This is especially important for women. More and more women serve as heads of households. And nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women. Nearly two-thirds of workers in tipped occupations are women.

The situation is even more dire in Hawaii, where the cost of living is higher. In Hawaii, one out of five Hawaii women workers would get a raise if we raised the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10. A person working full time making \$7.25 per hour makes \$14,500 per year. The average rent in Hawaii for a one-bedroom is \$1,278. That is more than \$15,000 per year. That is why many in Hawaii have to work more than one job.

And there are stories all across the country of women struggling. Hawaii Catholic Charities recently shared their story with me of a woman in Hawaii working for minimum wage who was unable to afford basic living expenses for herself and her son. She had to move back in with her parents. Over the course of a few years she was able to change jobs to a department store, where she eventually earned \$10 per hour. At that wage she was able to contribute to her family's household expenses and start a savings account for her son. We all hear stories like this often. It's why we must raise the minimum wage—so that hard working families have a chance at building a better life for themselves and their children.

Some critics claim the minimum wage will cost jobs. The CBO report looked at old studies and not the latest research. Just last week, a Goldman Sachs report said the CBO estimate of 0.3 percent job loss is too high because raising the minimum wage would actually increase demand. Minimum-wage workers spend that money right away, at local businesses in their communities. A survey of small business owners found that three out of five supported raising the minimum wage. They said a higher minimum wage would increase consumer spending on their goods and services. The Goldman Sachs report said that States which

raised their minimum wage in 2014 actually created more jobs than other states.

In Hawaii, a large part of our economy is hospitality and tourism. Many workers earn the tipped minimum wage, which is lower than the regular wage. I have met restaurant workers who can't afford to eat at the restaurant where they work. I heard one mother say she had to choose between buying diapers for her kids or eating lunch that day. Women should not have to make that choice. Back in 2007, the last time Congress raised the minimum wage, the restaurant industry said it would cost their industry jobs. But in 2013, the restaurant industry forecast said, "Restaurants remain among the leaders in job creation." The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that between 2007 and 2013, restaurants added 724,000 jobs.

Raising the minimum wage also saves taxpayer money on social services. When companies pay a low minimum wage, workers in poverty can't afford to eat. Taxpayers are picking up the tab—we're subsidizing low-wage companies. If we raise the wage to \$10.10, we reduce taxpayer costs for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps, by \$4.6 billion a year. In Hawaii, over 15,000 workers would no longer need SNAP benefits.

In America, we believe that if you work hard and play by the rules, you can get ahead. Let's increase the minimum wage, to give all Americans a fair shot.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING NICHOLAS J. HALIAS

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the exceptional public service of Nicholas J. "Nick" Halias who passed away on March 3, 2014. Nick most recently served as the chief of police of the University of New Hampshire Police Department and previously served as a major in the New Hampshire State Police. His law enforcement career extended for more than 42 years of dedicated service to our State and nation.

Nick began his law enforcement career with the New Hampshire State Police in 1969. Through hard work, dedication, and an innate leadership ability, Nick advanced through the ranks of the New Hampshire State Police culminating in his promotion to major. Major Halias was a graduate of the FBI National Academy, earned a master's degree from Fitchburg State University, and graduated from the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management at Babson College.

Following his retirement from the New Hampshire State Police, Nick continued his law enforcement career serv-

ing as the chief of police for the University of New Hampshire Police Department from 2000 to 2012. Nick led that agency to accreditation by the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation and became an accreditation mentor and assessor for police organizations across the United States.

It was my privilege during my service as New Hampshire's attorney general to work directly with Nick on many law enforcement initiatives. Nick earned the respect and admiration of his peers in law enforcement. He was also highly regarded by members of other disciplines including advocates for reducing domestic and sexual violence, victim witness advocates, and many others across New Hampshire. Nick was a thoughtful and effective participant in efforts to improve the criminal justice system and public safety in New Hampshire. He also was a down-to-earth, kind man who regularly volunteered at annual multidisciplinary conferences conducted by the attorney general's office. He participated as an instructor, but also consistently helped set up and tear down. Nick was fun to work with. I will miss his wise counsel and his friendship.

As the New Hampshire law enforcement community gathers on April 10, 2014 to honor Nicholas J. Halias' extraordinary life of public service, I join all in commending Nick's exceptional contribution to law enforcement and public safety in New Hampshire. New Hampshire is safer and our quality of life is better because of the work done by Nicholas J. Halias. I extend heartfelt condolences to Nick's wife Linda and to his family.●

RECOGNIZING DR. ROBERT SPENCE

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to honor Dr. Robert H. Spence, who is retiring as president of Evangel University after 40 years of dedicated service in that role—making him the longest tenured college president in the State of Missouri and one of the longest tenured college presidents in the United States.

Under his vision and leadership over the last 40 years, Evangel has been transformed from what was once a World War II-era Army hospital campus—complete with metal huts—into a modern institution with a dozen new facilities. Today, Evangel boasts an impressive campus with two residence halls, a 2,200 seat chapel, a state-of-the-art fitness center, dining hall, student union, fine arts center, two major classroom buildings and a 66,000-square-foot administration building. The expansion of facilities reflects the fact that Evangel's enrollment has doubled, and the school has added nine masters programs. With Dr. Spence at the helm, Evangel University has flourished.

Evangel is located in my hometown of Springfield, MO, so I have personally

witnessed the growth and development of the university and can attest to Dr. Spence's dynamic leadership and commitment. He is active in the community, serving on numerous boards and institutions, dedicating his time and energy to Springfield's citizens on- and off-campus. In recognition of his community work, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, where Dr. Spence once served as chairman of the board, honored him for a "Career of Character," naming him Springfieldian of the Year in 2004. In 2012 he received the Springfield Business Journal's Lifetime Achievement in Business Award. These recognitions are well deserved.

I join many other community leaders in Springfield in thanking Dr. Spence for his lifetime of work as an inspirational minister, messenger, and educator. As a former university president, I applaud him for his commitment to Evangel University over the last four decades. I have always relied on Dr. Spence's sound counsel and judgment and wish him and his wife Ann a long and enjoyable retirement. They have certainly earned this time to relax.●

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER JOHN ALAN FISHER

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to honor CW5 John Alan Fisher as he retires from a 30-year career with the Missouri Army National Guard. Chief Fisher has had an extraordinary career with the Guard and has made incredible contributions little-known outside his field. I am glad to be able to recognize him for his accomplishments today.

Chief Fisher began his career as a young Marine, earning the Vietnam Service Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal over the course of his 8 years of service. In 1980, after fulfilling his commitment to the Marines, Chief Fisher enlisted in the Army National Guard. In the three decades since, he and his team of professionals have helped supply and maintain mission-ready aircraft without a single aircraft accident or incident reported.

Chief Fisher's career has been in aviation maintenance, leading efforts to identify problems with the helicopter fleet that is serviced in my hometown of Springfield, MO. Early in his career, Chief Fisher recognized problems with wiring that compromised the Guard's ability to maintain combat-readiness in its helicopter fleet. While others thought the modules for the fleet were wearing out, it was Chief Fisher who recognized that the problem was in fact a failure of the wiring. Since that time, he and his team have developed the first protocol to rewire literally miles of wiring in helicopters. His efforts ensure the reliability of the fleet for 14 States.

Under Chief Fisher's leadership, these programs have grown into a world-class operation at the Missouri Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, MO-TASMG, in Springfield. Today, Springfield remains the only National Guard site in the Nation that specializes in rewiring air frames for America's military helicopters. Officer Fisher has been an incredible asset to this mission, as has the team of highly-skilled professionals he helped train. The crew at MO-TASMG are able to build and repair some of the most complex parts of virtually any aircraft in the Army inventory. Many of these components have been integral to the success of missions in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In fact, in 2004 you could open nearly any avionics compartment in an aircraft in theater to find a repaired component label identifying Chief Fisher's team as the source of its repair.

With multiple deployments to both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, these accomplishments only scratch the surface of Chief Fisher's many contributions throughout his nearly four decades of service. I am also pleased to note that Chief Fisher's legacy extends beyond his own service, as his son Shane Fisher also serves in the Missouri National Guard. I am thankful to both of them for their service. Congratulations again to Chief Fisher on his well-deserved retirement. He has certainly earned this time to relax with his family.●

PROJECT HOME

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Project HOME on the occasion of their 25th anniversary. Founded in Philadelphia, PA, Project HOME is a national leader in combating homelessness and providing life-saving services to countless individuals. Project HOME has a mission that not only includes providing shelter to those in need, but also helping to break the cycle of chronic homelessness by examining the root causes.

Project HOME was co-founded in 1989 by Sister Mary Scullion and Joan Dawson McConnon. Their first shelter, the Mother Katherine Drexel Residence for chronically homeless men, was established shortly thereafter. Then, in the summer of 1990, Project HOME opened its first transitional house, the Diamond Street Residence, which provided a safe environment for up to 12 men.

Over the last 25 years Project HOME has grown dramatically, providing the care and support that is necessary to combat Philadelphia's battle with homelessness. The strong leadership of Sister Mary Scullion and Joan Dawson McConnon has allowed Project HOME to expand from a single winter shelter into an organization with 535 units of affordable housing.

The vision of Project HOME is simple: none of us are home until all of us are home. Sister Mary and Joan, along with their dedicated staff, strive to make this vision a reality every day. Project HOME has empowered countless individuals in Philadelphia to realize their full potential. Their commitment to promoting compassion and a community spirit has benefited the City of Philadelphia and served as a model within the Commonwealth and across the country. It is a privilege and an honor to recognize Project HOME for its tremendous work as they celebrate 25 years of activism and advocacy.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL GREGORY A. SCHEIDHAUER

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I express deep gratitude to COL Gregory A. Scheidhauer for his past 2 years of exemplary dedication to duty and service as a congressional budget liaison for the Secretary of the Army. Greg was recently selected to serve the Army and Congress as the chief of Army Reserve Legislative Affairs. We wish him well in his new position.

A native of Bowie, MD, Colonel Scheidhauer earned a bachelor of science degree at West Virginia University and was commissioned a quartermaster officer in the Army in 1990. He has earned advanced degrees in public administration, public health education, and strategic studies.

Greg has served in a broad range of duty stations and assignments during his 23 years of service. As a lieutenant, he served as a transportation platoon leader and battalion logistics officer. As a captain, he served as a supply and services officer in Tennessee and as a training officer in Fort Buchanan, PR. Prior to his current assignment, Greg was the director J4, Joint Forces Special Operations Component Command, Iraq.

In 2009, following his assignment with the First Army Division East, Colonel Scheidhauer was selected as a military fellow in then-Representative JOE DONNELLY's personal office, serving the people of Indiana's Second Congressional District.

After this, he served as a legislative liaison in the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, and then as a congressional budget liaison officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller. In this capacity, Greg was tasked with managing the Army's research, development, test and evaluation portfolio as well as its aviation portfolio. As a budget liaison officer, he worked directly with the Senate and House Appropriations Committees to educate and inform Senators, Representatives, and staff on critical Army issues.

Throughout his 23-year career, COL Gregory Scheidhauer has positively im-

pacted his soldiers, peers, and superiors, and I am grateful that he has chosen to continue to serve as an Army leader. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the U.S. Congress as an Army congressional budget liaison.

Greg is accustomed to working long hours in his congressional relations work. So let me also acknowledge Greg's wife Andrea, and their children Alexis, Brennan, and Christopher, thank them for their sacrifices and wish them all the best for continued success in the future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13536 ON APRIL 12, 2010 WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA—PM 39

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2014.

On January 17, 2013, the United States Government announced its recognition of the Government of Somalia. The United States had not recognized a government in Somalia for the previous 22 years. Although the U.S.

recognition underscores a strong commitment to Somalia's stabilization, it does not remove the importance of U.S. sanctions, especially against persons undermining the stability of Somalia. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Somalia and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 7, 2014.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1874. An act to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of legislation.

H.R. 2575. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1874. An act to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of legislation; to the Committee on the Budget.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 2575. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5228. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 52nd Annual Report of the activities of the Federal Maritime Commission for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5229. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan" (RIN0648-BD82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5230. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory

Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Precision Strike Weapon and Air-to-Surface Gunnery Training and Testing Operations at Eglin Air Force Base, FL" (RIN0648-BC46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5231. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD156) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5232. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Aleutian Islands Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD190) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5233. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Butterfish Trip Limit Reduction" (RIN0648-XD167) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5234. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD166) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5235. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Jig or Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bogoslof Pacific Cod Exemption Area in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD175) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5236. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD184) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5237. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD181) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5238. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD189) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5239. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; General Category Fishery" (RIN0648-XD201) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5240. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Gross Combination Weight Rating; Definition" (RIN2126-AB70; Formerly RIN2126-AB53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5241. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Materials: Adoption of Certain Special Permits and Competent Authorities into Regulations" (RIN2137-AE82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2214. A bill to prevent a taxpayer bailout of health insurance issuers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2215. A bill to protect taxpayers from improper audits by the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2216. A bill to provide small businesses with a grace period for a regulatory violation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WALSH):

S. 2217. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the participation of mental health professionals in boards for the correction of military records and boards for

the review of the discharge or dismissal of members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 412. A resolution reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, and for the peaceful diplomatic resolution of outstanding territorial and maritime claims and disputes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. Res. 413. A resolution recognizing 20 years since the genocide in Rwanda, and affirming it is in the national interest of the United States to work in close coordination with international partners to help prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and mass atrocities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 414. A resolution designating April 2014 as "National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mrs. HAGAN):

S. Res. 415. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 416. A resolution authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Chamber of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 132

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of New Columbia into the Union.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 392, a bill to support and encourage the health and well-being of elementary school and secondary school students by enhancing school physical education and health education.

S. 429

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish,

finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1764

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1764, a bill to limit the retirement of A-10 aircraft.

S. 1793

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1793, a bill to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 1923

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1923, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies.

S. 2043

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Texas

(Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2043, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from asking taxpayers questions regarding religious, political, or social beliefs.

S. 2044

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2044, a bill to improve transparency and efficiency with respect to audits and communications between taxpayers and the Internal Revenue Service.

S. 2053

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2053, a bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action on the Capitol Grounds.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2113

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2113, a bill to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2125, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity

of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 2133

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2133, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other statutes to clarify appropriate liability standards for Federal anti-discrimination claims.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2146

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2146, a bill to establish a United States Patent and Trademark Office Innovation Promotion Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 2156

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2156, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to confirm the scope of the authority of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to deny or restrict the use of defined areas as disposal sites.

S. 2178

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2178, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 2190

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2190, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 2195

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator

from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2195, a bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

S. 2199

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 2209

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2209, a bill to require a report on accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria.

S. 2212

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2212, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 2213

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2213, a bill to replace the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection with a five-person Commission.

S. CON. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms.

MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 33, a concurrent resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the nationwide Cooperative Extension System.

S. RES. 369

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 369, a resolution to designate May 22, 2014 as "United States Foreign Service Day" in recognition of the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States, and to honor those in the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty.

S. RES. 402

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 402, a resolution expressing the regret of the Senate for the passage of section 3 of the Expatriation Act of 1907 (34 Stat. 1228) that revoked the United States citizenship of women who married foreign nationals.

S. RES. 410

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 410, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

S. RES. 411

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 411, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2215. A bill to protect taxpayers from improper audits by the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2215

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Eliminating Improper and Abusive IRS Audits Act of 2014".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Civil damages allowed for reckless or intentional disregard of internal revenue laws.
- Sec. 3. Modifications relating to certain offenses by officers and employees in connection with revenue laws.
- Sec. 4. Modifications relating to civil damages for unauthorized inspection or disclosure of returns and return information.
- Sec. 5. Extension of time for contesting IRS levy.
- Sec. 6. Increase in monetary penalties for certain unauthorized disclosures of information.
- Sec. 7. Ban on raising new issues on appeal.
- Sec. 8. Limitation on enforcement of liens against principal residences.
- Sec. 9. Additional provisions relating to mandatory termination for misconduct.
- Sec. 10. Extension of declaratory judgment procedures to social welfare organizations.
- Sec. 11. Review by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

SEC. 2. CIVIL DAMAGES ALLOWED FOR RECKLESS OR INTENTIONAL DISREGARD OF INTERNAL REVENUE LAWS.

(a) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF DAMAGES.—Section 7433(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$1,000,000 (\$100,000, in the case of negligence)” and inserting “\$3,000,000 (\$300,000, in the case of negligence)”.

(b) EXTENSION OF TIME TO BRING ACTION.—Section 7433(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “2 years” and inserting “5 years”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to actions of employees of the Internal Revenue Service after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN OFFENSES BY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN CONNECTION WITH REVENUE LAWS.

(a) INCREASE IN PENALTY.—Section 7214 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “\$10,000” in subsection (a) and inserting “\$25,000”, and

(2) by striking “\$5,000” in subsection (b) and inserting “\$10,000”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO CIVIL DAMAGES FOR UNAUTHORIZED INSPECTION OR DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION.

(a) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF DAMAGES.—Subparagraph (A) of section 7431(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$1,000” and inserting “\$10,000”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to inspections and disclosure occurring on and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR CONTESTING IRS LEVY.

(a) EXTENSION OF TIME FOR RETURN OF PROPERTY SUBJECT TO LEVY.—Subsection (b) of section 6343 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “9 months” and inserting “3 years”.

(b) PERIOD OF LIMITATION ON SUITS.—Subsection (c) of section 6532 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking “9 months” and inserting “3 years”, and

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking “9-month” and inserting “3-year”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to—

(1) levies made after the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(2) levies made on or before such date if the 9-month period has not expired under section 6343(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (without regard to this section) as of such date.

SEC. 6. INCREASE IN MONETARY PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of section 7213(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are each amended by striking “\$5,000” and inserting “\$10,000”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to disclosures made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. BAN ON RAISING NEW ISSUES ON APPEAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 77 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 7529. PROHIBITION ON INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RAISING NEW ISSUES IN AN INTERNAL APPEAL.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In reviewing an appeal of any determination initially made by the Internal Revenue Service, the Internal Revenue Service Office of Appeals may not consider or decide any issue that is not within the scope of the initial determination.

“(b) CERTAIN ISSUES DEEMED OUTSIDE OF SCOPE OF DETERMINATION.—For purposes of subsection (a), the following matters shall be considered to be not within the scope of a determination:

“(1) Any issue that was not raised in a notice of deficiency or an examiner’s report which is the subject of the appeal.

“(2) Any deficiency in tax which was not included in the initial determination.

“(3) Any theory or justification for a tax deficiency which was not considered in the initial determination.

“(c) NO INFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO ISSUES RAISED BY TAXPAYERS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide any limitation in addition to any limitations in effect on the date of the enactment of this section on the right of a taxpayer to raise an issue, theory, or justification on an appeal from a determination initially made by the Internal Revenue Service that was not within the scope of the initial determination.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 77 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 7529. Prohibition on Internal Revenue Service raising new issues in an internal appeal.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to matters filed or pending with the Internal Revenue Service Office of Appeals on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. LIMITATION ON ENFORCEMENT OF LIENS AGAINST PRINCIPAL RESIDENCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7403(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “In any case” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In any case”, and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any property used as the principal

residence of the taxpayer (within the meaning of section 121) unless the Secretary of the Treasury makes a written determination that—

“(i) all other property of the taxpayer, if sold, is insufficient to pay the tax or discharge the liability, and

“(ii) such action will not create an economic hardship for the taxpayer.

“(B) DELEGATION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary of the Treasury may not delegate any responsibilities under subparagraph (A) to any person other than—

“(i) the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, or

“(ii) a district director or assistant district director of the Internal Revenue Service.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to actions filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO MANDATORY TERMINATION FOR MISCONDUCT.

(a) TERMINATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR INAPPROPRIATE REVIEW OF TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.—Section 1203(b) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (26 U.S.C. 7804 note) is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (10) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(11) in the case of any review of an application for tax-exempt status by an organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, developing or using any methodology that applies disproportionate scrutiny to any applicant based on the ideology expressed in the name or purpose of the organization.”.

(b) MANDATORY UNPAID ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR MISCONDUCT.—Paragraph (1) of Section 1203(c) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (26 U.S.C. 7804 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if the Commissioner of Internal Revenue takes a personnel action other than termination for an act or omission described in subsection (b), the Commissioner shall place the employee on unpaid administrative leave for a period of not less than 30 days.”.

(c) LIMITATION ON ALTERNATIVE PUNISHMENT.—Paragraph (1) of section 1203(c) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (26 U.S.C. 7804 note) is amended by striking “The Commissioner” and inserting “Except in the case of an act or omission described in subsection (b)(3)(A), the Commissioner”.

SEC. 10. EXTENSION OF DECLARATORY JUDGMENT PROCEDURES TO SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7428(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (C) and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) with respect to the initial classification or continuing classification of an organization described in section 501(c)(4) which is exempt from tax under section 501(a), or”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to pleading filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 11. REVIEW BY THE TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REVIEW.—Subsection (k)(1) of section 8D of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E);

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

“(D) shall—

“(i) review any criteria employed by the Internal Revenue Service to select tax returns (including applications for recognition of tax-exempt status) for examination or audit, assessment or collection of deficiencies, criminal investigation or referral, refunds for amounts paid, or any heightened scrutiny or review in order to determine whether the criteria discriminates against taxpayers on the basis of race, religion, or political ideology; and

“(ii) consult with the Internal Revenue Service on recommended amendments to such criteria in order to eliminate any discrimination identified pursuant to the review described in clause (i); and”;

(4) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by striking “and (C)” and inserting “(C), and (D)”.

(b) SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) Any semiannual report made by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration that is required pursuant to section 5(a) shall include—

“(A) a statement affirming that the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration has reviewed the criteria described in subsection (k)(1)(D) and consulted with the Internal Revenue Service regarding such criteria; and

“(B) a description and explanation of any such criteria that was identified as discriminatory by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 412—RE-AFFIRMING THE STRONG SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND OTHER INTERNATIONALLY LAWFUL USES OF SEA AND AIRSPACE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, AND FOR THE PEACEFUL DIPLOMATIC RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING TERRITORIAL AND MARITIME CLAIMS AND DISPUTES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 412

Whereas Asia-Pacific's maritime domains, which include both the sea and airspace above the domains, are critical to the region's prosperity, stability, and security, including global commerce;

Whereas the United States is a long-standing Asia-Pacific power and has a national interest in maintaining freedom of operations in international waters and airspace both in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world;

Whereas, for over 60 years, the United States Government, alongside United States allies and partners, has played an instrumental role in maintaining stability in the

Asia-Pacific, including safeguarding the prosperity and economic growth and development of the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the United States, from the earliest days of the Republic, has had a deep and abiding national security interest in freedom of navigation, freedom of the seas, respect for international law, and unimpeded lawful commerce, including in the East China and South China Seas;

Whereas the United States alliance relationships in the region, including with Japan, Korea, Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand, are at the heart of United States policy and engagement in the Asia-Pacific region, and share a common approach to supporting the maintenance of peace and stability, freedom of navigation, and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas territorial and maritime claims must be derived from land features and otherwise comport with international law;

Whereas the United States Government has a clear interest in encouraging and supporting the nations of the region to work collaboratively and diplomatically to resolve disputes and is firmly opposed to coercion, intimidation, threats, or the use of force;

Whereas the South China Sea contains great natural resources, and their stewardship and responsible use offers immense potential benefit for generations to come;

Whereas the United States is not a claimant party in either the East China or South China Seas, but does have an interest in the peaceful diplomatic resolution of disputed claims in accordance with international law, in freedom of operations, and in the free-flow of commerce free of coercion, intimidation, or the use of force;

Whereas the United States supports the obligation of all members of the United Nations to seek to resolve disputes by peaceful means;

Whereas freedom of navigation and other lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region are embodied in international law, not granted by certain states to others;

Whereas, on November 23, 2013, the People's Republic of China unilaterally and without prior consultations with the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea or other nations of the Asia-Pacific region, declared an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the East China Sea, also announcing that all aircraft entering the PRC's self-declared ADIZ, even if they do not intend to enter Chinese territorial airspace, would have to submit flight plans, maintain radio contact, and follow directions from the Chinese Ministry of National Defense or face “emergency defensive measures”;

Whereas the “rules of engagement” declared by China, including the “emergency defensive measures”, are in violation of the concept of “due regard for the safety of civil aviation” under the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization's Chicago Convention and thereby are a departure from accepted practice;

Whereas the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization distinguishes between civilian aircraft and state aircraft and provides for the specific obligations of state parties, consistent with customary law, to “refrain from resorting to the use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight and . . . in case of interception, the lives of persons on board and the safety of aircraft must not be endangered”;

Whereas international civil aviation is regulated by international agreements, including standards and regulations set by ICAO

for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection;

Whereas, in accordance with the norm of airborne innocent passage, the United States does not recognize the right of a coastal nation to apply its ADIZ procedures to foreign state aircraft not intending to enter national airspace nor does the United States apply its ADIZ procedures to foreign state aircraft not intending to enter United States airspace;

Whereas the United States Government expressed profound concerns with China's unilateral, provocative, dangerous, and destabilizing declaration of such a zone, including the potential for misunderstandings and miscalculations by aircraft operating lawfully in international airspace;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's declaration of an ADIZ in the East China Sea will not alter how the United States Government conducts operations in the region or the unwavering United States commitment to peace, security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Government of Japan expressed deep concern about the People's Republic of China's declaration of such a zone, regarding it as an effort to unduly infringe upon the freedom of flight in international airspace and to change the status quo that could escalate tensions and potentially cause unintentional consequences in the East China Sea;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Korea has expressed concern over China's declared ADIZ, and on December 9, 2013, announced an adjustment to its longstanding Air Defense Identification Zone, which does not encompass territory administered by another country, and did so only after undertaking a deliberate process of consultations with the United States, Japan, and China;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines has stressed that China's declared ADIZ seeks to transfer an entire air zone into Chinese domestic airspace, infringes on freedom of flight in international airspace, and compromises the safety of civil aviation and the national security of affected states, and has called on China to ensure that its actions do not jeopardize regional security and stability;

Whereas, on November 26, 2013, the Government of Australia made clear in a statement its opposition to any coercive or unilateral actions to change the status quo in the East China Sea;

Whereas, on March 10, 2014, the United States Government and the Government of Japan jointly submitted a letter to the ICAO Secretariat regarding the issue of freedom of overflight by civil aircraft in international airspace and the effective management of civil air traffic within allocated Flight Information Regions (FIR);

Whereas Indonesia Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa, in a hearing before the Committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs on February 18, 2014, stated, “We have firmly told China we will not accept a similar [Air Defense Identification] Zone if it is adopted in the South China Sea. And the signal we have received thus far is, China does not plan to adopt a similar Zone in the South China Sea.”;

Whereas over half the world's merchant tonnage flows through the South China Sea, and over 15,000,000 barrels of oil per day transit the Strait of Malacca, fueling economic growth and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the increasing frequency and assertiveness of patrols and competing regulations over disputed territory and maritime

areas and airspace in the South China Sea and the East China Sea are raising tensions and increasing the risk of confrontation;

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has promoted multilateral talks on disputed areas without settling the issue of sovereignty, and in 2002 joined with China in signing a Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that committed all parties to those territorial disputes to “reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law” and to “resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force”;

Whereas ASEAN and China committed in 2002 to develop an effective Code of Conduct when they adopted the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, yet negotiations are irregular and little progress has been made;

Whereas, in recent years, there have been numerous dangerous and destabilizing incidents in waters near the coasts of the Philippines, China, Malaysia, and Vietnam;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about unilateral actions by any claimant seeking to change the status quo through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force, including the continued restrictions on access to Scarborough Reef and pressure on long-standing Philippine presence at the Second Thomas Shoal by the People's Republic of China; actions by any state to prevent any other state from exercising its sovereign rights to the resources of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by making claims to those areas that have no support in international law; declarations of administrative and military districts in contested areas in the South China Sea; and the imposition of new fishing regulations covering disputed areas, which have raised tensions in the region;

Whereas international law is important to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all states in the Asia-Pacific region, and the lack of clarity in accordance with international law by claimants with regard to their South China Sea claims can create uncertainty, insecurity, and instability;

Whereas the United States Government opposes the use of intimidation, coercion, or force to assert a territorial claim in the South China Sea;

Whereas claims in the South China Sea must accord with international law, and those that are not derived from land features are fundamentally flawed;

Whereas ASEAN issued Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea on July 20, 2012, whereby ASEAN's Foreign Ministers reiterated and reaffirmed “the commitment of ASEAN Member States to: . . . 1. the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2002); . . . 2. the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2011); . . . 3. the early conclusion of a Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea; . . . 4. the full respect of the universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); . . . 5. the continued exercise of self-restraint and non-use of force by all parties; and . . . 6. the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).”;

Whereas, in 2013, the Republic of the Philippines properly exercised its rights to peaceful settlement mechanisms with the filing of arbitration case under Article 287 and Annex VII of the Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to achieve a peaceful and durable solution to the dispute, and the United States hopes that all parties in any dispute ultimately abide by the rulings of internationally recognized dispute-settlement bodies;

Whereas China and Japan are the world's second and third largest economies, and have a shared interest in preserving stable maritime domains to continue to support economic growth;

Whereas there has been an unprecedented increase in dangerous activities by Chinese maritime agencies in areas near the Senkaku islands, including between 6 and 25 ships of the Government of China intruding into the Japanese territorial sea each month since September 2012, between 26 and 124 ships entering the “contiguous zone” in the same time period, and 9 ships intruding into the territorial sea and 33 ships entering in the contiguous zone in February 2014;

Whereas, although the United States Government does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, the United States Government acknowledges that they are under the administration of Japan and opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine such administration;

Whereas the United States Senate has previously affirmed that the unilateral actions of a third party will not affect the United States' acknowledgment of the administration of Japan over the Senkaku Islands;

Whereas the United States remains committed under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan, has urged all parties to take steps to prevent incidents and manage disagreements through peaceful means, and commends the Government of Japan for its restrained approach in this regard;

Whereas both the United States and the People's Republic of China are parties to and are obligated to observe the rules of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, done at London October 12, 1972 (COLREGs);

Whereas on December 5, 2013, the USS Cowpens was lawfully operating in international waters in the South China Sea when a People's Liberation Army Navy vessel reportedly crossed its bow at a distance of less than 500 yards and stopped in the water, forcing the USS Cowpens to take evasive action to avoid a collision;

Whereas the reported actions taken by the People's Liberation Army Navy vessel in the USS Cowpens' incident, as publicly reported, appear contrary to the international legal obligations of the People's Republic of China under COLREGs;

Whereas, on January 19, 1998, the United States and People's Republic of China signed the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement, creating a mechanism for consultation and coordination on operational safety issues in the maritime domain between the United States and the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Western Pacific Naval Symposium, inaugurated in 1988 and comprising the navies of Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federa-

tion, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United States, and Vietnam, whose countries all border the Pacific Ocean region, provides a forum where leaders of regional navies can meet to discuss cooperative initiatives, discuss regional and global maritime issues, and undertake exercises to strengthen norms and practices that contribute to operational safety, including protocols for unexpected encounters at sea, common ways of communication, common ways of operating, and common ways of engagement;

Whereas, Japan and the People's Republic of China sought to negotiate a Maritime Communications Mechanism between the defense authorities and a Maritime Search and Rescue Agreement and agreed in principle to these agreements to address operational safety on the maritime domains but failed to sign them;

Whereas the Changi Command and Control Center in Singapore provides a platform for all the countries of the Western Pacific to share information on what kind of contact at sea and to provide a common operational picture for the region;

Whereas 2014 commemorates the 35th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China, and the United States welcomes the development of a peaceful and prosperous China that becomes a responsible international stakeholder, the government of which respects international norms, international laws, international institutions, and international rules; enhances security and peace; and seeks to advance relations between the United States and China; and

Whereas ASEAN plays an important role, in partnership with others in the regional and international community, in addressing maritime security issues in the Asia-Pacific region and the Indian Ocean, including open access to the maritime domain of Asia; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

The Senate—

(1) condemns coercive and threatening actions or the use of force to impede freedom of operations in international airspace by military or civilian aircraft, to alter the status quo or to destabilize the Asia-Pacific region;

(2) urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to refrain from implementing the declared East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), which is contrary to freedom of overflight in international airspace, and to refrain from taking similar provocative actions elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region; and

(3) commends the Governments of Japan and of the Republic of Korea for their restraint, and commends the Government of the Republic of Korea for engaging in a deliberate process of consultations with the United States, Japan and China prior to announcing its adjustment of its Air Defense Identification Zone on December 9, 2013, and for its commitment to implement this adjusted Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in a manner consistent with international practice and respect for the freedom of overflight and other internationally lawful uses of international airspace.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) reaffirm its unwavering commitment and support for allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region, including longstanding United States policy regarding Article V of the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty and that Article V of the

United States-Japan Mutual Defense Treaty applies to the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands;

(2) oppose claims that impinge on the rights, freedoms, and lawful use of the sea that belong to all nations;

(3) urge all parties to refrain from engaging in destabilizing activities, including illegal occupation or efforts to unlawfully assert administration over disputed claims;

(4) ensure that disputes are managed without intimidation, coercion, or force;

(5) call on all claimants to clarify or adjust claims in accordance with international law;

(6) support efforts by ASEAN and the People's Republic of China to develop an effective Code of Conduct, including the "early harvest" of agreed-upon elements in the Code of Conduct that can be implemented immediately;

(7) reaffirm that an existing body of international rules and guidelines, including the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, done at London October 12, 1972 (COLREGs), is sufficient to ensure the safety of navigation between the United States Armed Forces and the forces of other countries, including the People's Republic of China;

(8) support the development of regional institutions and bodies, including the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Defense Minister's Meeting Plus, the East Asia Summit, and the expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum, to build practical cooperation in the region and reinforce the role of international law;

(9) encourage the adoption of mechanisms such as hotlines or emergency procedures for preventing incidents in sensitive areas, managing them if they occur, and preventing disputes from escalating;

(10) fully support the rights of claimants to exercise rights they may have to avail themselves of peaceful dispute settlement mechanisms;

(11) encourage claimants not to undertake new unilateral attempts to change the status quo since the signing of the 2002 Declaration of Conduct, including not asserting administrative measures or controls in disputed areas in the South China Sea;

(12) encourage the deepening of partnerships with other countries in the region for maritime domain awareness and capacity building, as well as efforts by the United States Government to explore the development of appropriate multilateral mechanisms for a "common operating picture" in the South China Sea that would serve to help countries avoid destabilizing behavior and deter risky and dangerous activities; and

(13) assure the continuity of operations by the United States in the Asia-Pacific region, including, when appropriate, in cooperation with partners and allies, to reaffirm the principle of freedom of operations in international waters and airspace in accordance with established principles and practices of international law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 413—RECOGNIZING 20 YEARS SINCE THE GENOCIDE IN RWANDA, AND AFFIRMING IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES TO WORK IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO HELP PREVENT AND MITIGATE ACTS OF GENOCIDE AND MASS ATROCITIES

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. FLAKE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.:

S. RES. 413

Whereas, in the aftermath of the Holocaust, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide declaring that genocide, whether committed in a time of peace or war, is a crime under international law;

Whereas the United States was the first country to sign the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the Senate voted to ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on February 11, 1986;

Whereas, for approximately 100 days between April 7, 1994, and July 1994, more than 800,000 civilians were killed in a genocide in Rwanda that targeted members of the Tutsi, moderate Hutu, and Twa populations, resulting in the horrific deaths of nearly 70 percent of the Tutsi population living in Rwanda;

Whereas the massacres of innocent Rwandan civilians were premeditated and systematic attempts to eliminate the Tutsi population by Hutu extremists, fueled by hatred and incitement propagated by newspapers and radio;

Whereas, in addition to systematic targeting of an ethnic minority in Rwanda resulting in the mass slaughter of innocent civilians, rape was also used as a weapon of war;

Whereas, despite the deployment of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) in October 1993 following the end of the Rwandan Civil War, its mandate was insufficient to ensure the protection of large swathes of the population, demonstrating the inability of the United Nations to effectively respond to the unfolding genocide and stop or mitigate its impact;

Whereas, on July 4, 1994, the Rwandan Patriotic Front, a trained military group consisting of formerly exiled Tutsis, began its takeover of the country, which resulted in an ending of the genocide, though not a complete end to the violence, including retribution;

Whereas, in October 1994, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was established as the first international tribunal with the mandate to prosecute the crime of genocide and ultimately prosecuted 63 individuals for war crimes, including genocide and crimes against humanity as well as the first convictions for rape as a weapon of war;

Whereas the United States Government supports initiatives to ensure that victims of genocide and mass atrocities are not forgotten, and has committed to work with international partners to help prevent genocide and mass atrocities and identify and support a range of actions to protect civilian populations at risk;

Whereas, in July 2004, the Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 133 and the House of Representatives adopted House Concurrent Resolution 467, declaring that "the atrocities unfolding in Darfur, Sudan, are genocide", and calling on the United States Government and the international community to take measures to address the situation immediately;

Whereas, in September 2004, the United States Government, in testimony by Secretary of State Colin Powell before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, declared the ongoing conflict in Darfur, Sudan a "genocide" perpetrated by the government based in Khartoum against its own people and affecting over 2,400,000 people in Sudan, including an estimated 200,000 fatalities;

Whereas, in September 2005, the United States joined other members of the United Nations in adopting United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/1, which affirmed that the international community has a responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapter VI (Military enforcement) and VIII (Regional Arrangements) of the United Nations Charter, to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity;

Whereas, in December 2011, the Senate unanimously passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 71, recognizing the United States' national interest in helping to prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and other mass atrocities against civilians, and urging the development of a whole of government approach to prevent and mitigate such acts;

Whereas, in April 2012, President Barack Obama established the Atrocities Prevention Board within the United States inter-agency structure, chaired by National Security staff, to help identify and more effectively address atrocity threats, including genocide, as a core national security interest and core moral responsibility;

Whereas, in July 2013, the National Intelligence Council completed the first ever National Intelligence Estimate on the global risk for mass atrocities and genocide;

Whereas, in January 2014, the National Director of Intelligence testified before the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, stating that "the overall risk of mass atrocities worldwide will probably increase in 2014 and beyond . . . Much of the world will almost certainly turn to the United States for leadership to prevent and respond to mass atrocities.";

Whereas, despite measures taken by the United States Government and other governments since 1994, the international community still faces the challenges of responding to escalation of violence, atrocities, and religious-based conflict in many corners of the globe, including Syria and the Central African Republic, and a failure of the international community to appropriately respond to and address the rapidly deteriorating situation could result in further atrocities;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council was unable to pass a resolution condemning the Government of Bashar al Assad of Syria for the use of chemical weapons against civilians, killing more than 1,400 of his own people in August 2013; and

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recommended to the United Nations Security Council the establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission in

the Central African Republic with the primary mandate to protect civilians: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the United Nations' designation of April 7th as the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda;

(2) honors the memory of the more than 800,000 victims of the Rwandan genocide and expresses sympathy for those whose lives were forever changed by this horrific event;

(3) expresses support for the people of Rwanda as they remember the victims of genocide;

(4) affirms it is in the national interest of the United States to work in close coordination with international partners to prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and mass atrocities;

(5) condemns ongoing acts of violence and mass atrocities perpetrated against innocent civilians in Syria, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Sudan and elsewhere;

(6) urges the President to confer with Congress on an ongoing basis regarding the priorities and objectives of the Atrocities Prevention Board;

(7) urges the President to work with Congress to strengthen the United States Government's ability to identify and more rapidly respond to genocide and mass atrocities in order to prevent where possible and mitigate the impact of such events; and

(8) supports ongoing United States and international efforts to—

(A) strengthen multilateral peacekeeping capacities;

(B) build capacity for democratic rule of law, security sector reform, and other measures to improve civilian protection in areas of conflict;

(C) ensure measures of accountability for perpetrators of mass atrocities and crimes against humanity; and

(D) strengthen the work of United States and international institutions, such as the Holocaust Memorial Museum, which are working to document, identify, and prevent mass atrocities and inspire citizens and leaders worldwide to confront hatred and prevent genocide.

SENATE RESOLUTION 414—DESIGNATING APRIL 2014 AS “NATIONAL CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 414

Whereas congenital diaphragmatic hernia (referred to in this preamble as “CDH”) occurs when the diaphragm fails to fully form, allowing abdominal organs to migrate into the chest cavity and preventing lung growth;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes CDH as a birth defect;

Whereas the majority of CDH patients suffer from underdeveloped lungs or poor pulmonary function;

Whereas babies born with CDH endure extended hospital stays in intensive care with multiple surgeries;

Whereas CDH patients often endure long-term complications, such as pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary hypoplasia, asthma, gastrointestinal reflux, feeding disorders, and developmental delays;

Whereas CDH survivors sometimes endure long-term mechanical ventilation dependency, skeletal malformations, supplemental oxygen dependency, enteral and parenteral nutrition, and hypoxic brain injury;

Whereas CDH is treated through mechanical ventilation, a heart and lung bypass (commonly known as “extracorporeal membrane oxygenation”), machines, and surgical repair;

Whereas surgical repair is often not a permanent solution for CDH and can lead to re-herniation and require additional surgery;

Whereas CDH is diagnosed in utero in less than 50 percent of cases;

Whereas infants born with CDH have a high mortality rate, ranging from 20 to 60 percent, depending on the severity of the defect and interventions available at delivery;

Whereas CDH has a rate of occurrence of 1 in every 3,800 live births worldwide;

Whereas CDH affects approximately 1,088 babies each year in the United States;

Whereas CDH has affected more than 700,000 babies worldwide since 2000;

Whereas CDH does not discriminate based on race, gender, or socioeconomic status;

Whereas the cause of CDH is unknown;

Whereas the average CDH survivor will face postnatal care of at least \$100,000; and

Whereas Federal support for CDH research at the National Institutes of Health for 2013 is estimated to be not more than \$3,000,000: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2014 as “National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month”;

(2) declares that steps should be taken to—

(A) raise awareness of and increase public knowledge about congenital diaphragmatic hernia (referred to in this resolution as “CDH”);

(B) inform minority populations about CDH;

(C) disseminate information on the importance of quality neonatal care of CDH patients;

(D) promote quality prenatal care and ultrasounds to detect CDH in utero; and

(E) increase research funding in an amount commensurate with the burden of CDH to—

(i) improve screening and treatment for CDH;

(ii) discover the causes of CDH; and

(iii) develop a cure for CDH; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States, interest groups, and affected persons to—

(A) promote awareness of CDH;

(B) take an active role in the fight against this devastating birth defect; and

(C) observe National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 415—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mrs. HAGAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 415

Whereas the week of April 7 through April 13, 2014, is National Public Health Week, and the theme for 2014 is “Public Health: Start Here”;

Whereas since 1995, public health organizations have used National Public Health Week to educate the public, policymakers, and public health professionals about issues that are important to improving the health of the people of the United States;

Whereas the public health system that keeps our communities healthy and safe is changing as technologies advance, public attitudes toward health shift, and more health and safety options become available;

Whereas the value of a strong public health system is in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the places where we live, learn, work, and play;

Whereas public health professionals help communities prepare for, withstand, and recover from the impact of natural and man-made disasters;

Whereas according to the Institute of Medicine, despite being one of the wealthiest nations in the world, the United States still ranks below many other economically prosperous countries in life expectancy, infant mortality, low birth weight, and many other indicators of public health;

Whereas studies have shown that small strategic investments in preventive health care could result in significant savings in overall health care costs;

Whereas research suggests that each 10 percent increase in local public health spending contributes to a 6.9 percent decrease in infant deaths, a 3.2 percent decrease in cardiovascular deaths, a 1.4 percent decrease in deaths due to diabetes, and a 1.1 percent decrease in cancer deaths;

Whereas in communities across the country, people are changing the way they care for their health by avoiding tobacco use, eating well, being physically active, and preventing injuries at home and in the workplace; and

Whereas by adequately supporting public health and preventive health care, we can continue to transition from a public health system focused on treating illness to one focused on preventing disease and promoting wellness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week;

(2) recognizes the efforts of public health professionals, the Federal Government, States, Tribes, municipalities, local communities, and individuals in preventing disease and injury;

(3) recognizes the role of the public health system in improving the health of individuals in the United States;

(4) encourages increasing the efforts and resources devoted to improving the health of people in the United States and to making the United States the healthiest nation in the world in one generation through—

(A) greater opportunities to improve community health and prevent disease and injury; and

(B) strengthening the public health system of the United States; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to learn about the role of the public health system in improving health in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 416—AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF A PHOTOGRAPH IN THE CHAMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 416

Resolved, That paragraph 1 of Rule IV of the Rules for the Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol (prohibiting the taking of pictures in the Senate Chamber) be temporarily suspended for the sole and specific purpose of permitting the Senate Photographic Studio to photograph the United States Senate in actual session on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at the hour of 2:15 p.m.

SEC. 2. The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate is authorized and directed to make the necessary arrangements therefore, which arrangements shall provide for a minimum of disruption to Senate proceedings.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2960. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2195, to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

SA 2961. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2195, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2960. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2195, to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests; as follows:

On page 2, line 4, insert “been found to have been” after “has”.

SA 2961. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2195, to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.”.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The title of this oversight hearing is “Keeping the Lights On—Are We Doing Enough to Ensure the Reliability and Security of the U.S. Electric Grid?”

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to dan_adamson@energy.senate.gov, or kristen_granier@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Dan Adamson at (202) 224-2871, Kristen Granier at (202) 224-1219, or Afton Zaunbrecher at (202) 224-5479.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 92, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 92) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 92) was agreed to.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 414; S. Res. 415; and S. Res. 416.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions en bloc were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2575

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2575 has been received from the House and is at the desk. I would ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2575) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I would ask for a second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for weekly caucus meetings; further, that the majority control the time from 2:15 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. and the Republicans control the time from 3:15 p.m. until 4:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, this evening cloture was filed on the motion to proceed to the equal pay bill. Under the rules the cloture vote will be Wednesday morning.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate at 7:57 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

STEVEN H. COHEN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GORDON O. TANNER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE CHARLES A. BLANCHARD, RESIGNED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JANE TOSHIKO NISHIDA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE MICHELLE DEPASS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THOMAS P. KELLY III, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

SUNIL SABHARWAL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE DOUGLAS A. REDIKER, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 7, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARK BRADLEY CHILDRESS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FRANCIS XAVIER TAYLOR, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

L. REGINALD BROTHERS, JR., OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ROSS ARAGON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Ross Aragon, a distinguished public servant from Pagosa Springs, CO. Mr. Aragon has served the town of Pagosa Springs for over 38 years, making him the longest serving town trustee and Mayor in the history of Colorado.

During his tenure as Mayor, Mr. Aragon was instrumental in improving the quality of police protection, expanding the town's boundaries by annexing the business corridor, expanding recreational programs and facilities, and establishing the parks and trail systems within the town. Additionally, under his leadership, the town was included in the Pagosa Fire Protection District as well as the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, resulting in domestic water being made available to town residents.

Not only has he tirelessly served the residents of Pagosa Springs, but he has served as a visionary seeking to expand geothermal energy by using the natural resources of his town. As a result, Mr. Aragon has played a key role in Pagosa Springs supporting and exploring geothermal energy for commercial use. One project that still engages his attention is the Pagosa Springs Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership. Through a unanimous vote of the Town Council led by Mr. Aragon, the town of Pagosa Springs is in partnership with various community residents in developing greenhouses for production of various agricultural products on permaculture principles. The geothermal greenhouse partnership will also serve as an avenue to educate the community on this viable green energy source and its many benefits.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize Mr. Aragon's tireless service to his community over these many years. I stand with the residents of the town of Pagosa Springs in saluting this remarkable man and congratulating him on a lifetime of service.

CELEBRATING THE ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today in celebration of the Rockford Rescue Mission, which is set to celebrate its 50th Anniversary this May.

Mr. Ray Stewart rented a building in 1964 in downtown Rockford in order to establish the Rockford Rescue Mission. There was a sign on the door that read, "All are welcome here. The alcoholic, the addict, the stranger, the sojourner, the pilgrim, the poor. There is hope for all who enter here." This important work continues fifty years later and I am proud of the service they have provided to many constituents in Illinois' Sixteenth Congressional District.

The Rockford Rescue Mission is open twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year. They serve Rockford and the surrounding communities by providing prevention and recovery services for addiction, abuse, and destructive relations. They are also the primary provider for meals and shelter in northern Illinois and are able to provide these services with private donations from individuals, foundations, businesses, organizations, and churches. None of this would be possible without the tremendous help of the over 500 volunteers who contribute nearly 45,000 hours throughout the year.

During the Rockford Rescue Mission's 2013 fiscal year, they served over 160,000 meals, provided over 58,000 beds for lodging, distributed over 159,000 items, facilitated over 10,000 counseling sessions, and served over 2,500 clinic patients.

The City of Rockford and surrounding communities can take pride in the Rockford Rescue Mission which gives back to the community so willingly. I would like to congratulate all the volunteers who have helped this organization over the past fifty years and I encourage them to continue their important service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Illinois' Sixteenth District of Illinois, I wish to express our appreciation for Rockford Rescue Mission's impressive service to the community and their diligent work.

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WISCONSIN 4-H PROGRAM

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin's 4-H Youth Development tradition. The very first meeting occurred on October 30th, 1914 in Walworth County in southeastern Wisconsin. 4-H stands for "Head, Heart, Hands and Health." There are 350,000 youth enrolled in my state's 4-H Youth Development program, and the 8th District is home to more than 13,000 of these exceptional young leaders.

4-H's slogan is "Learn by doing", and that is certainly true in Wisconsin. This partnership

between the University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county government has a tremendous history of engaging youth to pursue excellence in the areas of leadership, citizenship and life-skills. The program offers youth experiences in large and small animal projects, dairy-related activities, tractor driving contests, different shooting sports and wildlife management. Wisconsin's 4-H Youth Development program has provided youth in rural and urban settings with a unique opportunity to develop skills that will serve them well throughout their lifetimes.

As Congressman, I thank the many University of Wisconsin educators and volunteers that have contributed so much to this program over the last 100 years. As a proud Member of the House Agriculture Committee, I encourage residents in Northeast Wisconsin to celebrate this organization's rich history and tradition through the centennial events scheduled during the 2014 calendar year.

TRIBUTE TO BJORN BERG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Bjorn Berg of US Bank in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Bjorn in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Berg for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Bjorn on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID
DARWIN SILBERBERG

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of First Lieutenant David Darwin Silberberg. Mr. Silberberg served as an accomplished attorney in Memphis and has been internationally recognized for his discovery during World War II of countless documents and priceless works of art that were hidden by the Nazis in Germany. Although not technically a member of the famed "Monuments Men" now receiving acclaim in Hollywood, his achievements were no less notable.

Lieutenant Silberberg was born in Niedenstein, Germany on March 20, 1921 to Lee and Rosa Silberberg. In 1936, as the Nazis were gaining power, he and his family moved to Memphis, TN. When World War II broke out, he joined the U.S. Army and went to fight against his native land. While with his unit in the Harz Mountains of Germany he came across a broken down truck in a ditch outside of Degenershausen with various papers scattered around. As a German speaker, he could read the papers and they appeared to be important, including one signed by German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, so he investigated them further. This led him and his unit to the Chateau Degenershausen, where he and his group uncovered numerous files full of military command papers dating back to World War I. Some of the documents were even signed by Adolf Hitler, Kaiser Wilhelm II, and Otto von Bismarck.

Upon questioning of the Chateau's owners, he learned the locations of two other hiding places for similar documents, both of them located in the Harz Mountains. One of the locations was Castle Falkenstein, where the Lieutenant not only found archives dating as far back as the Franco-Prussian War, but also numerous crates holding paintings, sculptures and other artistic works, comprising the entire Library of the Berlin Academy of Arts. After discovering that officials in Berlin had ordered that the documents be burned Lieutenant Silberberg prevented their destruction, thereby saving countless historical artifacts, enough to fill fifty C-47 transport planes.

In the midst of these critical discoveries, it was learned that 250,000 German soldiers had made a major defensive stand outside Berlin. Thus, Lieutenant Silberberg left the archives behind and joined the Allies' effort in one of the War's last big campaigns in Europe. The military career of Lieutenant Silberberg is truly one for the history books. His accomplishments earned him much honor and respect and were noted by the BBC, Memphis Commercial Appeal and the Ninth Infantry Division Association. He served overseas twice during World War II: first with the 9th Infantry from Normandy to VE Day and then with Military Intelligence and Counter Intelligence during the initial occupation of Germany. Because of his honorable federal active duty service, he held the rank of Major in the

active Reserve and was assigned to Military Intelligence at the Memphis Army Reserve School. Finding importance in community involvement, Silberberg was also a member of the prestigious Leila Scott Lodge F. & A.M. and the American Legion Post 189.

Once he resettled in the United States after World War II, Silberberg attended Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland and earned an L.L.B Degree from the University of Baltimore Law School in 1951. Soon after, he returned to Memphis to earn a B.S. Degree from Christian Brothers University (CBU) in 1956. Among his several awards, Silberberg was recognized for his contributions to society as a recipient of the CBU Distinguished Alumnus Award of 1974. He also served as the President of the National Alumni Board at CBU.

In addition to being a war hero, Lieutenant Silberberg was a successful attorney and civic activist in the city of Memphis, including within the Memphis Jewish community. A year following his death in 2007, Silberberg was one of a few notable lawyers and judges honored at the 2008 Memphis Bar Association Memorial Service during Law Week. The city of Memphis and the state of Tennessee lost a legend on July 14, 2007, and the difference he made each and every day will always be remembered. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in remembering Lieutenant David Darwin Silberberg. His was truly a life well-lived.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY
F. TYLER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sidney F. Tyler, of Pasadena, California, a man of great integrity, a dedicated public servant, and an outstanding community leader, who passed away on Friday, March 28, 2014.

Sid was born in Abington, Pennsylvania on July 19, 1932. While in his teens, after his family moved to Colorado, he developed a great love of the outdoors, particularly for camping, skiing and hiking. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in American Government from Harvard in 1954, and then served in the Marine Corps for three years, stationed in Japan and Korea. Sid began working in the pharmaceutical marketing research field shortly after his honorable discharge in 1957. In 1969, Mr. Tyler moved his family to Pasadena and accepted a position with Tenet Healthcare the following year, where he remained until retiring as executive vice president in 1994.

After his retirement, Mr. Tyler was elected to the Pasadena City Council in 1997, where he served for twelve years. Known for his astute financial expertise, Sid effectively led the city through the effects of the power industry deregulation, chairing the city's Deregulation Committee. A supporter of the outdoors, particularly trees, he helped pass a tree protection ordinance in Pasadena, which protected oak trees and other species growing on public and private property, an accomplishment of which he was very proud.

Sid believed in active participation in his community, and to that end, his record of community service is impressive. He served on the boards of the Pasadena Community Foundation, Eastern Sierra Land Trust, Pacific Asia Museum and Descanso Gardens, was a trustee and board chair at Chandler School, was on the Vestry at All Saints Episcopal Church, and gave generously to open space and environmental causes.

Married for fifty-five years, Sid and his wife Betsey, have four children, Toby, David, Richard and Becky, and eight grandchildren.

Sid was an irreplaceable part of our community, and he will be sorely missed. He was a model public servant, admired by all as a man of impeccable character, a great gentleman, and a trusted friend. I ask all members to join me in remembering one of Pasadena's most admired citizens, Sid Tyler.

JACK COTTON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise today in recognition of Dr. Jack "Doc" Cotton, who bravely fought in World War II in the Navy on a supply ship, a hospital ship, and eventually on a troop transport ship, the USS *Buckingham*.

In 1943, Dr. Cotton received a draft notice, but under naval medical requirements, he was three inches too tall. Unwavering in his determination to serve, he subtly hunched over during his evaluation so he would be eligible to serve. While many, if not most, would have tried to escape the draft, Dr. Cotton did whatever he could to serve.

The *Buckingham*, on which Dr. Cotton served, transported troops throughout the South Pacific, and in fact carried the final transport of forces to Nagasaki, Japan, a crucial factor in our victory in the Second World War.

Though it was an obstacle to his naval service, his height would become an invaluable asset during his college basketball career. So valuable, in fact, that Dr. Cotton became an NBA player with the Denver Nuggets from 1948 to 1950. Always dedicated to service, he went on to serve as a coach, professor, and athletic director at Adams State University.

Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct privilege to recognize Dr. Jack "Doc" Cotton for his service to our country and his communities. I congratulate him on a long and successful career and thank him for the many sacrifices he made to preserve our freedom.

COMMANDER WARREN E. CUPPS
CHANGE OF COMMAND

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Warren E. Cupps, Captain

of the USS *Fort Worth*. The sixteenth of April two thousand fourteen marks a historic day for the United States Navy and the City of Fort Worth. Commander Warren E. Cupps will complete his successful tour as the Commanding Officer of USS *Fort Worth* LCS 3, Crew 103 Rough Riders.

Commander Cupps successfully commanded his ship and her Sailors through sixteen months of arduous sea duty. Taking Command on the seventh of December two thousand twelve, he commanded over 80 Sailors as crewmembers, mission package detachment crews and aviation detachment personnel. He has been instrumental in guiding the various mission packages including Surface Warfare Mission Package Detachment One, HSM-35 Detachment ONE and Mine Countermeasures Mission Package Detachment Three.

His leadership as the commanding officer is evident when the Commander of Naval Surface Forces in the U.S. Pacific Fleet awarded USS *Fort Worth* the 2013 Battle Effectiveness award. The Battle "E" is one of the highest awards presented to a ship. An annual award, it recognizes ships and crews who have demonstrated their combat readiness with superior performances in six categories in which they have maintained excellence and high standards.

Commander Cupps has led his crew through many milestones and achievements throughout the early life of USS *Fort Worth*. During his tenure, the ship completed Final Contract Trials, the Cybersecurity Inspection, the Technical Evaluation and Initial Operational Testing and Evaluation Period.

Final Contract Trials is a major ship inspection by the Board of Inspection and Survey, a congressionally mandated inspection. In the life of a newly constructed ship, it is the final inspection where the ship's material condition and operations are thoroughly tested. This is one of the last milestones in a ship's first year of life. Commander Cupps led his crew through the first-ever trial period for the newest class of ships, the Littoral Combat Ship.

In addition, USS *Fort Worth* is completing their Technical Evaluation and Initial Operational Testing and Evaluation Period. These events are crucial for the Littoral Combat Ship program in final testing of the seaframe, Surface Warfare Mission Package including 30mm cannons, 11m fast boats with maritime security teams and an MH-60R helicopter. In addition, during the crew's Cybersecurity Inspection, the crew set a new Fleet Record of excellence.

USS *Fort Worth* is one of the newest littoral combat ships to join our naval fleet. The Littoral Combat Ship, is a fast, agile and focused-mission platform designed for operation in near-shore environments and open-ocean operation, with war fighting capabilities to defeat asymmetric threats such as mines, submarines and fast surface craft. USS *Fort Worth* was christened in 2010 and commissioned in 2012 celebrating the first time our great city has been named as a Naval vessel to honor our city. The citizens of Fort Worth have embraced the Sailors of USS *Fort Worth* with true Texas hospitality. Our city maintains a proud military heritage and is home to the Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base.

The charge of command is an immense responsibility. It is the very soul of our Navy since 1775. It represents the finest level of leadership. Commander Cupps upheld the highest degree of naval standards and Navy traditions when commanding his Sailors. Through relentless hard work and determination, Commander Cupps exemplified Fort Worth's "Grit and Tenacity". The planks of USS *Fort Worth* are engraved with his leadership in professionalism, honor and virtue.

Finally, I will say the lasting impression within the bulwarks of USS *Fort Worth* will be the true loyalty and trust in which he instilled in his Sailors. At all times, Commander Cupps put his ship and her crew above himself. Warren, as a dear friend, I will say Bravo Zulu on your Command at Sea. Thank you for taking care of our men and women in uniform and keeping our ship combat ready. You are a great American and a Naval Officer of high honor and virtue. Fair Winds and Following Seas!

TRIBUTE TO JOE BENESH

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Joe Benesh of RDG Planning in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Joe in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Benesh for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Joe on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING PAUL NICHOLSON'S SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Paul Nicholson, Streator City Manager, and to recognize his many years of service to the citizens of the

City of Streator, LaSalle County, and the State of Illinois.

Paul has served for more than 40 years in city management for the City of Streator and other municipalities. He has been a reliable steward of city resources in Streator and helped save the city time and funds due to his professionalism and expertise.

Paul will be retiring from the position of City Manager after a new manager is selected. I would like to thank him for all he has done for the residents of Streator and LaSalle County. He has been a leader and advocate for many important issues throughout his years of service, and has become a well-respected member of the community.

While he is leaving his post and heading into retirement, I know that Paul will always be there to lend a helping hand or offer advice to those in need. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to Paul Nicholson for his commendable years of service and dedication.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. EDWIN C. KRUPP

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Edwin C. Krupp as he celebrates 40 years as Director of Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles. During these past four decades, Dr. Krupp has become an expert on ancient, prehistoric, and traditional astronomy, authored extensive publications on astronomical and science education to promote the field to the general public, and established Griffith Observatory as one of Los Angeles' iconic destinations.

Prior to directing the most-visited public observatory in the world, Dr. Krupp graduated with a B.A. in physics and astronomy from Pomona College in 1966; he followed with M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Krupp joined Griffith Observatory in 1970 as a part-time Planetarium Lecturer, was appointed full-time Curator in 1972 after receiving his Ph.D. in astronomy, and was named Observatory Director in 1974. Soon thereafter, Dr. Krupp co-founded Friends Of The Observatory (FOTO) in 1978 as the Observatory's indispensable non-profit partner. From concept to completion, Dr. Krupp led the \$93 million, award-winning renovation and expansion of the Observatory from 2002–2006, which restored and renewed the historic landmark, transformed its exhibits and programming capabilities, and more than doubled the size of its public space. Attendance has increased every year since reopening, and now exceeds 1 million visitors annually.

In pursuit of groundbreaking research, Dr. Krupp has visited, examined, photographed, and measured over 1,900 ancient and prehistoric sites throughout the world, and has led 38 field study tours for UCLA Extension and other organizations to exotic locations of both astronomical and archaeological interest.

Dr. Krupp has also published noteworthy texts on astronomy throughout his career,

such as "In Search of Ancient Astronomies" (1978) and "Skywatchers, Shamans & Kings—Astronomy and the Archeology of Power" (1997), both of which demonstrate his specialist contributions to the field of archaeoastronomy. Additionally, he has written several astronomy books for children, and hosted the astronomy education series "Project Universe" on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), in the late 1970s. These books and broadcasts, as well as his lectures, programs, and publications at the Observatory, have inspired countless new astronomers and archaeoastronomers, not to mention tens of millions of visitors.

It is with profound appreciation and respect that I congratulate Dr. Edwin C. Krupp on 40 years of leadership and innovation at Griffith Observatory. As an employee of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks, Dr. Krupp embodies the best attributes of a public servant. His dedication, energy, and enthusiasm is extraordinary, and people the world over have benefited from his service and scientific contributions. I now proudly ask you all to join me in commending Dr. Edwin C. Krupp for going "to infinity and beyond" to share the wonder of the cosmos.

RECOGNIZING FAIR HOUSING
MONTH AND HONORING OPEN
COMMUNITIES FOR ITS COMMIT-
MENT TO FAIR HOUSING FOR
ALL

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise during Fair Housing Month to recognize the 46th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act and to honor Open Communities, a non-profit organization in the suburban Chicago district I represent that is working to defend and protect fair, just housing for all.

In 1968, in the heart of the Civil Rights Movement, the Fair Housing Act was enacted, guaranteeing freedom from racial, ethnic, gender, religious, disability, sexual and marital discrimination in housing.

Today, Open Communities honors this legacy and protects these rights throughout the communities I represent. Founded in 1972, this organization educates individuals, officials, real-estate professionals and many others on fair housing standards.

Open Communities also conducts critical advocacy and offers assistance with claims and attorney referrals—all free of charge to the community.

Open Communities works to create a welcoming, inclusive community where all can come together, build their lives and raise their families. Born out of the Civil Rights Movement, Open Communities is carrying on the work that began in the 1960s and even further back.

The dedicated staff at Open Communities demonstrates a true, unwavering commitment to protecting fair housing rights and furthering the development of welcoming communities.

Mr. Speaker, our communities are best and strongest when they are fair and just and

open. Open Communities honors the legacy of the Fair Housing Act, furthers the themes of Fair Housing Month, realizes a vision for more welcoming communities and brings the Tenth District closer together.

I am incredibly grateful for Open Communities' dedicated service, and I am proud to mark the 46th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL BEYER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Daniel Beyer of Kabel Business Services in West Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Daniel in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Beyer for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Daniel on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING DR. I. JUSTIN
KLEAVELAND

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. I. Justin Kleaveland on his 90th birthday, which he celebrates on April 11, 2014. A resident of North Muskegon for over 60 years, Dr. Kleaveland has been an integral part of our community.

In 1951, Dr. Kleaveland joined the Army in the Doctor's Draft of the Korean War, serving for two years in Stuttgart, Germany. Upon returning to the United States, Dr. Kleaveland and his wife, Rosemary, settled in Muskegon, Michigan.

Upon returning from Germany, Dr. Kleaveland served as an internist at Hackley Hospital and Mercy Hospital until retiring in 2003, at the age of 79. Dr. Kleaveland has

been an active contributor to local and state politics, with special interest in both health care and education reform.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Second District of Michigan, I congratulate Dr. Kleaveland on his milestone 90th birthday and thank him for his service to Western Michigan and to our nation.

DAVID DILLMAN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. David Dillman, a dedicated business and marketing teacher at Durango High School. After leaving a highly successful career in sales and marketing in the private sector, Mr. Dillman began his teaching career in 1997, where he has inspired hundreds of students to learn more about business.

Throughout his teaching career, Mr. Dillman took it upon himself to mentor his students and provide them with real-world business experience and insights to help them succeed. Beyond the classroom, Mr. Dillman has diligently worked with local businesses to help students obtain employment. Once they have a job, he continues to advise them on best practices to tackle problems in the workplace and encourages them to build a strong work ethic that will serve them throughout their professional lives.

In his limited personal time, Mr. Dillman continues in his service by initiating and leading a new Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) program in his high school. DECA programs and competitions provide emerging business leaders training and hands-on experience in the areas of hospitality, marketing, management, finance and entrepreneurship. He also works to ensure that his students are able to participate in the Annual Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) Stock Market Game Capitol Hill Challenge every year. In addition to all of this, Mr. Dillman develops numerous partnerships with businesses for Durango High School. His enthusiasm for his craft and caring for his students is something deserving of recognition.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize Mr. Dillman today for his passion for education and his unyielding dedication to his students. I congratulate him on his numerous achievements, thank him for his service, and look forward to seeing how he will continue to inspire future generations in his classroom and beyond.

HONORING ADELE ROSEN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and honor Adele Rosen as the recipient of the Jewish Federation of Greater

Santa Barbara's 2014 Woman of Valor Award and for her years of leadership in our community.

Ms. Rosen has been an active member of the Santa Barbara community for 50 years. She has long been a dedicated and active member of the Jewish Federation, which has been a strong force for good in the Santa Barbara community for many years. During her years of service, she has served as President of the Jewish Federation's Women's Division and currently serves on its Women's Planning Commission. In addition to her work with the Jewish Federation, Ms. Rosen is the director of the non-profit Beyond Tolerance Education Center in Santa Barbara. This center has been a wonderful contribution to our community, working to teach thousands of school children about the causes, instruments, and dangers of discrimination and violence.

Ms. Rosen has also served as a board member of CALM, which strives to prevent, assess and treat child abuse in Santa Barbara County, a sustaining member of the Women's Board of the Santa Barbara Art Museum, a life member of Hadassah and Congregation B'nai Brith Sisterhood, Friend of Ensemble Theater, and the Santa Barbara Symphony.

Ms. Rosen's commitment to helping others and strengthening our community is truly an inspiration. May we all find the perseverance and passion that has inspired Ms. Rosen to leave her indelible mark upon our community.

PENBROOK LEO CLUB

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Penbrook Leo Club which is celebrating five years of service to the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania community.

Penbrook Leo Club was chartered in 2009 as a way for teenagers in Harrisburg to serve their community through volunteerism. Since that time, the members of this organization have engaged in many projects to improve the local area. They have helped beautify Harrisburg by adopting a mile of the Capital Area Greenbelt, participating in park and street cleaning, and maintaining a Memorial Garden at the community park. Members actively engage with local residents by visiting nursing homes, assisting with holiday parades and dinners, and participating in events such as National Night Out. The club has also raised money for organizations such as Diabetes Education and Research, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Lions Clubs International Foundation, and the Northeast Pennsylvania Lions Eye. Today, the 20 current members of this club continue to find ways to improve lives for the residents of South Central Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, for the last five years, the Penbrook Leo Club has served as an invaluable asset to the Harrisburg community. Therefore, I commend all the members of this organization that have devoted their time and energy to bettering their community.

TRIBUTE TO BRETT ADAMS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Brett Adams of Trilix in Johnston, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brett in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Adams for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Brett on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO THE VERDUGO HILLS FAMILY YMCA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA of Tujunga, CA upon its 25th anniversary.

The Verdugo Hills Family YMCA has had a strong presence in the Sunland-Tujunga area for many decades. Originally started in the early 1950s, the YMCA became a centralized gathering place for community activity. As a result of increasing popularity and financial support throughout the 1980s, the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA sought to expand in order to better meet the needs of the community, and so 25 years ago, the YMCA moved into its 6840 Foothill Boulevard facility in Tujunga. Since then, the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA has played a vital role in strengthening the community by providing quality programs for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, not just for young people, but for people of all ages.

The Verdugo Hills Family YMCA offers Sunland-Tujunga area residents many opportunities for involvement with a wide variety of programs and services, including camp, adult fitness, chaplain services, photography, preschool, an art and literature club, and many community events and lectures. One particular focus is the YMCA's effort to promote youth

fitness. The Verdugo Hills Family YMCA is dedicated to combating childhood obesity and has developed an outreach program with elementary schools in the Sunland-Tujunga area to teach physical education classes. In addition, the YMCA's swimming training programs helps encourage young people from an early age to maintain safe and healthy lifestyles, and they provide students from the local elementary school with free swimming lessons.

In recognition of its 25th anniversary, the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA will honor its many volunteers, who have donated more than 4,000 hours of their time, with the President's Call to Service Award.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA for its 25 years of service in the Sunland-Tujunga area.

HONORING MR. DON COATES AND HIS 40 YEARS OF MUSIC AT ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Mr. Don Coates for his leadership of the music department at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, ABAC. It is appropriate at this milestone to reflect on and celebrate his achievements.

For a small agricultural college of just 3,665 students, ABAC has a rich musical history. Each year the university sponsors a major jazz festival that attracts participation from well-known jazz performing artists as well as top high school jazz bands from across the state. This festival has seen performances from jazz greats including Maynard Ferguson, Nat Adderly, Jamie Abersold, Ron Diehl, and Bobby Shew.

Also included in this annual festival is the accomplished ABAC Jazz Ensemble. The ensemble has entertained audiences throughout the southeastern United States, Mexico, and even Europe. Additionally, they performed on the world stage on three occasions: in 1996, as part of the Olympic Games opening ceremony in Atlanta, GA, in 1982 and 1984, when they played at the Knoxville, TN, and New Orleans, LA, world's fairs, respectively.

Forty years ago, none of this would have been imagined possible, for no such music program existed at ABAC. Mr. Don Coates started the music program at ABAC upon joining the staff after he received his masters in musical education from Florida State University in 1974. A colleague lauded, "For many years, he was the entire program—directing concert band, jazz band, and choir, in addition to teaching most of the music classes." His dedication has brought music to Georgia and to the world. For that, his 40 years as a musical educator should be celebrated.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, on behalf of the great people of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, in recognizing Mr. Coates for his service to our community and our state.

THE OCCASION OF AFFIRMATIONS
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF SERVICE TO THE LGBT COM-
MUNITY OF GREATER DETROIT

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the staff and supporters of Affirmations on reaching a great milestone in their organization's history—twenty-five years of service to the Greater Detroit LGBT community.

Created in 1989, Affirmations began as the LGBT community's answer for a need to have a safe haven, with a mission to provide a welcoming space where individuals of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and cultures would be able to find support and acceptance. Operated entirely by volunteers during its first 2 years, Affirmations' first service was a toll-free phone line, where community members could call for information and assistance. Under the leadership of Affirmations' first executive director, Jan Stevenson, programs quickly expanded to include several support groups, where community members could find reassurance and acceptance among their peers.

From its humble beginnings, Affirmations quickly grew to address the evolving needs of Greater Detroit's LGBT community. At the center of its operating philosophy is the goal of empowering and educating volunteers to effect positive change in their own lives and in the broader community. Early on in its existence tragedy struck. In 1992 as Susan Pittmann and Christine Puckett, two of Affirmations founding members and leaders in Michigan's LGBT community, were murdered. Affirmations worked with other LGBT advocacy organizations in Michigan to rally the community and engage the public in a discussion on the need to protect all individuals from hate crimes.

The mission of advocacy has not waned in the years that have followed as Affirmations has held countless community forums and created many programs to assist its community members. Among these programs are health services geared toward practices that are sensitive to an individual's sexual orientation and gender identity. In a state and a country where it is still unfortunately legal for companies to fire someone based on their perceived orientation or gender identity, Affirmations provides LGBT youth with an internship program where they can gain valuable workplace skills in a supportive environment, and works with other local organizations to assist community members that have been the victims of discrimination in the workplace.

Over my many years in public service, as a proud ally of the LGBT community in Michigan, it has been a pleasure to support Affirmations' endeavors. Whether it is marriage equality, health services funding, or protecting LGBT people in the workplace and at school, Affirmations has been at the forefront of advocating for a more just, informed, and tolerant discussion of these important issues. Just two weekends ago, I was gratified to see that Affir-

mations rallied the community following Judge Friedman's historical ruling on marriage equality in Michigan to ensure that so many loving LGBT couples were able to finally have all of the same protections under the law that other loving couples enjoy. I was proud to work with my fellow Democratic members of Michigan's Congressional delegation to successfully push for Federal recognition of those marriages.

Mr. Speaker, as a long time friend, supporter and ally of Affirmations and Michigan's LGBT community, I am proud to recognize the profound impact this organization has made in Michigan over the last 25 years. The staff, supporters and volunteers of Affirmations have touched so many lives through their years of dedication and advocacy—fostering a dialogue and taking actions that have seen great steps forward in the ongoing endeavor to obtain full equality for the LGBT community. In its first 25 years, Affirmations has worked hard to fulfill its mission and I look forward to continuing to partner with its staff, supporters and volunteers as we make more progress to ensure that our entire state is safe and supportive for Michigan's LGBT residents.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP BLUMBERG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Philip Blumberg of Des Moines University for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Philip in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Blumberg for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Philip on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF
MALAYSIA AIRLINES FLIGHT 370

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my sympathies to the families and

loved ones of the 239 passengers and crew members of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which departed Kuala Lumpur enroute to Beijing on March 8, 2014, but disappeared somewhere over the Indian Ocean and has yet to be found.

In an age where powerful technology is capable of interconnecting the expanses of our world and able to provide real-time information globally, the haunting question must be asked: How can a sophisticated commercial airliner carrying 12 highly trained crew members and 227 passengers disappear without a trace?

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to families of those who appear to have perished on Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 to find answers and to take all necessary measures and make all necessary improvements to ensure that a tragedy like this never happens again.

Modern aircraft are technological marvels, capable of unrivaled aeronautical feats. The advances in aircraft technology have helped make possible many of the smart devices we use daily. But a disaster involving the disappearance of Malaysia Flight 370 has revealed glaring weaknesses in aviation technology areas of flight safety, information monitoring, and recovery.

The modern commercial airliner is among the safest machines ever built. Fail-safes, system redundancies, automated controls, and sophisticated radar systems ensure that almost any crisis can be prevented if the best practices of flight are observed. However, if the technology was perfected, disasters like that of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 could be eliminated.

In the case of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, the transponders—devices important to tracking the aircraft via radar—were disabled, effectively eliminating most modern methods for tracking the aircraft. Whether the tracking technology was powered down or disabled as a result of a catastrophic failure is irrelevant to the question of safety. The fact that tracking technology important to the recovery of an aircraft can be manually disabled in the air is a technological flaw that must be corrected.

Design processes that do not adequately exploit engineering technology or that prevent life-saving recovery efforts and lower safety standards need to be fixed immediately. In addition to critical safety measures, advanced methods of aircraft systems information monitoring need to be employed. Radar and tracking systems are as important to aircraft in the air as they are to monitoring systems on the ground.

During the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, experts were required to rely on unreliable "pings" from satellites that were only able to provide poor insight as to the location of the aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, monitoring information regarding the status of aircraft systems is vital in understanding whether operator error or system failure is responsible for aircraft disasters. Unfortunately, the majority of this monitoring information is stored internal to the aircraft, in flight data recorders.

In the case of a disappearance like that of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, system status information is essentially lost with the loss of the aircraft, or depends entirely on the recoverability of the aircraft.

Advanced technology can be employed to send real-time information on airborne aircraft to monitoring stations on the ground. If ground operators were able to monitor the system information normally contained in the flight data recorder, recovery operations would be streamlined and yield much more information, greatly improving future tracking and recovery efforts.

The importance of aircraft recovery is impossible to overstate. Beyond the technological aspect is the human factor. Hundreds of concerned and anxious persons were left in the dark concerning the fate of their friends, family, and loved ones aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, with little hope offered under the current safety, monitoring, and recovery standards.

Additionally, the majority of flight status information, telling to an aircraft's fate, is directly linked to the ability to recover an aircraft. Recovery hinges on a tight timeline—the longer it takes to establish information concerning the route and aircraft system configuration, the longer it will take to recover the aircraft.

The family and loved ones of airline passengers are entitled to receive frequent and reliable status updates just as soon as the information is available.

The availability of that information today is unduly dependent on technology that is in turn dependent upon the recovery of the aircraft but at the same time makes recovery efforts more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee, and a former Chair of its Transportation Security Subcommittee, I will continue to work with my colleagues, the Administration, and responsible officials in the aviation industry to ensure that technological weaknesses are corrected and to do all I can to ensure a terrible tragedy like that of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 never happens again. We owe the families and loved ones of the missing passengers and crew members at least that much.

UNION FIRE COMPANY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Union Fire Company which is celebrating 225 years of service to the Borough of Carlisle, Pennsylvania and the surrounding areas.

The Union Fire Company was formed in October 1788 after a fire destroyed several local homes. The company formally organized on April 6, 1789 and received their first engine soon after. Since that time, they have been an important force against many historic fires in the region and have been instrumental in keeping the residents of Carlisle safe. In 1931, the company entered into rural service, a move which earned them the title of the busiest firehouse in Cumberland County. Over the past 225 years, Union Fire Company has taken on an integral function within the community, extending their role to include hosting festivals and participating in parades.

Throughout history, many of the brave men working for Union Fire Company have pursued

the call to serve and protect beyond the local level. Members of the organization served and sometimes sacrificed their lives in the Civil War and World War I and II. Today, members of the fire house continue to put their own safety at risk to assure that the people of Cumberland County are protected from destructive fires and other disasters.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 225 years, the Union Fire Company has served as an important asset to the citizens of Carlisle and the surrounding areas. Therefore, I commend the personnel who have faithfully worked to protect and defend our community at this fire house.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE HOCKADAY SCHOOL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, this weekend will mark the culmination of the centennial school year for The Hockaday School in Dallas, Texas. The Hockaday School is a college preparatory day and boarding school for girls and young women in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. It is an exceptionally well-regarded and large institution with 1,000 students from eleven different countries around the world.

The Hockaday School today stands on the same Four Cornerstones upon which it was founded—Character, Courtesy, Scholarship, and Athletics. Though it has grown over the course of this century, it has grown to continually fulfill the vision of its founder, Miss Ela Hockaday, who believed that education, combined with a sense of ethics, was essential to the advancement of women in society. Miss Hockaday, born in 1875 and raised in Ladonia, Texas, was a lifelong educator. She received her bachelor's degree from what is today the University of North Texas and worked in several institutions as both a teacher and a principal in Texas and Oklahoma. She also attended the University of Chicago and Columbia University. Miss Hockaday's interests were especially strong in the sciences and, after receiving many accolades, she was made head of the biology department at Durant State Normal School in Oklahoma in 1910.

In the summer of 1913, while working her small farm in South Texas and on a break from teaching at the Oklahoma College for women, she received a telegram from Menter B. Terrill, who had previously founded the Terrill School for Boys (now St. Mark's School of Texas) in Dallas. At his suggestion she met with several Dallas businessmen who wanted her to establish a girls' preparatory school so that their daughters might have educational opportunities. Shortly thereafter, in September of 1913, Miss Hockaday's School for Girls opened in a house on North Haskell Avenue in Dallas, with an initial enrollment of ten students.

Miss Hockaday's School grew quickly, moving to its second site on Greenville Avenue in 1919. By the 1920s, its academic reputation has been well established and the school

grew. A Lower School and Boarding Department were added in those years. In 1931 a Junior College was added and, seven years later, the Music Institute was opened. Miss Hockaday continued to serve as headmistress until 1946 and remained involved until her passing a decade later. All the while she ensured the permanence of the Four Cornerstones and the rigor of the classical education at the school.

In 1961, The Hockaday School moved to its third and present location at Welch Road in North Dallas. The effort had begun in 1956 under J. Erik Jonsson (who later became mayor of Dallas) and was made possible by a donation of 100 acres by Karl Hoblitzelle. The Dallas Times Herald called it "eye-catching" and "the most unusual, the most attractive, the most advanced learning facility in Dallas."

Today the Hockaday School continues to thrive. Thanks to the Hockaday Tomorrow Capital Campaign in 2004, it is home to a state-of-the-art Academic Research Center, a Lower School Addition, and a Wellness Center. Now, ten years later, the Centennial Campaign aims to provide the school with even more facilities and initiatives in the years ahead. The Hockaday School continues to serve as an important part of Dallas' educational landscape, educating girls and young women to assume positions of leadership in an ever-changing world.

Throughout this centennial school year, the school has hosted various festivities to commemorate its rich history and celebrate its bright future. After kicking-off the events in September, the school has put on an ongoing Centennial Exhibit, the Hockaday Day of Service, and the Centennial Speaker Series. It all culminates in a Centennial Week of commemorative events with a luncheon on April 11 and "The Party of the Century" finale on April 12, complete with musical performances and fireworks. This magnificent moment in the history of a venerable institution of women's education will be shared by students, alumnae, faculty, and many friends and family who share in the Hockaday legacy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in marking and celebrating the centennial of The Hockaday School.

CONGRATULATING BOSMA INDUSTRIES AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding work of Bosma Industries and the AbilityOne Program. AbilityOne is an outstanding program committed to providing "employment opportunities for people who are blind or have significant disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the Federal Government." Unfortunately, over 70 percent of those who are blind and visually impaired are unemployed. Thanks to the efforts of

AbilityOne, over 50,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities have found gainful employment. Since 1915, Indiana's very own Bosma Enterprises has been a partner of the program by providing job training, employment services, rehabilitation and outreach programs for people who are blind or visually impaired. In fact, Bosma is Indiana's largest employer of people with vision loss. Last year alone, Bosma helped 179 blind people find gainful employment and assisted over 700 people in acclimating to their vision loss.

This is about more than numbers though. It is about the people they are assisting. Take the example of Robert. In the sixth grade, he was diagnosed with a learning disability and he also has impaired hearing and a speech impediment. Despite these obstacles, Robert was able to graduate high school. He then went on to earn a certification in welding from the Upper Valley Joint Vocational School in Ohio. Unfortunately, Robert's vision then began to decline. While Robert's vision declined, he was able to work at Walmart for 15 years. Then, in 2010, he lost his vision entirely to glaucoma and was no longer able to work. A year after he was declared legally blind, Robert found Bosma Industries and a whole new purpose in life. He went through the rehabilitation program and later began utilizing Bosma's employment services. First, Robert was taught how to acclimate himself to the outside world. He was hesitant to leave the comfort of his community but with Bosma's orientation to mobility training he began to come out of his shell. Robert learned how to build a computer, write a check, repair a broken door and other life skills. He even learned sculpting and pottery at Bosma. Bosma got Robert ready to take on the world through counseling, workshops on resume writing and how to find different ways of performing everyday tasks. Robert currently enjoys his time volunteering at Goodwill Industries, and hopes it will lead to a paid position soon. Bosma Industries empowers people to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my support to the AbilityOne Program. I also want to thank Lou MoneyMaker, the President and CEO of Bosma Industries and their staff for their dedication and support to changing the lives of Hoosiers struggling with blindness or vision loss. They have forever transformed these lives and have had a positive impact on all of our communities.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER CHITTENDEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jennifer Chittenden of the Des Moines Downtown Chamber of Commerce for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the

Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jennifer in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Chittenden for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jennifer on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THELDA DOBBINS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Mrs. Thelda Dobbins.

Thelda Kirschner Dobbins was born on April 26, 1914 in Lisbon Falls, Maine. She graduated from Lisbon Falls High School in 1930 at the age of 16 and went on to receive a teaching degree from Farmington State Normal School, now known as the University of Maine at Farmington, as a member of the Class of 1932. Thelda went on to teach grade school in Durham, Maine for three years, making \$12 a week during the Great Depression.

Thelda continued to teach until she married Lester Dobbins in 1938, and the couple gave birth to their only child, Herb, in 1941. After the onset of World War II, Thelda returned to teaching in Sabattus and then at Pettingill School in Lewiston until her retirement in 1971.

Thelda and Lester enjoyed over 60 years of marriage until Lester passed away in 2000. Thelda continues to be an active member of the Auburn community as a resident of The Chapman House.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mrs. Thelda Dobbins, who has led an extraordinary life dedicated to her family and the education of Maine's children.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF LA PLAZA

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor La Plaza, whose tireless work over the past ten years has blessed thousands in my hometown of Indianapolis.

La Plaza exists to serve, empower, and integrate the Latino community of Central Indiana. The organization was founded in 2004 through the merger of Hispanic Education Center, Fiesta Indianapolis and El Centro Hispano. By bringing together the separate resources and services under one organizational umbrella, La Plaza committed to provide strong programming under a more efficient model. Today, La Plaza continues to fulfill this charge through its mission of strengthening Central Indiana by advocating and preparing Latino students for educational success and by connecting Latino families to health and social services.

La Plaza is Central Indiana's largest provider of culturally and linguistically appropriate services to Latino families. The organization's work is increasingly important as the Latino population in Indianapolis continues to grow. Data from the 2010 Census shows a 154 percent increase in the number of Hispanics in Marion County, increasing from 33,000 to more than 84,000 in the last 10 years.

Serving as a trusted liaison between Central Indiana Latinos and the community at large, La Plaza connects over 5,000 individuals each year to over 20 community partners to deliver high-quality health and social services. The range of services spans from providing a pediatric and dentistry clinic to case management and basic needs assistance. La Plaza's educational initiatives additionally serve over 2,000 elementary to college-aged students. These programs help encourage and support Latino youth to excel in school and to pursue a post-secondary education. La Plaza also provides many of these first-generation college students with scholarships to ease the financial burden of college.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring La Plaza for its efforts to strengthen and integrate the growing Latino community in Central Indiana by providing them with vital educational and social services.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This is an important reminder that there is much work still to be done to promote the rights and needs of victims of crime in our communities.

As a State senator, I was the author of the first anti-stalking law in the country—before this legislation, there was very little legal protection available for stalking victims. I also worked to establish rights for crime victims in California's state constitution as author and campaign co-chair of Proposition 115. Proposition 115 gives victims the rights to a speedy trial, reduces the number of times crime victims must testify, increases sentences and punishment, and requires reciprocal discovery of evidence.

When I arrived in Congress, I made it a priority to address stalking at the federal level. In 1996, I introduced the Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act, which was signed

into law, making it a felony to cross state lines to stalk someone. I am also a cosponsor of a Victims' Rights Amendment, which gives victims of crime the same protections as their offenders. Crime victims deserve equal consideration in the criminal justice process. In addition, I am a cosponsor of Justice for Crime Victims Act of 2014, legislation to legislatively further some of the same goals of the Amendment.

There is also much work to be done to serve victims of human trafficking—a growing issue in Southern California. That's why I've cosponsored the Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act. This legislation helps ensure that child welfare agencies have the necessary tools to understand the unique needs of child trafficking victims and the resources to appropriately serve them.

I encourage you to visit <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/incvrv/> to learn more about Crime Victims' Rights Week and what we can be doing in our local communities to raise awareness about the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, from January 6, 2014 through January 17, 2014, I was in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, reporting for mandatory annual National Guard training. I missed rollcall votes Nos. 1–23. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 1: "Present"—On Quorum Call of the House.

Rollcall No. 2: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 724.

Rollcall No. 3: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3527.

Rollcall No. 4: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3628.

Rollcall No. 5: "no"—Ordering the Previous Question.

Rollcall No. 6: "no"—On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 455.

Rollcall No. 7: "yes"—Agreeing to the Sinema Amendment.

Rollcall No. 8: "yes"—Agreeing to the Tonko Amendment.

Rollcall No. 9: "yes"—On Motion to Recommend with Instructions.

Rollcall No. 10: "no"—On Passage of H.R. 2279.

Rollcall No. 11: "yes"—Final Passage of H.R. 3811.

Rollcall No. 12: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1513.

Rollcall No. 13: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 230.

Rollcall No. 14: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2274.

Rollcall No. 15: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 801.

Rollcall No. 16: "yes"—On Approving the Journal.

Rollcall No. 17: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2860.

Rollcall No. 18: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1233.

Rollcall No. 19: "no"—On Ordering the Previous Question.

Rollcall No. 20: "no"—On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 458.

Rollcall No. 21: "yes"—Concurring in the Senate Amendments with an Amendment on H.R. 3547.

Rollcall No. 22: "yes"—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

Rollcall No. 23: "no"—On Passage of H.R. 3362.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BANASIAK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mike Banasiak of Legacy Financial Group for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Mike in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Banasiak for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Mike on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,555,437,713,940.26. We've added \$6,928,560,665,027.18 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A RESOURCES STUDY TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ENTERING INTO PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO OPERATE FEDERALLY OWNED GOLF COURSES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a resources study to determine the suitability and feasibility of entering into public-private partnerships to operate federally owned golf courses in the District of Columbia. The three golf courses—Langston Golf Course, Rock Creek Golf Course and East Potomac Golf Course—are owned by the National Park Service (NPS). The courses have long been in desperate need of capital investment to reverse decades of deterioration and to maintain and preserve their historic features. From the time Congress created the first of the courses in the 1920s, they have been underfunded. The major reason is that NPS has continued to operate the courses under concession contracts even though concession contracts do not allow for the significant annual capital improvements necessary for golf courses. The concessions approach to operating golf courses has led to an inevitable declining state of repair.

East Potomac Golf Course was built in 1920 and included three courses that accommodated all levels of play, with an 18-hole course and two 9-hole courses. East Potomac was initially segregated, with African Americans permitted to play only on Mondays. The course was desegregated in 1941 by the then-Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, following pressure from an African-American women's golf club, the Wake Robin Golf Club. However, Langston Golf Course opened in 1939 as a segregated course for African-Americans, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Langston was the home course for the Royal Golf Club and the Wake Robin Golf Club, the Nation's first clubs for African American men and women golfers, respectively. Langston, named for John Mercer Langston, the first African-American elected to Congress from Virginia in 1888, was originally a 9-hole course. Langston's expansion to an 18-hole course began in 1955, but was not completed until the mid-1980s. Rock Creek Golf Course opened in 1923 as a 9-hole course and an additional nine holes were added to it in 1926. None of the courses have been modernized, all three have fallen into disrepair, and all lack the amenities necessary to serve the public today.

My bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of NPS, to conduct a special resources study to determine the suitability and feasibility of entering into public-private partnerships with a non-Federal entity or entities to operate the

courses. The study would assume that one of the three golf courses will be a world-class, tournament-quality public course, with playing fees commensurate with such courses. The other two courses would be public courses of substantially similar quality to top-ranked courses owned by cities, towns, counties and states. The playing fees for these other two courses would remain the same as they are on the date of enactment of the bill, indexed annually to the Consumer Price Index. The study would also determine which course would be best suitable as the world-class, tournament-quality public course.

The three courses together constitute a magnificent but underutilized public asset that could be renovated and modernized, facilitating affordable recreation, attracting significantly more golfers and generating revenue to maintain the courses. Unlike other NPS facilities, golf courses require significant, continuing capital investment for maintenance. The current fees collected from patrons at the courses, which are established in the concessions contracts, must remain affordable and therefore do not generate sufficient revenue for NPS or the concessioners to properly maintain the courses.

Because the public golf courses in the Nation's capital are in such poor condition and are in need of a different and better means of operating and funding, I urge support of this bill.

IN HONOR OF EDWIN JEFFREY
"LANCE" WENTZEL

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor fireman Edwin Jeffrey "Lance" Wentzel, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty serving the residents of Youngwood Borough and Southwestern Pennsylvania on Saturday, March 22, 2014.

Lance Wentzel was part a large group of volunteers searching North Versailles for a senior citizen who had been lost for days. Tragically, Lance lost his life during the search. A dedicated public servant, Mr. Wentzel sacrificed many hours away from his family, without pay, to help those in need.

Lance Wentzel was a distinguished thirty-five year member of the Youngwood Volunteer Fire Department. Ready and willing to serve his fellow citizens in need, Mr. Wentzel volunteered at Ground Zero in New York City following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. In 2012, he was named the department's "Firefighter of the Year."

Born on October 16, 1956, in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Lance was active in the 14th Quartermaster family support group, attended St. Mark Lutheran Church in New Stanton, and was an accomplished marathon runner.

We offer our prayers and thanks to his family: wife, Judith; two sons, Jeffrey Jeremiah Wentzel, and Christopher William Wentzel; two stepsons, Justin Martin Vestrand, and Jason Mac Vestrand; three grandchildren, Oscar Thomas, Nevaeh and Urijah Wentzel; a

brother, Philip A. Wentzel; four sisters, Judith C. Wagner, Connie L. Watson, Bonnie Kucenic, and Doris Santone.

Mr. Wentzel's sacrifice and service to the Youngwood Volunteer Fire Department, the community, and the country will not soon be forgotten. Tonight, as we say our evening prayers, let us thank God for men like Lance who without a second thought to their own well-being, are willing to do whatever is necessary to protect our families and communities.

OBSERVING THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SMOLENSK DISASTER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn observation of the 4th anniversary of the Smolensk Disaster.

On the morning of April 10th, 2010 Polish Air Force One crashed at Smolenski North Military Airfield in western Russia, killing all 96 passengers onboard—including Poland's president and first lady, political and military elites, as well as religious leaders and civilian families.

The stunning catastrophe happened as those Poles flew to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest Mass Murders perpetrated under the direction of Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union against Polish prisoners of war.

Years later, both tragedies still bring pain and suffering to the Polish people—both abroad and in my home district of Bucks and Montgomery counties.

In recognition of the fourth anniversary of the Smolensk Disaster, members of the Polish community in my region will gather at the American Czesochowa in Doylestown to pay tribute to those who lost their lives and commemorate this somber anniversary. I join them in marking this important date with reflection and prayer, as well as thanking the organizing committee for preparing this important event.

Poland and America remain strong allies with mutual interests in advancing the causes of freedom and liberty. I support a strong relationship between the two nations, and encourage all Americans to remember the Smolensk Disaster and those lost.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 4, 2014, I was unavoidably detained while questioning the Attorney General in the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee and so I was not present for rollcall vote No. 159.

Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 159 amendment of-

ferred by my good friend Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

CONGRATULATING THE NAIA DIVISION II MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, THE INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY WILDCATS

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the Indiana Wesleyan University Men's Basketball team for winning the NAIA Division II national championship. I am proud that the IWU Wildcats hail from Marion, Indiana, in my District. The Wildcats not only crushed the Midland University Warriors on March 18, 2014 and earned their first national championship, but they also ended the season as the No. 1 team in the NAIA poll, the third time the team has held this honor.

The Wildcats had an incredible season, becoming the first team to win all five tournament games by double digits and finishing the season with an outstanding 31-6 record, this season's highest Division II men's basketball win total. Coach Greg Tonagel led the team to victory and was named the NABC/NAIA Division II Coach of the Year. However, Coach Tonagel's award was one of many for the Wildcats this year, as senior Jordan Weidner was the 2014 Championship Most Outstanding Player, Lane Mahurin won the Championship Hustle Award, and the IWU Wildcats won the Dr. James Naismith/Emil Liston Team Sportsmanship Award. The sportsmanship award speaks to the integrity and hard work exemplified by each and every IWU player throughout this phenomenal season. They set a wonderful example for the entire Marion community and most especially their young fans.

My home state of Indiana has such a rich basketball heritage, and I am joined by Hoosiers across the state in celebrating Indiana's only 2014 Men's Basketball Championship. The Wildcats' unique approach to the game is exemplified by the team's motto of "I Am Third"—God first, your teammates second, and yourself third. This inspiring motto is prominently displayed in the locker room and on the team warm-up shirts which are emblazoned with "Team 3".

Once again, congratulations Indiana Wesleyan University, we are very proud of you and look forward to cheering you on through another great season next year. Go Wildcats!

RECOGNIZING LOUIS SPADACCINO

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, duty, honor, country and responsibility are the core values said to be shared by our "Greatest

Generation." Louis Spadaccino of Holland, Bucks County, PA was no exception. Sadly, Lou passed away April 3 at the age of 90.

Lou, along with his six brothers served our country in World War II. In his senior year of high school he took his final exams early and left to join the U.S. Navy. Lou was a gunner's mate on LCI 489 and together with his fellow naval crew mates was active in bringing in the first wave of troops to Normandy at the Battle of Omaha Beach. Lou spent the next three years in the Navy and was honorably discharged in 1946.

About two years ago I had the opportunity to accompany Lou with Honor Flight to visit the National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. It was a privilege to share this experience with such an extraordinary gentleman, an American hero.

Lou led a full life as a business leader, community servant and loving family man. He will be missed but his remarkable achievements will live on in the hearts and minds of those he touched over the course of his lifetime.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OMEGA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Omega Christian Church, in White River Township, Hamilton County, Indiana. It is a pleasure to congratulate the church in celebration of this special occasion.

Omega Christian Church was founded during some of our nation's darkest days, in 1863 during the midst of the Civil War. At the time of the church's founding, the surrounding neighborhood was known as Bethany but later came to be called Omega. Exemplifying the best of the hardworking and enterprising Hoosier spirit, the residents built the church themselves using local timber. Joseph Lacy oversaw the construction, and Dr. Silas Blount gave the dedicatory sermon in November of 1863. Knowles Shaw (1834–1878), an early minister of the church, became a prominent evangelist and composer of religious music and is best known for the hymn "Bringing in the Sheaves".

In the years following the war, the community around the church began to grow and prosper. After construction was finished on the church, a sawmill, general store, doctor's office, blacksmith shop, and post office were also established. In 1926, the church was moved and enlarged to make room for the growing congregation. The framework and sanctuary of the church are original and are still in use today, making the Omega Christian Church the oldest building in White River Township.

The church continued to grow and expand throughout the following years. While the physical building has changed, the mission of the Omega Christian Church remains unchanged from its founding in 1863: to serve God and His people, and to be a light in the

community where stability, comfort, strength, and family can be found, all in the name of Jesus Christ. Today the Church reaches out to serve in other ministries far beyond the dreams of its pioneer founders, including supporting the Damou Christian Mission near Jacmel on the southern coast of Haiti. The Mission maintains a school for more than a thousand students, an assisted living facility for the elderly, and two orphanages established following the tragic earthquake of 2010.

Today, I am proud to recognize "the small country church that cares" and thank them for their contributions to the spiritual well-being of their community and the world. May the next 150 years be equally blessed.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW HOPE-LAMBERTVILLE BRIDGE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the New Hope-Lambertville Bridge is a historic, two-lane, steel truss bridge that has linked the two picturesque communities along the Delaware River for 200 years. The two-lane, toll-free span has weathered well, surviving floods and ice and two centuries of traffic from horses to motor vehicles. It remains a busy bridge with an estimated daily traffic count of 14,000. The New Hope-Lambertville Bridge opened as a wooden-covered bridge on Sept. 12, 1814, followed in 1904 with construction of the current steel truss bridge. Local historians created a documentary containing rare film footage that chronicles the 200-year history of the span, other landmarks and the rich artistic tradition of the area. The film premiered at a special celebration held at the New Hope Playhouse on April 10, 2014 to commemorate the 200-year anniversary. Congratulations to all involved in this tribute, including the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, the interstate agency responsible for the care and maintenance of the trusted connection between Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 9

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-124

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

To hold hearings to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine an assessment on how to keep our railways safe for passengers and communities.

SD-138

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine defense health programs.

SD-106

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Labor.

SD-192

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Science and Space

To hold hearings to examine from here to Mars.

SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging

To hold hearings to examine addressing primary care access and workforce challenges, focusing on voices from the field.

SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger and the impact on consumers.

SH-216

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine election administration, focusing on making voter rolls more complete and more accurate.

SR-301

- Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine Ukraine, focusing on confronting internal challenges and external threats, including Russia's seizure of Crimea.
SD-215
- 10:30 a.m.
Committee on Rules and Administration
Business meeting to consider S. 1728, to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, S. 1937, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to develop contingency plans to address unexpected emergencies or natural disasters that may threaten to disrupt the administration of an election for Federal office, S. 1947, to rename the Government Printing Office the Government Publishing Office, S. 2197, to repeal certain requirements regarding newspaper advertising of Senate stationery contracts, and the nominations of Thomas Hicks, of Virginia, and Myrna Perez, of Texas, both to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission.
SR-301
- 11 a.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Small Business Administration.
SR-428A
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Energy.
SD-192
- Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force.
SD-124
- Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine National Nuclear Security Administration management of its National Security Laboratories and the status of the Nuclear Security Enterprise in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR-222
- Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 429, to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products, S. 1014, to reduce sports-related concussions in youth, S. 1406, to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, S. 1275, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to issue a fishing capacity reduction loan to refinance the existing loan funding the Pacific Coast groundfish fishing capacity reduction program, S. 1379, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens, S. 1468, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation, S. 1793, to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, S. 1925, to limit the retrieval of data from vehicle event data recorders, S. 2022, to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, S. 2028, to amend the law relating to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, S. 2030, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, S. 2076, to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, S. 2086, to address current emergency shortages of propane and other home heating fuels and to provide greater flexibility and information for Governors to address such emergencies in the future, S. 2140, to improve the transition between experimental permits and commercial licenses for commercial reusable launch vehicles, H.R. 2052, to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment, the nomination of David J. Arroyo, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and nominations for promotion in the United States Coast Guard.
SR-253
- Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on Indian students in public schools, and cultivating the next generation.
SD-628
- Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the economic impact of increased natural gas production.
SH-216
- APRIL 10
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD-106
- Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine United States electric grid reliability and security, focusing on if enough is being done.
SD-366
- Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for international development priorities.
SD-419
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Commerce.
SD-192
- Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015.
SD-215
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine expanding access to quality early learning, focusing on the "Strong Start for America's Children Act".
SD-430
- 10:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight
To hold an oversight hearing to examine small agencies.
SD-342
- 2 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
S-116
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
To hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR-222
- Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Environmental Management of the Department of Energy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR-222
- Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH-219
- 3 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on European Affairs
To hold hearings to examine transatlantic security challenges, focusing on Central and Eastern Europe.
SD-419
- APRIL 30
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's 2014 Trade Policy Agenda.
SD-215

<p>MAY 20</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Airland Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.</p> <p>SD-G50</p>	<p>3:30 p.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.</p> <p>SD-G50</p>	<p>committee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.</p> <p>SD-G50</p> <p>2:30 p.m. Committee on Armed Services Closed business meeting to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.</p> <p>SR-222</p>
<p>11 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on SeaPower Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.</p> <p>SR-222</p>	<p>5 p.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.</p> <p>SD-G50</p>	<p>MAY 22</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Closed business meeting to continue to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.</p> <p>SR-222</p>
<p>2 p.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.</p> <p>SR-222</p>	<p>MAY 21</p> <p>10 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the sub-</p>	<p>MAY 23</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Closed business meeting to continue to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.</p> <p>SR-222</p>

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, April 8, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 8, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB WOODALL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

ALLOW A VOTE ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, this is my weekly reminder to House Republicans that they have only 30 legislative days before the July 4 recess. In that time they had better allow a vote for immigration reform or the President will take executive action to reform our immigration.

The chance to save the Republican Party from being a regional party and not a national one rests on what Republican leaders do during the next 30 legislative days. If they deny justice, security, and dignity to our brothers and sisters with foreign hands, who work every day in American fields to plant and pick our vegetables, the Republican Party is giving up on the chance for their brothers and sisters with Republican hands to pick and plant vegetables in the White House's vegetable garden any time soon.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, the Hispanic Congressional Caucus will have a special meeting with Secretary of Homeland Security Johnson. We will present

him with a memo that lays out options the Obama administration has under current law to protect more immigrants from a deportation along the lines of deferred action for DREAMers.

The important phrase here is "under current law." In February 2011, we delivered a memo to the President outlining specific actions he could take within existing law to keep families together, spare military families, and, yes, spare those who would qualify for the DREAM Act; protecting them temporarily on a case-by-case basis from deportation using tools in the law like deferred action, parole, and hardship waivers.

Our position was strengthened in April of that year by a paper called "Executive Branch Authority Regarding Implementation of Immigration Law and Policies." The report was written by Bo Cooper, who served as general counsel at the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and by Paul Virtue, who was also general counsel at the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The report said:

The executive branch, through the Secretary of Homeland Security, can exercise discretion not to prosecute a case by granting "deferred action" to an otherwise removable or deportable immigrant.

Only a month before deferred action for DREAMers was announced, a letter signed with footnotes and citations was sent to the President from almost 100 law professors at our top law schools and universities outlining the power the President has to spare immigrants from deportation.

Legal scholars and research are not always enough to persuade my friends in the Republican Conference. Almost every single one of them voted for the King amendment defunding deferred action last year and voted this year to sue the President over immigration enforcement. They are rejecting these arguments as some kind of academic hoax.

So, as I have done in the past, I ask you not to just take my word for it, or the word of legal experts, or hundreds of law professors. I ask you to take the word of your former Judiciary chairman—three of them—when it comes to immigration and deportation.

Here is the letter from November 1999 where at least 28 Republicans and Democrats called on President Clinton to exercise prosecutorial discretion when it comes to deportation and immigration enforcement. It is in this letter:

There has been widespread agreement that some deportations were unfair and resulted in unjustifiable hardship.

The principle of prosecutorial discretion is well established.

It is in the letter:

Optimally, removal proceedings should be initiated or terminated only upon specific instruction from authorized INS officials, issued in occurrence with agency guidelines.

They go on to urge that those guidelines—it is in there—they urge those guidelines should be issued from headquarters, just as the Hispanic Congressional Caucus is going to urge the President to issue guidelines for initiation and termination of deportation proceedings tomorrow.

Let's see, here is LAMAR SMITH, and JAMES SENSENBRENNER signed it, and Henry Hyde. Three Republican chairmen of the Judiciary Committee signed this letter, stating that the President had broad discretion. Mr. Speaker, three former chairmen of the House Judiciary Committee, the legal foundation upon which this opinion rests, is as rock solid as their conservative credentials are.

Yet, to this day, the Republican Conference has not come up with an immigration bill or a series of bills of their own. The American people are still waiting for Republicans to write their own immigration bills or amend the ones that were sent to us by a two-thirds bipartisan majority in the Senate.

I am here to remind my friends in the Republican Conference that the time is running out. If you don't take action, the President will take action to permit millions upon millions of undocumented immigrants to be able to live safely in the United States of America. It is your choice.

GABRIELLA MILLER RESEARCH ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Washington can get things done. It may not be all the time, but over the last year we have been able to make constructive progress on an array of issues. Had it not been for Members on all sides of the aisle coming together, looking past party labels, and working on what is important, this would not have been the case.

Last week on Thursday, April 3, President Obama signed into law an important piece of legislation that represents one of those points of progress.

In December of last year, the House passed bipartisan legislation to shift \$126 million—money previously used to finance national political conventions—to the National Institutes of Health, where it will now support research into childhood cancer and other pediatric diseases, including Down syndrome, cancer, autism, and the countless other diseases that affect our children that don't yet have a cure.

In March of 2014 the Senate passed the legislation, again with bipartisan support. That bill—now law—was the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act. There have been many critical research breakthroughs over the past decade. As a result of this new law, millions of additional dollars will be put towards research in an effort to develop treatments and cures for pediatric disorders and diseases. Today, more are on the horizon, and with passage of this law, they will be upon us that much more quickly.

As most are aware, Gabriella Miller passed away from cancer, an inoperable brain tumor, in October of 2013. Gabriella, before her passing, stated: "If I go, if I lose my battle, then I'm going to want other people to carry on with the war. They are going to win this war."

Mr. Speaker, although there is much more to be done, with the passage of this act, this body took one small step in that direction. Through this new law we honor the legacy of a brave and spirited young girl who left a mark on the Nation and the world. Let us continue to fight this battle on behalf of so many boys and girls in similar positions. My prayers are with Gabriella and her family.

TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, April 16 marks Emancipation Day in the District of Columbia, when the slaves who lived in the District of Columbia were emancipated.

I come to the floor this week to discuss a different kind of emancipation. Today, I begin, as the Nation began, with taxes without representation. If I were to ask you who pays the highest taxes per capita in the United States of America, who would you say? What jurisdiction would you say? New York? Connecticut? Arizona? Texas?

It would be the citizens of the Nation's Capital who support the Nation without representation in the Congress of the United States, the 650,000 citizens of the Nation's Capital. That is why you see D.C. license plates that say, "Taxation Without Representation." That was not the idea of the D.C. government. It was a citizen who came

forward to suggest that this should be what was on our license plates.

So, April 16—we in the District commemorate Emancipation Day every year because we have the distinction of being the first jurisdiction in the United States where the slaves were emancipated 9 months before they were emancipated elsewhere. The irony is, we are now the last jurisdiction where citizens of every background do not enjoy equal rights. All other Americans have at least one voting Representative and two Senators. District of Columbia citizens have no vote on this House floor and no Senators.

All other Americans govern themselves without interference from the Congress. The District of Columbia must abide the nullification of local laws if the Congress sees fit. All other Americans enjoy total control of their own taxpayer funds. The District budget, approved by and raised by District officials, must be approved in this House and in the Senate by people who had nothing to do with raising those funds.

All other Americans pass any constitutional local law they see fit. All local laws of the District of Columbia must lay over here in the House to see whether somebody wants to pop up and overturn them, even if they are constitutional.

What is the difference between the people I represent and the people my colleagues represent? We do not have statehood rights, and that is what any citizen who pays taxes and serves in the armed services for the Nation deserves. We seek statehood, the only way to achieve what we have sought and still seek: budget autonomy, legislative autonomy, freedom from interference into our lives by the Congress of the United States.

The Nation's first principle, the principle that gave rise to revolution, is taxation without representation. How would you feel if the highest per capita taxes were paid by your citizens and they didn't have the same rights as every other citizen?

District residents pay almost \$12,000 per capita; the lowest are paid, and I point them out only because they are the lowest, by Mississippi, and their taxes are the lowest. I don't go through all the States because there is not room. But what is your State? New York? \$8,737 per person. Compare that to our almost \$12,000 per D.C. resident, and New York is a large State. California ranks 10th, \$8,162 per capita compared to our \$12,000 per capita, my friends, per citizen.

In our country when England decided to impose taxation without representation, the colonies decided they would be colonies no more. They passed a resolution saying, "No taxes ever have been or can be constitutionally imposed on them" by their respective legislatures.

Look at this graph; it speaks for itself, it speaks for the residents of the District of Columbia.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING A RURAL ELECTRIC VOLUNTEER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to thank a power lineman from Dixon, Missouri, for facilitating the advent of safe, reliable, and affordable electricity for a community in Haiti.

His service and sacrifice will improve the lives of many people because electricity is a critical element to improving the quality of life, health care, education, clean water, and other vital services.

I would like to recognize Karl Brandt, who works for Gascosage Electric Cooperative. Volunteering his time and expertise for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation, he spent 2 weeks in the town of Caracol, providing safety training and mentoring for local Haitian linemen.

Mr. Brandt also assisted with installing power for residences located next to an industrial park in Caracol. When fully functional, this industrial park will have the capacity to employ 30,000 people. Only about 13 percent of the people in Haiti have reliable access to electricity.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International has been working on a USAID-funded program to bring electricity to the town of Caracol and to nearby areas in northern Haiti.

Today, more than 1,200 consumers in the town of Caracol have access to reliable electricity. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, some homes here now have antennas for TVs; small businesses, like Internet cafes, have been established; and water treatment plants are in operation.

Mr. Brandt, we thank you for your service.

TAKE MARIJUANA OUT OF THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week, Attorney General Holder said that he would be happy to work with Congress to reexamine how marijuana is scheduled under Federal statutes.

That is a thoughtful effort, but I hope the Attorney General realizes

that the time for examination and re-examination has passed. It is now time for him and the administration to act.

The jury has returned its verdict on medical marijuana. More than a million patients use it in managing chemotherapy symptoms, chronic pain, PTSD in our soldiers, and epilepsy, particularly in severe epilepsy that afflicts children; 70 percent of Americans think that medical marijuana should be legal, and I honestly believe that, if the other 30 percent had a child who was subject to these severe epileptic seizures or if a loved one had unbearable chronic pain, they would come around as well.

Marijuana is currently listed as a schedule I drug. That is the same classification as heroin or as LSD. It is higher than cocaine or methamphetamines. This makes no sense whatsoever. No one dies from a marijuana overdose, and the alleged less dangerous methamphetamines have been ravaging communities, particularly in rural and smalltown America, and people do die, and people do commit violent acts.

The Attorney General has called on Congress to act, and in fact, we have. Working in a bipartisan way, we have introduced a variety of bills that do everything from creating a regulatory framework to tax marijuana, to bills to protect State marijuana laws from Federal interference, to legalizing the production of industrial hemp; but the dysfunction of Congress has kept these simple, commonsense bills from passing to this point.

What we need is for the Attorney General and those who work for him at the DEA to at least move marijuana off the schedule I or the schedule II of controlled substances. This is something they can do under their own initiative.

Relisting or delisting marijuana could make it easier for researchers to gain access to the drug. It will allow marijuana businesses, which are perfectly legal in over 20 States, to deduct their business expenses like all other legal businesses.

It could give States more flexibility in dealing with it as a public health issue, and it would reflect what every teenager in America knows—but apparently what the DEA does not know—marijuana is not more dangerous than cocaine and methamphetamines, and to pretend otherwise means that young people and the general public will take the DEA less seriously.

I am inviting the Attorney General to visit us here on Capitol Hill, or we will go to his office to go over these points in person with a bipartisan group that has been working on these issues, whose advice and counsel should be helpful to him.

However, the easiest path forward for the Attorney General remains the same: take marijuana off the schedule I. A cab ride to Capitol Hill is not

going to change that. We hope we can see some action and see it soon.

WALT RICHARDSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Chief Master Sergeant Walter H. Richardson, United States Air Force, Retired, who passed away on March 29, 2014.

Walt—who built his life on three pillars of faith, hope, and love—was dedicated to his country, his community, his family, and above all, to the Lord. I am privileged to honor a truly remarkable man and an American hero.

Born and raised in Pensacola, Florida, Walt joined the Armed Forces to serve his country and help provide for his family. His career in the Armed Forces spanned 30 years and included service in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Walt was an original member of the revered Tuskegee Airmen, training at Tuskegee Army Airfield in a variety of disciplines that would serve him well throughout his entire career. A few years ago, I had the honor of presenting Walt the Congressional Gold Medal for his service as a Tuskegee Airman.

During his time in the military, Walt was one of over 1,000 enlisted men selected to integrate the Armed Forces. Walt's unwavering commitment to service and immense leadership skills were recognized when, while stationed at Dover Air Force Base, he became the first African American to be promoted to the rank of master sergeant in the field maintenance squadron.

He retired at the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force, chief master sergeant, as the senior enlisted adviser to the commanding general of the 1st Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field in Florida.

Beyond his military service, Walt was an accomplished writer, whose personal memoir is titled, "How Great Thou Art: A Black Boy's Depression-Era Success Story," in addition to his being a dedicated member of the northwest Florida community as he served as a deacon of St. Mary Parish in Fort Walton Beach for over three decades.

Walt was known throughout the Gulf coast as a kind and warmhearted man who was always helping his fellow citizens. To his family, he was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

The legacy left by Walt Richardson and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen has a profound impact on the course of our history.

Our Nation is proud and grateful for the brave men and women like Walt Richardson, who stared into the face of racial discrimination and said: We are one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Walt led an exemplary life of courage, service, patriotism, and devotion to faith and family, and his service to God, family, and country will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am humbled to honor Chief Master Sergeant Walter H. Richardson, United States Air Force, Retired.

My wife, Vicki, and I send our sincerest condolences to his wife of 60 years, Helen; to his eight children, Walter, Pat, Lillie, Carmen, Henri, Donna, William, and Carl; to their nine grandchildren; to their four great-grandchildren; and to the entire Richardson Family.

THE RYAN BUDGET: AN ATTACK ON AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House begins deliberations on the majority's budget for fiscal year 2015, better known as the Ryan budget. Sadly, it is reminiscent of the same misguided policy proposals rejected by the American people time after time.

A budget is a moral document, a roadmap to fiscal stability, and the security of the social safety net. The majority's budget does neither. It is not a serious document, and it is not responsible.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, nearly 70 percent of the cuts included in the majority's budget come from programs serving low- and middle-income American families, programs like Pell grants, SNAP, and Medicaid; yet no cuts were made from defense funding. Instead, it received a near \$500 million increase. Most would agree that a nation's budget reflects its priorities.

The majority's budget is a clear sign that economic prosperity for all is simply not that important, that equality is not that important. Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are focused on shrinking the government at any cost—at all costs—even if it means doing so on the backs of the most vulnerable among us.

The CBC substitute budget takes a different approach by offering a plan that reduces the deficit and alleviates the harm inflicted by sequestration in a responsible and fiscally sound way.

The CBC substitute is focused on making our government work smarter and our programs operate more efficiently. It provides a plan to turn our country's economy around and to open the door of opportunity for future generations.

The CBC substitute includes initiatives that would provide immediate assistance to all Americans, like extending emergency unemployment insurance and raising the Federal minimum

wage while also mapping out a long-term agenda for future economic growth.

It reinforces support for critical safety net programs, provides resources to address persistent poverty, rebuilds our transportation infrastructure, and promotes domestic manufacturing.

The CBC substitute proposes reforms to make our Tax Code more fair. Our budget eliminates a number of special tax breaks that benefit the wealthiest Americans, and it closes the international tax loopholes that move American jobs overseas. The CBC proposed tax reforms would save \$2 trillion over a 10-year period and would create jobs.

By passing the CBC substitute, Congress can stimulate the economy while expanding the middle class. To my colleagues in the House, we have a blueprint. Let's build a better America together and move closer to giving everyone a budget and a country of which we can be proud.

IN HONOR OF MILLARD AND J.J. OAKLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor two beloved Tennesseans who have dedicated their lives and service to our State, Millard and Joyce Annette Oakley.

A lifelong resident of Overton County and a graduate from Tennessee Tech University, Millard Oakley is a true jack-of-all-trades. He proudly represented the Upper Cumberland for four terms in the Tennessee General Assembly, and he continued his service as a member of the Tennessee Board of Regents and as the State insurance commissioner.

Today, he ensures that small businesses in our district have the capital needed to expand their reach and hire more workers as the director of the First National Bank of Tennessee; and he helps spread the gospel message as the director for the Thomas Nelson Publishers, the world's largest Bible publishing company.

His loving wife, Joyce, or J.J., as she is known, is a West Virginia native, but she got to Tennessee just as soon as she could and met her husband-to-be while attending the University of Tennessee law school.

While the Oakleys' accomplishments are many, they are best known for their generosity to the students and families of my district. In 2004, the Oakleys sponsored a Vince Gill concert that helped Tennessee Tech University raise more than \$140,000 for the new nursing school.

They also offered Tennessee Tech the use of their family farm and donated \$2 million to fund the school's Science,

Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Center, the largest single gift in the university's history.

Additionally, the Oakleys were instrumental in recruiting a satellite campus of Volunteer State Community College to Livingston and gave generously to causes such as the Overton County Public Library.

□ 1030

Today, the Oakleys can still be seen around my district visiting the library that bears their name or walking on the campus of Tennessee Tech and meeting students who have personally benefited from their contributions.

People like Millard and J.J. Oakley truly earn Tennessee its nickname of the "Volunteer State."

I am deeply grateful for their friendship and their example of selfless generosity. May we all aspire to live such a life.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AWARENESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I have spent a fair amount of time on the House floor talking about sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape in the military; in fact, I have spoken 30 times about that issue. But it is apparent that we also need to spend some time talking about sexual harassment in this Chamber.

This is the Congress of the United States of America. This is the House of Representatives of the United States of America. This is not a frat house.

Regrettably, this week, another one of our colleagues was discovered engaged in inappropriate action with a member of his staff. This is not the first time. It will probably not be the last time. It happens on the Republican side. It happens on the Democratic side. That doesn't make it okay.

Almost 25 years ago, Anita Hill testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee. There were six male Senators that questioned her. They suggested that she somehow had wanted it or was lying. I was so mad. I remember watching that testimony and throwing my slipper at the television. That was in 1991.

The following year, 1992, was called the Year of the Woman in Congress. Women were mad. That year, more women were elected to Congress than ever before. In fact, in California, we elected two U.S. Senators: Senators DIANNE FEINSTEIN and BARBARA BOXER.

It is time for us to recognize that we have a problem. It is not okay to fondle a staff member. It is not okay to make suggestive comments to a staff member. It is not okay to have provocative pictures on your computer. It is just not okay to conduct ourselves in that manner.

Today, I am introducing a bill that I have been working on for some time that will require that every Member of this House and every staff member participate in a training on sexual harassment at least once every 2 years.

We are only asking ourselves to do what is being done by over 60 percent of the corporations in this country. In fact, in California, I carried legislation that required the posting of signage in every corporation about what sexual harassment was, the rights and responsibilities around it, and what steps you could take if it happened. We then took steps to make sure every member of the State legislature was subject to sexual harassment training at least once every 2 years.

Here in Congress, there is an Office of Compliance. Ironically, the Office of Compliance is where you might report sexual harassment, but then the Office of Compliance is responsible for protecting the office. Go figure.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, for us to clean up our act. It is time.

DISASTROUS EFFECTS OF RYAN REPUBLICAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I feel compelled to talk to you today about the disastrous effects the Ryan budget would have on our country's research and development enterprise and, consequently, the disastrous effect this budget would have on America's future competitiveness.

As others have pointed out, the Republican budget cuts nondefense discretionary spending by \$1.3 trillion below the baseline 2014 spending level, adjusted for inflation. These are massive cuts on top of a budget that has already had large reductions in recent years.

The effects on research and development would be dramatic. The American Association for the Advancement of Science estimates that the Ryan budget would cut civilian research and development by \$92 billion from the current baseline and \$112 billion below the President's budget request.

These are striking reductions. Please keep in mind that the National Science Foundation's total annual budget is just over \$7 billion. The Republican budget cuts more research and development funding every year than the entire annual budget of the National Science Foundation.

This is insanity. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have truly divorced themselves from reality if they think these cuts to research and development won't cripple our country for decades to come.

Let's talk about what the Republicans want to cut.

It is estimated that technological innovation has led to the majority of America's economic growth since World War II. Much of this innovation has been funded by the Federal Government.

Think back to the first grants that NASA gave Robert Noyce's upstart company in the 1960s. Of course, he went on to be the founder of Intel, the largest computer chip maker in the world. Or think of the NSF research grant that led to the creation of Google. The very Internet itself was initially funded as a research project by the Department of Defense and rolled out by the National Science Foundation.

You can look at virtually every aspect of our high-tech industry and the economy and find a connection to Federal research and development funding. To make dramatic and drastic cuts to R&D funding in the name of deficit reduction is truly shortsighted.

My friend and former CEO of Lockheed Martin, Norm Augustine, frequently gives the following analogy. When an airplane is overloaded and too heavy to fly, you don't cut weight by chopping off the engines. I think that is a great analogy, because that is exactly what this budget does. It cuts off the engine of American innovation.

It would be bad enough if these deep cuts only affected research and development, but the Ryan budget will also painfully cut education funding. Indexed for inflation, that budget would cut hundreds of billions of dollars from precollege and college education programs.

Let's put these education cuts in context.

In the last international student assessment, U.S. students ranked 26th in mathematics and 21st in science. We are falling behind our economic competitors in STEM education. The Republican solution to this problem is to throw in the towel. These educational cuts sell our children out, plain and simple.

Taken together, the cuts to research and education in this Ryan budget paint a dark picture of America's future. It is a picture where America no longer leads the world in innovation. It is a picture where our children are not prepared for the rigors of a competitive 21st century global marketplace. It is a picture of America in decline.

I reject this future. I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reject the Ryan Republican budget that sells America short and, instead, show support for robust education and research funding and a strong American future.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Ryan Republican budget and in support of the alternative budget plan that has been submitted by the Congressional Black Caucus.

The CBC budget is an effort to take a balanced approach to deficit reduction; the GOP budget balances itself on the backs of children, college students, working families, middle class folks, senior citizens, the poor, the sick, and the afflicted.

The CBC budget would move America forward; the GOP budget would take us backward.

The CBC budget is designed to create progress for the greatest number of Americans possible; the GOP budget is designed to promote prosperity for the few.

As we engage in this budget debate, we should be here on the floor of the House of Representatives trying to find ways to promote the American Dream for the middle class and for those who aspire to be part of it. Instead, the Ryan Republican budget is a nightmare for far too many Americans.

My good friends on the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, may suggest that when we use language such as that, it is hyperbole. Let's examine what the Ryan Republican budget actually does, because I believe, when you put it to an evidence-based analysis, one can come to no other conclusion than it will result in a nightmare for far too many Americans.

The Ryan Republican budget would cut more than \$125 billion in food and nutritional assistance for food-insecure Americans. In this great country of ours, the richest in the world, there are more than 50 million Americans every day who wake up hungry and food insecure. Approximately 16 million of those hungry Americans are children. Yet the Ryan Republican budget would cut \$125 billion in assistance to these Americans. That is a nightmare.

The Ryan Republican budget would also cut approximately \$260 billion in funding for higher education, essentially robbing the capacity of so many younger Americans to pursue the American Dream of getting a college education.

In this country, there is already more than \$1 trillion in collective student loan debt. That is more than \$1 trillion. That reality, Mr. Speaker, means that so many younger Americans have an inability when they graduate from college to purchase a home, to start a family, to create small businesses. We are robbing these Americans of a viable future. And \$260 billion in cuts to higher education funding, it seems to me, is a nightmare for young Americans.

The Ryan Republican budget would also cut \$732 billion from Medicaid. Almost two-thirds of the recipients of Medicaid are actually seniors, the sick, the disabled, and the afflicted. Don't believe this caricature that people like to create as it relates to Medicaid. Seniors, the sick, the afflicted, and the disabled benefit from Medicaid, and the Ryan Republican budget would cut \$732 billion over a 10-year period from this vital social safety net program? That is a nightmare for the American people.

□ 1045

So this is not hyperbole. Unfortunately, this is reality.

I would urge my colleagues to take a real close look at the Congressional Black Caucus alternative, a fair and balanced alternative, a budget that would invest in job training and education, invest in transportation and infrastructure, invest in research and development, invest in technology and innovation, invest in the American people and our future.

That is why I am urging a "no" vote on the Ryan Republican budget and a "yes" vote on the CBC alternative.

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW CAN HURT YOU

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is said that what you don't know won't hurt you. What you don't know won't hurt you. I disagree.

What you don't know about health care can hurt you. What you don't know about a treatable condition that can harm you, possibly kill you, what you don't know about it can hurt you.

I don't believe in the idiom, the adage, what you don't know won't hurt you. I believe you should know the truth because the truth can set you free.

So let us take a moment now and look at just one aspect of what is called the Ryan budget. Let's look at health care. The Ryan budget repeals the Affordable Care Act. It repeals it without replacing it.

What you don't know can hurt you. But if you know the truth, it can liberate you. We need to get the truth to the masses so that the masses can understand the impact of repealing without replacing.

Let's reflect upon 2009, when we embarked upon the task of developing an Affordable Care Act. In 2009, we were spending \$2.5 trillion per year on health care. \$2.5 trillion is a very large number, and it is difficult to get your mind around it. However, \$2.5 trillion is \$79,000 a second. \$79,000 a second is what we were spending.

17.6 percent of the GDP, \$100 billion being spent on persons without insurance in various venues, emergency

rooms, and other places. It was projected that by 2018 we would spend \$4.4 trillion per year.

Know the truth. It can liberate you.

\$4.4 trillion is \$139,000 per second; estimated that it would be about 20.3 percent of GDP.

In 2009 we had 40 to 50 million people uninsured, depending on who is counting and how you count. In 2009 we had 45,000 people per year dying because they didn't have insurance. This is per Harvard University. One person dying every 12 minutes.

In 2009, in the State of Texas we had 6 million people uninsured, and 20 percent of the children in the State of Texas uninsured.

We had to do something about health care if, for no other reason, to simply bend the cost curve. And the cost curve is bending. It is projected that, in the first 10 years, it would bend the cost curve about \$100 billion, and in the next 10 years, \$1 trillion.

Know the truth, and the truth can liberate you, my dear friends. The truth is this: if the Ryan budget repeals the Affordable Care Act and it is not replaced—and there is no replacement provision in that budget—seniors who are on Medicare are going to see the doughnut hole expand rather than close.

The doughnut hole is that point at which seniors have to pay more for prescription drugs, more than many can afford. What you don't know can hurt you, seniors, when the doughnut hole starts to expand.

The budget would cause those who are 26 years of age, under 26 years of age, who are on policies of their parents, to come off.

Young people are invincible until they have an accident and get hurt and need health care. They are invincible until they find out they have a condition that is curable and they need health care.

Young people, what you don't know can hurt you. But the truth can liberate you so that you can do the right thing as it relates to this budget and let people know that you are opposed to what can happen to you.

This budget will cause preexisting conditions to become an uninsurable circumstance in your life. There are people who are born with preexisting conditions. These people will not be insurable. The Affordable Care Act eliminates preexisting conditions as a reason not to ensure people.

We would go back to people being born with preexisting conditions, many of whom would have to wait until they can afford or get to Medicare before they could get insurance. Medicare is a type of insurance.

This budget would cause women to, again, have to go back to a circumstance wherein they, by virtue of their condition of being a woman, would have a preexisting condition.

Mr. Speaker, I will put a "to be continued" in this message. But what you don't know can hurt you. The truth can set you free.

God bless you.

PEARL S. BUCK INTERNATIONAL AND THE CHILDREN IN FAMILIES FIRST ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, noted humanitarian, and longtime Bucks County, Pennsylvania, resident, Pearl S. Buck, touched many lives during her lifetime.

Her books brought readers inside the worlds of those they might have never known, and her commitment to a global community devoid of prejudice and bias solidified her place in American history.

However, it was her dedication to children of all races for which I recognize her today. Pearl S. Buck pioneered a process for international adoption that brought down the walls of interracial adoption and grew loving families, where, before, there were no options.

Her work continues today, and it continues with the leaders at Pearl S. Buck International in my district. Through the "Welcome House program" and adoption assistance, the organization carries on her critical mission of connecting children worldwide with loving families here in the United States.

I was proud to join the leaders at Pearl S. Buck International last month to highlight our mutual support for the Children in Families First Act. This bipartisan legislation streamlines our Nation's international adoption process and increases America's diplomatic mission abroad to include the well-being of children around the globe.

As a member of the Congressional Adoption Coalition and a cosponsor of the bill, I am excited to advance the Children in Families First Act as a commonsense response to the needs of families and groups like Pearl S. Buck International.

By removing roadblocks, increasing USAID opportunities, and prioritizing adoption within the State Department, we can ensure that every child, no matter where they are born, has a home.

THE POWER OF THE INTERNET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to come to the floor this morning and talk just a little bit about free speech and how we

exercise that free speech in this country.

I think it is no secret that the Twitterverse and the Internet has been abuzz with a little bit of concern about what the President is planning to do about the Internet and control and governance of the Internet.

I think we all agree that the Internet has had a revolutionary impact on not only this Nation but on the world. You can take a look at what has happened with jobs, with innovation, with economic freedom, and, indeed, with social change.

You see it pronounced because the Internet allows people to participate from the bottom up, receiving information about what their governments are doing, about opportunities that are out there. They have the opportunity to get online and do a little bit of research.

So, with this open ecosystem and this decentralized nature of information, it is benefiting freedom. It is benefiting free people and free markets. We want to see that continue.

Now, like many of my colleagues, I do support a free market, multistakeholders model of Internet governance. And in a perfect world, ICANN, which is the organization with governance of domain names and of the Internet, and IANA would be fully privatized and free from any government influence or control.

However, realistically, we know that China and Russia have a very different view of what would be perfection. Their end goal is to have ICANN and IANA functions migrate to the U.N.'s ITU, which is the International Telecommunications Union. That solution is one that I do not support and one that I would never stand in favor of. I stand in opposition to it.

If the U.S. Department of Commerce is going to relinquish control of its contractual authority over the IANA contract and move control of DNS into a global, multistakeholder community, the timing and the architecture would just have to be absolutely perfect.

This is an area where you have only got one shot of getting it right, only one shot, and we have to make certain that it is a shot that is focused fully on freedom.

If this administration wants to prove to Congress and the international community that they are serious about this process, then they must immediately move to bring an end to the net neutrality movement that is alive and well at our Federal Communications Commission.

Telling Congress and the international community that they are serious about relinquishing control over the IANA contract while simultaneously having the FCC work to promote net neutrality is disingenuous.

While we know Russia has got a land grab going on, we also see the U.N. and

the ITU trying to carry forth this space grab.

A lot of our colleagues come to us, Mr. Speaker, and they say, so what are we going to do about this?

I want to highlight two different pieces of legislation with you; first, H.R. 4342. This is the Domain Openness Through Continued Oversight Matters Act, DOTCOM Act. Congressmen SHIMKUS and ROKITA have joined me in this effort.

What we would do is to make certain that there is a prohibition against the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration—we call it NTIA here—from turning over its domain name system oversight responsibilities pending a GAO report to Congress.

Let's put this report in front of the action. Let's have a great discussion about what taking that action of relinquishing oversight would mean to each and every person that is assembled in this great room.

How is it going to affect our constituents?

How is it going to affect American innovation?

Let's have those discussions now. Let's not make a mistake.

I also highlight H.R. 4070, a piece of legislation I have authored, the Internet Freedom Act, to bar the FCC and their actions on net neutrality.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

If long ago all people had taken Your holy Word seriously—"make justice your aim"—how different history might be. Each day would be filled with promise and hope if all of us, upon rising, would make justice our aim.

Lord, if we as a people and as a nation were to make justice our aim, how would this change our priorities? Could we change that much?

In every age, Your impelling Spirit called our ancestors beyond their wishful thinking and beyond themselves to move ever closer to our national calling of "equal justice under the law."

Send that same Spirit upon the Members of this people's House that they, who have been entrusted with ensuring this great calling, might fulfill that great promise, and it will truly come to pass that justice would roll down like a river and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GARCIA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, again, to support equal pay for equal work.

Republicans and Democrats share the conviction that no one should lose wages on account of one's sex. As is so often the case in this politically polarized city, though, the broad agreement on the goal does not extend to the methods we should use to get there.

Under the guise of equal pay, our Democrat colleagues would have us pass more rules, institute more red tape, and create more grounds for lawyers to drag businessowners into court. Perhaps there is a certain logic to this "regulate everything" approach.

After all, as The New York Times reported today, the President hasn't even been able to equalize pay between men and women in his own White House.

However, this President's ongoing regulatory blitzkrieg has helped to equalize the wages of 6.7 percent of the population—the unemployed.

WATER WEEK

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Water Week in order to recognize the critical need for clean water in our Nation.

In my western New York community, we understand the link between the health of the Great Lakes and the economic vitality of our region.

Studies have shown that nutrients, like phosphorus and nitrogen, are the cause of harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes. In order to fight this, I have introduced the Great Lakes Nutrient Removal Assistance Act, which would provide \$500 million in funding to upgrade wastewater treatment plants in the Great Lakes Basin with nutrient removal technology.

Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes contain 95 percent of America's freshwater, and they supply drinking water to more than 30 million people in North America. Additionally, the Great Lakes support 1.5 million jobs and \$62 billion in wages annually.

The protection of the Great Lakes is essential, and I commend local advocates, like the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and others, who are in Washington, D.C., this week for Water Week, as well as those who work tirelessly to protect our water resources for the well-being of our Nation.

THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD MUST BE LIMITED

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, the House Education and the Workforce Committee will mark up two bills to protect all American workers by limiting the National Labor Relations Board's expansion into the workforce.

The Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act restricts the Big Business, Big Government NLRB and reaffirms the protections that workers and job creators have received by promoting a fully informed union election process.

The Employee Privacy Protection Act gives workers greater control over the disclosure of personal information and helps modernize an outdated election process by replacing current rules that leave workers at risk of intimidation and coercion.

For years, the President's Big Labor bully has threatened to destroy jobs, such as at Boeing in north Charleston, and to invade American workers' privacy and encroach upon their rights.

I am grateful to the Education and the Workforce chairman, JOHN KLINE, and to the subcommittee chairman, Dr. PHIL ROE, for their dedication in promoting the rights of every American worker and in protecting American job creators.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Equal Pay Day.

Fifty-one years ago, the Equal Pay Act was signed into law. Still, women in my home State of Hawaii, where women have traditionally been part of the workforce—like my two grandmothers who worked in the sugarcane fields—still earn 82 cents to the dollar earned by a man.

Equal pay is not just a woman's issue. It is a family and a community issue. Women are one-half of the paid workforce. Two-thirds of the women are either primary or cobreadwinners for their families, but women are two-thirds of the workforce who are earning minimum wage.

Closing the wage gap cuts poverty in half, and women and their families then benefit. Nearly half a trillion dollars is then added to our economy.

Remember, the President said, when women succeed, America succeeds.

Please bring H.R. 377, the Paycheck Fairness Act, to the floor.

VENEZUELA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak for those who are being violently muzzled by the autocratic Maduro regime in Venezuela.

This regime has used every arm of the state to attack its political opponents, resulting in at least 39 dead and many more imprisoned.

One of these leaders is Leopoldo Lopez, whom we can see in this poster, who has been unjustly detained in a military prison for almost 7 weeks and who now faces a 14-year prison sentence just for protesting peacefully to promote democratic principles.

The arrest of Leopoldo Lopez has nothing to do with justice and everything to do with silencing the political opposition and the Venezuelans' call for democracy; yet the Obama administration still has not taken any action against Maduro, and it has failed to hold human rights violators accountable.

This communicates a dangerous indifference that is painful not only to the Venezuelan people, but to all who care about freedom and human rights, and it further erodes the little credibility we have on the international stage.

Let's listen to the people of Venezuela.

A GOOD DAY FOR OUR NATION'S SENIORS

(Mr. GARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCIA. Madam Speaker, I have always been a strong supporter of Medicare for the simple reason that our Nation's seniors deserve to keep their hard-earned health care.

That is why we have been working on a bipartisan basis to fight any potential cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

I am pleased to announce that, yesterday, the administration reversed potential cuts to these health care plans.

I would like to say a few words in Spanish:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows.)

Madam Speaker, I always have and always will support Medicare for the simple reason that our nation's seniors deserve to keep their hard-earned health care.

That is why I have been working on a bipartisan basis to fight any potential cuts to Medicare.

I am pleased to say that the Administration stepped up yesterday and reversed potential cuts to Medicare Advantage health plans.

I'd like to say a few words in Spanish for my Spanish language constituents.

Siempre he apoyado y voy a seguir apoyando a Medicare porque creo que las personas mayores de nuestro país merecen mantener su seguro de salud que han ganado.

Por esa razón es que he colaborado con mis colegas de ambos lados para combatir los cortes potenciales de Medicare.

Me complace anunciar que la Administración escuchó nuestras preocupaciones y ayer eliminaron los posibles recortes a los planes de salud de Medicare Advantage.

Es un buen día para los mayores de nuestra nación.

It is a good day for our Nation's seniors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fulton-Montgomery Community College on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Since its founding, the number of students attending the college has grown from 350 to today's population of 2,850—remarkable growth. These students are now becoming specialists in one of 40 academic programs, including business, electrical technology, media communication, nursing, radiologic technology, and one in which I have had direct involvement, clean room science.

Under the current leadership of President Dusty Swanger—and I must

add, he is a very effective leader and a much-respected leader—FMCC is the region's partner for quality, accessible higher education, economic development, and cultural and intellectual enrichment.

Although the institution officially turned 50 in September, this is truly a year of celebration as the school continues to grow and boost our communities in the greater capital region of New York.

Again, I congratulate the FMCC administration, faculty, support staff, and students for their hard work each and every day, which makes us very proud.

NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis was reopened. It is a spectacular display with all of the up-to-date technologies of civil rights in America, from the Middle Passage to April 4, 1968, which was the assassination of Martin Luther King at the Lorraine Motel, the site of the museum.

As I toured the fabulous museum, I thought about how far America had come and how much farther it needs to go. There are stories about the Voting Rights Act; yet I thought about the Supreme Court's striking down provisions and about the impossibility of getting sponsors here sufficient to pass a renewed Voting Rights Act, which is so necessary to America's fulfilling its purpose.

I thought about the Affordable Care Act and efforts to repeal it, to simply give health care to individuals, many of whom are poor and haven't had health care before. I thought about jobs bills because, without economic justice, you don't have social justice in full effect.

You need infrastructure bills. You need minimum wage, and you need unemployment insurance. We have a long way to go to fulfill Dr. King's dream.

I am pleased the museum reopened. It is spectacular. I urge all people to come to Memphis and visit it, and I urge all people to think about Dr. King and to try to fulfill his dream by passing those measures that are necessary.

BUDGET WEEK

(Mr. WOODALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor today, actually, with three of my constituents from Lawrenceville—Keeran and Hailey and Ashley—because this is budget week. This is when we decide what our priorities are, and there is

not going to be a man or a woman in this Chamber who does not believe that what we do, we do for this next generation of Americans.

The question will be: What do we do?

The rule that we are going to take up here this afternoon is going to make every single substitute amendment offered in this Chamber available for a vote on this floor, so that America can see what our priorities are and can choose among them.

Madam Speaker, this is the very best of our Republic that will be on display this week, budget week, and I am just pleased and honored to be a part of it.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 8, 2014 at 8:50 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2195.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3979.

Appointments:

Joint Committee on Taxation.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 8, 2014 at 10:35 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 92.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

□ 1215

ELECTING CERTAIN MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference,

I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 546

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE: Mr. Byrne.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY: Mr. Johnson of Ohio.

Mr. WOODALL (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 96, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 11, 2014, THROUGH APRIL 25, 2014

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 544 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 544

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024. The first reading of the concurrent resolution shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. General debate shall not exceed four hours, with three hours of general debate confined to the congressional budget equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget and one hour of general debate on the subject of economic goals and policies equally divided and controlled by Representative Brady of Texas and Representative Carolyn Maloney of New York or their respective designees. After general debate the concurrent resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. No amendment shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, and shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. All points of order against such amend-

ments are waived except that the adoption of an amendment in the nature of a substitute shall constitute the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment. After the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment and a final period of general debate, which shall not exceed 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget, the Committee shall rise and report the concurrent resolution to the House with such amendment as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution and amendments thereto to adoption without intervening motion except amendments offered by the chair of the Committee on the Budget pursuant to section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to achieve mathematical consistency. The concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question of its adoption.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day during the period from April 11, 2014, through April 25, 2014—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 4. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 5. The Committee on Appropriations may, at any time before 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2014, file privileged reports to accompany measures making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, it is budget week. I have been trying to contain my smile all week long. I have the great pleasure of sitting on both the Budget Committee and the Rules Committee here in this House. The rule that we have before us today, House Resolution 544, does candidly what I think my friend from Massachusetts and I came here to do, and that is to

have an open debate on the floor of the House about absolutely everyone's ideas.

I want to tell you what that means, Madam Speaker, because we sit on the Rules Committee, my friend from Massachusetts and I, and part of that responsibility is deciding whose voice gets heard and whose doesn't. It is a very solemn responsibility, one that neither of us takes lightly. I believe we would both say that whenever possible we should err on the side of having more voices instead of less. What we have today, Madam Speaker, is a rule that provides for absolutely every budget alternative written, drafted, and presented in this House, every one.

I want you to think about that, Madam Speaker, because this ought to be a place where we debate ideas. This ought to be a place where we talk about what tomorrow looks like, how can we make tomorrow better than today. And on this day, we will be voting on a rule that will make every single alternative idea available for robust debate on the floor of this House.

Now, the underlying bill is the bill that came out of the Budget Committee. Again, Madam Speaker, in full disclosure, I am a member of that Budget Committee. I am proud of the work that that committee put out.

Some folks call it the Paul Ryan budget. I take umbrage at that. I sit on that committee. I work shoulder to shoulder with PAUL. I am going to call it the Budget Committee budget. I hope at the end of this budget week it will be the House-passed budget, because I think it reflects the priorities of this institution, and I think it reflects the priorities of the American people.

If it does not reflect the priorities of any Member in this Chamber, they will have alternatives to vote on. One of those alternatives is written and drafted by the ranking member of the Budget Committee, the lead Democrat on the Budget Committee, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), that substitute amendment made in order today.

The Congressional Black Caucus, Madam Speaker, comes together to put together a list of priorities, a full substitute budget, has done that for a number of years, has done that again this year. This rule makes that Congressional Black Caucus substitute in order for a vote.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus, Madam Speaker, they have presented a budget. Now, their budget is one that raises taxes by \$5 trillion over the next 10 years. It is not going to be one that I support here on the floor of the House, but it is absolutely a legitimate list of priorities, as I talked about earlier, priorities that affect the young people of this Nation. We are going to get a vote on that budget here on the floor of this House.

The Republican Study Committee, Madam Speaker, of which I am also a member, a proud drafter of that budget document, that vote, espousing the absolute fastest path to balance that we will be hearing in this institution during budget week, Madam Speaker, will get a vote on the floor of this House.

Finally, a budget presented by Representative MULVANEY of South Carolina but intended to replicate the budget written by the President of the United States of America. It is a funny thing in constitutional government. Of course we have article I, legislative branch; article II, executive branch. Certainly, we have different responsibilities, but I don't think there is anyone in this Chamber who would say the President hasn't invested an incredible amount of time and energy presenting his budget. It wasn't here on time, but it did arrive here. It is a complete budget, and it deserves a hearing. No one on the Democrat side of the aisle picked up that budget to present it until Representative MULVANEY did. Again, I think that is part of the robust debate that we must have.

All together, we are going to have 4 hours of debate on these budget alternatives. That is in addition to all the regular order that has already gone on in committee, in addition to the hours that we have invested in the Rules Committee already, 4 hours here on the floor of this House.

Why is that important, Madam Speaker? Because I think what I will hear on both sides of the aisle is that these budgets represent a statement of values. Who are you going to take the money from? Who are you going to spend the money on? How are you going to invest in the future? How are you going to prevent the future from being eroded by payments on debt after debt, after debt, after debt? These are the discussions that we are going to have.

Just 10 years ago, Madam Speaker, the public debt in this country was \$7.3 trillion. Today, it is \$17.5 trillion—all of the debt that we have racked up in the history of this country through 2004 more than doubled in just the last 10 years.

Madam Speaker, there may be folks in this Chamber who say that is a debt worth making, that the investments that we are creating by borrowing this money from our children and spending it on the generations today, that that is worth doing. I say no. I say our obligation to our children tomorrow, to our grandchildren tomorrow is not to advance ourselves at their expense. I think our obligation is to pay down that debt, but that is a legitimate discussion that we are going to have over the next several days.

The \$10 trillion on the Nation's credit card in just the past 10 years, Madam Speaker, let there be no doubt that

that is the gravity of the conversation that we are having today.

I remember back in 2012, Madam Speaker, President Obama said in an interview with ABC News: "We don't have an immediate crisis in terms of debt. In fact, for the next 10 years, it's going to be in a sustainable place." In 2012, the President predicting that for the next 10 years the crisis won't come, that the crisis will be out beyond year 10. Madam Speaker, he may be right, but that was 2 years ago, and there are only two bills, two budgets that we have before us this budget week that even balance in that 10-year window.

This is a debate worthy of this Chamber; this is a debate worthy of America. And I hope that by the end of budget week, Madam Speaker, by the time we take our vote on final passage, irrespective of which substitute has passed or whether the House-passed or committee-passed budget remains, that we have a document that represents not just this institution's values but that represents our constituents' values, that represents American values, that is true to the obligation that we all have to protect the opportunities of the generations of tomorrow.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me the customary 30 minutes. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, budgets are moral documents. These annual documents are really statements of who we are as political parties and as groups and as people. They represent our values. They tell a story about what we believe in and how we would govern.

I had thought that I had come here today to say that this budget before us, the Ryan budget, is simply bad or that it is misguided. Madam Speaker, it is much worse than that.

□ 1230

This is an awful budget. It takes our country in the fundamentally wrong direction.

It seems as though every year we shake our heads wondering how the latest Ryan budget could possibly get worse than the previous year's efforts. And yet, time after time, the Ryan budget manages to pull it off.

This budget is cruel, but sadly, it is not unusual.

The gentleman from Georgia says he can't contain his smiles when he talks about this budget. I don't think there is anything to smile about.

Year after year, the Ryan budget does more and more damage to the social fabric of our Nation. Year after year, it puts the wishes of the rich ahead of the needs of the poor. And year after year, it sacrifices the reality of desperately needed investments at the altar of theoretical deficit reduction.

Let's look at the details. The Ryan budget includes deep cuts. How deep? \$791 billion below the sequester number. \$791 billion below sequester. That is amazing, Madam Speaker.

Now, I voted against sequester because of the damage it would and it did inflict on our economy. This budget would actually cut nearly \$1 trillion on top of the sequester. I thought we wanted to end sequester, not make choices that are even worse.

But that is not the end of the story. According to one estimate, 69 percent of the Ryan budget cuts come from low-income programs. It would shred the safety net. The programs that keep millions of Americans out of poverty and help provide millions of Americans with health care, that will provide millions of children with school meals and early childhood education, received the lion's share of the cuts. That is what the Ryan budget does.

In fact, according to the same estimate, \$3.3 trillion of the Ryan budget's \$4.8 trillion in non-defense cuts come from low-income safety net programs like Medicaid, SNAP, school breakfast and lunch programs, Head Start, the Supplemental Security Income program, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and Child Tax Credits.

Sixty-nine percent of the total non-defense cuts come from these life-changing, indeed, lifesaving programs.

The Ryan budget is successful at one thing: it deepens the divide between the rich and poor in this country. It successfully makes life harder for those who are already struggling to make ends meet.

If you are hungry in America, you would see food benefits cut by \$137 billion.

If you are a middle class college student in America, hopefully you can win the lottery, or have a rich uncle, because Pell grants would be cut by \$125 billion by freezing the maximum grant and cutting eligibility.

If you are a low-income working mother in America who gets health care through Medicaid, you would join at least 40 million Americans who will become uninsured by 2024 after the Ryan budget cuts at least \$2.7 trillion from Medicaid.

And if you are a middle class family with kids in America just trying to get by in this sluggish economy, you would see your taxes go up by \$2,000.

But if you are fortunate enough to be very rich in America, you lucked out. It is time to pop the champagne because you make out like a bandit. The oil companies keep their tax breaks. Businesses can keep putting money in overseas accounts just to avoid paying taxes here in America.

And if you are a millionaire?

Get ready for a big fat check from Uncle Sam. That is because anyone making \$1 million a year will see a tax cut of at least \$200,000.

On top of these disastrous policies, the Ryan budget, once again, goes after seniors. This version, once again, ends the Medicare guarantee and reopens the Medicare prescription drug doughnut hole.

As a result of these cuts, seniors will see their traditional Medicare premiums soar by an average of 50 percent. As AARP says:

Removing the Medicare guarantee of affordable health coverage for older Americans by implementing a premium support system and asking seniors and future retirees to pay more is not the right direction.

Now these policies have real world ramifications. Last week, Madam Speaker, an incredibly strong and courageous group of women called the Witenesses to Hunger returned to Capitol Hill to talk about their struggles as low-income, working women trying to make ends meet.

It takes guts to come here to Capitol Hill to tell your story and challenge Members of Congress to do better, and that is exactly what these impressive women did. They told their stories. They talked about their struggles, and they challenged us to do more to help so they don't fall back into poverty.

These women, and the millions of Americans like them who work hard every day, don't earn enough to make ends meet. They are having to choose between rent and food and electricity.

These women and their children aren't line items in our budget. They aren't statistics in our reports. They are people, people who just want to have a roof over their heads, food on their tables, and an education system that will help their children learn and succeed.

They want to go to college and not have to worry about losing their scholarships just because they are a single mother and need to work a night job to feed their child.

These women, and millions of Americans, would be hurt, they would be devastated by the Ryan budget. I am glad there are people who are able to make a lot of money in this country. I have nothing against rich people, but we shouldn't penalize those who are struggling.

Madam Speaker, we should be providing ladders of opportunity to help people get out of poverty and move into the middle class. When people need a helping hand, we should provide that assistance, whether it is a job training program, early childhood education, health care, or something as simple and as basic as food.

These aren't handouts; they are hand-ups. They are investments in our future, and we should be providing opportunities to strengthen our communities and the middle class through job creation, higher education, and advancing research and innovation.

This is a great country. We have done great things, but we have begun to

think small. That is what the Republican majority has succeeded in doing. They have got us to start thinking small rather than big. We don't tackle big problems anymore. We use deficit reduction as an excuse to do nothing.

What we need to do is tackle big issues like ending hunger. We should tackle the issue of ending poverty. We should want to strive for a country that benefits not just the few who are rich but the many who are poor.

The Ryan budget would set us back. It would do real damage to millions and millions of real Americans, our neighbors, our friends, our fellow parishioners.

As Pope Francis has written in his Papal Exhortation:

I ask God to give us more politicians capable of sincere and effective dialogue aimed at healing the deepest roots, and not simply the appearances of the evils in our world. Politics, though often denigrated, remains a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good.

Inasmuch as it seeks the common good. This budget, this Ryan budget, this Republican budget, or whatever you want to call it, does not seek the common good. This budget fails that basic test that Pope Francis outlined. It does not seek the common good. It deserves to be defeated.

We can do so much better in this Congress and for our country. I am ashamed that this is what we are debating here today, that this is the Republican vision for our future.

This the wrong way to go. Democrats and Republicans should say "no" to this.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes to say to my friend from Massachusetts, I believe we share many of the same priorities. But because of past Congresses, because of past administrations, because of past decisions that have been made in this Chamber, we are on track to spend \$6 trillion on interest over the next 10 years.

Madam Speaker, that is opportunity to fulfill every single one of those goals my friend from Massachusetts laid out that is frittered away by the borrow-and-spend behaviors of the past.

There is no disagreement in this Chamber about the commitment to a hand-up. The disagreement is about how much further out of reach we put opportunity and success by trading away future opportunities for spending today.

I have great respect and admiration for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have said yes, let's do raise taxes by \$5 trillion. Yes, let's do reset our priorities. Let's actually describe a pathway to a balanced budget. It is not an easy pathway to get to, but it matters.

It doesn't matter because it's a number, Madam Speaker. It matters because every year we don't balance the budget we steal opportunities from our children, and that is undeniable.

The debate is, Do the investments today outweigh those stolen opportunities from tomorrow? Or do the savings today that ensure that opportunity for tomorrow represent the best course of success that we can provide, again, for our children and grandchildren, about whom there is no disagreement about our strong and steadfast commitment?

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think one of the differences between what the Republicans have proposed and what Democrats are proposing is that what they propose is just one thing—cuts. Cuts and cuts and cuts in programs for the most needy in this country, and more tax cuts for the most wealthy.

What the Democrats have proposed is a more balanced approach. Yeah, there needs to be some sacrifice, but we also understand the importance of investment.

If you want to find a way to balance the budget, why don't we find a cure for Alzheimer's disease? Not only would that help improve the quality of life for millions of people, but it would also eliminate all the fiscal problems that Medicaid has.

Let's find a cure for diabetes. Let's find a cure for cancer.

Why aren't our energies devoted toward investing in medical research?

And yet the Ryan budget that we are now debating would devastate medical research in this country. It would devastate it.

We have researchers coming in to visit us who are telling us that China is offering them a better package to do their medical research, Singapore. I want these cures to be found here in the United States. I want to invest in that research that will not only save people's lives, but create jobs and also save money.

Yet, my friends on the other side, they devastate investments in medical research. They devastate investments in scientific research. They devastate investments in transportation.

Their way is one way: cut programs that help the most needy, and give tax breaks to the Donald Trumps of the world. Donald Trump doesn't need any more help. Middle class families, those struggling to get into the middle class, do need help.

Madam Speaker, I am going to urge that we defeat the previous question, and if we do, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 4415, the House companion to the unemployment insurance extension bill passed by a bipartisan majority in the Senate

just yesterday. Representative KILDEE introduced this bill just hours after Senate passage.

Today, on Equal Pay Day, my amendment will also bring up H.R. 377, ROSA DELAURO's Paycheck Fairness Act. It is shameful that women in America still make an average of only 77 cents for every dollar earned by their male colleagues. The Paycheck Fairness Act will require equal pay for equal work.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) to discuss our proposal.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I join him in urging my colleagues to defeat the previous question so that we can immediately bring up H.R. 4415, which is identical to a bill that passed on a bipartisan basis by the Senate just last night.

It would extend emergency unemployment benefits to the 2 million Americans who have lost those benefits since Congress failed to act late last year.

I also will note that I read today a report that seven of my Republican House colleagues have written the Speaker urging him to bring this legislation up immediately as well. So we have bipartisan support for this effort to restore necessary benefits to individuals who have lost their job.

It takes an average of 37 weeks for someone who loses their job in this country to find their next opportunity. Yet, in my State, after 20 weeks, you are cut off of unemployment.

So while today is a beautiful spring day outside, and all across the country people are breathing in the optimism that comes with spring, for 2 million Americans, they look at this a different way. They go outside today and wonder if today is the day that the foreclosure notice will come, if today is the day that the eviction will be tacked on to their front door, if they will go outside and today will be the day that the car has been repossessed or that there won't be enough food to feed their family.

These are real-life Americans who are facing this struggle. We have it in our power to do something about it.

H.R. 4415, like the Senate action, is fully paid for. Despite the fact that, in the past, on a bipartisan basis, we have approved an unemployment insurance extension without it being paid for, this is paid for. It will not increase the deficit but will decrease the suffering of millions of American people who go every day trying to find their next job.

I have heard some on the other side say, well, we shouldn't do this because it is not an emergency. Well, if you are about to lose your house, or about to lose your apartment, or about to lose your car, or don't have enough food to feed your children, let me tell you, for them, maybe not for all of you, but for

them it is an emergency, and this Congress can act, and it should act immediately.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, is it a constitutional right of the House to change the rules for consideration of a budget resolution as they are otherwise established in the Congressional Budget Act and were adopted in this Congress pursuant to H. Res. 5?

□ 1245

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House has the authority to adopt rules regarding its proceedings.

Mr. CARDENAS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CARDENAS. Madam Speaker, does House Concurrent Resolution 96, which provides 4 hours of debate, supersede section 305(a) of the Budget Act, which provides for 10 hours of general debate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair does not interpret a special order of business prior to or pending its consideration under the guise of a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized to state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Rule XIII, clause 6(c) states that it is not in order for the Committee on Rules to report a rule that would prevent the motion to recommit from being made as provided in clause 2(b) of rule XIX.

Was it, therefore, in order under House rule XIII for the Committee on Rules to report H. Con. Res. 96?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot interpret the pending resolution under the guise of a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CARDENAS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized to state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CARDENAS. Madam Speaker, is a report from the Committee on Rules privileged under House rules?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending resolution was called up as privileged.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Is it in order to offer an amendment to the rule?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. An amendment may be offered at this

point only if the majority manager yields for it.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, will House Concurrent Resolution 96 be considered under the hour rule?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not interpret the provisions of House Resolution 544.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to permit Representative CÁRDENAS to offer an amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Georgia yield for that purpose?

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I do not yield for that purpose. All time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia does not yield for that request.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Is it correct that on April 2, 2014, I offered an amendment to the concurrent resolution on the budget during the markup in the Budget Committee and all Republicans on the committee voted against it?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot comment on proceedings in committee.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Does clause 3(b) of rule XIII, which requires committee reports to include—for record votes—the total number of votes cast for and against an amendment, as well as the names of Members voting for and against an amendment, apply to the Rules Committee?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members may consult the standing rules.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, is the requirement of House rule XIII, clause (b), that a committee report include the total number of votes cast for and against an amendment, as well as the names of Members voting for and against an amendment, enforceable through a point of order raised against the reported bill or resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may consult the standing rules.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Would a point of order lie against H. Res. 544 if the accompanying report, House Report 113-405 of the Rules Committee, did not include a record of the votes cast for and against an amendment, as well as the names of Members voting for and against an amendment, knowing that transparency is so fundamental to the rules of the House and the democratic process?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. House Resolution 544 is currently pending.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does either manager seek time for debate?

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

I believe that parliamentary inquiries are privileged. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Recognition for a parliamentary inquiry is within the discretion of the Chair.

Does either manager seek time for debate?

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I seek time for debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, there are often reasons to come to this floor and instruct the Rules Committee about how the Rules Committee could do better. We do the very best we can, but we accept constructive criticism from all comers.

The rule that is before us today is an example of what has gone right, not what has gone wrong. The rule that is before us today makes in order every single budget that was offered to the Rules Committee.

Now, I don't dispute that there are lots of different agendas that are being pursued here on the floor at this time; but for the budget agenda, for the openness agenda, for the full debate agenda, we have a rule before us that has made in order every single substitute offered in the Rules Committee, which happens to be five substitutes in addition to the base bill, but had there been more, we would have made more in order.

Again, there are lots of things that we can come to the floor of the House and disagree on, but this rule, to bring those disagreeing budgets to the floor, should be a point of great pride for both sides of the aisle.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, would a point of order lie against House Resolution 544 if it did not include a record of the courageous votes cast by Representative ROS-LEHTINEN

in favor of allowing an amendment on comprehensive immigration reform?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution is pending; therefore, the gentleman is asking for an advisory opinion. The Chair will not give an advisory opinion.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, is it correct that Representative CÁRDENAS' amendment, which made the necessary changes in the budget to accommodate passage of H.R. 15, the bipartisan Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, which lowers our deficits and secures our borders and establishes clear and just rules for citizenship, was not made in order under H. Res. 554?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members may consult the Committee on Rules regarding its proceedings.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, is it correct that my amendment, known as the Cárdenas amendment, which also called for the House leadership to allow a vote on H.R. 15, the House's bipartisan comprehensive immigration bill, since the House majority had refused to bring it to the floor for a vote, was not made in order under House Resolution 544?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot comment on proceedings in the Committee on Rules.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. How many cosponsors does H.R. 15 currently have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not stating a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Further parliamentary inquiry.

How many of those cosponsors are Republican Members of the House of Representatives?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Parliamentary inquiry, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized to state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. How many Members have signed on to the discharge petition for H.R. 15?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members may consult the petitions at the desk.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Further parliamentary inquiry on that note, Madam Speaker.

How many of those cosponsors are Republican Members?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members may consult the discharge petitions at the desk.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Recognition for a parliamentary inquiry is within the discretion of the Chair.

The Chair is prepared to recognize the managers for debate.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, at this time, it is my great pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the chairman of the House Rules Committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I recognize why we are here and so do Members of this body, and the reason why is because, if you look at the pathway of the Democratic Party, which is what our colleagues are arguing for today, it is a pathway not only to destruction, but insolvency for the United States of America, up to and including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and our ability to pay for the things that this great Nation needs.

Last night in the Rules Committee, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), who is our representative to the Budget Committee, spent hours not only in understanding, talking, and debating these issues, but in making sure that he brought back a product that was worthy of the sale to the American people by the House of Representatives today.

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is taking time to describe how, really, there are two different pathways that we could go down. Now, I am aware that we also made in order five other opportunities, opportunities where there are groups of people, Members who came to the Rules Committee upstairs, talked forthrightly about what was in their bills, and they were very proud of saying they wanted to raise taxes by trillions of dollars; they wanted to blame the ills and woes on a balanced budget and America doing something that was about solvency and a good future.

Here, we are on the floor today to talk about the pathways. One pathway where we can sustain what we do is called the Ryan budget. The chairman of the Budget Committee, PAUL RYAN, thoughtfully and carefully—I think artfully—came and spoke about how we need to make sure that we continue to grow jobs in this country.

The alternative to that was higher taxes and putting more off on the American people to not only have to work harder for what they would earn, but less take-home pay.

We argued forthrightly about putting us on a pathway with our budget to where we could look at the energy resources of America, providing us with those opportunities to develop jobs and more revenue for the country.

Our friends on the Democratic side want to tax oil by billions of dollars, raising the price of energy. We forthrightly understand this, and we get it. We have seen energy prices double at the pump by President Obama and the Democrat leadership. We have seen food double in price.

No wonder it is difficult for average Americans to make ends meet. We have seen the Democrat Party, through their budget and through the actual laws that they have passed, diminish not only hours of work—which was the debate of the last few weeks about whether we would diminish the 40-hour workweek in favor of a 30-hour workweek.

There are two different pathways, two different directions we could go, taxing and spending, blaming people who have jobs, blaming millionaires and billionaires for the woes of America.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would submit to you today that it is the people who are innovative and creative and do well in life that create jobs and opportunities for this country, but they will quit doing so if we really tax them out of existence, if we do what the Democrats want to do and move to the pathway that means that America does not have a brighter future.

We will do exactly what we have seen is happening in Greece, in Iceland, and in France, where the brightest and the best of those people have given up on their countries because they cannot make a go of it.

Quite honestly, the Republican Party is proud of what we are doing. We are talking about how important it is to be careful and cautious, to make sure we can sustain what we do, to make sure that our promise to America's seniors on Medicare and Social Security is taken care of, not to go and make promises that we know we cannot fulfill.

On the other side, they turn right around and say: let's just go tax business, let's go tax energy, let's go tax people, those rich people.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is how you kill the goose that lays the golden egg. I have worked hard and never missed a day of work in 36 years.

I am not one of those people that they want to pick on, but I say thank goodness that we have entrepreneurs in our country who have chosen to make America home, who have chosen to employ American workers, and what the Democrat Party wants to do with their budget is to throw us all out of work and make us beholden to them.

□ 1300

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, is it correct that the concurrent resolution on the budget fails to assume enactment of H.R. 15, immigration reform and, in doing so, squanders the opportunity to reduce taxes that Mr. SESSIONS just talked about to the tune of \$900 billion?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a proper parliamentary inquiry. The gentleman is engaging in debate.

Mr. CARDENAS. Parliamentary inquiry, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CARDENAS. Madam Speaker, isn't it true that unlike the concurrent resolution on the budget, which fails to balance in 10 years, H.R. 15, the House's bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill, would, according to the independent Congressional Budget Office, reduce our deficit by nearly \$1 trillion over the next 20 years?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a proper parliamentary inquiry. The gentleman is engaging in debate.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, is it true that, unlike the concurrent resolution on the budget, which slashes the transportation budget by \$52 billion this year alone, and, according to the Economic Policy Institute, decreases GDP by 2.5 percent, H.R. 15, the House's comprehensive immigration reform bill, would create 120,000 jobs, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a proper parliamentary inquiry. The gentleman is engaging in debate.

Mr. CARDENAS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CARDENAS. Madam Speaker, is it correct that Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN's substitute amendment assumes the passage of immigration reform and that a vote against the Van Hollen substitute is a vote against immigration reform?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a proper parliamentary inquiry. The gentleman is engaging in debate.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized to state a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Would it be in order to introduce an amendment to allow for an amendment to the rule to allow for consideration of H.R. 15 as part of the budget?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment could only be offered at this point if the majority manager yielded for the amendment.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to allow for the consideration of the Cárdenas amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Georgia yield for that purpose?

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, all time is yielded for the purpose of debate only.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman does not yield.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. For what purpose does the gentleman from California seek recognition?

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Permission to debate for 1 minute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may be yielded to by a manager. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I just wanted to respond a little bit to what Congressman WOODALL just said a little while ago. The fact of the matter is that 68 Senators and a majority of the American people believe in debate and reform. When it comes to comprehensive immigration reform, it is about the budget. It is about the budget: 120,000 American jobs every year for the next 10 years, \$900 billion reduction in the deficit—in our deficit—the United States deficit.

That is why we need comprehensive immigration reform. It is about the budget, Madam Speaker and Members. I think it is important for us to understand that that would be the responsible—responsible—budget to pass, one that has comprehensive immigration reform.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the chairman of the Rules Committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I recognize that I need to hold some classes up at the Rules Committee so that Members have a better opportunity to understand more about the rules of the House and about how we operate on the floor. The facts of the case are very simple.

The Rules Committee last night made in order anything that was a complete substitute or an opportunity to have their bill heard last night. We do not take on what might be one single issue or literally an amendment.

The process that we are trying to follow here today is one that is happening because, for 4 years, the Democratic Party had the Speaker of the House, the Senate Majority Leader, and the President of the United States, and they did not do for 4 years what they

are asking us to do today. And all these shiny objects swirling around do not fool the American people. They want to raise taxes, raise spending, and blame someone rather than coming to the table and working together.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I think what you just saw on the floor is frustration. In the supposedly open House that my colleagues brag about—erroneously, I should add—this issue of comprehensive immigration reform has failed to be given a day on the floor.

The United States Senate, in a bipartisan way, passed comprehensive immigration reform, a bill that would, by the way, raise close to a trillion dollars over the next 20 years to pay down our debt, and yet we can't even get it scheduled on the House floor. The leadership here continues to block it, and Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. POLIS last night in the Rules Committee thought that, given the fact that there is such an incredible savings here, it was relevant to this.

And, by the way, the Rules Committee can do whatever it wants to. The Rules Committee could issue the necessary waivers to allow this to happen. There is no reason at all why this couldn't have been brought up today except that a majority in the Rules Committee said no. I mean, that is the reason why.

So what you see is frustration. What you see is frustration not just by Democrats. There are people on the Republican side who, as well, would like to see us debate comprehensive immigration reform, and instead we are blocked at every single avenue. So that has to change; otherwise, you are going to see more of the kinds of displays that you just witnessed.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, at this time, it is my great pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), a member of both the Rules Committee and the House Budget Committee.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Mr. WOODALL, for yielding me the time. I want to urge support for the rule and the underlying legislation.

I would be the first to tell you that this budget is not a perfect budget—no budget is actually perfect—but it is a good budget.

There are a couple of issues that do concern me, as I addressed Mr. RYAN last night; and we are worried that we haven't dealt with the wildfire issue to my satisfaction, which disrupts the appropriating process within Interior, but he assured me that he recognized that was a problem, and we are going to continue to work on it. I actually am going to vote for Mr. WOODALL's budget when I have the opportunity to do that. It is the most conservative approach on the floor, and I appreciate that.

I think we ought to stop and remember that without PAUL RYAN, we wouldn't have the choices in front of us today. The United States Senate has chosen not to have a budget once again this year, something that it frequently does. And with all due respect to my friends who do have a budget—and I am pleased that they do—in 2010, when they were actually in the majority, they didn't present a budget to this body, either.

It is PAUL RYAN that has forced us to confront the fiscal crisis that is facing the country and has actually put something on the table to deal with it. Now, you don't have to agree with everything in it, but it has a lot of virtues to it. The first virtue is it actually focuses on the number one driver of the debt, and that is our unsustainable entitlement programs.

We have made a lot of progress in the last few years in this body on a bipartisan basis in reducing discretionary spending. We are actually spending \$165 billion less in discretionary accounts than we were in 2008 when George W. Bush was President of the United States. I don't agree with all those reductions, and I suspect my friends on the other side don't either, but that is a tangible contribution to reducing the deficit and moving us toward balance.

What we haven't dealt with, what the President has largely refused to deal with, and what I suspect my friends in their budget will not deal with, but PAUL RYAN has, are the real drivers of the debt: Medicare and Medicaid, in particular. There is an offer in there to sit down and deal seriously with Social Security, as well. And until we do those things—and PAUL RYAN has started us on a path to do them—we will never bring the budget into balance.

Now, one of the other things I like about Mr. RYAN's budget is, gosh, it really does balance within 10 years. It makes a lot of tough choices. My friend, Mr. WOODALL, actually gets there a little bit faster because he makes even tougher choices, but it balances.

My friends on the other side and the administration haven't presented a budget that balances in 10 years or 20 years or 30 years or 40 or 50—or just draw the lines right on out to infinity. I don't think that is what the American people sent us here to do. But until somebody actually has the courage to do what Mr. RYAN has done and what Mr. WOODALL has done, that is the situation the country is going to be in.

The other thing I like about the Ryan budget, in particular, is that it actually incorporates in it the agreement that he arrived at with Senator MURRAY in the other body. Now, there was a lot of criticism about that because it probably wasn't what I would have negotiated if I got my way or

probably Mr. WOODALL or any other Senator, but it was a real agreement—only a 2-year agreement, but a real agreement. And against a lot of criticism, Mr. RYAN incorporated, okay, if that is going to be the settled law of the land, then that should be part of our budget. He put it in there, and I am proud of him for doing that.

Finally, again, it reduces not spending, but the growth of spending. We are going to hear a lot of talk about slashes and not investing. If you actually look at the Ryan budget, Federal spending still grows. It grows by about 3½ percent a year. The difference is the Democratic alternative—well, excuse me—the current course is like 5.2 percent. That is not a great deal of difference. We could really restrain our deficit in the short term and ultimately bring ourselves into balance not by slashing everything, but by simply making some of the simple, commonsense reforms that my friend, Mr. RYAN, to great criticism, has advanced and put on this floor year after year after year.

So I want to urge the adoption of this rule, which is a terrific rule, because despite some complaints, the reality is my friend, Mr. WOODALL, and the Rules Committee have put a variety of choices before this body.

We are going to have a budget from the Progressive Caucus that is very different than I would like, but it is going to get its opportunity. We are going to have a budget from the Congressional Black Caucus—again, different than I would choose, but it certainly deserves to be heard and examined. We are going to have Mr. WOODALL's budget. So we are going to have several choices before we get to Mr. RYAN's budget, any one of whom might win, might actually persuade people.

At the end of the day, we are going to have multiple choices because of this rule, and so it deserves to be dealt with because it does, indeed, open the process. At the end of the day, I suspect Mr. RYAN's budget will be the one that passes. Again, I am very proud to do that, and I urge its passage.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman RYAN for again putting together yet another budget that balances in ten years. I know from the many meetings that we had on this side of the aisle that there was a lot of thought put into how we can maintain our commitment to fiscal balance, given the mounting debt, and the overall deterioration of our economic growth, brought about, in part, by the over 17 trillion debt.

Additionally, this budget maintains the Republican focus on dealing with the true drivers of our debt, entitlement programs. It would have been very easy, given that the Bipartisan Budget Act set the 302(a) allocations for Fiscal Year 2015, to not do a budget; however, this budget, this blueprint yet again allows us to share our vision for the future.

This budget reflects the discretionary caps which were agreed to in the Bipartisan Budget

Act. As a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I have seen the devastating cuts in end strength and capabilities we will face if we continue with sequester. And, instead of making discretionary cuts for the fifth year in a row, we have redoubled our efforts in entitlement programs to ensure they are available for all in the future.

I was disappointed to see that the President reversed himself in his budget submission, removing Chained CPI from his budget proposal. However, House Republicans are willing to work with the President where possible and find common ground that will move our debt trajectory downward, instead of increasing at an exponential rate.

Many have criticized this budget for "moving the goalposts" and now transitioning to a Premium Support model for those 56 and below; however, Madam Speaker, we have to face the facts. Every year that we do not act it becomes harder and harder to preserve the current programs for those already at or near retirement. This budget recognizes that hard reality and adjusts itself accordingly.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I want to say a little about wildfires suppression costs. When devastating wildfires do occur and the costs exceed the Forest Service's budget, most often, other programs within the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee bear the costs. And that is not right. I am disappointed that this budget fails to consider how we can better budget for the true costs of wildfire suppression activities. My friend from Idaho, Mr. SIMPSON, has a deficit-neutral bill that would deal with this issue. Much of what we have considered on the floor the past few days has aimed at ensuring the true costs of programs are reflected in the budget. That is what Mr. SIMPSON's bill does and I hope we can consider it in the coming weeks.

I hope this budget serves as a wake-up call that it is time to act. Here in Washington, we can become numbed to the problems facing our country. But they are real, and they must be addressed. This budget reflects the Republican vision for the future, one where we are in control of our destiny, as opposed to turning over control to our creditors.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I want to agree with my friend from Oklahoma that Mr. RYAN has given us a choice. He has presented us a budget that would end Medicare as we know it; it would slash the social safety net to smithereens; it cuts SNAP by \$137 billion; and it would damage the National Institutes of Health and transportation funding. Pell grants would be cut. I could go right down the list. Yeah, I know we have got a choice here, and people ought to understand what that budget is all about.

My friends on the other side may be proud of this. Again, I find that puzzling, because the notion that the only way to balance the budget is by hurting poor people or hurting the middle class, I don't agree with.

You talk about sacrifices. Why are all the sacrifices on the backs of middle-income families or on the backs of the poor in this country? The rich get a tax cut. The rich get a tax cut. Mid-

dle class families get a tax increase. Poor people get their food stamps taken away from them. Why is that always the choice that you provide Members of this House? Why are those the only people that sacrifice? I just find it unconscionable, quite frankly.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, let's talk about what is not in the Ryan budget.

The Federal highway trust fund, which funds all highway, road, bridge, and transit projects in the United States of America will be exhausted sometime this summer. A number of States are already delaying or canceling major projects, and there will be a flood of States doing that after the trust fund goes belly up.

For next year, under the Ryan budget, there will be zero—no, none, zero—Federal investment in roads, bridges, highways, and transit despite the deteriorated state of our infrastructure for somewhere between 9 and 11 months until we pay our past bills, and then there will be a little trickle.

Meanwhile, bridges will be falling down, people will be driving through potholes, delays, and congestion. We will walk away from or lose over 1 million construction, manufacturing, and engineering jobs, and it will have an impact on hundreds of thousands—millions—of other jobs across the United States of America, not even to begin to talk about our lack of competitiveness with the rest of the world.

□ 1315

The Ryan budget does address this in a rather novel way, so the trust fund is going broke. Probably what we have done the last couple of times when we get to that point, we say transportation is so important we transferred some general fund money over. The Ryan budget says you can't transfer general fund money over to transportation; it must go broke.

Well, the other thing is a new source of revenue or user fees. The Federal gas tax is 18.4 cents a gallon, and that has been since 1993, the same tax in 1993 when gas was \$1.11 a gal. Last weekend, I paid \$3.71, and Federal tax is still 18.4 cents a gallon.

Where is that money going? It is going to ExxonMobil; it is going to Wall Street speculators. It sure is the heck not going to rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure and putting millions of Americans back to work.

Under the Ryan budget, we are going to revolve Federal transportation. What does that mean? It means we are going to have a 50-State and territory Federal transportation policy. You know, we actually tried that once. This was 1956. This is the brandnew Kansas Turnpike.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Oklahoma promised they would build one, too. Well, they didn't have the money. They said: sorry, guys, can't build it.

This is Emil Schweitzer's farm field. For 3 years, people crashed through the barrier at the end here and went into his field, until Dwight David Eisenhower, a Republican, passed the national highway transportation bill with a trust fund.

That would be undone by PAUL RYAN. He says States can opt out. They don't even have to collect the 18.4 cents Federal tax; they can do whatever they want with that money.

Madam Speaker, counties are actually ripping up paved roads and turning them back to gravel because they can't afford them. There are 140,000 bridges that need repair or replacement. Forty percent of the national highway system has pavement that has totally failed.

There is a \$70 billion backlog on our transit systems. These are millions of jobs foregone—productivity foregone, and if you are so darn proud, as I heard on that side, why aren't you proud of the future of America, putting people back to work and competing with the rest of the world with a world class, 21st century transportation system? You're going to kill it.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, at this time, it is my great pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT), a former sheriff, a member of the class of 2010, and a member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. NUGENT. Madam Speaker, one of the most important things that we do in this Congress—and it is a constitutional requirement—is we provide for the common defense of this Nation, to allow things like my good friends on the Democrat side are arguing for in regards to more entitlement programs, more helping our neighbors; but without a national defense, all of this is moot. It doesn't matter. It adds up to nothing if we can't defend the homeland and defend our friends when they need it.

Now, I will tell you that this budget does something that is needed. It increases the spending for our military. It actually takes something that the President, the Commander in Chief who has cut the military by \$1 trillion in the last few years, is actually restoring money that he was holding hostage.

He said the military can have \$26 billion more if you give us \$27 billion more for domestic spending. It is about holding our safety hostage. When those that are in a position to talk to us and tell us that the world is changing, you don't have to look very far.

See what is going on in Russia and China and Iran and North Korea. This is not a safer world since this President

has taken office. It has become a much more dangerous world, particularly from state actors.

It is not all his fault, I must say, Madam Speaker. This goes back to years of kicking the can down the road by this Congress.

Mr. WOODALL and I came to Congress at the same time, 3 years ago, Madam Speaker. We weren't part of the problem, but those who were here prior to that have been part of the problem. They continued to kick the can down the road.

PAUL RYAN, chairman of the Budget Committee, and members of the Budget Committee actually took the bull by the horns. It is starting to turn this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WOODALL. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. NUGENT. This is actually talking about difficult questions we have to talk about.

This body loves, if the problem isn't immediate, we don't have to worry about it, don't worry about it because it will never happen; but we are being told by professionals: guess what, Medicare and Social Security are at risk if we do nothing.

If we don't challenge the status quo, if we don't start talking about how do we move forward to protect our seniors today from cuts in Medicare and Social Security, how we move forward for our younger folks as they get closer to retirement age, we have to do more, and I believe this budget is creating a dialogue for us to move forward and do more, not just put our heads in the sand and say we just need to spend more money because we can tax our way out of it. Everybody knows that is not true.

Madam Speaker, the first and most important job of our government is to provide for the defense of its citizens.

If the government can't protect the people's liberty then everything else we talk about today—every dime spent on every domestic program—is all moot.

So when we're considering how taxpayer money should be spent, we ought to keep this at the forefront of our minds.

We ought to put forward a budget that recognizes this basic truth and most fundamental responsibility.

I'm glad to see that Chairman RYAN's budget embraces this fundamental priority because, Madam Speaker, not all the budgets we'll debate today share this perspective.

Not even the budget of the military's own Commander in Chief.

The House Armed Services Committee has analyzed the last several budget proposals from President Obama, and I want to share some of those findings with my colleagues in the larger House of Representatives today:

Since entering the White House, President Obama has proposed more than \$1 trillion in cuts to the military.

Over the next 10 years, the President is proposing \$345 billion less than the minimum

amount the military says they need to perform the President's own defense strategy.

Less than 15 percent of our U.S. Army is deployment ready today.

Without regard for the command signals from Combatant Commanders, the President has produced a budget recommendation that neither complies with the statutory nor strategic requirements of the military.

Instead, the President cuts \$26 billion from the military and holds it for ransom until this Congress is willing to give him \$32 billion in domestic programs.

These budget gimmicks will not stand and I applaud the House Budget Committee for not engaging in the false narrative that this Congress must pay \$58 billion in order to restore \$26 billion to meet the minimum standard of national security.

In this tough fiscal environment, the budget brought to the Floor by this Rule provides the minimum dollars necessary to resource the President's strategy and sustain the World's premiere fighting force.

In fiscal year 2015, that means a commitment of this Congress to our military of more than \$521 billion.

Translating that dollar amount into capability—this budget maintains a force structure well above the drastic reductions recommended by the President:

The Army has the flexibility to retain the 100,000 soldiers on the chopping block,

Navy can preserve the 11 aircraft carriers required by both strategy and law,

Modernization programs critical to maintaining our military's technological edge and our troops' safety will continue to give our warfighters an advantage on the battlefield next year and beyond.

I truly hope the Army will take the flexibility afforded them under this budget as an opportunity to establish the right balance between Active Component, Reserve Component and the National Guard.

By the time this budget goes into effect, our Army will be drawing down from 14 years of continuous war.

To effectively make that transition

To reduce the cost of a war-time standing Army while preserving capability

To "right-size" the forward deployed force and meet the domestic responsibilities to the individual states

Big Army must recognize and incorporate the National Guard's indispensable role in providing our national security at home and abroad.

If such a right-sizing cannot be found internally within the Army, this Congress will have to put Army decisions on hold until a commission can be established to study the correct balance of the Service moving forward.

Finally, I applaud this budget for sustaining compensation for all warfighters, retirees and their families.

Too many times over the past several years, Congress has had to defend the pay of service members—as if the reasons for adequately compensating our all-volunteer military were not self-evident.

I hope that this year, the paycheck of our troops will be spared the political games of the recent history.

We are certainly off to a good start with this budget that meets our compensation commitments to the military—including healthcare.

And so, Madam Speaker, I support this rule and the underlining resolution.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I would just say to the gentleman from Florida that national defense includes more than the number of weapons we have in our arsenal. It also include the quality of life for our people here at home, and these programs that he is denigrating, like SNAP, for example, I should remind him there are an extremely high number of military families that rely on SNAP to get by and a high number of veterans who do as well.

Basic food, they are looking for helping with putting food on the table. So before anybody denigrates those programs, understand that they contribute to our national defense as well. They are feeding our military families and veterans because our returning veterans can't find jobs that pay a livable wage.

At this time, it is my pleasure to yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the distinguished ranking member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. MCGOVERN.

Madam Speaker, this is pretty exciting this morning. I think this is the first time in 5 years that I have been here that we were actually having a debate, discussing what both sides stand for.

Mr. DEFAZIO was wonderful. He is absolutely right. He knows what he is talking about. We haven't built infrastructure. Do you know, we haven't built one airport from the ground up in the United States since 1972, and every place else in the rest of the world has brandnew airports?

They are all whizzing about on high-speed rail. We don't have any; but we spent \$2 billion a week while we were in Iraq. We were willing to spend that, maimed 46,000 young people, killed thousands of them as well, as well as people in those countries—for oil.

What we really do hear this morning and what pleases me so much is we are really showing the difference in this country and what the two sides believe in. We don't believe over here that the richest people should get richer. We don't believe that we need a budget right now that lowers the corporate tax rate.

We believe that all Americans should be paying their fair share, so we can build back up, and maybe we can start to enjoy some of the things that are happening elsewhere in the 21st century.

This budget is a misguided proposal driven by flawed math. At worst, it is a cynical choice to balance our budget on the backs of the most vulnerable Americans in order to protect the incomes of powerful special interests and the wealthiest few, and it does precisely that.

It is not news to anybody in the country that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer and the unemployed are desperate. Everybody knows that. The issue is: What is the Congress of the United States going to do about that?

Now, with this proposal, the majority gives an average tax cut of \$200,000 to families earning more than \$1 million a year, so they are okay. They earn \$1 million a year, and they are going to get \$200,000; but to pay for it, we have to raise taxes on the middle class.

Let me tell you how we do that. With this proposal, they defend the tax loophole that we have been trying to close ever since I have been in Congress, the money we give oil companies so they will drill.

The five major oil companies, we pay them \$4 billion a year so they will drill; like they weren't having the biggest profits on the face of the Earth and no one needs to encourage them to drill, but we pay for that, and to do that, they are going to turn Medicare into a voucher program.

We have discussed this before. That means your aged parents and grandparents will go into a marketplace by themselves—or maybe you can go with them—and look for their own insurance policy.

They will be given a government voucher or a stipend or whatever they want to call it to help pay for it, but it may not cover the cost, so the rest of the cost will come from the senior citizen. It will take exactly away what Lyndon Johnson had in mind in 1968. The benefit guaranteed by Medicare will be gone.

To pay for that, again, they want to keep the Medicare plan we have today, and with this proposal, the majority reduces the tax rate paid by corporations. I have said that before, and I want to say it again. Corporation tax rates are reduced, and we already know that most of them put all of their assets in the Cayman Islands or in some other country and pay no taxes whatsoever.

If we just brought some of the tax money back from the Cayman Islands, I bet we could have high-speed rail in the United States. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

So they take \$137 billion in nutrition assistance, the food people live on, out of the mouths of low-income families struggling to get by. The author of this budget said such draconian cuts are necessary because:

We don't want to turn the safety net into a hammock that lulls able-bodied people to lives of dependency and complacency.

If that is his goal, then he and his colleagues have written a budget that badly misses the mark. For the hammock of dependency isn't found in the homes of working Americans, but on the beaches of the Cayman Islands, where powerful special interest and the

wealthiest few depend upon policies like this budget to build their own hammock out of the social safety net that used to support the largest middle class on Earth that is fast disappearing.

For more than three decades, the wealthy and the powerful have used money and influence to secure tax cuts, to deregulate industries, and to pass free trade deals that put corporate profits before America's jobs.

In so doing, they have redirected revenue away from the Federal Government and made it virtually impossible to fund the programs that have made our Nation the envy of the world.

With the wealthy and powerful exempted from paying their fair share, our Nation put tens of billions of dollars and two wars on the Nation's credit card and failed to invest in maintaining our roads, modernizing our airports, or building efficient passenger rail here at home.

As a result, highway bridges are literally falling into the water, our airports have become laughably out of date, and our trains travel at speeds half as fast as those found in Germany, China, and Japan.

Far from solving this crisis, the majority's budget doubles down on the failed policies by reducing taxing for the rich and powerful even further. We have already said a millionaire gets a \$200,000 tax cut, so we are going to ask the most vulnerable Americans to pay the price.

Under this budget, 170,000 children will lose Head Start, and 29,000 teachers and aides will be left without jobs. College students, who are already suffering under staggering costs of higher education, would be told that they must repay their loans while they are still in school.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. And \$205 billion would be cut from programs like Pell grants, making it harder than ever to get the education that is needed to succeed in the modern world.

Perhaps, most egregiously, the promise of secure and affordable health care would be broken with the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and the end of the Medicare guarantee. Under the majority's budget, Medicare would be turned into a voucher, as I said before.

On Sunday, the news program "60 Minutes" traveled down the winding roads of the Cumberland Mountains into the heart of Appalachia in a RV called the Health Wagon. The aging vehicle is the only source of health care for thousands of Americans in desperate need of medical attention.

The vehicle is staffed by two incredible nurses and other medical volunteers, including Dr. Joe Smiddy, the Health Wagon's volunteer medical director. After completing medical

school, Dr. Smiddy had to enroll in truck driver school so he could drive the Health Wagon's x-ray lab, an 18-wheel truck that provides insight into diseases that were going undiagnosed.

These volunteers have seen the price individual Americans pay when the Chamber puts the priorities of the rich and the powerful ahead of everyone else. Dr. Smiddy said of life in the Cumberland Mountains:

This is a Third World country of diabetes, hypertension, lung cancer, and COPD in the United States.

Madam Speaker, a Third World country.

Though the work of the Health Wagon does every day is heroic, no individual living in the wealthiest Nation on Earth should be relying upon the good will of volunteers to receive modern medical care.

Doctors and nurses of the Health Wagon should not be relying on Federal grants.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has again expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

□ 1330

Ms. SLAUGHTER. That is why we say this budget is not a reflection of our values, but theirs.

It is through the budget we decide whether we protect tax loopholes for Big Oil or provide our fellow citizens with access to secure and affordable health care, an education, a job, and a place to live. It is through our budget we decide whether kids can go to college or not.

Only by choosing to act and asking every American, including corporations, to pay their fair share—corporations are people, I understand, we have established that in the Supreme Court—we will be able to put every American on a path to prosperity and restore our role as the most advanced nation in the world.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), the secretary of the Republican Conference.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding. I also thank Chairman RYAN and his staff for their hard work in producing this budget. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

Madam Speaker, budget puts a numerical value on the priorities we claim to value, and as such, it is a moral document. This budget will protect and strengthen Medicare, preserve our commitment to veterans, and keep faith with future generations by getting spending under control and fostering economic growth.

This budget controls spending by ending sweetheart deals for favored

corporations and returning government to its proper limits. Years of overreach and cronyism have weakened confidence in the Federal Government and damaged our economy.

As Chairman RYAN mentioned in his Rules Committee testimony last night, the CBO has warned that, if we fail to address our lackluster economic growth and rising debt, our children and grandchildren are guaranteed a lower standard of living than what we currently enjoy.

For the first time in American history, we may bequeath to our children and grandchildren a less prosperous country with limited opportunities to pursue their American Dream. As a mother and grandmother, I will do all I can to keep that from happening.

Over the next decade, the U.S. Government will spend \$5.8 trillion servicing debt—\$5 trillion, Madam Speaker—simply to make interest payments to our creditors.

Those dollars could be put to work at home strengthening our military, caring for our veterans, and improving the lives of all Americans; but instead, nearly half of it will go to pay for the inability of those who came before to manage the Nation's Treasury responsibly. We need to stop spending money we don't have.

Unlike the President's budget, this budget actually balances within the budget window. A balanced budget will foster a healthier economy and help create jobs. By reducing the capital the government takes out of the private sector, this budget will foster opportunity.

This budget would keep our children and grandchildren from inheriting an insurmountable debt. If we take action now, we can pass on an America that is free, prosperous, and filled with opportunity.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the previous question.

Defeat of the previous question will allow us to amend the rule to provide for consideration of the Paycheck Fairness Act, an act that addresses the persistent problem of unequal pay in our economy, and would help make the bill before us a real boon for women and their families.

Women are now half of the Nation's workforce and two-thirds of primary or cobreadwinners. The sad fact is they are still only making and being paid 77 cents on the dollar on average compared to men. This holds true across all occupations and education levels. For women of color, the disparities are even worse.

Less pay for women means less pay for an entire family at a time when

millions are struggling to enter the middle class. Give their kids a chance at a better life, achieve the American Dream. It affects all of us.

We have seen the Republican budget that is being discussed today already does so much to put that dream out of reach for America's families. It slashes our social safety net, cuts off nutrition support, and denies food to millions of low-income Americans, and our most important anti-hunger program in the Nation.

The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities said 69 percent of the cuts in this Republican budget would come from programs serving low- and moderate-income people.

Let's be in opposition to this previous question because we will have an opportunity to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question because when women succeed, America succeeds. Let's help hardworking families take home the pay that they deserve and ensure that women are being paid the same as men for the same job.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I advise my friend from Massachusetts that we have no further speakers remaining, if he is prepared to close.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I insert in the RECORD a report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities entitled "Ryan Budget Would Slash SNAP by \$137 Billion Over 10 Years, Low-Income Households in all States Would Feel Sharp Effects."

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question and to vote "no" on the underlying bill.

The Ryan budget will create a government without a conscience. It is cruel. This budget is a rotten thing to do to poor people; it is a rotten thing to do to the middle class. It is an outrage.

So please, again, vote "no" on the previous question, and vote "no" on the underlying bill.

This really is an embarrassment. We could do so much better in this Chamber. The people in this country deserve much better than what we are giving them.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

[From the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Apr. 4, 2014]

RYAN BUDGET WOULD SLASH SNAP BY \$137 BILLION OVER TEN YEARS

LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN ALL STATES WOULD FEEL SHARP EFFECTS

(By Dorothy Rosenbaum)

House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's budget plan includes cuts in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) of \$137 billion—18 percent—over the next ten years (2015–2024), which would necessitate ending food assistance for millions of low-income families, cutting benefits for millions of such households, or some combination of the two. Chairman Ryan proposed similarly deep SNAP cuts in each of his last three budgets. The new Ryan budget specifies two categories of SNAP cuts:

It includes every major benefit cut in a House-passed version of the recent farm bill that Congress ultimately rejected when enacting the final farm bill. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated the House cuts, which amount to \$12 billion over the 2015–2018 period, would have terminated benefits to 3.8 million low-income people in 2014. After a difficult two-year process, Congress just two months ago, on a bipartisan basis, passed a farm bill that rejected these House cuts and reauthorized SNAP and other Agriculture programs for five years.

It would convert SNAP into a block grant beginning in 2019 and cut funding steeply—by \$125 billion (or almost 30 percent) over 2019 to 2024. States would be left to decide whose benefits to reduce or terminate. They would have no good choices—the program already provides an average of only \$1.40 per person per meal, primarily to poor children, working-poor parents, seniors, people with disabilities, and others struggling to make ends meet.

RYAN BLOCK GRANT WOULD FORCE STATES TO CUT FOOD ASSISTANCE DEEPLY

Since 90 percent of SNAP spending goes for food assistance, and most of the rest covers state administrative costs to determine program eligibility and operate SNAP properly, policymakers couldn't achieve cuts of this magnitude without substantially scaling back eligibility or reducing benefits deeply, with serious effects on low-income families and individuals. Table 1 provides state-by-state estimates of the potential impact of the block grant proposal.

Cuts in eligibility. If the cuts came solely from eliminating eligibility for categories of currently eligible households or individuals, states would have to cut an average of 10 million people from the program (relative to SNAP enrollment without the cuts) each year between 2019 and 2024.

Cuts in benefits. If the cuts came solely from across-the-board benefit cuts, states would have to cut more than \$40 per person per month in 2019 to 2024 (in nominal dollars), on average. This would require setting the maximum benefit at about 77 percent of the Thrifty Food Plan, the Agriculture Department's (USDA) estimate of the cost of a bare-bones, nutritionally adequate diet. (Under SNAP rules, the maximum benefit—which goes to households with no disposable income after deductions for certain necessities—is set at 100 percent of the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan.)

The impact of such a change would be pronounced. All families of four—including the poorest—would face benefit cuts of about \$160 a month in fiscal year 2019, or more than \$1,900 per year. All families of three would

face cuts of about \$125 per month, or about \$1,500 per year. Of course, policymakers could shield some households from such deep cuts, but then other households would need to bear even larger cuts in order to produce the \$125 billion in block-grant savings.

While states might not seek to hit the Ryan targets through eligibility cuts or benefit cuts alone, these examples illustrate the magnitude of the reductions needed. States would have few other places to achieve the required cuts; as noted, about 90 percent of SNAP expenditures are for food assistance.

PROPOSED CUTS REST ON INACCURATE CLAIMS

Chairman Ryan bases his proposed SNAP cuts on a series of inaccurate claims about SNAP program growth, work disincentives, and waste, fraud, and abuse.

Spending growth. Chairman Ryan justifies deep SNAP cuts in part by claiming that the “explosive growth [of SNAP and other low-income programs] is threatening the overall strength of the safety net” and “SNAP spending is forecast to be permanently higher than previous estimates even after the recession is long past.” While SNAP spending did grow substantially during the recession, it has begun to decline as a share of the economy and is expected to continue shrinking over the coming decade.

SNAP grew because of three factors: the depth of the recent recession, which made more people eligible; improvements in reaching eligible households (particularly working-poor families); and the 2009 Recovery Act's temporary benefit boost (which ended in November 2013). As Figure 1 indicates, CBO projects that SNAP will return to pre-recession levels as a share of the economy (gross domestic product) once the economy fully recovers. The program does not contribute to the nation's long-term budget problem because it is projected to grow no faster than the economy over time.

Work and dependency. Chairman Ryan also justifies cutting SNAP and turning it over to the states by implying that SNAP doesn't encourage recipients to work. Yet the number of SNAP recipients who work while receiving SNAP has more than tripled over the past decade. Furthermore, CBPP analysis finds that the large majority of SNAP recipients who can work do so, and many more rely on SNAP when they are between jobs or looking for work.

Among SNAP households with at least one working-age, non-disabled adult, more than half work while receiving SNAP and more than 80 percent work in the year prior to or the year after receiving SNAP. The rates are even higher for families with children: more than 60 percent work while receiving SNAP, and almost 90 percent work in the prior or subsequent year. Only 4 percent of households that worked in the year before receiving SNAP did not work the following year.

Moreover, SNAP already has work requirements. Adults without children face a harsh three-month time limit if they are unemployed and not participating in a qualifying employment and training program. States can apply for a waiver from this requirement during a weak economy when jobs are not available by submitting detailed Department of Labor data showing high unemployment in local areas or statewide, but the number of areas qualifying for a waiver is falling as the economy recovers, and CBO expects the number of such areas to shrink markedly over the next few years. (The Ryan budget would eliminate these waivers immediately, even for areas with double-digit unemployment.) In addition, states have broad authority to operate employment and training pro-

grams, and the recent farm bill includes a major demonstration program for states to test innovative approaches to providing employment and training services that raise recipients' earnings and reduce their reliance on public assistance.

Waste, fraud, and abuse. Finally, Chairman Ryan justifies his SNAP proposals based on charges that SNAP is rife with waste, fraud, and abuse. The reality is that SNAP has one of the most rigorous quality control systems of any public benefit program and a very low error rate. Despite the recent growth in case-loads, the share of total SNAP payments that represent overpayments or payments to ineligible households fell to a record low of 2.77 percent in fiscal year 2012. In addition, USDA has cut “trafficking”—the sale of SNAP benefits for cash, which violates federal law—by three-quarters over the past 15 years. Only 1.3 percent of SNAP benefits are trafficked. USDA has also permanently disqualified thousands of retail stores from the program for not following strict federal requirements. When cases of SNAP fraud are reported in the news, it is because the offenders have been caught, evidence that states and USDA are aggressively combating fraud.

BENEFIT CUTS WOULD PRIMARILY AFFECT LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, SENIORS, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Ryan budget documents assert that Congress could achieve the required savings by capping federal SNAP funding and “allow[ing] states to customize SNAP to the needs of their citizens” through a block grant. That description leaves the mistaken impression that the program is not serving a population that is overwhelmingly poor and that savings could be achieved without significantly harming millions of vulnerable Americans.

Unlike most means-tested benefit programs, which are restricted to particular categories of low-income individuals, SNAP is broadly available to almost all households with very low incomes. Cutting SNAP thus would affect broad swaths of the low-income population. Currently, 46.8 million people receive SNAP to help them feed their families. Census data show that in 2012 (the latest year for which these data are available), 46.5 million Americans lived below the poverty line, and 64.8 million lived below 130 percent of the poverty line, SNAP's gross income limit.

The overwhelming majority of SNAP households are families with children, seniors, or people with disabilities. Seventy percent of SNAP participants are in families with children; more than one-quarter are in households that include senior citizens or people with disabilities.

SNAP households have very low incomes. Eighty-three percent of SNAP households have incomes below the poverty line while they are receiving SNAP assistance (about \$19,800 for a family of three in 2014). Such households receive 91 percent of SNAP benefits. Two of every five SNAP households have incomes below half of the poverty line. Such individuals and families have little flexibility in their monthly budgets to cope with deep reductions in food assistance.

Low-wage workers rely on SNAP to boost their monthly income. Millions of Americans live in working households with earnings that are not sufficient to meet basic needs. In 2012, some 39 million people (1 in 8 Americans) lived in a working family with cash income below 130 percent of the poverty line. Low incomes like these—which typically reflect low wages or limited work hours—can

leave families unable to afford necessities like food and housing on a regular basis. SNAP benefits play a crucial role in boosting such families' monthly resources: in 2012, a typical working mother with two children on SNAP earned \$1,148 per month (\$13,700 on an annual basis) and received \$307 per month in SNAP benefits. If the Ryan proposal had been in place in 2012 and was implemented via across-the-board cuts, this family's monthly benefits would have been cut by \$110 per month—or about 36 percent.

SNAP BENEFIT CUTS WOULD INCREASE HUNGER AND POVERTY

SNAP cuts of the magnitude that the Ryan budget proposes would almost certainly lead to increases in hunger and poverty. Emergency food providers report that more people ask for help in the latter half of the month, after their SNAP benefits run out. Under the Ryan budget's steep funding cuts, a typical household's SNAP benefits would run out many days earlier, placing greater strain on household finances (and on emergency food providers) and significantly increasing the risk of hunger.

Deep SNAP cuts also would cause more families and individuals to fall into poverty and push poor families deeper into poverty. Currently, SNAP helps lessen the extent and severity of poverty; Census Bureau data on disposable family income that include the value of SNAP and other non-cash benefits and taxes show that:

SNAP lifted 4.9 million Americans above the poverty line in 2012, including 2.2 million children.

SNAP kept more children—1.4 million—from falling below half of the poverty line in 2012, more than any other program.

The Ryan SNAP cuts would thus have a sharp, adverse effect on millions of the lowest-income Americans. Moreover, they would not occur in isolation. The Ryan budget contains steep cuts in other low-income assistance programs, compounding the effects of the SNAP cuts. Many vulnerable families would lose health coverage, housing assistance, and other important supports such as child care at the same time they faced SNAP cuts.

CUTS COULD BE EVEN LARGER UNDER A BLOCK GRANT

Block-granting SNAP, as Chairman Ryan proposes, would eliminate its ability to respond automatically to the increased need that results from rising poverty and unemployment during economic downturns. Annual federal funding would remain fixed, regardless of whether the economy was in a recession or how severe a downturn was. As a result, the House Budget Committee staff's estimate that the Ryan plan would cut SNAP by \$137 billion over ten years may understate the magnitude of the cut—the cuts would be still more severe if the economy performs less well over the coming decade than CBO projects.

If a SNAP block grant had been in effect in 2013 at funding levels set in 2007, before the recession, federal funding in 2013 would have been about 50 percent below actual funding that year (excluding the Recovery Act benefit boost).

Furthermore, under a block grant, SNAP would not be able to respond to natural disasters. Hurricane Sandy victims in New York and New Jersey obtained temporary food aid through SNAP in 2013, as did victims of disasters in five other states.

Also, under a block grant, many states would likely shift funds away from food assistance to other purposes when they faced

large state budget shortfalls. SNAP includes several non-food components, such as job training and related child care; a block grant structure would enable states to divert funds away from food to these purposes and withdraw state funds currently spent on these services.

Finally, because of its capped funding structure, a block grant like the one Chairman Ryan proposes would reverse the recent progress made, on a bipartisan basis, to improve SNAP participation among eligible low-income households. Viewing SNAP as an important work support and health and nutrition benefit, the last three Administrations, as well as governors from across the political spectrum, have sought to boost participation rates—especially among working-poor families and low-income elderly people, the two groups with the lowest participation rates. Overall, the efforts have paid off. SNAP reached 79 percent of all eligible individuals in a typical month in 2011 (the most recent year for which these data are available), a significant improvement from 2002, when the participation rate bottomed out at 54 percent. Participation among eligible low-income working families rose from 43 percent in 2002 to about 67 percent in 2011. For the elderly, it improved more modestly—from 26 percent in 2002 to about 39 percent in 2011.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

You couldn't tell it from the acrimony that has been expressed over the last hour, but this is a good day. There are so many opportunities we have to come to this House and be disappointed with the bills that are here before us.

Why? Because we have different ideas, we have different ideas. My constituency, different from the constituencies of so many of my other colleagues, I don't question that they do their best to serve their constituencies, but in serving their voters, they harm mine and sometimes vice versa.

Today, that is not the question. We don't have a choice between the lesser of two evils. We don't have a choice against my way or their way. We have a rule that allows for absolutely every Member of this Congress to write their own budget. Think about that, Madam Speaker. We are talking about the budget of the United States of America, \$3.5 trillion.

Now, everybody doesn't write their own budget. It turns out we have more in common than we have that divides us around this institution, Madam Speaker. We have six budgets that we are going to be voting on.

That is every single budget that was submitted, but it is only six budgets. One came out of the House Budget Committee, one came out of the Republican Study Committee, one came out of the Congressional Black Caucus, one came from the Progressive Caucus, one came from the ranking member of the Budget Committee, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and one came from Mr. MULVANEY representing the President's budget.

By golly, Madam Speaker, if you can't find something that you believe

in, in that continuum of budgets, you are not looking hard enough.

Here is the thing: budgets are about choices; budgets are about priorities. The budgets of previous Congresses and previous Presidents have run up a debt the size of which servicing, even at these lowest teaser interest rates in American history, will suck out 18 months of productivity over the next 10 years.

I do not question my friend's commitment to the SNAP program, but understand that decisions of the past, paying the interest alone, require the SNAP program be closed completely for 18 months.

I do not question my friend's commitment to national security, but the budgets and the priorities of past Congresses have borrowed us into such a state that paying interest alone would require us to close our military for 18 months over the next 10 years.

We could not agree more that this budget week is about choices and priorities, and I tell you the choices and priorities of past Congresses and past Presidents are trading away hope for the next generation of Americans. They are trading away opportunities to serve Americans who need to be served today.

They are trading away security that folks should be able to have in a land as great as America; but because of decisions that this body, the Senate, and the White House have made over the past decades, that security is no more.

Not the budget-passed budget, Madam Speaker, the Budget Committee budget brings us to balance. We will begin to pay down that debt. We will reclaim those opportunities for those future generations.

Don't we owe it to them, Madam Speaker, not to advance ourselves at their expense? I think I know what the answer to that question is. We are going to be debating it over the next 3 days here on the House floor, and I hope my colleagues will agree with me, at the end of that process, that we owe it to them to do better today.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, this budget is not about reducing deficit or establishing a regime of fiscal responsibility. This is a budget to dismantle the national safety net system and to transfer those savings to the wealthiest individuals and corporations. Even the Appropriations Chairman, Chairman HAL ROGERS, thinks that this budget is "Dragonian."

If you want a perfect example of Republican ideology and book cooking, look no further than H.R. 1874, the Pro-Growth Budgeting Act of 2013.

Republicans want to force the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to use their discredited models to help them mask the true effect of their slash and burn agenda, while at the same time, denying the use of their pseudo-math to the one committee where it would hurt them, the Appropriations Committee. They want to pretend all day long that the discredited "tax-cuts = revenue growth" model

will do wonders for America, while denying the fact that the economically proven model of “investment = growth” will bring the much needed prosperity and equality that our citizens desperately want and need.

Defense spending is certainly important, but this budget is a complete failure of imagination when it comes to defending this country. Defense is not simply about bullets, bombs and brigades. We also defend this country militarily and economically through making sure we have an educated citizenry. At the very least, please tell me that you understand that our war materiel is the most sophisticated in the world. Please tell me that you understand that we, at the very least, need educated men and women to operate this equipment. Well, this education does not miraculously appear overnight. Indeed, their journey to where they are today started many years ago. And sure, some of them did not come from wealthy families and yes, some of our men and women in uniform had to rely on federal programs like Head Start, but that is never anything to be ashamed of and is certainly not something we should now turn our backs on. To defend a country as large and complex as ours is a multifaceted endeavor, an endeavor this budget utterly fails to meet.

Can “general welfare,” a constitutional obligation of Congress, be defined as a budget that places the heaviest burden on the vast majority of Americans, while bestowing the greatest benefits on the wealthiest?

What is the appropriate level of shared sacrifice that ought to be required? One percent of Americans take home over one quarter of all income every year, and have seen those incomes rise 18 percent in the last decade. But those in the middle have seen their incomes fall. Why do you think that those who have suffered most severely under this recession should bear the greatest burden of hardship? What does this budget do to help those people, as opposed to the wealthy who will be fine no matter what we do with this budget?

In your budget you say, “The first job of the federal government is securing the safety and liberty of its citizens from threats at home and abroad.” Why is the only threat to the American Dream that the Republicans deem worthy of funding the one that comes from abroad? While this budget increases defense spending above pre-sequester levels over the next decade, it ignores the very real threat to the American dream at home, by increasing inequality, and removing any hope for struggling families to move up to or stay in the middle class.

How will deep spending cuts in service-oriented Federal programs help citizens weather the economic crisis? How will huge tax breaks for the wealthiest enable the poor and middle class to obtain jobs? With individual income and payroll taxes comprising 82 percent of revenue resources, and corporate taxes making up only 9 percent, how does this budget anticipate growing the economy when the burden falls disproportionately on those who need the most help right now?

Which specific tax provisions will you target in order to make the “broadening” savings claimed in this budget? The biggest four are (1) the home mortgage interest deduction, (2) the exclusion of employer-provided health

benefits, (3) charitable deductions, and (4) state and local tax deductions. What specific tax loopholes do you propose to close?

Where, specifically, does all the projected revenue come from? This budget cuts the top marginal income tax rate to 25 percent, the lowest the rate has been since Herbert Hoover. Yet the budget also predicts that federal tax revenues will increase by nearly \$600 billion by 2021. President Reagan used a similar model which has since been discredited as unworkable, and which, on his watch, drastically increased the deficit and national debt.

How will Americans receive the health care they need if their Medicare premium and out-of-pocket costs become unaffordable under this proposed privatized system? Is the value of the vouchers linked to health care cost growth?

Americans already pay more than twice as much per person for health care as other wealthy countries with the same or longer life expectancies.

Since the government pays for about half of this country's health care, almost all of which is actually provided by the private sector, future health care costs are increasing because of private sector costs, not the government.

Is it your contention that eliminating government support will suddenly render health care affordable? Or does this budget foresee the government washing its hands of the need to ensure quality health care for its citizens?

How does converting Medicaid into a block grant bear relation to the actual need for Medicaid services? When two-thirds of participants are seniors and persons with disabilities, when half of long-term care is covered by Medicaid, and when 70 percent of people over the age of 65 will require long-term care services at some point, how will cutting \$732 billion benefit these Americans?

Is the goal to control costs or to shift costs? The CBO says that privatizing Medicare will shift costs onto seniors. In 2030, traditional Medicare costs would be less than the private costs envisioned by the GOP budget. Under this plan seniors will be out of pocket for about two-thirds the cost of privatized care, as opposed to about one-quarter under traditional Medicare.

Isn't it true that rising costs and financial risk simply would migrate from the Federal budget to seniors' household budgets? Wouldn't that mean seniors would face higher premiums, eroding coverage, or both?

How do you propose to provide relief to millions of homeowners in this housing crisis? This budget dramatically cuts funding for public housing assistance, foreclosure mitigation programs, and neighborhood development activities. How do you anticipate that communities will be able to meet the housing needs of their most disadvantaged residents?

The Republican budget resolution will cut housing aid to 10,000 veterans each year, approximately one-third of the total number of homeless vets. How does the Republican budget plan on taking care of newly homeless veterans? Is cutting these services a fair reward for those who risked their lives in service to our country?

If students can no longer rely on Pell grants and other Federal assistance for their college education, how do you propose to increase

the number of students going to college and improve America's system of education? This budget reduces Pell grants to the 2008 level and eliminates the grant increases that Democrats achieved previously, bringing the maximum grant award back down to \$5,000. But the budget does not seem to provide even enough funding for that amount.

In this budget, Republicans slash transportation investment in 2015 by \$52 billion. Do Republicans think that our infrastructure will magically fix itself, like they apparently do the rising inequality that this budget perpetuates? How many bridges have to collapse, and how many schools have to remain un-built so that we can provide another increase to our already bloated defense budget?

Madam Speaker, I am asking a lot of questions, because this budget does nothing but raise them, and provides no answers. It provides no answer for how we will help middle class families as they continue to struggle on Chairman RYAN's road to ruin. It provides no answer for how we will help low-income families send their children to college. It provides no answer for how we will provide quality healthcare to our seniors and those who are one medical emergency away from bankruptcy. It provides no answer for how we will provide housing assistance to those who have served their country and need a helping hand getting back on their feet. The fact that we have to even debate these measures is outrageous.

Madam Speaker, we can do better. Not only can we do better, we have an obligation to the American people to do better. This budget utterly fails to meet that obligation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 544 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert:

That immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4415) to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 2. Immediately upon disposition of H.R. 4415 the Speaker shall, pursuant to

clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 377) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 4415 or H.R. 377.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's *Precedents of the House of Representatives* (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous

question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's *Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives*, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. WOODALL. With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

BASELINE REFORM ACT OF 2013

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 539, I call up the bill (H.R. 1871) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to reform the budget baseline, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Pursuant to House Resolution 539, the amendment recommended by the Committee on the Budget, printed in the bill, is adopted. The bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1871

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Baseline Reform Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. THE BASELINE.

Section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 257. THE BASELINE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) For any fiscal year, the baseline refers to a projection of current-year levels of new budget authority, outlays, or receipts and the surplus or deficit for the current year, the budget year, and the ensuing nine outyears based on laws enacted through the applicable date.

"(2) The baselines referred to in paragraph (1) shall be prepared annually.

"(b) DIRECT SPENDING AND RECEIPTS.—For the budget year and each outyear, estimates for direct spending in the baseline shall be calculated as follows:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Laws providing or creating direct spending and receipts are assumed to operate in the manner specified in those laws for each such year and funding for entitlement authority is assumed to be adequate to make all payments required by those laws.

"(2) EXCEPTIONS.—(A)(i) No program established by a law enacted on or before the date of enactment of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 with estimated current year outlays greater than \$50,000,000 shall be assumed to expire in the budget year or the outyears. The scoring of new programs with estimated outlays greater than \$50,000,000 a year shall be based on scoring by the Committees on the Budget or OMB, as applicable. OMB, CBO, and the Committees on the Budget shall consult on the scoring of such programs where there are differences between CBO and OMB.

"(ii) On the expiration of the suspension of a provision of law that is suspended under section 171 of Public Law 104-127 and that authorizes a program with estimated fiscal year outlays that are greater than \$50,000,000, for purposes of clause (i), the program shall be assumed to continue to operate in the same manner as the program operated immediately before the expiration of the suspension.

"(B) The increase for veterans' compensation for a fiscal year is assumed to be the same as that required by law for veterans' pensions unless otherwise provided by law enacted in that session.

"(C) Excise taxes dedicated to a trust fund, if expiring, are assumed to be extended at current rates.

"(D) If any law expires before the budget year or any outyear, then any program with estimated current year outlays greater than \$50,000,000 that operates under that law shall be assumed to continue to operate under that law as in effect immediately before its expiration.

"(3) HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the receipts and disbursements of the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund shall be included in all calculations required by this Act.

"(c) DISCRETIONARY SPENDING.—For the budget year and each of the nine ensuing outyears, the baseline shall be calculated using the following assumptions regarding all amounts other than those covered by subsection (b):

"(1) ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS.—Budgetary resources other than unobligated balances shall be at the level provided for the budget year in full-year appropriation Acts. If for any account a full-year appropriation has not yet been enacted, budgetary resources other than unobligated balances shall be at the level available in the current year.

“(2) CURRENT-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS.—If, for any account, a continuing appropriation is in effect for less than the entire current year, then the current-year amount shall be assumed to equal the amount that would be available if that continuing appropriation covered the entire fiscal year. If law permits the transfer of budget authority among budget accounts in the current year, the current-year level for an account shall reflect transfers accomplished by the submission of, or assumed for the current year in, the President's original budget for the budget year.

“(d) UP-TO-DATE CONCEPTS.—In calculating the baseline for the budget year or each of the nine ensuing outyears, current-year amounts shall be calculated using the concepts and definitions that are required for that budget year.

“(e) ASSET SALES.—Amounts realized from the sale of an asset shall not be included in estimates under section 251, 251A, 252, or 253 of this part or section 5 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 if that sale would result in a financial cost to the Government as determined pursuant to scorekeeping guidelines.

“(f) LONG-TERM BUDGET OUTLOOK.—On or before July 1 of each year, CBO shall submit to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate the Long-Term Budget Outlook for the fiscal year commencing on October 1 of that year and at least the ensuing 40 fiscal years.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 1871 in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

I am pleased to be down here with the ranking member of the Budget Committee, the gentleman from Maryland, the gentleman whose opinion and counsel I have respect for.

What I love about the Budget Committee is that we have a chance to talk about issues that are defined by numbers in committee, but whose outcome is a difference in people's lives back home.

After all, the reason the gentleman from Maryland is the highest ranking Democrat on the Budget Committee is not because he cares about math, it is because he cares about people. That is who the Budget Committee consists of, Madam Speaker.

The bill that is before us today is a bill first conceived in this House by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT). I happen to be on the Budget Committee, I happen to have passion on this issue, so my name exists to carry

this bill forward; but it has been an idea that has been around in this institution, and it says this.

We have all seen it. We have all been in townhall meetings, Madam Speaker, where you say: this is what we have done to spending for next year.

And somebody is going to raise their hand, and they are going to say: ROB, is that Washington math, or is that real math? Is this one of those things where you raise spending by \$10, but you call it a cut because you predicted you would raise spending by \$20 instead?

How sad is that? How sad is that, that in a country run by the American people, that they have to ask their representatives: Is this real math, or is this Washington math?

This bill, Madam Speaker, puts a stop to Washington math forever. It says this: don't assume you are going to spend more money next year than you spent last year unless the law requires it.

Social Security is a good example of that. We raise Social Security each and every year. Why? Because the law of the land requires it, but not so in Federal budgeting rules.

In the crazy world of Federal budgeting, Madam Speaker, you raise spending next year just because. The assumption is: well, of course, they are going to spend more money than they did last year. Are they getting more bang for their buck?

I don't know. Is the crisis still there? Does it still need to be funded? I don't know, but we are going to assume more dollars go out the door.

My bill asks one thing and one thing only, Madam Speaker, that is to justify the American people's tax dollars when they are spent. If you need more money next year, come to Congress and say so.

If it is a priority for my constituents back home, I promise you, you will get my “yes” vote, but gone are the days of assuming Congress will always spend more, irrespective of the merits.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1345

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate my friend from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for kicking off this debate.

As he indicated earlier, as we debate the budgets, there will be differences of opinion and differences of philosophy, but when it comes to math, there is not a Republican math, and there is not a Democratic math. When you run a math equation, you get the same result whether you are a Republican or a Democrat.

What this bill attempts to do is to legislate away inflation. Gee, that would be so nice if we could pass a law and inflation would go away. What is

worse is this bill then says that we are going to put together budgets on the assumption that there is no inflation, on the assumption that the price of goods and services doesn't change over time, and if you do that, you will get very misleading results in your budget.

Now, the gentleman talked about Washington math. Madam Speaker, I would just like to show you the change in the cost of a hamburger from the last 10-year period. We do our budgets in 10-year windows. The price of a hamburger in 2004 was \$2.71. The price of that same hamburger 10 years later, in 2014, is \$4.62. That is not Washington math. That is reality-based math.

Here is what this Republican proposal would do.

It wants to take that fantasy land math and apply it to our budgets. Here is the chart. If you applied that idea in the budgets that we had from 2004 to today, you would assume that the price of that hamburger or of any goods and services that we bought as the Federal Government would remain the same—no inflation, no change—but that is not the reality. The reality is, between 2004 and 2014, we had inflation, and the costs of goods and services went up. The good news is that we did not have this proposal in effect from 2004 to 2014, so we didn't have this detachment from reality. Yet what our Republican colleagues want to do is say, from now on—from 2014 on—when the Congressional Budget Office puts together its estimations of future budgets, it has got to assume away inflation. Presto. As you can see, over time, that would become further and further detached from reality, not Washington reality but economic reality.

Here is what would happen if you budgeted that way.

For \$2.71 today, you don't get as big a hamburger, right? So apply that idea to an aircraft carrier. We have 10-year budgets. The gentleman's proposal is to pretend that, over the next 10 years, there will be no increase in the price of the inputs to making that aircraft carrier. Just assume it away. Inflation. Do you know what? If you plan that way, at the end of the day, you are going to have half an aircraft carrier in your budget just like you would have a half a hamburger in your budget.

Imagine a business that was planning ahead for the next 10 years, trying to do a profit and loss statement, and it had to calculate what it was going to cost it to buy inputs to its manufacturing process—energy inputs, oil and gas, other inputs of material it has to purchase. Then let's say that, today, it miraculously assumed there was no increase in the costs of those inputs. Boy, that would be nice, but do you know what? That private business would go under, and that business would be sued for malpractice by its shareholders.

Why would we do something to the Federal Government that we would

never allow to happen in the private sector that would result in a private sector business's going belly up?

I would just say, Madam Speaker, that the reason the Congressional Budget Office projects the budgets as they do today—the reason they include the estimated costs of inflation—is not that they do Washington math. It is that they can go out and go to McDonald's and find out that—do you know what?—the price of a Big Mac is not the same today as it was 10 years ago. It would be misleading to pretend, as we put together our next 10-year budgets, that the price of aircraft carriers and the price of education and the price of providing health care to our veterans will be the same. If you assume that, at the end of the day, you shortchange those veterans, you shortchange that defense policy, you shortchange our kids because, just like you can only buy a half a hamburger today for what you could have in 2004, you are not going to be able to buy the same education for kids and the same military 10 years from now.

We are not talking about Washington math. This is a case of basic math. As I said, it shouldn't be a Republican math or a Democratic math. We would all love to repeal inflation. That is not the real world. Let's stick with real-world budgeting. If we get away from that, we are going to be in a world of trouble here in the United States Congress.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield the control of the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), a terrific new member of the Budget Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 60 seconds.

I think I have got one of the best chart teams on Capitol Hill. I will say to my friend from Maryland that that is a great Big Mac chart, and I think it drives home my point exactly, which is that Federal Government math assumes that, if you bought a Big Mac 10 years ago, you are still buying a Big Mac today. I just wonder if that is true. I have switched to the value menu. I get the McDouble from time to time for 99 cents. The Spicy McChicken is now a part of what I do. I have to get into my wallet and justify the expense, and when prices double, sometimes we, as Americans, have to substitute.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOODALL. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. As you know, the value meal on that McDonald's menu 10 years ago cost more than the value meal today. This is just to get about

math and budgeting in a transparent way.

Mr. WOODALL. In reclaiming my time, absolutely, inflation is not going to go away, but we have to make tough choices, and this bill requires us to make those choices in a transparent way for the American people.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), who first said that we must be transparent in this way, that we must be fair and honest in this way. He is the original author of the Baseline Reform Act.

Mr. GOHMERT. I am immensely grateful to my friend ROB WOODALL.

Madam Speaker, it was back in the 1990s when I heard what apparently was a loveable, old fuzzi-ball who turned out to be Rush Limbaugh. He was talking about the absurdity of the United States Government doing something that no person, no family, no business, no charity in all of America could do.

With due respect to my friend who just spoke, Mr. VAN HOLLEN says businesses would go out of business. I would challenge anybody in this room to show me a business, to show me a family, to show me an individual, to show me a charity that has an automatic increase in every year's budget, because America can't do that. I was shocked that this was going on. I mean, in the Army, I helped with the budget. In the private sector, I prepared budgets. As a district judge, I prepared a budget. It had to be approved. We never got an automatic increase. You had to justify any change in anything. If you needed an increase, you had to show why that was important.

I got to Congress, never dreaming that that would not have been taken care of when Republicans took the majority, but in my freshman term in 2005 and 2006, the Republican chair of the Budget Committee said we have to do the automatic increases. I said, Why? He said, Because it is the law. I was shocked. We make the law. We can change the law. Then, of course, our friends across the aisle took the majority, and for 4 years, there was no chance of eliminating the automatic increase in every Federal department's budget, but then we got the majority back.

For all of the disagreements I have had with the Speaker, Speaker BOEHNER agreed that if PAUL RYAN passed a zero-baseline budget—ending the automatic increases—out of committee, then he would bring it to the floor. It meant we would have to have the right guy marshaling this bill. Some tweaking was done, and I will be forever grateful to my friend ROB WOODALL, who is as brilliant as his predecessor, a dear friend, John Linder. He took this bill, and he marshaled it through. PAUL RYAN kept his word, and I will be for-

ever grateful for that. It came to the floor, and we voted it through, and the Senate wouldn't take it up.

For those who want to talk about the children, I am not hearing a lot of that talk today because, when I talk to college students, high school students, junior high students, they are wondering why they are going to have to pay the debts that we were not responsible enough to pay ourselves. There is not a good answer. It is absolutely immoral and negligent—it is self-indulgent—to say that one generation like ours is so much more important that we have to spend future generations' money. Yes, if there is inflation, let's deal with it that year, but I have heard enough stories from people who are talking about, gee, this department is apparently out there, saying, Spend all your money. Don't leave any because, if you don't, you won't get as much next year. Of course, they get automatic increases every year, so they have got to spend their money. That is no way to run a country. It is not right.

There are some issues I have with the budget, but I know the heart of the man who was behind that, and I know he wants future generations not to be burdened with our negligent handling of our money. So it is time that we end the automatic increases in every Federal budget. When my friend across the aisle was talking about, gee, you could end up with half an aircraft carrier—good grief—we have lost aircraft carriers because of those automatic increases every year for decades now. There are aircraft carriers that won't be there because we couldn't control ourselves as we had to automatically increase everything we spent.

Madam Speaker, it is time we did the responsible thing and ended the automatic increase in every single Federal budget for next year, and I will be continuing in my gratitude to my friend ROB WOODALL.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In response to the gentleman from Texas, I think it is important that we be careful in the rhetoric we use on these subjects. It is incorrect to say that, by law, there is an automatic increase in the Federal budget and that that applies to the discretionary budget. That is absolutely incorrect.

What we are talking about here and what this bill concerns is the CBO baseline that is used. The CBO reflects inflation in that baseline as does every serious budgeting professional and forecaster and economist in the real world, but they don't do it because the law has told them they have to or because Democrats have told them they have to; they do it because that is what serious budget forecasters do. They know that inflation is a reality, and they believe that the baselines they

use and the projections and forecasts they use should reflect that reality. I think that is an important clarification. We choose to budget and to spend at the level that we choose to do so each and every year. What the CBO does as a matter of baseline projections is a different matter.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP), a distinguished member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I thank my colleague from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the Baseline Reform Act does nothing to address the economic challenges facing American families. It does not create a single job. It does not renew expired unemployment compensation for the millions of workers and their families who are struggling right now. It does not raise the minimum wage to a living wage. What it would do is essentially impose sequestration on steroids in our budgetary baseline, and we all pretty much agree that sequestration was a terrible idea that was holding the country back.

The bill in front of us today simply establishes an unrealistic and misleading benchmark against which to measure changes in government spending.

□ 1400

Requiring the CBO and the OMB to construct budget baselines without adjusting for inflation will serve only to weaken fiscal discipline and result in wildly inaccurate long-term spending projections.

Madam Speaker, inflation is an accepted part of a growing economy. In fact, the United States has seen year-to-year increases in the prices of goods and services over every calendar year but one since 1956, the notable exception being 2009 when our economy was mired in the Great Recession. On average, inflation has hovered near 4 percent annually over that nearly six-decade window. It is simply inevitable that goods and services become more expensive over time and the purchasing power of the dollar will be weaker in 10 years than it is today.

Although 2 to 3 percent annual inflation may not appear to be significant at first blush, rest assured that even such a modest inflationary rate will produce considerable price differences over the long term. Using the Federal Reserve's targeted 2 percent annual rate of inflation, an item that costs \$100 today will cost \$122 just 10 years from now. At 3 percent annual inflation, that same \$100 good will cost almost \$135 10 years from now. In total, the price of goods and services in the United States have increased by more than 1000 percent since World War II.

Under longstanding budget rules, CBO and OMB assume that future discretionary appropriations at the account level will be at the same dollar levels but adjusted for inflation. Why do they do this? They do it because it represents a more accurate analysis of our Nation's actual spending habits. The aggregate total of defense and non-defense appropriations are then adjusted down to the spending cap levels set in law, but even those spending caps are higher than the freeze mandated by this bill.

The CBO's current projections for the next 10 years assume that discretionary spending will be at the caps imposed by the Budget Control Act through 2021, rather than the inflation-adjusted levels. But changing the definition of the budget baseline will have an outsized impact on future budget projections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman such additional time as he may consume.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Discretionary appropriations are responsible for many of the programs that Americans hold sacred, including education, veterans' benefits, defense, disease research and control, food safety, transportation projects, and the list goes on. By eliminating inflation adjustments and freezing discretionary spending over 10 years, the baseline would be a benchmark that builds in real—and deep—cuts in Federal programs.

The so-called “reforms” contained within this bill are nothing more than efforts at constraining future Federal spending through budget trickery. I urge a “no” vote.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, at this time, it is my great pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), a champion for budget transparency and a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, our Constitution assigns the principal responsibility over the public purse to the House of Representatives. Under that constitutional doctrine, a dollar can't be spent by this government unless the House says it gets spent. Yet today, spending increasingly seems to be out of our hands, driven automatically by a variety of provisions and practices that thwart the very design of the Constitution. Roughly two-thirds of our spending is for entitlements, over which we have lost any direct control in the appropriations process. That is the big problem.

But there are other reasons for this problem as well that this bill addresses. One of them is the current process by which we calculate the baseline from which we begin our annual budget negotiations. Any family would begin its budget process by asking, for example: What did we spend for groceries

last year? Once it has that baseline, then it would begin to adjust for changing circumstances. The price of milk is going up. Should we cut back or look for substitutes? Or should we cut back on something else to afford that increase?

That is the rational process known to every reasonably well-managed family. This process gives budgeters, whether they are a household or the House of Representatives, the ability to adjust for changing priorities, needs, and conditions. Yet the Federal budget process builds in a variety of spending increases above and beyond what we had previously agreed we could afford—before our budget deliberations even begin.

That same family doesn't begin its budget process by building in assumptions of how it might change its spending in the future. For example, if it took vacations the last several years, it doesn't automatically budget for a vacation next year until it has met its other needs, that is, it doesn't budget for decisions that it has not yet made. But we do, quite routinely.

Thus, we begin the budget process with a baseline that hides the many tough decisions that a budget requires: How do we cope with price increases? Should we continue to deviate from our spending plan next year just because we did last year?

The current budget process denies us the perspective that any family has when prices go up or conditions change. It often prevents us from asking the questions that a family would ask under these circumstances. Instead, we sweep these issues under the rug—or, more precisely, we sweep them into the baseline.

Does this bill make our job harder? Yes, because it requires us to figure out how to cope with changing conditions. Right now, we start our budget by assuming that we are hostages to our spending. This measure makes us the masters of that spending. That is a harder job, but that is our job.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), chairman of the Budget Committee.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank Mr. WOODALL for all of his hard work on this issue, as well as Mr. GOHMERT, who was here a moment ago, for raising this issue, for keeping focus and attention on it, and for bringing this much-needed reform through the House Budget Committee and to the House floor.

This bill basically fixes a real quirk in our budget process. Under the current law, the Congressional Budget Office assumes every discretionary spending account gets an increase every year to keep up with inflation.

What does that mean? This means that this increase is built into the baseline, and the baseline is our starting point of spending. It is our starting point of budgeting. So every year, Congress moves the line forward. It assumes that there is always going to be an increase in every one of these programs, regardless of the facts on the ground. There is no consideration to whether a program is working or not or even whether it is still necessary.

Under this bill, the baseline would just show the previous year's funding level. That is basically what we are saying. If we are spending X amount of dollars today, when we write next year's budget, we will start with X, and then we will make a decision here in Congress: Should it be more or less or the same?

That is not how it works today. We spend X today, then there is an automatic increase, and then we decide how to budget after that automatic increase.

We should write the Federal budget just like families write their own budgets. They don't get an automatic increase. They don't get to decide like that.

We have got record deficits. We have got an unprecedented debt. Our job here in Congress is to make decisions. It is to set priorities. It is to look at the hardworking taxpayers that are working so hard to pay their taxes, to raise their families, and tell them we are going to watch their money more closely than just assuming automatically each and every year we can just take more from them and then decide how to spend more on top of that. It is no way to run a budget. It is no way to run a government budget or a family budget or a business budget.

So that is all we are saying. This, I think, is an inflated baseline which is a smoke-and-mirror move. What we are saying is take away the smoke and the mirrors, start from scratch, and then make informed decisions from there. That is why I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia for all of his hard work on this. That is why I encourage all Members on both sides of the aisle to support this much-needed reform.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I think this may be one of the more oversold bills we have heard in a while.

We keep hearing references to autopilot spending in mandatory programs. This bill doesn't have anything to do with them.

We keep hearing references to automatic annual increases in spending. We don't have such automatic annual increases.

This is about the budget baseline that the CBO assumes for purposes of helping us make our decisions.

We keep hearing about families and how they budget. I would submit,

Madam Speaker, that any family that has reason to believe that some part of their budget is going to increase in the coming year had better reflect that in the reality of their budget or else they are not going to be able to meet their needs.

If they have reason to believe their rent is going up, if they have reason to believe that their utilities are going to cost more, if they have reason to believe that anything that they spend money on is going to cost more, in the real world of America, families do include that in their budget. That is called reality, and that is what the CBO does.

I would love to face a future in which Big Macs cost the same thing 10 years from now as they do today. I wish I were still paying \$2.71 for a Big Mac, as Mr. VAN HOLLEN's chart showed. But the truth is, in the real world, we know that is not how it works. We know that inflation is reality. If we were in a deflationary or a zero-inflation environment, then I suspect the CBO would create its baselines differently. But we are not, and no one is arguing that we are.

They are just asking us to suspend disbelief and try to legislate away the reality of inflation. Why? So that the budget-cutting, government-reducing agendas that we hear in this House year after year might appear to be a little less draconian in the outyears. That is not a very compelling argument when you think about it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I would say to my friend from California that I do not have any further speakers remaining. I am prepared to close.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This bill does not create any jobs. It doesn't save one dime. It doesn't reduce spending. It simply asks the CBO to pretend that the reality of inflation does not exist. It is not a serious proposal. It is a bill that was heard and passed largely on party lines in the last Congress. It didn't go anywhere. It is not going to go anywhere this time either. This is political theater at a time when we really need to be talking in this institution about the real needs of America.

With that, I request a "no" vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I brought down a chart that takes us from 2006 out to 2044. For almost everyone here in the Chamber, that it going to get into the meaty part of our lifetime.

What it shows with the green line, Madam Speaker, is what revenues have been in this country, historic revenues going backward and projected going forward, not in dollar values but as a

percent of our economy. What it shows us is that revenues going forward will continue to be historically normal at just under 20 percent of GDP.

But the red line, Madam Speaker, represents projected spending. This is the projected spending if we do nothing at all. We don't need to show up for work another day in this Chamber. We don't need to come down here and pass one new law, spend one more dollar. The spending on autopilot, Madam Speaker, is represented by the red line. You see it rising off the top of the graph.

Spending is the problem. For decades, since 1974 and the passage of the Congressional Budget Act, there has been an assumption that spending was going to rise each and every year. My friends on the Democratic side of the aisle called it inflation. Inflation existed before the Congressional Budget Act was passed. It is going to exist after the Congressional Budget Act is modified or repealed. Inflation is an economic certainty, and that is not the topic of discussion today.

The topic of discussion today is who makes decisions when it comes to America's budgeting. If spending is the problem, if it is spending that is rising faster than revenues, if it is spending that has changed over the past decade, who should make those determinations?

Here is the thing, Madam Speaker. I will go back to that Washington math that I talked about coming from town-hall meetings, because I know everyone here has been a part of that. I know everyone here has had that hand go up when we talk about cutting spending and they say: Is that a real cut or is that a Washington cut? When you say "cutting spending," RoB, do you mean cutting spending or do you mean that you are only going to increase it by \$10 and the projection was it is was going to go up by \$20?

Only here is increasing spending by \$10 considered a cut. There is no family in America that considers that a cut.

□ 1415

Think about your budget back home, Madam Speaker, whatever that is. I remember buying milk for \$1.99 a gallon. I am a big milk drinker. Skim is my favorite. But \$1.99 I was comfortable paying. Today I am prepared to pay more—I am. There has been inflation. I am prepared to pay \$4 a gallon for a gallon of milk.

I didn't assume that I was going to drink the same amount of milk every day going forward. In fact, I confess, I found powdered milk, Madam Speaker. It was on the discount shelf at Giant. I got two gallons of powdered milk for \$2.25 total. That is \$1.12 a gallon for that powdered milk. I am not paying \$4 a gallon. I am paying \$1.12 because I have to make choices.

American families don't get unlimited dollars to spend. Though, the Federal Government pretends like it does.

We are borrowing from future generations every time we make a decision. So this bill says one thing and one thing only: Who makes decisions for America? Is it going to be the Congressional Budget Office? Is it going to be a statutory baseline, or is it going to be the men and women in this room who put themselves up for election every 2 years?

Madam Speaker, for me, the answer is clear. I have got a Constitution that lays it out fairly clearly here in my pocket. I don't think I need to read it to folks here to get them to understand because I think we all share that view.

We share the view that difficult decisions are not supposed to be made by unelected bureaucrats in a back room. Difficult decisions are supposed to be made by us, right here in this Chamber.

If you have a project back home in your district, if you see a national priority, and you want to spend a penny more than we spent last year, come to the floor of the House and make your case. Make your case. For Pete's sake, I am a huge supporter of Federal research. The work that goes on at the CDC down in Atlanta, the work that goes on in Maryland at NIH, it is amazing. Nobody else is going to do that if we don't come together and do it here in this body.

I have got to tell you something. I don't need a baseline. I don't need a bureaucrat. I don't need any Washington math to come and make the case that we ought to spend more at NIH next year than we did last year. Why do I not need them? Because I believe it. Because my constituents elected me to stand up for Federal research. We came here to make these tough decisions.

Back in the day, before the class of 2010, before the class of 2012—back in the day, there is good reason to assume that Federal spending was going to go up every year because every year since the end of the Korean war that is exactly what happened. I watched it. Every year, we spent more than we did in the last.

Something has changed in this town, Madam Speaker, and I think the thing that has changed in this town are the people that the folks back home are sending to this town. I think the town's actually the same. I think the folks back home are sending new folks, folks like the gentleman from California, folks like the gentleman from North Carolina. Sending people to town with the direction of not trading away their children's future because they are afraid to make tough decisions today.

So, what does that mean? That means in the 4 years I have been in this institution, Madam Speaker, we have spent less money in these discretionary accounts that this bill would affect every single year than we did the one before. Think about that.

In the absence of this legislation that I am proposing, we are going to go as-

sume that spending goes up every year, but the reality that my friends on the other side of the aisle are talking about, the reality of inflation, the reality of congressional decisionmaking, the reality of our budget is that that spending has gone down, not just from 2010 to 2011, though it did; not just again from 2011 to 2012, though it did; not just again from 2012 to 2013, though it did; and not just again from 2013 to 2014, but it did that too. Four years in a row we spent less the following year than we did the year before.

When are we going to get back to that 2010 level of spending? Is it going to be next year? No, it is not. Is it going to be the year after that? No, not by the budgets that we will be passing on the floor here this week. What about the year after? No, not then either.

So, the opponents of this legislation suggest that we should create a process in Federal law that assumes that spending goes up every single year, and yet the reality of this institution, as it exists today, not as it existed 10 years ago, not as it existed 20 years ago, not as it existed in 1974, when this legislation was first enacted, but as it exists today, is the responsible men and women in this Chamber who are prioritizing taxpayer dollars in such a way that for the entire 10-year window we won't spend a penny more than we did on day one. That is the reality.

Could we spend more each and every year? Of course we could. Could we borrow more and more from our children and grandchildren and ask them to pay it back tomorrow with interest? Of course we could. Did our constituents elect us to come here and make difficult, difficult discussions? They did.

I was in the Rules Committee last night, Madam Speaker. My colleague from Massachusetts said, Some of these decisions have real consequences for folks back home. I disagree. I think every decision has real consequences for folks back home. Every single one.

This legislation simply asks that before we spend another penny from folks back home that we come to the floor of this House, to the committee chambers around this institution, and make the case for why it is worth doing. I challenge you to look in the eyes of young people whose future we are mortgaging and suggest that they deserve anything less.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today we could be debating a jobs and infrastructure package. We could be working on a comprehensive effort to balance our budget and replace sequestration once and for all. But instead, we're wasting time debating this retreat of an old Republican ploy to further decimate the nation's discretionary budget.

Currently, the Congressional Budget Office rightfully assumes annual adjustments for in-

flation and population growth to reflect the cost of maintaining current services. For example, next year more children will attend schools on military bases. The CBO assumes a small increase in funding for these schools to ensure teachers and administrators have the resources they need. This idea that funding should keep pace with inflation and need makes sense. It reflects reality. It is an important concept in the business world, but the so-called reform before us today would freeze adjustments for inflation and population growth, undermining the usefulness of CBO's baselines and making it more difficult to measure the real-world impact of discretionary spending changes.

While this bill may appeal to those who profit from demagoguing the budget, it would drastically hurt the nation in the long-term. Flat-funding would mean a death by a thousand cuts to discretionary spending programs: every year inflation and population growth would chip away at the effectiveness of the investments we make in our future. At least the Republican budget is upfront about the obvious and drastic cuts it makes to education, food and nutrition assistance for women and infants, infrastructure, research and health care for seniors. This bill is about locking-in a years-long path to these deeply misguided goals under the guise of "reform."

Ordering CBO to ignore the needs of our people and the real impacts of spending is the height of fiscal recklessness. Congress experimented with imaginary budget assumptions when it passed the Reagan tax cuts and again with the George W. Bush tax cuts. As a result, we now find ourselves in a very real amount of debt. We remain unable to pay for needed investments in our crumbling infrastructure, and unable to pay for the education and retraining required to maintain American competitiveness, thanks to the refusal of our Republican colleagues to consider raising revenue by closing egregious tax loopholes.

So I'll vote "no" on this unwise and deceptive approach. And I ask colleagues to get down to the serious work of budgeting. Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN suggested an alternative that would replace the sequester and reduce the deficit. His approach would not ax Head Start programs for our nation's children, would not cause the further deterioration of our national infrastructure, would not kick seniors and veterans out of federally-supported housing, and would not furlough schoolteachers at bases like Fort Bragg, where the kids of our servicemen and servicewomen are being forced to go without school for five days this fall. Let's stop the partisan showmanship and get to work. Find a way to rid our nation of sequestration and put our country on a fiscally sustainable path.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 539, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Mrs. BUSTOS. I am opposed to it in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Bustos moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1871 to the Committee on the Budget with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 3. PROHIBITING CUTS IN EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND SAFETY PROTECTIONS.

The amendment made by section 2 shall not apply to the following:

(1) Student loans or available per-pupil expenditures for the education of children with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.).

(2) Benefits, payments, or funds to expedite unprocessed claims for veterans who have pending disability compensation or education claims.

(3) Programs to protect the safety of patients in nursing homes and other places of care to ensure compliance with the law and best health care practices.

(4) Air traffic safety control, food safety inspectors, or law enforcement officers under the COPS program.

Mr. WOODALL (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, and it will not delay or kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will proceed immediately to final passage as amended.

Madam Speaker, the bill before us today, the Baseline Reform Act, would politicize what is otherwise a simple, straightforward method of accurately measuring changes and spending policies. It is misguided.

Here is why. It mandates that the Congressional Budget Office assume current discretionary spending is frozen indefinitely in its baseline projections rather than adjusted for inflation. This change would undermine the usefulness of the CBO's baselines.

It would make it more difficult to measure the real-world impact of changes in discretionary spending at both the program and budget function levels. Were this bill to be enacted into law and inflation remained at current projections, the CBO's baseline projections by the end of the budget window,

or 10 years out, would purchase about one-fifth less than in the current year.

My amendment would blunt the damage this bill could cause, and it would protect many of our hardworking and most vulnerable constituents. Specifically, my amendment would protect programs that help students and help families afford the skyrocketing costs of higher education. It would protect children with disabilities from being kicked out of the classroom. It would protect our brave veterans and the benefits they have earned and deserve through their valiant service to our Nation. It would protect vulnerable seniors in nursing homes. It would protect our air traffic controllers who keep us safe when we travel, our food safety inspectors who help protect us from disease, and first responders who help keep our communities safe.

Madam Speaker, when I am home traveling in my district every weekend, I hear from people who this bill would harm: young people who are trying to better themselves through higher education but struggling to afford the rising cost of college; veterans who are caught in the VA backlog and trying to just get the care that they need; seniors who worked hard and played by the rules their entire lives, who deserve to live out their golden years in dignity; and law enforcement officers, like my husband, Gerry, a captain with the Rock Island County Sheriff's Department and commander of the Quad Cities Bomb Squad, who rely on programs like the COPS program to help keep our community safe.

Madam Speaker, my amendment would help protect the smart investment we have made in the future of our country: in our seniors, in our veterans, and in those who fight to protect us and keep us safe.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I hold in my hand a copy of the motion to recommit. I will read from line 1. It says: Section 3: Prohibiting cuts in education, health, and safety protections.

I said something that generally speaking here on this floor we agree on, but it makes the case of why this bill is so necessary. Because this bill has nothing to do with cuts in any account, no cuts in education, no cuts in health, no cuts in safety protections.

This bill does one thing and one thing only, and that is to say, let's spend next year what we spent this year, unless someone makes the case to do more.

I thought the gentlewoman from Illinois made a powerful case for why it is important to pay close attention to

these accounts and focus the dollars on those accounts that we can do the most good. But to solve this misunderstanding that there are cuts in baseline budgeting, to solve this misunderstanding that prevails across the conversations across America, let's support H.R. 1871. I reject this motion to recommit.

I support the underlying bill, Madam Speaker, and I ask that we can bring fairness and transparency to the budget again for the first time since 1974.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the bill, if ordered; ordering the previous question on House Resolution 544; and adoption of House Resolution 544, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 191, nays 221, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 167]

YEAS—191

Barber	DeLauro	Johnson, E. B.
Barrow (GA)	DelBene	Jones
Beatty	Deutch	Kaptur
Becerra	Dingell	Kelly (IL)
Bera (CA)	Doggett	Kennedy
Bishop (GA)	Doyle	Kildee
Bishop (NY)	Duckworth	Kilmer
Blumenauer	Edwards	Kind
Bonamici	Ellison	Kirkpatrick
Brady (PA)	Engel	Kuster
Braley (IA)	Enyart	Langevin
Brownley (CA)	Eshoo	Larsen (WA)
Bustos	Esty	Larson (CT)
Butterfield	Farr	Lee (CA)
Capps	Fattah	Levin
Capuano	Foster	Lipinski
Cárdenas	Frankel (FL)	Loeb
Carney	Fudge	Loeb
Carson (IN)	Gabbard	Lofgren
Cartwright	Gallego	Lowenthal
Castor (FL)	Garamendi	Lowe
Castro (TX)	Garcia	Lujan Grisham
Chu	Grayson	(NM)
Cicilline	Green, Al	Luján, Ben Ray
Clark (MA)	Green, Gene	(NM)
Clarke (NY)	Grijalva	Lynch
Clay	Gutiérrez	Maffei
Cleaver	Hahn	Maloney,
Clyburn	Hanabusa	Carolyn
Cohen	Hastings (FL)	Maloney, Sean
Connolly	Heck (WA)	Matheson
Conyers	Higgins	Matsui
Cooper	Himes	McCarthy (NY)
Costa	Hinojosa	McCollum
Courtney	Holt	McDermott
Crowley	Honda	McGovern
Cuellar	Horsford	McIntyre
Cummings	Hoyer	McNerney
Davis (CA)	Huffman	Meeks
Davis, Danny	Israel	Meng
DeFazio	Jackson Lee	Michaud
DeGette	Jeffries	Miller, George
Delaney	Johnson (GA)	Moore
		Murphy (FL)

Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard

Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier

Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)

Bass
Brown (FL)
Campbell
Carter
Fincher
Frelinghuysen
Hanna

Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall

Keating
Lewis
McAllister
Miller, Gary
Moran
Neal
Perlmutter

Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)

Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)

Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walsh
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—221

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Buchson
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert

Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)

Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup

□ 1456
Messrs. SHIMKUS, GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and MICA changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. COHEN, HASTINGS of Florida, GARAMENDI, and Ms. MCCOLLUM changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HUFFMAN: Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 230, noes 185, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 168]

AYES—230

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Buchson
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw

Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)

Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry

Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Hoyer
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard

NOES—185

Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng

Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela

Velázquez	Wasserman	Welch
Visclosky	Schultz	Wilson (FL)
Walz	Waters	Yarmuth
	Waxman	

NOT VOTING—16

Bass	Keating	Runyan
Brown (FL)	Lewis	Schwartz
Campbell	McAllister	Stewart
Carter	Miller, Gary	Stockman
Fincher	Neal	
Hanna	Perlmutter	

□ 1503

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 96, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 11, 2014, THROUGH APRIL 25, 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 544) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, and providing for proceedings from April 11, 2014, through April 24, 2014, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 190, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 169]

YEAS—219

Aderholt	Cole	Frelinghuysen
Amash	Collins (GA)	Gardner
Amodei	Collins (NY)	Garrett
Bachmann	Conaway	Gerlach
Bachus	Cook	Gibbs
Barletta	Cotton	Gibson
Barr	Cramer	Gingrey (GA)
Benishek	Crawford	Gohmert
Bentivolio	Crenshaw	Goodlatte
Bilirakis	Culberson	Gosar
Bishop (UT)	Daines	Gowdy
Black	Davis, Rodney	Granger
Blackburn	Denham	Graves (GA)
Boustany	Dent	Graves (MO)
Brady (TX)	DeSantis	Griffin (AR)
Bridenstine	DesJarlais	Griffith (VA)
Brooks (IN)	Diaz-Balart	Grimm
Broun (GA)	Duffy	Guthrie
Buchanan	Duncan (SC)	Hall
Bucshon	Duncan (TN)	Harper
Calvert	Ellmers	Harris
Camp	Farenthold	Hartzler
Campbell	Fitzpatrick	Hastings (WA)
Cantor	Fleischmann	Heck (NV)
Capito	Fleming	Hensarling
Cassidy	Flores	Herrera Beutler
Chabot	Forbes	Holding
Chaffetz	Fortenberry	Hudson
Coble	Fox	Huelskamp
Coffman	Franks (AZ)	Huizenga (MI)

Hultgren	Miller (MI)	Schock
Hunter	Mullin	Schweikert
Issa	Mulvaney	Scott, Austin
Jenkins	Murphy (PA)	Sensenbrenner
Johnson (OH)	Neugebauer	Sessions
Johnson, Sam	Noem	Shimkus
Jolly	Nugent	Shuster
Jones	Nunes	Simpson
Jordan	Nunnelee	Smith (MO)
Joyce	Olson	Smith (NE)
Kelly (PA)	Palazzo	Smith (NJ)
King (IA)	Paulsen	Smith (TX)
King (NY)	Pearce	Southerland
Kingston	Perry	Stivers
Kinzinger (IL)	Petri	Stutzman
Kline	Pittenger	Terry
Labrador	Pitts	Thompson (PA)
LaMalfa	Poe (TX)	Thornberry
Lamborn	Pompeo	Tiberi
Lance	Posey	Tipton
Lankford	Price (GA)	Turner
Latham	Reed	Upton
Latta	Reichert	Valadao
LoBiondo	Renacci	Wagner
Long	Ribble	Walberg
Lucas	Rice (SC)	Walden
Luetkemeyer	Rigell	Walorski
Lummis	Roby	Weber (TX)
Marchant	Roe (TN)	Webster (FL)
Marino	Rogers (AL)	Wenstrup
Massie	Rogers (KY)	Westmoreland
McCarthy (CA)	Rogers (MI)	Whitfield
McCaul	Rohrabacher	Williams
McClintock	Rokita	Wilson (SC)
McHenry	Rooney	Wittman
McKeon	Ros-Lehtinen	Wolf
McKinley	Roskam	Womack
McMorris	Ross	Woodall
Rodgers	Rothfus	Yoder
Meadows	Royce	Yoho
Meehan	Ryan (WI)	Young (AK)
Messer	Salmon	Young (IN)
Mica	Sanford	
Miller (FL)	Scalise	

NAYS—190

Barber	Duckworth	Lipinski
Barrow (GA)	Edwards	Loeb
Beatty	Ellison	Lofgren
Becerra	Engel	Lowenthal
Bera (CA)	Enyart	Lowe
Bishop (GA)	Eshoo	Lujan Grisham
Bishop (NY)	Esty	(NM)
Blumenauer	Farr	Lujan, Ben Ray
Bonamici	Fattah	(NM)
Brady (PA)	Foster	Lynch
Braley (IA)	Frankel (FL)	Maffei
Brownley (CA)	Fudge	Maloney,
Bustos	Gabbard	Carolyn
Butterfield	Gallego	Maloney, Sean
Capps	Garamendi	Matheson
Capuano	Garcia	Matsui
Cárdenas	Grayson	McCarthy (NY)
Carney	Green, Al	McCollum
Carson (IN)	Green, Gene	McDermott
Cartwright	Gutiérrez	McGovern
Castor (FL)	Hahn	McIntyre
Castro (TX)	Hanabusa	McNerney
Chu	Hastings (FL)	Meeks
Cicilline	Heck (WA)	Meng
Clark (MA)	Higgins	Michaud
Clarke (NY)	Himes	Miller, George
Clay	Hinojosa	Moore
Cleaver	Holt	Moran
Clyburn	Honda	Murphy (FL)
Cohen	Horsford	Nadler
Connolly	Hoyer	Napolitano
Conyers	Huffman	Negrete McLeod
Cooper	Israel	Nolan
Costa	Jackson Lee	O'Rourke
Courtney	Jeffries	Owens
Crowley	Johnson (GA)	Pallone
Cuellar	Johnson, E. B.	Pascarelli
Cummings	Kelly (IL)	Pastor (AZ)
Davis (CA)	Kennedy	Payne
Davis, Danny	Kildee	Pelosi
DeFazio	Kilmer	Peters (CA)
DeGette	Kind	Peters (MI)
Delaney	Kirkpatrick	Peterson
DeLauro	Kuster	Pingree (ME)
DelBene	Langevin	Pocan
Deutsch	Larsen (WA)	Polis
Dingell	Larson (CT)	Price (NC)
Doggett	Lee (CA)	Quigley
Doyle	Levin	Rahall

Rangel	Scott, David	Tonko
Richmond	Serrano	Tsongas
Roybal-Allard	Sewell (AL)	Van Hollen
Ruiz	Shea-Porter	Vargas
Ruppersberger	Sherman	Veasey
Rush	Sinema	Vela
Ryan (OH)	Sires	Velázquez
Sánchez, Linda	Slaughter	Visclosky
T.	Smith (WA)	Walz
Sanchez, Loretta	Speier	Wasserman
Sarbanes	Swalwell (CA)	Schultz
Schakowsky	Takano	Waters
Schiff	Thompson (CA)	Waxman
Schneider	Thompson (MS)	Welch
Schrader	Tierney	Wilson (FL)
Scott (VA)	Titus	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—22

Barton	Grijalva	Neal
Bass	Hanna	Perlmutter
Brooks (AL)	Hurt	Runyan
Brown (FL)	Kaptur	Schwartz
Burgess	Keating	Stewart
Byrne	Lewis	Stockman
Carter	McAllister	
Fincher	Miller, Gary	

□ 1510

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. HURT. Madam Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 169, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 544. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 222, noes 194, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 170]

AYES—222

Aderholt	Collins (GA)	Gingrey (GA)
Amash	Collins (NY)	Gohmert
Amodei	Conaway	Goodlatte
Bachmann	Cook	Gosar
Bachus	Cotton	Gowdy
Barletta	Cramer	Granger
Barr	Crawford	Graves (GA)
Barton	Crenshaw	Graves (MO)
Benishek	Culberson	Griffin (AR)
Bentivolio	Daines	Griffith (VA)
Bilirakis	Davis, Rodney	Grimm
Bishop (UT)	Denham	Guthrie
Black	Dent	Hall
Blackburn	DeSantis	Harper
Boustany	DesJarlais	Harris
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart	Hartzler
Bridenstine	Duffy	Hastings (WA)
Brooks (IN)	Duncan (SC)	Heck (NV)
Broun (GA)	Duncan (TN)	Hensarling
Buchanan	Ellmers	Herrera Beutler
Bucshon	Farenthold	Holding
Calvert	Fitzpatrick	Hudson
Camp	Fleischmann	Huelskamp
Campbell	Fleming	Huizenga (MI)
Cantor	Flores	Hultgren
Capito	Forbes	Hunter
Cassidy	Fortenberry	Hurt
Chabot	Fox	Issa
Chaffetz	Franks (AZ)	Jenkins
Coble	Frelinghuysen	Johnson (OH)
Coffman	Gardner	Johnson, Sam
	Garrett	Jolly
	Gerlach	Jordan
	Gibbs	Kelly (PA)
	Gibson	King (IA)

King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes

Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner

Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman

Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen

Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Bass
Brown (FL)
Carter
Fincher
Hanna
Joyce
Keating
McAllister
Miller, Gary
Neal
Perlmutter
Runyan
Schwartz
Stewart
Stockman

□ 1517

Ms. SINEMA changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 96.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 544 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 96.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1521

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the concurrent resolution is considered read the first time.

General debate shall not exceed 4 hours, with 3 hours confined to the congressional budget, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking

minority member of the Committee on the Budget, and 1 hour on the subject of economic goals and policies, equally divided and controlled by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), or their designees.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 90 minutes of debate on the congressional budget.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am here to rise in support of H. Con. Res. 96, for the fiscal year 2015.

This is the fourth year we have done this—this being bringing a budget to the floor to balance the budget and pay down the national debt.

This is exactly what our economy needs today. We ask the Congressional Budget Office to look at this kind of deficit reduction. What would it do? Well, it is very clear that it would promote economic growth.

In 2024, economic output would be 1.8 percent higher than it otherwise would be. What does that mean? That means by getting our fiscal house in order, by balancing our budget, paying off our debt, and reducing the deficit, take-home pay for Americans will be \$1,100 higher than it otherwise would be if we don't do something like this. That is just part of our budget.

We also call for more job creation, economic growth policies like tax reform, and energy development. All of these things would help get our economy back on track.

I also understand that there is a lot of confusion about what is going on in our budget. I would like to spend a few moments sort of clarifying and clearing up some of that confusion.

First, our budget does repeal ObamaCare. Let me say it again. Our budget does repeal ObamaCare because we think it is going to do great damage to our economy, to our budget, to health care. We don't keep the tax hikes in ObamaCare. Instead, we propose revenue neutral comprehensive tax reform. Our critics like to claim we are keeping it. What we are saying is let's scrap this Tax Code in favor of a better Tax Code, including replacing ObamaCare taxes with pro-growth tax reform to create jobs, increase take-home pay, and get this economy growing.

Second, we end the raid on Medicare. The dirty little secret that the other side won't want to talk about is the fact that they turned Medicare into a piggy bank for ObamaCare. They raided \$716 billion from Medicare to pay for ObamaCare. We say that those savings from Medicare need to stay with Medicare to make it more solvent, and if

NOES—194

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Browley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
Esty (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)

some of those savings from Medicare are doing damage to the Medicare provider network, like reducing access to things like Medicare Advantage, then we have a mechanism in here to make sure that we can fix that, just like we did for the SGR, otherwise known as the “doc fix.”

We think we need to save and strengthen this program, not only so that it is there intact for those in the near retirement, but for future generations who are facing a bankrupt program if we don't do something to reform it.

Second, we don't slash the safety net. If anything, we strengthen the safety net.

This administration has made all sorts of promises that it has no way of keeping, or it has made all sorts of promises and it is not telling us in any way how they are going to keep these promises. It has promised major expansions in programs like Medicaid and Pell grants. How they plan to pay for it, we have no idea. We refuse to be complicit with the demise of these programs.

We spend \$3.5 trillion over the next 10 years on Medicaid. Under our budget, program spending will continue to rise by population plus inflation. We grow the program each and every year after fiscal year 2016 onward. We simply slow the growth rate by giving Governors and State legislators more flexibility to customize these programs to meet the unique needs of their populations instead of cramming down their throats some one-size-fits-all Washington-knows-best approach, which has been failing the Medicare population in our health care provider network.

This budget spends \$600 billion over the next 10 years on food stamps. It is a program that has quadrupled since 2002. We propose to give Governors more flexibility so that they can customize this program to meet the needs of their populations, but not until 2019, until CBO says the economy will have recovered by then.

CBO says that the Pell grant is going bankrupt. It is going to face a going shortfall in 2016 and every year thereafter. So instead of making all these Pell promises that the government has no way of keeping, the budget maintains the current Pell award, \$5,730, throughout each of the next 10 years and funds it.

Our budget all told cuts \$5.1 trillion in spending over the next 10 years. We do this by cutting waste, by cutting abuse, by stopping the age-old Washington practice of spending money we just don't have, and by making much needed reforms to government programs.

Our critics call this draconian. Look at it this way. On the current path, we are set to spend \$48 trillion of hard-working taxpayer dollars or borrow it from the next generation—\$48 trillion

over the next 10 years. Under this path, we will spend \$43 trillion.

By contrast, under the current path, Federal Government spending is slated to rise by 5.2 percent on average for the next decade. Under this budget, it will rise by 3.5 percent over the next decade. Hardly draconian.

Mr. Chairman, there is nothing compassionate about making promises that the government cannot keep. When that bill comes due, it is going to hurt the vulnerable, the first and the worst, and the voiceless. This is why we need to get spending under control.

Let me show you what we are proposing in a nutshell. The red shows you our national debt. Our national debt is on course to hit catastrophic levels. Our national debt is going to hit these catastrophic levels which guarantee that the next generation of Americans inherit a bleak future, a lower standard of living, a burden of debt that they cannot have a high standard of living with.

We in our generation have to make tough choices. We have got to face up to this issue. What we are saying here with this budget is, the sooner we get on top of our fiscal problems, the better off everybody is going to be.

□ 1530

We are saying, if we get ahead of these problems now, we can phase in reforms, such as Medicare reforms that don't even affect people in or near retirement. The sooner we tackle these fiscal problems, the better off everybody is going to be, the faster the economy grows, and the more we can guarantee that the next generation inherits a debt-free future.

We have never given the next generation a diminished future in this country before. That is the great legacy of this Nation, work hard and make tough choices, so that the next generation can be better off. We know, without a shadow of a doubt, that that is not going to be the case.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, we know that, in a couple of years, the debt starts taking back off, and we are back to \$1 trillion deficits. Our tax revenues are at an alltime high this year. The problem is that spending is outpacing that. The sooner we can get our fiscal house in order, the sooner we can create jobs and get economic growth.

The sooner we can bring solvency to our safety net, to our social contract, the more that people can depend on these programs, and the sooner we can bring these reforms to get our spending in line with our revenues, the faster we can pay off this debt.

Just like a family, a government that lives beyond its means today necessarily has to live below its means tomorrow. We want to make right by the next generation. We want to grow this economy.

We want to create jobs and increase take-home pay, and we want to get people to work. That is what this budget is designed to do, and that is why I am proud to bring this balanced budget to the floor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are looking forward to the debate on the budget over the next couple of days. Chairman RYAN mentioned that the critics of this budget call it draconian. I would just point out to the gentleman that the Republican chairman of the House Appropriations Committee just referred to the budget that is before this House as draconian.

Now, the chairman and I do agree on one thing, which is that these budgets that we bring before this Congress reflect our different visions of America. They reflect the choices that we make. They show what we care about, and they show what we care less about. They are fundamentally different blueprints for the future of this country.

The President has presented a budget that will boost job growth, sharpen Americans' competitive edge, and expand opportunity in the United States of America. Now, we have before us the congressional Republican budget, and of all of the Republican budgets that we have seen on the floor of this House since 2010, this one is the worst for America.

Many will argue, Mr. Chairman, that we should not be taking this budget seriously because, after all, we have a short-term bipartisan agreement and that the Senate would never pass this budget, but I urge the country to take it seriously because what it tells America is what our Republican colleagues would do to the country if they had the power to do it.

If they could impose their will, this is the budget that they would impose, so we need to look hard at the consequences. What does it mean for America? What choices does the budget before us make for our country?

At its core, it rigs the rules of the game for very wealthy and very powerful special interests at the expense of everybody else in the country and at the expense of other priorities in the country.

For example, if you are a multimillionaire, under this budget, you will have your top tax rate cut by one-third, all the way from 39 percent, where it is today, down to 25 percent. That is an average tax break for millionaires of \$200,000. That is great for people who are well off.

What does this budget do to the rest of this country? It guts vital investments in our children's future, it squeezes the middle class, and it violates important commitments to our seniors.

Now, let's step back because the chairman mentioned the economic benefits of this budget. The reality is that

our economic competitors around the world will eat our lunch if we pass this Republican budget. It provides for perverse tax incentives that ship American jobs overseas while shortchanging investments in jobs right here at home.

As we will see over the next couple of days, it guts important investments that historically have helped power our economy, and the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office tells us that, in the next couple of years, this is going to slow down economic growth, that it is going to slow down job growth. One estimate puts the job loss at 3 million jobs.

At a time when we need to be modernizing our national infrastructure—the backbone of our economy—this budget slashes the transportation budget by \$52 billion in this year alone, stopping new projects, throwing construction workers off the job.

It will condemn the United States to a potholed road of economic decline, and it refuses to include one thing that the Congressional Budget Office says will help boost our economy right now, which is to pass bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform.

Mr. Chairman, as this budget provides these windfall tax breaks for the folks at the very top, let's see what it does to others in our country.

We all depend on our kids getting a good education. It is good for families. It is good for the country. The saddest part about this budget is that it casts a dark shadow over the American Dream, and it violates the fundamental promise that every hardworking American should have a fair shot at success.

At a time when we should be investing more in education in the United States, all told, if you look at early education—K-12—and college education, this budget cuts it by \$370 billion below current services. That has devastating impacts on everything from Head Start to Early Head Start to K-12 to college.

Let me just mention one of the things it does to college student loans. It starts charging college students' interest while they are still in college, before they have gotten out and gotten a job. That saves \$40 billion in this budget—actually, a little more than that—in the same budget that provides huge tax breaks to the wealthiest in this country.

So much for wanting to address the lack of upward mobility in America; rung by rung, this budget knocks out the steps of that ladder of opportunity. If you are to the manor born, you are going to be just fine under this budget, but for everybody else, tough luck and worse.

Let's look at seniors as our next example. Those on Medicare will immediately pay more if they have high prescription drug costs, right? The chairman mentioned that the Democratic budget cut Medicare and turned it into something else.

The reality is that the savings that were achieved in Medicare by ending some of the overpayments in the Democratic budget were recycled to strengthen key parts of Medicare, including to close what has been called the prescription drug doughnut hole.

The Republican budget here reopens the prescription drug doughnut hole. If you are a senior with high prescription drug costs, it is \$1,200 more per year, on average, as a result of this budget.

Seniors who have been able to get preventative health services without having to put down copayments will no longer get those screenings, and now, they will be at risk of not getting the treatment and care when they need it.

On top of all of that, it ends the Medicare guarantee by creating a voucher program. For seniors who decide to stay in the traditional Medicare program, they will see their premiums hiked by 50 percent when that goes into effect. They can stay, but they will have to pay big time to stay. That is not the Medicare guarantee.

Middle class families—I mentioned that this budget cuts the top tax rate for millionaires from 39 percent to 25 percent. That is a 30 percent tax cut, but it says it is going to do that in a deficit-neutral manner, so it is simple math, Mr. Chairman.

If you are going to do that, you are going to squeeze middle class taxpayers. In fact, this budget pretends that Chairman CAMP and the exercise he went through in the Ways and Means Committee—the fact-based exercise—never happened because what Chairman CAMP found was that you couldn't bring that top rate down to 25 percent without squeezing middle-income taxpayers.

That is why he had a top rate of 35 percent in his plan, and yet this says let's go to a 25 percent top rate. That means \$2,000 more in taxes for a family with kids to finance the tax breaks for the folks at the very top.

This budget reserves, perhaps, its cruelest blow for those who are seeking to climb out of poverty into the middle class, to have an opportunity to participate in the American Dream.

In the last election, the Republican candidate, Mitt Romney, said he really didn't care about the 47 percent. This Republican budget sets out to prove that statement. If you look at this budget, it is an assault on Americans who are struggling to climb out of the middle class.

We had a big debate in this Congress about food nutrition programs. The Republican plan called for \$40 billion in cuts. It ended up being \$8 billion. In this budget, it is \$137 billion.

Millions of more kids will go hungry as a result of cutting that safety net, and that is why faith-based groups that have looked at these Republican budgets over the last 3 years have said that they don't meet the tests of a society that cares for the least of these.

I want to close by asking a question because our Republican colleagues say the goal has to be 10 years to hit this political target. It is interesting because the Republican budget 3 years ago didn't balance until around 2040, but now, we have this sort of political target that they have to hit.

If it is so important to hit that, why do they ask everything of our kids and of our seniors and of struggling families and of nothing from very powerful special interests?

This budget does not close one special interest tax break for the purpose of reducing the deficit, not one—not a special interest tax break for hedge fund owners, not a special tax break for big oil companies. We have a race to hit their political timetable here, but we are not going to ask those special interest groups to pay one dime to help reduce the deficit.

Here is the really strange thing: after all is said and done, this Republican budget does not balance in 10 years if, at the same time, the Republicans claim to be repealing the Affordable Care Act. It just doesn't add up. The math isn't there.

What this Republican budget does is this: it gets rid of all of the benefits in the Affordable Care Act. It gets rid of the tax credits that help Americans purchase affordable care. It gets rid of the provision that says you can stay on your parents' insurance policy until you are 26.

It gets rid of the provisions that say you cannot be denied coverage because you have a preexisting condition. It gets rid of all of the benefits.

Guess what it keeps? It keeps all of the tax revenue from the Affordable Care Act.

You don't have to take my word for it. This is The Heritage Foundation. This isn't some liberal group.

Here is what they say:

Perhaps the biggest shortcoming of this budget is that it keeps the tax increases associated with ObamaCare.

It is what they said about last year's budget. This year is exactly the same. This budget also keeps all of the savings from Medicare. It doesn't recycle any of those savings to strengthen it as the Democratic budget does, but it keeps them.

If you actually look at this chart, you will see that, in 2024, when the Republican budget claims to balance, without the revenues and the savings from Medicare, it doesn't come close to balancing.

So our Republican colleagues have got to choose. Either you claim to have a balanced budget and you recognize that you support all of the revenues and savings in the Affordable Care Act or not, but you can't have it both ways. The sad thing is, after hitting everybody but the very wealthy in this budget, they still can't achieve what they claim is their goal.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds to say: you can't have it both ways.

That is interesting. You can raid Medicare by \$716 billion to pay for ObamaCare and then count that money as if it is going back to Medicare, counting the same dollar twice. That is not our word. That is the word of the Congressional Budget Office and of the actuaries, themselves, at Medicare, which is what the other side did with ObamaCare.

Look, apparently, the only way to revive and protect the American Dream is to bring our debt from \$17 trillion to \$24 trillion and, on the way there, raise taxes on hardworking Americans another \$1.8 trillion, and if you are not for that, you are against the American Dream.

□ 1545

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY).

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this budget because I believe it is the necessary fiscal path to secure our children's future. I hear from my constituents every time I go back home. We can't keep borrowing nearly 40 cents on every dollar we spend.

This budget is a commonsense blueprint that grows our economy. It will force Washington to live within its means by cutting \$5.1 trillion over 10 years to balance the budget. Under this plan, we will make much-needed reforms to the complicated and oversized Tax Code that will make Americans more competitive and create jobs. It will keep the promise to our seniors by strengthening Social Security and give our troops the tools they need to secure our country. This budget will provide relief from rising health care costs by repealing ObamaCare.

Families across my congressional district will be able to keep more of what they earn, which is exactly what we need to have happen to grow our economy. Right now, too many of them are struggling paycheck-to-paycheck under this Obama economy. Gas prices are still high and volatile. My constituents are paying higher health care premiums because of ObamaCare.

Families need a break, Mr. Chairman. This budget gives them a chance to get ahead while holding Washington accountable for its stewardship of your money.

Since we have a budget agreement, I am looking forward to seeing the Senate budget and when they will vote on it. I would encourage our friends on the other side of the aisle to keep HARRY REID's feet to the fire and make sure they do have a budget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), a

distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the ranking member for his extraordinary leadership and for developing a budget proposal that actually reflects our Nation's values and priorities.

Mr. Chairman, this Republican budget, offered by my colleague from Wisconsin, is another attempt to impose a failed economic theory on the American people. This budget would damage economic growth in the short term and it disinvests in our future in the long term. It is absolutely the wrong course.

Millions of Americans continue to struggle to find work. Congress should be investing in priorities that will create jobs, priorities like education, rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, and investing in advanced manufacturing and innovation that will help set the platform for a 21st century economy.

The Ryan Republican budget does exactly the opposite. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, compared to current law, the Ryan Republican budget would stifle our economic growth, reducing gross national product per capita by about 0.5 percent in each of the next 3 years.

Let that sink in. If you are searching for work or struggling to get by in this difficult economy, the message from this budget is clear: it is about to get a whole lot worse.

What could possibly be their rationale?

To my colleagues who say we need to make this sacrifice in the short term so we can experience long-term economic gains, they have it backwards. We need to invest in the short term to have long-term economic prosperity.

How does a budget that freezes Pell grants and slashes funding for higher education by approximately \$260 billion grow our economy in the long term?

Our Nation's infrastructure is the backbone of our economy and is essential to move goods and services in the short and long term. So how does a budget that cuts investments in transportation by \$52 billion next year alone help our economy?

How can you say a budget that singles out for elimination bipartisan programs like the Manufacturing Extension Partnership will boost our economy in the long term, a program that leverages Federal funding to provide small- and medium-sized manufacturers the capacity to grow, innovate, and prepare for a 21st century focus on advanced manufacturing? The answer is you can't.

Let's be clear: this budget cuts from today and disinvests from tomorrow. And for what purpose? To pay for another round of tax cuts for the wealthiest of Americans, amounting to about \$4 trillion in the next 10 years. But it is okay, they claim, because the benefits will trickle down to the middle class.

This budget goes after Medicare, Medicaid, and nutrition programs for hungry children, all to pay for another round of tax cuts for the wealthy. This is immoral. And we know, from past experience, it is the wrong strategy for our economy.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to reject this budget because it will hurt jobs and inflict unnecessary pain on working families and our economy.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, in August of 2010, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs warned that the greatest threat to our national security was our national debt. That was \$4 trillion of debt ago. In fact, since the inauguration in 2009, we have accumulated more total government debt than we have run up from the very first day of the Washington administration through the third year of the George W. Bush administration.

We were told this would jump-start the economy. It hasn't. Instead, it has deprived markets of the capital that would otherwise be loaned to businesses seeking to expand jobs, to consumers seeking to make purchases, and to home buyers seeking to reenter the housing market.

I would remind the House that we cannot provide for the common defense or promote the general welfare if we cannot pay for them, and the ability of our government to do so is being slowly and surely destroyed by our debt. Balancing this budget and ultimately paying down the national debt is a national security imperative, it is an economic imperative, and it is a moral imperative.

Under Chairman RYAN's leadership, the House is about to pass the fourth budget in a row to balance. It stands in stark contrast to the President's budget that never balances and that condemns our Nation to a debt spiral that will consume our future. It reforms and reorganizes our social safety nets. It prevents their impending bankruptcy, and it restores them to financial sound foundations for the generations to come.

This is not beyond our ability. President Clinton, working in cooperation with a Republican Congress, delivered four balanced budgets in a row. Together, a Democratic President and a Republican Congress cut Federal spending by 4 percent of GDP. They enacted what amounted to the biggest capital gains tax cut in American history. They reformed entitlement spending by abolishing the open-ended welfare system. The economy blossomed.

In the years since, under both Republican and Democratic administrations, we have veered far from these policies

of fiscal responsibility and economic expansion, and the economy languishes.

The budget before us combines the policies necessary not only to restore solvency to the government and save the social safety net, but it also restores prosperity to the American people. All we lack is the same cooperation from the President and the Senate that we had just two decades ago.

Time is not our ally. Every day we delay, the problem becomes more intractable and the road back becomes more difficult, protracted, and perilous.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just point out that I think it is useful to look at this through the perspective of history, because the last time we had balanced budgets in this country was at the end of the Clinton administration, and shortly after that, when President Bush came into office, we saw back-to-back tax cuts.

The theory at that time was if you dropped the top tax rate on high-income individuals, it will trickle down to everybody else and power-charge the economy. The only problem is that didn't work. It did not work at all. The trickle-down theory of economics did not work. We didn't get that boost of economic growth. What we did get was huge, huge deficits as far as the eye could see.

And so the problem with this budget is that it is a U-turn back to that philosophy—the idea that we are going to provide these tax cuts and it will create a big boost of economic activity. But reality has shown that it doesn't work that way. We should be building our economy from the middle out and from the bottom up. The top-down approach doesn't work.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON), a distinguished member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this budget is worse than a wolf in sheep's clothing. It is like a Dracula in sheep's clothing coming in to suck the blood out of the middle class.

Under the false pretense of deficit reduction and a balanced budget, House Republicans have brought forth another attack on American seniors, students, workers, and middle class families, all the while protecting giveaways for the wealthy and corporations that ship jobs overseas.

This budget kills jobs at home by gutting critical investments in education and technological research and throws a wrench in the engine of American innovation. Instead of laying the foundation for innovation to create the new middle-class jobs of tomorrow or spur new technology, economic growth, and the next generation of entrepreneurs, this Republican budget uses

fuzzy math and magic asterisks to hide its attack on the middle class.

This embarrassing budget is an excuse to assault the social safety net that has saved millions of Americans who fell off the economic ladder of opportunity during the Bush recession. Programs like food stamps, unemployment insurance, Medicaid, and job retraining are helping to get Americans back on their feet—Americans who lost their jobs and homes due to no fault of their own, but instead due to the fault of reckless Wall Street speculators. The victims include defenseless infants and dependent children, as well as the sick and the elderly.

The Republican budget uses these programs as punching bags for their reckless agenda today to cut and gut. Republicans' relentless attacks on these programs will only hasten the descent and harden the fall of Americans who are already teetering on the brink.

Mr. Chairman, Republicans are playing their favorite game with the budget—hide and cut it. First, they hide behind budget gimmicks and magic asterisks, and then they cut unnamed programs that all magically fall only upon the backs of the poor, working families, seniors, and the middle class.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds to say, wow, that sounds horrible. Good thing it is not true. Only in Washington is a slower increase in spending awful, blood-curdling, cut-throating, terrible, and draconian cuts.

If we are going to get our fiscal house in order, what we are saying in this budget is, instead of increasing spending 5.2 percent a year on average, let's do it by 3.5 percent a year on average—hardly draconian.

And by the way, maybe people closer to the problems, like our States, might have a better idea on how to help people in their communities. Those are the principles we are talking about here.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), the chief deputy whip.

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

My home State is Illinois. The State of Illinois, Mr. Chairman, is a delightful place. It is the "Land of Lincoln" and the birthplace of Ronald Reagan, but it is a fiscal basket case. From a fiscal point of view, my home State is a national punch line, because one party—the other party—has dominated State government for years. For a decade, they have had the Governor's mansion. They have got majorities in both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate.

And what has happened? It has been avoidance behavior, Mr. Chairman. An unwillingness to take on serious issues.

So what did the Democrats in Springfield, Illinois, do? They raised taxes. They didn't deal with the underlying fiscal problem.

And what was the net result? The budget gap didn't close, higher than average unemployment, and more per capita debt than nearly any other State in the Union on the taxpayers of Illinois.

□ 1600

All right. So what does that all that have to do with this?

Springfield, Illinois, is a fore-shadowing, Mr. Chairman, of what not to do. Basically, we need to look at the fiscal situation in Springfield, Illinois, and look at it like a big, big traffic signal that says, don't come here; don't go this route; don't take this pathway. Instead, go another direction.

The direction that we need to go is the direction that the chairman has articulated, and that I think a majority is going to vote for tomorrow, and it is a pathway that says, let's look clearly at these difficulties. Let's articulate them clearly. Let's be clear-eyed about what they are, and let's make decisions.

So what does this budget do?

The budget repeals ObamaCare and makes way for a patient-centered approach on health care that our constituencies are calling out for.

It says that we are going to empower States to make decisions. It says we are going to keep promises that are going to be made, not false promises, not telling folks that something is going to be there, and then just assuming that there is going to be some pixie dust that makes these problems go away.

No, these problems are going to be dealt with, and they are going to be dealt with in a forthright manner.

I think we are at an inflection point. I think the House is actually at an incredibly important stage right now, and we can go one of two pathways. One pathway we know, one pathway of more taxes, more spending, more avoidance, and not dealing with the underlying spending programs.

This is not theoretical, Mr. Chairman. The State of Illinois has tried that, and it is a mess. It is a mess that becomes worse. The longer the State waits, the worse the options are.

So what the chairman is saying is, let's not get to that point. We have got options. We have got time. We have got choices. We have got remedies, but we need to act now.

So I urge favorable consideration of this budget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I think, for the people who may be watching this, and for our colleagues, the question is, how do we achieve the priorities that we hope we all want to achieve, which is jobs growing faster, the economy growing faster, and deal with the long term deficit and debt in a responsible manner?

The glaring problem with the congressional Republican budget is that they don't call for any shared responsibility. They don't ask the most powerful special interests to contribute one dime by closing a single tax break, not one. And because they shelter the most powerful and the most wealthy, everybody else has to take a hit in their budget.

As a result, the entire country takes a hit because those are investments in our kids' education, in basic science and research that are important to help power our entire economy.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), a terrific new member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you to my friend from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) for yielding, and for his leadership.

He is exactly right. What this budget fails to do is address the fundamental questions that we have to address.

As a new member of the Budget Committee, during the most recent budget markup, I offered an amendment. A couple of dozen of our amendments were heard and dismissed rather quickly.

I offered an amendment that would deal with that question of shared sacrifice, an amendment that would have simply said that if you make more than \$1 million in this country, you should pay your fair share, applying the so-called Buffett Rule that basically says, if you are doing well, you should at least pay the same rate that another member of your staff would pay.

As Mr. Buffett pointed out, his secretary pays a higher rate. This would have required a 30 percent rate to apply to those folks making \$1 million.

What was interesting to me was what I was told by the other side, that this amendment was because people in the working middle class, people who go to work every day, are jealous of those who have done well in the United States.

Let me assure you, this has nothing to do with jealousy; it has everything to do with fairness. The only thing we ask is that if we are all going to pitch in to adopt a balanced budget and invest in growing our economy, we should all pitch in and not have a tax system that benefits the wealthiest, and has the rest of us not only have to pay more than our fair share, but not receive the important investments that will grow our economy.

So what this budget doesn't do is require we all pay a fair share. Neither does it extend unemployment insurance to those who are just trying to get from their last job to their next job without losing their house and their car and having their family split up.

It doesn't raise the minimum wage so that those who go to work every day won't live in poverty. It doesn't ad-

dress the fundamental question facing us, and that is immigration reform, which would have a significant effect on growing our economy. People on the left and the right agree with that.

No, this statement of our collective values fails to address that fundamental question.

But what it does do is cut basic education. It would kick 170,000 kids out of Head Start, changing the trajectory of their lives forever; cuts \$89 billion out of education, \$35 billion alone out of Title I. Cuts higher education, which is an investment in our future, which we know pays dividends downstream. Cuts infrastructure.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman another 30 seconds.

Mr. KILDEE. Cuts infrastructure, which we have to address. If our companies, if our manufacturers are going to be competitive, we are going to have to make those sorts of investment.

This budget does none of those things. All it does is protect those who continue to be sheltered by a system that allows for this kind of inequality in this country and doesn't address the fundamental questions facing us.

I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in opposing this budget.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time remains between both sides?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 72½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Maryland has 68 minutes remaining.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

Mr. LANCE. Thank you, Chairman RYAN.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Republican budget, which is a path to prosperity. It includes commonsense priorities and policies that will foster economic growth and job creation.

This is a plan to balance the budget in 10 years and begin to pay down the national debt, and this is exactly what our economy needs.

CBO says that, by reducing the deficit, our budget would promote economic growth. In stark contrast to budgets put forward by the President and by House Democrats, our budget will cut wasteful spending, rein in our national debt and, we hope, balance the budget. And the budget needs to be balanced. This would be done all without raising taxes on hardworking Americans.

It includes pro-growth policies that will harness domestic energy, restore patient-centered health care, strengthen retirement and the safety net programs that are so essential, and it will reform our Tax Code.

I thank my friend, Chairman RYAN, for putting forth a budget blueprint

that addresses our Nation's long-term fiscal challenges truthfully and in a fiscally responsible manner.

Let me say that this blueprint spends \$43 trillion over the next 10 years. It reduces spending by \$5 trillion. Only in Washington can an increase annually of 3.5 percent be considered a cut. That is ridiculous.

At the rate we are going now, our spending would increase by 5.2 percent. We reform it to 3.5 percent annually over the next 10 years.

I applaud Chairman RYAN's hard work and courage, and look forward to an honest discussion here on the floor of the House.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just point out that we hear a lot about the global aggregate numbers, but the distribution of those cuts is important.

If you look at the portion of the budget that we have, historically, used to invest in education, to invest in innovation, to invest in places like the National Institutes of Health, that portion of the budget is cut by 24 percent relative to the bipartisan Ryan-Murray agreement. And it is cut from there.

So the part of the budget that does a lot of damage that we are focused on in terms of future investments, really does mean that we are going to be less competitive as a country. It will dull our competitive edge. And I will tell you, our economic competitors will be cheering.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the RYAN of the Ryan-Murray agreement, look, I wish that the Murray side of the agreement would have agreed to these out-year numbers. That didn't happen. That agreement is a 2-year agreement, so to compare this budget and the baseline against that of the 24 cut, that is not accurate.

Here is the problem, Mr. Chairman. We are spending money we don't have. We are going through the budget, program by program, line by line, and trying to reform these programs so that they can better deliver on their promises.

We are looking at certain programs, say, like food stamps, and saying, some States have some pretty innovative ideas on how better to deliver these services.

There have been some wasteful and fraudulent activities that needed to be gotten at so that we don't waste taxpayer money.

We think it is important to encourage able-bodied adults who do not have dependents to go to work. When we did that in welfare reform in the 1990s, it worked. People went to work.

By the way, child poverty dropped by double digits. Single moms went to

work. It helped reduce poverty. We want to replicate that kind of success with these kind of reforms on these kinds of programs.

When they talk about education, this administration, and this Democratic budget, is making a bunch of empty promises. They are promising the world in Pell grants, but they are not funding that world.

We are saying, let's keep Pell and let's fund it, and let's keep it where it is, but let's fund it throughout the decade. I would rather take a full-funded promise than an empty promise any day. I think that is more honest with our students.

The other part I think we have to look at is, we are feeding tuition inflation. If we just keep pumping more and more borrowed money, empty-promised money into the system, what we are getting out of it is higher tuition.

Why don't we look at why tuition is going up so much in the first place?

Gosh, when we look at that, we are learning the Federal Government is part of the problem. Let's fix that.

Mr. Chairman, we do go through these things line by line.

The gentleman likes to talk about tax reform. What he won't tell you is specifically what this tax reform bill does, because we don't have a specific tax reform in here because this is the budget.

The Ways and Means Committee does specific tax reform. That is where the loophole closers are.

We are saying the outline of it is to get tax rates down on businesses, small and large, so they can compete.

There are \$1 trillion in loopholes every year that they can work with to get those tax rates down. So to suggest that this, all of a sudden, does these tax breaks for millionaires and does this for these other people and does that, they are just making that stuff up.

What I think we ought to do is put the rhetoric aside and balance this budget.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am glad the chairman of the committee recognized that there are about \$1 trillion worth of tax expenditures. What does that mean?

That means tax preferences in the Tax Code. \$1 trillion a year, he said. That is right.

And yet, the Republican budget doesn't close one penny of those tax expenditures to help reduce our deficit, not one. It says we have to reserve all those tax loophole closures to cut the top rate for millionaires by one-third, from 39 percent to 25 percent. That is what they want to do with all the tax expenditures.

Because they refuse to get rid of one of those tax expenditures for the purposes of deficit reduction, their budget does hit all these students.

What is honest is to tell students who are going to college right now that this budget is going to charge them over \$40 billion more in interest because now they are going to have to pay interest while they are still in college, even though it doesn't close one of those tax expenditures for very wealthy people to help meet the targets and reduce the deficit, not one.

So, as we look at the priorities in this budget, we have to ask ourselves, why is it that this Republican budget doesn't call for any shared responsibility?

Why is it that it does provide tax breaks to folks at the very top at the expense of the rest of the country?

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1615

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Yielding myself 15 seconds, the shared responsibility we are asking for is let's fix these problems within our generation and not pass it on to the next generation.

With that, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the policy chair of our conference.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, it was the basic principle that George Washington laid out in his farewell address, that every generation should take care of the responsibilities of that generation, rather than pass it on to their child. It is a 200-year-old concept. It is fairly straightforward.

What is interesting to me is I have been in a personal conversation with our current President of the United States about debt and about balancing the budget. The conversation back and forth was circled around a simple principle: Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich, two decades ago, made it their crowning achievement that they balanced the budget in a bipartisan time period.

My request to this President was: Can we agree that we should set a goal to balance the budget? His response to me was: No. Twenty years ago, that was a good idea, but now, the perception is that we should have sustainable deficits, that is, balance everything except for interest.

This year, our interest payment is \$233 billion. CBO forecasts that 10 years from now, our interest payment—single-year, one-year interest payment 10 years from now will be \$880 billion.

We must get us back to balance, and when I say balance, I mean real balance. Families balance their budget. Businesses balance their budget. States balance their budget.

We see times in our past when we had a balanced budget and saw the economic activity from that; but for whatever reason, now, we are just going to ignore that. Why? First off, it is because they will say it is hard. It is difficult to balance our budget. Well, I am sorry that it is hard.

This is what leaders do. We make difficult decisions to be able to get our Nation back on track for now and for the future.

The second thing is let's do a balanced approach. Let's raise taxes if we are going to reduce spending. Right now, this year, we have the highest amount of revenue in the history of the United States coming into the Federal Treasury.

Even with a down economy, this is the highest amount of revenue that has ever come into the Treasury, the second highest amount that has ever come into the Treasury, last year.

This is not an issue about not having enough tax revenue. We have the highest amount we have ever come into the Treasury. The issue is we are overspending. That is the key issue that we have got to get into.

The other argument that comes out is, you know what, there are no more efficiencies left. There is nowhere else left to cut in the Federal Government. Well, I have difficulty finding anyone outside of Washington that believes this government is running so efficient; there is no fraud, there is no waste, there are no inefficiencies in government, there is nowhere to cut.

When you walk through our budget, we are not trying to damage our economy. We are trying to protect our economy. We are trying to help grow and establish jobs that are happening by stabilizing the economy.

You go to businesspeople all over the country. They ask for one simple thing: give us a stable plan that gets us back onto balance, give us some stability in our economy, and we will grow our business.

Some predictability, that is what this budget is headed towards. It also is dealing with some simple things, like national defense. National defense is a prime—prime task of the Federal Government. This budget aggressively steps up and says we have a responsibility for national defense. We should maintain that.

The conversation about going to 10 carrier units around the world, 10 aircraft carriers may sound like a lot until you realize only two of them are in the ocean at any given time when you get down to 10.

When we get back up to 11, which is the established amount that we want to have, we can now have three out in our oceans. When you drop down that amount, you are making a decision that we are not going to have a presence somewhere in the ocean.

We have a stable peace when we are strong. It is a basic principle. If we weaken our military presence, we expose ourselves to weakness.

We need to be able to do this. We need to take out ObamaCare. We need to get us back into a stable economy. We need to deal with national defense. That is what this budget is all about.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me just point out to the gentleman that the President's budget has two things in it. First of all, it actually calls for a fund to increase defense spending for readiness in fiscal year 2015, which is not included in the Republican budget.

Number two, in the outyears, the President also grows our defense spending; and as the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense have testified, those investments will make sure that the United States is second to none.

In fact, the next 10 countries after that, together, spend much less on defense than the United States, and we will continue to have that additional robust defense spending to make sure that we are strong, but we also need to make sure that our economy is strong to support that kind of budget, and if you have got the important investments that have helped make the economy grow over time, you will not get that.

Now, I will just respond to the gentleman's comments on revenue. Anytime the economy is growing, if you have a certain tax rate, you are going to get more absolute dollars of revenue in, but I mentioned that the last time we had actually had a balanced budget in this country was in the year 1998 through 2001.

If you look at the amount of revenue that was coming in during that period as a percent of the economy, you will find that revenue was 19.2 percent in 1998, 19.2 percent in 1999, 19.9 percent in 2000, and so on, way ahead of the amount of revenue as a percentage of the economy that this Republican budget calls for in year 10, even though, between now and then, we will have millions more Americans on Medicare and Social Security.

So, again, they just can't bring themselves to close one of these special interest tax breaks, not one for the purpose of reducing the deficit and contributing to our economic well-being.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself 2 minutes, Mr. Chairman.

The first priority and responsibility of the Federal Government is to secure our Nation and to provide for the common defense of our Nation.

The gentleman from Maryland mentioned the President has this proposal for this year that would have violated our bipartisan budget agreement. It is a proposal that holds hostage defense for higher taxes and more domestic spending, but worse than that, we had a hearing in the Budget Committee about 2 years ago.

Then-Secretary of Defense Panetta, along with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, came and testified; and they said to our Budget Committee: This is as far as we can go, we can't cut any

further without doing damage to our military.

That is effectively where the Republican budget is. That is not where this year's Obama budget is. The President's budget, which is also replicated by the Democratic substitute, cuts the military far lower than that. They are bringing the Army and the Marines to a level we have not seen since before World War II. They are shrinking our Navy to a size we have not seen since before World War I. They are shrinking our Air Force to a level we have never seen before.

They are cutting compensation for our men and women in uniform, not to save money for other parts of the military, like readiness and training and equipment, but they are cutting compensation, cutting force structure, cutting personnel, cutting equipment, cutting defense—not to reduce the deficit, but to spend it on more domestic spending.

The Joint Chiefs have said that now, with this budget submission, it represents a moderate risk of actually affecting our national security. They have never said that before. They have said we have had a low risk.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself 15 more seconds to say, of all the problems that we have in the President's budget, it hollows out our military, sends the wrong signals overseas, and we are not going to do that.

With that, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. PRICE, the distinguished vice chair of the Budget Committee.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I want to start by commending the chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. RYAN, for his wonderful and positive work on real solutions. When I go back home and I talk to folks, they say: Well, don't y'all have any solutions that will actually work?

That is what this is. This is a real solution, a commonsense solution. My constituents back home in the Sixth District of Georgia also tell me that they are saddened and disheartened by the comments that we hear from the other side, primarily, on dividing Americans, pitting one American against another.

It really is a cynical ploy. It may be politically opportune, but it is not helpful. It is not helpful for the discourse that we have in this country. It is not helpful for us reaching those real solutions; so I implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: let's get together and work together and find those real solutions.

What my constituents back home also tell me is that the path we are on just isn't working. The economy is not thriving; record deficits continue. I mentioned the mantra of division that seems to be the MO of the other side,

but the other side, the Democrats, seem to be happy with all this.

They seem to be happy with an economy that is not thriving. They seem to be happy with an economy that has resulted in fewer Americans working. They seem to be happy with fewer success stories across this country.

They seem to be happy that more jobs are leaving the country, as opposed to being created here. They seem to be happy with higher and higher taxes and more and more spending. They seem to be happy with borrowing more money from foreign countries. They seem to be happy with compromising opportunities for future generations.

We believe that there is a better way, that there are positive solutions and real solutions, and that is our budget—a responsible, balanced budget; yes, a balanced budget, a path to prosperity for every single American.

We have had a little discussion over the past few minutes about defense. I want to talk about some specific issues in our budget, defense being one of them. This is a very dangerous world.

Our budget recognizes that. It realizes the danger that we have and that our allies have, and we increase spending for defense and for national security. We account for that in our budget in a positive way.

The President, irresponsibly, seems to bury his head in the sand. His budget, as has been mentioned, puts us back at pre-World War II levels for our men and women in uniform. That is not consistent with what the American people see in the real world right now, so what we do is account for that and increase defense spending in a responsible way.

In the area of health care, I am a physician. I recognize that the world of health care is in an upheaval. There are physicians leaving their practices. There are seniors who are losing their doctors. There are new Medicare patients who are unable to find physicians.

In fact, the actuaries of Medicare—not Republican or Democrat—but the actuaries of the Medicare system have said that the system is going broke. Within a 10-year period of time, it will not be able to provide the services for seniors that have currently been promised.

Our budget positively addresses these issues. We save and strengthen and secure Medicare. How? With positive reforms; putting patients in charge, not government in charge.

In fact, the proposal that we outlined a number of years ago and continue to include in our budget right now, the premium support for seniors, making it so that they have more choices, the Congressional Budget Office did a study on that exact program published last September.

They recognize that this program that is proposed by the Republicans

will not only save money for seniors, but it will save money for taxpayers—real positive solutions. Again, it will put patients in charge and not government.

Another exciting difference between our proposal, our budget, real solutions and the other side, is that we understand that a growing economy is essential to getting us back on the right track. The past 5 years have certainly not been helpful.

The Congressional Budget Office, once again, has evaluated our proposed policies and has said that, if we are able to get our economy back on the right track by instituting our plan of saving over \$5 trillion, that there would be significant benefits to the economy.

Realistic scoring shows that—and I will quote from the Congressional Budget Office—“CBO finds that reducing budget deficits is a net positive for economic growth. Deficit reduction creates long-term economic benefits because it increases the pool of national savings and boosts investment, thereby raising economic growth and job creation. These benefits are both significant and lasting.”

That is our budget, positive growth in the economy and significant and lasting benefits to the American people.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HOLDING). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield to the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Finally, I want to just mention briefly the issue of the debt. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, said just a few years ago that the number one threat to our national security is not the threats that we see from other nations and rogue regimes, it is the threat of our national debt. The American people know this.

We are over \$17 trillion in debt, and the President continues to spend, in his budget, record deficits—record annual deficits. The Path to Prosperity, the plan that we are proposing, gets us back on the right track, gets us on a path to balance, balancing within a 10-year period of time, and on trajectory to pay off the entire debt of the United States of America, thereby increasing economic opportunity and viability and all.

□ 1630

We are for the greatest amount of success for the greatest number of Americans and the greatest number of American Dreams being realized. The way that you do that is through the Path to Prosperity, a balanced and responsible budget.

I urge my colleagues to support this balanced budget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I would just note that it is this Republican budget here in the House of Rep-

resentatives that divides America. And when we point out that this is a budget that protects tax breaks for the very wealthy at the expense of everybody else, our colleagues say, oh, no, no, that is dividing America. But what we are explaining is the Republican budget, and that is, unfortunately, what it does.

The chairman originally said that only in Washington is an increase really a cut. I would just point out that in the President's defense budget, it goes from \$521 billion in fiscal year 2015 to \$646 billion 10 years from now—hardly a cut, in fact, quite an expansion going forward.

I am now pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO), a distinguished member of the Armed Services Committee who has focused a lot on defense.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN, for all of your work on this.

Mr. Chair, there are many damaging cuts in this budget, but I would like to speak just a minute about the cuts to education. In ancient civilizations, literacy and education were closed off to all but the very affluent; and the beauty of America, since its founding, has been the democratization of a way to become educated, make your way into the middle class and to do well.

This budget would threaten that, and it does it in several ways. First, it cuts Pell grants, that is, grants to college students, by \$145 billion. It also very significantly makes Pell grant aid unavailable to part-time students.

I want to focus on that for just a second because this is something we see over and over in our districts again: single moms or working parents, men or women, who are trying to balance a job and go to school at the same time. They are trying to take two or three classes maybe, make their way, still be able to work to support their families, but also go to college and finish off and slowly get their degree.

This budget would not allow them to access Pell grants. It would make achieving their goal of getting their education, maybe training for another kind of job, impossible for millions of Americans. The cuts to Pell grants are especially significant because in States like mine, in Texas, since 2003, tuition has gone up an average of 104 percent for thousands and thousands of Texans.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Texas has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. So when Republicans put forward a budget that cuts off access to higher education, what they are doing is cutting off a path to the middle class for millions of Americans, and every American, young and old, should be concerned about that.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I now am very pleased to yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a terrific member of the Budget Committee who is focused on lots of important issues including the challenge of poverty in America.

Ms. LEE of California. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding and for your tremendous support and leadership on behalf of the majority of the American people in our country.

Mr. Chair, I rise, of course, in strong opposition to this very reckless Republican budget. This is yet another Republican messaging document masquerading really as a budget resolution. Once again, Republicans have brought forth a budget that slashes the programs that keep the poorest and most vulnerable Americans healthy, working, and with food on the table.

Under this cruel plan—and, yes, it is a cruel plan—seniors on Medicare would see their payments for services and prescriptions skyrocket. We would see an end to the Medicare guarantee as we know it.

By converting SNAP to a block grant program, Republicans, once again, seek to balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable by cutting our Nation's first line of defense, and that is hunger. Between cuts and policy changes, this budget would cut \$137 billion in SNAP benefits over 10 years—\$40 billion wasn't enough.

And at the same time that our Nation is facing the greatest income inequality since the Great Depression, this Republican budget would protect some of the most outrageous tax breaks and loopholes for the wealthiest millionaires, billionaires, and Big Oil companies. That is right. Once again, this plan really wreaks havoc on the poor and the middle class, who really pay the price so that my colleagues across the aisle can claim a balanced budget.

Sadly, it does not stop there. While the Republican budget continues to keep the American Dream out of reach for the poor, it would increase spending, mind you, for the already bloated Pentagon budget and continue the Overseas Contingency Operations slush fund, which is really paying for wars hopefully in the future that won't exist. We simply cannot continue to write a blank check for spending on war if we are to ever have a chance of getting our fiscal house in order.

We can't do this to America's struggling families and the working poor. Republicans claim they want to eliminate poverty, and, yes, we are holding this debate. Finally, it has become a national debate. We are debating poverty and how to make sure people find pathways out of poverty. Yet just read this budget. It is a pathway into poverty.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman from California has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. LEE of California. Yes, I said a pathway. And thank you, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, because we have looked at this budget and looked at how it will create more poverty. So it is a pathway into poverty.

Budgets are moral documents. They reflect our values. So the underlying values in the Ryan budget really do not reflect who we are as Americans, believing that we really are our brothers' keepers and we really are our sisters' keepers.

So I urge Members to reject this Republican budget and instead support the budget proposals presented by the Democratic Caucus, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and the Congressional Black Caucus. We need a budget that puts Americans back to work.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman from California has again expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentleman an additional 10 seconds.

Ms. LEE of California. I just want to conclude by saying we need a budget, and all three of the budgets that I just mentioned put Americans back to work. They invest in our future, they protect the safety net, and they work to reignite the American Dream for all. This budget does just the opposite. So I hope that all of us will vote "no" on the Ryan budget.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds just to say there are different visions. We don't think we should take more money from hardworking taxpayers to spend it in Washington and then borrow more from our children. We think we should balance the budget and pay off the debt.

We are going to see a lot of budgets coming to the floor here offered by the other side, which is great. It is their right. I am glad they are offering alternatives.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN's Democratic budget will have a \$1.8 trillion tax increase, just like the President's new \$1.8 trillion tax increase. The Progressive Caucus budget, they have the candle here: a \$6.6 trillion tax increase they are encouraging.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself an additional 15 seconds.

Spending by the other side, what they are saying is let's just have a bidding war on how much we can raise people's taxes. Let's even raise spending more. And nobody else is offering a budget that will ever balance the budget. So the idea here is borrow endlessly, never balance it, and give our children an inferior standard of living.

With that, I would like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman RYAN for yielding, but, more importantly, thank him for his work and leadership in this area.

Tonight around America, families will sit down at the kitchen table to talk about their family finances. And there always seem to be more needs than there are dollars in a paycheck. So those families will sit down. They may shed tears tonight, and they may have some tense words between them, but before the night is over, they will sit down and make tough decisions about how they will spend their family's budget.

Just last week, the State legislature in my State adjourned, but before they did, they made some tough choices. They weren't able to fund everything they wanted to fund, and they had to set priorities. Local governments and county governments are making tough choices.

When it comes to American families sitting around their kitchen table, if the State legislature, if city governments and county governments are making those tough choices, they have every reason to expect their government in Washington to do the same thing. And for 4 years now, under the leadership of Chairman RYAN, we have put forward a budget that does make these tough but necessary decisions about getting control of our Federal spending.

That is why I am proud to join my colleagues and vote for a budget that responsibly cuts \$5.1 trillion over the next 10 years by reforming the main drivers of our debt—targeting wasteful spending. At the same time, this budget seeks to expand opportunity to help the private sector create jobs by highlighting policies that will grow the economy.

Meanwhile, the administration wants to take more money out of the paychecks of hardworking Americans by raising their taxes, wants to spend more money, and wants to borrow more money from successive generations and never balance the budget.

This administration has made all sorts of promises it can't keep. For example, the Congressional Budget Office says that Pell grants will begin to have a shortfall in 2016 and every year thereafter. Medicare? My mom and dad worked all of their life, paid into a program, and their government made them a promise. They said that, when you get to retirement age, we are going to provide you health care; yet the actuarial models say that program is going bankrupt, and the administration doesn't deal with it.

This budget does make tough decisions and makes tough choices. And the critics? They call this budget draconian. Only in Washington is making a tough choice labeled as being controversial.

It is important that we make these decisions and put our government back on a path of sustainable finances to grow our economy. By making these tough choices, we ensure our children and our grandchildren a better future because we are doing more than just balancing a budget. We are living out the American Dream. Beating in the heart of every American since this country was founded is the desire to leave a better way of life to successive generations, not saddle those generations with massive amounts of debt.

So, for those reasons, I support this budget, and I urge my colleagues to support this budget, as well.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman referred to tough decisions. Well, it is true that the House Republican budget is really tough on our kids' education. It cuts deeply into early education, Early Head Start, and Head Start. It cuts very deeply into K-12. That includes Title I and special education for kids with disabilities. As we have talked about, it charges college students higher interest rates.

And it is true that the Republican budget is tough on seniors on Medicare, because if they have high prescription drug costs, the Republican budget reopens the doughnut hole so they will face \$1,200 more per year on prescription drugs.

So it is tough on kids' education, and it is tough on seniors.

I will tell you who it is not tough on. It is not tough on powerful special interests, people who are spending millions of dollars right now on TV advertising trying to influence people's votes. It is not tough on them at all. As I said, this budget calls for cutting the top tax rate by, fully, 30 percent.

Now, during the Budget Committee debate, the Democrats said, okay, the only way you can do this mathematically, if you are cutting the top rate by 30 percent, from 39 percent to 25 percent, is if you do it in a deficit neutral way, then you are going to be increasing taxes on middle class taxpayers and families to finance those tax cuts. And so we said to our Republican colleagues, if that is not what you intend to do, let's at least pass an amendment telling the Ways and Means Committee that one of our principles is at least maintaining the current progressivity of the Tax Code so we don't increase taxes on middle class families or lower-income families to finance the tax breaks for the folks at the top, called the Protect the American Middle Class from a Tax Increase amendment.

□ 1645

Republicans said no to that.

They have got all sorts of other instructions to the Ways and Means Committee in their budget, like reducing the top rate by a third for millionaires; but when it came to instructing the Ways and Means Committee not to

increase the tax burden on middle class Americans, they said no to that.

So, yes, this Republican budget is tough on the middle class. It is tough on seniors, and it is tough on our kid's education; but for folks at the very top, they just don't ask for any shared sacrifice. We are just pointing that out. It is a fact in their budget.

The chairman talked about all those tax expenditures, \$1 trillion a year worth. Not one of those tax expenditures are closed for the purpose of reducing the deficit.

Now, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), a Member of Congress who has worked hard throughout his entire career to try and make sure that our country grows and that every American has opportunity, the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, we have a choice to make. The House Democratic budget and the Republican's budget present very different choices about America's future. The Democratic alternative promotes job growth and expands opportunity. The Republican budget gives away trillions to the wealthy and special interests, while shredding the social safety net.

The Affordable Care Act is the most significant expansion of health coverage in 50 years. It ends discrimination based on preexisting conditions. It promotes health and prevention. It improves quality and lowers cost.

The Republican budget repeals the Affordable Care Act. Over 10 million Americans will lose coverage immediately. Insurers could discriminate based on preexisting conditions. More than 8 million seniors who have saved more than \$10 billion on prescription drugs and more than 32 million who have benefited from free preventive services would immediately see higher costs. The 129 million Americans with preexisting conditions would no longer be safe from discrimination.

After they repealed the Affordable Care Act, the Republican budget would slash Medicaid by a full 25 percent. This will hurt millions of seniors in nursing homes, millions of low-income babies whose mothers receive important prenatal care, and millions of people with disabilities. These are immoral and outrageous cuts.

The Republican budget also ends the Medicare guarantee, forcing seniors who stay in fee-for-service to pay more for the coverage they have today. It slashes key domestic spending, cutting biomedical research, key job creation programs, and programs that keep kids from going hungry, just to name a few examples. Are these responsible choices? I don't think that is the path we ought to take.

The Democratic alternative is fiscally responsible and good for our Nation's health. I urge my colleagues to reject the House Republican approach

and, instead, support working families, seniors, and people with disabilities by protecting our health care system from these attacks.

I urge a "no" vote on the Republican budget. Vote support for the Democratic budget.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, at this time, I would like to yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Chairman, thank you for your leadership.

As a member of the Budget Committee and the Armed Services Committee, I am proud to support a balanced budget that stops spending money we don't have. It provides regulatory relief and promotes for a strong defense.

Our Federal debt tops an astonishing \$17 trillion. This is unacceptable. It is irresponsible to take more money from hard-working families just to spend more here in Washington.

Our Path to Prosperity budget balances in 10 years by cutting wasteful spending and reforming government. Just as importantly, this budget gets our priorities right again by providing for the common defense. It replaces \$274 billion in scheduled defense cuts to ensure the American people have a bright, safe future.

It is imperative we do so because, since taking office, President Obama has directed over \$1 trillion in cuts to our military. Under the President's budget, which cuts \$75 billion over the next 2 years, with deeper cuts expected if sequestration returns in fiscal year 2016, Secretary of Defense Hagel and other senior defense and military officials acknowledge that these budget choices will create additional risk to our Nation. We can't allow this to happen.

While we cut nearly one-fifth of our defense resources, Russia and China are arming at an alarming rate. Russia's military spending is up roughly 30 percent, and China's has more than doubled in recent years.

Given our military shortfalls, we must build upon the recent compromise and further reverse the current trajectory to mitigate the permanent damage to our national security.

I am proud to support a balanced budget that reins in government spending, promotes job creation, and reprioritizes our national defense. Our Path to Prosperity budget accomplishes these goals.

We cannot keep going to the Department of Defense to cut spending. We must deal with the real drivers of our debt and put our country on a sustainable path to grow the economy. America's future depends on it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, it is now my privilege to yield 2 minutes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), a fighter for working Americans and a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, a moment ago, the gentleman from Mississippi said that families were sitting around at their kitchen table. Yes, they are sitting at their kitchen table, and they are crying.

They do not have a job. Their unemployment benefits have not been extended. Their wages have stagnated. They can't afford to send their children to college; and this majority fiddles while Rome burns and refuses to address any of these issues, but they certainly make it easy to lower the top tax rate for the richest Americans.

I rise in strong opposition to this cruel budget proposal; yet again, the House majority has put forward an ideological plan that puts all of the burdens on the most vulnerable among us, especially women and families.

Today is Equal Pay Day, a day that women's earnings finally catch up to what men made in 2013, but the fact is this dubious milestone, that it even exists, is a sad testament to the financial pressures that women and families face.

This budget proposal puts more pressure on women and families. Two-thirds of seniors in poverty are women. They rely on the bedrock American institution of Medicare to survive. This budget ends Medicare as we know it. It turns it into a voucher program. Seven in 10 elderly individuals, six in 10 non-elderly individuals rely on Medicaid, they are women.

The budget proposes \$2.7 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and other support that help low- and middle-income families buy health insurance.

WIC provides critical food benefits to 8.3 million pregnant postpartum women, infants, and children across America. The budget drastically slashes the program, hurting the same family struggling the most in this economy.

It devastates food stamps, the program in which almost two-thirds of the adult participants are women and children, and they account for nearly half of all recipients.

It cuts 170,000 kids from Head Start, educational services for 3.4 million disadvantaged children. It cuts the Pell grant by over \$125 billion. It allows the insurance companies to, once again, charge women more than men.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, it cuts Pell grants, and yet it allows insurance companies to, once again, charge women more than men and to treat pregnancy as a preexisting condition.

According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, 69 percent of the cuts in the Republican budget would come from programs serving low- and moderate-income people. This Ryan

Republican budget is not a reflection of America's values. It is not who we are as a country. It is an ideological document that threatens American families.

I urge my colleagues to reject it.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I would like to insert into the RECORD a very specific recitation of the Center for Budget Priorities' claim that the gentlewoman mentioned, and at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

RESPONSIBLE SPENDING RESTRAINT AND REFORM—RESPONSE TO THE CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES

In Brief:

A smaller increase is not a spending cut.

Under this budget, spending will grow, on average, by 3.5 percent a year over the next decade—on the current path, it will grow by 5.2 percent.

This budget spends \$3.5 trillion on Medicaid over the next ten years. We increase spending every year from fiscal year 2016 onward.

This budget spends \$600 billion on food stamps over the next decade. And it does not convert SNAP into a block grant until 2019, when the economy will have recovered.

This budget maintains the current maximum Pell award (\$5,730) throughout each of the next ten years of the budget.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities claims the House Republican budget "gets 69 percent of its cuts from low-income programs." Instead, the House GOP budget grows them at a more sustainable rate.

On the current path, the federal government will spend roughly \$48 trillion over the next ten years. By contrast, this budget will spend nearly \$43 trillion.

On the current path, spending will grow, on average, by 5.2 percent a year over the next decade. Under this budget, spending will grow, on average, by 3.5 percent a year.

Nearly \$43 trillion is enough. Increasing spending by 3.5 percent instead of 5.2 percent is hardly draconian.

President Obama and his party have made promises they can't keep—they've promised huge expansions to safety-net programs that ultimately would bankrupt them.

Medicaid: This budget repeals Obamacare—including the law's massive expansions of Medicaid, which are unsustainable. Instead, this budget spends \$3.5 trillion on Medicaid over the next ten years. We grow the program every year from fiscal year 2016 onward. We simply slow the rate of growth and give states the flexibility to meet the unique needs of their people.

SNAP: This budget spends \$600 billion on food stamps over the next decade. By capping open-ended federal subsidies and allowing states to develop new, innovative methods, the budget's gradual reforms encourage states to reduce rolls and help recipients find work. The budget also doesn't convert SNAP into a block grant until 2019, when the economy will have fully recovered. The budget also calls for time limits and work requirements like the reforms that helped reduce poverty nationwide in the mid-1990s.

Pell Grants: Congressional Democrats and the President have pushed Pell Grant spending to unsustainable rates. The Congressional Budget Office reports the program will face fiscal shortfalls starting in 2016 and continuing through each year of the budget

window. We need to reform the program so it can keep its promises. This budget brings Pell spending under control and makes sure aid helps the truly needy, not university administrators. At the same time, this budget maintains the current maximum Pell award (\$5,730) throughout each of the next ten years of the budget.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the House Republican budget plan. Unlike the President's budget, this is a serious proposal that balances our budget and helps our economy grow.

Our Nation is \$17.4 trillion in debt. If we want to preserve this country for our children and our grandchildren, we must reform the way Washington works.

Everyone knows that Medicare will soon go bankrupt, and that is why I am so happy that this budget proposal saves this important program for our seniors and future generations. By transitioning to a premium support model, we can preserve Medicare for those in or near retirement and strengthen Medicare for younger generations.

Furthermore, this budget ends ObamaCare's raid on the Medicare trust fund and repeals ObamaCare's Independent Payment Advisory Board to help ensure our seniors get the care they deserve.

Despite what some critics say, this does not eliminate traditional Medicare. Instead, it ensures that Americans will always have traditional Medicare as an option. Under this plan, every senior will have the support they need to get the care they deserve. Those who attack this reform without offering credible alternatives are complicit in Medicare's demise.

So I want to commend Chairman RYAN and my Republican colleagues on the Budget Committee for leading, where President Obama and the Senate Democrats have failed. One way or another, this country will have to address our out-of-control debt and deficits, and this budget does so responsibly.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, it is now my privilege to yield 4 minutes to a fellow Marylander, Mr. HOYER, the Democratic whip, who has spent a lot of time focused on budgets to empower our economy and to make sure we do so in a fiscally responsible manner.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

I would first observe, Mr. Chairman, that the American people ought to lament another opportunity missed, an opportunity to come together and adopt a big, balanced plan for investment and balance in our fiscal system in America.

Mr. Chairman, last year, we adopted a budget. During the course of its implementation with the consideration of appropriation bills, the Republican chairman of the committee called the sequester numbers adopted in the 2014 Ryan plan unrealistic and ill-conceived.

For 2016 through 2024, Mr. Chairman, this budget has numbers below sequester levels that the chairman said were unrealistic and ill-conceived.

Chairman ROGERS has called the numbers in this budget draconian, Chairman ROGERS, responsible for funding the operations of government and assisting and building our economy and its people.

Mr. Chairman, I believe it is all that and a call to disinvestment. This budget is a call to disinvestment in America's growth and success.

We have heard a lot of claims, of course, about what the Republican budget will do for our country. I have heard those claims from previous Republican chairmen, frankly. They did not pan out.

Let me clear that fog away and get down to the raw numbers which reveal the magnitude of the damage the Republican budget will inflict. As a matter of fact, with all due respect, I call it a retreat—an alliterative retreat of course, the chairman's retreat.

First, the Republican budget would repeal the patient protections and other benefits of the Affordable Care Act, leaving millions without health insurance coverage.

Of course, it keeps the money; it just didn't give the benefits. It would turn Medicaid into a capped block grant program and cut its funding by \$732 billion over the next decade.

□ 1700

That is from seniors who need long-term care. That is from people with disabilities who need medical services.

Two-thirds of Medicaid spending goes to low-income seniors, and the Republican budget cuts it by a quarter.

It would also end the Medicare guarantee and reopen the doughnut hole for prescription drugs, shifting costs back to seniors.

Secondly, the Republican budget disinvests, as I said, from many of the very important initiatives Congress has made a priority for the future growth and competitiveness of our economy.

It cuts over \$120 billion from middle class college affordability programs like the Pell grant and will leave a college undergraduate taking out a student loan as much as \$3,800 deeper in debt.

By eliminating funding for applied research, their budget will reduce Federal research grants by half—by half disinvestment. It could result in 2,400 fewer National Science Foundation research awards and 1,400 fewer National Institutes of Health awards.

The reality is, Mr. Chairman, the Republican budget would decimate pediatric research. We have heard a little bit about that. It would decimate pediatric research. It would decimate all other research as well and other medical research in the lifesaving diseases

by billions of dollars, not just pediatric research: cancer, heart, lung, blood, Alzheimer's, and others. \$173 billion will be cut from highway spending over the next 10 years, disinvestment, even though infrastructure investments are critical to the growth of our manufacturing sector and job creation.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. HOYER. Overall, the Republican budget reduces our long-term investments in education, research, infrastructure, and job training by over 15 percent over the next decade compared to the deal the Republican chairman negotiated just 4 months ago.

I will tell you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member, our competitors around the world are not retreating in terms of investments. Perhaps the most egregious mark against this budget, though, is that it does not achieve the fiscal balance its authors give as the reason for these cuts in the first place.

Instead, it relies on "dynamic scoring." That is, pretend something will happen. Now, if it happens, we would have a bonus and we could use that bonus. But if it doesn't happen, this budget will guarantee that we will be further in the hole.

It has an asterisk for \$966 billion. It doesn't say what that \$966 billion is about, at least two-thirds of it. But you guess, pretend, hope. If it doesn't happen, you are in the hole.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HOYER. This budget, Mr. Chairman, is a blueprint for economic decline, for vulnerable Americans being left to fend for themselves, and for an America less equipped to protect its citizens.

I urge my colleagues to defeat this resolution and send a message that our country will continue to invest in its priorities: opportunity, security, and growth. Let us not retreat. Let us serve this country and serve its greatness.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

I want to rest the mind of the distinguished minority whip at ease. Chairman ROGERS does support this budget. His comments in 2013 aside, he is a supporter of this budget. This budget balances using CBO numbers.

I would also say this. All these complaints about spending cuts or slower increases in spending aside—this budget, by the way, doesn't specify that NIH is going to have all of that—all of these reductions in spending or reductions in the increase in spending will pale in comparison if we have a debt crisis, if we have a bond market incident, if we have an interest rate shock.

If we keep kicking the can down the road, the solution then will be so much uglier, so much more draconian, than any of this hyperbolic rhetoric even suggests.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. ROE.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the House Republican budget.

Today, our national debt exceeds \$17.5 trillion. Mr. Chairman, that is a blueprint for decline—more than \$55,000 for every man, woman, and child in America. If we fail to address this mounting debt now, our children and our grandchildren will inherit an America that will be poorer, less free, and provide fewer opportunities.

To address this looming crisis, Republicans propose balancing the Federal budget in 10 years. Most Americans don't realize that discretionary spending has decreased 4 consecutive years, a tremendous accomplishment spurred on by House Republicans.

Now we must show the same resolve to tackle our largest drivers of debt, mandatory programs, including Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and SNAP. We can achieve balance without reducing overall spending—let me say that again—we can achieve balance without reducing overall spending by simply slowing the rate of growth at which spending increases. We must spend hardworking taxpayer dollars smarter.

Mr. Chairman, I am Medicare age, and I realize that for every dollar that we pay in in premiums, we get \$3 out in benefits. This is clearly not sustainable.

As a physician, I would like to commend Chairman RYAN for his continued efforts to save and strengthen Medicare. We must act to protect seniors' access to medical care before the Medicare trust fund becomes insolvent in 2026, a short time from now.

This proposal achieves that goal while ensuring those Americans 55 and older experience absolutely no change.

I urge my colleagues to support this very conservative budget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Chairman, to create jobs and grow our economy, we must work toward lasting solutions that put our Nation back on solid fiscal ground, stop wasteful Washington spending, and balance our budget.

The American people deserve more accountability from Washington, and Washington has a responsibility to the American people to produce, number one, a budget, and, number two, a budget that balances. Anything less than that is a failure to lead.

That is why I introduced the Balanced Budget Accountability Act, which requires Congress to pass a balanced budget or Members won't get paid. The principles found in my Balanced Budget Accountability Act reflect Montana commonsense, and they stand in stark contrast with the President's budget, which never achieves balance, and the Senate, where Democrat leaders have decided the American people don't deserve a budget at all. That is irresponsible and will only lead to never-ending deficits and a debt that will take generations to pay off. That is not the Montana way, that is not the American way.

I don't agree with everything in this budget, but I know that the people of Montana want and deserve a solution to our debt crisis, a balanced budget, and a Congress with the courage to lead.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a member of the Budget Committee and the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in yielding me time.

As I am sitting on the floor listening to the back and forth and the division, I was thinking back to a time when there was consensus in this body on important investments for our future.

Indeed, the character of our Nation, our economic vitality, was grounded in the investment the United States made in our ports, our railroads, our highways. The finest infrastructure in the world gave the United States the strength to be victorious in battle in World War I and World War II, to have the economic strength to be able to meet national challenges, and to provide economic security and well-being for our families.

Unfortunately, as families struggle, as we have difficulty providing family-wage jobs for American workers, the American infrastructure is no longer the envy of the world, as it was in the past. In fact, all the independent studies show we are not anywhere near the top of the pack. We fall into the lower ranges of the development world.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has given our infrastructure a grade of D-plus and suggests we will need to invest over \$3 trillion over the next 6 years just to remain economically competitive in the global marketplace. The failure to deal with our infrastructure is going to cost American families in terms of wear and tear on their vehicles over \$1,000 a year and millions of hours stuck in traffic in congestion.

We are facing a soon-to-be-bankrupt highway trust fund. The clock is ticking. By the end of September, it will run out of money, which means we are seeing cutbacks on Federal contracts

this summer, which means some States are having to act now this spring. The decision of Tennessee this last week—it is the 11th State that has announced cutbacks.

The Republican budget being debated today ignores this pending crisis, let alone the growing needs of American communities. Their budget would freeze us in decline, a 30 percent reduction over the next decade from already inadequate levels, making it impossible to deal with projects of national significance and severely straining ongoing maintenance of our highway and transit systems.

It doesn't have to be this way. A broad and powerful coalition ranging from the AFL-CIO to the Chamber of Congress, the trucking association, AAA, bicyclists, environmentalists, local governments, contractors, businesses large and small have joined with a group of 17 bipartisan governors and the heads of 31 State chambers of commerce to urge that Congress face this funding crisis so that we can have a full 6-year reauthorization so that we can put hundreds of thousands of Americans to work, strengthen the economy, and protect our communities.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Instead of wasting more time on a budget that is going nowhere, we should come together to address our failing bridges, roads, and water system. Our future demands it, our constituents expect no less.

I strongly urge the rejection of the Republican budget if for no other reason than it freezes us in this decline for infrastructure and look forward to the day when we will work together to solve this problem.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time is remaining on each side.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 40 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 41½ minutes remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Does the chairman have any further speakers?

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I do not have any further speakers at the moment.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chair and ranking member of our Budget Committee for the opportunity to share some thoughts.

Mixed messaging—it really grips the American public. Washington Repub-

licans are presenting their budget and proclaiming that we are about reducing the debt and reducing the deficit. We are concerned about our children, we are concerned about our grandchildren.

At the same time, the mixed message is to the crowd that is above a million dollar threshold, income threshold: We have money for you we are going to spend for you. We are so concerned about the debt and the deficit that needs to be reduced, but we will spend on you. We will offer you an average \$200,000 tax break, so allow us to spend on you.

Somehow the children and the grandchildren are not a worry then. So the mixed messaging on this one is amazing.

□ 1715

Over the last couple of days, I have had the opportunity to either meet in the office or in group sessions or in large gatherings here in Washington with a number of advocates who are concerned about investments that need to be made in this Federal budget.

There is the Alzheimer's Association that is imploring us to find a cure, to invest in research. Washington Republicans say: no, we need to spend on tax cuts for the wealthy, and we need to use your funds to reduce the debt and the deficit.

Washington Republicans will tell our college-bound students who need an affordable path to that higher ed opportunity that: we can't spend on you or invest in you, we need to spend on tax cuts for the wealthy.

Washington Republicans will sweep the savings and the revenues of the Affordable Care Act and proclaim to the senior community that: we are now repealing the Affordable Care Act, all of the benefits that were there for you are now removed.

Washington Republicans will tell a group that I met with about water infrastructure needs: we can't spend on you because we need to spend on tax cuts for the wealthy.

This is a mixed message that is disingenuous.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentleman another 30 seconds.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chair, I think we should be real with the American public. We either stand for spending or we don't. We want to address the debt and deficit or we don't. We believe in investment, as the Democratic minority in this House believes, that will grow the economy and provide a greater opportunity for jobs.

There is this path to prosperity for a few that the Republicans have put together with their budget. I suggest that we look at a highway for hope that has been advanced by the Democrats in the House that invests in Alzheimer's research, higher ed opportuni-

ties, infrastructure for this Nation, and a continuation of the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

I think there is this view that the pie of life is fixed, that society is static—the economy, a fixed pie—and that we here in Washington should decide how to redistribute the slices of the pie.

We reject that whole, entire premise. Life is dynamic. The economy is dynamic. We want to grow the pie for everybody. You don't grow the pie—grow opportunity or grow the economy—if you drive this country to a debt crisis, if you continue spending way beyond your means, if you spend money we don't have that is taken from the next generation.

This President has already raised taxes \$1.7 trillion. The top effective tax rate on successful small businesses is almost 45 percent. The tax rate on big businesses, like corporations, is 35 percent.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself an additional minute.

Our competitors, the countries we compete with, tax their businesses at 25 percent. When we tax ourselves a lot more than our foreign competitors tax themselves, they win, and we lose.

What we are hearing from the other side is that \$1.7 trillion tax increase is not enough. Let's go farther and tax another \$1.8 trillion.

Then this rhetoric about winners and losers and the few and the this and the that is a notion that all of the good ideas come from Washington. It is a notion that goes beyond the idea that government needs to play a supporting role in our lives, in fulfilling important missions like health and retirement security and a safety net, to government needs to play the commanding role in our lives, that it needs to dictate these things, that government runs the economy, that government decides who wins and who loses.

Guess what, Mr. Chairman? When you do that, the interest groups that they are all complaining about, they are the ones who call the shots up here.

What we are trying to do with this budget is to get the basics right. What we want to do is to make sure that we can make good on these very important missions of health and retirement security, and we want to make sure that people get to decide how it is done in their lives.

We want to make sure that American businesses have what they need to compete and survive and grow and to create jobs in this global economy. What we want to make sure is that we don't live beyond our means so that our kids live below their means. We want to grow this economy.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself an additional minute.

We have got a big debt. We all know that. The question is: Who owns our debt? Who is in control of our future?

We already know we are asking a lot from the next generation, more than any other generation has before. Back when I was born in 1970, 6 percent of our national debt was owned by foreigners. In 1990, when I was in college, 19 percent was owned by foreigners. Today, 47 percent of our national debt is owned by foreigners. They control half of our debt.

That is not in our country's interest. Relying on other countries to cash flow our country—to cash flow our budget—is not smart economics, and we know we are taking control of our country and are ceding it elsewhere.

This is why we have got to get this debt under control, for our kids, for our grandkids, for our economy, and for our sovereignty.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We all believe in a growing economy, and we all believe in greater prosperity. The issue is how do we make sure we have that prosperity as a country.

We have two very important strains in the American character. One strain is the entrepreneurial strain, the self-reliance strain, and that has helped generate great prosperity in this country.

It has helped unleash huge amounts of potential; yet we have also learned as a country that there are some things we can do better by working together than if we are just hundreds of millions of people who are separately operating on their own, with things like investing in our national infrastructure, with things like investing in a world-class college system, with things like working and investing in medical research, so that we are the world's leader in those areas.

Those are what have made us a world economic power and that have allowed us to support our military.

The problem with the Republican budget is that it ignores that part of the American character. We keep hearing from our colleagues about all of those tax expenditures that are out there, but I just have to go back, Mr. Chairman, to point out that they don't close one of those tax loopholes for the purpose of helping to reduce the deficit.

Because they make that decision—because they decide to say: we are not going to touch those very powerful special interests and the very wealthy—their budget mathematically has to come after other people in the country, after the middle class, after seniors,

after our kids' education, after our infrastructure. That is what this is all about.

Our budget and the President's budget dramatically reduce the deficit. They reduce the debt as a function of a share of the economy in the outyears going down. The Republican budget didn't balance until 2040 just a few years ago.

So the issue is whether you are going to be driven by the ideological target or whether your fundamental focus will be jobs and opportunity. That is what ours does.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) control the balance of the time.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank Chairman RYAN of the Budget Committee for the hard work that he has been doing over the last several years as we look to get a handle on the spending problem we have here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Chairman, our debt is out of control. In the past 10 years, it has more than doubled, from \$7.1 trillion to \$17.6 trillion today. We paid almost \$416 billion in interest just last year. Imagine where that money could have been better spent.

The failure to address the debt and deficits reduces opportunity and prosperity for future generations. It directly threatens our ability to pay for our priorities like Social Security, Medicare, a strong national defense, and taking care of our veterans.

Unfortunately, President Obama has offered another budget that increases taxes, that expands the government, that does nothing to save Medicare or Social Security, and that never balances. HARRY REID's Senate will not even consider a budget this year.

The budget we offer to the American people protects and preserves Medicare and Social Security, and it balances in 10 years. When Congress responsibly budgets, we increase economic security for our families and ensure that we leave our children and grandchildren with more opportunities and a brighter future.

Mr. Chairman, I call on my colleagues to do the right thing by workers, families, and future generations. Pass this budget.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, at this point, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman from Oregon, and I thank all of

the Members for a thoughtful and important debate.

Mr. Chairman, that is what this is all about. It is about gripping—taking hold—of the heart and soul of America.

As I said in the Rules Committee, the budget is actually a moral document, a moral compass, of where we want to take this country. I think what needs to be explained to the American public is that, in actuality, we have been making progress.

The deficit has gone down from \$1 trillion from the past administration, from the Bush administration, to now \$680 billion. We are making progress, from losing 800,000 jobs a month to gaining close to 200,000; yet the document that is on the floor today, the Ryan budget—the Republican budget—chooses not to have the morality and the affection for the American people that is desired.

When you look at their budget, you will see that \$3.3 trillion of their budget—69 percent—is cut from programs for people with low or moderate incomes, from the very people who need a stairstep of opportunity, and they give \$200,000 in tax cuts to the top 1 percent.

None of us have any challenge to prosperity and opportunity, but how can you have a budget that hits low-income programs or programs that give opportunity?

How many have gone to school because of Pell grants? \$175 million in cuts. How many people have gotten their health care from Medicaid and still do, like children? How many people have needed to have the SNAP program?

I believe that we should have budgets that work for all people. I intend to vote for the CBC budget and for the Democratic budget and “no” on this underlying Republican budget. We need to have a standard that respects all people in this country, and this budget does not.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 96, the House Republicans' “Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2015.” I oppose this irresponsible budget resolution because it continues the reckless approach to fiscal policy that the House majority has championed for years, with disastrous results.

Mr. Chair, the budgeteers on the majority side have a very poor track record when it comes to economic forecasts and projections.

For years, they have based their entire legislative agenda and strategy on their belief that the Affordable Care Act or “Obamacare” would be a failure.

The wish was father to the thought. But they were wrong.

Because of Obamacare more than 10 million Americans now know the peace of mind that comes from affordable, quality health insurance that is there when you need it. (7 million through the exchange and 3 million through Medicaid).

House Republicans oppose increasing the minimum wage, claiming that it costs jobs.

Wrong again. Every increase in the minimum wage has been accompanied by an expanding economy, especially during the Clinton Administration.

House Republicans opposing comprehensive immigration reform claim that it will lead to lower incomes and lost jobs. Wrong again. Studies conducted by groups as far apart as the Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO consistently show that comprehensive immigration reform will grow the Gross Domestic Product by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years.

Given this sorry track record of economic forecasting, I strongly oppose the Republican budget because it favors the wealthy over middle class families and those struggling to enter or remain in the middle class.

I oppose this Republican budget because it asks major sacrifices of seniors who can barely make ends meet, and fundamentally alters the social contract by turning Medicaid and SNAP programs into a block grant and Medicare into a voucher.

I cannot and will not support a resolution that attempts to balance the budget on the backs of working families, seniors, children, the poor, or mortgages the future by failing to make the investments needed to sustain economic growth and opportunity for all Americans.

Mr. Chair, we Democrats have a better way. We understand that we are all in this together and that our current economic situation calls for a balanced approach between increased revenues and responsible reduction in expenditures.

Our plan will protect and strengthen our recovering economy, reduce the deficit in a responsible way, while continuing to invest in the things that make our country strong like education, health care, innovation, and clean energy.

Mr. Chair, this Republican budget is bad for America but it is disastrous for the people from my home state of Texas who sent me here to advocate for their interests. Let me highlight a few examples.

1. If the Republican budget resolution were to become the basis of federal fiscal policy, 3,435,336 Texas seniors would be forced out of traditional Medicare and into a voucher program. Under the Republican plan to end Medicare as we know it, Texas seniors will receive a voucher instead of guaranteed benefits under traditional Medicare.

2. For the 3,435,336 Texans aged 45–54, the value of their vouchers would be capped at growth levels that are lower than the projected increases in health care costs. Previous analyses showed that this type of plan would cut future spending by \$5,900 per senior, forcing them to spend more out of pocket and diminishing their access to quality care.

3. Additionally, private insurance plans will aggressively pursue the healthiest, least expensive enrollees, thereby allowing Medicare—currently the lifeline for 3,187,332 Texas seniors—to “wither on the vine.”

4. If the Republican budget resolution were to be adopted by Congress, 206,304 Texas seniors would pay more for prescription drugs next year.

5. The Republican plan would re-open the “donut hole,” forcing seniors to pay the full cost of their prescription drugs if their yearly

drug expenses are more than \$2,970 for the year.

6. Seniors reaching the prescription drug “donut hole” would pay an average of \$828 more in prescription drug costs in 2014 and approximately \$13,000 more from now through 2022.

7. Under the Republican budget, the 2,445,462 Texas seniors who utilized free preventive services currently covered by Medicare in 2012 will face increased costs in the form of higher deductibles, co-insurance, and copayments for certain services, including even cancer screenings and annual wellness visits.

8. The Republican budget slashes \$31.71 billion in nursing home care and other health care services for 754,500 Texas seniors and disabled who currently rely on Medicaid for their long-term care needs.

9. The draconian cuts included in the Republican budget would have a devastating impact on the 1,191 certified nursing homes in Texas that serve 91,717 seniors, with more than half relying on Medicaid as their primary payer. As a result, nursing homes would be forced to slash services, turn away seniors, or close their doors.

Mr. Chair, this budget could have invested in programs that help strengthen the middle class, reduce poverty, and strengthen our economic recovery. Instead, the Republican budget makes deep cuts to the area of the budget helping low-income families put food on the table and make ends meet.

These are families who are already struggling with unemployment, lower wages, and just simply trying to make ends meet.

The House Republican budget will push millions more Americans into poverty and put a large number of low-income children, seniors, and people with disabilities at risk.

It guts Medicare and Medicaid and calls for massive cuts to food assistance, all in order to protect tax breaks for special interests and for multimillionaires who are not even asking for them.

The Republican budget may be characterized in many ways—cruel, irresponsible, shortsighted, reckless—but “fair and balanced” is not one of them.

In contrast, the alternative budgets proposed by the Democratic Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, and Congressional Progressive Caucus, which were made in order by the Rules Committee, are each worthy of support because they fairly balance the need for increased revenues and responsible reductions in expenditures with the imperative of making the necessary investments in human capital required to move our country forward.

Specifically, the Alternative Budgets proposed by the Democratic Caucus, CBC, and CPC:

- help create more jobs now;
- replace the sequester;
- make key education investments;
- invest in research and development and clean energy;
- invest in long-term infrastructure;
- preserve Medicare as we know it;
- protect health reform’s benefits for seniors;
- protect Medicaid for seniors in nursing homes;
- preserve Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP);

reduce the deficit through a smart, targeted, and steady approach provides tax relief for working families and ends tax breaks for the wealthy;

take a balanced approach to reducing the long-term deficits and debt; and

put the budget on a sustainable path

Mr. Chair, under the Democratic budget, the deficit would fall from 7 percent of GDP in 2014 to 2.3 percent of GDP in 2024.

The Democratic Budget Alternative will generate at least a million more jobs this year compared to the Republicans’ “austerity first” plan by making the investments needed to create jobs, strengthen the middle class, create greater upward mobility, and ensure opportunity for our children and future generations.

The Democratic alternative budgets extend Emergency Unemployment Compensation for the long-term unemployed, which provides a lifeline to the 2.37 million jobless workers who have already lost their benefits and the 72,000 persons who stand to lose their benefits each week if Congress does not act.

Additionally, the Democratic budget immediately ends the Sequester, which would otherwise cost the economy 750,000 jobs by the end of the year, and replaces it with deficit reduction resulting from a balanced approach combining responsible spending cuts with increased revenues by cutting tax breaks for special interests and wealthy individuals without increasing the tax burden on middle-income Americans.

Mr. Chair, the Democratic alternative budget maintains our commitment to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security; expands the EITC for childless workers; extends the tax credits from the American Taxpayer Relief Act due to expire at the end of 2017, and provides \$7.6 billion annually for early childhood education.

It is said often, Mr. Chair, but is no less true, that the federal budget is more than a financial document; it is an expression of the nation’s most cherished values. As the late and great former senator and Vice-President Hubert Humphrey said:

“The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.”

For that reason that in evaluating the merits of a budget resolution, it is not enough to subject it only to the test of fiscal responsibility. To keep faith with the nation’s past, to be fair to the nation’s present, and to safeguard the nation’s future, the budget must also pass a “moral test.”

The Republican budget resolution fails both of these standards. The Democratic alternatives do not. For these compelling reasons, I stand in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 96 and urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this ill-conceived and unwise measure.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT).

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Chairman, one of the reasons I ran over here right now is that I have

been listening to some of the speakers on the left.

As the gentlewoman just spoke, in referring to the budget as a moral document, I actually somewhat agree with that, but let's actually discuss what is moral for the next generation and the generation after that and the generation after that.

For the fun of it, as I was running out the door, I grabbed this little poster which had been dropped off to me last week. It is a little poster from over at the Mercatus Center, which has been doing some calculations of what the United States' debt would look like if you took the debt in the unfunded liabilities of this country and put it on GAAP accounting, so if you actually treated it honestly.

What is the real number, the typical actuarial 75-year window, attached with regular debt?

Process in your mind what you have been told year after year of our unfunded liabilities, and I need you to wipe that number clean. The number they came up with recently has hit \$205 trillion of debt in unfunded liabilities.

You do realize, if you go right now to Google and look up the best estimates of the wealth of the world, our unfunded liabilities are now exceeding many of the estimates of the wealth of the entire world.

This is what so many Members are willing to hand to our children, to our great-grandchildren, and to the future generations?

If you want to make a moral argument, that debt—those unfunded liabilities—is the moral argument.

□ 1730

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentleman.

We are both making an argument that aligns with our points of view on the budget, and the bottom line here is that we have got to invest, we have got to have a balanced budget, and we have got to figure out how to do it. But the question I have about this budget is: What is going to happen to the potholes in America?

I came out of a State legislature where we had constraints on us. We had to find ways to pay our bills within the means of the people of Vermont to be able to pay them. We had to deal with real problems. It required a confident approach to investing in the future. That has to be part of a budget.

America's roads are falling apart. Our bridges are falling down. This is a real disaster when it comes to meeting the infrastructure needs of this country. The American Society of Civil Engineers rates our infrastructure D-plus and estimates that the amount of investment needed by 2020 is \$3.6 billion.

This budget accepts the looming insolvency of the highway trust fund, and it does absolutely nothing to fix it. Those potholes are not going to fix themselves. And that is not a Republican or Democratic deal. Those are potholes in your district and mine.

It is scientific research as well. Both sides of the aisle are proud of America's scientific achievements. What this budget continues to do is reduce and squeeze National Institutes of Health grants by about 1,400. Just in the State of Vermont, the University of Vermont has seen a 20 percent drop in those research grants that help those with Ph.D.'s find cures for diseases in the future.

A confident nation is going to fix its roads.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. May I inquire how much time remains?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Wisconsin has approximately 34 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Oregon has 32 minutes remaining.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Having the right to close, we have no more speakers on this side.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Just so I understand, the majority has consumed 34 minutes?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 34 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Oregon has 32 minutes remaining.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield myself 2 minutes.

I do appreciate the back-and-forth discussion here, but I want to put this in perspective, if I could, because our friends with the Republican budget have assumed, for instance, that we don't necessarily have to raise taxes. We could actually cut some of the loopholes that we have offered repeatedly; and although that is referred to rhetorically, they have never been able to follow through with any that they would cut.

There are Medicaid cuts. And make no mistake about it, these Medicaid cuts are actually reductions in nursing home care for America's most vulnerable. That is two-thirds of this money that it is going to be visited back on the States and impacting families.

They repeal the Affordable Care Act, but they keep all the associated revenues.

We went through a campaign season excoriating Democrats for the reductions in Medicare Advantage, and they keep that in their budget.

There is the magic of dynamic scoring, which we have heard about repeatedly for years, which never really quite proves itself.

And then we have cuts to Pell grants. We heard described in committee that these cuts to Pell grants are not a problem because they are just an excuse to raise tuition and enrich lavish academic salaries.

Mr. Chairman, this Republican budget would not only freeze us into a

downward decline in our infrastructure, it would be the lowest level of nonmilitary discretionary spending that we have seen in generations. It is not going to happen; it shouldn't happen; and my Republican friends should not be able to get away with assuming that this is a viable and responsible approach.

I hope we will come to the point again where we can find a way to come together to deal with things that we actually agree on in a tangible way and make some real progress.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, budgeting is about choosing. Budgeting is about setting priorities. In this particular case, it is about setting a path for the country.

We have got serious fiscal challenges unlike any we have ever had before; and when we look at some of these fiscal challenges, it is very clear that the sooner we get on top of these problems, the sooner we deal with these problems, the better off everybody is going to be.

Here, in a nutshell, is our big fiscal issue. It is not a Democrat or Republican thing. It is not a partisan thing. It is really sort of a demographic and math thing.

We are going from roughly 40 million seniors to about 80 million seniors, retirees. The baby boomers are retiring, 10,000 people a day, at this pace, for 10 years. The programs that they rely on, like Medicare—really important programs—grow 6 to 8 percent a year.

So when you have a pay-as-you-go system where current workers pay current taxes under their current paychecks to pay for current retirees—as I am paying my payroll taxes for my mom's Medicare and Social Security benefits, and when I am retired, my kids will do the same for me—and you have an 89 percent increase in the retirement population but about a 17 percent increase in the taxpaying population, therein lies your challenge.

So these programs are growing so much faster than our ability to pay. They are growing faster than wages, economy, and revenues, to the point where these programs that we rely on that are so special and necessary—I have seen Social Security and Medicare do important things in my own family and my own life—these things are going bankrupt. The sooner we fix it, the better off we are all going to be.

The other problem is, if we don't fix this, if we don't even show the world or the country that we intend to fix this, our economy really suffers, because the economy, businesses, banks, credit unions, creditors, small businesses, and large businesses don't know what the future is going to look like.

So all these things we need to do to get people to take risks and hire people

and invest and start a new business, we are slowing that down. That is why the CBO says the economy is slowing down. It is hard to get people out of poverty if we don't have good jobs for them to get out of poverty with.

If you look at this chart, we are going into uncharted territory. We have had big debt before. Our debt was as big as our economy in World War II, but for the years we fought World War II, then it went back down.

Because of this problem I described—not a Republican or Democrat problem, but just America's problem—our debt has grown more than twice the size of our economy. You can't have a prosperous society with that kind of debt. It has never been done before.

And so what we are saying is let's get ahead of this problem. Let's phase in these reforms so that we can make good on our promise to our seniors who have already retired and so that all those people nearing retirement—people in their later fifties thinking and planning for their retirement—let's make good for them. But let's acknowledge that those of us in the X generation and lower—those younger—these programs will not be there for us when we retire. We need to fix this.

And by the way, we need pro-growth solutions: reform the Tax Code, balance the budget, have an energy renaissance in America, and streamline regulations so businesses know how to plan so that we can create jobs and economic growth. This budget does all of that. That is why I urge its adoption, and that is why I look forward to continuing this debate tomorrow.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARR) having assumed the chair, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, had come to no resolution thereon.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Senate acted forcefully by passing legislation to renew emergency unemployment insurance. I would encourage this House to follow that example so we may provide a vital lifeline to over 2 million Americans to provide for their families. These are hard-

working Americans who are out there every day looking for employment or receiving education to be better prepared to reenter the workforce.

In Ohio, 75,200 unemployed workers need these extended benefits they earned. As our economy continues recovering from the greatest recession in modern history, let us give them what they earned.

We must avoid making this a partisan issue. Workers in both Democratic and Republican districts desperately need this critical lifeline. The House must act today. Let the Speaker bring the Senate bill up for a vote here so the House can finally pass legislation.

Let us do what is sensible and allow these Americans to keep our economic recovery going by not falling into the ranks of poverty themselves. These hardworking Americans have earned their benefits.

[From The New York Times, Aug. 30, 2012]

MAJORITY OF NEW JOBS PAY LOW WAGES,
STUDY FINDS

(By Catherine Rampell)

While a majority of jobs lost during the downturn were in the middle range of wages, a majority of those added during the recovery have been low paying, according to a new report from the National Employment Law Project.

The disappearance of midwage, midskill jobs is part of a longer-term trend that some refer to as a hollowing out of the work force, though it has probably been accelerated by government layoffs.

"The overarching message here is we don't just have a jobs deficit; we have a 'good jobs' deficit," said Annette Bernhardt, the report's author and a policy co-director at the National Employment Law Project, a liberal research and advocacy group.

The report looked at 366 occupations tracked by the Labor Department and clumped them into three equal groups by wage, with each representing a third of American employment in 2008. The middle third—occupations in fields like construction, manufacturing and information, with median hourly wages of \$13.84 to \$21.13—accounted for 60 percent of job losses from the beginning of 2008 to early 2010.

The job market has turned around since then, but those fields have represented only 22 percent of total job growth. Higher-wage occupations—those with a median wage of \$21.14 to \$54.55—represented 19 percent of job losses when employment was falling, and 20 percent of job gains when employment began growing again.

Lower-wage occupations, with median hourly wages of \$7.69 to \$13.83, accounted for 21 percent of job losses during the retraction. Since employment started expanding, they have accounted for 58 percent of all job growth.

The occupations with the fastest growth were retail sales (at a median wage of \$10.97 an hour) and food preparation workers (\$9.04 an hour). Each category has grown by more than 300,000 workers since June 2009.

Some of these new, lower-paying jobs are being taken by people just entering the labor force, like recent high school and college graduates. Many, though, are being filled by older workers who lost more lucrative jobs in the recession and were forced to take something to scrape by.

"I think I've been very resilient and resistant and optimistic, up until very recently," said Ellen Pinney, 56, who was dismissed from a \$75,000-a-year job in which she managed procurement and supply for an electronics company in March 2008.

Since then, she has cobbled together a series of temporary jobs in retail and home health care and worked as a part-time receptionist for a beauty salon. She is now working as an unpaid intern for a construction company, putting together bids and business plans for green energy projects, and has moved in with her 86-year-old father in Forked River, N.J.

"I really can't bear it anymore," she said, noting that her applications to places like PetSmart and Target had gone unanswered. "From every standpoint—my independence, my sense of purposefulness, my self-esteem, my life planning—this is just not what I was planning."

As Ms. Pinney's experience shows, low-wage jobs have not been growing especially quickly in this recovery; they account for such a big share of job growth mostly because midwage job growth has been so slow.

Over the last few decades, the number of midwage, midskill jobs has stagnated or declined as employers chose to automate routine tasks or to move them offshore.

Job growth has been concentrated in positions that tend to fall into two categories: manual work that must be done in person, like styling hair or serving food, which usually pays relatively little; and more creative, design-oriented work like engineering or surgery, which often pays quite well.

Since 2001, employment has grown 8.7 percent in lower-wage occupations and 6.6 percent in high-wage ones. Over that period, midwage occupation employment has fallen by 7.3 percent.

This "polarization" of skills and wages has been documented meticulously by David H. Autor, an economics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A recent study found that this polarization accelerated in the last three recessions, particularly the last one, as financial pressures forced companies to reorganize more quickly.

"This is not just a nice, smooth process," said Henry E. Siu, an economics professor at the University of British Columbia, who helped write the recent study about polarization and the business cycle. "A lot of these jobs were suddenly wiped out during recession and are not coming back."

On top of private sector revamps, state and local governments have been shedding workers in recent years. Those jobs lost in the public sector have been primarily in mid and higher-wage positions, according to Ms. Bernhardt's analysis.

"Whenever you look at data like these, there is this tendency to get overwhelmed, that there are these inevitable, big macro forces causing this polarization and we can't do anything about them. In fact, we can," Ms. Bernhardt said. She called for more funds for states to stem losses in the public sector and federal infrastructure projects to employ idled construction workers. Both proposals have faced resistance from Republicans in Congress.

REMEMBERING THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) is recognized for 60

minutes as the designee of the minor-ity leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, my Special Order deals with the very difficult and even painful subject of Rwanda.

Mr. Speaker, there is an ancient story about Rwanda. It is one from which a number of meanings can be extracted.

We are here today because we remember the victims of the horrific events in our world's history. We honor survivors and recognize the steps that have been taken to remedy the atrocities that have occurred.

Over and over, you will hear people on this floor, Mr. Speaker, say that things that have happened in our history that were horrific and inhuman shall never happen again. Things like American slavery and the European extermination, mainly by Germany, of Jews throughout Europe should never happen again.

□ 1745

So we must continue to fight for justice as the international issues come to our consciousness. And we know that, as time moves on, there will be additional tragedies around the globe.

Rwanda has certainly experienced its share, if not more than its share, of tragedy. This ancient parable in Rwandan is, God spends the day elsewhere, but he sleeps in Rwanda—Imana yirirwa ahandi igataha I Rwanda. For those of us who are familiar with the creation story, we know that God worked for 6 days and then rested. The Rwandan people believe that God, on the seventh day, came to Rwanda to rest from his work the previous 6 days.

Rwanda is 1 mile above sea level, about what Denver, Colorado is. And because of its elevation, Rwanda is paradisiacal, in the sense that the climate is cooler in Rwanda than it is in many of the other parts of Africa, certainly sub-Saharan Africa, and the greenery is like that of no other place in Africa, and it will rival even some of the beautiful spots in the Caribbean.

It is also a fabulous place, the Rwandans thought, for God to come to rest.

Well, in a country of seven million, at least in 1994—who knows what the population is today, after many of the atrocities, but the people believed that God could rest there in this beautiful, this lush, very, very receiving and welcoming land, without being interrupted.

Now, all cultures, all religions choose to elevate its land or its people. For example, the Jewish people, understandably, refer to the Sea of Galilee as a sea. For those who know geography, you know that the Sea of Galilee is actually a lake.

The Jordan River—before I went there for the first time, back in 1994, I envisioned the Jordan River as something comparable to the Mississippi River or something comparable to the Missouri River, which is about 2,000 miles across the country.

The truth of the matter is, there were certain points of the Jordan River that I actually jumped over. And it flows down into the Dead Sea, which is, again, not a sea, but another lake.

So it is understandable that people will declare something to be a little more than it really is. So the Rwandan people, believing that God came to their country, this paradise, 1 mile above sea level, was something that, I think, many of us would have done had we been Rwandans.

I also know that there were people who would question how could God sleep in a place with all of the genocide that has taken place there, with all of the violence against the men and women and children, and even violence based on tribal ethnicity. But the Rwandan people still believe that God sleeps in their country.

I believe that God sleeps in Rwanda, but I also believe that He is awakened because of what has happened. God can neither sleep nor slumber where there is injustice, where there is wrong, where there is murder, and so God has had an unrestful amount of time, unrestful nights in Rwanda since the beginning of the great genocide.

800,000 people, Mr. Speaker, mostly ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus, died at the hand of Hutu extremists during a 100-day period; a 100-day period.

That would be killing all the people of my hometown of Kansas City, Missouri, the largest city in our State, and all the people 221 miles away in St. Louis. Both cities would be completely exterminated if they lost 800,000 people.

But the Rwandan people lost 800,000 people in 100 days. That is seven individuals, seven human beings created by God, murdered every 7 minutes.

Ten thousand victims were killed each day. Just think about it: 10,000 human beings created with the hands of the alms-giving God. And then someone stole their lives for something as petty as ethnicity, something as petty as a different language.

So when you think about hundreds of thousands of victims who were murdered, there are hundreds of other thousands of victims who were infected with HIV, as the Hutu extremists raped, as a tool of violence, women and young girls.

The killing ended once Tutsi rebel forces attacked and retook the country.

When I think about what we have done and what we have spent in lands around the world, to tragedies no less repulsive, I have to raise the question, why has the United States been asleep, lo, these many years?

I think that our children and our children's children will look back on the nineties, in particular, and wonder, where were the Americans?

Where was the United States while this happened?

Now, 20 years after all of the genocide, Rwanda has moved stunningly in a new and positive direction. I am very pleased that they have, and all Americans should be pleased. But there still is much work to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH. Mr. CLEAVER, I appreciate you doing this.

You know, it is just staggering to think about what happened and all of those people going about their daily lives 20 years ago, on April 7, and knowing they are going to die, knowing their loved ones are going to die.

It is so unspeakable that we can't, I can't really imagine what it would be like to live in that country, to live in a neighborhood where you know your moment is coming, where you have a child who is going to die before your very eyes, where your daughter is going to be raped and then killed.

To have this sense of the horror of what is taking place, it is unspeakable. But the realization that the world is going to ignore it, and that happened, day in and day out. Most of us didn't even know about it. There would be reports, but it would be in a distant place. It wasn't anything that you could do anything about.

It was only as the stories fully came out and the horror was fully revealed that the collective gaze of the world that was not acting—there were all kinds of reasons why I suppose we couldn't or we didn't.

But just try to put yourself in the place of the family, up and down that country, where the word is going from one village to another, from one community to another, from one family to another, that you have got to do everything you can to get out.

And where you live in a community where the majority is going to kill you if they find you, where, as you hide and try to conceal yourself or your kids, you can't figure out how to feed them, and you have got to come out into the light of day and put yourself at the mercy of your luck, where do you find or meet somebody who might give you a meal so that you can carry on another day.

It is not anything that I can imagine, just the wholesale use of murder in ethnic cleansing, in order to achieve a political goal.

What is an amazing thing is what Mr. CLEAVER just told us, about the recovery of Rwanda. These people go on.

Imagine living with the heartache that will never leave you, that you lost a son or daughter, a parent or grandparent. How do you get yourself up and start all over again?

How do you deal with the hatred that you have to fight because it will consume you and prevent you from carrying on yourself?

How do you do that?

The people in Rwanda are doing that and rebuilding that country, rebuilding their economy, and facing life on a day-in-and-day-out basis.

But having a moment to pause and remember is, I think, humbling for all of us. The capacity that we have, as people, to go awry and do things that never, in a million years, do we think was possible, reminds me of just how fragile life is and how really, in a lot of ways, fragile good governance is. You can't take it for granted.

I think all of us here know that there are forces that can get unleashed which, once they are, have an enormously powerful and destructive tendency. The challenge for all of us is to create ways where we can resolve conflict in peaceful and civil ways. The work of that is the work of this Congress and the work of this democracy.

It is fragile. It isn't anything we can ever take for granted. It has to be with that purpose of allowing people to find ways to resolve differences peacefully.

So this is an amazing moment, 20 years after the beginning of the slaughter of 800,000 innocent people, and a slaughter by very cruel and very painful and very relentless efforts.

So thank you so much, Mr. CLEAVER, for allowing us to have this moment of reflection.

Mr. CLEAVER. Thank you to Mr. WELCH, who is a very conscientious Member of this body. We appreciate his sensitivity, as well as that of many others who probably will not be here on the floor.

I will state again, because Congressman WELCH has mentioned it, that is 800,000 people, 800,000 people killed, murdered in 100 days. 10,000 human beings killed every 24 hours in this world during our lifetime.

So the Rwandans' ancient parable about God sleeping at night in Rwanda is only partially true. God could not sleep nor slumber with this kind of tragedy taking place anywhere in a world that He created for freedom and justice and peace and harmony.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from the Fifth District of Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the whip of the Democratic Caucus.

□ 1800

Mr. HOYER. Never again. We intone those words, "never again." We intone those words because we have seen horror and felt guilt that it happens on our watch, and so we say "never again."

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of chairing the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. That commission was formed as a result of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975 by Gerald Ford and leaders of 34 other European nations, including the Soviet Union, including West Germany, including East Germany. Never again.

The extraordinary Holocaust that cost the lives of millions and millions and millions and millions more; not only in the Holocaust, where 6 million Jews were taken from us, taken from their families, taken from their countries, taken from life, but millions more in Russia, Ukraine, and literally in scores of other venues murdered.

They were murdered not because of their engagement in war, not because of their engagement in crime, but because of who they were, what religion they had, what ethnic background they claimed—murdered—murdered because of what they were, and the murderers did not like what they were—not their character, not their intellect, not their conduct, but who they were.

So here we are, 20 years later, having watched as genocide was, again, perpetrated in Rwanda. The genocide in Rwanda, the 20th anniversary of which we mark this week, provided Americans with one of our most painful examples of a failure to act, but not Americans alone, Mr. Speaker. The entire civilized world waited, watched, lamented, but did not stop the genocide.

America and much of the world waited far too long to become involved in Rwanda, and even then, international peacekeepers were not given a mandate for the resources to stop the killing.

I am sure many of us, Mr. Speaker, saw the movie "Hotel Rwanda." Nick Nolte played the blue-helmeted colonel who was in charge of the U.N. unit. When carnage was occurring and the colonel that Nolte was playing was watching, someone asked: Why aren't you doing something? And his response was: because that is not our mandate, it is to report.

I will say, in a minute, that thousands of lives were saved by the blue helmets and by others, but the U.N. mandate was not to stop it, but to report it.

President Clinton has expressed regret that the United States did not act in time to save lives, saying last year, "If we'd gone in sooner, I believe we could have saved at least a third of the lives that were lost."

Now, the figure of 800,000 is being used, but that is an estimate. It could be as little, perhaps, as 500,000 and as many as 1 million-plus. It is estimated that more than 1 million men, women, and children were killed in a span of—as my friend from Missouri, Reverend CLEAVER—Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER has said. 1 million in 100 days, 10,000 victims every day, 7 people shot or hacked to death with machetes

every minute, every minute, and the world watched and wrung its hands and said how wrong that was, and the machetes kept hacking.

More than just killing, the Rwandan genocide left hundreds of thousands of people infected with HIV as a result of another implement of war that those who perpetrate genocide have used, rape, a crime not of sexual desire, but of violence, of injury, of hate.

Widows of murdered men were infected and, in many cases, left to bear the children of their rapist. The children, of course, were infected, too.

The violence left 400,000 orphans, small children who then had to learn at a young age how to care for their younger siblings on their own.

Mr. Speaker, the Rwandan genocide provided the world with yet another lesson in our shared responsibility not just to say the words "never again," but to mean them. Mr. Speaker, we are our brother's keeper, and our brother needs our vigilance and our help, as we need his; and we are our sister's keeper, just as well.

Just as the genocide displayed humanity's darkest side, it also provided us with proof of human courage and defiance in the face of evil. From the outnumbered U.N. peacekeepers who saved lives wherever they could—and that ability was far too limited—to the individual Rwandans who risked death and rape to protect their neighbors, we acknowledge those few moments of moral clarity in the midst of great evil.

I said that I was the chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Mr. Speaker, 250,000 Bosniaks lost their lives in a genocide perpetrated by Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

We finally acted in that case and saved literally hundreds of thousands of more, deposed Milosevic, and put him in the dock for war crimes in the Hague, but not before 8,000 souls in Bosnia were gunned down and murdered in Trebenista. The U.N. troops failed to stop that—again, insufficient resources.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we mark this 20th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, I join my colleagues in mourning those who were killed and in recognizing the many changes Rwanda has undergone over the past two decades. We all wish Rwanda continued success in its efforts to take from the ashes a successful society and to protect the safety and freedom of its people.

I hope Americans across the country will take some time this week to reflect not only on the Rwandan genocide, but on all genocides, to remember its horrors and to promise never to let our Nation sit idly by as a genocide takes place. Mr. Speaker, it is a complicated conclusion, too long, too often delayed.

I want to thank my colleagues for joining me to recognize this solemn anniversary. I want to thank, in particular, my dear friend from Missouri, EMANUEL CLEAVER, who preaches to his flock, who preaches to his constituents and, yes, who preaches to all of us to look to the better nature of our souls, to reach out, to lift up, to protect, to give solace, to give sympathy, to give empathy, to give understanding, and to be our brother's keeper.

Mr. CLEAVER. I thank the distinguished whip for his comments and for, frankly, requesting that we have the opportunity this evening to remember those horrific events in world history.

As the whip said, we must declare "never again," and it must be real and serious; and, if necessary, we must redouble our efforts against evil anywhere it presents its ugly head.

The pain that I am still feeling here tonight is because, since 1995, the international tribunal has indicted 95 individuals. Let me go back and remind you, 800,000—it could be many more—died, 95 individuals have been indicted, and there have been 49 convictions.

Now, if there is a person with a heart anywhere on the planet, that heart should be broken right now, knowing what happened to the Rwandan people, what happened to women, little girls, children. The world shall not tolerate this again.

I would like to now yield to the distinguished Congressman from the Ninth District of Memphis, Tennessee, Mr. STEVE COHEN.

Mr. COHEN. I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding, and I appreciate the whip for bringing this hour to the attention of Members of Congress and the opportunity to speak on this historic 20th anniversary of this slaughter.

I had the opportunity to visit Rwanda in the company of one of the great men who served in this House, Congressman DONALD PAYNE of New Jersey. Congressman PAYNE had made several trips to Rwanda and several trips to Africa.

We visited the memorial there to the victims, which is a very special place in the world, burial spots and flowers and plaques and the museum company there, too. It made a great impression on me, and it would make a great impression on anybody.

One thing that came out of the trip was my realization that today, in Rwanda, the Hutus and the Tutsis get along and that what was horrific 20 years ago, in one of the most horrific ethnic cleansings—or attempted ethnic cleansings and hate, atrocities, murders, over time, the Rwandan people have overcome them.

The distinctions are no longer present, and the people do get along. Obviously, because of the horrific situation, there is an imbalance in the populations, and I am sure there are still

some memories; but we do need to learn, as I am sure has been said, about when we turn to thinking of other people as different because we are all the same.

There was a time a little after this, I think it was about 1999, when I was at Union Station. President Clinton was there, and we had some time to talk, and he related how the Human Genome Project that Dr. Francis Collins—now the head of the NIH—was heading up and how that we are all 99.96 percent the same, and we are.

He mentioned the Hutus and the Tutsis and how they were just so, so, so, so, so alike, but the minor differences that were visible caused them to have this awful, awful, horrific genocide.

It pained President Clinton. Whip HOYER mentioned that this is something that he brought up before, that it was a mistake while he was President not to intervene. It was right after the difficulty that we had in Mogadishu with the helicopter and the way the American soldiers were killed and horrifically treated in the streets of Mogadishu by the Somali groups there.

It was a reticence to get involved in another situation in Africa, and it is a tight line sometimes to determine when you go in and when you don't. Well, the President made a mistake there, as he has admitted over the years.

If we look at other situations that might present themselves to us, as Members of Congress, we have to realize the United States of America has a special place in the world.

We are the only country that has the ability to see that mankind doesn't engage in horrific genocides again, so when the opportunity for the United States to get involved and prevent a slaughter, prevent a genocide, the United States has a responsibility.

Inasmuch as it is difficult after the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to commit our troops to action when situations like Rwanda present themselves, it is incumbent upon us, I think, to support—whoever is the President—in taking the proper actions to preserve humanity.

□ 1815

So I thank Whip HOYER for calling for this hour and Mr. CLEAVER for leading it, and I just wanted to add my thoughts and my reflections after having visited Rwanda with a great Member of Congress, DONALD PAYNE.

Mr. CLEAVER. Thank you, Mr. COHEN.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire about the remaining time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 28 minutes remaining.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REMEMBERING THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) is recognized for the remainder of the time as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CLEAVER for giving his voice of remembrance, his voice of comfort, his voice of concern, his voice that says this terrible genocide shall never happen again, nor should anybody who is of the human species sit back and allow such a tragedy to occur as what happened 20 years ago when, simply because of being a member of a different tribe, people were killed.

When I visited Rwanda, I had the opportunity to go to the museum where memorials were set up, but you saw the remains, the bones, of a number of individuals that were slaughtered, and you also learned the history of what took place in Rwanda, how the people were taught, especially during colonization, to make one feel that they were better than the other and one should rule over the other. And it went on to such a time when people started to cry out for equality and democracy moving on, and just because they happened to be of a different tribe, the Hutu majority, to terminate the Tutsi ethnic group.

Tragedy. Husbands turning in their wives, wives turning in their husbands where there were mixed groups, feeling one was superior to the other. Tragedy. Yet, the global community sat silently on the sidelines—sat silently on the sidelines.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, before I say more, I see the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Illinois and the city of Chicago, and I yield to the Honorable DANNY DAVIS.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend from New York, Representative GREGORY MEEKS not only for yielding, not only for being engaged in this discussion, but for the tremendous amount of time, energy, and effort that he spends dealing with international issues, recognizing that every day, as we see the increases in technology and our ability to communicate more effectively with other people across the world, how small and how much smaller our world is becoming, so things that may have been considered far away are now much closer to our everyday existence. So I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

I also want to commend Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER and our whip for convening this session. As I listened to Representative CLEAVER give a bit of the history of Rwanda, I was actually glued to the television set and felt immobilized that I couldn't or didn't

want to move. And to think that during the last two decades we would experience, in our modern-day world, such horrific actions as that which we are commemorating and remembering here today some 20 years later, to think that the international community sat by, watched, discussed, but didn't move, wouldn't move, couldn't move, and watched 800,000 people, and perhaps even more, be annihilated, wiped out, to see them experience some of the most horrific actions that could be taken against a people. I guess the whole lot of us share in the blame because we saw it, didn't move on it, couldn't find a way to bring world interest, world concerns together to stop it or prevent it before all of these people had lost their lives. And so, yes, it is shame on our world, and all of us must take some of the responsibility and share in the blame.

When a tragedy is occurring to some of us, it really affects, in a way, all of us. When a government is unable or unwilling to protect its people, then it becomes a world issue, and the rest of us have the responsibility to step in. And as much as some of us abhor war and as much as we know that it is not the best utilization to get involved in warlike activity that is unnecessary, I think that there are some things that you just can't let go without doing whatever it is that you can do.

So I hope that our world is saying that never, ever again will we stand by and let such as this take place, that never, ever again will we be immobilized and wondering about what to do or can we do or should we do. We know that something must be done.

So, GREG, again, I thank you for not only yielding, but I thank you for your leadership on international affairs which helps us to know that, yes, we can be our brothers' keepers. And our brothers don't have to be just across the street—they can be across the ocean; they can be across the continent; they can be in other lands—because all of us are joined together as a part of the mutual elements of our world. So I thank you for your leadership.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Outreach Programme on the Rwanda Genocide and the United Nations reported that between April and June of 1994, as the international community watched, more than 800,000 Rwandans, mostly ethnic Tutsi, were massacred by Hutu militia and government forces over a period of just 100 days. The killings began the day after a plane carrying the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi was shot down as it prepared to land in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. The presidents were returning from peace talks aimed at shoring up a fragile peace agreement and ending the conflict between the largely ethnic Hutu-dominated government and the largely Tutsi rebel army. The crash reignited the war. Retreating government forces joined ethnic Hutu militia in inciting civilians to kill ethnic Tutsis. They alleged that civilians

were helping the Tutsi rebels and used this to justify the mass targeting of innocent peoples. A small peacekeeping force which had been sent by the United Nations to monitor the peace accord was not authorized to intervene. A warning that genocide was planned was not acted upon. Today, the effects of the genocide in Rwanda are still felt in many different ways both inside the country and in neighboring states, including in the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where large areas of South Kivu province are still controlled by Hutu militia from Rwanda and their local allies. Alongside other fighters in the Congo war, they continue to commit serious human rights violations, including abductions, killings and rape. Sexual violence, particularly against women and children, is widespread.

This week marks the 20th year anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide. Since this genocide, certain concepts and initiatives have come forward by the international community that when a nation fails to protect its citizens or people the responsibility relies upon the international community to step in to stop the killing of people.

Mr. MEEKS. I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois, from the great city of Chicago, who long before he came to Congress, as a member of the Chicago City Council, spoke truth to power. And the words he has just articulated, that we should never forget that we will make sure that we are our brothers' keeper, that we need not have what I would call a gang mentality ourselves, that simply because someone is away across the ocean, may not look like some of us look, may not talk or speak the way we speak, that when we see evil, we won't stand silently by. We will stand against it and fight.

Dr. King once said that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, and so it is that evil anywhere is a threat to all of us everywhere.

Yesterday, Rwanda launched a week of official mourning to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the genocide which left 800,000 people dead and changed the face of a nation forever, and I want the people of Rwanda to know that I stand in solidarity with them during this week of mourning. But I will also stand with them next week, and I will stand with them the week after that, and I will stand with them the week after, because what happened during the spring and summer of 1994 is too important to be mourned only on an anniversary.

The tragic consequences of ethnic hatred and violence must never be forgotten, for we must never allow the events of 1994 to be repeated—not in Rwanda or anywhere else. We must, once and for all, put all racial and ethnic strife behind us as we strive for a better and a brighter future for our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we have, in this Chamber today, one whose voice has always spoken about justice, one whose actions were to feed those who were hungry, clothe those who had no clothes,

and put a roof over the head of those who were homeless. We have in the Chamber today, Mr. Speaker, an individual who didn't sit idly by and quietly when he saw injustices take place here in America. He stood up and was counted for. He wasn't silent and inactive as, unfortunately, the world was in 1994. He stood up. He put his life on the line and said: I must have a voice for the voiceless. He is an American hero whom I, with pleasure, am able to tell my children that I serve in the United States House of Representatives with an American hero, an American icon. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), an icon, a true American hero, a fighter for justice, and a man who is committed to Almighty God.

□ 1830

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York who not only has yielded me some time to speak on this issue, but I just want to observe that he has been one of the most remarkable persons to ever serve in this House, this exalted House of Representatives. He is a man who has made enormous contributions to the plight of those who need a voice, to those who need a heart, to those who need a spirit that will fight for them where they cannot fight for themselves. I know that Congressman GREGORY MEEKS has stood the test of the opposition to those who are denied human rights anywhere in the world, and I am so honored that he will allow me a few minutes to share with the Nation the sadness of the hour, but also to celebrate the resurgence of the Rwanda people.

The sadness of the hour is we come to the floor today, Mr. Speaker, to commemorate a very salient and sober observance. As was indicated by prior speakers, just 20 years ago this week the world witnessed one of the worst acts of violence since the end of World War II. It unfolded before our very eyes. Most of us can recall where we were, what we were doing, the life that we lived just 20 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am right now referring to the outbreak of violence just 20 years ago in a place that most of us had never heard of, a place called Rwanda. And now this place, Rwanda, is written in our psyches as one of the horror stories of our lives of our time. This outbreak of violence in Rwanda ultimately led to the death of over 800,000 ordinary men, women, boys, and girls. This is an atrocity that has been appropriately labeled and called and will go down in history as the Rwanda genocide. Just that word "genocide" should give us all pause, and all should strike an attentive ear whenever we hear that word "genocide" because the images that are conjured up in our minds are images of some of the most horrendous acts of man's inhumanity to man, of human's inhumanity to human beings.

Since the time of the Rwanda genocide, I want to congratulate the decent people, the justice-seeking people, the honorable people of Rwanda who have made great strides to rebuild their lives and to rebuild their country, to heal the deep, biting wounds, and to move forward as a nation.

Today, Mr. Speaker, Rwanda is being led by a President that 20 years ago would have been unimaginable, an ethnic Tutsi. President Paul Kagame has, for the past 14 years, overseen Rwanda's rebirth and has made the world proud of Rwanda's incredible resurrection and progress.

At yesterday's memorial service in Rwanda, he offered these simple words of everlasting hope:

As we pay tribute to the victims, both the living and those who have passed, we also salute the unbreakable Rwandan spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, salute the Rwandan spirit and applaud the Rwandan people on just how far they have come in just a few years, just 20 years. At the same time that I applaud the Rwandan people, I admonish, I encourage, I plead, I ask, I beg the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to continue their quest for justice and to bring those to trial, those who have, up to now, escaped the might of justice and the appeal of justice-seeking people throughout the world.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I must remind our own government that in 1994 we stood on this floor, in this Congress, in this Capitol, in this Nation, and we promised ourselves, we promised the world, we promised anyone who had ears to hear, that we would never, ever again allow such brutal violence to occur anywhere else in the world, that we had finally learned our lesson and that we would never have to relearn this awesome and brutal lesson. And yet, Mr. Speaker, we still see the same thing occurring, the same atrocities, the same murders and rapes, the same pillaging, the same acts of inhumane treatment toward fellow human beings. We bear witness that this same thing is again happening all over our world.

Whether Syria or South Sudan, our Nation, the United States of America, the American people, and the entire global community must rise up and stand up shoulder to shoulder and ensure that humanitarian rights are protected all over this world. As we have witnessed in Rwanda, global inaction has already led to genocide. Global inaction will always lead to genocide. We simply cannot idly stand by and allow genocide to continue in our world.

Mr. Speaker, I must close with a quote from the English poet John Donne, who said:

Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.

I want to paraphrase Mr. Donne's quote and say that any human's death diminishes me, because I am involved in humankind.

Again, hats off to you, my honorable and humble colleague from the great State of New York. You don't surprise me being the chief sponsor of this particular moment in time in the history of this institution because, Mr. MEEKS, this is just simply another step for you, because when it comes to the history and when it comes to justice for people throughout the world, it is a step forward, and you are a stepper for mankind.

Mr. MEEKS. Thank you, Mr. RUSH. I thank you for having the broad shoulders that I stand on and for being here.

Let me wrap up. Over the last several months, thousands of Rwandans have watched as a torch symbolizing the memory of those who perished, known as the Flame of Remembrance, was passed hand to hand, village to village, across the nation. In a fitting climax to its journey, that torch finally arrived yesterday at the National Genocide Memorial beneath dark skies and a gentle rain. But the rain did not distinguish the flame, nor will it for the next 100 days. The Flame of Remembrance will burn in Rwanda's capital of Kigali and remind the world of the 100 days of violence which marred its streets 20 years ago. Let us work together to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that it never happens again and that we can live in peace.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1845

NEW BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LEASE AND PERMIT DATA

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the United States Department of Energy released its 2014 strategic plan, which reiterates how the President is committed to an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

I personally was pleased to hear the administration reiterate their commitment to expanding all of America's domestic energy resources, including fossil fuels, which is fundamental to the Nation's future economic security.

The report also outlined the administration's goal to "decouple our economy from the global oil market."

Unfortunately, the administration's policy continually falls short of their unbelievable rhetoric.

Just one example: since President Obama took office, total Federal oil production has declined 7.8 percent and Federal natural gas production has declined 21 percent. It is no wonder, for according to new data released this week from the Bureau of Land Management, Federal onshore oil and natural gas leases and permits are at the lowest levels in more than a decade.

Mr. Speaker, real energy security will take actually pursuing, rather

than merely claiming, an all-of-the-above energy approach.

IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there is a deeply troubling matter that has come before our government here in the United States. Once again, Iran is at the bottom of it. They have shown since 1979, since President Carter basically was pushing for the ouster of the Shah, we turned on an ally who was not a good man necessarily, but we—well, actually, President Carter—hailed the Ayatollah Khomeini as a man of peace.

What has been wrought—to use the words of Samuel F. B. Morse—has been years and years of terrorism in the hands of violent radical Islamic jihadists.

Then we get word that Iran has named one of the people involved in the original hostage-taking incident in Tehran in 1979 as its Ambassador to the U.N.

At this time, I want to recognize my very good friend from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), who has really taken the lead in an appropriate response from our House.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for his leadership in getting this time tonight so that we can talk about this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, last week, we learned something shocking and appalling. The Iranian government wants to appoint a terrorist as their Ambassador to the United Nations. A man who assisted in the 1979 terrorist attack on our embassy in Tehran. A man who helped hold American diplomats hostage for 444 days. This is a man that the supposedly moderate new government in Iran wants to represent Iran on American soil in New York City. This is unconscionable and this is unacceptable. It is time for all of us to speak up with one loud and unified voice against this injustice.

Amazingly, at this moment, the President of the United States does not have the legal authority to keep this man off of our shores. The President can deny visas to diplomats if they have been caught spying on ourselves or our allies, but he can't keep someone out of our country if they are a terrorist. They can be admitted as a diplomat and get a visa.

Last week, Senator TED CRUZ and I introduced legislation to fix this problem. Our bill would give the President the authority he needs to do the right thing and to deny this man a visa. Senator CRUZ received strong support from

Democrats in the Senate like Senator CHUCK SCHUMER of New York. The bill passed the Senate unanimously last night 100-0. How many issues pass the Senate 100-0?

I am working here in the House to quickly move this bill forward so that we don't have an Iranian terrorist walking the streets of Manhattan with diplomatic immunity.

It is mind-boggling, but if Osama bin Laden himself had been named an Ambassador to the United Nations by somebody, the President would not have had the legal authority to deny him a visa. We have got to fix it. That is why this legislation is before us. The Cruz-Lamborn legislation would give the President the ability to do the right thing and to deny this Iranian terrorist a visa.

Time heals some wounds, but time should not cause amnesia. Letting this man into the country with all the pomp and circumstance of diplomatic immunity would cause pain to those who are hostages. It would jeopardize the safety and security of this Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and for House leadership to move it quickly to passage as soon as possible.

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas once again for taking leadership and bringing this issue to the attention of the American people through this time here on the floor tonight.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend from Colorado.

In fact, when I heard that such an outrage was being suggested, I said to my staff, we have got to do something. I was told, and I should have suspected, my friend DOUG LAMBORN from Colorado was already out there, he already has a bill, H.R. 4357. I was brought a Dear Colleague letter accompanying that, and I said we have got to help our friend do what is right for America.

I was pleased that TED CRUZ was able to get that pushed through in the Senate. Frankly, it shows there is still hope for the Senate. That is encouraging. You look for hope where you can get it.

But I remember so well 1979-1980. I was in the Army at Fort Benning. This attack occurred and we were outraged. There was nobody I knew in the Army who was dying to go to Iran. But really everybody I knew at Fort Benning and other posts, we expected to go because it was an act of war.

Our embassy was attacked in Tehran, it was an act of war, and nothing really happened for 444 days. There was a failed rescue attempt. I still, Mr. Speaker, have asked from the floor before, and I wish somebody could verify for sure, but I had a friend from Fort Benning who had told me that the original plan for the rescue required that 12 helicopters would go 500 or so miles inland into Iran to a staging area there.

At the time they knew where the hostages were. There was still good intel. They knew where they were. So this was going to be an effort to rescue them. This was the original Delta Force. Our friend General Jerry Boykin, now at the Family Research Council, was one of the original Delta Force. I have talked to him about that time out there in the desert.

They were to rendezvous with some aircraft that would have supplies, things they needed. In order to make the trip, as General Boykin confirms, they knew they had to have six helicopters there make it that far inland.

What I would like to get substantiation on or just prove, that originally the military proposed, the joint military group proposed 12 helicopters to go in. Their reasoning, as a friend from Fort Benning pointed out—this is back when I was in the Army this was being told—the reasoning was when you go across hundreds of miles of sand, desert, with turbine engines, that you run the risk of having a high loss rate of your helicopters.

So they asked for 12, thinking since six was absolutely essential to have at the staging area inside Iran, that they should allow for 50 percent loss of the helicopters. What I still want to find out, is it true that the 12 helicopters were proposed, but that the White House said: No, 12 would look like an invasion, so let's scale that back to eight. I was told the dialogue went: Well, if we have eight and we have four losses, then we only get there with four and there is no mission; if we don't do it now, we may not know where they move them. We really should go with 12. But I was told the White House said: No, we can't go with 12. We don't want to make it look like an invasion, scale it back to eight.

General Boykin confirmed that there were eight helicopters that made the trip. But when they got to the staging area, when it was clear that only five helicopters were going to make it, he said there was an automatic abort at that point. Unfortunately, as we know from the news of what happened, one of the choppers as it attempted to rise up, the pilot must have had vertigo—it is very easy to happen in the desert sand as the sand swirls around you—but whatever the reasoning, the helicopter slightly turned, the rotors went through the C-130, and we lost American lives out there on the desert floor at the staging area in Iran.

I don't fault anyone who was part of the Delta Force. They were some of the most heroic people America has produced. They were willing to risk it all, and some did give all in the effort to go after our hostages.

But whether the proposal was originally 12 and it was scaled back to eight, or whether the administration, the Commander in Chief, just said go with eight, either way the error was

where the buck stops, at the top with the Commander in Chief. Because just like President Kennedy admitted after he withdrew the full air support that he had promised during the Bay of Pigs invasion, as he said afterwards: We should have gone ahead. We would have been better off doing a full-scale invasion instead of having something as embarrassing and humiliating as this—or words to that effect, is what I had read.

If you are going to rescue American lives, you commit whatever it takes. The military is always ready to commit whatever it takes.

Our problem comes in the chain of command usually at the very top. That is why it has been so tragic in Afghanistan that in a period of half the time of President George W. Bush being Commander in Chief, President Obama as Commander in Chief had around twice or so the fatalities and even more of injuries, debilitating serious injuries.

The rules of engagement are critical in a battle like that. Whether it is going to rescue hostages, whether it is going to provide a peacekeeping mission, it is absolutely imperative that our military have the full authority to protect themselves, win whatever battle may be confronted, and come home.

The lesson that all too often is not learned from Vietnam is not that we should never get involved in foreign battles. The lesson is and should be, the one that has not been learned is this: if we are going to commit American men and women to combat, then give them authority to win and bring them home. That should be the lesson of Vietnam.

□ 1900

It should be the lesson of Iraq. It should be the lesson of Afghanistan, and yet, we still have people in Afghanistan who don't really understand why they are there, but don't want to be the last American to die in Afghanistan.

As we see surveys around the world indicating that the United States has lost tremendous respect—and in areas where our President, along with many of the rest of us thought, okay, we have a President who did a lot of growing and learning in an Islamic country as he has indicated.

So surely, he will help our relationships with and in Muslim countries; and yet, as you look at surveys in Muslim countries around the world, we are less respected now than we were under President and Commander in Chief George W. Bush, especially when you are dealing with radical Islamic leaders.

There are so many people in Iran. I have met some of them in surrounding countries, refugees from Iran, who verify that there are so many Iranian people—they love Americans, but clearly, their leadership does not.

It is a slap in the face for the Iranian leadership to think that they could get

away—to think that we have such a weak Commander in Chief that they could send over someone who is a participant in an act of war, an international crime against humanity, attacking an embassy and taking hostages and mistreating those hostages; yet they thought they could get away with it.

If you look at what has been happening around the world, perhaps it is not that difficult to understand why Iran thought they could get away with something so heinous as to send a participant of the original international crime, an act of war of attacking our Embassy and holding hostages.

Well, some may say: this guy, we don't know that he was there when the Embassy was actually attacked.

But as I know from my judge days and prosecutor days—the Federal law, State laws I am aware of, and in the international circles—anyone who aids, encourages, and abets is considered a principal of the crime.

So that is what we have here, an arrogant, condescending slap in the face of the United States President, Congress, everyone who has any leadership in this country, a show of no respect to send someone who is well-known to have participated, despite the efforts to minimize roles he may have had.

So why would they think they could do that? You look, gee, the Russians and the Chinese have taken the measure of our President. They know he is the Commander in Chief. They know how our government functions. Iran has done the same thing. Syria has done the same thing.

Others around the world have looked, and they saw, and I have even had some world leaders say: look, Mubarak—none of us really liked him—but he was your ally, and he gave you a longer period of peace on the Israeli border with Egypt than any other time; so we couldn't believe when you turned on your ally, you have written agreements with Mubarak. We don't understand how you could just toss aside an ally who has helped you so much.

People in other countries have said: we couldn't believe Qadhafi had blood on his hands; and yet, after 2003, he had some kind of conversion experience after he saw the U.S. go into Iraq.

He said: look, I am giving up my nukes, you can take them, you can come in and inspect whatever you want, and I will be your best friend in fighting terrorism.

As some other moderate Muslim leaders in the Middle East have said: he was your friend. As other leaders in the Middle East have said: he provided you more help and more information on terrorists than any other country but Israel.

So what did we do? We came after Qadhafi. We bombed his forces, and it seems pretty clear, without the United States' assistance, Qadhafi would have

stayed in power. We would still be getting information on terrorism in the Middle East from Qadhafi and his people.

We would have four people that didn't die in Benghazi, and terrorism wouldn't be so profoundly manifesting itself in north Africa and the Middle East, but this administration turned on someone who had turned into a friend to the United States, an enemy of terrorism.

We have moderate Muslim friends in Afghanistan who actually defeated the Taliban for us. My heart breaks for my friend Masood and others who risked their lives to fight the Taliban, who defeated the Taliban under the leadership of General Dostum, who some now in this administration call a war criminal. He fought the Taliban like the Taliban fights. He defeated them. He did us a great favor.

The Taliban was acknowledged to have been in disarray and completely defeated, and then we decide to nation-build. I know this is not the fault of President Obama, it was done before he came in, but we decided to nation-build.

We sent tens of thousands of troops into Iran, whereas we had only had less than 500 there at the time that the Taliban was routed.

How could we do that? Well, we provided them weapons, we gave them air cover, we gave them intel. We had embedded special ops and intelligence, and we let them do the fighting, and we whipped the Taliban by letting the enemy of our enemy defeat our enemy.

Now, this administration refers to them as war criminals? They were our allies, they were our friends. They defeated the Taliban. So we mistreat our friends who risked their lives fighting our enemy for us—and for themselves, make no mistake.

Then this administration is constantly reaching out to the Taliban: we want to talk, we want to sit down with you—and offered at one time to buy them luxurious offices, international offices—if you will just sit down, you don't even have to agree to reach an agreement, just to sit down with us and talk; we may let a lot of your people who have murdered Americans go free if you just sit down and talk with us.

Then the Chinese have seen how we have turned on allies and reached out to our enemies. They have had their eyes on certain places near China, South China Sea, other places surrounding China, they have had their eye on places, just like Russia has.

Now, they see the United States turning on allies, embracing enemies. They ask the same questions. They are bound to ask the same questions some of our allies have expressed: Are you still fighting against terror? Because they are still fighting you and we can't tell that you are helping in the fight anymore.

So China starts making moves they never would have made 5 years ago because they wouldn't have wanted to risk a U.S. response; and Russia wouldn't have made the move 5 years ago, but they have counted the cost, they have measured the leader of the United States of America, just like Khrushchev did in the early 1960s. They have figured: we can move on Crimea, and the United States will do nothing.

That is why they laughed when the President announced that he was going to put sanctions on some of the Russian leaders. They were shocked. That is all you are going to do? That is it? Wow. Let's move some more troops to Ukrainian border. Maybe we can grab some more of Ukraine, and the U.S. will continue to do nothing.

Weakness is provocative. It has always been; it will always be. I knew I owed 4 years to the Army, and I would do that before I did anything else, so I majored in what I loved, history. There are so many lessons repeated over and over in history.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, it was shocking to hear an educated Secretary of State that knew that you pronounced Genghis Khan as “Genghis Khan” actually make the statement that the Russians were making a 19th century move on Crimea, when history dictates that what the Russians did in moving on Crimea, an area they have had their eyes on and wanted to take is—yes, it is 19th century, it is 20th century, it is 21st century, it will be 22nd century if the Lord tarries. It was 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13. It has been in every century.

You go back to the Dark Ages, whether you say that is 500 to a 1000 A.D. or whether you say it is specifically 476 to 800 A.D., whatever you call the Dark Ages, these were the kind of moves that were made then. People made moves—assaultive moves on other people, places, and things because there is evil in this world.

Mr. Speaker, there is the good that our Founders acknowledged, that God put there. It is why they said we are endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights because they knew there was a Creator, that they knew there was evil in the world, and they set up as many obstacles to power grabs in this country as they could.

They felt pretty comfortable that Congress would never allow either the Supreme Court or the President to usurp legislative power without reining them in. It is time that we did that.

My dear friend, DOUG LAMBORN, produced H.R. 4357. It says this:

The purpose is to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has engaged in espionage activities against the United States, poses a threat to the United States, and other purposes.

It goes on to say:

A bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United

Nations who has engaged in espionage activities against the United States, poses a threat to United States national security interests, or has engaged in a terrorist activity against the United States.

Then it goes on in detail, as far as changing section 407(a) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, in order to make it possible where we could deny entrance to Iran's proposed U.N. Ambassador. It is time we did that.

There was a story from Fox News, dated March 31, that is entitled, "One-time hostage of Iranian militants urges denial of visa to new Iran envoy involved in siege."

□ 1915

This was written by Eric Shawn. It says:

Hostages captured after the 1979 siege on the U.S. Embassy in Tehran are seen in this undated file photo.

Former American hostage Barry Rosen, held by student extremists at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran for more than a year, said Monday it would be an "outrage" and "disgrace" if Washington gave a visa to one of the militants recently named by Iran as its new U.N. Ambassador.

"It may be a precedent, but if the President and the Congress don't condemn this act by the Islamic Republic, then our captivity and suffering for 444 days at the hands of Iran was for nothing," Rosen said. "He can never set foot on American soil."

This is a quote from Rosen.

He also said:

It's a disgrace if the United States Government accepts Aboutalebi's visa as Iranian Ambassador to the U.N.

Rosen was the Embassy's press attache who was blindfolded and held at gunpoint, along with 51 fellow Americans taken hostage. In a statement to FOX News, Rosen demanded that the Obama administration deny a visa to Aboutalebi to prevent him from taking up Tehran's U.N. post.

We need to take action. We hold the purse strings. We need to cut off any funding for any effort that might be undertaken to grant this international terrorist a visa so that he can come on American soil and have diplomatic immunity.

So I am quite proud of my friend from Colorado, Mr. LAMBORN and I have traveled to Israel together. I have seen him conduct himself in international settings in ways that should make Colorado proud of him, as well as the United States.

My friend TED CRUZ got a bill through the Senate that passed 100-0. As reported by the AP April 7:

The Senate approved a bill Monday to bar a man with ties to the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis who's been tapped to be Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations from entering the United States.

By voice vote, Republicans and Democrats united behind the legislation sponsored by Senator Ted Cruz, Republican of Texas, that reflected congressional animosity toward Tehran and its selection of Hamid Aboutalebi. Iran's envoy's choice was a member of a Muslim student group that held 52 American hostages for 444 days in the 1979 seizure of the Embassy in Tehran.

The "nomination is a deliberate and unambiguous insult to the United States," Cruz said in remarks on the Senate floor in which he describes Iran's anti-Americanism since 1979, and added, "This is not the moment for diplomatic niceties."

I am very proud of my friend TED CRUZ, the Senator from Texas. This is the way we need to respond to Iran's slap in the face of the United States.

Again, if you look at the way this administration has reached out to Iran, they have laughed openly and said yes, they were negotiating, and yes, they reached a preliminary agreement with this White House, but they are not stopping anything in the way of developing nuclear weapons. They made that clear. They are not abandoning their nukes.

So what have we done? We gave them a free space in which to keep developing nukes. We don't know what they have been doing behind the scenes because there have not even been inspections in all the facilities that we know of, and they brag that they are not abandoning anything.

And what else did the administration do? The administration eased up and allowed them billions of dollars in relief from the sanctions which, no doubt, would help them pursue nuclear weapons as they move forward.

It is just tragic why and how this administration is giving the impression to nations like Iran that we will not stand up to them. But, again, look at what we did as a nation. We reelected President Obama, knowing that before the election he had turned to the leader from Russia and basically said: Tell Vladimir Putin that I will have a lot more flexibility after the election.

People elected the President, knowing that he had telegraphed to the Russians that he would show a lot more weakness and would be able to give the Russians a lot more of what they wanted after the election in 2012.

If you look at this administration's activities after the election in 2008, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was sent over with a goofy-looking button that they thought had, in Russian, "reset," when, actually, I don't know what that says. She thought it said "reset." It didn't say that. And we embarrassed ourselves.

But the message was very clear because the Russians, and Putin in particular, knew that the reason that relationships have been strained was that, toward the end of the Bush administration, the Russians moved on Georgia, and the reaction was swift from President Bush. He didn't do as much as I might have thought should be done, but he was embarrassed. He was bound to have been embarrassed because he said he looked to this man and knew that he was a man of peace, or words to that effect, and it had to feel like a bit of a betrayal to President Bush when he moved on Georgia.

The Russian activities of moving on Georgia, totally abandoning and be-

traying the outreach by the Bush administration, put a significant chill on U.S.-Russian relations. That is why they were chilled. That is why diplomatic relations were so stiff at the time that this administration took over.

So when you know that it was the Russian invasion and move on Georgia that caused a strain in relations, to the Russians, when this administration says, Hey, we are really sorry for the way we acted in the past; we want a new relationship; we want to hit a reset button or whatever we put in Russian on this thing, we want to start over, the message was clear to Vladimir Putin: we're sorry that we were offended when you broke your word to us and invaded Georgia; we're sorry that you were an aggressor, you attacked and invaded and went into a neighboring country. This administration was apologizing for the Russians being that aggressive, and the message was clear that we are not the country we once were. And the message was sent to go ahead and take what you think you can, and he has.

Countries around the world are looking at us. We know we still have the greatest military. Despite all the cuts, it is still the greatest military in the world. And yet, if you don't have leaders willing to show strength, then people will take advantage. It is not a 19th century historical action; it is a 21st and every century since man has been on this planet.

Some have asked, gee, if these inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness really are inalienable, why do all people around the world not have them? And the answer, I think, is because yes, they were an inheritance bequeathed to us by our Creator; but just as any inheritance, if the heir does not claim that inheritance and have a willingness to protect it and fight for it and maintain it, then you won't keep it.

Thus, when Ben Franklin was purportedly asked, "What have you given us?" he replied, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Muslim moderates are concerned because they see the United States trying to embrace radicals. Again, I am so proud of the moderate Muslims in Egypt in joining, literally and figuratively, arm in arm, hand in hand with Christians and secularists in Egypt and coming to the street in millions and millions and millions and demanding a leader who would not usurp power that was not his in the constitution, demanding his removal, demanding a constitution that would allow them to impeach a leader like Morsi had become as a Muslim Brother. They made clear: we don't want radical Islamist leaders or people in our government because they have one goal, and that is taking overall power, subjugating everyone else, including moderate Muslims and Christians.

That is why it was so ironic to hear one of the Justices of the Supreme Court, in effect, saying just pay the tax and then you have got your religious beliefs, because that is a shari'a law belief. And I know she is not aware of that. But actually, under shari'a law, if you are a Christian, you can pay a tax and subjugate yourself humbly before the Muslim government and they will allow you to practice your religion so long as you remain subjugated to shari'a and to the Muslim leaders.

But in this Nation, you are not supposed to have to pay a tax or a fine in order to practice your religious beliefs. In Egypt—God bless those people—they didn't want to do that either, so they got rid of the Muslim Brother leaders.

What else did they do, Mr. Speaker? They declared the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization. And if one reads the opinion from the Dallas Federal court and also from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in the Holy Land Foundation trial, it seems pretty clear the evidence is there that Muslim Brotherhood should be accepted as a terrorist organization.

□ 1930

And groups like CAIR, who have such a powerful influence in this administration, who can call and have an intelligence briefing shut down at Langley, as they have, who can call and complain that the training materials at the FBI offend them and have them purged so those FBI training materials no longer offend a front organization for the Muslim Brotherhood, as found by the Dallas court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Now there is a story from England. The BBC news reports "David Cameron Orders Review of Muslim Brotherhood":

Prime Minister David Cameron has commissioned a review of the Muslim Brotherhood's UK activity, No. 10 says.

The Muslim Brotherhood is an Islamist movement which has been declared a terrorist group by Egypt's government.

Recent press reports have suggested members have moved to London to escape a crackdown in Cairo, where the group backs ousted President Mohammed Morsi.

Well, they had that in common with at least one or two of our U.S. Senators who went over there to back Morsi.

In any event, the article goes on:

Number 10 said the review would examine the group's philosophy and activities, and the government's policy toward it.

According to the Times, it was prompted by evidence received by the government that Muslim Brotherhood leaders met in London last year to plan their response to events in Egypt.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said that the "main conclusions" of the review, which is due to be completed by the summer, would be made public.

Asked what had triggered the review, he said the government had received a succession of reports from its Embassies in the region, building up a picture which the Prime Minister believed should be examined.

But No. 10 does not provide any details on which bodies are to be involved in the review.

The Muslim Brotherhood was founded in Egypt, but now operates in many states and has influenced other Islamic movements around the world with its model of political activism combined with Islamic charity work.

While the Brotherhood—and it has the Arabic name—says it supports democratic principles, one of its stated aims is to create a state ruled by Islamic law or shari'a.

Its most famous slogan, used worldwide, is "Islam is the solution."

The organization's backing installed Mr. Morsi as Egypt's first civilian president in 2012, but he was ousted—and this is the same mistake that CNN and this administration makes; they called it a military coup last year—after widespread street protests.

As the millions and millions and millions of people in Egypt made clear, millions more than even Morsi claimed voted for him, it was not a military coup. This was an uprising by the people of Egypt demanding the Constitution be followed, and the ouster of a president who was grabbing power at scary speed, and many knew if they didn't move at the time they did, a year later would be too late. He would be like dictators often are, elected, then seize all power, and you can't ever get rid of them.

In any event, this article says:

In December, the new Egyptian government declared the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group after blaming it for an attack on a police station that killed 16 people.

A Downing Street spokesman said in a statement: "The Prime Minister has commissioned an internal government review into the philosophy and activities of the Muslim Brotherhood and the government's policy toward the organization."

So, anyway, it is interesting, Egypt has declared the Muslim Brotherhood to be a terrorist organization, and they should know better than any nation in the world.

I thank God for the Egyptians that rose up. Estimates are a third of the population went to the streets to demand removal. And I didn't know till I was over there last fall, they didn't have any provision in their Constitution for impeachment, so they needed a constitution where they could impeach a president who usurps power that is not his under the Constitution.

Now, England is taking a look to see if they shouldn't declare them terrorist organizations.

The reason we can anticipate that, in the near future, this administration will not declare the Muslim Brotherhood to be a terrorist organization is because they get advice from two front organizations, as the courts have said, of the Muslim Brotherhood. That would be the Council on American-Islamic Relations, CAIR, and I can see them, their building from my window, so they have got a good spot to keep watch over Capitol Hill, and also, ISNA, the Islamic Society of North America. And its leader is Imam

Magid, who, as far as I know, is frequently giving advice, continued advice to the State Department, the White House on anything to do with Islam.

We know that the Egyptian paper had reported in December of 2012, when the Muslim Brotherhood was running the government, that six Muslim Brothers were in very key and top positions of power and advice within the Obama administration. They heralded that as a great thing for the Muslim Brothers to have that much influence in Washington.

So there shouldn't be a great deal of wonder at why this administration, with one of those individuals, reported an Egyptian paper, being a top adviser in homeland security, charged with keeping us safe, that we have, according to the Egyptian paper, a Muslim Brother, Mr. Eliabary, who was given a secret clearance by Janet Napolitano, and given access to confidential material or secret material. And we, apparently, get advice from this man, whose business started a foundation, or he started a foundation called the Freedom and Justice Foundation.

Most of us would say freedom and justice? That is great. He believes in freedom and justice. Until you look up the meaning of freedom and justice. Under shari'a law, freedom and justice means freedom to worship Allah only, and justice only under shari'a law. And so it is no big surprise that the Muslim Brotherhood political party in Egypt called itself the Freedom and Justice Party.

But if there are enough leaders here in the United States that know what is good for us, we will see what Egypt has done, what England is doing. And even Russia has noticed that radical Islam is an enemy. They have even tried to warn us, but found we don't take warnings well.

We should declare the Muslim Brotherhood to be a terrorist organization.

THOUGHTS ON THE CAUSATION OF THE FORT HOOD SHOOTINGS

Now, that brings me to another point about the first Fort Hood shooting that was clearly an act of terrorism by an enemy combatant.

Even though this administration calls it workplace violence, it was an act of war by a warrior for radical Islam. And he was able to kill the 13 people, Nadal Hasan, for more than one reason. One was, political correctness kept superior commissioned officers from calling it like they saw it because they didn't want to be called some racist or Islamaphobe, the term that the OIC, the Islamic council, had put together to try to intimidate people from recognizing the danger that radical Islam was.

They didn't want to be called Islamaphobe, and they knew, going all the way up the chain of command, that they might be looked upon badly if

they reported this man for what they saw, not a moderate Muslim, but a man that was a potential problem, a person who was being radicalized.

Another problem was that the people we entrust with rocket-propelled grenades, with tanks, with all kinds of weapons, with helicopters that can fire blistering rounds thousands of meters away and kill hundreds and thousands of people, they have that much authority, that much ability, that much power, we trust them with these tremendous weapons that kill people, and yet, we tell them, but we don't trust you to have a pistol with you on a military installation.

So just as when a killer walked into a cafeteria in Killeen, Texas, that adjoins Fort Hood years ago, he knew no one would have a gun there, and so he killed a lot of people, including a woman's parents. She had put her gun in her glove compartment, and knew she could have saved her parents if she had been able to keep her weapon.

So she fought for and obtained passage, as a new State representative, for a concealed-carry permit. So we now have concealed-carry because of that first shooting incident in Killeen.

But this administration didn't learn anything when they called that shooting workplace violence, didn't learn anything about reporting potential threats, and so more people died at Fort Hood.

I think it is time, Mr. Speaker, that we said, you know what?

Military Members, men and women who are putting your lives at risk for us, with whom we have entrusted weapons of mass destruction, we are going to trust you with a firearm. So if you will get a permit, and they show they are qualified—I know my 4 years in the Army, every year we had to go qualify—make sure they are qualified with the firearm they have, and let them carry firearms.

I started to put it in the bill that I drafted, that they would be concealed, but I think we should leave that to the commanders. So we, just as I was coming over here, got the draft from legislative counsel and will be filing it this week.

It is a bill to authorize qualified members of the Armed Forces to carry firearms on military bases and installations, and for other purposes. And this act may be cited as the Save Our Soldiers Act, or the SOS Act.

It does apply, would apply to all soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guard. It applies to all of our uniformed military. And it says, in general, any qualified member of the Armed Forces may carry a firearm on a military base or installation. Then it goes through to set forth how you go about applying for the permit to do that.

If we can trust them with weapons of mass destruction, we ought to be able

to trust them with a pistol, with a firearm.

□ 1945

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that this gets legs and that we will get this passed through the House with widespread bipartisan support. Especially in this election year, people seem to be more acutely attentive to what their constituents think, so that is why I know it would be a bipartisanly-passed bill if we will bring it up this year and then send it to the Senate.

Our friend from Nevada, Senator REID, may not want to bring it up; but then if he won't bring it up, then the only other alternative would be for voters to turn out members of Mr. REID's party, so he wouldn't be the Majority Leader.

Then we could get someone who would bring that bill to the floor, so that we don't have another attack at Fort Hood or another Navy Yard or somewhere else and have to go: Gee, what could we have done?

Some of the rest of us would repeat, for the umpteenth time: you should let people who are qualified to carry firearms carry firearms.

We have seen, over and over, killers go to where they know firearms are prohibited, like the Colorado shooter going to a theater farther away than one close because those that were closer allowed firearms to be carried inside.

It would be terrific if we could do that for our military, and I know there are some commanders who take the nod from our Commander in Chief and say: oh, we don't think that is a good idea.

But it is a good idea. It is something we should do, and it is time we moved in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, since my election to the United States House of Representatives in 1988, I have been immensely proud to be a part of New York's congressional delegation.

My colleagues from New York and I—both Democratic and Republican—have united many times to fight for causes that are critical for our State. In the wake of terrible tragedies, like September 11, 2001, and, most recently, Hurricane Sandy, we have come together to perform our most important duties as Members of Congress, which is our obligation to do what is best for the people of New York.

It is important, though, that we don't solely band together in times of

tragedy; rather we must also gather in celebration of the people and occasions that make our Empire State a great State. That is why I am delighted to rise today in recognition of the Hudson River School of painters, the first school of art indigenous to the United States.

The Hudson River runs through my district and the districts of many of my colleagues, some of whom will be speaking here today as well; and we are very, very proud of that river and proud of what it represents.

The Hudson River School of Art is comprised of a group of 19th century painters, including Thomas Cole, Frederick Edwin Church, Asher Brown Durand, Jasper Francis Cropsey, Sanford Robinson Gifford, Albert Bierstadt, John Frederick Kensett, George Inness, Worthington Whittredge, and Thomas Moran.

Today, these artists' paintings can be found in the United States Capitol, the National Gallery of Art, and the State Department, as well as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Next to me are portraits of two of the Hudson River School's most celebrated painters, Jasper Francis Cropsey and Thomas Cole, the father of the Hudson River School.

Now, the artist who did these sculptures is Greg Wyatt, my friend who is with us today, whose primary medium of artistic expression is cast bronze, and I would like for everybody to see these because they are truly magnificent and represent the greatness of our State and the greatness of the Hudson River.

On the third easel—right here—is Cropsey's 1860 masterpiece "Autumn on the Hudson." It is truly beautiful, just as this portrait shows.

As its name suggests, some of the Hudson River School's most notable works portray the majesty of New York's Hudson River Valley. However, the Hudson River painters capture the grandeur of a variety of New York's national treasures, and, again, I am proud to represent part of the Hudson Valley.

From the Hudson Valley's lushness in Durand's "The Beeches," to the majesty of the Catskills in Gifford's "A Gorge in the Mountains," to the tranquility of the ocean in Kensett's "Eaton's Neck, Long Island," the Hudson River School brilliantly encapsulated New York's diverse, yet unparalleled beauty.

I rise today not only to celebrate the Hudson River School's contributions to America's artistic canon, but also to the environment they so beautifully immortalize.

Hudson River School paintings helped Americans across the Nation understand the natural magnificence found across distant corners of the U.S. This understanding, in turn, helped

nurture the idea that such magnificence ought to be preserved for future generations.

This idea culminated in 1916 with the creation of the National Park System and persisted into the 1960s when an environmentalist used Hudson River School paintings to demonstrate the need for legislation, such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, to protect America's stunning resources.

How glad we are that this Congress passed those laws. It follows then that the Hudson River School illustrates not only what art can do for the individual spirit, but also for the health of the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the residents of New York and the United States might gain an appreciation for the Hudson River School and its tremendous impact on our Nation and its culture. To help show our appreciation, I have introduced House Resolution 480, honoring the Hudson River School painters for their contributions to the United States.

As a New Yorker, I am truly grateful to these artists for immortalizing the pristine beauty of New York's past. In the forthcoming speeches, my colleagues from New York will highlight their own appreciation for the Hudson River School and its invaluable contributions to our Nation.

I want to also add, Mr. Speaker, that we have a number of people who have journeyed here from New York to celebrate these contributions and witness this Special Order.

Among those is our distinguished former colleague, the gentleman from New York, Congressman Maurice Hinchey, my good friend. I welcome Maurice, his wife, and his daughter back to Washington and all the people here today, including Greg Wyatt, Barnabas McHenry, and so many other wonderful people.

I now yield to my colleague from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in recognition of the accomplishments of the painters that are so prominent that are part of the Hudson River School of painting, and I do want to thank our colleague, Representative ENGEL, the gentleman from New York, for hosting this Special Order on the House floor to honor the 19th century Hudson River School of painting.

There are so many who cherish this institution, including, as was just mentioned, our former colleague, Representative Maurice Hinchey, who I see seated in the gallery, along with his family.

Certainly, he represented the Hudson River Valley region of New York in such fine fashion and with a great appreciation for the arts and for cultural education.

The school is also cherished by individuals like Barnabas McHenry who, as chair of the Palisades Interstate Park

Commission, understands the value of this great school; and Greg Wyatt who, as you have seen, is a sculptor and has produced great work as director of the Academy of Art, also at Newington-Cropsey Foundation, and at Hastings-on-Hudson; and so many who believe in the message that is sent forth by this great institution.

The Hudson River School of painting was the first uniquely American style of painting. The school's style of painting was popularized in the 1820s and lasted for much of the 19th century. You already heard many of the prominent painters listed by Representative ENGEL in his comments. Today, we are here to honor their contribution to our region, to our State of New York, and to this Nation.

The Hudson River School of painting was founded in upstate New York in the Hudson River Valley and the nearby Catskill Mountains. The Hudson River School's landscapes capture the natural and rural beauty of my home State of New York on canvas, including the majestic and mighty waters of that great region.

The Hudson River Valley has always had a special importance for our Nation. It was the pathway for early settlers to begin the westward movement that expanded our Nation's borders. To this day, we celebrate the Hudson River School of painting across the country and continue to do so in areas like Albany, New York, the capital region of New York.

At the Albany Institute of History and Art, one of the oldest museums in the country, many of the works from the Hudson River School artists are on display. Last week, I had the privilege of visiting the institute of history and art and made certain that I stopped by to view the several paintings that are on display by these magnificent artists.

One of the paintings that caught my eye and is near and dear to many is that of Jasper Cropsey's "Dawn of Morning, Lake George," which is pictured here beside me and captures the untouched beauty of Lake George.

Although the painting illuminates a quieter and distant time, many of the residents of the capital region continue to visit and enjoy the beauty of Lake George today.

Lake George is the largest lake in the Adirondacks and is within the Adirondacks State Park Preserve in upstate New York. The Adirondacks Preserve was established in 1892 by the State of New York and covers more than 6 million acres of protected areas.

Cropsey's "Dawn of Morning, Lake George" captures the serenity that he imagined once existed and reminds us of the spectacular sight of nature, including our trees, the mountains, and the waters.

In addition to capturing the beauty of New York, over time, the Hudson

River School artists began traveling more widely, eventually painting scenes throughout New England, the American West, Western Europe, north Africa, the Middle East, and South America.

The paintings of the American West were particularly popular. These realistic scenes of what was then, essentially, foreign land to most of the American people sparked the imagination and echoed the voices of the growing grassroots conservation movement, illustrating the need to preserve the wonders of our natural American landscape.

In fact, many landscapes of the Hudson River School were used to support the creation of the first national parks. Inspired in part by these paintings, the National Park System has been a significant part of our environmental inheritance, protecting some of America's most iconic and majestic places. I have always believed that our national parks embody the history and heritage that make America unique.

Personally, I grew up in Amsterdam, New York, in the heart of the scenic Mohawk Valley of New York. My upbringing instilled in me a strong concern for the health of our environment and an appreciation for the delicacy of natural ecosystems and our native wildlife.

As someone who believes that we must leave our children and grandchildren with a rich and enduring environmental inheritance, I am especially grateful for the role that the Hudson River School of painting served and will continue to serve in inspiring our Nation to preserve our land and to preserve our water.

For many generations to come, the American people will have the opportunity to view these breathtaking paintings and will be reminded why we must continue to preserve America's richness of natural beauty.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks by urging our colleagues and the public to recognize the Hudson River School of painting and the legacy forged by its artists. While the school has many ties to my home State and our capital region of New York, we can all appreciate the contributions made to this mighty Nation.

I would also like to thank our colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), for his admirable work to promote and honor the Hudson River School of painting. Again, I thank him for this opportunity to proclaim the greatness of this great school of artists.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I now yield to our next speaker, the Representative from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY).

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said:

All my life, I have dreamed of going back to my home on the Hudson River. It was the center of the world.

He was referring to his habit of, late at night, of remembering being a child, before he was stricken with polo, before he was President, before he was burdened with the awesome responsibilities of his office during a time of war.

□ 2000

Being a child in the Hudson River meant sledding down a hill behind Hyde Park and feeling totally free. And he remembered that, as a President, to forget the burdens of his office and to remember the miracle and dream of his youth. Those of us who are blessed to represent the Hudson Valley understand that the Hudson Valley writes its beauty on our personalities and on our very souls. It inscribes us with its timeless beauty. And as it flows on endlessly by, we are reminded of the fleeting nature of our service and of our very lives.

A group of artists, including Thomas Cole, Asher Brown Durand, Jasper Francis Cropsey, and Frederic Edwin Church, somehow by hiking, sketching, and experiencing the Hudson River Valley found a way to translate what it means to those of us who live, work, and raise our families there into these permanent, lasting images. And our own modern-day genius, Greg Wyatt, has found a way to capture them. So we pause here tonight to honor that.

Drawing inspiration from our natural environment, these artists began painting scenes and now sculpting images. From across New York and our country, Asher Brown Durand, one of the original founders of the school, has one of the most beautiful pieces anyone will ever create of Beacon, New York. It is called "Beacon Hills on the Hudson River." It was painted across the river in Newburgh in 1852. Today, my office in Newburgh looks out at that same image, at that same beauty.

Frederic Church was one of the first to capture Niagara Falls back in 1857. Within 2 weeks of its debut, his piece had lured 100,000 visitors to pay 25 cents apiece to view it.

Not only did the Hudson River School influence the modern-day environmental conservation movement, but these paintings actually inspired the establishment of our National Park System in the early part of the 20th century, which was, of course, formed by President Teddy Roosevelt. Teddy Roosevelt couldn't have spoken more true words when he said:

There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness, that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy, and its charm.

But, again, our painters from the Hudson Valley found that hidden spirit and that charm that Franklin and Teddy Roosevelt both remembered.

Dating back 100 years, my neighbors in the Hudson Valley take great pride in our natural resources and protecting and conserving this unique home for us

and for our children and for generations to come.

I want to take just a minute to recognize my predecessor and our former colleague, Congressman Maurice Hinchey, and his family who have joined us here tonight. When you follow Maurice Hinchey in the Congress, you have some very big shoes to fill. And I have heard a lot about Congressman Hinchey and his service, and I always enjoy the stories because it sets for me an example of what I want to do in this body.

After Congressman Hinchey sacrificed for his country as a Navy sailor, as my own father did, he became a respected State lawmaker, and he proudly served here for two decades. My neighbors in the Hudson Valley know that he worked tirelessly for them, for economic justice and equal opportunity, because he believed that this government should work for everyone, including someone like him who grew up in a working class family and spent some time working in a factory, because our country, as Congressman Hinchey understood, is better off when leadership like his supports ordinary Americans, people like him who served in our military, our veterans, our working and middle class families who struggle to put food on the table and pay the bills but who can also appreciate the beauty of the environment and the timeless wonder of places like the Hudson Valley.

Congressman Hinchey played a critical role in the modern environmental movement even before it was widely recognized as important. Back in 1996 when I was working for President Clinton, Congressman Hinchey was authoring legislation that the President signed into law that established the Hudson Valley National Heritage Area. Because of Mr. Hinchey's leadership, the Hudson Valley National Heritage Area currently links over 100 individual sites, from Saratoga to Westchester, while showcasing the Hudson Valley's unique role in American history and development.

I want to commend Barnabas McHenry who is with us here today who has dedicated so much of his life to that same mission. Because of their leadership, my children and my grandchildren will see and be able to treasure the Hudson Valley's unique and incredible scenic, historic, agricultural, and natural wonders.

Congressman Hinchey always made sure that we remember the rich contributions of the Hudson River School of painters. Congressman Hinchey knows, like many of us do, that there is no place in the country that compares to the Hudson Valley, and those of us lucky enough to live there are not surprised that it was the birthplace of America's first and greatest school of art.

In closing, let me just say that not long ago, a friend of mine came over to

my home, which is across from West Point and Cold Spring, and actually looks down the Hudson River towards Garrison and south towards the Bear Mountain Bridge. I walked him up to the property, and the sun was going down. A short while later after he left, he sent a note and he said:

Sean, I once saw a sunset like that in a Frederic Church painting, and I thought he made it up. But when I saw it with my own eyes at your house, I understood for the first time what inspired these great geniuses to try to capture the wonder and beauty that is the Hudson River Valley for all time.

We honor their success in doing so tonight, and we honor those who continue that legacy who join us here tonight. Thank you on behalf of a grateful Hudson Valley and a grateful Nation.

I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from referring to occupants in the gallery.

The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of the proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

THE FOUR PRINCIPLES OF CONSERVATISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized by you to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I appreciate this privilege to do so. It is something that I would encourage a lot of the Members to participate in and express the wishes of their constituents and their opinions here on the floor so that not only you can turn an ear and listen to this presentation here tonight, but also so that it inspires dialogue all across America.

We will remain a free country and we can remain a constitutional Republic if we have open debate and open dialogue and if the values of the American people remain consistent with our roots.

I would first, Mr. Speaker, start out with listening to the dialogue of the gentleman who spoke ahead of me, and I would note that his statement that there are people that went ahead of him and his family that are blue collar, it seems to me to be maybe a generation removed from the real America that most of it is blue collar. And I think it is important to note that this country that we are is not going to continue to prosper unless we have people whom people respect and honor and who produce goods and services that have a marketable value here at home.

For those that get paid to pontificate—I, among them, okay—that is an important function also. For those who get paid to sit on the couch, that is not so important a function. But those that produce goods and services that have a marketable value here and abroad are the ones that grow our economy. In the private sector, it allows us to be competitive with the countries around the world. I think of my neighbors, many of whom are engaged in agriculture and how we compete with the most competitive economy in the world and we compete in a favorable way and we set the pace. We set the pace in productivity. We set the pace in efficiency. We set the pace in quality and in food safety. That is the circle around my neighborhood that you can see in any direction looking out from my house.

I am proud of those neighbors who produce those goods and services that have a marketable value here at home. A lot of that, most of it is the kind of thing we would call blue-collar work. I am impressed by the professionals that come here to Congress.

I came from the construction world, hands-on, in the ditch, shovel in hand, grease gun, wrench, steering wheel, yes, pencil and calculator from the lowest guy on the totem pole to the guy who started a company to now a second-generation King Construction Company. We have been engaged in this economy for I believe this will be our 40th season that we are engaged in now.

You see the flow of the economy, and you have respect for those who put their hands, their back, and their mind to work every day. I appreciate, also, a great deal these values of America, the roots of who we are as a people.

I was observing this morning, as I was getting ready to leave my place, that there was an individual who was interviewed on FOX this morning in their morning show by Steve Doocy, and it was Mallory Factor, an author I happen to know, an individual I count as a friend. He laid out the four principles of conservatism, and I thought it was a useful thing. I took the notes down and put them in my pocket because I believe he is exactly and succinctly right that this country needs to be rooted in those principles of conservatism. Without them, we are cast adrift.

Here are the four principles that he laid out:

The first one is respect for the tradition and wisdom of our past generations. That is a fairly succinct way of saying our Founding Fathers got it right. They laid down a foundation, a foundation in faith, free enterprise, and fidelity that has been the foundation for America becoming the unchallenged greatest Nation in the world. And if we are to stay that way, we need to remain respectful to the traditions and wisdom of past generations.

The second one is a rule of law. Mr. Speaker, you have heard me speak often and consistently about the rule of law. Lady Justice is often portrayed as blind. The statue of Lady Justice is of her holding the scales of justice, perfectly balanced scales of justice, weighed equally on either side. But Lady Justice is blindfolded because she doesn't see class or race or ethnicity or sex. She sees simply here is a human being before the court to be treated the same as any other human being, regardless of where they might sit in the social stratification by wealth, by race, by ethnicity, by sex, whatever the qualities might be. Whatever the qualifications might be, Lady Justice is blind, and the rule of law must apply to everyone equally. That is number two.

The third one is the belief in an individual freedom and liberty. And I will go a little further than Mr. Factor in that these rights come from God. Our Founding Fathers understood, articulated, and wrote: We hold these truths to be self-evident, all men—and that means men and women in the vernacular—are created equal, and they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.

It is an individual belief, the belief in individual freedom and liberty—not a freedom that is granted to you by government, not one that is bestowed upon you by the sovereign or the king, but this God-given individual liberty that comes from God that we then entrust from the people to the government. We loan our sovereign rights to the government to organize our society.

Government doesn't have the power. It is we the people that have the power, and we loan that to government. And if it is the other way around, if government grants rights, then government can also take those rights away. If that is the case, we would be similar to many of the other governments, many of the other civilizations, and we are not. We are the United States of America, founded upon four of these conservative principles.

All of these principles are conservative principles: the respect for tradition and wisdom of past generations, the rule of law, the belief in individual freedom and liberty, and the fourth thing is a belief in a law higher than man's law. That is God's law.

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Mr. Speaker, those are the four principles of conservatism. A little tidbit of wisdom that came out this morning—and I made a little note and slipped it in my pocket—I think it is important that we here in this Congress reflect upon those values that made America great and what it is going to take to strengthen those values, restore those values, and carry America to the next level of our destiny.

When this Congress deviates from those principles, when this Congress

deviates from the Constitution, when the Congress deviates from individual rights, and when the Congress decides they can tax some people and transfer that wealth to other people and somehow be a leveler or some kind of a wealth transfer that resolves this class envy issue, then America is diminished because what it does is it diminishes the vitality of our people.

If you get out of bed and go to work every day and you know that Uncle Sam is going to get his share, the minute you punch that timeclock, Uncle Sam's hand comes out; and when he gets what he wants for the day, it goes in his pocket. Then the Governor's hand comes out, and he puts it in his pocket.

Then you have some other taxes to pay along the way, and when that is all done, some time in the afternoon, you get to actually work for yourself and your family.

Well, that is a little bit depressing to think you don't get to work even in the morning. If you go to work at 8 in the morning, you are taking your lunch break before you are getting anything for you and your family.

Now, what if the government is sitting there taking it all? What if it was we are going to confiscate all of the money you earn? Then we will deal it out to these other people, and you will get your government welfare check just like everybody else; and we will all have the same resources to work with.

We are all going to have the same amount of food, clothing and shelter, and recreation. We are all going to have the same health insurance policy. We are all going to drive an equal-value car, but some have to work, and those who don't want to don't.

Think about that. I have heard that. I have heard that debate on this floor. People will say—from over here on the leftist side of the aisle, they will say those that want a job should have a job, which implies that those who don't want to work shouldn't have to.

So if they are able-bodied and able-minded, then they should be contributing to this economy or have earned and stored up the wealth to sustain themselves, not tax the other person that is punching that timeclock or going to work for that salary because what happens is, pretty soon, the one who is being taxed to fund the one who is not working figures out that it doesn't pay so much to work.

It happens in the margins, so people start moving across from one side to the other; and over time, you will have good, smart, productive people who are smart enough to figure out that it doesn't pay for me to do this any longer, so they will drift over into maybe a part-time job, maybe work under the table, maybe some black market stuff, or they will tap into some of the 80 different means-tested Federal welfare programs we have in

this country and take their standard of living up above that they might have if all they did was work.

That is where this country has gone. The welfare program has grown so great that it has discouraged some of our most productive people. It is a disincentive. It discourages me that, if we are maybe a generation removed, as I listened to the gentleman from the Hudson Valley, he is a generation removed from blue collar, I would like to think that we are always going to need blue-collar people.

We are always going to need for this country to have a middle class, a middle class that is growing in numbers and increasing in prosperity in relation to the productivity that they are putting out, and this country is always going to need to compete with the other countries in the world.

We can't just collapse down into the idea that we are going to be an economy that has professionals that live in gated communities that hire servants at a cheap rate, and then they will have the people that are a diminishing middle class and the unskilled and the low skilled that will make a meager wage, always keeping that meager wage down by a refueling of legal and illegal unskilled immigrants coming into this country that can only compete in the unskilled jobs.

The highest level of unemployment that we have—the double digit unemployment in this country are the people in the lowest skilled jobs. So how is it that almost every Democrat and a pretty respectable number of Republicans can leap to this conclusion, which is we need more unskilled workers, we need more of these workers to come in because it will grow the economy?

Well, just because you have somebody, if you bring in 1,000 people—and we know that we are going to have to educate the children especially and the youth, we will have to provide health care and housing and nutrition, the food, clothing, and shelter—as I said, 1,000 people could come in, and if one of them does a day's work, that contributes to the GDP, the gross domestic product.

So if the day's work of one in 1,000 contributes to the GDP, they, by their definition, say the economy is growing. The economy will grow if you have more and more immigration, and they don't say unskilled.

Well, we have an opening here for some skilled people to come into this country. We have an oversupply of unskilled. We have 101.4 million Americans of working age who are simply not in the workforce—101.4 million, that is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The numbers total this: those 16 and up who are of working age, plus those who are on unemployment today—officially signed up on unemployment—add those two numbers together, 101.4 million.

A third of our population is of working age and not in the workforce. Yes, some are retired, and some are handicapped, and some are homemakers, and some of them are in school; but a whole lot of them could actually be recruited to come into the workforce and produce that good or service with marketable value and increase our GDP.

What is the cost to our society for putting more of the people—the 101.4 million that are not in the workforce, what is the cost to our society? What if we called 10 million in? What if we called 20 million in? What if we brought 30 or 40 million of the 101.4 million in and put them in the workforce? What does that do?

Well, a significant percentage of them are on welfare and unemployment, so they are off the welfare and unemployment rolls. That reduces the burden for the taxpayers. When they go to the workforce, they are in the productive sector of the economy. They take their wage. They pay their own payroll tax. That means they are paying their Social Security and their Medicare and their Medicaid, so we get a twofor.

We reduce the welfare rolls. We get more and more taxpayers. We bring Social Security into balance just simply by virtue of more people going to work, and we have less of a deficit in our entitlements—Medicare and Medicaid—because they need less of it.

That is what happens if you get this country going at the right direction. There are a number of ways to do that. You can't do it with a President who doesn't believe in work, for one thing; and when they learned, according to the CBO score, that ObamaCare would cost this economy the equivalent of 2.5 million jobs, in other words, 40 hours a week times—and that is 40 hours, not the 30 hours that are in ObamaCare—40 hours a week times 2.5 million workers, that is the reduced amount of productivity that comes because of the disincentives to work that are associated with ObamaCare.

That is the equivalent of 2.5 million jobs. What does the administration say? They say: well, that is going to be a good thing because, if you are a homemaker, now you get to make more home. If you are an artist, you get to paint more paintings. If you have hobbies, you get to pursue your hobbies; and if you are a parent, you get to spend more time with your children.

This is the first time, I believe, in the history of this country, that a President of the United States and his administration have taken the position that less work was good for America, which just goes to show you that human beings have an almost indefinite capacity to self-rationalize, Mr. Speaker.

That is what happened with the Obama administration. They have ex-

ercised their almost infinite capacity to self-rationalize on piece after piece of this. They moved their socialist agenda, and then they self-rationalize along the way, and now, we are watching as ObamaCare has been a mess. It has been a debacle, and we are watching these numbers.

The administration says we got 7.1 million people to sign up. That was their goal of 7 million. Miraculously, they overshot it by a little bit. What we don't know is how many of those 7.1 million were insured before ObamaCare; how many decided that they would opt out of their existing policy and into an exchange policy; how many of them lost their insurance because of ObamaCare and had no choice, if they wanted to remain insured, but to opt into an exchange under ObamaCare; and what percentage of the 7.1 million were actually uninsured without affordable options and found their way onto an ObamaCare exchange and purchased insurance.

Once you go through all that, how many of them were not subsidized out of the 7.1 million?

What would be the point, Mr. Speaker, and if we look at a society that supposedly had 48 million people without their own health insurance policy, I really wasn't alarmed by that because I don't know where the right comes from to own your own health insurance policy, but we provided health services to everybody in this country, at a minimum, to those who show up at an emergency room.

So somehow, they twisted this around to everybody has a right, everybody needs to own their own health insurance policy.

I stood on this floor 4 years ago or so and made the argument that, of the 48 million—when you subtract from that those who qualify for Medicaid and, from that, those who make over \$75,000 a year and presumably could buy their own health insurance, those who qualify, those who are unlawfully present in the United States, and you subtract from the 48 million, down to the number of those who are uninsured, your 48 million became 12.1 million, which is 4 percent of our population in the entire health care system of the United States, the insurance system and the delivery system, is entirely redirected, transformed under ObamaCare, to try to get at that 4 percent number.

Meanwhile, it looks to me that we will have more people uninsured, not less. By the way, if you want to sign up in the rest of this year, sorry, you are out of luck; you missed the sign-up deadline. Now, except for some narrow conditions, you will not be able to get insurance in this country. It is a calamity. It is one of the calamities.

Another one of the calamities, in the time that I have remaining, is a reflection upon the hearing today where Attorney General Holder came before the House Judiciary Committee.

His testimony comes about once a year before the Judiciary Committee. It is our job to have oversight over the Justice Department. We have done that for a long, long time.

As each of the members of the panel questioned Attorney General Holder under oath, here is how I reflect upon this: I asked Eric Holder if he still held the position he did when I last questioned him, in that the Department of Justice is an independent department that doesn't take directive from the President, and his job is to provide equal justice under the law.

He agreed with that statement. I think it is a proper way to frame the job of Attorney General, but to argue that the Attorney General is not politically influenced by the President of the United States is a pretty tough argument to make when you think of this, Mr. Speaker.

I take you back to 2008. This was in the last weeks—or, actually, the last months of the Bush administration. Senator Ted Stevens, for 40 years, represented Alaska in the United States Senate. There were charges brought against him that were evaluated and investigated by Federal officers of the FBI.

On October 27, 2008, Senator Ted Stevens was found guilty of charges of corruption brought against him. Eight days later, he lost his election to now-Senator BEGICH in Alaska.

In October of the following year, former-Senator Stevens was killed in a tragic plane crash, but here is the modern news, Mr. Speaker: on March 27 of this year, it is announced, in a little news story that hardly got any play, that at least one of the FBI agents, Mary Beth Kepner, has been severely disciplined, and that discipline has been imposed for—let me say violations during the investigation and the prosecution of Senator Ted Stevens.

Now, he is dead. He can't speak for himself. He was convicted in a trial that took place and was concluded 8 days before his election. He narrowly lost the election in Alaska. This prosecution, if it was investigated and operated in the fashion that would be reflected when you see the language that Mary Beth Kepner, one of the FBI agents, was severely disciplined, and that discipline has been imposed, what is the discipline? What did they do?

Do we think Eric Holder is prosecuting, now, Mary Beth Kepner for her involvement in the prosecution of Ted Stevens, which may or may not have, but likely did bring about a change in the election of the United States Senate, so that it gave the Senate a 60-vote Democrat majority, and they were able to cram through components of ObamaCare that they would not have been able to cram through otherwise?

This, you would think, would be worthy of at least a comment on the part

of Attorney General Eric Holder to look into and see: Is it worthy of, now, investigation and prosecution? Or could you at least release a statement as to the acts that she committed and the investigation that you did? If the case is closed, tell us.

When you have FBI agents improperly conducting themselves to the extent that the Holder Justice Department severely disciplined them, you have to wonder if it didn't change the course of history.

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You have to wonder, if the FBI had not conducted themselves in that fashion that brought about the severe discipline, would Ted Stevens have been reelected? Would that have changed the results in the United States Senate? Would we, maybe, perhaps, not be living under ObamaCare today if those actions had not taken place inside this Justice Department? You would think the Attorney General would look into that or at least have a comment. That is number one.

The second one would be the very aggressive overreach of the investigation of Aaron Swartz, and that topic is something that brought about his suicide, and there has been much dialogue in this country about that.

Another one that I brought up to General Holder is this: the investigation and prosecution of Conrad Barrett. Now, we have all, Mr. Speaker, heard about the knockout game in this country. It is when youth, generally speaking, will go pick someone and decide, I am going to punch them and knock them out in the street, and see if I can do it with one punch, and my buddies are going to see me do this. Sometimes it is videotaped, and we see this on television. In the cases that I have seen and in the cases that have been reported, it is almost always black on white crime. The knockout game appears to be black on white crime.

I fought against, as well as did LOUIE GOHMERT of Texas, the hate crimes legislation because that just turns into a tool, and when you punish someone for what you think they think rather than for the overt act that they commit, you are getting into an area of law that allows for a lot of discretion on the part of the prosecution, and it may or may not result in more justice. I believe we ought to severely punish the people who are committing the overt acts, but we should not have gone down the road of the hate crimes legislation because that becomes a tool that can be used now to divide people against each other based upon whatever particular minority group we might be in.

You would think, with a country full of black on white crime and with a knockout game—something that has been all over the news for months now—that Eric Holder could find a way, if he wanted to prosecute a hate

crime, to pick one of those African American youths who has gone in there and slugged and punched out someone on the streets who was targeted because of their difference in race. Instead, the Justice Department picked Conrad Barrett, a white guy who punched an African American, in order to play his side of the knockout game. If he is guilty of this, of course that is wrong, and he should be punished to the fullest extent of the law. We have States that can prosecute those kinds of assaults and violent acts, but it strikes me that the others didn't fit the profile of the Holder administration, so they went after the one example of the white guy and the African American victim instead of all of the white victims and the African American alleged perpetrators. That stands out to me.

The next one is the prosecution of Dinesh D'Souza, who did the movie "Obama 2016." Yes, that hurt the administration. It brought some things out about where this administration is going, the Obama administration. He is no friend of the administration's, but it is alleged that he directed \$20,000 through friends to be given to a U.S. Senate campaign in New York. That is alleged. I don't know if it is true, but that is the allegation. Yet it must be true that there are thousands of Americans who have done a similar thing for a lot more money. The Holder Justice Department couldn't find them, but they found Dinesh D'Souza to target for prosecution.

They also targeted for Federal prosecution Governor Bob McDonnell, in Virginia, who has five former Virginia attorneys general who have vouched for the language of the law and who have said they believe the Holder Justice Department has stretched the limits of that. We shall see how that comes out.

Governor Chris Christie had a problem with the traffic being closed on a bridge, and it created a national furor, but within a week, the Holder Justice Department was investigating Governor Chris Christie for his use of the funds for the Sandy relief fund.

Now, how is it that the Holder Justice Department isn't going to look into the FBI's transgressions in the Senator Ted Stevens investigation, which brought about, I believe, a change in the result of that Senate election and a change in ObamaCare? How is it that they are not going to look into the overzealous prosecution of Carmen Ortiz and Aaron Swartz?

They are going to prosecute Conrad Barrett for a hate crime, and they are going to continue to prosecute Dinesh D'Souza, but it is just a coincidence that he produced "Obama 2016." They are going to continue to prosecute Republican Governor Bob McDonnell and Republican Governor Chris Christie while they let people off the hook, like

the New Black Panthers in Philadelphia; James Clapper, who contradicted himself under oath, which would be, if proven, a perjury charge; Governor Jon Corzine, a Democrat from New Jersey, while there is \$1 billion missing in Global Crossing, and we can't find a way to investigate him; Lois Lerner, who is manipulating the IRS to persecute the President's political enemies, and the investigation has to take place by subpoena, in contempt of Congress, because the Holder Justice Department has turned a blind eye because the President has said there is not a smidgen of corruption in the IRS; and exempting entire classes of people from prosecution, like illegal immigrants who haven't committed serious crimes. They are exempt from prosecution and removal, and with marijuana, huge companies are exempted even though it is Federal law. With DOMA, Attorney General Holder has refused to defend DOMA before the Court.

Voter fraud instead, by the way, they prosecute. They bring action against States like Texas, which simply want voter ID, and they allege that Texas is imposing a poll tax and that it is a racist plot.

That is what we have, Mr. Speaker, in the Justice Department today. It is hard to call it justice. It is going to be hard to take this country to the next level of our destiny. These values that I have brought out in the beginning—these values of respect for tradition and wisdom of past generations, the rule of law, individual freedom and liberty, and a belief in a law higher than man's law—we must restore in this country if we are to restore the pillars of American exceptionalism.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2195. An act to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 404. An act to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5265. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Swap Data Repositories — Access to SDR Data by Market Participants (RIN: 3038-AE14) received March 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5266. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Change in Size and Grade Requirements for Grapefruit [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0015; FV14-906-2 IR] received March 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5267. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Potatoes From Mexico [Docket No.: APHIS-2013-0037] (RIN: 0579-AD78) received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5268. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Olives Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0002; FV14-932-1 FR] received April 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5269. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Organization; Disclosure to Shareholders; Disclosure to Investors in System-wide and Consolidated Bank Debt Obligations of the Farm Credit System; Advisory Vote (RIN: 3052-AD00) received April 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5270. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Michael Ferriter, United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5271. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report for 2013 on the STARBASE Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5272. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-Research and Development Contracting (DFARS Case 2013-D026) (RIN: 0750-AI10) received March 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5273. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Ac-

quisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-Quality Assurance (DFARS Case 2013-D004) (RIN: 0750-AH95) received March 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5274. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Performance-Based Payments (DFARS Case 2011-D045) (RIN: 0750-AH54) received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5275. A letter from the Vice Chairman and Under Secretary for Intelligence, Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Department of Defense, transmitting certification that the EP-3E Airborne Reconnaissance Integrated Electronic System II and the Special Projects Aircraft platforms meet all current requirements; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5276. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's final rule — Application of the Revised Capital Framework to the Capital Plan and Stress Test Rules [Regulations Y and YY; Docket Nos.: R-1463 and R-1464; RIN: 7100 AE-01 and AE-02] received April 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5277. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the Defense Production Act (DPA) Title III fund for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5278. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Conforming Amendment to the Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program Regulations [Docket No.: FR-5772-F-01] (RIN: 2577-AC91) received March 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5279. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Alternative Fuel Transportation Program; Alternative Fueled Vehicle Credit Program Modification and Other Amendments [Docket ID No.: EERE-2011-OT-0066] (RIN: 1904-AB81) received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5280. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigeration Equipment [Docket Number: EERE-2010-BT-STD-0003] (RIN: 1904-AC19) received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5281. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Vitamin D2 Bakers Yeast [Docket No.: FDA-2009-F-0750] received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5282. A letter from the Deputy Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule —

Closed Captioning of Video Programming; Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. Petition for Rulemaking [CG Docket No.: 05-231] (PRM11CG) received March 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5283. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Freedom of Information Act; Miscellaneous Rules received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5284. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Department's final rule — Enforcement Guidance Memorandum 2014-001: Interim Guidance for Dispositioning 10 CFR Part 37 Violations with Respect to Large Components or Robust Structures Containing Category 1 or Category 2 Quantities of Material at Power Reactor Facilities Licensed Under 10 CFR Parts 50 and 52 (RIN: 3150-A112) received April 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5285. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a certification of export to China; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5286. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 14-13 informing of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5287. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5288. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on U.S. support for Taiwan's participation as an observer at the 67th World Health Assembly and in the work of the World Health Organization, as mandated in the 2004 Participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization Act, Pub. L. 108-235, Sec. 1(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5289. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5290. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Performance; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5291. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20-305, "Marijuana Possession Decriminalization Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5292. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20-306, "DC Promise Establishment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5293. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20-304, "Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5294. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5295. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's annual report for Fiscal Year 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203(a) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5296. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5297. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the Authority's Fiscal Year 2013 annual report prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5298. A letter from the Chairman, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2013 Buy American Act report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5299. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Pay for Senior-Level and Scientific or Professional Positions (RIN: 3206-AL88) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5300. A letter from the President and CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act of 2002 Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5301. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a copy of the annual report for Calendar Year 2013, in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5302. A letter from the Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5303. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic [Docket No.: 001005281-0369-02] (RIN: 0648-XD137) received March 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5304. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XD157) received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5305. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Adjustment of Georges Bank and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder Annual Catch Limits [Docket No.: 140113030-4109-01] (RIN: 0648-XD081) received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5306. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic [Docket No.: 001005281-0369-02] (RIN: 0648-XD137) received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5307. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Individual Fishing Quota Program [Docket No.: 120416009-4095-02] (RIN: 0648-BB78) received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5308. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; 2014 and 2015 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XC927) received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5309. A letter from the Director, Administrative Offices of the United States Courts, transmitting the Office's report entitled, "Executive Summary of the 2013 Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5310. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the PRO IP Act Annual Report FY 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5311. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting a recommendation to modify the cost of the Poplar Island, Maryland, project; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5312. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting a recommendation for modifying the

cost of the Illinois Shoreline Erosion, Interim III, Wilmette, Illinois, to the Illinois-Indiana State Line (Chicago Shoreline) project; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5313. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting recommendations to increase the authorized total projected cost of the Western Sarpy and Clear Creek, Nebraska flood risk reduction project; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5314. A letter from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Gross Combination Weight Rating; Definition [Docket No.: FMCSA-2012-0156] (RIN: 2126-AB72; Formerly RIN: 2126-AB53) received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5315. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Seaway Regulations and Rules: Periodic Update, Various Categories [Docket No.: SLSDC-2014-0001] (RIN: 2135-AA33) received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5316. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Adoption of Certain Special Permits and Competent Authorities into Regulations [Docket No.: PHMSA-2011-0158 (HM-233C)] (RIN: 2137-AE82) received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5317. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting a proposed bill entitled the "Federal Aviation Insurance Reauthorization Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5318. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for fiscal year 2012 on Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development; to the Committee on Small Business.

5319. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report on the taxation of Social Security and Railroad Retirement Benefits for Calendar Years 2005 through 2009, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 401 nt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5320. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Electronic Submission of Forms, the Finished Products Records for Distilled Spirits Plants, and Closures on Certain Distilled Spirits Products [Docket No.: TTB-2014-0004; T.D. TTB-119] (RIN: 1513-AB97) received April 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5321. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Issuance of Opinion and Advisory Letters for Pre-approved Defined Contribution Plans for the Second Six-Year Cycle, Deadline for Employer Adoption and Opening of Determination Letter Program for Pre-approved Plan Adopters (Announcement 2014-16) received March 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5322. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Sec-

tion 911(d)(4) Update (Rev. Proc. 2014-25) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5323. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Eligibility for Premium Tax Credit for Victims of Domestic Abuse [Notice 2014-23] received March 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5324. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Shared Responsibility for Employers Regarding Health Coverage [TD 9655] (RIN: 1545-BL33) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5325. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a joint report that describes activities related to the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Budget Plan and Review for FY 2012-2017; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services.

5326. A letter from the Vice Chairman, World War One Centennial Commission, transmitting the Commission's activities to date and the initial strategic plan; jointly to the Committees on Financial Services, Natural Resources, and Oversight and Government Reform.

5327. A letter from the Chairman and Vice Chairman, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, transmitting notification of a public hearing held on "China's Military Modernization and its Implications for the United States"; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 4419. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require periodic review of listings of endangered species and threatened species under that Act, to support protection and conservation measures for endangered or threatened species under that Act and to alleviate the need to list a species as an endangered or threatened species, to convey small parcels of National Forest System land and Department of the Interior land to generate revenues for such protection and conservation measures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 4420. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to use designated funding to pay for construction of authorized rural water projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 4421. A bill to extend the authorization for the Automobile National Heritage Area in Michigan; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 4422. A bill to authorize the President to establish the Veterans' Job Corps as a

means of providing gainful employment to unemployed veterans and widows of veterans through the performance of useful public works, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 4423. A bill to provide for no net increase in the total acreage of certain Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 4424. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a database that shall serve as a central location for information from investigations relating to human trafficking for Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 4425. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to improve the Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HONDA, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. CLAY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CHU, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. HOLT, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. CARDENAS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 4426. A bill to promote the domestic development and deployment of clean energy technologies required for the 21st century; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 4427. A bill to provide for a grants program to develop and enhance integrated nutrition curricula in medical schools; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California:

H.R. 4428. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the energy credit for microturbine property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. KIND, Mr. NUNES, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. REED, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 4429. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the subpart F exemption for active financing income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WOMACK (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mr. GARDNER):

H.R. 4430. A bill to amend the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act to ensure that certain facilities continue to be treated as alcohol-related facilities, notwithstanding the

distribution of spent grains resulting from the production of alcoholic beverages; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS:

H. Res. 546. A resolution electing certain Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FORBES (for himself, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. LANKFORD):

H. Res. 547. A resolution affirming the vital role that prayer has played throughout the more than 200-year history of our Nation, strengthening the fabric of our society, and recognizing May 1, 2014, as the 63rd annual National Day of Prayer; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H. Res. 548. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require the mandatory annual ethics training offered to Members, officers, and employees of the House to include a specific program of training in the prevention and deterrence of sexual harassment in employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H. Res. 549. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the need to explore emerging technologies that are mobile and capable of supplying high volumes of sterile, pathogenic-free water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 4419.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 4420.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 4421.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 4422.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 4423.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, § 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 4424.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 4425.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 4426.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 4427.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To provide for a grants program to develop and enhance integrated nutrition curriculum in medical schools.

The above mentioned legislation is based upon the following Section 8 statement:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California:

H.R. 4428.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 4429.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill makes changes to existing law relating to Article I, Section 7 which provides that "All bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

By Mr. WOMACK:

H.R. 4430.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 164: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 184: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 318: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 352: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. HALL, Mr. HUD-

SON, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 482: Mr. TIERNEY and Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 508: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 515: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 597: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 647: Mr. DESJARLAIS and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 683: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 713: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 792: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 831: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 863: Mr. HOYER, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 921: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 946: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 963: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 1008: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1020: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1141: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1148: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 1250: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1252: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 1318: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 1354: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1428: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 1461: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 1462: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 1579: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1648: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 1812: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 1852: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2131: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 2146: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 2202: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 2203: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. SIRE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 2221: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 2240: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 2288: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2291: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 2364: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 2366: Mr. KLINE, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BASS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ESTY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. HAHN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. CHU, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 2377: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2548: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2782: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2805: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2827: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 2870: Mr. HONDA, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. TERRY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 2901: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 2939: Mr. HORSFORD and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 2996: Mr. TURNER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3012: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 3040: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3086: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3179: Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 3199: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 3211: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 3344: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 3377: Mr. ROKITA and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 3382: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 3383: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3408: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 3461: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 3465: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 3489: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 3530: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 3546: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 3576: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 3610: Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 3658: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 3698: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3708: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 3710: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 3717: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 3833: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 3836: Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 3930: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. HALL.

H.R. 3963: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 4031: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 4035: Mr. HOLT and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 4058: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 4065: Mr. MAPPEL.

H.R. 4080: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 4103: Mr. CLAY, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 4119: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 4120: Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 4148: Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. BERA of California.

H.R. 4156: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. BARLETTA, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 4166: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HOYER, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. HIMES, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. ESTY, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FARR, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 4188: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 4213: Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 4225: Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 4227: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 4232: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 4286: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 4299: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 4300: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 4303: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 4305: Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 4315: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 4318: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 4319: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 4320: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 4342: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 4357: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 4370: Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 4382: Mr. COLE and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 4387: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 4403: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 4414: Mr. HIMES, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 4418: Mr. PETRI, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. DUFFY.

H.J. Res. 34: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H. Con. Res. 86: Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. LOEBSSACK.

H. Con. Res. 94: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.

H. Res. 417: Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 422: Ms. WATERS.

H. Res. 456: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. CROWLEY.

H. Res. 494: Mr. HONDA.

H. Res. 509: Mr. ROYCE and Ms. KAPTUR.

H. Res. 525: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H. Res. 540: Mr. DUFFY, Ms. BASS, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MOORE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HANNA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. LEE of California.

H. Res. 542: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

SENATE—Tuesday, April 8, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, today make our lawmakers instruments of Your grace and goodness. Teach them how to be patient with themselves and each other. Forgive them when they permit impatience to lead them astray, preventing them from seeing the wonder and majesty of Your purpose for our Nation and world. Lord, renew in them the joy of belonging to You as they yield their hearts to You in trust and love. May no duty be left undone and no constructive words be left unsaid.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

**PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT—
MOTION TO PROCEED**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 345, S. 2199, the Paycheck Fairness Act.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 345, S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in morning business until 12:30 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled. The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for our weekly caucus meetings, as we always do on Tuesdays.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2575

Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2575 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2575) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification of a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

EQUAL PAY DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Ralph Waldo Emerson said this: "America is another name for opportunity."

"America is another name for opportunity."

Today this body, the Senate, should put Emerson's words to the test as we turn attention to the question of equal pay. For working American women, millions of whom are primary wage earners for their families, the Paycheck Fairness Act represents a unique opportunity, a chance to better provide for themselves and their families.

It is unconscionable that American women currently take home an average of 77 cents for every dollar their male colleagues earn for doing the exact same work. Wage disparity is true regardless of whether a woman has a college degree, what job she holds or how many hours she spends at the office or factory or wherever it might be.

Consider this just for a brief moment: For a woman to make the same salary as a man in 1 year for doing similar work in America, she must work not only that year but also an additional 3 months and 8 days. That is why today, April 8, the eighth day of the fourth month, is Equal Pay Day. It represents the extra work American women have to put forth to provide for their families. This is an injustice and should not be permitted to take place in America. While President Obama and Democrats have made significant progress toward helping women achieve equal pay, there is still much for us to do.

Five years ago the very first law President Obama ever signed, the first act he performed in the Oval Office, was to sign the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Remember, this is the legislation based on the good woman who found out—after having worked at this place for so many years, having additional responsibilities than all the men—they were all getting paid much more than she. She was the boss getting paid less than the people who worked for her. Why? Because she is a woman.

The Lilly Ledbetter legislation is the biggest step Congress has taken on be-

half of women to help them with their wages since the Equal Pay Act of 1963. The bill provides that the statute of limitations doesn't begin to run until someone finds out they are being cheated by their employer. The legislation helped address the pay gap, but women still suffer from discriminatory wage disparity.

The Paycheck Fairness Act goes a step further by providing protections for women in the workplace. This legislation addresses unequal wages by empowering women to negotiate for equal pay and giving employers incentives to obey current law.

I was happy to hear all the news accounts that I was able to be briefed on—along with those I listened to on public radio while I was doing my exercises—the detailed accounts about how women are not treated fairly. The legislation we are working on enables women to fight against wage discrimination while also preventing retaliation against employees who discuss salary information. Before Lilly Ledbetter and even today if you discuss what someone else makes you can be fired. That is the way it is in most places in America. It would finally give much needed assistance to victims of gender-based pay discrimination.

Simply put, the Paycheck Fairness Act gives American women the fair shot they deserve. Unfortunately, efforts to address this issue have not been well received by Republicans. A similar bill addressing equal pay—despite a Republican filibuster—passed Congress and the Congress before that. Let's hope the third time is a charm for American women. Let's hope Republicans will finally do what is right.

In any other circumstance Republicans would be up in arms with this type of economic discrimination—I would hope. They should be up in arms in terms of equal pay for women also. Why is it that so many Republicans are content to allow women working the same hours in the same job to make less money than their male coworkers? It is hard to comprehend, since women make up nearly half the U.S. labor force and more than half of the people enrolled in college. We are finding that the majority of students enrolled in professional schools, law schools, medical schools are women. Is it reasonable to assume that women should be treated unfairly? Is it reasonable to assume that Republicans in this body have wives, daughters or sisters who are or will be affected by this wage disparity and shouldn't we do something about it?

I urge my colleagues to keep those loved ones—people such as my daughter and my many granddaughters—in their minds and in their thoughts when considering the question of equal pay for women. We will have the first vote the day after tomorrow. We will have this vote. To do otherwise would simply be unfair.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP KUDOS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to take a minute to congratulate the Kentucky Wildcats for an extraordinary season. My home State has held on to the NCAA national championship trophy for the past 2 years, with the Louisville Cardinals claiming it last year and the Kentucky Wildcats winning it in 2012. John Calipari's young Wildcats started five freshmen who played like seasoned veterans and made an incredible run that captivated both our State and the Nation.

While the Commonwealth will now relinquish the trophy to Connecticut, I only ask that my colleagues, Senator MURPHY and Senator BLUMENTHAL, see to it that the trophy remains in pristine condition—pristine condition—as my State will undoubtedly reclaim it next year.

JOB CREATION SOLUTIONS

Mr. President, America's middle class is struggling. They need serious job creation solutions, but that is not what they have been getting from the President. He seems more intent on staging campaign-style rallies to bemoan an economy he has been presiding over for the last 5½ years, not to offer solutions but more to do what he does best, which is to shift the blame to others.

Meanwhile, yesterday in the Senate Republicans were hoping the majority leader would finally work with us to pass a job creation package that contains ideas from many of our Members—legislation with provisions several key Democrats support as well—but that is not what the majority leader chose to do. Instead of focusing on jobs, he launched into another confusing attack on the left's latest bizarre obsession.

Think about that. The percentage of Americans in the workforce is almost at a four-decade low, and Democrats chose to ignore serious job creation ideas so they could blow a few kisses to their powerful pals on the left.

At a time when so many Americans are desperate—desperate for a good job, at a time of fewer opportunities, people are hurting, college graduates cannot find a job, working families cannot afford to pay their bills—what Americans need right now are real job creation solutions, not some tone-deaf, blame-deflection rally or some daily bout of shadow boxing on the Senate floor.

Some say this is all embarrassing, but there is one positive side to the Washington Democrats' never-ending political road show. It throws the divide between the two parties into stark relief. On the one side we have a Washington Democratic Party that simply has run out of ideas. When it comes to fixing the economy, they have tried just about everything their ideology will allow: taxing, regulating, spending, stimulating, you name it, and none of it has worked. So at this point they have basically dropped any pretense of doing anything serious on the economy. That is why we heard them essentially admit that their governing agenda is actually a political document drafted by campaign staff, that the proposals it contains are basically just show votes designed specifically not to pass. So that is one side of American politics: a party that is out of ideas, campaign-obsessed, and utterly beholden to the far left.

On the other side we have a Republican Party that is committed to getting our economy working for the middle class. We believe in the power of ideas, and we know that with the right forward-looking policies we can and will break through the stagnation of the Obama economy. The Republicans' focus is on offering more opportunity to the middle class and those who aspire to it. Our focus is on offering innovative ways to generate the kind of stable, well-paying jobs that Americans actually want. We also know we can get more done as a country if both parties can work together to see these policies through and leave behind the sterile campaign theatrics that have been on daily display in the Senate under the Democratic majority.

I am asking our Democratic colleagues to consider dropping all the show votes, the blame deflecting, and the perpetual campaigning. What I am asking is for them to consider shifting from policies that don't work—in other words, what they have been trying for the last 5½ years—to ones that will. Every Senator was sent here to get things done for our constituents, and we can. We can pass a positive jobs agenda for the American people. All we need is for Washington Democrats to work with us for a change.

I have one other item. This morning IRS Commissioner Koskinen will testify before the Finance Committee. I am sure Members will be reminding him of this, and I know several sent a letter yesterday too. But I would like to underline the point. Commissioner Koskinen led Congress to believe that his agency will not be imposing anti-free speech rules before this November's election. It is a point he basically reiterated again just the other day, so Congress plans to hold him to what he has been leading the American people to believe.

Honestly, what he really needs to do is to stop the IRS from stepping on the

First Amendment all together. He needs to stop this proposed regulation just as the Secretary of the Treasury told us he could do if he wanted. In fact, the House of Representatives recently voted to halt it too.

Remember, tens of thousands of Americans made their opinions known directly to the IRS about this regulation. It was an unprecedented response and nearly all of the comments were opposed. The comments came from straight across the political spectrum.

Commissioner Koskinen needs to live up to what we told the Senate when we confirmed him when he led us to believe he would be an independent voice for reform. As I said before, Commissioner Koskinen has a choice. He can be a hero—like the IRS commissioner who stood up to President Nixon—or he can be another pawn of this administration. Both Congress and the American people expect him to make the right decision.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Illinois.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, my wife and I are blessed with a son and daughter who are good people, hard workers with good values. We basically believe the following: If they did the same job, they deserve the same pay—my daughter and my son. Most Americans agree with that. People should be judged on what they do, their performance, their productivity, not on their gender. That is at the heart of the issue pending before the Senate at this moment.

Tomorrow we will take a vote. It is a procedural vote, so it takes 60 Senators to vote to move forward on what is known as the Paycheck Fairness Act. We have 55 Democrats. The simple math tells you that unless five Republican Senators join us to move forward on this issue, that is the end of the story. It would be unfortunate if it is the end of the story.

The Paycheck Fairness Act amends the Equal Pay Act to discourage discrimination based on gender and to help narrow the pay gap in America. No. 1, the bill provides women the same remedies for sex-based pay discrimination that are available to people today

based on racial or national origin discrimination. No. 2, the bill prohibits retaliation against workers who disclose their wages. Think about that for a second.

Lilly Ledbetter worked in a tire factory in Alabama for years. Toward the end of her work life, she received an anonymous note that said: Lilly, you have been underpaid. You have been making less than the men do in the same job in this plant since you have been here. She was crushed. She thought she was a valued employee. No one ever questioned the quality of her work, and she was being paid less than the men doing the same job at her factory.

She filed a lawsuit, and it made it all the way to the Supreme Court—across the street. Not surprisingly, this conservative, business-oriented, Republican-oriented Supreme Court said: Sorry, Ms. Ledbetter. You should have reported that pay discrimination when it first started. Well, why didn't she? She didn't know. How could she know? Payroll information is not published—except perhaps for government employees. That payroll information was not available to her to file the lawsuit when it first occurred. When she found out about it, she filed the lawsuit across the street, and the learned Supreme Court said: Too late.

So we changed the law. The very first law signed by the President of the United States Barack Obama was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which said that Lilly Ledbetter and women just like her across America, deserve an opportunity for equal pay for equal work. What we have before us today—this Paycheck Fairness Act—is an effort to make sure that law is strong and helps women across America.

No. 1, it says that women cannot be discriminated against in the workplace simply because they are women. No. 2, you can't threaten retaliation if one worker tells another what the pay is at that particular place of work. No. 3, it adds programs for training, research, technical assistance, and awards to recognize pay equity employers.

The Equal Pay Act was signed into law almost 50 years ago, but the pay gap between men and women in America is just about the same today as it was then. According to the U.S. Census Bureau—as we heard over and over—women earn 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. African-American women make 70 cents on the dollar, and Hispanic women make about 60 cents on the dollar.

In my State of Illinois, 37 percent of married employed mothers are their family's primary wage earners. Yet they face the same income disparity. It turns out to be a yearly gap of \$11,596 on average between men and women who work full time in my State. That is what the disparity in pay between men and women means in the State of

Illinois. It is not just less take-home pay for women doing the same job, it means fewer Social Security benefits when they retire. They are not earning at the same level as men. They pay for this discrimination for a lifetime.

The National Partnership for Women and Families found that ending this wage gap would provide women in my State with additional earnings that would be the equivalent of 97 weeks of food, 13 months of rent, 7 months of mortgage payments or 3,000 gallons of gas. It is a big deal for a struggling family—particularly for a woman who is a struggling wage earner in Illinois.

Regardless of occupation, education, industry or marital status, pay for women in my State lags behind their male counterparts. Women in Illinois who work in business and financial management earn 72 percent of their male counterpart's salary. That is what is before the Senate.

Is it wrong? Yes, it is. Are we prepared to say so in legislation? Tune in tomorrow and find out whether five Republicans will join us to raise this issue of pay fairness for women across America.

I am not encouraged by the statement that was just made on the floor by the Senate Republican leader. He referred to this whole conversation about paycheck fairness and minimum wage increases—so that people who go to work every single day do not live in poverty—as “the left's latest bizarre obsession.” He said that we were blowing a few kisses to our powerful pals on the left with this legislative agenda. He called it tone deaf, blame deflection, and shadow boxing on the Senate floor.

The Senate Republican leader said the divide between the two parties is in stark relief. He is right. He went on to say: We should drop any pretense of doing anything serious in this Chamber if this is what we are going to discuss.

How serious is equal pay for equal work to working people across America? I think it is critical. It is one thing for the Senate Republican leader to talk about job creation. We all want it. We are desperate for it. We are moving toward it in many different ways, but let's talk to those who are working and have jobs and whether they are paid fairly. Is that important to them? Of course.

Simply having a job may be important, but when you get to the heart of it, people want to be rewarded for good work. They don't want to work 40 hours a week, get up every morning, get on the bus in the dark, put their kids in their neighbor's house for daycare, head to their job, and at the end of the week realize they are still living in poverty. And that is what today's minimum wage does.

The women on those buses and the CTA trains that we see every morning in Chicago, with their shopping bags full of the basics so they can go to

work and leaving their kids behind, want to believe they will be paid fairly for what they do. That is not much to ask.

According to the Republican leader, it shows the stark contrast between the two parties. It is a stark contrast. The Republican leader says that we want to work for a commitment to jobs and focus on the power of ideas. I want to focus on the power of an idea too. It is the idea of fairness and fair play. It is as basic as being an American, to believe that people ought to be treated fairly, and that when they do the same work they are entitled to the same pay. That is not too much to ask. In fact, we should demand it.

I suppose we are going to have a critical, historic vote tomorrow. I am hoping five—just five—Republicans will step up on behalf of working women across America and join us on this Paycheck Fairness Act. Without them, this idea will die for now, but it is not going to die forever. The American people have the last word. They will have it in the election. They can decide if this is important. They can decide whether—as the Republican leader said—this is just a bizarre obsession on the part of the left to think of fair pay for the same work. I think it is pretty basic to America.

This is our chance. Paycheck fairness and a minimum wage to keep people who get up and go to work every day out of poverty are fundamental to a good workplace and a workforce across America which is respected by the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FORT HOOD SHOOTING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, last week the men and women at the Fort Hood Army post in Killeen, TX, witnessed a shocking act of violence as a gunman suddenly and inexplicably opened fire, killing 3 fellow soldiers and wounding 16 others. Yet, even as our attention has focused on the horror of this event, I think it is also important to talk about the very best of humanity demonstrated during this time of tragedy and crisis.

The men and women at Fort Hood saw the very best of humanity in the military police officer who confronted the shooter, for example.

They saw it in Private Jacob Sanders, who risked his own life in the hopes of saving one of the victims.

They saw it in SGT Jonathan Westbrook, who was shot and wounded by the gunman but still managed to radio Fort Hood officials and sound the alert so that others might be protected and safe.

They also saw it in SFC Danny Ferguson, who served a combat tour in Iraq and had recently gotten home from a second one in Afghanistan. Last Wednesday Sergeant Ferguson used his own body to prevent the shooter from entering a crowded room. He gave his life so that his fellow soldiers could keep theirs. He showed the kind of heroism that few of us could even imagine, the kind of heroism that defines our men and women in uniform.

So even as we mourn the terrible loss of Sergeant Ferguson, we want to also take a moment to celebrate his wonderful example and his wonderful life, just as we celebrate the remarkable lives of SGT Timothy Owens and SSG Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez.

Sergeant Owens served his country in Iraq and in Kuwait. He also served as a counselor at Fort Hood. According to his mother, he counseled literally "hundreds of people." His brother Darrell described him as someone who "would help anybody who needed help."

Sergeant Lazaney-Rodriguez was a native of Puerto Rico, and he served multiple combat tours in Iraq. He too made a distinct impression on his friends and fellow soldiers at Fort Hood. One of them described him as "the epitome of what you want a leader to be in the Army."

As I mentioned a moment ago, as we mourn the loss of Sergeant Ferguson, Sergeant Owens, and Sergeant Lazaney-Rodriguez, we should take a moment to celebrate their lives and their service. All three of these men chose—they volunteered—to devote their lives to a noble cause—the defense of our country—and our memories of their work and their sacrifice will live forever.

Before I conclude, I wish to say one more word about Fort Hood, where I will be traveling to tomorrow with the President. Fort Hood is also known as The Great Place. They call it The Great Place. I had the honor of visiting the post last Thursday, and I will do so again tomorrow for the memorial, as I said. As we all remember, Fort Hood was also the scene of an earlier mass shooting in November of 2009. That was yet another day where we saw both the worst and the best of humanity. We saw the very best of humanity in people such as Michael Cahill, a civilian physician's assistant and retired soldier, and Army CPT John Gaffaney, both of whom charged the gunman—MAJ Nidal Hasan—and gave their lives in order to save the lives of others around them.

Over the last 13 years, the Fort Hood community has made enormous con-

tributions to America's missions in Iraq and in Afghanistan, where more than 550 of their soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice. In fact, the last combat brigade to leave Iraq was a Fort Hood brigade—the Third Brigade of the storied 1st Cavalry Division.

I sometimes think about the fact that most Americans probably don't have a close friend or relative who has served in the Armed Forces. So in some ways the American people have become isolated to some degree from the realities of war and national security. For them the war in Afghanistan is something they read about in the newspaper or they hear about on TV, but it is not very real to them unless they have a family member or a loved one or a friend who has served.

For the families at Fort Hood and in the surrounding Texas communities of Belton, Copperas Cove, Harker Heights, Killeen, and Temple, it is something much different, something much more personal because it is a family member, it is a loved one, it is a friend who has served, and many of them have lost their lives in the process because they believed that keeping the American people safe was more important than their own personal security and safety.

I wish to take this moment to let the families and friends of the victims at Fort Hood know that—and, indeed, to tell all the good people at Fort Hood—your fellow Americans are thinking about you, we are praying for you and keeping you close in our hearts during this difficult time.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UCONN VICTORY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I want to begin by remarking on the extraordinary and remarkable triumph of the UConn men's basketball team last night—a victory that is beyond my words to describe—and the achievement it represents for those players, for the school, for coach Kevin Ollie, and for the entire university, particularly in the face of last year's disqualification—unfair and unjustified, in my view.

I am so proud of our team and the University of Connecticut for its steadfast and relentless pursuit of this national championship, which last night culminated in a huge and joyous triumph felt throughout Connecticut and, in fact, throughout the country.

I will be commenting in greater length and depth on how this achieve-

ment reflects on the University of Connecticut, what it means to college athletics, and what lessons we can take from this great triumph.

In the meantime, I am wearing my University of Connecticut tie with the emblem of the Huskies because last night's triumph is only a prelude to tonight.

UConn is rolling with momentum toward two national championships. The women, I believe, will prevail tonight, and I expect to collect on another debt—the debt owed to me already by my colleagues from Kentucky I think will be supplemented tomorrow—and I will ask that my Kentucky colleague, Senator PAUL, wear this tie, if only for a brief moment, to demonstrate who was the better team last night. They are both great teams, but Connecticut was the greatest.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am here this morning on a very serious and important subject—the Paycheck Fairness Act. I thank my colleagues who were with me earlier today at an event we attended. The President is doing an event right now. He has announced he will require all Federal contractors to follow the rule that there should be no retaliation against people in the workplace who share information about their pay. It sounds like a basic principle of fairness but, unfortunately, the law has gaps that permit discrimination—gender discrimination, unequal pay for the same work. So today on Equal Pay Day, I am here to advocate for the Paycheck Fairness Act, which will help fill some of those gaps.

This issue is not a man's issue, it is not a woman's issue. It is a family issue. It is not about women, it is about paycheck fairness. So it is as much about men as it is about women. Right now 40 percent of all our families are supported by women either as the sole or primary breadwinner. That means the children in those families, and the men, depend on that income and on the fairness of their paychecks to keep a roof over their head and to keep food on the table.

Paycheck fairness is about a fair shot—a fair shot for every woman and every person in American society. It is part of a larger agenda which includes raising the minimum wage, which we still have to do, and restoring unemployment insurance, which the Senate did yesterday but we still have to do in the House. That larger agenda about a fair shot goes to the core of the American conscience about what is right, but it also happens to be what is economically smart. Paying women equal to men for the same work means that women will come to jobs and they will

work better in those jobs, more productively. Women have so much to contribute in jobs where they serve equally or better than men.

Unfortunately, the promise of the Equal Pay Act, signed in 1963 by President Kennedy, has yet to be achieved. That promise was that equality would prevail in the workplace. Yet 51 years later the disparities are glaring, the gaps between gender pay are unacceptable and inexcusable. Women make only 77 percent of every dollar earned by men. The disparity is even greater in certain professions. In the janitorial profession, among supervisors, and among CEOs, women make 70 cents or less on the dollar. The same is true among financial advisers and among product inspectors. So the disparities cut across all professions. In fact, in 97 percent of all professions, women make less on average than men. That is why we must work to change the law.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would accomplish a number of very simple straightforward goals. No. 1, it would enable workers to share information without fear of retaliation. Right now, a worker can be fired or demoted if he or she shares information about what they are making. The Lilly Ledbetter Act of 2009 advanced these goals and made some progress, but this threat of retaliation is real and completely unconscionable and it should be directly prohibited by law.

Second, the burden should be on the employer to establish that pay disparities are business related or job specific. Those disparities ought to be the job of the employer to justify, not the employee. After all, it is not the employee who makes those decisions, it is the employer. So the employer ought to be the one to present a justification based on objective and real business-related or job-specific factors.

Finally, the Paycheck Fairness Act provides for punitive damages. Only by establishing punitive damages can the evil and harm done by pay discrimination be effectively deterred. The economic penalty will discourage employers by providing real consequences for their discrimination.

This issue is really an American issue that has resonance coast to coast, job to job, and person to person, but mostly it has resonance among families. The estimates are that eliminating the gender pay gap will reduce poverty among families headed by single working mothers from 28.7 percent to 15 percent. It will reduce poverty, most importantly, among children. It will give those children a leg up that they lack now. It will give their moms a sense of justified dignity and self-respect. It will make a practical difference in the lives of families, raising the self-respect and dignity of men as well as women. If they are the beneficiaries of false factors, simple gender discrimination, how can they justify

the additional pay that they as men make?

Discovering and proving discrimination is a formidable, daunting, sometimes insurmountable challenge. Discovering it is difficult enough. That is why sharing of information is necessary. Proving it is sometimes virtually impossible without the kind of law the Paycheck Fairness Act will provide, the rights and making those rights real that can be achieved, ending systemic pay discrimination that undermines and disserves our entire society. It demeans all of us. It fails to give people a fair shot when that is the ethos, the core conscience of American economic profit. A fair shot is not only fair, it is smart. It will promote jobs and economic growth, which all of us deeply want and deserve.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

POLITICAL STRATEGY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, 2 weeks ago the New York Times published an article on the congressional Democrats' plan for the rest of the year. It boiled down to one thing: Campaigning. That is right; 8 months out from the election, Democrats in Congress have given up on legislating. Instead, they are going to spend the next 8 months focused on show votes, which will—and I quote from the story—“be timed to coincide with campaign-style trips by President Obama.”

While these votes will focus on “pocketbook issues” Democrats hope will appeal to voters, the votes are not designed to actually accomplish anything. The New York Times goes on to say:

Democrats concede that making new laws is not really the point. Rather, they are trying to force Republicans to vote against them.

The article goes on to say:

Privately, White House officials say they have no intention of searching for any grand bargain with Republicans on any of these issues. “The point isn’t to compromise,” a senior White House official said.

So that is where we are. The economy is stagnant, unemployment is hovering at recession-level highs, 10 million Americans are unemployed—nearly 4 million of them for 6 months or longer—household income has fallen, health care costs are soaring, and Democrats have decided to give up doing anything about it so they can get reelected in November.

This political strategy was front and center last week when Democrats blocked all Republican amendments during the Senate debate of the employment benefits extension bill. Republicans wanted to offer a number of amendments that were focused specifically on job creation. After all, the only reason we are considering extending unemployment benefits for the 13th time since 2008 is because so many Americans still don’t have jobs. While unemployment benefits can provide limited short-term help, they do nothing to get unemployed Americans what they really want—steady, good-paying jobs with an opportunity for advancement.

Republicans thought that we should accompany yet another extension of emergency unemployment benefits with measures to make it easier and cheaper to create jobs for the millions of Americans currently searching for work. We proposed amendments to create jobs with measures such as reining in burdensome regulatory requirements and improving job training for people who are unemployed. Democrats, however, didn’t want to take any votes on Republican proposals, so they simply refused to allow amendments to be considered. That is not the mark of a party that is serious about helping the unemployed.

If Democrats were really serious, they would be focused on permanent relief through jobs rather than merely treating the symptoms of unemployment. Democrats brought up unemployment benefits not because they offer real, long-term help to the unemployed but because they think these benefits might win them a few votes in November.

They are planning to keep on doing the same thing. Soon Democrats plan to bring up a 40-percent minimum wage hike that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates will cost up to 500,000 jobs by the end of 2016. By the way, 57 percent of those job losses—according to the CBO—would be held by women. But that is not stopping the Democrats who hope that a minimum wage hike will gain them votes at the polls even if it hurts workers in the process.

This week Senator REID filed cloture on the motion to proceed to a similarly political bill, the so-called Paycheck Fairness Act. All Senate Republicans believe in equal pay for equal work. Paycheck Fairness has been the law of the land since 1963. Democrats are playing politics with equal pay and attempting to distract from the real harm that their policies have done to women. Right now there are 3.7 million more women living in poverty than there were when the President took office. Since the President took office, the poverty rate for women has increased from 14.4 percent to 16.3 percent. Income for female college graduates has dropped by over \$1,400, and

the median income for women is down by \$733 since the President took office.

It would be nice if this legislation that is being proposed by the Democratic majority provided women with real economic help, but it is far more likely to line the pockets of trial lawyers. In fact, this election-year ploy would actually hurt women by increasing Federal regulations that would cut flexibility in the workforce for working moms and end merit pay to reward quality work.

If Democrats were really serious about helping women, they would work with us on bills to create jobs and to expand workplace opportunities for women as well as for men—bills such as Senator RUBIO's legislation to amend the National Labor Relations Act to allow employers to give merit-based pay increases to good workers; or Senator COLLINS' bill to repeal ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek rule, which is reducing hours and lowering wages for many workers, particularly women, who make up 63 percent of those affected; or the bill proposed by Senator MIKE LEE, which would help employers balance work and family life by allowing private sector employers to give workers the choice of monetary compensation or comp time for the overtime hours that they work; or Senator MCCONNELL and Senator AYOTTE's bill, which would give hourly workers access to flexible work arrangements like comp time off and flexible credit hours; or my bill combining several of my colleagues' proposals to stimulate job creation and increase hours and wages through energy development, job training, and regulatory relief. Then, of course, there is Senator FISCHER's proposal to give women the tools and knowledge they need to fight discrimination at work.

Many of these proposals have passed the House of Representatives and are awaiting action by the Senate. These bills would create new jobs, open new opportunities, and help reverse the economic decline that women have experienced over the past 5 years. But Democrats don't seem to be interested in providing economic relief to women. They are interested in elections and scoring political points.

Democrats can go on campaigning for the rest of the year if they want. They can twist the legislative process for their own political ends and ignore the economic pain they have caused women and men. Meanwhile, the middle class in this country continues to fall further and further behind.

Republicans in the Senate will continue to propose legislation to create jobs and opportunities for Americans and help make up the ground that the American people have lost in the Obama economy. Democrats can still change their minds and join us, and I hope they will because the situation has not gotten any better. We still

have chronic high unemployment, lower take-home pay, and lower household income.

We have almost 4 million people who have been unemployed for more than 6 months. The labor participation rate—the number of people who are actually in the labor workforce today—is at the lowest level we have seen in 35 years, meaning there are millions of Americans who left the workforce. Those statistics are crying out for solutions that will do something about the need for jobs in our economy, that will do something about growing and expanding our economy, so those people who are unemployed can find the work they need to improve their standard of living and that of their families as well.

So I hope all of these issues I have mentioned—these are all amendments that have been filed by my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle. So far there is no indication, no suggestion that any of these amendments are going to get an opportunity to be offered, to be debated, and to be voted on—amendments that actually would improve the outlook for not only men in this country but women as well, by growing the economy, expanding the economy, creating the types of good-paying jobs that will create opportunities for advancement for hard-working Americans.

If the Senate is going to continue to be a place where debate and amendments are shut down, blocked by the other side simply so they can have show votes designed to appeal to a political audience as we head into the midterm elections; if we aren't going to be doing anything to solve the real-world problems millions of Americans who are unemployed have, or millions of Americans who have been hurt by this economy, and millions of Americans who have seen their standard of living and their quality of life eroded by bad policies coming out of Washington, DC, that make it more difficult and more expensive to create jobs—that is what we ought to be focused on. Republicans come to the floor, as we did last week when we were debating unemployment insurance, with amendments designed specifically at growing the economy and creating jobs. At every turn we have been blocked from offering those amendments and, in turn, we are talking about nothing more than political rhetoric in an election year that does nothing to address the real problems of the American people. They deserve better. We can do better. I hope we will. I hope the Democrats will change their minds and join us and allow us to have that debate, to have those votes, and allow us to do something meaningful for middle-class families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

EQUAL PAY DAY

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, today is Equal Pay Day. I mentioned that to someone earlier and they said: What does that mean? What that means is an American woman working full time in America today—I am talking about an average American woman working full time, year-round—had to work all last year and up to today of this year to earn what the average male made last year up to December 31. That is what Equal Pay Day is. Think about that. A man gets paid up to December 31, and a woman has to work all that year and up to today to get the same pay.

It is shocking that in 2014 that is still happening in America—shocking—because we passed the Equal Pay Act in 1963. In 1963, a woman made about 60 cents on the dollar for what a man made. Today, it is 77 cents, so I guess we can say we have made some headway. So 1963, 1973, 1983—in 40 years, we have gone from 60 cents to 77 cents.

What we found out, through our committee hearings of the committee I am privileged to chair, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, is that a lot of employers in this country are not abiding by some of the provisions of the Equal Pay Act. I compliment Senator MIKULSKI, who is a member of our committee as well as the Chair of the full Appropriations Committee, for her leadership in bringing this bill, the Paycheck Fairness Act, to the Senate.

When we passed it in 1963, 25 million female workers, as I said, earned about 60 cents on the dollar. Now it is 77 cents. Again, the deficit and what it means for a lifetime of earnings is startling. Over the course of a 40-year career, women, on average, earn more than \$450,000 less than men. And get this: Women with a college degree, or more, face an even wider gap of more than \$700,000 over a lifetime compared with men with the same higher education. So, again, the consequences are enormous, impacting not just women but their families as well, and not just impacting women during their working lives, but keep this in mind: When a woman is making that much less, then a woman is getting that much less in her retirement, in her Social Security, or maybe her 401(k), or a defined benefit, whatever it might be. So women get whacked twice during their working life and then when they retire because they have made substantially less than men.

Again, I congratulate Senator MIKULSKI for bringing this bill forward and for her indefatigable work on this issue. It is time to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. It is simple, common-sense legislation to make sure we have procedures and processes that are in place, to make sure the Equal Pay Act, passed in 1963, has some teeth, so employers can't just skirt around it anymore, and so there will be avenues for

women to take to make sure they are not discriminated against in terms of pay.

For example, right now it can be a violation of company policy if a woman wants to talk to another person about what their salary is. Some companies say employees can't do that. This bill says, yes, employees can do that. Employees can talk to someone else. They don't have to tell—we don't force anybody to tell what their salary is—but an employee can make inquiries and can discuss it with other fellow employees, and an employer cannot retaliate against an employee for doing that. That is a huge step forward, by the way: a little bit of transparency, a little bit of knowledge that a woman can have to understand whether she is being discriminated against in her employment.

Of course, we have a good deal of anecdotal evidence and many examples of employers retaliating against women for discussing salary information. So this bill is long overdue and we need to pass it.

We can't just stop there on this paycheck fairness bill. We have to pass it and then we have to do a few other things. We have to tackle the more subtle discrimination that occurs when we systematically undervalue the work traditionally done by women. The fact is millions of female-dominated jobs—jobs that are equivalent in skill, effort, responsibility, and working conditions to similar jobs dominated by men—pay significantly less than male equivalent-type jobs. For example, why is a housekeeper worth less than a janitor? Think about it: Eighty-four percent of the maids such as those who clean our rooms in hotels—are female; 75 percent of janitors are male. While the jobs are equivalent in terms of skill, effort, responsibility, and working conditions, the median weekly earnings for a maid are \$399. For a janitor, it is \$484.

Truckdrivers—a job that is 96-percent male—have median weekly earnings of \$730. In contrast, a childcare worker—a job that is 93-percent female—has median weekly earnings of \$390. Why do we value someone who moves products more than we value someone who looks after the safety and well-being of our children? I am not saying that truckdrivers are overpaid; I am just saying that jobs we consider “women's work” are often underpaid, even though they are equivalent in skills, effort, responsibility, and working conditions. Quite frankly, some of the jobs women do, such as nursing or home health aides, require a lot more physical effort than being a truckdriver. Maybe in the old days truckdrivers had to be strong to muscle those trucks around. Now everybody has power steering and power brakes and everything else. A person doesn't have to be some big, heavy-weight giant to drive trucks anymore. But to

be a nursing aide, if you are rolling people who weigh over 250 pounds and doing other things, that can take quite a bit of effort. So why are nursing and home health aides paid so much less than truckdrivers?

That is why in every Congress since 1996 I have introduced the Fair Pay Act, which would require employers to provide equal pay for equivalent jobs. My counterpart in the House is Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, and together we have introduced it in every Congress since 1996. It requires employers to provide equal pay for jobs that are equivalent in skills, effort, responsibility, and working conditions, but which are dominated by employees of a different gender, race, or national origin.

People may say maybe that is a stretch. Well, in 1983, the legislature of my State of Iowa, working with a Republican Governor, passed a bill stipulating that the State of Iowa could not discriminate in compensation between predominantly male and female jobs. They had to pay equivalent wages. So they hired Arthur Young & Company and they evaluated 800 job classifications in State government and, finally, in April of 1984, determined that 10,751 employees should be given a pay increase. Since 1984 in Iowa we have had that equivalency.

In Minnesota, our neighbor to the north and the neighbor of the Presiding Officer to the east, they went even a step further. Minnesota at that time passed a bill providing for equivalent pay not only in State jobs but clear down to the local level. That was in Minnesota. So it can be done. The women in this country are currently being paid less not because of their skills, not because of their education, working conditions, or responsibility, but simply because they are in what we call female-dominated jobs. This bill would make sure they receive their real worth. It will make a huge difference for them and their families who rely on their wages.

What my bill would do basically is require employers to publicly disclose their job categories and their pay scales. They wouldn't have to publish what every employee is making; they would have to say here are our job classifications and here are the pay scales in those job classifications. So it would give women information about what their male colleagues are earning or anyone who is in that pay scale, so they can negotiate a better deal for themselves in the workplace. Right now, women who believe they are a victim of pay discrimination must file a lawsuit and endure a drawn-out legal discovery process to find out whether they make less than the man working beside them, but with statistics readily available, this could be avoided. The number of lawsuits would go down if employees could see upfront whether they are being treated fairly.

Several years ago our committee had Lilly Ledbetter come and testify before our committee. We had provided her with a copy of the Fair Pay Act that I have been introducing since 1996, and she took a look at it and its description. I asked her, if the Fair Pay Act had been law when she was hired, would it have obviated her wage discrimination case. She said with the information about pay scales the bill provides, she would have known from the beginning she was a victim of discrimination and could have tried to address the problem sooner before it caused a lifelong drop in her earnings and before she had to go all the way to the Supreme Court to make things right.

So, again, it is time to get done and put some teeth in it, but it is time to take the next step, because the biggest gap right now between what women make and what men make—among the various known reasons for the gap, like education, race, union status, and work experience—is occupation; that is, the number of women who are in what we have traditionally known as women's jobs—housekeepers, maids, child care workers, nurse assistants, and so on. It is time to take the step that my State and Minnesota—and there are other States; I just mentioned those two because I am familiar with them—have taken to address this problem of equivalency.

The next thing we need to do to make sure Equal Pay Day is not today but is December 31, like when men get paid for a full year, is to raise the minimum wage. Hopefully, we will be voting on that soon to raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour.

Again, the majority of low-wage workers are women because of the trends I just mentioned. Jobs primarily held by women are undervalued and underpaid and most of the low-wage workers are women. So again we have to raise that, and we need to raise tipped wages.

Tipped wages right now are \$2.13 an hour. It has not been changed since 1991. Who are most of the tipped workers? Women, and many of them are providing income for their families, for their children. I said this the other day to a group and they were astounded. They thought I must be wrong about it, but I am not wrong. Do you know how someone gets classified as a tipped worker? A lot of people do not know this. How does someone get classified as a tipped worker? Under the law, if their employer says they make more than \$30 a month in tips, they can be classified as a tipped worker. Think about that, \$30 a month.

Let's say if someone works 5 days a week and they are working 20 days a month, that is \$1.50 a day. If they get \$1.50 a day in tips, they can be classified as a tipped worker and they can pay them \$2.13 an hour—unconscionable.

It has not been raised since 1991. Our minimum wage bill, which we hope to have on the floor shortly, would raise that tipped wage over 6 years from its present level to 70 percent of the minimum wage, and then it is indexed for the future.

So there are three things we need to do: pass the Paycheck Fairness Act championed by Senator MIKULSKI, address and pass the Fair Pay Act, and raise the minimum wage. If we do those three things, Equal Pay Day will not be today, it will be December 31 for everybody.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I see the time has come to recess for the caucuses, but I just wish to say that today is another important day. Today is the 150th anniversary of the date that Abraham Lincoln signed the law authorizing the institution we now know as Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. That was 150 years ago today. What began on April 8, 1864, as a school with just eight students has flourished into the world's first and only institution of higher education dedicated to deaf and hard-of-hearing students, renowned internationally for its outstanding academic programs and also for its leading research into the history, language, and culture of deaf people.

I take pride in the fact that it was Senator James W. Grimes of Iowa, then-chair of the Committee on the District of Columbia, who initiated that legislation allowing the school to confer degrees. Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz, who is now the current distinguished president of Gallaudet, was born and raised in Sioux City, IA, not too far from the Presiding Officer's State of North Dakota. In fact, Dr. Hurwitz's father and my brother were classmates at the Iowa School for the Deaf. We are proud of the many Iowa students, including a recent intern in my office, Joseph Lewis, who are graduates of Gallaudet.

It is a wonderful school. If you have never been there, you ought to go and take a look at it. They do fantastic work at Gallaudet, attracting people from all around the globe to go there. In 1894 it was named after Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, and then in 1986 it was conferred university status by the Congress. Again, 150 years ago today, on April 8, 1864, Abraham Lincoln signed it into law.

In 1864, the school was known as the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind. It was inspired by the work of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, who had traveled to Paris to study the successful work of French educators who pioneered the use of a manual communication method of instructing the deaf—in other

words, sign language. In 1894, the name of the institution was changed to Gallaudet College in honor of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. In 1986, by act of Congress, the college was granted university status.

My brother Frank was deaf from an early age. During his childhood, in the 1940s and 1950s, most Americans had very backward, ignorant attitudes toward deaf people. It pained me to witness the brazen discrimination and prejudice that he faced on a daily basis and I promised that if I ever got into a position of power, I would change things to prevent that kind of discrimination in the future.

As it turned out, I did rise to a position of power. I was determined to make good on my promise to pass legislation to end discrimination against people with disabilities, and an unexpected event gave a huge impetus to my legislative ambition.

In 1988, Gallaudet University was hiring a new president. At that time, the school had never had a deaf president. There were three candidates: one was deaf and two were hearing. The Board of Visitors selected a hearing president.

To the students at Gallaudet, who believed passionately that the time had come for a deaf president, this was unacceptable. They rose up in a movement that came to be known as Deaf President Now. They organized protests. They boycotted classes. Some 2,000 Gallaudet students marched from their campus to the U.S. Capitol Building. They demanded a president at Gallaudet who could relate to them in a way that no hearing person could.

I had the privilege of speaking to them. I told them, "You are my heroes." They are still my heroes because they kept up their protests until they won. Gallaudet got its first deaf president, I. King Jordan.

But that is not all those students won. The protests by the students at Gallaudet struck a chord with other people with disabilities all across America. Those students were like a spark that ignited a brushfire.

They rose up and said: Enough. No more second-class citizenship. No more discrimination. And other people with disabilities took up the same rallying cry.

As the chief Senate sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, there is no question in my mind that the students' successful protests at Gallaudet were one of the key reasons why we were able to pass the ADA 2 years later.

Today, Gallaudet University is a diverse, bilingual university dedicated to the intellectual and professional advancement of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals through American Sign Language and English. I have always been an admirer and supporter of Gallaudet. I respect it as a place that

opens doors and creates opportunity. At Gallaudet, the focus is on ability, not disability, and, as with all schools, sometimes it is on extraordinary ability, such as Adham Talaat, the academic all-American defensive end who helped to lead the Gallaudet football team to a 9 and 1 record this past season or faculty member Dr. Laura-Ann Pettito and her Visual Language and Visual Learning Center, where she and her graduate students map the brain to better understand how we decode auditory and visual language or 2011 graduate James Caverly, who starred in the play "Tribes" about a hearing family with a deaf son.

Gallaudet aims not only to educate but also to empower, and this is an incredibly important gift to give to the men and women who attend Gallaudet. I join with my colleagues in the Senate in saluting this remarkable institution on its 150th anniversary.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:35 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 3:15 p.m. will be controlled by the majority.

The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise today to speak on paycheck fairness, the bill we will be voting on tomorrow in the Senate. During the next hour 11 Democratic women will be coming to the floor to speak. I am not going to introduce each one. We want to get right to the issue. Rather than talking flowery talk about each other, we want to talk about the need for paycheck fairness.

I ask unanimous consent that each Senator be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I am the leadoff speaker. I want to be very clear on why we are on the Senate floor. We believe women need a fair shot to get equal pay for equal work. We want the same pay for the same job. We want it in our lawbooks, and we want it in our checkbooks. We want to finish the job we began with Lilly Ledbetter 5 years ago.

Five years ago, one of the first bills that we passed in the Obama administration was the Lilly Ledbetter bill. We reopened the courthouse doors to women who wanted to seek redress for the way they were treated unequally in the workplace. But we need to finish the job. That is what paycheck fairness does.

What does “finish the job” mean? Well, right now in the United States of America, there is a veil of secrecy—a veil of secrecy. Where is it? In the workplace. Right now, in companies and businesses, employees are forbidden to talk about the pay they receive with another employee. In many places, when an employee seeks redress, she is retaliated against. Last but not at all least, there are loopholes that many employers use to justify women being paid less. They invent excuses, and they call them business necessity explanations. Well, we are on the floor today to say we want to end the soft bigotry of low wages for women. Equal pay for equal work. No secrecy. No retaliation. No loopholes. No way. Today is the day for equal pay.

We are on the floor today because it is Equal Pay Day. What does that mean? It means the women of the United States of America have to work in many instances 15 months to earn what a man doing the same job, with the same experience and the same seniority, earns in 1 year.

Now, we are not against the guys. There are many men who do jobs they hate so their daughters can have the jobs they love. After working to ensure that they have a good home and a good education, they see their daughters are paid less.

We all know there is a generalized wage suppression going on in the middle class—another topic and another debate. But right now we are on the job and we want to be paid for what we do. It is hard to believe that women are almost half of the workforce and yet during that time, as we make up 50 percent of the workforce, we still make only 77 cents for every dollar a man makes; African-American women earn 62 cents; Latino women 54 cents—almost half. This is a disgrace.

We need to change the law. That is what we seek to do by bringing up the Paycheck Fairness Act. Our President has tried to do his part. He supported the Lilly Ledbetter bill. Today we were at the White House, where he took an Executive order step to ban retaliation against employees who work for Federal contractors. So we are going to start being a model employer by banning retaliation not only within the Federal Government but with our Federal contractors. He also then called upon the contractors to submit data, information, so that we would know what are the gender differences that are going on on the very contracts we have.

When we signed the Equal Pay Act—it was in 1963 under Lyndon Johnson—women made only 59 cents. You know what. That was 50 years ago. In 50 years we have gained 18 cents. Well, that is not the way to go. The way to go is to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. What we want to do is make sure that, as I said, there is no retaliation, no excuses.

We hear this all the time: Oh, the guys do harder jobs; they are the breadwinners. But so are many women now who are heading households or who are single breadwinners.

The other important thing is that no longer will women be limited in pay to just backpay when they have been discriminated against.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. MIKULSKI. My time is up. I am so into this bill. I have been at this legislation for a long time. But what I have now is hope. Help is on the way. Reinforcements are here.

Now I turn to Senator ELIZABETH WARREN and then Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL and Senator CANTWELL, in that order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I thank Senator MIKULSKI for her incredible leadership on this issue.

I come to the floor today in support of equal pay for equal work. I honestly cannot believe we are still arguing over equal pay in 2014. Congress first moved to solve this problem more than 50 years ago when the Equal Pay Act was signed into law.

In 1963 women were earning 59 cents on the dollar for every dollar earned by a man. Today women earn only 77 cents on the dollar compared to what a man earns.

Women are taking a hit in nearly every occupation. Bloomberg analyzed census data and found that median earnings for women were lower than those for men in 264 out of 265 major occupational categories. In 99.6 percent of all occupations, men get paid more than women—99.6 percent. That is not an accident; that is discrimination.

The effects of this discrimination are real and they are long lasting. Women, for example, borrow roughly the same amount of money as men to pay for college, but according to the American Association of University Women, these women make only 82 cents on the dollar compared with men 1 year after graduating. So women take out the same loans to go to college, but they face an even steeper road to repay those loans.

Unequal pay also means a tougher retirement. The average woman in Massachusetts who collects Social Security will receive about \$3,000 less each year than a similarly situated man because the benefits are tied to how much people earn while they are working.

This is a problem—a big problem—and women are fed up. Fifty years and a woman still cannot earn the same as a man for doing the same work. Women are ready to fix it, but it is not easy.

Today some women can be fired just for asking the guy across the hall how much money he makes. Earlier today the President issued Executive orders to stop Federal contractors from retaliating against women who ask about their pay and to instruct the Department of Labor to collect better data for the gender pay gap. Good for him, and good for women working for contractors. Now the Congress should extend these protections to all women.

The Senate will soon vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act. This is a commonsense proposal: No discrimination and no retaliation when women ask how much the guys are getting paid. We will get basic data to tell us how much men and women are getting paid for key jobs.

So there it is. It is basic protection, basic information—a fair shot. That is essentially what this bill does.

Sure, sometimes men are paid more than women. Employers can pay different salaries based on factors such as skill, performance, expertise, seniority, and so forth. The Paycheck Fairness Act does not touch any of that. It simply provides the tools that women need to make sure salary differences have something to do with the actual job they are doing and not just the fact that they are women.

Several States have already adopted similar rules. Businesses in these States continue to thrive without any explosion of lawsuits. This bill is about good business, a level playing field for men and women, an equal chance to get the job done, a fair shot for all of us.

America's women are tired of hearing that pay inequality is not real. We are tired of hearing that somehow it is our fault. We are ready to fight back against pay discrimination.

I thank Senator MIKULSKI and all of my colleagues who are speaking on the floor today for their leadership on this important proposal. I urge the Senate to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to strengthen America's middle-class families and to level the playing field for hard-working women.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Madam President, every once in a while it is probably healthy for all of us to sit back for a moment and reflect on why we are here. What is the Senate supposed to be about? Why do we come to the Senate? Why did our Founding Fathers lay out a Constitution that had these branches of government?

In the branch of government in which we reside, we are called the legislative branch. So what is that about? I think

what the Founding Fathers wanted us to do is to make our laws reflect the values and priorities of the American people.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is a simple step toward making our laws reflect two of the most important values we have in the United States of America.

I guarantee you that if you walked up to any of my colleagues who intend to vote against this and said, do you believe in equality and justice, they would say, of course we believe in equality and justice.

Then why would you not support this legislation, because it is just that simple. We are just trying to make the laws of this country reflect the American ideals of equality and justice.

Well, they say, there are laws on the books.

Well, here is the deal. You cannot get justice if you do not have the facts. If the facts are a secret, a protected secret, then justice is always going to be elusive and equality is going to be something to which we give lip service, not something we will truly enjoy in this country.

So this is just a step to say to American business: Let's understand why two people doing the same job have two different levels of pay. Explain it to us.

What is so evil about that? What is so evil about expecting a business to be able to explain why a man and a woman with the same experience, the same credentials, and the same work output are paid differently. If there is a good reason, then there is no litigation, there is no rush to the courthouse. But if there is not a good reason, that is where that justice comes in. That is where a woman has an opportunity to go into the hallowed halls of our courts—the envy of the world, I might add—to have a fair shot at justice.

The notion that someone can be fired for trying to get the facts about their own compensation, the notion that retaliation would somehow be embraced by my colleagues who do not intend to vote for this legislation I do not understand. I know they are trying to explain to the American people that this has something to do with us having a love affair with America's trial lawyers. I have never heard more rubbish in my life. It is not the trial lawyers whom we care about. It is the women. It is the single moms.

It is the women who have this sinking feeling in the pit of their stomach that they are getting paid less, that they are helpless because they can't get at the information. When they do, they have the entire burden of proof of showing that somehow they weren't inferior to their male colleagues.

There is absolutely no possible reason that any of us would be trying to help lawyers with this. It is their clients, guys; it is the women of America.

It is the women of America who want the laws to reflect our values, equality, and justice. This is a simple step. It is nothing to be afraid of.

Frankly, the only thing anyone who opposes this bill should be afraid of is the wrath of American women across this country who are sick and tired of being told it is none of their business what their colleague is getting paid and: By the way, I don't have to explain to you why you make less even though your work output has been superior to your male colleagues. It is time and it is about our values.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. I join my colleagues and thank the Senator from Missouri for her statement as somebody who has been involved in basically making sure the law is implemented and upheld too. I appreciate her views.

I thank Senator MIKULSKI for her leadership in advocating for equal pay for equal work. She has been a champion for many years and she is insistent now that we pass this legislation, and that is why we are here, because we want our colleagues to understand how important it is to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation and end the discrimination many women face in America. This is a critical issue, not only for women but for men because, obviously, the households of America deserve to have both people making equal pay.

The message from the American people is clear: They want Congress to focus on the most important economic issues of the day; that is, jobs. And certainly having a job that pays you equally for the work you do with your coworkers is critically important.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is exactly what we should be working on, ways to strengthen the pocketbooks of many Americans.

While we have made progress over the past five decades since we passed the Equal Pay Act, we still have a long way to go. In my State, the State of Washington, women are paid 78 cents for every \$1 that men earn for the same work. That amounts to an average wage gap of \$11,000 per year. The truth is that many women are the breadwinners in their family, and they should be paid as breadwinners. They should not face discrimination.

Today women make up 48 percent of the workforce in the State of Washington, and these families are very important to our economy. On average, mothers in Washington provide 41 percent of their household income, and nationally 40 percent of women are the sole primary breadwinners for their households. This is an important issue for our economy. Think of the boost

they would get, the boost we would see if they were paid equally.

Right now one-third of those families headed by women in Washington live in poverty, so closing the wage gap means they would be able to afford 82 more weeks of food, according to the National Partnership for Women & Families. It would mean better economic freedom, it would mean the ability to buy more essentials, and it means their families would be better off.

But, more importantly, people need to realize that not only does this pay gap affect women's ability to support their family, the pay gap also reduces their ability to save for the future. From around the age of 35 through retirement, women are typically paid about 75 to 80 percent what men are paid, and over their lifetime a woman in Washington will earn \$500,000 less than her male counterpart. That is money that can be saved and invested for the future. So we must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to end this disparity because this act will require employers to provide justification other than gender for paying men higher wages than women for the exact same job. It protects employees who share that information with others from being retaliated against, and it provides victims of pay discrimination with the same remedies available to victims of other discrimination, including punitive and compensation damages.

This is important legislation. It is important legislation that will end the discrimination women are seeing in the workplace.

The Paycheck Fairness Act will also help eliminate the pay gap to help these families who are struggling in our economy. But just in case people get the wrong idea, I want to make sure people are clear. Even in fields such as engineering and computer science, women earn, on average, only 75 percent of what their male counterparts earn. A woman with a master's degree will only make 70 cents for every \$1 of her equally educated male counterparts.

It is time the Senate end the pay discrimination by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act. That is why I have been happy to sponsor this legislation and work with my colleagues. I want young women growing up today to know this is not an issue they are going to have to deal with in the future. They will get equal pay.

I thank my colleagues. I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will help us in invoking cloture and providing the votes we need to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I am proud to join this fight for paycheck fairness, an effort led by the dean of the women in

the Senate, the first Democratic woman ever elected to the Senate in her own right, and the longest serving woman in Congress today—Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI.

This is the same fight many of our own mothers and grandmothers fought, equal pay for equal work. The promise made by the Equal Pay Act 50 years ago, literally half a century ago, continues to be broken every single day in this country.

When that happens, it doesn't just hold back women individually, it holds back entire families. It holds back the entire American economy.

Today women make up more than half of America's population and nearly half the workforce. Women are outearning men in college degrees and advanced degrees and a growing share of primary household earners. But to this day men are still outearning women for the exact same work. On average, women earn 77 cents for every \$1 a man earns and even less for women of color. African-American women earn 69 cents on the dollar and Latinas earn just 58 cents on the dollar.

In the years leading to the Equal Pay Act, only about 11 percent of families relied on women as the primary wage earner for kids under 18—just 11 percent. Today 40 percent of primary or sole wage earners are women: 40 percent of families with kids under 18 who rely on women to pay the bills, balance the family finances, make the tough choices around the kitchen table, and provide for their kids.

But you would not know this by looking at America's workplace policies. They are stuck in the past. They are stuck in the "Mad Men" era. Congress and State capitols have simply failed to keep up with the pace of the new economy and the face of the modern American workplace.

This has to change. How can two-income families and sole female-breadwinning households get ahead when they are shortchanged every single month? If we want a growing economy and a thriving middle class, pay women fairly. It is that simple. When women earn equal pay, America's GDP could grow by up to 4 percent. It is common sense, and it is the right thing to do to strengthen our economy and to strengthen our families.

So today, on Equal Pay Day, let's get this done. Let's pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and give America's women the fair shot they deserve to earn their way ahead in today's economy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I rise to speak about the importance of closing the pay gap for women. I am a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act—an important bill—and I am so honored to be here with my colleagues and the leader of the women in the Senate, Senator MIKULSKI.

Today is Equal Pay Day, but it also marks the week where things are finally warming up in my State after a long deep-freeze. We look as though we are going to have 70 degrees. The snow will melt, the flowers will bloom, and the message we are all here to bring is it is time to stop freezing the women of America out of this economy. The women of America want to be treated fairly.

Now all the work we are doing—whether it is the minimum wage bill or the unemployment compensation—is stuck somewhere in a deep freezer over in the House of Representatives, somewhere between the frozen peas and the chocolate ice cream, and it is time to thaw out the freezer in Washington, DC, and help the women of America. That is what this bill is about, that is what the minimum wage bill is about. People deserve a fair shot at the American dream.

I thank again Senator MIKULSKI and I thank her for her leadership in the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. In 2009 we passed that bill to make sure that workers who face pay discrimination based on gender, race, age, religion, disability, or national origin have access to the courts. In doing so, we restored the original intent of the Civil Rights Act and the Equal Pay Act. Now it is time to prevent that pay discrimination from happening in the first place.

We all know women have made great strides in this economy. We have made great strides in this body. We now have 20 women in the Senate but, of course, we are still only at 20 percent. The Fortune 500 now has 23 women CEOs, but I still think anyone who looks at this knows there are great strides that have been made but great progress ahead.

Despite all this progress, women in this country still only earn close to 80 cents for every \$1 made by men. This pay gap has real consequences for American families. Two-thirds of today's families rely on a mother's income either in part or in entirety, and in more than one-third of families the mother is the main breadwinner.

As Senate chair of the Joint Economic Committee, we released a report this week that shows lower wages impact women all through their working lives. I think that is something people don't always think about, the fact that if women consistently make less money, and then you retire, and you are actually going to live longer than men, you have a lot less money to retire with in the first place.

In fact, women who retire have about \$11,000 less per year than men. That is very significant when you look at the age range where women will be in retirement.

The other piece we don't always think about—unless you are in their position—is women in the sandwich generation, women who are taking care

of aging parents at the same time they are taking care of children. That is happening every single day in this country as women are having to take leave from work or leave their job to take care of an aging parent while they are still struggling to afford to send their kids to college, to send their kids to daycare.

This legislation will build on the promises of the Equal Pay Act and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. It will give women new tools and protections to guard against pay discrimination and will help reaffirm that basic principle that all women deserve equal pay for equal work.

I am hopeful we can get this done for the people of this country. It was the late Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota who said: "We all do better when we all do better." I still believe that is true, and so do my colleagues who join me today.

We need to focus on this bill. We need to unfreeze some old beliefs, and we need to bring a little Spring into the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, Senator MIKULSKI and I were just whispering to each other about how far we have come since the day Anita Hill came to the Hill and we couldn't do much to help her, but we organized and recognized that women had to be here in numbers sufficient to make a difference and clearly, today, we are.

My colleague Senator MIKULSKI is our dean of the women. All she is basically saying, with all of us as an echo chamber, is this: Women deserve a fair shot. It is long past time for us to stop shortchanging half of the country and their families.

I want to show us a chart that looks at what happens to a woman in a year when she gives up \$11,000 because she is not being paid, for the same job, the same amount a man is. What could that \$11,000 do?

She could buy a year of groceries, she could provide a year of rent, a year of daycare, she could buy a used car, and she could afford community college. That is 1 year. Look at what happens over the course of a lifetime when because a woman is not getting her fair share, the equal amount that she deserves, she is only getting 77 cents on the dollar. It is \$443,000. What could she do with that? Pay off her entire mortgage, send three kids to the University of California—a great school, I might say—and buy 8,000 tanks of gas.

What is the point of all of this? It is to show that the dollars women are not getting could be going into the community, could be making sure their families are taken care of, and would make all the difference in the world. Now, I was a little startled to see some of my Republican friends on the other side—

Republican Members of the House—say this is demeaning to women. That is what I got out of a news report—that women don't need this. Would they have said that about children? Did children need protection against child labor? The answer is yes. Did workers need protection from a 14-hour day when they were being exploited? Yes. Did we need to make sure people in hazardous workplaces, such as chemical companies, have appropriate protective gear? Yes. Did we need to make sure there are fire exits in a crowded factory, after we saw a horrific fire called the Triangle fire? Yes. Now we need to make sure that women get equal pay for equal work.

This is just part of the continuum of bending that arc of history toward justice. That is what is happening here under the leadership of Senator MIKULSKI and all of us who stand on her shoulders. I have to say it is a great day. It is a great day to hear my colleagues come to the floor and speak as one. We are speaking not only for the women of America, who make up more than half, but for their families.

That is the point. Two-thirds of women are either the sole head of household or they share in providing for the economic well-being of their families. This is a matter of justice. It is a matter of fairness. It is a matter of a fair shot. I am proud to stand with my colleagues.

I hope and pray we will get the 60 votes necessary. There is a filibuster going on, as usual. We need a supermajority. But I would say to my colleagues on the other side that too many women have to be super women. So give them a supermajority. They are super women who are holding down not one job but two jobs. So please help us. Let's celebrate tomorrow with a great vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I want to start by expressing my deep thanks and appreciation to Senator MIKULSKI for her tremendous leadership in the fight for equal pay and for bringing the Paycheck Fairness Act to the forefront of the debate this session.

The role of women in our families and in our economy has really shifted dramatically over the last few decades. Today 60 percent of families rely on earnings from both parents. That is up from 37 percent in 1975—60 percent. Women today make up nearly half the workforce, and more than ever women are likely to be the primary breadwinner in their families. Women are making a difference in our economy, in board rooms, lecture halls and small businesses.

But despite the important progress we have made since the Equal Pay Act passed now 50 years ago, including passing the Lilly Ledbetter Act in

2009—thanks again to Senator MIKULSKI—giving women more tools to fight against pay discrimination, women's wages have not caught up with the times. Across the country today women still earn 77 cents on the dollar, on average, to do the exact same work as men. It would take a typical woman until today to earn what a man would earn doing the same work in 2013.

That difference really adds up. In Seattle, in my home State, last year women earned 73 cents on the dollar—73 cents on the dollar—compared to their male counterparts. That translated to a yearly gap of \$16,346. Nationwide, over a typical woman's lifetime, pay discrimination amounts to \$464,320 in lost wages. That is not only unfair to women, it is bad for our families, and it is bad for our economy.

At a time when more and more families rely on women's wages to put food on the table or stay in their homes or build a nest egg for retirement or help pay for their children's education, it is absolutely critical we do more to eliminate pay discrimination and unfairness in the workplace. The Paycheck Fairness Act would tackle pay discrimination head on. It would ramp up enforcement of equal pay laws and strengthen assistance to businesses to improve equal pay practices. I hope we can all agree that 21st century workers should be compensated based on how they do their job, not whether they are male or female.

I hope to be able to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act as quickly as possible for working women and their families in this country, but we can't stop there. We need to build then on these critical reforms with other steps toward giving women a better and a fairer shot at getting ahead. One out of four women in the United States today would benefit from raising the minimum wage. That is 15 million American women who are making the equivalent of about 2 gallons of gas per hour. It is clearly time to raise the minimum wage and give working women in the country some much deserved relief.

There are other ways we can, and should be, updating our policies to help working women and their families make ends meet. For example, thanks to our outdated Tax Code, a woman who is thinking about reentering the workforce as the second earner in her family is likely going to face higher tax rates than her husband. That would come in addition to increased costs that she would then have with child care and transportation and the possibility of losing tax credits and other benefits as her household income rises. All of this means struggling families will experience higher tax rates than what many of the wealthiest Americans pay. This can discourage a potential second earner, such as a mom who is talking about reentering the workforce and returning to her professional career.

I recently introduced the 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act, which would help solve this problem by giving struggling two-earner families with children a tax deduction on the second earner's income. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that change alone would cut taxes by an average of \$700 for 7.3 million families next year.

The 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act would also expand the EITC for childless workers and lower the eligibility age so that people without dependents and young workers just starting out can benefit from the credit.

By the way, this has bipartisan support. It builds on work incentives from the EITC and is paid for by getting rid of wasteful corporate tax loopholes that both Ways and Means Chairman CAMP and Democrats agree ought to be closed.

Opinion leaders from across the political spectrum have said this bill would provide much-needed relief to workers and families. One conservative commentator wrote in the *National Review* that the 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act is "a serious proposal that has the potential to better the lives of a large number of workers." A *New York Times* editorial columnist says it would be "a huge benefit to low-income childless families and two-earner families."

So I am hopeful that here in Congress we will see similar support on both sides of the aisle for a bill that would help women and working families keep more of what they earn.

We have come a long way in terms of the opportunities women have in our country today, but there is no question we have a lot more work to do. If we take these steps I have talked about, and that others here are talking about, we will do much to break down the very real barriers that still exist today. We will help working women and their families, we will strengthen our economy, and we will expand opportunity for the next generation of women who enter the workforce.

So I am here today to urge my colleagues to support the Paycheck Fairness Act and then build on that step by continuing to help level the playing field for American women and their families.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, this isn't only a women's fight, though we reserved this time. There are many good men in the Senate who will stand shoulder to shoulder with us, and I know the Senator from West Virginia would like to have 2 minutes before he presides. I yield him 2 minutes. Actually, I should yield him 77 percent of what we got, but he is for equal pay and so gets equal time as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. That would be 1 minute and 45 seconds, I say to the Chairwoman.

I thank the chairwoman for what she does and how well she has been leading this charge for all of us. As a proud husband of a brilliant and talented woman, my wife Gayle, and as the father of two daughters and the grandfather of six granddaughters, all of whom are gifted and make great contributions to our country, I believe it is past time women earn the same amount as men in the workplace. We need to correct this unfairness to make sure women are paid what they deserve.

As we join together today to celebrate Equal Pay Day in the year 2014, it just defies common sense that working women in West Virginia earn only 70—not 77 but 70—cents to every dollar a man makes. Too many families are working too hard to make ends meet, and especially in families where women are the breadwinners.

In West Virginia there are more than 81,000 family households headed by women. About 36 percent of those families, or nearly 29,200 family households, have incomes that fall below the poverty level. Eliminating the wage gap would provide much needed income to women whose wages put food on the table, pay the bills, and maintain a respectable quality of life for their children and families.

Growing up I was blessed to be raised by two strong, hardworking women—my grandmother, affectionately known as Mama Kay, and my mother. By example, both of these wonderful ladies taught me that women can work just as hard, if not harder, with more responsibilities, and they should get paid the same as a man. As a matter of fact, they probably should get overtime. There is no reason why they shouldn't have received the same pay for the same job as men, and that certainly resonates today.

Since I joined the Senate, I have been proud to have cosponsored the Paycheck Fairness Act. The very first vote I took in the Senate was for paycheck fairness. Until Congress passes this truly commonsense bill, I will continue to fight for paycheck fairness because the bottom line is people should earn the same pay for the same work, period, no excuses.

As a former governor, most of my decisionmaking was made around good strong women who sat down and gave me the facts and nothing but the facts, and I appreciated that.

It shouldn't matter whether you are a man or a woman. You should be treated fairly no matter what, no matter where you are or what you do.

I thank our chairman, and I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Senator HEITKAMP.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Thank you so much. I want to thank our great friend and great leader from the State of Maryland for continuing her hard work. I wonder if she ever wakes up in the morning and wonders when it is ever going to be done. When are we going to see justice? I am sure she has learned over the years that until you stand up every day and live a life where you are trying to make positive change in America, it doesn't get done. She is somebody who has never given up.

It is interesting that North Dakota, as West Virginia, is one of those States where women earn less than men, and below the national average less than men. When we look at the national average and 77 percent, that is a horrible statistic. But what is really horrible is if you live that statistic.

Not one person in this body lives that statistic. We are all treated equally. It doesn't matter what gender we are. If we are Members of Congress, we are treated equally. Imagine the outpouring of sympathy and support if we got 77 percent of a male's salary. We would think that was atrocious. We would think how could that possibly happen in America. But it happens every day in America.

It happens every day for working women who are supporting their families, women who go to work 40, 50 or 60 hours to support their families and to improve the economies of their State. And they keep spinning their wheels. They keep working at trying to change this and don't seem to get any further ahead. How many of us could take a 25-percent reduction in salary? That is really what we are asking every woman in America to do—not across the board but certainly on average—asking every woman in America to take a 25-percent reduction in her salary. That is not fair, and it should not be the facts of 2014. It should not be the way things are.

There has been a lot of discussion around the opportunities for women, and obviously we have grown. You cannot see 20 women in the Senate and not think that we are making some progress. But we have to think not only about women in professional occupations but women who are school cooks and janitors, such as my mother. The women who are working every day at the diner to put food on their family's table and food on the tables of their patrons.

So when we are talking about this, I must also mention the need for an increase in the minimum wage, which is a topic for further discussion on the floor. I would like to remind my fellow Senators that the current minimum wage, which is overrepresented by women in terms of the number of people earning minimum wage, is less than 9 percent of a congressional salary. We have people in this body who think that the salary they receive is inad-

equated, but we expect people to work 40 hours a week for the minimum wage. Even if you had two minimum wage jobs—think about it—working 40 hours a week on two of those minimum wage jobs, you still would make less than \$32,000 a year working 80 hours a week. That is the story of many women in this country.

When we were growing up and women were in the workforce, it used to be they were working for that extra income. There was this excuse given over and over: She is just supplementing the income, and the man is the breadwinner. She is earning a little extra so she can buy a refrigerator or whatever it is.

That is not the reality of today. The reality of today is that more women are the primary or the sole breadwinners for their family. We have to correct this problem.

I have listened to the debate on the other side saying there are other ideas on how to do this. This won't promote or give a way forward for change. These are the same people who think if you just maintain the status quo, somehow things will magically change in the Senate. After 20 or 30 or 40 years of this struggle, what would suggest to us that we are going to get parity if we don't take some pretty proactive action here in the Senate and in the Congress to say that what a woman does is valuable and it is at least as valuable as what a man does in the exact same job. That is who we are in this country. We are gender neutral, and that is what we are trying to do. We are trying to maintain gender neutrality, maintain a good economy because we know if we put more money into women's family budgets, that money is going to go out and grow our economy even more.

The bottom line is this. Let's have a little sympathy in this body for people who earn less than 20 percent of what a Senator earns. Let's give them a show of support, a thank you from a grateful country for the hard work they put in every day. Let's tell them that the words in the Constitution and the promise of equality are still not realized, but we can work together to make that a reality in their lives.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I would like to start by thanking Senator MIKULSKI for organizing us today and much more importantly for her leadership over the years on this issue. We are so proud to have her as our dean.

I come to the floor today on Equal Pay Day to stand and speak about an issue that impacts women and families in every State across this country. Today I rise to give voice to the belief that we need to be working together

across party aisles to build an America where hard work is rewarded and where there is a fair shot for everyone to realize their pursuits and dreams.

In America today the growing gap between rich and everyone else is at its largest point in 100 years. The absence of upward mobility for hard-working families demands action because if we cannot close this gap we might someday talk about the middle class as something we used to have, not something that each generation can aspire to.

As I have traveled through my home State of Wisconsin, they have told me that the powerful and well connected seem to get to write their own rules while the concerns and struggles of middle-class families often go unnoticed here in Washington. They feel as if our economic system is tilted towards those at the top and that our political system exists to protect unfair advantages, instead of making sure that everybody gets a fair shot.

I rise to give voice to the fact that there is paycheck inequality for hard-working American women across this country and that it is time we do something about it. Working women make up over 50 percent of our workforce, and they are working harder than ever to get ahead. And they deserve to get ahead. Many are working full time, and many are working two jobs to make ends meet. Yet far too many are barely getting by, and far too many women and children are living in poverty. The least we can do is level the playing field and give women a fair shot at getting ahead because they deserve equal pay for equal work. It is simply unfair that women are paid on average 77 cents for every dollar paid to a man. This reality is holding women back, and it is holding our entire economy back.

I am proud to join my colleagues today to deliver a call for action to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and give women equal pay for equal work. This legislation will help close the paycheck gap for women, it will help create upward mobility for women, and it will help strengthen the economic security of millions of families across our country.

Let me take the time to tell you just one story of one woman. Shannon is a single mother of three from Two Rivers, WI. Shannon is working hard to support her family, but the pay gap is holding her back. Shannon has continued her education to advance her career as an interpreter in a school, but she faces the grim reality that women teachers are often paid less than their male counterparts.

In fact—and this is so hard to believe—statistics collected by our Department of Labor make it clear that women earn less than men in almost all occupations commonly held by women. Passing the Paycheck Fairness

Act will help close the pay gap and provide Shannon and so many others with financial freedom for their families.

It would help Shannon manage issues that working moms face every single day—unexpected car problems, children outgrowing their pants and shoes, the anxiety of not being able to save a little bit from their paycheck to someday send their children to college. To put this in the simplest terms possible, it would give Shannon a fair shot at passing on a stronger future for her children.

Today women working full time in Wisconsin go home with \$10,324 less a year than their male counterparts. In Wisconsin, 31 percent of households headed by working women have incomes that fall below the poverty level. This is simply wrong, and it is our job to work together to change that. Millions of American women get up everyday to work hard for that middle-class dream: a good job that pays the bills, health care coverage you can rely on, a home you can call your own, a chance to save for your kids' college education, and a secure retirement. But instead, gender discrimination is holding women and their families back. Eliminating the pay gap will make families more secure.

Nearly 60 percent of women would earn more if women were paid the same as men of the same experience with similar education and hours of work. The poverty rate for women would be cut in half. It is wrong for us to ignore the gap between the economic security that American women work so hard to achieve and the economic uncertainty that they are asked to settle for. With a record number of women in the workforce today, the right thing to do is to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and empower women with a fair shot at equal pay.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act because it would strengthen families and our economy by providing working women with the tools they need to close the gender pay gap. It will show the American people our commitment to working together to provide a fair shot for everyone.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. I would like to first commend the senior Senator from Maryland for her fearless and tireless leadership on this issue. She has been a protean force when it comes to this issue and many others. I deeply admire and respect her.

This week I held my annual roundtable with the Women's Fund in Providence. We talked about equal rights, equal pay, and economic opportunity and justice with women who are creating jobs and fighting inequality everyday.

Today, as my colleagues have pointed out, we mark Equal Pay Day. Women would have to work until April 8 of this year just to earn what men did as of December 31 of last year. Passing the Paycheck Fairness Act will move us one step closer to being able to commemorate Equal Pay Day on December 31 each year for both men and women, and that is what we should be striving for.

This year we are marking the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act and the war on poverty. We have come a long way, but our efforts to form a more perfect, more equal union must continue forward. When President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law in 1963, women were earning an average of 59 cents on the dollar compared to men.

No matter how you slice it, median annual earnings, weekly earnings, by level of education or occupation, there is still a gender gap in pay today.

The Women's Fund of Rhode Island issued a report showing that gender discrimination in pay is even more striking for minority women. In Rhode Island African-American women make 61 cents for every dollar that a white male makes. For Latinas the figure is 51 cents. This gender discrimination pay gap affects women at all educational levels.

According to the Council of Economic Advisers, women are more likely to complete college—that is right. Today women are completing college more than men. In 2012, 25- to 34-year-old women were 21 percent more likely than men to be college graduates, but this is not closing the earnings gap. To all those who say it is all about education, and these people have more education, that is wrong. It is not.

Women who earn advanced degrees start off on a relatively even footing—people with a Master's or a Ph.D. But again, over the course of their careers the wage gap widens in favor of men. The National Partnership for Women and Families reports that women with Master's degrees are paid 70 cents for every dollar paid to men with Master's degrees, and women with Master's degrees earn less than men with Bachelor's degrees.

Equal pay for equal work is not only an issue of equity. It has real economic consequences. Families rely on women's income. Data analyzed by the National Partnership for Women and Families show that women are the primary or sole breadwinners in 40 percent of families. If we eliminate gender discrimination in pay in Rhode Island, a working woman would have enough extra money to buy 74 more weeks of food for her family, to make 6 more months of mortgage and utilities payments, or to pay 11 more months of rent. That just doesn't help the woman; it helps the family.

One of the best tools in fighting poverty is to close the pay gap. The Paycheck Fairness Act will help fulfill the promise of the Equal Pay Act by improving the remedies available to women facing gender discrimination. These are commonsense and fair improvements for our mothers, our daughters, our sisters, our fathers, our sons, and our brothers.

We must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. We believe everyone deserves a fair shot, and that includes equal pay for equal work. I urge my colleagues to come together to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, and with that I will yield the floor.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, almost 51 years after the enactment of the Equal Pay Act, women now make up almost half of the workforce; however, gender-based wage discrimination is still pervasive. Statistics show that there is a significant difference in the pay of men and women performing the same or substantially similar jobs, regardless of the education level or type of occupation. Looking at the average pay for women, women get paid about 77 cents for every dollar earned by similar male workers.

The experience of women in the workforce is better in California but not by much. According to the most recent census estimates, in California, the average pay for a woman working full time, year round is \$41,956 per year, while the average for a man is \$50,139. This means that, on average, women in California are paid less than 84 cents for every dollar paid to men. Put another way, this amounts to a yearly gap of \$8,183 between full-time working men and women in the State. Over the course of a career, on average, women stand to lose \$434,000 in income and thus enjoy fewer Social Security, pension, and retirement benefits.

Latina women face greater disparities in the workplace as they are paid approximately 54 cents for every dollar paid to men. Women of color fare similarly.

As a group, full-time working women in California alone lose over \$37.5 billion each year due to the wage gap.

According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, if the gender-based "pay gap" were eliminated, a working woman in California would have enough money for approximately 59 more weeks of food, 4 more months of mortgage and utilities payments, 7 more months of rent, or 2,103 additional gallons of gas.

A Redondo Beach resident wrote to me, "I know that at my current age, I have been paid hundreds of thousands of dollars less than my colleagues, though I am also paying my rent . . . supporting my kids, and trying to figure out how I can possibly pay for colleges for them. If I had been earning a fair wage, I could afford college, and healthcare, and would have some re-

tirement savings, all things that I cannot currently do."

She is absolutely right—it is estimated that it takes a woman 4½ more months of work to earn the same as her male counterpart earns in just 1 year. Yet she still must pay for the same monthly expenses as her male colleagues. In Redondo Beach, her monthly expenses can be crippling.

A single adult with two children living in Redondo Beach spends monthly around \$536 in food, \$767 in child care, \$451 in medical care, \$1,420 in housing, and \$639 in transportation, not to mention taxes. Considering that over 1.7 million households in California are headed by women, over 500,000 of whom fall below the poverty level as it is, denying California women equal pay for equal work adds to their burden and affects their families.

This is not just a problem for low-income women and families. The pay gap exists across the spectrum of education levels and occupations. According to the 2012 S&P 500 CEO Pay Study, although companies run by female chief executive officers performed better on average than those run by men—looking at the total shareholder return for their companies—those female CEOs were paid an average of about \$500,000 less per year than their male CEO counterparts. And the pay gap is wider for women with higher education, making it more difficult for them to pay off their school loans.

Congress tried to address the problem by passing the Equal Pay Act in 1963, which amended the Fair Labor Standards Act, making it illegal for employers to pay unequal wages to men and women who perform substantially the same work. However, as is reflected in wage data statistics and in the stories shared by women across the country, while the Equal Pay Act was a step in the right direction, more needs to be done to clarify the law.

Congress recently had to correct the courts on how to interpret pay discrimination laws in line with their original intent by passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009. Through Lilly Ledbetter, Congress amended title VII of the Civil Rights Act to clarify the timeframes in which employees could bring a claim against employers who engage in pay discrimination.

But according to recent studies, Congress needs to strengthen the law further in order to effectively close the pay gap between men and women across the spectrum. The disparity in pay between men and women is the same as it was in 2002. If we keep going at this rate, without congressional action, women will not reach pay equity until 2058.

The Paycheck Fairness Act therefore provides Congress with an opportunity to eliminate this unfair pay gap. It will reasonably update the Equal Pay Act

by eliminating loopholes used for far too long in courtrooms; strengthening incentives to employers to prevent pay discrimination through remedies available under current law to victims of race-based and national origin discrimination; improving wage data collection so that we can better evaluate the pay gap; and by strengthening education, training, outreach, and enforcement efforts to close the pay gap.

This bill also importantly provides that employers are prohibited from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their coworkers. Nearly half of all workers in the United States are strongly discouraged or even have workplace policies against the sharing of salary information. This secrecy makes it extremely difficult for employees to detect pay discrimination and contributes to the pay gap. For example, Lilly Ledbetter was paid less than her male coworkers for almost 20 years but did not realize it because a company policy prohibited her from discussing her pay with her coworkers. She discovered the pay discrimination only when someone sent her an anonymous note.

Under the Paycheck Fairness Act, employees would therefore generally be protected from retaliation when they discuss or inquire about their wages or the wages of another employee. They would also be protected from retaliation if they make a charge, file a complaint, or participate in a government or employer-initiated investigation. These antiretaliation provisions would generally not protect employees such as payroll or HR personnel who have access to wage information as an essential function of their job. Rather, the antiretaliation provisions would enable employees to learn about their employers' wage practices without being afraid of losing their jobs. With such information, employees will be better suited to close the gender pay gap for themselves and others.

I recognize the concerns of business owners who maintain that amending the Equal Pay Act will open them up to liability and risk harming their business. I have heard concerns that employers fear that this bill will infringe on their private business practices should it become law.

After considering and reconsidering the effects of this legislation with the concerns of business owners in mind and after consulting with experts in employment and labor law, I came to the conclusion that this bill is necessary to level the playing field and does not have to necessarily affect business practices so long as those business practices do not discriminate against women.

As under the current law, employers would not be helpless or defenseless—they can proactively conduct an internal pay-equity analysis to ensure equal pay for equal work before government

intervention. In fact, the bill provides for a 6-month waiting period from the time of enactment, and the Department of Labor would assist small businesses with compliance.

Should a claim arise, employers have affirmative defenses that they can raise to justify pay differences, such as if the wages are set based on a seniority system; a merit system; a system that measures earnings by quantity or quality of product; or a bona fide factor other than sex, such as education, training, or experience, which is job-related and serves a legitimate business interest.

I am not in the habit of supporting bills that advance women just because I am a woman. I am supporting this bill because I believe in advancing equal rights and uplifting millions of families who rely on a woman's paycheck in order to eat.

I am not alone in hearing stories about paycheck disparities in California. My colleagues have heard similar stories from women in their States. We also know that women are critical to driving this economy, and by ensuring equal pay for equal work, the entire economy benefits.

With the knowledge of pervasive inequality still today in pay among men and women and considering that the majority of Americans support the government taking steps to enable women to get equal pay for equal work, it is our duty to vote in favor of cloture and for swift passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the Senator for those comments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority's time has expired.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 4:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 556 and 502; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote, with no intervening action or debate, on the nominations in the order listed; further, that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for weeks Republicans have been trying to get Democrats to focus on the one issue Americans say they care the most about, and that is jobs and the

economy. Everyone agrees we are in the midst of a jobs crisis in our country. Republicans are saying: Here are some concrete things we can actually do about it. But Democrats have completely shut us out. If government isn't part of the solution or if it doesn't drive a wedge between one group of people and another, they are just not interested.

Here is one idea that I proposed and Democrats have brushed aside: How about helping workers better balance the demands of work and family by allowing them time off as a form of overtime compensation? This is an idea that is tailored to the needs of the modern workforce. It is something a lot of working women say they want, and it is something government employees have already enjoyed for years. What we are saying is to give today's working women in the private sector the same kind of flexibility working women have in the government.

Everybody is familiar with the idea of getting paid time-and-a-half for overtime work. What this bill would do is give people the choice of getting a proportionate bump in time off for overtime work. So if you work an extra hour, you can get an hour-and-a-half off work. This should be a no-brainer. This is a concrete proposal to help men and women adapt to the needs of the modern workplace and for the workplace to adapt to the modern workforce. This is not just a way to help workers, it is a way to especially help working women. Flexibility is a major part of achieving work-life balance, especially for working moms. That is what this amendment is all about.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed to S. 2199, that all postcloture time be yielded back and the Senate proceed to the consideration of the bill and that it be in order for me to offer amendment No. 2962, and then for the majority leader or his designee to offer an amendment, and then it be in order for the leaders or their designees to continue to offer amendments in an alternating fashion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a unanimous consent request I would like to put forward as well. I ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed to S. 2199, that all postcloture time be yielded back and the Senate proceed to consideration of the bill, and that it be in order for me to offer amendment No. 2964, and then for the majority leader or his designee to offer an amendment, and it be in order for the leaders or their designees to continue to offer amendments in an alternating fashion

with the following amendments on the Republican side in order: McConnell amendment No. 2962, Fischer amendment No. 2963, Alexander amendment No. 2965, and Lee amendment No. 2966.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, would my friend give the subject matter of those three amendments?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the Senator from South Dakota state the subject matter of those amendments?

Mr. THUNE. The McConnell amendment has to deal with flexibility in the workplace and comp time, the Fischer amendment has to do with anti-discrimination in the workplace, and I believe the Lee amendment also deals with comp time flexibility in the workplace.

The Senator from Tennessee, Senator ALEXANDER, is here, and I think he can speak to his amendment. Most of them deal with the pending business, S. 2199, which is the Pay Equity Act that the majority leader expects to get a cloture vote on later. We simply ask to have an opportunity to offer amendments that pertain to that bill, on issues we think are important in addressing the issue that is before us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, is the Alexander amendment, which the Senator from South Dakota suggested, the 350-page amendment that was offered last week?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, if I may respond to the majority leader, the answer is no. The Alexander amendment, I say to my friend from Nevada, is a pretty simple amendment. It talks about giving working parents more flexibility so they can go to soccer games and piano recitals; in other words, to be better parents.

A few years ago Captain Kangaroo, Robert Keeshan, and I—along with some other people—started a company. After our company merged with another company, it became the largest worksite daycare company in America. What we found out was that the greatest value working parents with young children wanted was flexibility. Our fear is that this proposal, which is called paycheck fairness, would actually limit the flexibility of employers can give to working parents so they can go to their children's activities.

My amendment is a very simple amendment. It is only a paragraph or two, and it simply restates the law and makes it clear that if you run a dry cleaner with three people in it, you don't have to hire a lawyer to define a job for an employee with a child in such a way that that employee can go to the piano recital or soccer game. Instead of being about more litigation, it

is about giving more flexibility for working parents.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Before my friend from South Dakota leaves the floor, 2964 is the big one?

Mr. THUNE. That is correct.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, I am happy to see a number of Republican colleagues come to the floor. We have been talking about this issue for days now and to discuss, I thought, the subject of equal pay for women. But there has been no talk about equal pay for women. The closest of anything in that regard that has been suggested has been a bill that says if you have to work overtime, then you have a choice of going home or doing the overtime.

The reason we don't have laws like that is because the employer can take advantage of the employee because the employee is at the beck and call of the employer, and I think most labor laws would protect against that now.

I am surprised we have literally heard no one come to the floor except on the one occasion—and I could have missed it—where the Republican Senator made the statement that Senator MIKULSKI's legislation was a trial lawyer's dream. The women who have come to the floor to talk about this—and the men who have come to talk about this today, including the Presiding Officer, and I heard his statement—are simply trying to say we need to be sure this is a fair shot for the middle class, and in this instance it is women. But the Republicans always want to change the subject. Why don't we have a debate on whether women are entitled to have the same pay as men?

The Senate is debating the motion to proceed to the equal pay bill, so the question before the Senate is whether we should even begin debate on this matter. If Senators wish to offer amendments, they would have to begin the debate.

I am always happy to talk about amendments, but the amendment of my friend from South Dakota is nothing that is reasonable. What that amendment does is offer lots of amendments. I think if we look closely at this 350-page amendment, we might even find the kitchen sink in it. It has everything else in it. It is really a perfect example of trying to divert attention from the subject at hand. This is not a serious effort to legislate equal pay for equal work.

My colleague's unanimous consent request would also allow for a potentially unlimited number of amendments. We have been there before, and we know that does not work. Providing an unlimited number of amendments is just another way of saying they want to filibuster the bill, which they have done so artfully over the last 5 years.

My door remains open to further discussions, but I object to the requests that have been made, including the one that I anticipate from my friend from Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Is there anything pending? I want to make sure there are no pending requests for unanimous consent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No.

The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I think what we just heard was a number of our Members have amendments they are going to talk about and offer when we get on the bill—and I assume we will at some point—so we can debate and vote on them. We are talking about an issue that is important to people across this country, and we have amendments that we think would improve, strengthen, make better the bill that is going to be on the floor that has been described as the Pay Equity Act by the Democrats.

We actually think there is a better way to do this. We think there is a way that actually would improve the wages, provide better job opportunities, and better opportunities for advancement for women.

This morning the majority leader quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson who said, "America is another name for opportunity." I could not agree more with that statement. The American dream is to work hard and achieve upward mobility. Americans want good jobs, and they want to earn a fair wage. But the current Obama economy is doing everything it can to hurt the American dream.

The economy is stagnant. There are 10 million Americans who are unemployed—nearly 4 million for 6 months or longer. Household income has fallen. Right now there are 3.7 million more women living in poverty than there were when the President took office. I will repeat that. There are 3.7 million more women living in poverty today than there were when the President took office. The median income for women has dropped by \$733 since President Obama took office. That is why this body should be focused on enacting policies that lift the government-imposed burdens that impede job opportunities and economic growth.

I have offered an amendment—and I just asked unanimous consent to be able to have it debated and voted on when we get on this bill—that actually is focused on enacting policies that lift the government-imposed burdens that impede job opportunities and economic growth. It is called the Good Jobs, Good Wages, and Good Hours Act. It would help return America to a place where there are good job opportunities.

My amendment would help create good-paying jobs by reining in burdensome regulatory requirements, shielding workers from the damaging effects

of ObamaCare, approving the Keystone XL Pipeline, and providing permanent tax relief to employers that are looking to expand and hire.

Republicans could not agree more that women should have equal opportunities and pay in the workplace. Unfortunately, the legislation our friends on the other side are pushing will not accomplish that goal. Their legislation would increase Federal regulations that would cut flexibility in the workplace for working moms and end merit pay that rewards quality work.

The Democrats seem to be trying to change the subject of how their ideas are actually hurting women in the workforce. Of those affected by the Democrats' ObamaCare 30-hour workweek that is reducing wages, 63 percent are women. So that policy of going to a 30-hour workweek that was defined as such in ObamaCare, 63 percent of the impact of that is being felt by women. Of the roughly 500,000 jobs that CBO projects will be lost by the end of 2016 thanks to the Democrats' 40-percent minimum wage hike, 235,000 of those—or 57 percent—would be jobs that are held by women. Disproportionately, these policies are going to hurt women.

The poverty rate for women has increased to 16.3 percent from 14.4 percent as of when the President took office. So the poverty rate is higher. We have women who are living in worse economic conditions than when the President took office. If the Democrats were truly serious about fixing that problem—if they are truly serious about helping women—they would work with us on bills to create jobs and to expand workplace opportunities for women and for men as well. That is exactly what my amendment does. It addresses the problems created by ObamaCare, it includes a provision pushed by Senator COLLINS that would restore the 40-hour workweek I mentioned earlier, and it will finally repeal the job-destroying medical device tax for which Senators TOOMEY, HATCH, and COATS have been tirelessly fighting.

My amendment ensures that veterans and the long-term unemployed are not punished by the costs of the ObamaCare employer mandate in that legislation. Senator BLUNT has raised that issue in the Senate on behalf of veterans, and in the House a similar bill passed by a margin of 406 to 1.

My amendment also provides permanent, targeted tax relief to millions of small businesses. Small businesses create 65 percent of all new jobs. Yet this administration has done little more than punish them with more regulations and higher taxes.

The amendment also halts harmful EPA regulations until the EPA conducts additional analysis of the impact those existing rules would have on jobs.

It is time this body recognizes that the policies the other side is advancing

are not achieving the outcomes they claim will occur. We need to renew our commitment to helping all Americans, including women, find job opportunities that allow them to achieve the American dream. We need to return this country to a place where America truly is another name for opportunity.

Earlier today the President and CEO of the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, Karen Kerrigan, wrote an article that says this proposal I am speaking about “offers a set of really good policy proposals to help women entrepreneurs and women in the workforce.”

That is why I sought unanimous consent to have this amendment debated and voted on, along with many of my colleagues, including the Senator from Nebraska Mrs. FISCHER and the Senator from New Hampshire Ms. AYOTTE, who are here to speak about amendments they want to put forward as a part of this debate. I asked unanimous consent earlier for those amendments to be considered as well and once again that has been blocked by the majority leader. That is the wrong way to deal with an issue of this consequence.

If we want to help people—if we want to create jobs and grow the economy, which ultimately helps lift all the boats, improves the standard of living for middle-class families, women and men—the best way to do that is to get a growing, vibrant economy instead of a stagnant economy, which is what we have today, with too many who have been unemployed for a long period of time.

I hope our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will come to the conclusion that if we are going to debate this issue, we need to debate it in a comprehensive way that takes into consideration all of the ideas out there, including those that will be offered by my colleagues this afternoon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I strongly affirm the principle of equal pay for equal work. Both the Equal Pay Act and title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which were passed on a bipartisan basis, have helped increase career opportunities for women and ensure they receive equal pay for equal work. That is a principle we strongly support.

Women have made progress. They now hold more than half of all managerial and professional jobs—more than double the number of women in 1980—and women comprise a majority in the five fastest growing job fields. According to the Department of Education, women receive 57 percent of all college degrees, 33 percent more than in 1970.

We believe—the reports prepared for the U.S. Department of Labor recognize—that commonly used wage gap statistics don't tell the full story. Fac-

tors including differences in occupation, education, fields of study, type of work, hours worked, and other personal choices shape career paths and they shape earning potential. Moreover, salaries alone don't account for total compensation. Still, some women continue to struggle with gender-based pay discrimination, directly impacting a woman's livelihood, financial future, and her job security. With 60 percent of women working as the primary breadwinners, lost wages detrimentally impact families as well as single women.

We fully agree that gender-based pay discrimination in the modern workplace is unacceptable. We just have different ideas from some of our colleagues about the best way to combat this. Prevailing concern among women with wage discrimination indicates that there is more work to do. That is why I have worked with Senator COLLINS, Senator AYOTTE, and Senator MURKOWSKI to file an amendment to modernize key portions of that 51-year-old Equal Pay Act.

Our proposal prevents retaliation against employees who inquire about, discuss or disclose their salaries. It reinforces current law which prohibits pay discrimination based on gender, and it requires employers to notify the employees of their rights, but we don't stop there because I believe we need a solution that addresses both discrimination and the opportunity gap or the need to provide both men and women with good-paying jobs.

Our amendment consolidates duplicative job training programs and it provides Federal grants to States for the creation of industry-led partnerships. This program is meant to provide to women and men who are underrepresented in industries that report worker shortages with the skills they need to compete. Such industries include manufacturing, energy, transportation, information technology, and health care. Importantly, no new spending is appropriated.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are blocking consideration of what I believe is this very commonsense amendment and a number of other Republican amendments that would also help with job creation.

This is nothing more than election year politics. I find it very disappointing. As women and as lawmakers, we believe our proposal to directly address discrimination in the workplace is reasonable, it is fact-based, and it is a great approach. More government and more lawyers will not lead to more pay for women.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I wish to praise my colleague from Nebraska for her leadership on the important amendment she has just described, the Workplace Advancement Act, which

will address legitimate issues to ensure that laws we have had in place for half a century, including the Equal Pay Act and title VII of the Civil Rights Act, are enforced and that women are informed of their rights in the workplace to ensure what we all believe in, which is that women should be paid the same for the same job. Frankly, as a woman, I would like the opportunity to outperform and to be paid more.

One of the concerns I have is about what I view the majority leader meant when he came to the floor and said that this was an important issue to them. If this is such an important issue, why didn't they have a markup in the HELP Committee where everyone could offer their amendments to deal with this legitimate issue that I believe my male and female colleagues feel is important? Why is it that when we have brought legitimate amendments to the floor, including my colleague's amendment, the Workplace Advancement Act, as well as a provision that would allow greater flexibility for employees with comp time—the same that is enjoyed by those in the public sector—and my colleague from South Dakota who has a strong amendment to help create a better climate for job creation and more opportunity in this country—if this is such a serious issue, which I agree this is an important and serious issue, then why is it these amendments are being blocked? Why is it we are not having a legitimate debate? Unfortunately, what I fear is that an important and legitimate issue is being turned into a political ploy of election-year politics.

I share the sentiments of my colleague from Nebraska. I am very disappointed by this. In fact, one of the concerns I have about the bill pending on the floor—the so-called Paycheck Fairness Act—is that it will actually have the impact of reducing flexibility for working families. It could have the impact of reducing the ability of employers to award merit pay.

I had the privilege of serving as the first woman attorney general in my State. Before I went to the attorney general's office, I worked at a private law firm. I have had the opportunity, in the position in which I serve, to meet incredible women leaders in the health sector and in the business sector. There are many instances, frankly, where women, based on merit, have outperformed their male colleagues. So what we don't want to do is create and pass a law that actually reduces the opportunity for employers in the workplace to reward merit because women want the opportunity to earn more than men when they do a better job, just as my male counterparts want. That is one of my concerns about the so-called Paycheck Fairness Act.

That is why I very much appreciate what I think is a better approach by my colleague, which reinforces the enforcement of laws that have been in

place, that rightly prohibits discrimination based on sex in the workplace, including discrimination based on people being paid differently even though they are performing the same job, where there are no merit differences. That is wrong. It is unacceptable. The ideas of my colleague from Nebraska are very good and I would hope the majority leader would allow a vote.

I would also like to discuss the amendment that was offered by Senator McCONNELL, of which I am a cosponsor, that would provide working families with more flexibility in the workforce. In fact, what it would do is allow the same options currently available to those in the public sector to working families in the private sector. It would allow workers—if they want to; and it is their choice—to receive comp time instead of overtime pay so they can have more time off if they want and they choose. This is all voluntary. So if they want more time off to go to that soccer game, if they want more time off to have time to care for their children or more time to care for an elderly parent, then private sector employers will have the same ability to enter into those agreements voluntarily with their employees, to give their employees more flexibility in the workplace.

What we know is that today nearly 60 percent of working households have two working parents. I happen to live in one of those households, and we struggle in our household to get to all the events we want to get to for our children. I have a 9-year-old and a 6-year-old, and this is a huge challenge that so many parents face.

So the Family Friendly and Workplace Flexibility Act, which is an amendment Senator McCONNELL offered earlier, that I am a proud cosponsor of, would provide this needed flexibility for employees, workers, and let them decide with their employer whether they would like to receive more comp time. Right now public sector employees have the right to do this. They have this flexibility. It seems we should provide the same legal framework allowing private sector employees this type of flexibility, with more and more families trying to balance both parents working and challenging circumstances in the workplace.

In fact, some companies, such as Dell, Bank of America, and GE already provide flexible workplace arrangements to their salaried employees who are exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act. What this would do is allow these types of agreements to other employees, to have access to the same kinds of benefits, if they choose. It is their choice. This is giving families more flexibility, more opportunity to deal with the challenges so many of us are dealing with in terms of balancing work and family and wanting to be

good parents, wanting to be good at our jobs.

It seems to me this is a commonsense amendment, and I am disappointed the majority leader would also block this amendment, as well as the excellent amendment offered by my colleague from Nebraska, and, obviously, the amendment that was offered—a very good amendment—by my colleague from South Dakota to deal with this underlying issue of creating a better climate of opportunity for women and men throughout this country.

I believe this is a serious issue. But if it is a real serious issue—which I think we all share a feeling of on both sides of the aisle—then why is this being treated more like a political ploy instead of having a legitimate debate on the floor? Why didn't this go through the regular committee process, where people can offer their amendments and have a markup that can improve and make sure we are addressing the underlying issue?

To me, it is disappointing that the Senate continues to operate in this way because this is not the first time I have come to the floor or my colleagues have come to the floor with a legitimate amendment that is relevant to the bill that is pending on the floor, yet have been blocked by the majority leader on an important issue.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the Senator from Utah has an amendment he is going to speak to in a moment. I just want to say one thing. I appreciate the observation made by the Senator from New Hampshire Ms. AYOTTE with regard to this going through a regular order process. If this were a serious discussion, there would have been an opportunity to have a debate at the appropriate committee, the HELP Committee.

You just heard great presentations by the Senator from Nebraska and the Senator from New Hampshire on amendments that they would like to have considered and debated and voted on—substantive amendments that address what is at the heart of this issue. I think we all understand what this is about. I mentioned this morning on the floor the New York Times story from a couple weeks ago about what the intention is with regard to these issues. Again, this is from the New York Times story, and I quote: “to be timed to coincide with campaign-style trips by President Obama.” “Democrats concede,” the Times reports, “that making new laws is not really the point. Rather, they are trying to force Republicans to vote against them.” The article goes on to say—and I quote again:

Privately, White House officials say they have no intention of searching for any grand bargain with Republicans on any of these issues. “The point isn't to compromise” . . .

That is reporting from the New York Times, and quoting a White House official with regard to this.

This is clearly designed as a political ploy, as my colleagues from New Hampshire and Nebraska pointed out. If we were serious about this, there would be an open process where we could consider amendments—amendments that improve and strengthen the legislation that is before us—and actually it would be a better approach to addressing the issue that is before us; that is, to try to create better salaries, better wages, better opportunities for women. I say that as somebody who is the father of two adult daughters who are both in the workplace. I want to see them have every opportunity to advance themselves and to maximize the potential they have. But we cannot do that if we have policies coming out of Washington, DC, that make it more difficult, more expensive to create jobs, that throw a big wet blanket on our economy, and stifle the growth we need to create those types of opportunities for all Americans.

The Senator from Utah is here. He is going to speak to his amendment. But I think it is very clear what this is about; that is, simply trying to score a political point rather than have a serious, meaningful, substantive debate about solving an issue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, the Senator from South Dakota, for his leadership in this area. I agree with his comments and support those statements, along with the other actions taken by my colleagues from New Hampshire, Kentucky, and Nebraska, in addition to others.

I too had an amendment I wanted to present in connection with this legislation. I too offered that up and identified reasons why this is both relevant and germane to the legislation at hand. Unfortunately, the majority leader saw fit to block this, to object to it, to refuse altogether to allow the U.S. Senate—which is supposed to be the world's greatest deliberative legislative body—to consider these or any of the other amendments that were presented along with them.

We are not asking for passage by unanimous consent. We recognize some people might not share our views. We recognize there might be a diversity of opinion within the body. We nevertheless believe, as U.S. Senators, we are entitled to have these amendments considered because they are relevant, because they are germane. We also think they should be considered because they would benefit the American people.

This is the sort of thing we are supposed to do. It is what we do. What we are supposed to be doing as Senators is to be offering amendments and voting

on amendments to make legislation we consider better. You see, the amendment process can make a bad bill good or at least better, and that is exactly why we have an obligation to consider amendments.

It is important to point out here that one of the reasons why I ran this amendment in the first place has to do with the fact that one of the struggles facing working families today is the constant struggle moms and dads feel as they try to juggle the work-life balance. Parents today need to juggle work, home, kids, community, and other obligations they face.

For many families, especially families with young children, the most precious commodity parents have is time. But today Federal labor laws severely, and I believe unfairly, restrict the way moms and dads and everyone else can use their time. That is because many of those laws were written decades ago—decades ago—before the Internet existed; decades ago, when a number of demographic factors were aligned much differently than they are today, when a number of social trends operated much differently in our economy than they do today. Because of these laws—these same Buddy Holly-era, Elvis-era laws—because of these same antiquated laws that need to be updated, an hourly employee who works overtime is not allowed to take comp time, not allowed to take flextime. Even if she prefers it, her boss cannot even offer it without violating Federal law.

Today, if a working mom or a working dad stays late at the office on Monday or Tuesday, and instead of receiving extra pay wants to get compensated by leaving early on Friday and spend the afternoon with the kids, that kind of arrangement could well be violating Federal law. That sounds unfair, especially to parents, and it is unfair, especially to parents and their children and everyone else.

It also seems like the kind of arrangement that should not be prohibited by Federal law but ought to be perfectly acceptable. But how do we know that for sure? Well, we know that for sure because Congress gave a special exemption from that very law—the law I just described a moment ago—that is available only for government employees. This is unacceptable. The same work-life options that have been made available by Congress itself to government employees should be available to the citizens they serve.

In May of last year, the House of Representatives responded to this deficit in existing Federal law by passing the Working Families Flexibility Act, sponsored by Representative MARTHA ROBY of Alabama, to equalize the comp time rules, existing within a government employment context, for all workers. Last fall, I introduced companion legislation in the Senate proposing to do exactly the same thing.

Now, today, I would like to offer an amendment that is modeled on this same legislation to end this flextime discrimination, this comp time discrimination against private sector workers. You talk to any working mom or any working dad and they will tell you they need more time.

Now, Mr. President, as you well know, we cannot legislate another hour in the day. If we could, I am sure it would have been done by now, and, frankly, I am a little surprised someone has not tried it. But we know mathematically it will not work. It would not do any good. But what we can do is to help working people so they can better balance the demands they face—the demands of family and work and community and every other demand they face. We can ease some of this pressure by removing an unnecessary, outdated, and manifestly unfair Federal restriction on utilizing comp time in the private sector.

There are real problems in this world. There are bad things that can be and must be prohibited by Federal law. But the fact that working parents would prefer, quite understandably, to spend more time with their families is not one of those things that needs to be prohibited, nor is it one of those things that we should allow to continue to be prohibited, especially when it is prohibited in a patently unfair discriminatory fashion—one that inures to the benefit of government employees, inures unfairly to the detriment of everyone else.

Congress needs to stop punishing America's moms and dads for wanting the same fair treatment that government employees are able to receive through comp time and flextime programs. The United States of America deserves to have amendments like this one, and other amendments, that would make our laws less intrusive, less oppressive, less unfair, that would lead to the development of a more fair, just economy, and a more fair, just system of laws.

We are never going to be able to get there if we are not even allowed to debate and discuss and vote on it, consider, much less pass, amendments. It is time to restore the Senate to what it was always intended to be, which is the world's greatest deliberative legislative body. That cannot happen when amendments like this one are categorically blocked from consideration. We must end this. We must do better. We can and we must and we will.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, last October families and communities across our country were forced to endure a completely unnecessary government shutdown. Coming after years of budget uncertainty and constant crises, the shutdown hurt our workers and threatened our fragile economic recovery. It shook the confidence of people across the country who expected their elected officials to come together to avoid such a needless and self-inflicted crisis. It was a dark time here in Congress. I think many of my colleagues regret letting the tea party minority push us into that.

When the shutdown finally ended, I sat down with House Budget Committee chairman PAUL RYAN in a budget conference that many of us had been trying to start for months. We worked through the issues. We compromised. We reached a 2-year budget deal that rolled back the devastating cuts from sequestration. We prevented another government shutdown and restored much needed certainty to the budget process.

That budget deal was a strong step in the right direction, but it was not the only step Congress needs to take to create jobs and economic growth. It was not the only step we need to take to ensure that we do not lurch to another avoidable crisis because if Congress does not act, we are headed toward another crisis in just a few months—not a budget crisis this time but a construction shutdown that could ramp up when our highway trust fund reaches critically low levels.

It will get worse and worse if we do not solve the problem. So I have come to the floor today to call on my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to work together to avert this looming crisis and to do it in a commonsense way that gives our States the multiyear certainty they need to plan projects, to invest in their communities, and to create jobs.

Since the mid-1950s our Nation has relied on the highway trust fund to support transportation projects that create jobs and keep our economy moving. The fund helps to repave our roads so they are not pockmarked with potholes. It helps congestion on our Nation's highways, and it helps repair bridges that are outdated and unsafe.

But as soon as July—just a few months from now—the Department of Transportation predicts the highway trust fund will reach a critically low level. If this is not resolved, construction projects to improve our roads and our bridges could shut down and leave workers without a paycheck.

We are already seeing some consequences from this crisis. In Arkansas, 10 construction projects, such as building highway connections and replacing bridges, have already been put on hold. The State of Colorado wants

to widen a major highway to ease congestion between Denver and Fort Collins, but officials say that with this funding shortage in the highway trust fund, that project could be delayed. These are not isolated cases. States from Vermont to California might have to stop construction in its tracks because of this highway trust fund shortfall.

This crisis will also cut jobs. As we all know, construction is at its peak in the summer months. But without funding States may have no choice but to stop construction and leave workers without a job. That is going to hurt communities with needless delays on the very improvements that would help our businesses and spur economic growth.

This is unacceptable. It is unnecessary. Congress needs to work to avoid this construction shutdown. There is no reason—none—to lurch to another avoidable crisis when workers and families across the country are struggling. We need to ensure that construction can continue this summer. We need to support workers. We need to deliver a multiyear solution for the highway trust fund.

Fortunately, we can solve this in a way that should have bipartisan support. President Obama and House Republican DAVE CAMP, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, have proposed using corporate revenue to shore up the highway trust fund. That approach makes a lot of sense. By closing wasteful corporate tax loopholes, we can support improvements to our roads and bridges that benefit everyone—including our big businesses, so they can move their products quickly and efficiently—and make our broken Tax Code a bit fairer in the process. We can start by taking a close look at the tax loopholes House Republicans have proposed closing in Chairman CAMP's recent plan.

Replenishing the highway trust fund with revenue by closing wasteful corporate loopholes will provide multiyear funding so we can provide our States with the certainty they need to plan. That kind of certainty has been absent for a long time. It has forced States to hold off on bigger projects that will help create jobs and long-term economic growth.

I am very hopeful that Democrats and Republicans can work together to restore some certainty to States around our country. I know bipartisan support is possible, especially on an issue as important as this one. Since the highway trust fund's inception under Dwight D. Eisenhower, Republicans and Democrats have come together to invest in this national priority. Under Democratic and Republican Presidencies—from President Clinton to President Reagan to President Clinton—we updated and supported the highway trust fund. Even 2

years ago in a hyperpartisan election year, Congress reached a bipartisan agreement so that we could continue to build the roads and bridges and transit systems our communities need. In the past Republicans and Democrats have stepped up to support our workers and make sure we can invest in our transportation systems that put workers on the job and help businesses move their goods and help our economy grow.

There is no reason to wait until the last minute to get this done. The threat is growing on our construction sites and for jobs across the country. We have to give our States and our communities the confidence that Congress will not push them into another crisis.

Six months ago our communities and families endured a needless government shutdown. Americans are sick and tired of the dysfunction of Washington, DC, and constant crises. There is no reason for Congress to put them through anything even remotely similar, especially over transportation projects that will benefit our families, our communities, and our economy.

We must act to prevent a construction shutdown this summer. Let's build on the common ground that Democrats and Republicans share on this issue. Let's work together to show the American people that Congress can act to support our workers, families, and communities. Let's prevent a construction shutdown and give the highway trust fund some certainty. We need to make sure our States can keep investing in jobs and economic growth at this critical time.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF NEIL GREGORY KORNZE TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NOMINATION OF FRANK G. KLOTZ TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Neil Gregory Kornze, of Nevada, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and Frank G. Klotz, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time has been yielded back.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Neil Gregory Kornze, of Nevada, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 71, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 102 Ex.]

YEAS—71

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Pryor
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Heller	Reid
Boxer	Hirono	Risch
Brown	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Shaheen
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coats	Landrieu	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Coons	Levin	Udall (NM)
Corker	Manchin	Walsh
Crapo	Markey	Warner
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warren
Durbin	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden
Flake	Mikulski	

NAYS—28

Barrasso	Inhofe	Rubio
Boozman	Johanns	Scott
Burr	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Cochran	Kirk	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Enzi	McConnell	Vitter
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Graham	Paul	
Grassley	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—1

Coburn

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

VOTE ON KLOTZ NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Madam President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Klotz nomination.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Frank G. Klotz, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I believe we are done with the voting at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in legislative session.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I would like to talk for a moment about the critical importance to women and families across Michigan and the country of ending pay discrimination against women so women will finally get equal pay for equal work.

I was so proud to see so many colleagues on the floor earlier today, including the distinguished Presiding Officer, speaking about the importance of women being able to earn a full dollar instead of 77 cents on every dollar.

Part of giving everyone in this country a fair shot to get ahead is not only making sure they are getting paid a fair wage, which we are fighting to make sure happens, but also to make sure they are not getting paid less simply because of their gender. If somebody is working 40 hours a week, they ought to be paid the same for 40 hours a week if it is the same job. That is what the Paycheck Fairness Act is really all about. It gives everyone, regardless of their gender, the tools they need to help end gender discrimination in pay and hold those engaged in discriminatory behavior accountable. That is really what it is all about, and we will have a chance very soon to vote.

I hope we would all agree that discrimination because of gender or for any reason has no place in our society. Yet too many Americans rightly feel they are trapped in a rigged game where heads, the privileged and powerful win, and tails, everybody else loses.

When it comes to pay, we know the system is rigged against women. Today, in 2014, women still only make 77 cents for every dollar compared to a man doing exactly the same work. That is the national average. It is even worse in many places around the country. Frankly, it is even worse for women of color, with African-American

women getting paid even less and Latinas doing worse still.

My colleagues and I have been speaking on the floor today not just because we are voting on the Paycheck Fairness Act tomorrow but also because today is what we are calling Equal Pay Day. April 8 is the day women finally catch up. When you look at all the work that was done during the whole calendar year of 2013, and then add January, February, and March through April 8, that is how long it has taken women to make the same income as a man in the same job who worked last year. A woman has to work 1 year, 3 months, and 8 days in order to earn the same amount as a man who has worked 1 year. That is just not right, and that is what this debate is all about.

Some people say we are just talking about pennies on the dollar and dismiss the issue as nonsense or worse. Those pennies add up—hour after hour, day after day, week after week, year after year.

In my home State of Michigan, pay discrimination robs the average working woman and her family of more than \$13,000 in wages every single year—\$13,000 out of their pocket just because they are a woman rather than a man in the same job. While these women are working for discounted wages, they certainly don't get a 23-percent discount on their gas. They don't pay 23 cents less on every dollar at the grocery store or when the rent or the mortgage comes due.

In fact, I have a chart to show what the average working woman and her family in Michigan could buy with the \$13,000 a year she has worked hard every day to earn but never sees in her paycheck. She could buy just over 2 year's worth of food for her family. She could pay for almost a year on her mortgage and utility. Can you imagine that? Mortgage and utility payments go right out the window because she is not getting equal pay for equal work. She could buy almost 3,500 gallons of gasoline for her car. That is enough gas for me to drive back and forth from Detroit to Los Angeles more than 16 times. That is how much a woman loses in her pay every year because of discrimination and lack of equal pay for equal work. But gender discrimination is not just about numbers on a page. In fact, it is not about numbers on a page. It is about real women who are working hard, who have suffered and continue to suffer, because we have not given women and their families the tools they need to make sure they can get equal pay for equal work. That is what this is about: knowing what your coworkers in the workplace are making so you can find out whether you are being paid fairly—the information, the tools women need.

Let's be clear. Women aren't the only ones paying the price for wages lost and benefits denied. Gender discrimina-

tion in pay costs everybody in the family. The cost of gas is for everybody in the family. The cost of food is for everybody in the family. The inability to buy some extra sports equipment or clothing or pay for the cost of college affects everybody in the family. I hear far too many stories about this problem from my constituents in Michigan.

Linda from South Lyon wrote to tell me her story. Not only does she make less than her male counterparts, but a senior executive even bragged to her that he hires women because he can pay them less. This is 2014, and we have an executive who thinks it is OK to even say that.

Last week I met Kerri Sleeman, an engineer from Hancock, MI, who came to the Senate to testify about her story. I have to say, in Hancock, MI, we still have 20 feet of snow. This is the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. One has to be tough to live in beautiful Hancock, MI, and have a lot of great winter clothing. But it is an absolutely gorgeous place.

Kerri was working for an auto parts supplier that was forced into bankruptcy in 2003. As with the company's other employees, she had to be involved in the bankruptcy process to get her last paycheck and the other wages she was owed. One day she received an update from the bankruptcy court about the claims against her former company and she made a shocking discovery: All of the men she had been supervising had been paid more than her—all of them. All of them. An engineer in Hancock, MI.

Kerri said: It was heartbreaking. It was embarrassing. It was infuriating. And it will affect me for the rest of my life.

Can my colleagues imagine it? First, she is out of a job. She has to go to court just to get her paycheck, and then, adding insult to injury, she finds out she has been discriminated against for years without even knowing it. Kerri lost out on thousands of dollars in pay and benefits simply because she is a woman. As is the case for most people, she could have used that money. She said she would have used it to help pay the copay for her husband's heart surgery, which instead she had to put on her credit card. Her story underscores why we need to pass this vital legislation before the Senate.

Kerri not only lost out on her pay at her job week after week, month after month, she will lose out on Social Security benefits for the rest of her life as well. This is not fair. It is not how things should work. Kerri deserves a fair shot, and she has not been given it.

We have heard other stories such as Kerri's before, and one of those was that of Lilly Ledbetter, who worked hard at a Goodyear tire plant and was discriminated against for nearly 20 years. She did not realize, again, that she was being paid less. Just as with

Kerri, she will never get the Social Security benefits she would have earned if she hadn't been paid less for just being a woman. The law that bears her name—the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act—was a huge step in the right direction. But today more than 50 years after we passed the Equal Pay Act—imagine, 50 years ago we thought we dealt with this; 50 years ago, the Equal Pay Act—and 5 years after we passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, we still have so much work to do to make sure women are actually receiving equal pay for equal work.

It was a great day when the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act became the very first bill President Barack Obama signed into law after he took office. I wish to thank the President for today signing two Executive orders that will help protect the employees of Federal contractors from pay discrimination. As the President has said, he doesn't want his daughters or anyone's daughters to be paid less just because they are women. I agree. I know the Presiding Officer does as well.

Now we must do our part here in the Senate to make sure all Americans have the tools they need to protect themselves from this form of discrimination and hold those responsible accountable.

This is not about special protections. In fact, I find any language—any discussion of “special protections”—so offensive, as I know women in Michigan and across the country do: somehow protections because we want to go to work and know we are being paid the same as the person next to us, who just happens to be a man, and we are women. This is simply about treating all Americans fairly. That is exactly what Democrats are committed to. We want to make sure everybody has a fair shot to get ahead. It has to start with equal pay for equal work. That means paying a fair wage, paying men and women what they earn, and it means if a woman works 40 hours a week, she should get paid for 40 hours a week, not for 30 hours or 31 hours.

The difference in pay simply because of gender discrimination really is the difference. That \$13,000 I talked about earlier is the difference between whether a woman is able to fully benefit from her work and have what she needs to put food on the table and gas in the car and tuition for her son or daughter to be able to go to college, and all of the other things we want for our families.

What this chart shows just isn't good enough. We want the full dollar, because 77 cents on every dollar is not enough. If we truly reward work, it shouldn't matter if a person is a man or a woman. A person's work should be equally rewarded for the same jobs. It is time the Senate come together—and we are going to have a chance to do that—to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. It is right for women and their

families. It is right for our economy. It is simply the right thing to do.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

SMARTER SENTENCING ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, there are reports that after we return from either this break or the next, the Senate may take up the so-called Smarter Sentencing Act, so I rise today to start discussing this bill with my colleagues, particularly those who do not serve with me on the Judiciary Committee.

Over the past 30 years, this Nation has achieved tremendous success in cutting crime. There are fewer victims who suffer fewer physical and financial injuries. Neighborhood safety has improved, reducing fear and helping economic growth. These gains have been hard won. Congress played a major role, enacting mandatory sentencing guidelines, mandatory minimum sentences, providing assistance to law enforcement, and building more prisons. The mandatory guidelines, combined with abolishing parole, led to lengthier sentences, and what is fair about it all is that we have fewer disparities in sentencing. No longer would the sentence depend on whether the criminal faced a tough or a lenient judge, and factors such as the defendant's race and income could not be taken into account.

Unfortunately, the Supreme Court, applying novel readings of the Constitution, struck down mandatory sentencing guidelines. As a result, Federal judges are departing downward from the guidelines, issuing shorter sentences and injecting more disparity into the system. States are reducing their incarceration rates. While there are probably multiple contributing factors, crime rates recently have been rising. The only means left for Congress to ensure that criminals are sentenced to appropriate sentences then is mandatory minimums, now that the Supreme Court has judged sentencing guidelines as being unconstitutional.

Those convicted of the manufacture, sale, or possession with intent to distribute, and importation of a wide range of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, PCP, LSD, ecstasy, and methamphetamine may have their sentences cut in half or even more from the current mandatory minimums.

Supporters of the bill say it allows for shorter sentencing only for “non-violent offenders.” I am going to prove the bill does more than that. The term “nonviolent offenders” is highly misleading. First, that phrase conjures up people in jail for simple possession, and this bill does not apply to simple possession at all, for any drug.

Second, the types of offenses the bill applies to are violent. Importing cocaine is violent. The whole operation turns on violence. Dealing heroin also involves violence or the threat of violence.

Third, the crime for which the defendant is being sentenced might have been violent. The mandatory minimum sentence would be cut even if the criminal's codefendant used a gun.

Fourth, the criminal himself could have a violent history. Although the bill does not apply to a drug crime for which the defendant used violence, it does apply to criminals with a history of violence. That is, the bill would permit a shorter mandatory minimum where the defendant was not violent on this occasion, but was in the past. Supporters of the bill never acknowledge that it would apply to drug dealers with a history of violent crime.

Other provisions of the bill expand the safety valve that allows judges to impose mandatory minimum sentences on offenders with minimal criminal history. The bill's proponents never identify which violent offenders who fail to qualify for even the bill's expanded safety valve should be able to receive the bill's shorter mandatory minimum sentences.

And don't pay attention to the smoke screen that the bill leaves the maximum sentence alone. Judges are not sentencing anywhere near the maximum today. The whole point of the bill is to allow judges to ignore current mandatory minimums for serious offenses such as heroin importation and cocaine dealing, and sentence defendants to half the minimum they are now receiving.

We know from the experience of the States that when mandatory minimum sentences are reduced, judges use their greater discretion only to sentence the same or more leniently, even when the drug offender has a history of violence. For instance, the State of New York changed its drug sentencing laws to give judges more discretion. Judges began in the overwhelming majority of the cases to sentence offenders to the now lower minimum sentences. New York judges have sentenced drug offenders—even offenders with prior felony convictions—to the lower minimums. Do we really want offenders such as these out on the streets earlier than is the case now, and while out there on the street to prey on our citizens? That is what they will do.

Although supporters of the bill claim it will reduce costs, what it will really do is shift costs from prison budgets to crime victims.

As Professor Matt DeLisi of Iowa State University testified before our Judiciary Committee, juvenile drug use is the best predictor of chronic offending and that, in his words, “drug users offend at levels 3-4 times greater than persons not convicted of drug crimes.” He stated that criminal justice research shows that “releasing 1% of the current Bureau of Prison population would result in approximately 32,850 additional murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, auto thefts, and incidents of arson.”

So the empirical data are clear. Lower mandatory minimum sentences mean increased crime and an increased number of victims. Why would we, then, vote to increase crime and create more crime victims?

Various police organizations answer that question by coming out against this bill.

The National Narcotic Officers' Association has written—and I will give you a fairly long quote:

As the men and women in law enforcement who confront considerable risk daily to stand between poison sellers and their victims, we cannot find a single good reason to weaken federal consequences for the worst offenders who are directly responsible for an egregious amount of personal despair, community decay, family destruction, and the expenditure of vast amounts of taxpayer dollars to clean up the messes they create.

End of quote from the National Narcotic Officers' Association.

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association has also come out against the bill. They stated:

It is with great concern that the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association views any action or attempt . . . that would alter or eliminate the current federal sentencing policy regarding mandatory minimum sentencing.

The mandatory minimum sentencing standard currently in place is essential to public safety and that of our membership.

End of quote from the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

Law enforcement is telling us that this bill would be bad policy and create more crime victims, but it is also saying that were this ill-considered legislation to pass, the safety of police officers, who safeguard us, would be jeopardized. How can we possibly do that to those who bravely protect us—our law enforcement people?

The bill is particularly misguided in light of current conditions concerning drug use. We are in the midst of a heroin epidemic right now. Deaths from heroin overdoses in Pennsylvania are way up. In the State of Vermont, the Governor devoted this year's entire state of the State message to the heroin problem. Cutting sentences for all heroin importation and dealing makes no sense at all considering the concerns of these Governors and other State leaders and law enforcement people.

Now let's turn to what the Obama administration thinks. Typical of its pattern of disregarding the law across a large range of areas, this administration refuses to charge some defendants for crimes they duly committed if doing so would subject them to mandatory minimum sentences. Typical with this administration's pattern of disregarding the law, it is not taking action in most situations where States have enacted laws decriminalizing marijuana, even though that is contrary to Federal law. Do you think the Obama administration would stand si-

lently by if a State enacted laws that allowed guns, rather than drugs, to be sold inconsistently with Federal law? Well, of course not.

According to a story this week in the Washington Post, one of the reasons for the heroin epidemic is that marijuana decriminalization is leading growers to produce more heroin for importation into this country. That is because the availability of marijuana is rising and consequently the price is falling. So there is money available to be spent elsewhere. So many who used to grow marijuana now can make much more money cultivating opium poppies for heroin export to this country. But the administration supports this bill, which allows judges to lower mandatory minimum sentences for heroin importation. Doesn't that boggle the mind?

My conservative colleagues who rightly oppose the administration's lawlessness in so many areas should think twice before supporting the administration here. They should oppose a bill that gives judges additional authority only for lowering sentences for dealing, manufacturing, and importing LSD, heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, and methamphetamine.

The National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys has courageously disagreed with the public opinion of their employer, the Department of Justice and Attorney General Holder. The National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys—and, remember, these people are on the Federal payroll enforcing and prosecuting under Federal law—this organization has written in opposition to the bill:

Mandatory minimums deter crime and help gain the cooperation of defendants in lower-level roles in criminal organizations to pursue higher-level targets.

They have been demonstrably helpful in reducing crime.

End of quote from the National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys.

So why on Earth, then, would we cut sentences for sellers and importers of the worst drugs now plaguing our cities, our suburbs, and even rural areas?

Not every mandatory minimum sentence may be set at the perfect level. We should and can have a discussion concerning lowering some sentences and maybe even raising others—others that probably should be raised, such as for child pornography, terrorism, sexual assault, domestic violence, and various fraud offenses.

We can reduce jail time but not sentences. Many States have done this for inmates whose risk assessments and behavior in jail, including successful completion of programs proven to reduce recidivism, earn our confidence that these people, out of prison, are less likely to reoffend. But we should not cut sentences up front for serious offenders such as heroin dealers. We

should not do so where these offenders have a history of violence. We should not drastically cut the only tool we have to reduce sentencing disparities among judges.

The mislabeled Smarter Sentencing Act is the wrong answer to the problems we face. I hope the Senate will not take up this bill, but if it does, my colleagues should take a clear-eyed look at this very dangerous bill and oppose it, as I will.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. More than 50 years ago, President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act, making equal pay for equal work the law of the land. Yet wage discrimination still persists. Today women continue to be paid just over three-quarters of what their male counterparts receive for performing the same work. More women than ever before are graduating from college, but over the course of their careers they will each make an average of \$1.2 million less than a man with the same level of education.

Unfortunately, that is not unique. Across a wide array of industries and with all different occupations, well-qualified women continue to earn an average of 77 cents for each dollar that our male counterparts earn, regardless of performance or educational background. Pay discrimination hurts women, it hurts families, and it hurts our economy.

Back in the early eighties, I served on New Hampshire's Commission on the Status of Women. During that period I chaired a task force on women's employment in New Hampshire, and we wrote a report about what we found. Sadly, we found a lot of discrimination against women in employment. At that time women were only making 59 cents for every \$1 a man earned, but the conclusion of our report was this was not only an issue for the women, it was an issue for their spouses, for their families, and for the economy of New Hampshire. The same is true today.

In 2011, women were the sole or primary breadwinner in more than 40 percent of households with children. Equal pay for these women is not solely about a fair paycheck. It is also about paying for a visit to the pediatrician, it is about being able to afford the prescription their children need, it is also about paying the heating bills during a long winter or providing Internet access so their kids can do their homework. There is a lot the average woman could do with the extra \$10,000 she

would earn each year if it were not for pay discrimination.

As Governor, I signed a law to prohibit gender-based pay discrimination in New Hampshire and to require equal pay for equal work. In the year before that law was signed, women in New Hampshire made 69 percent of their male colleagues' wages. Today, in New Hampshire, they make 78 percent, so we make about 1 penny more in New Hampshire than national average. But at this rate, my granddaughters—some of whom are still in grade school—will enter and leave the workforce before we achieve equal pay for equal work. The estimate is that if we continue at this rate, it will be 2056 before we achieve equal pay for equal work.

Today on Equal Pay Day, I call on Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act so that all of our daughters, granddaughters, their husbands, families, and their children can get a fair paycheck. This commonsense legislation would update the Equal Pay Act to require that pay differences be based on legitimate business reasons, and it would protect women so they can't be penalized by their employers for discussing their salaries. Pay discrimination is not fair, it is not right, and it needs to end.

I urge all of our colleagues to support the Paycheck Fairness Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. I thank Senator SHAHEEN for her leadership on these issues and so many other issues in the Senate. I listened to the Senator's comments and I fully concur in the information the Senator has brought forward, that paycheck fairness is not just a matter of fairness for women, it is a matter of fairness for our country. Not only will women benefit, our economy will benefit and our country will benefit by making sure that equal pay for equal work is what happens in our country.

I thank the Senator, and I yield.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I thank Senator CARDIN of Maryland and point out that I know this is an area where he also has worked very hard over many years. It is the kind of issue that men and women should be able to agree on. This is something that is not fair for women, but it is also not fair for their husbands and their sons. I know the Senator feels that way. Because when your wife isn't getting what she deserves, then you and your family are also hurt as a result.

Mr. CARDIN. It is not just my wife, I also have two beautiful grandchildren, granddaughters, and they are going to do just fine, but I want to make sure they are treated fairly in the workplace—and I want all people treated fairly in the workplace.

I thank Senator SHAHEEN. As I said, equal pay for equal work. Paycheck

fairness is truly an American value. I thank all our leaders here. I particularly want to acknowledge Senator MIKULSKI, my colleague from Maryland, for her extraordinary leadership on pay equity issues, on this particular issue of paycheck fairness, and for the work she has done throughout her whole career as a real leader on gender issues.

As Senator SHAHEEN pointed out, today is Equal Pay Day, and the reason for that is women, on average, earn about 77 percent of what a man earns for doing the same work. We are not talking about different work, but we are talking about doing the exact same work that women are discriminated against in the amount of compensation they receive. So on average women have to work 3 additional months every year to earn the same amount of money a man earns for doing the same work. That is not right and it needs to change.

Today I was at the White House with the President and some of our colleagues. Lilly Ledbetter was there. I know the Presiding Officer recalls that Lilly Ledbetter has been one of the real leaders on pay equity. She worked at Goodyear for over 20 years, and after being there for two decades she found out from one of her coworkers—who anonymously passed along information to her about what people were making—that for 20 years she was receiving less compensation for doing the exact same work her male counterparts were doing. She had no idea about this. There was no justification for the difference. So she decided she would do something about it, not just for herself but for those who are in the workplace and should be treated fairly.

So she filed an action and she took this case all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States, but guess what the Supreme Court did. They said: Lilly Ledbetter, you are right. You were discriminated against. You were paid less because of your gender, but guess what. Because it has been going on for so long, you don't have any remedy. Now that is absolutely ridiculous, that 5-to-4 decision of the Supreme Court.

That cost Lilly Ledbetter hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost compensation as a result of that discriminatory action. So Congress took action and changed that, and I was proud to be part of the Congress that cast that vote. It was the first bill signed by President Obama shortly after he took office, and I remember the pride we all had that we were able to take a major step forward on behalf of an enforceable right for women to be paid equal pay for equal work.

But the job wasn't done. Tomorrow we can take another giant step forward by advancing, and I hope enacting, the Paycheck Fairness Act. I hope colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this legislation so we can con-

tinue to make progress down this road of equal pay for equal work.

In the White House today President Obama took action on his own. As he has said he would, he used his Executive power to do what he can to advance the cause of equality in this country. So he signed two Executive orders. The first is what we call the sunshine executive order that will require Federal contractors to allow their employees to share information about their salaries. They can no longer take retaliatory action because coworkers share their salary information. The second Executive order will require contractors to provide information to the Department of Labor as to what their salary and compensation amounts are based on gender so there can be a record to make sure employers that are doing work for the Federal Government and that are benefiting from the U.S. taxpayers are doing the right thing as far as equal pay for equal work.

These are two very important changes the President has instituted through the use of the power of the White House. We can do something permanent about it by the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act. That is our responsibility, and I hope we will get that done. It will make a better America. As we pointed out, yes, it is about women being treated fairly in the workplace, it is about my two granddaughters being treated fairly in the workplace, but it is also about our economy and it is about our values. It is all of the above.

I might also mention that it affects retirement security. Because women aren't paid as much, they do not have as much money when they retire. They are more strapped when it comes to how they spend their money. They have less money available for their retirement security. Women over the age of 50 receive only about 56 percent of what men of similar age receive in pension benefits because they haven't earned as much. A good part of that is because they are not being paid fairly in the workplace. Paycheck fairness will certainly help.

We want to give a fair shot to every woman in this country. Many are the sole support for their families. Eliminating the wage gap will provide \$450 billion of additional income into our economy. You know what that goes for. It goes to buy a new car or help pay for their children's education. It provides the wherewithal so women can go out and pay their rent, their mortgage payments, the wherewithal to take care of their families. They can even put money away for retirement so they have the security they need after they retire. It helps to grow a middle class in this country, and that is what we all should be about.

So paycheck fairness helps give women a fair shot of equal pay for

equal work. It requires employers to demonstrate that wage disparities between men and women holding the same position and doing the same work are not related to their gender. That seems simple enough. Doing different work, obviously the pay is different. Same work, why is there a difference?

The bill ensures the remedies available to victims of gender discrimination are similar to the remedies available to those who are discriminated against based upon their race or national origin. We have in place a way we can correct this. We know how to use those tools. Let us also use them for those who have been discriminated against in their pay because of their gender.

The legislation updates the Equal Pay Act to make it more in line with class action procedures available under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This gives us an effective remedy to take care of a class of workers who have been discriminated against in the workplace, and it also prohibits employers—this is very important—from punishing or retaliating against workers who share salary information.

That is what the President did today with the stroke of his pen for those companies that do business with the Federal Government. We can make it universal in the workplace. We can shine a light on what is happening. As former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis observed: “Sunlight is said to be the best disinfectant.” We strive for greater transparency in our government because we know that will help provide a better government. So we allow our workers to share information without fear that they will be discriminated against or that actions will be taken against them by their employer.

Our mission as Senators is clearly written in the first few words contained in the preamble of the Constitution. Our mission is to “form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.”

Paycheck fairness is essential for our carrying out that mission. I urge my colleagues to support this very important legislation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO GOVERNOR MICHAEL O. LEAVITT

Mr. LEE. Madam President, this week the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce will honor my friend, the former Governor of Utah, Michael Leavitt,

with our Giant In Our City Award. I would like to take this opportunity to honor my fellow Utahn, whose example as a public servant is instructive for all those who wish to make a difference.

Mike Leavitt, who is a native of Cedar City, was the 14th Governor of the great State of Utah. He was handily elected to three terms as Governor, a feat that only one other Utahn has ever accomplished. In 2003, during his third term, he was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. After just over 1 year at the EPA, Governor Leavitt was nominated and confirmed as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, where he served through the end of the Bush administration. He is the coauthor and author of several books, and he has most recently served on Mitt Romney's campaign as the head of Governor Romney's transition team.

These accomplishments alone are enough to warrant praise and admiration for Governor Leavitt, but I would like to underscore the way in which he served in these positions to explain the virtues of leadership and service. It has been said those who lead best lead by example, and Mike Leavitt is one of those best leaders. He has continuously focused on efficiency, relationships, professionalism, and improvement. These qualities are not only cultivated in Mike Leavitt personally, but they are also fostered in all those with whom he works.

Governor Leavitt's efforts to make government work for the people—as government always should work—stands as one of his greatest accomplishments. Such accomplishments often require innovation and entrepreneurship, which Mike Leavitt learned prior to his governorship as the president and CEO of the Leavitt Group. An example of this innovation is the emergence of a new kind of education in the mid-1990s. When many in the education sector were skeptical of the possibility of online learning, Governor Leavitt proposed a new idea for a competency-based online university. He worked to gain the support of other Governors, and after many months of preparation, Western Governors University was established. This institution was part of Governor Leavitt's mission to expand access to and reduce the cost of higher education. Today WGU is recognized as one of the most innovative and affordable universities in the country.

Governor Leavitt encouraged his fellow Utahns to avoid focusing on what is wrong with America, a lesson we as Senators would do well to follow. He reminded Utahns to focus on what is right with America, as he believes wholeheartedly in the greatness of our Nation. He once said: “In the history of mankind, there has never been a nation as admired, as willing and as capable of

inspiring and fulfilling hope.” The dignified competence of that statement is needed in these Halls and needed around the world today.

Utah was an example of such dignified confidence in 2002 when the State hosted the Winter Olympics. Governor Leavitt's precision in preparing the State for the games produced a tremendous success not only for Utah but also for our country. Working on the issues that are constitutionally reserved to the States and to the people, Governor Leavitt oversaw the expansion of Utah's transportation network and managed facilities and lands with great care. He sought out skilled leaders to help in this grand effort, and thousands upon thousands of Utahns volunteered countless hours to make the 2002 Olympics one of the most successful Olympic Games in history.

Multiple volumes of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD could be filled with examples of service and leadership exemplified by this great Utahn, especially from his years leading the EPA and HHS. However, in the interest of brevity, I will simply say that this country needs more citizens like Mike Leavitt. We need men and women who are able to focus on the details and simultaneously think on a macro scale. We need leaders who believe in our founding principles and who make important decisions with those very same principles in mind. We need leaders who will make government more efficient, more responsive, more deliberate, and more meaningful. Such meaningfulness may often require less from the Federal Government. When action is required from us in this body, let prudence, love for country, love for our fellow beings and dedication to principles, displayed so admirably by Governor Mike Leavitt, be our guide.

Thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

FORT HOOD

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to speak about the tragic shooting last week at Fort Hood. The shooting claimed the lives of three innocent people. One was a son of Illinois, and 16 others were wounded.

As chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I often begin subcommittee hearings by quoting the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey. At his speech at the National Press Club 2 years ago, General Dempsey spoke about the number of challenges facing the military, from Afghanistan to sequestration, and the need to take care of our troops when they transition to civilian status. General Dempsey said: “No matter how well we address the other challenges”—and I quote him—“if we don't get the people right, the rest of it doesn't matter.”

His words reflect a basic truth. More than weapons systems or stockpiles of ammunition, the strength of our military and the security of America depend on the men and women who volunteer to risk their lives for us.

Investigators are still trying to understand what happened as an Army specialist went on a shooting rampage at Fort Hood. Press reports speculated on a host of possible motives, from mental health difficulties following a recent deployment, grief over the death of his mother, and even financial pressure. As we wait for the answers to this tragedy, we are grateful for the discipline and bravery of the military policewoman who confronted the shooter and cut short what could have been an even worse tragedy. We are grateful for the military chaplain who shielded bystanders and helped them reach safety.

In my State of Illinois, we are mourning Army SGT Timothy Owens. He is from downstate, my neck of the woods, born in Effingham, IL, and dreamed of being a soldier since he was a little boy. He used to wear camouflage and bomber jackets with sunglasses to look like a soldier, in hopes that someday that would come true.

He went to high school in Rolla, MO, where he met Billy, the young woman who would later become his wife. They were married just last August.

After high school Tim and his family moved back to Effingham where Tim worked and taught tae kwon do in the local gym. In 2003 Tim Owens decided to pursue his life long dream. He enlisted in the U.S. Army. Sergeant Owens served proudly in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he recently signed up for 6 more years. His tours in Iraq and Afghanistan gave him special understanding and empathy for other soldiers who faced difficulties when they returned home. He used his skill and compassion in his work as a counselor at Fort Hood helping veterans deal with post traumatic stress disorder and other mental health challenges. It was a heartbreaking irony that Sergeant Owens was killed when he tried to persuade the shooter at Fort Hood to lay down his weapon. Sergeant Owens was 37 years old.

I offer my deepest condolences to Sergeant Owens' friends and family, especially his wife and his parents. Tim Owens served America honorably, and I know they are proud of him.

We also pray for the families of the other soldiers who lost their lives last week at Fort Hood and all those who were injured. Losing soldiers on friendly soil seems almost incomprehensible. Yet this is not the first time we have seen this sort of senseless death at a U.S. military facility. It is not even the first time we have seen it at Fort Hood.

Tomorrow at Fort Hood President Obama will lead a memorial service to honor those who died last week. As we

remember the soldiers who were lost and pray for those who were wounded, we also need to ask ourselves if there is more that we can do to protect the members of our military and their families.

In the speech 2 years ago, General Dempsey said the vast majority of servicemembers end up stronger from the experience that they served. He said: "They are disciplined, they are courageous . . . they have a sense of purpose." They are men and women we should be very proud of, and we are.

There are also a few who for some reason or another need help. Some may bear invisible wounds from war. As we wind down our involvement in Afghanistan, our task as a Nation is to get all of the people right, as General Dempsey reminded us. Servicemembers and veterans who are struggling with health issues, including mental health issues, need to get the care that is necessary to bring them back to a full participation in life.

Military families shouldn't have to struggle to put food on their table or a roof over their heads. A grateful Nation can do a lot better than that. No member of the military who risked his or her life overseas should have to worry about losing his or her life on a military base in America. In the midst of the tragedy last week many people at Fort Hood acted nobly and courageously, but something went terribly wrong.

We owe it to our servicemembers and their families to understand how this terrible loss happened so we can work to make sure it does not happen again.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you very much.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Madam President, I am now here for the 64th time to ask my colleagues to wake up to the threat of climate change. It was almost exactly 2 years ago in April 2012 that I began speaking on the floor every week that the Senate is in session.

I have tried to make a compelling case for my colleagues. First and foremost I have relied on the overwhelming scientific evidence and the near unanimity of the scientific community.

Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that the increase of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere due to human activities is driving unprecedented changes, and, of course, they

are changes that Americans see all about them in their lives now. If 97 doctors told you that you needed surgery, who among us in our right mind would heed the advice of the three doctors who said they were unsure and we should delay the treatment?

I have talked about global warming. I have talked about the weirding of the weather—heat waves, extreme downpours, drought, shifting seasons. I have talked at length about the devastating toll on our oceans, which hold such peril in my home State, Rhode Island, the Ocean State. Our oceans are warming, rising, and becoming more acidic, and all of that is undeniable. It is measurable. It threatens our coastal communities and marine species alike.

I have described the potential for deep economic disruption in industries such as fishing and farming or inundation or wildfire. I have looked at the threat to human health. I have conveyed the deep concerns of corporate leaders who understand that climate change is bad for business and of faith leaders who appeal to our moral duty to conserve God's creation and to spare those who are most vulnerable to catastrophe. I have answered the claims of those in this Chamber who deny the reality of climate change and the need for action, and I have called out the network of fossil fuel propaganda that seeks to mire this Congress in phony manufactured doubt.

I have been joined by colleagues who share my commitment to rouse this Congress from its oil- and coal-induced slumber, including the historic all-night stand on the floor that reached hundreds of thousands of Americans. But unfortunately, it seems we still have some ways to go. I could stand here until I am blue in the face supplying the Chamber with reasoned arguments and scientific facts on climate change, and some here in Congress would ignore it because they reject information from scientists and they ignore empirical evidence.

So maybe it is time to bring in some muscle—the American military. Climate change threatens our strategic interests, our military readiness, and our domestic security in many ways. It is a serious national security issue. Don't take my word for it. Our top military commanders and strategic planners at the Department of Defense say so.

Four years ago the Department of Defense released the Quadrennial Defense Review, clearly linking for the first time climate change and national security. The 2010 review concluded that the effects of climate change can contribute to increases in regional instability driven by demand for food, water, and natural resources, and to extreme weather events which will increase the need for humanitarian aid and disaster relief, both within the U.S. and abroad.

Then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen put it this way. I will quote him:

The scarcity of and potential competition for resources like water, food, and space, compounded by the influx of refugees if coastal lands are lost does not only create a humanitarian crisis, but it creates conditions of hopelessness that could lead to failed states and make populations vulnerable to radicalization.

That is the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Last year 9 retired generals and admirals joined 17 former members of the House and Senate and several former cabinet level officials and issued this warning. They said:

The potential consequences to climate change are undeniable, and the cost of inaction, paid for in lives and valuable U.S. resources will be staggering.

The 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review was released last month in tandem with the Department of Defense budget request, and it is just as straightforward in its warnings on climate change.

I will quote:

Climate change poses another significant challenge for the United States and the world at large. . . . Climate change may exacerbate water scarcity and lead to sharp increases in food costs. The pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and governance institutions around the world.

The second installment of the current Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessment report, released just last week, echoes what our own military leaders are already telling us. According to the report, "Climate change can directly increase risks of violent conflicts in the form of civil war and inter-group violence by amplifying well-documented drivers of these conflicts such as poverty and economic shocks."

In response to our changing climate, the Department of Defense is conducting a comprehensive assessment of the risks to U.S. military installations. This is not a trivial effort and it is not being undertaken without cause.

The Pentagon is also working with other nations to strengthen the network of humanitarian assistance for disaster response. The reach of our military stretches to every corner of the globe and so do the effects of climate change. Our commanders recognize the need to adapt in every theater.

Much has been made of the U.S. military and diplomatic pivot to the Pacific region. While ADM Samuel J. Locklear, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, has called climate change the biggest long-term security threat in the Pacific because it "is probably the most likely thing that is going to happen . . . that will cripple the security environment, probably more likely than the other scenarios we all often talk about." The head of our Pacific

command is describing this as the most likely thing to happen to cripple the security environment.

The threat extends from pole to pole. Former Supreme Allied Commander and Commander of U.S. Forces in Europe James Stavridis is wary of the ongoing reduction in Arctic sea ice. He states, "This will present potential problems, from oil spills, dangers to wildlife, search and rescue for commercial shipping and tourist boats, and open zones of maneuver for the navies of the Arctic nations to interact."

Our American military leaders are clear in sounding this alarm. In Congress some of us are taking these warnings seriously. The Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change, which I lead with Congressman WAXMAN, invited national security experts to share their perspective on climate change. Retired Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Stephen Cheney is CEO of the American Security Project, founded in 2005 by former Senators John Kerry, Chuck Hagel, Gary Hart, and Warren Rudman. He stressed that climate change is not a new issue within national security issues and that the United States must engage the world on this issue, which of course we cannot do while we are paralyzed by false denial.

Retired Army BG Gerald Galloway spoke of the risk extreme weather events pose to military installations. He said:

When communities and installations are unaware of their vulnerability to these events, the results can be disastrous. A failure to be prepared shifts the military's focus from maintaining a constant level of readiness to dealing with each of these climate change impacts as they occur. Both floods and increased temperatures can bring training to a halt or restrict critical movements.

This message was echoed by retired Army CPT Jon Gensler, who described the difficulty of maintaining our readiness, particularly in responding to ever-increasing requests for disaster-related humanitarian assistance.

The consensus is clear from the people to whom we have entrusted our national security: Climate change is a serious threat to national security and to global security for which we need to plan and prepare. That is the message Secretary of State John Kerry brought to an audience in Jakarta, Indonesia, earlier this year. He said:

In a sense, climate change can now be considered another weapon of mass destruction, perhaps the world's most fearsome weapon of mass destruction. . . . The fact is that climate change, if left unchecked, will wipe out many more communities from the face of the earth. And that is unacceptable under any circumstances—but it is even more unacceptable because we know what we can do and need to do in order to deal with this challenge.

Yet Congress sleepwalks, refusing to listen, refusing to speak of it, refusing to act when duty calls us to act, when history calls us to act, and when decency calls us to act.

I have a book in my office written by Geoffrey Regan. It is entitled "Great Naval Blunders: History's Worst Sea Battle Decisions from Ancient Times to the Present Day." It is an interesting book to read. It is a long history of episodes of folly and error that have ended in disaster. It contains the account of a fleet of British naval ships docked at harbor as a great typhoon bore down on them. The ships' captains knew the typhoon was so strong that it would tear the ships loose from their anchors and wreck them. They knew their only safe strategy was to up anchor, head out of the harbor, and try to weather the storm at sea, but none of the captains wanted to be the first ship to leave the port so they all stayed and the typhoon swept down and they were destroyed.

Regan calls this "an error of judgment that will forever remain a paradox in human psychology." We can make those kinds of errors of judgment, and for those captains and crews, the error was fatal. Facing certain destruction, those sea captains refused to take the action that they knew was necessary to save their ships, to save themselves, and to save their crews.

I think of that story as we stand in the Senate unable to respond to what is looming down on us from climate change. The science could not be clearer. It is grownup time around here, and we need to take it seriously. The fact that one side of the aisle can't even use the word "climate change" is a terrible sign.

John Wayne, a great American actor whom we all know, had a number of wonderful roles in his life. One of John Wayne's roles was to play Sergeant Stryker in the movie "Sands of Iwo Jima." In that movie, Sergeant Stryker had a memorable phrase: "Life is tough, but it's tougher if you're stupid." We have all the information in front of us that we need to avoid being stupid. Collectively, that is what we are being. Similar to those captains, knowing what is bearing down on us, we are somehow unable to take the action that will protect us, our country, and will protect our children and future generations. There is no better way to describe it than through the words of Sergeant Stryker: "Life is tough, but it's tougher if you're stupid."

It is time to wake up.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BENNET. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MICHELLE T. FRIEDLAND TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 574.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the cloture motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Barbara Boxer, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Charles E. Schumer, John D. Rockefeller IV, Bernard Sanders, Cory A. Booker.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF DAVID WEIL TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 613.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts,

to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by me, in consultation with Senator McCONNELL, this week, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 649; that there be 1 hour for debate, with 15 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and 45 minutes under the control of the Republican leader or his designee; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote on the nomination; the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by me, in consultation with Senator McCONNELL, on Wednesday, April 9, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 507; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote on the nomination; the

motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING CORPORAL WILLIAM F. DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a fallen soldier from my home State, the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Nearly 64 years after being killed in the Korean war, Army CPL William F. Day's remains were finally returned home last week.

Corporal Day was 25 years old when he was deployed to the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. On November 29, 1950, his company was overwhelmed by enemy forces and began a fighting withdrawal from their position. Three days later, Corporal Day was reported missing in action.

Gloria Shonrock, Day's daughter, was only 4 at the time and has lived her life not knowing the location of her father's final resting place. Unbeknownst to her at the time, Day's remains were contained in one of 208 boxes given to the United States by North Korea between 1991 and 1994. Two years ago, Shonrock provided her DNA to the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, which they were able to use to identify her father's remains.

Now, over 60 years after being reported missing in action, Corporal Day is back in his old Kentucky home. Day was laid to rest yesterday in La Center, KY, next to his mother, Mattie Day, in a funeral with full military honors.

Corporal Day made the ultimate sacrifice in giving his life for our country. That his remains were returned home after so many years is a remarkable testament to our Nation's commitment to leaving no man behind. I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring this fallen hero.

The Paducah Sun recently published an article chronicling the incredible story of the discovery and return of Corporal Day's remains. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

[From The Paducah Sun, Apr. 3, 2014]
LA CENTER KOREAN WAR VETERAN COMES
HOME

(By Leanne Fuller)

Army Corporal William F. Day, of La Center, was reported missing in North Korea on Dec. 2, 1950. After a long and winding search of nearly 64 years, his remains were brought home Wednesday.

Day's daughter, Gloria Shonrock—along with her husband, Ernie Shonrock; other relatives, and two military liaisons—brought the veteran's remains from Nashville, Tenn., to Morrow Funeral Chapel in La Center Wednesday. They were escorted from Nashville by Patriot Guard Riders, Shonrock said, and welcomed into Ballard County with an escort of firetrucks, ambulances and police vehicles.

Shonrock was four when her father was reported missing. While Shonrock's mother didn't talk about Day often while she was growing up, the absence was still felt.

"I'd sit at the recess and cry because I wanted my daddy and—you know—you grow out of that, but you still want your dad," she said.

Shonrock said she has been searching for information about her father since 1992, a search that took her from her home in Erie, Colo., to Washington, D.C., and La Center.

Day's remains were found among 208 boxes of remains North Korea gave the United States between 1991 and 1994. In a recent announcement of the identification of Day's remains, the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) said the boxes were believed to contain remains of 350 to 400 U.S. servicemen.

However, the remains were heavily commingled, which made identification difficult. Two years ago, Shonrock provided DNA to help identify her father's remains. Five years ago, she said, her uncle, Herman Day, and her father's niece, Mattie Terrell, also provided DNA.

In the search for her father, Shonrock attended yearly DPMO conferences in Washington and various cities across the country. At last year's conference, she said, X-ray records had been found that could possibly be used to identify the remains.

"And between the DNA and those X-rays, they found my dad," Shonrock said.

Scientists from the Joint POW/MIS Accounting Command and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used the DNA and X-rays to identify Day's remains, which were located in Hawaii before they were flown to Nashville. Shonrock said Day was the 100th person identified from the remains contained in the 208 boxes.

"It's been hell sometimes, and good other times," Shonrock said of the long process. "And then it's been hell again because you have to deal with the government, and you sit there and hurry up and wait."

Among the good that came out of her search is that a military office in Colorado helped connect Shonrock with relatives on her dad's side of the family.

"I had an aunt in Washington, and I had this aunt and uncle here in Kentucky," Shonrock said. "And I've been here many times to see them."

On Monday, Day will be buried in La Center—with full military honors—next to his mother, Mattie Day. Day's name is among those listed on the veterans monument at Ballard Memorial High School, and before the funeral a memorial service will be held in his honor at the school.

According to the DPMO, Day was assigned to Company C, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 31st

Regimental Combat Team in November 1950, deployed east of North Korea's Chosin Reservoir. The 31st RCT, known as Task Force Faith, was engaged by "overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces." On Nov. 29, 1950, what was left of the task force began fighting a withdrawal to positions near Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir.

"Personally it's a closure that I don't have to worry about where he's at anymore," Shonrock said, "or whether he's in a ditch in Korea in the frozen area where he passed away, or . . . where he's at: because he's been in Hawaii since 1992-94."

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I regret having missed the April 7, 2014 vote on passage of H.R. 3979, as amended, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted for the passage of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014 to support the 16,000 Louisianians awaiting the extension provided by this legislation.

CARLIN CONFIRMATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I supported the confirmation of Mr. John Carlin to be Assistant Attorney General for National Security in the Department of Justice, DOJ.

Mr. Carlin was serving as the Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security, the top position in the National Security Division at the Department of Justice, which brings together the counterterrorism, intelligence, and counterintelligence efforts within DOJ.

The National Security Division is also important because it reviews and approves requests to the FISA Court for surveillance authorities.

Mr. Carlin has superb experience for the position to which he has been confirmed, having served as the Acting Assistant Attorney General since his predecessor, Lisa Monaco, went to the White House last year to be President Obama's top advisor for counterterrorism and homeland security.

Before his position as Acting Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Carlin was the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General and chief of staff for the National Security Division. From 2007 to 2011, he served in leadership roles at the FBI, including as chief of staff to FBI Director Robert Mueller.

Mr. Carlin also served in a variety of positions in the Department between 1999 and 2007, including as a career Federal prosecutor, where Mr. Carlin served as National Coordinator of DOJ's Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property, CHIP, program. Before that, he was an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, where he prosecuted cases ranging from homicide and sex crimes to cyber, fraud, and public corruption matters.

In one noteworthy case, he obtained a guilty verdict against Modou Camara on charges of conspiracy, fraud, and money laundering, in connection with real estate transactions in which Camara persuaded unqualified buyers to submit fraudulent loan applications through a first-time homebuyer program run by the Department of Housing and Urban Development's, HUD, Federal Housing Administration, FHA. Through this scheme, Camara bought properties at low prices and sold them—usually on the same day that he purchased them—at an artificially inflated price for a large profit. When Camara's recruited purchasers failed to repay their loans, HUD was forced to reimburse the lender. HUD lost over \$1 million due to Camara's scheme.

As a prosecutor, he also obtained convictions in cases against a defendant who tortured and murdered a baby girl, a defendant who bribed former Congressman "Duke" Cunningham, and a defendant who was charged with first-degree murder.

Mr. Carlin was approved by the Intelligence Committee on March 4, 2014, and by the Judiciary Committee on February 6, 2014. Both committees received several letters in support of Mr. Carlin from senior officials and colleagues from both sides of the aisle.

I fully support Mr. Carlin's confirmation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, this is a special week. The Week of the Young Child, launched by the National Association for the Education of Young Children in 1971 and carried out in communities across the country, is a time to raise public awareness about the importance of high-quality early childhood education and to recognize the millions of people who care for and teach young children every day.

The theme of this year's Week of the Young Child is "early years are learning years." Research is compelling that children are ready to learn from birth—what they need are the positive conditions and opportunities to learn and thrive not only to be prepared for school but to prepare to be productive adults.

Early childhood education is about development and learning, but it is also an economic driver. Nobel laureate James Heckman and others note that when we invest in high-quality early childhood education, starting with infants, the taxpayer benefits from lower expenditures for special and remedial education, reduced juvenile crime rates, and higher graduation rates.

Even though we know about the importance of early childhood education,

for many families the costs are too much for the family budget, especially high-quality programs. The child care and development block grant, helping families afford childcare and helping states raise the quality of care, serves only one in six eligible children. In fact, roughly 260,000 fewer children received assistance in 2012 than in 2006. I am glad we ended the cuts to Head Start in fiscal year 2014, but even so, we help less than half of the eligible preschoolers and only 4 percent of eligible Early Head Start infants and toddlers. State pre-K is growing, but it is uneven quality among our States and doesn't reach all the eligible children whose families would want to enroll them. Early intervention services—a significant intervention for children's early school readiness—is woefully underfunded as well.

The educators who work with these young children in childcare, Head Start and other program settings are very underpaid. A childcare provider makes about \$20,000 a year. The turnover rate is high. When teachers get a degree, they can move to better jobs to support their own families, but it means inconsistency of relationships for children and difficulty sustaining quality for providers. We must do more to ensure early childhood educators get the specialized degrees and credentials they need and then compensate them on par with their school-based colleagues.

In my State of Alaska, one snowy night over a year ago in Anchorage, I met with about 50 strongly committed Alaska educators to talk about how to improve our schools and prepare our students for the competitive 21st-century economy.

From that conversation, the idea for three bills evolved. I then introduced a package of legislation, the Keep Investing in Developmental Success, KIDS, Act. These three early childhood bills will address access, quality, and affordability in early education programs.

First, we will amend the Tax Code to provide a tax credit for early childhood educators. The Tax Relief for Early Educators Act will expand the deductions for certain expenses for early childhood education and increase the childcare tax credit so more parents can afford to put their children in quality early child development programs.

Second, we will create a new student loan forgiveness program for graduates of associate's or bachelor's programs in early education. The Preparing and Reinvesting in Early Education Act—or PRE ED—will provide needed relief for early educators and encourage more to work with kids through age 5. Well-trained educators providing quality early education makes all the difference in a child's success.

Third, we need to reward companies offering onsite or near-site childcare with a company cost-share. We know it works for the company and for the em-

ployee—just look around our State. In Alaska BP, Credit Union One and Fairbanks Memorial Hospital are great examples. They all offer quality onsite centers. They know it makes more productive employees.

The Child Care Public-Private Partnership Act will establish a program to provide childcare through partnerships. Through new grant incentives for small and medium companies, we can help more Alaska companies do the same.

These bills recognize the importance of childcare in the lives of working families. They will make it easier for early childhood educators to provide stimulating and effective instruction in safe environments.

As we recognize and celebrate this week of the young child, we need to be perfectly clear in our commitment to continue to support and expand the education of children. I believe all of my colleagues in the Senate should join together to make this a priority because, as this year's theme says so well, the early years are indeed the learning years.●

REMEMBERING ALLEN MAXWELL

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, recently, we tragically lost Monticello, AR Mayor Allen Maxwell very suddenly and unexpectedly. He did a tremendous job as mayor. No one valued his family and community more than Mayor Maxwell.

After a successful career in the private sector, Allen embarked on a second career in public service that included a stint as U.S. Representative Jay Dickey's chief of staff in the 1990's. Six years later, he was motivated to run for an elected office of his own. It was an excellent decision that ended with a successful election to the Arkansas House of Representatives where he represented district 10 for 3 terms and focused on creating jobs in Arkansas's manufacturing sector before being term-limited out.

Committed to making Arkansas a better place to live and do business, Allen knew he could still contribute and decided to run for mayor of Monticello. He won with 70 percent of the vote, focused his energies on infrastructure and capital improvements, and left his mark on Monticello before his sudden and untimely passing.

Mayor Maxwell was a great example for us all. A humble public servant who entered this field for the right reasons—he truly wanted to help Arkansans and make the State that he loved better. My staff and I greatly missed his presence at the annual meeting with legislators in Washington. We continue to pray that his family and friends are comforted by the fact that major efforts for his community and region and concern for his fellow man will continue to live on.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES FRANKEL

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased and honored to salute James B. Frankel, a respected lawyer, environmental activist, and a pillar of the San Francisco community who recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

James Frankel was born on February 25, 1924, in Chicago to Louis and Thelma Frankel. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1945, Jim went on to earn a law degree from Yale University, where he met his future wife Louise. Shortly thereafter the couple moved to San Francisco, where they raised their family.

In San Francisco, Jim maintained an active law practice until his retirement in 2000. He also contributed to the training and education of future lawyers, serving as an adjunct professor of law at Yale, UC Berkeley, Stanford, and UC Hastings.

Those of us who know Jim know that he is an inspiring and vibrant man who has always been generous with both his time and his energy on behalf of so many worthy causes. As an avid nature lover and outdoorsman passionate about backpacking, skiing, and the annual bicycle trips across Europe that he continued to take well into his eighties, Jim was an early supporter of the Natural Resources Defense Council, for which he served as a trustee for nearly 20 years.

My family is lucky to have known Jim for many years, and I have always admired his boundless passion and tireless zest for living life to its fullest. As Jim celebrates his 90th birthday, I am honored to join Louise, their children and five grandchildren, and Jim's many friends and admirers in offering my very best wishes on this wonderful milestone and many more years of continued happiness.●

TRIBUTE TO ANN YOUNG

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, public service is a noble calling. The work done by dedicated and hardworking government employees benefits countless Americans from coast to coast and many across my home State of Michigan. Indeed, there are many people who work tirelessly day after day to make sure the services we all rely on are there when we need them most. That is why it is no exaggeration to say that diligent and long-serving workers like Ann Young form the backbone of our great Nation. And, I am delighted to honor Ann, who recently retired after more than 40 years of Federal service.

Ann Young began her career in the Federal Government in 1973 with the Animal and Plant Inspection Service within the Department of Agriculture and ended up staying in Federal health service for more than four decades. Thousands of hardworking Michigan farmers rely on the expertise and services provided by the Department of Agriculture, many of those families reside

in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Throughout her career, Ann and her colleagues have been there for these families, always ready to lend a hand and do what is needed. Her work with the U.S. Forest Service and in the area of rural development has truly made a difference.

Ann has dedicated her professional life to helping others. She follows in a long and unbroken line of workers who have done the same. She will be missed by those in the Upper Peninsula who have relied on her work for so many years. And, she will be missed by her colleagues who have benefitted from her wisdom and insight. She can now take a well-deserved break, enjoy life and spend more time with the people she holds dear. She is certainly in the perfect place to do it—The Upper Peninsula of Michigan, home to extraordinary natural beauty.

I am delighted to recognize the work of Ann Young and wish her the best as she begins the next chapter of her life. She has certainly earned it.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:43 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 404. An act to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1872. An act to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3470. An act to affirm the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act, to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4323. An act to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 90. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the commemoration for the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:48 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 404. An act to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1872. An act to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

H.R. 3470. An act to affirm the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act, to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2575. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2223. A bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5242. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Peanut Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Amendment to Primary Peanut-Producing States and Adjustment of Membership" (Docket No. AMS-FV-13-0042) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5243. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Organization; Disclosure to Shareholders; Disclosure to Investors in System-wide and Consolidated Bank Debt Obligations of the Farm Credit System; Advisory Note" (RIN3052-AD00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5244. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Thiram; Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9909-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5245. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imazapic; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9400-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5246. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imazapyr; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9907-82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5247. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interpretive Rule Regarding Applicability of the Exemption from Permitting under Section 404(f)(1)(A) of the Clean Water Act to Certain Agricultural Conservation Practices" (FRL No. 9908-97-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5248. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluoxastrobin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9907-46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5249. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Proquinazid; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9903-11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5250. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Metaflumizone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9907-67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5251. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Report to Congress on Fiscal Year 2015 Staff Years of Technical Effort and Estimated Funding for Department of Defense Federally Funded Research and Development Centers"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5252. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Foreign Language Skill Proficiency Bonus program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5253. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Stanley T. Kresge, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5254. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of two (2) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5255. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Enforcement, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Enforcement Guidance Memorandum 2014-001: Interim Guidance for Dispositioning 10 CFR Part 37 Violations with Respect to Large Components or Robust Structures Containing Category 1 or Category 2 Quantities of Material at Power Reactor Facilities Licensed under 10 CFR Parts 50 and 52" (RIN3150-A112) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5256. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Ohio; 'Infrastructure' SIP State Board Requirements for the 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS" (FRL No. 9908-70-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5257. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Hawaii; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9908-07-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5258. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; 10-Year FESOP Amendments" (FRL No. 9907-50-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5259. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9909-09-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5260. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9909-10-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5261. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Enforceable Consent Agreement and Testing Consent Order for Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (D4); Export Notification" (FRL No. 9907-36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5262. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9909-11-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5263. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Test Methods and Testing Regulations; Technical Amendment" ((RIN2060-AQ01) (FRL No. 9908-99-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5264. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): Manufacturing (Import) Exemption for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)" (FRL No. 9908-98-OSWER) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5265. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Buy American Act Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5266. A communication from the Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Office of Special Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2013 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5267. A communication from the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Railroad Retirement Board's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5268. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5269. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the Commission's Strategic Plan for 2014-2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5270. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Authority's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5271. A communication from the Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diver-

sity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2013 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5272. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5273. A communication from the Chair of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5274. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electronic Submission of Forms, the Finished Products Records for Distilled Spirits Plants, and Closures on Certain Distilled Spirits and Products" (RIN1513-AB97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5275. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of the Reserve Forces Policy Board for 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5276. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5277. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Revisions in the WIC Food Packages" (RIN0584-AD77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5278. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Child Care and Development Fund Report to Congress for Fiscal Years 2008 through 2011"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5279. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to U.S. support for Taiwan's participation as an observer at the 67th World Health Assembly and in the work of the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5280. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014-0020—2014-0033); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5281. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "Federal Aviation Insurance Reauthorization Act

of 2014"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5282. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; South Bend, Indiana" (MB Docket No. 14-1, DA 14-363) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5283. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Adjustments to 2014 Annual Catch Limits" (RIN0648-BD70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-210. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan urging the Congress of the United States to repeal section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

Whereas, In response to the 2008 economic recession, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act was enacted in July 2010 to increase accountability and improve transparency in the nation's financial system. Among its provisions, section 1502 of the act creates new reporting requirements for publically traded companies that produce products containing gold, tin, tantalum, or tungsten, known as "conflict minerals." These reporting requirements and their public disclosure are meant to deter the purchase of conflict minerals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the surrounding nations of Central Africa Republic, South Sudan, Zambia, Angola, the Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda; and

Whereas, The final rules on section 1502, issued by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), taking effect May 31, 2014, is exceedingly complex and detrimental to American manufacturers, creating new, overly taxing compliance costs, especially for American small businesses, as well as unrealistic and burdensome reporting requirements. The new rules require publically traded manufacturers to trace conflict minerals through their entire supply chain, all the way back to the smelter. The SEC estimates the initial cost of compliance to be between \$3 billion and \$4 billion, with annual costs thereafter between \$207 million and \$609 million. However, the National Association of Manufacturers estimates total costs to be \$16 billion; and

Whereas, The SEC rule on conflict minerals jeopardizes Michigan's unparalleled efforts to restructure, create an improved business environment, and recover jobs lost during the recent recession. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, as of October of this year, our unemployment rate of 9 percent ranked 48th among the states, 1.7 percent higher than the nation's average. Moreover, the stalwart of the Michigan econ-

omy—manufacturing—is still recovering. The state of Michigan condemns the human rights violations occurring in the DRC and surrounding nations. However, absorbing the exorbitant costs of complying with section 1502 will undermine our footing in the ongoing battle to grow manufacturing jobs; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (The Senate Concurring), That we urge the Congress of the United States to repeal section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Chairman of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-211. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington urging Congress to update and amend the Communications Decency Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8003

Whereas, The Communications Decency Act was enacted in 1996, nearly seventeen years ago when the internet was still in a fledgling state and accessible only to about twenty million Americans; and

Whereas, The internet of 1996 would be largely unrecognizable in 2013, lacking nearly all of the popular sites of today, such as YouTube, Google, Twitter, Facebook, Wikipedia, Craig's List, and Backpage.com; and

Whereas, Today, the internet makes it possible for companies such as Backpage.com to earn millions of dollars annually from the sale of location-specific internet advertisements, some of which directly facilitate the sex trafficking of minors and other victims; and

Whereas, Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act assures internet service providers like Backpage.com nearly complete immunity from liability for the significant and known role they play in promoting today's sex trafficking industry through the sale and distribution of adult escort advertisements on the internet; and

Whereas, When the Communications Decency Act was written in 1996, section 230 was intended to encourage internet service providers to promote the growth of the internet without incurring liability for third-party communications during a time when the average American with internet access spent thirty minutes each month on the web, compared with today's average of twenty-seven hours per month; and

Whereas, The internet has evolved in ways few expected, making section 230 of the Communications Decency Act now outdated within the context, scope, and capability of today's internet to instantly disseminate information and facilitate rapid communication; and

Whereas, Without a change to section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, states remain powerless to enact meaningful reforms to hold accountable those internet service providers who profit from the sale of adult escort advertisements while turning a blind eye to their role in facilitating crimes against children and refusing to implement any bona fide measures to verify the age of persons featured in those advertisements;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress update and amend

the Communications Decency Act to reflect the current scope and power of the internet, to acknowledge the publisher-like role of companies like Backpage.com who profit from the sale and distribution of advertisements on the internet, and to authorize states to enact and enforce laws holding internet service providers responsible when they knowingly facilitate child sex trafficking through the sale of adult escort advertisements. Be it

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-212. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming urging Congress to require the federal Environmental Protection Agency to respect the primacy of Wyoming in developing guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 0001

Whereas, a reliable and affordable energy supply is vital to Wyoming's economic growth, jobs, and the overall interests of its citizens; and

Whereas, Wyoming supports an all-the-above energy strategy because it is in the best interests of the state of Wyoming and the nation; and

Whereas, the United States has abundant supplies of coal and natural gas that provide economic and energy security benefits; and

Whereas, carbon regulations for existing power plants could threaten the affordability and reliability of Wyoming's electricity supplies and therefore threaten the wellbeing of its citizens; and

Whereas, the U.S. Energy Information Administration projects that U.S. electric sector carbon dioxide emissions will be fourteen percent (14%) below 2005 levels in 2020; and

Whereas, on June 25, 2013, the President directed the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue standards, regulations or guidelines to address carbon dioxide emissions from new, existing, modified and reconstructed fossil-fueled power plants; and

Whereas, the President expressly recognized that states "will play a central role in establishing and implementing carbon standards for existing power plants;" and

Whereas, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to establish a "procedure" under which each state shall develop a plan for establishing and implementing standards of performance for existing sources within the state; and

Whereas, the Clean Air Act expressly allows states in developing and applying such standards of performance "to take into consideration, among other factors, the remaining useful life of the existing source to which such standard applies;" and

Whereas, EPA's existing regulations provide that states may adopt "less stringent emissions standards or longer compliance schedules" than EPA's guidelines based on factors such as "unreasonable cost of control," "physical impossibility of installing necessary control equipment," or other factors that make less stringent standards or longer compliance times "significantly more reasonable;" and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of electricity consumers in Wyoming to continue to benefit from reliable, affordable electricity provided by coal and natural gas-based electricity generating plants: Now, therefore be it:

Resolved by the members of the legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. That Wyoming urges EPA, in developing, guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants, to respect the primacy of Wyoming and to take into account the unique policies, energy needs, resource mix and economic priorities of Wyoming and other states.

Section 2. That EPA should issue guidelines and approve state-established performance standards that are based on reductions of carbon dioxide emissions that are practical and achievable by measures undertaken at fossil-fueled power plants.

Section 3. That Wyoming and other states should be given maximum flexibility by EPA to implement carbon dioxide performance standards for fossil-fueled power plants within their jurisdiction.

Section 4. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

POM-213. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington urging the President of the United States and Congress to pass and sign into law legislation reforming the harbor maintenance tax; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8007

Whereas, The federal harbor maintenance tax is not collected on trans-pacific cargo shipped to the United States via rail or roads; and

Whereas, This noncollection of the harbor maintenance tax is an incentive to divert cargo away from United States ports; and

Whereas, The federal maritime commission inquiry into the harbor maintenance tax found that up to half of United States bound containers coming into Canada's west coast ports could revert to using United States west coast ports if United States importers were relieved from paying the tax; and

Whereas, Current United States law does not require the revenues raised through the harbor maintenance tax to be fully spent on harbor maintenance related investments; and

Whereas, The geography of harbor maintenance tax expenditures does not correlate with the states where harbor maintenance revenues are generated; and

Whereas, The balance of the harbor maintenance trust fund has grown to over seven billion dollars;

Now, Therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that:

(1) Congress pass and the president sign legislation reforming the harbor maintenance tax; and

(2) Such legislation provide for full use of all harbor maintenance tax revenues, ensure United States tax policy does not disadvantage United States ports and maritime cargo, and provide greater equity for harbor maintenance tax donor ports through limited expanded use of the harbor maintenance revenues. Be it

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-214. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming request-

ing Congress to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations and to resume free trade talks with Taiwan; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 0001

Whereas, Taiwan, the United States, and in particular the State of Wyoming share a historical and close relationship marked by strong bilateral trade educational and cultural exchange, and tourism; and

Whereas, Taiwan shares with the United States and the State of Wyoming the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and rule of law; and

Whereas, the United States ranks as Taiwan's third largest trading partner, Taiwan is the tenth largest trading partner of the United States and bilateral trade reached \$67.2 billion in 2011; and

Whereas, Taiwan and the State of Wyoming have enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the prospect further growth; and

Whereas, the United States on November 1, 2012, officially included Taiwan in its Visa Waiver Program, allowing Taiwan's citizens to travel to the United States for tourism or business for stays of ninety (90) days or less without being required to obtain a visa, and the program will increase tourism and business between Taiwan and the United States, particularly Wyoming, with the prospect of thirty percent (30%) to forty percent (40%) growth of Taiwanese travelers to the United States in 2013, rising from four hundred thousand (400,000) Taiwanese travelers in 2011; and

Whereas, the issue of U.S. beef exports to Taiwan has been settled, and the resumption of trade talks on the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between Taiwan and the United States will not only help to forge a closer relationship but will also create greater benefits and well-being for the State of Wyoming and boost Taiwan's chances to enter the Trans-Pacific Partnership; and

Whereas, President Ma Ying-jeou has worked tirelessly to uphold democratic principles in Taiwan, ensure the prosperity of Taiwan's twenty-three million citizens, promote Taiwan's international standing as a responsible member of the international community, increase participation in international organizations, dispatch humanitarian missions abroad and further improve relations between the United States and Taiwan; and

Whereas, Taiwan, as a willing and contributing member of the world community, has made countless contributions of technical and financial assistance in the wake of Hurricane Sandy and other natural disasters worldwide. Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. That Wyoming reaffirms its commitment to the strong and deepening relationship between Taiwan and the State of Wyoming.

Section 2. That Wyoming supports Taiwan's appropriate participation in international organizations that impact the health, safety, and well-being of Taiwan.

Section 3. That Wyoming welcomes the resumption of trade talks on the Trade and Investment framework Agreement, welcomes the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between Taiwan and the United States in the process of closer economic integration, and supports Taiwan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Section 4. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution

to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

POM-215. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Guam requesting the President of the United States, the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services further consider and amend the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to facilitate its equitable implementation in the territories; to the Committee on Finance.

RESOLUTION No. 316-32 (COR)

Whereas, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) is intended to promote healthcare for millions of Americans in the fifty (50) states and the District of Columbia, by providing access to affordable healthcare, ensuring quality through market reforms, and advancing prevention and public health; and

Whereas, existing health insurance providers in the U.S. offshore territories shall have to meet higher standards of minimum coverage pursuant to the market reforms, which include: essential health benefits, guaranteed issue, guaranteed renewability, prohibitions on excluding preexisting conditions, adjusted community rating, and other consumer protections; and

Whereas, the PPACA also seeks to set up a healthcare exchange system nation-wide, through which Americans could buy or purchase not only affordable coverage, but coverage with better essential health benefits; and

Whereas, to help accomplish this in the fifty (50) states and Washington, D.C., the PPACA additionally provides the means to partially offset the states' costs of operating the exchanges, or the optional implementation of an equivalent qualifying program, through what are known as the individual and business mandates, as provided pursuant to specific applicable excise tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code; and

Whereas, the Public Health Services Act (PHSA), that includes benefits for the territories, provides that, "The term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands" (PHSA 2791(d)(14)); and

Whereas, in Title I of the PPACA, it amends the PHSA, and provides that, "In this Title, the term "State" means each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia" (ACA 1304(d)); and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has determined that PPACA's Public Health Service Act provisions, to include market reforms (e.g., guaranteed issue, guaranteed renewability, prohibitions on preexisting condition exclusions, essential health benefits, adjusted community rating, and other consumer protections), will apply to health insurance coverage sold in the territories; and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has determined that PPACA's individual and business mandates are not applicable to Guam; and

Whereas, the individual and business mandates are necessary to help offset the costs of anticipated increases in health insurance premiums, the implementation of which is directly impeded by the exclusion, and is further exacerbated; and

Whereas, the selective inclusion or denial of applicability to Guam places Guam in an

untenable position, insofar that the market reforms are applicable, but the means to partially fund it through the individual and business mandates are specifically excluded; and

Whereas, the PPACA's inequitable and unequal applicability to America's off-shore territories will likely have the unintended opposite impact of driving up the cost of healthcare coverage if certain provisions are not amended so as to properly include or exempt the territories to the extent necessary and realistically practicable; and

Whereas, the Attorney General of Guam has raised in his response to a Legislative inquiry (LEG 12-0708), that the government could find itself liable, and stated, in part, "If we establish an Exchange, Guam will have to pay the Advance Premium Tax Credit under U.S.C.A. §36B. This is an unfunded mandate that Guam has to pay and it has been estimated that this will cost Guam 74 Million Dollars per year. If Guam does not establish an Exchange, there is the possibility that a class action lawsuit could be brought for payment of this credit much like the Earned Income Tax Credit lawsuit in the past"; and

Whereas, Guam's Insurance Commissioner has estimated that it would cost the government of Guam a minimum of 74 Million Dollars annually to cover the eligible members in an exchange, yet Guam's share of the startup appropriation under the PPACA is only 24 Million Dollars, which is a one-time subsidy and is not an annually recurring appropriation, a situation that, "if a territory elects to implement health insurance exchanges, they will receive a limited allotment of subsidy funding that only covers a fraction of needed funds" (see NAIC—October 16, 2013, letter to Secretary); and

Whereas, the individual and business mandates are tied into specific excise tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, which are not applicable to Guam, and it must be duly noted that Section 31 of the Organic Act (48 U.S.C.) was enacted by the Congress primarily to relieve the U.S. Treasury of making direct appropriations to the government of Guam. Although Congress delegated collection and enforcement function of the income tax to the government of Guam, the government of Guam is powerless to vary the terms of the Internal Revenue Code as applied to Guam, except as permitted by Congress. [*Bank of America v. Chaco*, C.A. Guam 1976, 539 F 2d 1226]; and

Whereas, pursuant to the taxation limitations established in the Organic Act of Guam, as previously provided by the U.S. Congress in 1950, Guam is now prevented from unilaterally implementing under local law the individual and business mandates, by way of Guam's implementation of the mirrored excise tax provisions taken from the Internal Revenue Code and established under local law; and

Whereas, Guam's four domestic health insurance carriers have stated, in a January 23, 2014 briefing before the Guam Legislature, that the resulting impact of the PPACA market reforms will cause carriers to raise premium rates to offset the costs of implementing the applicable market reforms; and

Whereas, although the PPACA is intended to increase access to affordable healthcare for millions of Americans in the fifty (50) states and the District of Columbia, it will have the unintended opposite impact for Americans in the off-shore U.S. territory of Guam; and

Whereas, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) has duly con-

sidered the impact to the U.S. territories, and has stated, in a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, dated October 16, 2013, "We urge you . . . to provide the Territories with the flexibility that they need to determine whether and how the market reforms should be applied"; and

Whereas, the NAIC paper further states, "Though the statute itself is unclear, (HHS) has determined that the ACA's market reforms will apply to health insurance coverage sold in the territories, while the individual and employer mandates will not. If a territory elects to implement health insurance exchanges, they will receive a limited allotment of subsidy funding that only covers a fraction of needed funds. As a result, the threat of adverse selection driving up premiums is much higher than it is in the states"; and

Whereas, the Guam Legislature takes due note of the NAIC paper which highlights "the often-stated position taken by the ACA's congressional sponsors and the administration that these reforms are not possible without the individual mandate and the subsidies"; and

Whereas, the Guam Legislature supports the veracity of the information provided, and endorses the statement, findings and arguments put forward by the NAIC to the Secretary; and

Whereas, Guam's inability to participate is not from an unwillingness on our part, but, rather, from a failure to duly consider the situation of Guam, the size of our population and insurance risk pool, our economy, and the conflicting statutes and unfunded mandates the Congress has unilaterally established; and

Whereas, the American citizens of the off-shore U.S. territory of Guam must not be excluded from the opportunity to be legitimately included in the PPACA; and

Whereas, it would only prove just and proper for the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the honorable Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, to duly consider the issues and matters raised in this Resolution; and

Whereas, at the urging and request of Americans in the respective fifty (50) states and District of Columbia, numerous extensions and accommodations have been granted by the administration and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, yet no extensions or accommodations have been provided to the Americans in the off-shore U.S. territories; now therefore, be it

Resolved, that I Mina'Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guåhan (the 32nd Guam Legislature) does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, request that the President of the United States, the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services further consider and amend, as necessary, the provisions of the PPACA so as to facilitate its equitable implementation in the territories, which must be inclusive of a determination to:

1. Include Guam in the mandates and provide for the phased-in applicability of the provisions of the PPACA, and fully provide the correlated premium subsidies and additional Medicaid subsidies; and

2. Finally address the October 16, 2013 letter the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) sent to Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, regarding the inequities and challenges that Guam and

other U.S. territories are facing with the implementation of PPACA; and be it further

Resolved, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President, United States of America; to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the President of the U.S. Senate; to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs; to the Honorable Jack Kingston, Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, 113th Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam's Congressional Delegate, 113th Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calve, I Maga'lahen Guåhan.

POM-216. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the President and Congress of the United States to support Michigan's application for a state-sponsored EB-5 regional center; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 315

Whereas, Attracting job-producing investments is critical to the continued economic recovery of the state of Michigan and the United States as a whole. Michigan—a long-standing leader of our nation's industrial economy—sustained significant damage in the aftermath of the 2002 and 2008 economic downturns. In recent years, however, Michigan's economic engine has begun turning again, marked by increasing property values and per capita incomes as well as an unemployment rate that continues to decline. With strides still to go, capital investments, including foreign direct investments, can infuse new growth in Michigan's economy and is an important element for Michigan's continued recovery; and

Whereas, The EB-5 investor-immigrant program is a constructive tool for attracting foreign investments to Michigan. In this program, immigrants willing to invest at least \$1,000,000 in capital to create a new business or take over an existing, troubled business can obtain an employment-based visa. For targeted unemployment areas—areas like Detroit that are experiencing an unemployment rate at least 150 times the national average—or rural areas, an employment-based visa can be issued with a minimum investment of \$500,000. This capital investment goes toward creating American jobs, rebuilding and revitalizing our neighborhoods, and bringing new money to our local economies. EB-5 participants, as required by the federal statute, must directly create or retain at least ten domestic jobs within two years, jobs that otherwise may have never come to the United States; and

Whereas, EB-5 regional centers serve as a mechanism for coordinating and attracting potential investor-immigrants as well as offering investor-immigrants enhanced services. Public regional centers can serve as international marketers for the area in which they represent. Public regional centers also serve as concentrators of economic development, compounding investment after investment into their local economies. Investor-immigrants using regional centers also benefit from a broader interpretation of

the EB-5 job creation requirement. While the minimum investment requirements remain the same, immigrant-investors going through an EB-5 regional center may count indirect job creation as well; and

Whereas, The establishment of a state of Michigan EB-5 regional center would be a crucial component in the ongoing effort to rebuild our economy. State-sponsored regional centers provide an unparalleled ability to attract and retain potential investors. States like Michigan can bring investor-immigrants to the table in ways private regional centers cannot and develop solid, lasting relationships. Statewide regional centers can also develop and deploy an estimable portfolio of statewide resources like industrial site searches, facilitate connections with local suppliers, laborers, and other businesses, and provide a general orientation of the government and economic environment to business owners; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to support Michigan's application for a state-sponsored EB-5 regional center; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Chairman and Ranking Member of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Chairman and Ranking Member of the United States House Committee on the Judiciary, Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-217. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the President and Congress of the United States to support Michigan's request for 50,000 EB-5 visas to assist in the economic recovery of the city of Detroit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 316

Whereas, Professionals with advanced skills in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) are crucial to the continued development of our economy. However, Michigan continues to suffer from a shortage of workers with advanced training in STEM-related skills, and this shortage is expected to worsen over the coming years with STEM-related occupations growing 1.7 times the rate of non-STEM-related occupations. By 2018, Michigan is estimated to have 274,000 more STEM-related positions available than professionals to fill them. While we are committed to increasing STEM proficiency in our own students, Michigan must also seek out and retain professionals with advanced degrees to help build our economy now; and

Whereas, The city of Detroit has a special need for skilled professionals to help rebuild, revitalize, and reinvigorate the city. In recent years, Detroit, an iconic American city, has seen an unprecedented decline in population, and the loss of local revenue has made it difficult for the city to meet its financial obligations. Recruiting skilled professionals is one step toward achieving economic recovery and relieving the city's acute unemployment. In addition to adding a valuable new dynamic to the local economy, with their employment comes new consumers, increasing demand, and job growth in other sectors; and

Whereas, Allowing immigrants to fill vacant STEM positions would provide an economic boost to the state of Michigan and the

city of Detroit. Through the recruitment and retention of foreign-born professionals, targeted immigration can help quench the unmet demands of Michigan's labor market—avoiding the suppression of economic production and growth that results—and help fortify the long-term health of its economy. Immigrants working in the United States also leverage their skills to contribute to the American economy rather than increasing the productivity and value of another nation's economy; and

Whereas, Federal employment-based visa programs, particularly the EB-2 program, grant foreign-born professionals legal working status in the United States. Designed for individuals with advanced degrees or its equivalent, the EB-2 program permits foreign-born professionals with STEM-related or business skills to be employed with domestic businesses, businesses otherwise unable to fill these jobs with the existing labor market. This program also encourages immigrants with exceptional abilities—abilities in science, art, or business that are significantly above those of ordinary workers in the field—to obtain an EB-2 visa; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan has requested a pilot program be instituted to reallocate 50,000 EB-2 visas over the next five years for use in the city of Detroit. As proposed, 5,000 visas would be made available to foreign-born professionals the first year, 10,000 visas for the next three years, and 15,000 visas would be available in the fifth year. Rather than taking from the national pool of annually-available EB-2 visas, the administration would reallocate any unused EB-1, EB-2, EB-3, and family-based preference visas into the EB-2 pilot program, making them available for employment opportunities in the city of Detroit; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to support Michigan's request for 50,000 EB-2 visas to assist in the economic recovery of the city of Detroit; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Chairman and Ranking Member of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Chairman and Ranking Member of the United States House Committee on the Judiciary, Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-218. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia rescinding and withdrawing all past resolutions by the General Assembly applying to the Congress of the United States to call a convention for the purpose of amending the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 194

Whereas, there has been no convention convened to amend the Constitution of the United States, and all amendments adopted to date have been initiated by two-thirds of the members of both houses of Congress and ratified by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, the operations of a convention are unknown and the apportionment and selection of delegates, method of voting in convention, and other essential procedural details are not specified in Article V of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, the General Assembly of Virginia has not called for a convention to amend the

Constitution of the United States in the recent past, but in the more distant past has called for a convention (i) by House Joint Resolution No. 168 in 1977 concerning a presidential item veto, (ii) by the second resolved clause of Senate joint Resolution No. 36 in 1976 concerning a balanced budget, and (iii) by other resolutions applying to the Congress to call a convention; and

Whereas, the status of these past resolutions is unclear and the prudent course requires the General Assembly to rescind and withdraw all past applications for a convention to amend the Constitution of the United States lest a convention be convened without current and careful consideration; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly of Virginia rescinds and withdraws all past resolutions by the General Assembly applying to the Congress of the United States to call a convention for the purpose of amending the Constitution of the United States including HJR No. 168 (1977), SJR No. 36 (1976), and all other resolutions calling for a convention; and, be it

Resolved Further, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit certified copies of this joint resolution to the Archivist of the United States at the National Archives and Records Administration of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Virginia delegation to the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

POM-219. A resolution adopted by the Delaware County Board of Supervisors of the State of New York entitled "In Support of Home Rule 1494 'Blue Water Navy Accountability Act'"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-220. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Ulster County of the State of New York urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to postpone indefinitely its order issued August 13, 2013 and halt the creation of the New Capacity Zone; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-221. A petition from citizens of the State of New York relative to the repeal of the New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act of 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1237. A bill to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-146).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 697. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, for the environmental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids Mine Project Site, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-147).

By Ms. STABENOW, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, without amendment:

S. 1294. A bill to designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF
COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. STABENOW for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Timothy G. Massad, of Connecticut, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2017.

Timothy G. Massad, of Connecticut, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

*J. Christopher Giancarlo, of New Jersey, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the remainder of the term expiring April 13, 2014.

*Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2018.

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Brian P. McKeon, of New York, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Air Force nominations beginning with Colonel David P. Baczewski and ending with Colonel Ricky G. Yoder, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 26, 2014. (minus 4 nominees: Colonel Mark W. Anderson; Colonel Michael E. Guillory; Colonel Thomas J. Owens II; Colonel Frank H. Stokes)

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. John E. Hyten, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Wendy M. Masiello, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (Ih) Margaret G. Kibben, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nomination of Capt. Brent W. Scott, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Sean A. Pybus, to be Vice Admiral.

Marine Corps nomination of Col. John R. Ewers, Jr., to be Major General.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Bamidele J. Abogunrin and ending with Philip M. Zeman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 7, 2014.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF
COMMITTEE—TREATIES

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

[Treaty Doc. 111-7 Tax Convention with Hungary (without printed report)]

The text of the committee-recommended resolutions of advice and consent to ratification are as follows:

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Hungary for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Budapest February 4, 2010, with a related agreement effected by exchange of notes February 4, 2010 (the "Convention") (Treaty Doc. 111-7), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Sec. 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Convention is self-executing.

[Treaty Doc. 111-8 Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Luxembourg]

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Luxembourg on May 20, 2009, with a related agreement effected by exchange of notes May 20, 2009 (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 111-8), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Sec. 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Protocol is self-executing.

[Treaty Doc. 112-5 Protocol Amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters]

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol Amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, done at Paris May 27, 2010 (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 112-5), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Sec. 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Convention is self-executing.

[Treaty Doc. 112-8 Tax Convention with Chile]

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Luxembourg May 20, 2009, with a related agreement effected by exchange of notes May 20, 2009 (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 111-8), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Sec. 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Convention is self-executing.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. KIRK, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2218. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the eligibility of certain territories and regions for designation for participation in the visa waiver program and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2219. A bill to require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to update a report on the role of telecommunications, including the Internet, in the commission of hate crimes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2220. A bill to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 2221. A bill to extend the authorization for the Automobile National Heritage Area in Michigan; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WALSH:

S. 2222. A bill to require a Comptroller General of the United States report on the sexual assault prevention activities of the Department of Defense and the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. REID):

S. 2223. A bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CORKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PORTMAN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 417. A resolution designating October 30, 2014, as a national day of remembrance for nuclear weapons program workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 418. A resolution to honor Galaudet University, a premier institution of higher education for deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary and to recognize the impact of the University on higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 419. A resolution recognizing the celebration of National Student Employment Week 2014 at the University of Minnesota Duluth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 315

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to reauthorize and extend the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Amendments of 2008.

S. 398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act relating to lead-based paint renovation and remodeling activities.

S. 526

At the request of Mr. WALSH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 715

At the request of Mr. WALSH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 715, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to use designated funding to pay for construction of authorized rural water projects, and for other purposes.

S. 890

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 890, a bill to clarify the definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes.

S. 1135

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1135, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to repeal a certain exemption for hydraulic fracturing, and for other purposes.

S. 1277

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1277, a bill to establish a commission for the purpose of coordinating efforts to reduce prescription drug abuse, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr.

BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1611

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1611, a bill to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1659, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1728, a bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, and for other purposes.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1738, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to provide for institutional risk-sharing in the Federal student loan programs.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to limit the retrieval of data from vehicle event data recorders.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the

removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

S. 2023

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2023, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2106

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2106, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the individual health insurance mandate not apply until the employer health insurance mandate is enforced without exceptions.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2162

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2162, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a deduction for married couples who are both employed and have young children and to increase the earned income tax credit for childless workers, and to provide for budget offsets.

S. 2170

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2170, a bill to free the private sector to harness domestic energy resources to create jobs and generate economic growth by removing statutory and administrative barriers.

S. 2188

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2188, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

S. 2195

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2195, a bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

S. 2199

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 2205

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2205, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain small businesses from the employer health insurance mandate and to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of such mandate.

S. RES. 364

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 364, a resolution expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

S. RES. 410

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 410, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 2221. A bill to extend the authorization for the Automobile National Heritage Area in Michigan; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the automobile is central to who we are as Michiganians. The automotive industry helped create the middle class, shape the labor movement, establish America's dominance in manufacturing, and spur new innovation across a range of other economic sectors.

For these reasons, Congressman DINGELL in the House of Representatives and I in the Senate introduced legislation in 1998 to establish the Motor Cities National Heritage Area. That legislation specified the heritage area would serve not only to preserve and interpret the history of our Nation's automotive heritage, but that it would also promote current and future economic opportunities.

The MotorCities National Heritage Area has provided over one million dollars to support tourism projects that have boosted economic activity and jobs. These grants attract additional investment because funding is typically matched by more than \$6 for each \$1 in grant funding. MotorCities also connects a broad range of auto-related organizations and attractions, and has connected more than 100 organizations, which has bolstered their visibility and impact.

Michigan is a magnet for car enthusiasts and history buffs around the globe and MotorCities helps them learn about our history and celebrate it with us. When visitors come to Detroit to see where Henry Ford built the Model T or to Lansing to learn about the rise of Oldsmobile, the existence of the Motor Cities National Heritage Area enhances their visit.

These activities will not be supported by the National Park Service after September 30, 2014 due to a sunset clause in the original enabling legislation. For this reason I am introducing today legislation to extend the date for which federal assistance may still be provided. Congressman DINGELL is introducing similar legislation in the House. We have extended the period during which the Park Service can support the Heritage Area to September 30, 2030.

Michigan's automotive heritage is worthy of celebration, remembrance and appreciation. I hope my colleagues will support the legislation I am introducing today.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 417—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 30, 2014, AS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM WORKERS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CORKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PORTMAN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 417

Whereas, since World War II, hundreds of thousands of men and women, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers, have served the United States by building nuclear weapons for the defense of the United States;

Whereas those dedicated workers paid a high price for their service to develop a nuclear weapons program for the benefit of the United States, including by developing disabling or fatal illnesses;

Whereas the Senate recognized the contribution, service, and sacrifice those patriotic men and women made for the defense of the United States in Senate Resolution 151, 111th Congress, agreed to May 20, 2009, Senate Resolution 653, 111th Congress, agreed to September 28, 2010, Senate Resolution 275, 112th Congress, agreed to September 26, 2011, Senate Resolution 519, 112th Congress, agreed to August 1, 2012, and Senate Resolution 164, 113th Congress, agreed to September 18, 2013;

Whereas a national day of remembrance time capsule has been crossing the United States, collecting artifacts and the stories of nuclear weapons program workers relating to the nuclear defense era of the United States, and a remembrance quilt has been constructed to memorialize the contribution of those workers;

Whereas the stories and artifacts reflected in the time capsule and the remembrance quilt reinforce the importance of recognizing nuclear weapons program workers; and

Whereas those patriotic men and women deserve to be recognized for the contribution, service, and sacrifice they have made for the defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 30, 2014, as a national day of remembrance for the nuclear weapons program workers, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers, of the United States; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities to commemorate October 30, 2014, as a national day of remembrance for past and present workers in the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 418—TO HONOR GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY, A PREMIER INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY AND TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPACT OF THE UNIVERSITY ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 418

Whereas in 1856, philanthropist and former postmaster general Amos Kendall donated land on his estate in northeast Washington, D.C. for a place to educate the city's deaf youth, and, 8 years later, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill authorizing the institution to grant college degrees;

Whereas theology graduate Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet was inspired to dedicate his life to educating deaf people after tutoring Alice Cogswell, a 9-year-old deaf neighbor, and traveled to France, where he learned a manual communication method of instruction developed by renowned French educators Abbe Sicard, Laurent Clerc, and Jean Massieu;

Whereas upon returning to the United States, Gallaudet established the American School for the Deaf, the first permanent school for deaf children in the United States, in Hartford, Connecticut;

Whereas in 1857, Thomas Gallaudet's youngest son, Edward Miner Gallaudet, took up his father's cause when he and his deaf mother, Sophia Fowler Gallaudet, were invited by Kendall to run the newly-established Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas with Kendall's resources and Edward Gallaudet's leadership and vision, the fledgling school grew and flourished, expanding to provide instruction for aspiring teachers of the deaf and becoming the world's first, and currently only, institution of higher education devoted to deaf and hard of hearing students and to hearing students who with to pursue careers as professionals serving the deaf community;

Whereas following the 1969 signing of the Model Secondary School for the Deaf Act (MSSD) by President Lyndon Johnson, Secretary of the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Wilbur Cohen and Gallaudet President Leonard Elstad signed an agreement authorizing the establishment and operation of the MSSD on the Gallaudet campus;

Whereas in 1970, President Richard Nixon signed a bill to authorize the establishment of Kendall Demonstration Elementary School (along with MSSD, a component of Gallaudet's Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center), devoted to the creation and dissemination of educational opportunities for deaf students nationwide;

Whereas by an Act of Congress, Gallaudet was granted university status in October 1986, and in March 1988, the Deaf President Now (DPN) movement led to the appointment of the University's first deaf president, Dr. I. King Jordan, and the first deaf chair of the Board of Trustees, Philip Bravin;

Whereas the DPN movement has become synonymous with self-determination and em-

powerment for deaf and hard of hearing people everywhere;

Whereas the new millennium at Gallaudet has brought events such as the Deaf Way II festival, the opening of the technology-rich I. King Jordan Student Academic Center, and the dedication of the James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center, a unique facility that provides an inclusive learning environment compatible with the visu-centric "deaf way of being";

Whereas Gallaudet's undergraduate students can choose from more than 40 majors leading to bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degrees, and students can enroll in graduate and certificate programs, leading to master of arts, master of science, doctoral, and specialist degrees in a variety of fields involving professional service to deaf and hard of hearing people;

Whereas through the Gallaudet University career center, students receive internships that provide a wealth of experiential learning opportunities, including placements in local and Federal government offices;

Whereas today Gallaudet is viewed by deaf and hearing people alike as a primary resource for all things related to deaf and hard of hearing people, including educational and career opportunities, open communication and visual learning, deaf history and culture, American Sign Language, and technology that impacts the deaf community;

Whereas Gallaudet student-athletes have consistently gained national and international recognition over the years for their accomplishments in a variety of sports, while also being recognized for their success in the classroom by being named All-Academic honorees within their collegiate conferences by posting cumulative grade point averages of 3.20 or higher during the year;

Whereas Gallaudet's anniversary goals are to—

- (1) honor its years of academic excellence;
- (2) use this milestone to launch new initiatives, discussions, and partnerships that will lead the University forward;
- (3) emphasize that Gallaudet is first and foremost a university in which academic discourse plays a central role;
- (4) recognize the University's unique place in deaf history;
- (5) acknowledge and celebrate both the continuity and the change the campus has seen, including Gallaudet University's progression towards a greater diversity of people and ideas;
- (6) demonstrate Gallaudet's impact on the world and underscore the University's leadership role on the local, national, and international level; and
- (7) highlight the continuous support of Gallaudet's alumni and collaborations with the Gallaudet University Alumni Association; and

Whereas Gallaudet's 150th year theme is "Gallaudet University: Celebrating 150 Years of Visionary Leadership", and this theme will guide decisions on all activities planned in recognition of Gallaudet University's sesquicentennial: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors Gallaudet University on the occasion of its 150th anniversary and recognizes its contributions to higher education in the United States and around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 419—RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL STUDENT EMPLOYMENT WEEK 2014 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 419

Whereas National Student Employment Week offers the University of Minnesota Duluth the opportunity to recognize students who work while attending college;

Whereas the University of Minnesota Duluth is committed to increasing awareness of student employment as an educational experience for students and as an alternative to financial aid;

Whereas there are nearly 1,500 student employees at the University of Minnesota Duluth;

Whereas the University of Minnesota Duluth recognizes the importance of student employees to their employers; and

Whereas National Student Employment Week is celebrated the week of April 14 through 18, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the celebration of National Student Employment Week at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2962. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2963. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. AYOTTE, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2199, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2964. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2965. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2966. Mr. LEE (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2967. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2968. Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COBURN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2969. Mr. REID (for Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S.

Res. 361, recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression in the People's Republic of China and urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to take meaningful steps to improve freedom of expression as fitting of a responsible international stakeholder.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2962. Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 9, insert the following:

SEC. 9A. PRIVATE SECTOR WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY.

(a) COMPENSATORY TIME; FLEXIBLE CREDIT HOUR PROGRAM.—Section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) COMPENSATORY TIME FOR PRIVATE EMPLOYEES.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘employee’ does not include an employee of a public agency; and

“(B) the terms ‘overtime compensation’, ‘compensatory time’, and ‘compensatory time off’ have the meanings given the terms in subsection (o)(7).

“(2) GENERAL RULE.—An employee may receive, in accordance with this subsection and in lieu of monetary overtime compensation, compensatory time off at a rate not less than one and one-half hours for each hour of employment for which overtime compensation is required by this section.

“(3) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—An employer may provide compensatory time to an employee under paragraph (2) only in accordance with—

“(A) applicable provisions of a collective bargaining agreement between an employer and a labor organization that has been certified or recognized as the representative of the employees of the employer under applicable law; or

“(B) in the case of an employee who is not represented by a labor organization described in subparagraph (A), an agreement between the employer and employee arrived at before the performance of the work—

“(i) in which the employer has offered and the employee has chosen to receive compensatory time off under this subsection in lieu of monetary overtime compensation;

“(ii) that the employee enters into knowingly, voluntarily, and not as a condition of employment; and

“(iii) that is affirmed by a written or otherwise verifiable record maintained in accordance with section 11(c).

“(4) HOUR LIMIT.—An employee may accrue not more than 160 hours of compensatory time under this subsection and shall receive overtime compensation for any such compensatory time in excess of 160 hours.

“(5) UNUSED COMPENSATORY TIME.—

“(A) COMPENSATION PERIOD.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), not later than January 31 of each calendar year, the employer of the employee shall provide monetary compensation for any unused compensatory time under this subsection accrued during the preceding calendar year that the employee did not use

prior to December 31 of the preceding year at the rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A).

“(ii) ALTERNATIVE COMPENSATION PERIOD.—An employer may designate and communicate to an employee a 12-month period other than the calendar year for determining unused compensatory time under this subsection, and the employer shall provide monetary compensation not later than 31 days after the end of such 12-month period at the rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A).

“(B) EXCESS OF 80 HOURS.—An employer may provide monetary compensation, at the rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A), for any unused compensatory time under this subsection of an employee in excess of 80 hours at any time after giving the employee not less than 30 days notice.

“(C) TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT.—Upon the voluntary or involuntary termination of an employee, the employer of such employee shall provide monetary compensation at the rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A) for any unused compensatory time under this subsection.

“(6) WITHDRAWAL OF COMPENSATORY TIME AGREEMENT.—

“(A) EMPLOYER.—Except where a collective bargaining agreement provides otherwise, an employer that has adopted a policy of offering compensatory time to employees under this subsection may discontinue such policy after providing employees notice not less than 30 days prior to discontinuing the policy.

“(B) EMPLOYEE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An employee may withdraw an agreement described in paragraph (3)(B) after providing notice to the employer of the employee not less than 30 days prior to the withdrawal.

“(ii) REQUEST FOR MONETARY COMPENSATION.—At any time, an employee may request in writing monetary compensation for any accrued and unused compensatory time under this subsection. The employer of such employee shall provide monetary compensation at the rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A) within 30 days of receiving the written request.

“(7) MONETARY COMPENSATION.—

“(A) RATE OF COMPENSATION.—An employer providing monetary compensation to an employee for accrued compensatory time under this subsection shall compensate the employee at a rate not less than the greater of—

“(i) the regular rate, as defined in subsection (e), of the employee on the date the employee earned such compensatory time; or

“(ii) the final regular rate, as defined in subsection (e), received by such employee.

“(B) TREATMENT AS UNPAID OVERTIME.—Any monetary payment owed to an employee for unused compensatory time under this subsection, as calculated in accordance with subparagraph (A), shall be considered unpaid overtime compensation for the purposes of this Act.

“(8) USING COMPENSATORY TIME.—An employer shall permit an employee to take time off work for compensatory time accrued under paragraph (2) within a reasonable time after the employee makes a request for using such compensatory time if the use does not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer.

“(9) PROHIBITION OF COERCION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An employer that provides compensatory time under paragraph (2) shall not directly or indirectly intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any employee for the purpose of interfering with the rights of an employee under this subsection—

“(i) to use accrued compensatory time in accordance with paragraph (8) in lieu of receiving monetary compensation;

“(ii) to refrain from using accrued compensatory time in accordance with paragraph (8) and receive monetary compensation; or

“(iii) to refrain from entering into an agreement to accrue compensatory time under this subsection.

“(B) DEFINITION.—In subparagraph (A), the term ‘intimidate, threaten, or coerce’ includes—

“(i) promising to confer or conferring any benefit, such as appointment, promotion, or compensation; or

“(ii) effecting or threatening to effect any reprisal, such as deprivation of appointment, promotion, or compensation.

“(t) FLEXIBLE CREDIT HOUR PROGRAM FOR PRIVATE EMPLOYEES.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘at the election of’, used with respect to an employee, means at the initiative of, and at the request of, the employee;

“(B) the term ‘basic work requirement’ means the number of hours, excluding overtime hours, that an employee is required to work or is required to account for by leave or otherwise within a specified period of time;

“(C) the term ‘employee’ does not include an employee of a public agency;

“(D) the term ‘flexible credit hour’ means any hour that an employee, who is participating in a flexible credit hour program, works in excess of the basic work requirement; and

“(E) the term ‘overtime compensation’ has the meaning given the term in subsection (o)(7).

“(2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—An employer may establish a flexible credit hour program for an employee to accrue flexible credit hours in accordance with this subsection and, in lieu of monetary compensation, reduce the number of hours the employee works in a subsequent day or week at a rate of one hour for each hour of employment for which overtime compensation is required by this section.

“(3) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An employer may carry out a flexible credit hour program under paragraph (2) only in accordance with—

“(i) applicable provisions of a collective bargaining agreement between an employer and a labor organization that has been certified or recognized as the representative of the employees of the employer under applicable law; or

“(ii) in the case of an employee who is not represented by a labor organization described in clause (i), an agreement between the employer and the employee arrived at before the performance of the work that—

“(I) the employee enters into knowingly, voluntarily, and not as a condition of employment; and

“(II) is affirmed by a written statement maintained in accordance with section 11(c).

“(B) HOURS DESIGNATED.—An agreement that is entered into under subparagraph (A) shall provide that, at the election of the employee, the employer and the employee will jointly designate flexible credit hours for the employee to work within an applicable period of time.

“(4) HOUR LIMIT.—An employee participating in a flexible credit hour program may not accrue more than 50 flexible credit hours and shall receive overtime compensation for flexible credit hours in excess of 50 hours.

“(5) UNUSED FLEXIBLE CREDIT HOURS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), not later than January 31 of each calendar year, the employer of an employee who is participating in a flexible credit hour program shall provide monetary compensation for any flexible credit hour accrued during the preceding calendar year that the employee did not use prior to December 31 of the preceding calendar year at a rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A)(i).

“(B) ALTERNATIVE COMPENSATION PERIOD.—An employer may designate and communicate to the employees of the employer a 12-month period other than the calendar year for determining unused flexible credit hours, and the employer shall provide monetary compensation, at a rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A)(i), not later than 31 days after the end of the 12-month period.

“(6) PROGRAM DISCONTINUANCE AND WITHDRAWAL.—

“(A) EMPLOYER.—An employer that has established a flexible credit hour program under paragraph (2) may discontinue a flexible credit hour program for employees described in paragraph (3)(A)(ii) after providing notice to such employees not less than 30 days before discontinuing such program.

“(B) EMPLOYEE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An employee may withdraw an agreement described in paragraph (3)(A)(ii) at any time by submitting written notice of withdrawal to the employer of the employee not less than 30 days before the withdrawal.

“(ii) REQUEST FOR MONETARY COMPENSATION.—An employee may request in writing, at any time, that the employer of such employee provide monetary compensation for all accrued and unused flexible credit hours. Within 30 days after receiving such written request, the employer shall provide the employee monetary compensation for such unused flexible credit hours at a rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A)(i).

“(7) MONETARY COMPENSATION.—

“(A) FLEXIBLE CREDIT HOURS.—

“(i) RATE OF COMPENSATION.—An employer providing monetary compensation to an employee for accrued flexible credit hours shall compensate such employee at a rate not less than the regular rate, as defined in subsection (e), of the employee on the date the employee receives the monetary compensation.

“(ii) TREATMENT AS UNPAID OVERTIME.—Any monetary payment owed to an employee for unused flexible credit hours under this subsection, as calculated in accordance with clause (i), shall be considered unpaid overtime compensation for the purposes of this Act.

“(B) OVERTIME HOURS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Any hour that an employee works in excess of 40 hours in a workweek that is requested in advance by the employer, other than a flexible credit hour, shall be an ‘overtime hour’.

“(ii) RATE OF COMPENSATION.—The employee shall be compensated for each overtime hour at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which the employee is employed, in accordance with subsection (a)(1), or receive compensatory time off in accordance with subsection (s), for each such overtime hour.

“(8) USE OF FLEXIBLE CREDIT HOURS.—An employer shall permit an employee to use accrued flexible credit hours to take time off work, in accordance with the rate prescribed by paragraph (2), within a reasonable time after the employee makes a request for such use if the use does not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer.

“(9) PROHIBITION OF COERCION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An employer shall not directly or indirectly intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, any employee for the purpose of interfering with the rights of the employee under this subsection—

“(i) to elect or not to elect to participate in a flexible credit hour program, or to elect or not to elect to work flexible credit hours; or

“(ii) to use or refrain from using accrued flexible credit hours in accordance with paragraph (8).

“(B) DEFINITION.—In subparagraph (A), the term ‘intimidate, threaten, or coerce’ has the meaning given the term in subsection (s)(9).”.

(b) REMEDIES.—Section 16 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), as amended by section 3(c), by striking “(b) Any employer” and inserting “(b) Except as provided in subsection (f), any employer”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) An employer that violates subsection (s)(9) or (t)(9) of section 7 shall be liable to the affected employee in the amount of—

“(1) the rate of compensation, determined in accordance with subsection (s)(7)(A) or (t)(7)(A)(i) of section 7, for each hour of unused compensatory time or for each unused flexible credit hour accrued by the employee; and

“(2) liquidated damages equal to the amount determined in paragraph (1).”.

(c) NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall revise the materials the Secretary provides, under regulations contained in section 516.4 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, to employers for purposes of a notice explaining the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) to employees so that the notice reflects the amendments made to such Act by this section.

(d) PROTECTIONS FOR CLAIMS RELATING TO COMPENSATORY TIME OFF AND FLEXIBLE CREDIT HOURS IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDING.—Section 507(a)(4)(A) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “and”; and

(2) by inserting “, the value of unused, accrued compensatory time off under section 7(s) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207(s)), all of which shall be deemed to have been earned within 180 days before the date of the filing of the petition or the date of the cessation of the debtor’s business, whichever occurs first, at a rate of compensation not less than the final regular rate received by such individual, and the value of unused, accrued flexible credit hours under section 7(t) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207(t)), all of which shall be deemed to have been earned within 180 days before the date of the filing of the petition or the date of the cessation of the debtor’s business, whichever occurs first, at a rate of compensation described in paragraph (7)(A)(i) of such section 7(t)” after “sick leave pay”.

(e) GAO REPORT.—Beginning 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and each of the 3 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress providing, with respect to the reporting period immediately prior to each such report—

(1) data concerning the extent to which employers provide compensatory time and flexible credit hours under subsections (s)

and (t) of section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207), as added by this section, and the extent to which employees opt to receive compensatory time under such subsection (s) and flexible credit hours under such subsection (t);

(2) the number of complaints alleging a violation of subsection (s)(9) or (t)(9) of section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207) filed by any employee with the Secretary of Labor, and the disposition or status of such complaints;

(3) the number of enforcement actions commenced by such Secretary, or commenced by such Secretary on behalf of any employee, for alleged violations of subsection (s)(9) or (t)(9) of such section, and the disposition or status of such actions; and

(4) an account of any unpaid wages, damages, penalties, injunctive relief, or other remedies obtained or sought by such Secretary in connection with such actions described in paragraph (3).

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Section 11(c) shall not be construed to prevent small businesses, as described in such section, from participating in compensatory time under section 7(s) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207) and the flexible credit hour program under section 7(t) of such Act, as amended by this section.

(g) SUNSET.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2963. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. AYOTTE, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Workplace Advancement Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In 1963, Congress passed on a bipartisan basis the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to prohibit discrimination on account of sex in the payment of wages for equal work performed by employees for employers engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce.

(2) Following the passage of such Act, in 1964, Congress passed on a bipartisan basis the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

(3) Since the passage of both the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, women have made significant strides, both in the workforce and in their educational pursuits.

(4) Currently, according to a Prudential Research Study, 60 percent of women are the primary earners in their households and the Bureau of Labor Statistics has found that 47 percent of women are members of the workforce.

(5) According to the Department of Education, women receive 57 percent of all college degrees, a 33 percent increase from 1970.

(6) Women hold the majority of positions in the 5 fastest growing fields, and women are more likely than men to work in professional and related occupations.

(7) Despite this significant progress, surveys suggest there is a concern among American women that gender-based pay discrimination still exists.

(8) Over the last 15 years, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has received on average 2,400 complaints annually alleging gender-based pay discrimination. This represents two to three percent of charges filed with the Commission during the same time period. Even though the Commission determines that no discrimination occurred in a majority of these complaints, the extent to which these allegations continue underscores there is still progress to be made.

(9) A number of factors contribute to differences in total compensation, including variations in occupation, education, hours worked, institutional knowledge, and other business reasons and personal choices that shape career paths and earning potential.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON WAGE DISCRIMINATION.

Pursuant to Federal law in effect on the date of enactment of this Act:

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—No employer shall discriminate, within any establishment in which employees are employed by the employer, between employees on the basis of sex by paying wages to employees in such establishment at a rate less than the rate at which the employer pays wages to employees of the opposite sex in such establishment for equal work on jobs the performance of which requires equal skill, effort, and responsibility, and which are performed under similar working conditions, except where such payment is made pursuant to—

- (A) a seniority system;
- (B) a merit system;
- (C) a system which measures earnings by quantity or quality of production; or
- (D) a differential based on any other factor other than sex.

(2) **LIMITATION.**—An employer who is paying a wage rate differential in violation of this section shall not, in order to comply to comply with the provisions of this section, reduce the wage rate of any employee.

(3) **NOTICE.**—Every employer, employment agency, and labor organization, as the case may be, shall post and keep posted in conspicuous places upon its premises where notices to employees, applicants for employment, and members are customarily posted, a notice to be prepared or approved by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that sets forth excerpts, from or, summaries of, the pertinent provisions of title Act and of title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and information pertinent to the filing of a complaint.

SEC. 4. INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2911 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 171 the following:

“SEC. 171A. INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) **PURPOSE.**—It is the purpose of this section to promote industry or sector partnerships that lead collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across multiple firms for a range of workers employed or potentially employed by a targeted industry cluster, in order to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement in targeted industry clusters, including by developing—

“(1) immediate strategies for regions and communities to fulfill pressing skilled workforce needs;

“(2) long-term plans to grow targeted industry clusters with better training and a more productive workforce;

“(3) core competencies and competitive advantages for regions and communities undergoing structural economic redevelopment; and

“(4) skill standards, career ladders, job redefinitions, employer practices, and shared training and support capacities that facilitate the advancement of workers at all skill levels.

“(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **CAREER LADDER.**—The term ‘career ladder’ means an identified series of positions, work experiences, and educational benchmarks or credentials that offer occupational and financial advancement within a specified career field or related fields over time.

“(2) **ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY.**—The term ‘economic self-sufficiency’ means, with respect to a worker, earning a wage sufficient to support a family adequately over time, based on factors such as—

- “(A) family size;
- “(B) the number and ages of children in the family;
- “(C) the cost of living in the worker’s community; and
- “(D) other factors that may vary by region.

“(3) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

- “(A) an industry or sector partnership; or
- “(B) an eligible State agency.

“(4) **ELIGIBLE STATE AGENCY.**—The term ‘eligible State agency’ means a State agency designated by the Governor of the State in which the State agency is located for the purposes of the grant program under this section.

“(5) **HIGH-PRIORITY OCCUPATION.**—The term ‘high-priority occupation’ means an occupation that—

- “(A) has a significant presence in an industry cluster;
- “(B) is in demand by employers;
- “(C) pays family-sustaining wages that enable workers to achieve economic self-sufficiency, or can reasonably be expected to lead to such wages;
- “(D) has or is in the process of developing a documented career ladder; and
- “(E) has a significant impact on a region’s economic development strategy.

“(6) **INDUSTRY CLUSTER.**—The term ‘industry cluster’ means a concentration of interconnected businesses, suppliers, research and development entities, service providers, and associated institutions in a particular field that are linked by common workforce needs.

“(7) **INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.**—The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ means a workforce collaborative that is described as follows:

“(A) **REQUIRED MEMBERS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—An industry or sector partnership is a workforce collaborative that organizes key stakeholders in a targeted industry cluster into a working group that focuses on the workforce needs of the targeted industry cluster and includes, at the appropriate stage of development of the partnership—

- “(I) representatives of multiple firms or employers in the targeted industry cluster, including small- and medium-sized employers when practicable;
- “(II) 1 or more representatives of local boards;
- “(III) 1 or more representatives of postsecondary educational institutions or other training providers; and

“(IV) 1 or more representatives of State workforce agencies or other entities providing employment services.

“(ii) **DIVERSE AND DISTINCT REPRESENTATION.**—No individual may serve as a member in an industry or sector partnership, as defined in this paragraph, for more than 1 of the required categories described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of clause (i).

“(B) **AUTHORIZED MEMBERS.**—An industry or sector partnership may include representatives of—

- “(i) State or local government;
- “(ii) State or local economic development agencies;
- “(iii) other State or local agencies;
- “(iv) chambers of commerce;
- “(v) nonprofit organizations;
- “(vi) philanthropic organizations;
- “(vii) economic development organizations;
- “(viii) industry associations; and
- “(ix) other organizations, as determined necessary by the members comprising the industry or sector partnership.

“(8) **INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED.**—The term ‘industry-recognized’, used with respect to a credential, means a credential that—

“(A) is sought or accepted by businesses within the industry or sector involved as a recognized, preferred, or required credential for recruitment, screening, or hiring purposes; and

“(B) is endorsed by a nationally recognized trade association or organization representing a significant part of the industry or sector, where appropriate.

“(9) **NATIONALLY PORTABLE.**—The term ‘nationally portable’, used with respect to a credential, means a credential that is sought or accepted by businesses within the industry sector involved, across multiple States, as a recognized, preferred, or required credential for recruitment, screening, or hiring purposes.

“(10) **TARGETED INDUSTRY CLUSTER.**—The term ‘targeted industry cluster’ means an industry cluster that has—

“(A) economic impact in a local or regional area, such as advanced manufacturing, clean energy technology, and health care;

“(B) immediate workforce development needs, such as advanced manufacturing, clean energy, technology, and health care;

“(C) documented career opportunities; and

“(D) a demonstrated workforce in which women and minorities have been underrepresented.

“(c) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, the Secretary shall award, on a competitive basis, grants described in paragraph (3) to eligible entities to enable the eligible entities to plan and implement, respectively, the eligible entities’ strategic objectives in accordance with subsection (d)(2)(D).

“(2) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT.**—

“(A) **IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.**—An implementation grant awarded under paragraph (3)(A) may not exceed a total of \$2,500,000 for a 3-year period.

“(B) **RENEWAL GRANTS.**—A renewal grant awarded under paragraph (3)(C) may not exceed a total of \$1,500,000 for a 3-year period.

“(3) **IMPLEMENTATION AND RENEWAL GRANTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may award an implementation grant under this section to an eligible entity that has established, or is in the process of establishing, an industry or sector partnership.

“(B) **DURATION.**—An implementation grant shall be for a duration of not more than 3

years, and may be renewed in accordance with subparagraph (C).

“(C) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew an implementation grant for not more than 3 years. A renewal of such grant shall be subject to the requirements of this section, except that the Secretary shall—

“(i) prioritize renewals to eligible entities that can demonstrate the long-term sustainability of an industry or sector partnership funded under this section; and

“(ii) require assurances that the eligible entity will leverage, in accordance with subparagraph (D)(ii), each year of the grant period, additional funding sources for the non-Federal share of the grant which shall—

“(I) be in an amount greater than—

“(aa) the non-Federal share requirement described in subparagraph (D)(i)(III); and

“(bb) for the second and third year of the grant period, the non-Federal share amount the eligible entity provided for the preceding year of the grant; and

“(II) include at least a 50 percent cash match from the State or the industry cluster, or some combination thereof, of the eligible entity.

“(D) FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

“(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C)(ii) and clause (iii), the Federal share of a grant under this section shall be—

“(I) 90 percent of the costs of the activities described in subsection (f), in the first year of the grant;

“(II) 80 percent of such costs in the second year of the grant; and

“(III) 70 percent of such costs in the third year of the grant.

“(ii) NON-FEDERAL.—The non-Federal share of a grant under this section may be in cash or in-kind, and may come from State, local, philanthropic, private, or other sources.

“(iii) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may require the Federal share of a grant under this section to be 100 percent if an eligible entity receiving such grant is located in a State or local area that is receiving a national emergency grant under section 173.

“(4) FISCAL AGENT.—Each eligible entity receiving a grant under this section that is an industry or sector partnership shall designate an entity in the partnership as the fiscal agent for purposes of this grant.

“(5) USE OF GRANT FUNDS DURING GRANT PERIODS.—An eligible entity receiving grant funds under a grant under this section shall expend grant funds or obligate grant funds to be expended by the last day of the grant period.

“(d) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

“(1) IDENTIFICATION OF A TARGETED INDUSTRY CLUSTER.—In order to qualify for a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall identify a targeted industry cluster that could benefit from such grant by—

“(A) working with businesses, industry associations and organizations, labor organizations, State boards, local boards, economic development agencies, and other organizations that the eligible entity determines necessary, to identify an appropriate targeted industry cluster based on criteria that include, at a minimum—

“(i) data showing the competitiveness of the industry cluster;

“(ii) the importance of the industry cluster to the economic development of the area served by the eligible entity, including estimation of jobs created or preserved;

“(iii) the identification of supply and distribution chains within the industry cluster;

“(iv) research studies on industry clusters; and

“(v) data showing that the industry cluster has a workforce in which women and minorities have been underrepresented; and

“(B) working with appropriate employment agencies, workforce investment boards, economic development agencies, community organizations, and other organizations that the eligible entity determines necessary to ensure that the targeted industry cluster identified under subparagraph (A) should be targeted for investment, based primarily on the following criteria:

“(i) Demonstrated demand for job growth potential.

“(ii) Employment base.

“(iii) Wages and benefits.

“(iv) Demonstrated importance of the targeted industry cluster to the area's economy.

“(v) Workforce development needs.

“(2) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require. An application submitted under this paragraph shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

“(A) A description of the eligible entity, evidence of the eligible entity's capacity to carry out activities in support of the strategic objectives identified in the application under subparagraph (D), and a description of the expected participation and responsibilities of each of the mandatory partners described in subsection (b)(8)(A).

“(B) A description of the targeted industry cluster for which the eligible entity intends to carry out activities through a grant under this section, and a description of how such targeted industry cluster was identified in accordance with paragraph (1).

“(C) A description of the workers that will be targeted or recruited by the partnership, including an analysis of the existing labor market, a description of potential barriers to employment for targeted workers, and a description of strategies that will be employed to help workers overcome such barriers.

“(D) A description of the strategic objectives that the eligible entity intends to carry out for the targeted industry cluster, which objectives shall include—

“(i) recruiting key stakeholders in the targeted industry cluster, such as multiple businesses and employers, labor organizations, local boards, and education and training providers, and regularly convening the stakeholders in a collaborative structure that supports the sharing of information, ideas, and challenges common to the targeted industry cluster;

“(ii) identifying the training needs of multiple businesses, especially skill gaps critical to competitiveness and innovation to the targeted industry cluster;

“(iii) facilitating economies of scale by aggregating training and education needs of multiple employers;

“(iv) helping postsecondary educational institutions, training institutions, apprenticeship programs, and all other training programs authorized under this Act, align curricula, entrance requirements, and programs to industry demand and nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials (or, if not available for the targeted industry, other credentials, as determined appropriate by the Secretary), particularly for higher skill, high-priority occupations validated by the industry;

“(v) ensuring that the State agency carrying out the State program under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), includ-

ing staff of the agency that provide services under such Act, shall inform recipients of unemployment insurance of the job and training opportunities that may result from the implementation of this grant;

“(vi) informing and collaborating with organizations such as youth councils, business-education partnerships, apprenticeship programs, secondary schools, and postsecondary educational institutions, and with parents and career counselors, for the purpose of addressing the challenges of connecting disadvantaged adults as defined in section 132(b)(1)(B)(v) and disadvantaged youth as defined in section 127(b) to careers;

“(vii) helping companies identify, and work together to address, common organizational and human resource challenges, such as—

“(I) recruiting new workers;

“(II) implementing effective workplace practices;

“(III) retraining dislocated and incumbent workers;

“(IV) implementing a high-performance work organization;

“(V) recruiting and retaining women in nontraditional occupations;

“(VI) adopting new technologies; and

“(VII) fostering experiential and contextualized on-the-job learning;

“(viii) developing and strengthening career ladders within and across companies, in order to enable dislocated, incumbent and entry-level workers to improve skills and advance to higher-wage jobs;

“(ix) improving job quality through improving wages, benefits, and working conditions;

“(x) helping partner companies in industry or sector partnerships to attract potential employees from a diverse job seeker base, including individuals with barriers to employment (such as job seekers who are low income, youth, older workers, and individuals who have completed a term of imprisonment), by identifying such barriers through analysis of the existing labor market and implementing strategies to help such workers overcome such barriers; and

“(xi) strengthening connections among businesses in the targeted industry cluster, leading to cooperation beyond workforce issues that will improve competitiveness and job quality, such as joint purchasing, market research, or centers for technology and innovation.

“(E) A description of the nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials or, if not available, other credentials, related to the targeted industry cluster that the eligible entity proposes to support, develop, or use as a performance measure, in order to carry out the strategic objectives described in subparagraph (D).

“(F) A description of the manner in which the eligible entity intends to make sustainable progress toward the strategic objectives.

“(G) Performance measures for measuring progress toward the strategic objectives. Such performance measures—

“(i) may consider the benefits provided by the grant activities funded under this section for workers employed in the targeted industry cluster, disaggregated by gender and race, such as—

“(I) the number of workers receiving nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials (or, if not available for the targeted industry, other credentials) described in the application under subparagraph (E);

“(II) the number of workers with increased wages, the percentage of workers with increased wages, and the average wage increase; and

“(III) for dislocated or nonincumbent workers, the number of workers placed in sector-related jobs; and

“(ii) may consider the benefits provided by the grant activities funded under this section for firms and industries in the targeted industry cluster, such as—

“(I) the creation or updating of an industry plan to meet current and future workforce demand;

“(II) the creation or updating of published industry-wide skill standards or career pathways;

“(III) the creation or updating of nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials, or where there is not such a credential, the creation or updating of a training curriculum that can lead to the development of such a credential;

“(IV) the number of firms, and the percentage of the local industry, participating in the industry or sector partnership; and

“(V) the number of firms, and the percentage of the local industry, receiving workers or services through the grant funded under this section.

“(H) A timeline for achieving progress toward the strategic objectives.

“(I) In the case of an eligible entity desiring an implementation grant under this section, an assurance that the eligible entity will leverage other funding sources, in addition to the amount required for the non-Federal share under subsection (c)(3)(D), to provide training or supportive services to workers under the grant program. Such additional funding sources may include—

“(i) funding under this title used for such training and supportive services;

“(ii) funding under title II;

“(iii) economic development funding;

“(iv) employer contributions to training initiatives; or

“(v) providing employees with employee release time for such training or supportive services.

“(e) AWARD BASIS.—

“(1) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section in a manner to ensure geographic diversity.

“(2) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that—

“(A) work with employers within a targeted industry cluster to retain and expand employment in high wage, high growth areas;

“(B) focus on helping workers move toward economic self-sufficiency and ensuring the workers have access to adequate supportive services;

“(C) address the needs of firms with limited human resources or in-house training capacity, including small- and medium-sized firms;

“(D) coordinate with entities carrying out State and local workforce investment, economic development, and education activities; and

“(E) work with employers within a targeted industry cluster that has a workforce in which women and minorities have been underrepresented.

“(f) ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall carry out the activities necessary to meet the strategic objectives, including planning activities if applicable, described in the entity's application in a manner that—

“(A) integrates services and funding sources in a way that enhances the effectiveness of the activities; and

“(B) uses grant funds awarded under this section efficiently.

“(2) PLANNING ACTIVITIES.—Planning activities may only be carried out by an eligible entity receiving an implementation grant under this section during the first year of the grant period with not more than \$250,000 of the grant funds.

“(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible entity may retain a portion of a grant awarded under this section for a fiscal year to carry out the administration of this section in an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the grant amount.

“(g) EVALUATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS.—

“(1) ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT AND EVALUATION.—Not later than 1 year after receiving a grant under this section, and annually thereafter, an eligible entity shall—

“(A) report to the Secretary, and to the Governor of the State that the eligible entity serves, on the activities funded pursuant to a grant under this section; and

“(B) evaluate the progress the eligible entity has made toward the strategic objectives identified in the application under subsection (d)(2)(D), and measure the progress using the performance measures identified in the application under subsection (d)(2)(G).

“(2) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a report containing the results of the evaluation described in subparagraph (B) at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require.

“(h) ADMINISTRATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

“(1) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary may retain not more than 10 percent of the funds appropriated to carry out this section for each fiscal year to administer this section.

“(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance and oversight to assist the eligible entities in applying for and administering grants awarded under this section. The Secretary shall also provide technical assistance to eligible entities in the form of conferences and through the collection and dissemination of information on best practices. The Secretary may award a grant or contract to 1 or more national or State organizations to provide technical assistance to foster the planning, formation, and implementation of industry cluster partnerships.

“(3) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The Secretary shall issue a range of performance measures, with quantifiable benchmarks, and methodologies that eligible entities may use to evaluate the effectiveness of each type of activity in making progress toward the strategic objectives described in subsection (d)(2)(D). Such measures shall consider the benefits of the industry or sector partnership and its activities for workers, firms, industries, and communities.

“(4) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) coordinate the annual review of each eligible entity receiving a grant under this section and produce an overview report that, at a minimum, includes—

“(i) the critical learning of each industry or sector partnership, such as—

“(I) the training that was most effective;

“(II) the human resource challenges that were most common;

“(III) how technology is changing the targeted industry cluster; and

“(IV) the changes that may impact the targeted industry cluster over the next 5 years; and

“(ii) a description of what eligible entities serving similar targeted industry clusters consider exemplary practices, such as—

“(I) how to work effectively with postsecondary educational institutions;

“(II) the use of internships;

“(III) coordinating with apprenticeships and cooperative education programs;

“(IV) how to work effectively with schools providing vocational education;

“(V) how to work effectively with adult populations, including—

“(aa) dislocated workers;

“(bb) women in nontraditional occupations; and

“(cc) individuals with barriers to employment, such as job seekers who—

“(AA) are economically disadvantaged;

“(BB) have limited English proficiency;

“(CC) require remedial education;

“(DD) are older workers;

“(EE) are individuals who have completed a sentence for a criminal offense; and

“(FF) have other barriers to employment;

“(VI) employer practices that are most effective;

“(VII) the types of training that are most effective;

“(VIII) other areas where industry or sector partnerships can assist each other; and

“(IX) alignment of curricula to nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials in the sectors where they are available or, if not available for the sector, other credentials, as described in the application under subsection (d)(2)(E);

“(B) make resource materials, including all reports published and all data collected under this section, available on the Internet; and

“(C) conduct conferences and seminars to—

“(i) disseminate information on best practices developed by eligible entities receiving a grant under this section; and

“(ii) provide information to the communities of eligible entities.

“(5) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Workforce Advancement Act, and on an annual basis thereafter, the Secretary shall transmit a report to Congress on the industry or sector partnership grant program established by this section. The report shall include a description of—

“(A) the eligible entities receiving funding;

“(B) the activities carried out by the eligible entities;

“(C) how the eligible entities were selected to receive funding under this section; and

“(D) an assessment of the results achieved by the grant program including findings from the annual reviews described in paragraph (4)(A).

“(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the reporting or sharing of personally identifiable information collected or made available under this section.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 9201 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 171 the following:

“171A. Industry or sector partnership grant program.”

SEC. 5. CONSOLIDATIONS OF RELEVANT JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

(a) REPORT.—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall prepare a

report on the consolidations of Federal job training programs and activities determined to be unnecessarily duplicative (referred to in this section as “relevant job training programs and activities”). Such report shall—

(1) describe all Federal job training programs and activities;

(2) propose consolidations of the relevant job training programs and activities;

(3) provide a justification for those Federal job training programs and activities not included in such consolidations;

(4) establish a plan to provide for such consolidations, including recommendations for necessary legislation; and

(5) contain legislative recommendations for consolidation.

(b) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 6. ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT OF EQUAL PAY ACT REQUIREMENTS.

Section 15(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 215(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) to discharge or in any other manner retaliate against any employee because such employee has inquired about, discussed, or disclosed comparative compensation information for the purpose of determining whether the employer is compensating an employee in a manner that provides equal pay for equal work, except that this paragraph shall not apply to instances in which an employee who has access to the wage information of other employees as a part of such employee’s job functions discloses the wages of such other employees to an individual who does not otherwise have access to such information, unless such disclosure is in response to a charge or complaint or in furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action under section 6(d), including an investigation conducted by the employee.

Nothing in paragraph (6) shall be construed to limit the rights of an employee provided under any other provision of law.”.

SA 2964. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Good Jobs, Good Wages, and Good Hours Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—ENERGY

Subtitle A—Keystone XL and Natural Gas Exportation

Sec. 111. Keystone XL permit approval.

Sec. 112. Expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to Ukraine and North Atlantic Treaty Organization member countries and Japan.

Subtitle B—Saving Coal Jobs

Sec. 120. Short title.

PART I—PROHIBITION ON ENERGY TAX

Sec. 121. Prohibition on energy tax.

PART II—PERMITS

Sec. 131. National pollutant discharge elimination system.

Sec. 132. Permits for dredged or fill material.

Sec. 133. Impacts of Environmental Protection Agency regulatory activity on employment and economic activity.

Sec. 134. Identification of waters protected by the Clean Water Act.

Sec. 135. Limitations on authority to modify State water quality standards.

Sec. 136. State authority to identify waters within boundaries of the State.

Subtitle C—Point of Order Against Taxes on Carbon

Sec. 141. Point of order against legislation that would create a tax or fee on carbon emissions.

Subtitle D—Employment Analysis Requirements Under the Clean Air Act

Sec. 151. Analysis of employment effects under the Clean Air Act.

TITLE II—HEALTH

Sec. 201. Forty hours is full time.

Sec. 202. Repeal of the individual mandate.

Sec. 203. Repeal of medical device excise tax.

Sec. 204. Long-term unemployed individuals not taken into account for employer health care coverage mandate.

Sec. 205. Employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration may be exempted from employer mandate under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Sec. 206. Prohibition on certain taxes, fees, and penalties enacted under the Affordable Care Act.

Sec. 207. Repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

TITLE III—INCREASING EMPLOYMENT AND DECREASING GOVERNMENT REGULATION

Subtitle A—Small Business Tax Provisions

Sec. 301. Permanent extension of increased expensing limitations and treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

Sec. 302. Permanent full exclusion applicable to qualified small business stock.

Sec. 303. Permanent increase in deduction for start-up expenditures.

Sec. 304. Permanent extension of reduction in S-corporation recognition period for built-in gains tax.

Sec. 305. Permanent allowance of deduction for health insurance costs in computing self-employment taxes.

Sec. 306. Clarification of inventory and accounting rules for small business.

Subtitle B—Regulatory Accountability Act

Sec. 311. Short title.

Sec. 312. Definitions.

Sec. 313. Rule making.

Sec. 314. Agency guidance; procedures to issue major guidance; presidential authority to issue guidelines for issuance of guidance.

Sec. 315. Hearings; presiding employees; powers and duties; burden of proof; evidence; record as basis of decision.

Sec. 316. Actions reviewable.

Sec. 317. Scope of review.

Sec. 318. Added definition.

Sec. 319. Effective date.

TITLE IV—SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. References.

Sec. 403. Application to fiscal years.

Subtitle A—Amendments to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998

CHAPTER 1—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DEFINITIONS

Sec. 406. Definitions.

CHAPTER 2—STATEWIDE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS

Sec. 411. Purpose.

Sec. 412. State workforce investment boards.

Sec. 413. State plan.

Sec. 414. Local workforce investment areas.

Sec. 415. Local workforce investment boards.

Sec. 416. Local plan.

Sec. 417. Establishment of one-stop delivery system.

Sec. 418. Identification of eligible providers of training services.

Sec. 419. General authorization.

Sec. 420. State allotments.

Sec. 421. Within State allocations.

Sec. 422. Use of funds for employment and training activities.

Sec. 423. Performance accountability system.

Sec. 424. Authorization of appropriations.

CHAPTER 3—JOB CORPS

Sec. 426. Job Corps purposes.

Sec. 427. Job Corps definitions.

Sec. 428. Individuals eligible for the Job Corps.

Sec. 429. Recruitment, screening, selection, and assignment of enrollees.

Sec. 430. Job Corps centers.

Sec. 431. Program activities.

Sec. 432. Counseling and job placement.

Sec. 433. Support.

Sec. 434. Operations.

Sec. 435. Community participation.

Sec. 436. Workforce councils.

Sec. 437. Technical assistance.

Sec. 438. Special provisions.

Sec. 439. Performance accountability management.

CHAPTER 4—NATIONAL PROGRAMS

Sec. 441. Technical assistance.

Sec. 442. Evaluations.

CHAPTER 5—ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 446. Requirements and restrictions.

Sec. 447. Prompt allocation of funds.

Sec. 448. Fiscal controls; sanctions.

Sec. 449. Reports to Congress.

Sec. 450. Administrative provisions.

Sec. 451. State legislative authority.

Sec. 452. General program requirements.

Sec. 453. Federal agency staff and restrictions on political and lobbying activities.

CHAPTER 6—STATE UNIFIED PLAN

Sec. 456. State unified plan.

Subtitle B—Adult Education and Family Literacy Education

Sec. 461. Amendment.

Subtitle C—Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act

Sec. 466. Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act.

Subtitle D—Repeals and Conforming Amendments

Sec. 471. Repeals.

Sec. 472. Amendments to other laws.
 Sec. 473. Conforming amendment to table of contents.

Subtitle E—Amendments to the
 Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Sec. 476. Findings.
 Sec. 477. Rehabilitation Services Administration.
 Sec. 478. Definitions.
 Sec. 479. Carryover.
 Sec. 480. Traditionally underserved populations.
 Sec. 481. State plan.
 Sec. 482. Scope of services.
 Sec. 483. Standards and indicators.
 Sec. 484. Expenditure of certain amounts.
 Sec. 485. Collaboration with industry.
 Sec. 486. Reservation for expanded transition services.
 Sec. 487. Client assistance program.
 Sec. 488. Research.
 Sec. 489. Title III amendments.
 Sec. 490. Repeal of title VI.
 Sec. 491. Title VII general provisions.
 Sec. 492. Authorizations of appropriations.
 Sec. 493. Conforming amendments.

Subtitle F—Studies by the Comptroller
 General

Sec. 496. Study by the Comptroller General on exhausting Federal Pell Grants before accessing WIA funds.
 Sec. 497. Study by the Comptroller General on administrative cost savings.

Subtitle G—Entrepreneurial Training

Sec. 499. Entrepreneurial training.

TITLE I—ENERGY

Subtitle A—Keystone XL and Natural Gas
 Exportation

SEC. 111. KEYSTONE XL PERMIT APPROVAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (delegating to Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations), Trans-Canada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. is authorized to construct, connect, operate, and maintain pipeline facilities for the import of crude oil and other hydrocarbons at the United States-Canada Border at Phillips County, Montana, in accordance with the application filed with the Department of State on May 4, 2012.

(b) PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding Executive Order No. 13337 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), Executive Order No. 11423 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and any other Executive order or provision of law, no presidential permit shall be required for the facilities described in subsection (a).

(c) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The final environmental impact statement issued by the Secretary of State on August 26, 2011, the Final Evaluation Report issued by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality on January 3, 2013, and the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement issued on March 1, 2013, regarding the crude oil pipeline and appurtenant facilities associated with the facilities described in subsection (a), shall be considered to satisfy—

(1) all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) any other provision of law that requires Federal agency consultation or review with respect to the facilities described in subsection (a) and the related facilities in the United States.

(d) PERMITS.—Any Federal permit or authorization issued before the date of enact-

ment of this Act for the facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States shall remain in effect.

(e) FEDERAL JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States, that are approved by this section, and any permit, right-of-way, or other action taken to construct or complete the project pursuant to Federal law, shall only be subject to judicial review on direct appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

SEC. 112. EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS TO UKRAINE AND NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION MEMBER COUNTRIES AND JAPAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (delegating to Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations), Congress finds that exports of natural gas produced in the United States to Ukraine, member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and Japan is—

(1) necessary for the protection of the essential security interests of the United States; and

(2) in the public interest pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b).

(b) EXPEDITED APPROVAL.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended by inserting “, to Ukraine, to a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or to Japan” after “trade in natural gas”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall apply to applications for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) that are pending on, or filed on or after, the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle B—Saving Coal Jobs

SEC. 120. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Saving Coal Jobs Act of 2014”.

PART I—PROHIBITION ON ENERGY TAX

SEC. 121. PROHIBITION ON ENERGY TAX.

(a) FINDINGS; PURPOSES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) on June 25, 2013, President Obama issued a Presidential memorandum directing the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue regulations relating to power sector carbon pollution standards for existing coal fired power plants;

(B) the issuance of that memorandum circumvents Congress and the will of the people of the United States;

(C) any action to control emissions of greenhouse gases from existing coal fired power plants in the United States by mandating a national energy tax would devastate major sectors of the economy, cost thousands of jobs, and increase energy costs for low-income households, small businesses, and seniors on fixed income;

(D) joblessness increases the likelihood of hospital visits, illnesses, and premature deaths;

(E) according to testimony on June 15, 2011, before the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate by Dr. Harvey Brenner of Johns Hopkins University, “The unemployment rate is well established as a risk factor for elevated illness and mortality rates in epidemiological studies performed since the early 1980s. In addition to influences on mental disorder, suicide and alcohol abuse and alcoholism, unemployment is also an important risk factor in car-

diovascular disease and overall decreases in life expectancy.”;

(F) according to the National Center for Health Statistics, “children in poor families were four times as likely to be in fair or poor health as children that were not poor”;

(G) any major decision that would cost the economy of the United States millions of dollars and lead to serious negative health effects for the people of the United States should be debated and explicitly authorized by Congress, not approved by a Presidential memorandum or regulations; and

(H) any policy adopted by Congress should make United States energy as clean as practicable, as quickly as practicable, without increasing the cost of energy for struggling families, seniors, low-income households, and small businesses.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(A) to ensure that—

(i) a national energy tax is not imposed on the economy of the United States; and

(ii) struggling families, seniors, low-income households, and small businesses do not experience skyrocketing electricity bills and joblessness;

(B) to protect the people of the United States, particularly families, seniors, and children, from the serious negative health effects of joblessness;

(C) to allow sufficient time for Congress to develop and authorize an appropriate mechanism to address the energy needs of the United States and the potential challenges posed by severe weather; and

(D) to restore the legislative process and congressional authority over the energy policy of the United States.

(b) PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of a Federal agency shall not promulgate any regulation relating to power sector carbon pollution standards or any substantially similar regulation on or after June 25, 2013, unless that regulation is explicitly authorized by an Act of Congress.

PART II—PERMITS

SEC. 131. NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM.

(a) APPLICABILITY OF GUIDANCE.—Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) APPLICABILITY OF GUIDANCE.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) GUIDANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘guidance’ means draft, interim, or final guidance issued by the Administrator.

“(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘guidance’ includes—

“(I) the comprehensive guidance issued by the Administrator and dated April 1, 2010;

“(II) the proposed guidance entitled ‘Draft Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act’ and dated April 28, 2011;

“(III) the final guidance proposed by the Administrator and dated July 21, 2011; and

“(IV) any other document or paper issued by the Administrator through any process other than the notice and comment rule-making process.

“(B) NEW PERMIT.—The term ‘new permit’ means a permit covering discharges from a structure—

“(i) that is issued under this section by a permitting authority; and

“(ii) for which an application is—

“(I) pending as of the date of enactment of this subsection; or

“(II) filed on or after the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(C) PERMITTING AUTHORITY.—The term ‘permitting authority’ means—

“(i) the Administrator; or

“(ii) a State, acting pursuant to a State program that is equivalent to the program under this section and approved by the Administrator.

“(2) PERMITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in making a determination whether to approve a new permit or a renewed permit, the permitting authority—

“(i) shall base the determination only on compliance with regulations issued by the Administrator or the permitting authority; and

“(ii) shall not base the determination on the extent of adherence of the applicant for the new permit or renewed permit to guidance.

“(B) NEW PERMITS.—If the permitting authority does not approve or deny an application for a new permit by the date that is 270 days after the date of receipt of the application for the new permit, the applicant may operate as if the application were approved in accordance with Federal law for the period of time for which a permit from the same industry would be approved.

“(C) SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETENESS.—In determining whether an application for a new permit or a renewed permit received under this paragraph is substantially complete, the permitting authority shall use standards for determining substantial completeness of similar permits for similar facilities submitted in fiscal year 2007.”

(b) STATE PERMIT PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) STATE PERMIT PROGRAMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At any time after the promulgation of the guidelines required by section 304(a)(2), the Governor of each State desiring to administer a permit program for discharges into navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the State may submit to the Administrator—

“(A) a full and complete description of the program the State proposes to establish and administer under State law or under an interstate compact; and

“(B) a statement from the attorney general (or the attorney for those State water pollution control agencies that have independent legal counsel), or from the chief legal officer in the case of an interstate agency, that the laws of the State, or the interstate compact, as applicable, provide adequate authority to carry out the described program.

“(2) APPROVAL.—The Administrator shall approve each program for which a description is submitted under paragraph (1) unless the Administrator determines that adequate authority does not exist—

“(A) to issue permits that—

“(i) apply, and ensure compliance with, any applicable requirements of sections 301, 302, 306, 307, and 403;

“(ii) are for fixed terms not exceeding 5 years;

“(iii) can be terminated or modified for cause, including—

“(I) a violation of any condition of the permit;

“(II) obtaining a permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts; and

“(III) a change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent re-

duction or elimination of the permitted discharge; and

“(iv) control the disposal of pollutants into wells;

“(B)(i) to issue permits that apply, and ensure compliance with, all applicable requirements of section 308; or

“(ii) to inspect, monitor, enter, and require reports to at least the same extent as required in section 308;

“(C) to ensure that the public, and any other State the waters of which may be affected, receives notice of each application for a permit and an opportunity for a public hearing before a ruling on each application;

“(D) to ensure that the Administrator receives notice and a copy of each application for a permit;

“(E) to ensure that any State (other than the permitting State), whose waters may be affected by the issuance of a permit may submit written recommendations to the permitting State and the Administrator with respect to any permit application and, if any part of the written recommendations are not accepted by the permitting State, that the permitting State will notify the affected State and the Administrator in writing of the failure of the State to accept the recommendations, including the reasons for not accepting the recommendations;

“(F) to ensure that no permit will be issued if, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Army (acting through the Chief of Engineers), after consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, anchorage and navigation of any of the navigable waters would be substantially impaired by the issuance of the permit;

“(G) to abate violations of the permit or the permit program, including civil and criminal penalties and other means of enforcement;

“(H) to ensure that any permit for a discharge from a publicly owned treatment works includes conditions to require the identification in terms of character and volume of pollutants of any significant source introducing pollutants subject to pretreatment standards under section 307(b) into the treatment works and a program to ensure compliance with those pretreatment standards by each source, in addition to adequate notice, which shall include information on the quality and quantity of effluent to be introduced into the treatment works and any anticipated impact of the change in the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the publicly owned treatment works, to the permitting agency of—

“(i) new introductions into the treatment works of pollutants from any source that would be a new source (as defined in section 306(a)) if the source were discharging pollutants;

“(ii) new introductions of pollutants into the treatment works from a source that would be subject to section 301 if the source were discharging those pollutants; or

“(iii) a substantial change in volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the treatment works by a source introducing pollutants into the treatment works at the time of issuance of the permit; and

“(I) to ensure that any industrial user of any publicly owned treatment works will comply with sections 204(b), 307, and 308.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Administrator may not disapprove or withdraw approval of a program under this subsection on the basis of the following:

“(A) The failure of the program to incorporate or comply with guidance (as defined in subsection (s)(1)).

“(B) The implementation of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 309 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1319) is amended—

(i) in subsection (c)—

(I) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “402(b)(8)” and inserting “402(b)(2)(H)”; and

(II) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “402(b)(8)” and inserting “402(b)(2)(H)”; and

(ii) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by striking “402(b)(8)” and inserting “402(b)(2)(H)”.’

(B) Section 402(m) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(m)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “subsection (b)(8) of this section” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(H)”.

(C) SUSPENSION OF FEDERAL PROGRAM.—Section 402(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) LIMITATION ON DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (3), the Administrator may not disapprove or withdraw approval of a State program under subsection (b) on the basis of the failure of the following:

“(A) The failure of the program to incorporate or comply with guidance (as defined in subsection (s)(1)).

“(B) The implementation of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).”

(d) NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 402(d)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(2)” and all that follows through the end of the first sentence and inserting the following:

“(2) OBJECTION BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), no permit shall issue if—

“(i) not later than 90 days after the date on which the Administrator receives notification under subsection (b)(2)(E), the Administrator objects in writing to the issuance of the permit; or

“(ii) not later than 90 days after the date on which the proposed permit of the State is transmitted to the Administrator, the Administrator objects in writing to the issuance of the permit as being outside the guidelines and requirements of this Act.”;

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “Whenever the Administrator” and inserting the following:

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—If the Administrator”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) EXCEPTION.—The Administrator shall not object to or deny the issuance of a permit by a State under subsection (b) or (s) based on the following:

“(i) Guidance, as that term is defined in subsection (s)(1).

“(ii) The interpretation of the Administrator of a water quality standard that has been adopted by the State and approved by the Administrator under section 303(c).”

SEC. 132. PERMITS FOR DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and all that follows through “SEC. 404. (a) The Secretary may issue” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 404. PERMITS FOR DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL.

“(a) PERMITS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue”; and

(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(2) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL.—

“(A) PERMIT APPLICATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), if an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, as appropriate, is required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Secretary shall—

“(I) begin the process not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a permit application; and

“(II) approve or deny an application for a permit under this subsection not later than the latter of—

“(aa) if an agency carries out an environmental assessment that leads to a finding of no significant impact, the date on which the finding of no significant impact is issued; or

“(bb) if an agency carries out an environmental assessment that leads to a record of decision, 15 days after the date on which the record of decision on an environmental impact statement is issued.

“(ii) PROCESSES.—Notwithstanding clause (i), regardless of whether the Secretary has commenced an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement by the date described in clause (i)(I), the following deadlines shall apply:

“(I) An environmental assessment carried out under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be completed not later than 1 year after the deadline for commencing the permit process under clause (i)(I).

“(II) An environmental impact statement carried out under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be completed not later than 2 years after the deadline for commencing the permit process under clause (i)(I).

“(B) FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Secretary fails to act by the deadline specified in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A)—

“(i) the application, and the permit requested in the application, shall be considered to be approved;

“(ii) the Secretary shall issue a permit to the applicant; and

“(iii) the permit shall not be subject to judicial review.”.

(b) STATE PERMITTING PROGRAMS.—Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) AUTHORITY OF ADMINISTRATOR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) through (4), until the Secretary has issued a permit under this section, the Administrator is authorized to prohibit the specification (including the withdrawal of specification) of any defined area as a disposal site, and deny or restrict the use of any defined area for specification (including the withdrawal of specification) as a disposal site, if the Administrator determines, after notice and opportunity for public hearings, that the discharge of the materials into the area will

have an unacceptable adverse effect on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds or fishery areas (including spawning and breeding areas), wildlife, or recreational areas.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—Before making a determination under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consult with the Secretary.

“(3) FINDINGS.—The Administrator shall set forth in writing and make public the findings of the Administrator and the reasons of the Administrator for making any determination under this subsection.

“(4) AUTHORITY OF STATE PERMITTING PROGRAMS.—This subsection shall not apply to any permit if the State in which the discharge originates or will originate does not concur with the determination of the Administrator that the discharge will result in an unacceptable adverse effect as described in paragraph (1).”.

(c) STATE PROGRAMS.—Section 404(g)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(g)(1)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “for the discharge” and inserting “for all or part of the discharges”.

SEC. 133. IMPACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGULATORY ACTIVITY ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) COVERED ACTION.—The term “covered action” means any of the following actions taken by the Administrator under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.):

(A) Issuing a regulation, policy statement, guidance, response to a petition, or other requirement.

(B) Implementing a new or substantially altered program.

(3) MORE THAN A DE MINIMIS NEGATIVE IMPACT.—The term “more than a de minimis negative impact” means the following:

(A) With respect to employment levels, a loss of more than 100 jobs, except that any offsetting job gains that result from the hypothetical creation of new jobs through new technologies or government employment may not be used in the job loss calculation.

(B) With respect to economic activity, a decrease in economic activity of more than \$1,000,000 over any calendar year, except that any offsetting economic activity that results from the hypothetical creation of new economic activity through new technologies or government employment may not be used in the economic activity calculation.

(b) ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS OF ACTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.—

(1) ANALYSIS.—Before taking a covered action, the Administrator shall analyze the impact, disaggregated by State, of the covered action on employment levels and economic activity, including estimated job losses and decreased economic activity.

(2) ECONOMIC MODELS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator shall use the best available economic models.

(B) ANNUAL GAO REPORT.—Not later than December 31st of each year, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the economic models used by the Administrator to carry out this subsection.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—With respect to any covered action, the Administrator shall—

(A) post the analysis under paragraph (1) as a link on the main page of the public Internet Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(B) request that the Governor of any State experiencing more than a de minimis negative impact post the analysis in the Capitol of the State.

(c) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator concludes under subsection (b)(1) that a covered action will have more than a de minimis negative impact on employment levels or economic activity in a State, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing in each such State at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the covered action.

(2) TIME, LOCATION, AND SELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A public hearing required under paragraph (1) shall be held at a convenient time and location for impacted residents.

(B) PRIORITY.—In selecting a location for such a public hearing, the Administrator shall give priority to locations in the State that will experience the greatest number of job losses.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—If the Administrator concludes under subsection (b)(1) that a covered action will have more than a de minimis negative impact on employment levels or economic activity in any State, the Administrator shall give notice of such impact to the congressional delegation, Governor, and legislature of the State at least 45 days before the effective date of the covered action.

SEC. 134. IDENTIFICATION OF WATERS PROTECTED BY THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not—

(1) finalize, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed guidance described in the notice of availability and request for comments entitled “EPA and Army Corps of Engineers Guidance Regarding Identification of Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act” (EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0409) (76 Fed. Reg. 24479 (May 2, 2011)); and

(2) use the guidance described in paragraph (1), any successor document, or any substantially similar guidance made publicly available on or after December 3, 2008, as the basis for any decision regarding the scope of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or any rulemaking.

(b) RULES.—The use of the guidance described in subsection (a)(1), or any successor document or substantially similar guidance made publicly available on or after December 3, 2008, as the basis for any rule shall be grounds for vacating the rule.

SEC. 135. LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY TO MODIFY STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.

(a) STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—Section 303(c)(4) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking “(4) The” and inserting the following:

“(4) PROMULGATION OF REVISED OR NEW STANDARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The”;

(3) by striking “The Administrator shall promulgate” and inserting the following:

“(B) DEADLINE.—The Administrator shall promulgate;” and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, the Administrator may not promulgate a revised or new standard for a pollutant in any case in which the State has

submitted to the Administrator and the Administrator has approved a water quality standard for that pollutant, unless the State concurs with the determination of the Administrator that the revised or new standard is necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.”.

(b) **FEDERAL LICENSES AND PERMITS.**—Section 401(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) **STATE OR INTERSTATE AGENCY DETERMINATION.**—With respect to any discharge, if a State or interstate agency having jurisdiction over the navigable waters at the point at which the discharge originates or will originate determines under paragraph (1) that the discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307, the Administrator may not take any action to supersede the determination.”.

SEC. 136. STATE AUTHORITY TO IDENTIFY WATERS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE.

Section 303(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **STATE AUTHORITY TO IDENTIFY WATERS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State shall submit to the Administrator from time to time, with the first such submission not later than 180 days after the date of publication of the first identification of pollutants under section 304(a)(2)(D), the waters identified and the loads established under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (1).

“(B) **APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL BY ADMINISTRATOR.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of submission, the Administrator shall approve the State identification and load or announce the disagreement of the Administrator with the State identification and load.

“(ii) **APPROVAL.**—If the Administrator approves the identification and load submitted by the State under this subsection, the State shall incorporate the identification and load into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

“(iii) **DISAPPROVAL.**—If the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the identification and load submitted by the State under this subsection, the Administrator shall submit, not later than 30 days after the date that the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the submission of the State, to the State the written recommendation of the Administrator of those additional waters that the Administrator identifies and such loads for such waters as the Administrator believes are necessary to implement the water quality standards applicable to the waters.

“(C) **ACTION BY STATE.**—Not later than 30 days after receipt of the recommendation of the Administrator, the State shall—

“(i) disregard the recommendation of the Administrator in full and incorporate its own identification and load into the current plan of the State under subsection (e);

“(ii) accept the recommendation of the Administrator in full and incorporate its identification and load as amended by the recommendation of the Administrator into the current plan of the State under subsection (e); or

“(iii) accept the recommendation of the Administrator in part, identifying certain additional waters and certain additional loads proposed by the Administrator to be

added to the State’s identification and load and incorporate the State’s identification and load as amended into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

“(D) **NONCOMPLIANCE BY ADMINISTRATOR.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Administrator fails to approve the State identification and load or announce the disagreement of the Administrator with the State identification and load within the time specified in this subsection—

“(I) the identification and load of the State shall be considered approved; and

“(II) the State shall incorporate the identification and load that the State submitted into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

“(ii) **RECOMMENDATIONS NOT SUBMITTED.**—If the Administrator announces the disagreement of the Administrator with the identification and load of the State but fails to submit the written recommendation of the Administrator to the State within 30 days as required by subparagraph (B)(iii)—

“(I) the identification and load of the State shall be considered approved; and

“(II) the State shall incorporate the identification and load that the State submitted into the current plan of the State under subsection (e).

“(E) **APPLICATION.**—This section shall apply to any decision made by the Administrator under this subsection issued on or after March 1, 2013.”.

Subtitle C—Point of Order Against Taxes on Carbon

SEC. 141. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CREATE A TAX OR FEE ON CARBON EMISSIONS.

(a) **POINT OF ORDER.**—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, or conference report that includes a Federal tax or fee imposed on carbon emissions from any product or entity that is a direct or indirect source of the emissions.

(b) **WAIVER AND APPEAL.**—

(1) **WAIVER.**—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) **APPEAL.**—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

Subtitle D—Employment Analysis Requirements Under the Clean Air Act

SEC. 151. ANALYSIS OF EMPLOYMENT EFFECTS UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not propose or finalize any major rule (as defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) until after the date on which the Administrator—

(1) completes an economy-wide analysis capturing the costs and cascading effects across industry sectors and markets in the United States of the implementation of major rules promulgated under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.); and

(2) establishes a process to update that analysis not less frequently than semiannually, so as to provide for the continuing evaluation of potential loss or shifts in employment, pursuant to section 321(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7621(a)), that may result from the implementation of major rules under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

TITLE II—HEALTH

SEC. 201. FORTY HOURS IS FULL TIME.

(a) **DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.**—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “by 120” and inserting “by 174”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “30 hours” and inserting “40 hours”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 202. REPEAL OF THE INDIVIDUAL MANDATE.

Section 1501 and subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 10106 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (and the amendments made by such sections and subsections) are repealed and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

SEC. 203. REPEAL OF MEDICAL DEVICE EXCISE TAX.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subchapter E.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Subsection (a) of section 4221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the last sentence.

(2) Paragraph (2) of section 6416(b) of such Code is amended by striking the last sentence.

(c) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of subchapter for chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the item related to subchapter E.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to sales after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 204. LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE MANDATE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (4) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) **EXCEPTION FOR LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘full-time employee’ shall not include any individual who is a long-term unemployed individual with respect to such employer.

“(ii) **LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.**—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘long-term unemployed individual’ means, with respect to any employer, an individual who—

“(I) begins employment with such employer after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, and

“(II) has been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, immediately before the date such employment begins.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 205. EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM EMPLOYER MANDATE UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) **EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.**—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an employer may elect not to take

into account for a month as an employee any individual who, for such month, has medical coverage under—

“(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

“(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 206. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TAXES, FEES, AND PENALTIES ENACTED UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

No tax, fee, or penalty imposed or enacted under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall be implemented, administered, or enforced unless there has been a certification by the Joint Committee on Taxation that such provision would not have a direct or indirect economic impact on individuals with an annual income of less than \$200,000 or families with an annual income of less than \$250,000.

SEC. 207. REPEAL OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective as of the enactment of Public Law 111-148, such Act (including any provision amended under sections 201 through 205 of this Act) is repealed, and the provisions of law amended or repealed by such Act (including any provision amended under such sections) are restored or revived as if such Act had not been enacted.

(b) **HEALTH CARE-RELATED PROVISIONS IN THE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010.**—Effective as of the enactment of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), title I and subtitle B of title II of such Act (including any provision amended under sections 201 through 205 of this Act) are repealed, and the provisions of law amended or repealed by such title or subtitle, respectively (including any provision amended under such sections), are restored or revived as if such title and subtitle had not been enacted.

TITLE III—INCREASING EMPLOYMENT AND DECREASING GOVERNMENT REGULATION

Subtitle A—Small Business Tax Provisions

SEC. 301. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF INCREASED EXPENSING LIMITATIONS AND TREATMENT OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AS SECTION 179 PROPERTY.

(a) **DOLLAR LIMITATION.**—Section 179(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “shall not exceed” and all that follows and inserting “shall not exceed \$500,000.”.

(b) **REDUCTION IN LIMITATION.**—Section 179(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (C),

(2) by striking “, and” at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a period,

(3) by striking the comma at the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting “, and”, and

(4) by inserting “beginning before 2014” after “The limitation under paragraph (1) for any taxable year”.

(c) **COMPUTER SOFTWARE.**—Section 179(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and before 2014”.

(d) **ELECTION.**—Section 179(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and before 2014”.

(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR TREATMENT OF QUALIFIED REAL PROPERTY.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 179(f)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “beginning in 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013” and inserting “beginning after 2009”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 179(f) of such Code is amended by striking paragraph (4).

(f) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 302. PERMANENT FULL EXCLUSION APPLICABLE TO QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESS STOCK.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (4) of section 1202(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “and before January 1, 2014”, and

(2) by striking “CERTAIN PERIODS IN 2010, 2011, 2012, AND 2013” in the heading and inserting “CERTAIN PERIODS AFTER 2009”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) The heading for section 1202 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “PARTIAL”.

(2) The item relating to section 1202 in the table of sections for part I of subchapter P of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking “Partial exclusion” and inserting “Exclusion”.

(3) Section 1223(13) of such Code is amended by striking “1202(a)(2)”,

(c) **ADJUSTMENT OF GROSS ASSET THRESHOLD FOR INFLATION.**—Subsection (d) of section 1202 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) **ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.**—In the case of any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2014, the \$50,000,000 amount in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, by substituting ‘calendar year 2013’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof. If any amount as increased under the preceding sentence is not a multiple of \$1,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$1,000.”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to stock acquired after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 303. PERMANENT INCREASE IN DEDUCTION FOR START-UP EXPENDITURES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Clause (ii) of section 195(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “\$5,000” and inserting “\$10,000”, and

(2) by striking “\$50,000” and inserting “\$60,000”.

(b) **ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.**—Paragraph (3) of section 195(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(3) **ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.**—In the case of any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2014, the \$10,000 and \$60,000 amounts in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, by substituting ‘calendar year 2013’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof. If any amount as increased under the preceding sentence is not a multiple of \$1,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$1,000.”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 304. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF REDUCTION IN S-CORPORATION RECOGNITION PERIOD FOR BUILT-IN GAINS TAX.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (7) of section 1374(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “10-year” in subparagraph (A) and inserting “5-year”,

(2) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively, and

(3) by striking “593(e)—” and all that follows in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, and inserting “593(e), subparagraph (A) shall be applied without regard to the phrase ‘5-year’.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 305. PERMANENT ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS IN COMPUTING SELF-EMPLOYMENT TAXES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (4) of section 162(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “beginning before January 1, 2010” and all that follows and inserting “beginning—

“(A) before January 1, 2010, or

“(B) after December 31, 2010, and before January 1, 2013.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012.

SEC. 306. CLARIFICATION OF INVENTORY AND ACCOUNTING RULES FOR SMALL BUSINESS.

(a) **CASH ACCOUNTING PERMITTED.**—Section 446 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) **CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS TAXPAYERS PERMITTED TO USE CASH ACCOUNTING METHOD WITHOUT LIMITATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to an eligible taxpayer who uses the cash receipts and disbursements method for any taxable year, such method shall be deemed to clearly reflect income and the taxpayer shall not be required to use an accrual method.

“(2) **ELIGIBLE TAXPAYER.**—For purposes of this subsection, a taxpayer is an eligible taxpayer with respect to any taxable year if—

“(A) for all prior taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013, the taxpayer (or any predecessor) met the gross receipts test of section 448(c) (determined by substituting ‘\$10,000,000’ for ‘\$5,000,000’ each place it appears), and

“(B) the taxpayer is not subject to section 447 or 448.”.

(b) **INVENTORY RULES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 471 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) **SMALL BUSINESS TAXPAYERS NOT REQUIRED TO USE INVENTORIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A qualified taxpayer shall not be required to use inventories under this section for a taxable year.

“(2) **TREATMENT OF TAXPAYERS NOT USING INVENTORIES.**—If a qualified taxpayer does not use inventories with respect to any property for any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2013, such property shall be treated as a material or supply which is not incidental.

“(3) **QUALIFIED TAXPAYER.**—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘qualified taxpayer’ means—

“(A) any eligible taxpayer (as defined in section 446(g)(2)), and

“(B) any taxpayer described in section 448(b)(3) (determined by substituting ‘\$10,000,000’ for ‘\$5,000,000’ each place it appears in subsections (b) and (c) of section 448).”.

(2) **INCREASED ELIGIBILITY FOR SIMPLIFIED DOLLAR-VALUE LIFO METHOD.**—Section 474(c) of such Code is amended by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”.

(3) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Subsection (c) of section 263A of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) **EXCLUSION FROM INVENTORY RULES.**—Nothing in this section shall require the use of inventories for any taxable year by a qualified taxpayer (within the meaning of section 471(c)) who is not required to use inventories under section 471 for such taxable year.”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE AND SPECIAL RULES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

(2) **CHANGE IN METHOD OF ACCOUNTING.**—In the case of any taxpayer changing the taxpayer’s method of accounting for any taxable year under the amendments made by this section—

(A) such change shall be treated as initiated by the taxpayer; and

(B) such change shall be treated as made with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Subtitle B—Regulatory Accountability Act

SEC. 311. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Regulatory Accountability Act of 2014”.

SEC. 312. DEFINITIONS.

Section 551 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) ‘guidance’ means an agency statement of general applicability and future effect, other than a regulatory action, that sets forth a policy on a statutory, regulatory or technical issue or an interpretation of a statutory or regulatory issue;

“(16) ‘high-impact rule’ means any rule that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs determines is likely to impose an annual cost on the economy of \$1,000,000,000 or more, adjusted annually for inflation;

“(17) ‘Information Quality Act’ means section 515 of Public Law 106-554, the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001, and guidelines issued by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs or other agencies under that Act;

“(18) ‘major guidance’ means guidance that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs finds is likely to lead to—

“(A) an annual cost on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more, adjusted annually for inflation;

“(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, local or tribal government agencies, or geographic regions; or

“(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United

States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets;

“(19) ‘major rule’ means any rule that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs determines is likely to impose—

“(A) an annual cost on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more, adjusted annually for inflation;

“(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, local, or tribal government agencies, or geographic regions; or

“(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets; and

“(20) ‘Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs’ means the office established under section 3503 of chapter 35 of title 44 and any successor to that office.”.

SEC. 313. RULE MAKING.

Section 553 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “(a) This section applies” and inserting “(a) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section applies”; and

(2) by striking subsections (b) through (e) and inserting the following:

“(b) **RULE MAKING CONSIDERATIONS.**—In a rule making, an agency shall make all preliminary and final determinations based on evidence and consider, in addition to other applicable considerations, the following:

“(1) The legal authority under which a rule may be proposed, including whether a rule making is required by statute, and if so, whether by a specific date, or whether the agency has discretion to commence a rule making.

“(2) Other statutory considerations applicable to whether the agency can or should propose a rule or undertake other agency action.

“(3) The specific nature and significance of the problem the agency may address with a rule (including the degree and nature of risks the problem poses and the priority of addressing those risks compared to other matters or activities within the jurisdiction of the agency), whether the problem warrants new agency action, and the countervailing risks that may be posed by alternatives for new agency action.

“(4) Whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency may address with a rule and whether those rules could be amended or rescinded to address the problem in whole or part.

“(5) Any reasonable alternatives for a new rule or other response identified by the agency or interested persons, including not only responses that mandate particular conduct or manners of compliance, but also—

“(A) the alternative of no Federal response;

“(B) amending or rescinding existing rules;

“(C) potential regional, State, local, or tribal regulatory action or other responses that could be taken instead of agency action; and

“(D) potential responses that—

“(i) specify performance objectives rather than conduct or manners of compliance;

“(ii) establish economic incentives to encourage desired behavior;

“(iii) provide information upon which choices can be made by the public; or

“(iv) incorporate other innovative alternatives rather than agency actions that specify conduct or manners of compliance.

“(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

“(A) the potential costs and benefits associated with potential alternative rules and other responses considered under paragraph (5), including direct, indirect, and cumulative costs and benefits and estimated impacts on jobs, economic growth, innovation, and economic competitiveness;

“(B) the means to increase the cost-effectiveness of any Federal response; and

“(C) incentives for innovation, consistency, predictability, lower costs of enforcement and compliance (to government entities, regulated entities, and the public), and flexibility.

“(c) **ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING FOR MAJOR RULES AND HIGH-IMPACT RULES.**—

“(1) In the case of a rule making for a major rule or high-impact rule, not later than 90 days before a notice of proposed rule making is published in the Federal Register, an agency shall publish advance notice of proposed rule making in the Federal Register.

“(2) In publishing advance notice under paragraph (1), the agency shall—

“(A) include a written statement identifying, at a minimum—

“(i) the nature and significance of the problem the agency may address with a rule, including data and other evidence and information on which the agency expects to rely for the proposed rule;

“(ii) the legal authority under which a rule may be proposed, including whether a rule making is required by statute, and if so, whether by a specific date, or whether the agency has discretion to commence a rule making; and

“(iii) preliminary information available to the agency concerning the other considerations specified in subsection (b);

“(B) solicit written data, views or arguments from interested persons concerning the information and issues addressed in the advance notice; and

“(C) provide for a period of not fewer than 60 days for interested persons to submit such written data, views, or arguments to the agency.

“(d) **NOTICES OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING; DETERMINATIONS OF OTHER AGENCY COURSE.**—

Following completion of procedures under subsection (c), if applicable, and consultation with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, the agency shall publish either a notice of proposed rule making or a determination of other agency course, in accordance with the following:

“(1) A notice of proposed rule making shall include—

“(A) a statement of the time, place, and nature of public rule making proceedings;

“(B) reference to the legal authority under which the rule is proposed;

“(C) the terms of the proposed rule;

“(D) a description of information known to the agency on the subject and issues of the proposed rule, including—

“(i) a summary of information known to the agency concerning the considerations specified in subsection (b);

“(ii) a summary of additional information the agency provided to and obtained from interested persons under subsection (c); and

“(iii) information specifically identifying all data, studies, models, and other evidence or information considered or used by the agency in connection with the determination by the agency to propose the rule;

“(E)(i) a reasoned preliminary determination of need for the rule based on the information described under subparagraph (D); and

“(ii) an additional statement of whether a rule is required by statute;

“(F) a reasoned preliminary determination that the benefits of the proposed rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the costs of the proposed rule, including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6), based on the information described under subparagraph (D);

“(G) a discussion of—

“(i) the alternatives to the proposed rule, and other alternative responses, considered by the agency under subsection (b);

“(ii) the costs and benefits of those alternatives, including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6);

“(iii) whether those alternatives meet relevant statutory objectives; and

“(iv) why the agency did not propose any of those alternatives; and

“(H)(i) a statement of whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule; and

“(ii) if so, whether or not the agency proposes to amend or rescind any such rules, and why.

All information considered by the agency, and actions to obtain information by the agency, in connection with its determination to propose the rule, including all information described by the agency under subparagraph (D) and, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, information provided by that Office in consultations with the agency, shall be placed in the docket for the proposed rule and made accessible to the public for the public's use when the notice of proposed rule making is published.

“(2)(A) A notice of determination of other agency course shall include a description of the alternative response the agency determined to adopt.

“(B) If in its determination of other agency course the agency makes a determination to amend or rescind an existing rule, the agency need not undertake additional proceedings under subsection (c) before the agency publishes a notice of proposed rule making to amend or rescind the existing rule.

All information considered by the agency, and actions to obtain information by the agency, in connection with its determination of other agency course, including the information specified under paragraph (1)(D) and, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, information provided by that Office in consultations with the agency, shall be placed in the docket for the determination and made accessible to the public for the public's use when the notice of determination is published.

“(3) After notice of proposed rule making required by this section, the agency shall provide interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making through submission of written data, views, or arguments with or without opportunity for oral presentation, except that—

“(A) if a hearing is required under paragraph (4)(B) or subsection (e), reasonable opportunity for oral presentation shall be provided under that requirement; or

“(B) when other than under subsection (e) rules are required by statute or at the discretion of the agency to be made on the record after opportunity for an agency hearing, sec-

tions 556 and 557 shall apply, and paragraph (4), requirements of subsection (e) to receive comment outside of the procedures of sections 556 and 557, and the petition procedures of subsection (e)(6) shall not apply.

The agency shall provide not fewer than 90 days for interested persons to submit written data, views, or arguments (or 120 days in the case of a proposed major rule or high-impact rule).

“(4)(A) Within 30 days after publication of notice of proposed rule making, a member of the public may petition for a hearing in accordance with section 556 to determine whether any evidence or other information upon which the agency bases the proposed rule fails to comply with of the Information Quality Act.

“(B)(i) The agency may, upon review of the petition, determine without further process to exclude from the rule making the evidence or other information that is the subject of the petition and, if appropriate, withdraw the proposed rule. The agency shall promptly publish any such determination.

“(ii) If the agency does not resolve the petition under the procedures of clause (i), it shall grant any such petition that presents a prima facie case that evidence or other information upon which the agency bases the proposed rule fails to comply with the Information Quality Act, hold the requested hearing not later than 30 days after receipt of the petition, provide for a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination at the hearing, and decide the issues presented by the petition not later than 60 days after receipt of the petition. The agency may deny any petition that it determines does not present such a prima facie case.

“(C) There shall be no judicial review of the agency's disposition of issues considered and decided or determined under subparagraph (B)(ii) until judicial review of the agency's final action. There shall be no judicial review of an agency's determination to withdraw a proposed rule under subparagraph (B)(i).

“(D) Failure to petition for a hearing under this paragraph shall not preclude judicial review of any claim based on the Information Quality Act under chapter 7 of this title.

“(e) HEARINGS FOR HIGH-IMPACT RULES.—Following notice of a proposed rule making, receipt of comments on the proposed rule, and any hearing held under subsection (d)(4), and before adoption of any high-impact rule, the agency shall hold a hearing in accordance with sections 556 and 557, unless such hearing is waived by all participants in the rule making other than the agency. The agency shall provide a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination at such hearing. The hearing shall be limited to the following issues of fact, except that participants at the hearing other than the agency may waive determination of any such issue:

“(1) Whether the agency's asserted factual predicate for the rule is supported by the evidence.

“(2) Whether there is an alternative to the proposed rule that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives at a lower cost (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)) than the proposed rule.

“(3) If there is more than one alternative to the proposed rule that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives at a lower cost than the proposed rule, which alternative would achieve the relevant statutory objectives at the lowest cost.

“(4) If the agency proposes to adopt a rule that is more costly than the least costly al-

ternative that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)), whether the additional benefits of the more costly rule exceed the additional costs of the more costly rule.

“(5) Whether the evidence and other information upon which the agency bases the proposed rule meets the requirements of the Information Quality Act.

“(6) Upon petition by an interested person who has participated in the rule making, other issues relevant to the rule making, unless the agency determines that consideration of the issues at the hearing would not advance consideration of the rule or would, in light of the nature of the need for agency action, unreasonably delay completion of the rule making. An agency shall grant or deny a petition under this paragraph within 30 days after the receipt of the petition.

No later than 45 days before any hearing held under this subsection or sections 556 and 557, the agency shall publish in the Federal Register a notice specifying the proposed rule to be considered at such hearing, the issues to be considered at the hearing, and the time and place for such hearing, except that such notice may be issued not later than 15 days before a hearing held under subsection (d)(4)(B).

“(f) FINAL RULES.—(1) The agency shall adopt a rule only following consultation with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to facilitate compliance with applicable rule making requirements.

“(2) The agency shall adopt a rule only on the basis of the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, and other evidence and information concerning the need for and consequences of the rule.

“(3)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the agency shall adopt the least costly rule considered during the rule making (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)) that meets relevant statutory objectives.

“(B) The agency may adopt a rule that is more costly than the least costly alternative that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives only if—

“(i) the additional benefits of the more costly rule justify its additional costs; and

“(ii) the agency explains its reason for doing so based on interests of public health, safety or welfare (including protection of the environment) that are clearly within the scope of the statutory provision authorizing the rule.

“(4)(A) When the agency adopts a final rule, the agency shall publish a notice of final rule making. The notice shall include—

“(i) a concise, general statement of the rule's basis and purpose;

“(ii) the agency's reasoned final determination of need for a rule to address the problem the agency seeks to address with the rule, including a statement of whether a rule is required by statute;

“(iii) the agency's reasoned final determination that the benefits of the rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the rule's costs (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6));

“(iv) the agency's reasoned final determination not to adopt any of the alternatives to the proposed rule considered by the agency during the rule making, including—

“(I) the agency's reasoned final determination that no alternative considered achieved the relevant statutory objectives with lower costs (including costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)) than the rule; or

“(II) the agency’s reasoned final determination that its adoption of a more costly rule complies with paragraph (3)(B);

“(v) the agency’s reasoned final determination—

“(I) that existing rules have not created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the rule; or

“(II) that existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the rule, and, if so—

“(aa) why amendment or rescission of such existing rules is not alone sufficient to respond to the problem; and

“(bb) whether and how the agency intends to amend or rescind the existing rule separate from adoption of the rule;

“(vi) the agency’s reasoned final determination that the evidence and other information upon which the agency bases the rule complies with of the Information Quality Act; and

“(vii) for any major rule or high-impact rule, the agency’s plan for review of the rule no less frequently than every 10 years to determine whether, based upon evidence, there remains a need for the rule, whether the rule is in fact achieving statutory objectives, whether the rule’s benefits continue to justify its costs, and whether the rule can be modified or rescinded to reduce costs while continuing to achieve statutory objectives.

“(B) Review of a rule under a plan required by paragraph (4)(G) shall take into account the factors and criteria set forth in subsections (b) through (e) and this subsection.

“(C) All information considered by the agency in connection with its adoption of the rule, and, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, information provided by that Office in consultations with the agency, shall be placed in the docket for the rule and made accessible to the public for the public’s use not later than the date on which the rule is adopted.

“(g) EXCEPTIONS FROM NOTICE AND HEARING REQUIREMENTS.—(1) Except when notice or hearing is required by statute, subsections (c) through (e) of this section do not apply to interpretive rules, general statements of policy, or rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice.

“(2)(A) When the agency for good cause, based upon evidence, finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefor in the rules issued) that compliance with subsection (c), (d), or (e) or requirements to render final determinations under subsection (f) of this section before the issuance of an interim rule is impracticable or contrary to the public interest, including interests of national security, such subsections or requirements to render final determinations shall not apply to the agency’s adoption of an interim rule.

“(B) If, following compliance with subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the agency adopts an interim rule, it shall commence proceedings that comply fully with subsections (c) through (f) of this section immediately upon publication of the interim rule. No less than 270 days from publication of the interim rule (or 18 months in the case of a major rule or high-impact rule), the agency shall complete rule making under subsections (c) through (f) of this subsection and take final action to adopt a final rule or rescind the interim rule. If the agency fails to take timely final action, the interim rule shall cease to have the effect of law.

“(C) Other than in cases involving interests of national security, upon the agency’s publication of an interim rule without com-

pliance with subsections (c), (d), or (e) or requirements to render final determinations under subsection (f) of this section, an interested party may seek immediate judicial review under chapter 7 of this title of the agency’s determination to adopt such interim rule. The record on such review shall include all documents and information considered by the agency and any additional information presented by a party that the court determines necessary to consider to assure justice.

“(h) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HEARINGS.—When a hearing is required under subsection (e) or is otherwise required by statute or at the agency’s discretion before adoption of a rule, the agency shall comply with the requirements of sections 556 and 557 in addition to the requirements of subsection (f) in adopting the rule and in providing notice of the rule’s adoption.

“(i) DATE OF PUBLICATION OF RULE.—The required publication or service of a substantive final or interim rule shall be made not less than 30 days before the effective date of the rule, except—

“(1) a substantive rule which grants or recognizes an exemption or relieves a restriction;

“(2) interpretive rules and statements of policy; or

“(3) as otherwise provided by the agency for good cause found and published with the rule.

“(j) RIGHT TO PETITION.—Each agency shall give an interested person the right to petition for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule.

“(k) RULE MAKING GUIDELINES.—(1)(A) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall have authority to establish guidelines for the assessment, including quantitative and qualitative assessment, of the costs and benefits of potential, proposed, and final rules and other economic issues or issues related to risk that are relevant to rule making under this section and other sections of this title. The rigor of cost-benefit analysis required by such guidelines shall be commensurate, in the Administrator’s determination, with the economic impact of the rule.

“(B) To ensure that agencies use the best available techniques to quantify and evaluate anticipated present and future benefits, costs, other economic issues, and risks as accurately as possible, the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall regularly update guidelines established under subparagraph (A).

“(2) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall also have authority to issue guidelines to promote coordination, simplification and harmonization of agency rules during the rule making process and otherwise. Such guidelines shall assure that each agency avoids regulations that are inconsistent or incompatible with, or duplicative of, its other regulations and those of other Federal agencies and drafts its regulations to be simple and easy to understand, with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty and litigation arising from such uncertainty.

“(3)(A) To ensure consistency in Federal rule making, the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall—

“(i) issue guidelines and otherwise take action to ensure that rule makings conducted in whole or in part under procedures specified in provisions of law other than those under this subchapter conform to the fullest extent allowed by law with the procedures set forth in this section; and

“(ii) issue guidelines for the conduct of hearings under subsections (d)(4) and (e), including to assure a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination.

“(B) Each agency shall adopt regulations for the conduct of hearings consistent with the guidelines issued under this subparagraph.

“(4) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall issue guidelines under the Information Quality Act to apply in rule making proceedings under this section and sections 556 and 557. In all cases, the guidelines, and the Administrator’s specific determinations regarding agency compliance with the guidelines, shall be entitled to judicial deference.

“(l) RECORD.—The agency shall include in the record for a rule making all documents and information considered by the agency during the proceeding, including, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, documents and information communicated by that Office during consultation with the agency.

“(m) EXEMPTION FOR MONETARY POLICY.—Nothing in subsection (b)(6), subparagraph (F) through (G) of subsection (d)(1), subsection (e), subsection (f)(3), or clauses (iii) and (iv) of subsection (f)(4)(A) shall apply to rule makings that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.”.

SEC. 314. AGENCY GUIDANCE; PROCEDURES TO ISSUE MAJOR GUIDANCE; PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO ISSUE GUIDELINES FOR ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 553 the following:

“§ 553a. Agency guidance; procedures to issue major guidance; authority to issue guidelines for issuance of guidance

“(a) Before issuing any major guidance, an agency shall—

“(1) make and document a reasoned determination that—

“(A) assures that such guidance is understandable and complies with relevant statutory objectives and regulatory provisions;

“(B) identifies the costs and benefits (including all costs to be considered during the rule making under section 553(b) of this title) of conduct conforming to such guidance and assures that such benefits justify such costs; and

“(C) describes alternatives to such guidance and their costs and benefits (including all costs to be considered during rule making under section 553(b) of this title) and explains why the agency rejected those alternatives; and

“(2) confer with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs on the issuance of such guidance to assure that the guidance is reasonable, understandable, consistent with relevant statutory and regulatory provisions and requirements or practices of other agencies, does not produce costs that are unjustified by the guidance’s benefits, and is otherwise appropriate.

“(b) AGENCY GUIDANCE.—

“(1) is not legally binding and may not be relied upon by an agency as legal grounds for agency action;

“(2) shall state in a plain, prominent and permanent manner that it is not legally binding; and

“(3) shall, at the time it is issued or upon request, be made available by the issuing agency to interested persons and the public.

“(c) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall have authority to issue guidelines for use by the agencies in the issuance of major guidance and other guidance. Such guidelines shall assure that each agency avoids issuing guidance documents that are inconsistent or incompatible with, or duplicative of, its other regulations and those of other Federal agencies and drafts its guidance documents to be simple and easy to understand, with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty and litigation arising from such uncertainty.”.

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 553 the following:

“553a. Agency guidance; procedures to issue major guidance; presidential authority to issue guidelines for issuance of guidance.”.

SEC. 315. HEARINGS; PRESIDING EMPLOYEES; POWERS AND DUTIES; BURDEN OF PROOF; EVIDENCE; RECORD AS BASIS OF DECISION.

Section 556 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e)(1) The transcript of testimony and exhibits, together with all papers and requests filed in the proceeding, constitutes the exclusive record for decision in accordance with section 557 and, on payment of lawfully prescribed costs, shall be made available to the parties. When an agency decision rests on official notice of a material fact not appearing in the evidence in the record, a party is entitled, on timely request, to an opportunity to show the contrary.

“(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, in a proceeding held under this section under section 553(d)(4) or 553(e), the record for decision shall include any information that is part of the record of proceedings under section 553.

“(f) When an agency conducts rule making under this section and section 557 directly after concluding proceedings upon an advance notice of proposed rule making under section 553(c), the matters to be considered and determinations to be made shall include, among other relevant matters and determinations, the matters and determinations described in subsections (b) and (f) of section 553.

“(g)(1) Upon receipt of a petition for a hearing under this section, the agency shall grant the petition in the case of any major rule, unless the agency reasonably determines that a hearing would not advance consideration of the rule or would, in light of the need for agency action, unreasonably delay completion of the rule making. The agency shall publish its decision to grant or deny the petition when it renders the decision, including an explanation of the grounds for decision. The information contained in the petition shall in all cases be included in the administrative record.

“(2) This subsection shall not apply to rule makings that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.”.

SEC. 316. ACTIONS REVIEWABLE.

Section 704 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “Agency action made” and inserting “(a) Agency action made”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b)(1) Except as provided under paragraph (2) and notwithstanding subsection (a), upon

the agency’s publication of an interim rule without compliance with subsection (c), (d), or (e) of section 553 or requirements to render final determinations under subsection (f) of section 553, an interested party may seek immediate judicial review under this chapter of the agency’s determination to adopt such rule on an interim basis. Review shall be limited to whether the agency abused its discretion to adopt the interim rule without compliance with subsection (c), (d), or (e) of section 553 or without rendering final determinations under subsection (f) of section 553.

“(2) This subsection shall not apply in cases involving interests of national security.”.

“(c) For rules other than major rules and high-impact rules, compliance with subsection (b)(6), subparagraphs (F) through (G) of subsection (d)(1), subsection (f)(3), and clauses (iii) and (iv) of subsection (f)(4)(A) of section 553 shall not be subject to judicial review. In all cases, the determination that a rule is not a major rule within the meaning of section 551(19)(A) or a high-impact rule shall be subject to judicial review under section 706(a)(2)(A).

“(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit judicial review of an agency’s consideration of costs or benefits as a mandatory or discretionary factor under the statute authorizing the rule or any other applicable statute.”.

SEC. 317. SCOPE OF REVIEW.

Section 706 of title 5, United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking “To the extent necessary” and inserting “(a) To the extent necessary”;

(2) in paragraph (2)(A) of subsection (a) (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section), by inserting after “in accordance with law” the following: “(including the Information Quality Act as defined under section 551(17))”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) The court shall not defer to the agency’s—

“(1) interpretation of an agency rule if the agency did not comply with the procedures of section 553 or sections 556 and 557 to issue the interpretation;

“(2) determination of the costs and benefits or other economic or risk assessment of the regulatory action, if the agency failed to conform to guidelines on such determinations and assessments established by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs under section 553(k); or

“(3) determinations under interlocutory review under sections 553(g)(2)(C) and 704(2).

“(c) The court shall review agency denials of petitions under section 553(e)(6) or any other petition for a hearing under sections 556 and 557 for abuse of agency discretion.”.

SEC. 318. ADDED DEFINITION.

Section 701(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end, and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ‘substantial evidence’ means such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion in light of the record considered as a whole, taking into account whatever in the record fairly detracts from the weight of the evidence relied upon by the agency to support its decision.”.

SEC. 319. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this title to—

(1) sections 553, 556, and 704 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) section 701(b) of title 5, United States Code;

(3) paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 706(b) of title 5, United States Code; and

(4) section 706(c) of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to any rule makings pending or completed on the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act” or the “SKILLS Act”.

SEC. 402. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the amendment or repeal shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

SEC. 403. APPLICATION TO FISCAL YEARS.

Except as otherwise provided, this title and the amendments made by this title shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2015 and succeeding fiscal years.

Subtitle A—Amendments to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998

CHAPTER 1—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DEFINITIONS

SEC. 406. DEFINITIONS.

Section 101 (29 U.S.C. 2801) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.**—The term ‘adult education and family literacy education activities’ has the meaning given the term in section 203.”;

(2) by striking paragraphs (13) and (24);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (12) as paragraphs (3) through (14), and paragraphs (14) through (23) as paragraphs (15) through (24), respectively;

(4) by striking paragraphs (52) and (53);

(5) by inserting after “In this title:” the following new paragraphs:

“(1) **ACCRUED EXPENDITURES.**—The term ‘accrued expenditures’ means—

“(A) charges incurred by recipients of funds under this title for a given period requiring the provision of funds for goods or other tangible property received;

“(B) charges incurred for services performed by employees, contractors, subgrantees, subcontractors, and other payees; and

“(C) other amounts becoming owed, under programs assisted under this title, for which no current services or performance is required, such as amounts for annuities, insurance claims, and other benefit payments.

“(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—The term ‘administrative costs’ means expenditures incurred by State boards and local boards, direct recipients (including State grant recipients under subtitle B and recipients of awards under subtitles C and D), local grant recipients, local fiscal agents or local grant subrecipients, and one-stop operators in the performance of administrative functions and in carrying out activities under this title that are not related to the direct provision of workforce investment activities (including services to participants and employers). Such costs include both personnel and non-personnel expenditures and both direct and indirect expenditures.”;

(6) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “Except in sections 127 and 132, the” and inserting “The”;

(7) by amending paragraph (5) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

“(5) AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.—The term ‘area career and technical education school’ has the meaning given the term in section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3)).”;

(8) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by inserting “(or such other level as the Governor may establish)” after “8th grade level”;

(9) in paragraph (10)(C) (as so redesignated), by striking “not less than 50 percent of the cost of the training” and inserting “a significant portion of the cost of training, as determined by the local board involved (or, in the case of an employer in multiple local areas in the State, as determined by the Governor), taking into account the size of the employer and such other factors as the local board or Governor, respectively, determines to be appropriate”;

(10) in paragraph (11) (as so redesignated)—
(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II), by striking “section 134(c)” and inserting “section 121(e)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)(iii)—

(i) by striking “134(d)(4)” and inserting “134(c)(4)”;

(ii) by striking “intensive services described in section 134(d)(3)” and inserting “work ready services described in section 134(c)(2)”;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(D) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period and inserting “; or”;

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(E)(i) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days (as defined in section 101(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code) who has experienced a loss of employment as a direct result of relocation to accommodate a permanent change in duty station of such member; or

“(ii) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code) who meets the criteria described in paragraph (12)(B).”;

(11) in paragraph (12)(A) (as redesignated)—
(A) by striking “and” after the semicolon and inserting “or”;

(B) by striking “(A)” and inserting “(A)(i)”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days (as defined in section 101(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code) whose family income is significantly reduced because of a deployment (as defined in section 991(b) of title 10, United States Code, or pursuant to paragraph (4) of such section), a call or order to active duty pursuant to a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code, a permanent change of station, or the service-connected (as defined in section 101(16) of title 38, United States Code) death or disability of the member; and”;

(12) in paragraph (13) (as so redesignated), by inserting “or regional” after “local” each place it appears;

(13) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated)—
(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “section 122(e)(3)” and inserting “section 122”;

(B) by striking subparagraph (B), and inserting the following:

“(B) work ready services, means a provider who is identified or awarded a contract as described in section 117(d)(5)(C); or”;

(C) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C);

(14) in paragraph (15) (as so redesignated), by striking “adult or dislocated worker” and inserting “individual”;

(15) in paragraph (20), by striking “The” and inserting “Subject to section 116(a)(1)(E), the”;

(16) in paragraph (25)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “higher of—” and all that follows through clause (ii) and inserting “poverty line for an equivalent period”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (F) as subparagraphs (E) through (G), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);”;

(17) in paragraph (32), by striking “the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia,”;

(18) by amending paragraph (33) to read as follows:

“(33) OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.—The term ‘out-of-school youth’ means—

“(A) an at-risk youth who is a school dropout; or

“(B) an at-risk youth who has received a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent but is basic skills deficient, unemployed, or underemployed.”;

(19) in paragraph (38), by striking “134(a)(1)(A)” and inserting “134(a)(1)(B)”;

(20) in paragraph (41), by striking “, and the term means such Secretary for purposes of section 503”;

(21) in paragraph (43), by striking “clause (iii) or (v) of section 136(b)(3)(A)” and inserting “section 136(b)(3)(A)(iii)”;

(22) by amending paragraph (49) to read as follows:

“(49) VETERAN.—The term ‘veteran’ has the same meaning given the term in section 2108(1) of title 5, United States Code.”;

(23) by amending paragraph (50) to read as follows:

“(50) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The term ‘career and technical education’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).”;

(24) in paragraph (51), by striking “, and a youth activity”;

(25) by adding at the end the following:

“(52) AT-RISK YOUTH.—Except as provided in subtitle C, the term ‘at-risk youth’ means an individual who—

“(A) is not less than age 16 and not more than age 24;

“(B) is a low-income individual; and

“(C) is an individual who is one or more of the following:

“(i) A secondary school dropout.

“(ii) A youth in foster care (including youth aging out of foster care).

“(iii) A youth offender.

“(iv) A youth who is an individual with a disability.

“(v) A migrant youth.

“(53) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ means a partnership of—

“(A) a State board or local board; and

“(B) one or more industry or sector organizations, and other entities, that have the capability to help the State board or local board determine the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries or sectors and other occupations

important to the State or local economy, respectively.

“(54) INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL.—The term ‘industry-recognized credential’ means a credential that is sought or accepted by companies within the industry sector involved, across multiple States, as recognized, preferred, or required for recruitment, screening, or hiring and is awarded for completion of a program listed or identified under subsection (d) or (i) of section 122, for the local area involved.

“(55) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGY.—The term ‘pay-for-performance contract strategy’ means a strategy in which a pay-for-performance contract to provide a program of employment and training activities incorporates provisions regarding—

“(A) the core indicators of performance described in subclauses (I) through (IV) and (VI) of section 136(b)(2)(A)(i);

“(B) a fixed amount that will be paid to an eligible provider of such employment and training activities for each program participant who, within a defined timetable, achieves the agreed-to levels of performance based upon the core indicators of performance described in subparagraph (A), and may include a bonus payment to such provider, which may be used to expand the capacity of such provider;

“(C) the ability for an eligible provider to recoup the costs of providing the activities for a program participant who has not achieved those levels, but for whom the provider is able to demonstrate that such participant gained specific competencies required for education and career advancement that are, where feasible, tied to industry-recognized credentials and related standards, or State licensing requirements; and

“(D) the ability for an eligible provider that does not meet the requirements under section 122(a)(2) to participate in such pay-for-performance contract and to not be required to report on the performance and cost information required under section 122(d).

“(56) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.—The term ‘recognized postsecondary credential’ means a credential awarded by a provider of training services or postsecondary educational institution based on completion of all requirements for a program of study, including coursework or tests or other performance evaluations. The term means an industry-recognized credential, a certificate of completion of a registered apprenticeship program, or an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution described in section 122(a)(2)(A)(i).

“(57) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term ‘registered apprenticeship program’ means a program described in section 122(a)(2)(B).”.

CHAPTER 2—STATEWIDE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS

SEC. 411. PURPOSE.

Section 106 (29 U.S.C. 2811) is amended by adding at the end the following: “It is also the purpose of this subtitle to provide workforce investment activities in a manner that enhances employer engagement, promotes customer choices in the selection of training services, and ensures accountability in the use of taxpayer funds.”.

SEC. 412. STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

Section 111 (29 U.S.C. 2821) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (B);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B); and

(iii) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated)—

(I) by amending clause (i)(I), by striking “section 117(b)(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “section 117(b)(2)(A)”;

(II) by amending clause (i)(II) to read as follows:

“(II) represent businesses, including large and small businesses, each of which has immediate and long-term employment opportunities in an in-demand industry or other occupation important to the State economy; and”;

(III) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) a State agency official responsible for economic development; and”;

(IV) by striking clauses (iv) through (vi);

(V) by amending clause (vii) to read as follows:

“(vii) such other representatives and State agency officials as the Governor may designate, including—

“(I) members of the State legislature;

“(II) representatives of individuals and organizations that have experience with respect to youth activities;

“(III) representatives of individuals and organizations that have experience and expertise in the delivery of workforce investment activities, including chief executive officers of community colleges and community-based organizations within the State;

“(IV) representatives of the lead State agency officials with responsibility for the programs and activities that are described in section 121(b) and carried out by one-stop partners; or

“(V) representatives of veterans service organizations.”; and

(VI) by redesignating clause (vii) (as so amended) as clause (iv); and

(B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) MAJORITY.—A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the members of the board shall be representatives described in paragraph (1)(B)(i).”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “(b)(1)(C)(i)” and inserting “(b)(1)(B)(i)”;

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) FUNCTIONS.—The State board shall assist the Governor of the State as follows:

“(1) STATE PLAN.—Consistent with section 112, the State board shall develop a State plan.

“(2) STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.—The State board shall review and develop statewide policies and programs in the State in a manner that supports a comprehensive statewide workforce development system that will result in meeting the workforce needs of the State and its local areas. Such review shall include determining whether the State should consolidate additional amounts for additional activities or programs into the Workforce Investment Fund in accordance with section 501(e).

“(3) WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The State board shall develop a statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(e)), which may include using information collected under Federal law other than this Act by the State economic development entity or a related entity in developing such system.

“(4) EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT.—The State board shall develop strategies, across local areas, that meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the State by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers.

“(5) DESIGNATION OF LOCAL AREAS.—The State board shall designate local areas as required under section 116.

“(6) ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.—The State board shall identify and disseminate information on best practices for effective operation of one-stop centers, including use of innovative business outreach, partnerships, and service delivery strategies.

“(7) PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.—The State board shall conduct the following program oversight:

“(A) Reviewing and approving local plans under section 118.

“(B) Ensuring the appropriate use and management of the funds provided for State employment and training activities authorized under section 134.

“(C) Preparing an annual report to the Secretary described in section 136(d).

“(8) DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The State board shall develop and ensure continuous improvement of comprehensive State performance measures, including State adjusted levels of performance, as described under section 136(b).”;

(4) by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e);

(5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by inserting “or participate in any action taken” after “vote”;

(6) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so redesignated), the following:

“(f) STAFF.—The State board may employ staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in subsection (d).”; and

(7) in subsection (g), by inserting “electronic means and” after “on a regular basis through”.

SEC. 413. STATE PLAN.

Section 112 (29 U.S.C. 2822)—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “127 or”; and

(B) by striking “5-year strategy” and inserting “3-year strategy”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) information describing—

“(A) the economic conditions in the State;

“(B) the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the State economy;

“(C) the knowledge and skills of the workforce in the State; and

“(D) workforce development activities (including education and training) in the State.”;

(B) by amending paragraph (7) to read as follows:

“(7) a description of the State criteria for determining the eligibility of training services providers in accordance with section 122, including how the State will take into account the performance of providers and whether the training services relate to in-demand industries and other occupations important to the State economy.”;

(C) by amending paragraph (8) to read as follows:

“(8)(A) a description of the procedures that will be taken by the State to assure coordination of, and avoid duplication among, the programs and activities identified under section 501(b)(2); and

“(B) a description of and an assurance regarding common data collection and reporting processes used for the programs and activities described in subparagraph (A), which are carried out by one-stop partners, including—

“(i) an assurance that such processes use quarterly wage records for performance

measures described in section 136(b)(2)(A) that are applicable to such programs or activities; or

“(ii) if such wage records are not being used for the performance measures, an identification of the barriers to using such wage records and a description of how the State will address such barriers within 1 year of the approval of the plan.”;

(D) in paragraph (9), by striking “, including comment by representatives of businesses and representatives of labor organizations.”;

(E) in paragraph (11), by striking “under sections 127 and 132” and inserting “under section 132”;

(F) by striking paragraph (12);

(G) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through (18) as paragraphs (12) through (17), respectively;

(H) in paragraph (12) (as so redesignated), by striking “111(f)” and inserting “111(e)”;

(I) in paragraph (13) (as so redesignated), by striking “134(c)” and inserting “121(e)”;

(J) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated), by striking “116(a)(5)” and inserting “116(a)(3)”;

(K) in paragraph (16) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “to dislocated workers”; and

(bb) by inserting “and additional assistance” after “rapid response activities”;

(II) in clause (iii), by striking “134(d)(4)” and inserting “134(c)(4)”;

(III) by striking “and” at the end of clause (iii);

(IV) by amending clause (iv) to read as follows:

“(iv) how the State will serve the employment and training needs of dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), low-income individuals (including recipients of public assistance such as supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)), long-term unemployed individuals (including individuals who have exhausted entitlement to Federal and State unemployment compensation), English learners, homeless individuals, individuals training for nontraditional employment, youth (including out-of-school youth and at-risk youth), older workers, ex-offenders, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, refugees and entrants, veterans (including disabled and homeless veterans), and Native Americans; and”;

(V) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(v) how the State will—

“(I) consistent with section 188 and Executive Order No. 13217 (42 U.S.C. 12131 note), serve the employment and training needs of individuals with disabilities; and

“(II) consistent with sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794, 794d), include the provision of outreach, intake, assessments, and service delivery, the development of performance measures, the training of staff, and other aspects of accessibility for individuals with disabilities to programs and services under this subtitle.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “to the extent practicable” and inserting “in accordance with the requirements of the Jobs for Veterans Act (Public Law 107-288) and the amendments made by such Act”;

(L) by striking paragraph (17) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

“(17) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the State—

“(A) to more fully engage employers, including small businesses and employers in in-demand industries and occupations important to the State economy;

“(B) to meet the needs of employers in the State; and

“(C) to better coordinate workforce development programs with economic development activities;

“(18) a description of how the State board will convene (or help to convene) industry or sector partnerships that lead to collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across a targeted cluster of multiple firms for a range of workers employed or potentially employed by the industry or sector—

“(A) to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement in the industry or sector;

“(B) to address the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the State economy; and

“(C) to address critical skill gaps within and across industries and sectors;

“(19) a description of how the State will utilize technology, to facilitate access to services in remote areas, which may be used throughout the State;

“(20) a description of the State strategy and assistance to be provided by the State for encouraging regional cooperation within the State and across State borders, as appropriate;

“(21) a description of the actions that will be taken by the State to foster communication, coordination, and partnerships with nonprofit organizations (including public libraries, community, faith-based, and philanthropic organizations) that provide employment-related, training, and complementary services, to enhance the quality and comprehensiveness of services available to participants under this title;

“(22) a description of the process and methodology for determining—

“(A) one-stop partner program contributions for the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers under section 121(h)(1); and

“(B) the formula for allocating such infrastructure funds to local areas under section 121(h)(3);

“(23) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, credentials (including recognized postsecondary credentials, such as industry-recognized credentials), and employment experience to succeed in the labor market, including—

“(A) training and internships in in-demand industries or occupations important to the State and local economy;

“(B) dropout recovery activities that are designed to lead to the attainment of a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or other State-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities); and

“(C) activities combining remediation of academic skills, work readiness training, and work experience, and including linkages to postsecondary education and training and career-ladder employment; and

“(24) a description of—

“(A) how the State will furnish employment, training, including training in advanced manufacturing, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans;

“(B) the strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist in and expedite

reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force; and

“(C) the veterans population to be served in the State.”;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “period, that—” and all that follows through paragraph (2) and inserting “period, that the plan is inconsistent with the provisions of this title.”; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking “5-year” and inserting “3-year”.

SEC. 414. LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS.

Section 116 (29 U.S.C. 2831) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) PROCESS.—In order to receive an allotment under section 132, a State, through the State board, shall establish a process to designate local workforce investment areas within the State. Such process shall—

“(i) support the statewide workforce development system developed under section 111(d)(2), enabling the system to meet the workforce needs of the State and its local areas;

“(ii) include consultation, prior to the designation, with chief elected officials;

“(iii) include consideration of comments received on the designation through the public comment process as described in section 112(b)(9); and

“(iv) require the submission of an application for approval under subparagraph (B).

“(B) APPLICATION.—To obtain designation of a local area under this paragraph, a local or regional board (or consortia of local or regional boards) seeking to take responsibility for the area under this Act shall submit an application to a State board at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State board may require, including—

“(i) a description of the local area, including the population that will be served by the local area, and the education and training needs of its employers and workers;

“(ii) a description of how the local area is consistent or aligned with—

“(I) service delivery areas (as determined by the State);

“(II) labor market areas; and

“(III) economic development regions;

“(iii) a description of the eligible providers of education and training, including postsecondary educational institutions such as community colleges, located in the local area and available to meet the needs of the local workforce;

“(iv) a description of the distance that individuals will need to travel to receive services provided in such local area; and

“(v) any other criteria that the State board may require.

“(C) PRIORITY.—In designating local areas under this paragraph, a State board shall give priority consideration to an area proposed by an applicant demonstrating that a designation as a local area under this paragraph will result in the reduction of overlapping service delivery areas, local market areas, or economic development regions.

“(D) ALIGNMENT WITH LOCAL PLAN.—A State may designate an area proposed by an applicant as a local area under this paragraph for a period not to exceed 3 years.

“(E) REFERENCES.—For purposes of this Act, a reference to a local area—

“(i) used with respect to a geographic area, refers to an area designated under this paragraph; and

“(ii) used with respect to an entity, refers to the applicant.”;

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall, if requested by the Governor of a State, provide the State with technical assistance in making the determinations required under paragraph (1). The Secretary shall not issue regulations governing determinations to be made under paragraph (1).”;

(C) by striking paragraph (3);

(D) by striking paragraph (4);

(E) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3); and

(F) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “(2) or (3)” both places it appears and inserting “(1)”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) SINGLE STATES.—Consistent with subsection (a), the State board of a State may designate the State as a single State local area for the purposes of this title.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: “The State may require the local boards for the designated region to prepare a single regional plan that incorporates the elements of the local plan under section 118 and that is submitted and approved in lieu of separate local plans under such section.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “employment statistics” and inserting “workforce and labor market information”.

SEC. 415. LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

Section 117 (29 U.S.C. 2832) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “include—” and all that follows through “representatives” and inserting “include representatives”;

(II) by striking clauses (ii) through (vi);

(III) by redesignating subclauses (I) through (III) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively (and by moving the margins of such clauses 2 ems to the left);

(IV) by striking clause (ii) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

“(ii) represent businesses, including large and small businesses, each of which has immediate and long-term employment opportunities in an in-demand industry or other occupation important to the local economy; and”;

(V) by striking the semicolon at the end of clause (iii) (as so redesignated) and inserting “; and”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) may include such other individuals or representatives of entities as the chief elected official in the local area may determine to be appropriate, including—

“(i) the superintendent or other employee of the local educational agency who has primary responsibility for secondary education, the presidents or chief executive officers of postsecondary educational institutions (including a community college, where such an entity exists), or administrators of local entities providing adult education and family literacy education activities;

“(ii) representatives of community-based organizations (including organizations representing individuals with disabilities and veterans, for a local area in which such organizations are present); or

“(iii) representatives of veterans service organizations.”;

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “A majority” and inserting “A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority”;

(ii) by striking “(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “(2)(A)”;

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “(2)(A)”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (C); and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by striking “paragraphs (1) through (7)” and inserting “paragraphs (1) through (8)”;

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) **FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL BOARD.**—The functions of the local board shall include the following:

“(1) **LOCAL PLAN.**—Consistent with section 118, each local board, in partnership with the chief elected official for the local area involved, shall develop and submit a local plan to the Governor.

“(2) **WORKFORCE RESEARCH AND REGIONAL LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The local board shall—

“(i) conduct, and regularly update, an analysis of—

“(I) the economic conditions in the local area;

“(II) the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries and other occupations important to the local economy;

“(III) the knowledge and skills of the workforce in the local area; and

“(IV) workforce development activities (including education and training) in the local area; and

“(ii) assist the Governor in developing the statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(e)).

“(B) **EXISTING ANALYSIS.**—In carrying out requirements of subparagraph (A)(i), a local board shall use an existing analysis, if any, by the local economic development entity or related entity.

“(3) **EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT.**—The local board shall meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the local area by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers.

“(4) **BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION.**—

“(A) **BUDGET.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The local board shall develop a budget for the activities of the local board in the local area, consistent with the requirements of this subsection.

“(ii) **TRAINING RESERVATION.**—In developing a budget under clause (i), the local board shall reserve a percentage of funds to carry out the activities specified in section 134(c)(4). The local board shall use the analysis conducted under paragraph (2)(A)(i) to determine the appropriate percentage of funds to reserve under this clause.

“(B) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

“(i) **GRANT RECIPIENT.**—The chief elected official in a local area shall serve as the local grant recipient for, and shall be liable for any misuse of, the grant funds allocated to the local area under section 133, unless the chief elected official reaches an agreement with the Governor for the Governor to act as the local grant recipient and bear such liability.

“(ii) **DESIGNATION.**—In order to assist in administration of the grant funds, the chief elected official or the Governor, where the Governor serves as the local grant recipient for a local area, may designate an entity to serve as a local grant subrecipient for such funds or as a local fiscal agent. Such designation shall not relieve the chief elected

official or the Governor of the liability for any misuse of grant funds as described in clause (i).

“(iii) **DISBURSAL.**—The local grant recipient or an entity designated under clause (ii) shall disburse the grant funds for workforce investment activities at the direction of the local board, pursuant to the requirements of this title. The local grant recipient or entity designated under clause (ii) shall disburse the funds immediately on receiving such direction from the local board.

“(C) **STAFF.**—The local board may employ staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in this subsection.

“(D) **GRANTS AND DONATIONS.**—The local board may solicit and accept grants and donations from sources other than Federal funds made available under this Act.

“(5) **SELECTION OF OPERATORS AND PROVIDERS.**—

“(A) **SELECTION OF ONE-STOP OPERATORS.**—Consistent with section 121(d), the local board, with the agreement of the chief elected official—

“(i) shall designate or certify one-stop operators as described in section 121(d)(2)(A); and

“(ii) may terminate for cause the eligibility of such operators.

“(B) **IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE TRAINING SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—Consistent with this subtitle, the local board shall identify eligible providers of training services described in section 134(c)(4) in the local area, annually review the outcomes of such eligible providers using the criteria under section 122(b)(2), and designate such eligible providers in the local area who have demonstrated the highest level of success with respect to such criteria as priority eligible providers for the program year following the review.

“(C) **IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF WORK READY SERVICES.**—If the one-stop operator does not provide the services described in section 134(c)(2) in the local area, the local board shall identify eligible providers of such services in the local area by awarding contracts.

“(6) **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.**—The local board, in partnership with the chief elected official, shall be responsible for—

“(A) ensuring the appropriate use and management of the funds provided for local employment and training activities authorized under section 134(b); and

“(B) conducting oversight of the one-stop delivery system, in the local area, authorized under section 121.

“(7) **NEGOTIATION OF LOCAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**—The local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall negotiate and reach agreement on local performance measures as described in section 136(c).

“(8) **TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.**—The local board shall develop strategies for technology improvements to facilitate access to services authorized under this subtitle and carried out in the local area, including access in remote areas.”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by inserting “electronic means and” after “regular basis through”; and

(B) by striking “and the award of grants or contracts to eligible providers of youth activities.”;

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “section 134(d)(4)” and inserting “section 134(c)(4)”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **WORK READY SERVICES; DESIGNATION OR CERTIFICATION AS ONE-STOP OPERATORS.**—A

local board may provide work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) through a one-stop delivery system described in section 121 or be designated or certified as a one-stop operator only with the agreement of the chief elected official and the Governor.”;

(6) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “or participate in any action taken” after “vote”; and

(7) by striking subsections (h) and (i).

SEC. 416. LOCAL PLAN.

Section 118 (29 U.S.C. 2833) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “5-year” and inserting “3-year”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) **CONTENTS.**—The local plan shall include—

“(1) a description of the analysis of the local area’s economic and workforce conditions conducted under subclauses (I) through (IV) of section 117(d)(2)(A)(i), and an assurance that the local board will use such analysis to carry out the activities under this subtitle;

“(2) a description of the one-stop delivery system in the local area, including—

“(A) a description of how the local board will ensure—

“(i) the continuous improvement of eligible providers of services through the system; and

“(ii) that such providers meet the employment needs of local businesses and participants; and

“(B) a description of how the local board will facilitate access to services described in section 117(d)(8) and provided through the one-stop delivery system consistent with section 117(d)(8);

“(3) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area—

“(A) to more fully engage employers, including small businesses and employers in in-demand industries and occupations important to the local economy;

“(B) to meet the needs of employers in the local area;

“(C) to better coordinate workforce development programs with economic development activities; and

“(D) to better coordinate workforce development programs with employment, training, and literacy services carried out by nonprofit organizations, including public libraries, as appropriate;

“(4) a description of how the local board will convene (or help to convene) industry or sector partnerships that lead to collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across multiple firms for a range of workers employed or potentially employed by a targeted industry or sector—

“(A) to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement in the targeted industry or sector;

“(B) to address the immediate and long-term skilled workforce needs of in-demand industries, small businesses, and other occupations important to the local economy; and

“(C) to address critical skill gaps within and across industries and sectors;

“(5) a description of how the funds reserved under section 117(d)(4)(A)(ii) will be used to carry out activities described in section 134(c)(4);

“(6) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with statewide workforce investment activities, as appropriate;

“(7) a description of how the local area will—

“(A) coordinate activities with the local area’s disability community, and with transition services (as defined under section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401)) provided under that Act by local educational agencies serving such local area, to make available comprehensive, high-quality services to individuals with disabilities;

“(B) consistent with section 188 and Executive Order No. 13217 (42 U.S.C. 12131 note), serve the employment and training needs of individuals with disabilities, with a focus on employment that fosters independence and integration into the workplace; and

“(C) consistent with sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794, 794d), include the provision of outreach, intake, assessments, and service delivery, the development of performance measures, the training of staff, and other aspects of accessibility for individuals with disabilities to programs and services under this subtitle;

“(8) a description of the local levels of performance negotiated with the Governor and chief elected official pursuant to section 136(c), to be—

“(A) used to measure the performance of the local area; and

“(B) used by the local board for measuring performance of the local fiscal agent (where appropriate), eligible providers, and the one-stop delivery system, in the local area;

“(9) a description of the process used by the local board, consistent with subsection (c), to provide an opportunity for public comment prior to submission of the plan;

“(10) a description of how the local area will serve the employment and training needs of dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), low-income individuals (including recipients of public assistance such as supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)), long-term unemployed individuals (including individuals who have exhausted entitlement to Federal and State unemployment compensation), English learners, homeless individuals, individuals training for nontraditional employment, youth (including out-of-school youth and at-risk youth), older workers, ex-offenders, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, refugees and entrants, veterans (including disabled veterans and homeless veterans), and Native Americans;

“(11) an identification of the entity responsible for the disbursement of grant funds described in section 117(d)(4)(B)(iii), as determined by the chief elected official or the Governor under such section;

“(12) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, credentials (including recognized postsecondary credentials, such as industry-recognized credentials), and employment experience to succeed in the labor market, including—

“(A) training and internships in in-demand industries or occupations important to the local economy;

“(B) dropout recovery activities that are designed to lead to the attainment of a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or other State-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities); and

“(C) activities combining remediation of academic skills, work readiness training, and work experience, and including linkages to postsecondary education and training and career-ladder employment;

“(13) a description of—

“(A) how the local area will furnish employment, training, including training in advanced manufacturing, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans;

“(B) the strategies and services that will be used in the local area to assist in and expedite reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force; and

“(C) the veteran population to be served in the local area;

“(14) a description of—

“(A) the duties assigned to the veteran employment specialist consistent with the requirements of section 134(f);

“(B) the manner in which the veteran employment specialist is integrated into the one-stop career system described in section 121;

“(C) the date on which the veteran employment specialist was assigned; and

“(D) whether the veteran employment specialist has satisfactorily completed related training by the National Veterans’ Employment and Training Services Institute; and

“(15) such other information as the Governor may require.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “such means” and inserting “electronic means and such means”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “, including representatives of business and representatives of labor organizations.”.

SEC. 417. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.

Section 121 (29 U.S.C. 2841) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(A) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—Each entity that carries out a program or activities described in subparagraph (B) shall—

“(i) provide access through a one-stop delivery system to the program or activities carried out by the entity, including making the work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) that are applicable to the program or activities of the entity available at one-stop centers (in addition to any other appropriate locations);

“(ii) use a portion of the funds available to the program or activities of the entity to maintain the one-stop delivery system, including payment of the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

“(iii) enter into a local memorandum of understanding with the local board, relating to the operation of the one-stop delivery system, that meets the requirements of subsection (c); and

“(iv) participate in the operation of the one-stop delivery system consistent with the terms of the memorandum of understanding, the requirements of this title, and the requirements of the Federal laws authorizing the program or activities carried out by the entity.”;

(B) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(i) by striking clauses (ii), (v), and (vi);

(ii) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

(iii) by redesignating clauses (vii) through (xii) as clauses (iv) through (ix), respectively;

(iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, by striking “adult education and literacy activities” and inserting “adult education and family literacy education activities”

(v) in clause (viii), as so redesignated, by striking “and” at the end;

(vi) in clause (ix), as so redesignated, by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(vii) by adding at the end the following:

“(x) subject to subparagraph (C), programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)”;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1)(B) the following:

“(C) DETERMINATION BY THE GOVERNOR.—Each entity carrying out a program described in subparagraph (B)(x) shall be considered to be a one-stop partner under this title and carry out the required partner activities described in subparagraph (A) unless the Governor of the State in which the local area is located provides the Secretary and Secretary of Health and Human Services written notice of a determination by the Governor that such an entity shall not be considered to be such a partner and shall not carry out such required partner activities.”;

(D) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “section 134(d)(2)” and inserting “section 134(c)(2)”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking clauses (i), (ii), and (v);

(II) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) employment and training programs administered by the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration;

“(iv) employment and training programs carried out by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;

“(v) employment, training, and literacy services carried out by public libraries; and

“(vi) other appropriate Federal, State, or local programs, including programs in the private sector.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) provisions describing—

“(i) the services to be provided through the one-stop delivery system consistent with the requirements of this section, including the manner in which the services will be coordinated through such system;

“(ii) how the costs of such services and the operating costs of such system will be funded, through cash and in-kind contributions, to provide a stable and equitable funding stream for ongoing one-stop system operations, including the funding of the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

“(iii) methods of referral of individuals between the one-stop operator and the one-stop partners for appropriate services and activities, including referrals for training for nontraditional employment; and

“(iv) the duration of the memorandum of understanding and the procedures for amending the memorandum during the term of the memorandum, and assurances that such memorandum shall be reviewed not less than once every 3-year period to ensure appropriate funding and delivery of services under the memorandum; and”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the heading for paragraph (1), by striking “DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATION” and inserting “LOCAL DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATION”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “section 134(c)” and inserting “subsection (e)”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) shall be designated or certified as a one-stop operator through a competitive process; and”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking clause (ii) and redesignating clauses (iii) through (vi) as clauses (ii) through (v), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical”; (4) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

“(e) ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established in a State that receives an allotment under section 132(b) a one-stop delivery system, which shall—

“(A) provide the work ready services described in section 134(c)(2);

“(B) provide access to training services as described in paragraph (4) of section 134(c), including serving as the point of access to career enhancement accounts for training services to participants in accordance with paragraph (4)(F) of such section;

“(C) provide access to the activities carried out under section 134(d), if any;

“(D) provide access to programs and activities carried out by one-stop partners that are described in subsection (b); and

“(E) provide access to the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 15(a)(1) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(a)(1)).

“(2) ONE-STOP DELIVERY.—At a minimum, the one-stop delivery system—

“(A) shall make each of the programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) accessible at not less than one physical center in each local area of the State; and

“(B) may also make programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) available—

“(i) through a network of affiliated sites that can provide one or more of the programs, services, and activities to individuals; and

“(ii) through a network of eligible one-stop partners—

“(I) in which each partner provides one or more of the programs, services, and activities to such individuals and is accessible at an affiliated site that consists of a physical location or an electronically- or technologically-linked access point; and

“(II) that assures individuals that information on the availability of the work ready services will be available regardless of where the individuals initially enter the statewide workforce investment system, including information made available through an access point described in subclause (I).

“(3) SPECIALIZED CENTERS.—The centers and sites described in paragraph (2) may have a specialization in addressing special needs.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) CERTIFICATION OF ONE-STOP CENTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The State board shall establish objective procedures and criteria for certifying, at least once every 3 years, one-stop centers for the purpose of awarding the one-stop infrastructure funding described in subsection (h).

“(B) CRITERIA.—The criteria for certification of a one-stop center under this subsection shall include—

“(i) meeting the expected levels of performance for each of the corresponding core indicators of performance as outlined in the State plan under section 112;

“(ii) meeting minimum standards relating to the scope and degree of service integration achieved by the center, involving the programs provided by the one-stop partners; and

“(iii) meeting minimum standards relating to how the center ensures that eligible providers meet the employment needs of local employers and participants.

“(C) EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION.—One-stop centers certified under this subsection shall be eligible to receive the infrastructure funding authorized under subsection (h).

“(2) LOCAL BOARDS.—Consistent with the criteria developed by the State, the local board may develop, for certification referred to in paragraph (1)(A), additional criteria or higher standards on the criteria referred to in paragraph (1)(B) to respond to local labor market and demographic conditions and trends.

“(h) ONE-STOP INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING.—

“(1) PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS.—

“(A) PROVISION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as determined under subparagraph (B), a portion of the Federal funds provided to the State and areas within the State under the Federal laws authorizing the one-stop partner programs described in subsection (b)(1)(B) and participating additional partner programs described in subsection (b)(2)(B), for a fiscal year shall be provided to the Governor by such partners to carry out this subsection.

“(B) DETERMINATION OF GOVERNOR.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Governor, in consultation with the State board, shall determine the portion of funds to be provided under subparagraph (A) by each one-stop partner and in making such determination shall consider the proportionate use of the one-stop centers in the State by each such partner, the costs of administration for purposes not related to one-stop centers for each such partner, and other relevant factors described in paragraph (3).

“(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—In those States where the State constitution places policy-making authority that is independent of the authority of the Governor in an entity or official with respect to the funds provided for adult education and family literacy education activities authorized under title II and for postsecondary career and technical education activities authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), the determination described in clause (i) with respect to the corresponding 2 programs shall be made by the Governor with the appropriate entity or official with such independent policy-making authority.

“(iii) APPEAL BY ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—The Governor shall establish a procedure for the one-stop partner administering a program described in subsection (b) and subparagraph (A) to appeal a determination regarding the portion of funds to be provided under this paragraph on the basis that such determination is inconsistent with the requirements described in the State plan for the program or with the requirements of this paragraph. Such procedure shall ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

“(C) LIMITATIONS.—

“(i) PROVISION FROM ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.—The funds provided under this paragraph by a one-stop partner shall be provided only from funds available for the costs of administration under the program administered by such partner, and shall be subject to the limitations with respect to the portion of funds under such program that may be used for administration.

“(ii) FEDERAL DIRECT SPENDING PROGRAMS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—A program that provides Federal direct spending under section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)(8)) shall not, for purposes of this paragraph, be required to provide more than the maximum amount determined under subclause (II).

“(II) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum amount for the program is the amount that bears the same relationship to the costs referred to in paragraph (2) for the State as the use of the one-stop centers by such program bears to the use of such centers by all one-stop partner programs in the State.

“(2) ALLOCATION BY GOVERNOR.—From the funds provided under paragraph (1), the Governor shall allocate funds to local areas in accordance with the formula established under paragraph (3) for the purposes of assisting in paying the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers certified under subsection (g).

“(3) ALLOCATION FORMULA.—The State board shall develop a formula to be used by the Governor to allocate the funds provided under paragraph (1) to local areas. The formula shall include such factors as the State board determines are appropriate, which may include factors such as the number of centers in a local area that have been certified, the population served by such centers, and the performance of such centers.

“(4) COSTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘costs of infrastructure’ means the nonpersonnel costs that are necessary for the general operation of a one-stop center, including the rental costs of the facilities involved, and the costs of utilities and maintenance, and equipment (including assistive technology for individuals with disabilities).

“(i) OTHER FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the funds provided under subsection (h), a portion of funds made available under Federal law authorizing the one-stop partner programs described in subsection (b)(1)(B) and participating additional partner programs described in subsection (b)(2)(B), or the noncash resources available under such 2 types of programs, shall be used to pay the costs relating to the operation of the one-stop delivery system that are not paid for from the funds provided under subsection (h), to the extent not inconsistent with the Federal law involved. Such portion shall be used to pay for costs including—

“(A) costs of infrastructure (as defined in subsection (h)) that are in excess of the funds provided under subsection (h);

“(B) common costs that are in addition to the costs of infrastructure (as so defined); and

“(C) the costs of the provision of work ready services applicable to each program.

“(2) DETERMINATION AND STANDARDS.—The method for determining the appropriate portion of funds and noncash resources to be provided by each program under paragraph (1) shall be determined as part of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c). The State board shall provide standards to facilitate the determination of appropriate allocation of the funds and noncash resources to local areas.”.

SEC. 418. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

Section 122 (29 U.S.C. 2842) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 122. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

“(a) ELIGIBILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor, after consultation with the State board, shall establish criteria and procedures regarding the eligibility of providers of training services described in section 134(c)(4) to receive funds provided under section 133(b) for the provision of such training services and be included on the list of eligible providers of training services described in subsection (d).

“(2) PROVIDERS.—Subject to the provisions of this section, to be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list, the provider shall be—

“(A) a postsecondary educational institution that—

“(i) is eligible to receive Federal funds under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

“(ii) provides a program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential;

“(B) an entity that carries out programs under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the ‘National Apprenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.); or

“(C) another public or private provider of a program of training services.

“(3) INCLUSION IN LIST OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.—A provider described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of paragraph (2) shall comply with the criteria and procedures established under this subsection to be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list. A provider described in paragraph (2)(B) shall be eligible to receive the funds and be included on the list with respect to programs described in paragraph (2)(B) for so long as the provider remains certified by the Secretary of Labor to carry out the programs.

“(b) CRITERIA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The criteria established by the Governor pursuant to subsection (a) shall take into account—

“(A) the performance of providers of training services with respect to the performance measures described in section 136, measures for other matters for which information is required under paragraph (2), and other appropriate measures of performance outcomes for those participants receiving training services under this subtitle;

“(B) whether the training programs of such providers relate to in-demand industries or occupations important to the local economy;

“(C) the need to ensure access to training services throughout the State, including in rural areas;

“(D) the ability of the providers to offer programs that lead to a recognized postsecondary credential, and the quality of such programs;

“(E) the performance of the providers as reflected in the information such providers are required to report to State agencies with respect to other Federal and State programs (other than the program carried out under this subtitle), including one-stop partner programs; and

“(F) such other factors as the Governor determines are appropriate.

“(2) INFORMATION.—The criteria established by the Governor shall require that a provider of training services submit appropriate, accurate, and timely information to the State for purposes of carrying out subsection (d), with respect to participants receiving training services under this subtitle in the applicable program, including—

“(A) information on recognized postsecondary credentials received by such participants;

“(B) information on costs of attendance for such participants;

“(C) information on the program completion rate for such participants; and

“(D) information on the performance of the provider with respect to the performance measures described in section 136 for such participants.

“(3) RENEWAL.—The criteria established by the Governor shall also provide for a review on the criteria every 3 years and renewal of eligibility under this section for providers of training services.

“(4) LOCAL CRITERIA.—A local board in the State may establish criteria in addition to the criteria established by the Governor, or may require higher levels of performance than required on the criteria established by the Governor, for purposes of determining the eligibility of providers of training services under this section in the local area involved.

“(5) LIMITATION.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, no entity may disclose personally identifiable information regarding a student, including a Social Security number, student identification number, or other identifier, without the prior written consent of the parent or student in compliance with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

“(c) PROCEDURES.—The procedures established under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) identify—

“(A) the application process for a provider of training services to become eligible under this section; and

“(B) the respective roles of the State and local areas in receiving and reviewing applications and in making determinations of eligibility based on the criteria established under this section; and

“(2) establish a process, for a provider of training services to appeal a denial or termination of eligibility under this section, that includes an opportunity for a hearing and prescribes appropriate time limits to ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

“(d) INFORMATION TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS IN CHOOSING PROVIDERS.—In order to facilitate and assist participants under chapter 5 in choosing providers of training services, the Governor shall ensure that an appropriate list of providers determined eligible under this section in the State, including information provided under subsection (b)(2) with respect to such providers, is provided to the local boards in the State and is made available to such participants and to members of the public through the one-stop delivery system in the State.

“(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The procedures established under this section shall provide the following:

“(A) INTENTIONALLY SUPPLYING INACCURATE INFORMATION.—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services, or individual providing information on behalf of the provider, intentionally supplied inaccurate information under this section, the eligibility of such provider under this section shall be terminated for a period of time that is not less than 2 years.

“(B) SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATIONS.—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services substantially violated any requirement under this title, the eligibility of such provider under this section shall be terminated for a period of time that is not less than 10 years.

“(C) REPAYMENT.—A provider of training services whose eligibility is terminated under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be liable for the repayment of funds received under chapter 5 during a period of noncompliance

described in such subparagraph. For purposes of subparagraph (A), that period shall be considered to be the period beginning on the date on which the inaccurate information described in subparagraph (A) was supplied, and ending on the date of the termination described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1) shall be construed to provide remedies and penalties that supplement, but do not supplant, other civil and criminal remedies and penalties.

“(f) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES.—A State may enter into an agreement with another State, on a reciprocal basis, to permit eligible providers of training services to accept career enhancement accounts provided in the other State.

“(g) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In developing the criteria (including requirements for related information) and procedures required under this section, the Governor shall solicit and take into consideration the recommendations of local boards and providers of training services within the State.

“(h) OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT COMMENTS.—During the development of the criteria and procedures, and the list of eligible providers required under this section, the Governor shall provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to submit comments regarding such criteria, procedures, and list.

“(i) ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OR CUSTOMIZED TRAINING EXCEPTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Providers of on-the-job training or customized training shall not be subject to the requirements of subsections (a) through (d).

“(2) COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—A one-stop operator in a local area shall collect such performance information from on-the-job training and customized training providers as the Governor may require, determine whether the providers meet such performance criteria as the Governor may require, and disseminate information identifying providers that meet the criteria as eligible providers, and the performance information, through the one-stop delivery system. Providers determined to meet the criteria shall be considered to be identified as eligible under this section, to be providers of the training services involved.”

SEC. 419. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.

Chapter 5 of subtitle B of title I is amended—

(1) by striking the heading for chapter 5 and inserting the following: “**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES**”; and

(2) in section 131 (29 U.S.C. 2861)—

(A) by striking “paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of”; and

(B) by striking “adults, and dislocated workers,” and inserting “individuals”.

SEC. 420. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

Section 132 (29 U.S.C. 2862) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) reserve $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year, of which—

“(A) 50 percent shall be used to provide technical assistance under section 170; and

“(B) 50 percent shall be used for evaluations under section 172;

“(2) reserve 1 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to make grants to, and enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native entities, Indian-controlled organizations serving Indians, or Native Hawaiian organizations to carry out employment and training activities;

“(3) reserve not more than 25 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to carry out the Jobs Corps program under subtitle C;

“(4) reserve not more than 3.5 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year to—

“(A) make grants to State boards or local boards to provide employment and training assistance to workers affected by major economic dislocations, such as plant closures, mass layoffs, or closures and realignments of military installations; and

“(B) provide assistance to Governors of States with an area that has suffered an emergency or a major disaster (as such terms are defined in paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, of section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)) to provide disaster relief employment in the area; and

“(5) from the remaining amount appropriated under section 137 for a fiscal year (after reserving funds under paragraphs (1) through (4)), make allotments in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.”; and

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND.—

“(1) RESERVATION FOR OUTLYING AREAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount made available under subsection (a)(5) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent to provide assistance to the outlying areas.

“(B) RESTRICTION.—The Republic of Palau shall cease to be eligible to receive funding under this paragraph upon entering into an agreement for extension of United States educational assistance under the Compact of Free Association (approved by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188) after the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act.

“(2) STATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—After determining the amount to be reserved under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall allot the remainder of the amount referred to in subsection (a)(5) for a fiscal year to the States pursuant to subparagraph (B) for employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

“(B) FORMULA.—Subject to subparagraphs (C) and (D), of the remainder—

“(i) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in each State, compared to the total number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in all States;

“(ii) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in the civilian labor force in each State, compared to the total number of such individuals in all States;

“(iii) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in each State who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more, compared to the total number of individuals in all States who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more; and

“(iv) 25 percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of disadvantaged youth in each State, compared to the total number of disadvantaged youth in all States.

“(C) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES.—

“(i) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is less than 100 percent of the allotment

percentage of the State for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is less than 90 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(ii) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Subject to clause (i), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(D) SMALL STATE MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this paragraph for a fiscal year that is less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent of the remainder described in subparagraph (A) for the fiscal year.

“(E) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of the formula specified in this paragraph:

“(i) ALLOTMENT PERCENTAGE.—The term ‘allotment percentage’—

“(I) used with respect to fiscal year 2013, means the percentage of the amounts allotted to States under title I of this Act, title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.), the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code, and sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), as such provisions were in effect for fiscal year 2013, that is received under such provisions by the State involved for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) used with respect to fiscal year 2017 or a succeeding fiscal year, means the percentage of the amounts allotted to States under this paragraph for the fiscal year, that is received under this paragraph by the State involved for the fiscal year.

“(ii) AREA OF SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT.—The term ‘area of substantial unemployment’ means any area that is of sufficient size and scope to sustain a program of workforce investment activities carried out under this subtitle and that has an average rate of unemployment of at least 7 percent for the most recent 12 months, as determined by the Secretary. For purposes of this clause, determinations of areas of substantial unemployment shall be made once each fiscal year.

“(iii) DISADVANTAGED YOUTH.—The term ‘disadvantaged youth’ means an individual who is not less than age 16 and not more than age 24 who receives an income, or is a member of a family that receives a total family income, that in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of—

“(I) the poverty line; or

“(II) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level.

“(iv) INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘individual’ means an individual who is age 16 or older.”.

SEC. 421. WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.

Section 133 (29 U.S.C. 2863) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) RESERVATIONS FOR STATEWIDE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The Governor of a State shall reserve not more than 15 percent of the total amount allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) for a fiscal year to carry out the

statewide activities described in section 134(a).

“(2) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amount reserved under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Governor of the State shall reserve not more than 25 percent for statewide rapid response activities and additional assistance described in section 134(a)(4).

“(3) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—Of the amount reserved under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Governor of the State shall reserve 15 percent to carry out statewide activities described in section 134(a)(5).

“(4) STATE ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—Not more than 5 percent of the funds reserved under paragraph (1) may be used by the Governor of the State for administrative costs of carrying out the statewide activities described in section 134(a).”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATION.—

“(1) METHODS.—The Governor, acting in accordance with the State plan, and after consulting with chief elected officials in the local areas in the State, shall—

“(A) allocate the funds that are allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) and not reserved under subsection (a), in accordance with paragraph (2)(A); and

“(B) award the funds that are reserved by the State under subsection (a)(3) through competitive grants to eligible entities, in accordance with section 134(a)(1)(C).

“(2) FORMULA ALLOCATIONS FOR THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND.—

“(A) ALLOCATION.—In allocating the funds described in paragraph (1)(A) to local areas, a State shall allocate—

“(i) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(i);

“(ii) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(ii);

“(iii) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(iii); and

“(iv) 25 percent on the basis described in section 132(b)(2)(B)(iv),

except that a reference in a section specified in any of clauses (i) through (iv) to ‘each State’ shall be considered to refer to each local area, and to ‘all States’ shall be considered to refer to all local areas.

“(B) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES.—

“(i) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The State shall ensure that no local area shall receive an allocation under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is less than 100 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is less than 90 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(ii) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Subject to clause (i), the State shall ensure that no local area shall receive an allocation for a fiscal year under this paragraph for—

“(I) each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, that is more than 130 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for fiscal year 2013; and

“(II) fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year, that is more than 130 percent of the allocation percentage of the local area for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year involved.

“(C) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of the formula specified in this paragraph, the term ‘allocation percentage’—

“(i) used with respect to fiscal year 2013, means the percentage of the amounts allocated to local areas under title I of this Act, title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.), the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code, and sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), as such provisions were in effect for fiscal year 2013, that is received under such provisions by the local area involved for fiscal year 2013; and

“(ii) used with respect to fiscal year 2017 or a succeeding fiscal year, means the percentage of the amounts allocated to local areas under this paragraph for the fiscal year, that is received under this paragraph by the local area involved for the fiscal year.”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor may, in accordance with this subsection, reallocate to eligible local areas within the State amounts that are allocated under subsection (b) for employment and training activities and that are available for reallocation.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b) for such activities” and inserting “subsection (b) for such activities”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) REALLOCATIONS.—In making reallocations to eligible local areas of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Governor shall allocate to each eligible local area within the State an amount based on the relative amount allocated to such local area under subsection (b)(2) for such activities for such prior program year, as compared to the total amount allocated to all eligible local areas in the State under subsection (b)(2) for such activities for such prior program year.”;

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of”;

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—Of the amount allocated to a local area under this section for a fiscal year, not more than 10 percent of the amount may be used by the local board involved for the administrative costs of carrying out local workforce investment activities in the local area under this chapter.”.

SEC. 422. USE OF FUNDS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

Section 134 (29 U.S.C. 2864) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) DISTRIBUTION OF STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(1) and not reserved under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 133(a)—

“(i) shall be used to carry out the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (2); and

“(ii) may be used to carry out any of the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (3).

“(B) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Funds reserved by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(2) shall be used to provide the statewide rapid response activities and additional assistance described in paragraph (4).

“(C) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—Funds re-

served by a Governor for a State as described in section 133(a)(3) shall be used to award statewide grants for individuals with barriers to employment on a competitive basis, and carry out other activities, as described in paragraph (5).

“(2) REQUIRED STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—A State shall use funds referred to in paragraph (1)(A) to carry out statewide employment and training activities, which shall include—

“(A) disseminating the State list of eligible providers of training services described in section 122(d), information identifying eligible providers of on-the-job training and customized training described in section 122(i), and performance information and program cost information described in section 122(b)(2);

“(B) supporting the provision of work ready services described in subsection (c)(2) in the one-stop delivery system;

“(C) implementing strategies and services that will be used in the State to assist at-risk youth and out-of-school youth in acquiring the education and skills, recognized post-secondary credentials, and employment experience to succeed in the labor market;

“(D) conducting evaluations under section 136(e) of activities authorized under this chapter in coordination with evaluations carried out by the Secretary under section 172;

“(E) providing technical assistance to local areas that fail to meet local performance measures;

“(F) operating a fiscal and management accountability system under section 136(f); and

“(G) carrying out monitoring and oversight of activities carried out under this chapter.

“(3) ALLOWABLE STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—A State may use funds referred to in paragraph (1)(A) to carry out statewide employment and training activities which may include—

“(A) implementing innovative programs and strategies designed to meet the needs of all employers in the State, including small employers, which may include incumbent worker training programs, sectoral and industry cluster strategies and partnership initiatives, career ladder programs, micro-enterprise and entrepreneurial training and support programs, utilization of effective business intermediaries, activities to improve linkages between the one-stop delivery system in the State and all employers (including small employers) in the State, and other business services and strategies that better engage employers in workforce investment activities and make the workforce investment system more relevant to the needs of State and local businesses, consistent with the objectives of this title;

“(B) providing incentive grants to local areas—

“(i) for regional cooperation among local boards (including local boards in a designated region as described in section 116(c));

“(ii) for local coordination of activities carried out under this Act; and

“(iii) for exemplary performance by local areas on the local performance measures;

“(C) developing strategies for effectively integrating programs and services among one-stop partners;

“(D) carrying out activities to facilitate remote access to services provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology;

“(E) incorporating pay-for-performance contract strategies as an element in funding

activities under this section and providing technical support to local areas and eligible providers in order to carry out such a strategy, which may involve providing assistance with data collection and data entry requirements;

“(F) carrying out the State option under subsection (f)(8); and

“(G) carrying out other activities authorized under this section that the State determines to be necessary to assist local areas in carrying out activities described in subsection (c) or (d) through the statewide workforce investment system.

“(4) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—A State shall use funds reserved as described in section 133(a)(2)—

“(A) to carry out statewide rapid response activities, which shall include provision of rapid response activities, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials in the local areas; and

“(B) to provide additional assistance to local areas that experience disasters, mass layoffs, or plant closings, or other events that precipitate substantial increases in the number of unemployed individuals, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials in the local areas.

“(5) STATEWIDE GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds reserved as described in section 133(a)(3), the Governor of a State—

“(i) may reserve up to 5 percent to provide technical assistance for, and conduct evaluations as described in section 136(e) of, the programs carried out under this paragraph; and

“(ii) using the remainder, shall award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities (that meet specific performance outcomes and criteria established by the Governor) described in subparagraph (B) to carry out employment and training programs authorized under this paragraph for individuals with barriers to employment.

“(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity that—

“(i) is a—

“(I) local board or a consortium of local boards;

“(II) nonprofit entity, for-profit entity, or a consortium of nonprofit or for-profit entities; or

“(III) consortium of the entities described in subclauses (I) and (II);

“(ii) has a demonstrated record of placing individuals into unsubsidized employment and serving hard-to-serve individuals; and

“(iii) agrees to be reimbursed primarily on the basis of meeting specified performance outcomes and criteria established by the Governor.

“(C) GRANT PERIOD.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this paragraph shall be awarded for a period of 1 year.

“(ii) GRANT RENEWAL.—A Governor of a State may renew, for up to 4 additional 1-year periods, a grant awarded under this paragraph.

“(D) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—To be eligible to participate in activities under this paragraph, an individual shall be a low-income individual age 16 or older.

“(E) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this paragraph shall

use the grant funds for programs of activities that are designed to assist eligible participants in obtaining employment and acquiring the education and skills necessary to succeed in the labor market. To be eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph for an employment and training program, an eligible entity shall submit an application to a State at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State may require, including—

“(i) a description of how the strategies and activities of the program will be aligned with the State plan submitted under section 112 and the local plan submitted under section 118, with respect to the area of the State that will be the focus of the program under this paragraph;

“(ii) a description of the educational and skills training programs and activities the eligible entity will provide to eligible participants under this paragraph;

“(iii) how the eligible entity will collaborate with State and local workforce investment systems established under this title in the provision of such programs and activities;

“(iv) a description of the programs of demonstrated effectiveness on which the provision of such educational and skills training programs and activities are based, and a description of how such programs and activities will improve education and skills training for eligible participants;

“(v) a description of the populations to be served and the skill needs of those populations, and the manner in which eligible participants will be recruited and selected as participants;

“(vi) a description of the private, public, local, and State resources that will be leveraged, with the grant funds provided, for the program under this paragraph, and how the entity will ensure the sustainability of such program after grant funds are no longer available;

“(vii) a description of the extent of the involvement of employers in such program;

“(viii) a description of the levels of performance the eligible entity expects to achieve with respect to the indicators of performance for all individuals specified in section 136(b)(2);

“(ix) a detailed budget and a description of the system of fiscal controls, and auditing and accountability procedures, that will be used to ensure fiscal soundness for the program provided under this paragraph; and

“(x) any other criteria the Governor may require.”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) **LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)—

“(1) shall be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (c); and

“(2) may be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (d).”;

(3) by striking subsection (c);

(4) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e), as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(5) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b) shall be used—

“(A) to establish a one-stop delivery system as described in section 121(e);

“(B) to provide the work ready services described in paragraph (2) through the one-stop delivery system in accordance with such paragraph; and

“(C) to provide training services described in paragraph (4) in accordance with such paragraph.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “**CORE SERVICES**” and inserting “**WORK READY SERVICES**”;

(ii) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “(1)(A)” and inserting “(1)”;

(II) by striking “core services” and inserting “work ready services”; and

(III) by striking “who are adults or displaced workers”;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (K) as subparagraph (V);

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (J) as subparagraphs (C) through (K), respectively;

(v) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) assistance in obtaining eligibility determinations under the other one-stop partner programs through activities, where appropriate and consistent with the authorizing statute of the one-stop partner program involved, such as assisting in—

“(i) the submission of applications;

“(ii) the provision of information on the results of such applications; and

“(iii) the provision of intake services and information.”;

(vi) by amending subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(E) labor exchange services, including—

“(i) job search and placement assistance, and where appropriate, career counseling;

“(ii) appropriate recruitment services for employers, including small employers, in the local area, which may include services described in this subsection, including provision of information and referral to specialized business services not traditionally offered through the one-stop delivery system; and

“(iii) reemployment services provided to unemployment claimants, including claimants identified as in need of such services under the worker profiling system established under section 303(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(j)).”;

(vii) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking “employment statistics” and inserting “workforce and labor market”;

(viii) in subparagraph (G), as so redesignated, by striking “and eligible providers of youth activities described in section 123.”;

(ix) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by inserting “under section 136” after “local performance measures”;

(x) in subparagraph (J), as so redesignated, by inserting “and information regarding the administration of the work test for the unemployment compensation system” after “compensation”;

(xi) by amending subparagraph (K), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(K) assistance in establishing eligibility for programs of financial aid assistance for education and training programs that are not funded under this Act and are available in the local area.”; and

(xii) by inserting the following new subparagraphs after subparagraph (K), as so redesignated:

“(L) the provision of information from official publications of the Internal Revenue Service regarding Federal tax credits, available to participants in employment and training activities, and relating to education, job training, and employment;

“(M) comprehensive and specialized assessments of the skill levels and service needs of workers, which may include—

“(i) diagnostic testing and use of other assessment tools; and

“(ii) in-depth interviewing and evaluation to identify employment barriers and appropriate employment goals;

“(N) development of an individual employment plan, to identify the employment goals, appropriate achievement objectives, and appropriate combination of services for the participant;

“(O) group counseling;

“(P) individual counseling and career planning;

“(Q) case management;

“(R) short-term pre-career services, including development of learning skills, communications skills, interviewing skills, punctuality, personal maintenance skills, and professional conduct, to prepare individuals for unsubsidized employment or training;

“(S) internships and work experience;

“(T) literacy activities relating to basic work readiness, information and communication technology literacy activities, and financial literacy activities, if the activities involved are not available to participants in the local area under programs administered under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.);

“(U) out-of-area job search assistance and relocation assistance; and”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) **DELIVERY OF SERVICES.**—The work ready services described in paragraph (2) shall be provided through the one-stop delivery system and may be provided through contracts with public, private for-profit, and private nonprofit service providers, approved by the local board.”; and

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds described in paragraph (1)(C) shall be used to provide training services to individuals who—

“(i) after an interview, evaluation, or assessment, and case management, have been determined by a one-stop operator or one-stop partner, as appropriate, to—

“(I) be in need of training services to obtain or retain employment; and

“(II) have the skills and qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services;

“(ii) select programs of training services that are directly linked to the employment opportunities in the local area involved or in another area in which the individual receiving such services are willing to commute or relocate; and

“(iii) who meet the requirements of subparagraph (B).”;

(i) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “Except” and inserting “Notwithstanding section 479B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087uu) and except”;

(iii) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) **TRAINING SERVICES.**—Training services authorized under this paragraph may include—

“(i) occupational skills training;

“(ii) on-the-job training;

“(iii) skill upgrading and retraining;

“(iv) entrepreneurial training;

“(v) education activities leading to a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent in combination with, concurrently or subsequently, occupational skills training;

“(vi) adult education and family literacy education activities provided in conjunction with other training services authorized under this subparagraph;

“(vii) workplace training combined with related instruction;

“(viii) occupational skills training that incorporates English language acquisition;

“(ix) customized training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of the training; and

“(x) training programs operated by the private sector.”;

(iv) by striking subparagraph (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively;

(v) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated)—

(I) in clause (ii)—

(aa) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “section 121”;

(bb) in subclause (I), by striking “section 122(e)” and inserting “section 122(d)” and by striking “section 122(h)” and inserting “section 122(i)”; and

(cc) in subclause (II), by striking “subsections (e) and (h)” and inserting “subsections (d) and (i)”; and

(II) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) CAREER ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNTS.—An individual who seeks training services and who is eligible pursuant to subparagraph (A), may, in consultation with a case manager, select an eligible provider of training services from the list or identifying information for providers described in clause (ii)(I). Upon such selection, the one-stop operator involved shall, to the extent practicable, refer such individual to the eligible provider of training services, and arrange for payment for such services through a career enhancement account.

“(iv) COORDINATION.—Each local board may, through one-stop centers, coordinate career enhancement accounts with other Federal, State, local, or private job training programs or sources to assist the individual in obtaining training services from (notwithstanding any provision of this title) eligible providers for those programs and sources.

“(v) ASSISTANCE.—Each local board may, through one-stop centers, assist individuals receiving career enhancement accounts in obtaining funds (in addition to the funds provided under this section) from other programs and sources that will assist the individual in obtaining training services.”; and

(vi) in subparagraph (F) (as so redesignated)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS” and inserting “CAREER ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNTS”;

(II) in clause (i), by striking “individual training accounts” and inserting “career enhancement accounts”;

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “an individual training account” and inserting “a career enhancement account”;

(bb) by striking “subparagraph (F)” and inserting “subparagraph (E)”;

(cc) in subclause (II), by striking “individual training accounts” and inserting “career enhancement accounts”;

(dd) in subclause (II), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(ee) in subclause (III), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(ff) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) the local board determines that it would be most appropriate to award a contract to a postsecondary educational institution that has been identified as a priority eligible provider under section 117(d)(5)(B) in order to facilitate the training of multiple individuals in in-demand industries or occupations important to the State or local econ-

omy, that such contract may be used to enable the expansion of programs provided by a priority eligible provider, and that such contract does not limit customer choice.”;

(IV) in clause (iii), by striking “adult or dislocated worker” and inserting “individual”; and

(V) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by redesignating subclause (IV) as subclause (V); and

(bb) by inserting after subclause (III) the following:

“(IV) Individuals with disabilities.”;

(6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) DISCRETIONARY ONE-STOP DELIVERY ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)(2) may be used to provide, through the one-stop delivery system—

“(i) customized screening and referral of qualified participants in training services to employers;

“(ii) customized employment-related services to employers on a fee-for-service basis;

“(iii) customer supports, including transportation and child care, to navigate among multiple services and activities for special participant populations that face multiple barriers to employment, including individuals with disabilities;

“(iv) employment and training assistance provided in coordination with child support enforcement activities of the State agency carrying out subtitle D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

“(v) incorporation of pay-for-performance contract strategies as an element in funding activities under this section;

“(vi) activities to facilitate remote access to services provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology; and

“(vii) activities to carry out business services and strategies that meet the workforce investment needs of local area employers, as determined by the local board, consistent with the local plan under section 118.”;

(B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3); and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The local board may use funds allocated to a local area under section 133(b)(2) to carry out incumbent worker training programs in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The training programs for incumbent workers under this paragraph shall be carried out by the local area in conjunction with the employers of such workers for the purpose of assisting such workers in obtaining the skills necessary to retain employment and avert layoffs.

“(C) EMPLOYER MATCH REQUIRED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Employers participating in programs under this paragraph shall be required to pay a proportion of the costs of providing the training to the incumbent workers of the employers. The local board shall establish the required payment toward such costs, which may include in-kind contributions.

“(ii) CALCULATION OF MATCH.—The wages paid by an employer to a worker while they are attending training may be included as part of the required payment of the employer.”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) PRIORITY FOR PLACEMENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS.—In providing employment and

training activities authorized under this section, the State board and local board shall give priority to placing participants in jobs in the private sector.

“(f) VETERAN EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (8), a local board shall hire and employ one or more veteran employment specialists to carry out employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection in the local area served by the local board.

“(2) PRINCIPAL DUTIES.—A veteran employment specialist in a local area shall—

“(A) conduct outreach to employers in the local area to assist veterans, including disabled veterans, in gaining employment, including—

“(i) conducting seminars for employers; and

“(ii) in conjunction with employers, conducting job search workshops, and establishing job search groups; and

“(B) facilitate the furnishing of employment, training, supportive, and placement services to veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans, in the local area.

“(3) HIRING PREFERENCE FOR VETERANS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPERTISE IN SERVING VETERANS.—Subject to paragraph (8), a local board shall, to the maximum extent practicable, employ veterans or individuals with expertise in serving veterans to carry out the services described in paragraph (2) in the local area served by the local board. In hiring an individual to serve as a veteran employment specialist, a local board shall give preference to veterans and other individuals in the following order:

“(A) To service-connected disabled veterans.

“(B) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) is available, to veterans.

“(C) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) or (B) is available, to any member of the Armed Forces transitioning out of military service.

“(D) If no veteran or member described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) is available, to any spouse of a veteran or a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces transitioning out of military service.

“(E) If no veteran or member described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) is available and no spouse described in paragraph (D) is available, to any other individuals with expertise in serving veterans.

“(4) ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each veteran employment specialist shall be administratively responsible to the one-stop operator of the one-stop center in the local area and shall provide, at a minimum, quarterly reports to the one-stop operator of such center and to the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training for the State on the specialist's performance, and compliance by the specialist with Federal law (including regulations), with respect to the—

“(i) principal duties (including facilitating the furnishing of services) for veterans described in paragraph (2); and

“(ii) hiring preferences described in paragraph (3) for veterans and other individuals.

“(B) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Each State shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on the qualifications used by each local board in the State in making hiring determinations for a veteran employment specialist and the salary structure under which such specialist is compensated.

“(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on

Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate an annual report summarizing the reports submitted under subparagraph (B), and including summaries of outcomes achieved by participating veterans, disaggregated by local areas.

“(5) PART-TIME EMPLOYEES.—A part-time veteran employment specialist shall perform the functions of a veteran employment specialist under this subsection on a halftime basis.

“(6) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—Each veteran employment specialist described in paragraph (2) shall satisfactorily complete training provided by the National Veterans' Employment and Training Institute during the 3-year period that begins on the date on which the employee is so assigned.

“(7) SPECIALIST'S DUTIES.—A full-time veteran employment specialist shall perform only duties related to employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection, and shall not perform other non-veteran-related duties if such duties detract from the specialist's ability to perform the specialist's duties related to employment, training, supportive, and placement services under this subsection.

“(8) STATE OPTION.—At the request of a local board, a State may opt to assume the duties assigned to the local board under paragraphs (1) and (3), including the hiring and employment of one or more veteran employment specialists for placement in the local area served by the local board.”.

SEC. 423. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

Section 136 (29 U.S.C. 2871) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraphs (1) and (2) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each State, the State performance measures shall consist of—

“(A)(i) the core indicators of performance described in paragraph (2)(A); and

“(ii) additional indicators of performance (if any) identified by the State under paragraph (2)(B); and

“(B) a State adjusted level of performance for each indicator described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(A) CORE INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The core indicators of performance for the program of employment and training activities authorized under sections 132(a)(2) and 134, the program of adult education and family literacy education activities authorized under title II, and the program authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741), shall consist of the following indicators of performance (with performance determined in the aggregate and as disaggregated by the populations identified in the State and local plan in each case):

“(I) The percentage and number of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second full calendar quarter after exit from the program.

“(II) The percentage and number of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the fourth full calendar quarter after exit from the program.

“(III) The difference in the median earnings of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second full calendar quarter after exit from the program, compared to the median earnings of

such participants prior to participation in such program.

“(IV) The percentage and number of program participants who obtain a recognized postsecondary credential (such as an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program), or a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (subject to clause (ii)), during participation in or within 1 year after exit from the program.

“(V) The percentage and number of program participants who, during a program year—

“(aa) are in an education or training program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential (such as an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program), a certificate from an on-the-job training program, a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or unsubsidized employment; and

“(bb) are achieving measurable basic skill gains toward such a credential, certificate, diploma, or employment.

“(VI) The percentage and number of program participants who obtain unsubsidized employment in the field relating to the training services described in section 134(c)(4) that such participants received.

“(ii) INDICATOR RELATING TO CREDENTIAL.—For purposes of clause (i)(IV), program participants who obtain a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent shall be included in the percentage counted as meeting the criterion under such clause only if such participants (in addition to obtaining such diploma or its recognized equivalent), within 1 year after exit from the program, have obtained or retained employment, have been removed from public assistance, or have begun an education or training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential.

“(B) ADDITIONAL INDICATORS.—A State may identify in the State plan additional indicators for workforce investment activities authorized under this subtitle.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the heading, by striking “AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDICATOR”;

(II) in clause (i), by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator described in paragraph (2)(B)”;

(III) in clause (ii), by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator of performance, for the first 3” and inserting “, for all 3”;

(IV) in clause (iii)—

(aa) in the heading, by striking “FOR FIRST 3 YEARS”; and

(bb) by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator of performance, for the first 3 program years” and inserting “for all 3 program years”;

(V) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by striking “or (v)”;

(bb) by striking subclause (I) and redesignating subclauses (II) and (III) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively; and

(cc) in subclause (I) (as so redesignated)—(AA) by inserting “, such as unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries” after “economic conditions”; and

(BB) by inserting “, such as indicators of poor work experience, dislocation from high-wage employment, low levels of literacy or English proficiency, disability status (including disability status among veterans), and welfare dependency,” after “program”;

(VI) by striking clause (v) and redesignating clause (vi) as clause (v); and

(VII) in clause (v) (as so redesignated)—

(aa) by striking “described in clause (iv)(II)” and inserting “described in clause (iv)(I)”; and

(bb) by striking “or (v)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “paragraph (2)(C)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(B)”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending clause (i) of paragraph (1)(A) to read as follows:

“(i) the core indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for activities described in such subsection, other than statewide workforce investment activities; and”;

(B) in clause (ii) of paragraph (1)(A), by striking “(b)(2)(C)” and inserting “(b)(2)(B)”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) DETERMINATIONS.—In determining such local levels of performance, the local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall ensure such levels are adjusted based on the specific economic conditions (such as unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries), or demographic characteristics or other characteristics of the population to be served, in the local area.”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “127 or”;

(ii) by striking “and the customer satisfaction indicator” each place it appears; and

(iii) in the last sentence, by inserting before the period the following: “, and on the amount and percentage of the State's annual allotment under section 132 the State spends on administrative costs and on the amount and percentage of its annual allocation under section 133 each local area in the State spends on administrative costs”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (A);

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (B);

(iv) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking “(excluding participants who received only self-service and informational activities)”;

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(v) by striking subparagraph (F); and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) with respect to each local area in the State—

“(i) the number of individuals who received work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the number of individuals who received training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services, and the amount of funds spent on each of the 2 types of services during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 fiscal years;

“(ii) the number of individuals who successfully exited out of work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the number of individuals who exited out of training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years,

disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services; and

“(iii) the average cost per participant of those individuals who received work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) and the average cost per participant of those individuals who received training services described in section 134(c)(4), during the most recent program year and fiscal year, and the preceding 5 program years, disaggregated (for individuals who received work ready services) by the type of entity that provided the work ready services and disaggregated (for individuals who received training services) by the type of entity that provided the training services; and

“(D) the amount of funds spent on training services and discretionary activities described in section 134(d), disaggregated by the populations identified under section 112(b)(16)(A)(iv) and section 118(b)(10).”;

(C) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “through publication” and inserting “through electronic means”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DATA VALIDATION.—In preparing the reports described in this subsection, each State shall establish procedures, consistent with guidelines issued by the Secretary, to ensure the information contained in the reports is valid and reliable.

“(5) STATE AND LOCAL POLICIES.—

“(A) STATE POLICIES.—Each State that receives an allotment under section 132 shall maintain a central repository of policies related to access, eligibility, availability of services, and other matters, and plans approved by the State board and make such repository available to the public, including by electronic means.

“(B) LOCAL POLICIES.—Each local area that receives an allotment under section 133 shall maintain a central repository of policies related to access, eligibility, availability of services, and other matters, and plans approved by the local board and make such repository available to the public, including by electronic means.”;

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or (B)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “may reduce by not more than 5 percent,” and inserting “shall reduce”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) FUNDS RESULTING FROM REDUCED ALLOTMENTS.—The Secretary shall return to the Treasury the amount retained, as a result of a reduction in an allotment to a State made under paragraph (1)(B).”;

(5) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or (B)”;

and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by amending the matter preceding clause (i) to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If such failure continues for a second consecutive year, the Governor shall take corrective actions, including the development of a reorganization plan. Such plan shall—”;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A), the following:

“(B) REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF GRANT.—If such failure continues for a third consecu-

tive year, the Governor shall reduce the amount of the grant that would (in the absence of this subparagraph) be payable to the local area under such program for the program year after such third consecutive year. Such penalty shall be based on the degree of failure to meet local levels of performance.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C)(i) (as so redesignated), by striking “a reorganization plan under subparagraph (A) may, not later than 30 days after receiving notice of the reorganization plan, appeal to the Governor to rescind or revise such plan” and inserting “corrective action under subparagraph (A) or (B) may, not later than 30 days after receiving notice of the action, appeal to the Governor to rescind or revise such action”; and

(v) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesignated), by striking “subparagraph (B)” each place it appears and inserting “subparagraph (C)”;

(6) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “subsection (b)(2)(C)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(B)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “(b)(3)(A)(vi)” and inserting “(b)(3)(A)(v)”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “the activities described in section 502 concerning”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “described in paragraph (1) and in the activities described in section 502” and inserting “and activities described in this subsection”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(j) USE OF CORE INDICATORS FOR OTHER PROGRAMS.—Consistent with the requirements of the applicable authorizing laws, the Secretary shall use the core indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) to assess the effectiveness of the programs described in section 121(b)(1)(B) (in addition to the programs carried out under chapter 5) that are carried out by the Secretary.

“(k) ESTABLISHING PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Governor of a State, a State may establish an incentive system for local boards to implement pay-for-performance contract strategies for the delivery of employment and training activities in the local areas served by the local boards.

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—A State that establishes a pay-for-performance incentive system shall reserve not more than 10 percent of the total amount allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2) for a fiscal year to provide funds to local areas in the State whose local boards have implemented a pay-for-performance contract strategy.

“(3) EVALUATIONS.—A State described in paragraph (2) shall use funds reserved by the State under section 133(a)(1) to evaluate the return on investment of pay-for-performance contract strategies implemented by local boards in the State.”.

SEC. 424. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 137 (29 U.S.C. 2872) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 137. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 132, \$5,945,639,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.”.

CHAPTER 3—JOB CORPS

SEC. 426. JOB CORPS PURPOSES.

Paragraph (1) of section 141 (29 U.S.C. 2881(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) to maintain a national Job Corps program for at-risk youth, carried out in part-

nership with States and communities, to assist eligible youth to connect to the workforce by providing them with intensive academic, career and technical education, and service-learning opportunities, in residential and nonresidential centers, in order for such youth to obtain regular secondary school diplomas and recognized postsecondary credentials leading to successful careers in in-demand industries that will result in opportunities for advancement.”.

SEC. 427. JOB CORPS DEFINITIONS.

Section 142 (29 U.S.C. 2882) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “APPLICABLE ONE-STOP” and inserting “ONE-STOP”;

(B) by striking “applicable”;

(C) by striking “customer service”; and

(D) by striking “intake” and inserting “assessment”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “before completing the requirements” and all that follows and inserting “prior to becoming a graduate.”; and

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking “has completed the requirements” and all that follows and inserting the following: “who, as a result of participation in the Job Corps program, has received a regular secondary school diploma, completed the requirements of a career and technical education and training program, or received, or is making satisfactory progress (as defined under section 484(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(c))) toward receiving, a recognized postsecondary credential (including an industry-recognized credential) that prepares individuals for employment leading to economic self-sufficiency.”.

SEC. 428. INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR THE JOB CORPS.

Section 144 (29 U.S.C. 2884) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) not less than age 16 and not more than age 24 on the date of enrollment.”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “secondary” before “school”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(E), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education and”.

SEC. 429. RECRUITMENT, SCREENING, SELECTION, AND ASSIGNMENT OF ENROLLEES.

Section 145 (29 U.S.C. 2885) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(C)(i) by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education and training”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “To the extent practicable, the” and inserting “The”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “applicable”; and

(II) by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(iii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C); and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) organizations that have a demonstrated record of effectiveness in placing at-risk youth into employment.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and agrees to such rules” after “failure to observe the rules”; and

(ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) the individual has passed a background check conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary, which shall include—

“(i) a search of the State criminal registry or repository in the State where the individual resides and each State where the individual previously resided;

“(ii) a search of State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases in the State where the individual resides and each State where the individual previously resided;

“(iii) a search of the National Crime Information Center;

“(iv) a Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check using the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System; and

“(v) a search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.);” and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF A CRIME.—An individual shall be ineligible for enrollment if the individual—

“(A) makes a false statement in connection with the criminal background check described in paragraph (1)(C);

“(B) is registered or is required to be registered on a State sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.); or

“(C) has been convicted of a felony consisting of—

“(i) homicide;

“(ii) child abuse or neglect;

“(iii) a crime against children, including child pornography;

“(iv) a crime involving rape or sexual assault; or

“(v) physical assault, battery, or a drug-related offense, committed within the past 5 years.”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “2 years” and inserting “year”; and

(ii) by striking “an assignment” and inserting “a”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “, every 2 years.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by inserting “the education and training” after “including”; and

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) the performance of the Job Corps center relating to the indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) in section 159(c), and whether any actions have been taken with respect to such center pursuant to section 159(f).”; and

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “is closest to the home of the enrollee, except that the” and inserting “offers the type of career and technical education and training selected by the individual and, among the centers that offer such education and training, is closest to the home of the individual. The”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “that offers the career and technical education and training desired by” after “home of the enrollee”.

SEC. 430. JOB CORPS CENTERS.

Section 147 (29 U.S.C. 2887) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “vocational” both places it appears and inserting “career and technical”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “subsections (c) and (d) of section 303 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253)” and inserting “subsections (a) and (b) of section 3304 of title 41, United States Code”; and

(II) by striking “industry council” and inserting “workforce council”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(I) by amending subclause (II) to read as follows:

“(II) the ability of the entity to offer career and technical education and training that the workforce council proposes under section 154(c).”; and

(II) in subclause (III), by striking “is familiar with the surrounding communities, applicable” and inserting “demonstrates relationships with the surrounding communities, employers, workforce boards,” and by striking “and” at the end;

(III) by amending subclause (IV) to read as follows:

“(IV) the performance of the entity, if any, relating to operating or providing activities described in this subtitle to a Job Corps center, including the entity’s demonstrated effectiveness in assisting individuals in achieving the primary and secondary indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c); and”; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(V) the ability of the entity to demonstrate a record of successfully assisting at-risk youth to connect to the workforce, including by providing them with intensive academic, and career and technical education and training.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(I) by striking “, as appropriate”; and

(II) by striking “through (IV)” and inserting “through (V).”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “In any year, no more than 20 percent of the individuals enrolled in the Job Corps may be non-residential participants in the Job Corps.”;

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Job Corps centers may include Civilian Conservation Centers, operated under an agreement between the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, that are located primarily in rural areas. Such centers shall adhere to all the provisions of this subtitle, and shall provide, in addition to education, career and technical education and training, and workforce preparation skills training described in section 148, programs of work experience to conserve, develop, or manage public natural resources or public recreational areas or to develop community projects in the public interest.

“(2) SELECTION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall select an entity that submits an application under subsection (d) to operate a Civilian Conservation Center on a competitive basis, as provided in subsection (a).”; and

(4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to operate a Job Corps center under this subtitle, an entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and

containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

“(1) a description of the program activities that will be offered at the center, including how the career and technical education and training reflect State and local employment opportunities, including in in-demand industries;

“(2) a description of the counseling, placement, and support activities that will be offered at the center, including a description of the strategies and procedures the entity will use to place graduates into unsubsidized employment upon completion of the program;

“(3) a description of the demonstrated record of effectiveness that the entity has in placing at-risk youth into employment, including past performance of operating a Job Corps center under this subtitle;

“(4) a description of the relationships that the entity has developed with State and local workforce boards, employers, State and local educational agencies, and the surrounding communities in an effort to promote a comprehensive statewide workforce investment system;

“(5) a description of the strong fiscal controls the entity has in place to ensure proper accounting of Federal funds, and a description of how the entity will meet the requirements of section 159(a);

“(6) a description of the strategies and policies the entity will utilize to reduce participant costs;

“(7) a description of the steps taken to control costs in accordance with section 159(a)(3);

“(8) a detailed budget of the activities that will be supported using funds under this subtitle;

“(9) a detailed budget of the activities that will be supported using funds from non-Federal resources;

“(10) an assurance the entity will comply with the administrative cost limitation included in section 151(c);

“(11) an assurance the entity is licensed to operate in the State in which the center is located; and

“(12) an assurance the entity will comply with and meet basic health and safety codes, including those measures described in section 152(b).

“(e) LENGTH OF AGREEMENT.—The agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A) shall be for not longer than a 2-year period. The Secretary may renew the agreement for 3 1-year periods if the entity meets the requirements of subsection (f).

“(f) RENEWAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may renew the terms of an agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A) for an entity to operate a Job Corps center if the center meets or exceeds each of the indicators of performance described in section 159(c)(1).

“(2) RECOMPETITION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not renew the terms of the agreement for an entity to operate a Job Corps center if such center is ranked in the bottom quintile of centers described in section 159(f)(2) for any program year. Such entity may submit a new application under subsection (d) only if such center has shown significant improvement on the indicators of performance described in section 159(c)(1) over the last program year.

“(B) VIOLATIONS.—The Secretary shall not select an entity to operate a Job Corps center if such entity or such center has been found to have a systemic or substantial material failure that involves—

“(i) a threat to the health, safety, or civil rights of program participants or staff;

“(ii) the misuse of funds received under this subtitle;

“(iii) loss of legal status or financial viability, loss of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds;

“(iv) failure to meet any other Federal or State requirement that the entity has shown an unwillingness or inability to correct, after notice from the Secretary, within the period specified; or

“(v) an unresolved area of noncompliance.

“(g) **CURRENT GRANTEEES.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act and notwithstanding any previous grant award or renewals of such award under this subtitle, the Secretary shall require all entities operating a Job Corps center under this subtitle to submit an application under subsection (d) to carry out the requirements of this section.”.

SEC. 431. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

Section 148 (29 U.S.C. 2888) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) **ACTIVITIES PROVIDED THROUGH JOB CORPS CENTERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees with an intensive, well-organized, and supervised program of education, career and technical education and training, work experience, recreational activities, physical rehabilitation and development, and counseling. Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees assigned to the center with access to work ready services described in section 134(c)(2).

“(2) **RELATIONSHIP TO OPPORTUNITIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The activities provided under this subsection shall be targeted to helping enrollees, on completion of their enrollment—

“(i) secure and maintain meaningful unsubsidized employment;

“(ii) complete secondary education and obtain a regular secondary school diploma;

“(iii) enroll in and complete postsecondary education or training programs, including obtaining recognized postsecondary credentials (such as industry-recognized credentials and certificates from registered apprenticeship programs); or

“(iv) satisfy Armed Forces requirements.

“(B) **LINK TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.**—The career and technical education and training provided shall be linked to the employment opportunities in in-demand industries in the State in which the Job Corps center is located.”.

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL” and inserting “ACADEMIC AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND”;

(B) by striking “may” after “The Secretary” and inserting “shall”; and

(C) by striking “vocational” each place it appears and inserting “career and technical”; and

(3) by amending paragraph (3) of subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(3) **DEMONSTRATION.**—Each year, any operator seeking to enroll additional enrollees in an advanced career training program shall demonstrate, before the operator may carry out such additional enrollment, that—

“(A) participants in such program have achieved a satisfactory rate of completion and placement in training-related jobs; and

“(B) such operator has met or exceeded the indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c) for the previous year.”.

SEC. 432. COUNSELING AND JOB PLACEMENT.

Section 149 (29 U.S.C. 2889) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education and”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “make every effort to arrange to”; and

(B) by striking “to assist” and inserting “assist”; and

(3) by striking subsection (d).

SEC. 433. SUPPORT.

Subsection (b) of section 150 (29 U.S.C. 2890) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) **TRANSITION ALLOWANCES AND SUPPORT FOR GRADUATES.**—The Secretary shall arrange for a transition allowance to be paid to graduates. The transition allowance shall be incentive-based to reflect a graduate's completion of academic, career and technical education or training, and attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential.”.

SEC. 434. OPERATIONS.

Section 151 (29 U.S.C. 2891) is amended—

(1) in the header, by striking “**OPERATING PLAN.**” and inserting “**OPERATIONS.**”;

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “**IN GENERAL.**—” and inserting “**OPERATING PLAN.**—”;

(3) by striking subsection (b) and redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(4) by amending subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the heading by inserting “**OF OPERATING PLAN**” after “**AVAILABILITY**”; and

(B) by striking “subsections (a) and (b)” and inserting “subsection (a)”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—Not more than 10 percent of the funds allotted under section 147 to an entity selected to operate a Job Corps center may be used by the entity for administrative costs under this subtitle.”.

SEC. 435. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

Section 153 (29 U.S.C. 2893) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 153. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

“The director of each Job Corps center shall encourage and cooperate in activities to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between Job Corps centers in the State and nearby communities. Such activities may include the use of any local workforce development boards established under section 117 to provide a mechanism for joint discussion of common problems and for planning programs of mutual interest.”.

SEC. 436. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

Section 154 (29 U.S.C. 2894) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 154. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Job Corps center shall have a workforce council appointed by the Governor of the State in which the Job Corps center is located.

“(b) **WORKFORCE COUNCIL COMPOSITION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A workforce council shall be comprised of—

“(A) business members of the State board described in section 111(b)(1)(B)(i);

“(B) business members of the local boards described in section 117(b)(2)(A) located in the State;

“(C) a representative of the State board described in section 111(f); and

“(D) such other representatives and State agency officials as the Governor may designate.

“(2) **MAJORITY.**—A ¾ majority of the members of the workforce council shall be representatives described in paragraph (1)(A).

“(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The responsibilities of the workforce council shall be—

“(1) to review all the relevant labor market information, including related information in the State plan described in section 112, to—

“(A) determine the in-demand industries in the State in which enrollees intend to seek employment after graduation;

“(B) determine the skills and education that are necessary to obtain the employment opportunities described in subparagraph (A); and

“(C) determine the type or types of career and technical education and training that will be implemented at the center to enable the enrollees to obtain the employment opportunities; and

“(2) to meet at least once a year to re-evaluate the labor market information, and other relevant information, to determine any necessary changes in the career and technical education and training provided at the center.”.

SEC. 437. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 156 (29 U.S.C. 2896) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 156. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CENTERS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From the funds reserved under section 132(a)(3), the Secretary shall provide, directly or through grants, contracts, or other agreements or arrangements as the Secretary considers appropriate, technical assistance and training for the Job Corps program for the purposes of improving program quality.

“(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—In providing training and technical assistance and for allocating resources for such assistance, the Secretary shall—

“(1) assist entities, including those entities not currently operating a Job Corps center, in developing the application described in section 147(d);

“(2) assist Job Corps centers and programs in correcting deficiencies and violations under this subtitle;

“(3) assist Job Corps centers and programs in meeting or exceeding the indicators of performance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 159(c); and

“(4) assist Job Corps centers and programs in the development of sound management practices, including financial management procedures.”.

SEC. 438. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

Section 158(c)(1) (29 U.S.C. 2898(c)(1)) is amended by striking “title II of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 481 et seq.)” and inserting “chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code.”.

SEC. 439. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MANAGEMENT.

Section 159 (29 U.S.C. 2899) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “**MANAGEMENT INFORMATION**” and inserting “**PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY AND MANAGEMENT**”;

(2) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, or operating costs for such centers result in a budgetary shortfall”;

(3) by striking subsections (c) through (g); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) **INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.**—

“(1) **PRIMARY INDICATORS.**—The annual primary indicators of performance for Job Corps centers shall include—

“(A) the percentage and number of enrollees who graduate from the Job Corps center;

“(B) the percentage and number of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment

related to the career and technical education and training received through the Job Corps center, except that such calculation shall not include enrollment in education, the military, or volunteer service;

“(C) the percentage and number of graduates who obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential or a certificate from a registered apprenticeship program; and

“(D) the cost per successful performance outcome, which is calculated by comparing the number of graduates who were placed in unsubsidized employment or obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential, to total program costs, including all operations, construction, and administration costs at each Job Corps center.

“(2) SECONDARY INDICATORS.—The annual secondary indicators of performance for Job Corps centers shall include—

“(A) the percentage and number of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment not related to the career and technical education and training received through the Job Corps center;

“(B) the percentage and number of graduates who entered into postsecondary education;

“(C) the percentage and number of graduates who entered into the military;

“(D) the average wage of graduates who are in unsubsidized employment—

“(i) on the first day of employment; and

“(ii) 6 months after the first day;

“(E) the number and percentage of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment and were retained in the unsubsidized employment—

“(i) 6 months after the first day of employment; and

“(ii) 12 months after the first day of employment;

“(F) the percentage and number of enrollees compared to the percentage and number of enrollees the Secretary has established as targets in section 145(c)(1);

“(G) the cost per training slot, which is calculated by comparing the program's maximum number of enrollees that can be enrolled in a Job Corps center at any given time during the program year to the number of enrollees in the same program year; and

“(H) the number and percentage of former enrollees, including the number dismissed under the zero tolerance policy described in section 152(b).

“(3) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE FOR RECRUITERS.—The annual indicators of performance for recruiters shall include the measurements described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H) of paragraph (2).

“(4) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE OF CAREER TRANSITION SERVICE PROVIDERS.—The annual indicators of performance of career transition service providers shall include the measurements described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) and subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) of paragraph (2).

“(d) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall collect, and submit in the report described in subsection (f), information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, regarding—

“(1) the number and percentage of former enrollees who obtained a regular secondary school diploma;

“(2) the number and percentage of former enrollees who entered unsubsidized employment;

“(3) the number and percentage of former enrollees who obtained a recognized postsec-

ondary credential, including an industry-recognized credential;

“(4) the number and percentage of former enrollees who entered into military service; and

“(5) any additional information required by the Secretary.

“(e) METHODS.—The Secretary shall collect the information described in subsections (c) and (d), using methods described in section 136(f)(2) and consistent with State law, by entering into agreements with the States to access such data for Job Corps enrollees, former enrollees, and graduates.

“(f) TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

“(1) REPORT.—The Secretary shall collect and annually submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate, and make available to the public by electronic means, a report containing—

“(A) information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, on the performance indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

“(B) a comparison of each Job Corps center, by rank, on the performance indicators described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

“(C) a comparison of each Job Corps center, by rank, on the average performance of all primary indicators described in paragraph (1) of subsection (c);

“(D) information on the performance of the service providers described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c) on the performance indicators established under such paragraphs; and

“(E) a comparison of each service provider, by rank, on the performance of all service providers described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c) on the performance indicators established under such paragraphs.

“(2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall conduct an annual assessment of the performance of each Job Corps center which shall include information on the Job Corps centers that—

“(A) are ranked in the bottom 10 percent on the performance indicator described in paragraph (1)(C); or

“(B) have failed a safety and health code review described in subsection (g).

“(3) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT.—With respect to a Job Corps center that is identified under paragraph (2) or reports less than 50 percent on the performance indicators described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall develop and implement a 1 year performance improvement plan. Such a plan shall require action including—

“(A) providing technical assistance to the center;

“(B) changing the management staff of the center;

“(C) replacing the operator of the center;

“(D) reducing the capacity of the center; or

“(E) closing the center.

“(4) CLOSURE OF JOB CORPS CENTERS.—Job Corps centers that have been identified under paragraph (2) for more than 4 consecutive years shall be closed. The Secretary shall ensure—

“(A) that the proposed decision to close the center is announced in advance to the general public through publication in the Federal Register and other appropriate means; and

“(B) the establishment of a reasonable comment period, not to exceed 30 days, for interested individuals to submit written comments to the Secretary.

“(g) PARTICIPANT HEALTH AND SAFETY.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the General Services Administration or the appropriate State agency responsible for inspecting public buildings and safeguarding the health of disadvantaged students, to conduct an in-person review of the physical condition and health-related activities of each Job Corps center annually. Such review shall include a passing rate of occupancy under Federal and State ordinances.”

CHAPTER 4—NATIONAL PROGRAMS

SEC. 441. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 170 (29 U.S.C. 2915) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b);

(2) by striking:

“(a) GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—”;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subsections (a), (b), and (c) respectively, and moving such subsections 2 ems to the left, and conforming the casing style of the headings of such subsections to the casing style of the heading of subsection (d), as added by paragraph (7) of this section;

(4) in subsection (a) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by inserting “the training of staff providing rapid response services and additional assistance, the training of other staff of recipients of funds under this title, assistance regarding accounting and program operation practices (when such assistance would not be duplicative to assistance provided by the State), technical assistance to States that do not meet State performance measures described in section 136,” after “localities;”; and

(B) by striking “from carrying out activities” and all that follows up to the period and inserting “to implement the amendments made by the SKILLS Act”;;

(5) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “subsection (a)”;;

(B) by striking “, or recipient of financial assistance under any of sections 166 through 169;”; and

(C) by striking “or grant recipient”;;

(6) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “subsection (a)”; and

(7) by inserting, after subsection (c) (as so redesignated), the following:

“(d) BEST PRACTICES COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) establish a system through which States may share information regarding best practices with regard to the operation of workforce investment activities under this Act; and

“(2) evaluate and disseminate information regarding best practices and identify knowledge gaps.”

SEC. 442. EVALUATIONS.

Section 172 (29 U.S.C. 2917) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “the Secretary shall provide for the continuing evaluation of the programs and activities, including those programs and activities carried out under section 171” and inserting “the Secretary, through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, shall conduct, at least once every 5 years, an independent evaluation of the programs and activities funded under this Act”;;

(2) by amending subsection (a)(4) to read as follows:

“(4) the impact of receiving services and not receiving services under such programs and activities on the community, businesses, and individuals;”;;

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) TECHNIQUES.—Evaluations conducted under this section shall utilize appropriate

and rigorous methodology and research designs, including the use of control groups chosen by scientific random assignment methodologies, quasi-experimental methods, impact analysis and the use of administrative data. The Secretary shall conduct an impact analysis, as described in subsection (a)(4), of the formula grant program under subtitle B not later than 2016, and thereafter shall conduct such an analysis not less than once every 4 years.”;

(4) by subsection (e), by striking “the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate” and inserting “the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate”;

(5) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g) and inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) REDUCTION OF AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED FOR LATE REPORTING.—If a report required to be transmitted to Congress under this section is not transmitted on or before the time period specified for that report, amounts authorized to be appropriated under this title shall be reduced by 10 percent for the fiscal year that begins after the date on which the final report required under this section is required to be transmitted and reduced by an additional 10 percent each subsequent fiscal year until each such report is transmitted to Congress.”; and

(6) by adding at the end, the following:

“(h) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The results of the evaluations conducted under this section shall be made publicly available, including by posting such results on the Department’s website.”.

CHAPTER 5—ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 446. REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS.

Section 181 (29 U.S.C. 2931) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(6), by striking “, including representatives of businesses and of labor organizations.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “shall” and inserting “may”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “training for” and inserting “the entry into employment, retention in employment, or increases in earnings of”;

(B) by striking “subtitle B” and inserting “this Act”;

(4) in subsection (f)(4), by striking “134(a)(3)(B)” and inserting “133(a)(4)”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) SALARY AND BONUS LIMITATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds provided under this title shall be used by a recipient or subrecipient of such funds to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or indirect costs, at a rate in excess of the rate prescribed in level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) VENDORS.—The limitation described in paragraph (1) shall not apply to vendors providing goods and services as defined in OMB Circular A-133.

“(3) LOWER LIMIT.—In a case in which a State is a recipient of such funds, the State may establish a lower limit than is provided in paragraph (1) for salaries and bonuses of those receiving salaries and bonuses from a subrecipient of such funds, taking into account factors including the relative cost of living in the State, the compensation levels for comparable State or local government employees, and the size of the organizations that administer the Federal programs involved.

“(h) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Employment and Training Administration of the Department

of Labor (referred to in this Act as the ‘Administration’) shall administer all programs authorized under title I and the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.). The Administration shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Except for title II and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the Administration shall be the principal agency, and the Assistant Secretary shall be the principal officer, of such Department for carrying out this Act.

“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Secretary shall be an individual with substantial experience in workforce development and in workforce development management. The Assistant Secretary shall also, to the maximum extent possible, possess knowledge and have worked in or with the State or local workforce investment system or have been a member of the business community.

“(3) FUNCTIONS.—In the performance of the functions of the office, the Assistant Secretary shall be directly responsible to the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary of Labor, as determined by the Secretary. The functions of the Assistant Secretary shall not be delegated to any officer not directly responsible, both with respect to program operation and administration, to the Assistant Secretary. Any reference in this Act to duties to be carried out by the Assistant Secretary shall be considered to be a reference to duties to be carried out by the Secretary acting through the Assistant Secretary.”.

SEC. 447. PROMPT ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

Section 182 (29 U.S.C. 2932) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “127 or”;

(B) by striking “, except that” and all that follows and inserting a period; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “sections 128 and 133” and inserting “section 133”; and

(B) by striking “127 or”.

SEC. 448. FISCAL CONTROLS; SANCTIONS.

Section 184(a)(2) (29 U.S.C. 2934(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(A)” and all that follows through “Each” and inserting “Each”; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B).

SEC. 449. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 185 (29 U.S.C. 2935) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) shall have the option to submit or disseminate electronically any reports, records, plans, or other data that are required to be collected or disseminated under this title.”;

and

(2) in subsection (e)(2), by inserting “and the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate,” after “Secretary.”.

SEC. 450. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Section 189 (29 U.S.C. 2939) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Appropriations for any fiscal year for programs and activities carried out under this title shall be available for obligation only on the basis of a program year. The program year shall begin on October 1 in the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “each State” and inserting “each recipient (except as otherwise provided in this paragraph)”;

and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking “171 or”;

(2) in subsection (i)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (2);

(C) by amending paragraph (2)(A), as so redesignated—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and inserting a period at the end;

(ii) by striking “requirements of subparagraph (B)” and all that follows through “any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of subtitle B” and inserting “requirements of subparagraph (B) or (D), any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of subtitle B”; and

(iii) by striking clause (ii); and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) EXPEDITED PROCESS FOR EXTENDING APPROVED WAIVERS TO ADDITIONAL STATES.—The Secretary may establish an expedited procedure for the purpose of extending to additional States the waiver of statutory or regulatory requirements that have been approved for a State pursuant to a request under subparagraph (B), in lieu of requiring the additional States to meet the requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C). Such procedure shall ensure that the extension of such a waiver to additional States is accompanied by appropriate conditions relating to the implementation of such waiver.

“(E) EXTERNAL CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall not require or impose new or additional requirements, that are not specified under this Act, on a State in exchange for providing a waiver to the State or a local area in the State under this paragraph.”.

SEC. 451. STATE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

Section 191(a) (29 U.S.C. 2941(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “consistent with the provisions of this title” and inserting “consistent with State law and the provisions of this title”; and

(2) by striking “consistent with the terms and conditions required under this title” and inserting “consistent with State law and the terms and conditions required under this title”.

SEC. 452. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Section 195 (29 U.S.C. 2945) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by inserting at the end the following:

“(D) Funds received under a program by a public or private nonprofit entity that are not described in subparagraph (B), such as funds privately raised from philanthropic foundations, businesses, or other private entities, shall not be considered to be income under this title and shall not be subject to the requirements of this paragraph.”;

(2) by striking paragraph (9);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (13) as paragraphs (9) through (12), respectively; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(13) Funds provided under this title shall not be used to establish or operate stand-alone fee-for-service enterprises that compete with private sector employment agencies within the meaning of section 701(c) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e(c)), except that for purposes of this paragraph, such an enterprise does not include a one-stop center.

“(14) Any report required to be submitted to Congress, or to a Committee of Congress, under this title shall be submitted to both the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.”

SEC. 453. FEDERAL AGENCY STAFF AND RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL AND LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.

Subtitle E of title I (29 U.S.C. 2931 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

“SEC. 196. FEDERAL AGENCY STAFF.

“The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

“(1) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the SKILLS Act—

“(A) identify the number of Federal government employees who, on the day before the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act, worked on or administered each of the programs and activities that were authorized under this Act or were authorized under a provision listed in section ____71 of the SKILLS Act; and

“(B) identify the number of full-time equivalent employees who on the day before that date of enactment, worked on or administered each of the programs and activities described in subparagraph (A), on functions for which the authorizing provision has been repealed, or for which an amount has been consolidated (if such employee is in a duplicate position), on or after such date of enactment;

“(2) not later than 90 after such date of enactment, publish the information described in paragraph (1) on the Office of Management and Budget website; and

“(3) not later than 1 year after such date of enactment—

“(A) reduce the workforce of the Federal Government by the number of full-time equivalent employees identified under paragraph (1)(B); and

“(B) submit to Congress a report on how the Director carried out the requirements of subparagraph (A).

“SEC. 197. RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

“(a) LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS.—

“(1) PUBLICITY RESTRICTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), no funds provided under this Act shall be used or proposed for use, for—

“(i) publicity or propaganda purposes; or

“(ii) the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, electronic communication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to—

“(i) normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships;

“(ii) the preparation, distribution, or use of the materials described in subparagraph (A)(ii) in presentation to the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body (except that this subparagraph does not apply with respect to such preparation, distribution, or use in presentation to the executive branch of any State or local government); or

“(iii) such preparation, distribution, or use of such materials, that are designed to support or defeat any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government.

“(2) SALARY PAYMENT RESTRICTION.—No funds provided under this Act shall be used, or proposed for use, to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment or issuance of legislation, appropriations, regulations, administrative action, or an Executive order proposed or pending before the Congress or any State government, or a State or local legislature or legislative body, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships or participation by an agency or officer of a State, local, or tribal government in policymaking and administrative processes within the executive branch of that government.

“(b) POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds received by a participant of a program or activity under this Act shall be used for—

“(A) any partisan or nonpartisan political activity or any other political activity associated with a candidate, or contending faction or group, in an election for public or party office; or

“(B) any activity to provide voters with transportation to the polls or similar assistance in connection with any such election.

“(2) RESTRICTION ON VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—No funds under this Act shall be used to conduct voter registration activities.

“(3) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this subsection, the term ‘participant’ includes any State, local area, or government, non-profit, or for-profit entity receiving funds under this Act.”

CHAPTER 6—STATE UNIFIED PLAN

SEC. 456. STATE UNIFIED PLAN.

Section 501 (20 U.S.C. 9271) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall receive and approve State unified plans developed and submitted in accordance with this section.”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) STATE UNIFIED PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may develop and submit to the Secretary a State unified plan for 2 or more of the activities or programs set forth in paragraph (2). The State unified plan shall cover one or more of the activities or programs set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and shall cover one or more of the activities or programs set forth in subparagraphs (C) through (N) of paragraph (2).

“(2) ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘activity or program’ means any 1 of the following 14 activities or programs:

“(A) Activities and programs authorized under title I.

“(B) Activities and programs authorized under title II.

“(C) Programs authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 710 et seq.).

“(D) Secondary career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

“(E) Postsecondary career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

“(F) Activities and programs authorized under title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251 et seq.).

“(G) Programs and activities authorized under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly

known as the ‘National Apprenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

“(H) Programs authorized under the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.).

“(I) Programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

“(J) Programs authorized under State unemployment compensation laws (in accordance with applicable Federal law).

“(K) Work programs authorized under section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)).

“(L) Activities and programs authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

“(M) Activities and programs authorized under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.).

“(N) Activities authorized under chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.”;

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) APPROVAL.—

“(1) JURISDICTION.—In approving a State unified plan under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(A) submit the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) to the head of the Federal agency who exercises administrative authority over the approval of such portion by such Federal agency head; or

“(B) coordinate approval of the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) with the head of the Federal agency who exercises administrative authority over the activity or program.

“(2) TIMELINE.—A State unified plan shall be considered to be approved by the Secretary at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the day the Secretary receives the plan, unless the Secretary makes a written determination, during the 90-day period, that details how the plan is not consistent with the requirements of the Federal statute authorizing an activity or program described in subsection (b)(2) and covered under the plan or how the plan is not consistent with the requirements of subsection (c)(3).

“(3) SCOPE OF PORTION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the portion of the State unified plan covering an activity or program shall be considered to include the plan described in subsection (c)(3) and any proposal described in subsection (e)(2), as that part and proposal relate to the activity or program.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FUNDS.—

“(1) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subsection to reduce inefficiencies in the administration of federally funded State and local employment and training programs.

“(2) IN GENERAL.—In developing a State unified plan for the activities or programs described in subsection (b)(2), and subject to paragraph (4) and to the State plan approval process under subsection (d), a State may propose to consolidate the amount, in whole or part, provided for the activities or programs covered by the plan into the Workforce Investment Fund under section 132(b) to improve the administration of State and local employment and training programs.

“(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A State that has a State unified plan approved under subsection (d) with a proposal for consolidation under paragraph (2), and that is carrying out such consolidation, shall—

“(A) in providing an activity or program for which an amount is consolidated into the Workforce Investment Fund—

“(i) continue to meet the program requirements, limitations, and prohibitions of any Federal statute authorizing the activity or program; and

“(ii) meet the intent and purpose for the activity or program; and

“(B) continue to make reservations and allotments under subsections (a) and (b) of section 133.

“(4) EXCEPTIONS.—A State may not consolidate an amount under paragraph (2) that is allocated to the State under—

“(A) the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.); or

“(B) title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 710 et seq.).”.

Subtitle B—Adult Education and Family Literacy Education

SEC. 461. AMENDMENT.

Title II (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION

“SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

“This title may be cited as the ‘Adult Education and Family Literacy Education Act’.

“SEC. 202. PURPOSE.

“It is the purpose of this title to provide instructional opportunities for adults seeking to improve their literacy skills, including their basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, and support States and local communities in providing, on a voluntary basis, adult education and family literacy education programs, in order to—

“(1) increase the literacy of adults, including the basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, to a level of proficiency necessary for adults to obtain employment and self-sufficiency and to successfully advance in the workforce;

“(2) assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education (or its equivalent) and the transition to a postsecondary educational institution;

“(3) assist adults who are parents to enable them to support the educational development of their children and make informed choices regarding their children’s education including, through instruction in basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills; and

“(4) assist adults who are not proficient in English in improving their reading, writing, speaking, listening, comprehension, and mathematics skills.

“SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—The term ‘adult education and family literacy education programs’ means a sequence of academic instruction and educational services below the postsecondary level that increase an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak English and perform mathematical computations leading to a level of proficiency equivalent to at least a secondary school completion that is provided for individuals—

“(A) who are at least 16 years of age;

“(B) who are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under State law; and

“(C) who—

“(i) lack sufficient mastery of basic reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills to enable the individuals to function effectively in society;

“(ii) do not have a secondary school diploma or its equivalent and have not achieved an equivalent level of education; or

“(iii) are English learners.

“(2) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term ‘eligible agency’—

“(A) means the primary entity or agency in a State or an outlying area responsible for administering or supervising policy for adult education and family literacy education programs in the State or outlying area, respectively, consistent with the law of the State or outlying area, respectively; and

“(B) may be the State educational agency, the State agency responsible for administering workforce investment activities, or the State agency responsible for administering community or technical colleges.

“(3) ELIGIBLE PROVIDER.—The term ‘eligible provider’ means an organization of demonstrated effectiveness that is—

“(A) a local educational agency;

“(B) a community-based or faith-based organization;

“(C) a volunteer literacy organization;

“(D) an institution of higher education;

“(E) a public or private educational agency;

“(F) a library;

“(G) a public housing authority;

“(H) an institution that is not described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (G) and has the ability to provide adult education, basic skills, and family literacy education programs to adults and families; or

“(I) a consortium of the agencies, organizations, institutions, libraries, or authorities described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (H).

“(4) ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘English language acquisition program’ means a program of instruction—

“(A) designed to help English learners achieve competence in reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension of the English language; and

“(B) that may lead to—

“(i) attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

“(ii) transition to success in postsecondary education and training; and

“(iii) employment or career advancement.

“(5) FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term ‘family literacy education program’ means an educational program that—

“(A) assists parents and students, on a voluntary basis, in achieving the purpose of this title as described in section 202; and

“(B) is of sufficient intensity in terms of hours and of sufficient quality to make sustainable changes in a family, is evidence-based, and, for the purpose of substantially increasing the ability of parents and children to read, write, and speak English, integrates—

“(i) interactive literacy activities between parents and their children;

“(ii) training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children;

“(iii) parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency; and

“(iv) an age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

“(6) GOVERNOR.—The term ‘Governor’ means the chief executive officer of a State or outlying area.

“(7) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘individual with a disability’ means an individual with

any disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990).

“(B) INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The term ‘individuals with disabilities’ means more than one individual with a disability.

“(8) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term ‘English learner’ means an adult or out-of-school youth who has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or understanding the English language, and—

“(A) whose native language is a language other than English; or

“(B) who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.

“(9) INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The term ‘integrated education and training’ means services that provide adult education and literacy activities contextually and concurrently with workforce preparation activities and workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster. Such services may include offering adult education services concurrent with postsecondary education and training, including through co-instruction.

“(10) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(11) LITERACY.—The term ‘literacy’ means an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak in English, compute, and solve problems at a level of proficiency necessary to obtain employment and to successfully make the transition to postsecondary education.

“(12) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘local educational agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

“(13) OUTLYING AREA.—The term ‘outlying area’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of this Act.

“(14) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term ‘postsecondary educational institution’ means—

“(A) an institution of higher education that provides not less than a 2-year program of instruction that is acceptable for credit toward a bachelor’s degree;

“(B) a tribally controlled community college; or

“(C) a nonprofit educational institution offering certificate or apprenticeship programs at the postsecondary level.

“(15) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Education.

“(16) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

“(17) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘State educational agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

“(18) WORKPLACE LITERACY PROGRAM.—The term ‘workplace literacy program’ means an educational program that is offered in collaboration between eligible providers and employers or employee organizations for the purpose of improving the productivity of the workforce through the improvement of reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills.

“SEC. 204. HOME SCHOOLS.

“Nothing in this title shall be construed to affect home schools, whether or not a home school is treated as a home school or a private school under State law, or to compel a parent engaged in home schooling to participate in adult education and family literacy education activities under this title.

“SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title, \$606,294,933 for fiscal year 2015 and for each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.

“Subtitle A—Federal Provisions**“SEC. 211. RESERVATION OF FUNDS; GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES; ALLOTMENTS.**

“(a) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 2.0 percent to carry out section 242.

“(b) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award a grant to each eligible agency having a State plan approved under section 224 in an amount equal to the sum of the initial allotment under subsection (c)(1) and the additional allotment under subsection (c)(2) for the eligible agency for the fiscal year, subject to subsections (f) and (g).

“(2) PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a grant under paragraph (1) only if the eligible agency involved agrees to expend the grant in accordance with the provisions of this title.

“(c) ALLOTMENTS.—

“(1) INITIAL ALLOTMENTS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency having a State plan approved under section 224—

“(A) \$100,000, in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area; and

“(B) \$250,000, in the case of any other eligible agency.

“(2) ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS.—From the sums appropriated under section 205, not reserved under subsection (a), and not allotted under paragraph (1), for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency that receives an initial allotment under paragraph (1) an additional amount that bears the same relationship to such sums as the number of qualifying adults in the State or outlying area served by the eligible agency bears to the number of such adults in all States and outlying areas.

“(d) QUALIFYING ADULT.—For the purpose of subsection (c)(2), the term ‘qualifying adult’ means an adult who—

“(1) is at least 16 years of age;

“(2) is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance under the law of the State or outlying area;

“(3) does not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; and

“(4) is not enrolled in secondary school.

“(e) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available under subsection (c) for the Republic of Palau, the Secretary shall award grants to Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Republic of Palau to carry out activities described in this title in accordance with the provisions of this title as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) TERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Republic of Palau shall be eligible to receive a grant under this title until an agreement for the extension of United States education assistance under the Compact of Free Association for the Republic of Palau becomes effective.

“(f) HOLD-HARMLESS PROVISIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (c) and subject to paragraph (2), for—

“(A) fiscal year 2015, no eligible agency shall receive an allotment under this title

that is less than 90 percent of the allotment the eligible agency received for fiscal year 2012 under this title; and

“(B) fiscal year 2016 and each succeeding fiscal year, no eligible agency shall receive an allotment under this title that is less than 90 percent of the allotment the eligible agency received for the preceding fiscal year under this title.

“(2) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If, for any fiscal year the amount available for allotment under this title is insufficient to satisfy the provisions of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ratably reduce the payments to all eligible agencies, as necessary.

“(g) REALLOTMENT.—The portion of any eligible agency’s allotment under this title for a fiscal year that the Secretary determines will not be required for the period such allotment is available for carrying out activities under this title, shall be available for reallocation from time to time, on such dates during such period as the Secretary shall fix, to other eligible agencies in proportion to the original allotments to such agencies under this title for such year.

“SEC. 212. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

“Programs and activities authorized under this title are subject to the performance accountability provisions described in paragraphs (2)(A) and (3) of section 136(b) and may, at a State’s discretion, include additional indicators identified in the State plan approved under section 224.

“Subtitle B—State Provisions**“SEC. 221. STATE ADMINISTRATION.**

“Each eligible agency shall be responsible for the following activities under this title:

“(1) The development, submission, implementation, and monitoring of the State plan.

“(2) Consultation with other appropriate agencies, groups, and individuals that are involved in, or interested in, the development and implementation of activities assisted under this title.

“(3) Coordination and avoidance of duplication with other Federal and State education, training, corrections, public housing, and social service programs.

“SEC. 222. STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS; MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

“(a) STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Each eligible agency receiving a grant under this title for a fiscal year—

“(1) shall use not less than 82.5 percent of the grant funds to award grants and contracts under section 231 and to carry out section 225, of which not more than 10 percent of such amount shall be available to carry out section 225;

“(2) shall use not more than 12.5 percent of the grant funds to carry out State leadership activities under section 223; and

“(3) shall use not more than 5 percent of the grant funds, or \$65,000, whichever is greater, for the administrative expenses of the eligible agency.

“(b) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive a grant from the Secretary under section 211(b), each eligible agency shall provide, for the costs to be incurred by the eligible agency in carrying out the adult education and family literacy education programs for which the grant is awarded, a non-Federal contribution in an amount that is not less than—

“(A) in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area, 12 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs in the outlying area, except that the Secretary may decrease the amount of funds

required under this subparagraph for an eligible agency; and

“(B) in the case of an eligible agency serving a State, 25 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs in the State.

“(2) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—An eligible agency’s non-Federal contribution required under paragraph (1) may be provided in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, and shall include only non-Federal funds that are used for adult education and family literacy education programs in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of this title.

“SEC. 223. STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible agency may use funds made available under section 222(a)(2) for any of the following adult education and family literacy education programs:

“(1) The establishment or operation of professional development programs to improve the quality of instruction provided pursuant to local activities required under section 231(b).

“(2) The provision of technical assistance to eligible providers of adult education and family literacy education programs, including for the development and dissemination of evidence based research instructional practices in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, and English language acquisition programs.

“(3) The provision of assistance to eligible providers in developing, implementing, and reporting measurable progress in achieving the objectives of this title.

“(4) The monitoring and evaluation of the quality of, and the improvement in, adult education and literacy activities.

“(5) The provision of technology assistance, including staff training, to eligible providers of adult education and family literacy education programs, including distance education activities, to enable the eligible providers to improve the quality of such activities.

“(6) The development and implementation of technology applications or distance education, including professional development to support the use of instructional technology.

“(7) Coordination with other public programs, including programs under title I of this Act, and other welfare-to-work, workforce development, and job training programs.

“(8) Coordination with existing support services, such as transportation, child care, and other assistance designed to increase rates of enrollment in, and successful completion of, adult education and family literacy education programs, for adults enrolled in such activities.

“(9) The development and implementation of a system to assist in the transition from adult basic education to postsecondary education.

“(10) Activities to promote workplace literacy programs.

“(11) Other activities of statewide significance, including assisting eligible providers in achieving progress in improving the skill levels of adults who participate in programs under this title.

“(12) Integration of literacy, instructional, and occupational skill training and promotion of linkages with employees.

“(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, eligible agencies shall coordinate where possible, and avoid duplicating efforts, in order to maximize the impact of the activities described in subsection (a).

“(c) **STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS.**—Whenever a State or outlying area implements any rule or policy relating to the administration or operation of a program authorized under this title that has the effect of imposing a requirement that is not imposed under Federal law (including any rule or policy based on a State or outlying area interpretation of a Federal statute, regulation, or guideline), the State or outlying area shall identify, to eligible providers, the rule or policy as being imposed by the State or outlying area.

“SEC. 224. STATE PLAN.

“(a) **3-YEAR PLANS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each eligible agency desiring a grant under this title for any fiscal year shall submit to, or have on file with, the Secretary a 3-year State plan.

“(2) **STATE UNIFIED PLAN.**—The eligible agency may submit the State plan as part of a State unified plan described in section 501.

“(b) **PLAN CONTENTS.**—The eligible agency shall include in the State plan or any revisions to the State plan—

“(1) an objective assessment of the needs of individuals in the State or outlying area for adult education and family literacy education programs, including individuals most in need or hardest to serve;

“(2) a description of the adult education and family literacy education programs that will be carried out with funds received under this title;

“(3) an assurance that the funds received under this title will not be expended for any purpose other than for activities under this title;

“(4) a description of how the eligible agency will annually evaluate and measure the effectiveness and improvement of the adult education and family literacy education programs funded under this title using the indicators of performance described in section 136, including how the eligible agency will conduct such annual evaluations and measures for each grant received under this title;

“(5) a description of how the eligible agency will fund local activities in accordance with the measurable goals described in section 231(d);

“(6) an assurance that the eligible agency will expend the funds under this title only in a manner consistent with fiscal requirements in section 241;

“(7) a description of the process that will be used for public participation and comment with respect to the State plan, which—

“(A) shall include consultation with the State workforce investment board, the State board responsible for administering community or technical colleges, the Governor, the State educational agency, the State board or agency responsible for administering block grants for temporary assistance to needy families under title IV of the Social Security Act, the State council on disabilities, the State vocational rehabilitation agency, and other State agencies that promote the improvement of adult education and family literacy education programs, and direct providers of such programs; and

“(B) may include consultation with the State agency on higher education, institutions responsible for professional development of adult education and family literacy education programs instructors, representatives of business and industry, refugee assistance programs, and faith-based organizations;

“(8) a description of the eligible agency's strategies for serving populations that include, at a minimum—

“(A) low-income individuals;

“(B) individuals with disabilities;

“(C) the unemployed;

“(D) the underemployed; and

“(E) individuals with multiple barriers to educational enhancement, including English learners;

“(9) a description of how the adult education and family literacy education programs that will be carried out with any funds received under this title will be integrated with other adult education, career development, and employment and training activities in the State or outlying area served by the eligible agency;

“(10) a description of the steps the eligible agency will take to ensure direct and equitable access, as required in section 231(c)(1), including—

“(A) how the State will build the capacity of community-based and faith-based organizations to provide adult education and family literacy education programs; and

“(B) how the State will increase the participation of business and industry in adult education and family literacy education programs;

“(11) an assessment of the adequacy of the system of the State or outlying area to ensure teacher quality and a description of how the State or outlying area will use funds received under this subtitle to improve teacher quality, including evidence-based professional development to improve instruction; and

“(12) a description of how the eligible agency will consult with any State agency responsible for postsecondary education to develop adult education that prepares students to enter postsecondary education without the need for remediation upon completion of secondary school equivalency programs.

“(c) **PLAN REVISIONS.**—When changes in conditions or other factors require substantial revisions to an approved State plan, the eligible agency shall submit the revisions of the State plan to the Secretary.

“(d) **CONSULTATION.**—The eligible agency shall—

“(1) submit the State plan, and any revisions to the State plan, to the Governor, the chief State school officer, or the State officer responsible for administering community or technical colleges, or outlying area for review and comment; and

“(2) ensure that any comments regarding the State plan by the Governor, the chief State school officer, or the State officer responsible for administering community or technical colleges, and any revision to the State plan, are submitted to the Secretary.

“(e) **PLAN APPROVAL.**—The Secretary shall—

“(1) approve a State plan within 90 days after receiving the plan unless the Secretary makes a written determination within 30 days after receiving the plan that the plan does not meet the requirements of this section or is inconsistent with specific provisions of this subtitle; and

“(2) not finally disapprove of a State plan before offering the eligible agency the opportunity, prior to the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the eligible agency received the written determination described in paragraph (1), to review the plan and providing technical assistance in order to assist the eligible agency in meeting the requirements of this subtitle.

“SEC. 225. PROGRAMS FOR CORRECTIONS EDUCATION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONALIZED INDIVIDUALS.

“(a) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—From funds made available under section 222(a)(1) for a fiscal year, each eligible agency shall carry

out corrections education and education for other institutionalized individuals.

“(b) **USES OF FUNDS.**—The funds described in subsection (a) shall be used for the cost of educational programs for criminal offenders in correctional institutions and for other institutionalized individuals, including academic programs for—

“(1) basic skills education;

“(2) special education programs as determined by the eligible agency;

“(3) reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics programs;

“(4) secondary school credit or diploma programs or their recognized equivalent; and

“(5) integrated education and training.

“(c) **PRIORITY.**—Each eligible agency that is using assistance provided under this section to carry out a program for criminal offenders within a correctional institution shall give priority to serving individuals who are likely to leave the correctional institution within 5 years of participation in the program.

“(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.**—The term ‘correctional institution’ means any—

“(A) prison;

“(B) jail;

“(C) reformatory;

“(D) work farm;

“(E) detention center; or

“(F) halfway house, community-based rehabilitation center, or any other similar institution designed for the confinement or rehabilitation of criminal offenders.

“(2) **CRIMINAL OFFENDER.**—The term ‘criminal offender’ means any individual who is charged with, or convicted of, any criminal offense.

“Subtitle C—Local Provisions

“SEC. 231. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.

“(a) **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.**—From grant funds made available under section 222(a)(1), each eligible agency shall award multi-year grants or contracts, on a competitive basis, to eligible providers within the State or outlying area that meet the conditions and requirements of this title to enable the eligible providers to develop, implement, and improve adult education and family literacy education programs within the State.

“(b) **LOCAL ACTIVITIES.**—The eligible agency shall require eligible providers receiving a grant or contract under subsection (a) to establish or operate—

“(1) programs that provide adult education and literacy activities;

“(2) programs that provide integrated education and training activities; or

“(3) credit-bearing postsecondary coursework.

“(c) **DIRECT AND EQUITABLE ACCESS; SAME PROCESS.**—Each eligible agency receiving funds under this title shall ensure that—

“(1) all eligible providers have direct and equitable access to apply for grants or contracts under this section; and

“(2) the same grant or contract announcement process and application process is used for all eligible providers in the State or outlying area.

“(d) **MEASURABLE GOALS.**—The eligible agency shall require eligible providers receiving a grant or contract under subsection (a) to demonstrate—

“(1) the eligible provider's measurable goals for participant outcomes to be achieved annually on the core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A);

“(2) the past effectiveness of the eligible provider in improving the basic academic skills of adults and, for eligible providers receiving grants in the prior year, the success

of the eligible provider receiving funding under this title in exceeding its performance goals in the prior year;

“(3) the commitment of the eligible provider to serve individuals in the community who are the most in need of basic academic skills instruction services, including individuals with disabilities and individuals who are low-income or have minimal reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills, or are English learners;

“(4) the program is of sufficient intensity and quality for participants to achieve substantial learning gains;

“(5) educational practices are evidence-based;

“(6) the activities of the eligible provider effectively employ advances in technology, and delivery systems including distance education;

“(7) the activities provide instruction in real-life contexts, including integrated education and training when appropriate, to ensure that an individual has the skills needed to compete in the workplace and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;

“(8) the activities are staffed by well-trained instructors, counselors, and administrators who meet minimum qualifications established by the State;

“(9) the activities are coordinated with other available resources in the community, such as through strong links with elementary schools and secondary schools, postsecondary educational institutions, local workforce investment boards, one-stop centers, job training programs, community-based and faith-based organizations, and social service agencies;

“(10) the activities offer flexible schedules and support services (such as child care and transportation) that are necessary to enable individuals, including individuals with disabilities or other special needs, to attend and complete programs;

“(11) the activities include a high-quality information management system that has the capacity to report measurable participant outcomes (consistent with section 136) and to monitor program performance;

“(12) the local communities have a demonstrated need for additional English language acquisition programs, and integrated education and training programs;

“(13) the capacity of the eligible provider to produce valid information on performance results, including enrollments and measurable participant outcomes;

“(14) adult education and family literacy education programs offer rigorous reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics content that are evidence based; and

“(15) applications of technology, and services to be provided by the eligible providers, are of sufficient intensity and duration to increase the amount and quality of learning and lead to measurable learning gains within specified time periods.

“(e) **SPECIAL RULE.**—Eligible providers may use grant funds under this title to serve children participating in family literacy programs assisted under this part, provided that other sources of funds available to provide similar services for such children are used first.

“SEC. 232. LOCAL APPLICATION.

“Each eligible provider desiring a grant or contract under this title shall submit an application to the eligible agency containing such information and assurances as the eligible agency may require, including—

“(1) a description of how funds awarded under this title will be spent consistent with the requirements of this title;

“(2) a description of any cooperative arrangements the eligible provider has with other agencies, institutions, or organizations for the delivery of adult education and family literacy education programs; and

“(3) each of the demonstrations required by section 231(d).

“SEC. 233. LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMITS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (b), of the amount that is made available under this title to an eligible provider—

“(1) at least 95 percent shall be expended for carrying out adult education and family literacy education programs; and

“(2) the remaining amount shall be used for planning, administration, personnel and professional development, development of measurable goals in reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics, and interagency coordination.

“(b) **SPECIAL RULE.**—In cases where the cost limits described in subsection (a) are too restrictive to allow for adequate planning, administration, personnel development, and interagency coordination, the eligible provider may negotiate with the eligible agency in order to determine an adequate level of funds to be used for noninstructional purposes.

“Subtitle D—General Provisions

“SEC. 241. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

“Funds made available for adult education and family literacy education programs under this title shall supplement and not supplant other State or local public funds expended for adult education and family literacy education programs.

“SEC. 242. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

“The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program of national activities that may include the following:

“(1) Providing technical assistance to eligible entities, on request, to—

“(A) improve their fiscal management, research-based instruction, and reporting requirements to carry out the requirements of this title;

“(B) improve its performance on the core indicators of performance described in section 136;

“(C) provide adult education professional development; and

“(D) use distance education and improve the application of technology in the classroom, including instruction in English language acquisition for English learners.

“(2) Providing for the conduct of research on national literacy basic skill acquisition levels among adults, including the number of adult English learners functioning at different levels of reading proficiency.

“(3) Improving the coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness of adult education and workforce development services at the national, State, and local levels.

“(4) Determining how participation in adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs prepares individuals for entry into and success in postsecondary education and employment, and in the case of prison-based services, the effect on recidivism.

“(5) Evaluating how different types of providers, including community and faith-based organizations or private for-profit agencies measurably improve the skills of participants in adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs.

“(6) Identifying model integrated basic and workplace skills education programs, including programs for English learners coordinated literacy and employment services, and

effective strategies for serving adults with disabilities.

“(7) Initiating other activities designed to improve the measurable quality and effectiveness of adult education, English language acquisition, and family literacy education programs nationwide.”

Subtitle C—Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act

SEC. 466. AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT.

Section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 15. WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.

“(a) **SYSTEM CONTENT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Labor (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’), in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall oversee the development, maintenance, and continuous improvement of a nationwide workforce and labor market information system that includes—

“(A) statistical data from cooperative statistical survey and projection programs and data from administrative reporting systems that, taken together, enumerate, estimate, and project employment opportunities and conditions at national, State, and local levels in a timely manner, including statistics on—

“(i) employment and unemployment status of national, State, and local populations, including self-employed, part-time, and seasonal workers;

“(ii) industrial distribution of occupations, as well as current and projected employment opportunities, wages, benefits (where data is available), and skill trends by occupation and industry, with particular attention paid to State and local conditions;

“(iii) the incidence of, industrial and geographical location of, and number of workers displaced by, permanent layoffs and plant closings; and

“(iv) employment and earnings information maintained in a longitudinal manner to be used for research and program evaluation;

“(B) information on State and local employment opportunities, and other appropriate statistical data related to labor market dynamics, which—

“(i) shall be current and comprehensive;

“(ii) shall meet the needs identified through the consultations described in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (e)(1); and

“(iii) shall meet the needs for the information identified in section 121(e)(1)(E) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841(e)(1)(E));

“(C) technical standards (which the Secretary shall publish annually) for data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) that, at a minimum, meet the criteria of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code;

“(D) procedures to ensure compatibility and additivity of the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) from national, State, and local levels;

“(E) procedures to support standardization and aggregation of data from administrative reporting systems described in subparagraph (A) of employment-related programs;

“(F) analysis of data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) for uses such as—

“(i) national, State, and local policy-making;

“(ii) implementation of Federal policies (including allocation formulas);

“(iii) program planning and evaluation; and

“(iv) researching labor market dynamics;“(G) wide dissemination of such data, information, and analysis in a user-friendly manner and voluntary technical standards for dissemination mechanisms; and“(H) programs of—

“(i) training for effective data dissemination;“(ii) research and demonstration; and“(iii) programs and technical assistance.

“(2) INFORMATION TO BE CONFIDENTIAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No officer or employee of the Federal Government or agent of the Federal Government may—

“(i) use any submission that is furnished for exclusively statistical purposes under the provisions of this section for any purpose other than the statistical purposes for which the submission is furnished;“(ii) disclose to the public any publication or media transmittal of the data contained in the submission described in clause (i) that permits information concerning an individual subject to be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means; or

“(iii) permit anyone other than a sworn officer, employee, or agent of any Federal department or agency, or a contractor (including an employee of a contractor) of such department or agency, to examine an individual submission described in clause (i), without the consent of the individual, agency, or other person who is the subject of the submission or provides that submission.

“(B) IMMUNITY FROM LEGAL PROCESS.—Any submission (including any data derived from the submission) that is collected and retained by a Federal department or agency, or an officer, employee, agent, or contractor of such a department or agency, for exclusively statistical purposes under this section shall be immune from the legal process and shall not, without the consent of the individual, agency, or other person who is the subject of the submission or provides that submission, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial or administrative proceeding.

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide immunity from the legal process for such submission (including any data derived from the submission) if the submission is in the possession of any person, agency, or entity other than the Federal Government or an officer, employee, agent, or contractor of the Federal Government, or if the submission is independently collected, retained, or produced for purposes other than the purposes of this Act.

“(b) SYSTEM RESPONSIBILITIES.—“(1) IN GENERAL.—The workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) shall be planned, administered, overseen, and evaluated through a cooperative governance structure involving the Federal Government and States.

“(2) DUTIES.—The Secretary, with respect to data collection, analysis, and dissemination of workforce and labor market information for the system, shall carry out the following duties:

“(A) Assign responsibilities within the Department of Labor for elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) to ensure that all statistical and administrative data collected is consistent with appropriate Bureau of Labor Statistics standards and definitions.

“(B) Actively seek the cooperation of other Federal agencies to establish and maintain mechanisms for ensuring complementarity and nonduplication in the development and operation of statistical and administrative data collection activities.

“(C) Eliminate gaps and duplication in statistical undertakings, with the systemization of wage surveys as an early priority.

“(D) In collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and States, develop and maintain the elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a), including the development of consistent procedures and definitions for use by the States in collecting the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1).

“(E) Establish procedures for the system to ensure that—

“(i) such data and information are timely;

“(ii) paperwork and reporting for the system are reduced to a minimum; and

“(iii) States and localities are fully involved in the development and continuous improvement of the system at all levels.

“(c) NATIONAL ELECTRONIC TOOLS TO PROVIDE SERVICES.—The Secretary is authorized to assist in the development of national electronic tools that may be used to facilitate the delivery of work ready services described in section 134(c)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c)(2)) and to provide workforce and labor market information to individuals through the one-stop delivery systems described in section 121 and through other appropriate delivery systems.

“(d) COORDINATION WITH THE STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, working through the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration, shall regularly consult with representatives of State agencies carrying out workforce information activities regarding strategies for improving the workforce and labor market information system.

“(2) FORMAL CONSULTATIONS.—At least twice each year, the Secretary, working through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall conduct formal consultations regarding programs carried out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics with representatives of each of the Federal regions of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, elected (pursuant to a process established by the Secretary) from the State directors affiliated with State agencies that perform the duties described in subsection (e)(1).

“(e) STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive Federal financial assistance under this section, the Governor of a State shall—

“(A) be responsible for the management of the portions of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) that comprise a statewide workforce and labor market information system;

“(B) establish a process for the oversight of such system;

“(C) consult with State and local employers, participants, and local workforce investment boards about the labor market relevance of the data to be collected and disseminated through the statewide workforce and labor market information system;

“(D) consult with State educational agencies and local educational agencies concerning the provision of workforce and labor market information in order to meet the needs of secondary school and postsecondary school students who seek such information;

“(E) collect and disseminate for the system, on behalf of the State and localities in the State, the information and data described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1);

“(F) maintain and continuously improve the statewide workforce and labor market information system in accordance with this section;

“(G) perform contract and grant responsibilities for data collection, analysis, and dissemination for such system;

“(H) conduct such other data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities as will ensure an effective statewide workforce and labor market information system;

“(I) actively seek the participation of other State and local agencies in data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities in order to ensure complementarity, compatibility, and usefulness of data;

“(J) participate in the development of, and submit to the Secretary, an annual plan to carry out the requirements and authorities of this subsection; and

“(K) utilize the quarterly records described in section 136(f)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(f)(2)) to assist the State and other States in measuring State progress on State performance measures.

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the ability of a Governor to conduct additional data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities with State funds or with Federal funds from sources other than this section.

“(f) NONDUPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—None of the functions and activities carried out pursuant to this section shall duplicate the functions and activities carried out under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$60,153,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.”

Subtitle D—Repeals and Conforming Amendments

SEC. 471. REPEALS.

The following provisions are repealed:

(1) Chapter 4 of subtitle B of title I, and sections 123, 155, 166, 167, 168, 169, 171, 173, 173A, 174, 192, 194, 502, 503, and 506 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the SKILLS Act.

(2) Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.).

(3) Sections 1 through 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.).

(4) The Twenty-First Century Workforce Commission Act (29 U.S.C. 2701 note).

(5) Public Law 91-378, 16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq. (popularly known as the “Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970”).

(6) Section 821 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 1151).

(7) The Women in Apprenticeship and Non-traditional Occupations Act (29 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.).

(8) Sections 4103A and 4104 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 472. AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.—

(1) DEFINITION.—Section 3(t) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(t)) is amended—

(A) by striking “means (1) the agency” and inserting the following: “means—

“(A) the agency”;

(B) by striking “programs, and (2) the tribal” and inserting the following: “programs;

“(B) the tribal”; and

(C) by striking “this Act.” and inserting the following: “this Act; and

“(C) in the context of employment and training activities under section 6(d)(4), a State board as defined in section 101 of the

Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801)."

(2) **ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.**—Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(14) by striking "section 6(d)(4)(I)" and inserting "section 6(d)(4)(C)", and

(B) in subsection (g)(3), in the first sentence, by striking "constitutes adequate participation in an employment and training program under section 6(d)" and inserting "allows the individual to participate in employment and training activities under section 6(d)(4)".

(3) **ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATIONS.**—Section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

"(D) **EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.**—

"(i) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Each State agency shall provide employment and training services authorized under section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864) to eligible members of households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program in gaining skills, training, work, or experience that will increase their ability to obtain regular employment.

"(ii) **STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.**—Consistent with subparagraph (A), employment and training services shall be provided through the statewide workforce development system, including the one-stop delivery system authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.).

"(iii) **REIMBURSEMENTS.**—

"(I) **ACTUAL COSTS.**—The State agency shall provide payments or reimbursement to participants served under this paragraph for—

"(aa) the actual costs of transportation and other actual costs (other than dependent care costs) that are reasonably necessary and directly related to the individual participating in employment and training activities; and

"(bb) the actual costs of such dependent care expenses as are determined by the State agency to be necessary for the individual to participate in employment and training activities (other than an individual who is the caretaker relative of a dependent in a family receiving benefits under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) in a local area where an employment, training, or education program under title IV of that Act is in operation), except that no such payment or reimbursement shall exceed the applicable local market rate.

"(II) **SERVICE CONTRACTS AND VOUCHERS.**—In lieu of providing reimbursements or payments for dependent care expenses under clause (i), a State agency may, at the option of the State agency, arrange for dependent care through providers by the use of purchase of service contracts or vouchers or by providing vouchers to the household.

"(III) **VALUE OF REIMBURSEMENTS.**—The value of any dependent care services provided for or arranged under clause (ii), or any amount received as a payment or reimbursement under clause (i), shall—

"(aa) not be treated as income for the purposes of any other Federal or federally assisted program that bases eligibility for, or the amount of benefits on, need; and

"(bb) not be claimed as an employment-related expense for the purposes of the credit provided under section 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 21)."

(4) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 11(e)(19) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(11)) is amended to read as follows:

"(S) the plans of the State agency for providing employment and training services under section 6(d)(4);".

(5) **ADMINISTRATIVE COST-SHARING AND QUALITY CONTROL.**—Section 16(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking "carry out employment and training programs" and inserting "provide employment and training services to eligible households under section 6(d)(4); and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking "operating an employment and training program" and inserting "providing employment and training services consistent with section 6(d)(4);"

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking "participation in an employment and training program" and inserting "the individual participating in employment and training activities"; and

(ii) by striking "section 6(d)(4)(I)(II)" and inserting "section 6(d)(4)(C)(i)(II)";

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking "for operating an employment and training program" and inserting "to provide employment and training services"; and

(D) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

"(E) **MONITORING.**—

"(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor, shall monitor each State agency responsible for administering employment and training services under section 6(d)(4) to ensure funds are being spent effectively and efficiently.

"(ii) **ACCOUNTABILITY.**—Each program of employment and training receiving funds under section 6(d)(4) shall be subject to the requirements of the performance accountability system, including having to meet the State performance measures described in section 136 of the Workforce Investment Act (29 U.S.C. 2871)."

(6) **RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATION, AND EVALUATIONS.**—Section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(B)(iv)(III)(dd), by striking ", (4)(F)(i), or (4)(K)" and inserting "or (4)"; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) in subsection (g), in the first sentence in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "programs established" and inserting "activities provided to eligible households"; and

(ii) by inserting ", in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor," after "Secretary".

(7) **MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PROJECT.**—Section 22(b)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2031(b)(4)) is amended by striking "equivalent to those offered under the employment and training program".

(b) **AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 412 OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.**—

(1) **CONDITIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS.**—Section 412(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking "make available sufficient resources for employment training and placement" and inserting "provide refugees with the opportunity to access employment and training services, including job placement"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking "services;" and inserting "services provided through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.);"

(B) in paragraph (2)(C)(iii)(II), by inserting "and training" after "employment";

(C) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii)—

(i) by striking "insure" and inserting "ensure";

(ii) by inserting "and training" after "employment"; and

(iii) by inserting after "available" the following: "through the one-stop delivery system under section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841)"; and

(D) in paragraph (9), by inserting "the Secretary of Labor," after "Education,".

(2) **PROGRAM OF INITIAL RESETTLEMENT.**—Section 412(b)(2) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) by striking "orientation, instruction" and inserting "orientation and instruction"; and

(B) by striking ", and job training for refugees, and such other education and training of refugees, as facilitates" and inserting "for refugees to facilitate".

(3) **PROJECT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES FOR REFUGEES.**—Section 412(c) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting "and training" after "employment"; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C);

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "paragraph—" and all that follows through "in a manner" and inserting "paragraph in a manner"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(C) In carrying out this section, the Director shall ensure that employment and training services are provided through the statewide workforce development system, as appropriate, authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.). Such action may include—

"(i) making employment and training activities described in section 134 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864) available to refugees; and

"(ii) providing refugees with access to a one-stop delivery system established under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841)."

(4) **CASH ASSISTANCE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES.**—Section 412(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(i), by inserting "and training" after "providing employment"; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "The" and inserting "Consistent with subsection (c)(3), the".

(c) **AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007.**—

(1) **FEDERAL PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE.**—Section 231 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17541) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(E)—

(i) by inserting "the Department of Labor and" before "other Federal agencies"; and

(ii) by inserting "State and local workforce investment boards," after "community-based organizations,";

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking at the end "and";

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking at the end the period and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(D) to coordinate reentry programs with the employment and training services provided through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.); and

(C) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(F) **INTERACTION WITH THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM.**—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall ensure that employment and training services, including such employment and services offered through reentry programs, are provided, as appropriate, through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), which may include—

“(I) making employment and training services available to prisoners prior to and immediately following the release of such prisoners; or

“(II) providing prisoners with access by remote means to a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841) in the State in which the prison involved is located.

“(ii) SERVICE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘employment and training services’ means those services described in section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864) offered by the Bureau of Prisons, including—

“(I) the skills assessment described in subsection (a)(1)(A);

“(II) the skills development plan described in subsection (a)(1)(B); and

“(III) the enhancement, development, and implementation of reentry and skills development programs.”.

(2) DUTIES OF THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.—Section 4042(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E), as added by section 231(d)(1)(C) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199; 122 Stat. 685), as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(B) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(C) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking “Employment” and inserting “Employment and training services (as defined in paragraph (6) of section 231(d) of the Second Chance Act of 2007), including basic skills attainment, consistent with such paragraph”; and

(ii) by striking clause (iii); and

(D) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), (iv), (v), (vi), and (vii) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly.

(d) AMENDMENTS TO THE OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT OF 1968.—Section 2976 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797w) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career and technical education (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) and training”;;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(D) coordinating employment and training services provided through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), including a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841), for offenders upon release from prison, jail, or a juvenile facility, as appropriate;”;

(2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “, including local workforce investment boards established under section 117 of the Work-

force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2832),” after “nonprofit organizations”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “victims services, and employment services” and inserting “and victim services”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(D) provides employment and training services through the statewide workforce investment system under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), including a one-stop delivery system under section 121 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841);”;

(4) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, in accordance with paragraph (2)” after “under this section”;;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(B) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—The Attorney General shall require each grantee under this section to measure the core indicators of performance as described in section 136(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A)) with respect to the program of such grantee funded with a grant under this section.”.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3672(d)(1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists under section 4103A” and inserting “veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”;

(2) in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 41, by striking the items relating to sections 4103A and 4104;

(3) in section 4102A—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), and (7); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (5);

(B) by striking subsections (c) and (h);

(C) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f); and

(D) in subsection (e)(1) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “, including disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representatives providing employment, training, and placement services under this chapter in a State”;; and

(ii) by striking “for purposes of subsection (c)”;

(4) in section 4104A—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(i) the appropriate veteran employment specialist (in carrying out the functions described in section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998);”;

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(i) collaborate with the appropriate veteran employment specialist (as described in section 134(f)) and the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801));”;

(5) in section 4109—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representative” and inserting “veteran employment special-

ists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representatives” and inserting “veteran employment specialists appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”; and

(6) in section 4112(d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialist” and inserting “veteran employment specialist appointed under section 134(f) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(f) COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT OF 1980.—Section 104(k)(6)(A) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “training, research, and” and inserting “research and”.

SEC. 473. CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents in section 1(b) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

“Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

“TITLE I—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS

“Subtitle A—Workforce Investment Definitions

“Sec. 101. Definitions.

“Subtitle B—Statewide and Local Workforce Investment Systems

“Sec. 106. Purpose.

“CHAPTER 1—STATE PROVISIONS

“Sec. 111. State workforce investment boards.

“Sec. 112. State plan.

“CHAPTER 2—LOCAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 116. Local workforce investment areas.

“Sec. 117. Local workforce investment boards.

“Sec. 118. Local plan.

“CHAPTER 3—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES PROVIDERS

“Sec. 121. Establishment of one-stop delivery systems.

“Sec. 122. Identification of eligible providers of training services.

“CHAPTER 5—EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

“Sec. 131. General authorization.

“Sec. 132. State allotments.

“Sec. 133. Within State allocations.

“Sec. 134. Use of funds for employment and training activities.

“CHAPTER 6—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 136. Performance accountability system.

“Sec. 137. Authorization of appropriations.

“Subtitle C—Job Corps

“Sec. 141. Purposes.

“Sec. 142. Definitions.

“Sec. 143. Establishment.

“Sec. 144. Individuals eligible for the Job Corps.

“Sec. 145. Recruitment, screening, selection, and assignment of enrollees.

“Sec. 146. Enrollment.

“Sec. 147. Job Corps centers.

“Sec. 148. Program activities.

“Sec. 149. Counseling and job placement.

“Sec. 150. Support.

“Sec. 151. Operations.

“Sec. 152. Standards of conduct.
 “Sec. 153. Community participation.
 “Sec. 154. Workforce councils.
 “Sec. 156. Technical assistance to centers.
 “Sec. 157. Application of provisions of Federal law.
 “Sec. 158. Special provisions.
 “Sec. 159. Performance accountability and management.
 “Sec. 160. General provisions.
 “Sec. 161. Authorization of appropriations.
 “Subtitle D—National Programs
 “Sec. 170. Technical assistance.
 “Sec. 172. Evaluations.
 “Subtitle E—Administration
 “Sec. 181. Requirements and restrictions.
 “Sec. 182. Prompt allocation of funds.
 “Sec. 183. Monitoring.
 “Sec. 184. Fiscal controls; sanctions.
 “Sec. 185. Reports; recordkeeping; investigations.
 “Sec. 186. Administrative adjudication.
 “Sec. 187. Judicial review.
 “Sec. 188. Nondiscrimination.
 “Sec. 189. Administrative provisions.
 “Sec. 190. References.
 “Sec. 191. State legislative authority.
 “Sec. 193. Transfer of Federal equity in State employment security real property to the States.
 “Sec. 195. General program requirements.
 “Sec. 196. Federal agency staff.
 “Sec. 197. Restrictions on lobbying and political activities.
 “Subtitle F—Repeals and Conforming Amendments
 “Sec. 199. Repeals.
 “Sec. 199A. Conforming amendments.
 “TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY EDUCATION
 “Sec. 201. Short title.
 “Sec. 202. Purpose.
 “Sec. 203. Definitions.
 “Sec. 204. Home schools.
 “Sec. 205. Authorization of appropriations.
 “Subtitle A—Federal Provisions
 “Sec. 211. Reservation of funds; grants to eligible agencies; allotments.
 “Sec. 212. Performance accountability system.
 “Subtitle B—State Provisions
 “Sec. 221. State administration.
 “Sec. 222. State distribution of funds; matching requirement.
 “Sec. 223. State leadership activities.
 “Sec. 224. State plan.
 “Sec. 225. Programs for corrections education and other institutionalized individuals.
 “Subtitle C—Local Provisions
 “Sec. 231. Grants and contracts for eligible providers.
 “Sec. 232. Local application.
 “Sec. 233. Local administrative cost limits.
 “Subtitle D—General Provisions
 “Sec. 241. Administrative provisions.
 “Sec. 242. National activities.
 “TITLE III—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT-RELATED ACTIVITIES
 “Subtitle A—Wagner-Peyser Act
 “Sec. 301. Definitions.
 “Sec. 302. Functions.
 “Sec. 303. Designation of State agencies.
 “Sec. 304. Appropriations.
 “Sec. 305. Disposition of allotted funds.
 “Sec. 306. State plans.
 “Sec. 307. Repeal of Federal advisory council.
 “Sec. 308. Regulations.
 “Sec. 309. Employment statistics.

“Sec. 310. Technical amendments.
 “Sec. 311. Effective date.
 “Subtitle B—Linkages With Other Programs
 “Sec. 321. Trade Act of 1974.
 “Sec. 322. Veterans’ employment programs.
 “Sec. 323. Older Americans Act of 1965.
 “Subtitle D—Application of Civil Rights and Labor-Management Laws to the Smithsonian Institution
 “Sec. 341. Application of civil rights and labor-management laws to the Smithsonian Institution.
 “TITLE IV—REHABILITATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1998
 “Sec. 401. Short title.
 “Sec. 402. Title.
 “Sec. 403. General provisions.
 “Sec. 404. Vocational rehabilitation services.
 “Sec. 405. Research and training.
 “Sec. 406. Professional development and special projects and demonstrations.
 “Sec. 407. National Council on Disability.
 “Sec. 408. Rights and advocacy.
 “Sec. 409. Employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
 “Sec. 410. Independent living services and centers for independent living.
 “Sec. 411. Repeal.
 “Sec. 412. Helen Keller National Center Act.
 “Sec. 413. President’s Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities.
 “Sec. 414. Conforming amendments.
 “TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS
 “Sec. 501. State unified plan.
 “Sec. 504. Privacy.
 “Sec. 505. Buy-American requirements.
 “Sec. 507. Effective date.”

Subtitle E—Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

SEC. 476. FINDINGS.

Section 2(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) there is a substantial need to improve and expand services for students with disabilities under this Act.”.

SEC. 477. REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3(a) (29 U.S.C. 702(a))—

(A) by striking “Office of the Secretary” and inserting “Department of Education”; and

(B) by striking “President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate” and inserting “Secretary”; and

(C) by striking “, and the Commissioner shall be the principal officer;”;

(2) by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears (except in section 21) and inserting “Director”;

(3) in section 12(c) (29 U.S.C. 709(c)), by striking “Commissioner’s” and inserting “Director’s”;

(4) in section 21 (29 U.S.C. 718)—

(i) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) by striking “Commissioner” the first place it appears and inserting “Director of the Rehabilitation Services Administration”;

(ii) by striking “(referred to in this subsection as the ‘Director’)”; and

(iii) by striking “The Commissioner and the Director” and inserting “Both such Directors”; and

(B) by striking “the Commissioner and the Director” each place it appears and inserting “both such Directors”;

(5) in the heading for subparagraph (B) of section 100(d)(2) (29 U.S.C. 720(d)(2)), by striking “COMMISSIONER” and inserting “DIRECTOR”;

(6) in section 401(a)(1) (29 U.S.C. 781(a)(1)), by inserting “of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research” after “Director”;

(7) in the heading for section 706 (29 U.S.C. 796d-1), by striking “COMMISSIONER” and inserting “DIRECTOR”; and

(8) in the heading for paragraph (3) of section 723(a) (29 U.S.C. 796f-2(a)), by striking “COMMISSIONER” and inserting “DIRECTOR”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall—

(1) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply with respect to the appointments of Directors of the Rehabilitation Services Administration made on or after the date of enactment of this Act, and the Directors so appointed.

SEC. 478. DEFINITIONS.

Section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (35) through (39) as paragraphs (36) through (40), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (A)(ii) of paragraph (36) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking “paragraph (36)(C)” and inserting “paragraph (37)(C)”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (34) the following:

“(35)(A) The term ‘student with a disability’ means an individual with a disability who—

“(i) is not younger than 16 and not older than 21;

“(ii) has been determined to be eligible under section 102(a) for assistance under this title; and

“(iii)(I) is eligible for, and is receiving, special education under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.); or

“(II) is an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504.

“(B) The term ‘students with disabilities’ means more than 1 student with a disability.”.

SEC. 479. CARRYOVER.

Section 19(a)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 716(a)(1)) is amended by striking “part B of title VI.”.

SEC. 480. TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

Section 21 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 718) is amended, in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A) of subsection (b), and in subsection (c), by striking “VI.”.

SEC. 481. STATE PLAN.

Section 101(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 721(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “on the eligible individuals” and all that follows and inserting “of information necessary to assess the State’s performance on the core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A)).”; and

(B) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking “, to the extent the measures are applicable to individuals with disabilities”;

(2) in paragraph (11)—

(A) in subparagraph (D)(i), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, which may be provided using alternative means of meeting participation (such as participation

through video conferences and conference calls"); and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(G) COORDINATION WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit and the lead agency or implementing entity responsible for carrying out duties under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) have developed working relationships and coordinate their activities.";

(3) in paragraph (15)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking "and" at the end;

(II) in subclause (III), by adding "and" at the end; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

"(IV) students with disabilities, including their need for transition services;"

(ii) by redesignating clauses (i) and (iii) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

"(ii) include an assessment of the transition services provided under this Act, and coordinated with transition services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), about the extent to which those 2 types of services meet the needs of individuals with disabilities;"

(B) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking "and under part B of title VI"; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (iii), (iv), and (v) as clauses (iv), (v), and (vi), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

"(iii) the methods to be used to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities, including the coordination of services designed to facilitate the transition of such students from the receipt of educational services in school to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title or to postsecondary education or employment;"

(iii) in clause (v), as redesignated by clause (i) of this subparagraph, by striking "evaluation standards" and inserting "performance standards";

(4) in paragraph (22)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking "STATE PLAN SUPPLEMENT";

(B) by striking "carrying out part B of title VI, including"; and

(C) by striking "that part to supplement funds made available under part B of";

(5) in paragraph (24)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking "CONTRACTS" and inserting "GRANTS"; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "CONTRACTS" and inserting "GRANTS"; and

(ii) by striking "part A of title VI" and inserting "section 109A"; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

"(25) COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.—The State plan shall describe how the designated State agency will carry out the provisions of section 109A, including—

"(A) the criteria such agency will use to award grants under such section; and

"(B) how the activities carried out under such grants will be coordinated with other services provided under this title.

"(26) SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—The State plan shall provide an assurance satisfactory to the Secretary that the State—

"(A) has developed and implemented strategies to address the needs identified in the assessments described in paragraph (15), and achieve the goals and priorities identified by the State in that paragraph, to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities on a statewide basis in accordance with paragraph (15); and

"(B) from funds reserved under section 110A, shall carry out programs or activities designed to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities that—

"(i) facilitate the transition of students with disabilities from the receipt of educational services in school, to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title, including, at a minimum, those services specified in the interagency agreement required in paragraph (11)(D);

"(ii) improve the achievement of post-school goals of students with disabilities, including improving the achievement through participation (as appropriate when career goals are discussed) in meetings regarding individualized education programs developed under section 614 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414);

"(iii) provide career guidance, career exploration services, job search skills and strategies, and technical assistance to students with disabilities;

"(iv) support the provision of training and technical assistance to State and local educational agencies and designated State agency personnel responsible for the planning and provision of services to students with disabilities; and

"(v) support outreach activities to students with disabilities who are eligible for, and need, services under this title.".

SEC. 482. SCOPE OF SERVICES.

Section 103 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 723) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (15) and inserting the following:

"(15) transition services for students with disabilities, that facilitate the achievement of the employment outcome identified in the individualized plan for employment involved, including services described in clauses (i) through (iii) of section 101(a)(26)(B);"

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

"(6)(A)(i) Consultation and technical assistance services to assist State and local educational agencies in planning for the transition of students with disabilities from school to post-school activities, including employment.

"(ii) Training and technical assistance described in section 101(a)(26)(B)(iv).

"(B) Services for groups of individuals with disabilities who meet the requirements of clauses (i) and (iii) of section 7(35)(A), including services described in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (v) of section 101(a)(26)(B), to assist in the transition from school to post-school activities.";

(3) in subsection (b), by inserting at the end the following:

"(7) The establishment, development, or improvement of assistive technology demonstration, loan, reutilization, or financing programs in coordination with activities authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to promote access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and employers."

SEC. 483. STANDARDS AND INDICATORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 726) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "EVALUATION STANDARDS" and inserting "PERFORMANCE STANDARDS";

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) STANDARDS AND INDICATORS.—The performance standards and indicators for the vocational rehabilitation program carried out under this title—

"(1) shall be subject to paragraphs (2)(A) and (3) of section 136(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)); and

"(2) may, at a State's discretion, include additional indicators identified in the State plan submitted under section 101.";

(3) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

"(i) on a biannual basis, review the program improvement efforts of the State and, if the State has not improved its performance to acceptable levels, as determined by the Director, direct the State to make revisions to the plan to improve performance; and"

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 107 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 727) is amended—

(1) in subsections (a)(1)(B) and (b)(2), by striking "evaluation standards" and inserting "performance standards"; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking "an evaluation standard" and inserting "a performance standard".

SEC. 484. EXPENDITURE OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.

Section 108(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 728(a)) is amended by striking "under part B of title VI, or".

SEC. 485. COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended by inserting after section 109 (29 U.S.C. 728a) the following:

"SEC. 109A. COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.

"(a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For the purposes of this section, the term 'eligible entity' means a for-profit business, alone or in partnership with one or more of the following:

"(1) Community rehabilitation program providers.

"(2) Indian tribes.

"(3) Tribal organizations.

"(b) AUTHORITY.—A State shall use not less than one-half of one percent of the payment the State receives under section 111 for a fiscal year to award grants to eligible entities to pay for the Federal share of the cost of carrying out collaborative programs, to create practical job and career readiness and training programs, and to provide job placements and career advancement.

"(c) AWARDS.—Grants under this section shall—

"(1) be awarded for a period not to exceed 5 years; and

"(2) be awarded competitively.

"(d) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to a designated State agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as such agency shall require. Such application shall include, at a minimum—

"(1) a plan for evaluating the effectiveness of the collaborative program;

"(2) a plan for collecting and reporting the data and information described under subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 101(a)(10), as determined appropriate by the designated State agency; and

"(3) a plan for providing for the non-Federal share of the costs of the program.

"(e) ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out a program that provides one or more of the following:

“(1) Job development, job placement, and career advancement services for individuals with disabilities.

“(2) Training in realistic work settings in order to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment and career advancement in the competitive market.

“(3) Providing individuals with disabilities with such support services as may be required in order to maintain the employment and career advancement for which the individuals have received training.

“(f) **ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.**—An individual shall be eligible for services provided under a program under this section if the individual is determined under section 102(a)(1) to be eligible for assistance under this title.

“(g) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share for a program under this section shall not exceed 80 percent of the costs of the program.”.

SEC. 486. RESERVATION FOR EXPANDED TRANSITION SERVICES.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended by inserting after section 110 (29 U.S.C. 730) the following:

“SEC. 110A. RESERVATION FOR EXPANDED TRANSITION SERVICES.

“Each State shall reserve not less than 10 percent of the funds allotted to the State under section 110(a) to carry out programs or activities under sections 101(a)(26)(B) and 103(b)(6).”.

SEC. 487. CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 112(e)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 732(e)(1)) is amended by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E) and inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) The Secretary shall make grants to the protection and advocacy system serving the American Indian Consortium under the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.) to provide services in accordance with this section, as determined by the Secretary. The amount of such grants shall be the same as the amount provided to territories under this subsection.”.

SEC. 488. RESEARCH.

Section 204(a)(2)(A) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 764(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “VI.”.

SEC. 489. TITLE III AMENDMENTS.

Title III of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 771 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 301(a) (21 U.S.C. 771(a))—
(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and” at the end;

(B) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4); and
(C) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3);

(2) in section 302 (29 U.S.C. 772)—

(A) in subsection (g)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING”; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) in subsection (h), by striking “section 306” and inserting “section 304”;

(3) in section 303 (29 U.S.C. 773)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “section 306” and inserting “section 304”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (4)—

(I) by amending subparagraph (A)(ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) to coordinate activities and work closely with the parent training and information centers established pursuant to section 671 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1471), the community parent resource centers established pursuant to section 672 of such Act (29 U.S.C.

1472), and the eligible entities receiving awards under section 673 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1473); and”;

(II) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, and demonstrate the capacity for serving,” after “serve”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) **RESERVATION.**—From the amount appropriated to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year, 20 percent of such amount or \$500,000, whichever is less, shall be reserved to carry out paragraph (6).”;

(4) by striking sections 304 and 305 (29 U.S.C. 774, 775); and

(5) by redesignating section 306 (29 U.S.C. 776) as section 304.

SEC. 490. REPEAL OF TITLE VI.

Title VI of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 795 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. 491. TITLE VII GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—Section 701(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796(3)) is amended by striking “State programs of supported employment services receiving assistance under part B of title VI.”.

(b) **CHAIRPERSON.**—Section 705(b)(5) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796d(b)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

“(5) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Council shall select a chairperson from among the voting membership of the Council.”.

SEC. 492. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is further amended—

(1) in section 100 (29 U.S.C. 720)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$3,066,192,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(B), by striking “2003” and inserting “2021”;

(2) in section 110(c) (29 U.S.C. 730(c)), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) The sum referred to in paragraph (1) shall be, as determined by the Secretary, not less than 1 percent and not more than 1.5 percent of the amount referred to in paragraph (1) for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020.”;

(3) in section 112(h) (29 U.S.C. 732(h)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$11,600,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(4) by amending subsection (a) of section 201 (29 U.S.C. 761(a)) to read as follows: “(a) There are authorized to be appropriated \$103,125,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years to carry out this title.”;

(5) in section 302(i) (29 U.S.C. 772(i)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$33,657,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(6) in section 303(e) (29 U.S.C. 773(e)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$5,046,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(7) in section 405 (29 U.S.C. 785), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$3,081,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(8) in section 502(j) (29 U.S.C. 792(j)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$7,013,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(9) in section 509(l) (29 U.S.C. 794e(l)), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for

each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$17,088,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(10) in section 714 (29 U.S.C. 796e-3), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$22,137,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(11) in section 727 (29 U.S.C. 796f-6), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$75,772,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”;

(12) in section 753 (29 U.S.C. 796l), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$32,239,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of the 6 succeeding fiscal years”.

SEC. 493. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 1(b) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is amended—

(1) by inserting after the item relating to section 109 the following:

“Sec. 109A. Collaboration with industry.”;

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 110 the following:

“Sec. 110A. Reservation for expanded transition services.”;

(3) by striking the item related to section 304 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 304. Measuring of project outcomes and performance.”;

(4) by striking the items related to sections 305 and 306;

(5) by striking the items related to title VI; and

(6) by striking the item related to section 706 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 706. Responsibilities of the Director.”.

Subtitle F—Studies by the Comptroller General

SEC. 496. STUDY BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL ON EXHAUSTING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS BEFORE ACCESSING WIA FUNDS.

Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that—

(1) evaluates the effectiveness of subparagraph (B) of section 134(d)(4) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)(B)) (as such subparagraph was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), including—

(A) a review of the regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Labor to State and local areas on how to comply with such subparagraph;

(B) a review of State policies to determine how local areas are required to comply with such subparagraph;

(C) a review of local area policies to determine how one-stop operators are required to comply with such subparagraph; and

(D) a review of a sampling of individuals receiving training services under section 134(d)(4) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)) to determine if, before receiving such training services, such individuals have exhausted funds received through the Federal Pell Grant program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

(2) makes appropriate recommendations with respect to the matters evaluated under paragraph (1).

SEC. 497. STUDY BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL ON ADMINISTRATIVE COST SAVINGS.

(a) **STUDY.**—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that—

(1) determines the amount of administrative costs at the Federal and State levels for the most recent fiscal year for which satisfactory data are available for—

(A) each of the programs authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) or repealed under section 71, as such programs were in effect for such fiscal year; and

(B) each of the programs described in subparagraph (A) that have been repealed or consolidated on or after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) determines the amount of administrative cost savings at the Federal and State levels as a result of repealing and consolidating programs by calculating the differences in the amount of administrative costs between subparagraph (A) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1); and

(3) estimates the administrative cost savings at the Federal and State levels for a fiscal year as a result of States consolidating amounts under section 501(e) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 9271(e)) to reduce inefficiencies in the administration of federally-funded State and local employment and training programs.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this section, the term “administrative costs” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).

Subtitle G—Entrepreneurial Training

SEC. 499. ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Entrepreneurial Training Improvement Act of 2014”.

(b) **RULEMAKING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall establish alternate standards for measuring the progress of State and local performance for entrepreneurial training services, as authorized in section 134(d)(4)(D)(vi) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(4)(D)(vi)), and provide the State and local workforce investment boards with specific guidance on successful approaches to collecting performance information on entrepreneurial training services.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In determining the alternate standards, the Secretary shall consider using standards based, for participants in such services, on—

(A) obtaining a State license, or a Federal or State tax identification number, for a corresponding business;

(B) documenting income from a corresponding business; or

(C) filing a Federal or State tax return for a corresponding business.

(3) **AUTHORITIES.**—In determining the alternate standards, the Secretary shall consider utilizing authorities granted under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), including a State’s waiver authority, as authorized in section 189(i)(4) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2939(i)(4)).

(4) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall prepare a report on the progress of State and local workforce investment boards in imple-

menting new programs of entrepreneurial training services and any ongoing challenges to offering such programs, with recommendations on how best to address those challenges. Not later than 12 months after publication of the final regulations establishing the alternate standards, the Secretary shall submit the report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate.

SA 2965. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 3, add the following:

SEC. 3A. FLEXIBILITY FOR WORKING PARENTS.

Section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(d)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this subsection, an employee and an employer may voluntarily negotiate compensation and benefits to provide flexibility to best meet the needs of such employee and employer, consistent with other provisions of this Act.”.

SA 2966. Mr. LEE (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Between sections 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 3A. WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY.

(a) **COMPENSATORY TIME.**—Section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) **COMPENSATORY TIME OFF FOR PRIVATE EMPLOYEES.**—

“(1) **GENERAL RULE.**—An employee may receive, in accordance with this subsection and in lieu of monetary overtime compensation, compensatory time off at a rate not less than one and one-half hours for each hour of employment for which overtime compensation is required by this section.

“(2) **CONDITIONS.**—An employer may provide compensatory time to employees under paragraph (1)(A) only if such time is provided in accordance with—

“(A) applicable provisions of a collective bargaining agreement between the employer and the labor organization that has been certified or recognized as the representative of the employees under applicable law; or

“(B) in the case of employees who are not represented by a labor organization that has been certified or recognized as the representative of such employees under applicable law, an agreement arrived at between the

employer and employee before the performance of the work and affirmed by a written or otherwise verifiable record maintained in accordance with section 11(c)—

“(i) in which the employer has offered and the employee has chosen to receive compensatory time in lieu of monetary overtime compensation; and

“(ii) entered into knowingly and voluntarily by such employees and not as a condition of employment.

No employee may receive or agree to receive compensatory time off under this subsection unless the employee has worked at least 1,000 hours for the employee’s employer during a period of continuous employment with the employer in the 12-month period before the date of agreement or receipt of compensatory time off.

“(3) **HOURLY LIMIT.**—

“(A) **MAXIMUM HOURS.**—An employee may accrue not more than 160 hours of compensatory time.

“(B) **COMPENSATION DATE.**—Not later than January 31 of each calendar year, the employee’s employer shall provide monetary compensation for any unused compensatory time off accrued during the preceding calendar year that was not used prior to December 31 of the preceding year at the rate prescribed by paragraph (6). An employer may designate and communicate to the employer’s employees a 12-month period other than the calendar year, in which case such compensation shall be provided not later than 31 days after the end of such 12-month period.

“(C) **EXCESS OF 80 HOURS.**—The employer may provide monetary compensation for an employee’s unused compensatory time in excess of 80 hours at any time after giving the employee at least 30 days notice. Such compensation shall be provided at the rate prescribed by paragraph (6).

“(D) **POLICY.**—Except where a collective bargaining agreement provides otherwise, an employer that has adopted a policy offering compensatory time to employees may discontinue such policy upon giving employees 30 days notice.

“(E) **WRITTEN REQUEST.**—An employee may withdraw an agreement described in paragraph (2)(B) at any time. An employee may also request in writing that monetary compensation be provided, at any time, for all compensatory time accrued that has not yet been used. Within 30 days of receiving the written request, the employer shall provide the employee the monetary compensation due in accordance with paragraph (6).

“(4) **PRIVATE EMPLOYER ACTIONS.**—An employer that provides compensatory time under paragraph (1) to employees shall not directly or indirectly intimidate, threaten, or coerce or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any employee for the purpose of—

“(A) interfering with such employee’s rights under this subsection to request or not request compensatory time off in lieu of payment of monetary overtime compensation for overtime hours; or

“(B) requiring any employee to use such compensatory time.

“(5) **TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT.**—An employee who has accrued compensatory time off authorized to be provided under paragraph (1) shall, upon the voluntary or involuntary termination of employment, be paid for the unused compensatory time in accordance with paragraph (6).

“(6) **RATE OF COMPENSATION.**—

“(A) **GENERAL RULE.**—If compensation is to be paid to an employee for accrued compensatory time off, such compensation shall be

paid at a rate of compensation not less than—

“(i) the regular rate received by such employee when the compensatory time was earned; or

“(ii) the final regular rate received by such employee, whichever is higher.

“(B) CONSIDERATION OF PAYMENT.—Any payment owed to an employee under this subsection for unused compensatory time shall be considered unpaid overtime compensation.

“(7) USE OF TIME.—An employee—

“(A) who has accrued compensatory time off authorized to be provided under paragraph (1); and

“(B) who has requested the use of such compensatory time,

shall be permitted by the employee's employer to use such time within a reasonable period after making the request if the use of the compensatory time does not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer.

“(8) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘employee’ does not include an employee of a public agency; and

“(B) the terms ‘overtime compensation’ and ‘compensatory time’ shall have the meanings given such terms by subsection (o)(7).”

(b) REMEDIES.—Section 16 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “(b) Any employer” and inserting “(b) Except as provided in subsection (f), any employer”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) An employer that violates section 7(s)(4) shall be liable to the employee affected in the amount of the rate of compensation (determined in accordance with section 7(s)(6)(A)) for each hour of compensatory time accrued by the employee and in an additional equal amount as liquidated damages reduced by the amount of such rate of compensation for each hour of compensatory time used by such employee.”

(c) NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall revise the materials the Secretary provides, under regulations published in section 516.4 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, to employers for purposes of a notice explaining the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to employees so that such notice reflects the amendments made to such Act by this section.

(d) GAO REPORT.—Beginning 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and each of the 3 years thereafter, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress providing, with respect to the reporting period immediately prior to each such report—

(1) data concerning the extent to which employers provide compensatory time pursuant to section 7(s) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as added by this section, and the extent to which employees opt to receive compensatory time;

(2) the number of complaints alleging a violation of such section filed by any employee with the Secretary of Labor;

(3) the number of enforcement actions commenced by the Secretary or commenced by the Secretary on behalf of any employee for alleged violations of such section;

(4) the disposition or status of such complaints and actions described in paragraphs (2) and (3); and

(5) an account of any unpaid wages, damages, penalties, injunctive relief, or other remedies obtained or sought by the Sec-

retary in connection with such actions described in paragraph (3).

(e) SUNSET.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall expire 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2967. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “End Pay Discrimination Through Information Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) People in the United States understand that intentional workplace discrimination is wrong.

(2) Equal pay for equal work is a principle and practice that should be observed by all employers.

(3) Women constitute a significant portion of the workforce of the United States.

(4) An increasing number of families in the United States depend on the income of a working woman.

(5) Many women are pursuing or have attained postsecondary degrees or specialized training to make them strong candidates for good jobs that will provide for their families.

(6) Employers that intentionally discriminate on the basis of sex should be held accountable for their wrongdoing.

SEC. 3. ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT OF EQUAL PAY REQUIREMENTS.

Section 15 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 215) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “employee has filed” and all that follows through “committee;” and inserting “employee—

“(A) has made a charge or filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action under or related to this Act, including an investigation conducted by the employer, or has testified or is planning to testify or has assisted or participated in any manner in any such investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action, or has served or is planning to serve on an industry committee; or

“(B) has inquired about, discussed, or disclosed the wages of the employee or another employee;” and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) Subsection (a)(3)(B) shall not apply to instances in which an employee who has access to the wage information of other employees as a part of such employee's essential job functions discloses the wages of such other employees to an individual who does not otherwise have access to such information, unless such disclosure is in response to a charge or complaint or in furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action under section 6(d), including an investigation conducted by the employer. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the rights of an employee provided under any other provision of law.”

SA 2968. Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ENZI,

Mr. BLUNT, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COBURN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PAYMENT OF HIGHER WAGES.

Section 9(a) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 159(a)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” after “(a)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) Notwithstanding a labor organization's exclusive representation of employees in a unit, or the terms and conditions of any collective bargaining contract or agreement then in effect, nothing in either—

“(A) section 8(a)(1) or 8(a)(5), or

“(B) a collective bargaining contract or agreement renewed or entered into after the date of enactment of this paragraph,

shall prohibit an employer from paying an employee in the unit greater wages, pay, or other compensation for, or by reason of, his or her services as an employee of such employer, than provided for in such contract or agreement.”

SA 2969. Mr. REID (for Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 361, recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression in the People's Republic of China and urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to take meaningful steps to improve freedom of expression as fitting of a responsible international stakeholder; as follows:

On page 3, line 3, strike “by the United States Government”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2014, at 9:45 a.m. in room SR-328A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SR-328A of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Advanced Biofuels: Creating Jobs and Lower Prices at the Pump.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2014, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Protecting Taxpayers from Incompetent and Unethical Return Preparers."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2014, at 10 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled "National Security and Foreign Policy Priorities in the FY 2015 International Affairs Budget."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2014, at 3:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2014, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Paul Osadebe and Emily Schwartz, interns with the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2014 first quarter Mass Mailing report is Friday, April 25, 2014. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states "none."

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-7116.

The Senate Office of Public Records will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 713; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no

intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order regarding the nomination; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. Paul J. Selva

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

RECOGNIZING THE THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 322.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 361) recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression in the People's Republic of China and urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to take meaningful steps to improve freedom of expression as fitting of a responsible international stakeholder.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cardin amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2969) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 3, line 3, strike "by the United States Government".

The resolution (S. Res. 361), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 361

Whereas, in its 2013 World Press Freedom Index, Reporters Without Borders ranked China 173rd out of 179 countries in terms of press freedoms;

Whereas China's media regulator, the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, enforces a system of strict controls, including an extensive licensing system and government supervision by the Chinese Communist Party;

Whereas domestic radio and television broadcast journalists in China must pass a

government-sponsored exam that tests their basic knowledge of Marxist views of news and Communist Party principles;

Whereas this state supervision of the media distorts and blocks free and open coverage of key issues including Tibet, political unrest, and corruption by government officials, as well as Chinese foreign policy;

Whereas China's media regulator officially bans journalists from using foreign media reports without authorization and forbids news editors from reporting information online that has not been verified through official channels;

Whereas the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) has documented several instances of reprisals against and harassment of independent journalists and newspaper staff by the Government of the People's Republic of China, including Chinese journalists working for foreign-based websites and newspapers;

Whereas the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China has noted that foreign journalists continue to face challenging work conditions, visa denials or delays, and various forms of harassment, and 70 percent of journalists surveyed in the FCCC's 2013 annual survey stated that "conditions have worsened or stayed the same as the year before";

Whereas, according to the CECC, authorities in China appeared to maintain or enhance policies to block and filter online content, particularly sensitive information about rights activists, official corruption, or collective organizing;

Whereas China is the world's second largest economy and the United States second largest trading partner and has been a member of the World Trade Organization since 2001;

Whereas China's growing economic importance increases the need for the Government of the People's Republic of China to act transparently and respect international trading regulations; and

Whereas official government censorship denies the people of China, including nearly 600,000,000 Internet users, their freedom of expression, undermines confidence in China's safety standards, and causes increasingly serious economic harm to private firms that rely on unfettered access to social media as a business model: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the importance of freedom of the press to efforts to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world;

(2) expresses concern about the threats to freedom of the press and expression in the People's Republic of China;

(3) condemns actions taken by the Government of the People's Republic of China to suppress freedom of the press, including the increased harassment of Chinese and international journalists through denial of visas, harassment of sources, physical threats, and other methods; and

(4) urges the President to use all appropriate instruments of United States influence to support, promote, and strengthen principles, practices, and values that promote the free flow of information to the people of China without interference or discrimination, including through the Internet and other electronic media.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 90.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 90) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 90) was agreed to.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2223

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told that S. 2223 is at the desk and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2223) to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this legislation is sponsored by Senators HARKIN and MERKLEY.

I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, in accordance with Public Law 93-618, as amended by Public Law 100-418, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Finance, appoints the following members of the Finance Committee as congressional advisers on trade policy and negotiations to international conferences, meetings and negotiation sessions relating to trade agreements: the Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN; the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. ROCKEFELLER; the Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER; the Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH; and the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 9, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2199, the equal pay bill, with the time until 11 a.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees prior to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2199.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the first rollcall vote will be at 11 a.m. tomorrow. Additional rollcall votes are expected during tomorrow's session.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order, following the remarks of, first, Senator BENNET and then those of Senator CASEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Colorado.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I want to return today to the subject of immigration. Today marks the 285th day since the immigration bill passed right here in the Senate with almost 70 votes, and 285 days later we are still waiting for the House of Representatives to act on that bipartisan piece of legislation.

Every single day the House drags its feet on immigration, our borders remain less secure, our visa system keeps us less competitive, our economy suffers, and millions of families remain in the shadows.

Hard-working immigrants who came here to live the American dream and who are part of the fabric of our communities all over the State of Colorado and all over the United States of America are suffering because Congress has not passed a bill, families such as Dulce Saenz's family from Hudson, CO. When Dulce's father was deported, she and one of her sisters stayed in Colorado to start college while her mom and younger sister moved to Mexico to be with their dad. It was a heart-breaking decision for the family to separate, but that is what they needed to do. Now all three sisters have gone to the University of Denver in Colorado. They have started careers in public service. But they rarely see their parents. They worry about their safety.

It is clear to everybody I talk to here and at home that our current immigration system is broken. It is also clear to me and I think to many people that separating families does not reflect our history and it does not do honor to the values that shape that history. So while the House stalls, the Secretary of Homeland Security is reviewing our deportation policy and exploring other ways we can help keep families together. It is a good step in the absence of a bill. We should prioritize deportation in a way that reflects our values as a country, upholds the rule of law, and keeps families together. But in the end, the only way to come to a full and permanent solution is to pass this immigration reform bill.

Of course, this is not unusual in Washington these days when we have become so used to getting the bare minimum accomplished, keeping the lights on for another week or for another month. But what is so frustrating on this issue is that we have bipartisan agreement that the current immigration system is broken and that it is doing no favors to this country.

The coalition we built in favor of reform is unprecedented. I was not surprised. When we started this in Colorado, first I would travel around the State and I would hear peach growers in Palisade say one thing about what they hoped for in an immigration bill, I would hear the cattle ranchers say something else, the ski resorts say something else, our high-tech community, our immigrant rights community—everybody coming together to say: You know what, it is long past time to get this fixed.

When we brought this to the national level, working together with the so-called group or gang of 8 on immigration, we were able to build a coalition that really is unprecedented. In the 5 years I have been here, I have not seen universal agreement on anything like we have seen on the immigration bill.

In June of last year, right here in the Senate, we passed a strong bipartisan bill—a bill that strengthens our economy and reduces our debt, a bill that keeps families together, protects our borders and our communities, and gives families who came to this country for a better life a chance to earn citizenship and contribute to our economy and to our society.

As I mentioned, I was part of that Gang of 8 who negotiated the bill. For those who despair about the lack of leadership in Congress—and I hear about this all the time, as I know all of my colleagues do—I tell them that for my part, as one American, the greatest sign or signal of legislative leadership that I have seen in the past 5 years was the leadership provided by JOHN MCCAIN, LINDSEY GRAHAM, MARCO RUBIO, and JEFF FLAKE, the four Republicans who sat at that table for 7 or 8 months and negotiated the immigra-

tion bill. It was a lot harder for them to stay there than it was for the Democrats. But those four Republicans sat at the table for 8 months and negotiated a bill because they knew it was the right thing to do for the country and, parenthetically, the right thing to do for their party in that order.

Yet here we are. After all that bipartisan agreement, after all that bipartisan work, after a great bipartisan vote on the floor of the Senate on one of the most immediate issues facing this country, 9 months after our bill passed the Senate we still do not have a bill at the President's desk.

The House of Representatives is privileged to have the opportunity to rise above politics as usual and to do something big, something real, something consequential that will last for this country. The House of Representatives has the privilege to show that stalemate does not have to be standard operating procedure in Washington, DC.

This issue is completely bipartisan at home. I hear about this as much from Republicans—maybe even more from Republicans in farm country than I do from Democrats, the chance to do something important for our Nation and for our future. But until the House acts, families, farmers, and businesses all across my State and all across the United States will continue to suffer, farmers such as Eric Hanagan and Michael Hirakata outside of Rocky Ford, who cannot get the seasonal workers they need and are forced to watch crops—in their case, melons—die in the field.

Colorado's high-tech companies on the front range—ranging from bioscience, engineering, and aerospace—cannot always find the employees they need. In fact, they often cannot find the employees, which introduces an entirely different subject that relates to our K-12 education system, but that is not the topic of the speech today.

We know that almost one-quarter of STEM graduates from Colorado's STEM—math and science graduates from Colorado's leading universities are immigrants who are graduating in the United States, many of whose education has been subsidized by us. Instead of saying to them, "Please stay here; build our business here; go work for one of our high-tech companies here," we are saying to them, "Go home. We would much rather have you compete with us from India. Go home. We would much rather have you compete with us from China." It is ridiculous. It makes no sense.

The Senate bill, the bill we passed, changes that. The bill we passed says: If you are a STEM graduate from another country and you graduate from an American university and you have a job offer in the United States of America, we will staple the green card to your diploma.

That is what we need in this country. That is what the high-tech industry in

Colorado needs out of the House of Representatives.

I mentioned tourism at our ski resorts. They will continue to suffer. This is Colorado's second largest industry.

There are a lot of reasons to act, there are a lot of economic reasons to act, but I think there are also fundamental reasons that have to do with who we are as a country. It is often said that America is a nation of immigrants. Of course that is true. There is literally no other country in the world for which immigration is so central to its history and to its identity.

I have heard enough speeches in this Chamber to know that for a lot of us, for a lot of the 100 of us, it is very personal as well. I am a first-generation American. I know there are many others who are here. There is not a person in this Chamber who does not have immigration as part of their family's history.

But this is not just a theoretical idea, that we are a nation of immigrants. I want to take a moment to reflect on what this really means. This is a photo I am proud to say I actually managed to take with my cell phone. My daughters would be shocked to know that I was able not only to get the picture taken, but it is not even blurry.

I had an occasion—I hope the Presiding Officer has had the opportunity to do it—to do something I never imagined I would ever have the chance to do. I attended a naturalization ceremony held for Active-Duty servicemembers at Fort Carson, CO. Let's be clear. These are men and women who are serving the United States of America in uniform. On that day they became citizens of the United States. Until that day they were not citizens but still they were serving and are serving in our Armed Forces. The 13 soldiers and spouses who became U.S. citizens that day represented 12 different countries. This is a picture of them—12 different countries among the 13.

I am going to read the list. I was so blown away by the list that I asked one of the people from the INS who was there to give me what is called the oath ceremony nationality report from which they read the names of the countries. It is an astonishing list. Here are the countries these folks are from: China, the People's Republic of China, Colombia, Haiti, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Philippines, South Korea, Togo, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom—12 different countries.

Every single one of them came here in pursuit of the American dream, just as generations of people from around the world have sought out the United States to build their future. These are the people—and people just like them

all across the United States of America—who are going to determine our future, just as every generation of immigrants has helped us to determine our future. Whether it is refugees fleeing persecution, whether it is parents seeking opportunity for their children, it is those stepping forward to sacrifice for our shared values, as all of these young men and women are, who make America the country we love. There is no way to argue that our current immigration policies reflect that history or our values.

Let me paint a picture of what our country would look like if this immigration bill were passed. Just to be clear, again, it is not imaginary; we passed the bill in the Senate.

If people on the other side have issues with the bill, what I say is we have no monopoly on wisdom. Bring your ideas; improve the bill. I can think of some things I would do to improve that bill, but you can't just do nothing. You can't do nothing, because if we pass the bill in the House, those who come to this country for a better life, including young people—whose parents brought them here as children, and they are here through no fault of their own—would have the opportunity to enter a tough but fair path to citizenship. With a path in place we would then see higher wages, more consumption of goods and increased taxes.

It would reduce our debt. This bill—and this is not me talking, MICHAEL BENNET from Colorado, this is the Congressional Budget Office—would reduce our debt by nearly \$1 trillion over 20 years. I am unaware of any other piece of legislation that has passed with a bipartisan majority in the Congress that reduces our debt by \$1 trillion but this would. It wouldn't do it in across-the-board cuts. It would do it because of the growth it would create in our economy, the incremental economic growth. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has said that if we pass this bill, we would see an increase of almost 6 percent of incremental GDP growth over this 20-year period, 3 percent in the first 10 years and 5 percent in the second 10 years.

Second, our bill would put into place an efficient and flexible visa system that would catapult our competitiveness in a changing 21st century economy. Canada, our neighbor to the North, is figuring out how to attract the world's talent to its shores. That is what they are spending their time doing. We, a historic nation of immigrants, are saying please go home and compete with us from someplace else or maybe go to Canada and compete with us from there. Talented entrepreneurs and innovators from around the world would have the opportunity to stay if we passed this bill and create jobs to fuel our economy. It is well-documented how many Fortune 500 companies were started by immigrants, but

millions of small businesses across the United States have been started by immigrants as well. High-skilled workers in science, technology, engineering, and math and lower skilled workers in industries such as hospitality and tourism would come into the country to fill jobs where there are no available U.S. workers. This was a bill that labor and the chamber endorsed. That is the first time that has happened. It was a difficult and painful negotiation, but we were able to get it done, and they agreed we ought to get it done.

It is very important for Colorado and a lot of other States. We would stabilize the challenges facing our agricultural industry with a new streamlined program for agricultural guest workers that is more usable for employees and protects our workers.

Again, this is the first bill ever. We call this portion the AgJOBS bill, the first one—first one—to be endorsed by the growers and the farm workers. That has never happened before, but working with Senator RUBIO, Senator HATCH, and Senator FEINSTEIN, we were able to get that done.

Finally, and more importantly, our borders would be more secure with new fencing, double the number of border agents, and increased spending on new technology. We have what they call full situational awareness on the border to allow us to interdict threats rapidly and successfully—and, very importantly, with a mandatory employment verification system and more effective entry-exit system, we would prevent future waves in illegal immigration so we don't end back up in the problem we are facing today. Then our small businesses all across the country can stop being the INS and concentrate on building their businesses. These are all changes our Nation urgently needs, and there are more.

I am not here to argue for some partisan piece of legislation that didn't attract votes on both sides. This bill was entirely bipartisan from beginning to end. I have heard a laundry list of excuses out of people in the House why they haven't addressed immigration reform, but at some point it is time for those excuses to stop and for the stalling to stop. If they want to show the country they are serious about growing our economy and keeping families together, then they need to show us they are serious about immigration reform.

I actually think the Speaker wants to pass a bill. In fact, I think he could pass a bill if he put it on the floor tomorrow and let the House work its will. But it is not my job, obviously, to try to tell him how to do his job. It is no one's job in the Senate to tell him how to do his job, but I suppose it is our job to give him encouragement, to say we will be there to support you if you can find a way to get this bill passed.

If they want to show the country they are serious about growing our

economy and keeping families together, then they need to show us they are serious about immigration reform. It doesn't have to be a carbon copy of what we passed, although if they look at it, what they will find is the elements that are in there hang very well together.

Look at this photo. Again, this is what America looks like. This is what Colorado looks like. This is what America looks like. It is what it is all about. These are faces of people who want to contribute. This diversity is how we thrive as a country, and it is how we are going to thrive in the future. It has always been our strength, and it is what sets us apart in many ways from countries all over the world.

These new citizens want to contribute to our economy and to our communities. They want to serve our country, they want to pay taxes and abide by the law, and they want to build a better life here for themselves and their families.

This picture is exactly why we need reform. These brave men and women say it all. They say it much better than I do.

I see my colleague from Pennsylvania is in the Chamber, so I will wrap up.

Let me say that two of the things that set us apart from countries all over the world, two of the essential components that make us the United States of America, are our commitment to the rule of law and our understanding of ourselves as being a nation of immigrants. Almost no other country in the world can say what we can say about that. I can tell you no other country in the world was having that naturalization ceremony the day we were having it at Fort Carson.

This bill gives us a chance to reaffirm those two ideas that we are a nation committed to the rule of law and that we are a nation of immigrants.

I had the chance this weekend to spend some time in my wife's hometown in the Mississippi Delta. It is one of the poorer parts of the country, and it has been for a very long time. It is a tough place in a lot of ways. We have a lot of great family there. After we finished, we went to Memphis to visit the civil rights museum, which has just reopened. If anybody has the chance to go, they should go to visit it, because what you see is the history of a struggle from the 1600s forward—generation upon generation—trying to perfect this country and keep it true to the idea that in this case we are all created equal.

For a long time we weren't able to perfect that. We still are having to perfect it. We are making progress, and that is what we are meant to do. Today we have that chance. The House has that chance tomorrow or next week or next month to make sure that we honor our commitment, this generation's commitment to a generation of

immigrants and to the generations that are coming after them. I hope they will take up that challenge.

I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania and the Presiding Officer as well for his patience.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. I wish to say a word of commendation for the remarks the Senator from Colorado just made about a very important issue, and that photograph he took is, indeed, an inspiration to all Americans. Each of us can be inspired by that photograph, what it represents, by the sacrifice that undergirds that photograph, and also for his reminding us about those sacrifices and those commitments, so we want to thank him.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, this legislation on equal pay is about justice, in a word. We could almost say that equal pay equals justice. There is probably no simpler way to say it. It is really, when you consider what this means, a very simple concept: If a woman does the same job, the same work, does all of that in the same way a man does and is hired by a company, she should be paid the same wage.

It seems so simple, so elementary, but unfortunately we have had more than one generation now where that has not been the case. Depending on what study or what year we are talking about, women make, on average, 76 cents for every dollar a man makes, or 77 cents. It has always been in that band of similar numbers.

I think for a lot of families it is disturbing. How do I tell, in my case, my four daughters to just do well in school and work hard, as they have, and get good grades, and once you are on a career path, you will be fairly compensated for your work because of all that hard work you did and the good work you do for an employer. What can I say if they come to me—I hope this never happens—10 or 20 years from now and say: You know, what you told me isn't true. I did well in school, I worked hard, I got hired and worked hard in the job I have had, and I am getting paid 76 cents for the \$1 a man makes doing the same work in the same place at the same time. It makes no sense.

So really, in essence, it is about whether we are going to be true to our words and true to the values of this country, and it is about giving people a fair shot on something as fundamental as the wages they are paid for their labor—to use an expression from the Bible, laboring in the vineyards; laboring at a job and being paid in a fair manner.

There was a report not too long ago—not this year but a few years ago—that looked at a State-by-State weekly pay

comparison. In that report, Pennsylvania women made, on average, \$694 a week, while men in Pennsylvania were paid \$849 a week—an 18.3-percent differential. But that is not the end of the story. It gets worse. For people 50 years and older, just looking at that age category, for women workers 50 years and older in Pennsylvania at that time, just a few years ago, the differential was \$732 and \$984 for men—almost \$250 a week above in that age category—and for all women at that time, about \$150 of difference each and every week. Imagine what that does to someone's sense of achievement or sense of dignity when they know they are doing the same work every day and they are being underpaid over and over every week, every month, every year, and in some cases decade after decade. So when we say this is a matter of justice, in some ways that might be an understatement.

We have a chance to remedy that, and it is very simple. Are we going to take steps to remedy that or are we going to reject the steps it will take to bring a measure of justice, a fair shot for women? They are not asking for anything that a man wouldn't ask for or demand. They are just asking for basic fairness—to be treated the same for the same work.

I won't go into all the elements of the legislation, but some of them involve what happens in the event of a conflict—if a woman is discriminated against based upon her pay and she brings an action in a court, what will be the rules that govern that case. I think we should do everything possible to make sure that if an employer has a defense, they have to earn that defense, especially in this kind of litigation.

One part of the legislation prohibits retaliation for employee complaints. In other words, if a woman is inquiring about or discussing or disclosing the wages of herself or some other employee, she is not retaliated against. It is hard to believe we have to legislate and make that the subject of debate. One would think that if a woman is working in a company for years and she is aggrieved and has a claim to make and is asked what the foundation of her claim is, her questions, her inquiries, her comparisons between and among different sets of data, what she makes, what a man who does the same work has been paid—that those basic questions should never, ever be the subject of retaliation by an employer, but too often they are. So we have to legislate. We have to specifically prohibit that kind of conduct by an employer, as maddening and as frustrating as that is.

One would think that employers would want to make things right; that they would want to make sure that if a man is paid a buck for his work, a woman doing the same work is paid the same amount. She shouldn't have to

ask. She shouldn't have to be worried about any kind of reprisal or retaliation or punishment. But the state of the law today is such that retaliation goes without sanction in the United States of America. It is very insulting to women and insulting to families.

So there is lots we can do, but the most important thing we can do is to get a favorable vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act before us. I hope we get a bipartisan vote. This shouldn't be the subject of support of just one party. This should be bipartisan. The people who are asking for this help, who have been asking for it for decades, aren't members of just one party. They happen to represent one-half or more of the American people, when women have asked for that.

If any of my colleagues think for whatever reason that this is not the right thing to do for today, they should do it for future generations. Do it for your own daughters, your own granddaughters, maybe your great-granddaughters. But to forgo the opportunity to do something about this at long last—President Kennedy signed the original legislation. A lot of people in the United States weren't even born then. Yet here we are still debating, still striving to get a basic measure of justice in place. So I do believe equal pay equals justice.

AFGHANISTAN ELECTIONS

Mr. President, I will turn to another subject this evening. I know we have to wrap up, and I am the last speaker of the evening, but this is a topic that doesn't get enough attention even though it was the subject of a lot of coverage and attention in the last couple of weeks and especially the last couple of days; that is, the elections in Afghanistan.

Many people know that some of the reporting indicated that the results were good in terms of turnout. There are a lot of questions to review, but we don't know the results of the elections. It is, however, remarkable how the Afghan people turned out to choose their second democratically elected President. About 60 percent of the 12 million eligible voters defied Taliban threats to cast their votes. I am hopeful these elections are a step toward a smoother transfer of power later this year.

By the way, that voter turnout number in terms of eligible voters is a little higher than we had in the United States of America in 2012. Secretary Kerry said last week that this election has been "Afghan owned from the start."

The Afghan government security forces and civil society worked together to make these elections happen despite concerted efforts by the Taliban to sow fear and destroy democratic progress.

The service of our men and women in uniform set the stage for this progress. U.S. training and mentoring helped the

Afghan National Security Forces get to the point where it could secure polling centers and allow these elections to happen.

We know in 2009 the international security forces bore the brunt of the election's security efforts, including, of course, American fighting men and women—our soldiers, at that time.

The State Department, USAID, and NGOs also put a tremendous amount of work in supporting Afghan institutions in this process of carrying out an election.

The role Afghan women played in these elections is particularly remarkable. In the National Defense Authorization Act's amendment last year, I urged the administration to focus especially on ensuring there were enough female poll workers and security personnel to ensure all Afghan women who wanted to vote could do so safely and without fear of intimidation.

Female voters turned out in numbers never seen before in Afghanistan, which speaks to their tremendous bravery and unwavering commitment to fighting for their rights as Afghan citizens. This is an incredible number. About one third of the 7 million voters, according to the reports, were women. Many women were voting for the first time. I don't have an enlargement, but this is a photograph which appeared a day after the election which depicts a line of 50 or more women standing in the rain under a plastic tarp waiting to vote.

The American service men and women and, of course, taxpayers have made a tremendous investment in Afghanistan to make it the nascent democracy it is today. From harsh Taliban rule, Afghanistan is emerging as a fledgling democracy, with tremendous gains in education and health care.

Just imagine. Girls who were literally at zero in their representation in schools a little more than a decade ago now constitute 42 percent of Afghan children enrolled in school. That didn't happen because of just some policy in effect. There was a lot of bravery and valor demonstrated by families and by young girls going to school under terrible threats—threats of death and intimidation. We all know about the terrible stories of young girls walking or riding to school and having acid thrown in their faces. Despite specific attacks on girls or young women, they keep going to school.

It also happened because of the great sacrifice of our fighting men and women—those killed in action or wounded in action, tens of thousands of Americans. In Pennsylvania to date we have lost 91 soldiers killed in action and almost 740 wounded in action.

So all of these results—whether it is about democracy or whether it is about girls in school, women being able to vote, or a range of other metrics,

health care and otherwise—came with tremendous sacrifice, the kind of sacrifice most of us don't really have a sense of. At least I don't.

The results will be returned later this month on the election in Afghanistan. If a runoff is necessary, I hope all parties will work together to ensure the process is credible, transparent, and free from violence.

Once President Karzai's successor is in place, the Afghan government and the Afghan people should move quickly to sign the bilateral security agreement and affirm the commitments the Afghan government has made to the international community and, by doing so, recognize the tremendous sacrifice of our fighting men and women and those of the coalition forces as well.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article about the election from the New York Times dated April 5, 2014.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 5, 2014]

AFGHAN TURNOUT IS HIGH AS VOTERS DEFEY
THE TALIBAN

(By Rod Nordland, Azam Ahmed and
Matthew Rosenberg)

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN.—Defying a campaign of Taliban violence that unleashed 39 suicide bombers in the two months before Election Day, Afghan voters on Saturday turned out in such high numbers to choose a new president and provincial councils that polling hours were extended nationwide, in a triumph of determination over intimidation.

Militants failed to mount a single major attack anywhere in Afghanistan by the time polls closed, and voters lined up despite heavy rain and cold in the capital and elsewhere.

"Whenever there has been a new king or president, it has been accompanied by death and violence," said Abdul Wakil Amiri, a government official who turned out early to vote at a Kabul mosque. "For the first time, we are experiencing democracy."

After 12 years with President Hamid Karzai in power, and decades of upheaval, coup and war, Afghans on Saturday were for the first time voting on a relatively open field of candidates.

Election officials said that by midday more than three and a half million voters had turned out—already approaching the total for the 2009 vote. The election commission chairman, Mohammad Yusuf Nuristani, said the total could reach seven million. "The enemies of Afghanistan have been defeated," he declared.

But even as they celebrated the outpouring of votes, many acknowledged the long process looming ahead, with the potential for problems all along the way.

International observers, many of whom had fled Afghanistan after a wave of attacks on foreigners during the campaign, cautioned that how those votes were tallied and reported would bear close watching.

It is likely to take at least a week before even incomplete official results are announced, and weeks more to adjudicate Election Day complaints. Some of the candidates were already filing fraud complaints on Saturday.

With eight candidates in the race, the five minor candidates' shares of the vote made it

even more difficult for any one candidate to reach the 50 percent threshold that would allow an outright victory. A runoff vote is unlikely to take place until the end of May at the earliest.

The leading candidates going into the vote were Ashraf Ghani, 64, a technocrat and former official in Mr. Karzai's government; Abdullah Abdullah, 53, a former foreign minister who was the second biggest vote-getter against Mr. Karzai in the 2009 election; and Zalmay Rassoul, 70, another former foreign minister.

Both Mr. Ghani and Mr. Abdullah praised the vote. "A proud day for a proud nation," Mr. Ghani said.

Still, a shortage of ballots at polling places was widespread across the country by midday Saturday, and some voters were in line when polls closed.

More worrisome, the threat of violence in many rural areas had forced election authorities to close nearly 1,000 out of a planned-for 7,500 polling places, raising fears that a big chunk of the electorate would remain disenfranchised.

But when it came to attacks on Election Day, the Taliban's threats seemed to be greatly overstated. Only one suicide bombing attempt could be confirmed—in Khost—and the bomber managed to kill only himself when the police stopped him outside a polling place.

In three scattered attacks on polling places, four voters were reported killed. Two rockets fired randomly into the city of Jalalabad wounded eight civilians. One border policeman, in southern Kandahar Province, and another policeman in remote western Farah Province were confirmed killed in Taliban attacks, according to preliminary reports.

Bad as all that was, it was a lower casualty toll than on a normal day in Afghanistan, let alone an election on which both the insurgents and the government had staked their credibility. Interior Minister Umar Daudzai said there were 140 attacks nationwide on Saturday, compared with 500 attacks recorded by the American military in 2009.

In preparation for the election, the Afghan government mobilized its entire military and police forces, some 350,000 in all, backed up by 53,000 NATO coalition troops—although the Americans and their allies stayed out of it, leaving Afghans for the first time entirely in charge of securing their own election.

"Voting on this day will be a slap in the faces of the terrorists," said Rahmatullah Nabil, the acting head of the National Directorate of Security, the Afghan domestic intelligence agency.

Sensitive to concerns about potential fraud—more than a million ballots were thrown out in the 2009 presidential vote and then again in the 2010 parliamentary elections—the police were quick to report their efforts to crack down on Saturday.

Among those arrested were four people in Khost who were caught with 1,067 voter registration cards. Several people, including an election official, were caught trying to stuff ballot boxes in Wardak Province.

"This has been the best and most incident-free election in Afghanistan's modern history and it could set the precedent for a historic, peaceful transition of power in Afghanistan," said Mohammad Fahim Sadeq, head of the Afghanistan National Participation Organization, an observer group.

In many places where voting was nearly impossible in 2009, the turnout was reported to be strong. One was Panjwai district, a

once-violent haven of the Taliban just outside Kandahar City, where hundreds lined up to vote. "I left everything behind, my fears and my work, and came to use my vote," said Hajji Mahbob, 60, a farmer. "I want change and a good government and I am asking the man I am going to elect as the next president to bring an end to the suffering of this war."

Even where the Taliban did manage to strike, voters still turned out afterward. A bomb set off at a polling place in the Mohammad Agha district of Logar Province killed two voters and wounded two others, according to the district governor, Abdul Hamid. "The explosion dispersed the voters who were holding their voting cards and waiting to vote," said Zalmay Stanakzai, a car repair shop owner who was there. "Some of us left, the others stayed. I was concerned about our safety, but we considered voting our duty."

Insurgents set off a series of five blasts in the Shomali plain, just north of Kabul city, in the village of Qarabagh. "After the explosions, the polling stations reopened and people rushed to vote," said Mohasmmad Sangar, 32, a used-car salesman there. "It was a great day today."

Nicholas Haysom, the United Nations' top election official here, said: "We know that the Taliban have made a very explicit and express threat to disrupt it. The failure to disrupt the elections will mean that they will have egg on their face after the elections."

While there were reports of disrupted voting in troubled places like Logar Province and neighboring Wardak, in Helmand Province in the south and Nangarhar Province in the east, at the same time voters were showing up in unexpectedly high numbers in other places, like Zabul, Uruzgan and Kandahar Provinces in the south, and Kunar Province in the northeast, despite strong insurgent presences in those areas.

In Uruzgan, election authorities had to open additional polling places to accommodate unexpected numbers, while in Daikundi they ran out of ballots in some remote districts and election authorities had to race new ones out to them. In northern Mazar-i-Sharif, voters were still lined up after dark.

Underwritten by \$100 million from the United Nations and foreign donors, the election was a huge enterprise, stretching across extremely forbidding terrain. Some 3,200 donkeys were pressed into service to deliver ballots to remote mountain villages, along with battalions of trucks and minibuses to 6,500 polling places in all. The American military pitched in with air transport of ballots to four regional distribution centers, and to two difficult-to-reach provinces.

Though many international observers left Afghanistan in the wake of attacks on foreigners, or found themselves confined to quarters in Kabul, years of expensive preparations and training of an army of some 70,000 Afghan election observers were expected to compensate, according to Western diplomats and Afghan election officials. "We have so many controls now, it's going to be

much safer this time," said Noor Ahmad Noor, the spokesman for the Independent Election Commission.

The American ambassador, James B. Cunningham, called the elections a "really historic opportunity for the people of Afghanistan to move forward with something we've been trying to create together with them for several years now."

Still up in the air is the question of whether an American troop force will remain in Afghanistan after 2014. Mr. Karzai's refusal to sign a long-term security deal to allow that presence was a major point of tension between the American and Afghan governments. Each of the leading candidates has agreed to sign the deal once in office, though inauguration day may not take place until well into the year.

The election on Saturday was notable also for how many Afghan women were taking part. More female candidates than ever before are on provincial ballots, and two are running for vice president, the first time a woman was ever put up for national office here, which has generated a great deal of enthusiasm, especially in urban areas.

At the women's polling station in the Nadaria High School, in Kabul's Qala-e-Fatullah neighborhood, among those lining up to vote was a young mother, Parwash Naseri, 21. Although wearing the blue burqa that is traditional here, she was still willing to speak out through the privacy mesh covering her face.

She was voting, for the first time, for her children and for women's rights, she said, speaking in a whisper. "I believe in the right of women to take part just as men do, to get themselves educated and to work."

Mr. CASEY. I wish to highlight two quotes. The first is from a 21-year-old woman who is voting for the first time in this election:

She was voting, for the first time, for her children and for women's rights, she said, speaking in a whisper. "I believe in the right of women to take part just as men do, to get themselves educated and to work."

A remarkable inspiration from a 21-year-old woman voting for the first time in Afghanistan.

The second quotation is from a 60-year-old farmer who was asked by a reporter what it was like to vote under the threats that were either proximate—meaning something happening in almost real time or in the recent past—or just the overall threat posed by the Taliban and other extremists. This farmer said:

I left everything behind, my fears and my work, and came to use my vote. I want a change and a good government . . .

He goes on from there to describe what he hopes will happen. But just imagine that. He said:

I left everything behind, my fears and my work, and came to use my vote.

When I read that, I thought about something Thomas Jefferson said in a letter to John Adams when he was an older man. He was describing the fear of old age—not the kind of fear of reprisal if you were voting but the fear of growing old. He talked about how he dealt with the fear of growing old in nautical terms. He said: "I steer my bark with hope in the head, leaving fear astern." That is all I thought about when I heard what the 60-year-old farmer said; that even though he had fears—the fear of death, the fear of reprisal against him, his family or people in his neighborhood—he was willing to say his right to vote was so important he was willing to leave those fears and his work behind so he could vote.

What a tremendous inspiration on a subject—the conflict in Afghanistan and all which comes from it that often is not the subject of positive commentary or inspiration. For once and all too infrequently, this is one of those occasions where we can be positive about a result.

We have more work to do to make sure the bilateral security agreement is signed, but we should draw some measure of inspiration from what happened in Afghanistan and the progress which has been made there.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:49 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 8, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

FRANK G. KLOTZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NEIL GREGORY KORNZE, OF NEVADA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. PAUL J. SELVA

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING WARDEN RICARDO RIOS OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS, ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Warden Ricardo Rios of Pekin, Illinois, who will be retiring from the Federal Correctional Institution in Pekin on April 30th.

Warden Rios has spent 35 years serving communities across the country in his work for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He began his public service career in 1988 as an Accountant Trainee in the Federal Correctional Institution in Bastrop, Texas. Over the next 30 years, Warden Rios held positions of increasing responsibility in Correctional Centers around the country, including California, Florida and Minnesota. In 2010, he took over as Warden at FCI-Pekin, where he has served for the last four years.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Warden Ricardo Rios for his years of committed service and congratulate him again on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY HUGHES ANLIKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Cindy Hughes Anliker of Des Moines Performing Arts for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Cindy in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Hughes Anliker for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Cindy on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each

member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE WILLIAM W. "BILL" BLANTON

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Bill Blanton who passed away on April 4, 2014. It was my privilege to have known Bill for over thirty years. He was a long standing pillar of the Carrollton, Texas community and will be greatly missed.

Bill was born March 11, 1924 and leaves behind a lasting legacy to his community and country. He served his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and then would continue his local community and Texas for many years thereafter. Bill served on the Carrollton/Farmers Branch Independent School District Board for ten years and then would continue his service to the community as their elected representative to the Texas House of Representatives. Bill served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1977 to 1987. During his service in Austin, Bill continued his commitment to improving the lives of our students by serving as the Chairman of the Public Education Committee. In 1986, the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce honored Bill as the "Citizen of the Year." Upon Bill's retirement from the Texas House of Representatives, I was honored to succeed him in Austin. Throughout all of his service to the community, many will remember him forever from one of their first times to hear Bill—as the voice of Carrollton High School on Friday evenings. Bill served as the voice of the Carrollton High School football team during the 1950s and 1960s on their old football field which now belongs to DeWitt Perry Junior High School.

The people of Carrollton will continue to benefit from the legacy of Bill and the entire Blanton family for many years to come. The Old Downtown Square in Carrollton features the Blanton Grain Tower. The Blanton Grain Tower serves as a tribute to the rich history and original roots of Carrollton and many other North Texas cities. Originally Carrollton was a town which served as a collection of many small and large family farms which fed into the great grain-growing plains of Middle America. Though many grain towers that were essential for the storage and distribution of grain have since been demolished or relocated to rural areas, the Blanton Grain Tower still stands and thrives in the heart of Carrollton. Long since closed for its original purpose, the Blanton Grain Tower was redesigned to now be billed as the world's largest indoor climbing gym. Ten giant grain silos with 110 foot ceilings

will continue to challenge indoor rock climbers for years to come. For many years Bill worked for the family grain company—while at the same time being an active member of Lion's Club, Rotary Club, and the Carrollton Chamber of Commerce. So many have been touched by Bill, and many will continue to benefit from his legacy.

My heartfelt condolences are with the Blanton family at this difficult time. Bill was a loving husband to his wife Clovis, father of four, grandfather of five, and a great-grandfather of seven.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the lasting legacy and public service of William W. Blanton.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 165 (Democrat Motion to Recommit), which took place Monday April 7, 2014; I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no". On rollcall No. 166 (Final Passage of H.R. 1872), I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 166, I was unable to attend.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, we commemorate Equal Pay Day, the typical time three months into the year when a woman's wages finally catch up to what men were paid the previous year. This symbolic day illustrates the blatant gap that still remains between men and women's pay earnings, with women continuing to make 77 cents for every dollar a man makes. It is an urgent reminder that we must work together to secure equal pay for equal work.

When you discriminate against a woman, you discriminate against her entire family.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Today women serve as the sole or primary breadwinners in 40 percent of all households with children under the age of 18. In addition, two out of three families now depend on the wages of working moms. Our country is evolving; today only a fifth of American families have a male breadwinner and female homemaker. It is time to promote pay equity on behalf of these families.

Closing the wage gap between men and women would cut the poverty rate in half. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that the poverty rate among women is the highest it's been in 17 years, with 17 million women living in poverty last year compared with 12.6 million men. The 77 cents to the dollar that women make relative to men adds up to \$11,084 a year in loss of income. This impacts her lifetime earnings and hurts her retirement savings. Over the age of 65, nearly 52 percent of women are categorized as economically vulnerable by the supplemental poverty measure versus almost 42 percent of men at the same age. If the slow pace of increase continues, it will not be until 2058 that hard-working women receive pay equity and are able to close the wage gap that will allow them to enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

It is estimated that greater pay equity between men and women would add nearly half a trillion dollars to the U.S. economy. The first female Chair of the Federal Reserve, Janet Yellen, has been vocal in her praise of women's increasing participation in the workplace and contributions to our overall economy. Between 1970 and 2009, women's participation in the workforce jumped to nearly half of all workers, going from holding 37 percent of jobs to nearly 48 percent. Women have made similar advances in higher education and receive almost 60 percent of the bachelor's degrees granted in the United States. Still, one year after college, female graduates receive just 82 percent of what their male counterparts make. This unjust pay gap only increases as they become older; women are paid just 69 percent of what men earn 10 years after college graduation.

In this year's State of the Union, President Obama drew attention to the wage gap, saying that this level of inequality in 2014 is unacceptable. He prioritized congressional and private sector action on fair pay and fair leave policies so that women can achieve the equality they deserve.

Women make tremendous contributions to our economic wellbeing. Unequal pay is a reality in modern America but it doesn't have to be. There is wide support for equal reimbursement—73 percent of Americans favor equal pay for equal work. I agree, and that's why I support the Paycheck Fairness Act. It is time for us to prioritize the long-term well-being of the nation's hardworking women, many of whom are heads of households, and immediately pass this critical legislation to help ensure equality in the workplace.

CONGRATULATING PRINCIPAL DON FARR FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Don Farr, the principal of Monmouth-Roseville Junior High School, who has been named the Middle School Principal of the Year by Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association.

Principal Farr has served as a principal for 17 years. He is active in the Illinois Principals Association as well as numerous community organizations, including the Roseville Community Center, the Warren County YMCA, the Roseville Masonic Lodge and the Monmouth Chamber of Commerce. He also passes on his experience by teaching classes in Middle School Methods and Strategies at Monmouth College.

As a proud mother of three sons who were educated by our public schools, I know firsthand the importance of administrators who work with teachers and the community to create a positive school climate and do what is best for our students. I'm glad that the Illinois Principals Association and Horace Mann are recognizing and honoring Principal Farr for his excellent work.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again congratulate Principal Farr for his outstanding efforts on behalf of students in our community and wish him the best in the National Middle School Principal of the Year awards.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER JAMES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Christopher James of Davis Brown Law Firm in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Christopher in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. James for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Christopher on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business

Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

SYDNEY AND THALIA POTTER

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Mr. Sydney Potter. As our neighbors in the Tampa Bay area know, you cannot talk about Sydney without also talking about his amazing wife, Thalia. Sydney and Thalia were true partners dedicated to their family and to serving our community. Sydney passed recently, but today I am happy to honor their countless accomplishments and unsurpassed reputation for improving Hillsborough County.

Sydney and Thalia Potter married in 1944 and raised their family along the banks of the Hillsborough River in 1955. Both Sydney and Thalia had distinguished professional careers. Sydney served most of his career as Secretary-Treasurer of I.W. Phillips & Company before managing a distribution office for Ace Hardware. Thalia had an outstanding career as a legislative aide which began with Florida State Representative Ed Blackburn in the early 1970's and continued with State Senator Pat Frank as well as State Representative Jim Davis before her retirement. Throughout her career, Thalia was known for her scrupulous ethics, impeccable attention to detail, and unparalleled skill for serving constituents with kindness and poise.

Sydney and Thalia's love of the Hillsborough River led them to be longtime advocates for environmental stewardship. In the words of close friends, Sydney and Thalia "were green before green was cool." Their activism led to the passage of environmental protection bills for the Hillsborough River as well as led to the completion of projects that successfully reversed erosion along a local riverfront park and pushed local officials to allow more freshwater to flow from the upriver dam to replenish the river's ecosystem. In 1997, they also helped organize Citizens for the Responsible Application of Malathion (CRAM), which successfully stopped the spraying of dangerous pesticides over the citizens of Hillsborough County. Sydney and Thalia's leadership in environmental conservation and preservation has had an immeasurable impact on the community and the future of the Tampa Bay Watershed.

Sydney and Thalia's dedication and community service has led to their recognition by several prestigious organizations. Thalia was awarded the Sierra Club's Pine Tree Award in 1998 for achievement in group activism and, later that year, Sydney was awarded the Club's Gopher Tortoise Award for support of a member in important activist effort. In 2008, The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County announced the establishment of the "Sydney and Thalia Potter Civic Leadership Award for their commitment to good government, protection of the environment, and community activism.

Sydney was a gentleman in the finest sense of the word and was remarkably knowledgeable in his understanding of the key issues affecting our community and country. His poignant, tough questions to public officials at Suncoast Tiger Bay Club meetings led to him winning more Garfield Awards than any other member. Thalia is a woman of true grace and grit from a remarkable family with an unmatched history of commitment to helping children and families. Sydney and Thalia are consummate examples of servant leadership. At every turn, they acted with the best interest of the community and country at heart. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing two irreplaceable and inspirational leaders of the Tampa Bay community for a lifetime of dedicated public service.

COMMEMORATING EQUAL PAY
DAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, it is simply unfathomable that today is Equal Pay Day, the day when, more than three months into the year, women's wages finally catch up to what men were paid in the previous year. This is flat out unacceptable.

Today is not a celebration or a happy occasion at all. It is a glaring reminder of the hard work that still needs to be done in order to achieve gender parity in pay.

Women are half the population! How has this inequity been allowed to stand for so long? When President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law in 1963, women on average made 59 cents for every dollar earned by men. It has been 51 years since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law, and yet women still earn on average only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men, amounting to a yearly gap of \$11,607 between full-time working men and women. We've made some progress—but not nearly enough.

Equal pay is not simply a women's issue—it is a family issue. Families increasingly rely on women's wages to make ends meet, and with less take-home pay women have less money for the everyday needs of their families.

According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, in California, women in are paid 84 cents for every dollar paid to men, amounting to an annual wage gap of \$8,183 between men and women who work full time in the state. In addition, Californian women who are employed full time lose a combined total of approximately \$37,658,902,470 every year due to the wage gap.

The sad reality is that the pay gap is not simply an education issue. Nationally, women with master's degrees who work full time are paid just 70 cents for every dollar paid to men with master's degrees. Further, women with doctoral degrees are paid less than men with master's degrees, and women with master's degrees are paid less than men with bachelor's degrees.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the Paycheck Fairness Act is so critical. It will close loopholes

and strengthen the Equal Pay Act, which hasn't been updated in 51 years. The bill has 207 cosponsors. It is simply shocking that out of 207 cosponsors, not one—let me repeat that—not one is a Republican. This is not an issue that only affects Democrats. It affects all hard-working American women—regardless of their political party. Does the Majority simply not care about this problem, or is it yet another continuation of the War on Women?

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NORTH SHORE
SANITARY DISTRICT

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 100th anniversary of the North Shore Sanitary District (NSSD), a critically-important municipal utility that serves the suburban Chicago district I represent.

Chartered in 1914, NSSD has grown into the second largest sanitary treatment district in the State of Illinois. The wastewater treatment process is critical to the health of our families and our environment. The average American produces 100 gallons of wastewater per day, and NSSD serves more than 300,000 people.

NSSD operates three major facilities in the district I represent, with 125 miles of sewers and the capacity to deal with more than 60 million gallons of wastewater each day.

For 100 years, NSSD has diligently worked to protect our inland waterways and Lake Michigan from storm and wastewater runoff. The water reclamation process is integral to our modern ecosystems, and NSSD conducts this process with unmatched skill, precision and care.

To more appropriately reflect NSSD's breadth of work and commitment to water quality, NSSD will officially change its name to the North Shore Water Reclamation District.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate NSSD on a century of outstanding service to the North Shore, and I look forward to another 100 years of success as the North Shore Water Reclamation District.

RECOGNIZING RORY RESHOVSKY
ON HIS THIRD PRIZE AWARD IN
C-SPAN'S NATIONAL 2014
STUDENTCAM COMPETITION

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Rory Reshovsky, who has achieved national recognition for a short documentary he produced in response to the question, "What's the most important issue the United States Congress should consider in 2014?"

Rory took home the Third Prize award in C-SPAN's national 2014 StudentCam competition, which is a wonderful competition that

challenges our youth to think critically about issues of national importance. I find it inspiring that so many young people are engaged in these debates and contributing their voices as part of our democratic process. Our democracy is strengthened when active citizens like Rory take time to participate in the process.

Rory's thoughtful documentary, "I Do," provides a really insightful focus on the issue of marriage equality. I was particularly proud to play a role in the documentary and highlight just how important it is to ensure all committed loving couples are able to marry.

After all, I want my daughters to grow up in a country where discrimination is a thing of the past—where people can't be treated differently because of their gender, where they come from, or who they love.

The StudentCam competition recognizes the most impressive student filmmakers across the country. Rory has been named one of the top honorees nationwide in a competition that included 2,355 documentaries entered by nearly 5,000 students in 46 states.

Mr. Speaker, I heartily applaud Rory for his work producing the documentary. Rory's actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities and the national dialogue.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL DAYTON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Michael Dayton of Nyemaster Goode in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Michael in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Dayton for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Michael on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE WATER ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very important organization based in my congressional district. Founded in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1989, The Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) coordinates unbiased, scientifically rigorous water quality research among teams of federal, state, and local agencies that represent over 75 percent of the U.S. population served by waste water treatment plants, of the U.S. Under the leadership of founding Executive Director Glenn Reinhardt, WERF has grown from a few employees to a highly respected national center of water quality research with a full-time staff of 23 and an annual budget of over \$10 million. The foundation's efforts have improved human and ecological health, fostered new water quality management processes and spear-headed the development of new technologies.

WERF has managed nearly 550 research projects, valued at more than \$130 million, with \$19 million (cash and in-kind) work ongoing annually. Its research has helped create many new tools for restoring water quality and informed better state and federal regulation, saving the U.S. water quality community well as much as \$2 billion over the last twenty years. For instance, WERF's watershed trading demonstration projects led to hundreds of millions in regulatory savings while its investment of only \$92,500 into new sewer designs, materials, and rehabilitation techniques reduced annual costs at wastewater collection systems nationwide by at least \$75 million.

In times when federal spending on wastewater infrastructure continues to fall in real and inflation adjusted terms WERF research provides one of the few means to control or reduce the staggering cost of essential infrastructure upgrades, which by some estimates approach \$500 billion over the next twenty years.

WERF focuses on the critical issues as identified by its subscribers, including wastewater infrastructure management, wet weather (runoff) control, biosolids handling, and wastewater utility responses to climate change. Newer challenges rising up the research agenda include nutrient removal, wastewater utility operations optimization, trace organics effects, wastewater services and costs, green infrastructure, and recovering energy from wastewater.

For many years, WERF received federal funding through Appropriation Committees on which I have served. Those funds have been leveraged at a 3:1 or better rate with monies largely from local wastewater treatment facilities. This highly successful public/private partnership should be celebrated and expanded, and I ask Congress to redouble its efforts to support water quality research. My congratulations to the entire WERF staff and volunteers for their fine work on behalf of us all and for reaching this significant milestone.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations are in order for a job well done.

HONORING COACH KEVIN SCHLAGEL UPON HIS 40-YEAR ASSOCIATION WITH ST. CLOUD STATE'S MEN'S BASKETBALL PROGRAM

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Kevin Schlagel of St. Cloud, Minnesota, upon his retirement after 40 years of service to the St. Cloud State University Men's Basketball Program.

Kevin Schlagel's dedication to Huskies basketball began when he was a player from 1972–1976 and helped bring home the Northern Intercollegiate Conference title his senior year. After 18 seasons as their top assistant coach, he was named the head coach of the Huskies during the 1997–1998 season. Under Coach Schlagel's leadership the Huskies earned a selection in the NCAA tournament eight times, and won the NCC Wells Fargo Finals Tournament twice, the NSIC Sanford Health Tournament twice, and the North Central Conference regular season title once.

In the Huskies' most prolific season ever, 2009–2010, they won a school record 29 games and made it to the NCAA Division II Final Four. After 17 years as the head coach, Kevin Schlagel is the winningest Men's Basketball coach in Huskies history with an overall record of 321–149.

Coach Schlagel is a great example of the important role that coaches play in our communities. He has been a true leader to young people, helping them develop skills that will enable them to be successful long after their last game.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to join me in honoring Coach Kevin Schlagel upon his successful career at St. Cloud State University.

CELEBRATING GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Gallaudet University's sesquicentennial.

I am proud to serve as one of the U.S. Congress's members of their board of trustees during this momentous occasion. I acknowledge them both for their achievements as the Nation's premier institution for the Deaf, and for their storied history of excellence in education, improving access throughout America and the world.

In 1856, philanthropist and former postmaster general Amos Kendall donated land on his estate in northeast Washington, D.C. for a place to educate the city's Deaf youth, and, eight years later, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill authorized by the U.S. Congress for the institution to grant college degrees.

Theology graduate Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet was inspired to dedicate his life to edu-

cating Deaf people after tutoring Alice Cogswell, a nine-year-old Deaf neighbor, and traveled to France, where he learned a manual communication method of instruction developed by renowned French educators Abbe Sicard, Laurent Clerc, and Jean Massieu. Upon returning to the United States, Gallaudet established the American School for the Deaf, the nation's first permanent school for Deaf children, in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1857, Gallaudet's youngest son, Edward Miner Gallaudet, took up his father's cause when he and his Deaf mother, Sophia Fowler Gallaudet, were invited by Kendall to run the newly established Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind in Washington, D.C., and with Kendall's resources and Gallaudet's leadership and vision, the fledgling school grew and flourished, expanding to provide instruction for aspiring teachers of the Deaf and to become the world's first—and today retains the status of the only—institution of higher education devoted to Deaf and hard of hearing students, and to hearing students who pursue careers as professionals serving the Deaf community.

Gallaudet presided over the first commencement in June 1869. Those graduating that day received diplomas signed by President Ulysses S. Grant, and to this day the diplomas of all Gallaudet graduates are signed by the current U.S. President.

In 1969, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Model Secondary School for the Deaf Act (MSSD), and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and Gallaudet President Leonard Elstad signed an agreement authorizing the establishment and operation of the MSSD on the Gallaudet campus. One year later, President Nixon signed the bill that authorized the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School. Those two schools are part of Gallaudet's Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center, which is devoted to the creation and dissemination of educational opportunities for Deaf students nationwide.

By an act of Congress, Gallaudet was granted university status in October 1986 and presently Gallaudet's undergraduate students have their choice of more than 40 majors. Graduate programs offer certificates and master of arts, master of science, doctoral, and specialist degrees in many specialties regarding professional service to Deaf and hard of hearing people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support for Gallaudet University and their essential mission here in our nation's capital. I congratulate all of the faculty, staff, students, and all involved with the Gallaudet community on their sesquicentennial.

TRIBUTE TO CARRIE CLOGG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Carrie Clogg of the Civic Music Association for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Carrie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Clogg for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Carrie on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF DR. JAMES SCHLES-
INGER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I reflect on the recent passing of a great American servant and defender, Mr. James Schlesinger. While I am sure that I don't need to enumerate each of his many accomplishments in the service of his nation—Chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Director of Central Intelligence, Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of Energy—I would like to spend a moment reflecting on his remarkable service to the national security of the American people.

When I took over at the beginning of this Congress as the Chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, which oversees, among other vital national programs, the nation's nuclear forces, I knew that I needed to find the best of this nation's leaders to seek their advice and counsel. Of course, Dr. Schlesinger was at the top of this list. I was grateful that despite struggles with his health, he took the time to come and conduct a seminar for my colleagues on the subcommittee and me. We are able to better do our important work because of the ground he tread in his lifetime of service and because of the counsel he lent us selflessly.

As the former Secretary told us, "[n]uclear weapons are used every day . . . to deter our potential foes and provide reassurance to the allies to whom we offer protection." These are true words from the man the Wall Street Journal referred to as the "Yoda" of nuclear deterrence.

Mr. Speaker, we've lost a great advocate for this country's security. But, we are fortunate that we have his example and his work to guide us. Never more than today do we realize the value in what James Schlesinger stood for across his 85 years. We thank God that we

live in a nation led and protected by such men as Dr. Schlesinger. I take the liberty of speaking for the whole House when I say to his family, thank you for allowing him to spend his life in service to his country.

I submit a Wall Street Journal op-ed ("Why We Don't Want a Nuclear-Free World", July 13, 2009) and an obituary that appeared on the same page on March 28th.

[From the Wall Street Journal, July 13, 2009]

WHY WE DON'T WANT A NUCLEAR-FREE
WORLD

(By Melanie Kirkpatrick)

"Nuclear weapons are used every day." So says former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger, speaking last month at his office in a wooded enclave of Maclean, Va. It's a serene setting for Doomsday talk, and Mr. Schlesinger's matter-of-fact tone belies the enormity of the concepts he's explaining—concepts that were seemingly ignored in this week's Moscow summit between Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev.

We use nuclear weapons every day, Mr. Schlesinger goes on to explain, "to deter our potential foes and provide reassurance to the allies to whom we offer protection."

Mr. Obama likes to talk about his vision of a nuclear-free world, and in Moscow he and Mr. Medvedev signed an agreement setting targets for sweeping reductions in the world's largest nuclear arsenals. Reflecting on the hour I spent with Mr. Schlesinger, I can't help but think: Do we really want to do this?

For nuclear strategists, Mr. Schlesinger is Yoda, the master of their universe. In addition to being a former defense secretary (Nixon and Ford), he is a former energy secretary (Carter) and former director of central intelligence (Nixon). He has been studying the U.S. nuclear posture since the early 1960s, when he was at the RAND Corporation, a California think tank that often does research for the U.S. government. He's the expert whom Defense Secretary Robert Gates called on last year to lead an investigation into the Air Force's mishandling of nuclear weapons after nuclear-armed cruise missiles were mistakenly flown across the country on a B-52 and nuclear fuses were accidentally shipped to Taiwan. Most recently, he's vice chairman of a bipartisan congressional commission that in May issued an urgent warning about the need to maintain a strong U.S. deterrent.

But above all, Mr. Schlesinger is a nuclear realist. Are we heading toward a nuclear-free world anytime soon? He shoots back a one-word answer: "No." I keep silent, hoping he will go on. "We will need a strong deterrent," he finally says, "and that is measured at least in decades—in my judgment, in fact, more or less in perpetuity. The notion that we can abolish nuclear weapons reflects on a combination of American utopianism and American parochialism. . . . It's like the [1929] Kellogg-Briand Pact renouncing war as an instrument of national policy. . . . It's not based upon an understanding of reality."

In other words: Go ahead and wish for a nuclear-free world, but pray that you don't get what you wish for. A world without nukes would be even more dangerous than a world with them, Mr. Schlesinger argues.

"If, by some miracle, we were able to eliminate nuclear weapons," he says, "what we would have is a number of countries sitting around with breakout capabilities or rumors of breakout capabilities—for intimidation purposes . . . and finally, probably, a number of small clandestine stockpiles." This would make the U.S. more vulnerable.

Mr. Schlesinger makes the case for a strong U.S. deterrent. Yes, the Cold War has ended and, yes, while "we worry about Russia's nuclear posture to some degree, it is not just as prominent as it once was." The U.S. still needs to deter Russia, which has the largest nuclear capability of any potential adversary, and the Chinese, who have a modest (and growing) capability. The U.S. nuclear deterrent has no influence on North Korea or Iran, he says, or on nonstate actors. "They're not going to be deterred by the possibility of a nuclear response to actions that they might take," he says.

Mr. Schlesinger refers to the unanimous conclusion of the bipartisan Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States, which he co-led with Chairman William Perry. The commission "strongly" recommended that further discussions with the Russians on arms control are "desirable," he says, and that "we should proceed with negotiations on an extension of the START Treaty." That's what Mr. Obama set in motion in Moscow this week. The pact—whose full name is the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty—expires in December. But what's the hurry? Mr. Schlesinger warns about rushing to agree on cuts. "The treaty . . . can be extended for five years. And, if need be, I would extend it for five years."

There's another compelling reason for a strong U.S. deterrent: the U.S. nuclear umbrella, which protects more than 30 allies worldwide. "If we were only protecting the North American continent," he says, "we could do so with far fewer weapons than we have at present in the stockpile." But a principal aim of the U.S. nuclear deterrent is "to provide the necessary reassurance to our allies, both in Asia and in Europe." That includes "our new NATO allies such as Poland and the Baltic States," which, he notes dryly, continue to be concerned about their Russian neighbor. "Indeed, they inform us regularly that they understand the Russians far better than do we."

The congressional commission warned of a coming "tipping point" in proliferation, when more nations might decide to go nuclear if they were to lose confidence in the U.S. deterrent, or in Washington's will to use it. If U.S. allies lose confidence in Washington's ability to protect them, they'll kick off a new nuclear arms race.

That's a reason Mr. Schlesinger wants to bring Japan into the nuclear conversation. "One of the recommendations of the commission is that we start to have a dialogue with the Japanese about strategic capabilities in order both to help enlighten them and to provide reassurance that they will be protected by the U.S. nuclear umbrella. In the past, that has not been the case. Japan never was seriously threatened by Soviet capabilities and that the Soviets looked westward largely is a threat against Western Europe. But now that the Chinese forces have been growing into the many hundreds of weapons, we think that it's necessary to talk to the Japanese in the same way that we have talked to the Europeans over the years."

He reminds me of the comment of Japanese political leader Ichiro Ozawa, who said in 2002 that it would be "easy" for Japan to make nuclear warheads and that it had enough plutonium to make several thousand weapons. "When one contemplates a number like that," Mr. Schlesinger says, "one sees that a substantial role in nonproliferation has been the U.S. nuclear umbrella. Without that, some and perhaps a fair number of our allies would feel the necessity of having their own nuclear capabilities."

He worries about "contagion" in the Middle East, whereby countries will decide to go nuclear if Iran does. "We've long talked about Iran as a tipping point," he says, "in that it might induce Turkey, which has long been protected under NATO, Egypt [and] Saudi Arabia to respond in kind. There has been talk about extending the nuclear umbrella to the Middle East in the event that the Iranians are successful in developing that capacity."

Mr. Schlesinger expresses concerns, too, about the safety and reliability of U.S. nuclear weapons, all of which are more than 20 years old. "I am worried about the reliability of the weapons . . . as time passes. Not this year, not next year, but as time passes and the stockpile ages." There is a worry, too, about the "intellectual infrastructure," he says, as Americans who know how to make nuclear weapons either retire or die. And he notes that the "physical infrastructure" is now "well over 60 years" old. Some of it "comes out of the Manhattan Project."

The U.S. is the only major nuclear power that is not modernizing its weapons. "The Russians have a shelf life for their weapons of about 10 years so they are continually replacing" them. The British and the French "stay up to date." And the Chinese and the Indians "continue to add to their stockpiles." But in the U.S., Congress won't even so much as fund R&D for the Reliable Replacement Warhead. "The RRW has become a toxic term on Capitol Hill," Mr. Schlesinger says. Give it a new name, he seems to be suggesting, and try again to get Congress to fund it. "We need to be much more vigorous about life-extension programs" for the weapons.

Finally, we chat about Mr. Schlesinger's nearly half-century as a nuclear strategist. Are we living in a world where the use of nuclear weapons is more likely than it was back then? "The likelihood of a nuclear exchange has substantially gone away," he says. That's the good news. "However, the likelihood of a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States" is greater.

During his RAND years, in the 1960s, Mr. Schlesinger recalls that "we were working on mitigating the possible effects [of a nuclear attack] through civil defense, which, may I say parenthetically, we should be working on now with respect, certainly, to the possibility of a terrorist weapon used against the United States. . . . We should have a much more rapid response capability. . . . We're not as well organized as we should be to respond."

Mr. Schlesinger sees another difference between now and when he started in this business: "Public interest in our strategic posture has faded over the decades," he says. "In the Cold War, it was a most prominent subject. Now, much of the public is barely interested in it. And that has been true of the Congress as well," creating what he delicately refers to as "something of a stalemate in expenditures."

He's raising the alarm. Congress, the administration and Americans ignore it at their peril.

[From The Wall Street Journal, Mar. 28, 2014]

JAMES R. SCHLESINGER: A DEFENSE STRATEGIST WITHOUT ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE WORLD'S THREATS

One can only imagine the wry, bemused expression that would have passed across former Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger at the irony of his death this past week

at age 85. Jim Schlesinger, the ultimate Cold Warrior, left the public stage at the moment his successors in Washington are arguing among themselves whether Vladimir Putin of Russia, with some 50,000 troops arrayed on Ukraine's border and a nuclear weapons arsenal in his pocket, is or is not a threat to the interests of the United States.

The phrase "he does not suffer fools gladly" wasn't invented for Jim Schlesinger, though some in the Washington policy-making fraternity could have been forgiven for thinking so. Nuclear strategist, defense secretary to Presidents Nixon and Ford and then the first secretary of energy under Jimmy Carter, Schlesinger puffed on an ever-present pipe and offered unvarnished and sometimes uncomfortable advice through some of the most difficult events of the Cold War era.

Equivocation wasn't a word he recognized. In the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, with the Soviet Union supplying some of the Arab countries, the Schlesinger Defense Department airlifted supplies to Israel, a U.S. ally.

Above all, Schlesinger believed that the U.S. should do nothing to put its preeminence in national security at risk. He pushed hard for increased military spending and voiced doubts about the terms of nuclear-arms negotiations with the Soviet Union in the 1970s.

He believed in the idea of military deterrence, and that included the U.S. nuclear deterrent. In a typically blunt assertion during a Weekend Interview with the Journal in 2009, Schlesinger said, "Nuclear weapons are used every day." They are used "to deter our potential foes and provide reassurance to the allies to whom we offer our protection."

Schlesinger's robust clarity about the nature of threat and adversaries is out of favor in Washington these days. Foreign-policy tastes now run more toward "nuance." Jim Schlesinger, a card-carrying economist, had nothing against nuance. He simply wanted to do whatever is necessary to make sure the U.S. never ended up on the wrong side of it. That point of view is missed.

RECOGNIZING JAMES BEN MAGEL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize retiring Councilman of Pleasanton, Texas, James Ben Magel. He has served the citizens of the city of Pleasanton well, and is now ending his tenure after 18 years. His tireless efforts have improved the community, and he has served to better the development and progress of Pleasanton.

"Jimmy" Magel was born in Kenedy, Texas. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Pleasanton. After graduating from Pleasanton High School in 1966, he attended the University of Texas at Austin, earning a degree in Pharmacy in 1971. He returned to Pleasanton and worked at Henry's Pharmacy. In 1974 he began working for Rexco Pharmacy, which he now owns. In 1970 he married Bernice Ticken. Together, they share two children and one grandchild. Currently, he serves as President of the Pleasanton Ex-Students Association and is a member of the St. John Lutheran Church Council in Jourdan. One of his proudest achievements was earning the rank

of Eagle Scout. A loving husband and father, Mr. Magel has been a devoted public servant and community leader.

As Councilman, Mr. Magel has played an integral role in leading change within the Pleasanton community. Particularly, Mr. Magel paved the way for multiple construction projects, such as the construction of a public works facility, the new police department, the expansion of Pleasanton City Hall, a new civic center and library. He was also instrumental in the assembly of the Regional Water Waste Collection Line and various other infrastructure projects. Mr. Magel's commitment to the maintenance of public buildings and infrastructure has helped the city of Pleasanton continue to be a remarkable place to live and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. James "Jimmy" Ben Magel, retiring Councilman of Pleasanton. His years of dedication and commitment to our community have truly impacted the quality of life for the people of the city.

TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN DIX

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Lincoln Dix of Staples Advantage in Urbandale, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Lincoln in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Dix for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Lincoln on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 165 and "aye" on rollcall No. 166, supporting the passage of the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of March 24, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following: rollcall No. 136—On final passage of H.R. 3060—"yea"; rollcall No. 137—On final passage of H.R. 1813—"yea"; rollcall No. 138—H.R. 2824—Lowenthal Amendment—"yea"; rollcall No. 139—H.R. 2824—Cartwright Amendment—"yea"; rollcall No. 140—H.R. 2824—On motion to recommit with instructions—"yea"; rollcall No. 141—On final passage of H.R. 2824—"nay"; rollcall No. 142—H. Res. 524—On ordering the previous question on the rule—"nay"; rollcall No. 143—H. Res. 524—On agreeing to the resolution—"nay"; rollcall No. 144—On final passage of H.R. 1228—"yea"; rollcall No. 145—H.R. 1459—Tsongas Amendment—"yea"; rollcall No. 146—On motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 1459—"yea"; rollcall No. 147—On final passage of H.R. 1459—"nay"; rollcall No. 148—On final passage of H.R. 4278—"yea".

HONORING PAUL KINCAID

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Paul Kincaid for his service to Missouri State University and on receiving the Virginia Carter Smith Recognition Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education District VI.

Paul serves as the chief of staff and assistant to the president for university relations at Missouri State University. Paul serves as an important voice in the public affairs mission of the university, which is to instill in students the knowledge to be productive and competent leaders in the pursuit of careers in public affairs.

The Virginia Carter Smith Recognition Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VI is given to professionals who have shown outstanding service to CASE and who have retired or plan to retire. Paul plans to retire from Missouri State University in October.

I am honored to recognize Paul Kincaid for his service to Missouri State University and his 39 years working in higher education public relations. I know that education is a once in a lifetime experience, and with people like Paul at the university, its students are being prepared to excel in their chosen career paths.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID FARNSWORTH

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize David Farnsworth of McGown, Hurst, Clark, and Smith for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like David in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Farnsworth for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating David on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

CELEBRATING WAG-A-BAG STORES

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the founding of Wag-A-Bag convenience stores. One of central Texas' most beloved institutions, Wag-A-Bag is celebrating a half century of service to the Lone Star State.

First opening in 1964, Wag-A-Bag stores were the brainchild of Virg and Nancy Rabb. A true innovator, Virg realized that the rural small towns that dotted the Texas landscape needed convenience stores. My home town of Round Rock, TX had just 1800 residents, no traffic lights, and no police force when the first Wag-A-Bag store was built.

Since opening, Wag-A-Bag has enjoyed continuous but cautious growth. One store grew to nineteen and they expanded locations to Hutto, Pflugerville, Georgetown, Liberty Hill, and Austin. Each store has become an essential part of the fabric of community life. Wag-A-Bags have been the site of first jobs, last minute stops for ingredients before dinner, and countless cups of coffee to start the day.

Proudly a family business, Wag-A-Bag still operates under the guidance of Nancy Rabb and her son Cary, who stepped in following Virg's death in 1998. They also devote resources to making a difference and are committed partners with numerous civic and school organizations.

With its exemplary customer service as well as its commitment to being a contributor to the Central Texas community, Wag-A-Bag is truly an American success story. I wish their founders and employees a happy 50th birthday and all the best in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on April 7th, I was not present for rollcall votes 165 and 166. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted: "aye" on rollcall vote 165, "nay" on rollcall vote 166.

IN RECOGNITION OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today marks a holiday that I hope to see stricken from the calendar. Today is Equal Pay Day, a day which marks the number of days into 2014 that it takes for the average woman to make as much as her male counterpart did in 2013. It is truly staggering that a woman does not earn the same annual amount as her male counterpart until four months into the following year. The fact that women earn only 77 percent of what men are paid has a staggering effect on society as a whole, our economy and our future.

Closing the wage gap would likely have an immensely positive effect on our economy. The additional \$400,000 that each woman would earn in her lifetime if paid the same as her male counterpart would be just the economic boost that our country needs as we recover from the recession. Economists estimate that closing the wage gap would have twice the stimulative effect as President Obama's \$800 billion Stimulus Bill. We simply cannot afford Congressional inaction on this issue.

Not only does wage inequality diminish a woman's spending power, it also has a devastating effect on women's retirement savings. Diminished earnings means that women are less equipped to contribute to retirement savings, but it also means that their Social Security and pensions, both of which are based on income, are diminished. The resulting effect is that retired women are more likely than retired men to live in poverty. The fact that we can let our mothers and grandmothers live in poverty during the final years of their lives is truly a travesty.

The wage gap is even more dramatic for women of color: African American women on average earn only 64 cents for every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men. Latinas fare even worse, earning only 55 cents on the dollar. According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, that adds up to an average of \$18,817 and \$23,298, respectively,

in annual lost wages. Put another way, the lost wages are the equivalent to 118 weeks' worth of food and 4,549 gallons of gasoline for African American women and 154 weeks' worth of food and 5,743 gallons of gasoline for Latina women. This inequity is intolerable.

The Equal Pay Act was passed in 1963 to address the issue of wage inequality, but progress has been slow. Since the Act's passage, the wage gap has closed by just 18 cents. According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, at the current pace, the wage gap will not be closed until 2058. This is simply unacceptable. Congress cannot sit by idly while women's economic security, including their retirement savings, are threatened by gender inequity.

As the Senate prepares yet again to vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act, it is my hope that my colleagues in the Senate will recall the devastating effects that wage inequity has on women, particularly minority and elderly women, and vote in favor of S. 2199.

Paycheck inequity also means women are more economically vulnerable during breaks in employment. Women, earning less than their male counterparts, have less money to place into savings as a safeguard to protect themselves and their families from unexpected unemployment.

The House can act immediately to provide women and their families with economic safeguards by passing the Senate's 5-month extension of long-term jobless benefits. Not only do tens of thousands of women rely on long-term unemployment insurance to satisfy their most basic needs, they also use these benefits to provide for the needs of their children. Many women, despite earning significantly less than their male counterparts, are the primary providers for their families. Congress should reward women for their hard work and extend long-term jobless benefits, a critical safety net for women and their families.

TRIBUTE TO KATE GAINER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Kate Gainer of the Iowa Pharmacy Association for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Kate in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I rec-

ognize and applaud Ms. Gainer for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Kate on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today this Equal Pay Day, I rise to recognize the full value of women's skills, their significant contributions to the labor force, and acknowledge the gross injustice of wage inequality.

Women—who make up nearly half of our Nation's workforce—on average still make only 77 cents for every dollar made by men.

For black women, it's 64 cents on the dollar.

At a time when families across the United States are struggling to make ends meet, ensuring a fair wage is more important than ever.

Equal pay is more than a basic right—it is an economic necessity.

That is why I will continue to fight for the When Women Succeed, America Succeeds economic agenda, which includes enacting the Paycheck Fairness Act, to ensure equal pay for equal work for our nation's women, children, and families.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MRS. CHASITY TUGGLE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual, Mrs. Chasity Tuggle of Berea, Kentucky. Mrs. Tuggle recently earned distinction as a 2014 Elizabeth Dole Foundation Fellow for her devotion as a caregiver to a special military veteran, her husband. With this honor, Mrs. Tuggle represents Kentucky in the Caring for Military Families Program.

Serving as a veteran caregiver can often prove physically and mentally challenging, resulting in significant hardship for the families involved. Mrs. Tuggle is among the one million individuals who voluntarily provide homecare to wounded Iraq and Afghanistan veterans throughout the nation.

All military and veteran caregivers deserve our appreciation and gratitude, but today I would like to especially salute Mrs. Tuggle for her selfless dedication and willingness to place the needs of a loved one over her own. I also applaud her exceptional work through the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, which allows her to give a voice to other veteran caregivers who have made a similar sacrifice. Mrs. Tuggle is truly an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY MEN'S ACHA DIVISION 1 HOCKEY TEAM

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Robert Morris University Men's ACHA Division 1 hockey team as the 2014 National Champion Runners-Up. Robert Morris University is a private, non-profit, multi-campus university in Illinois, with an enrollment of approximately 6,000 students. Facing competition from prestigious universities with enrollments greater than 30,000, the Robert Morris players and coaches demonstrated remarkable stamina, character, and determination in realizing their goal of competing for the national title.

Off the ice these student-athletes distinguished themselves academically as well. During the first quarter of the year, 11 players earned a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average, and 21 of these hockey players earned a 3.0 GPA or better. The team can also boast they have a 100 percent graduation rate, as all 9 seniors on the team will be graduating after 4 years.

The life of a student-athlete can be both physically and mentally exhausting, as they must balance a full-time course schedule, daily practices, 2–3 day road trips every other week, and quite often, part-time jobs. This is especially true for these young men, as their hockey season extends for over 6 months, the majority of their academic school year. Their ongoing dedication to excellence, both on and off the ice is a credit to themselves, their coaches, their school and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert Morris University student-athletes: Mitch Tews, Mason Riley, Christopher Cimoch, Ryan O'Connell, Tyler Martorano, Joey Francis, Kyle Hamilton, Derek Winkler, Nick Ernst, Tony Domico, Derek Diaz, Gehritt Sargis, Markus Ellis, T.J. Karavos, Robert Chapman, Andrew Montague, Adam Keasey, Chris Pontello, Chayce Coenen, Oleg Popov, Paul Isleib, Andy DiCristofaro, Anthony Petrak, Robert Kennedy, Zach Kuta, Head Coach Tom Adrahtas, Assistant Coach Chad Berman and Director of Player Personnel Tom Wendlandt. Your outstanding achievements this year are truly admirable.

TRIBUTE TO ABBEY GILROY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Abbey Gilroy of Neighborhood Development Corporation in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the

Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Abbey in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Gilroy for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Abbey on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

CONGRATULATING PRIME MINISTER VICTOR ORBAN OF HUNGARY

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hungary's newly re-elected Prime Minister Victor Orban. The Prime Minister, and the conservative governing Fidesz-Christian Democratic alliance, won this election with a decisive margin.

This makes Prime Minister Victor Orban the first conservative prime minister in Hungary to be re-elected since the regime change in 1990. In addition, it is important to recognize that this is the first election that all Hungarian Citizens living outside of Hungary could also participate in the electoral process.

Many of these Hungarian emigrants, like my great grandparents, traveled to the United States but retained a close tie to their homeland. It is wonderful that those who still retain their Hungarian identity have the ability to remain involved in this democratic process.

Hungary's significance cannot be overstated and the country's position as a world partner before WWII is important to always remember. Hungary has a rich culture and heritage that adds a great dynamic to the world.

As a Member of Congress with deep Hungarian roots, and as a proud Member of the Hungarian Caucus, our nations must continue to build upon our strong bilateral diplomatic and economic relations.

HONORING JIMMY JOE JOHNSON

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jimmy Joe Johnson, whose quick thinking, expertise, and determination helped save Lake Conway from free flowing crude oil on March 29, 2013, when the ExxonMobil Pegasus Pipeline ruptured.

Jimmy Joe has been the Mayflower Street Department Supervisor for 15 years. His swift plan of action helped protect a critical natural resource in central Arkansas. Along with a crew of city, county and local volunteers, he deployed every resource available, including dump trucks and backhoes to construct a barricade that isolated the surging oil.

Racing against time, they first plugged a pair of 48-inch metal pipes that isolated the oil to a 30-acre cove beside Lake Conway, a 6,700-acre body of water.

He then instructed his crew to create a dike the length of a football field with gravel and pipes, allowing the oil to pool where it could be removed with vacuums and skimmers. By the time rain began falling that evening, the Mayflower Street Department had exhausted a supply of 75 tons of gravel.

Lake Conway was created by an Arkansas conservation agency and is the largest man-made lake in the United States. It is renowned for its catfish, crappie, bluegill, and bass. The lake is approximately eight miles long with 52 miles of shoreline.

Jimmy Joe claims that he did what anyone else would have done during the oil spill, but his swift actions demonstrated a tremendous amount of excellence and leadership in the midst of a crisis.

On behalf of Arkansans and Americans everywhere, I honor Jimmy Joe Johnson and his entire crew for their heroic actions.

CONGRATULATING DAVID HAFNER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Leggett and Platt CEO David Haffner for receiving the 2014 Richard M. Webster Citizen of the Year Award by the Carthage Chamber of Commerce.

Haffner is the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Leggett and Platt, a Carthage-based business with annual global sales of over \$4 billion. Prior to his appointment as Chairman of the Board, Haffner served as Leggett and Platt's president from 2002 until 2013, and its Chief Operating Officer from 1999 to 2006.

Leggett and Platt, Inc. is one of the largest manufacturing companies in the United States and is listed on the S&P 500. Today, it manufactures a diversified line of products ranging from bedding materials, steel wire products, commercial fixturing, and commercial vehicle products. Through David Haffner's leadership, Leggett and Platt continues to expand its global reach with over 18,000 employee-partners and 130 facilities in 17 countries.

Even as Leggett and Platt expands globally, David Haffner and the entire Leggett and Platt team never forget its importance to the Carthage community. I am certainly proud to recognize David Haffner for receiving the 2014 Richard M. Webster Citizen of the Year Award, and I hope the leadership principles practiced by David continue to inspire the Leggett and Platt team and the Carthage community.

TRIBUTE TO JASON GILES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jason Giles of Nyemaster Goode in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jason in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Giles for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jason on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELECTRONIC PROVING GROUND

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Electronic Proving Ground (EPG), located in my district at Fort Huachuca in Southern Arizona.

The Electronic Proving Ground (EPG) is the Army's C5ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) developmental tester under the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC). C5ISR is one of the major components to Cyber Command and is absolutely essential to understanding and controlling the battlefield of the 21st Century.

The mission of EPG is to plan, conduct, and analyze the results of technical tests for C5ISR systems and Electronic Combat (EC)/Electronic Warfare (EW) equipment for the Department of Defense, other federal agencies and private industry.

Southern Arizona is home to an incredible array of national security assets and our community in Southern Arizona does all we can to support our defense industry, military installations and veterans. It is only fitting to mark and celebrate this important event.

Situated within a bowl-like valley enclosed by mountains more than four thousand feet

above sea level, the Electronic Proving Ground is an open-air testing range that offers more than nine thousand square miles of land protected and free from outside electromagnetic interference. The terrain and vegetation of EPG is varied, with mountains, desert, and woodlands providing a unique and unparalleled opportunity for testing technology in a multitude of environments. Fort Huachuca also possesses 970 square miles of restricted airspace that is used for airborne Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) and Electronic Warfare systems testing. Combined, these assets help to create the nation's premier testing environment and community.

In 1954, the Army's Chief Signal Officer realized the incredibly unique environment located at Fort Huachuca for electronic and communications equipment testing and since then, EPG has been recognized as one of the best interference free environments in the nation, if not the world.

I am proud to represent the soldiers, civilians, and contractors that support the Electronic Proving Ground. I wish them all the utmost success as they continue to support our warfighter with the best testing capabilities that come from sixty years of experience, intelligence, savvy, and skill. The Army, the Department of Defense, the United States and mankind have benefitted from the work performed at EPG, and we are forever grateful.

TERMINAL VELOCITY

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the Terminal Velocity team from the Cities of Franklin and Virginia Beach, Virginia. Team members Steve Motley, Steve Poe, Jason Truitt, Donnie Cagle, Bobby Williams, and Elijah Smith have, for an unprecedented fourth consecutive year, won the Operations Challenge competition held annually at the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference. They competed against 41 other teams in a series of five water utility operations and maintenance events that demonstrate the variety of skills necessary to operate a modern water utility. They are joined today by Team HRSD of the Hampton Roads Sanitation Districts, winners of the competition's Division 2. Team members Kevin Hafner, Jason Hobor, Laura Laxa, and Tim Scott are also talented water quality professionals that provide a vital service to their community. I congratulate Terminal Velocity and Team HRSD for their commitment to high levels of professionalism and their efforts to protect environmental quality and public health.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 7, 2014 I missed two votes due to a family funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 165, the Motion to Recommit and "aye" on rollcall vote 166, the passage of H.R. 1872, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE BAKERSFIELD CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bakersfield Christian High School Eagles football team, who courageously fought their way to its first California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division IV State Football Championship Bowl Game this past December.

The Eagles utilized an exceptional team effort to get through their daunting season, finishing out with a record of 12 wins and 3 losses. Over the span of the 2013 season, Bakersfield Christian set an astonishing 37 new school records. But lost in this success was the adversity they faced in the beginning of the season. The Eagles started their regular season off with two tough consecutive losses, one of them being to their biggest rival. After their second loss, Coach Jerald Pierucci sat down with his small senior class and challenged them to provide the leadership the team needed to succeed. This proved to be a critical moment for the team, the figurative fork in the road that would define their season. The path they chose speaks volumes to the team's character as a whole. In the following games, the seniors truly embodied what it meant to be leaders, and the team rallied together as one unit, going undefeated all the way to the State Championship.

When asked to define his team, Coach Pierucci without hesitation replied with one word: selfless. He elaborated that the team was just as rich in role players as it was in playmakers. There was a solid foundation of players each of whom did their job on every play—contributing to the success of their team. These were young men who personified the mantra of "team first" and never gave up in the face of adversity. Even when behind 20-0 in the Valley Championship game against a heavily-favored undefeated rival on a cold December evening, they kept working together and ultimately prevailed. This winning attitude and fierce determination displayed by the Eagles this season proved they earned the right to represent Southern California in the State Championship game.

I join our community in congratulating the coaches and players for their achievement. The 2013 Bakersfield Christian High School

Eagles coaching staff includes: Head Coach Jerald Pierucci, Vince Aguilar, Roger Patterson, Tyler Hough, Mike Rodriguez, Sean Lozano, Rick Sotile, Nathan Munson, Larry Whitbey, Tom McCormack, and Ryan Clanton. The 2013 BCHS Eagles football team includes: Keith Blank, Donald Harris, Brad Western, Josh Jackson, Brandon Jones, Nathan DeJager, Tyler Lozano, Feike DeBoer, Kyle Pickinpaugh, Hayden Kuchta, Brock Duffield, John Fulce, Austin Duffield, Kobe Devries, Zach Balfanz, Matt Smith, Fernando Solis, Jordan Smith, Cameron Reeves, Devin Crabtree, Jonathan Loman, Steven Figures, Cole Wymore, Grant Bouma, Hayden Mazone, Chad Wielenga, John Martineau, Tyler Sweaney, Josh Mantle, West Williams, Brett Schuler, Lane Perey, Haiden Drake, Cole Kashwer, Ben Wind, DeAngelo Bragg, Noah Sheetz, Daniel Negron, Jacob Lanuza, Anthony Rodriguez, Jacob Mullins, Titus Goodman, Jack Chance, Carson Balfanz, Morgan Farmer, Brandt Oliver, Taeber Nylander, and William Crockett. You all have made our community proud! Go Eagles!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,559,603,867,896.49. We've added \$6,932,726,818,983.41 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 1459

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1459, which would create arbitrary new rules to make it more difficult for presidents to protect our national heritage and resources through the Antiquities Act.

The Antiquities Act is a century-old tool that gives the president the ability to set aside already-public land for protection as a National Monument. Nearly every president since 1906, both Republican and Democratic, has used this authority to designate some of our nation's most iconic treasures, from the Grand Canyon to Acadia National Park. In my own Congressional district, President Eisenhower used the Antiquities Act to designate the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the first step in a process to preserve what is now a thriving national park with a scenic towpath that showcases the rich history and natural beauty of the site.

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Antiquities Act designations are good for surrounding communities, preserving natural resources, providing outdoor recreation opportunities, and boosting tourism. Moreover, the Antiquities Act complements, rather than overrides, Congressional action, as Congress re-

tains the ability to declare monuments and manage resources for presidentially-proclaimed monuments.

Today's bill places arbitrary limits on designations and needlessly complicates the process, making it far more difficult to achieve per-

manent designations of heritage spaces. In the last three years, Congress has failed to create even one new unit of the National Park System. We should not prohibit the president from taking action to conserve public land and protect public resources. I urge a no vote.

SENATE—Wednesday, April 9, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who transforms common days into transfiguring and redemptive moments, hallowed be Your Name. Make our lawmakers great enough for these momentous times as they seek to live worthy of Your great Name. Lord, cleanse the fountains of their hearts from all that defiles, so that they may be fit vessels to be used for Your glory. Let Your peace be within them as Your spirit inspires them to glorify You in their thoughts, words, and actions.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2223

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told S. 2223 is due for a second reading; is that right?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for a second time.

The legislative clerk read the bill by title as follows:

A bill, S. 2223, to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would object to any further proceedings with respect to this legislation at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 345, S. 2199, the Paycheck Fairness Act.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, the time will be equally divided and controlled until 11 a.m., and at that time there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed with the legislation now before us.

Additional votes are expected today on confirmation of nominations. Floor staff is working to come up with convenient times for everyone in that regard and will notify Senators when we have those votes scheduled.

Mr. President, today the Senate will vote on whether to end debate on the paycheck fairness legislation. This much needed legislation provides important protections for women. It addresses wage disparity, helping women negotiate for equal pay, and it empowers workers to fight back against wage discrimination—women in particular.

It is a good and important bill, and it helps American women in many different ways, but for reasons known only to them, Senate Republicans don't appear to be interested in closing the wage gap for working women, such as my daughter and my grandchildren, the Presiding Officer's wife and daughter, friends and neighbors.

Four years ago the Republicans filibustered this exact same legislation.

Two years later the Republicans filibustered this legislation. Now for a third time the Paycheck Fairness Act is before us and it appears it is going to be filibustered again. They have indicated that they will likely not let us begin work on this important piece of legislation or this debate.

If they are ideologically opposed to equal pay for equal work, they are free to vote against paycheck fairness, come down here and give speeches as to why it is such a bad idea, but we haven't heard any.

Today's vote is simply to begin debate on the bill. Are they so repulsed by equal pay for hard-working American women they again will not debate equal pay for equal work, but they will obstruct equal pay for equal work?

The Republicans come to the floor and try to offer amendments that have nothing to do with equal pay—nothing. I am at a loss as to why anyone would decline to debate this important issue or, if you don't like it, come and tell us why. Debate is what this institution is all about. It is the U.S. Senate.

Hubert Humphrey said once: "Freedom is hammered out on the anvil of discussion, dissent and debate." That is what he said. So we should debate this bill. Together we can find a solution to this unfair wage disparity that costs average working women \$464,324 over a lifetime, on average.

American families want us to debate and hopefully pass this legislation. This legislation overwhelmingly is supported by the American people. People in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act are calling on us to pass this legislation. They are writing letters, they are posting on social media, and they are attending rallies. Our constituents have made their feelings known, but the Republicans have not gotten the message.

Henry David Thoreau said:

It takes two to speak the truth. One to speak and another to listen.

The Senate Democrats have heard the truth about giving women a fair shot at equal pay for equal work. The truth is that working women make an average of 77 cents for every dollar their male colleagues make for doing the exact same work. That is not fair.

Today we will see if Republicans will give working women and their families a fair shot when voting on debate for this important legislation. Millions of American women and men—everyone in America—are hoping that a third time will be the charm for Senate Republicans.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. MCCONNELL. The Obama economy has had a devastating impact on the people we represent. It has hurt millions in the middle class and people from every region of the country in almost every walk of life. When we consider the debate in the Senate, a few statistics jump out in particular.

Under this President's watch more than 3.7 million American women have fallen into poverty. The average American woman now makes about \$730 less than when the President took office. If she is a college graduate, she has actually seen her income shrink by about double that amount. In other words, when it comes to American women overall, what we have seen over the past 5½ years is less income and more poverty. That is the story Senate Democrats don't want to talk about.

Perhaps that is why for weeks now they have blocked the efforts Republicans have made to improve the picture. Senate Democrats want to control this debate from start to finish and basically do nothing to help with our efforts to expand opportunity and jobs for women and for men. It would appear, as some have put it, they have no interest in solutions or any concern for the consequences of their actions. We see that in how uninterested they seem to be in the statistics I just mentioned, and we can see it in some other policies they have been defending literally for months.

Take Obama's 30-hour workweek rule, which is basically forcing employers to slash workers' hours. Who is impacted the most by it? As one study pointed out, it is women. Nearly two-thirds of those adversely impacted by this arbitrary provision of ObamaCare are women, but Washington Democrats don't seem to care about that. They don't seem to care about the ways people we represent are being hurt by their policies.

As I said, they continue to block all the innovative ideas that Republicans have been offering to turn the tide. Just look at what happened on the Senate floor yesterday. I, along with several other Republican colleagues, offered a series of measures that would not only have helped the jobs picture in our country, it would have provided greater opportunities for men, women, and families desperate to get ahead. Had Democratic Senators not blocked these ideas, they would have passed.

Why did Senate Democrats object to Senator COLLINS' proposal to restore the 40-hour workweek? Do they think it is fair that Obama's 30-hour workweek discriminates against working women? Do Democrats think it is fair to protect the rules that disproportionately reduce their wages?

Why do they object to the workplace flexibility proposal that Senator AYOTTE and I offered? Here is legislation that would have given working moms and dads the option to take time off to help them find a better work-life balance—flexibility that is more critical than ever now that ObamaCare's 30-hour work rule is forcing people to pick up a second or third job just to scrape by.

Why are Democrats so opposed to a policy that a lot of working women say they want, a policy that is tailored to the needs of the modern workforce and that many government employees already enjoy?

Why do Senate Democrats object to our job creation legislation, which includes so many smart ideas from so many different Senators? Here is a bill that strikes right at the heart of what has ailed our country for 5½ years, a lack of jobs and opportunity. Passing it should have been a no-brainer.

But Senate Democrats blocked all of it, every last one of our proposals, just like they shut down the proworker legislation Senator PAUL and I offered last week. The Right to Work Act is smart policy that promises to boost competitiveness while advancing workers' rights, ensuring they are not limited by the dictates of a union.

It is similar to another bill I am proud to cosponsor: Senator RUBIO's RAISE Act, which would allow workers to get a raise even if union bosses didn't want them to. Take for instance a worker who outperforms her colleagues and then is told by a union boss to sit down and accept less pay than she deserves—not a dime more than the coworker she is outperforming. It is completely and totally unfair, and workers such as she shouldn't be penalized by some archaic rule dreamt up before the age of "Mad Men."

These are the ideas that everyone who claims to stand for workplace fairness should want to help us pass. Yet Washington Democrats always seem to find some excuse not to. Maybe the Big Labor bosses they are answering to are telling them they cannot. Who knows. Or maybe it is the trial lawyers they seem to be so attentive to these days.

It makes sense when we consider what Senate Democrats have been talking about this week, a bill that even publications such as the Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune, and the Boston Globe have said is bad policy. At a time when the Obama economy is already hurting women so much, this legislation would double down on job loss, all while lining the pockets of trial lawyers. In other words, it is just another Democratic idea that threatens to hurt the very people it claims to help.

It is time for Washington Democrats to stop protecting trial lawyers and start focusing on actually helping the

people we were sent to represent. We have already seen what 5½ years of Washington Democratic control has meant: more poverty and lower wages for women. So they need to stop blocking innovative ideas that would move us further along the path to opportunity because, look, the college graduate who has seen her annual paycheck decline by \$1,400 over the past several years is counting on Senate Democrats to change their game plan. The part-time worker who cannot imagine how she is going to make ends meet under ObamaCare's 30-hour work rule is counting on Democrats to think outside the box.

The American people are tired of Washington Democrats' 5½ years of failed policies and all the political games that helped us get here in the first place. Americans actually want solutions and they want them now and we owe it to them to start passing the kinds of innovative ideas Republicans are committed to pursuing, no matter how many times the majority tries to shut us down.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 11 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this week President Obama has been holding what appear to be made-for-TV events to talk about the economy. He has been talking about the policies he wants Congress to enact, policies that he says will finally get America's economy going again.

President Obama has been in the White House now for more than 5 years, so I think it is fair to ask: What has this administration—the Obama administration—been doing for the economy over the past 5 years? We know that the recession actually ended almost 5 years ago. Since then, our economy has not bounced back the way it should have or the way it typically does after a deep recession.

The Obama administration has spent a lot of money on failed ideas such as the so-called stimulus package. Since the recession ended, Washington has racked up more than \$6 trillion worth of additional debt, and it has not gotten us nearly the kind of growth we

should have had as a result of this spending.

Now the President has come out with a budget in which he has asked for tax increases of over \$1.7 trillion—nearly \$2 trillion in higher taxes over the next decade. Taxes are already too high. When I go home to talk to my constituents—as I would think most Members of this body hear from their folks at home—they say taxes are already too high.

Americans are now preparing to file their taxes. Income tax day is coming—April 15. As Americans prepare to file their taxes, they are getting a reminder of just how much of their hard-earned money Washington is taking from them. Next Tuesday, April 15, is the deadline for most of us to fill out the forms and send everything off to the Internal Revenue Service, the IRS. According to the Tax Foundation, Americans will spend more on taxes this year than they spend on food, clothing, and housing combined.

We now know how much President Obama is spending, but what kind of effect have his policies been having on our American economy? We know that the economy is still not producing the number of jobs we need for a real recovery. We know if we want to look for the reasons why that seems to be the case, we could talk about the two million jobs Democrats are blocking with their restrictive energy policies.

We could talk about the minimum wage bill that Democrats are pushing right now. The Congressional Budget Office says that would reduce employment in the United States by one-half million jobs—they say maybe as many as 1 million jobs. Yet the majority leader comes here and says it is the best thing we can do for the economy. Again, according to the Congressional Budget Office, it will cost the economy one-half million jobs and maybe up to 1 million jobs.

But probably the largest and most harmful thing the administration has done—not just with regard to the economy, but to other factors, including the lives of the American public—is the President's health care law. This law is hitting people across the country. There are folks who are seeing their premiums go up, losing access to their doctor, getting cancellation notices from their insurance companies, and it is also having an effect on our economy.

Today we had our usual Wyoming Wednesday where people from around the State of Wyoming come to Washington and meet with their two Senators from Wyoming so we can talk to people from our communities. Today I heard another horror story related to the President's health care law. A family had insurance that worked for them, and it worked for them for a long time. It fit their budget, and it fit their needs as a family. But, of course,

it was canceled as a result of the President's health care law and the mandates where the President believes he has a better idea of what works for their family than they know in terms of their family.

This husband and wife have a couple of young children, and they lost their insurance. They tried and tried again to get reinsured through the exchange. It took them months. They finally went with paper forms to apply. The stories go on and on, and it is horrible to listen to what American families have had to go through as a result of the President's health care law. This is a family that was hurt as a result of the President's health care law in terms of what they are paying for insurance, in terms of the deductibles that are now in place, and in terms of not being able to go to the doctor of their choice.

We have the effect on the family and the effect on the economy. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the health care law is going to lead to 2½ million fewer people working over the next decade. These are not my numbers. These are the Congressional Budget Office's numbers. Because of the warped incentives that are built into this law, some people will have to choose between working more and getting higher wages or working less so they can collect government subsidies.

Remember NANCY PELOSI, the Speaker of the House on the Democratic side. When this law was jammed through and down the throats of the American people, she was saying: First you have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it.

I actually read the whole thing, and it continues to astonish me how few Members of this body and the body across the way actually read it and instead just took her for her word. Now what we are seeing are these unintended consequences continuing to show up.

Even some Democrats have had to admit as much about this issue of people having to work more and getting higher wages or choosing to work less so they can collect greater government subsidies.

One liberal columnist wrote in the Washington Post back in February that ObamaCare is “a drag on economic growth.” He said it was “a drag on economic growth.” It is a drag on economic growth “as more people decide government handouts are more attractive than working more and paying higher taxes.” The President wants higher taxes, but he sets into place a health care law that discourages the work and additional income because the government subsidies get greater if you work less and have a lower income.

That is one way that the President's health care law has been harmful, and there is another way as well. Remember, this law requires employers to pay

for insurance for anyone working 30 hours per week or more. Thirty hours per week or more is considered a full-time job. There is bipartisan legislation in an effort to try to actually overturn that and get that back to the 40-hour workweek, which is what most Americans think of as a full-time job.

How do people have to respond to the health care law that is out there? What are towns doing with their town budgets? What are counties doing in States all across the country? What are school districts doing? We see what they are doing, and they are talking about it. Towns, communities, counties, school districts, and universities are cutting back on the hours of their part-time bus drivers, librarians, coaches, and other middle-class workers. They are cutting back to get them below 30 hours a week so they don't fall into the mandates of the President's expensive health care law.

What does that mean? It means it hurts people's take-home pay. If someone is working 32 or 33 hours a week and finds that their hours have been cut to 29 hours—regardless of what the majority leader wants to do with minimum wage—their paycheck is going to get smaller. Their paycheck is going to be smaller because of the health care law. Their paycheck will be smaller because of policies that Democrats have voted for—many of whom never read it in the first place.

Is this just a Republican versus a Democratic idea? Not necessarily, because a group of labor union leaders who supported the law initially have said that this health care law will “destroy the foundation of the 40-hour workweek that is the backbone of the American middle class.”

The House of Representatives voted last week to do something about it. They passed—in a bipartisan vote—a bill that would change the definition of full-time work under the health care law from 30 hours to 40 hours.

Senator SUSAN COLLINS introduced a bill to do the same thing here in the Senate. So what has happened with it? Well, the Democratic majority leader isn't allowing a vote on that bill.

This is a commonsense way to reverse some of the harm the President's health care law is doing to hard-working Americans—how it is impacting their take-home pay, how they are seeing smaller paychecks and impacting their quality of life. But the Senate majority leader has blocked the vote. So the health care law hurts patients, it hurts health care providers, and is hurting the economy.

It is interesting, because the President said all he wanted to do was insure the people who didn't have insurance. So we have an exchange. We have turned the whole health care system upside down. We have impacted one-sixth of the economy. And the whole purpose: to take people who didn't have insurance and get them insured.

What does the Wall Street Journal say about it today in the headline talking about the newest statistics in the RAND study? They say most who bought policies through the new exchanges—most who bought policies through the new exchanges—already had insurance. They weren't uninsured. These people had insurance already.

Many lost their insurance because of the President's health care law. Yet we have turned upside down one-sixth of the economy in an effort to help some but have hurt so many in the process. That is one of the fundamental flaws and problems of a health care law where the President promised, if you like your coverage, you can keep it; if you like your doctor, you can keep him or her. Now we have millions of people whose coverage has been canceled. We have many people who can't keep their doctor, can't go to their hospital. They are seeing higher premiums, higher copays, higher deductibles, more pain because of what the President and the Democrats have forced through the Congress, forced through the House, forced through the Senate.

The American people wanted to change the health care system in this country and they knew what they wanted. They wanted the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower cost. They didn't get that in this health care law. Many Americans have seen their costs go up—their initial out-of-pocket costs—to buy the insurance on the exchange. They have seen their copays go up. They have seen their deductibles go up. And they can't keep the doctor of their choice. So they know what they wanted, and this is not what they wanted, but it is what they have gotten instead. People understand that.

That is why this health care law is still so very unpopular across the country. People see how bad this health care law is in terms of their own lives and how bad it is for the American economy. They see how 5 years of this administration and the policies have held back our economic recovery.

Tax day, April 15, coming next week, will be another opportunity for Americans to reflect on how much of their money Washington has been taking from them and what they have gotten in return. I would say, as they reflect upon that, they will continue to say they are not getting value for their money. They are not getting value for their money.

Polling shows that—and I hear this at home in Wyoming—for every dollar people send to the government, they think they are getting less than 50 cents on the dollar in value. They don't like it because it means when the government takes more, they have less to spend.

The government is deciding where the money is spent, not families. And it is families who want to make deci-

sions for themselves about their freedoms, about their health care, about their financial choices—what they want, what they need, and what works best for them.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. What is now the pending business on the floor?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion to proceed to S. 2199.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I believe the number of that bill refers to the paycheck fairness bill; is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, what a bloodless way to talk about such an important public policy issue—to use the motion to proceed—and very few people realize this. To simply get a bill on the Senate floor, we have to vote on a motion to proceed on whether we are going to take it up. And because this is now going to require a 60-vote majority, because of the invocation of this fog of filibuster, we can't even get to a majority vote on how to make sure women get equal pay for equal work.

No wonder people are fed up with us. They wonder why, when all is said and done, more gets said than gets done. I travel the State of Maryland in the United States of America, and people want us to do our job, to work on a bipartisan basis, hands across the aisle, work across the dome, to solve national problems.

We heard this morning the talk about the economy. One way to help the economy is for people to make more money. Do we know what is one of the best ways to make more money? Pay women equal pay for equal work. Also, enforce the law, the Equal Pay Act, that was passed in 1963. But we haven't been able to do it for several reasons, and this is what the paycheck fairness bill deals with.

Right now, there is a veil of secrecy in businesses all over America—a veil of secrecy about the fact that an employee cannot ask a fellow employee what they are making. An employee is not supposed to talk about their salary. They can talk about anything, but they can't talk about what the person next to them is making.

The second issue is if an employee in any way, particularly if that employee is a woman, tries to speak up for their rights to get equal pay for the same

job—same pay, same job—an employee is often retaliated against. Then, businesses come up with lots of loopholes, which are bad. They use business explanations as bad excuses to avoid paying equal pay for equal work.

We want to pass this legislation to end the retaliation, close the loopholes, and lift the veil of secrecy. This, in many ways, will give American women not a raise but what justice demands.

I am here this morning to keep up the momentum which we have been able to maintain in this Senate. I am very proud of the fact that in 2009 we passed the Lilly Ledbetter Act which opened the courthouse doors to women. Now, as we continue 5 years later, we are listening to stories—terrible stories—about what has happened.

There was Kerri Sleeman—a mechanical engineer in Michigan—who was told that men had to be paid more in her company because they were breadwinners. She was a mechanical engineer doing the same job.

Latoya Weaver, a Marylander who wrote me, learned that the males at the hotel where she worked were being paid \$2 more an hour than she was, which meant a total of several hundred dollars a year.

We want to end that discrimination—no retaliation, no loopholes, no veil of secrecy.

This has been going on a long time. In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson, as part of the great civil rights movement that was sweeping our country, wanted to pass three civil rights bills: the Equal Pay Act, the Civil Rights Act, and the Voting Rights Act.

He started with the Equal Pay Act because he thought it would be the easiest to pass and the easiest to enforce. Fifty years later, we are still fighting the battles on all three of those pieces of legislation, and today we are talking about equal pay.

(Ms. HEITKAMP assumed the Chair.)

Right now women are an emerging force in the workplace. Way back in the 1950s, only 11 percent of women were in the workplace, although many had been there during World War II as Rosie's and kept our economy going. Now they are the breadwinners in 40 percent of households. Women make up 40 percent of the households in which she is the head of the house or the prime or the breadwinner, and it is time to make the labor market reflect that—most of all the pay market.

When the Equal Pay Act was signed in 1963, guess what women made. Five cents for every \$1 men made. Everybody said: We have to fight that. Fifty years later—now—women make 77 cents for every \$1 men make. Over a 50-year period we closed the gap by 18 cents. Now what do you think about that? I think that is pretty unjust. I do not think it is even American.

We like to say: If you work hard and play by the rules, America will work

for you. Well, women work hard. They play by the rules. Yet they work but America does not work for them.

For women of color, it is even worse. If you are an African-American woman, you earn 64 cents for every \$1 a man earns. If you are an Hispanic woman, you earn 54 cents for every \$1 a man earns.

You like to hear: Oh, you've come a long way. But I do not think we have come a long way with an 18-cent improvement in a 50-year period. Who in this Chamber thinks that earning 1 cent more every 5 years counts as "coming a long way"? Maybe if we made 1 cent more every year since 1964 we would not think it is so terrific.

My constituents do not go for this—either men or women. Women want to stand up for their rights, and men want to stand up for the women they love. There are men all over this country, right this minute, who are in jobs they hate so their daughters could have the job they love, working hard so they can help them go to school, get the education, get the skills to be able to take care of themselves. This is why they have spoken up for dads.

Every week, in every month, as families sit down to pay their bills, husbands are looking at their wives and saying: Tell me about the pay. It doesn't seem right. I heard that George is making—I heard that Tom is making—but what about us? So men are outraged about this too. They see it as a fundamental fairness issue. They see it as a fundamental justice issue. And guess what. It is a family pocketbook issue.

We want change, and we want change today by voting for this bill. This way we will change the Federal lawbooks so we can help change the family checkbooks. This bill, as I said, will close the loopholes in the law which allow pay discrimination to continue to occur.

I will repeat, paycheck secrecy—making it harder to uncover pay differences—is hard to fight when you are prohibited from even talking about it. Businesses are under a gag rule. Then there is the retaliation. And then there are the loopholes.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is quite simple. They say: Well, didn't you deal with this with Lilly Ledbetter? Well, Lilly Ledbetter dealt with the statute of limitations. This bill is dealing with other issues. No longer can workers be retaliated against for sharing wages.

For years, Lilly—and she tells her own story, but it is the story of many—was harassed and humiliated for asking questions about coworkers' salaries. She found out that the guys were making more because of an anonymous note that was sent to her. Somewhere in the vast corporation of Goodyear, for whom she worked, a contractor—a Federal contractor, by the way—there was somebody, probably a wonderful man who worked with her, who wanted to help her out and told her.

But then she went on to try to do something. Well, guess what. She faced retaliation. First she faced verbal harassment. She faced threats to her very safety. She faced sexual intimidation. She really got it thrown right back in her face, and every day it became a torture in the workplace. But she pressed on.

That happens to women all over America. We cannot allow that. When you stand up for your rights in America, you should not be harassed.

There is much said about the First Amendment. Yes. There is much said about the Second Amendment—the right to carry a gun. Women would like to be able to carry a law to be able to fight for themselves.

No longer will employers also be able to use just any reason to justify paying a woman less. Oh, he is the breadwinner. Oh, they do a harder job. Well, when you talk to Kerri, the mechanical engineer, they were doing the same job. In fact, in some instances she was the actual supervisor. For Latoya, working in the hotel, they were doing exactly the same job, and the EEOC verified that. So this is why it is important.

The other thing is, no longer will women be limited just to backpay. They will be able to get punitive damages. Because in many businesses, when they are caught, the current law catches up with them, they just pay a fine and see it as a cost of doing business. Well, that is not fine with us. We want to make sure if you feel you have suffered these injustices, you will be able to seek redress through punitive damages. And no longer will women be on their own.

The consequences of the pay gap are significant. Let's take a college graduate—a woman who has had the benefit of an education. For women between ages 25 and 29, the annual pay gap now is about \$1,700 a year. For women closer to retirement age, it is more like \$14,000 a year. Over a lifetime, for many women, it is \$400,000.

This has enormous consequences. When you are paid less—when you are paid less—it affects not only your paycheck that you take home, but it will affect your retirement because Social Security is pegged to earnings. So when you pay women less, they are going to get less in retirement. This is not fair.

Now, I will tell you what I am tired of hearing—that somehow or another we are too emotional when we talk. When we raise an issue, we are too emotional. Well, I am emotional. I am so emotional about this. I am telling you, if we do not pass this bill, I am so emotional I am going to press on. It brings tears to my eyes to know how women, every single day, are working so hard and are getting paid less. It makes me emotional to hear that.

Then, when I hear all of these phony reasons—some are mean and some are

meaningless—I do get emotional; I get angry; I get outraged; I get volcanic. And the way I want to channel my emotions is by doing everything we can do to be able to pass this bill.

There are those who say: This is a lawyer's dream. It is not a lawyer's dream; it is a family's dream. If they are afraid of lawsuits, they ought to follow the law. The best way not to have a lawsuit is to follow the law. So do not retaliate against a worker, because if you do, you are going to have to pay up. If you have loopholes that are mean or meaningless, yes, that employee might sue. But guess what. The way to avoid the lawsuit is do not be mean, do not be cruel, do not be unfair, do not be unjust. And if you think we are emotional, wait until you see what happens if this bill fails. We are pretty emotional about this.

Madam President, you and I have talked about this. Whether it is in North Dakota or north Baltimore, we feel the same, that when you work hard, play by the rules, do the same job, you want the same pay. American women need a fair shot at equal pay for equal work—the same pay for the same job. We need to pass this legislation today.

Let us adopt the motion to proceed so we can get actually on the bill to discuss it, offer amendments. There are those, I know, who have other ideas and suggestions. We look forward to that. And then, at the end of the day and the end of the week, let's pass it.

I think today is a day of reckoning: Do you want equal pay for equal work? And I want men and women all across America to be emotional about it.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I would like to take a few minutes to speak on the bill being considered today, the Paycheck Fairness Act. The proponents of the Paycheck Fairness Act argue that many women continue to earn significantly less pay than men for equal work. I am afraid the effort to consider this bill is nothing more than election-year politics aimed at scoring political points.

Equally unfortunate, the bill will do nothing to address our Nation's anemic economic growth. It will not create a single job for the more than 10 million unemployed Americans. This bill does nothing for the millions of Americans who have become so discouraged with this economy that they have completely given up on looking for work. This political show-vote will not help

the millions of women who have lost their jobs or who are now living in poverty as a result of the Obama economy.

Let me be clear: I strongly support equal pay for equal work. I support equal employment opportunities. I abhor discrimination of any kind. Discrimination in the workplace is unacceptable, and must not be tolerated. Workers have been protected against sex-based pay discrimination since the passage of the Equal Pay Act in 1963. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides additional protections and remedies for discrimination.

Many have concerns that the Paycheck Fairness Act would undermine a business's defense even when the pay disparity is legitimate. The bill would allow unlimited punitive and compensatory damages, while also automatically including employees in a class-action lawsuit unless they specifically choose to opt out. This bill would be a boon to trial lawyers at the expense of job creators and job seekers.

A Washington Post Editorial from September 28, 2010, stated, "the proposal, which builds on the existing Equal Pay Act, would allow employees and courts to intrude too far into core business decisions." It further stated, "Discrimination is abhorrent, but the Paycheck Fairness Act is not the right fix."

Rather than consider a politically motivated measure, we should be working together to create good-paying jobs and grow the economy. Instead, the Democratic leadership has chosen to disregard the welfare of struggling Americans and pursue messaging bills. If the majority in the Senate truly cared about helping the middle class, they would allow consideration of Republican amendments that would actually help workers, help the unemployed find work, and grow the economy.

But just like consideration of the unemployment insurance extension bill, the Senate majority has no interest in considering amendments that would actually grow the economy and create jobs. During consideration of that bill, Republicans offered a job-creating amendment that would have repealed provisions of ObamaCare that are proven job killers. It would have spurred job creation through energy development, including authorizing the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. It would have provided small businesses, who are responsible for creating 70 percent of jobs in our economy, with permanent tax relief aimed at incentivizing new investments. A version of this amendment has been filed to this bill. Unfortunately, the majority leader is again blocking consideration of any amendments.

While the majority leader pushes ahead with his political agenda, Republicans continue to propose measures that will create jobs and grow the economy. Senator MCCONNELL and Sen-

ator AYOTTE have put forward an amendment to allow voluntary flexible workplace arrangements such as compensatory time and flexible credit hour agreements for hourly workers. This amendment would provide much needed flexibility for working moms, but was immediately blocked by the majority leader. Why would the majority leader block consideration of such a reasonable proposal?

Senator ALEXANDER has also proposed an amendment that seeks to provide working parents more flexibility in the workplace. Senator RUBIO has proposed an amendment to allow employees to seek fair wage increases and remove obstacles for employees to earn merit-based pay raises. In addition, Senators FISCHER, COLLINS and AYOTTE have filed an amendment to reaffirm existing laws prohibiting pay discrimination and would prohibit retaliation against employees who inquire about, discuss or disclose their salaries.

Sadly, none of these reasonable, thoughtful amendments to address job creation and workplace flexibility will be considered because the majority leader has already signaled that this debate is not about legislating. It's about political messaging. For these reasons, I must vote against the procedural motion to proceed.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, today we will decide whether to begin debate on the Paycheck Fairness Act. I am an original cosponsor of this bill, I strongly support it and the ideals that motivate it, and I hope that someday we can pass this legislation. But today's vote is not on final passage. It is not even a vote on whether to end debate on this measure. It is a vote on whether to begin the debate. Those who vote against cloture on this motion to proceed are not just saying they oppose equal pay for women; they are saying they do not even want to discuss it.

But a refusal to debate this measure will not make this issue go away. The fact remains that in our country today, women make 77 cents for every dollar men earn. Some of our Republican colleagues suggest there's nothing we can do about it.

As a Democrat I believe that our prosperity rests on a principle—the idea that if you work hard and play by the rules, you should have a fair shot to provide for your family, your future and your children's future. The promise of that better future is part of what gets us up every morning, gets us on the bus or in the car, and gets us to the office or the shop or the factory floor. It is the promise that our work will be rewarded.

The obvious and persistent pay gap between men and women does violence to that promise. Under current conditions, the message we send to women is this: "Work hard, play by the rules, and you'll get three quarters for every dollar's worth of work you do." Demo-

crats believe that is unfair—unfair to the women it shortchanges and to the families they support. And we believe that even those of us who are not working women lose something when we do not live up to the principles of fairness and opportunity that give all of us hope for that better future.

And we Democrats want to do something about it. When you think about it, what we want to do should not be that controversial. Here is all this bill does: It requires employers to ensure that when men and women are paid differently, that the difference is related to factors such as education, training and experience, and not merely based on gender; and it strengthens protections against retaliation by employers for women who file discrimination complaints.

Surely we can all agree that pay differences should be limited to factors that truly reflect qualification and performance, and not determined by gender. Surely we can all agree that when an employee believes she or he is being treated unfairly, or that their employer has violated the law, they have the right to seek redress without fear of retribution.

Those who care about the 60 percent of American households that depend partly or entirely on a woman's income should support this bill. Those who care about the 6.9 million women trying to raise a family on what is now three-quarters of what they have worked for should support this bill. Those who care about making this a society that lives up to our professed goals of equal opportunity should support this bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, 5 years ago, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed into law by President Obama. That bill—necessary because of a divided decision by the Supreme Court to strike a blow to the rights of working families in Vermont and across the country—was a first step in closing the still-existing gender wage gap. Today, one day after commemorating Equal Pay Day, Senators will once again have the opportunity to stand with working families and support equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender.

I am proud to cosponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act, which Senator MIKULSKI—a trailblazer herself—has once again introduced to close loopholes that allow employers to unfairly discriminate workers based on gender. Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of earlier generations, working women today have career and business opportunities never before available. Yet, despite the gains we have made, there remains a troubling constant—women continue to earn less than men. According to the Census Bureau, women still only earn 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. This disparity has real-world, financial consequences: on average, women are paid

more than \$11,000 per year less than men. And of American households with children under the age of 18, 40 percent list women as their sole or primary earners. The wage gap based on gender is hurting low- and middle-income families who, in today's economy, still wrestle with putting food on the table, heating their homes, paying the mortgage, and saving for college.

Vermont has been a national leader in addressing equal pay for equal work. In 2002, Vermont adopted its own Equal Pay Act, making it illegal for employers to offer anything less than equal pay for equal work. Still, in Vermont, where 22,000 households are headed by women, the yearly gender pay gap is nearly \$6,000. More needs to be done, and we can do better.

Our national march toward equality continues. The Paycheck Fairness Act builds on efforts that date back more than 50 years to ensure a balanced and equal playing field in the workplace for both men and women. The Paycheck Fairness Act will require employers to show a difference in pay is truly linked to job performance and not to gender. It will protect employees from being retaliated against by their employers for discussing salaries with colleagues, and remove obstacles to challenging pay discrimination in a court of law. It will provide employers with assistance to create equal pay practices and recognize those who already adhere to such practices. These are commonsense provisions we can all support.

The Paycheck Fairness Act has twice before been filibustered in the Senate. Meanwhile, hard-working families across the country, anchored by the incomes of hard-working women, continue to struggle. Equal pay for equal work is a matter of simple fairness, and the Paycheck Fairness Act is an important step towards just that. I urge all Senators to support this bill.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 345, S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara A. Mikulski, Patty Murray, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Brian Schatz, Heidi Heitkamp, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Barbara Boxer, Debbie Stabenow, Mazie Hirono, Kay R. Hagan, Mary Landrieu, Claire McCaskill, Jeanne Shaheen, Dianne Feinstein, Amy Klobuchar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 103 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Landrieu	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Levin	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—44

Alexander	Graham	Murkowski
Ayotte	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Heller	Reid
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Burr	Inhofe	Roberts
Chambliss	Isakson	Rubio
Coats	Johanns	Scott
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Collins	King	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	McCain	Vitter
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker
Flake	Moran	

NOT VOTING—3

Coburn	Cornyn	Cruz
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 53, the nays are 44. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I enter a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that at 2:30 p.m. this afternoon the Senate proceed to the Felton nomination under the previous order; further, that following the disposition of the Felton nomination, the Senate proceed to the McSweeney nomination, also under the previous order; further, that following the disposition of the McSweeney nomination, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 506, 619, and 522; that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order I have listed; that any rollcall votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to these nominations be printed in the RECORD; that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, under the agreement we just had approved, there will be as many as five rollcall votes starting at 3:30 p.m. this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, we just lost the vote today on a cloture vote to proceed to the Paycheck Fairness Act, but I want everyone to know—everyone in the Senate and everyone in the United States of America—although we lost the vote, we refuse to lose the battle. We are going to continue the fight. We are going to continue the fight to get equal pay for equal work, to lift the veil of secrecy on pay in the workplace, to end the retaliation if you fight for your rights, and to close loopholes that are mean or meaningless.

We have been here before. I remember when we had the first vote on the Lilly Ledbetter bill. We lost that vote, but we pressed on. Women all over America expressed their frustration and their outrage. In 2009 we were able to right that wrong and pass the Lilly Ledbetter bill and open the courthouse doors.

So here we are again. We are ready to continue that fight. We are ready to turn our biggest noes into our biggest yeses. We will continue the war against the wage gap and wage discrimination against women.

Women of America, I say to you, join us in this fight. Make your voices

heard if you want to change the Federal lawbooks so we can make a change in your family checkbook.

We are going to finish what we started with Lilly Ledbetter and bring the Paycheck Fairness Act back to the floor. When Senator REID voted no, it was so that he could bring up another vote on the motion to proceed. But this is not about parliamentary procedure; this is about how we will press the fight.

When we lost Lilly Ledbetter, I came to the floor then, and I come to the floor now, to say that when we continue this fight, I will remind my colleagues about what Abigail Adams once said to her husband: As you are making those laws down there, she said, "do not forget the ladies. For we will foment a revolution of our own."

So women of America—and the good men who support us—keep the revolution going. I said then, as I say now, let's suit up, let's square our shoulders. For the women, put on your lipstick and let's fight on. We will be back another day for another vote.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I applaud my colleague Senator MIKULSKI for her great work, in spite of the result today.

CONGRATULATING THE UCONN HUSKIES

I am here on the floor, however, to congratulate my UConn Huskies for a double national championship. It has only been done once before in the history of college basketball—the men winning a national championship and the women winning a national championship in the same year—and the last time it was us too, in 2004 and now in 2014. So, very briefly, I wish to add my congratulations to those offered by Senator BLUMENTHAL.

Our new coach, Kevin Ollie, when he took the job, went on TV and said that despite some of the tough times surrounding the UConn program, his intent was for UConn basketball to take the stairs and not the elevator.

He said elevators were for cowards, and they were going to walk one step at a time towards a national championship.

Given the fact our long-time Hall of Fame coach had just left, we had sanctions which didn't allow our team to play for a year in the postseason. People thought it just wasn't possible that UConn was ever going to be able to return to the greatness we have seen over the last 20 years. But in Coach Ollie's first tournament, he brought his team to a victory led, of course, by our great point guard Shabazz Napier—another Connecticut first and second. There are only two players who were national champions in the men's tournament who scored 125 points, had 25 assists and 25 rebounds. Shabazz Napier is the second because Kemba Walker was the

first in UConn's last national championship.

The women, of course, are even more impressive in what they have done because they managed to win their national championship this year by going undefeated and beating another undefeated team in the national championship game. Of course, that has become kind of old hat for the UConn women. This is the third time they have gone undefeated in the past 6 years, and it is their fourth title in 6 years—Geno Auriemma's ninth title overall, now eclipsing the great Pat Summitt.

Watching the game last night, we saw Coach Auriemma in an uncommon display of emotion at the end of the game. He is a very emotional guy, but he very rarely breaks down in tears—which he did, talking about a couple of his seniors, Stefanie Dolson and also Bria Hartley. He has a love for those players.

We saw Kevin Ollie's love for his players, especially the guys who stuck it out who could have transferred to other programs but decided to stay with him and stay with the program.

What Geno said after the game is he is flattered: "I'm flattered and grateful, and all the things that have come with this kind of accomplishment . . ." But he also said: "I'm more proud of the legacy that exists and what Connecticut basketball is as opposed to the number of championships."

When we watch these championship games that now add up for both the men and the women, we see throughout the stands former players by the dozens—maybe even by the hundreds—who come back because of the legacy that has been created in 20 years of nine national championships for the women and four national championships for the men.

Even though, as Kevin Ollie said, UConn got there the hard way. We don't have the 100-year legacy of basketball such as Kansas or Kentucky has. We have built this over the past couple of decades. Just as Kevin Ollie has done over the last 2 years, UConn over the course of the last the 2 decades, in registering 13 national championships, has always taken the stairs rather than the elevator.

Congratulations, as a diehard Husky fan, to our twin national championship teams.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

CONGRATULATING UCONN

Mr. COATS. Madam President, this is not easy for me to do, but I am going to do it in good grace here. I congratulate my colleague from Connecticut on The University of Connecticut's victory over the University of Notre Dame last night.

He watched in joy and exuberance, and I watched in dismay. But I do want

to congratulate the Senator and those from Connecticut for the singular achievement of having both men's and women's basketball championships.

Those of us in Indiana are deeply immersed in the basketball culture. Statewide, we didn't have the best year or the kind of year we would have liked. But we were very proud of the University of Notre Dame women and the accomplishments they made—in an undefeated season until last evening.

It probably is not politic for me to say this, but it is unfortunate that our all-American center, who was one of the keys to the success of the team, unfortunately had a knee injury which prevented her from playing. I am not saying we would have won had she played because I don't want to take anything away from the Huskies. On the other hand, I think it could have been a more contested contest had she been able to be a part of that.

Either way, both teams deserve congratulations for the phenomenal seasons they had. It was a joy to watch from Indiana our Notre Dame women do so well, just as it was a joy for Senator MURPHY to watch his men and women do so well. So I congratulate him for that.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

Madam President, I rise to advocate for something obviously far more serious and threatening to us than basketball contests, and that is our response to Russia's recent unlawful takeover of Crimea. I urge, and continue to urge, the President as well as our colleagues in the Senate to take more vigorous action to deter further Russian aggression.

As I speak, anxieties are building that Vladimir Putin's first big bite out of Ukraine has not satisfied him and he hungers for more. Many signs indicate Russian aggression threatens further incursions into Eastern Ukraine and possibly beyond.

Troops are positioned on the border, logistics for an invasion are arranged, and the Russian propaganda machine is once again ginning up the excuses needed to justify unjustifiable actions. The only thing I can conclude is that the lack of an effective, forceful response by the United States and by our allies—particularly our European allies—has given President Putin reason to expect that further aggression will not be punished. Despite all the rhetoric, despite all the tough talk, very little has been done, and—with what little has been done—there has been no effect to deter and to condemn what has taken place and deter further aggression.

From the beginning of this blatant act, I have waited for the administration to impose real costs on Russia for its illegal territorial aggression. So far, I have waited in vain.

For the past month, in two separate resolutions which I have offered on the

floor, several speeches, and numerous opinion columns I have written in the media, I have consistently attempted to make the case for hard-hitting sanctions on Russia. I joined Senator DURBIN, my colleague from Illinois, to achieve a unanimous bipartisan passage of an initial list of sanctions which would signal to Putin that the Senate was unified in condemning and sanctioning Russia for its blatant takeover of Crimea.

I stated at the time that this was an initial list and much tougher sanctions needed to come. But I wanted to give the administration time to fashion those, to work with our allies across the ocean and to stand strong for the type of hard-hitting, hard-biting economic sanctions which would make Russia pay a real price, as we had said we were going to do.

The administration has to take the lead on economic sanctions because to implement the steps needed to ensure maximum effectiveness we need to coordinate with our friends and our allies. But I have seen little evidence that the administration is leading our European friends in the direction of such sanctions. I have not seen evidence that our European allies are willing to take the lead. I am therefore wondering if anyone is willing to take a lead in this effort.

More needs to be done—and more needs to be done now. With Russian troops mounting their vehicles on the Ukrainian border, the United States should be using every means available to press for firm measures, and our European allies should be joining us in this cause. Those measures should include imposing serious costs so such behavior will not be repeated.

Further, we should defend our allies and reassure them that we have their backs. We need to isolate Russia and prevent it from participating in organizations that give Putin credibility and strength. We should impose obstacles to prevent Russia from taking material advantage of their conquest, and we should convince other nations, businesses, and individuals to follow our lead.

I think recent history shows that in conflict issues around the world, if the United States does not take a firm and a strong lead, other nations simply do not feel they have the strength or the backing to take that lead. So it is imperative the United States takes that lead, steered by our President, and supported by a bipartisan Congress to send a unified message that we are willing to address egregious breaches of international law and lead the way in doing so.

The first task, as I see it, is to make sure we and others do not accept this aggression and annexation—what some others are already calling a fait accompli. Since the United States' refusal to recognize Soviet annexation of

the three Baltic states 74 years ago, we have firmly and consistently refused to recognize such annexations. We must do the same in this case.

Unfortunately, words and actions from this administration and from many of our European allies continue to focus on threatening consequences for future Russian incursions, rather than on the illegal annexation that has already taken place. It is exactly this reluctance to impose costs for the annexation of a portion of the Ukraine that paves the way for further Russian aggression.

I sadly note that some of our best European friends are downplaying the importance of the invasion and annexation which have already taken place.

Just as Chancellor Merkel from Germany was showing signs of a more forceful German foreign policy in defense of European territorial integrity, it now appears Germany is showing more interest in dialogue and restraint, backing down from the tough talk about making Russia pay a price for the actions it has taken. I am convinced there is very little reason to believe that further aggression will be adequately discouraged or punished.

In this policy vacuum, if we don't find leadership from our administration or from the Europeans, I believe it is imperative that Congress act—and act now. So today, I am introducing yet another response in addition to those I have previously introduced addressing this situation in Ukraine.

I will be introducing to the Senate the Crimea Annexation Non-Recognition Act—legislation which would mandate an official policy of not recognizing Russian sovereignty over Crimea, its land, airspace, waters, and resources.

The purpose of this act is to ensure the United States will not recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea nor take any action which would imply such recognition. Further, my bill imposes obstacles to Russian exploitation of Crimean resources by taking greater legal certainty about investing in Crimea, and it restricts foreign aid to countries which recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea.

I will illustrate some of the specific proposals I have introduced.

First, establish firm policy that the United States Government does not recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea, its territory, airspace, and territorial waters, and may take no action that implies any recognition of Russian sovereignty.

Second, prohibit the United States from financing or guaranteeing investments in Crimea with Russia as an intermediary.

Third, oppose international financial institutions' assistance programs for Crimea that go through Russia as an intermediary.

Fourth, require the Department of Justice to affirm this nonrecognition

policy upon request, in order to create greater legal uncertainty for those who hope to contract with Russia for exploitation of Crimean resources.

Fifth, deny entry to vessels sailing from Crimea with Russian customs documentation.

Sixth, prohibit U.S. ships and aircraft from taking action that imply Russian sovereignty over Crimea, its airspace or territorial waters.

And, seventh, prohibit some forms of foreign assistance to countries that recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea.

There are very few precedents in postwar history where a state has so boldly and aggressively used force against a neighbor for the purpose of territorial acquisition. What has happened in Crimea is a crime left over from an earlier age. We, together with our European friends, must move aggressively to oppose it before it becomes repetitive.

At a time when so much depends on Vladimir Putin's unspoken plans, it is not hard to guess how he will respond to meekness. The American response must be much greater if we want Putin to understand that his actions in Ukraine are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. At a minimum, I would suggest, Congress must refuse to recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea by passing my legislation. I have proposed a number of sanctions which were added to other measures I have introduced and hopefully will convince this administration and our European allies to take a much tougher stance and provide much more of a penalty to Russia over the actions it has taken. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I wish to speak a little bit about the letters I have received and the emails and the calls over the last few days about the health care plan.

The numbers signed up or whether the Web site worked—and I have said repeatedly—aren't the test here. The test is, is this a better plan? Does it allow more people to have better coverage or does it allow more people to have lesser coverage? I am becoming more and more convinced that the latter might be the case: the high deductibles, the increase in premiums, the benefit of a couple of years, actually, where the trajectory of health care costs were still going up but were

beginning to flatten out, and now they are projected to go up pretty dramatically over the next few years based on the recent projections.

So the real test is, is this plan a better plan, not does the Web site work. The fact that the Web site doesn't work sort of shows the ineptitude of government. The easiest thing in the world to do today—or should have been in 4 years—would be to figure out how to develop a Web site. So I would say the Web site shouldn't be the test of whether the health care plan works because the Web site will work. Apparently a number of States are having a problem, the Federal Government had a very obvious problem, but the Web site will eventually work. Surely that can't be a long-term problem. Given no other alternatives, people are going to eventually sign up in some numbers.

I am not interested even in finding out whether the numbers are real. I did notice that the President, as with most of the people I work for, in his announcing the numbers the other day, referred to the plan as ObamaCare again. I noticed he quit doing that since the election. He said he kind of liked "ObamaCare"—in one of the Presidential debates in 2012 he said he liked the term—and then he pretty well quit using it. But with the sign-up numbers, he said some people call it ObamaCare, in his announcement the other day. So I guess if he can call it that, the people I work for can call it that as well.

So we have premiums rising, deductibles going up, and hospitals seeing, in many cases, their fastest growing column of unpaid debt is people with insurance. Not too long ago, we said: That doesn't make any sense. How did people with insurance wind up in the fastest growing column of unpaid debt? It is because people's deductibles are, for many families now, well beyond a deductible they can pay. If a person had a \$500 deductible a few years ago and they have a \$3,000 deductible today—if they had a hospital bill, they might be able to put \$500 together and think that gets this bill paid. Nobody is going to call me anymore. I am not going to get this repeated notice. But if a person has a \$3,000 deductible, they might decide: I can never pay that, so I am going to let them do whatever they are going to have to do, and hopefully my insurance company pays enough of the bill that the hospital decides they are not going to bother me. But that is the fastest growing debt in many hospital accounting offices right now—people who have insurance, who aren't paying their part of the bill.

But whether it is increases in premiums or increases in deductibles or they can't see their doctor, the people I work for in Missouri tell me every week a series of stories that I absolutely believe are true. I basically

verify with people before I come to the floor, before pulling a few of these stories out: Do you mind, Timothy from Kirksville, if I mention that you have contacted us? I am not going to give your last name or put that on the record, but I would like to show that there is some dispersing around our State of this problem. They say, yes, this is absolutely true, and I told you because I want people to know about this.

Timothy from Kirksville, MO, said his premiums went up drastically in 2013. If premiums continue to rise, he says his family will have to make sacrifices elsewhere in their budget.

Kim from Frankford, MO, said she and her husband's deductible recently increased dramatically to \$6,000. So far, she says, it feels like we don't have insurance because we have such a high deductible. We couldn't pay it if we ever had to use it, so do you really have insurance? Kim's parents recently tried to find a plan on the exchange and were shocked to learn that the cheapest plan they could find offered premiums of \$1,200 a month with a \$12,000 deductible. Yearly premiums were equal to 20 percent of their income.

Mike from Columbia, MO, said his health insurance premiums shot up by \$1,000 this year—and \$1,000 matters to families. Based on the letters I get, there would be some temptation to contact Mike and say, if you want to look at a whole stack of letters here, \$1,000 is not the worst story people have to tell, but for a working family it is almost \$100 a month. It is whatever you were going to do with that \$100 a month that you are not able to do because your insurance just went up \$100 a month. Mike doesn't say anything about his deductible or what his premiums are, but he just says it is \$1,000 more than it was last year.

Lisa from Jefferson City, MO, the State capital, said she and her husband own a small business, and even though they don't have to provide health insurance for their employees, they have done so and they have chosen to pay 100 percent of the cost up until now.

Actually, until January of this year, no employer had to provide insurance for their employees but most employers did. Eighty-five percent of everybody who had insurance got insurance at work. Ninety percent of them thought what they had at work was great for what they needed to have for themselves and their family. We had a system that was working pretty good, where almost everybody had it. Instead of figuring out how to expand that system so other people could get in, I am afraid we have made it more difficult for everybody involved.

Lisa, the business owner, says her premiums went up 35 percent last year, and they have been told already that they will go up even higher next year.

She says if the premiums continue to increase, they will soon not be able to cover their employees.

Carol from Cameron, MO, said her coverage has gone down and her out-of-pocket costs have increased significantly. Her deductible is now \$3,500 and she has to pay \$65 every time she goes to see a doctor. She worries she will never be able to use the coverage she is paying for because the out-of-pocket costs are too high, and if she ever actually got sick or had to go to the hospital or had a significant condition, she is worried she can't pay the deductible, even though she is paying every month to have this coverage and feels as though the coverage is not truly insurance for her at all.

Merl and his wife in Cape Girardeau, MO, are in their late sixties. They have Medicare and a supplemental policy, but their copays have increased. One of their primary doctors has stopped taking Medicare. He and his wife are concerned they can't see the doctor they would like to see, that their copays have increased, and their doctor left the program.

By the way, the administration, I guess the day before yesterday, announced we weren't going to have the reductions in Medicare Advantage next year as we had this year. We will still have this year's increase, but we will not have next year's increase. Whoever thought that paying for a new health care program out of Medicare was a good idea anyway? So \$500 billion out of Medicare, which has bigger and bigger problems all the time as more and more people enter Medicare—\$500 billion out of Medicare to pay for yet another new system. Apparently, even the administration, at least between now and the election, doesn't think that is a good idea because they just suspended one of the pay-fors. They said: We did that once, and that was kind of painful because people could see what was going to happen to their Medicare Advantage, so we don't want to do that between now and election day—although I think in fairness they didn't mention election day in the rule, they just mentioned it wasn't going to happen in this even-numbered year.

Mike from Kansas City, MO, says his premiums went from \$600 a month to \$700 for him and his wife. The deductible went from \$5,000 to \$7,500—he says all because of the new requirements and what has to be covered.

Mark from Columbia, MO, says the doctor he has had for 18 years joined a network of concierge doctors because he is afraid of the President's health care plan limiting his ability to provide quality care to his patients. Unfortunately, now that his doctor is part of a private network, Mark is no longer able to afford him—or to afford to see him, and the doctor does not accept the insurance Mark is covered by.

All kinds of unintended consequences appear to be happening when the government decides not only can it begin to involve itself in 17 percent of the economy of the country but in virtually everybody's health care decisionmaking process. This would be a big job for a very efficient government in a very small country. In a federalist system where we have 50 States and territories to deal with, in a big country, this is very hard to do. It is unfortunate that all of the warnings about the unintended consequences about people in the workplace will begin to have part-time jobs instead of full-time jobs or people who had less than 50 employees wouldn't want to go to 51 because they would then be covered by a law they were not initially covered by—all of those warnings have turned out to be at least as bad as those people saying this could happen were saying they could be.

John in Overly, MO, went to healthcare.gov to find a plan. The cheapest quote he could find for his family of four was \$750 a month, and in John's case that is almost 30 percent of his income. He has looked at the numbers and has decided it would be more affordable to go uninsured. He said:

I am self-employed, married, and have two children, and though I am self-employed, I never had any trouble affording health insurance for me and my family [until now].

Richard is from Stoutsville, MO. His wife's premium last year was \$359 a month, with a \$5,000 deductible. This year it is \$800 a month, and since they are on a fixed income, they have just decided they can no longer afford to pay for her individual insurance because they had to buy it as individuals.

I would just say that we need to look at these cases. Surely somebody out there has benefited from the system. There are people who were able to stay on their family policies longer. A piece of legislation I wrote when I was a Member of the House—it was 3¼ pages long—apparently it would have added about as many people as any other single thing did, and it would have added those people whether you had the rest of this health care bill or not, at no cost to any taxpayer anywhere and no disruption of anybody else's insurance coverage.

Those are the kinds of things we should have looked at. But we need to look at what it takes now to be sure we have a system that is not measured by whether the Web site works and not measured by an argument about whether people who signed up paid but is measured by whether this really does provide better health care.

Health care is critical to families. Somebody told me one time: When everybody in your family is well, you have lots of problems; when somebody in your family is sick, you have one problem. That is how important health care is. We need to be sure this is a sys-

tem that does not meet some numerical or technical "check the box" but really does provide access to what was the greatest health care system in the world.

There are ways to encourage more access to that system and more choices, not fewer choices and less access and more people who feel as though they are paying a premium every month but if they ever really get sick, they really will not have insurance.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in the morning hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Mr. MORAN. I thank the Chair.

Madam President, nearly every minute someone in America develops Alzheimer's disease. More than 5 million Americans suffer from this disease and more than 35 million individuals worldwide. If trends continue, the number of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease after the age of 65 is expected to double every 5 years, while the number of people 85 years and older with this disease will triple by 2050.

Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and there is currently no cure, no diagnostic test, and no treatment for this terrible disease.

As a nation, we must remain committed to defeating one of the greatest health threats to the health and well-being of all Americans. Caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementia is expected to cost \$214 billion this year—\$214 billion this year alone, with \$150 billion covered by the Federal Government through Medicare and Medicaid.

A recent study outlined that the cost of care for those struggling with dementia is projected to double over the next 30 years, surpassing health care expenses for both heart disease and cancer. Without a way to prevent, cure, or effectively treat Alzheimer's, costs will only continue to climb.

Alzheimer's has become a disease to define our generation. But if we focus and prioritize our research capabilities, it need not remain an inevitable part of aging. There is reason for newfound hope. Over the last 5 years, significant strides have been made in understanding how Alzheimer's disease affects the brain and body. This new understanding has the potential to lead

to new research opportunities and to better management of the disease.

In February, the Senate Appropriations health subcommittee held a hearing on the impact of Alzheimer's—both economic and personal—and the state of these current research initiatives. I am the ranking member of that subcommittee. Chairman HARKIN and I held this hearing to raise awareness of the threat to America's health, the impact on the financial well-being of our country, and to highlight the groundbreaking research initiatives currently taking place.

For example, until 2009, only one genetic variant was known to increase the risk of late-onset Alzheimer's disease. However, through advances in genome studies and other technologies, the list of known gene risk factors has grown substantially. Now researchers have identified 11 genetic risk factors.

The National Institutes of Health is supporting research that has established methods and standards for testing for biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease. Changes in these biomarkers may precede the onset of the disease and could be a key to unlocking the causes and progression of the disease.

NIH has also made significant progress over the last several years and we continue to support them moving more aggressively toward developing new treatments for Alzheimer's and related dementia. Several innovative studies, ranging from research on the most basic underpinnings of the disease to early-stage clinical trial of promising agents, are now underway.

A sustained Federal commitment to research for Alzheimer's will improve health outcomes for people living with the disease both today and in the future, and it will also lower health care costs. I have been and remain committed to prioritizing the funding for Alzheimer's research.

Recently, I and other members of the Appropriations Committee worked to include a \$1 billion funding increase for the National Institutes of Health in the 2014 Omnibus appropriations bill. This amount includes a \$100 million increase in funding for the National Institutes of Aging within NIH, as well as the initial year of funding for the new BRAIN initiative to map the human brain. These research investments are critically important because they will increase our understanding of the underlying causes of Alzheimer's, help unlock the mysteries of the brain, help bring us closer to an effective treatment and one day a cure.

Alzheimer's is a defining challenge of our generation. We must together commit to defeat this devastating disease by supporting the critical research carried out by scientists and researchers across our Nation. The health and financial future of our Nation are at stake, and the United States cannot afford to ignore such a threat. Together,

we can make a sustained commitment to Alzheimer's research that will benefit our Nation and bring hope to future generation of Americans. The challenge is ours and the moment for us to act is now.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OLIGARCHY

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I hear more and more from people in my own State of Vermont and from people, in fact, all over the country via email, through my Web site, who are wondering whether this great country is evolving into an oligarchic society.

Historically, as I think most people know, the United States was the envy of the world for so many reasons. But one of the reasons, economically, is that in our country there was always the belief that regardless of your income you have the opportunity to move up the economic ladder. There was the reality—not just the belief—that we had a great and expanding middle class; that if your dad and your mom didn't go to college—which, in fact, was the case in my family—you would have that opportunity to go to college and move up the educational ladder or the business ladder or professional field. There was the feeling that economically what America was about, and what we celebrated, was the great middle class. People today, both from an economic perspective and from a political perspective, are beginning in a very serious way to question that reality.

What they are looking at is that today in our country we have the most unequal distribution of wealth and income of any major country on Earth. I think a lot of young people say, well, how could that be? In England you have the Queen of England, all the lords, all the royalty all over Europe, and we don't have that in the United States.

Yet the truth is that over the years we have moved to a situation where in terms of wealth and income, we are now the most unequal society of any major industrialized nation on Earth.

I keep mentioning one statistic, because I don't hear too many other people talking about it, but we need to talk about it. That is, in terms of wealth. Wealth is what we own. Wealth is what we have accumulated over a lifetime of work. In terms of wealth, the top 1 percent in our Nation owns 38 percent of the financial wealth of America.

I would ask those people back home who might be listening, what does the

bottom 60 percent own? The top 1 percent owns 38 percent of the wealth. What do you think the bottom 60 percent owns? They own 25 percent, 20 percent, 10 percent? What do they own? The answer is they own all of 2.3 percent—all of 2.3 percent is what the bottom 60 percent of Americans owns in terms of total wealth.

If you had a big pizza with 100 slices in it, 1 person would get 38 percent of those pieces of pizza if we looked at wealth, and the bottom 60 percent of the people would have to share 2.3 percent of the pizza. I don't think that is what America is supposed to be about and that situation is getting even worse.

In terms of income now—all right, everybody goes out and works—we have millions of people today who are working longer hours and their income is going down. Their wages are going down. Maybe they are paying more for health care. Their pensions are going down.

But in terms of all new income—new income generated in this country—from the last statistics we saw, which were from 2009 to 2012, in terms of all new income, 95 percent of all new income went to the top 1 percent. So more and more income goes to the millionaires and billionaires while millions of people are working longer hours for lower wages, and while we have the highest rate of childhood poverty, at 22 percent, of any major country on Earth.

Since 1999, the typical middle-class family has seen its income go down by more than \$5,000. Do you want to know why people are angry, why people are concerned, and why people are worried what is going to happen to their kids? It is because the median family income has gone down by \$5,000 since 1999.

Let me break it down even further. The typical male worker, that guy right in the middle, made \$283 less last year than he did 44 years ago. Imagine that. In the last 44 years, with all of the increase in productivity, with all of the robotics, with all of the space technology, all of the iPhones, iPads, and everything else where people are now producing much more, the typical male worker made \$283 less last year than he did 44 years ago. The typical female worker earned \$1,775 less last year than she did in 2007.

Today in America we have more people living in poverty than ever before, and that is 46.5 million people. Here is a fact that should frighten everybody; that is, half of Americans have less than \$10,000 in their savings account right now. Can you imagine that? That means if your car breaks down and you need that car to get to work or you have a serious health problem and you don't have particularly good health insurance, there it goes. It goes.

Then you talk about people who are older who have to retire. How do you

retire with dignity if you have less than \$10,000 in the bank? Well, you are going to get Social Security. Thank God, you, I, and other Members have fought hard to make sure there were not cuts in Social Security that many people wanted. But is Social Security alone enough? No. The answer is it is not.

What is happening in this country is that while the middle class shrinks, there is another reality; that is, the people on top are doing phenomenally well. Today we see a situation in which some of the wealthiest families in America—the Koch brothers come to mind, and I will talk about them in another context. They are now worth \$80 billion. In the last year alone their wealth went from \$68 billion to \$80 billion—in 1 year a \$12 billion increase in their wealth.

Sheldon Adelson—another billionaire who has had his name in the paper a whole lot recently by bringing prospective Republican candidates for the Presidency to Las Vegas to talk to them and see what they have to offer him and how much money he will contribute to their campaign—also saw a huge increase in his wealth over the last year.

What is the face of oligarchy? The face of oligarchy is what we see in Russia. When many people refer to oligarchy, they think of Russia. In Russia, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, a small number of bureaucrats were able to steal a lot of public property, and they became multibillionaires. They controlled oil companies, banks, gold mines, aluminum companies, television stations, and other state-owned companies, and that is how they became oligarchs.

By 2001 5 oligarchs controlled 95 percent of Russia's aluminum production, 40 percent of its copper, and on and on it goes. People may say: Oligarchy has to do with Russia; what does it have to do with the United States of America? Well, it has everything to do with the United States of America because that is the direction in which we are moving.

Now, let me cite some examples of what oligarchs do. When we think of oligarchies we might want to think of a gentleman named Hank McKinnel, Jr., who was the CEO of Pfizer—a major drug company—from 2001 to 2006. When he retired, he received a \$188 million golden parachute—\$188 million—at the same time as the people in our country are paying the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. That is oligarchy.

When we think about oligarchy, we may want to think about a gentleman named Lee Raymond who served as the CEO of ExxonMobil from 1993 to 2005. When he retired—and remember, this is at a time when the vast majority of the American people did not have the resources to retire with a shred of dignity—Mr. Raymond received from

ExxonMobil a golden parachute, retirement benefits, of more than \$320 million—\$320 million. That is at the same time as people in Vermont and all over this country are finding it harder and harder to pay for gas at the pump.

What oligarchy is also about is that in 2009 ExxonMobil, maybe the most profitable corporation in the history of America, did not pay any Federal income taxes, even though in that year it earned \$19 billion in profits.

When we talk about oligarchy we might want to think about somebody like Jamie Dimon, who is the CEO of JPMorgan Chase. He recently received a 74-percent increase in pay—more than \$20 million in total compensation. Interestingly enough, that is a pretty big salary—\$20 million—but what did he do to earn it? During that same period, over the last year, the bank he runs, JPMorgan Chase, paid out over \$20 billion in penalties to the Federal Government for financial fraud. So after paying out \$20 billion to the Federal Government in penalties for financial fraud, he still got a \$20 million compensation package. That is called oligarchy. No matter what you do, if you are at the head of a large financial institution, you are going to get rewarded for that.

Oligarchy has a lot to do with a gentleman named William McGuire, the CEO of UnitedHealth Group from 1991 to 2006. Everybody knows of the crisis we are facing in health care. Everybody knows that tens of millions of Americans today, despite the Affordable Care Act, are still uninsured. Everybody knows we spend more per capita on health care than do the people of any other nation. Yet when this gentleman retired from UnitedHealth Group in 2006, he received a \$285 million golden parachute. So here we have the most dysfunctional health care system in the world, the most expensive health care system, with tens of millions of people uninsured, yet the head of a major insurance company gets \$285 million in retirement benefits. That is called oligarchy.

Let me take oligarchy away from the economic realm and turn it into an area that I am—and many Americans are—very concerned about. Recently, we saw an interesting spectacle relating to politics that took place in Las Vegas. A gentleman named Sheldon Adelson—who is worth some \$38 billion, and who is maybe the world's largest casino magnate not only in Las Vegas but off the shores of China as well—held a meeting in Las Vegas in which he brought forth Republican candidates who are interested in running for President. Now, here is the point. In the last Presidential election, both President Obama and Mitt Romney spent a little over \$1 billion in their campaigns. Sheldon Adelson, if he provided more money into a campaign than both Obama and Romney spent,

would still have \$9 billion more in wealth than he did in 2013.

What am I saying? What I am saying is that we are moving toward a situation where people such as the Koch brothers and Sheldon Adelson have so much money it would hardly matter to them to write a check for more than both Obama and Romney spent in the last Presidential election. They could write out a check for \$2 billion, and it would be insignificant, a fraction of their increase in wealth over a 1-year period.

As bad as that situation is, because of the disastrous Citizens United Supreme Court decision, we may not have seen the worst yet. Judge Thomas, of the Supreme Court, the most conservative member of a very conservative Supreme Court, wrote an opinion which said: Maybe we should look at doing away with all limitations on campaign finance. Many Republicans think that is a great idea. Let us do away with all limitations.

In the real world, what does that mean? It means that billionaires—people who are worth \$20 billion and, in the case of the Koch brothers, \$80 billion—if we moved in that direction and ended all limitations on campaign spending, could sit in a room—and the Presiding Officer comes from the State of Wisconsin, a moderate-sized State—and they could write a check for \$50 million or \$100 million for a candidate for Senate or Congress or Governor of Wisconsin or of Vermont or anyplace else, and it would not matter at all.

So I want people to take a deep breath and think about whether that is what we believe American democracy is supposed to be. When I grew up, we believed what American democracy was about—and we still practice it to a large degree in the State of Vermont, where we have town meetings. On the first Tuesday in March people come out, and they argue about the school budget, and they argue about other budgetary items, and every person has a say and every person has a vote. In my career, I have done hundreds and hundreds of town meetings, where people from any walk of life can walk in the door and can ask any question they want. I think democracy is about elected officials talking and communicating with people, regardless of their income, and listening to their comments and answering their questions. That is what democracy is about.

I do not believe democracy is about a handful of billionaires, such as the Koch brothers or Sheldon Adelson, being in a position in which they can spend as much money as they want on any political race in this country. It is very hard for me to imagine how anybody could defend that as being democracy. It is not. It is oligarchy. It is the power of a handful of billionaires to control the political process.

So both in terms of economics, where so few own so much and so many have

so little, and in terms of politics, where a handful of billionaires increasingly are able to determine the nature of politics in America and who is elected and who is defeated, I think we as a nation have a lot of hard thinking in front of us. We have to ask ourselves: Are we going to fight for our democracy and an expanded middle class? Are we going to fight for a democracy where one person has one vote and billionaires cannot fight elections? To my mind, that is the most important issue we face as a nation.

I hope the American people become engaged in that struggle and are prepared to take on the billionaires, who, apparently, are not content to have \$10 billion or \$20 billion in wealth. They feel the need to have more and more and more and to take that money out of the hides of working families, the elderly, the children, the sick, and the poor. They want more tax breaks for billionaires, and then they want to cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, education, and every other program that is of importance to working families.

So we need a very serious debate about these issues. We need millions of Americans to stand and fight with us to defend American democracy and to stop this country from evolving into an oligarchic form of society.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I come to the floor about an hour or so after a vote on a motion to proceed to take up the Paycheck Fairness Act. I struggled with my decision as to whether to move to this measure that I feel was flawed in terms of its approach to a solution or to recognize that perhaps this measure was more of an exercise in political messaging rather than an effort to resolve what I believe is an issue.

In sorting through all aspects of not only the merits of the legislation, but also the facts as they exist back home, the facts as they exist around this country, where we see pay disparity between men and women, I had a lot on my mind. I had a lot to weigh. I did not come to the floor yesterday to speak with the many who rose to either offer proposed amendments to the Paycheck Fairness Act or those who rose to speak to defend the act. I don't want my silence yesterday to be construed that I don't think there is an issue here; that I don't think this is something that needs to be addressed.

Yesterday was national Equal Pay Day, the day when, according to the Department of Labor, women's wages supposedly catch up to men's wages. We can argue and we can debate what that gap is—whether it is 77 cents, whether those statistics are outdated, whether it is closer to 82 cents or what the raw statistics are. We can debate

that. But the fact is—and I think the Presiding Officer and I would agree—if there is any discrepancy there, it is worth looking at. Why does a discrepancy exist? Is there disparity that stems from discrimination? Because if it stems from discrimination, it should not be allowed—pretty simply.

In Alaska, the statistics are a little bit different than what we have on the national level. In my State, Equal Pay Day is not going to occur until May 5.

As an Alaskan, as a woman, and as one who has been in the Alaska job market, I want to know: Why the greater disparity in my State?

We had a women's summit in Anchorage, AK, last October. I worked with a former colleague in the Alaska State legislature to host a summit designed to look at many of the issues women face in Alaska, whether it is pay disparity, childcare affordability, access to health care—so many of the issues and concerns women all over the country deal with day to day. We relied on a study from the state Legislative Research Services. A portion of the research tried to drill down into some of the pay disparities we have in the State.

In 2010 our State Department of Labor reported a wage gap of 67 cents or 33 percent. This statistic is different from the overall national averages because that review conducted by Legislative Research Services included part-time as well as full-time workers and part-time workers generally receive lower salaries. That may be one reason for the disparity.

But when we look at some of the areas where there are discrepancies, it really does cause one to say: Wait a minute. In areas where occupations are significantly male-dominated—crab fishermen, for instance, welders on the pipeline—occupations where the pay is really quite substantial, we might look at that and say, OK, I understand why there might be a discrepancy. But there are other occupations that have some surprising statistics. For example, back in 2010 the average earnings for a male physician were \$229,312, but the average for a woman physician was \$166,000. It doesn't make sense.

In certain areas, women out-earn men—dietitians, for instance. The ratio of women's to men's earnings is 170 percent, according to the raw numbers. For legal secretaries, the ratio of women's to men's earnings is 132 percent. For teachers, the ratio of women's to men's earnings is 125 percent.

We need to peel back the onion to understand what we are dealing with—is this a situation where it is the difference in the career choice that has made the distinction with the pay disparity? If that is the case, what are we doing to encourage women to go into areas where, quite clearly, earning opportunities are better?

When we look at occupations, I think it is something that needs to be consid-

ered. When we talk about a wage disparity, a pay disparity, I think we need to look very critically at whether there are other factors that come into play. Is it a career choice? Is it the need or desire for flexibility?

Starting out as a young lawyer in Anchorage, I was making what the young men in the firm were making. But when my husband and I decided that I wanted to spend more time at home with our boys, I negotiated for that level of flexibility. That put me behind my male counterparts in the firm. I was good with that. That was a choice I made. I wanted that flexibility.

Are there other nonmonetary forms of compensation that perhaps the wage gap statistics don't necessarily respect? We don't know. So this is where I came down in my decision process as to which direction to take on the Paycheck Fairness Act vote that we had just an hour or so ago. Do we want to try to address what I believe is an issue in that we do have a disparity but how we understand what causes that disparity and, then, what we do with that going forward is an important consideration.

We have the Equal Pay Act of 1963 that imposes strict liability for wage disparity based on gender. It is in law. We have title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that protects against all forms of employment discrimination, including on the basis of sex. But maybe we are not enforcing these Federal laws as we need to. If after all these years we are still seeing areas of disparity that we cannot reconcile based on occupation or based on desire for flexibility, does there continue to be discrimination? That is what we need to get to.

That is why I and many of my colleagues supported some of the amendments that were presented yesterday and I think were important to present—to make sure there is no retaliation for a woman when she inquires as to what others are making to determine whether there is discrimination, so making sure we are able to access that information. However, when we take a proposal like the Paycheck Fairness Act that has an initial presumption that the employer has unlawfully discriminated against an employee if there is a difference in pay—if we start off with a presumption of discrimination, it is pretty hard for an employer—particularly a small employer—to deal with that, to defend that, to present the case, to really work through this issue.

The solution should not be more litigation as the Paycheck Fairness Act response is here. The solution needs to be more all-encompassing because we have laws on the books that already say it is illegal to discriminate. If we are still seeing instances of discrimination—and, again, let's figure out where

and why and how—then let's honestly try to address that rather than through messaging efforts that are designed to elevate the issue, which is fair, but then not be pragmatic about how we approach the solutions.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article from this morning's Washington Post titled "President Obama's persistent '77-cent' claim on wage gap gets a new Pinocchio rating."

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 9, 2014]

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PERSISTENT '77 CENT' CLAIM ON THE WAGE GAP GETS A NEW PINOCCHIO RATING

(By Glenn Kessler)

"Today, the average full-time working woman earns just 77 cents for every dollar a man earns . . . in 2014, that's an embarrassment. It is wrong."

—President Obama, remarks on equal pay for equal work, April 8, 2014

In 2012, during another election season, The Fact Checker took a deep dive in the statistics behind this factoid and found it wanting. We awarded the president only a Pinocchio, largely because he is citing Census Bureau data, but have wondered since then if we were too generous.

We also called out the president when he used this fact in the 2013 State of the Union address. And in the 2014 State of the Union address. And yet he keeps using it. So now it's time for a reassessment.

The Truth Teller video above also goes through the details.

THE FACTS

Few experts dispute that there is a wage gap, but differences in the life choices of men and women—such as women tending to leave the workforce when they have children—make it difficult to make simple comparisons. Obama is using a figure (annual wages, from the Census Bureau) that makes the disparity appear the greatest—23 cents. But the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that the gap is 19 cents when looking at weekly wages. The gap is even smaller when you look at hourly wages—it is 14 cents—but then not every wage earner is paid on an hourly basis, so that statistic excludes salaried workers.

In other words, since women in general work fewer hours than men in a year, the statistics used by the White House may be less reliable for examining the key focus of the proposed Paycheck Fairness Act—wage discrimination. For instance, annual wage figures do not take into account the fact that teachers—many of whom are women—have a primary job that fills nine months out of the year. The weekly wage is more of an apples-to-apples comparison, but it does not include as many income categories.

June O'Neill, a former director of the Congressional Budget Office, has noted that the wage gap is affected by a number of factors, including that the average woman has less work experience than the average man and that more of the weeks worked by women are part-time rather than full-time. Women also tend to leave the work force for periods in order to raise children, seek jobs that may have more flexible hours but lower pay and choose careers that tend to have lower pay.

Indeed, BLS data show that women who do not get married have virtually no wage gap;

they earn 96 cents for every dollar a man makes.

Economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis surveyed economic literature and concluded that “research suggests that the actual gender wage gap (when female workers are compared with male workers who have similar characteristics) is much lower than the raw wage gap.” They cited one survey, prepared in 2009 for the Labor Department, which concluded that when such differences are accounted for, much of the hourly wage gap dwindled, to about 5 cents on the dollar.

“This study leads to the unambiguous conclusion that the differences in the compensation of men and women are the result of a multitude of factors and that the raw wage gap should not be used as the basis to justify corrective action. Indeed, there may be nothing to correct,” the report for the Labor Department said. “The differences in raw wages may be almost entirely the result of the individual choices being made by both male and female workers.”

A 2013 article in the *Daily Beast*, citing a Georgetown University survey on the economic value of different college majors, showed how nine of the 10 most remunerative majors were dominated by men:

1. Petroleum Engineering: 87% male
2. Pharmacy Pharmaceutical Sciences and Administration: 48% male
3. Mathematics and Computer Science: 67% male
4. Aerospace Engineering: 88% male
5. Chemical Engineering: 72% male
6. Electrical Engineering: 89% male
7. Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering: 97% male
8. Mechanical Engineering: 90% male
9. Metallurgical Engineering: 83% male
10. Mining and Mineral Engineering: 90% male

Meanwhile, nine of the 10 least remunerative majors were dominated by women:

1. Counseling Psychology: 74% female
2. Early Childhood Education: 97% female
3. Theology and Religious Vocations: 34% female
4. Human Services and Community Organization: 81% female
5. Social Work: 88% female
6. Drama and Theater Arts: 60% female
7. Studio Arts: 66% female
8. Communication Disorders Sciences and Services: 94% female
9. Visual and Performing Arts: 77% female
10. Health and Medical Preparatory Programs: 55% female

The White House discovered this week that calculations using average wages can yield unsatisfactory results. McClatchy newspapers did the math and reported that when the same standards that generated the 77-cent figure were applied to White House salaries, women overall at the White House make 91 cents for every dollar men make. White House spokesman Jay Carney protested that the review “looked at the aggregate of everyone on staff, and that includes from the most junior levels to the most senior.” But that’s exactly what the Census Department does.

Betsy Stevenson, a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, acknowledged to reporters that the 77-cent figure did not reflect equal pay for equal work. “Seventy-seven cents captures the annual earnings of full-time, full-year women divided by the annual earnings of full-time, full-year men,” she said. “There are a lot of things that go into that 77-cents figure, there are a lot of things that contribute and

no one’s trying to say that it’s all about discrimination, but I don’t think there’s a better figure.”

Carney noted that the White House wage gap was narrower than the national average, but the White House actually lags the District average calculated by the BLS: 95 cents.

THE PINOCCHIO TEST

From a political perspective, the Census Department’s 77-cent figure is golden. Unless women stop getting married and having children, and start abandoning careers in childhood education for naval architecture, this huge gap in wages will almost certainly persist. Democrats thus can keep bringing it up every two years.

There appears to be some sort of wage gap and closing it is certainly a worthy goal. But it’s a bit rich for the president to repeatedly cite this statistic as an “embarrassment.” (His line in the April 8 speech was almost word for word what he said in the 2014 State of the Union address.) The president must begin to acknowledge that average annual wages does not begin to capture what is actually happening in the work force and society.

Thus we are boosting the rating on this factoid to Two Pinocchios. We were tempted to go one step further to Three Pinocchios, but the president is relying on an official government statistic—and there are problems and limitations with the other calculations as well.

TWO PINOCCHIOS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Included in this article is the following quote referencing a study by the Census Bureau:

This study leads to the unambiguous conclusion that the differences in the compensation of men and women are the result of a multitude of factors and that the raw wage gap should not be used as the basis to justify corrective action. Indeed, there may be nothing to correct.

I don’t know that. There indeed may be more than that can correct. I am willing to look to see, to continue to peel back this onion to see if we can do more than we did with the Equal Pay Act of 1963, do more than we did with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, do more than we did with the Lilly Ledbetter Act that I supported several years ago. If there is more that needs to be done, I am willing to work on it because I don’t want to be in a State where men are viewed as being paid \$1 to the 67 cents that a woman is being paid. I don’t want those statistics to be valid. I don’t want them to play out in my State. I want to understand how we ensure that there is a level of fairness. I think we need to make sure we look keenly to the issue of whether there is discrimination at play or whether, in fact, there are a host of other issues we need to consider as well. I am willing to work in good faith with my colleagues to do just that.

I see the chairman of the Judiciary Committee is with us.

(Mr. MARKEY assumed the Chair.)

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished senior Senator from

Alaska for yielding. I was interested in hearing her speech too.

LANDMINES

The Presiding Officer represents the beautiful Commonwealth of Massachusetts. But consider if 15 percent of the land area of Massachusetts was littered with 100,000 landmines or if my State of Vermont, with a slightly larger land area, was littered with landmines. Each one a tiny explosive buried a few inches beneath the surface of the ground, and it explodes when an unsuspecting person steps on it. Each one capable of killing a child or blowing the legs off of an adult.

This may sound far-fetched, but it is not. It is the reality today for many countries—from Vietnam to Angola to Colombia. But if that were the reality in our States, I think we would all agree that these inherently indiscriminate weapons—designed to be triggered by the victim regardless of whether it is a civilian or combatant—do not belong in the arsenal of a civilized country.

In fact, 161 nations have already agreed, and they have joined together in an international treaty banning antipersonnel mines. They include every member of NATO except one—the United States. They include every country in this hemisphere except two—the United States and Cuba.

We condemn the use of IED’s against our soldiers and civilians in Afghanistan, and of course we should. But why not condemn antipersonnel landmines? There is really no appreciable difference.

I am hoping some will be listening to me at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue because I ask this: If landmines were littering this country—in schoolyards, along roads, in cornfields, in our National Parks—and hundreds of American children were being crippled like this Cambodian girl who lost her left foot, how long would it take before the White House sent the Mine Ban Treaty to the Senate for ratification? Two days? Two weeks? It wouldn’t take any longer than that, I am sure. Yet we hear the same excuses year after year.

I look at my five beautiful grandchildren and I ask, what if they were living in a country where simply by walking across a field, going to a playground, or walking down a road, they might lose their lives? They are not combatants. It is usually civilians who are injured and killed by these landmines. We hear the same excuses year after year—why the most powerful Nation on earth cannot join its NATO allies, why the most powerful Nation on earth is the only country other than Cuba in this hemisphere not to sign it. What do we get? The same talking points, the same power points. It is really bureaucratic inertia. It is also a lack of leadership.

For 20 years the Pentagon insisted that Korea was the problem. But 20

years later, there is absolutely no evidence they have done anything to revise their Korea war plans without antipersonnel mines or that any President, Democratic or Republican, has ever told them to do so.

The U.S. Government deserves credit for spending hundreds of millions of dollars to clear mines and help mine survivors, and the Leahy War Victims Fund has been an important part of that, including the money I have gotten through appropriations to clear land mines.

But this girl—and there are countless more like her—we are told there are thousands of new mine victims each year, show the other tragic side of the story.

I mentioned on the floor the other day about talking to a young teenager in the hospital about the Bosnia war. She had been sent away by her parents to a safe place during the fighting. The war ended. She could come home. She was running down the road calling out to her parents and stepped on a land mine and lost both her legs. She wasn't a combatant. She became a victim. There are so many innocent victims.

Americans overwhelmingly condemn the use of landmines, and they expect more than they are getting from their government, and so do I, and so, too, should every Member of Congress.

It has been 20 years since President Bill Clinton at the United Nations called for the elimination of antipersonnel landmines. I cheered him when he did. Two years later in 1996 he said: "Today I am launching an international effort to ban antipersonnel landmines." And I cheered that. But 18 years later we are still waiting. We are waiting for action, not words. We haven't signed the landmine treaty. We didn't sign it during the Clinton administration or the George W. Bush administration or this administration.

I have spoken to President Obama about this. I was encouraged when, in accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, he said:

I am convinced that adhering to standards, international standards, strengthens those who do and isolates and weakens those who don't.

I told the President how much I agreed with his words. Coincidentally, when he received the Nobel Prize it was a decade after the Nobel committee awarded the prize to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. How fitting it would be after all these years if my friend, President Obama, gave real meaning to the words he said when accepting the Nobel Peace Prize by putting the United States on a path to join the Mine Ban Treaty, and joining our NATO allies. This is what the President needs to do. More importantly, it is what America and the world needs.

I will speak further about this on another occasion, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

FRANKLIN REGIONAL H.S. TRAGEDY

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak on S. 1596, the Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act.

Before I do that, though, I want to say a few words about a terrible event that occurred this morning in Pennsylvania. The students at Franklin Regional High School in Murrysville, PA, suffered a terrible, devastating tragedy this morning. A person—and this person is believed to be a fellow student—took out a knife and attacked his fellow students before the start of the school day. It appears that as many as 20 people were injured, some severely. Our thanks go out to the first responders who did respond as rapidly as they could, and our prayers go out to those who were injured and their families at Franklin Regional High School.

PROTECTING STUDENTS FROM SEXUAL AND VIOLENT PREDATORS ACT

Mr. President, I want to turn to this bill that I have introduced, the Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act, S. 1596. I want to thank my cosponsors, Senator JOE MANCHIN and Senator MITCH MCCONNELL.

The inspiration for this bill begins with a story of a boy named Jeremy Bell. The story begins in Delaware County, PA. One of the school teachers in the school in Delaware County was found to have molested several boys and raped one of them. Prosecutors decided there was not enough evidence to bring a case. The school knew about what was happening and decided to dismiss the teacher for this appalling behavior. What was so amazing and disturbing is the school also helped this predator land a job at another school in West Virginia, even passing on a letter of recommendation so they could move their problem somewhere else.

The story ended in 1997 when that teacher, by then a school principal, raped and murdered 12-year-old Jeremy Bell in West Virginia. Justice finally caught up with that teacher who is now in jail serving a life sentence for that murder. But for Jeremy Bell justice came way too late. Jeremy Bell's father wouldn't rest until he knew he had done all he could to help to ensure that no child or parent would ever experience a similar tragedy.

Roy Bell, Jeremy's father, worked with Congress to create protections for children to ensure they were not victimized at school. I think for him it was some consolation for his loss. The House of Representatives responded to this terrible, terrible tragedy. On October 22 of last year, the House unanimously passed the Protecting Students Against Sexual and Violent Predators Act. But again, sadly, justice came too late. Jeremy Bell's father passed away just 3 days before the vote.

So we are now in the Senate with a chance to pass the same bill, a bill that has already passed the House unanimously. It is a bipartisan bill. The bill that I introduced is a companion legislation. As I mentioned, we have bipartisan support for this bill, but I hear some people suggesting that maybe we should wait, maybe now is not the right time. Maybe we need more time.

I want to say as strongly as I can that we have had enough waiting. We have wasted enough time. Let me explain why we cannot wait another day. I want to start with 2 numbers, the first is 130. Since January 1 of this year, 130 teachers have been arrested across America for sexual misconduct with children. That is more than 1 teacher arrested for each day of the year so far. And that is, of course, only those who have been caught and arrested. Every moment that we delay we are delaying rooting out some of these problems.

The other number is 73, and 73 is the number that comes from the Government Accountability Office. GAO says that the average pedophile molests 73 children over the course of that pedophile's lifetime. These predators actively seek out the environment where they can find victims. That is what they do. What better place for them than schools. They go from school district to school district, sometimes from State to State, methodically looking for victims. Every moment we delay we let a predator move on to the next of his 73 victims.

The damage that these predators do is just enormous. It is damage far beyond what any number can convey. Over the past few months I have had a chance to visit a number of child advocacy centers around Pennsylvania, meeting with the men and women who work with abused children, whether it is helping them through the criminal justice system or just helping them to start the healing process. These folks do some incredibly important and very, very good work. But again, you cannot visit one of these centers without being profoundly impacted by how devastating the abuse is.

I cannot come up with the words to convey how devastating it is, but I can let some of the children speak for themselves. I am going to quote from two students who were victims. Shannon was raped by a teacher. The teacher was later convicted of sexual assault and sentenced to life in prison. Nine years later here is what Shannon wrote:

When I was a senior in high school, Mr. Peterson approached me and said I would need to go to night school if I wanted enough credits to graduate on time. And of course he taught those courses—a computer class.

I was 17, and he raped me four times over the course of the year. He said he would fail me if I ever told. He also hit me and made threats against me and my family. So I didn't tell. I held it in for a year and a half.

In the end 66 people offered to testify against Peterson. His first victim dated back to the year I was born. Some of those who spoke up were parents. Their daughters had complained at the time but nothing was done. That made me very angry. It still does. I learned that a handful of teachers and two principals knew about him. And his teaching license had been revoked in Michigan years before, but no one knew why.

I am different because of what happened. I have to watch people all the time, analyze them. I can't be carefree.

Now I have a 7-year-old son and two daughters, ages 3 and 1. I will home school my girls.

Next is a case of a boy from South Carolina named Gary, one of at least 29 boys abused by a teacher, Mr. Fisher, over the teacher's 37-year career. The teacher is serving 20 years in prison. Two school principals were sued for allegedly covering up the abuse.

What Gary wrote is as follows:

I was 9 when it started. The abuse was frequent and long-term—until I went to college. I knew there were others, too, but until it all came out I never knew how many. You feel so guilty, so ashamed. It's frightening now to look back and see how calculating Fisher was. I did everything I could to get kicked out of school. I was in the guidance counselor's office all the time. Finally, in tenth grade I got myself kicked out for cheating.

By the time I went to college I was drinking all the time. I was terrified to quit because then I would have to feel. But I couldn't drink and do school, so I entered rehab. I was 18. It took me a year and a half, and I've been sober since.

My life is good now for the first time. You can survive it, but you have to deal with it.

He goes on to say:

I always felt that what the school did was far worse than what Fisher did. Fisher was sick, an evil monster. But [the school] just calculated the damage to its public relations. We kids were disposable, which is a whole other category of evil.

So the question before us is what are we going to do about this? What can we do? What are we going to do?

My bill, the Protecting Students From Sexual and Violent Predators Act is a sensible first step in protecting these kids. It would require a mandatory background check for existing and perspective employees, and the checks would have to be periodically repeated. There are five States today that don't require any background check at all.

The second thing my bill would do is it would check all employees or contractors who have unsupervised contact with children—not just teachers, coaches, and school bus drivers. Anybody who has contact with kids in my view should undergo this background check. There are 12 States in which there is no such requirement from contractors.

My bill would also require a more thorough background check. It would require a check of four major databases, both State and Federal. In Pennsylvania, for instance, if an employee has been living in the State for 2 years or more, there is no Federal back-

ground check at all, only the State check, and I don't think it is adequate. The way these predators move from State to State, I think it requires that we check the Federal database.

Importantly, my bill would also ban what we call "passing the trash." This is the horrendous practice whereby the school discovers they have a predator and they intentionally ease the predator out and sometimes actually facilitate that predator getting a job somewhere else. That should be illegal, and my bill would make it illegal.

The fifth thing that my legislation does is it would stipulate that schools cannot hire a person who has ever been convicted of any violent or sexual crime against a child. I think that is a very reasonable first step.

In addition, it would ban hiring of a number of specific felonies—not all felonies, but felonies such as homicide, child abuse or neglect, crimes against a child including pornography, spousal abuse, rape, sexual assault, and kidnapping. Any of those felonies are so egregious it would qualify to keep a person excluded from working with children.

In addition, anyone convicted of a felony physical assault or battery or a felony drug-related offense would be prohibited for 5 years, couldn't be hired for 5 years. The enforcement of all of this would be that if a State refused to adopt these very commonsense measures to protect kids, then they would get no Federal funding from the EASA. I think the States would adopt these reforms.

I would point out there is nothing the least bit radical about these proposals. In addition to having passed the House of Representatives unanimously, we in the Senate just passed virtually an identical background check requirement on the Child Care and Development Block Grant legislation we adopted last week or perhaps the week before—very recently. That bill essentially had identical background check provisions for daycare workers, and that is very sensible. That is an important and good step. It makes sense to protect children in daycare, but it makes no sense whatsoever to protect kids in daycare and then leave them defenseless when they move on to an ordinary school.

Finally, I want to emphasize that this bill has broad bipartisan support manifested in the House and here in the Senate. More than that, I think it is a moral imperative. Our children deserve to be protected now. If that is not a responsibility we have, I don't know what is. The protection didn't come soon enough for Jeremy Bell or Shannon or Gary, but we don't have to fail other children by delay.

I ask any of my colleagues who object to this legislation that passed unanimously in the House—legislation that is completely consistent with what we passed a couple of weeks ago—

to please come forward with their concerns or issues. I welcome hearing any objections, if there are any, but I want to see a very speedy passage of this legislation.

It is my intention tomorrow to come down here to the Senate floor and ask for unanimous consent from my colleagues to pass this legislation here on the Senate floor. That will expedite this process and that will assure we put this important safeguard in place as soon as we possibly can.

EX-IM BANK

I have one other issue I want to address briefly before I yield the floor, and that is about the Ex-Im Bank. I believe this afternoon we will be considering a nominee to a very senior post at the Ex-Im bank. My focus is not principally on this particular candidate, but I think we need to ask ourselves some important questions about the way the Ex-Im Bank operates and what it does and how it does it. I hope we will make some very significant changes when we get to the reauthorization debate in the fall.

First of all, I should point out this is an institution—the Ex-Im Bank—that gives rise to a very substantial taxpayer risk, and it is large and growing. In 2007, Ex-Im Bank's total exposure was \$57 billion. Today it is almost precisely twice that amount. It is \$113 billion, and the Ex-Im Bank wishes to increase that exposure further.

In 2013, the GAO, after doing an audit, found multiple weaknesses in Ex-Im's risk management processes, failures to account for changing environments that could lead to higher losses, lapses that would not be acceptable in fully private institutions.

Another point I wish to make is—I hope we don't kid ourselves about this; I know sometimes people suggest to the contrary—taxpayers are systematically subsidizing the activity of the Ex-Im Bank, and the risk that taxpayers are taking is not adequately compensated. How do we know this? We know this because buyers of products that are subject to Ex-Im Bank financing get the Ex-Im Bank financing because no private lender is willing to make the loan or, if they are, they are not willing to do it under terms as generous as the Ex-Im Bank. That is all the evidence we need to confirm that they are systematically underpricing the risks they are taking, and I find that very objectionable.

There is another concern I have, and that is the nature of the activity, the financial subsidization it provides for certain overseas buyers of some American exports. The nature of this process inevitably creates winners and losers back here in the United States.

The Ex-Im Bank effectively subsidizes—and I will give one example. Indian Airlines gets a subsidy to purchase Boeing jets, and that is very

nice, except that Indian Airlines competes directly with some American airlines and American companies. They are direct competitors, but they don't get the advantageous funding. Yet their foreign-based competitor does. How can that possibly be fair? How can that possibly make sense?

My final point is that one of the most predictable things in the world is that when we create a government entity to engage in an economic activity, that entity will be politicized. It is a creature of Congress and the government. It is going to be affected. Sure enough, it didn't take long for that to happen. It already happened in the Ex-Im Bank.

I have seen Members of this body come down to this floor and attempt to offer amendments that would require, for instance, certain quotas that the Ex-Im Bank must lend to certain places in the world that are geographically favored by particular Members for whatever reasons.

There are other mandates on Ex-Im Bank's financing, such as that it must accommodate certain economic activities or certain products. This has nothing to do with market forces or general exports. This has everything to do with the politics that individual cares about. This is the kind of politicization and distortion that inevitably occurs.

In my view, we ought to make it a high priority of our trade discussions to insist with our trading partners around the world that we have a mutual and reciprocal phasing out of these counterproductive, taxpayer-subsidized export entries. While we will not have the opportunity to do that with respect to this nominee we are going to consider this afternoon, we will have the opportunity to do it when the reauthorization debate begins in the fall, and I hope my colleagues will engage in that debate.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from Louisiana.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I think we are prepared to have several unanimous consent requests regarding the issue of how to care for veterans in our country. I first want to begin by thanking Senator SANDERS for his extraordinary leadership on the issue of caring for and supporting veterans, their families, their dependents, and the communities in which veterans live. There has been no stronger voice on the Senate floor for veterans on either side of the aisle than Senator SANDERS, and I appreciate his leadership. He has been spending a great deal of time on the floor explaining the importance of his legislation. He has joined me today to talk further about it.

Inside of this very important and major piece of legislation, there is a piece of it that passed the House unanimously that would authorize the con-

struction of 27 major medical facility leases in 18 States and in Puerto Rico, two of which would be in Louisiana—one in Lafayette and one in Lake Charles. I have been leading the effort—contrary to the testimony put on the RECORD by the junior Senator from Louisiana—with Congressman BOUSTANY, whose district this is in, and he has been the leader of our delegation. There is no hesitation among our delegation about who the leader has been about getting these clinics built.

We have been working with the veterans office for years. We got them to admit that they actually made the mistake that caused our clinics to have to be delayed in their construction because of a mishap of great proportion in the way these contracts were bid. The veterans in our State—and Senator SANDERS knows this—have rightly been complaining for years that they have been left out and left behind.

Our entire delegation, Democrats and Republicans, has been fighting on their behalf vigorously. We have written letters, made phone calls, and made multiple visits to the region. Contrary to the testimony by the junior Senator from Louisiana, the fact is everybody has been working well together.

Congressman BOUSTANY got to pass this piece of legislation out of the House that basically says: Yes, let's go forward and build these clinics and not require an offset.

I ask unanimous consent right now to do just that and take the House bill that has passed with no amendments, no modifications, and pass this bill so it doesn't have to go back to the House. It can go right to the President's desk for signature. It costs \$1.8 billion, and there is no offset. As I have said, in my view—and this is only my view—the veterans this is going to help have already paid the price. They have already paid the price. They should not have to pay twice.

I agree with the House of Representatives. There doesn't need to be an offset to this. I don't agree with Senator VITTER's amendment that there needs to be an offset. I think we just need to go ahead and unanimously decide to send this to the President's desk for his signature. I am confident he would sign this, and it would authorize these clinics not only in Louisiana but in the States around the country.

I understand there is some opposition from outside of our State. I don't understand any opposition from within the State.

I ask unanimous consent the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3521, the bill read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator COBURN, who is not here today, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. LEE. My understanding is that Senator COBURN's objection is based on the lack of a pay-for in this proposal. There is, however, an amendment that has been introduced by Senator VITTER that addresses this concern and fills this gap.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3521, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I also ask unanimous consent that the Vitter amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Would the Senator yield for a question?

Is that an order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. LEE. Yes.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I understand that the House of Representatives passed this bill, H.R. 3521—and I will get the exact vote in a minute—with a vote of 346 to 1. They passed this bill, H.R. 3521, with a vote of 346 to 1, that has no offset.

Does the Senator from Utah have any reason to know why Senator COBURN would now require an offset since the bill and the politics is controlled by the Republican leadership in the House?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I don't mean to cut my colleague off, but Senator LEE is here on behalf of Senator COBURN, who has been more involved, and so I will give the history of it. Some folks in the Senate had concerns about the bill and the fact that, in their view, it was not paid for. I met with them and talked through all of these concerns. I could not convince them to drop those concerns completely, so instead we found a solution, which is the Vitter amendment that is at the desk. That amendment has been cleared within its four corners. Nobody in the Senate—no Republican or Democrat—opposes the amendment. We found that solution in order to pass the bill through the Senate, and that addressed Senator COBURN's objections to the bill alone. That is the solution we worked out.

I can't fully walk through all of Senator COBURN's thoughts about the bill on its own and whether it was paid for. I can just tell the Senator that I met with him exhaustively, was not able to get him to completely drop his objection, but was able to agree on this compromise—this solution to the pay-for issue. So that is why the amendment,

which is at the desk, was proposed, which removes the Coburn objection and thereby fixes the problem.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Utah?

Mr. SANDERS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont, objection is heard. The Senator from Louisiana has the floor.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, that is very good to know that Senator COBURN is objecting—or not objecting—to an offset that is not a real offset.

The reason there is some objection from our side, and I think from Senator SANDERS as well, is because the Vitter offset is not real. It doesn't generate \$1.6 billion in savings. So I think we should go forward with no offset because the \$1.6 billion is not a real offset.

The CBO analysis of this offset basically says, from our preliminary estimate of the amendment, based on information from the Department of Defense, there are no savings—there are no savings—for drug-related purchases to the current law. The preliminary estimate is zero.

With that, I wish to reiterate my unanimous consent request—please don't interrupt—I would like unanimous consent for my amendment, which has no offset—and the bill does not have to go back to the House of Representatives. The bill can go straight to the President's desk.

I yield the floor.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will state his inquiry.

Mr. VITTER. I would like to ask through the Chair, because this is significant information, whether Senator SANDERS would object to passing the bill without amendment, because in all previous discussions to date, I understood he would object to that. But that is very significant information, so I would ask that of Senator SANDERS through the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is not a parliamentary inquiry. However, if the Senator chooses to respond, he may.

Mr. SANDERS. I will respond later.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, reclaiming the floor and reclaiming my time, that is very significant information that can guide us with regard to any path forward. So I would like to know from the Senator whether he would or would not object to a UC to pass the bill without this amendment.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, that is a fair question. Let me ask my colleague from Louisiana—as he knows, I will be speaking more to this in a moment. I wish to thank Senator LANDRIEU for her strong support of legislation I introduced and for her support not only for veterans in Louisiana but

for every veteran in this country. This legislation is supported by virtually every veterans organization in the United States of America.

I will respond at this point to my colleague from Louisiana to say that if I were prepared to support the Landrieu amendment, which has no offsets—and she makes a good point, that veterans have paid for this legislation in their blood already—would the Senator from Louisiana object to an amendment I offered for the comprehensive bill that had no offset as well?

Mr. VITTER. If I could address the Chair, I am happy to answer the question.

As Senator SANDERS knows, I have serious concerns with his much broader bill. So I am not agreeing to his far broader bill. He knows that. We have talked about that. We have talked about those concerns. I am happy to restate that.

Having answered his question, I would like to reask through the Chair if Senator SANDERS is objecting or would object to a UC request to pass this veterans clinics bill without the amendment at the desk.

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object, let me again thank Senator LANDRIEU, who has raised this issue with me on numerous occasions. The issue we are talking about—I think Senator VITTER referred to it—is clearly not just an issue for Louisiana, it is an issue which addresses the need to see built 27 major medical facilities in 18 States and Puerto Rico. To my mind, this is a very important provision, which is in fact why I put it in a very prominent place in my legislation.

What I would say to my friend from Louisiana is that as important as that provision in the bill is, there are many other provisions of equal or greater importance. What I would say to my friend from Louisiana is that organizations—and, again, virtually every veterans organization in America, representing millions and millions of veterans, wants this body and Members of the Senate to not just give speeches on Veterans Day or Memorial Day about their concerns for veterans, they want this body to start acting on behalf of the veterans in this country.

What they want us to do, among many other things, is an advanced appropriations. I know my friend from Louisiana isn't a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and maybe he does not know that in the last government shutdown we were 10 days away from veterans—disabled veterans—not getting the checks they live on. This bill I have introduced addresses that.

Maybe the Senator from Louisiana does not know we have a major backlog problem; that while the VA is making good progress and significantly reducing that backlog, I as chairman of the

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee want to make absolutely certain that when a veteran applies for a benefit, that benefit is adjudicated in a rapid, efficient, and accurate way, and my legislation deals with that issue.

I don't know if the junior Senator from Louisiana knows we have a real problem for veterans in Louisiana and across this country who are trying to take advantage of the post-9/11 education bill. Over 1 million veterans and their families are taking advantage of it but suddenly find themselves, if they move from Vermont to Louisiana or Louisiana to Vermont, they may not be able to take advantage of instate tuition. Our bill addresses that issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senators are advised that subject to a previous order, the Senate was to proceed to executive session at 2:30.

Mr. VITTER. I ask unanimous consent that the previous order be postponed for an additional 10 minutes so we can simply round out this very important discussion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. None whatsoever.

Mr. VITTER addressed the Chair.

Mr. SANDERS. I think I have the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. VITTER. I believe I made an inquiry through the Chair, so I believe I have the floor and I would like to reclaim it if that is appropriate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont currently has the floor.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the point I am making is that furthermore, not only are we dealing with the instate tuition issue, which impacts veterans from Louisiana and Vermont and every other State, we are dealing with another issue in that we are going to extend for 5 years to 10 years unfettered access to VA health care for recently separated veterans. At a time when real unemployment in this country is close to 12 percent and many veterans are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan and they are looking for work and work is hard to find, this legislation renews our vow to hire heroes because we believe it is important that veterans get back to work and take care of their families.

Mr. VITTER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. I apologize for interrupting, but I just want to ensure that of the additional 10 minutes that were granted, I would have 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair is dividing the time equally.

Mr. VITTER. I apologize for interrupting.

Mr. SANDERS. Not at all.

I wanted to mention to my colleague from Louisiana, which he may or may

not know, that we have a very serious problem in the military regarding sexual assault, and it is terribly important that the men and women who were sexually assaulted get the help and the treatment they need in a VA facility and we address that issue.

The Senator from Louisiana may or may not know that 2,300 veterans—these are men and women who suffered injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan and came back home—are unable, because of their wounds, to have babies, and this legislation is going to help them start the families they want.

The Senator from Louisiana may or may not know—and I know the Senator from Illinois Mr. DURBIN does know—that in this legislation we deal with the caregivers act; that right now we have 70-year-old women who have taken care of their husbands who lost their legs in Vietnam or in Korea or whatever war, and they are crying out for us to give them a modest degree of help.

What I say to my friend from Louisiana: Now is the time to stand with the veterans of this country. If he thinks it is too expensive, then don't send them off to war. Don't send them off to war. Taking care of veterans is a cost of war. They paid for it. I am very proud, again, that this legislation has the support of the American Legion, VFW, DAV, Gold Star Wives, Vietnam veterans organizations, Iraq, Afghanistan veterans organizations, and all the others—virtually all of the other ones.

I implore my friend from Louisiana to do the right thing and support this comprehensive legislation which addresses his concerns in this provision, but it does a lot more.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I think this discussion has been very important and very instructive because it underscores that not only does the distinguished Senator from Vermont object to my efforts to pass the veterans clinics bill with the amendment at the desk by unanimous consent, but he also objects to Senator LANDRIEU's efforts to pass the same veterans clinics bill, in her case, without the amendment, without the offset. I asked him that direct question. He made it very clear that he continues to demand that we pass his entire much broader bill and will not let this hostage go.

I think that is very sad and very inappropriate for him to object to my effort, for him to now object to the efforts of Senator LANDRIEU. She made the unanimous consent request to pass the clinics bill, the focused clinics bill. He is objecting to that as well.

It is also completely contrary to what Senator SANDERS has said before, working on these and related issues. In another instance in late 2013, November, Senator SANDERS himself, talking about our colleagues, said:

I'm happy to tell you that I think that was a concern of his.

Another colleague—

We got that UC'ed last night. So we moved that pretty quickly, and I want to try to do those things, where we have agreements, let's move it.

Where we have agreement, let's move it. We do not have agreement about the significant details of the much broader Sanders bill. It is not 1 Senator objecting about that, it is 43, but we do have agreement about this clinics issue. No one, including Senator SANDERS, objects to the substance of the clinics bill. We have worked out every issue, including through my discussions with Senator COBURN, about the pay-fors. The amendment at the desk solves that.

So when we take that bill and the amendment, no one objects to that substance. No one objects to it within the four corners of that material. The only objection constantly on the floor for the last several weeks—today again toward me, today again toward Senator LANDRIEU's UC—is, no, I need my whole bill.

We will continue to discuss those important issues and disagreements, but 43 Senators disagree with Senator SANDERS. Sixty are needed to move forward. In the meantime, can we at least agree what we agree on and not hold veterans hostage? They have had guns pointed at them before, but they don't expect U.S. Senators to hold guns to their head and hold them hostage over veterans clinics.

So where we have agreement, let's move it. We have agreement about the veterans clinics. Let's move it. That is my effort. That is Senator LANDRIEU's effort, which again is being objected to, moving this focused clinics bill, by the Senator from Vermont. I find that very unfortunate, but I will certainly continue to demand that we pass this and continue to talk regarding all of the other important veterans' issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, we talk about holding hostage. The distinguished junior Senator from Louisiana pointed out that 43 Senators voted against comprehensive legislation that is supported by virtually every veterans organization in this country. The arithmetic is 43 voted against it, that is true. How many voted for it? Fifty-six voted for it and 1 was absent who would have voted for it. Fifty-seven voted for comprehensive legislation, 43 voted against it.

So when the Senator talks about holding veterans hostage, I would suggest to my friend from Louisiana that maybe instead of filibustering this bill and requiring an undemocratic 60 votes, let the majority rule.

The American people want us to pass this legislation. If you choose not to

vote for it, that is your right. But I do urge you not to hold us hostage by demanding 60 votes when a very strong majority wants to see it passed.

With that, Mr. President, I would object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, can you tell me the order of business we are in now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 40 seconds remaining on the current issue, following which we will proceed to executive session.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I yield back that time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF WANDA FELTON TO BE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Wanda Felton, of New York, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The remaining time until 3:30 p.m. will be for debate on the Felton nomination.

The Senator from Illinois.

AMERICAN CURES ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, a generation ago, an AIDS diagnosis meant a sure and agonizing death. It was 23 years ago, when I was in the House of Representatives, when I was walking to the Chamber for a vote when I saw a colleague and friend, Tom McMillen, a Congressman from Maryland, coming my way. You would not miss Tom McMillen. He played in the NBA. He was tall. As he passed by on the sidewalk, he stopped and said: Magic has AIDS. It was a stunning announcement that Magic Johnson had been diagnosed with AIDS. The reality is that was 23 years ago. At the time we felt this was a death verdict, there was no way to escape it.

Last month American researchers revealed that a second American baby born with HIV has apparently been cured of the virus with drugs delivered just minutes after birth.

How far we have come in 23 years—from an AIDS diagnosis meaning certain death to being able to cure for the second time a baby born with HIV with drugs delivered minutes after birth.

These babies were treated as part of a research program at the National Institutes of Health. Their apparent cures offer real hope for a quarter of a million babies who were born into the world this year with HIV—many of them in desperately poor nations.

It is not the only happening when it comes to medical research, by a long shot. In my home State of Illinois, Dr. Jose Oberholzer from the University of Illinois-Chicago and Dr. Xunrong Luo from Northwestern University are among scores of researchers throughout the country on an NIH-sponsored project to find a cure for Type 1 diabetes.

Do you know anyone with type 1 diabetes? I do. To think that we are close enough to even consider the possibility of a cure should spur us all on to want more research in this area done as quickly as possible.

These two doctors are part of an effort called the Clinical Islet Transplantation Consortium. Islets are a group of beta cells in the pancreas that produce insulin. Type 1 diabetes destroys these cells. Transplanting healthy beta cells into the liver of someone with type 1 diabetes can enable the person's body to start producing insulin on its own—a functional cure for type 1 diabetes.

This is not just a theory; it is starting to show results when it comes to this clinical research.

Why do I raise these amazing medical research stories on the floor of the Senate? Because the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives each year vote on how much money we are going to put into the National Institutes of Health, and we have had some sad outcomes in recent years.

Did you know that over the last 10 years we have been unwilling to give the National Institutes of Health even a cost-of-living adjustment? So each year they have fallen behind in medical research just because of inflation. They have fallen behind 22 percent in awarding research grants such as the ones I just described because we have failed to provide a cost-of-living adjustment for them.

Does anyone believe we are saving money by cutting back on medical research? If they do, they are just plain wrong.

They had a program announced about a month ago at NIH called the AMP Program. It is a new undertaking. The 10 largest pharmaceutical companies have put up \$150 million—not a great amount of money for successful pharmaceutical companies but an investment—to be matched by NIH, and they are setting out to use human genomic mapping and cell information to find cures for Alzheimer's, type 1 diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Can we afford this? Can we afford this research? Do you know what we paid last year in Medicare and Medicaid just for Alzheimer's patients? It was \$203 billion—1 year. If we can, through our research, find a way to at least delay, if not cure, Alzheimer's, think of the misery that will be spared these poor families who suffer from Alzheimer's and think of the money we will save.

Are we so shortsighted as a nation that we have forgotten that medical research not only finds cures but saves us money that would otherwise be spent for medical care?

That is why I introduced, 2 weeks ago, the American Cures Act. It is different. There are not a lot of proposals like it before Congress. What I am doing with this proposal is trying to get Congress, on both sides of the aisle, in both Chambers, to make a commitment to American medical research, American cures.

Here is the commitment: Over the next 10 years, I want a commitment that we will increase the funding in medical research beyond inflation 5 percent a year—5 percent—for the National Institutes of Health, for the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Defense medical research, and the Veterans' Administration medical research.

What is the cost of that? The cost of that is \$150 billion over 10 years—to make a commitment to go forward on medical research. It is a lot of money. It is a lot of money until you consider what the cost is each year of Alzheimer's—\$200 billion—not to mention the cost of diabetes, arthritis, and so many other illnesses and diseases that call for huge investments when it comes to medical care.

Where in the world can we get \$150 billion over 10 years? Where could we possibly find it? Let me give you a starting place. Increase the Federal tax on tobacco products by 95 cents. I am for that. I will tell you why I am for it. I have been fighting tobacco as long as I have been in Congress—the House and Senate—and what I have discovered is, if you want to discourage young people from smoking, taking up tobacco addictions that will ultimately cost them their lives, raise the price of the product. They stop buying it.

In my lifetime, we have seen the percentage of Americans smoking cut in half. So raising that tobacco tax gives us money for medical research and reduces the likelihood that people will become addicted to nicotine and tobacco.

Mr. President, 700,000 Americans will not take up the tobacco habit if we raise that tax 95 cents. It is money well spent on medical research.

If we do not do this, what happens? We fail to find the cures for diseases, we continue to make massive expenditures in Medicare and Medicaid and other health programs, and we watch the world pass us by.

If the United States decides to retreat when it comes to biomedical research, other countries are ready to step in. Now, today, China is investing 12 to 20 percent more each year in government research and medical research—each year. In 8 years China will surpass the United States in dollars spent on government research and

medical research. Are we ready to let that happen? I hope not.

For the sake of the people who live in this country who need cures for these diseases, and help, for the sake of the cost to our health care system that all of this medical challenge presents, and if we want to maintain a lead when it comes to researchers and doctors and hospitals, it is time for us on a bipartisan basis to make a commitment to medical research.

I hope others will join in cosponsoring this American Cures Act. A number have done this already, and I thank them for joining me. One of them is on the floor, my colleague from California Mrs. BOXER. She is always by my side. We have fought a lot of these battles together. And the list goes on: Senators REED, BROWN, HIRONO, FEINSTEIN, GILLIBRAND, CARDIN, HAGEN, CASEY, MARKEY, and MIKULSKI, and we are just getting started. I might also say that Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO is cosponsoring this measure in the House.

I cannot think of a more important thing that we can do to make this a better, safer nation, to reward research, to find cures for diseases, and to make sure our country continues to lead the world when it comes to biomedical research.

I hope my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Illinois for his leadership in making our people healthier than they otherwise would be. He talked about the battles we have had making sure that we crack down on the tobacco companies that told us for years smoking was safe—as a matter of fact, do it, it will relax you—and they denied the science.

We lived through those years. Many years ago, I worked with then-Senator Lautenberg—and Senator DURBIN led the charge in the House—to stop smoking on airplanes. I remember coming home from these long trips and literally reeking of cigarette smoke—I never smoked in my life, but just sitting around it in the airplanes.

Now we are working together on NIH issues. We are very upset about some of the false claims that are being made about ecigarettes, and we want the truth out.

So before he leaves the floor, I want to thank the Senator.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. President, I am here for only a couple minutes to express my chagrin, my disappointment, my shock that not one Republican voted with Democrats to make sure women have equal pay to men. What a simple concept: If you work a job that is the same as a man, the pay should be equal, and that means women can get a fair shot in the

workplace. And how do we know it is not happening? We know because there are statistics that prove that women are earning, on average, \$11,000 less than a man for the same job; and that is \$11,000 a year. Over the course of a lifetime, it is over \$400,000.

Our Republican friends, in searching to come up with a reason—I do not know their reason; I do not get their reason—but this is what they said. They said—MITCH MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, said in a press conference—and I just read it; I hope I am wrong, and maybe he did not say this—but he said: We are hurting the very same people we are trying to help in this legislation.

Now, somebody explain to me how it hurts a woman to have equal pay with a man for the same job. How does it hurt a woman to be able to afford a better place to live with that \$11,000 a year, or a better school, to send her child to college, or just to enjoy a family vacation or a used car that maybe they want to buy—or, or, or.

It is unbelievable to me. Every Republican voted against equal pay today for women. What is even more disturbing, every Republican voted to filibuster equal pay for women, meaning they voted against our even taking up the subject. They stopped us. We had a good, solid majority of Democrats—54. We just wanted to take it up and work on it and get it through. They filibustered this. It is, to me, amazing.

Senator MCCONNELL said that Democrats are obsessed with this issue of equal pay for equal work. OK, I will take it. I am obsessed. I want equal pay for women.

We are here in the U.S. Senate. Everyone knows what we earn, and everyone knows that a woman Senator makes the same as a man Senator. We have the same pension options and health care options, and that is the fair way. All the equal pay for equal work act says is: We want to enforce the civil rights laws that demand it. But employers now harass you, fire you, stop you from finding out what your colleague across the aisle makes.

If you even ask someone: I want to just check, am I getting paid fairly? I am getting paid \$45,000 a year, and we do the same job. Can you tell me?—that alone—that alone—makes that worker a target for dismissal, harassment, et cetera.

This should not be. We should be able to find out and ask. That is all we are trying to do here. We are trying to make sure that the Civil Rights Act which passed in the 1960s actually works. Because the Civil Rights Act said: equal pay for equal work. But then all these rules came down and loopholes came down, and employers can fire you, harass you, or do whatever, if you even ask about it.

Everyone knows—I should not say “everyone”—a lot of people understand

the Lilly Ledbetter case. Lilly Ledbetter worked at a tire company. She was a manager. She was considered one of the top people in the company who did this work. She found out she was getting paid thousands of dollars less by the owner of the tire factory. She sued.

She won her lawsuit at the lower level. Then it went all the way to the Supreme Court. They said: Sorry, you waited too long to file your lawsuit. What? She said: I could not find out about it. I did not find out about it, she said, until a coworker left me a note and said:

Lilly, I admire you. You're great. Do you know you're getting paid X thousands less a year than your male counterpart?

But she did not find it out for many years. So we had to fix that problem. BARBARA MIKULSKI led us, and the President led us. He signed the bill, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which expands the statute of limitations so when you find out you have been discriminated against you can bring a lawsuit.

All this is, is you can find out for sure earlier by asking someone. So I am in shock. Do not tell me women do not want fair pay, all they care about is flexibility. You cannot buy groceries with flexibility. If you want flexibility in the workplace, you can work that out. But set your pay first. I have employees, men and women, who want to get their pay settled. Then they will say: Is it okay if I work 4 days at the same level, but then I do not get paid for that fifth? That is fine if that is the flexibility workers want. But do not substitute flexibility and say: Well, if you want to work 4 days a week, we will give you that, but, guess what, you are going to be paid less for the job than a man. Please.

Yes, we are obsessed with this. We are because we Democrats believe in justice and fairness and equality, not just in words and speeches and reading great quotes from our Founders, but in reality.

That means, in reality, we want a woman in the workplace to be able to find out if she is getting paid fairly. I am disappointed, but I am also excited that HARRY REID is going to bring this back again and again and again in the hopes that our Republicans in the Senate relent and understand this is about fairness and justice and equality and the right thing for women in this country. Not only women in this country, but for their families, their children. Two-thirds of women either are the sole supporters of their families or they are cosupporters of their families. This is an economic issue.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the American economy is the envy of the world, primarily because it is still seen as a place where anyone—regardless of who you are or where you come from—can work hard, play by the rules, and succeed. That belief is predicated on the notion that America has a thriving, competitive, and free enterprise economy in which the best ideas and hardest workers win the day, while those who are less successful always have a fair chance to try again.

The free enterprise system is not perfect, by any means, but it is fair. Unfortunately today, Americans increasingly believe our system is rigged. In President Obama's America, they have good reason. From the stimulus to Cash for Clunkers, from the bailouts to cap-and-trade, from Dodd-Frank to ObamaCare, every namebrand initiative of the President's term of office has distorted public policy to privilege well-connected insiders and elites at the expense of taxpayers and consumers.

The Export-Import Bank is another taxpayer-funded example of distorted public policy that further erodes Americans' confidence in our markets and our system. In short, the Ex-Im Bank exists to dole out taxpayer-backed loan guarantees to help American exporters. Most of the benefits go to large corporations that are perfectly capable of securing private financing anywhere in the world. That is to say, Congress allows Ex-Im Bank to risk taxpayer money unnecessarily to subsidize well-connected private companies.

This kind of public policy privilege, best described as crony capitalism, is a threat to the free market and to its moral underpinnings. Crony capitalism corrupts the free market by rewarding political connections over competitive excellence. It subverts the rule of law by codifying inequality. It undermines social solidarity by pitting citizens against one another, twisting cooperative communities into rival special interests.

That is why in Obama's crony economy, we are seeing record corporate profits but stagnant middle-class wages and an anemic, jobless recovery. Cronyism has promoted and exacerbated inequality. It has isolated the poor and it has squeezed America's middle class.

There are three principal reasons why we should start making this discussion part of the public debate and why we should start doing it right now: First, we should do this to fix the economy. Nearly all of our Nation's net job creation comes from firms that have existed for 5 years or less. But cronyist policies tilt the playing field against those very firms, and make it next to

impossible for those companies to succeed, to grow, and to create new jobs that we so badly need, and that the American people so significantly deserve. Leveling the playing field creates competition in both directions. It allows smaller, younger firms to compete, and it forces larger, older firms to do the same. That dynamic competition is what creates new jobs. It is what creates new economic growth. It is what gives rise to new opportunities up and down the economy on every step on the economic ladder.

Second, this is a matter of basic justice. The American people have a fundamental right to equal opportunity under the law, and it is the job of the government to protect equal opportunity. If the very people who work hard and play by the rules are forced by government to bail out, prop up, and subsidize elite insiders who do not, then the land of opportunity, well, is not.

Third, as those who most support free enterprise and equal opportunity, Republicans must bear the burden of reform. We believe in the power of free markets and a voluntary civil society to expand, lift people out of poverty, and support a secure and prosperous middle class. So it is our responsibility to follow through on our own convictions and close our own branch of the beltway favor bank. It starts with conservatives having an agenda to reform government and to end cronyism. Fortunately, some of us have already started working on it.

These proposals focus on protecting the American people from the economic harm that comes from the collusion of big government, big business, and big special interests.

For example, we have policy reforms that force Congress to periodically reevaluate expensive regulations; level the playing field for all energy producers; open our higher education system to new students, teachers, and competition; give Americans the right to choose whether to join a union; cut out the bureaucrats who waste critical infrastructure funding; and, yes, eliminate taxpayer subsidies to organizations such as the Ex-Im Bank.

This agenda will create jobs, grow the economy, increase opportunities by allowing small businesses and forcing big businesses to compete on a level playing field where success depends on customer service and not on political connections. A conservative agenda to get right on cronyism will be good for jobs, for the economy, and above all it will be the right thing to do.

Eventually, later this year, the reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank will be before the Senate, and I hope my colleagues will keep these points in mind. But before us today is the nomination of Wanda Felton to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank. This is a position she already holds, but it is

being renominated so that she can continue holding that position.

Ms. Felton, significantly, sat on the board of the Ex-Im Bank, and she did so at a time when the Ex-Im Bank declined to take several recommendations from its own inspector general to lower its risks, which, in turn, put taxpayers at greater risk.

The Ex-Im Bank has also continued to make claims about the importance of Ex-Im on job creation without necessary caveats or references to the bank's methodology—claims the GAO has heavily criticized.

I cannot support putting someone back into this position after that person largely ignored these recommendations by government watchdogs.

For all the reasons I have mentioned, I respectfully and strongly ask my colleagues to oppose the renomination of Wanda Felton to be the First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Wanda Felton, of New York, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States?

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 75, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 104 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Alexander	Blunt	Cantwell
Ayotte	Booker	Cardin
Baldwin	Boxer	Carper
Begich	Brown	Casey
Blumenthal	Burr	Coats

Collins	Johnson (SD)	Pryor
Coons	Kaine	Reed
Corker	King	Reid
Crapo	Kirk	Rockefeller
Donnelly	Klobuchar	Sanders
Durbin	Landrieu	Schatz
Feinstein	Leahy	Schumer
Flake	Levin	Scott
Franken	Manchin	Shaheen
Gillibrand	Markey	Stabenow
Graham	McCain	Tester
Hagan	McCaskill	Thune
Harkin	Menendez	Udall (CO)
Heinrich	Merkley	Udall (NM)
Heitkamp	Mikulski	Walsh
Heller	Murkowski	Warner
Hirono	Murphy	Warren
Hoeven	Murray	Whitehouse
Isakson	Nelson	Wicker
Johanns	Portman	Wyden

NAYS—21

Barrasso	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Inhofe	Roberts
Chambliss	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Cochran	Lee	Sessions
Enzi	McConnell	Shelby
Fischer	Moran	Toomey
Grassley	Paul	Vitter

NOT VOTING—4

Bennet	Cornyn
Coburn	Cruz

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF TERRELL MCSWEENEY TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consider the McSweeney nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Terrell McSweeney, of the District of Columbia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2010.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today the Senate is voting to confirm Terrell McSweeney's nomination to an open seat on the Federal Trade Commission. This vote is long overdue as the FTC has lacked a full complement of Commissioners for more than a year. The confirmation of Ms. McSweeney will bring the Commission to a full complement of Commissioners and ensure that the mission of consumer protection can be fully realized.

Ms. McSweeney is a highly qualified candidate. She has already served as Domestic Policy Advisor to Vice President JOE BIDEN. She has worked here in the Senate—first as a page while still in high school and later as then-Senator BIDEN's Deputy Chief of Staff and Policy Director, and she has been a lawyer in private practice. She is a graduate of Harvard University and Georgetown University Law School. I have had the privilege of knowing Terrell McSweeney for a number of years, and I have every confidence that she will make an excellent FTC Commissioner.

The FTC undertakes critical work to ensure that Americans are protected

from deceptive and misleading advertising and marketing and to ensure that American businesses do not engage in unfair and anticompetitive practices. I would like to commend the Senate for taking up her nomination and urge my colleagues to support Ms. McSweeney's confirmation as a Commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Terrell McSweeney, of the District of Columbia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of 7 years from September 26, 2010?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "yea".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 105 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Grassley	Murphy
Ayotte	Hagan	Murray
Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Barrasso	Hatch	Paul
Begich	Heinrich	Portman
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blunt	Heller	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boozman	Hoeben	Risch
Boxer	Inhofe	Roberts
Brown	Isakson	Rockefeller
Burr	Johanns	Rubio
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Scott
Chambliss	Kirk	Sessions
Coats	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cochran	Landrieu	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Tester
Corker	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCain	Udall (NM)
Enzi	McCaskill	Walsh
Feinstein	McConnell	Warner
Fischer	Menendez	Warren
Flake	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wicker
Gillibrand	Moran	Wyden
Graham	Murkowski	

NAYS—1

Vitter

NOT VOTING—4

Bennet
Coburn

Cornyn
Cruz

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. We have a number of votes scheduled. They are going to go by voice, I am told.

Mr. President, we are going to have a cloture vote an hour after we come in tomorrow morning, and there is no reason we cannot be finished tomorrow, but that doesn't mean we will be finished tomorrow.

We will have to cooperate and have to work out the time problems we have with the matters that will be pending after we complete the votes on these two measures now.

So we could finish tomorrow. It is up to all of us. Otherwise, we may have to spill over a little into late on Friday.

NOMINATION OF DEBRA L. MILLER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

NOMINATION OF STEVEN JOEL ANTHONY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

NOMINATION OF DANIEL W. YOHANNES TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consideration of the following nominations which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Debra L. Miller, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board; Steven Joel Anthony, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board; Daniel W. Yohannes, of Colorado, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, 2 minutes will be equally divided for the Miller nomination.

Who yields time?

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time is yielded back.

VOTE ON MILLER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Debra L.

Miller, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2017?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ANTHONY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the Anthony nomination.

Who yields time?

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Steven Joel Anthony, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2018?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON YOHANNES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the Yohannes nomination.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Daniel W. Yohannes, of Colorado, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative business.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Rhode Island.

The Senate will be in order.

Mr. REED. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the Minimum Wage Fairness Act, which I strongly support. The minimum wage, first instituted in 1938, has served as a key way to protect workers in our economy, ensuring they are able to earn enough money to provide basic living necessities. However,

the current minimum wage set at \$7.25 fails to do that.

The Federal minimum wage has not been increased since 2009. Today an individual who works 40 hours per week, 52 weeks a year at the Federal minimum wage earns \$15,080 per year. This is nearly \$5,000 below the Federal poverty level for a family of three and almost \$9,000 below the poverty level for a family of four. This means we have hard-working Americans who put in full-time work every week for the entire year yet still live in poverty. This is unacceptable.

If we fail to act, the Federal poverty level will rise with inflation while the minimum wage will not. As a result, families earning \$7.25 per hour will continue to fall further and further below the poverty line.

The value of the minimum wage peaked in 1968, and it is now much lower due to inflation. If the minimum wage had kept pace with inflation, it would currently pay \$10.74 per hour. While the value of the minimum wage has been on the decline, worker productivity has been on the rise, and that is a disconnect. Increased productivity usually means there are increased wages that reflect that productivity, but that is not the case with the minimum wage. If the minimum wage had increased with rising productivity, it would be worth over \$21 per hour today. Yet the minimum wage still stays stuck at \$7.25.

If we were paying workers based on the 1968 level, it would be much higher. If we were paying workers based on their productivity and their ability to do the job, it would be exceptionally high.

The bill that will come before us shortly will increase the minimum wage in three installments until it reaches \$10.10 per hour and then tie the Federal minimum wage to inflation. This would ensure that the value of the minimum wage will not be eroded over time as it has been. The bill will also increase the minimum wage for tipped workers, whose minimum wage has been fixed at \$2.13 for over two decades. I must salute the Presiding Officer for his insistence that this provision be included in the minimum wage bill.

Over 3.5 million Americans currently work at or below the current minimum wage, and there are millions more who work just above it. Raising the minimum wage would therefore increase the wages of everyone making between the current minimum wage and the \$10.10 mark.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 16.5 million Americans would see their wages increased by this legislation. The Council of Economic Advisers estimates that 28 million people would benefit from the wage increase.

According to researchers at MIT, a Rhode Island worker supporting a fam-

ily of four would need to earn \$19.17 per hour to have a living wage, a wage in which he or she could adequately support their family. Yet the current minimum wage lags woefully behind, thereby putting many working families in dire financial situations.

The Economic Policy Institute estimates that raising the Federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour—I would point out that our minimum wage in Rhode Island is \$8 and that is higher than the Federal minimum wage—would give over 90,000 Rhode Islanders a raise. That would immediately translate to economic activity in Rhode Island, and it would immediately translate into growth in Rhode Island. That raise would affect almost 20 percent of our workforce. This is a critical way—in order to give families the ability to support themselves—to increase economic growth and also significantly begin to bring together workers at every level. We have seen extraordinary gains at the top level. We have extraordinary stagnation at the mid-level and the low level. We have to start bringing ourselves together rather than pulling ourselves apart.

Providing a raise to these Rhode Island workers would also impact an estimated 40,000 children in those families. Over 3 years, the Economic Policy Institute estimates this will cause the Rhode Island economy to grow by \$77 million and support 300 additional jobs. We are talking about economic growth as well as fairness to working Americans.

The benefits of raising the minimum wage are vast both in my State and across this country. According to the CBO, this legislation would lift an estimated 900,000 people out of poverty. It would also help low and middle-income families who have been struggling in this economy. This would have a huge impact—and a positive impact—across the country.

Increasing the minimum wage is especially important to women who disproportionately work minimum wage jobs. Fifty-five percent of all minimum wage workers are women, including over 70 percent of the tipped workers.

Again, thanks to the efforts of the Presiding Officer, we are focusing on this issue of the tipped worker and their minimum wage.

While some have suggested otherwise, this legislation is also good for business. Studies show that higher wages allow businesses to save money because they have less turnover and lower training costs, which leads to increases in worker productivity that helps businesses succeed. An increased minimum wage can also help our Nation's small businesses to compete. It forces the big-box stores to pay wages that are comparable to those that are paid by many small businesses, which levels the playing field in the marketplace.

Finally, this bill will save billions of dollars on the Federal budget. By raising the minimum wage to \$10.10, Federal need-based programs would have fewer enrollees and the costs of these programs would drop significantly. Researchers at the Brookings Institution estimate that increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 will save at least \$11 billion annually in the Federal budget, and these savings come both from the lower costs of Federal programs and increased revenues from taxing a higher base salary.

Some critics have suggested that increasing the minimum wage only helps teenagers, but in fact the average age of individuals who will benefit from this legislation is 35 years old. Nationally, over 84 percent of those directly affected by this legislation are at least 20 years old and nearly half are at least 30.

In my State, according to the estimates by the Economic Policy Institute, 77 percent of workers who would see a raise under this bill are at least 20 years old. This is not just the part-time high school student who works a few hours a week making the minimum wage; these are people who are, on average, 30 years or older who are working and struggling not only for themselves but, in many cases, for their families. This bill is something that is beneficial to workers throughout this country.

Opponents of the minimum wage have also argued that increasing the minimum wage will decrease jobs, citing a recent CBO report. However, the CBO report was generated without any new analyses on the part of the CBO, and their estimates are stated with a great deal of uncertainty.

In fact, the CBO's own numbers suggest there is a 16-percent chance that increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 would actually increase employment. Economists at Goldman Sachs and at the Brookings Institution say that the CBO report overstates the likely negative impact on jobs.

Further, over 600 economists, including 7 Nobel Prize winners, sent a letter to President Obama and congressional leaders urging them to support this bill, saying that "the weight of evidence now [shows] that increases in the minimum wage have had little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum-wage workers, even during times of weakness in the labor market." They go on to add that it could help stimulate the economy as higher wages will lead to increased consumer demand and spending.

The most recent research suggests that rather than having job losses, this will contribute to a growing economy. The benefits of raising the minimum wage are immense for families, workers, and the economy as a whole.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to help restore

the minimum wage as a safeguard for workers and their families in this country.

RECOGNIZING 99TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, this month we solemnly recognize the 99th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Ninety-nine years ago the Young Turk leaders of the Ottoman Empire summoned and executed over 200 Armenian leaders and intellectuals, beginning an 8-year campaign of oppression and massacre. By 1923, nearly 1.5 million Armenians were killed and over a half a million survivors were exiled. These atrocities affected the lives of every Armenian living in Asia Minor and, indeed, throughout the world.

Henry Morgenthau, Sr., who was the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during President Wilson's administration and who had urged intervention, later remembered the events of the genocide, saying:

I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915.

The survivors of the Armenian genocide, however, persevered due to their unbreakable spirit and steadfast resolve. They went on to enrich their countries of emigration, including the United States, with their centuries-old customs and culture. That is why today we not only commemorate this grave tragedy, but we celebrate the traditions, the contributions, and the bright future of Armenia.

In particular, I wish to note the incredibly strong Armenian-American community in my home State of Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Armenian-American community, as it does each year, holds events in commemoration of this grave tragedy. One will take place this year at the Martyrs' Monument at the North Burial Ground in Providence. This monument was built 38 years ago in memory of those who were lost in the genocide.

This year I once again join with my Senate colleagues on a resolution that encourages the United States to officially recognize the Armenian genocide. Denial of this history is not consistent with our country's sensitivity to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. We must continue to educate our young people against this type of hatred and oppression so that we can seek to prevent such crimes against humanity in the future.

I also remain committed to supporting efforts as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee to provide foreign assistance to Armenia to promote economic growth and business competitiveness, strengthen military and security assistance, and support democratic reforms and sustainable development.

I also wish to express my concern regarding the recent fighting and violence that is endangering the Armenian community in Kessab, Syria, and has forced many to flee. This community and so many others continue to struggle in the midst of this conflict.

We must find a way to recognize what happened 99 years ago and show our steadfast support to those who are currently being impacted by persecution. I hope we can come together and do that.

With that, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today on three matters. First and most importantly is the issue of pay equity. Frankly, we should not be talking about this in 2014—the fact that women still too often do not get equal pay for equal work. Senate Republicans showed this morning—it is disappointing—that too many in this Chamber simply do not think closing the wage gap between men and women—closing the wage gap by which working women are victimized—is that important.

Think back to 1963, the beginning, not of the civil rights movement, of course, but of Congressional action in 1963, 1964, and 1965 on voting rights and civil rights. In 1963, the Equal Pay Act came up first. President Kennedy signed it. Women were earning 60 cents for every dollar men earned. Now, 50 years later, that figure has increased only 17 cents.

How many more years should people in this country wait? In 2012, median earnings for men working full time in Ohio were \$46,700; for women \$35,900, an earnings ratio of about 77 percent. The Paycheck Fairness Act would shore up the Equal Pay Act and create stronger incentives for employers to follow the law while helping women fight pay discrimination.

The pay gap persists across all occupations and educational levels. From the outset women are paid less than men just 1 year after college in nearly every occupation. The gap grows from there. As the gap grows in pay, the gap grows in pensions. Lilly Ledbetter taught us that. The decidedly lower pay that she received working at Goodyear showed up in a significantly lower pension when she retired. Over the course of a 35-year career, a woman with a college degree will make about \$1.2 million less than a man with the same level of education.

As I said, women make less, their families have less, and the retirement

income and savings are smaller. For Women 65 and older, their annual median income from all retirement sources—Social Security, pensions, and private savings—is about \$11,000 less than men in the same age group. It is even more discouraging for African-American women, who make 64 percent less, and Hispanic women, who earn 53 percent less. That is so, so unacceptable.

As a father of daughters, as a husband, as a grandfather of 2-week-old Jacqueline Sally, I know—and so does America—this pay gap devalues women's work and discourages economic growth because women make up nearly half of today's workforce. At a time when families are struggling to make ends meet, equal pay for equal work is not just a gender issue; it is a family issue.

In more than one-third of families, women are the primary wage earner. As the main breadwinner, women are asked to carry a greater economic load while making less than they deserve and, frankly, less than they have actually earned.

Many of these women get up early, they take the bus to work, they stand on their feet all day, they come home, they take care of their children, and they do not ask for a handout. But they are asking for equal pay. If the wage gap were eliminated, an Ohio woman working full time would have enough money for 88 more weeks of food for her family, 9 more months of mortgage and utility payments, 15 months of rent, and 3,000 additional gallons of gas. Our economy would grow, boosting GDP by 2.9 percent, or \$450 billion.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Senator JACK REED was in the Chamber 45 minutes or so ago when I was the Presiding Officer. Senator REED talked about Rhode Island and the minimum wage and the impact of a lower minimum wage than it should be. They have a bit higher one in Rhode Island than in some States, and we have a bit higher one in Ohio than in some States. But raising the minimum wage to 10.10 an hour nationally would mean—he said 90,000 people in Rhode Island. It would be way more, hundreds of thousands in Ohio who would get an increase in the minimum wage and would get a pay raise if this body did what it should, which we are going to try to do in the next 3 or 4 weeks; that is, to raise the minimum wage.

The impact of the minimum wage is especially important for women. What is especially important for women is the so called “tipped wage.” This is the tipped wage for people who work in jobs where there are tips. It could be a valet, it could be a waitress or a server or it could be somebody pushing a wheelchair at an airport. Their minimum wage is only \$2.13 an hour, plus tips, if people know to tip the man or

woman who is pushing the wheelchair in the airport.

I watch pretty closely. I spend a lot of time flying between Cleveland and Washington or Columbus and Washington. I notice that more often than not, people who ride in the carts or are sitting in a wheelchair do not tip the worker whose minimum wage is \$2.13 an hour. They do not tip the worker because I think they do not know to tip the worker. I do not think they are cheap. They do not know that worker may be only making \$2, \$3, \$4 or \$5 an hour.

But the minimum wage for that tipped worker is only \$2.13 an hour. Whether they work in a diner in Gallipolis, or Chillicothe, whether they are working at the Toledo or Cleveland airport driving a cart or pushing a wheelchair, whether they are working as a valet in Cincinnati or Dayton, their tipped wage has been stuck at \$2.13 since 1991.

The State of Maryland recently raised their minimum wage. They did not raise the tipped wage which is stuck where it has been for a number of years. Americans do not know this—that typically there is a subminimum wage that is a lot less. Most of the workers—the overwhelming majority of workers that get that tipped wage—are women.

We know that in restaurants the sexual harassment rate of workers is one of the highest in the country because they depend on customers for their tips and they depend on their boss for the distribution of the tips to get their minimum wage—\$2.13 an hour. Some restaurants pay \$3, \$4 or \$5—I am not saying none of them do, but to get their minimum wage—their tipped wage—simply up to the minimum wage.

Surely, as some will say, in some restaurants the workers make way, way, way more than the minimum wage. They are more likely than not male workers who work in the highest end restaurants. You are more likely going to see women in the diners and the lower-paid service jobs in restaurants.

DOOLITTLE TOKYO RAIDERS

April 18 will mark the 72nd anniversary of the 1942 Doolittle Raid, the first offensive action by the U.S. military following Pearl Harbor. Eighty men, known today as the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, volunteered for an “extremely hazardous mission” without knowing the target, location or assignment. The Raiders, led by LTC James Doolittle, launched their B-25 Mitchell Bombers 650 miles from their target. After hitting their military and industrial targets in Tokyo and five other cities, they were low on fuel, the weather was deteriorating. All 16 planes were forced to crash-land in China or Russia.

Of the 80 men on the mission, eight Raiders were captured. Of these eight, three were executed; one died of dis-

ease; and four returned home. Their mission traveled an average distance of 2,200 miles over 13 hours, making it the longest combat mission ever flown in a B-25 Mitchell Bomber.

I would add that another aviation hero in Vietnam just walked into the Chamber—Senator MCCAIN—right at the time I was talking about the Doolittle Raiders. The Senator has signed our resolution and commendation for a Medal of Honor for them. I thank Senator MCCAIN both for his heroism, especially, and for joining us in this effort.

In 2002, I led a resolution to recognize the 70th anniversary. It passed the Senate unanimously. Early last year, I renewed my efforts to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders. We have got 78 cosponsors, nine more than the 67 necessary. This bill passed in the Senate in November by unanimous consent.

On November 9, 2013, the Raiders celebrated their final reunion. They have met every year since the end of—I believe since the end of World War II. They met at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton. The meeting marked the last planned gathering of the living Raiders, which was celebrated by the opening of an 1896 bottle of Hennessy cognac, originally given by their commander, Jimmy Doolittle, on his 60th birthday.

Of the 80 men on the raid, only four remain alive today; only 3 were able to get to the reunion. Time is running out. I appreciate the efforts of Congressman PETE OLSON from Texas who is leading the effort in the House.

I hope the Speaker, the leadership, and both parties will take the final action needed to pass the legislation to honor these heroes.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

It is appropriate Senator MCCAIN is in the Chamber too. In 2008, Senator MCCAIN, who had served as the Senate designee on the Gallaudet University board of trustees, left during his Presidential run. Senator HARKIN and Senator MCCAIN apparently had recommended that I be the Senate designee on the board at Gallaudet University.

This week Gallaudet celebrated its 150th anniversary. It is an incredible place, as Senator MCCAIN knows. It is the only one of its kind in the world, a school for the deaf, created during the administration of President Lincoln 150 years ago in 1864.

Senator MCCAIN certainly will have reminiscences and stories about serving on this board, but my first dinner my first night at the Gallaudet University board meeting, the students, all deaf, came out and performed a dance for the board. A number of the board hear—as I do, obviously—but a number don't and they signed everything.

The students who were dancing to the music were able to dance because of the vibrations they felt on the floor.

You could see this dance troupe, but if you hadn't known better, you wouldn't have known they were deaf because they were dancing an exact rhythm with the percussion, the beat, and the vibrations on the floor in the ballroom where the dinner was for the Gallaudet board.

I wish Gallaudet another 150 years. It is an incredible institution. It has served this country so well. It is partially congressionally funded.

Senator MCCAIN, Senator HARKIN, and now Senator MORAN of Kansas are all particularly interested in it. It is an honor to be part of it. I wish Gallaudet a happy 150th birthday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the Senator from Ohio for his service on one of the very remarkable experiences that one could have at Gallaudet University—the wonderful, loving, caring people who make us all proud of their success. I thank him for his involvement.

I also thank him for honoring our heroes today of long ago and far away when the United States was in great jeopardy.

LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP PROGRAM

I rise to bring attention to the Navy's littoral combat ship—with not a great deal of pleasure in doing so. It is a troubled major defense acquisition program that, if not properly addressed, will join a list of failed procurements at the Department of Defense.

From the 13 arduous years LCS has been in development, we have learned yet again an important costly basic lesson: If we don't know what we really want when we procure a weapons system, we are likely not to like what we get, if we get anything. In this case, the Navy's poor planning continues to frustrate its ability to state a clear role for LCS, the littoral combat ship, has led to dramatic cost increases, years of wasted effort, and a ship that the U.S. Pacific Command Commander Admiral Locklear recently conceded only “partially” satisfies his operational requirements.

The list of how the Littoral Combat Ship Program has failed is ironic and—given the amount of taxpayers' investment to date—shameful. In LCS we have, No. 1, a supposed warship that apparently can't survive a hostile combat environment; No. 2, a program chosen for affordability that doubled in cost since inception and is subject to the risk of further cost growth as testing continues; No. 3, a “revolutionary” design that somehow has managed to be inferior to what came before it on important performance measures; and, No. 4, a system designed for flexibility that cannot successfully demonstrate its most important warfighting functions.

Like so many major programs that preceded it, LCS's failure followed predictably from a chronic lack of careful planning from its very outset in three areas: undefined requirements, unrealistic initial cost estimates, and unreliable assessments of technological and integration risk.

In 2002, the Navy submitted its first request to Congress to authorize funding for the LCS Program. Yet even then the program's lack of defined requirements drew criticism from the Armed Services Committee conferees. The conferees noted that:

LCS has not been vetted through the [Pentagon's top requirements-setting body, called the] Joint Requirements Oversight Council [and that] the Navy's strategy for the LCS does not clearly identify the plan and funding for development and evaluation of the mission packages upon which the operational capabilities of LCS will depend.

Despite the conferees' concerns, Congress approved funding for the LCS Program and authorized hundreds of millions of dollars for a program without well-defined frozen requirements. The Navy, therefore, charged ahead with production without a stable design or realistic cost estimates. That resulted in frequent costly changes to the ships, even as they were being built.

Originally, the Navy wanted a small, fast, affordable ship to augment larger ships in the fleet, with several interchangeable plug-and-play mission modules that would be used with aluminum and, separately, steel-hull seaframes. LCS was to serve multiple roles operating in coastal or open waters as part of a larger battle force.

The Navy could have easily procured a small warship similar to those already serving in naval fleets around the world. The capabilities of such ships were well-known at the time and would have required much less development.

The Navy could also have upgraded older ships with a proven track record. Without any formal analysis of those reasonable alternatives, the Navy opted instead to develop a high-risk "revolutionary" ship that bore little resemblance to anything else in the fleet.

Despite the foreseeable costs of building LCS seaframes while development was still ongoing, LCS's original cost estimates were overly optimistic. Navy officials have since characterized those estimates as "more of a hopeful forcing function than a realistic appraisal of likely costs." I can assure my colleagues that if we had known that was the Navy's cost estimates at the time—hopeful forcing function, more than a realistic appraisal of likely costs—I can assure my colleagues we would never have approved it.

While hope for low costs may spring eternal, reality is a far more helpful basis in generating cost estimates. In this case, a realistic estimate would

have allowed legislators and top defense acquisition managers alike to make much more informed decisions on procuring the LCS.

But because of poor planning early in the program, LCS suffered through years of waste while demonstrating little in the way of desired combat capability. Hundreds of millions of dollars continued to pour into LCS each year, even though the program continually failed to deliver useful capability or conclusively flesh out the ship's unstable design.

Finally, in 2007—remember, 5 years later—Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter identified a need to slow down production so that a clear LCS design could be established and fixed-price agreements could be pursued before more taxpayer dollars were wasted. I strongly supported Secretary Winter's actions, and I still believe that he effectively highlighted the extent to which LCS was slipping out of control.

It was not until 2010, however, that the Navy ultimately began to implement guidelines to bring skyrocketing LCS costs under control. With congressional approval, the Navy overhauled and restructured the LCS Program and, since then, the cost of building LCS's seaframes has finally stabilized. But even though the Navy has stabilized these costs, the large investments sunk into the program to date have still not yielded commensurate combat capability.

Since the early stages of LCS procurement, I have attempted to shine a light on the lack of planning that has plagued the program. Last year, I authored legislation to reduce LCS production and require validation by the Department of Defense and the Navy that the program's seaframes and mission packages were on schedule and would meet the capability requirements of combatant commanders prior to additional funding.

Congress spoke resolutely on the issue approving that legislation and sending a clear message the LCS would need to justify its existence with meaningful progress toward becoming operational.

Despite that the cost to complete the construction of the seaframes has stabilized over the past few years, LCS continues to face another potentially crippling consequence of poor planning, and that is a serious lack in capability.

Just last month, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel identified this problem while announcing that the President's budget request for fiscal year 2015 would reduce LCS production by 40 percent, from 52 ships to 32 ships. Secretary Hagel said:

The LCS was designed to perform certain missions—such as mine-sweeping anti-submarine warfare—in a relatively permissive environment. But we need to closely examine whether the LCS has the independent protection and firepower to operate and survive against a more advanced military ad-

versary and emerging new technologies, especially in the Asia Pacific.

Other Department of Defense leaders have expressed similar doubts about LCS's abilities to survive combat situations. Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Christine Fox in a speech on February 11, 2014, said:

Niche platforms that can conduct a certain mission in a permissive environment have a valuable place in the Navy's inventory, yet we need more ships with the protection and firepower to survive against a more advanced military adversary.

The prospect of sending LCS into combat with the lives of American sailors at risk is even more chilling in the aftermath of the Government Accountability Office's July 2013 report on LCS. Early in LCS's development, the Navy intended for the ship to be a self-sufficient combatant that could engage in major combat operations and survive in a battlespace actively contested by enemy forces.

According to the Government Accountability Office, however, more recent Navy assessments suggest that LCS has little chance of survival in a combat scenario. Instead, LCS can only be safely employed in a relatively benign, low-threat environment.

GAO also found deficiencies in the ability of LCS to operate independently in combat, turning a supposedly capable warship into a vessel requiring significant support from larger ships of the fleet. Such fundamental uncertainty about LCS's capacity to function as a warship in a combat environment demonstrates a lack of clarity regarding LCS's actual capabilities.

Recent GAO assessments continue to highlight major problems regarding the LCS Program. According to an article last Friday, a soon-to-be released GAO report will validate the need for LCS to be subject to rigorous testing and evaluation, not just anecdotal lessons learned from a single overseas deployment. And there is talk of another impending GAO report critical of LCS that will also likely echo the issues I have long cited that continue to plague this program.

GAO is not alone in expressing concern about LCS's capabilities. In January 2014 the Department of Defense Director of Operational Test and Evaluation published his annual report and noted that weapons systems aboard each of the two LCS variants are struggling to demonstrate required capabilities. The report noted:

The Navy has not yet conducted comprehensive operational testing of the LCS [and is] still developing the concept of employment for these ships in each of the mission areas.

It is worth taking a moment to step back and consider the absurdity of this situation. Planning and development of LCS has been going on for 12 years, roughly triple the time it took to fight and win the Second World War. In that

time, the Navy has spent billions of dollars and failed to even figure out how to use the ships it is procuring once those ships demonstrate some semblance of capability.

And lest we forget, whether LCS will ultimately be operationally effective, suitable, and survivable remains at best unclear. Failure this comprehensive is incredible, even for our broken defense procurement system.

The individual mission packages that were supposed to give LCS its real functionality in the fleet present another area of major concern. The LCS's are meant to be outfitted with one of three interchangeable mission packages tailored for particular roles in the fleet—antisubmarine warfare, surface warfare, and mine countermeasures. So far, the mission packages have experienced significant performance issues.

The antisubmarine warfare mission package has suffered particularly severe setbacks in recent years. When the antisubmarine package was tested by the Navy, it actually demonstrated less capability than predecessor systems. The Navy subsequently canceled the package and reportedly revised its entire strategy for procuring that aspect of LCS. The Navy has now stated a goal of fielding the antisubmarine mission package by 2018, but no independent assessment has been performed to evaluate the likelihood the Navy will meet that 2018 goal. The program's performance to date, of course, does not fill me with confidence that the goal will be reached on schedule.

The other mission packages have also experienced major problems. The Navy has taken delivery of early versions of the surface warfare and mine warfare mission packages. But according to GAO, both packages have experienced significant performance issues and neither has yet been fully integrated into the LCS seaframes.

The mine countermeasures mission package, considered by many experts to be the most important, is more than 4 years behind schedule. According to the DOD's Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, the mine countermeasures mission package has yet to demonstrate any of its required capabilities.

Given the utter failure of the mine countermeasures mission package to date, the Navy has altered its plan for acquiring this package. The full package will be delivered over a series of four increments and, if everything goes according to plan, the Navy will successfully demonstrate the capability of the fourth and final increment in 2019, 18 years—18 years—after planning for the LCS Program commenced. Until then, the Navy will be forced to retain the current generation of mine-sweeping ships.

Today, the Navy plans to purchase its final LCS seaframe in 2019, the same year when the mine countermeasures

package is supposed to be ready. If the mine countermeasures package has suffered a delay by that point—and with the history of this program to date, a mere 1-year delay would qualify as an improvement—the Navy will have an entire fleet of LCS's with only two-thirds of their planned capability, even if all the other problems with the ships are fixed.

All of the mission packages need significant further testing and have to overcome major integration challenges. That work is likely to drive up program costs and leave combatant commanders without the tools or capabilities they need for years to come.

The LCS Program faces a daunting combination of capability failures and strategic confusion. The Navy does not know what the LCS seaframes will actually be capable of doing once all of them are purchased in 2019, and it does not know what role they will play, even if development miraculously goes according to plan. Against that backdrop, the need to slow this procurement is clear.

Recently, we learned that, at Secretary Hagel's direction, the Navy has established a task force to determine how LCS can best serve the fleet going forward. The Navy should, above all else, not repeat the mistakes of the past, and Congress must hold the Navy to account at each step in the process. This means establishing requirements and sticking to them, setting a stable design and holding to it, and zealously guarding against further cost growth.

I support Secretary Hagel's decision to limit LCS procurement to 32 ships. I have recommended further reducing the LCS procurement to 24 ships. More important than the raw number of ships, however, is the manner in which the procurement goes forward. As Congress considers the President's 2015 budget request and continues to conduct oversight of LCS and every major defense acquisition program, we would be wise to understand this particular program's failings or risk repeating them.

The program is still clearly riddled with uncertainty about what the ships will be used for and what they will be capable of. Production should not go forward until the Navy and DOD confirm that LCS provides greater capabilities than the legacy ships it is intended to replace and that the mission packages plus the seaframes have demonstrated the combined combat capability that our combatant commanders need.

I understand that in connection with Secretary Hagel's direction to limit LCS's procurement and develop a more capable follow-on ship the Navy is underway brainstorming on possible alternatives to LCS that may provide it reliably with the capabilities it needs at a comparable cost. Before making final decisions on any procurement,

however, the Navy must first determine what problem it is trying to solve—exactly what operational requirements do combatant commanders actually have that cannot be met with current capabilities? This is the step the LCS Program originally skipped. Only after that basic question is answered definitively should the Navy start considering what material solution could be brought to bear on that capability gap. On major defense acquisition programs, that should always be our approach—LCS or no LCS.

While history of the LCS procurement supports my recommendation that we should not procure ships until we know what we want them to do, that outcome is also dictated by plain common sense. We live in an age of great fiscal uncertainty due to sequestration and other defense budget cuts. With that fiscal pressure, there is a much smaller margin for error in the procurement world. Every dollar wasted buying ships with unclear capabilities for unspecified missions is a dollar that could have supported a vital defense activity. The wastefulness of excessive concurrency—of buying a system that has not been tested and figuring out requirements and fixes on the fly—is more unacceptable than ever when so many good programs have to make do with sharply reduced funding. I will continue speaking out against wasteful concurrency, that is, acquisition malpractice, as I have done for years.

In today's fiscal world, spending money as we have done in LCS is not just reckless, not just wasteful, it is dangerous. It actually weakens our national defense. It is my sincere hope and firm conviction that in the future we can prove ourselves better stewards of taxpayer money than we have in the past. And finally getting LCS right would be a big, long overdue step in that direction.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING ERNEST B.
HILLENMEYER, JR.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to and lament the passing of a man of great faith from my home State, the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Mr. Ernest B. Hillenmeyer, Jr., devoted his life to serving others. He passed away last Thursday at the age of 92.

Ernest, or "Ernie" as he was affectionately known by friends and family, was born on a farm in Lexington, KY, on February 26, 1922. Ernie's formative years occurred when our country was trapped in the depths of the Great Depression. It was during this time that he learned the value of a good education, of family and community, and of faith in God. Through good times and bad, Ernie carried these ideals with him for the rest of his life.

Ernie's daughter, Katy Hillenmeyer, has said that "we'd all have to live to be 200 to accomplish what he did in his 92 years." This is hardly an understatement. After graduating from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Ernie served his country for 10 years in the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1985, he was ordained as a deacon and served his parish at St. Patrick Church in Maysville and St. James Church in Brooksville. Ernie was heavily involved in establishing the Meadowview Regional Hospital and the Hospice of Hope, both in Maysville, KY. He also chaired the Hayswood Foundation for 10 years, served as a director of the Maysville-Mason County Area Chamber of Commerce, and was the first lay chair of the board of trustees at Thomas Moore College. Those are only a few of Ernie's many accomplishments from a lifetime of service to others.

Ernie is survived by his wife, Mary Agnes Farrell Hillenmeyer, his sister, Mary Hillenmeyer Fiore, 6 children and 11 grandchildren. Said his cousin, Robert F. Houlihan, Jr., "He's loved and respected. And he was totally unafraid to die. You can't live a bad life and be unafraid of death." Although he may have been unafraid, Ernie will undoubtedly be missed by those who knew and loved him. I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in remembrance of the life of Ernest B. Hillenmeyer, Jr.

Mr. President, Ernie's obituary was recently published in the *Ledger Independent*. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in full in the *RECORD*.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *RECORD*, as follows:

[From The *Ledger Independent*, Apr. 3, 2014]

HILLENMEYER REMEMBERED FOR LIFE OF
SERVICE

MAYSVILLE.—During his 92 years, Ernest B. Hillenmeyer Jr. lived by the motto his father instilled during his boyhood on their Lexington farm: "Be honest, and be of service to your community."

Hillenmeyer embodied that creed through the many decades and facets of his life, each

guided by love of God, family and his community.

Hillenmeyer, former president of Parker Tobacco Company and a leader in the Catholic Church and civic affairs, died April 3, 2014, at the age of 92, at Maysville Nursing and Rehabilitation Center following a long illness.

He raised seven children in Maysville, where he lived for the past 68 years, and is survived by his wife of more than 52 years, Mary Agnes Farrell Hillenmeyer.

The World War II veteran helped establish Meadowview Regional Medical Center in Maysville and Hospice of Hope, which provides end-of-life care and through which, as its first chaplain, he ministered to patients. In 1985, he was ordained a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church as part of the Diocese of Covington's first class of men to enter the permanent diaconate and served his parish at St. Patrick Church, Maysville, along with St. James Church in Brooksville, where he was pastoral associate from 1998 to 2002. Thomas More College in Crestview Hills, where Hillenmeyer was the first layman to chair the board of trustees, awarded him an honorary doctorate in May 2013 for his lifetime of leadership and volunteerism.

"Deacon Ernie Hillenmeyer was a gentleman and a man of integrity," said Sister Justina Franxman, OSB, his friend and spiritual director for a number of years. "He loved God, his family and the Church. He was committed to his ministry and saw Jesus in the people to whom he ministered. Ernie loved life to the full."

"Ernie" Hillenmeyer was born Feb. 26, 1922, in Lexington, to Earnest B. Hillenmeyer Sr. and Mathilde Scott Hillenmeyer and grew up on his father's farm. His passion for gardening and agriculture dates to his youth tending peach and potato crops with his dad, himself the son and grandson of nurserymen.

He attended St. Paul's School in Lexington and later graduated from Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wis.

He graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y., holding a commission from 1942 to 1952 as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve, from which he was discharged as a lieutenant.

He spent three and a half years during World War II as a deck officer aboard liberty ships in the Merchant Marine, sailing with the North Atlantic and Pacific fleets.

During the war, he met fellow Kentuckian Ellen Cochrane Parker, a Maysville native whom he married in April 1945.

His father-in-law, S. Alex Parker Sr. hired Hillenmeyer into the family's tobacco business in 1946 and the couple settled in Maysville, where their four children, Zoe, Theresa, Ernie and Cece, were born.

Following his first wife's death in 1960, Hillenmeyer married Mary Agnes Farrell of Ludlow, to whom he was introduced by his childhood friend, the late Msgr. John F. Murphy.

Married in October 1961, the couple had three more children, Ellen, Katy and Paul.

He frequently traveled abroad for business and hosted international guests in the creek-side house he built in Huntington Park, one of two contiguous subdivisions he helped to develop in Aberdeen, Ohio.

Whether sailing houseboats, pitching horseshoes, playing bridge or crosswords, betting horses at Keeneland or cheering on the University of Kentucky Wildcats, Hillenmeyer enjoyed recreating with his family and friends, and delighted in competi-

In 1987, Hillenmeyer was a representative attending various Masses when Pope John Paul II visited and met with deacons for a conference, in Detroit, Mich.

In all his years teaching card games to his kids and grandkids, he never threw a hand. He took pride, too, in his vegetable and flower gardens, producing homegrown tomatoes and asparagus into his 90s.

Hillenmeyer began his long association with Thomas More College when in the mid-1950s he was invited to become a member of the Board of Lay Overseers, to which he was selected chairman in 1960. This Board recommended the college's move from downtown Covington to Crestview Hills and the construction there of a new campus.

Along with education, Hillenmeyer worked to advance ecumenism, health care and economic and human development.

As a member of the Limestone Ministerial Association, he led ministers and others to locally observe an annual week of prayer for Christian unity, now in its 42nd year.

He chaired a fund-raising drive to build a new hospital to replace Maysville's outdated Hayswood Hospital. For 10 years, he chaired the Hayswood Foundation, launching its grant program which donated funds to support St. Patrick School, the YMCA, The Boys and Girls Club and other projects in surrounding communities.

A founding member of the Council for Burley Tobacco, Hillenmeyer testified before Congress on behalf of tobacco trade associations, and formerly presided over the Burley Tobacco Dealers Association.

He served two terms as council member and vice mayor of Aberdeen; was local district chairman for the Boy Scouts of America; president of the Maysville Country Club; served as a director of the local Chamber of Commerce; formerly presided over Appalachian Industries in Vanceburg, promoting employment and housing; and was a lifetime member of the UK Alumni Association.

During retirement, he and his wife, Mary, routinely attended daily Mass, and prayer and scriptural reflection, and continued to nurture their deep bonds of affection and eagerness to share their faith with others.

"Ernie is a pillar—gentle and firm at the same time," cousin Robert F. Houlihan Jr., of Lexington said. "He's loved and respected. And he was totally unafraid to die. You can't live a bad life and be unafraid of death."

He is survived by his wife, Mary Farrell Hillenmeyer; youngest sister, Mary Hillenmeyer Fiore of Kansas City Missouri; six children, 11 grandchildren, beloved in-laws and many other relatives who were dear to him.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m., Monday, April 7, at St. Patrick Church, in Maysville.

Visitation is 4 to 8 p.m., April 6, with Vigil Prayers at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

Burial will be in St. Patrick Cemetery.

Following the committal rite at St. Patrick Cemetery, friends and family are invited to gather for food and fellowship at the Limestone Center.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the John J. Brannen Foundation, in care of St. Patrick School, 318 Limestone Street, Maysville, Ky. 41056, or St. Patrick Church, 111 East Third Street, Maysville, Ky. 41056.

Woodhead Funeral Home, Falmouth, is serving the family.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER KATHY
FELGER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Commander Kathy Felger, a

congressional affairs fellow for the U.S. Coast Guard on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and other Members of the Committee over the past 2 years.

A native Hoosier, Commander Felger graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1997. Since that time she has held various positions in the Coast Guard, most of them at sea as a ship driver. She will next serve as commanding officer of *Thetis*, a Famous class cutter, based out of Key West, FL with the primary missions of law enforcement, search and rescue, homeland security, and national defense.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Commander Felger for all of the fine work she has done and for her continued service to our Nation. I wish her continued success in the years to come.

MARTIN DE PORRES CENTER

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 10th anniversary of the Martin de Porres Center in Columbus, OH. Named after the Dominican Saint Martin de Porres, and sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the center was founded in 2004 as a place for spirituality, education, arts, and ministry outreach to the people of central Ohio.

Over the last decade, the center has become a pillar of the central Ohio community, bringing people together and helping them reach their full potential. For example, through the Dominican Learning Center, members of the community are able to participate in the adult literacy program, which provides free one-on-one tutoring. The center also serves the Columbus region by connecting youth to its older population through discussions and study groups.

I have visited the Martin de Porres Center and have seen firsthand the excellent work of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. The positive contributions made by the center are countless. Its outreach and dedication to the region in spiritual, mental, and artistic growth have been commendable. I thank everyone involved in making the center's first 10 years a success and wish them the best of luck in the coming decades.

COMMENDING OHIO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor 393 high school seniors in eight northeast Ohio counties for their commendable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces. Of these 393 seniors from 129 high schools in 106 towns and cities, 91 will enter the Army, 104 will enter the Marine Corps, 47 will enter the Navy, 32 will

enter the Air Force, 5 will enter the Coast Guard, 100 will enter our Ohio Army National Guard, and 14 will enter into the Ohio Air National Guard. In the presence of their parents/guardians, and high school counselors, military leaders, city and business leaders, all 393 will be recognized on May 7, 2014 by "Our Community Salutes of Northeast Ohio."

In a few short weeks, these young men and women will join their classmates in celebration of their high school graduation. At a time when many of their peers are looking forward to pursuing vocational training or college degrees, or are uncertain about their future, these young men and women instead have chosen to dedicate themselves to military service in defense of our rights, our freedoms and our country. They should know that they have full support of this Senate Chamber, and of the American people, who are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

These 393 young men and women are the cornerstone of our liberty. It is thanks to their dedication and the dedication of an untold number of patriots just like them that we are able to meet here today, in the U.S. Senate, and openly debate the best solutions to the many diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom in a dangerous world. We are grateful to them, and we are grateful to their parents and their communities for instilling in them not only the mental and physical abilities our Armed Forces require, but more importantly the character, the values and the discipline that leads someone to put service to our Nation over self.

I would like to personally thank these 393 graduating seniors for their selflessness and the courage that they have shown by volunteering to risk their lives in defense of our Nation. We owe them, along with all those who serve our country, a deep debt of gratitude.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the names of the 393 high school seniors.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES ARMY—91

Anderson—Cuyahoga Falls; Adang—Conneaut; Adkins—Parma; Ashworth—Akron; Baucoco—Brunswick; Boyer—Akron; Brewton—Akron; Buchler—Mayfield Heights; Burhoe—Fairlawn; Canfield—Deerfield; Chessar—Mayfield Heights; Clark—Wickliffe; Clay—North Royalton; Cordova—Lorain; Curnutte—Norton; Dangler—North Olmsted; Detzel—Seven Hills; Elkins—Mogadore; Faught—Brunswick; Finn—Akron; Fischbach—Geneva; Ford—Akron; Fuller—Parma Heights; Gadson—Akron; Genovese—Tallmadge; Gertz—Solon; Gilbert—Twinsburg; Glas—Norton; Gonda—North Olmsted; Good—Cuyahoga Falls; Griggs

Oneal—Akron; Gromek—Mentor; Hammond—Brooklyn; Hardy—Parma Heights; Hemerlein—Solon; Herman—Rootstown; Holland-Bell—Akron; Hurd—Lakewood; Johns—Cuyahoga Falls; Johnson—Eastlake; Kearney—Garrettsville; Keathley—Lorain; Keathley—Lorain; Kenney—Euclid; Kuhn—Madison; Loomis—Copley; Lucas—Cleveland; Maldonado—Lorain; Martin—North Olmsted; Mehl—Aurora; Mendez—Cleveland; Messner—Cuyahoga Falls; Milczewski—Brooklyn; Minor—Wadsworth; Moran—Litchfield; Morris—Grafton; Nelson—Wadsworth.

Neuman—Independence; Nobles—Akron; Nordstrom—Maple Heights; Norman—Akron; Ornelas Ramirez—Lorain; Packard—Cleveland; Payne—Elyria; Perry—Geneva; Post—Ravenna; Prigmore—Akron; Rees—Brunswick; Rippe—Grafton; Rodriguez—Cleveland; Rush—Willoughby; Rutherford—Medina; Sanchez Gonzalez—Cleveland; Sapper—Cuyahoga Falls; Skudrin—Cleveland; Smith—Mogadore; St. John—Hudson; Strand—Willoughby; Strzala—Middleburg Heights; Sutter—Berea; Sweitzer—Stow; Swisher—Mogadore; Taylor—Cleveland; Thomas—Akron; Tschannen—Wadsworth; Venable—Geneva; Warren—Cuyahoga Falls; Williams—Beachwood; Wilson—Akron; Wray—Akron; Wright—Lakewood.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS—104

Adigwe—Cleveland; Adkins—Cleveland; Albertson—Akron; Arnold—Berea; Arrington—Canton; Balcomb, Jr.—Ashtabula; Binkley—Canton; Blackman—Cleveland; Blazick—Cuyahoga Falls; Blunk—Berea; Brunner—North Olmsted; Cale—Madison; Caraballo—Lakewood; Carlisle—Cleveland Heights; Carlton—Ashtabula; Carpenter—Barberton; Chandler—Maple Heights; Chasar—Akron; Ciptak—Akron; Colon—Painesville; Corral—Cleveland; Csonka—Hartville; Davis—Massillon; De Hoff—Mantua; Dibble—Akron; Downing—Brook Park; Finlaw—Akron; Fitzgerald—Massillon; Garber—Akron; Gayheart—Ashtabula; Gilbert—Ravenna; Givens—Hartville; Gooch—Cleveland; Gordon—Lakewood; Green—Silver Lake; Greig—Mentor; Hanzak—Madison; Harkenrider—Cleveland; Helsel—Cleveland; Hershberger—Massillon; House—North Olmsted; Imburgia—North Royalton; James—Barberton; Johnson—Canton; Juratovac—Madison.

Knoch-Hawkins—Fairlawn; Koons—Willoughby; Kovats—Rome; Lacy—Copley; Lawson—Lyndhurst; Lemmon—Barberton; Lytle—Mogadore; MacMillan—Bay Village; McGrath—Madison; Meadows—Akron; Metz—Columbia Station; Miker—Parma; Miller, C—Massillon; Miller, R—Massillon; Milton—Westlake; Montecalvo—Akron; Morek—Euclid; Nagle—Columbia Station; Natko—Akron; Nelson—Copley; Novel—Westlake; Osborne—North Royalton; Pare—North Royalton; Patel—Strongsville; Person—Painesville; Price—Shaker Heights; Radisek—Bay Village; Reed—Akron; Rhinehardt—Twinsburg; Richmond—Massillon.

Ries—Massillon; Rivera—Cleveland; Roney—Chagrin Falls; Ryan, D—Mentor; Ryan, R—Parma; Schnell—Canton; Scott—Orwell; Shimek—Ashtabula; Smith, B—Akron; Smith, C—Painesville; Smith, J—Deerfield; Spicer—Norton; Strukel—Mentor; Sutyak—Madison; Tatarko—Twinsburg; Thomsen—Cleveland; Tischerich—Berea; Trevethan—Reminderville; Trump—Canton; Utz—Orwell; Vechik—Brimfield; Wadsworth—Akron; Wagner—Canal Fulton; Wallis—Berea; Warlop—Clinton; Weitendorf—Hudson; Winston—North Olmsted; Wood—Fairlawn; Yost—Akron.

UNITED STATES NAVY—47

Beddard—Bedford; Bowers—Avon Lake; Buga—Vermilion; Burns—South Euclid; Cabalu—Parma; Daily—North Olmsted; DeCesare, Jr.—Sagamore Hills; Donze—Akron; East—Brunswick; Elliott—Cleveland; Gantose—Seville; Gordon—Westlake; Harvey—Wadsworth; Herbert—Painesville; Heyduk—Medina; Hill—Hudson; Hill—Ross—Lorain; Howells—Cleveland; Hruska—Garfield Heights; Johnson—South Euclid; Kopp—Garfield Heights; Long—Barberton; Madonna—Madison; Marks—Barberton; McNeeley—North Olmsted; Mennell—Rittman.

Mutnansky—Elyria; Pacheco—Cleveland; Payne—Elyria; Pikula—Willowick; Poorman II—Canton; Rhodes—Willowick; Rodriguez—Elyria; Schlageter—Mentor; Seamon—Medina; Stropko—Jorgenson—North Olmsted; Surbella—Conneaut; Sweeney—Willoughby; Tokar—Wickliffe; Vorndran—Mentor; Wilkerson—Berea; Williams, Jr.—Cleveland; Wilson—Cleveland; Witten—Cleveland; Wright—South Euclid; Yates—Elyria; Yeager—Barberton.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE—32

Adamczyk—Medina; Begin—Walton Hills; Cox—Wadsworth; Dyer—Norton; Erb—Fairport Harbor; Estrada—Olmsted Falls; Fitzpatrick—Lorain; Friedrich—Medina; Frye—Parma; Gabel—Stow; Gioiello—Sheffield Lake; Graf—Medina; Gregory—Elyria; Hayes—North Ridgeville; Howard—Wellington; Julius—Avon; Konokpa—Parma; Lane—Cuyahoga Falls; Lomax—East Cleveland; Matheny—Stow; McEntire—Avon Lake; Morgan—Akron; Prukey—Madison; Robbins—Uniontown; Rocazella—Chardon; Saunders—Akron; Sincere—Cuyahoga Falls; Suire—Lakewood; Swit—Cleveland; Todd—University Heights; Turney—Amherst; Wagner—Wellington.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD—5

Adams—Norton; Bowen—Berea; Milam—Olmsted Township; Montgomery—Fremont; Mozik—Copley.

OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD—100

Acaba—Cleveland; Anderson III—Wellington; Angell—Vermilion; Applegarth—Mogadore; Barker—Norton; Bartch, Jr.—Middleburg Heights; Bohnsack—Concord; Brochu—Avon Lake; Brown—Lorain; Burgess—Wellington; Champe—Amherst; Clements—Cleveland; Collins—Oberlin; Coyne—Thompson; Creakman—Parma Heights; Cuckler—Barberton; Dorner—Lyndhurst; Dorrough—Cleveland; Duncan—Brook Park; Dungan—North Ridgeville; Dunning—Chardon; Edwards—Cleveland; Fofana—Euclid; Foltz—Grafton; Ford—East Cleveland; Gold—Medina; Gruszka—Macdonia; Harkins—Grand River; Harris—Akron; Hayes—Cleveland; Heath—Akron; Hildreth—Lorain; Hill—Westlake; Holley—Akron; Holzwarth—Twinsburg; Hrusovsky—Seven Hills; Hunt—Brooklyn; Jennings, J—Cleveland; Jennings, S—Akron; Jennings—Akron.

Johns—Brunswick; Kasperski—Independence; Kawkabani—Mentor; Kerrigan—Fairview; Kucho—Akron; Kurzinger—Mentor; Lahetta—Amherst; Lansdale—Akron; Lantz—Uniontown; La Rosa—Berea; Lemley—Cleveland; Lewis—Ravenna; Macklin—Bedford; Manu—Tallmadge; Marek—Brunswick; McClary—Avon; McMillion—Olmsted Falls; Mellone—Chagrin Falls; Milbrandt—Ashtabula; Miller, A—Parma; Miller, M—Chardon; Montgomery—Uniontown; Muckley—Hartville; Mugongo—Cleveland; Munger—Diamond; Naro—Rome; Nazario—Cleveland; Nervo—Stow; Novilla—

Northfield; Otto—Ashtabula; Paden—Brunswick; Parker—Willoughby Hills; Perkins—Cleveland; Pyatt—Fairview Park; Remenyi—Uniontown.

Rieglmayer—Berea; Rivera—Cleveland; Robinson—Cleveland; Sabol—Cleveland; Sammon—Parma; Scott—Alston—Lorain; Shull—North Ridgeville; Slitor—Lakewood; Smith, A—Akron; Smith, B—Ashtabula; Smith, J—Euclid; Smith, R—Cleveland; Spickard—Akron; Stewart—Cleveland; Strader—Vermilion; Tarter—Rootstown; Taylor—Andover; Terry—Ravenna; Todt—Broadview Heights; Waleri—Vermilion; Washington—Cleveland; Waterhouse—Akron; Williams—Akron; Wolf—Wadsworth; Wright—Cleveland.

OHIO AIR GUARD—14

Benson—Rootstown; Craft—Rootstown; Fix—Akron; Gearhart—Wadsworth; Head—Novelty; Kociuba—North Royalton; Koltas—Sheffield Lake; Nutter—Norwalk; Steiner—Medina; Stilley—Cuyahoga Falls; Todd—Deerfield; Tyler—Canton; Varnis—Avon Lake; Velez—Lorain.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID P. SMITH

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I recognize a respected leader from Southwest Colorado, city attorney David P. Smith, of Durango, for his impeccable leadership and service. David retired on April 1, 2014, after a long and distinguished career.

David is a consummate public servant, having served the city of Durango for 37 years. In his capacity as city attorney, David has served at the pleasure of 55 different city councilors. His tenure is the longest of any city attorney in the city of Durango's 133 year history.

David's legal career, which began 45 years ago in general practice, is marked by his outstanding level of professionalism. David is recognized as a leader among legal professionals in Southwest Colorado, fostering cooperative relationships among community stakeholders and governmental entities.

In service to his local community, David is committed to the advancement of high-quality education. David has served as a board member and president of the school board for the 9R School District, on the Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence, and on the advisory board for Animas High School.

After full engagement and an integral role in shaping the future of Durango and Southern Colorado for decades, David is transitioning from his service as the city attorney to enter a well-deserved retirement. I am pleased to recognize David's extraordinary service to the city of Durango before the Senate today. I wish him all the best in his retirement; may the next phase of his life be equally as remarkable. •

REMEMBERING PAUL PAWLAK, SR.

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Paul Pawlak, Sr. I knew Paul from my work in Connecticut State government. He was a dedicated public servant and family man who worked on behalf of the town of Seymour and the State of Connecticut for his entire life.

Living in Seymour, the town where he graduated from high school, Paul worked as an electrician for more than 40 years. During that time, he also tirelessly served his community in public office, serving as first selectman for 4 years, as second selectman for 8 years, Chairman of Seymour's Board of Education for 12 years, and a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives for 12 years. In the State legislature, he placed particular importance on protecting our natural environment, serving as chair of the Water Resources Committee and helping to fight pollution with the Clean Waters Act.

Paul also believed in the importance of public health and of strong and responsive public institutions to maintain it. He was the first chairman of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Public Health Department, as well as a member of the board of directors of the Public Health Nursing and Homemaker's Services. And he understood that all these institutions needed to work together and cooperate in order to accomplish their missions. He helped to form the Valley Council of Governments and served as its first chairman.

Paul's passing is mourned by all those who knew him and the many people whose lives he affected for the better through his work. Of course, however, those who will miss him the most are those who were closest to him: his wife Mildred, his brother Andrew, his children Paul Jr., Joseph, David, and Richard, and the many other family members and friends he leaves behind.

For his service to Connecticut, and for the legacy of good work and family loyalty that he created, I honor Paul Pawlak, and I know that he will not be forgotten. •

REMEMBERING BUDDY BROWN SPIVEY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor a larger than life personality and a true American hero, Buddy Brown Spivey, who was recently interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Buddy's story is truly inspirational. While serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, he was deployed to Vietnam. On December 7, 1966, he was severely injured by an explosion that led most of his unit to believe he died that day. The explosion took Buddy's eyesight, his right leg, and caused brain damage. He refused to allow it to take his spirit.

After years of rehabilitation, Buddy returned to Arkansas with the intention of helping his fellow veterans live

happy, productive lives after service. That was the thing about Buddy, he never stopped thinking of others despite the difficult circumstances he found himself in after his own military service.

After earning his master's degree at the University of Arkansas, Buddy went to work for the Blinded Veterans Association, where he served as field representative for 10 years. He later worked as a counseling psychologist and social worker at the VA hospital in Little Rock.

It has been said that he rarely missed a day of work. Helping his fellow veterans was a job he was paid to do until he retired in 2007, but continued to do long after that. That is how dedicated he was to his fellow veterans.

Spivey family members will regale you with stories about Buddy's captivating personality. He was known as a sharp, at times flashy, dresser who wore a suit and tie to work long after business casual became the norm. He was a masterful storyteller, but he also listened to others' stories with the same intensity. After repeat meetings, people were often amazed that Buddy remembered every detail of a person's story from the last time they met.

Most importantly, Buddy inspired people. His sacrifices on the battlefield earned him two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars. His sacrifices after service earned him accolades of another sort. The lives he touched, the people he helped, will always remember that sharply dressed man who put others first.●

REMEMBERING PAUL RINEBOLD

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Paul Rinebold, a dedicated Ohio dairy farmer, great-grandfather, and community member who passed away last month. Ohio and our Nation are made strong by people like Paul—men and women who have dedicated their lives to their family, community, and work.

A son of Fostoria, OH, Paul lived his entire life in his community. After graduating from Hopewell-Loudon High School in Bascom, OH, he joined the U.S. Army and served his country for 7 years. During that time, in 1959, he married Ardith Bloom of Fremont, OH.

Mr. Rinebold was a self-employed dairy farmer who founded PAR 3 Farms, named after himself, Paul (P), his wife, Ardith (AR), and the first three (3) of what would be their four children. PAR 3 Farms has been recognized by both the Ohio State and the National Ayrshire Breeders Associations for its contributions to the dairy business in Seneca County. Mr. Rinebold's family farm is still in operation today.

In 2008, the Ohio Ayrshire Breeders Association presented Paul with the Ohio Ayrshire Distinguished Service

Award, a testament to the care with which Mr. Rinebold raised, treated, and bred his cows. It was at this awards ceremony that the association thanked Paul and Ardith for their dedication and expertise in the field of dairy farming. By 2008, the couple had attended more national Ayrshire conventions than any other Ayrshire dairy farm in the country, adding up to a total of 40 years' of conventions.

While he was not working on the farm, Paul dedicated his time to benefiting the community he called home. Active in his community, he was a member of St. John's United Church Christ in Fostoria; the Seneca County Farm Bureau; the State and National Ayrshire Associations; the National Dairy Shrine; and both the State and National level of the Loudon Center Grange. Paul helped each of his four children earn their 4-H club 10-year pins in Seneca County, and he enjoyed working with them on their county fair projects and yearly showcases at the Ohio State Fair. Paul loved farming, dairying and bowling, but most of all, his family.

This week—on what would have been Mr. Rinebold's 76th birthday—I would like to honor him for his dedication, service to our country, and contributions to the Ohio dairy community and his friends and neighbors in Fostoria community. I would also extend my thoughts and condolences to his family—his wife Ardith, sons Jeffrey and Michael, daughters Cheryl Ann and Paula, eight grandchildren, Brian, A.J., Jackson, Brittany, Brayden, Blake, Taylor, and Cameron, and two great-grandchildren, Anistyn and Chase, on their loss.

Emerson wrote "To know one life has breathed easier because you have lived, that is to have succeeded." We have all breathed easier because of Paul.●

USF HEALTH BYRD ALZHEIMER'S INSTITUTE

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, we need to find a cure for the devastating disease of Alzheimer's. According to the Alzheimer's Association, there are 5 million people living with Alzheimer's in America today. Last year alone, \$213 billion was spent on Alzheimer's care in the United States. And if measures are not taken to address the issue, it is estimated this will rise to \$1 trillion a year by midcentury.

As the senior Senator from Florida and the chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, I am well aware of the toll this disease takes on individuals and their families. In 2010, about 450,000 Floridians were living with this disease, but this number is expected to rise to 590,000 by the year 2025.

Florida is the home of groundbreaking research in the field of treating, and hopefully curing, Alzheimer's. Today I will focus on just one

of Florida's many research institutes, the University of South Florida, USF, Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute. A leader in the field, the Byrd Institute is already implementing and routinely practicing key tenets outlined in the milestones of the Federal Government's 2013 National Alzheimer's Plan, including prevention, memory impairment screening, state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment, supportive services, and education.

As a university-affiliated free-standing Alzheimer's center, the Byrd Institute is one of very few places that can offer high-quality, integrated Alzheimer's care. In fact, USF Magazine boasts that it is "the largest facility of its kind in the world." The Byrd Institute's streamlined approach emphasizes integrated Alzheimer's care among physicians, researchers, therapists, social workers, support groups, caregivers, and other entities that play a crucial role in the comprehensive well-being of Alzheimer's patients. As an active Alzheimer's research site, patients have access to many publicly and privately funded clinical trials. Research productivity at the Byrd Institute has been brisk with \$2.7 million in Federal grant expenditures for basic and translational research from 17 new and continuing Federal grants in 2012 and 2013. The Alzheimer's Association, along with several other non-Federal sponsors, provided nearly \$1 million in funding to the center.

The institute's strong track record as a regional trailblazer in Alzheimer's care demonstrates the vast potential for the expansion of similar types of care centers on a national level. Moving forward, the Byrd Institute offers hope for accelerated and improved Alzheimer's care. It is a living and breathing testament to what can be accomplished by working together to tackle a problem that affects us all and a true model for the future of Alzheimer's care in this Nation.

I know that many Floridians—as well as advocates from all across the Nation—are visiting with their congressional representatives to urge greater funding for research funding at the National Institutes of Health and caregiver support from the Administration for Community Living. I want all Floridians visiting, as well as all of those who couldn't be here today, to know that I share their commitment for finding a cure for this dreaded disease.●

FAIRFIELD EAGLES

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor the Montana Class B Girls Basketball State Champions: the Fairfield Eagles.

In rural Montana, high school basketball is a way of life. Rural towns take pride in their teams' success, and fans often travel hours across the State

to see their children, their grandchildren, or their neighbors play. Fairfield, MT, is no exception.

This year, the Eagles won their fourth consecutive State championship and their 104th consecutive game. And they did it in thrilling fashion, winning a 60-to-55 double overtime game that included a 3-pointer to tie the game as the buzzer sounded at end of the first overtime.

The Eagles basketball team also puts forth the same kind of effort in the classroom; Fairfield has done a great job of turning out some incredible student athletes.

Fairfield principal and girls' head coach Dustin Gordon makes sure of that.

Congratulations on another great season. Go Eagles!●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1871. An act to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to reform the budget baseline.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY) announced that he had signed the following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 404. An act to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1871. An act to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to reform the budget baseline; to the Committee on the Budget.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2223. A bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 9, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 404. An act to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5284. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visas: Waiver by Joint Action of Visa and Passport Requirements for Members of Armed Forces and Coast Guards of Foreign Countries" (RIN1400-AD51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5285. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Transnuclear, Inc. Standardized NUHOMS Cask System" (RIN3150-AJ28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5286. A communication from the Vice President, Government Relations, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Authority's Statistical Summary for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5287. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5288. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Animal Drug User Fee Act for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5289. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012 for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5290. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report for fiscal year 2013 relative to the Biosimilar User Fee Act of 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5291. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2012 for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5292. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment, Maintenance, and Availability of Records: Amendment to Record Availability Requirements" ((Docket No. FDA-2002-N-0153, Formerly Docket No. FDA 2002N-0277) (RIN0910-AG73)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was re-

ferred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-222. A resolution adopted by the Delaware County Board of Supervisors of the State of New York entitled "In Support of Home Rule 543 'Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013'"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*David J. Arroyo, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2016.

*William P. Doyle, of Pennsylvania, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2018.

Coast Guard nominations beginning with Linda L. Fagan and ending with James E. Rendon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 10, 2014.

Coast Guard nomination of Rear Adm. William D. Lee, to be Vice Admiral.

Coast Guard nomination of Rear Adm. Charles W. Ray, to be Vice Admiral.

Coast Guard nomination of Rear Adm. Charles D. Michel, to be Vice Admiral.

Coast Guard nomination of Vice Adm. Peter V. Neffenger, to be Vice Admiral.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Coast Guard nominations beginning with Ruby L. Collins and ending with Michael W. Wampler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 16, 2014.

Coast Guard nominations beginning with William C. Adams and ending with Adam K. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 16, 2014.

Coast Guard nominations beginning with Kevin J. Lopes and ending with Mariette C. Ogg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 6, 2014.

By Mr. SCHUMER for the Committee on Rules and Administration.

*Myrna Perez, of Texas, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2015.

*Thomas Hicks, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2017.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF
COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

[Treaty Doc. 112-1: Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Swiss Confederation (without printed report)]

The text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Swiss Confederation for the Avoidance of Double Taxation With Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Washington October 2, 1996, signed September 23, 2009, at Washington, with a related agreement effected by an exchange of notes September 23, 2009, as corrected by an exchange of notes effected November 16, 2010 (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 112-1), subject to the declaration of section 2 and the conditions of section 3.

Sec. 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Protocol is self-executing.

Sec. 3. Conditions.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following conditions:

(1) Not later than 2 years after the Protocol enters into force and prior to the first arbitration conducted pursuant to the binding arbitration mechanism provided for in the Protocol, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transmit to the Committees on Finance and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Joint Committee on Taxation the text of the rules of procedure applicable to arbitration panels, including conflict of interest rules to be applied to members of the arbitration panel.

(2)(A) Not later than 60 days after a determination has been reached by an arbitration panel in the tenth arbitration proceeding conducted pursuant to the Protocol or any of the treaties described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary of the Treasury shall prepare and submit to the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, subject to laws relating to taxpayer confidentiality, a detailed report regarding the operation and application of the arbitration mechanism contained in the Protocol and such treaties. The report shall include the following information:

(i) For the Protocol and each such treaty, the aggregate number of cases pending on the respective dates of entry into force of the Protocol and each treaty, including the following information:

(I) The number of such cases by treaty article or articles at issue.

(II) The number of such cases that have been resolved by the competent authorities through a mutual agreement as of the date of the report.

(III) The number of such cases for which arbitration proceedings have commenced as of the date of the report.

(ii) A list of every case presented to the competent authorities after the entry into force of the Protocol and each such treaty, including the following information regarding each case:

(I) The commencement date of the case for purposes of determining when arbitration is available.

(II) Whether the adjustment triggering the case, if any, was made by the United States or the relevant treaty partner.

(III) Which treaty the case relates to.

(IV) The treaty article or articles at issue in the case.

(V) The date the case was resolved by the competent authorities through a mutual agreement, if so resolved.

(VI) The date on which an arbitration proceeding commenced, if an arbitration proceeding commenced.

(VII) The date on which a determination was reached by the arbitration panel, if a determination was reached, and an indication as to whether the panel found in favor of the United States or the relevant treaty partner.

(iii) With respect to each dispute submitted to arbitration and for which a determination was reached by the arbitration panel pursuant to the Protocol or any such treaty, the following information:

(I) In the case of a dispute submitted under the Protocol, an indication as to whether the presenter of the case to the competent authority of a Contracting State submitted a Position Paper for consideration by the arbitration panel.

(II) An indication as to whether the determination of the arbitration panel was accepted by each concerned person.

(III) The amount of income, expense, or taxation at issue in the case as determined by reference to the filings that were sufficient to set the commencement date of the case for purposes of determining when arbitration is available.

(IV) The proposed resolutions (income, expense, or taxation) submitted by each competent authority to the arbitration panel.

(B) The treaties referred to in subparagraph (A) are—

(i) the 2006 Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital and to Certain Other Taxes, done at Berlin June 1, 2006 (Treaty Doc. 109-20) (the "2006 German Protocol");

(ii) the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, and accompanying protocol, done at Brussels July 9, 1970 (the "Belgium Convention") (Treaty Doc. 110-3);

(iii) the Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and Canada with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital, signed at Washington September 26, 1980 (the "2007 Canada Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 110-15); or

(iv) the Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Paris August 31, 1994 (the "2009 France Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 111-4).

(3) The Secretary of the Treasury shall prepare and submit the detailed report required under paragraph (2) on March 1 of the year following the year in which the first report is submitted to the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and on an annual basis thereafter for a period of five years. In each such report, disputes that were resolved, either by a mutual agreement between the relevant com-

petent authorities or by a determination of an arbitration panel, and noted as such in prior reports may be omitted.

(4) The reporting requirements referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) supersede the reporting requirements contained in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 3 of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the 2009 France Protocol, approved by the Senate on December 3, 2009.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2224. A bill to enhance the accuracy of credit reporting and provide greater rights to consumers who dispute errors in their credit reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 2225. A bill to provide for a smart water resource management pilot program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2226. A bill to establish a WaterSense program within the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. 2227. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for property certified by the Environmental Protection Agency under the WaterSense program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. 2228. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to consider projects involving rural communities in the selection of alternative water source projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 2229. A bill to expand primary care access; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2230. A bill to provide the legal framework necessary for the growth of innovative private financing options for students to fund postsecondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2231. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide an individual with a mental health assessment before the individual enlists in the Armed Forces or is commissioned as an officer in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2232. A bill to protect the right to freedom of speech secured by the First Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2233. A bill to provide tax relief for major disaster areas declared in 2012 and 2013 and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 2234. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employees who participate in qualified apprenticeship programs; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REID:

S. Con. Res. 35. A concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 571

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a deadline for restricting sewage dumping into the Great Lakes and to fund programs and activities for improving wastewater discharges into the Great Lakes.

S. 1008

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1008, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from implementing proposed policy changes that would permit passengers to carry small, non-locking knives on aircraft.

S. 1066

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1066, a bill to allow certain student loan borrowers to refinance Federal student loans.

S. 1150

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1150, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 1422

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1422, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings.

S. 1468

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1468, a

bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation and for other purposes.

S. 1596

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1596, a bill to require State educational agencies that receive funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to have in effect policies and procedures on background checks for school employees.

S. 1793

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1793, a bill to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, and for other purposes.

S. 2018

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2018, a bill to provide for the use of hand-propelled vessels in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and the National Elk Refuge, and for other purposes.

S. 2106

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2106, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the individual health insurance mandate not apply until the employer health insurance mandate is enforced without exceptions.

S. 2118

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2118, a bill to protect the separation of powers in the Constitution of the United States by ensuring that the President takes care that the laws be faithfully executed, and for other purposes.

S. 2142

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2142, a bill to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

S. 2156

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2156, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to confirm the scope of the authority of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to deny or restrict the use of defined areas as disposal sites.

S. 2190

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2190, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 2199

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 2223

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S. CON. RES. 33

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 33, a concurrent resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the nationwide Cooperative Extension System.

S. RES. 369

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 369, a resolution to designate May 22, 2014 as "United States Foreign Service Day" in recognition of the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States, and to honor

those in the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty.

S. RES. 418

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 418, a resolution to honor Galaudet University, a premier institution of higher education for deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary and to recognize the impact of the University on higher education.

AMENDMENT NO. 2962

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2962 intended to be proposed to S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2963

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2963 intended to be proposed to S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 2234. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employees who participate in qualified apprenticeship programs; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce with my colleague, Senator TIM SCOTT of South Carolina, the Leveraging and Energizing America's Apprenticeship Programs or LEAP Act, which provides a tax credit to employers to help increase the number of registered apprenticeships in the U.S. and put more young Americans to work.

Today, there are still more than 10 million unemployed Americans, and our young people continue to be especially hard hit. Nearly six years after the start of the Great Recession, 16 percent of 16 to 24 year olds are without a job. The numbers are far worse among youth of color and for those without college degrees.

Yet 4 million jobs remain unfilled in the U.S., and part of the reason is that key gaps persist between the skills of young adults and workforce needs. By 2020, the United States is expected to experience a shortage of 3 million workers with associate's degrees or higher and 5 million workers with technical certificates and credentials.

Apprenticeships are a proven way to help young people develop in-demand

skills and to meet the needs of employers, yet they comprise just 0.2 percent of the U.S. workforce.

While competitor nations around the world are investing in robust apprenticeship programs, the U.S., by contrast, had just 358,000 active, registered apprenticeships in 2012. That is 7 percent of what England offered when adjusted for population. In Germany, nearly half of all young people go through apprenticeship programs.

We can't let America continue to lag behind. That's why Senator SCOTT and I are introducing the LEAP Act, an initiative that provides a paid-for Federal tax credit to businesses to develop apprenticeship programs that are registered with the Department of Labor or a state apprenticeship agency. The bill addresses the fact that the average age of apprentices is currently as high as 29 years, by offering a tax credit of \$1,500 for apprentices under the age of 25. The tax credit for apprentices 25 or over is \$1,000. The cost of the tax credits are offset by a provision that cuts printing waste by barring the Federal Government from producing publications that are available online, unless the printing is for seniors, Medicare recipients or communities with limited Internet access.

A thriving apprenticeship system should be an essential element of an effective workforce development strategy; registered apprenticeship programs help individuals attain a recognized post-secondary credential and provide workers with the education and on-the-job training needed to succeed.

Studies show that apprenticeships are a wise investment for both participants and the U.S. government: individuals who complete registered apprenticeship programs earn over \$240,000 more over their careers than people who did not participate in such programs, and the tax return on every Federal Government dollar invested in registered apprenticeship programs is \$27.

Our future competitiveness—our economic strength as a nation—depends on the innovation and skill of our workforce. I am proud to join with Senator SCOTT in putting forward this bipartisan legislation that will create opportunities for more Americans to learn the in-demand skills that will help meet employers' needs and fuel our economy. I look forward to working with my colleagues to build support for and pass this bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 35—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 35

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, April 10, 2014, through Thursday, April 24, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Monday, April 28, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, April 10, 2014, through Thursday, April 24, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2014, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on, April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "From Here to Mars."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on, April 9, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Addressing Primary Care Access and Workforce Challenges: Voices from the Field."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on, April 9, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Indian Education Series: Indian Students in Public Schools—Cultivating the Next Generation."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the Comcast-Time Warner Cable Merger and the Impact on Consumers."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Election Administration: Making Voter Rolls More Complete and More Accurate."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2014, at 10:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2014, at 11 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "The Fiscal Year 2015 Budget for the Small Business Administration."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2014, at 9:15 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask that Alexandra Merrill, my intern, be given floor privileges for the duration of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Micah Murphy, a Navy fellow assigned to the office of Senator MCCAIN, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 113th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Marine Corps; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no

intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National-Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Colonel David P. Baczewski
Colonel Jeffrey W. Burkett
Colonel Conrad C. Caldwell, III
Colonel Jeffrey B. Cashman
Colonel Charles W. Chappuis
Colonel Joel A. Clark
Colonel Patrick J. Cobb
Colonel Thomas B. Cucchi
Colonel John B. Daniel
Colonel George M. Degnon
Colonel William D. DeHaes
Colonel William D. Dockery, Jr.
Colonel Andrew E. Halter
Colonel Timothy J. Harmeson
Colonel Paul G. Havel
Colonel Jill L. Hendra
Colonel Alan K. Hodgdon
Colonel Joseph M. Jabara
Colonel Wendy K. Johnson
Colonel Timothy M. Jones
Colonel Thomas J. Kennett
Colonel Kerry L. Muehlenbeck
Colonel Timothy A. Mullen
Colonel John W. Ogle, III
Colonel Ryan T. Okahara
Colonel Russell A. Rushe
Colonel David P. San Clemente
Colonel Diana M. Shoop
Colonel Jesse T. Simmons, Jr.
Colonel David A. Simon
Colonel Mark C. Snyder
Colonel John G. Sotos
Colonel Ronald C. Stamps
Colonel Randolph J. Staudenraus
Colonel Scott A. Studer
Colonel Michael R. Taheri
Colonel Ronald B. Turk
Colonel Steven C. Warren
Colonel Roger E. Williams, Jr.
Colonel Ronald W. Wilson
Colonel Bryan F. Witeof
Colonel Brett A. Wyrick
Colonel Ricky G. Yoder

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. John E. Hyten

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Wendy M. Masiello

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Chaplains, United States Navy, and appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 5142:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Margaret G. Kibben

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Brent W. Scott

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Sean A. Pybus

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 5046:

To be major general

Col. John R. Ewers, Jr.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1309 MARINE CORPS nominations (82) beginning BAMIDELE J. ABOGUNRIN, and ending PHILLIP M. ZEMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 7, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the agriculture committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 33.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 33) celebrating the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the nationwide Cooperative Extension System.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 33) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of Thursday, February 27, 2014, under "Resolutions Submitted.")

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed

to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 35, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 35) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 35) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, and as further amended by Public Law 107-228, and 112-75, reappoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Katrina Lantos Swett of New Hampshire.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 10, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the time until 10:30 a.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that at 10:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 574.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. At 10:30 a.m. tomorrow there will be a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michelle Friedland to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. If cloture is invoked, there would be up to 30 hours for debate prior to a vote on confirmation of the nomination, unless an agreement can be reached. Upon dis-

position of the Friedland nomination, there will be a cloture vote on the Weil nomination to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor. There could then be up to 8 hours for debate prior to a vote on confirmation of the Weil nomination.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:52 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 9, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DEBRA L. MILLER, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2017.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

TERRELL MCSWEENEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2010.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DANIEL W. YOHANNES, OF COLORADO, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

STEVEN JOEL ANTHONY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2018.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

WANDA FELTON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2017.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL DAVID P. BACZEWSKI
COLONEL JEFFREY W. BURKETT
COLONEL CONRAD C. CALDWELL III
COLONEL JEFFREY B. CASHMAN
COLONEL CHARLES W. CHAPPUIS
COLONEL JOEL A. CLARK
COLONEL PATRICK J. COBB
COLONEL THOMAS B. CUCCHI
COLONEL JOHN B. DANIEL
COLONEL GEORGE M. DEGNON
COLONEL WILLIAM D. DEHAES
COLONEL WILLIAM D. DOCKERY, JR.
COLONEL ANDREW E. HALTER
COLONEL TIMOTHY J. HARMESON
COLONEL PAUL G. HAVEL
COLONEL JILL L. HENDRA
COLONEL ALAN K. HODGDON
COLONEL JOSEPH M. JABARA
COLONEL WENDY K. JOHNSON
COLONEL TIMOTHY M. JONES
COLONEL THOMAS J. KENNETT
COLONEL KERRY L. MUEHLENBECK
COLONEL TIMOTHY A. MULLEN
COLONEL JOHN W. OGLE III
COLONEL RYAN T. OKAHARA
COLONEL RUSSELL A. RUSHE
COLONEL DAVID P. SAN CLEMENTE
COLONEL DIANA M. SHOOP
COLONEL JESSE T. SIMMONS, JR.
COLONEL DAVID A. SIMON
COLONEL MARK C. SNYDER
COLONEL JOHN G. SOTOS
COLONEL RONALD C. STAMPS
COLONEL RANDOLPH J. STAUDENRAUS
COLONEL SCOTT A. STUDER
COLONEL MICHAEL R. TAHERI
COLONEL RONALD B. TURK
COLONEL STEVEN C. WARREN
COLONEL ROGER E. WILLIAMS, JR.
COLONEL RONALD W. WILSON

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COLONEL BRYAN F. WITEOF
COLONEL BRETT A. WYRICK
COLONEL RICKY G. YODER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. JOHN E. HYTEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WENDY M. MASIELLO

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, UNITED STATES NAVY, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5142:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MARGARET G. KIBBEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. BRENT W. SCOTT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. SEAN A. PYBUS

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5046:

To be major general

COL. JOHN R. EWERS, JR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BAMIDELE J. ABOGUNRIN AND ENDING WITH PHILLIP M. ZEMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 7, 2014.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, April 9, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 9, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr., to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

FLORIDA BEACH RENOURISHMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue of critical importance to my community, to Florida's 13th Congressional District of Pinellas County, Florida, but also to coastal communities around the country—the issue of beach renourishment.

There is an urgency that I want to express today on behalf of communities like Treasure Island, Florida. The Federal Government has invested in beach renourishment for the past 50 years, and it has done so alongside State and local municipalities and State and local governments, who have also made a priority in investing in beach renourishment.

This year alone, State and local governments will likely invest nearly \$100 million in beach renourishment projects, and it is for good reason. Beach renourishment addresses a very critical issue of pre-storm mitigation, it protects communities from flooding, it protects communities from losses to property, from losses to critical infrastructure, and it ultimately reduces

disaster assistance when such assistance is needed.

Beach renourishment also protects our environment, it protects against damage to habitats critical to environments, it encourages stronger environments, cleaner environments; and, perhaps most importantly, beach renourishment programs invested in by State and local governments and our Federal Government contribute to jobs and economic growth in communities across the country.

We have industries that exist in communities in my district, like Clearwater Beach and St. Pete Beach, and in communities across the country whose jobs and economic growth and local economy rely on international visitors and visitors from around the country.

In Florida alone, we will more than double visits to our beaches as compared to visits to all U.S. national parks combined. It takes jobs and employees to support those visitors, and it is critical to our local economy that we continue the investment in beach renourishment projects.

So I rise today with a sense of urgency. When this House, this body, considered the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, it passed a responsible bill, but one that did not include continued authorization for important beach renourishment projects. That legislation is now in conference, and I am here today to ask my colleagues that we not let this provision slip by. We must reauthorize these programs.

So I would urge the conferees on the Water Resources Reform and Development Act to strongly consider bringing back language that reauthorizes programs, or at least allows for the reauthorization of programs, that are soon to expire. I ask my colleagues to be receptive to that language should it come back.

I would like to thank today my chairman on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for allowing me to work with him in the very few weeks that I have been here on this issue that is of critical importance to my district, but also to districts around the country.

HONORING THE FLYING TIGERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the members of the American volunteer group known as

the Flying Tigers for their heroic service to the United States of America during World War II. The Flying Tigers consisted of ex-personnel from the Navy, Marines, and the Army Air Corps. Operating out of China, they trained in secret, and shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor began a series of heroic battles against the Japanese aircraft squadrons.

Working together with the Chinese and the Royal Air Force, the Flying Tigers drove back attacks on the port of Rangoon in Burma, and became celebrated for their tactical victories.

On July 4, 1942, the Flying Tigers were absorbed into the 23rd Fighter Group, and their distinctive shark-faced planes remain among the most recognizable of any aircraft from World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the members of the Flying Tigers for their brave service to our great country.

RECOGNIZING JODY BRUCE AND JOSH HOFFMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRAMER. The author Henry Miller wrote: "The ordinary man is involved in action, the hero acts, an immense difference."

Mr. Speaker, having grown up the son of a rural electric lineman, I am more than a little familiar with the not so ordinary actions of these rather ordinary people.

They do a job most of us won't or can't do, often putting themselves in danger's way as they carry out their duties in all kinds of weather conditions. They earn a paycheck for their work for sure, but their contribution to the quality of life of rural America is to the benefit of millions of people.

But today, Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the extraordinary efforts of two rural electric linemen from North Dakota who stepped beyond being involved in the action to act.

Jody Bruce from Minot, who works for Verendrye Electric Cooperative, and Josh Hoffman from Carrington, who works for Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, left the comfort zone of middle America to facilitate the advent of safe, reliable, and affordable electricity in a community in Haiti.

Their service and sacrifice will improve the lives of many people because

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

electricity is a critical element to improve quality of life, health care, education, clean water, and other vital services.

Volunteering their time and expertise, they both spent 2 weeks in the town of Caracol, providing safety training and mentoring for local linemen. They also assisted with installing power for residents located next to an industrial park. When fully functional, this facility will have the capacity to employ 30,000 people.

Jody and Josh are the only linemen from North Dakota to ever participate in such a project in Haiti, a country where only about 13 percent of the people have reliable access to electricity.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation has been working on a U.S. Agency for International Development-funded program to bring electricity to the town of Caracol and nearby areas.

Today, more than 1,200 consumers in the town have access to reliable electricity. Some homes now have antennas for their TVs. In fact, some businesses are springing up, things like Internet cafes that have been established, and water treatment plants are in full operation.

While we often take for granted such basic amenities as safe, reliable electricity in this country, we ought to say a prayer for the men and women who ensure that the lights are always on for us and the families who wait for them at home.

In the case of Jody Bruce and Josh Hoffman, well, they deserve a ticker-tape parade. They, Mr. Speaker, are international heroes.

GRANT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATEHOOD IN THE UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I began this series of remarks yesterday as the District prepares for Emancipation Day on April 16, when Lincoln freed the slaves in the District of Columbia before the national Emancipation Proclamation.

I began with the status of all the citizens of the District of Columbia today with "Taxation Without Representation," the slogan the Founders of our Nation and the Framers of our Constitution used to start the revolution that created the United States of America itself. With those taxes should come statehood.

But if there is any issue with greater command than taxation without representation for statehood for the District of Columbia, it is surely fighting and dying for one's country without representation, securing the vote for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, only to come home with no vote of

your own in the Congress that sent you to war, or not coming home at all.

D.C. residents fought and died in the war that created the United States of America itself, and have served in every war since, often suffering casualties well beyond those of fellow Americans, casualties that mounted in each of the major wars of the 20th century: World War I, more casualties than three States; World War II, more casualties than four States; the Korean war, by then more casualties than eight States; and the Vietnam war, more casualties than 10 States of the Union.

Not only have thousands fought and died without the vote, many served with unusual distinction and many in the segregated Armed Forces, although African Americans in the District were outnumbered by Whites until recent years. Yet the District produced the first African American Army general, Benjamin O. Davis; the first African American Air Force general, Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., a graduate of West Point and commander of the Tuskegee Army; Wesley Davis, the first African American Naval Academy graduate; Charles Vernon Bush, the first African American Air Force Academy graduate, and the roster continues today—today the first Deputy Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral Manson Brown, and the first female African American aviator, D.C. National Guard First Lieutenant Demetria Elosiebo.

Our country continues to deny District of Columbia citizens their basic rights at home.

Today, we ask that Congress draw the line on service in the Armed Forces. In the name of those who have fought or died in the Nation's wars, grant the citizens of the District of Columbia equal rights with other Americans. Grant the District of Columbia statehood in the Union.

A LETTER TO THE TURKISH PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. An open letter to the Turkish people:

Today, I write to you on an issue of great importance to both our nations. It is on a subject that many of you, especially the younger generation, may know little about because it concerns a chapter of world history that your government has expended enormous efforts to conceal.

Turkey has been at the center of human civilization from Neolithic times to the present, and your arts, culture, and science have enriched the world. But interwoven with all of Turkey's remarkable achievements is a dark chapter that too many of today's Turks know little or nothing about.

Were you aware that your grandparents and great-grandparents had

many Armenian neighbors and friends—that 20 percent of the population of today's Istanbul was Armenian? Did you know that the Armenians were well integrated into Turkish society as celebrated intellectuals, artists, craftsmen, and community leaders? Have you ever wondered what happened to the Armenians? Have you ever asked your parents and grandparents how such a large, industrious, and prosperous people largely vanished from your midst? Do you know why your government goes to such lengths to conceal this part of your history?

Let me tell you a part of their story. The rest you must find out for yourselves.

Ninety-nine years ago this month, in the dying years of the Ottoman Empire, the Young Turk government launched a campaign of deportation, expropriation, starvation, and murder against the empire's Armenian citizens.

□ 1015

Much of the Armenian population was forcibly removed to Syria, where many succumbed during brutal forced marches through the desert heat. Hundreds of thousands were massacred by Ottoman gendarmes, soldiers, and even their own neighbors.

By the time the slaughter ended in 1923, 1.5 million Armenians had been killed in what is now universally acknowledged as the first genocide of the 20th century. The survivors scattered throughout the Middle East and the wider world, with some making their way to the United States and to Los Angeles.

It is their grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom I represent as a Member of the U.S. Congress. There is a vibrant community, many tens of thousands strong, with schools, churches, and businesses providing a daily link to their ancestral homeland. It is on their behalf that I urge you to begin anew a national conversation in Turkey about the events of 1915–1923.

As a young man or woman in Turkey, you might ask: What has this to do with me? Am I to blame for a crime committed long before I was born?

I would say this: yours is the moral responsibility to acknowledge the truth and to seek a reconciliation with the Armenian people that your parents and their parents could or would not. It is an obligation you have inherited and is one from which you must not shrink; for though we cannot choose our own history, we decide what to do about it, and you will be the ones to shape Turkey's future.

At the end of World War II, Germany was a shattered nation—defeated in battle and exposed as history's greatest war criminal—but in the decades since the end of the war, Germany has engaged in a prolonged effort to reconcile with the Jewish people, who were nearly exterminated by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

The German Government has prosecuted war criminals, returned expropriated property, allied itself with Israel, and made countless apologies to the victims and to the world. Most importantly, Germany has worked to expunge the cancer of the dehumanizing bigotry and hatred that gave rise to the Holocaust.

This path of reflection, reconciliation, and repentance must be Turkey's path as well. It will not be easy. The questions will be painful and the answers difficult, sometimes unknowable.

One question stands out: How could a nation that ruled peaceably over a diverse, multicultural empire for centuries have turned on one of its own peoples with such ruthlessness that an entirely new word had to be invented to describe what took place? "Genocide."

As in Judaism and Christianity, the concept of repentance—or *tawba*—is central to Islam. Next year will mark a century since the beginning of the genocide, and Armenians around the world will mourn their dead, contemplate the enormity of their loss, and ask: Why?

Answer them, please, with words of repentance.

Sincerely, ADAM SCHIFF, Member of Congress.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE RYAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MAFFEI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition of the legislation H. Con. Res. 96, the budget proposed by the chairman of the Budget Committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN).

Unfortunately, this year's Ryan budget is more of the same recklessness and extreme partisanship that we have seen year after year from the House Republican leadership.

According to the Democrats on the House Budget Committee, under RYAN's plan, middle class families in my district in central New York will pay an average of \$2,000 more each year.

Once again, the Ryan budget ends the Medicare guarantee as we know it, and it would turn Medicare, instead, into a privatized voucher program and would shift health care costs to seniors.

It threatens to cut off critical investments in job creation and infrastructure, and it slashes education at a time when local school districts in central New York are already struggling to find the resources necessary to provide our children with the high-quality education that they deserve.

This is not a balanced approach, and it is not a responsible solution. People in central New York and across the

country need better. Congress must get serious about balancing the budget and about reducing the national debt and deficit, but not on the backs of our seniors and not on the backs of the middle class and certainly not on the backs of future generations of Americans.

At a time when many central New Yorkers are still struggling as the economy recovers, we simply cannot accept the irresponsible policies of the Ryan budget.

I call on my colleagues to reject the Ryan budget and to work together to create a bipartisan budget that gets our fiscal house in order and promotes economic growth, creates jobs, protects our seniors, and strengthens the middle class.

RECENT EVIDENCE OF INFLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take note of a recent scientific discovery, a result which, if confirmed and understood in its full theoretical context, has the potential to change the way we think about the beginnings of the universe.

Before coming to Congress, I was a high-energy particle physicist and a particle accelerator designer at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory for over 20 years. While I sometimes miss being back in the lab, I am very pleased when I have the opportunity to advocate in Congress for scientific research and development.

Twice in my life, I have had the privilege of participating in a fundamental breakthrough in science. The first was during my Ph.D. thesis work when we observed a subatomic process, known as proton decay—which was confidently predicted by many, if not most, of the theoretical physicists at the time—was, in fact, not happening.

The second time was at Fermilab, when I was part of the team that discovered the top quark, which is the heaviest known form of matter and, quite possibly, the heaviest subatomic particle that will ever be discovered—or not.

So like scientists around the world, my pulse quickened with the announcement that the first independent confirming evidence for cosmic inflation in the early universe had been discovered.

Humans have wondered about the origin of the universe for thousands of years. Now, thanks to a team of clever and hard-working scientists and of Federal investments in basic science, we appear to be an important step closer to understanding the birth of the universe.

Immediately following the big bang, which is the moment at which the universe burst into existence, scientists have hypothesized that the universe

underwent a period known as inflation. During inflation, which lasted for only a tiny fraction of a second, the universe expanded at an exponential rate.

Now, the BICEP2 team, which is a collaboration of 12 institutes, including universities, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Energy and NASA laboratories, has found direct evidence that appears to verify the theory of inflation.

They were able to study the very first moments of the universe at less than a trillionth of a trillionth of a trillionth of a second after the big bang, and they were able to obtain direct observational evidence of inflation, which, until now, has been mainly based on theoretical work.

To do this, the team constructed a telescope at the National Science Foundation's U.S. Antarctic Program's research station at the South Pole to observe the cosmic microwave background radiation, a faint glow left over from the big bang.

They observed a pattern in the cosmic background radiation that was consistent with being left over from inflation, giving us a glimpse of the universe over 13.7 billion years ago. They were able to detect this, in large part, because of recent advances in highly sensitive detector technology.

This project was primarily funded by the National Science Foundation, and it received generous support from NASA and from the Department of Energy, as well as from private industry, and it is an example of the importance of Federal funding for basic science research.

It is also an example of the interplay between technology and basic science and of how new technology will lead to even greater advances in basic science and vice versa.

Additionally, study after study has shown that there are few investments our government can make that provide as high a return on investment as scientific research and development.

Despite this, Federal investments in research and development are at an historic low, comprising merely 3.8 percent of the Federal budget—or 0.8 percent of the GDP.

In fact, over the last 3 years, Federal research and development expenditures have decreased by 16.3 percent, which is the steepest decline over a 3-year period since the end of the space race.

These results are an important reminder of the value of Federal investment in research and development. Without the proper investment in scientific research, we must expect fewer of these groundbreaking scientific discoveries, at least in the United States.

The greatest long-term threat that our country faces on both the military and economic fronts is the threat of losing our role as world leaders in innovation and in science and technology.

Nothing is more crucial to preserving that role than having adequate funding

for fundamental and applied scientific research. The recent advances in cosmology are just one of many examples of the breadth of intellectual capital and state-of-the-art technology that the U.S. currently possesses.

As Congress determines how to allocate funding for these agencies in the coming year, with many proposing budgets that will cripple future investments in education and research, I urge my colleagues to capitalize on these discoveries and ensure that we are investing enough in research, science, and education.

Because of Federal investments in science, we have just looked significantly farther into the early universe than anyone has done before. This not only tells us about the birth of the universe, but it also gives us insight into our fundamental understanding of the laws of physics.

This discovery by the BICEP2 team has been globally recognized as one of the most important fundamental breakthroughs in science in our lifetimes, a landmark of American academic achievement that will live on in the science textbooks forever.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET PROPOSAL UNDERMINES AMERICA'S FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday night, I introduced legislation to provide an extension of emergency unemployment benefits that would extend the important safety net of unemployment benefits, unemployment insurance to over 2 million Americans who lost their benefits on December 28 and thereafter as a result of the failure of this body to act to protect those benefits.

Many of us, particularly on the Democratic side—and I know some on the other side as well because they have expressed it—would have preferred that we had dealt with this question as we were dealing with the budget issues and the budget question that we faced at the end of last year, but we did not, so we are left now with the fact that we have some unfinished business.

On Monday evening, in a bipartisan fashion, the U.S. Senate enacted similar legislation. In fact, the bill that I introduced on Monday night was the precise language enacted on a bipartisan basis by the U.S. Senate.

Two million Americans are living right now with the fear of losing their homes, losing their cars, having their families split up because they don't have that basic need being met of a roof over a head and food on the table between their last jobs and their next jobs.

For typical workers in America, when they lose their jobs, it takes an

average of 37 weeks. I know, in my home State, it is probably longer before they find their next opportunities. In Michigan, once one loses one's job, one has got 20 weeks of unemployment insurance. What happens to one after that is what we are dealing with today.

The fact that people go from one week to the next not knowing if they are going to be able to keep their families together and keep roofs over their heads is something that this Congress can do something about if it chooses to.

I know there are Members of the Republican Conference who are anxious to see this enacted because several put together a letter to the Speaker, asking that this issue be brought up immediately, and that is what I hope my colleagues will do—bring extended unemployment compensation, unemployment insurance to the floor, so that we can protect those workers who are trying to get from their last jobs to their next jobs without starting a cycle of poverty that could last generations.

There are some who say we don't need this because, number one, workers who are on unemployment don't want to work. I suppose there may be an exception or a myth that we could conjure up about an individual who is receiving unemployment compensation who doesn't want to work, but for those of you who believe that, come to my district or, better yet, go to your home district.

Talk to people in the unemployment lines and ask them if they would trade their situations today for meaningful work. I assure you that the vast majority, if not all of the people in that situation, would trade, in a minute, their situations for a real job with a decent wage.

There are some also who say that we shouldn't do this because it is not an emergency, that these are supposed to be emergency benefits. As far as I can see, it is not only an emergency here in Washington, but if you are about to lose your house or if you are about to lose your car or if you don't have enough food on the table to feed your kids, for you, it is an emergency.

We represent those folks, and we ought to be thinking about them, and we ought to take this up.

So why is it that we need to do this in the first place? I think the Republicans and Democrats could agree that the economy is not growing at a rate to put all Americans back to work. We will acknowledge that. We will stipulate that, while there has been growth and while there has been private sector job creation, it is not enough.

We will probably disagree on the reasons behind that, but we can agree that the current economy is not enough to put these folks back to work. We should help them, but we should also do the things that it will take to get America back to work again.

Unfortunately, what we will deal with in the next couple of days is a budget that undermines economic growth, that undermines the kind of investments in the skills of our workforce by cutting job training, by cutting Pell grants, by cutting early childhood education—programs like Head Start—that actually change the trajectory for those individuals, that make them more capable and more able to get into the workforce in this competitive economy that we are in.

□ 1030

Rather than investing in our people, what this proposed Ryan budget would do is to cut those essential programs and not contribute to economic growth.

It also would cut important investments in infrastructure. Democrats and Republicans alike agree that we need to rebuild our infrastructure—our roads, our bridges, our rail systems, and our ports.

This budget takes us in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Congress can come together around this question and realize that if, in the short term, we are going to deal with the crisis that families are facing, we will pass an unemployment extension, and, in the long term, we take the kind of steps that we need to rebuild our economy.

The budget proposed by Mr. RYAN that will be coming to the floor will take us in the wrong direction.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Darius Pridgen, True Bethel Baptist Church, Buffalo, New York, offered the following prayer:

To the grand architect of the universe, who meticulously and purposefully placed each star and planet into a predestined position in the universe, the results of such methodical placement has caused tranquility in the universe in that Mars does not clash with Jupiter, Venus does not war with Saturn, and the Sun does not compete with the Moon.

As You have done in the universe, You have also done in this House of the

people. May those whom You have perfectly placed in these hallowed seats remember they, like the perfectly planned universe, have been placed here by You, not to clash, crash, and war, but to work together for the good of their constituents, the country, the world, and, indeed, the universe.

In the name of the God we serve, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTENGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DARIUS PRIDGEN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome Pastor Darius Pridgen to the House of Representatives today from the True Bethel Baptist Church in western New York.

Pastor Pridgen is well known and well respected in our community for his passionate and inspiring leadership. We could all benefit from adopting his style of cooperation and uniting people of different beliefs and ideologies.

His contributions to our region are many. In addition to being a role model, he works through creative ministry to create jobs, to care for those in need, and to influence good in his church and far beyond.

This is most notable by his expansion of True Bethel's reach from east Buffalo into the city of Niagara Falls. Pastor Pridgen is also a family man and encourages strong families. In addition to his ministry, Pastor Pridgen has served our Nation, as he is a veteran of the United States Air Force, and he currently serves as president of the Buffalo City Council.

Pastor Pridgen is the embodiment of Buffalo's reputation as the City of Good Neighbors, and I am honored to have him here today to represent our community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WILL GRIER

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Will Grier who, as quarterback of the Davidson Day School, led them to three consecutive championships.

Over his high school career, Will threw for 195 touchdowns, averaged 383 passing yards a game, and once threw 10 touchdown passes in a single game. For his exploits on the field, Will Grier was named Parade Magazine's 2014 All-America Player of the Year and was selected as America's top high school football player by Football USA.

He graduated from high school a semester early and is already attending classes at the University of Florida, where he will continue his football career.

While I congratulate Will for his football accomplishments, I also want to congratulate him for remaining focused off the field. At Davidson Day, he chose to be a positive role model, regularly spending time with younger students and always reading to the elementary classes.

Please join me in congratulating Davidson's and North Carolina's Will Grier for his accomplishments and for his commitment to serving others.

T.C. GILLESPIE

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend who departed this Earth last week, who I know is headed to glory because of the great things he did in Tarrant County for working men and women.

T.C. Gillespie, who was the president of the Tarrant County Central Labor Council, died after a long battle with lung disease.

T.C. was such a tireless advocate for men and women. Before he was president of the Central Labor Council, he was the treasurer and secretary of the Communications Workers of America.

T.C. just believed in people. He was someone who helped me very early on in my career, before I was in Congress. He helped so many people he believed would do the right thing for so many workers and for so many families in Tarrant County.

Even as I watched T.C. struggle in the last couple of years of his life, I

would say: T.C., you don't need to be here; you need to be home resting.

He was having such a hard time walking and breathing because of the lung issue that he was having, and he just wanted to be there for people he believed in.

I want to thank the family and friends he leaves behind. T.C. Gillespie was a dear friend and a great man to so many people in Tarrant County.

KELLIE HINSHAW

(Mrs. ELLMERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ELLMERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Mrs. Kellie Godwin Hinshaw, who fought and battled cancer until it took her body this week in Dunn, North Carolina. Her spirit will truly live on within all of us.

Kellie was a friend who inspired me in her strength to go forward even on the worst of days. She was a strong, loving, caring woman with an incredible sense of humor. She was a daughter, sister, wife, and mother of two beautiful boys, Kenneth and Kannon.

Kellie had adenoid cystic carcinoma, a rare form of cancer. Despite this terrible disease, Kellie and her family chose to use this as a platform to do good. Kellie's Krew successfully organized and grew a 5K race that has raised well over \$100,000 for adenoid cystic carcinoma research and has brought our whole community together.

Kellie taught our community that "vain" is a four-letter word and that beauty truly comes from within. She will be forever loved by her family, her community, and me.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the most important issue facing our country. Guess what? It has nothing to do with repealing ObamaCare. It is about jobs.

Instead of bringing the American Jobs Act to the floor, an act which would create nearly 2 million new jobs, my Republican colleagues remain obsessed with trying to repeal ObamaCare.

This may be the only job in America at which you can try to do something more than 50 times and still have a job. It is time to move on and pass a bill that will help to create jobs.

In my home State of Rhode Island and across the country, unemployment rates remain unacceptably high. It is time to stop rehashing old political battles and to move on to the issues that will help grow our economy and get people back to work.

The American Jobs Act will boost consumer demand and hiring by cutting taxes for struggling families and small businesses, and it will invest in infrastructure and education. It is fully paid for.

Why would my colleagues on the other side oppose a bill that independent analysts, including Moody's Analytics, say would create up to 1.9 million new jobs?

Madam Speaker, it is time to take up this legislation to get our economy back on track and to help Americans get back to work.

FIVE-TIME WINNERS

(Mr. DESJARLAIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituents who work at the Frito-Lay manufacturing facility in Fayetteville, Tennessee, for helping to win the C.E. Doolin Award for Operations Excellence for an unprecedented fifth time.

This annual nationwide award, named for Frito-Lay's cofounder, is the most prestigious award given by the company for operations and is a testament to the value we place on honest, hard work in Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District.

I have had an opportunity to meet and visit with numerous workers, and I always leave with an admiration for their sincere dedication to not only their jobs, but to the community in which they work. It is no wonder that Tennessee continues to attract some of the best businesses in the world, as we have some of the best workers in the world.

Congratulations to the outstanding, hard-working individuals who received this tremendous honor and who continue to make the great State of Tennessee proud.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, this morning, a productive meeting took place with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus with respect to the deportations going on in our Nation.

This issue is critical to my district of Orange County, which heartbreakingly accounts for 43 percent of the California ICE detainer requests on juveniles, which often lead to deportations. That is why I have advocated for comprehensive immigration reform, to ensure that no one is living in the shadow of fear.

As a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I will continue to urge the Department of Homeland Security to continue to keep in mind the harmful effects that these deportations have on our communities and the trauma they introduce into our families, into our young people, into our children.

As a CHC member, I join my colleagues as we continue to act for the inclusion of the voices of our community stakeholders, so that their stories are not neglected.

Madam Speaker, the time is now to vote on a comprehensive immigration reform package.

PAT TUTHILL—RONALD WILSON REAGAN PUBLIC POLICY AWARD

(Mr. SOUTHERLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Madam Speaker, this month of April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Pat Tuthill of Tallahassee, Florida, lost her 23-year-old daughter, Peyton, on February 24, 1999. Peyton was sexually assaulted and brutally murdered by a convicted criminal on unsupervised probation. Three months after her daughter's death and through her own pain, she was determined to get better, not bitter.

Ms. Tuthill quit her job and became a public speaker and an advocate for victims of violent crime. She has traveled the country, lobbying policymakers to support legislation that strengthens the monitoring and supervision of criminals on parole and probation.

Last year, Ms. Tuthill's dream became a reality with the implementation of the first National Automated Standardized Victim Notification system.

I had the honor of meeting with Ms. Tuthill this morning in my office in order to congratulate her on receiving the Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award in recognition of her efforts by the Department of Justice.

As a father of four daughters, I thank her for her tireless effort. I thank Ms. Tuthill for her courage and for her service to others. I can think of no one who is more deserving of this award.

VETERANS' JUSTICE

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, as we continue the long process of bringing our troops home from more than a decade of war, I want to recognize activists in my district and all across this country who are taking action to improve the lives of our returning heroes.

For many of these brave men and women, the invisible wounds of war

present unique challenges as they return to civilian life. Thousands of these veterans come into contact with our Nation's criminal justice system every year.

We owe our heroes a solemn debt of gratitude, and every American who has worn the uniform deserves the opportunity to thrive after his service is complete.

That is why I have signed on in support of H.R. 2187, the SALUTE Act, legislation that would allow for grant funding to support the establishment and the improvement of veterans' treatment courts for nonviolent offenders.

Activists in my district have already begun the process of establishing a veterans' justice track, and I commend them on their efforts.

It is time for us to recognize the sacrifice our servicemembers have made on behalf of this great Nation and to recommit ourselves to serving our heroes as they have served us.

□ 1215

THANK YOU, BEVERLY COLLEY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today, I appreciate the opportunity to recognize Beverly Colley, the administrative assistant for the Second District of South Carolina. She will be departing the Midlands office on Friday to serve as the town clerk of Blythewood, South Carolina, led by Mayor Mike Ross and a dynamic council.

Since joining the office in October 2004, Beverly has served the people of South Carolina's Second District with respect and diligence. Her genuine bright smile and desire to help those in need has significantly impacted the lives of those across the district, being the first person to welcome citizens to the office.

Beverly's dedicated staff work has made a difference, and I look forward to hearing of her success as she embarks on a new professional career. I wish Beverly; her son, Garin Carter; daughter, Malika Carter; and granddaughter, Rhyllie, all the best in the future.

I know that the people of Blythewood will continue to benefit from Beverly's extraordinary constituent service as she serves her hometown community.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Godspeed, Beverly.

EQUAL PAY

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, we know that when women succeed, America succeeds; but, unfortunately, our mothers, daughters, and sisters are not succeeding when women, on average, earn just 77 cents to every dollar that a man makes, and one in three women and their families are living on the brink of poverty.

Across the Nation, women are facing unprecedented economic insecurity. Pay inequity, combined with the lack of affordable child care or paid family leave, means women are burdened with an unfair disadvantage and struggle to support their families.

Pay discrimination means that African American women are expected to earn just 64 cents to every dollar earned by a White man, while Latinas earn just 54 cents.

Yesterday, I was proud to join President Obama and Lilly Ledbetter at the White House to mark Equal Pay Day. We witnessed the President sign two critical executive orders that will empower women to fight pay discrimination. It is a simple principle: equal pay for equal work.

I was disappointed that our Senate colleagues failed to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and address this situation. I urge them to reconsider addressing the injustice of paycheck discrimination.

MILITARY MENTAL WELLNESS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the timely issue of behavioral health in our military.

Currently, our soldiers undergo comprehensive medical and physical examinations during recruitment to ensure that they are fully fit and capable of performing their military duties; however, currently, no similar examination for mental health competency exists. This is a serious information gap as our military continues to address issues such as posttraumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and suicide.

Madam Speaker, the issue of military mental wellness should be on the mind of every Member of Congress—and not just when this issue is back in the news.

Prior to the Fort Hood shootings, I introduced H.R. 4305, the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers Act, which will institute a preliminary mental health assessment at the time recruits are first joining the military.

The bill, which was reported on today by the Pittsburgh Tribune Review, is not an end-all solution when it comes to addressing this issue, but it is an important step in tackling a well-established information gap in the realm of servicemember behavioral health.

I encourage Members to join in co-sponsoring H.R. 4305.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, this week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week; therefore, it is appropriate that we raise the awareness of survivors' challenges and the advocates who help rebuild their lives.

In the face of a victim's trauma, there are countless individuals across the Nation committed to making things right, such as the incredible staff at the Community Action Partnership of Madera County, which I represent.

As cochair of the Victims' Rights Caucus, I will have the honor tomorrow of presenting the Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy.

Programs operated by the Community Action Partnership have met all types of crime victims' needs and reduced the barriers that sometimes prevent victims from accessing services that are so important.

In addition, individuals like Darius Assemi and his family have shared time and treasure to construct the Marjaree Mason Center in Clovis, which is a 24-hour safe haven for women and children.

Each of us has a voice that can speak out against violence and listen to those who have suffered as a result of violence. We can all do our part—and we all should. Until the day when there are no more victims, we will all be with those who have suffered.

25TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING CONFERENCE

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in grateful recognition of the youth leaders who are taking action in their communities to make our world a better place and those who help them get involved.

This week, right here in our Nation's capital, thousands of students have gathered for the 25th Annual National Service-Learning Conference. Their time on the Hill will be used to visit with their elected officials and share how important service is to their district and our country, as well as the personal impact of service learning on their lives.

A group from my district will be led by Joan Liptrot, a tireless leader for positive change and a woman whose commitment to service learning and

societal advancement is without question. At this week's conference, she will be presented with the Service-Learning Practitioner Leadership Award, which recognizes those who have equipped young people to lead and serve, both through their direct work with youth and by nurturing other practitioners.

I have been proud to speak at this conference in the past and to work closely with Joan's Youth Action Council on projects that advance awareness and involvement among teens.

The work of people like Joan and countless young people around the country who are ready to make the world a better place is nothing short of commendable. I wish them the best at this week's conference, and I look forward to working with them in Pennsylvania's Eighth District.

RYAN BUDGET

(Mr. BARBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Ryan budget proposal, which would balance the budget on the backs of seniors, middle class families, and students. We must balance the budget, but this is the wrong way to do it.

The Ryan budget would destroy the Medicare guarantee for Arizona seniors I work for and for seniors across this great country. It would implement a voucher system and ask seniors and future retirees to pay more. Prescription drug costs would increase by nearly \$1,200 a year, and Medicare premiums would soar. This is just plain wrong, Madam Speaker.

I stand today against the reckless Ryan budget plan because it undermines the promises we have made to our seniors, it hurts middle class families, and it would slash funding for students who want to go to college. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with me in opposition to this irresponsible budget.

WORKING TO GET AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

(Mr. POMPEO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POMPEO. Madam Speaker, Kansans and Americans across the country are exhausted by a job market that is failing them. The most recent report in March showed absolutely no improvement in employment. In fact, for women, we saw an increase in unemployment.

Madam Speaker, the President's latest attempt to redefine the workweek from 40 hours to 29 has already proved detrimental to millions of Americans.

There are 7.2 million Americans working part-time for economic reasons. This will leave them with less money to take care of their families.

The President's policies have hit Kansans hard—things like identifying the lesser prairie-chicken as an endangered species or redefining navigable waterways such that puddles will come under EPA's control. These policies have hit pocketbooks, paychecks, and families.

House Republicans have advanced hundreds of solutions that will help get America back to work.

Madam Speaker, we are 5 years into this administration, and it is no longer anything but a joke to blame President Bush for these challenges in our economic workplace. We need the Senate and the President to join us in providing solutions so we can create freedom so Americans can get back to work.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, every American family has to live within its means. It is time for Washington to do the same.

The House Republican budget deals with our debts and builds an economy that rewards Americans who work hard and want to get ahead.

I support the conservative budget for three simple reasons: the plan balances the budget within 10 years, cuts wasteful government spending over 10 years by \$5.1 trillion, and pays down the national debt.

In addition, the Republican budget proposal grows the economy, repeals ObamaCare, strengthens Medicare, secures Social Security for the long term, simplifies the broken Tax Code, promotes American energy production, and enhances national and diplomatic security.

In contrast, President Obama's budget never balances, hikes taxes by \$1.8 trillion, and adds \$8.3 trillion more to the national debt of \$17.5 trillion.

My constituents know that we can't afford more of the same Big Government spending that has buried our economy and our country in debt.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the House Republican budget and getting our Nation's fiscal house in order.

BUDGETING FOR MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, budgets don't heal the sick or solve centuries-long medical challenges, but the programs budgets prioritize can.

In my district in Louisville, Kentucky, medical researchers at the University of Louisville and the Frazier Rehab Institute have made an incredible breakthrough. Thanks to an electronic implant that stimulates the spinal cord, four paralyzed men are now moving their legs on command. With continued therapy, they are confident they will walk again.

The Human Locomotor Research Center in Louisville is funded in part through investments made by the National Institutes of Health. More than 80 percent of NIH funding goes to the broader research community, fueling the innovation that makes breakthroughs like those in Louisville possible.

The Republican budget reduces the number of new NIH grants by 1,400, on top of hundreds of projects NIH has already had to turn down because of last year's reckless, across-the-board spending cuts.

Madam Speaker, when you see a man paralyzed for years lift his legs, you can't help but share in the enthusiasm for breaking boundaries we once thought impassible. But if we approve this Republican budget and these cuts, we extinguish that enthusiasm and the hopes of millions of families waiting for the next medical breakthrough.

□ 1230

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS FOR THEIR NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORIES

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, the State of Connecticut is bursting with Huskie pride this morning as the UConn men and the UConn women basketball teams did what was, I think, almost unimaginable: they both won a national championship.

It would be great to stand here today and talk about how the women accomplished a perfect season and beat a team that was undefeated until last night, or the men, who defied every pundit, every odds-maker, every NCAA know-it-all and again won the national championship against all odds.

But I want to really focus for a second on the fact that Geno Auriemma, his women's program over the years has almost a perfect graduation rate in terms of the women who have played in that program.

And Kevin Ollie has three dean's list players on the starting five. His all-star, Shabazz Napier, is going to graduate with a full degree. He is an amazing person, and I am glad the country got a chance to see him.

I want to conclude by reading his final comment that he said to the press the other night:

Basketball is second to me. I want them to be better people once they leave Storrs campus. If I did that, forget about the wins and losses, national championships, all that stuff, I think I've done my job.

Coach Ollie, Coach Auriemma, you have done your job. We are so proud of you.

Go, Huskies.

WOMEN DESERVE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge as a simple fact that women deserve equal pay for equal work. Same job, same experience, same pay. But that is not happening.

On the aggregate, women earn just 77 cents on the dollar. For African American women, it is only 64 cents, and for Latinas, it is a staggering 54 cents on the dollar for every dollar earned by white men, white non-Hispanic men doing the same job.

As we know, the consequences are great. These pay gaps translate into a loss for African American women of more than \$18,000 a year, and for Latinas, more than \$24,000 a year that they lose to this pay gap.

Families increasingly rely on women's wages to make ends meet. The pay gap is about our Nation's overall economy, and it is about women's retirement security.

The fact is that when women succeed, America succeeds, and it is time to address the pay and work-family balance disparities that affect women.

Some have said that the argument for equal pay for equal work is politics.

Well, Madam Speaker, it is not. It is about pay.

It is time for 25 courageous Republicans to step up and join 197 Democrats to end wage discrimination and give women what women have earned: equal pay for equal work.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 9, 2014 at 9:48 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment. H. Con. Res. 90.

Appointments:

International conferences.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

EXPATRIATE HEALTH COVERAGE CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4414) to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4414

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF EXPATRIATE HEALTH PLANS UNDER ACA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the provisions of (including any amendment made by) the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) and of title I and subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2011 (Public Law 111-152) shall not apply with respect to—

- (1) expatriate health plans;
- (2) employers with respect to any such plans for which such employers are acting as plan sponsors; or
- (3) expatriate health insurance issuers with respect to coverage offered by such issuers under such plans.

(b) MINIMUM ESSENTIAL COVERAGE AND ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER-SPONSORED PLAN.—For purposes of section 5000A(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and any other section of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that incorporates the definition of minimum essential coverage provided under such section 5000A(f) by reference, coverage under an expatriate health plan shall be deemed to be minimum essential coverage under an eligible employer-sponsored plan as defined in paragraph (2) of such section.

(c) QUALIFIED EXPATRIATES AND DEPENDENTS NOT UNITED STATES HEALTH RISK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 9010 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (26 U.S.C. 4001 note prec.), for calendar years after 2014, a qualified expatriate (and any dependent of such individual) enrolled in an expatriate health plan shall not be considered a United States health risk.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR 2014.—The fee under section 9010 of such Act for calendar year 2014 with respect to any expatriate health insurance issuer shall be the amount which

bears the same ratio to the fee amount determined by the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to such issuer under such section for such year (determined without regard to this paragraph) as—

(A) the amount of premiums taken into account under such section with respect to such issuer for such year, less the amount of premiums for expatriate health plans taken into account under such section with respect to such issuer for such year, bears to

(B) the amount of premiums taken into account under such section with respect to such issuer for such year.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EXPATRIATE HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUER.—The term “expatriate health insurance issuer” means a health insurance issuer that issues expatriate health plans.

(2) EXPATRIATE HEALTH PLAN.—The term “expatriate health plan” means a group health plan, health insurance coverage offered in connection with a group health plan, or health insurance coverage offered to a group of individuals described in paragraph (3)(B) (which may include dependents of such individuals) that meets each of the following standards:

(A) Substantially all of the primary enrollees in such plan or coverage are qualified expatriates, with respect to such plan or coverage. In applying the previous sentence, an individual shall not be taken into account as a primary enrollee if the individual is not a national of the United States and resides in the country of which the individual is a citizen.

(B) Substantially all of the benefits provided under the plan or coverage are not excepted benefits described in section 9832(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) The plan or coverage provides benefits for items and services, in excess of emergency care, furnished by health care providers—

(i) in the case of individuals described in paragraph (3)(A), in the country or countries in which the individual is present in connection with the individual’s employment, and such other country or countries as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor, may designate; or

(ii) in the case of individuals described in paragraph (3)(B), in the country or countries as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor, may designate.

(D) In the case of an expatriate health plan that is a group health plan offered by a plan sponsor that also offers a domestic group health plan, the plan sponsor reasonably believes that the benefits provided by the expatriate health plan are actuarially similar to, or better than, the benefits provided under a domestic group health plan offered by that plan sponsor.

(E) If the plan or coverage provides dependent coverage of children, the plan or coverage makes such dependent coverage available for adult children until the adult child turns 26 years of age, unless such individual is the child of a child receiving dependent coverage.

(F) The plan or coverage is issued by an expatriate health plan issuer, or administered by an administrator, that maintains, with respect to such plan or coverage—

(i) network provider agreements with health care providers that are outside of the United States; and

(ii) call centers in more than one country and accepts calls from customers in multiple languages.

(3) QUALIFIED EXPATRIATE.—The term “qualified expatriate” means any of the following individuals:

(A) WORKERS.—An individual who is a participant in a group health plan, who is a national of the United States, lawful permanent resident, or nonimmigrant for whom there is a good faith expectation by the plan sponsor of the plan that, in connection with the individual’s employment, the individual is abroad for a total of not less than 90 days during any period of 12 consecutive months of enrollment in the group health plan, or travels abroad on not less than 15 occasions during such a 12-month period.

(B) OTHER INDIVIDUALS ABROAD.—An individual, such as a student or religious missionary, who is abroad, and who is a member of a group determined appropriate by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor.

(4) DOMESTIC GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The term “domestic group health plan” means a group health plan that is offered in the United States and in which substantially all of the primary enrollees are not qualified expatriates, with respect to such plan, and substantially all of the benefits provided under the plan are not excepted benefits described in section 9832(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(5) ABROAD.—

(A) UNITED STATES NATIONALS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), for purposes of applying paragraph (3) to a national of the United States, the term “abroad” means outside the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of applying paragraph (3) to a national of the United States who resides in the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, or Guam, the term “abroad” means outside of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and such territory or possession.

(B) FOREIGN CITIZENS.—For purposes of applying paragraph (3) to an individual who is not a national of the United States, the term “abroad” means outside of the country of which that individual is a citizen.

(6) UNITED STATES.—The term “United States” means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Guam.

(7) MISCELLANEOUS TERMS.—

(A) GROUP HEALTH PLAN; HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE; HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUER; PLAN SPONSOR.—The terms “group health plan”, “health insurance coverage”, “health insurance issuer”, and “plan sponsor” have the meanings given those terms in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-91), except that in applying such terms under this section the term “health insurance issuer” includes a foreign corporation which is predominantly engaged in an insurance business and which would be subject to tax under subchapter L of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 if it were a domestic corporation.

(B) FOREIGN STATE; NATIONAL OF THE UNITED STATES; NONIMMIGRANT; RESIDE; LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT.—The terms “national of the United States”, and “non-immigrant” have the meaning given such terms in section 101(a) of the Immigration

and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)), the term "reside" means having a residence (within the meaning of such term in such section), and the term "lawful permanent resident" means an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as defined in such section).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I yield to my good friend, who helped coauthor this bill with me, I just have a brief statement.

The Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act is a result of close bipartisan collaboration and extensive discussions with the Obama administration.

I would like to thank Mr. CARNEY for his work on this important bill, along with our numerous bipartisan cosponsors, our original cosponsors.

The bottom line is that this is a jobs bill, one that has been carefully drafted to address the unique problems related to expat health insurance.

Madam Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY).

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, and thank him for his hard work on this very serious issue that affects both our States, Delaware and California.

Madam Speaker, in a State of 900,000 people, losing 500 jobs is a serious blow. That is how many jobs we will lose in my home State of Delaware if we don't pass this legislation on the floor today.

I am a strong supporter of the Affordable Care Act. So are a lot of people in my State. But no law is perfect, and in a law as important, as complicated, and as technical as the Affordable Care Act, there are bound to be a few things that needed to be fixed.

The Affordable Care Act was unintentionally written in a way that subjects U.S. expatriate health insurance plans to all the provisions of the ACA, which places a unique burden on these types of plans.

Expatriate health insurance plans offer high-end, robust coverage to people working outside their home country, giving them access to global net-

works of health care providers. Individuals on the plan could be foreign employees working here in America, Americans working abroad, or, for instance, a German working in France.

These employees can be NGO and foreign aid workers, pilots, cruise ship workers, and contractors sent to support our troops on deployment around the globe.

Expatriate plans ensure that these employees have worldwide access to quality health care while working outside their home country.

Several U.S. health insurance companies, Cigna, MetLife, Aetna, and United Health, offer expatriate health insurance plans. The employees who write those policies generally work here in the United States and make up several thousand U.S. jobs, including 500 in my State.

These insurance companies compete with foreign insurance companies that also sell expatriate health insurance plans. The issue is, these foreign plans don't have to comply with the Affordable Care Act.

Forcing U.S. expatriate insurance plans to comply with the Affordable Care Act gives their foreign competitors a distinct advantage. It makes plans written in the U.S. more expensive, which gives companies an incentive to purchase foreign-based plans instead.

As a result, it makes more sense for U.S. expatriate insurers to move their business overseas, resulting in a potential loss of a few thousand jobs. In Delaware, that is going to mean 500 jobs. In California, it is 700.

The good news is that we have bipartisan legislation here today that will level the playing field.

The Obama administration has already recognized that it is burdensome and unnecessary to require expatriate insurance plans to comply with the Affordable Care Act. In fact, the administration has provided temporary regulatory relief for expat plans from nearly every Affordable Care Act provision that has gone into effect so far.

The problem is this relief is only partial and only temporary. The administration can't make this relief permanent without a legislative fix.

Our legislation clarifies that the Affordable Care Act does not apply to expatriate health insurance plans. It ensures that American expatriate insurance carriers are on a level playing field with their foreign competitors, so that American jobs stay here in America.

You may hear on the floor today that this bill is about destroying the ACA, or changing our immigration laws, or giving a handout to insurance companies.

But let me assure you, that is not what it is about. It is about jobs, pure and simple.

If we don't pass this legislation today, people who have the expatriate

plans, and their companies that offer them, will continue to do so, the same as they are today. The only difference is that the companies will buy these plans from insurance carriers that write the plans from abroad.

That means those insurance jobs will go to foreign workers instead of workers in America. They will go to workers based in Singapore instead of those based in Delaware.

I understand as well as anyone that the Affordable Care Act is a political weapon in a larger political war on both sides of the aisle. But that is not what this bill is about today.

All I am asking today is that we take action so 500 hardworking Americans in my district don't become collateral damage in this partisan political fight. Let's call a temporary truce in that battle today to protect these jobs.

I thank Congressman NUNES and Ways and Means staff for their hard work on these issues, and I want to thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle for recognizing this as a serious problem that needs to be fixed.

I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4414.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Republicans have branded this bill as clarification. But what demands clarification is the cold, hard fact that this legislation is a bailout for insurance companies.

This has never had a hearing in the House. It has never been discussed. We have never had witnesses. No regular order whatsoever. This appeared out of nowhere.

This bill, pure and simple, is a case of Republicans seeking special treatment for certain insurance companies who would like nothing more than to avoid the responsibilities under the law and sell inferior insurance policies to Americans and foreign workers and their families in the United States, which is exactly why the American people are fortunate to have the ACA as the law of the land.

It is currently protecting them from these kinds of intolerable insurance company practices.

Republicans have focused on coming out against bailouts for insurance companies in several other ACA contexts, but it is all sound and fury because it means nothing.

With this legislation, however, Republicans want a bailout for a few insurance companies that sell so-called expatriate coverage. But why should this situation be any different?

Why do the Republicans get to pick and choose?

As the Republicans are now in the business of picking and choosing winners in this case, the losers are going to be the patients.

Republicans claim this bill is a simple fix intended to clarify the ACA

when it comes to expatriate coverage, and perhaps there is a need for that. Perhaps there is a need. We might have found it out if we had had one hearing.

The current guidance defines individuals under expat plans as those who are out of the country for at least 6 months during the year. The theory is that the people are gone more than they are here.

But this bill overrides current regulations and ignores the comments given by the administration to define a covered individual, and it does it and says, you are an expat if you are out of the country for as few as 90 days, or 15 trips.

Now, I don't know how many people in Seattle make 15 trips out of the country in a year when they are working for Boeing or working for Microsoft or all the international companies. I have got those people in my district.

This means that to serve people who move across the border daily, or frequent fliers for work, they would be exempt from the enrollees who are gone for only a few weeks.

In addition, the legislation says that all foreigners who are living and working in the United States but are outside their own country for 90 days or 15 trips can also be covered by these plans.

As a result, the provisions of this bill would severely undermine current H1B visa requirements that level the playing field with American workers. If you are bringing people in from the outside and they go home, or they are gone for only 90 days, well, you can somehow pay them less.

This legislation will open the door for U.S. employers who wish to avoid the ACA to hire foreign workers rather than American citizens. That is why the United Farm Workers are against this bill.

The United Farm Workers do a pretty good job of clarifying this bill when they say "Congress should not pass laws that create an economic incentive to hire guest workers over professional U.S. agricultural workers."

The AFL-CIO is against this bill because it would undermine the health security of 13 million green card holders, people with work visas, and individuals who are granted visas for humanitarian reasons.

□ 1245

The National Immigration Law Center is against this bill because it eliminates minimum essential standards for "expatriate health insurance plans provided to individuals who travel abroad." As a result, this bill would deny health coverage security for low-wage immigrant workers, including farm workers and caregivers.

This bill contains too many loopholes that amount to an extraordinary bailout for insurance companies. This bill also establishes a precedent for em-

ployers to hire guest workers. It is being brought here as a suspension bill with no opportunity to amend it. It might be that we could make it a better bill if it had been through the process, but it is being rammed through here by insurance companies who want to get a benefit.

This bill is yet another attempt on the part of the Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They want to drill another hole in the bottom of the bill. They are going to keep drilling holes—trying—this is number 53.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, just to clarify the RECORD here, this has been worked on in a bipartisan way, including the two Senators from Delaware and a Senator from New Jersey, who happen to be Democrats.

A lot of the language that was in here was worked out so that, in fact, this could not only gather bipartisan support in the House, but also quickly pass in the Senate because, as my colleague from Delaware pointed out, if this doesn't pass and doesn't pass quickly, these jobs are going to leave overseas. That is why this is just a clarification.

At this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), my good friend and former Dairy Caucus cochair.

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am a strong ACA supporter. We have got to improve it. We have got to make it work, and that is the reason why I am supporting this legislation.

Some efforts that are brought to the floor about the ACA are about unraveling it, but those of us who are the strong supporters—when an issue is identified that can help jobs and make some improvements, we have the responsibility, in my view, Madam Speaker, to advocate for those changes.

We have the Member from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY), a strong supporter of the ACA, who has identified a specific problem, and I understand the concerns of the opponents because many efforts are being made to unravel the law, but there has been an acknowledgement that there is a problem, and that is what is being addressed by Mr. CARNEY.

If the language is not as good as it should be—and part of that may be because we didn't have as much time to consider it—we have strong allies in the Senate. Senator CARPER and Senator COONS are both very strong ACA supporters who are willing to make the adjustments over there, not to mention the majority leader, Senator REID.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. NUNES. I yield to the gentleman from Vermont an additional 1 minute.

Mr. WELCH. So this is not perfect; but we have got a situation here where it is acknowledged by both sides, the

opponents of this bill and the proponents of this bill, that there is an issue because of the language in the ACA bill.

If this Congress were working the way, ideally, it would, when there is a problem that we could identify, we would come up with a specific solution.

If we had more time, it might be better language, but the fact that we would act here to keep this alive, give some hope to those folks that Mr. CARNEY is concerned about whose jobs are at stake, and then work with our colleagues in the Senate to make whatever improvements can be made, we could maintain the strength of the Affordable Care Act; preserve the jobs that may be lost in Delaware, California, and elsewhere; and demonstrate some flexibility to make all our legislation that, by definition, is imperfect better.

That can be done on a bipartisan basis.

I thank the gentleman from Delaware, and I thank my colleague from California.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, I want to say to my friend from Vermont, a member of my committee, that this is not the way to pass laws. This is not the way to correct problems. Problems should be worked out through narrow fixes in a public setting.

This is a bill for an insurance company that is threatening to fire people in Delaware and a little small part of California, so that insurance company is saying: well, we are going to fire these people unless you correct our problem.

The Republicans will not correct their problem. They want to put a big hole in the Affordable Care Act. Well, you can believe the Senate may fix it, but the suspension calendar should not be used for bills that have never been considered in an open hearing and that cannot be amended on the floor of the House.

This bill goes far beyond a narrow, sensible fix. It says that Americans who are out of this country for a matter of weeks can be sold policies with harsh annual limits on their coverage, no minimum quality standards, and it says the families of these Americans—who may not even be overseas, but be living here—will get a plan that would be of lower quality than other Americans, even though they live here 365 days of the year.

This bill's supporters say these expatriate plans are of very high quality, but the insurers and Republicans refuse to accept a bill that subjects the plan even to the most basic standards of quality and affordability.

Why? There is no reason for that, except that they want the ACA to be in

competition with plans that are of lower quality. This raises real concerns.

Worse yet, this bill goes far beyond its stated goal of addressing coverage for Americans who live overseas. It is not that narrow. It creates a whole new second class health insurance system for foreign workers and legal permanent residents.

These individuals currently have access to ACA-compliant plans, putting them on an even footing with U.S. workers. It would undercut current law. It would weaken the rights of immigrants and foreign workers. It would create powerful incentives for employers to hire foreign workers instead of U.S. workers.

So this bill isn't about a narrow thing to fix some possible unemployment in these two States. That is why this bill is opposed by organized labor. It is opposed by immigrant advocacy organizations.

There were long negotiations in back rooms between Republicans, Democrats, the administration, and the insurance companies, but there was no agreement on this bill. No one would compromise, and that is disappointing. It is mainly because of the intransigence of one insurance company and the Republican leadership.

We should not advance a deeply flawed bill because an insurance company is making threats. We shouldn't advance a deeply flawed bill with the expectation that somebody else is going to solve the problem. That is why we are here in this House, to make sure the legislation is as good as it can possibly be.

If all parties are ready to act in good faith, they should go back to the negotiating table and solve the narrow problem that we can agree on, rather than opening a troublesome loophole in the ACA.

Mr. NUNES. I reserve the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, let me first acknowledge the work that has been done by so many of our colleagues here bipartisanly, the gentleman from Delaware, the gentleman from California, the committees of jurisdiction, and leadership, I suspect, on both sides of the aisle. I, too, have been involved in trying to deal with this.

If you take a look at the title of the bill, it tells you what they are trying to do. The bill is called the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act, so the bill tells us that it is to deal with the issue of expatriates.

Well, who are expatriates, and how are they impacted by the Affordable Care Act?

An expatriate, I think most of us would acknowledge, is an American

who is told by his or her employer, we need to send you abroad to go work—whatever the task is—but I need you to go; so that expatriate, now living abroad, will be told that he or she must have an insurance policy that abides by the Affordable Care Act's protections for Americans who get health care here.

The insurers will say: well, we may have to deal with different standards in that other country, so give us some flexibility.

That is very fair. We should make sure that any company that has to send a worker abroad has the flexibility to make sure that they are providing good coverage, but that they are not strapped by the regulations that apply to coverage here in the U.S. Everyone agrees with that.

Here is the problem: this bill doesn't do that. It doesn't do that, and I say that with all due respect to my colleague from Delaware. It doesn't do that.

Let me ask you this: Is someone who works in this country 365 days of the year someone who we would consider an expatriate? Is an American who spends most of his time—three-quarters of his time working in the U.S. an expatriate?

Should the family of that American who goes abroad, but the family never leaves the U.S., be denied the protections of the Affordable Care Act, so that a preexisting condition can now be used to discriminate against the child of that American worker?

That is the difficulty with this bill. This bill talks about expatriates, but the reality is a lot of Americans who never leave this country and a lot of foreign workers, including green card holders who are on their way to becoming citizens, who have every lawful right to be here because they have gone about it the right way, they are just waiting their time so they can qualify to become U.S. citizens—many of them could be denied the protections that we all now have.

We cannot be discriminated against based on a preexisting condition. We must be provided minimal protections. We have a right, now, to make sure that an insurance company doesn't use what we are paying in premiums to put in the pockets of executives and big salaries. That money has to now be spent, by law, on health care coverage.

This bill would say no, those who are expatriates would qualify for different plans that don't have to meet those Affordable Care standards.

Why should more than 13 million people who are in this country legally and are on their way to becoming U.S. citizens—who today have the same protections you and I have to not be discriminated against for preexisting conditions—because this bill that is supposed to be for expatriates, now be told no, you might be offered a policy that

doesn't have to meet the Affordable Care standards?

Why should an American family that sees one of its breadwinners, father or mother, be sent abroad to work for 90 days be told no, we no longer have to offer you an Affordable Care health care policy that prevents discrimination against your child because he or she has asthma?

If this were a bill to focus on the issue of expatriates who go work abroad, where I think it is a legitimate concern of the insurance company to not impose upon the insurance company costs that are beyond what are paid here, I would agree that this goes well beyond that, and I would urge my colleagues to think twice before voting for this bill this way.

Mr. NUNES. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I will yield myself the balance of my time to close, having no further requests for time.

I have been an expat. I was in the State Department. The State Department sent me overseas. I lived over there. I came home 1 month a year. I would leave. The rest of the time, I was an expat. That is pretty clearly an expat.

My daughter teaches at the King's Academy in Amman, Jordan. She is an expat. She lives over there. She comes home in the summertime for a month or so. She is an expat. Everybody understands that.

What this bill says is, if you live in Seattle and you make 15 trips a year out of the country, then you are an expat, or you could be considered an expat. Now, that is not exactly what I think most people think of when they think of an expat—or somebody who works as a contractor.

Suppose you work for the Federal Government for 3 months overseas. Are you an expat? According to this, you are. You can easily be put in that category and not be offered the protections. That means you don't have any protections around the issues of preexisting conditions. You can't necessarily put your kids on your insurance up until age 26.

Your lifetime limits, all of the things that are built into the Affordable Care Act, the insurance companies now can say: we don't have to offer that to you because you are out of the country 15 times a year, or you have worked overseas for 90 days.

As Mr. WAXMAN said, you are creating a second class of citizen in this country, and Mr. BECERRA raised the issue on the reverse side. People who come from other countries are expats, right, because they came from somewhere else, so they can be put into a plan that does not give them the protections of the ACA.

□ 1300

That is not what I think my friend from Delaware or my friend from California really wanted to do. What is missing here is that we did a backroom deal. We had Members of Congress sit in a back room somewhere with somebody from the White House, talk about something and decide something, and here it is, *fait accompli*, no chance to change it, no chance to make it better or make it closer to what people really thought.

And most interestingly for Republicans is you are sending a bill to the House and expecting that the Senate is going to fix it. Now, our experience here on the floor and in the Congress the last few months, expecting the Senate to do something is, well, it is probably—it is not like wishing for the tooth fairy, but it is certainly putting your trust in a rather weak situation. The House sent over—what?—500 bills in the last session and got 12 or 15 back? And you are saying that this one is going to be fixed? I doubt it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE,
COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES,

Washington, DC, April 8, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to oppose the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act which is scheduled for a vote tomorrow. While the bill may be intended to address concerns of health plans covering those who work part of the year outside the United States, the reach of the bill is much greater.

The bill's definition of expatriate workers include 13 million individuals who are lawful permanent residents, people with work visas and individuals who were granted visas for humanitarian reasons. The bill exempts employers and insurance plans from meeting Affordable Care Act (ACA) coverage standards for these millions of people living and working in the United States. Instead, the bill would allow these employers to use their own judgment in determining whether coverage is adequate.

This bill does much more than simply clarify a technical matter of the ACA. It defines a large group of people who will be treated differently by the ACA and afforded weaker protections than others. The bill undermines the premise that all families are entitled to a minimum standard of coverage and could lead to erosion in standards for other groups and eventually all families.

We urge you to oppose the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act.

Sincerely,

CHARLES M. LOVELESS,
Director, Federal Government Affairs.

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER,
April 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER PELOSI: We urge you to oppose H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act. Although intended to address

the concerns of health plan issuers serving expatriate workers, the bill's impact would be much larger and deny important plan protections for millions of low-wage immigrants and nonimmigrant workers in the U.S.

H.R. 4414 would eliminate the Affordable Care Act's (ACA)'s minimum essential standards for "expatriate health insurance plans" provided to individuals who travel "abroad." The bill defines an "expatriate" as anyone who travels "abroad" for 90 days or more in the course of 12 months, or who takes 15 or more trips "abroad" over 12 months. This overly broad definition would include lawfully present, foreign-born workers living and working in the U.S., including lawful permanent residents (LPRs or green card holders), individuals with work visas for more highly skilled work, and dozens of other nonimmigrant categories. Also, the definition of "abroad" in the legislation captures lawfully present noncitizens who are living and working in the U.S.—or any country outside of their native country—for this same time period. These definitions are so broad that it leaves the bill vulnerable to legal challenges.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is addressing the expatriate insurance issue and has issued proposed regulations (79 FR 15808) that would relax the onerous administrative burdens imposed by the ACA on expatriate insurance issuers. In contrast to H.R. 4414's overly broad definition of "expatriate," HHS has proposed a more common sense definition which requires workers to be abroad for at least 6 months out of the year.

H.R. 4414 would have an unintentional, disastrous impact on low-wage immigrant workers, including farm workers and caregivers. We urge you to oppose the bill, and we look forward to working with members of Congress to close its loopholes and find workable solutions.

Sincerely,

MARIELENA HINCAPIÉ,
Executive Director.

UNITED FARM WORKERS,
Keene, CA, April 8, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The United Farm Workers opposes legislation introduced by Congressman Carney and Congressman Nunes, the stated purpose of which is "To clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees and for other purposes."

While the purpose appears to be to clarify the situation of expatriate workers who are working for U.S. corporations abroad, and who are covered under a different health care plan than the corporation's U.S. workers, the definition of qualified expatriate workers is over-broad and would extend to guest workers, and possibly legal permanent residents, working in the United States.

The legislation as drafted would have the effect of allowing agricultural employers in the United States who hire so-called guest workers to escape the ACA requirements that would apply to professional farm workers currently living in the United States, thus making it cheaper to employ a guest worker than to employ a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

The position of the UFW is, and always has been, equal pay and benefits for equal work. If two workers are working side by side in a field, and one is an H-2A (or other "guest") worker and the other is a worker with US citizenship or Legal Permanent Resident status, then both should be entitled to enroll in

the same health care plan. One worker should not receive fewer health care benefits than the other.

Congress should not pass laws that create an economic incentive to prefer H-2A or other types of "guest" workers over professional US workers already working in agriculture.

Please vote NO on the "Carney-Nunes" health care legislation.

Sincerely,

GIEV KASHKOOLII,
Political/Legislative Director,
National Vice President.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL OR-
GANIZATIONS,

Washington, DC, April 8, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I urge you to vote against the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act. The bill is intended to make adjustments to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to address the concerns of health plans serving expatriate workers and to retain American jobs, but we are concerned it could create serious gaps in important benefit protections for lawful permanent residents (green card holders) and people with nonimmigrant visas living and working in the United States.

As you know, this bill is intended to accommodate health plans serving workers who perform their jobs in multiple countries. It is reasonable that some flexibility be granted to these health plans to ensure that compliance with the insurance laws of more than one country does not create unreasonable inefficiencies and new costs.

Unfortunately, the bill could undermine benefit protections for 13 million green card holders, people with work visas, and individuals who were granted visas for humanitarian reasons. The bill exempts employers and insurers from abiding by ACA insurance coverage standards for these workers, allowing them to employ their own judgment in determining if coverage is adequate. Provisions to limit the exemption to plans solely-focused on covering expatriate workers are inadequate.

The primary goals of the Affordable Care Act include making major advances toward universal coverage and providing new guarantees of benefit coverage standards. We look forward to working with you to find ways of adjusting the ACA in a manner which preserves the insurance protections it offers to working families.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
Director,
Government Affairs Department.

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, On behalf of SEIU, I write to ask you to vote against the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act. While the legislation aims to address the treatment of plans that cover, expatriate workers under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the legislation as drafted could result in insufficient coverage for lawful permanent residents and those with non-immigrant visas working and living in the United States.

For those plans that truly serve workers who perform jobs in multiple countries, certain accommodations under the law may be appropriate but this legislation is overly broad. The current legislative language allows for employers and insurers to offer coverage that does not include vital ACA protections to millions of lawful permanent

residents and non-immigrant visa holders—individuals and families that would not normally be defined as expatriate workers.

Some of the most popular provisions of the ACA are the consumer protections the law creates, including the end to discriminatory practices by insurers. We want to guarantee that as many people as possible benefit from these important provisions. Unfortunately, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act is not narrowly tailored to ensure that is the case.

If you have any questions, please contact Ilene Stein, Assistant Legislative Director.

Sincerely,

STEPH SERLING,
Legislative Director.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, sometimes in this body and with the Senate we can sit down for the common good of the American people. Sometimes we can sit down with Democrats and Republicans working together not only in the House but also in the Senate. And also, sometimes, Mr. Speaker, the arguments that are made on the floor are so ridiculous that they don't deserve a response.

I am going to submit for the RECORD a letter from American Benefits Council.

AMERICAN BENEFITS COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, April 8, 2014.

Re Support for H.R. 4414—Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act

HON. JOHN BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND LEADER PELOSI: I write on behalf of the American Benefits Council ("Council") to express support for H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014 ("Act"). The Act provides important clarification regarding application of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to health coverage that is provided to globally mobile employees. These are issues of significant concern to multinational employers, their employees and families.

The Council is a public policy organization representing principally Fortune 500 companies and other organizations that assist employers of all sizes in providing employee benefits. Collectively, our members either sponsor directly or provide services to health and retirement plans that cover more than 100 million Americans both within the United States and abroad.

Most of our member companies sponsor health coverage for a workforce that includes globally mobile employees. Council members rely on expatriate health plans to provide benefits that meet the unique needs of this employee population and their families. Multinational employers value expatriate health plans for many reasons, including the role they play in recruiting and retaining a productive globally mobile workforce by ensuring coverage of their employees' and families' health care needs while abroad.

The ACA was intended to reform the U.S. health care system. Its application to expatriate health plans and to the employer sponsors and people covered by such plans, has created compliance uncertainty with respect to the law's individual and employer mandates and certain other health plan re-

quirements. Although some of these matters have been addressed in transition guidance issued by the agencies, the guidance is temporary and does not fully address the outstanding concerns.

H.R. 4414 provides needed statutory clarification with respect to the application of the ACA to expatriate health plans and the employers, employees and family members that rely on such plans to meet the health benefits needs of a globally mobile workforce.

We appreciate your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. KLEIN,
President.

Mr. NUNES. I will also submit a letter from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, also in support of this clarification.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports H.R. 4414, "The Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014," to preserve the ability of our country's businesses to provide, and our citizens to obtain appropriate health care coverage as they conduct business and live overseas. This important bill protects the ability of American companies to provide and workers to obtain coverage abroad that have historically been offered and valued.

The PPACA was designed to improve access to coverage and health care services for people in the United States and to strengthen this nation's health care system. Whether it will accomplish these goals remains to be seen. However, it was certainly not intended and must not be misconstrued to disadvantage American companies either operating or employing individuals in other countries or selling products abroad. It is important to ensure that this unintended consequence does not occur. This bill would protect the coverage and opportunities of American workers, American employers, and American products abroad. Congress must pass this bill to explicitly exempt expatriate plans from the myriad of PPACA requirements.

Applying these new mandates to international plans would not only be extremely difficult and complex from an operations standpoint due to the global nature of this type of coverage but would also be bad policy. They would place American businesses and expatriate American employees at a disadvantage in the global marketplace. Requiring American companies that operate around the globe and their foreign-based employees to buy more costly coverage would unfairly benefit foreign competitors and foreign employees. Such PPACA-compliant expatriate plans are not likely to be cost-competitive. In many instances, they may not provide global coverage and would in fact not comply with applicable local laws. Because of conflicting requirements between these new mandates and the laws of other countries, an employer may also have to purchase multiple policies with overlapping coverage or risk noncompliance with one or more nations' laws. Congress must protect

the ability of American companies and their expatriates to purchase and offer appropriate and valued plans that have long been part of how our country operates in the global marketplace.

U.S. jobs are at stake. If this legislation does not get enacted, American jobs associated with writing, servicing and administering these plans will be shipped overseas.

The Chamber continues to champion health care reform that builds on and reinforces the employer-sponsored system while improving access to affordable, quality coverage. The Chamber urges you and your colleagues to support H.R. 2575, and may consider including votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

Mr. NUNES. I will also submit a rebuttal argument for the RECORD so that people can really get to the bottom of this legislation.

I want to address some of the misperceptions and concerns that have been raised about this bill.

First, this bill has nothing to do with what type of plan insurers can write and sell to expatriates. The question is where they are going to write these same plans. Here in the United States, or overseas. The same companies are going to purchase the same plans regardless of whether this bill passes. The only question is whether or not the U.S. jobs associated with these plans will be saved.

Next, the bill does not allow U.S. employers to escape the ACA and offer substandard plans. These plans are incredibly generous by their very nature. They offer coverage in multiple countries and administration of plans that include multiple currencies, languages, and coverage mandates.

But let me quote from the legislation itself. Page 6, lines 1–6, "the plan sponsor [must] reasonably believe that the benefits provided by the expatriate health plan are actuarially similar to, or better than, the benefits provided under a domestic group health plan offered by that plan sponsor."

Mr. Speaker, the legislation requires that the expatriate health plan be as good as the domestic health plan that is covered by the ACA. Any suggestion otherwise does not reflect what the legislation clearly states.

There is an employer mandate in the ACA. Employers are required to offer a domestic plan. If they don't, they are fined \$2,000 per employee. Employers aren't going to drop their current plan for their U.S. employees, pay the \$2,000 penalty for every employee on their payroll, just so they can offer their subset of green card employees a substandard plan. That is a completely unrealistic scenario.

This bill does not allow, as has been suggested, nonimmigrant farm workers to be offered substandard plans. Under the scenario envisioned by opponents of this bill, a farmer would have to drop his or her own plan and that of its U.S. workers to be allowed to offer an expat plan that somehow is less than the ACA standard. Who is going to do that? That's cutting off your nose to spite your face. But even if they were crazy enough to do that—the expat plan would still have to provide coverage in countries outside of the United States—they couldn't save money by doing

this—it would likely cost the farmer more money to provide this type of plan.

Mr. Speaker, the ACA is a complicated piece of legislation, but this bill is not. This bill will allow the jobs to stay in the United States—and nothing else. This bill does not legally or practically make changes beyond this narrow scope which is why there is such strong bipartisan support.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative CARNEY for proposing fixes to the Affordable Care Act. Since the law was passed, I have said that parts of the Affordable Care Act need to be improved or changed. As Representative CARNEY has identified, there is no question that Congress needs to clarify how the law is applied to expatriate plans. The Administration has correctly exempted these plans from some ACA requirements that do not make sense for plans used primarily overseas, but the Administration is only able to provide temporary exemptions without congressional action. I am confident that the Senate will be able to make the needed targeted changes to H.R. 4414 so that it can pass both houses of Congress and gain the support of the Administration. I look forward to working with Representative CARNEY to make sure that legislation providing proper clarity to expatriate plans is signed in to law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4414.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 544 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 96.

Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1304

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budg-

etary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, with Mr. HASTINGS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 60 minutes of debate remained on the concurrent resolution.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each have 30 minutes remaining.

Who yields time?

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Well, here we are, Mr. Chairman, resuming the debate we left off yesterday. Let me try and give a summary of what this is all about.

This is all about getting our fiscal house in order. This is all about prioritizing hardworking taxpayer dollars. This is all about doing in our generation what we need to do to make sure that the next generation has a secure future and a debt-free future. So that is why we are bringing a budget to the floor, that is why we are making those difficult decisions, and that is why we are advocating for these important reforms.

In much of the 20th century, a lot of programs were created, and a lot of laudable goals were established. But now in the 21st century, I think we have learned a thing or two about how we can better accomplish and achieve some of these goals such as health and retirement security, because the way these programs were designed nearly a generation ago, they are now going into bankruptcy in this generation.

If we allow that to happen, then we will pull out from underneath those who depend on these programs for their health and retirement security, we will renege on that social contract. More to the point, we are going to do damage to our economy if we keep this deficit and debt going on its current course.

We asked the Congressional Budget Office to take a look at the kind of deficit and debt reduction that we are proposing and tell us over the long period, over the course of this budget, what does that do for America and for our economy? And they tell us that getting your economic and fiscal house in order, reducing the deficit and balancing the budget so that you can begin paying off the debt is good for economic growth. In fact, it will increase economic output by 1.8 percentage points. That is actually a lot.

What does that mean to every person in America? About \$1,100 in more take-home pay and in higher income because we did our jobs here. But, more importantly, what it means for the next generation is, instead of sending our bills to them to work hard, to pay their taxes to pay off our bills and then they have to start working for themselves, we are going to give them a better future. Because we know right now—the

CBO tells us as much—they are going to inherit a diminished future. That is point number one.

Point number two is that we have got to stop spending money we don't have. We will hear all of these arguments about the draconian cuts and the slashing and all of this. These are the same arguments we have heard time and again. And when those arguments have prevailed, they have brought us to where we are today: extraordinarily high deficits, deficits going back to \$1 trillion by the end of this budget period, and a debt that is about to take off. If we don't get this under control, then we will not have the kind of economy that the people of this country deserve.

We don't want Washington to stand in the way of people's success. We want Washington to play its rightful supporting role so that people can become successful. We believe in a system of natural rights and equality of opportunity so people can make the most of their lives. We don't believe in a system where government thinks that they must take this commanding role within the middle of people's lives that ends up bankrupting this country, diminishing the future, and lowering economic growth and prosperity. There is a big difference in approaches. We want to tackle these challenges.

What I also want to say is that we have an important obligation to secure this country and protect our national defense. America, like it or not, is the superpower nation in the world and a duty that falls upon us to take that responsibility seriously. With that responsibility also comes the ability to chart our own course in the world, to help preserve the peace, and to help pave the way for prosperity so that we can have economic opportunity and so that we can advance our views and our values and the protection of individual and human rights and democracy.

These things are good for America. A strong America and a strong military helps make for a peaceful America and a prosperous America.

So we need to take the needed reforms to make sure that these critical retirement programs are there, not only intact for people in and near retirement, but there for those of us who are younger when we hope to retire. We need to get our spending under control so we can balance our budget and pay off our debt. We need to enact pro-growth economic reform like tax reform and economic development to create jobs today.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself an additional 15 seconds.

At the end of the day, instead of growing government spending at 5.2 percent, which is the trend, we are proposing to grow it at 3.5 percent over the next 10 years. Hardly draconian.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Some things do not improve with age. We are here one day later, and this Republican budget is just as bad for the country today as it was yesterday.

Our Republican colleagues are going to have to choose: either you claim your budget balances or you fess up to the American people that you are keeping big parts of the Affordable Care Act, because you can't do both. As we talked yesterday, the House Republican budget only reaches their claim of balance in 10 years if they take the revenues from the Affordable Care Act and all the savings from the Affordable Care Act. And if they are going to claim that they are repealing that—as they voted 54-plus times to do on this floor—then their budget is automatically out of balance.

Now, all of these budgets significantly reduce the deficit as a share of our economy in the outyears. The fundamental question is what choices these budgets make in getting there. And the Democratic budget that has been proposed and the President's budget, all those budgets say we need to have shared responsibility and we need to work together to accomplish that goal.

The Republican budget rigs the rules in the favor of the most powerful and the most wealthy—right? So if you are a millionaire, under the Republican budget, you get your top tax rate cut by a full one-third, and everybody else in this budget gets walloped. So if you are a senior on Medicare, you will immediately see your prescription drug costs rise if you have high prescription drug costs—right?—because they reopen the prescription drug doughnut hole. That is a choice they make in the Republican budget for seniors today, even as they choose to protect special interest tax breaks for the very powerful.

They choose in this budget to say that students, while they are still in college, will be charged interest rates on their student loans—that saves them \$40 billion—while they protect tax breaks for hedge fund owners. We don't think that is the right choice.

I am now pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. McDERMOTT), a member of the Budget Committee and the Ways and Means Committee who has always focused on making the right choice for the American people.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Chairman, this budget is not a real plan to address the urgent needs of the American people. This budget is an announcement of a campaign for the Presidency of the United States. This bill is intended not to stir great debate in Congress that ultimately delivers fiercely needed so-

lutions for Americans; instead, this bill is written for the 2016 Republican National Convention.

When you listen to the chairman talk about this budget, what you are really hearing is the inaugural address of the 45th President of the United States, a rousing address that asks not what you can do for your country, but proudly proclaims your country refuses to do a thing for you: millions of seniors will be tossed off Medicare; the social safety net will be gutted to pay for millionaire tax cuts; infrastructure projects left to rot; denying millions of Americans health security; and Medicaid slashed to the bone. And that is just going to be the first 100 days.

Remember as you vote: a budget is a statement of your moral principles of what you think ought to go on in a society. Today's vote is the first vote. If that kind of people get elected either in the Senate or in the Presidency in 2016, this is what you are going to see. They are putting it right out there for everybody in America to see. And that is why you must vote "no."

□ 1315

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Wow, that is a doozy, I have got to tell you. That is a doozy if that kind of people get elected.

Look, we just think we should balance the budget, have government live within its means, and pay off our debt. If those kinds of people get elected, great.

With that, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCARTHY), our distinguished majority whip.

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Path to Prosperity budget.

Every day, millions of Americans are competing in a race with an economy that asks us to accept a new normal, an anemic growth, an Obama economy.

I was recently in a high school speaking of the challenge that America had, and a student asked me a question about it. I asked him did he play a sport. He happened to be on the swim team. I said: Let me give you an analogy of America competing worldwide by a swim meet. Picture America in a swim competition with every other country. Many times at the early years, after the 1980s, we would jump into the pool and we would swim and we would win. We would hang those championship banners out. In this new Obama economy, things changed, a stimulus spending. Well, that meant we had to add a weight belt, about 20 pounds. Then the tax increases came. We had to add more weight. An onslaught of regulation, pretty soon you are up to 100 pounds.

You know what? We jump in that pool and we don't always win. And nobody says take the weight belt off. They just say you just don't swim like

you used to. Think about it. Since the recession, part-time employment has increased at the expense of full-time. Over 90 million Americans are out of the workforce all together; 46 million live in poverty.

You know, the CBO, Congressional Budget Office, now says the new natural rate for unemployment is 6 percent. That means 11 million Americans not working is somehow natural in America. That is what a weight belt will do for you. It will drown you.

Today is different. Today we are going to unshackle. We are going to take that weight belt off. We have a budget that creates a Tax Code that is simpler and fairer, one that let's you keep more money in your pocket and lets you invest differently, one that balances and takes away that debt of the weight belt, one that unshackles the energy—more jobs, cheaper fuel, more manufacturing jobs to be able to grow. We strengthen Medicare and Medicaid. So we take care of the current and the future. We plan to swim for years and compete for years in the future.

I tell you, today, there are two different directions: you can stay with this anemic growth or you can jump into a pool with a future brighter than we have seen before and one that we know that will hang a new banner of championship, that America will rise once again with the prosperity of a balanced budget, one that will take us into a future of strength.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, the gentleman referenced several times the Congressional Budget Office and the economy. I urge all our colleagues to read the Congressional Budget Office report. It indicates that this House Republican budget will actually slow down economic growth over the next couple of years and slow down job growth over the next couple years.

Yes, we need a simpler, fairer Tax Code, but this House Republican budget would provide a huge tax break to the very wealthy and increase the tax burden on the middle class. In fact, they cut the top rate from 39 percent to 25 percent. That is a full one-third tax cut. So millionaires get an average of \$87,000 tax break. Middle-income taxpayers have to finance that cut for the folks at the top. That means an increased tax burden of \$2,000 for a middle class family. That is not good, fair tax reform.

For somebody who knows a lot about the economy and doing it right, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH), a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chair, budgets are a reflection of our values, they are a statement of our priorities, and they are about the choices we make to set the course for our future.

With this budget, Republicans are choosing the well-off and well-connected over middle class families,

choosing, for instance, \$45 billion in tax subsidies for oil companies whose own executives say they don't need it over veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq who are out of work.

They choose a new average tax cut of \$200,000 per millionaire per year over 170,000 of our Nation's most vulnerable children who would lose Head Start services.

Mr. Chair, we just finished with March Madness, and I am very proud of the University of Kentucky Wildcats. They had a great season. But isn't one of the cruel ironies of this debate, Coach Calipari of the University of Kentucky, who makes \$5 million a year, roughly, under the Republican budget would get an additional tax cut of \$700,000 a year, while the students who support his program would see their Pell grants slashed nationwide by a total of \$145 billion over 10 years. Isn't that something? A man who makes \$5 million coaching basketball gets a \$700,000 tax break, while the students who were suffering and working hard to pay their way through college get slashed. This is one of the choices the budgets are about. This is why the Republican budget is totally out of step with American values. This is why we should reject the Republican budget.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself 30 seconds to say, boy, I wonder what tax bill they are talking about, because it is not the one that is within the Republican budget. The Ways and Means Committee writes tax laws. We put out the outlines of tax reform that say there is a trillion dollars a year of tax expenditures, of loopholes that can be closed to give us a fairer, simpler Tax Code, that lowers taxes for everybody, all families and businesses, not whatever it is they are saying.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself an extra 30 seconds.

What we are saying is, keep the award where it is, the maximum award, and fully funded for the decade. That is slashing it?

That is as opposed to the President who is saying let's grow it and then have some cliff and show no way or means of paying for it. The President and his budget is making a promise in Pell grants that he shows no way of keeping. We think we should make a promise and keep it; that is why we fully fund the current award at Pell.

And, oh, by the way, we also are cognizant of the fact that a lot of studies show us we are raising tuition. We are contributing to tuition inflation. And we need to get to the bottom of that before we keep throwing more money at a system that is raising tuition.

Mr. Chair, with that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Chair, in this House, we take the constitutional power of the purse very seriously. We also take the future of young Americans very seriously, and we take the notion of leaving something better for the next generation very seriously.

Again, this year, the majority has proposed a budget that responsibly balances our budget within 10 years. It secures our social safety net for the most needy and for seniors. It repeals the uncertainty forced on Ohioans and all Americans by ObamaCare.

The budget begins to unburden future generations from the tyranny of the debt being left to them by today's decisionmakers. The CBO estimates it will pay \$223 billion in interest payments this year—\$223 billion in interest. That is enough to build 100 new Brent Spence bridges, which is an aging bridge that spans the Ohio River in Cincinnati, a critical artery for our Nation's highways reaching from Michigan to Florida.

Going back to those payments, left unchecked, they will balloon to \$880 billion within 10 years. That is about how much we are spending on Social Security every year right now. American prosperity cannot afford to throw our money away to interest payments.

Vice President JOE BIDEN is fond of saying, "Don't tell me what you value; show me your budget, and I will tell you what you value." It is a revealing quote, Mr. Chair, especially since Senate Democrats yet again refuse to even consider a budget. I guess according to the Vice President, Senate Democrats don't really value anything at all.

It is disrespectful to the American people and to hardworking Americans that this budget debate isn't happening in the Senate. As we have seen in recent years, the Senate Majority Leader has decided not to introduce a budget. In fact, the only time the Senate has introduced a budget recently was when the Senators knew that they wouldn't be paid unless they did so.

I know that Ohio families and Ohio businesses budget and plan for the future. They should be able to expect at least as much from their government, and the House is meeting our obligation with this budget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I just want to respond to a couple of points the chairman made about tax reform. You know, Republican etiology in Washington has been that of trickle-down economics. The idea is you provide the wealthiest people in the country with a tax break and somehow it trickles down and lifts everybody up. The problem is that theory was proven bankrupt in the early 2000s. Under the Bush administration, we tried that—lower tax rates at the top. The economy did not do any better. In fact, what we got was huge deficits.

Now in this Republican budget, they are right back to the same old veiled

theory. They called for reducing the top tax rate for millionaires from 39 percent down to 25 percent, and they claim that they are going to do this in a deficit-neutral way. When you do the math, what that means is you are going to have to increase the tax burden on middle class taxpayers to finance tax breaks for folks at the top.

Just to give our Republican colleagues an opportunity to say that that is not what they intended, in the Budget Committee, we offered an amendment calling it Protect the American Middle Class from Tax Increases, saying, okay, at least tell the Ways and Means Committee that one of your principles as you reduce tax breaks for millionaires is not to increase the tax burden on the middle class, and every Republican on the Budget Committee voted against that provision.

I am pleased that we have the author of that amendment with us on the floor right now. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from the great State of New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, this budget is fundamentally unserious. We have heard this now for 4 years in a row. My friends on the other side of the aisle come down to the floor with their draconian budget claiming they are reluctantly forced to make tough decisions because the specter of a debt crisis is right around the corner—this, despite the fact that our deficit is falling at the fastest rate since the end of the Second World War. We said this: we would do it, and we did it.

This supposedly looming debt crisis is going to be so incredibly bad for this country that we need to reluctantly gut programs that help low and moderate Americans to prevent it.

And you stand there and stand up there and talk to us about tax-and-spend Democrats? You can't balance your budget without the Affordable Care Act. Isn't that a honey? You have done everything to dismantle it, over 50 votes to get rid of it. Now you are using it and the revenues to balance your budget. Ho, ho, ho. How very convenient of you. Their prescription to prevent this impending disaster is exactly what their Randian world view prescribes in the first place.

Tax cuts for the wealthy paid for on the backs of those not so wealthy. Unfortunately, it leads to only one conclusion. The Republican Party does not care about our deficits.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentleman from New Jersey another 15 seconds.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, in the words of Vice President—remember him—Dick Cheney, he proclaimed, "Deficits don't matter."

So, you have had a call to religion. You have come back. Your budget, the deficit is simply an excuse to cut the

social safety net. So I say, let's vote down this phony budget and get on with the real thing, Mr. Chair.

The CHAIR. The Chair would remind Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, just in order to balance the time, I think we will let the gentleman from Maryland yield to another speaker so we can catch up.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. If I could just inquire how much time remains.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 20¼ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Wisconsin has 18 minutes remaining.

□ 1330

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from the great State of New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), a terrific member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Chairman, I thank my distinguished friend for yielding.

The GOP budget is a product of the same type of extreme philosophy that gave rise to the reckless Republican shutdown last year. It is like a heat-seeking missile aimed directly at the American people. It is a parade of horrors too numerous to catalogue, but in the time that I have allotted I will try to highlight the most egregious aspects.

It will cut \$125 billion from the SNAP program, making it difficult for millions of food insecure Americans to get access to the nutrition needed to live a healthy life. It will cut \$260 billion from higher education spending, depriving young Americans of the opportunity to get a college education and robustly pursue the American dream. It will cut \$732 billion from the Medicaid program, making it hard for older Americans to get access to this vital safety net program. It will turn Medicare into a voucher program—that is a Trojan horse—effectively ending Medicare as we know it. It will balance the budget on the backs of working families, middle class folks, senior citizens, the poor, the sick, and the afflicted.

The Democratic plan is designed to create progress for the greatest number of Americans possible. The Republican plan is all about prosperity for the few, and for that reason we should vote it down.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, yesterday, I was Dracula; now I am conducting a parade of horrors and firing heat-seeking missiles at the American people. I am interested to see what comes next.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the chairman and the opportunity to stand and discuss the budget that we have before us.

I find it so interesting that our constituents are watching this. They are paying attention because they are concerned, and with good reason.

As one of my constituents said in a town hall meeting: I have got to tell you, I have got too much month left at the end of my money, and I am tired of it. I am tired of what this economy has been doing to my opportunities—wage stagnation, increases in health care costs.

The American people are over it, and they are ready to see the Federal Government start to live within its means. Think about it like this. This is the week when millions of Americans are sitting around the kitchen table looking at their income tax form, filling it out, trying to make certain that they do it right.

Let me ask you a question: Is it fair, is it right, for the men and women, the taxpayers, hardworking taxpayers in this country, is it right and fair to require them to send money to Washington, money that they don't have, money that causes them to struggle to meet their bills and to live within their means—they are struggling every month, and they have to send money to Washington to a government that refuses to live within its means.

This is what we are talking about, and this is why a budget that actually makes \$5.1 trillion worth of spending cuts is important. It is why it is important that we have a budget that says there is a pathway to economic growth. It is because it is what the American people want to see happen.

I think our constituents find it very interesting that our colleagues across the aisle came to the Budget Committee room. What did they want to do? Plus it up, spend more—\$1.5 trillion in taxes. More, let's take more from the taxpayer, let's grow the size of the government, let's make it bigger, let's make it more bloated.

That is their solution to how to deal with what we have here in Washington as a spending crisis. We don't have a revenue problem; we have a spending problem, we have a priority problem, and we see this play out regularly.

Mr. Chairman, it is why it is important for us to have a budget that balances in 10 years. I have to tell you, as a mom and a grandmom, I look a lot at what is happening to our children and our grandchildren.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentlewoman an additional minute.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. You can call it draconian, you can call it all of these names, you can call all of us Neanderthals. But let me tell you what this is: this is a budget that is for our children because it is for reduced regulation, reduced taxation, reducing litigation, it is for innovation and job cre-

ation. That is what this budget is for. It is for fairness, because if we don't get this under control it will be my 5-year-old and my 4-year-old grandchildren that are facing draconian taxes, draconian rates, draconian cuts in order to be able to stand and live here in America.

So as we look at this, yes, we put the focus on right-sizing government, flexibility for the States, accountability to the American taxpayer, accountability to the children who are going to inherit the consequences of the decisions we make today.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, the gentlelady used the term "draconian" a couple of times, and the chairman keeps referring to comments that Democrats have made as "overblown." I would just remind the body that it was just a few days ago that the senior Republican, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, called the budget we are debating on the floor of the House draconian. That is what he called it—not a Democrat. So I think Members should keep that in mind as we proceed.

I am now very pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), a terrific member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The people I know and the people I meet work very hard every day. They want an opportunity for a good job, they want good schools, safe communities, and the promise that when they retire they can live their years in dignity. They want a government that is fair and helps make progress towards the American dream.

But this Republican budget is not for the hardworking people of America. This Republican budget is crafted by the special interests for the special interests. Republicans stack the deck against working families and small businesses. Incomes of CEOs and the top 1 percent are soaring, but everyone else is working harder to get by.

We need an economy that is firing on all cylinders for everybody, creating jobs that pay enough to keep up. Yet the Republican budget raises taxes on middle class families in order to cut taxes for people who earn over \$1 million.

Republicans ignore one of the most important ways to cut the debt and the deficit, and that is have more Americans working. If the middle class succeeds, then America succeeds.

Republicans refuse to find one special interest loophole in the Tax Code. If you are incredibly rich, then you are incredibly lucky because this budget is for you. You pay less. But if you are like the vast majority of Americans, hold on, because you are going to pay more.

If you are a student who wants to attend college, Republicans make that

harder by cutting Pell grants and student loans.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, if you have a job in construction at America's ports or in transportation, this Republican budget could cost you your job and new opportunities.

If you believe America should remain the world leader in medical and scientific research, sorry, the Republican budget slashes research at the National Institutes of Health or in universities and research institutions.

If you are an older American, the Republican budget asks you to pay much more for Medicare, long-term care, and nursing care. It takes away that secure lifeline that has been in place since Democratic Congresses passed Medicare and Medicaid so that you will be able to live your retirement years in dignity without the fear of poverty.

This Republican budget is a cynical, special-interest driven vision of America. I recommend a strong "no" vote in opposition.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), a distinguished member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague.

This budget—I am not going to call somebody Dracula. I am sure it is sincere—but it is all about cutting taxes at the public's expense. It disinvests in America. So we disinvest in R&D, we disinvest in our future. The gentlewoman from Tennessee talked about children and the tax burden. What about their education? What about opportunity? What about the roads and bridges and tunnels and transit systems they won't have because they have crumbled because we have disinvested? That is what this budget is all about. It is absolutely on the wrong path and it is handing over our future to foreign competition.

I urge defeat of this budget, and I urge more sensible solutions for the future.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, when we call for "revenue neutral tax reform," that means tax reform that keeps raising the same amount of revenue we raise today, do it through a better Tax Code so we are not picking winners and losers, so we can grow the economy and create jobs.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Chairman, when I tour businesses in the Eighth District of Indiana and meet with Hoosier families, they tell me they are concerned

about the enormous debt burdening our country.

Just like Hoosier families and businesses that have to make hard decisions when money is tight, Washington must do the same in order to sustain our role as the leader in the free world.

We are over \$17 trillion in debt. It is clear Washington, D.C., has a spending problem, and there are two very different pathways to address this issue.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would continue us on the failed status quo pathway of more spending, more taxes, and more debt. Their plan does not address the long-term drivers of our debt. It raises taxes on families who are already struggling to make ends meet and has no intention of balancing, ever. And it does nothing to protect and strengthen the Medicare safety net promised to our seniors. Put simply, their plan does not implement serious reforms necessary to put us on a path to a sustainable future.

Mr. Chairman, our budget has a different vision for America. Our budget plan saves \$5.1 trillion over the next decade, pays down our debt, and encourages a growing and healthy economy. Our plan expands opportunities for all Americans by focusing on higher education and job training. We encourage a simpler, fairer Tax Code that saves Americans thousands of hours spent every year on tax compliance. Our plan protects the social safety net programs by encouraging upward mobility and providing States with the flexibility to meet the needs of their residents.

One of the most important aspects of our budget plan provides Social Security and Medicare for our Nation's seniors. We preserve traditional Medicare for those in or near retirement, while also offering options for Medicare that strengthens this vital program so it is still around for future generations.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I support the Ryan budget plan, which puts our country on a pathway back to prosperity.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It does not strengthen Medicare to reopen the prescription drug doughnut hole, which is exactly what this Republican congressional budget does.

If you are a senior with high prescription drug costs under this budget, it will cost you \$1,200 more per year. The whole reason we closed the prescription drug doughnut hole was to prevent seniors in that position from having to undergo such economic hardship. But this Republican budget reopens that doughnut hole now.

With respect to tax reform and picking winners and losers, the reality is that this Republican budget does pick winners and losers. The big winners are people at the very top of the income

scale because millionaires will see their top tax rate cut by a full one-third.

The result of that is that middle-income taxpayers are going to have to finance that in order to maintain what they call the deficit neutrality of it. That means that middle-income taxpayers with kids are going to pay an average of \$2,000 more to finance the tax cuts for millionaires.

□ 1345

So millionaires are the winners, and middle class taxpayers are the losers. As I said just a moment ago, we gave our Republican colleagues an opportunity in the committee to say no, that is not their intention, but they voted against the amendment to protect American middle class taxpayers.

I am now pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), one of our terrific members of the Budget Committee.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, this is the fourth year in a row that the Republicans have introduced their roadmap for the future.

If they took over the House, the Senate, and the Presidency, what would they do? Who would be the winners and losers?

The chairman of the Budget Committee said this is a win-win budget. It is a win if you are in the top percentile, and it is a win if you are in the second percentile, but the rest of us—the 98 percent—certainly aren't winning.

We lose 1.1 million jobs in 2015 and 3 million jobs in 2016 in the Republican budget. That is like firing every single person in the State of Wisconsin. We lose by slashing investments in infrastructure and science, in transportation and education, and for our seniors. The middle class taxpayers pay for it.

We also lose on the fact that this has fuzzy math. The logic is terrible. To say this actually balances in 10 years is to say that Cheez Whiz is like real Wisconsin cheese. They cut the Affordable Care Act's benefits, but they keep the revenues, and they keep the savings, which is simply impossible.

I hope the American public realizes that, if the Republicans take over, this is their roadmap. These are the cuts you are going to see, so I urge a "no" vote on the budget.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a member of the Budget Committee and of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chairman, this budget is too weak. It is too weak in all the wrong places and in all the wrong ways. It is weak on opportunity. It is weak on competitiveness. It is weak on dealing with the tax avoidance

and loopholes that would allow us to invest in America. The House Republican budget actually grows the deficit—the opportunity deficit.

A strong budget would help our students earn degrees without mortgaging their futures in order to achieve their full God-given potential, and it would enable an educated workforce that will allow us to be competitive in the world economy.

A strong budget would invest in life-saving medical research, which would grow our economy and would respond to the folks from San Antonio who are here today to ask for more for Alzheimer's research, not by taking it from AIDS or cancer research, but by investing more to get the cures in order to save the lives and create the jobs that America ought to be about.

A strong budget would invest in infrastructure, in roads and rails and bridges and harbors, like the Chinese are doing to move goods and move people and be competitive.

A strong budget would ensure seniors' dignity in retirement, not what AARP says about this budget—that it would weaken the programs that provide the very foundation of health and retirement security for current and future generations.

I urge the rejection of this weak Republican budget in favor of needed investments in our education, our infrastructure, our research, and our retirement security.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DOGGETT. Those investments can be made by simply asking those who have been so privileged and who have enjoyed so many tax loopholes to pay their fair share for the future of America. I believe it is an investment for a stronger America, which will afford more opportunity to every family.

I ask for the rejection of this budget in favor of a strong budget that is strong for America, strong for our economy, and strong for opportunity.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, apparently, a strong budget means we need to borrow more from the Chinese to fund our government.

With that, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished Wisconsinite, Mr. DUFFY, who does know the difference between real cheese and Cheez Whiz.

Mr. DUFFY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, as I sit and listen to this debate today, there is no doubt the Democrats' position is let's just keep the status quo, don't change anything, let's continue on with our \$17 trillion debt, let's continue to borrow and spend and spend and borrow and never change course.

We know that is their position by way of the amendments they offered in

the Budget Committee and by the conversation you hear on the floor today. Mr. Chairman, we also know that, by way of the Senate budget, when they put one out, because it never balances, and we know that because of the President's budget that he puts out, because it never balances.

It passes off this massive liability to the next generation, and their policies have a real impact on the country as a whole.

We talk about seniors. The Medicare trust fund is going broke in 12 years—it is going bankrupt—and my friends across the aisle, Mr. Chairman, don't want to change it. They want to leave our seniors today and our future seniors in jeopardy with a trust fund that is going broke.

It is hard to lead. It is hard to put ideas on the table and say: listen, my friends, let's come together, let's be responsible, let's make it sustainable, let's fix it—when the response is: don't do a darned thing, continue on the course to a bankrupted trust fund.

That doesn't serve our seniors well. That doesn't serve our next generation of seniors well.

Speaking of Medicare, there is only one party in this town that took over \$700 billion out of Medicare and used it for ObamaCare—they raided it—and that is the Democrat Party, Mr. Chairman. That is unacceptable, and to come to the floor today and tell us and the American people that they are here to protect it just isn't true.

We are on the course to a fiscal calamity, and if that happens, who are the people who are hurt the most among us? The people who are hurt the worst are the poorest, the ones who are most in need of government assistance.

We should look to our churches and to our communities for that help, but there is a role for government. If you have a debt crisis, if you have a fiscal crisis, and if you have people who have a hard time heating their homes or putting food on their tables or who have kids who want to go to college or if you want to build roads and bridges, there is no money there for those projects.

If you want to be able to invest in your future, you have to make sure you have a budget that is sustainable. When you pay \$230 billion in interest alone today, when the Fed is printing money to buy down that interest rate and when the President says, in 10 years, interest on the debt is going to be \$880 billion—you can build a lot of roads, bridges, feed a lot of people, and send a lot of kids to school for almost \$1 trillion a year.

Let's fix this problem. Let's work together. Let's balance our budget. It starts right here in the House with the Budget Committee.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I hope all Members of the House will check the facts with respect to the impact of the Affordable Care Act on Medicare. If you actually look at what has happened since the Affordable Care Act was enacted, the per capita rate of increase in health care costs in this country has actually gone down.

Talk to seniors on Medicare. Anybody who is paying attention right now, I ask them: What has their Part B premium done over the last couple of years? It has been steadier. In fact, this year, it went down in real terms. The value that seniors have gotten under Medicare has actually improved significantly, in part, due to the Affordable Care Act.

Now, unlike the Democratic budget, which used some of the savings from getting rid of overpayments to some of the big insurance companies in Medicare and using those savings to strengthen things like the prescription drug benefit, the Republican budget keeps every dime of the Medicare savings from the Affordable Care Act, but they don't use any of it to strengthen Medicare.

In fact, they reopen the prescription drug doughnut hole. They start charging seniors now for preventative health services. Ultimately, they actually end the Medicare guarantee by turning Medicare into a voucher program, so that, if you actually wanted to stay in traditional Medicare, you would be paying a whopping high premium.

That is not the way we should go, and that is all in a budget that continues to provide tax breaks to the very wealthy in this country. Those are not the right priorities for America.

Now, I would like to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Small Business Committee and a Member who has focused on the right priorities for America and who recognizes that small business is the engine of growth and opportunity.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I thank the ranking member for yielding, for fighting, and for being a real fiscal leader for small businesses in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this budget. Far from being a path to prosperity, it is actually a path to the poorhouse. Sadly, just as it falls short in so many other ways, the Ryan budget clearly fails small businesses.

Under this budget, resources that help small companies launch, grow, and hire will be cut by nearly \$11 billion. A wide range of resources will be gutted—from contracts, to access to capital, to international trade assistance, to job training.

This budget is not the right budget to help those businesses that are the backbone of the American economy at a time when this economy is still struggling.

Studies have shown that many of these small business programs generate

more than \$3 in Federal revenue for every dollar spent. What type of economic policy says that you cut programs that generate income for the Treasury?

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. We just held a press conference today with so many small business people who have benefited from these types of programs. They are businesses that opened up in 2006. Today, we had a lady who provides IT services to the DOD and to many Federal agencies. Her business has grown from six people to 130 employees. These are the types of programs that we need in place in order to grow our economy.

Republicans like to say that they are the champions of small businesses. They oppose the ACA, claiming it will harm small firms. They oppose Dodd-Frank, saying that it will hinder the ability of small businesses to get lending from traditional financial services; and yet they cut the very lending programs that provide, through the Federal Government, access to capital for small businesses.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. When we look at this budget, we know that the rhetoric does not match the reality. Rather than paying lip service to small businesses, we must invest in the programs that help them grow and create jobs. That is what we need, job creation in our country. We must do better.

Vote "no" on this budget.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank Chairman RYAN for engaging the House in this very important process.

Mr. Chairman, we are talking about real alternatives and routes we can take for the future of this country and for the future of our children.

As a father to a 17-year-old daughter and twin 13-year-old boys, righting the fiscal path of this country is the reason that I ran for the opportunity to serve in this institution. Part of serving in this institution is creating a vision for America's financial future. This budget balances.

Putting a budget on the floor of the House and putting forth a vision for America's fiscal future that balances is something that we need to do on a regular basis.

It is sad that I had to fight for a provision to be put into this bill called No Budget, No Pay. As we know, the Senate will not take this budget process

up, and they shouldn't be paid. I fought for that proposal because, if Members of Congress are not willing to put in the work to help balance our country's checkbook and fulfill their constitutional duties, they should not be paid.

For hard-working taxpayers, this budget allows you to keep more of your paycheck while, again, balancing our budget. Compare that with the President's budget, which we will have a chance to vote on this week.

I would urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to vote "yes" on the President's budget if you think it is the future for America, but that budget raises taxes by more than \$1 trillion, and it never balances.

We have got a clear choice here. For our seniors, this budget ends ObamaCare's raid on Medicare, and it puts seniors back in charge of their health care decisions. This budget also preserves Medicare for our current seniors, and it ensures that this vital program is available for all future generations.

□ 1400

For our students, this budget guarantees Pell grants for those who dream of going to college but need a little help. Right now, the program is estimated to become insolvent by 2016. Every year we don't have a plan, we risk the future of millions of students and contribute to the rising cost of tuition. As someone who represents nine universities and colleges and eight community colleges in my district, having no plan is unacceptable.

For our veterans, this budget maintains advanced appropriations to ensure veterans still receive their benefits, regardless of what happens in Washington. Additionally, this budget would dedicate another \$400 million to veterans programs.

I did not come to Washington sit idly by and remain content with the current state of our Nation. I came here to make Washington work and provide the hardworking taxpayers of Illinois' 13th Congressional District with a better vision for America.

This is a better vision for America, Mr. Chairman.

And the attacks will come. Don't let the attacks get in the way of the facts.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee and the Ways and Means Committee.

Mrs. BLACK. I thank the distinguished chairman of the Budget Committee for yielding.

Mr. Chair, our Nation is \$17.4 trillion in debt and out-of-control spending here in Washington has no end in sight. In fact, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that, on our

current trajectory, we will return to \$1 trillion annual budget deficits by the year 2022. This situation is untenable and threatens the Nation that we leave behind for our children and grandchildren.

As I stand here and look at these young adults, they are the ones that are going to have to pay for our lack of courage to do what we need to do to balance this budget and get our country and our spending under control.

The vast majority of Americans agree that the Federal Government should live within its means and that it should balance its budget the same way that American families do. That is why it was so disappointing that President Obama's FY 2015 budget proposal would increase Federal spending and never balance, despite calling for an additional \$1.8 trillion in taxes from hardworking Americans. In fact, the President's budget proposal would add an additional \$8.3 trillion to the national debt.

The American people and these children deserve better than this. That is why I am proud that my House Republican Budget colleagues and I have again acted where President Obama and the congressional Democrats failed to lead.

This Path to Prosperity is our vision to control Washington spending and to help get our economy moving again so Americans can get back to work. This responsible budget proposal would cut spending by \$5.1 trillion, balance the budget in 10 years, and put us on a path to pay off our debt. We accomplish all of this without raising taxes on the hardworking American people.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this budget proposal.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished Democratic whip, who has focused on these important issues successfully for a long time.

Mr. HOYER. I have focused on them; how successfully is an item of debate with myself.

I thank the ranking member for yielding.

This Republican budget, as I have said before, is an exercise in how not to achieve fiscal sustainability.

Both the Bowles-Simpson and Rivlin-Domenici bipartisan commissions determined that the responsible approach to achieving fiscal sustainability is through a combination of balanced deficit reduction and strategic investments in long-term economic growth.

The Bowles-Simpson report says: "We must invest in education, infrastructure, and high-value research and development to help our economy grow, keep us globally competitive, and make it easier for business to create jobs."

The chairman of the Budget Committee voted against Bowles-Simpson.

This budget disinvests in those priorities, which will help us create jobs and grow our middle class. It undercuts our ability to invest in economic competitiveness and the growth we need to secure the goal of a sustainable fiscal future.

At the same time, the Republican budget does not follow the bipartisan commission's framework for achieving deficit savings: a balanced approach that combines new revenue with spending reductions.

There are no new revenues in this budget, and its spending cuts are severe and irresponsible, cutting even deeper than the painful sequester.

As I said yesterday, GOP Appropriations Committee Chairman HAL ROGERS called those sequester levels "unrealistic and ill-conceived," to which the chairman then rose and said: He said that last year.

He may have said it last year, but the proposals you make are unchanged from last year, essentially; and this year, just a few days ago, he said your cuts were draconian.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I believe the gentleman is supposed to make his remarks to the chairman.

Mr. HOYER. He is correct.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is reminded to address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I regret the chairman was taking my remarks personally. Of course, they were meant simply from a policy perspective of how bad the policy is, not the chairman himself, who is a wonderful individual.

In closing, let me say I urge every one of my colleagues who is troubled about our deficits and debt and who is deeply concerned about creating jobs and growing our economy to do the right thing: oppose this budget.

The chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who has called the numbers in this budget draconian, apparently intends to vote for it. Mr. Chairman, I don't understand that. If I thought, as I do, that these numbers were draconian, the only alternative I would have is to vote "no."

I lament the fact that we are not addressing in a bipartisan, comprehensive way putting America on a fiscally sustainable path. That would be the best economic stimulus that we could do for America. What a shame that, again, we have wasted that opportunity.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me just pick up where Mr. HOYER left off and ask the question: Why would the Republican chairman of the Appropriations Committee call this Republican budget draconian? After all, the chairman of the Budget Committee has said today: Don't worry. Actually, we're going to continue to grow

the government just a little more slowly.

But what that ignores is the fact that the portion of the budget that the chairman of the Appropriations Committee has jurisdiction over is that portion of the budget that we have used historically in this country to make investments that help our economy grow. They are investments in our kids' education, from early education, to K-12, to college education.

That is the part of the budget that we have used to invest in research and development with discoveries at places like NASA that have had huge spinoff benefits for the rest of the country and the economy, investments that actually helped lead to the Internet, that have been hugely beneficial to our economy. That portion of the budget doesn't grow a little less slowly. They cut that portion of the budget. In fact, as a share of our economy, it is cut by 40 percent below the lowest level since the 1950s, since we have been keeping track.

And so that is why we are saying that our global economic competitors are going to be cheering this Republican budget. We are talking about we would like to see a Make It In America agenda. This is a "make it everywhere except America" agenda. This actually provides tax cuts for U.S. corporations that move jobs overseas, and yet it cuts investments in jobs and economic development right here at home. That is why it is so misguided. That is why the Republican chairman of the Appropriations Committee says it is draconian.

What is worse, it makes those cuts in our kids' education, basic R&D, and makes the cut in the senior prescription drug benefit while protecting these tax breaks for the most powerful and the very wealthy.

The chairman has referred a number of times to tax expenditures. In fact, he mentioned the other day that, on an annual basis, tax expenditures are over a trillion dollars, in fact, more per year than Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Some of those tax expenditures have worthy policy goals, but a lot of them are there because very powerful special interests have gotten an exemption for themselves to the kind of Tax Code that everybody else has to pay for.

What we have said is we should get rid of some of those tax breaks for the purpose of helping to reduce our deficit so we don't have to hit our kids' education so hard, so we don't have to disinvest from basic R&D, so we don't have to make the kind of cuts that the Republican chairman of the Appropriations Committee calls draconian. But, no, Republicans don't want to do that. They say every time you close a tax loophole, you have got to use it to reduce the tax rate for wealthier Americans. We don't say, if you identify a

spending program that no longer makes sense, you have to go spend it somewhere else. But when it comes to special interest tax expenditures, that is exactly the Republican position. You can only use it to bring down tax rates for multimillionaires.

As a result, while the winners in this Republican budget are those folks at the very top, they sock it to everybody else. They sock it to seniors on Medicare; they sock it to our kids' education; and they sock it to the fundamental economic power of this country when they disinvest in the things that have helped make us a global power, and that is the wrong decision for America.

So I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this Washington Republican budget, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me try and translate for the viewer what is happening here.

Every time you hear the word "invest," that means take from hard-working taxpayers and spend in Washington; and then when that is not enough, "invest" means borrow—nearly half of which is from other countries—from the next generation and spend in Washington.

Just so you know, when they keep saying invest, invest, invest, or you are not investing enough, disinvest, it means tax, borrow, and spend here in Washington, as if we know better how people should spend their money.

The analysis we hear about jobs lost and how this isn't going to work and it is going to cost all these jobs is the same analysis that said the stimulus was going to be a boon. It is the same analysis they said that if we just borrow and spend \$780 billion in Washington on shovel-ready jobs, unemployment will never reach 10 percent and we will create millions of new jobs. It didn't work.

It all comes down to this. Rather than prioritize our spending, rather than holding the Federal Government accountable and more transparent to make sure that taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely and prudently, rather than balancing the budget and paying off debts so the next generation has a debt-free inheritance, rather than taking on the bloated Tax Code that is mired with special interest giveaways and tax breaks and loopholes, rather than opening up this incredible store of oil and gas that could give us a huge renaissance of more jobs and lower gas and home heating prices and a better foreign policy, rather than preserving our military and giving our troops what they need, rather than growing our economy and creating what is estimated by the CBO to give each person an average of \$1,100 more in take-home pay because of that faster economic

growth, rather than doing any of that, just do more of the same. Stick with the status quo.

That is what this rhetoric is. It is a straw man argument. It is basically an argument that says let's affix certain views to our opponents so that we can defeat these awful views that we say they have and win the debate by default so that we can stick with the status quo and keep doing more of the same.

□ 1415

Mr. Chairman, here is where we are headed. This debt, this red line is the status quo. This is where America is going. It is not a Republican or a Democrat thing. It is a math thing.

What we are saying with this budget is, the status quo isn't working. We can't do more of the same because we are headed in the wrong direction. Everybody in this country knows this.

This is our plan. It is actually a plan. Pay off the debt, grow jobs, and challenge the status quo. And that is why I urge adoption of this budget.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 30 minutes on the subject of economic goals and policies.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Good afternoon. The biggest challenge facing America today is a Federal Government that simply won't live within its means.

Now, spending cuts can get us back halfway to a balanced budget. But if we want to finish the job, we need to grow our economy so we can not only balance this budget, but begin paying down this dangerous \$17 trillion national debt.

Under the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978, the Joint Economic Committee, which I chair, provides analysis and recommendations about the goals and policies set forth in the Economic Report of the President to assist the House of Representatives in its consideration of this budget resolution.

During the next few moments, the members of the Joint Economic Committee will answer three questions:

Why has the Obama recovery been so weak and disappointing, when compared with past recoveries?

How would a gradual reduction of Federal spending relative to the size of our economy, as envisioned in the budget resolution, help hardworking Americans by accelerating economic growth, accelerating job creation, and increasing real wages?

And finally, how would the reforms envisioned in the Republican budget

help Congress to make better tax and spending decisions in the future?

To call the current recovery a disappointment to the American people, well, it is an understatement. The current recovery ranks either dead last or near the bottom on virtually every economic measure when compared to other recoveries of the past half a century. The economy's poor performance has left the United States with an enormous growth gap.

Real gross domestic product, our economy, our output, has grown at slightly more than half the average of other recoveries. Not surprisingly, given the recovery's anemic rate of economic growth, private sector payroll employment, that is, jobs along Main Street, have also increased by only more than half the average of other recoveries.

If you look at the paychecks, what people have in their budget at home after taxes, well, for middle class Americans, for middle class people, their wages have only increased by one-third of the average of other recoveries, and less than half of the next-worst recovery.

So the middle class is struggling. But Wall Street, it is roaring. The S&P 500 Total Return Index, adjusted for inflation, has more than doubled. This, Mr. Chairman, is the recovery that left Main Street and middle class families behind.

The Joint Economic Committee has compared this recovery to the average of other recoveries over the last 50 years and has identified this dangerous growth gap.

And what is missing from the economy because of this disappointing recovery?

Our economy should be \$1.3 trillion larger today, over \$1 trillion larger today, if this had just been an average economic recovery, rather than dead last.

And had the number of jobs along Main Street grown at the average rate of others, we would have 5.7 million more Americans working today than what they are under this disappointing recovery.

Last month, we reached a milestone. The number of jobs along Main Street finally matched its peak from when the recession began. This milestone would be good news, except that it comes about 4 years late.

So after all these years, now 6 years, we are just back to breaking even on the number of jobs along Main Street.

If you look at the economy, proportionately, there are fewer adults working today than when the recession ended. We have actually gone backwards as an economy since the recovery supposedly began.

So no matter how you try to slice and dice the numbers, there is no hiding the fact that a smaller percentage of Americans are working today than when the recession ended.

Turning from jobs to income that hardworking families receive, this recovery, regrettably, is even more disappointing. Since the recession ended, real personal income per person has barely edged up. I think it is 3.8 percent, barely noticeable. That is less than half what it should be in an average recovery.

But what does it mean to an average family?

What it means is that the average person in America is missing over \$3,000 a year from their paycheck. And an average family of four in America today is missing \$1,086 a month from their family budget. Imagine that.

Imagine, for every family in America having an extra \$1,000 a month to pay utilities, to save for college, for which costs are exploding, to pay for the new health care costs under the Affordable Care Act, to invest maybe in that new washer, dryer, repair that car.

\$1,000 a month is missing from the average family because of the slow growth policies of the White House and, regrettably, congressional Democrats.

That is why middle class families are being left behind. That is why we can no longer stay the course in America. Families like this are missing too much money for Washington to continue to do the same old things that leave them behind.

I could fill this entire hour with different statistics that make the same point, but by every measure the recovery is so disappointing. The question is, why? What is different about it?

Well, some blame the housing bubble, its collapse and the financial panic, for the persistent weakness in our labor markets. Recoveries following the collapse of a debt-financed asset price bubble like this are typically slower than our recovery. We know that.

While the collapse of the housing bubble undoubtedly has had some lingering effects, it is not the main factor, let alone the only factor for this disappointing recovery.

What is unique about this recovery is the combination of the slow growth economic policies that President Obama has pursued.

For example, looking back from 1982 to 2000, Federal spending declined as a percentage of the economy and the private sector boomed, creating more than 37 million jobs.

Under President Obama, the opposite happened. Federal spending exploded to a post-World War II high of 24 percent of the economy, and we lost jobs.

Presidents Kennedy and Reagan, they reduced the aftertax cost for new business investment. The Joint Economic Committee has shown that there is a strong correlation between when businesses invest in building equipment and software and the creation of real jobs along Main Street.

In contrast, President Obama increased taxes on successful small businesses, on capital gains, and dividends, and slowed this recovery.

Looking back, Presidents Clinton and Reagan took a balanced approach toward environmental, health, and safety regulations. By contrast, the Obama administration has launched a regulatory tsunami; red tape at the highest levels the last 3 years, historically high, and that slowed job creation along Main Street.

Presidents Kennedy, Reagan, and Clinton opened new markets for American sales through international trade agreements. Aside from completing the agreements left unfinished by President Bush, and despite having a first-rate trade team in place, opening new markets, tearing down the "America Need Not Apply" sign, allowing our companies' workers to compete on a level playing field, that is now stalled under this White House.

Presidents Kennedy, Reagan, and Clinton didn't burden a weak economy with costly new entitlement programs. By contrast, President Obama rammed the Affordable Care Act through Congress on party-line votes.

The controversial Affordable Care Act is heightening uncertainty, boosting taxes by more than \$1 trillion, undermining key industries like medical devices and small businesses, and causing millions of Americans, including families in my community, to lose access to doctors and to health insurance plans that they liked.

Now they are paying more for a plan they didn't ask for, and are forced to do it or pay a tax.

Notice that these past approaches to taxes and regulations, international trade were taken by both Republican and Democrat Presidents, approaches that both parties have recognized as good for our economy. Yet President Obama's actions remain remarkably out of sync with those sound policies.

He continues to stay the course, while millions of Americans, they can't find full-time work. Millions more have just given up looking for work. Fewer and fewer people are in the workforce.

It is not the elderly who are retiring, it is younger people, college graduates who spent all that time and all that money, and now they are working behind a cash register.

You have got middle class Americans, again, missing over \$1,000 from their monthly budget that could be helping them meet their needs because of the President's economic policies.

What we do know, and what is incorporated in the Republican budget, is an economic policy mix that would do the opposite. It would ignite a boom in our economy through simple and well-known policy, the sound dollar that protects families against inflation and losing their purchasing power.

Gradual decline of Federal spending as a percentage of the economy, that is

a key one. Tax reform that lowers the aftertax cost for business investment, grows our economy; balanced regulation and opening new markets around the world for American companies and workers—that is the best way to strengthen our economy, create millions of new jobs, and get America back on the right track again.

The budget resolution proposed by Republicans in the House says no more slow growth. No more stay the course. We will not settle for a second-rate economy.

Our families deserve better. They deserve \$1,000 more a month, and this is the path to get us there.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, the budget offered by our Republican colleagues is not, by any stretch of the imagination, the solution to our problems.

It is the problem, because this is not a budget; it is a retreat. It is a retreat from the high ideals, noble goals, and bold dreams that have made this country so great.

As the author and columnist Nicholas Kristof recently pointed out, a new ranking of livability in 132 countries shows that the United States has fallen to 16th, fallen. But apparently, our Republican friends think that is just a little too high.

We now rank 24th in inequality in the attainment of education. But the Republican budget would cut Pell grants that help low-income students afford college.

We rank 29th in life expectancy, and 24th in nutrition and basic medical care, and the Ryan budget would cut funding for food stamps and Medicaid, and raise the eligibility of Medicare.

□ 1430

We rank just 70th in health, and Republicans want to repeal the Affordable Care Act and snatch health care coverage away from millions who just received it.

This is not a budget, Mr. Chair. This is a call to Americans to dream small and aim low. This is an attempt to shift costs onto the shoulders of the middle class, the young, and the elderly in a way that would cripple our ability to compete.

I believe we are a better people than this and a greater Nation. Look at just about any poll on the subject these days, and you can see that Americans are most concerned about jobs and growing our American economy. What the American people want to see from the Congress is a plan that will help accelerate the growth of our economy and create good jobs, but the crushing austerity of the Ryan plan would do just the opposite.

This makes no sense because we know what actually works and what actually grows jobs and what doesn't. We have seen it, and we have lived it. The record speaks for itself. It shows whose ideas actually work in the real world and whose don't.

Since 1961, the private sector has added a total of 66 million jobs. Twenty-four million of them were added under Republican Presidents, and a whopping 42 million were added under Democratic Presidents.

Let's take a look at this chart. Under President Clinton, this country grew a whopping 22.6 million jobs, and he left office running an annual surplus of over \$128 billion projected to grow into the trillions. Then, under the 8 years of President Bush, we added only 1.2 million jobs—what a stark difference—and the budget surplus was turned into an annual \$1.4 trillion deficit.

When President Obama took office, our economy was shedding over 800,000 jobs a month, and the Bush administration left office with the worst job creation record in 75 years. Nevertheless, in the 5 years since President Obama took office, we have created 4.7 million jobs, nearly four times what was created under President Bush, and we have more than halved the annual deficit.

The actions swiftly implemented by the President and Democratic Congress quickly turned the economy around, and job losses diminished; and, as this next chart shows, those actions have worked. We have been gaining jobs for the last 49 months.

In that time, the economy has added 8.9 million private sector jobs, regaining more than all of the jobs lost during the great recession.

This chart shows what I call the deep red Republican valley, where we were shedding over 800,000 jobs a month. Since President Obama took office with his economic plan, we have been growing jobs.

Democrats understand that, in order to maintain our leadership in the world economy, America needs to continually sharpen its competitive edge; and we understand that, while investing in the future may carry some risk, refusing to do so carries an iron-bound certainty, the certainty of a slow decline and crippling decay.

Instead of investing in the future and in the next generation, the Ryan budget guts funding for education, workforce training, critical infrastructure, scientific research, public health, clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and public safety, all the investments needed to make the American economy of tomorrow competitive and put us on the cutting edge.

Instead of fully preparing the next generation for tomorrow's economy, the Ryan budget cuts funding for early childhood education, K-12 education, special education, and higher education. It slashes grants and charges

students more interest on their college loans.

It lets the higher education tax cut expire, saddling our young people with even more student loan debt; and we know now that student loan debt is now larger than credit card debt in our country. It is a crippling concern.

Sadly, the cuts extend far beyond education. The Ryan budget proposes draconian cuts to nutrition assistance, home heating assistance, and rental assistance. SNAP, which provides food security for millions of American children, is cut more than \$135 billion, and 200,000 fewer women and children would get basic nutrition through the WIC program.

We can all agree that the economic recovery has been too slow, and yet this Republican budget cuts critical investments to create jobs and enhance our competitiveness.

In 2015 alone, the budget cuts \$52 billion from efforts to update our crumbling transportation infrastructure. That amounts to over 1.5 million jobs. The budget cuts the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, threatening our edge in medical and scientific innovation.

The Republican budget even eliminates funding for the arts, humanities, and public broadcasting, which support the institutions that enrich our lives and chronicle our cultural and artistic heritage.

Further, the Ryan budget would cut health care funding and increase costs for seniors. It would raise the age to qualify for Medicare to 67 and bring back the dreaded doughnut hole that leaves too many seniors to choose between their medication and putting food on the table.

After nearly a century of talking about doing it, we have finally expanded health care to cover more Americans. Yes, there have been bumps along the way, as there have been with the implementation of transformational social programs, like with Medicare and Part D prescription drugs; but the important thing is that it is working.

Already, 7 million people have signed up through the health insurance marketplaces, and another 3 million young adults have been able to remain on their parents' health plans until they turn 26.

Under the Ryan plan, these 10 million Americans who thought, at long last, they had reliable and affordable health care insurance would have it snatched away from them, but it is even worse than that.

By 2024, a staggering total of 40 million people would become uninsured under the Ryan plan. The CBO projects that 25 million people, who would have gained coverage under the Affordable Care Act, will, instead, have to go without it, and there are another 14 to 20 million people who would lose insur-

ance as a result of the block granting and Medicaid cutting laid out in the Ryan budget.

After 53 failed attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the Ryan budget hopes to succeed in taking us backwards to those dark days when people with preexisting conditions couldn't get coverage, when protections against lifetime limits didn't exist.

No-cost preventive services, like mammograms and cervical cancer screenings, would be no more. It would take us back to a time when women were charged more just because they were women and when the insurance companies called the shots.

From the smallest children to the oldest seniors who rely on Medicaid for health care and to cover long-term health bills, the Ryan Medicaid cuts will negatively affect literally millions. Women who make up almost 70 percent of adult Medicaid beneficiaries will especially feel the sting. The most vulnerable will be hurt the most.

Mr. Chair, budgets are about choices, and we face a truly watershed choice now. We can choose to continue to do things that have lifted the hopes of millions, provided unparalleled opportunities, and made our country the envy of the world.

We can choose to continue to help those who need it the most and provide a measure of care to those who have the least; or we can choose to go down a radically different road, concede the future to the bold, defer to others, expect less, and turn our faces away from the downtrodden and the dispossessed.

Yes, we can make that choice; but please, Mr. Chair, let's stop referring to this as a budget and call it what it really is, a retreat, an act of surrender. It is giving up on the America we have always known.

This is not a blueprint. It is a black eye. We are a better people than this and a greater Nation. I urge my colleagues to vote "no." America does not retreat.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), a key member of the Joint Economic Committee, a businessman who knows that more than half of Americans today believe we are still in a recession, that they have given up and feel like this country is surrendering, and he knows the impact.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I want to just speak for a few minutes in favor of the Republican budget resolution. This is a budget resolution that stands in stark contrast today compared to what the President has offered in his budget.

It is a budget that balances. It is a budget that is responsible. It is a budget that is thoughtful. It addresses the spending side of the ledger to be more

fiscally responsible, and it also includes, Mr. Chair, a roadmap for progrowth tax reform to create a healthier economy.

Yes, we need to spend less, but our national debt and our budget imbalance have grown so big that we can't fix them alone by simply addressing spending. We have also got to grow our economy and put people back to work to bring in more revenue.

We are suffering from a growth gap. Normally, the economy doubles every 20 years; but because of excessive Washington spending, budget deficits, high debt, these onerous regulations that come out of Washington, and higher taxes, the economy is now set to double every 30 years; so we have literally added 10 years onto our growth cycle.

What does that mean? The growth gap means this, Mr. Chair: it means, for disposable income, since the end of the recession nearly 5 years ago, every man, woman, and child has been robbed of almost \$3,200 every year.

It means that a family of four has been robbed of about \$13,000. That is an additional average of aftertax income and disposable income. That is real money to a family. What could you do with \$13,000?

Our economy is performing way below average. We can do a lot better than performing below average. This budget expands opportunities for American workers by equipping them with the skills that they need to succeed in a 21st century economy.

It lays a path to reform a broken Tax Code by simplifying and lowering tax rates, by eliminating special interest loopholes, and by moving us to an internationally competitive tax system, so that U.S. employers can compete fairly in a global economy.

We need commonsense tax reform to keep American businesses headquartered here in the U.S., so that we can sell to customers overseas, bring the earnings back, keep our headquarter companies here, keep the innovation here, and keep the jobs here.

This budget also cuts cronyism, corporate welfare, and waste. It ends the Dodd-Frank bailouts of big banks. It eliminates billions in corporate welfare, and very importantly, it protects and strengthens important programs that our seniors rely on and ensures that these programs will be there for future generations.

It is time to stop spending money that we don't have. We can no longer borrow 40 cents of every dollar that we spend.

Finally, Mr. Chair, this budget not only balances by growing our economy and making government more efficient, it also puts the country back on a path to actually paying down the national debt because the longer we wait to address the drivers of our debt, the harder our choices will be later.

This is a budget proposal and a blueprint that puts the country back on track for a balanced and responsible path. I would ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of the Republican budget.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chair, I now yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), who is a champion of working families.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, since February of 2010, more than 8 million jobs have been created in our Nation. Over the last year, the unemployment rate has fallen by four-fifths of a percentage point.

These numbers demonstrate the significant progress we have made in growing our economy and putting Americans back to work after the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

However, there is still far more we can do to strengthen our economy and begin to reduce the growing income inequality in our great Nation.

□ 1445

Sadly, instead of proposing a budget that would help us expand the middle class, Republicans have, again, offered a budget that seeks to help the wealthy at the expense of the many. Just as in the years past, the 2015 Ryan budget would slash nondefense discretionary spending without regard for the devastating consequences these cuts would have on the lives of Main Street Americans.

This year's Ryan budget would cut an additional \$791 billion from the postsequester funding caps from fiscal year 2006 through fiscal year 2024. As in the past, the budget also offers an ideological wish list of policies that will increase the unemployment rate, hurt low-income families, and harm our seniors—all to protect the interests of the wealthiest among us.

The Ryan budget does not extend emergency unemployment benefits, even though these benefits would help our broader economy, as well as the millions of families that have suffered the devastating consequences of long-term unemployment.

Never before has Congress failed to provide Federal unemployment insurance when the unemployment rate—especially for the long-term unemployed—is as high as it is today.

This budget would also hit middle class families with thousands of dollars in additional taxes every year, while lowering the top tax rate for the rich.

The Ryan budget would repeal the Affordable Care Act, taking health care from millions of middle-income Americans. It would gut Medicaid, taking health care from millions of our poorest families, and it would destroy the commitments we have made to our Nation's seniors by turning Medicare into a voucher program.

This budget would also be devastating for our Federal workforce, the people who care for our veterans, who protect our homeland, who ensure the food we eat is safe, and who conduct the research on which we are relying to find new treatments for cancer and other devastating diseases.

Let me remind my colleagues that the Republicans have been attacking our Federal employees for years, treating them as if they were the piggybank for deficit reduction.

Federal workers have already sacrificed \$140 billion towards reducing this Nation's deficit through a 3-year pay freeze and retirement contribution increases. Now, House Republicans want to squeeze another \$125 billion out of these middle class workers. How will they do this?

The Ryan budget would increase Federal employee pension contributions to 6.53 percent, an increase of more than 5.5 percentage points for many current Federal workers, but it would not increase any benefits provided to these same workers.

Of course, proposals for increasing the contributions Federal employees make to their pension funds are not new. This year's budget also includes a provision prohibiting new Federal employees from enrolling in the retirement system that has served Federal employees since the 1920s.

Let me make this clear. Under the Ryan budget, one leg of the so-called three-legged stool on which Federal employees have relied for security in their retirement would be ripped out from under them. New Federal employees would be left to rely solely on the savings they accumulate in their Thrift Savings Plan and on Social Security.

As if that wasn't enough, the Ryan budget would also eliminate the student loan repayment program for Federal workers, even though this is a vital recruitment and retention incentive used to attract the best and brightest to serve the American people.

The budget also proposes to cut the Federal workforce by 10 percent. Contrary to the claims of some that our government is growing out of control, the Federal Government has actually cut 85,000 jobs in the last 12 months.

An additional arbitrary workforce reduction isn't likely to yield the savings the Republicans expect because much of the current work of the government would simply be shifted to more expensive contractors. Such a reduction would, however, impede the government's ability to provide needed services to the American people in a timely manner.

I agree that Congress must act to put our fiscal house in order, but we must do this in a balanced manner that increases economic stability and certainty in the marketplace. We must not do this on the backs of our neediest

citizens, and we must not do this on the backs of the Federal employees who make government work for our Nation every day.

Republicans fail to understand that we simply cannot cut our way to prosperity. Expanding opportunity and investing in America today will increase government revenues in the years to come and put our economy back on the path to prosperity.

For the good of our Nation, I urge my colleagues to reject the Ryan budget.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, we hear all the votes and the claims from our Democrat friends about how great the economy is going and what great leadership they have shown from the White House to get people back to work. They claim millions and millions and millions of jobs, but Americans don't feel that way and for good reason.

Let's put all this job surge in perspective. Now, here is the average economy recoveries—because America does face tough times from time to time. We normally bounce back pretty strongly, but not this time and not under this President.

If you look at job creation in the last 4 years, this is the average of the other recoveries. This is the Reagan average. That was real economic growth, and as you can tell, only twice in the last 4 years or more has the Obama recovery even met average.

Only 2 months out of more than 4 years has this recovery even been merely average, and it has never reached the real strong growth of the Reagan recovery because unemployment, by the way, reached higher points in this recession.

So, clearly, by underperforming, by being so disappointing, what this chart really shows is the millions of Americans—middle class Americans—who have been left behind by this disappointing recovery. You look at this and you wonder: Well, so what does this mean to the economy?

In the next chart, I will show you what is missing. People back home and people all across America are saying that you have got to get this economy going, it is just hurting us so badly; but because, again, this President and our Democratic friends choose to slow the growth of America, we are now missing, gosh, almost \$4 trillion—\$3.7 trillion, to be exact, is missing from our economy.

That should be in our Main Street businesses. It ought to be in our small businesses. It ought to be driving our economy, instead of trailing China. Instead of being lectured by the rest of the world, America should have a strong economy by now. This is a disappointing recovery.

The Republican budget actually starts to restrain spending and has tax reform to grow the economy. While you

have heard some claim that trillions of dollars of cuts will devastate the Federal safety net, the truth is that the Republican budget over the next 10 years grows by about 3 percent a year. That is because America's population is growing as well.

Only in Washington is growth and spending a cut. What it does is it cuts the waste, fraud, and abuse in this big, flat, bloated government, and it makes smart investments, though, in defense, in Medicare, and in infrastructure.

Our Democrat friends are crying today for more emergency unemployment benefits, but those benefits are for when the unemployment rate is going up and getting higher, but, today, in all 50 States, that rate is going down and going lower. What we should be focusing on is getting people back to work, not a check, but a good-paying job.

Instead, the White House has obstinately blocked the Keystone XL pipeline and those thousands of jobs. They have obsessively pushed the Affordable Care Act on our small businesses who are cutting hours, cutting workers, cutting wages, and hurting the economy—and then all the new regulation.

The Republican budget preserves Medicare and Medicaid, and for Medicaid, which is our health care for the poor, the budget grows for them, but it does an important thing. It gives back to the States the ability to tailor health care for their States to meet their patients in their communities and in their regions. That is the way it ought to be done.

The Democrats hollow out our defense, hollow out our intelligence system, and ignore our veterans. The Republican budget restores our military strength to the presequester levels. We focus on our veterans in America. They deserve no less.

The Republican budget saves Medicare both for those who are in or near retirement, but, more importantly, for those who wonder if Medicare will be there for them. It offers options for younger workers, including just staying in traditional Medicare or tailoring a plan that is right for them and their families.

The Democrats ignore the challenges facing America. They ignore this disappointing recovery. They say: just stay the course, the country is doing fine.

But the country isn't doing fine. Our families, they aren't doing fine at all, and they are missing \$1,000 a month from their paychecks because this White House and this Democrat Senate continue to stay the course.

Let's change the course for America.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. May I inquire, Mr. Chairman, how much time is remaining on this side?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York has 12 minutes remaining.

The gentleman from Texas has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I yield myself 1 minute.

Now, my good friend from Texas pointed out that the recovery has been slow, but at least it is a recovery. It is not a loss of jobs, as we see in this chart, the long, red valley of job loss, shedding over 800,000 jobs a month when President Obama took office, and we have job growth.

I would like to see it stronger and better, too, but at least it is job growth. The former President Bush left us with a \$1.4 trillion deficit when he inherited a surplus and the worst job growth record in 75 years.

I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Maryland (Mr. DELANEY). He is a former CEO of a public company which has brought great expertise to the Joint Economic Committee.

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlelady from New York for yielding me this time to stand up, rise, and speak out against Mr. RYAN's budget.

While I have many significant policy objections that are embedded in Mr. RYAN's budget, my main objection is based on the fact that the budget is built upon a fundamentally flawed analytical framework. I think it is important to focus on that when we think about budgets, Mr. Chairman.

The fundamental driver—or the goal of the Ryan budget is to have our deficits at zero in 10 years. I believe Mr. RYAN does this because he thinks it is good political optics, and it sounds good. The problem with this goal is it is fundamentally, economically and fiscally, the wrong goal. It is unnecessary, and it is unrealistic.

It is unrealistic based on the fact of the demographics the country is facing. We are somewhere through the midway of this aging of the population that we like to talk about, Mr. Chairman, where the population of people over 65—our citizens over 65 will double from 1980 to 2020 to 2030. This puts tremendous burdens on the Federal Government.

But it is also an unnecessary goal. A zero deficit is an unnecessary goal if you think about the basic math of deficits and debt. The reason our debt has grown to such a significant level in this country is because, for the last several years, our deficits, as expressed as a percentage of the economy, have exceeded the economic growth on an annual basis for the economy. The math of that results in a growing debt, which is problematic.

Unless we change the direction of our debt, we will have very limited financial flexibility in the future, particularly if interest rates go up; but, in fact, if we get our deficits to a rate below the rate of growth in the economy, then definitionally, the debt in this country will go down.

Most experts agree that we should be targeting deficits of 1 to 2 percent and economic growth of at least 2 to 3 percent. That will cause our debt to go down to historical levels and give this country the financial flexibility that it needs.

So if you seek an unrealistic goal or if you seek the wrong goal in budgeting and forecasting, you are forced to overcorrect. There are two ways to overcorrect in budgets—or at least in the Federal budget. The first way you can overcorrect is to raise taxes to an excessive level. The second way you can overcorrect is to cut spending to unrealistic levels.

Mr. RYAN, obviously, doesn't choose to raise taxes. In fact, he cuts taxes which, again, is an unusual and puzzling conclusion, particularly based on the fact that our tax revenues as a percentage of the economy across the last several years have been lower than the historical 50-year average for this country.

So to think that we should be cutting taxes against that backdrop, again, is a puzzling decision, but since he chooses to cut taxes, he is then forced to overcorrect on the spending side.

To put this into perspective, in very, very simple perspective, the Ryan budget takes discretionary spending, things like education, infrastructure, and investments in basic medical research, to 1.7 percent of our economy.

□ 1500

This is in the context of a historical average for these same investments of 3 percent. We can't really talk about growing or shrinking numbers in absolute dollars; we always have to talk about these numbers, if we want any kind of budget integrity, in terms of a percentage of the economy.

He effectively cuts in half our investments in infrastructure, education, and basic medical research as a percentage of the economy as compared to the 50-year average. That is the overcorrection he does because he is trying to achieve a goal that is both unrealistic and unnecessary.

It is not clear to me, Mr. Chairman, someone who has spent his whole career in the private sector building companies, how anyone with reasonable cognitive abilities would think, in light of the challenges this country faces to create jobs, as we have discussed, to compete in a global economy and to transfer our economy based on what is happening with technology, that it is the right answer—that it is the right answer to cut our investments in research, in infrastructure and education by half.

That is the fundamental flaw in the analytical framework that is embedded behind Mr. RYAN's budget, which only reinforces my conclusion that this is a political document; this is not a substantive document.

This is not a document that was created by looking at the facts, thinking about economics, understanding how deficits and debt interrelate and what we need to actually make this country competitive, create jobs, and put ourselves on a long-term fiscally sound trajectory.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. May I inquire as to the time remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 11½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from New York has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Amid all the predictions of doom and gloom, the truth is the Republican budget grows by 3 percent a year over the next decade. It doesn't shrink; it grows. The population grows, and so that makes sense.

It does cut wasteful spending, and there is a lot of wasteful spending to cut. More importantly, it grows the economy and tackles the biggest challenge America has, which is a broken Tax Code. This resolution begins to rein in the IRS.

This budget begins to save Social Security and Medicare for families and younger generations so they can count on them, and it makes sure that we don't hollow out our defense. This is the only budget that balances. More importantly, it is the only budget that says that is not enough. It begins to pay down the national debt, and it says our goal in America will be to have a debt-free America. Think about that. After all these years of dangerous deficits, America could be debt free, economically the strongest in the world, and financially the strongest in the world.

But today, if we don't change course, look what happens. Today, a baby born in Woodlands, Texas, their share of the debt is almost \$50,000. A new baby owes Uncle Sam a Lexus. If we don't change our ways, by the time that child is 13, that child will owe Uncle Sam a second Lexus. By the time that child is 22, finishing college and beginning to start their life and live their dreams, they will owe Uncle Sam another Lexus.

Now, the good news is young people don't actually buy luxury sedans for the Federal Government, but they pay the price in a very different way. All that debt slows the economy, so there will be fewer jobs for them to compete for; and all of that debt means higher taxes and higher interest rates, so there will be fewer jobs to compete for, and they will have less money in their paycheck as a result.

Our Democrat friends say: that is fine, let's stay the course; let's not change anything; the economy is great; our deficits are fantastic, and our country is going the right direction.

But that is not the truth in America today. We need to spend less as a government in a smart way. We need to

grow the economy in a strong way. We can't ignore the challenges facing us. We have to save Medicare and Social Security. This is the budget that grows America's future and doesn't shrink it. This is the budget that America needs. We can't afford to stay the course.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

The gentleman from the great State of Texas says that the Republicans have been cutting the deficit, but the facts are different.

Under President Clinton, we created a stunning 22 million jobs, and he left this country with a surplus. Under George Bush, in 8 years, he only created 1.2 million jobs and left us with a \$1.4 trillion deficit. And in the 5 years that President Obama has been in office, he has created 4.7 million jobs, which is 5 times more than his predecessor did, and cut the deficit in half. So the record of cutting deficits is on the side of the Democratic administrations and policies.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS), a newly elected Member and a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Chairman, I have owned a business and know what it is like to be a job creator in this country, and I am very proud of it.

This week, House Democrats introduced our budget alternative, a budget dedicated to the priorities of the American people: creating jobs, raising new ladders of opportunity, and building an economy that works for everyone. It is in stark contrast to the broken priorities of the Ryan budget. The Ryan budget will take \$2,000 more in taxes away from American families—that is working class families—without closing one tax loophole for the corporate rich.

The Ryan budget is an attack on seniors, students, workers, and middle class families, all for the sake of protecting loopholes for the wealthy and special interests. The budget will have a devastating impact on jobs. Republicans would lay waste to our commitments to education, lifesaving medical research, clean energy, modern infrastructure, and high-tech manufacturing. The Ryan budget will cripple our growth and surrender the future jobs of American kids to other nations like China, India, and Russia. The Ryan budget devastates our middle class.

The Ryan budget even rejects comprehensive immigration reform. The Ryan budget denies people the important bipartisan legislation that would create 120,000 American jobs each year for the first 10 years should that legislation be passed and empower small businesses, spur innovation, supercharge the economy, and reduce the deficit by over \$900 billion.

The Ryan budget is nothing less than a job-killing recipe. Democrats are strengthening the middle class, embracing economic growth, and we want responsible deficit reduction. Comprehensive immigration reform is investing in the future and creating jobs for our future, creating jobs for Americans.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

I might point out that President Bush did not leave this country with a deficit; Speaker NANCY PELOSI and her Democrat colleagues left this Nation with a deficit. And it continued to grow. The first year of their governance, the deficit doubled. The second year, it tripled. Then it went to a trillion dollars, trillion dollars, and trillion dollars. And only under a Republican House have we started to cut the growth in the deficit today.

The truth is, on immigration reform, Democrats held the Presidency, the House and the Senate, and they did nothing. When it comes to reducing the deficit, they held the House, the Senate, and the White House, and they did nothing. When it comes time to grow the economy and give the middle class a fighting chance, they held the House and the Senate and the Presidency and did nothing.

Let's not stay the course, because that has got us going the wrong direction. We need to change it. The Republican budget does that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. May I inquire how much time remains?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York has 3½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 8 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, I was sitting in my office downstairs, and I heard Mr. BRADY make the extraordinary claim that it was the Pelosi leadership that led to the doubling of deficits.

I would remind the gentleman, as he ought to know and I am sure he does know, not a single economic plan was passed in 2007 or 2008 that changed the Bush economic plan, not a single bill. And to make the assertion that the deepest recession he and I have experienced, Mr. Chairman, in our lifetimes, which occurred under the Bush administration with Bush economic policies was somehow the responsibility of a Pelosi-led Congress is absolutely absurd, incorrect, and the gentleman ought to know better.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

You know, I know the facts hurt. I know they hurt, Mr. Whip. The deficit doubled the first year under Speaker PELOSI and your leadership.

Mr. HOYER. Does the gentleman refer to 2007?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. The deficit tripled under your leadership.

The CHAIR. The gentleman will suspend.

The gentleman from Texas has the time. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I know the facts hurt. I know these deficits hurt real people. And I know the Democrats now want to revise history: they didn't create the deficits; they didn't create this slow economic recovery; everything is going great. But it is not.

You created record deficits. You took what was turning into lower and lower deficits and a trend toward a balanced budget and you exploded it, and our American families are hurting today. Millions more can't find a job. Young people with college degrees are working behind a cash register. The deficits are frightening and scaring America. It came under Democrat leadership and it has continued under this Democrat Presidency. I know the facts hurt, but those are the facts.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I yield myself 30 seconds.

The facts speak for themselves. George Bush's administration left us with a \$1.4 trillion deficit. They cut taxes, led us into two wars, and they blew the deficit.

Look at the Democratic deficit. We had a surplus from Bill Clinton, and President Obama halved the deficit.

I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I tell the gentleman from Texas, I do know the statistics: 800,000 jobs lost in the last month of the Bush administration; 800,000 jobs in 1 month, the worst job production since Herbert Hoover under the Bush administration.

Yes, this administration has had tough times because we inherited such a struggling, devastated economy from the Bush administration. The gentleman knows those figures are accurate, and he ought to admit those facts.

The budget deficit went up 87 percent under George Bush when he inherited a balanced budget. He inherited a balanced budget. The gentleman ought to be truthful with the American people, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The President doesn't allocate funding. He doesn't spend one dime Congress doesn't give him. A Republican Congress balanced the budget for President Clinton. And under President Bush, a Democrat Congress doubled and tripled and then went to trillion-

dollar deficits. This Congress, your legislative branch, you passed a nearly trillion-dollar stimulus without one Republican vote. You passed trillions of dollars with the Affordable Care Act that has continued to destroy the economy and drive deficits even higher. That is the truth. Those are the facts. I know they hurt, but we are not revising history today. We are talking about changing the course of this country away from deficits, away from this second-rate economy toward a country that actually can grow, and grow stronger.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The Chair again reminds Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, we don't have the time, but I would like to take the time at some point in time to discuss the facts with the gentleman from Texas, and I will take a Special Order out to do exactly that, to discuss the economic success of Democratic administrations and Republican administrations and bringing down the deficit.

And let me say further, I will repeat to the gentleman, no change in the Bush economic program was affected in 2007 and 2008 because George Bush was the President and would have vetoed anything we passed. So the representation to the contrary, Mr. Chairman, is inaccurate.

□ 1515

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Whip, I am your huckleberry. I will be glad to have the debate with you in a Special Order or anywhere else. The fact is this country is struggling. Your leadership has failed us as a Democrat governance in this White House. It is time to change course.

The CHAIR. Again, the Chair would remind Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to my friend from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would just say: When do you stop blaming the former President? For goodness' sake, we are in the fifth year of the Obama Presidency. Here is the problem. The first year of Ronald Reagan's second term, the growth rate, the economic growth rate, was 7½ percent. For goodness' sake. Ronald Reagan was able to turn things around that quickly. We are meandering along, bouncing along at a pathetic 2 percent growth rate. We could be so much better if we had the right policies in place and pass the right kind of budget and the right kind of vision for the country. That is

the point the gentleman is making. Quit blaming George Bush. We are in the fifth year of the Obama Presidency. If you want to look to a comparison: the fifth year of Ronald Reagan's Presidency, a 7½ percent growth rate.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much is remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Our economy is recovering from the depths of the Great Recession, but too many Americans are still left behind. This budget kicks them even further back with draconian cuts. We were sent here to create jobs, not eliminate them.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Ryan austerity plan would slow our economy and cost us jobs over the next 3 years.

Mr. Chairman, the Republican budget would make life harder for the vulnerable Americans from cradle to grave. It represents a choice to be less competitive and less compassionate.

Voting for this budget is voting to slow our recovery, lower our hopes, and dim our dreams. It is not a budget; it is a retreat, and Americans deserve better.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this draconian Republican budget, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I would inquire of the gentlelady if you would like to make your concluding remarks, or have you done so?

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I have made mine within the timeframe we had.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I will close out as well, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, if you like the direction the country is going, I guess there is no reason to change. If we want young people who don't believe they will ever earn as much or have a standard of living as their parents do, let's just stay the course. If we want a Nation with a second-rate economy where millions of people have given up looking for work, where the average family is missing over \$1,000 every month from their paycheck, let's just stay the course. If we want a Nation that continues that debt and debt and debt and debt—we are now becoming financially weaker each year rather than financially stronger—well then let's stay the course. If you want a Medicare and Social Security that a lot of younger people have given up hope will be there for them and many seniors are worried won't last for them either, well then let's just stay the course. And if we want a President who will hollow out our defense and our intelligence, who

will continue to waste money the taxpayers have earned, then let's just stay that course.

Or we can take a different direction for this Nation. We can impose smart spending cuts that actually get us back toward a balanced budget. We can grow the economy through tax reform and balanced regulation that actually gets Main Street pumping again, gives people hope again.

We believe there is a brighter future for America, but first it starts with living within our means, it begins with growing this economy, and it concludes with increasing the wages of women and men and fathers and sons and young people and women and minorities who now today have given up hope.

The Republican budget is about opportunity. It is about not giving up on America, it is about not settling for a second-rate economy in a financially strapped Nation that can no longer compete against China, Brazil, Europe, and our other competitors around the world. It really is about changing the direction of this Nation in a way that gives power to people, that gives power to Main Street, gives power to middle class families rather than taking it all for Washington.

We know the path we are on isn't working. We can no longer stay the course. It is time to change so the Republican budget spends less, grows the economy, solves the biggest challenges in America, and gives us hope that America can continue to be the strongest economy in the world through the next 100 years.

That is the goal America should be setting, that is the direction the Republican budget puts in place. It uses two smart, I think, revolutionary ideas: dynamic scoring, so we know the real-life effect of this budget and our growth; it focuses on controllable spending as a percentage of the economy, that is the right way to measure how we are doing as a Nation; and it uses a number of innovative approaches, again, to grow the economy, to shrink the deficit, and what I like most of all, it doesn't merely balance the budget, it puts us on a path to a debt-free America. That is something that can give us hope, that can give us opportunity, that is the direction that we ought to go.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the concurrent resolution shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule and is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 96

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.

(a) DECLARATION.—The Congress determines and declares that this concurrent res-

olution establishes the budget for fiscal year 2015 and sets forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this concurrent resolution is as follows:

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2015.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Sec. 101. Recommended levels and amounts.
Sec. 102. Major functional categories.

TITLE II—RECOMMENDED LONG-TERM LEVELS

Sec. 201. Long-term budgeting.

TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS

Sec. 301. Reserve fund for the repeal of the 2010 health care laws.
Sec. 302. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for the reform of the 2010 health care laws.
Sec. 303. Deficit-neutral reserve fund related to the Medicare provisions of the 2010 health care laws.
Sec. 304. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for the sustainable growth rate of the Medicare program.
Sec. 305. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for reforming the tax code.
Sec. 306. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for trade agreements.
Sec. 307. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for revenue measures.
Sec. 308. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for rural counties and schools.
Sec. 309. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for transportation.
Sec. 310. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility.

TITLE IV—ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING

Sec. 401. Direct spending.

TITLE V—BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 501. Limitation on advance appropriations.
Sec. 502. Concepts and definitions.
Sec. 503. Adjustments of aggregates, allocations, and appropriate budgetary levels.
Sec. 504. Limitation on long-term spending.
Sec. 505. Budgetary treatment of certain transactions.
Sec. 506. Application and effect of changes in allocations and aggregates.
Sec. 507. Congressional Budget Office estimates.
Sec. 508. Transfers from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund that increase public indebtedness.
Sec. 509. Separate allocation for overseas contingency operations/global war on terrorism.
Sec. 510. Exercise of rulemaking powers.

TITLE VI—POLICY STATEMENTS

Sec. 601. Policy statement on economic growth and job creation.
Sec. 602. Policy statement on tax reform.
Sec. 603. Policy statement on replacing the President's health care law.
Sec. 604. Policy statement on Medicare.
Sec. 605. Policy statement on Social Security.
Sec. 606. Policy statement on higher education and workforce development opportunity.
Sec. 607. Policy statement on deficit reduction through the cancellation of unobligated balances.
Sec. 608. Policy statement on responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Sec. 609. Policy statement on deficit reduction through the reduction of unnecessary and wasteful spending.

Sec. 610. Policy statement on unauthorized spending.

Sec. 611. Policy statement on Federal regulatory policy.

Sec. 612. Policy statement on trade.

Sec. 613. No budget, no pay.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

SEC. 101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$2,533,841,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$2,676,038,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$2,789,423,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$2,890,308,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$3,014,685,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$3,148,637,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$3,294,650,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$3,456,346,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$3,626,518,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$3,807,452,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$0.
Fiscal year 2016: \$0.
Fiscal year 2017: \$0.
Fiscal year 2018: \$0.
Fiscal year 2019: \$0.
Fiscal year 2020: \$0.
Fiscal year 2021: \$0.
Fiscal year 2022: \$0.
Fiscal year 2023: \$0.
Fiscal year 2024: \$0.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$2,842,226,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$2,858,059,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$2,957,321,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$3,059,410,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$3,210,987,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$3,360,435,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$3,460,524,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$3,587,380,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$3,660,151,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$3,706,695,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$2,920,026,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$2,889,484,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$2,949,261,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$3,034,773,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$3,185,472,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$3,320,927,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$3,433,392,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$3,577,963,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$3,632,642,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$3,676,374,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS (ON-BUDGET).—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the amounts of the deficits (on-budget) are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: -\$386,186,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: -\$213,446,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: -\$159,838,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: -\$144,466,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: -\$170,787,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: -\$172,290,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: -\$138,741,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022: -\$121,617,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023: -\$6,124,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024: \$131,078,000,000.

(5) DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT.—The appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$18,304,357,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016: \$18,627,533,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017: \$19,172,590,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018: \$19,411,553,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019: \$19,773,917,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020: \$20,227,349,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021: \$20,449,374,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022: \$20,822,448,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023: \$20,981,807,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024: \$21,089,365,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$13,213,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016: \$13,419,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017: \$13,800,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018: \$13,860,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019: \$14,080,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020: \$14,427,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021: \$14,579,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022: \$14,940,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023: \$15,080,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024: \$15,176,000,000,000.

SEC. 102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

The Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2015 through 2024 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$528,927,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$566,503,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$573,792,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$573,064,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$597,895,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$584,252,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$611,146,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$593,795,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$624,416,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$611,902,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$638,697,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$626,175,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$653,001,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$640,499,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$669,967,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$661,181,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$687,393,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$672,922,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$706,218,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$685,796,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$38,695,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$39,029,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$39,734,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$37,976,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$40,642,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$38,229,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$41,589,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$38,822,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$42,513,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$39,553,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$43,497,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$40,114,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$44,004,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$40,701,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$45,271,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$41,749,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$46,287,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$42,667,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$47,349,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$43,624,000,000.

(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$27,941,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$27,927,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$28,493,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$28,240,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$29,113,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$28,750,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$29,764,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$29,350,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$30,413,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$29,938,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$31,096,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$30,589,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$31,782,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$31,174,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$32,493,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$31,870,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$33,210,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$32,576,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$33,955,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$33,304,000,000.

(4) Energy (270):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$4,228,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$5,751,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$3,820,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$3,416,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$2,048,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$1,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,762,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$1,192,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,788,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$1,278,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,851,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$1,384,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, -\$16,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$346,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, -\$1,018,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$1,283,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, -\$1,914,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$2,188,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, -\$6,113,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$6,699,000,000.

(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$34,289,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$39,311,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$34,491,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$37,747,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$35,077,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$36,204,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$33,047,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$33,316,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$36,859,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$36,779,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$38,169,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$37,877,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$36,428,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$36,379,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$38,979,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$38,749,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$39,927,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$39,733,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$40,592,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$39,752,000,000.

(6) Agriculture (350):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$19,042,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,556,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$22,506,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$22,313,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$20,527,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,992,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$18,506,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$17,883,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$18,654,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$17,970,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$19,008,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$18,440,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$19,263,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$18,763,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$19,764,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,249,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$20,017,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,516,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$20,635,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$20,131,000,000.

(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, -\$3,239,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$14,762,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, -\$4,518,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$18,633,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, -\$7,672,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$23,217,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, -\$7,385,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$24,136,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, -\$6,658,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$28,258,000

- (B) Outlays, -\$25,793,000,000.
(8) Transportation (400):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$34,713,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$80,659,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$68,529,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$69,907,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$74,454,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$75,199,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$75,978,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$77,558,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$77,501,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$78,163,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$78,373,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$79,056,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$79,369,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$80,231,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$80,529,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$81,409,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$81,829,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$82,872,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$83,353,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$84,024,000,000.
(9) Community and Regional Development (450):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$14,556,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$23,608,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$15,303,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$21,425,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$15,269,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$19,292,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$15,414,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$17,840,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$15,387,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$16,841,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$15,283,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$16,008,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$15,421,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$14,679,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$15,658,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$13,408,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$15,954,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$13,490,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$16,302,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$13,910,000,000.
(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$73,908,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$91,759,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$82,372,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$84,521,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$86,699,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$87,137,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$89,536,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$89,808,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$85,278,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$86,074,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$86,555,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$87,130,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$87,749,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$88,403,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$89,167,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$89,839,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$90,661,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$91,360,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$92,094,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$92,926,000,000.
(11) Health (550):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$419,799,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$416,573,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$367,238,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$370,205,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$377,752,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$375,839,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$376,732,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$377,346,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$390,437,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$390,404,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$415,814,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$405,309,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$419,124,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$418,298,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$433,512,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$432,149,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$449,181,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$447,991,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$472,300,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$471,312,000,000.
(12) Medicare (570):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$519,196,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$519,407,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$558,895,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$558,964,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$570,144,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$570,341,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$590,695,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$591,117,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$651,579,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$651,878,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$692,307,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$692,644,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$737,455,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$738,042,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$815,257,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$817,195,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$836,296,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$837,883,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$859,011,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$866,262,000,000.
(13) Income Security (600):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$505,729,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$505,032,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$487,645,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$490,122,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$489,766,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$487,105,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$492,129,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$484,280,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$493,996,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$490,014,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$512,717,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$508,689,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$520,016,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$515,475,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$529,438,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$529,111,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$530,839,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$525,624,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$525,701,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$515,225,000,000.
(14) Social Security (650):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$31,442,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$31,517,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$34,245,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$34,283,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$37,133,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$37,133,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$40,138,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$40,138,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$43,383,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$43,383,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$46,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$46,747,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$50,255,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$50,255,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$53,941,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$53,941,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$57,800,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$57,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$58,441,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$58,441,000,000.
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$153,027,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$152,978,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$164,961,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$164,807,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$163,858,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$163,269,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$162,388,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$161,646,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$174,305,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$173,499,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$179,269,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$178,380,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$183,571,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$182,676,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$195,680,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$194,719,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$192,458,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$191,491,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$189,292,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$188,262,000,000.
(16) Administration of Justice (750):

Fiscal year 2015:

- (A) New budget authority, \$54,011,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$54,250,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

- (A) New budget authority, \$56,932,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$56,298,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

- (A) New budget authority, \$56,770,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$58,319,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

- (A) New budget authority, \$58,405,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$59,095,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

- (A) New budget authority, \$60,239,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$60,501,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

- (A) New budget authority, \$62,146,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$61,649,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

- (A) New budget authority, \$64,263,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$63,734,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

- (A) New budget authority, \$66,967,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$66,411,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

- (A) New budget authority, \$69,031,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$68,455,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

- (A) New budget authority, \$71,166,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$70,568,000,000.

(17) General Government (800):

Fiscal year 2015:

- (A) New budget authority, \$23,710,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$23,618,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

- (A) New budget authority, \$23,064,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$22,826,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

- (A) New budget authority, \$21,587,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$21,674,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

- (A) New budget authority, \$23,269,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$22,973,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

- (A) New budget authority, \$24,040,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$23,582,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

- (A) New budget authority, \$24,759,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$24,331,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

- (A) New budget authority, \$25,556,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$25,139,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

- (A) New budget authority, \$26,353,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$25,939,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

- (A) New budget authority, \$27,097,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$26,691,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

- (A) New budget authority, \$27,912,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$27,491,000,000.

(18) Net Interest (900):

Fiscal year 2015:

- (A) New budget authority, \$365,987,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$365,987,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

- (A) New budget authority, \$416,238,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$416,238,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

- (A) New budget authority, \$482,228,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$482,228,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

- (A) New budget authority, \$553,820,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$553,820,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

- (A) New budget authority, \$611,852,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$611,852,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

- (A) New budget authority, \$659,310,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$659,310,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

- (A) New budget authority, \$693,159,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$693,159,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

- (A) New budget authority, \$723,805,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, \$723,805,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

- (A) New budget authority, \$751,215,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, \$751,215,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

- (A) New budget authority, \$770,124,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, \$770,124,000,000.

(19) Allowances (920):

Fiscal year 2015:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$36,364,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$22,676,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$47,825,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$36,706,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$51,416,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$45,014,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$54,566,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$49,571,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$56,672,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$53,542,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$61,825,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$58,102,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$64,552,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$61,040,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$66,871,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$63,946,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$68,992,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$66,322,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$65,972,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$64,338,000,000.

(20) Government-wide savings (930):

Fiscal year 2015:

- (A) New budget authority, \$25,904,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, \$20,052,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$14,151,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$1,701,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$30,525,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$17,482,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$38,302,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$27,789,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$46,446,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$35,547,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$55,559,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$44,608,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$63,060,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$53,317,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$75,189,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$64,007,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$87,334,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$75,209,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$117,125,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$96,353,000,000.

(21) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):

Fiscal year 2015:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$78,632,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$78,632,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$83,652,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$83,652,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$83,974,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$83,974,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$84,602,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$84,602,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$91,824,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$91,824,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$93,787,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$93,787,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$98,176,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$98,176,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$101,529,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$101,529,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$105,731,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$105,731,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

- (A) New budget authority, -\$113,422,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, -\$113,422,000,000.

(22) Overseas Contingency Operations/Glob-
al War on Terrorism (970):

Fiscal year 2015:

- (A) New budget authority, \$85,357,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, \$52,580,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

- (A) New budget authority, \$29,946,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, \$37,823,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

- (A) New budget authority, \$29,946,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, \$32,585,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

- (A) New budget authority, \$29,946,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, \$30,893,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

- (A) New budget authority, \$29,946,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, \$31,032,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

- (A) New budget authority, \$29,946,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, \$29,647,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

- (A) New budget authority, \$29,946,000,000.

- (B) Outlays, \$29,647,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

- (A) New budget authority, \$0.

- (B) Outlays, \$11,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

- (A) New budget authority, \$0.

- (B) Outlays, \$4,402,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

- (A) New budget authority, \$0.

this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that only consists of a full repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the health care-related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

SEC. 302. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE REFORM OF THE 2010 HEALTH CARE LAWS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that reforms or replaces the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 303. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATED TO THE MEDICARE PROVISIONS OF THE 2010 HEALTH CARE LAWS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that repeals all or part of the decreases in Medicare spending included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 304. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE OF THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that includes provisions amending or superseding the system for updating payments under section 1848 of the Social Security Act, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 305. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR REFORMING THE TAX CODE.

In the House, if the Committee on Ways and Means reports a bill or joint resolution that reforms the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any such bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 306. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR TRADE AGREEMENTS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that implements a trade agreement, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 307. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR REVENUE MEASURES.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations,

aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that decreases revenue, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 308. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR RURAL COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that makes changes to or provides for the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) by the amounts provided by that legislation for those purposes, if such legislation requires sustained yield timber harvests obviating the need for funding under Public Law 106-393 in the future and would not increase the deficit or direct spending for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2019, or the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 309. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR TRANSPORTATION.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure maintains the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 310. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO REDUCE POVERTY AND INCREASE OPPORTUNITY AND UPWARD MOBILITY.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure reforms policies and programs to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility, but only if such measure would neither adversely impact job creation nor increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

TITLE IV—ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING

SEC. 401. DIRECT SPENDING.

(a) MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 6.8 percent.

(2) For means-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for means-tested direct spending:

(A) In 1996, a Republican Congress and a Democratic president reformed welfare by limiting the duration of benefits, giving States more control over the program, and helping recipients find work. In the five years following passage, child-poverty rates fell, welfare caseloads fell, and workers' wages increased. This budget applies the lessons of welfare reform to both the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid.

(B) For Medicaid, this budget assumes the conversion of the Federal share of Medicaid spending into a flexible State allotment tailored to meet each State's needs, indexed for inflation and population growth. Such a reform would end the misguided one-size-fits-all approach that has tied the hands of State governments. Instead, each State would have the freedom and flexibility to tailor a Medicaid program that fits the needs of its unique population. Moreover, this budget assumes the repeal of the Medicaid expansions in the President's health care law, relieving State governments of its crippling one-size-fits-all enrollment mandates.

(C) For the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, this budget assumes the conversion of the program into a flexible State allotment tailored to meet each State's needs. The allotment would increase based on the Department of Agriculture Thrifty Food Plan index and beneficiary growth. Such a reform would provide incentives for States to ensure dollars will go towards those who need them most. Additionally, it requires that more stringent work requirements and time limits apply under the program.

(b) NONMEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 5.7 percent.

(2) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for nonmeans-tested direct spending:

(A) For Medicare, this budget advances policies to put seniors, not the Federal Government, in control of their health care decisions. Those in or near retirement will see no changes, while future retirees would be given a choice of private plans competing alongside the traditional fee-for-service Medicare program. Medicare would provide a premium-support payment either to pay for or offset the premium of the plan chosen by the senior, depending on the plan's cost. The Medicare premium-support payment would be adjusted so that the sick would receive higher payments if their conditions worsened; lower-income seniors would receive additional assistance to help cover out-of-pocket costs; and wealthier seniors would assume responsibility for a greater share of their premiums. Putting seniors in charge of how their health care dollars are spent will force providers to compete against each other on price and quality. This market competition will act as a real check on widespread waste and skyrocketing health care costs.

(B) In keeping with a recommendation from the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, this budget calls for Federal employees—including Members of Congress and congressional staff—to make greater contributions toward their own retirement.

TITLE V—BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 501. LIMITATION ON ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House, except as provided for in subsection (b), any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, making a general appropriation or continuing appropriation may not provide for advance appropriations.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—An advance appropriation may be provided for programs, projects, activities, or accounts referred to in subsection

(c)(1) or identified in the report to accompany this concurrent resolution or the joint explanatory statement of managers to accompany this concurrent resolution under the heading “Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations”.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—For fiscal year 2016, the aggregate level of advance appropriations shall not exceed—

(1) \$58,662,202,000 for the following programs in the Department of Veterans Affairs—

(A) Medical Services;
(B) Medical Support and Compliance; and
(C) Medical Facilities accounts of the Veterans Health Administration; and

(2) \$28,781,000,000 in new budget authority for all programs identified pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “advance appropriation” means any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, making general appropriations or any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 502. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS.

Upon the enactment of any bill or joint resolution providing for a change in budgetary concepts or definitions, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust any allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution accordingly.

SEC. 503. ADJUSTMENTS OF AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS, AND APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS.

(a) ADJUSTMENTS OF DISCRETIONARY AND DIRECT SPENDING LEVELS.—If a committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations) reports a bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, providing for a decrease in direct spending (budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom) for any fiscal year and also provides for an authorization of appropriations for the same purpose, upon the enactment of such measure, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may decrease the allocation to such committee and increase the allocation of discretionary spending (budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom) to the Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2015 by an amount equal to the new budget authority (and outlays flowing therefrom) provided for in a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for the same purpose.

(b) ADJUSTMENTS TO FUND OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.—In order to take into account any new information included in the budget submission by the President for fiscal year 2015, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate budgetary levels for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or the section 302(a) allocation to the Committee on Appropriations set forth in the report of this concurrent resolution to conform with section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (as adjusted by section 251A of such Act).

(c) REVISED CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE BASELINE.—The chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate budgetary levels to reflect changes resulting from technical and economic assumptions in the most recent baseline published by the Congressional Budget Office.

(d) DETERMINATIONS.—For the purpose of enforcing this concurrent resolution on the budget in the House, the allocations and aggregate levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses for fiscal year 2015 and the period of fiscal years 2015 through fiscal year 2024 shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the chair of the Committee on the Budget and such chair may adjust such applicable levels of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 504. LIMITATION ON LONG-TERM SPENDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House, it shall not be in order to consider a bill or joint resolution reported by a committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations), or an amendment thereto or a conference report thereon, if the provisions of such measure have the net effect of increasing direct spending in excess of \$5,000,000,000 for any period described in subsection (b).

(b) TIME PERIODS.—The applicable periods for purposes of this section are any of the four consecutive ten fiscal-year periods beginning with fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 505. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 302(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, and section 4001 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, the report accompanying this concurrent resolution on the budget or the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on any concurrent resolution on the budget shall include in its allocation under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to the Committee on Appropriations amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and the United States Postal Service.

(b) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of applying sections 302(f) and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, estimates of the level of total new budget authority and total outlays provided by a measure shall include any off-budget discretionary amounts.

(c) ADJUSTMENTS.—The chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels for legislation reported by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform that reforms the Federal retirement system, if such adjustments do not cause a net increase in the deficit for fiscal year 2015 and the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 506. APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF CHANGES IN ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.

(a) APPLICATION.—Any adjustments of the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels made pursuant to this concurrent resolution shall—

(1) apply while that measure is under consideration;

(2) take effect upon the enactment of that measure; and

(3) be published in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable.

(b) EFFECT OF CHANGED ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.—Revised allocations and aggregates resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as allocations and aggregates included in this concurrent resolution.

(c) BUDGET COMPLIANCE.—The consideration of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, for which the chair of the Committee on the Budget makes adjustments or

revisions in the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels of this concurrent resolution shall not be subject to the points of order set forth in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives or section 504.

SEC. 507. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Costs of Federal housing loans and loan guarantees are treated unequally in the budget. The Congressional Budget Office uses fair-value accounting to measure the costs of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but determines the cost of other Federal loan and loan-guarantee programs on the basis of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (“FCRA”).

(2) The fair-value accounting method uses discount rates which incorporate the risk inherent to the type of liability being estimated in addition to Treasury discount rates of the proper maturity length. In contrast, FCRA accounting solely uses the discount rates of the Treasury, failing to incorporate all of the risks attendant to these credit activities.

(3) The Congressional Budget Office estimates that if fair-value were used to estimate the cost of all new credit activity in 2014, the deficit would be approximately \$50 billion higher than under the current methodology.

(b) FAIR VALUE ESTIMATES.—Upon the request of the chair or ranking member of the Committee on the Budget, any estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office for a measure under the terms of title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, “credit reform”, as a supplement to such estimate shall, to the extent practicable, also provide an estimate of the current actual or estimated market values representing the “fair value” of assets and liabilities affected by such measure.

(c) FAIR VALUE ESTIMATES FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS.—Whenever the Director of the Congressional Budget Office prepares an estimate pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out any bill or joint resolution and if the Director determines that such bill or joint resolution has a cost related to a housing or residential mortgage program under the FCRA, then the Director shall also provide an estimate of the current actual or estimated market values representing the “fair value” of assets and liabilities affected by the provisions of such bill or joint resolution that result in such cost.

(d) ENFORCEMENT.—If the Director of the Congressional Budget Office provides an estimate pursuant to subsection (b) or (c), the chair of the Committee on the Budget may use such estimate to determine compliance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and other budgetary enforcement controls.

SEC. 508. TRANSFERS FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE TREASURY TO THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND THAT INCREASE PUBLIC INDEBTEDNESS.

For purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, or the rules or orders of the House of Representatives, a bill or joint resolution, or an amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that transfers funds from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund shall be counted as new budget authority and outlays equal to the amount of the transfer in the fiscal year the transfer occurs.

SEC. 509. SEPARATE ALLOCATION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.

(a) **ALLOCATION.**—In the House, there shall be a separate allocation to the Committee on Appropriations for overseas contingency operations/global war on terrorism. For purposes of enforcing such separate allocation under section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the “first fiscal year” and the “total of fiscal years” shall be deemed to refer to fiscal year 2015. Such separate allocation shall be the exclusive allocation for overseas contingency operations/global war on terrorism under section 302(a) of such Act. Section 302(c) of such Act shall not apply to such separate allocation. The Committee on Appropriations may provide suballocations of such separate allocation under section 302(b) of such Act. Spending that counts toward the allocation established by this section shall be designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) **ADJUSTMENT.**—In the House, for purposes of subsection (a) for fiscal year 2015, no adjustment shall be made under section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if any adjustment would be made under section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 510. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

The House adopts the provisions of this title—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of the House of Representatives, and these rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with other such rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the House of Representatives to change those rules at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of the House of Representatives.

TITLE VI—POLICY STATEMENTS

SEC. 601. POLICY STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House finds the following:

(1) Although the United States economy technically emerged from recession nearly five years ago, the subsequent recovery has felt more like a malaise than a rebound. Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth over the past four years has averaged just over 2 percent, well below the 3 percent trend rate of growth in the United States.

(2) The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) did a study in late 2012 examining why the United States economy was growing so slowly after the recession. They found, among other things, that United States economic output was growing at less than half of the typical rate exhibited during other recoveries since World War II. CBO said that about two-thirds of this “growth gap” was due to a pronounced sluggishness in the growth of potential GDP—particularly in potential employment levels (such as people leaving the labor force) and the growth in productivity (which is in turn related to lower capital investment).

(3) The prolonged economic sluggishness is particularly troubling given the amount of fiscal and monetary policy actions taken in recent years to cushion the depth of the downturn and to spark higher rates of growth and employment. In addition to the large stimulus package passed in early 2009, many other initiatives have been taken to

boost growth, such as the new homebuyer tax credit and the “cash for clunkers” program. These stimulus efforts may have led to various short term “pops” in activity but the economy and job market has since reverted back to a sub-par trend.

(4) The unemployment rate has declined in recent years, from a peak of nearly 10 percent in 2009-2010 to 6.7 percent in the latest month. However, a significant chunk of this decline has been due to people leaving the labor force (and therefore no longer being counted as “unemployed”) and not from a surge in employment. The slow decline in the unemployment rate in recent years has occurred alongside a steep decline in the economy’s labor force participation rate. The participation rate stands at 63.0 percent, close to the lowest level since 1978. The flipside of this is that over 90 million Americans are now “on the sidelines” and not in the labor force, representing a 10 million increase since early 2009.

(5) Real median household income declined for the fifth consecutive year in 2012 (latest data available) and, at just over \$51,000, is currently at its lowest level since 1995. Weak wage and income growth as a result of a sub-par labor market not only means lower tax revenue coming in to the Treasury, it also means higher government spending on income support programs.

(6) A stronger economy is vital to lowering deficit levels and eventually balancing the budget. According to CBO, if annual real GDP growth is just 0.1 percentage point higher over the budget window, deficits would be reduced by \$311 billion.

(7) This budget resolution therefore embraces pro-growth policies, such as fundamental tax reform, that will help foster a stronger economy and more job creation.

(8) Reining in government spending and lowering budget deficits has a positive long-term impact on the economy and the budget. According to CBO, a significant deficit reduction package (i.e. \$4 trillion), would boost longer-term economic output by 1.7 percent. Their analysis concludes that deficit reduction creates long-term economic benefits because it increases the pool of national savings and boosts investment, thereby raising economic growth and job creation.

(9) The greater economic output that stems from a large deficit reduction package would have a sizeable impact on the Federal budget. For instance, higher output would lead to greater revenues through the increase in taxable incomes. Lower interest rates, and a reduction in the stock of debt, would lead to lower government spending on net interest expenses. According to CBO, this dynamic would reduce unified budget deficits by an amount sufficient to produce a surplus in fiscal year 2024.

(b) **POLICY ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.**—It is the policy of this resolution to promote faster economic growth and job creation. By putting the budget on a sustainable path, this resolution ends the debt-fueled uncertainty holding back job creators. Reforms to the tax code to put American businesses and workers in a better position to compete and thrive in the 21st century global economy. This resolution targets the regulatory red tape and cronyism that stack the deck in favor of special interests. All of the reforms in this resolution serve as means to the larger end of growing the economy and expanding opportunity for all Americans.

SEC. 602. POLICY STATEMENT ON TAX REFORM.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House finds the following:

(1) A world-class tax system should be simple, fair, and promote (rather than impede) economic growth. The United States tax code fails on all three counts – it is notoriously complex, patently unfair, and highly inefficient. The tax code’s complexity distorts decisions to work, save, and invest, which leads to slower economic growth, lower wages, and less job creation.

(2) Over the past decade alone, there have been more than 4,400 changes to the tax code, more than one per day. Many of the major changes over the years have involved carving out special preferences, exclusions, or deductions for various activities or groups. These loopholes add up to more than \$1 trillion per year and make the code unfair, inefficient, and highly complex.

(3) In addition, these tax preferences are disproportionately used by upper-income individuals.

(4) The large amount of tax preferences that pervade the code end up narrowing the tax base. A narrow tax base, in turn, requires much higher tax rates to raise a given amount of revenue.

(5) It is estimated that American taxpayers end up spending \$160 billion and roughly 6 billion hours a year complying with the tax code – a waste of time and resources that could be used in more productive activities.

(6) Standard economic theory shows that high marginal tax rates dampen the incentives to work, save, and invest, which reduces economic output and job creation. Lower economic output, in turn, mutes the intended revenue gain from higher marginal tax rates.

(7) Roughly half of United States active business income and half of private sector employment are derived from business entities (such as partnerships, S corporations, and sole proprietorships) that are taxed on a “pass-through” basis, meaning the income flows through to the tax returns of the individual owners and is taxed at the individual rate structure rather than at the corporate rate. Small businesses, in particular, tend to choose this form for Federal tax purposes, and the top Federal rate on such small business income reaches 44.6 percent. For these reasons, sound economic policy requires lowering marginal rates on these pass-through entities.

(8) The United States corporate income tax rate (including Federal, State, and local taxes) sums to just over 39 percent, the highest rate in the industrialized world. Tax rates this high suppress wages and discourage investment and job creation, distort business activity, and put American businesses at a competitive disadvantage with foreign competitors.

(9) By deterring potential investment, the United States corporate tax restrains economic growth and job creation. The United States tax rate differential with other countries also fosters a variety of complicated multinational corporate behaviors intended to avoid the tax, which have the effect of moving the tax base offshore, destroying American jobs, and decreasing corporate revenue.

(10) The “worldwide” structure of United States international taxation essentially taxes earnings of United States firms twice, putting them at a significant competitive disadvantage with competitors with more competitive international tax systems.

(11) Reforming the United States tax code to a more competitive international system would boost the competitiveness of United States companies operating abroad and it would also greatly reduce tax avoidance.

(12) The tax code imposes costs on American workers through lower wages, on consumers in higher prices, and on investors in diminished returns.

(13) Revenues have averaged about 17.5 percent of the economy throughout modern American history. Revenues rise above this level under current law to 18.4 percent of the economy by the end of the 10-year budget window.

(14) Attempting to raise revenue through tax increases to meet out-of-control spending would damage the economy.

(15) This resolution also rejects the idea of instituting a carbon tax in the United States, which some have offered as a “new” source of revenue. Such a plan would damage the economy, cost jobs, and raise prices on American consumers.

(16) Closing tax loopholes to fund spending does not constitute fundamental tax reform.

(17) The goal of tax reform should be to curb or eliminate loopholes and use those savings to lower tax rates across the board—not to fund more wasteful Government spending. Tax reform should be revenue-neutral and should not be an excuse to raise taxes on the American people. Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

(b) **POLICY ON TAX REFORM.**—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should enact legislation that provides for a comprehensive reform of the United States tax code to promote economic growth, create American jobs, increase wages, and benefit American consumers, investors, and workers through revenue-neutral fundamental tax reform that—

(1) simplifies the tax code to make it fairer to American families and businesses and reduces the amount of time and resources necessary to comply with tax laws;

(2) substantially lowers tax rates for individuals, with a goal of achieving a top individual rate of 25 percent and consolidating the current seven individual income tax brackets into two brackets with a first bracket of 10 percent;

(3) repeals the Alternative Minimum Tax;

(4) reduces the corporate tax rate to 25 percent; and

(5) transitions the tax code to a more competitive system of international taxation.

SEC. 603. POLICY STATEMENT ON REPLACING THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE LAW.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House finds the following:

(1) The President's health care law has failed to reduce health care premiums as promised. Health care premiums were supposed to decline by \$2,500. Instead, according to the 2013 Employer Health Benefits Survey, health care premiums have increased by 5 percent for individual plans and 4 percent for family since 2012. Moreover, according to a report from the Energy and Commerce Committee, premiums for individual market plans may go up as much as 50 percent because of the law.

(2) The President pledged that Americans would be able to keep their health care plan if they liked it. But the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office now estimates 2 million Americans with employment-based health coverage will lose those plans.

(3) Then-Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, said that the President's health care law would create 4 million jobs over the life of the law and almost 400,000 jobs immediately. Instead, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the law will reduce full-time equivalent employment by about

2.0 million hours in 2017 and 2.5 million hours in 2024, “compared with what would have occurred in the absence of the ACA.”

(4) The implementation of the law has been a failure. The main website that Americans were supposed to use in purchasing new coverage was broken for over a month. Since the President's health care law was signed into law, the Administration has announced 23 delays. The President has also failed to submit any nominees to sit on the Independent Payment Advisory Board, a panel of bureaucrats that will cut Medicare by an additional \$12.1 billion over the next ten years, according to the President's own budget.

(5) The President's health care law should be repealed and replaced with reforms that make affordable and quality health care coverage available to all Americans.

(b) **POLICY ON REPLACING THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE LAW.**—It is the policy of this resolution that the President's health care law must not only be repealed, but also replaced, for the following reasons:

(1) The President's health care law is a government-run system driving up health care costs and forcing Americans to lose their health care coverage and should be replaced with a reformed health care system that gives patients and their doctors more choice and control over their health care.

(2) Instead of a complex structure of subsidies, “firewalls,” mandates, and penalties, a reformed health care system should make health care coverage portable.

(3) Instead of stifling innovation in health care technologies, treatments, and medications through Federal mandates, taxes, and price controls, a reformed health care system should encourage research and development.

(4) Instead of instituting one-size-fits-all directives from Federal bureaucracies such as the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Independent Payment Advisory Board, individuals and families should be free to secure the health care coverage that best meets their needs.

(5) Instead of allowing fraudulent lawsuits, which are driving up health care costs, the medical liability system should be reformed while at the same time reaffirming that States should be free to implement the policies that best suit their needs.

(6) Instead of using Federal taxes, mandates, and bureaucracies to address those who have trouble securing health care coverage, high risk pools should be established.

(7) Instead of more than doubling spending on Medicaid, which is driving up Federal debt and will eventually bankrupt State budgets, Medicaid spending should be brought under control and States should be given more flexibility to provide quality, affordable care to those who are eligible.

(8) Instead of driving up health care costs and reducing employment, a reformed health care system should lower health care costs, which will increase economic growth and employment by lowering health care inflation.

SEC. 604. POLICY STATEMENT ON MEDICARE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House finds the following:

(1) More than 50 million Americans depend on Medicare for their health security.

(2) The Medicare Trustees Report has repeatedly recommended that Medicare's long-term financial challenges be addressed soon. Each year without reform, the financial condition of Medicare becomes more precarious and the threat to those in or near retirement becomes more pronounced. According to the Congressional Budget Office—

(A) the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be exhausted in 2026 and unable to pay scheduled benefits; and

(B) Medicare spending is growing faster than the economy and Medicare outlays are currently rising at a rate of 6 percent per year over the next ten years, and according to the Congressional Budget Office's 2013 Long-Term Budget Outlook, spending on Medicare is projected to reach 5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2040 and 9.4 percent of GDP by 2088.

(3) The President's health care law created a new Federal agency called the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) empowered with unilateral authority to cut Medicare spending. As a result of that law—

(A) IPAB will be tasked with keeping the Medicare per capita growth below a Medicare per capita target growth rate. Prior to 2018, the target growth rate is based on the five-year average of overall inflation and medical inflation. Beginning in 2018, the target growth rate will be the five-year average increase in the nominal GDP plus one percentage point, which the President has twice proposed to reduce to GDP plus one-half percentage point;

(B) the fifteen unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats of IPAB will make decisions that will reduce seniors access to care;

(C) the nonpartisan Office of the Medicare Chief Actuary estimates that the provider cuts already contained in the Affordable Care Act will force 15 percent of hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies to become unprofitable in 2019; and

(D) additional cuts from the IPAB board will force even more health care providers to close their doors, and the Board should be repealed.

(4) Failing to address this problem will leave millions of American seniors without adequate health security and younger generations burdened with enormous debt to pay for spending levels that cannot be sustained.

(b) **POLICY ON MEDICARE REFORM.**—It is the policy of this resolution to protect those in or near retirement from any disruptions to their Medicare benefits and offer future beneficiaries the same health care options available to Members of Congress.

(c) **ASSUMPTIONS.**—This resolution assumes reform of the Medicare program such that:

(1) Current Medicare benefits are preserved for those in or near retirement.

(2) For future generations, when they reach eligibility, Medicare is reformed to provide a premium support payment and a selection of guaranteed health coverage options from which recipients can choose a plan that best suits their needs.

(3) Medicare will maintain traditional fee-for-service as an option.

(4) Medicare will provide additional assistance for lower-income beneficiaries and those with greater health risks.

(5) Medicare spending is put on a sustainable path and the Medicare program becomes solvent over the long-term.

SEC. 605. POLICY STATEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House finds the following:

(1) More than 55 million retirees, individuals with disabilities, and survivors depend on Social Security. Since enactment, Social Security has served as a vital leg on the “three-legged stool” of retirement security, which includes employer provided pensions as well as personal savings.

(2) The Social Security Trustees Report has repeatedly recommended that Social Security's long-term financial challenges be

addressed soon. Each year without reform, the financial condition of Social Security becomes more precarious and the threat to seniors and those receiving Social Security disability benefits becomes more pronounced:

(A) In 2016, the Disability Insurance Trust Fund will be exhausted and program revenues will be unable to pay scheduled benefits.

(B) In 2033, the combined Old-Age and Survivors and Disability Trust Funds will be exhausted, and program revenues will be unable to pay scheduled benefits.

(C) With the exhaustion of the Trust Funds in 2033, benefits will be cut nearly 25 percent across the board, devastating those currently in or near retirement and those who rely on Social Security the most.

(3) The recession and continued low economic growth have exacerbated the looming fiscal crisis facing Social Security. The most recent CBO projections find that Social Security will run cash deficits of \$1.7 trillion over the next 10 years.

(4) Lower-income Americans rely on Social Security for a larger proportion of their retirement income. Therefore, reforms should take into consideration the need to protect lower-income Americans' retirement security.

(5) The Disability Insurance program provides an essential income safety net for those with disabilities and their families. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), between 1970 and 2012, the number of people receiving disability benefits (both disabled workers and their dependent family members) has increased by over 300 percent from 2.7 million to over 10.9 million. This increase is not due strictly to population growth or decreases in health. David Autor and Mark Duggan have found that the increase in individuals on disability does not reflect a decrease in self-reported health. CBO attributes program growth to changes in demographics, changes in the composition of the labor force and compensation, as well as Federal policies.

(6) If this program is not reformed, families who rely on the lifeline that disability benefits provide will face benefit cuts of up to 25 percent in 2016, devastating individuals who need assistance the most.

(7) In the past, Social Security has been reformed on a bipartisan basis, most notably by the "Greenspan Commission" which helped to address Social Security shortfalls for over a generation.

(8) Americans deserve action by the President, the House, and the Senate to preserve and strengthen Social Security. It is critical that bipartisan action be taken to address the looming insolvency of Social Security. In this spirit, this resolution creates a bipartisan opportunity to find solutions by requiring policymakers to ensure that Social Security remains a critical part of the safety net.

(b) **POLICY ON SOCIAL SECURITY.**—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should work on a bipartisan basis to make Social Security sustainably solvent. This resolution assumes reform of a current law trigger, such that:

(1) If in any year the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund annual Trustees Report determines that the 75-year actuarial balance of the Social Security Trust Funds is in deficit, and the annual balance of the Social Security Trust Funds in the 75th year is in deficit, the Board of Trustees shall, no later than September 30 of the same calendar year, submit to the President recommenda-

tions for statutory reforms necessary to achieve a positive 75-year actuarial balance and a positive annual balance in the 75th year. Recommendations provided to the President must be agreed upon by both Public Trustees of the Board of Trustees.

(2) Not later than December 1 of the same calendar year in which the Board of Trustees submit their recommendations, the President shall promptly submit implementing legislation to both Houses of Congress including his recommendations necessary to achieve a positive 75-year actuarial balance and a positive annual balance in the 75th year. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Majority Leader of the House shall introduce the President's legislation upon receipt.

(3) Within 60 days of the President submitting legislation, the committees of jurisdiction to which the legislation has been referred shall report the bill which shall be considered by the full House or Senate under expedited procedures.

(4) Legislation submitted by the President shall—

(A) protect those in or near retirement;

(B) preserve the safety net for those who count on Social Security the most, including those with disabilities and survivors;

(C) improve fairness for participants;

(D) reduce the burden on, and provide certainty for, future generations; and

(E) secure the future of the Disability Insurance program while addressing the needs of those with disabilities today and improving the determination process.

(c) **POLICY ON DISABILITY INSURANCE.**—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress and the President should enact legislation on a bipartisan basis to reform the Disability Insurance program prior to its insolvency in 2016 and should not raid the Social Security retirement system without reforms to the Disability Insurance system.

SEC. 606. POLICY STATEMENT ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.

(a) **FINDINGS ON HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The House finds the following:

(1) A well-educated workforce is critical to economic, job, and wage growth.

(2) 19.5 million students are enrolled in American colleges and universities.

(3) Over the last decade, tuition and fees have been growing at an unsustainable rate. Between the 2002-2003 Academic Year and the 2012-2013 Academic Year—

(A) published tuition and fees for in-State students at public four-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 5.2 percent per year beyond the rate of general inflation;

(B) published tuition and fees for in-State students at public two-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 3.9 percent per year beyond the rate of general inflation; and

(C) published tuition and fees for in-State students at private four-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 2.4 percent per year beyond the rate of general inflation.

(4) Over that same period, Federal financial aid has increased 105 percent.

(5) This spending has failed to make college more affordable.

(6) In his 2012 State of the Union Address, President Obama noted that, "We can't just keep subsidizing skyrocketing tuition; we'll run out of money."

(7) American students are chasing ever-increasing tuition with ever-increasing debt. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, student debt more than quad-

rupled between 2003 and 2013, and now stands at nearly \$1.1 trillion. Student debt now has the second largest balance after mortgage debt.

(8) Students are carrying large debt loads and too many fail to complete college or end up defaulting on these loans due to their debt burden and a weak economy and job market.

(9) Based on estimates from the Congressional Budget Office, the Pell Grant Program will face a fiscal shortfall beginning in fiscal year 2016 and continuing in each subsequent year in the current budget window.

(10) Failing to address these problems will jeopardize access and affordability to higher education for America's young people.

(b) **POLICY ON HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY.**—It is the policy of this resolution to address the root drivers of tuition inflation, by—

(1) targeting Federal financial aid to those most in need;

(2) streamlining programs that provide aid to make them more effective;

(3) maintaining the maximum Pell grant award level at \$5,730 in each year of the budget window; and

(4) removing regulatory barriers in higher education that act to restrict flexibility and innovative teaching, particularly as it relates to non-traditional models such as online coursework and competency-based learning.

(c) **FINDINGS ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**—The House finds the following:

(1) Over ten million Americans are currently unemployed.

(2) Despite billions of dollars in spending, those looking for work are stymied by a broken workforce development system that fails to connect workers with assistance and employers with trained personnel.

(4) According to a 2011 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, in fiscal year 2009, the Federal Government spent \$18 billion across 9 agencies to administer 47 Federal job training programs, almost all of which overlapped with another program in terms of offered services and targeted population.

(5) Since the release of that GAO report, the Education and Workforce Committee, which has done extensive work in this area, has identified more than 50 programs.

(3) Without changes, this flawed system will continue to fail those looking for work or to improve their skills, and jeopardize economic growth.

(d) **POLICY ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**—It is the policy of this resolution to address the failings in the current workforce development system, by—

(1) streamlining and consolidating Federal job training programs as advanced by the House-passed Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act (SKILLS Act); and

(2) empowering states with the flexibility to tailor funding and programs to the specific needs of their workforce, including the development of career scholarships.

SEC. 607. POLICY STATEMENT ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE CANCELLATION OF UNOBLIGATED BALANCES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House finds the following:

(1) According to the most recent estimate from the Office of Management and Budget, Federal agencies were expected to hold \$739 billion in unobligated balances at the close of fiscal year 2014.

(2) These funds represent direct and discretionary spending made available by Congress

that remains available for expenditure beyond the fiscal year for which they are provided.

(3) In some cases, agencies are granted funding and it remains available for obligation indefinitely.

(4) The Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 requires the Office of Management and Budget to make funds available to agencies for obligation and prohibits the Administration from withholding or cancelling unobligated funds unless approved by an act of Congress.

(5) Greater congressional oversight is required to review and identify potential savings from unneeded balances of funds.

(b) **POLICY ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE CANCELLATION OF UNOBLIGATED BALANCES.**—Congressional committees shall through their oversight activities identify and achieve savings through the cancellation or rescission of unobligated balances that neither abrogate contractual obligations of the Government nor reduce or disrupt Federal commitments under programs such as Social Security, veterans' affairs, national security, and Treasury authority to finance the national debt.

(c) **DEFICIT REDUCTION.**—Congress, with the assistance of the Government Accountability Office, the Inspectors General, and other appropriate agencies should continue to make it a high priority to review unobligated balances and identify savings for deficit reduction.

SEC. 608. POLICY STATEMENT ON RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House finds the following:

(1) The budget for the House of Representatives is \$188 million less than it was when Republicans became the majority in 2011.

(2) The House of Representatives has achieved significant savings by consolidating operations and renegotiating contracts.

(b) **POLICY ON RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS.**—It is the policy of this resolution that:

(1) The House of Representatives must be a model for the responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources and therefore must identify any savings that can be achieved through greater productivity and efficiency gains in the operation and maintenance of House services and resources like printing, conferences, utilities, telecommunications, furniture, grounds maintenance, postage, and rent. This should include a review of policies and procedures for acquisition of goods and services to eliminate any unnecessary spending. The Committee on House Administration should review the policies pertaining to the services provided to Members and committees of the House, and should identify ways to reduce any subsidies paid for the operation of the House gym, barber shop, salon, and the House dining room.

(2) No taxpayer funds may be used to purchase first class airfare or to lease corporate jets for Members of Congress.

(3) Retirement benefits for Members of Congress should not include free, taxpayer-funded health care for life.

SEC. 609. POLICY STATEMENT ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF UNNECESSARY AND WASTEFUL SPENDING.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House finds the following:

(1) The Government Accountability Office ("GAO") is required by law to identify examples of waste, duplication, and overlap in Federal programs, and has so identified dozens of such examples.

(2) In testimony before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Comptroller General has stated that addressing the identified waste, duplication, and overlap in Federal programs "could potentially save tens of billions of dollars."

(3) In 2011, 2012, and 2013 the Government Accountability Office issued reports showing excessive duplication and redundancy in Federal programs including—

(A) 209 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education programs in 13 different Federal agencies at a cost of \$3 billion annually;

(B) 200 separate Department of Justice crime prevention and victim services grant programs with an annual cost of \$3.9 billion in 2010;

(C) 20 different Federal entities administer 160 housing programs and other forms of Federal assistance for housing with a total cost of \$170 billion in 2010;

(D) 17 separate Homeland Security preparedness grant programs that spent \$37 billion between fiscal year 2011 and 2012;

(E) 14 grant and loan programs, and 3 tax benefits to reduce diesel emissions;

(F) 94 different initiatives run by 11 different agencies to encourage "green building" in the private sector; and

(G) 23 agencies implemented approximately 670 renewable energy initiatives in fiscal year 2010 at a cost of nearly \$15 billion.

(4) The Federal Government spends about \$80 billion each year for approximately 800 information technology investments. GAO has identified broad acquisition failures, waste, and unnecessary duplication in the Government's information technology infrastructure. Experts have estimated that eliminating these problems could save 25 percent – or \$20 billion – of the Government's annual information technology budget.

(5) GAO has identified strategic sourcing as a potential source of spending reductions. In 2011 GAO estimated that saving 10 percent of the total or all Federal procurement could generate over \$50 billion in savings annually.

(6) Federal agencies reported an estimated \$108 billion in improper payments in fiscal year 2012.

(7) Under clause 2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, each standing committee must hold at least one hearing during each 120 day period following its establishment on waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs.

(8) According to the Congressional Budget Office, by fiscal year 2015, 32 laws will expire, possibly resulting in \$693 billion in unauthorized appropriations. Timely reauthorizations of these laws would ensure assessments of program justification and effectiveness.

(9) The findings resulting from congressional oversight of Federal Government programs should result in programmatic changes in both authorizing statutes and program funding levels.

(b) **POLICY ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF UNNECESSARY AND WASTEFUL SPENDING.**—Each authorizing committee annually shall include in its Views and Estimates letter required under section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of programs within the jurisdiction of such committee whose funding should be reduced or eliminated.

SEC. 610. POLICY STATEMENT ON UNAUTHORIZED SPENDING.

It is the policy of this resolution that the committees of jurisdiction should review all unauthorized programs funded through annual appropriations to determine if the pro-

grams are operating efficiently and effectively. Committees should reauthorize those programs that in the committees' judgment should continue to receive funding.

SEC. 611. POLICY STATEMENT ON FEDERAL REGULATORY POLICY.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House finds the following:

(1) Excessive regulation at the Federal level has hurt job creation and dampened the economy, slowing our recovery from the economic recession.

(2) In the first two months of 2014 alone, the Administration issued 13,166 pages of regulations imposing more than \$13 billion in compliance costs on job creators and adding more than 16 million hours of compliance paperwork.

(3) The Small Business Administration estimates that the total cost of regulations is as high as \$1.75 trillion per year. Since 2009, the White House has generated over \$494 billion in regulatory activity, with an additional \$87.6 billion in regulatory costs currently pending.

(4) The Dodd-Frank financial services legislation (Public Law 111-203) resulted in more than \$17 billion in compliance costs and saddled job creators with more than 58 million hours of compliance paperwork.

(5) Implementation of the Affordable Care Act to date has added 132.9 million annual hours of compliance paperwork, imposing \$24.3 billion of compliance costs on the private sector and an \$8 billion cost burden on the states.

(6) The highest regulatory costs come from rules issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); these regulations are primarily targeted at the coal industry. In September 2013, the EPA proposed a rule regulating greenhouse gas emissions from new coal-fired power plants. The proposed standards are unachievable with current commercially available technology, resulting in a de-facto ban on new coal-fired power plants. Additional regulations for existing coal plants are expected in the summer of 2014.

(7) Coal-fired power plants provide roughly forty percent of the United States electricity at a low cost. Unfairly targeting the coal industry with costly and unachievable regulations will increase energy prices, disproportionately disadvantaging energy-intensive industries like manufacturing and construction, and will make life more difficult for millions of low-income and middle class families already struggling to pay their bills.

(8) Three hundred and thirty coal units are being retired or converted as a result of EPA regulations. Combined with the de-facto prohibition on new plants, these retirements and conversions may further increase the cost of electricity.

(9) A recent study by Purdue University estimates that electricity prices in Indiana will rise 32 percent by 2023, due in part to EPA regulations.

(10) The Heritage Foundation recently found that a phase out of coal would cost 600,000 jobs by the end of 2023, resulting in an aggregate gross domestic product decrease of \$2.23 trillion over the entire period and reducing the income of a family of four by \$1200 per year. Of these jobs, 330,000 will come from the manufacturing sector, with California, Texas, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, Indiana, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Georgia seeing the highest job losses.

(b) **POLICY ON FEDERAL REGULATION.**—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should, in consultation with the public burdened by excessive regulation, enact legislation that—

(1) seeks to promote economic growth and job creation by eliminating unnecessary red tape and streamlining and simplifying Federal regulations;

(2) pursues a cost-effective approach to regulation, without sacrificing environmental, health, safety benefits or other benefits, rejecting the premise that economic growth and environmental protection create an either/or proposition;

(3) ensures that regulations do not disproportionately disadvantage low-income Americans through a more rigorous cost-benefit analysis, which also considers who will be most affected by regulations and whether the harm caused is outweighed by the potential harm prevented;

(4) ensures that regulations are subject to an open and transparent process, rely on sound and publicly available scientific data, and that the data relied upon for any particular regulation is provided to Congress immediately upon request;

(5) frees the many commonsense energy and water projects currently trapped in complicated bureaucratic approval processes;

(6) maintains the benefits of landmark environmental, health safety, and other statutes while scaling back this administration's heavy-handed approach to regulation, which has added \$494 billion in mostly ideological regulatory activity since 2009, much of which flies in the face of these statutes' intended purposes; and

(7) seeks to promote a limited government, which will unshackle our economy and create millions of new jobs, providing our Nation with a strong and prosperous future and expanding opportunities for the generations to come.

SEC. 612. POLICY STATEMENT ON TRADE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Opening foreign markets to American exports is vital to the United States economy and beneficial to American workers and consumers. The Commerce Department estimates that every \$1 billion of United States exports supports more than 5,000 jobs here at home.

(2) A modern and competitive international tax system would facilitate global commerce for United States multinational companies and would encourage foreign business investment and job creation in the United States.

(3) The United States currently has an antiquated system of international taxation whereby United States multinationals operating abroad pay both the foreign-country tax and United States corporate taxes. They are essentially taxed twice. This puts them at an obvious competitive disadvantage.

(4) The ability to defer United States taxes on their foreign operations, which some erroneously refer to as a "tax loophole," cushions this disadvantage to a certain extent. Eliminating or restricting this provision (and others like it) would harm United States competitiveness.

(5) This budget resolution advocates fundamental tax reform that would lower the United States corporate rate, now the highest in the industrialized world, and switch to a more competitive system of international taxation. This would make the United States a much more attractive place to invest and station business activity and would chip away at the incentives for United States companies to keep their profits overseas (because the United States corporate rate is so high).

(6) The status quo of the current tax code undermines the competitiveness of United

States businesses and costs the United States economy investment and jobs.

(7) Global trade and commerce is not a zero-sum game. The idea that global expansion tends to "hollow out" United States operations is incorrect. Foreign-affiliate activity tends to complement, not substitute for, key parent activities in the United States such as employment, worker compensation, and capital investment. When United States headquartered multinationals invest and expand operations abroad it often leads to more jobs and economic growth at home.

(8) American businesses and workers have shown that, on a level playing field, they can excel and surpass the international competition.

(b) POLICY ON TRADE.—It is the policy of this resolution to pursue international trade, global commerce, and a modern and competitive United States international tax system in order to promote job creation in the United States.

SEC. 613. NO BUDGET, NO PAY.

It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should agree to a concurrent resolution on the budget every year pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. If by April 15, a House of Congress has not agreed to a concurrent resolution on the budget, the payroll administrator of that House should carry out this policy in the same manner as the provisions of Public Law 113-3, the No Budget, No Pay Act of 2013, and place in an escrow account all compensation otherwise required to be made for Members of that House of Congress. Withheld compensation should be released to Members of that House of Congress the earlier of the day on which that House of Congress agrees to a concurrent resolution on the budget, pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, or the last day of that Congress.

The CHAIR. No amendment shall be in order except those printed in House Report 113-405.

Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, and shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. The adoption of an amendment in the nature of a substitute shall constitute the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment.

After conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment, there shall be a final period of general debate which shall not exceed 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. MULVANEY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113-405.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SEC. 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.

(a) DECLARATION.—The Congress determines and declares that this concurrent resolution establishes the budget for fiscal year 2015 and sets forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this concurrent resolution is as follows:

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2015.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Sec. 101. Recommended levels and amounts.

Sec. 102. Major functional categories.

TITLE II—DIRECT SPENDING

Sec. 201. Direct spending.

TITLE III—POLICY STATEMENT

Sec. 301. Policy statement on Presidential data and policies.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

SEC. 101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$2,579,425,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$2,756,952,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$2,960,779,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$3,131,856,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$3,281,119,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$3,465,278,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$3,663,729,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$3,860,286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$4,069,085,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$4,283,190,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$84,425,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$107,952,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$152,779,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$175,856,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$158,119,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$171,278,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$190,729,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$207,286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$231,085,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$249,190,000,000.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$3,207,329,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$3,269,270,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$3,415,383,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$3,577,619,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$3,782,980,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$3,978,461,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$4,151,262,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$4,341,912,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$4,509,701,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$4,671,785,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$3,143,368,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$3,291,521,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$3,409,079,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$3,527,332,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$3,752,609,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$3,923,372,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$4,103,804,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$4,309,637,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023: \$4,443,476,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$4,580,858,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS (ON-BUDGET).—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the amounts of the deficits (on-budget) are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: -\$563,943,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: -\$534,569,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: -\$448,300,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: -\$395,476,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: -\$471,490,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: -\$458,094,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: -\$440,075,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: -\$449,351,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: -\$374,391,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: -\$297,668,000,000.

(5) DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT.—The appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$18,686,049,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$19,486,596,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$20,239,159,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$20,940,631,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$21,652,866,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$22,361,537,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$23,052,216,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$23,737,820,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$24,380,608,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$24,980,565,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$13,591,802,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$14,256,587,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$14,843,459,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$15,370,490,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$15,981,956,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$16,602,649,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$17,213,324,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$17,849,633,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$18,440,724,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$18,986,039,000,000.

SEC. 102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

The Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2015 through 2024 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):

Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$636,642,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$631,280,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$569,176,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$592,448,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$577,059,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$578,212,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$586,290,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$578,662,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$594,400,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$585,786,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$603,536,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$591,358,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$612,309,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$601,232,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$622,294,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$610,434,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$637,407,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$623,036,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$654,543,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$638,219,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):

Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$38,992,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$50,086,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$35,823,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$49,886,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$38,001,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$48,463,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$40,630,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$47,938,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$44,175,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$47,842,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$46,619,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$48,245,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$47,691,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$48,372,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$49,552,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$47,482,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$52,257,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$49,661,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$53,605,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$50,735,000,000.

(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$29,307,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$30,839,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$29,872,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$30,098,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$30,517,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$30,296,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$31,190,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$30,797,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$31,886,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$31,268,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$32,590,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$32,032,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$33,287,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$33,119,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$34,110,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$33,829,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$34,963,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$34,516,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$35,824,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$35,174,000,000.

(4) Energy (270):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$7,276,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$8,620,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$5,493,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$5,232,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$4,362,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$3,540,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$4,039,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$2,634,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$3,848,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$2,838,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$4,139,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$3,149,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$4,689,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$3,557,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$4,599,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$3,711,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$2,046,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$1,134,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$4,218,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$3,274,000,000.

(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$37,224,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$41,349,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$39,041,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$41,809,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$40,483,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$42,070,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$40,921,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$41,775,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$41,844,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$42,713,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$43,070,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$43,728,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$43,865,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$44,241,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$44,866,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$45,120,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$46,030,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$46,209,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$46,831,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$47,031,000,000.

(6) Agriculture (350):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$16,805,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$16,953,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$22,774,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$22,937,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$26,050,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$25,883,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$24,721,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$24,482,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$18,284,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$18,017,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$18,460,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$18,045,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$18,265,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$17,791,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$18,019,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$17,719,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$18,297,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$17,775,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$18,363,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$17,773,000,000.

(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, -\$5,597,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$30,472,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, -\$2,488,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$31,493,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, -\$5,541,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$32,398,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, -\$5,966,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$34,779,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$649,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$26,473,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$9,876,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, -\$23,010,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$4,504,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, -\$19,255,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,518,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, -\$24,415,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$7,237,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, -\$26,709,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$8,411,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, -\$28,684,000,000.
 (8) Transportation (400):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$103,036,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$97,825,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$104,006,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$102,309,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$105,507,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$105,642,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$107,134,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$105,375,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$90,760,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$104,156,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$92,607,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$100,883,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$94,486,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$99,026,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$96,516,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$98,836,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$98,600,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$99,558,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$102,274,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$102,224,000,000.
 (9) Community and Regional Development (450):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$43,452,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$28,865,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$11,931,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$25,755,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$11,975,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$24,398,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$12,834,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$18,147,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$13,110,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$14,197,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$13,374,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$13,958,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$13,767,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$14,394,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$14,079,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$13,981,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$14,408,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$13,946,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$14,598,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$13,897,000,000.
 (10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$119,387,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$117,350,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$112,886,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$113,357,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$118,248,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$114,847,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$123,214,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$120,107,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$126,460,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$124,328,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$129,820,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$127,679,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$132,667,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$130,395,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$135,231,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$133,499,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$136,338,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$135,037,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$136,157,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$135,733,000,000.
 (11) Health (550):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$522,827,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$512,193,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$547,922,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$549,421,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$571,302,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$578,542,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$596,443,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$597,459,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$626,796,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$627,997,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$668,279,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$657,048,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$690,729,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$689,115,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$727,139,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$724,669,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$765,608,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$763,167,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$804,072,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$802,627,000,000.
 (12) Medicare (570):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$532,454,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$532,324,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$574,941,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$574,888,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$581,535,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$581,436,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$595,126,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$594,983,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$654,304,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$654,127,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$696,643,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$696,478,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$743,885,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$743,717,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$824,172,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$823,992,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$850,147,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$849,958,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$870,141,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$869,945,000,000.
 (13) Income Security (600):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$537,399,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$535,963,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$546,350,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$549,292,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$551,622,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$548,598,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$558,261,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$547,955,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$577,957,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$570,240,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$590,235,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$582,713,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$603,845,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$595,615,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$622,482,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$619,967,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$631,837,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$623,391,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$639,900,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$625,245,000,000.
 (14) Social Security (650):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$32,246,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$32,388,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$35,273,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$35,274,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$38,811,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$38,811,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$42,391,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$42,391,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$46,076,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$46,076,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$49,867,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$49,867,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$53,720,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$53,720,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$57,794,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$57,794,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$62,181,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$62,181,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$66,591,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$66,591,000,000.
 (15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$161,189,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$158,524,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$169,322,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$174,653,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$175,705,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$174,046,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$184,423,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$174,971,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$192,648,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$190,186,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$201,063,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$198,298,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$209,647,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$206,741,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$218,987,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$224,679,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$228,415,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$225,132,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$238,094,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$224,121,000,000.

(16) Administration of Justice (750):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$54,036,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$55,843,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$56,559,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$55,934,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$59,250,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$59,223,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$58,535,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$58,192,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$59,776,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$59,331,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$60,986,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$62,208,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$62,190,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$61,734,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$63,635,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$63,109,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$65,118,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$64,549,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$69,616,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$69,171,000,000.

(17) General Government (800):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$26,563,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$25,706,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$27,247,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$27,464,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$29,181,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$28,610,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$31,550,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$30,139,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$34,077,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$32,798,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$36,392,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$35,459,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$38,843,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$37,679,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$41,472,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$40,316,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$44,131,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$43,007,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$46,638,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$45,944,000,000.

(18) Net Interest (900):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$348,074,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$348,074,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$410,576,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$410,576,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$483,679,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$483,679,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$565,227,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$565,227,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$641,890,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$641,890,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$705,785,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$705,785,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$759,722,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$759,722,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$807,961,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$807,961,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$855,812,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$855,812,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$894,074,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$894,074,000,000.

(19) Allowances (920):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$45,644,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$29,285,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$60,200,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$49,315,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$64,251,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$61,795,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$66,398,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$66,619,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$66,843,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$68,095,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$58,284,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$62,613,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$68,761,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$68,499,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$41,563,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$55,051,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$49,470,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$52,717,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$60,662,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$60,591,000,000.

(20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, -\$79,627,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$79,627,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, -\$87,634,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$87,634,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, -\$86,614,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$86,614,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, -\$85,742,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$85,742,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, -\$82,803,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$82,803,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, -\$83,164,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$83,164,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, -\$85,610,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$85,610,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, -\$88,097,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$88,097,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, -\$90,601,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$90,601,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, -\$92,827,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$92,827,000,000.

TITLE II—DIRECT SPENDING

SEC. 201. DIRECT SPENDING.

(a) MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 6.8 percent.

(2) For means-tested direct spending, the estimate average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for means-tested direct spending:

(A) Earned Income Tax Credit Reforms:

(i) Expand EITC for workers without qualifying children.

(ii) Conform treatment of State and local government EITC and child tax credit (CTC) for SSI.

(B) Health-Related:

(i) Align Medicare drug payment policies with Medicaid policies for low income beneficiaries.

(ii) Increase income-related premium under Medicare Parts B and D.

(iii) Modify Part B deductible for new enrollees.

(iv) Introduce home health co-payments for new beneficiaries.

(v) Introduce a Part B premium surcharge for new beneficiaries who purchase near first-dollar Medigap coverage.

(vi) Encourage the use of generic drugs by low-income beneficiaries.

(vii) Limit Medicaid reimbursement of durable medical equipment based on Medicare rates.

(viii) Rebase future Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allotments.

(ix) Reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicaid.

(x) Strengthen the Medicaid drug rebate program.

(xi) Exclude brand-name and authorized generic drug prices from Medicaid Federal upper limit (FUL).

(xii) Improve and extend the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration through 2020.

(xiii) Provide home and community-based services to children eligible for psychiatric residential treatment facilities.

(xiv) Create demonstration to address overprescription of psychotropic medications for children in foster care.

(xv) Permanently extend Express Lane Eligibility (ELE) option for children.

(xvi) Expand State flexibility to provide benchmark benefit packages.

(xvii) Extend the Qualified Individuals (QI) program through CY2015.

(xviii) Extend the Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program through CY2015.

(xix) Prohibit brand and generic drug companies from delaying the availability of new generic drugs and biologics.

(xx) Modify length of exclusivity to facilitate faster development of generic biologics.

(xxi) Ensure retroactive Part D coverage of newly-eligible low-income beneficiaries.

(xxii) Establish integrated appeals process for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees.

(xxiii) Create pilot to expand PACE eligibility to individuals between ages 21 and 55.

(xxiv) Accelerate the issuance of State innovation waivers.

(b) NONMEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 5.7 percent.

(2) For nonmeans-test direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for nonmeans-tested direct spending:

(A) Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative:

(i) Reduce subsidies for crop insurance companies and farmer premiums.

(ii) Reform the aviation passenger security user fee to more accurately reflect the costs of aviation security.

(iii) Offset Disability Insurance (DI) benefits for period of concurrent Unemployment Insurance (UI) receipt.

(iv) Enact Spectrum License User Fee and allow the FCC to auction predominantly domestic satellite services.

(v) Limit the total accrual of tax-favored retirement benefits.

(B) Surface Transportation Reauthorization:

(i) Invest in surface transportation reauthorization.

(C) Early Childhood Investments:

(i) Support Preschool for All.

(ii) Extend and expand voluntary home visiting.

(D) Agriculture:

(i) Reauthorize Secure Rural Schools.

(ii) Enact Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) fee.

(iii) Enact bio based labeling fee.

(iv) Enact Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) fee.

(v) Enact Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) fee Education.

(E) Education:

(i) Recognize Educational Success, Professional Excellence, and Collaborative Teaching (RESPECT).

(ii) Reform and expand Perkins loan program.

(iii) Provide mandatory appropriation to sustain recent Pell Grant increases.

(iv) Expand and reform student loan income-based repayment.

(v) Implement College Opportunity and Graduation Bonus Program.

(vi) Establish State Higher Education Performance Fund.

(F) Energy:

(i) Reauthorize special assessment from domestic nuclear utilities.

(ii) Establish Energy Security Trust Fund Enact nuclear waste management program.

(iii) Enact nuclear waste management program.

(G) Health and Human Services:

(i) Reduce Medicare coverage of bad debts.

(ii) Better align graduate medical education payments with patient care costs.

(iii) Reduce Critical Access Hospital (CAH) payments from 101 percent of reasonable costs to 100 percent of reasonable costs.

(iv) Prohibit CAH designation for facilities that are less than miles from the nearest hospital.

(v) Reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicare.

(vi) Accelerate manufacturer discounts for brand drugs to provide relief to Medicare beneficiaries in the coverage gap.

(vii) Suspend coverage and payment for questionable Part D prescriptions and incomplete clinical information.

(viii) Establish quality bonus payments for high-performing Part D plans.

(ix) Adjust payment updates for certain post-acute care providers.

(x) Equalize payments for certain conditions commonly treated in inpatient reha-

bilitation facilities (IRFs) and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs).

(xi) Encourage appropriate use of inpatient rehabilitation hospitals by requiring that 75 percent of IRF patients require intensive rehabilitation services.

(xii) Adjust SNF payments to reduce hospital readmissions.

(xiii) Implement bundled payment for post-acute care.

(xiv) Exclude certain services from the in office ancillary services exception.

(xv) Modify the documentation requirement for face-to-face encounters for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) claims.

(xvi) Modify reimbursement of Part B drugs.

(xvii) Modernize payments for clinical laboratory services.

(xviii) Expand sharing Medicare data with qualified entities.

(xix) Clarify the Medicare Fraction in the Medicare DHS statute.

(xx) Implement Value-Based Purchasing for SNFs, Home Health Agencies (HHAs), Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs), and Hospital Outpatient Departments (HOPDs).

(xxi) Strengthen the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) to reduce long-term drivers of Medicare cost growth.

(xxii) Enact survey and certification revisit fees.

(xxiii) Invest in CMS Quality Measurement.

(xxiv) Increase the minimum MA coding intensity adjustment.

(xxv) Align employer group waiver plan payments with average MA plan bids.

(xxvi) Allow CMS to reinvest civil monetary penalties recovered from home health agencies.

(xxvii) Allow CMS to assess a fee on Medicare providers for payments subject to the Federal Payment Levy Program.

(xxviii) Extend special diabetes program at the National Institutes of Health and Indian Health Services.

(xxix) Permit HIS/Tribal/Urban Indian Health programs to pay Medicare like rates for outpatient services funded through the Purchased and Referred Care program.

(xxx) Extend Health Centers.

(xxxi) Create a competitive, value-based graduate medical education grant program funded through the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund.

(xxxii) Extend the Medicaid primary care payment increase through CY2015 with modifications to expand provider eligibility and better target primary care services.

(xxxiii) Invest in the National Health Services Corps.

(xxxiv) Program management implementation funding.

(xxxv) Provide dedicated, mandatory funding for Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program (HCFAC) program integrity.

(xxxvi) Continue funding for the Personal Responsibility Education Program and Health Profession Opportunity Grants.

(xxxvii) Repurpose Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Contingency Fund to support Pathways to Jobs initiative.

(xxxviii) Establish hold harmless for Federal poverty guidelines.

(xxxix) Expand access to quality child care.

(xl) Modernize child support.

(xli) Provide funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

(xlii) Reauthorize Family Connection Grants.

(xliii) Support demonstration to address over-prescription of psychotropic medica-

tions for children in foster care (funding in Administration for Children and Families).

(H) Homeland Security:

(i) Permanently extend and reallocate the travel promotion surcharge.

(I) Housing and Urban Development:

(i) Provide funding for Project Rebuild.

(ii) Provide funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

(J) Interior:

(i) Establish dedicated funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) programs.

(ii) Provide funding for a National Park Service Centennial Initiative.

(iii) Extend funding for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

(iv) Enact Federal oil and gas management reforms.

(v) Reform hard rock mining on public lands.

(vi) Repeal geothermal payments to counties.

(vii) Terminate Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) payments to certified States.

(viii) Establish an AML hard rock reclamation fund.

(ix) Increase coal AML fee to pre-2006 levels.

(x) Reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000 (FLTFA).

(xi) Permanently reauthorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA).

(xii) Increase duck stamp fees.

(xiii) Extend the Palau Compact of Free Association.

(K) Labor:

(i) Create Back to Work Partnerships for the long term unemployed.

(ii) Establish a New Career Pathways program for displaced workers.

(iii) Establish Summer Jobs Plus program for youth.

(iv) Support Bridge Work and other work-based UI program reforms.

(v) Enhance UI program integrity.

(vi) Extend Emergency Unemployment Compensation.

(vii) Implement cap adjustments for UI program integrity activities.

(viii) Strengthen UI system solvency.

(ix) Improve Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) solvency.

(x) Provide the Secretary of the Treasury authority to access and disclose prisoner data to prevent and identify improper payments.

(xi) Reform the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA).

(L) Transportation:

(i) Establish a mandatory surcharge for air traffic services.

(ii) Establish a co-insurance program for aviation war risk insurance.

(M) Treasury:

(i) Establish a Pay for Success Incentive Fund.

(ii) Reauthorize and reform the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program.

(iii) Authorize Treasury to locate and recover assets of the United States and to retain a portion of amounts collected to pay for the costs of recovery.

(iv) Increase delinquent Federal non-tax debt collections by authorizing administrative bank garnishment for non-tax debts.

(v) Increase levy authority for payments to Medicare providers with delinquent tax debt.

(vi) Allow offset of Federal income tax refunds to collect delinquent State income taxes for out-of-State residents.

(vii) Reduce costs for States collecting delinquent income tax obligations.

(viii) Implement tax enforcement program integrity cap adjustment.

(ix) Provide authority to contact delinquent debtors via their cellphones.

(x) Reauthorize the State Small Business Credit Initiative.

(N) Veterans Affairs:

(i) Establish Veterans Job Corps.

(ii) Extend round-down of cost of living adjustments (compensation).

(iii) Extend round-down of cost of living adjustments (education).

(iv) Provide burial receptacles for certain new casketed gravesites.

(v) Make permanent the pilot for certain work study activities.

(vi) Increase cap on vocational rehabilitation contract counseling.

(vii) Increase annual limitation on new Independent Living cases.

(viii) Improve housing grant program.

(ix) Extend supplemental service disabled veterans insurance coverage.

(O) Corps of Engineers:

(i) Reform inland waterways funding.

(P) Environmental Protection Agency:

(i) Enact pre-manufacture notice fee.

(ii) Establish Confidential Business Information management fee.

(Q) International Assistance Programs:

(i) Mandatory effects of discretionary proposal to implement 2010 International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement (non-scoreable).

(R) Other Defense—Civil Programs:

(i) Increase TRICARE pharmacy copayments.

(ii) Increase annual premiums for TRICARE-For-Life (TFL) enrollment.

(iii) Increase TRICARE pharmacy copayments.

(iv) Increase annual premiums for TFL enrollment.

(S) Office of Personnel Management:

(i) Streamline FEHBP pharmacy benefit contracting.

(ii) Provide FEHBP benefits to domestic partners.

(iii) Expand FEHBP plan types.

(iv) Adjust FEHBP premiums for wellness.

(T) Social Security Administration:

(i) Provide dedicated, mandatory funding for program integrity (benefit savings).

(ii) Allow SSA to electronically certify certain RRB payments.

(iii) Eliminate aggressive Social Security claiming strategies.

(iv) Establish Workers Compensation Information Reporting.

(v) Extend SSI time limits for qualified refugees.

(vi) Improve collection of pension information from States and localities.

(vii) Lower electronic wage reporting threshold to 25 employees.

(viii) Move from annual to quarterly wage reporting.

(ix) Reauthorize and expand demonstration authority for DI and SSI.

(x) Terminate step-child benefits in the same month as step-parent.

(xi) Use the Death Master File to prevent Federal improper payments.

(U) Other Independent Agencies:

(i) Dispose of unneeded real property.

(ii) Create infrastructure bank.

(iii) Enact Postal Service financial relief and reform.

(W) Multi-Agency:

(i) Enact immigration reform.

(ii) Auction or assign via fee 1675–1680 megahertz.

(iii) Reconcile OPM/SSA retroactive disability payments.

(iv) Establish a consolidated TRICARE program (mandatory effects in Coast Guard,

Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

(v) Special Immigrant Visa extension.

(c) IN GENERAL.—

(1) This section is required by section 3(e) of H. Res. 5 (113th Congress), which requires information related to Means-Tested and Nonmeans-Tested programs and is required to be included in a proposed concurrent resolution on the budget.

(2) The reforms of programs listed herein are derived from Table S-9 (page 177) included in the Budget Volume of the President's Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2015.

(3) All the reforms of both Means-Tested and Nonmeans-Tested programs are hereby incorporated into this section by reference as they are detailed in the President's Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2015.

TITLE III—POLICY STATEMENT

SEC. 1. POLICY STATEMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL DATA AND POLICIES.

The budgetary assumptions underlying this concurrent resolution are based on the data and policies contained in the "Fiscal Year 2015 Budget of the U.S. Government", prepared by the Office of Management and Budget on behalf of the President and submitted to Congress on March 4 and March 10, 2014, pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code. This concurrent resolution adopts and incorporates by reference all data, policy provisions and information contained therein.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 544, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is good to be back this year to once again offer the President's budget as an amendment to the Republican budget. That is right; it is the President's budget that I will be offering again this year.

You may recall, Mr. Chairman, that I did this two years ago in an effort to try and drive a debate over what I thought was a misguided document, a document that the President had offered us that I thought offered bad ideas for the future of this country. I came in and offered an amendment—as none of my Democratic colleagues saw fit to do so—and for various reasons failed to get a single vote on that particular amendment.

My colleagues at that time, Mr. Chairman, took the position that my amendment really was not the President's budget. In hindsight, there were things that we could have tightened up, and we did. We tightened up all the loose ends. There is no question now we specifically reference the President's budget in this amendment. This is the President's budget.

Last year, I tried to come and do it again. Last year, I came in with a blank piece of paper. Last year I came in with a blank piece of paper because the President had not offered his bud-

et in a timely fashion, as required by law. Perhaps rightly so, I was ruled out of order, and we did not have a chance to have a vote on that particular amendment last year.

The President has solved that problem for us this year. Still a little late, but at least we have the President's budget now in time to debate it here on the floor during budget week, and I am looking forward to doing that. I am looking forward to doing that, Mr. Chairman, because this budget does a lot of things that I disagree with. It does a lot of things that folks on the other side may agree with. But I think it merits a debate. Any time the President of the United States takes the time and the energy to produce a budget, I think it at least merits 20 minutes of debate on the floor of the House of Representatives.

I look forward to doing that today, and I look forward to having my friends defend a budget that does things such as continuing the Affordable Care Act, adopting immigration reform, supporting common core, creating a new infrastructure bank, creating a \$1 billion climate fund, increasing airport fees on passengers, making Pell grants a mandatory spending program, creating a preschool program for everybody, increasing duck stamp fees, extending emergency unemployment compensation, increasing costs for TRICARE on our veterans, and extending the Federal health benefit programs to same sex partners.

I think it is a valid discussion that we should have every year. I was very glad to learn, by the way, that I am not the first person to do this. I was talking to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), who did this with President Reagan's budget back in the 1980s. I would like to see it become a regular feature in this House, and look forward to the debate as we go forward today.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, some things never change. As the gentleman from South Carolina said, he offered this political stunt 2 years ago, and it is no less of a political stunt today than it was 2 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, I am a strong supporter of the President's budget and of the President's policies. This is not a vote on the President's budget and his policies.

Do you know what I wish it were? I wish the Speaker of this House would bring up the President's proposal to shut down those tax incentives that actually encourage multinational corporations to ship American jobs overseas and instead use some of those savings to invest in jobs here at home. I

wish the Speaker of this House would let us vote on that President's policy. I wish the Speaker of this House would bring up the bipartisan immigration bill. One has already passed the Senate. We have a version over here in the House. Mr. Chairman, let's vote on that President's policy. I wish the Speaker of the House would let us vote on the President's minimum wage proposal, to make sure that more people would be able to prosper in our economy. We haven't had a vote on that. Mr. Chairman, I wish that we could have a vote on the President's proposal to extend emergency unemployment compensation. The Senate has passed that. Let's have a vote over here.

This is a political stunt, just like it was before and, by the way, the White House sees it as a political stunt again this year, just as they were right to call it that the other year.

This is, in fact, the President's budget right here, right here. This is it, Mr. Chairman.

It is interesting to hear our Republican colleagues who claim to be in favor of transparency, accountability, saying that this is the President's budget and then allocating 10 minutes per side. I thought we didn't even want to take up thousand-plus page bills, we don't even want to take those up. Yet, now supposedly we are going to debate and vote on something that is over 2,000 pages, less time on the President's budget than on any of the other proposals before the House. Give me a break.

If this was serious, it would be a total abuse of process. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office hasn't even had a chance, Mr. Chairman, to evaluate and score the President's budget yet. So you have got the House Republican budget, and you have got the Democratic party, all those are written to CBO, but CBO hasn't had a chance to go through that this quickly. I am surprised to hear the gentleman thinks the House can go through this in 20 minutes. So let's not play games.

The White House has made clear if you want to support the President's priorities and the framework of the President's budget going forward, you should support the Democratic alternative, which I will offer tomorrow.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague from South Carolina for bringing this budget forward. In fact, this is President Obama's budget.

I wouldn't be surprised if President Obama referred to his budget as a "political stunt." If you look at the history of President Obama's budget, which he is legally required to file every year, he is in the sixth year of

his Presidency. Do you know that 5 of those 6 years President Obama failed to meet the legal deadline to file his budget?

During that 5 out of 6-year period, every single year of those 6 years, President Obama made time to fill out his Final Four brackets.

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Now, if his Final Four brackets do about as good as his budget does for the country—because if you look at the President's budget, which we're here debating, and I am speaking against, as my colleague from South Carolina is, the President's budget shows his priorities for the country, just like we are lying about our priorities for the country to get our budget back into balance, to get our economy moving again.

What does President Obama do? President Obama raises over \$1 trillion in new taxes, job-crushing taxes, that will pull our economy even further back than he has already brought it, but you would think, if you listen to liberal orthodoxy that that \$1 trillion is going to get us to a balanced budget, right?

They always say they need more money and former taxes to balance the budget. Look what happens, Mr. Chair, the President's budget never, ever gets to balance, with over \$1 trillion in new taxes that he takes out of this economy, killing jobs across America, never gets to balance.

Our budgets that we are bringing forward do not raise a dime in new taxes and, in fact, gets to balance within the 10-year window, which underscores the difference in our visions for the country. We show through real policy that actually controlling the spending in Washington, forcing Washington to live within its means, is what gets our economy moving again and what gets us to balance.

President Obama proves with his own budget that, with over \$1 trillion in new job-crushing taxes he never, ever gets to balance; but, again, 5 out of the President's 6 years in office, only one time has he actually met the legal deadline to file his budget.

He always met the deadline to make his Final Four picks. I think he's shown what his priorities are. We are showing ours.

I urge a "no" vote on President Obama's budget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, the gentleman referred to the House Republican budget a couple times. Just to remind my colleagues that the House Republican budget claims to balance in 10 years. It also claims to get rid of all the Affordable Care Act, all of ObamaCare, but the reality is it has over \$2 trillion in revenues and savings from the Affordable Care Act.

Here is what The Heritage Foundation had to say about the budget:

Perhaps the biggest shortcoming of this budget is that it keeps the tax increases associated with ObamaCare.

So our Republican colleagues keep saying their budget balances in 10 years, then they keep saying they are repealing all of Affordable Care Act. Both things cannot be true.

Now, what is true about the House Republican budget is the priorities it reflects, and, once again, it protects and rigs special interests tax breaks for very powerful groups at the expense of the rest of the country.

Yes, as I indicated earlier, the President has proposed that we get rid of some of the tax breaks that actually have a perverse incentive for companies to ship jobs overseas, to close those tax breaks, use that revenue to invest in our infrastructure and help power our economy right here at home.

From a Republican colleague's perspective, oh, no, you can't cut one special interest tax break, not for hedge fund owners, not for Big Oil companies. No, no, you can't do that.

But you know what you can do? You can come after the senior prescription drug benefit by reopening the doughnut hole, costing seniors another \$1,200 a month. You can come after our kid's education. You can charge college students higher interest to raise about \$40 billion, higher interest while they are still in school, before they get a job.

You can do all that, but, hey, hands off the big special interests. So I am glad that the previous speaker reminded us exactly what this Republican budget does

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MULVANEY. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition, like I assume everyone who speaks on this amendment is going to do today. It is amazing the other party—everyone is opposed to it.

Here is what it does simply: you cut to the chase, it hollows out national defense, it raises trillions in new taxes over the next 10 years, add about \$8 trillion to the national debt—from \$17 trillion to approximately \$25 trillion—it does all that, never, ever, ever getting to balance.

Sometimes, we talk about numbers. Here is why it matters. In the end, you think about what makes the country special, moms and dads making sacrifices, so their kids can have a life better than they did, that they can get to their goals.

With this kind of vision and this kind of budget, this kind of plan for where we are going to go, it will make it that much tougher for young people to get the opportunities they need to experience the American Dream.

That is why it is so important. All those policies that the ranking member mentioned in his opening statement, they are in this budget. This is not a political stunt. This is just putting up

what the President says is actually going to make the country better. We know it is going to make the country worse. We are offering a chance for the Democrats to stand up and defend this, and they won't.

So I would urge a "no" vote on this. It is same old, same old; cut national defense, raise taxes, add to the debt, never ever balance, and continue to create this environment that is not conducive to economic growth.

Again, as I said to the minority whip in an earlier debate, in the fifth year of Ronald Reagan's Presidency, we were growing at 7½ percent. Here, we are in the fifth year of the Obama Presidency, meandering along, bumping along at 2 percent growth rate, that is the problem.

This budget will continue that same poor economic performance, and that is why we should vote against it.

I thank the gentleman for bringing it to the floor.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chair, we are finished with our speakers and reserve the balance and right to close.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has the right to close.

Mr. MULVANEY. Then I will yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Chair, my friend from Maryland made a couple of different points. He said that he wishes he could vote for the things in the President's budget. I will say to him again here, I'll say it to you, I will say to anyone listening the same thing I said to the Rules Committee, the same thing I have said the last 3 years: I keep waiting for one of my colleagues across the aisle to do exactly that.

You think I want to be here offering the President's budget? If my colleagues across the aisle would like the opportunity to vote on the President's budget and the items that are contained in it, they have the ability to do so by simply offering this particular amendment.

Failing that, they will have an opportunity to hear today because, if you look at our amendment, it specifically says that the budgetary assumptions underlying this current resolution are based on the data and the policies in the President's budget.

It goes on to say that the concurrent resolution adopts and incorporates by references all data, policy provisions, and information contained therein.

Everything that is in the President's budget is in this amendment. They have plenty of opportunity to vote on this. They can do it themselves. They can vote for what I have offered here today.

Lastly, I will address the point, and my good friend makes a point every single year that this is a political stunt. I want to tell a story as to why it is not this year. It is a real story. It

happened to me. It happened to you. It happened to everybody here who represents folks back home.

I get a letter, Mr. Chairman, from the Social Security Administration, telling me that they were closing the field offices in my district.

By the way, they closed field offices in everybody's district. In the letter, they said they did that because we had cut their budget by \$1 billion for 3 years in a row.

I am no longer on the Budget Committee, but as Mr. VAN HOLLEN knows, I used to serve on that committee, and I don't remember us cutting the Social Security Administration by \$1 billion each of the last 3 years.

So I wrote them a letter and said: you said you are closing the field offices in my district because we cut your budget. Would you please provide me with evidence of that?

What they wrote back is a letter that said: we got \$1 billion less from Congress than the President asked for in his budget.

They got more than they did the year the year before and more than they did the year before that. The actual money they had to spend went up, but because they didn't get what the President asked for in his budget, they closed the offices in our districts that serve our constituents.

This is a very important document. Clearly, the Social Security Administration thinks it is an important document. It is at least important enough for us to vote on in the House of Representatives.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The gentleman just mentioned Social Security Administration funds for operations. Let me tell you, if you vote for the House Republican budget today, you are going to be decimating the funds available for those kind of ongoing operations because they cut that part of the budget that allows for the administration of the Social Security Administration and cut it big time.

So it is interesting to hear my colleague talk about the President's budget in that regard, but I would suggest he look at the impact from the House Republican budget.

Let me just say, Mr. Chair, I indicated earlier that we would like to vote on the President's policies. We have been waiting a very long time to vote on comprehensive immigration reform. In fact, we filed a discharge petition to do it.

We would like to vote on increasing the minimum wage. We filed a discharge petition to do it. We would like to vote on emergency unemployment

insurance. We filed a discharge petition on that.

The Speaker of the House has refused to allow democracy to work. Now, we have what is clearly a stunt. As I said, I am a supporter of the President's budget; I support the President's policy. I think it is a stunt. The White House recognizes it as a stunt. We will have, tomorrow, the Democratic alternative that has the support of the White House.

I still find it incredulous that our colleagues are telling us that they really are giving 10 minutes per side of debate to what they claim is before us, which is 2,000 pages, right?

These are our colleagues that went around the country calling for transparency and accountability. They really want Members to vote on something that the Congressional Budget Office has not had a chance to score?

Apparently, they are going to do it next week because they are in the process of looking through the President's budget. So even if this were on the level, which it is not, you can't compare apples to apples without the Congressional Budget Office analysis.

So I am so glad our Republican colleagues were able to speed-read through this thing in 10 minutes and make judgments. The good news for them is that is not the President's budget either.

So let's not play games. Let's recognize that, as we debate these budgets, we are debating the country's priorities. We are debating very different priorities. Once again, the House Republican budget chooses to double down on rigging the rules for very powerful special interests.

If you are a millionaire, you are going to get a one-third cut in your tax rate under the House Republican budget. You know who is going to pay for it? Middle-income taxpayers will have to pay more to finance that tax break for the wealthy—in fact, \$2,000 for a family with kids, on average.

You know who else is going to have to pay for that? Our kids' education, Early Head Start, Head Start, K-12, college kids.

You know what else is going to pay? Our competitiveness as a country because we are not going to make the investments that, historically, have helped power this country forward in the area of transportation and infrastructure.

Republican budget, you know when the trust fund goes insolvent? This summer. Nothing in there, nothing in the Republican budget to address that issue, just swoosh, down the tubes insolvent.

Hopefully, we will have an opportunity to actually vote on the President's proposal, as I said, to eliminate some of the special interests tax breaks that encourage companies to move jobs overseas, close those down, so we can

invest in our transportation right here at home.

So let's not fall for this political stunt. I mean, I have to believe that if my colleagues seriously wanted a debate a 2,000-page document, that even they would agree that it merits more than 10 minutes, even they would agree that we should have the benefit of the Congressional Budget Office's analysis before we ask this body to take on that responsibility.

So let's not fall for sham. Let's reject the amendment by Mr. MULVANEY; and then, tomorrow, let's vote in support of the Democratic alternative.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MS. MOORE.

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 113-405.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.

(a) DECLARATION.—The Congress determines and declares that this concurrent resolution establishes the budget for fiscal year 2015 and sets forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2015.

Sec. 2. Recommended levels and amounts.

Sec. 3. Major functional categories.

Sec. 4. Direct spending.

SEC. 2. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$2,697,300,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$2,852,943,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$2,984,977,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$3,104,418,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$3,240,103,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$3,385,490,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$3,547,681,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$3,725,978,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$3,915,253,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$4,112,238,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$163,459,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$176,904,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$195,554,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$214,111,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$225,418,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$236,853,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$253,030,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$269,631,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$288,735,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$304,785,000,000.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$3,443,426,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$3,400,616,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$3,473,245,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$3,601,639,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$3,809,035,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$4,000,203,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$4,166,166,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$4,397,911,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$4,555,131,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$4,711,021,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$3,257,765,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$3,448,528,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$3,518,207,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$3,610,258,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$3,806,896,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$3,968,446,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$4,139,595,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$4,372,838,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$4,516,239,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$4,657,148,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS (ON-BUDGET).—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the amounts of the deficits (on-budget) are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: -\$560,465,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: -\$595,585,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: -\$533,230,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: -\$505,840,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: -\$566,793,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: -\$582,956,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: -\$591,914,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: -\$646,860,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: -\$600,986,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: -\$544,910,000,000.

(5) DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT.—Pursuant to section 301(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$18,429,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$19,181,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$19,926,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$20,661,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$21,438,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$22,222,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$23,007,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$23,827,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$24,633,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$25,419,000,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: \$13,338,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$13,973,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$14,554,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$15,109,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$15,744,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$16,421,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$17,137,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$17,944,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$18,732,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$19,505,000,000,000.

SEC. 3. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

The Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2015 through 2024 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$529,658,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$567,234,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$569,522,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$570,714,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$577,616,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$570,915,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$586,874,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$573,937,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$595,151,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$586,488,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$604,440,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$595,519,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$613,753,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$604,662,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$624,066,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$619,436,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$639,335,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$627,590,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$656,669,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$637,835,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$50,508,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$46,984,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$47,680,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$46,034,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$48,736,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$46,276,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$49,838,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$46,793,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$50,917,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$47,826,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$52,065,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$48,328,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$52,734,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$49,044,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$54,172,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$50,255,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$55,361,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$51,339,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$56,602,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$52,465,000,000.

(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$37,883,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$33,551,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$32,476,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$33,333,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$32,138,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$32,622,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$32,836,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$32,627,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$33,535,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$33,294,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$34,272,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$33,693,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$35,014,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$34,286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$35,782,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$35,036,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$36,556,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$35,797,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$37,360,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$36,582,000,000.
(4) Energy (270):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$11,560,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$9,834,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$7,636,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$7,312,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$6,012,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$5,137,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$5,816,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$4,870,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$5,902,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$5,285,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$5,994,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$5,407,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$6,111,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$5,656,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$6,226,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$5,841,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$6,445,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$6,048,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$6,982,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$6,270,000,000.
(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$45,712,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$45,218,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$43,251,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$45,709,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$41,598,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$43,697,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$42,276,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$43,266,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$43,392,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$43,648,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$44,969,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$44,622,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$44,848,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$44,846,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$46,092,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$45,734,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$47,264,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$46,919,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$48,610,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$47,617,000,000.
(6) Agriculture (350):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$18,881,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$17,632,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$23,171,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$22,772,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$22,822,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$22,023,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$22,707,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$21,904,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$21,743,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$21,344,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$21,887,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$21,443,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$22,392,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$21,851,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$22,590,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$22,080,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$23,081,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$22,553,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$23,457,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$22,932,000,000.
(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$12,072,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$150,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$13,392,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$832,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$11,227,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$4,423,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$11,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$5,165,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$11,383,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$10,430,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$13,715,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$8,647,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$13,025,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$4,179,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$14,142,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$4,528,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$14,326,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$5,476,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$14,798,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$6,172,000,000.
(8) Transportation (400):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$224,774,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$162,667,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$156,720,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$167,973,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$111,700,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$140,956,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$101,705,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$120,192,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$100,697,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$115,763,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$101,764,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$110,317,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$102,870,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$109,213,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$104,030,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$110,557,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$105,210,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$112,416,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$106,439,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$114,299,000,000.
(9) Community and Regional Development (450):

Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$49,327,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$40,739,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$28,387,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$39,053,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$18,337,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$32,410,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$14,462,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$23,759,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$14,408,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$21,822,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$14,275,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$19,720,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$14,498,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$16,953,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$14,532,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$14,787,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$14,775,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$14,580,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$15,068,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$14,704,000,000.
(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
(A) New budget authority, \$216,018,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$162,097,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$158,111,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$167,376,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$125,492,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$143,292,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$118,800,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$129,483,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$115,816,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$125,274,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$117,265,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$120,183,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$118,614,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$119,104,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$120,472,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$119,992,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$122,325,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$121,611,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$124,279,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$123,548,000,000.
(11) Health (550):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$507,449,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$497,501,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$556,738,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$561,299,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$614,352,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$613,019,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$634,932,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$635,653,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$666,537,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$666,783,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$710,614,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$700,055,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$737,724,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$736,844,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$776,912,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$775,495,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$816,381,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$815,137,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$858,300,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$857,258,000,000.
 (12) Medicare (570):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$523,538,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$523,428,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$570,723,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$570,644,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$585,270,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$585,194,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$610,478,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$610,392,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$672,921,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$672,827,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$720,722,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$720,624,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$771,048,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$770,949,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$854,586,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$854,479,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$883,245,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$883,135,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$913,236,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$913,119,000,000.
 (13) Income Security (600):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$548,028,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$537,560,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$552,594,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$551,208,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$555,223,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$551,226,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$552,717,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$547,180,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$572,561,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$569,575,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$585,693,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$581,811,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$599,700,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$595,008,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$618,433,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$617,739,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$627,486,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$621,800,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$635,068,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$624,020,000,000.
 (14) Social Security (650):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$31,442,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$31,517,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$34,245,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$34,283,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$37,133,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$37,133,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$40,138,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$40,138,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$43,383,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$43,383,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$46,747,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$46,747,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$50,255,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$50,255,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$53,941,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$53,941,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$57,800,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$57,800,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$58,441,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$58,441,000,000.
 (15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$158,993,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$155,978,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$170,961,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$169,517,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$168,858,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$168,150,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$167,388,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$166,463,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$179,305,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$178,471,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$184,269,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$183,317,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$188,571,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$187,569,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$200,680,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$199,612,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$197,458,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$196,384,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$194,292,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$193,155,000,000.
 (16) Administration of Justice (750):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$71,342,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$57,338,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$62,293,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$62,627,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$61,045,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$66,242,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$61,594,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$66,704,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$63,347,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$64,367,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$65,273,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$64,951,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$67,423,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$66,906,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$70,160,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$69,530,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$72,257,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$71,603,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$77,968,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$77,291,000,000.
 (17) General Government (800):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$27,402,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$25,605,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$27,946,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$26,804,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$28,521,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$27,925,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$29,309,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$28,836,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$30,142,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$29,612,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$30,952,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$30,430,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$31,842,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$31,326,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$32,741,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$32,227,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$33,585,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$33,079,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$34,498,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$33,979,000,000.
 (18) Net Interest (900):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$367,414,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$367,414,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$426,582,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$426,582,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$506,101,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$506,101,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$595,624,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$595,624,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$670,430,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$670,430,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$733,465,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$733,465,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$786,127,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$786,127,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$837,776,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$837,776,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$889,086,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$889,086,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$934,712,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$934,712,000,000.
 (19) Allowances (920):
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$4,600,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$4,600,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,566,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$3,873,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$4,696,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$7,440,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$6,354,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$9,333,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$7,843,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$10,606,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$3,704,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$7,629,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,183,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$8,706,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$8,793,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$11,037,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$14,517,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$16,193,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$21,340,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$22,164,000,000.

(20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, -\$78,532,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$78,532,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, -\$83,378,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$83,378,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, -\$83,632,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$83,632,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, -\$83,956,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$83,956,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, -\$90,374,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$90,374,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, -\$91,882,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$91,882,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, -\$95,566,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$95,566,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, -\$98,215,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$98,215,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, -\$101,362,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$101,362,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, -\$107,098,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$107,098,000,000.

(21) Overseas Contingency Operations (970):

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$85,357,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$49,250,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.

(B) Outlays, \$25,625,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.

(B) Outlays, \$6,504,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.

(B) Outlays, \$2,225,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.

(B) Outlays, \$902,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.

(B) Outlays, \$714,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.

(B) Outlays, \$35,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.

(B) Outlays, \$27,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.

(B) Outlays, \$27,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$0.

(B) Outlays, \$27,000,000.

SEC. 4. DIRECT SPENDING.

(A) MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 6.8 percent.

(2) For means-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) This concurrent resolution retains the social safety net that has lifted millions of Americans out of poverty and protects both the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid from draconian spending cuts.

(B) NONMEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 5.7 percent.

(2) For nonmeans-test direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for nonmeans-tested direct spending:

(A) For Medicare, this budget rejects proposals to end the Medicare guarantee and shift rising health care costs onto seniors by replacing Medicare with vouchers or premium support for the purchase of private insurance. Such proposals will expose seniors and persons with disabilities on fixed incomes to unacceptable financial risks, and they will weaken the traditional Medicare program. Instead, this budget builds on the success of the Affordable Care Act, which made significant strides in health-care cost containment and put into place a framework for continuous innovation. This budget supports comprehensive reforms to give physicians and other care providers incentives to provide high-quality, coordinated, efficient care, in a manner consistent with the goals of fiscal sustainability. It makes no changes that reduce benefits available to seniors and individuals with disabilities in Medicare.

(B) Any savings derived from changes or reforms to Medicare and Social Security should be used to extend the solvency of these vital programs and not be used to offset the cost of cutting taxes.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 544, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I am so proud to be here with my distinguished colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus to present our budget for fiscal year 2015.

□ 1545

We have spent the last week, 2 weeks analyzing the House Republican budget, and you have heard here on this floor today the flaws in this budget: it doesn't reflect the needs of our Nation; it achieves deficit reduction by imposing more austerity provisions at the expense of our most vulnerable populations; and it stifles economic growth and our ability to compete on a global scale.

But instead of just criticizing the majority's budget, the Congressional Black Caucus once again has done the due diligence to put together a budget alternative which we believe meets the highest priorities of all Americans.

First of all, it reduces the deficit responsibly. Secondly, it constructs a meaningful job creation package, something Americans desperately need. It invests in our infrastructure and education so we can grow our economy. It ends the ongoing threat of spending cuts due to sequestration. It raises revenue through the Tax Code fairly. We just cannot cut our way to prosperity. And, finally, it extends a

compassionate hand towards those who live in poverty, which is the signature and the heart of the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank you for yielding.

As chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am proud to once again propose a fiscally sound and morally responsible alternative budget.

The CBC has a long history of introducing an alternative budget that protects and invests in programs that are vital to our communities. Our budget emphasizes the CBC's commitment to eradicating poverty in America by increasing economic opportunities through robust investments in education and infrastructure, affordable housing, domestic manufacturing, small businesses, and job training.

Though tough decisions are required to ensure our country's fiscal future, we do not believe the well-being of the most vulnerable in this Nation must be sacrificed for us to remain on the path to economic recovery. The CBC alternative budget for fiscal year 2015 remains true to the principle of opportunity for all.

The Ryan budget, on the other hand, completely misses the mark. It disregards the fact that millions of Americans struggle to feed their families and find jobs. It requires sacrifices of the most vulnerable, including the youngest and eldest among us.

As reported by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, some 69 percent of the cuts in Chairman RYAN's budget come from programs that serve people of limited means. These disproportionate cuts, which account for \$3.3 trillion of the budget's \$4.8 trillion in nondefense cuts over the next decade, contrast sharply with the Ryan budget's rhetoric about helping the poor and promoting opportunity. Need I say more about that?

To my colleagues in the House, the CBC substitute budget is the best blueprint. Let's build a stronger, better, and more fiscally responsible America together. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 6 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, the budget substitute offered by the Congressional Black Caucus is a good faith effort to lift a growing portion of our population out of chronic poverty and despair, a goal all of us share. It attempts to do so over the next 10 years by raising \$2.3 trillion of taxes on corporations and the wealthy and running up an additional \$4.3 trillion of debt to increase

overall Federal spending by \$6.7 trillion to fund so-called stimulus spending relative to the Republican budget. My fear is that it will accomplish exactly the opposite of what it intends, harming the very people it is trying to help.

Let's start with some fundamentals on tax policy.

First, we need to understand that businesses do not pay business taxes. There are only three possible ways for business taxes to be paid: they are paid by consumers as higher prices; they are paid by employees as lower wages; and they are paid by investors as lower earnings—your 401(k) or pension plan, for example.

Secondly, we need to understand what a trillion dollars is. Divided by the number of U.S. households, it comes to about \$8,200 for every family in America.

As much as we like talking about taxing the wealthy, there aren't enough wealthy people in this country to make more than a dent in these numbers. Indeed, many of the so-called wealthy are actually small businesses filing under subchapter S.

Raising taxes by \$2.3 trillion ultimately, then, means that families, on average, will have \$18,000 less to spend on their own needs that they will pay through higher prices in stores, through lower wages at work, or as lower retirement savings.

In addition, the CBC budget would plunge our Nation \$4.3 trillion further into debt after 10 years relative to the House Republican budget. That is more than \$35,000 per household. That is not a theoretical number. That amount, plus interest, will have to be paid back in future taxes just as surely as if it appeared on your credit card statement. In fact, families will be required to pay this debt back before they pay their credit card, and the IRS is quite insistent that they do.

Again, not all of that will be direct taxes. Much of it will be hidden in higher prices, lower wages, and lower retirement savings for families. But make no mistake; it must all be paid back, and families will bear that burden.

Let's look at the massive increase in spending designed to jump-start the economy. That policy has already failed us, and failed us miserably, and here is why:

Government cannot inject a single dollar into the economy until it has first taken that dollar out of the economy. If I take a dollar from Peter and give it to Paul, it is true Paul is going to have an extra dollar to spend. He is going to take it into a store. The storekeeper is going to order more inventory, the manufacturer is going to order more resources, and that dollar will ripple through the economy.

But we have completely forgotten the other half of that equation. Peter now has one less dollar to spend in that

economy—one less dollar to ripple through it. So, in the end, we have not stimulated the economy at all. That is why the trillions of dollars we have already spent trying to stimulate the economy have not worked.

Indeed, this does great damage to the economy because we are transferring huge amounts of capital from the productive sector, which invests its money based on the highest economic return of a dollar, to the public sector, which invests based on the highest political return of the dollar. Those are two very different things. Indeed, that is the difference between FedEx and the post office; it is the difference between Apple Computer and Solyndra; it is the difference between the Reagan recovery and the Obama recovery.

So I beg my colleagues to reconsider. We have tried these policies and they do not work. Under this administration, we have seen record tax increases, record spending increases, and record debt. The result is tragic.

The poverty rate for Americans of African heritage has grown from 12 percent in 2008 to 16.1 percent today. Median income for White households has declined by 3.6 percent during this administration, but it has dropped by 10.9 percent for African American households. Compare that to the Reagan years, when median income increased for all Americans by 4.4 percent but grew by 4.5 percent for African American households.

No one doubts the sincerity of the Congressional Black Caucus in bringing this budget substitute to the floor, but there is an old saying: You can't fix a broken bucket by pouring more water in it; at some point, you have to fix the bucket.

The House Republican budget does this by reducing the tax and regulatory burdens that are choking investment in job creation and that are causing the long, cold winter that our country has endured. If we want to see morning again in America, we need to restore the policies that have produced it before.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the assistant minority leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlelady for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican budget and in support of the alternative put forth by the Congressional Black Caucus.

Put simply, the Republican budget is bad for seniors, bad for young people, and bad for America's economic future. It may be a path to prosperity for the investor class in our society, but it is a path to permanent struggle for America's working families.

The Republican budget is a disaster for our senior citizens. It brings back

the doughnut hole for Medicare prescription drugs. We eliminated the doughnut hole with the Affordable Care Act, but this Republican budget brings it back.

The Republican budget ends the Medicare guarantee of earned benefits and replaces it with a risky voucher scheme. American workers deserve the guarantee of earned benefits. This Republican budget slashes \$732 billion from Medicaid. Mr. Chairman, two-thirds of Medicaid's funds serve seniors and disabled Americans.

The Republican budget is a disaster for our children and young people. It guts Head Start and cuts school lunches and Pell grants.

This budget repeals the Affordable Care Act provision that allows young people to stay on their parents' health plans until their 26th birthday. It allows discrimination against people with preexisting conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and asthma.

This Republican budget rigs the system so that only the children of the well-off and well-connected can get ahead, while the children of the less well-off are consigned to a life of permanent struggle.

This budget rejects the one measure that could immediately unleash more economic activity and grow our economy: comprehensive immigration reform.

In contrast, the CBC budget continues our long history of fiscal soundness and moral responsibility. We make tough choices to secure our financial future, but we do not believe that the most vulnerable in our Nation should be sacrificed on the altar of political expediency.

The CBC budget focuses on eradicating poverty in America through robust investments in education, infrastructure, affordable housing, manufacturing, and small business development. Our budget targets funds to needy communities.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. MOORE. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CLYBURN. It contains our 10-20-30 initiative, requiring that at least 10 percent of Federal funds in certain accounts are directed to areas that have had a poverty rate of 20 percent or more for the last 30 years.

Mr. Chairman, our budgets should reflect our Nation's values and establish what kind of future we want for our citizens. It is fundamentally unfair that 69 percent of the cuts in the Republican budget come from services to low-income and hardworking Americans.

We can do better. We must do better. The CBC budget is better. We should support it and reject the Republican budget.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 2½ minutes to

the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD), the former Governor.

Mr. SANFORD. I thank my colleague.

I rise in respectful opposition to the CBC budget for the reasons that my colleague from California just enumerated.

I have listened to this debate over the last few minutes, and the Ryan budget has been called a draconian budget, a phony budget, an extreme budget, a reckless budget, a heat-seeking missile aimed at the American public budget, but what it has not been recognized as is a brave budget. And I say that because it gets at what no other budget in this process gets at, which is entitlement spending. The President's budget doesn't. The CBC budget doesn't. The Democratic alternative doesn't. The Progressive budget doesn't. It's only this budget that really begins to address the elephant in the room.

Is it perfect? No.

Will I vote against some of the appropriations bills that come along in its wake? I suspect, yes.

□ 1600

But it has been said that a journey of a thousand miles begins with that first step. And to the credit of the Ryan—the Republican budget, it begins that first step at addressing entitlement reform in a way that has not been the case because, to do nothing would, indeed, be to launch a heat-seeking missile into the pocketbook, the wallet, the purse of every American as we wait for the day of reckoning to occur, which is 2025.

In 2025, there will only be enough money for interest and entitlements and nothing else. So we can talk about all these other worthy programs, but without addressing that terminal date of 2025, we are in real trouble.

I think that there are particular problems with this amendment. As you look at taxes going up by \$2.3 trillion, you look at spending going up by \$6.7 trillion, and you look at an additional \$4.3 trillion of debt, it says we have real problems.

But, again, the operative number is what happens to the value of our currency, to future inflation, and to the value of our savings if we do nothing, which is, again, addressed in this Ryan budget with its address of entitlement spending. To do nothing is indeed extreme, and it is reckless.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I am very happy now to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the leader of the Congressional Black Caucus' Budget Task Force.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I rise in support of the Congressional Black Caucus budget, which is a more credible and responsible alternative

than the underlying Republican budget.

Mr. Chairman, the Republican Committee budget starts off by cutting taxes by \$4 trillion and claims this can be revenue neutral.

Simple arithmetic, therefore, requires a \$4 trillion tax increase, and the budget doesn't mention a word about where that money is going to come from, not a loophole closing or any other tax increase. And therefore, the budget starts off with a \$4 trillion hole in it.

Their budget then expects people to believe that they will make \$4 trillion in cuts by repealing the Affordable Care Act provisions for tax credits and Medicaid changes that have resulted in millions of people getting insurance for the first time. They are going to lose that coverage.

Do they think that is going to happen?

Do they think they are going to be able to increase the age for Medicare recipients and reopen the doughnut hole?

Do they think they are going to be able to make the cuts in the budget to Medicaid, denying access to health care to millions of low-income Americans, requiring millions to lose their nursing home coverage?

We know that that is not credible. Neither is it credible that over \$100 billion in cuts to supplemental food assistance—we know that is not credible. They tried to cut \$40 billion last year, then \$20 billion, couldn't do that. They ended up with 8. Now they are going to say, well, all of a sudden we can do 100.

The budget fails to say where the other cuts are going to come from, whether it is going to come from education or job training or research or transportation, or other.

You have unspecified cuts. And to the extent that they are unspecified, that \$4 trillion isn't going to happen. So they have a \$4 trillion hole in revenues. They have a \$4 trillion hole in spending cuts, \$8 trillion hole in their budget.

You can talk about it being balanced, but until you come up with the specifics of where that \$8 trillion is going to come from, it is just not a serious budget.

In stark contrast, the Congressional Black Caucus budget puts numbers on the page. We show our math. We show not only that we can raise \$2 trillion in revenues, we show where it can come from by laying out over \$4 trillion in options, specifics, not \$4 trillion unspecified, but \$4 trillion specified, \$2 trillion needed to make the budget.

We eliminate sequestration. We have proposed a \$500 billion jobs package that will end the recession by putting millions back to work, and approximately \$400 billion for an antipoverty initiative that will restore cuts to the social safety net and enable people to

get job training and education to make them able to work their way out of poverty.

Mr. Chairman, this is simple, straightforward arithmetic.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 20 seconds.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Our budget calls for policy changes and comprehensive immigration reform, a public option for health care, and others, and it will be scored at \$1.8 trillion, real live reduction in the deficit, compared to the CBO baseline.

Our budget is a credible, job-creating alternative to the unrealistic, draconian plan offered by our Republican colleagues, which has an \$8 trillion hole in it.

I ask you to support the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, it has been the honor of a lifetime to serve on the Budget Committee under the leadership of our distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), to whom I yield such time as he may consume.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I thank the gentleman. And I also want to thank the CBC for offering a budget. I think that is what is important that is happening here, people are coming to the floor of Congress offering their ideas, offering their solutions.

One of the things that they are so clearly concerned about, that they have their method of dealing with in the budget is, what do you do about poverty. This is something that we are also deeply concerned about.

A year ago we decided to look at our strategies from the Federal Government's perspective on fighting poverty because, after all, we are in the 50th year, the 50th anniversary of the so-called War on Poverty.

We wanted to say, is there a good accounting of all those Federal poverty programs that we can look at to see if they are working well, if they need updating, because, after all, they were put in place largely in the mid- to late part of the 20th century.

No such accounting occurred. So we spent the last year looking through all these programs, looking at all the audits and the Government Accountability Office reports and the inspector general reports and outside academics' opinions of these things. We took it all together, and we realized that the Federal Government has nearly 100 programs aimed at fighting poverty, spending about \$800 billion a year doing so.

And look at the results. We have the highest poverty rate in a generation. Deep poverty is the highest, on record. Forty-six million people are living in poverty.

So we are asking ourselves, does one more program from the Department of

Health and Human Services, is that going to do the trick all of a sudden?

It is not working. So our concern is that we have moved from a war on eradicating poverty to simply treating the symptoms of poverty to make it more tolerable, to manage poverty.

We are measuring our success—and this is how this debate always goes—based upon how much money we throw at programs, based on inputs, not based on outcomes.

How many people are we truly getting out of poverty?

As we look at these programs, the best thing we should do is go and listen to people who are fighting poverty; go listen to people who have successfully fought poverty.

I got up real early Monday morning in Martindale-Brightwood—it is a low-income neighborhood in Indianapolis, Indiana—to learn from people who are successfully fighting poverty, who are really doing amazing things, seeing potential and great lives realizing their potential.

We can learn a lot by getting out of this town, by finding out what works, and getting behind them and helping make sure what works continues.

But if we suffocate this debate with more one-size-fits-all, with more Washington knows best, with one more program, you know, the 93rd one is going to be the charm, then we are not going to get at the root cause of the problem.

The goal here is to get at the root cause of poverty to break the cycle of poverty, so I think there is a lot we all need to learn about this.

Hopefully, what we are accomplishing here, in our budget, is letting people who are closer to the problem have a little more flexibility, a little more discretion, so that they can customize and tailor solutions to meet the unique and particular needs of the people in their communities who are actually striving and fighting poverty.

One more point. When we stack all these programs on top of each other, we have done something inadvertently in this government, and that is, we have built barriers toward self-sufficiency. We have made it harder for a rational person to leave benefits and go into work because they lose more when they do that.

We have got tax rates, single moms making less than \$40,000 a year with kids that are, like, 80 percent, meaning, you go to work, you lose more in benefits than you gain going to work. We have got to do something about that. That should not be a Republican, Democrat thing. That is just plain old economics.

So I think we need to rethink our approach, and not measure based on inputs, not measure based on how much money we can throw at programs, but measure based on what is working, who is doing a good job, how can we support them, how can we learn and listen from them.

Oh, and why don't we start measuring success based on outcomes?

That is what we are trying to achieve.

We have got a long ways to go, but I hope that that is the kind of conversation we can get to.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wisconsin has 4¾ minutes remaining.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I am so happy at this time to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), the chair of the Democratic whip's Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity, and also a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. LEE of California. First, let me thank Congresswoman MOORE for your very bold leadership on the Budget Committee, and also for leading us today in this debate.

And too, of course, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, the chair of our Congressional Black Caucus. Just want to thank you all for bringing forth really what is a very pro-American budget.

I rise in strong support of the Congressional Black Caucus budget. I just have to say, Chairman RYAN and I, we constantly talk about how to lift people out of poverty. I have to say that his poverty report, and I just have to respond to what he said because we know that the War on Poverty and the programs and the safety net, they have worked. They have saved millions and millions of people from falling into the ranks of the poor, and have lifted people out of poverty.

If we raised the minimum wage right now, these single moms that you talk about, who rely on food stamps and Medicaid because they can't get a decent living wage, yeah, they would be very happy. And I think the country would be a lot better, if, in fact, we raised the minimum wage, which, of course, the Congressional Black Caucus budget promotes and allows for and invests in in terms of job creation and in terms of ensuring that the safety net is preserved.

Instead of ending subsidies for Big Oil, tax breaks for corporate jets, tax breaks for companies that site offshore, the Republican budget cuts at least \$125 million from SNAP.

In stark contrast, the CBC budget provides \$388 billion to eradicate poverty in America, restoring cuts to SNAP, extending unemployment insurance, and targeting resources to those most in need.

Our budget also addresses health disparities and protects and strengthens Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, restoring the cuts the Ryan budget would make.

This budget provides \$230 billion to revitalize our Nation's infrastructure and creates a \$500 billion jobs program to our initiatives in our budget to ac-

celerate the Nation's economic recovery, including \$7 billion in a summer jobs program.

A budget is a moral document. It reflects who we are as a country. The CBC's budget reflects the best of American values.

I urge a "yes" vote on this balanced, pro-growth, pro-jobs budget.

Finally, it ends the overseas contingency account. This perpetual spending on war needs to end. Nation-building at home must begin.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, we are ready to close when the gentlelady has finished her presentation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I am so pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), a freshman on the Budget Committee.

□ 1615

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlelady, my good friend, from the Badger State for her leadership.

Mr. Chair, 50 years ago, President Lyndon Baines Johnson came to this very Chamber and declared a war on poverty, and as a result of the legislative efforts that were brought about in connection with the Great Society vision, tens of millions of Americans were lifted out of an impoverished condition and set on the trajectory toward the middle class.

The CBC is here today because we recognize that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done, particularly in the aftermath of the collapse of the economy, the Great Recession, the worst economic condition since the Great Depression.

That is why the CBC budget invests in the American economy, invests in job training and education, invests in transportation and infrastructure, invests in research and development, invests in affordable housing, invests in creating manufacturing jobs.

The CBC budget would renew unemployment compensation in order to make sure that the long-term unemployed, who are collateral damage of the Great Recession, can get back into the mainstream of our economy.

The CBC budget will give Americans a raise to \$10.10 an hour by lifting the minimum wage. By the way, that will help grow the economy because we have a consumer demand problem, and as a result of the increase in spending resulting from the minimum wage increase, everybody in America will benefit.

The CBC does this in a fiscally responsible way that will reduce the deficit, but it does it in a manner that does not balance the budget on the backs of working families, middle class folks, senior citizens, the poor, the sick, and the afflicted; and that is not even an exhaustive list of what the Ryan budget does.

So I am urging all of our colleagues to vote “yes” on the CBC alternative, invest in America, invest in our economy, and invest in our workers.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I thank all of my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus who have worked hard on this budget.

I was so happy that the chair of the Budget Committee came to the floor. We, obviously, don't have time to continue this conversation on poverty, and I think that there is much to talk about since we shouldn't blame poverty programs or blame the poor; but we need to look at inequality, the state of our economy, and an unfair Tax Code.

Indeed, 2007 and 1928, 2 years that ushered in the Great Depression and the Great Recession, chronicled the highest inequality in our country, and that might, in fact, talk about where our budget priorities ought to be. I urge my colleagues to vote for the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, it is human nature, I think, to resist concluding that our beliefs have been disproven by experience. The more we invest in our mistakes, the less willing we often are to recognize and correct them; but sooner than later, we have to acknowledge from our own experience that certain policies work and certain policies don't, whether they are tried by Republicans or Democrats.

My Democratic colleagues are right to praise the Clinton administration's handling of the economy; but we must ask: What were those policies?

In 1995, he announced that the era of Big Government is over. Working in cooperation with the Republican Congress, they reduced Federal spending by a miraculous 4 percent of GDP. They enacted what amounted to the biggest capital gains tax cut in American history.

They reformed entitlement spending by abolishing the open-ended welfare system. They produced four budget surpluses in a row, and the economy flourished, and it expanded for all Americans.

My colleagues are also right to heap scorn on George W. Bush's handling of the economy; but we have to ask again: What were those policies?

Well, he increased Federal spending by 2 percent of GDP. He enacted the biggest expansion of entitlement spending since the Great Society. He began the era of stimulus spending. He ran up what, at the time, were record budget deficits. Don't my colleagues see that they are advocating the same policies that got us into this mess?

My objection to President Obama is not that he has changed Bush's policies, but, rather, that he has not changed them. He has taken the worst

of them and doubled down on them. The CBC substitute takes us further down this path of debt and doubt and despair.

In 1862, Abraham Lincoln sent this message to the Congress—and I think that they are words meant for us today. He said:

The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.

I invite my friends to think anew and act anew; to disenthral ourselves from the policies that have failed; and to return to the policies of individual liberty, constitutionally limited government, and personal responsibility that produced the most prosperous, happy, and free society in the history of civilization. In short, freedom works, and it is time that we put it and our country back to work.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Congressional Black Caucus's budget alternative to the extreme Republican-led Ryan budget. Congressional Republicans have offered up a budget that continues their legislative reign of terror completely undermining our Nation's future by protecting the wealthiest.

The CBC has put forth a “real” budget that finds responsible ways to reduce our Nation's deficit and recommits the Federal Government to eradicating poverty. In Los Angeles County, where my district is located, we have the highest poverty rate among all of the Californian counties. The CBC budget works to help districts like mine by making a \$500 billion investment over 3 years into jobs to accelerate our Nation's economic recovery and put Americans back to work.

Many Californians find it difficult to make ends meet without the support of Federal safety net programs. Our budget strengthens and protects the social safety net by restoring cuts to the SNAP program, extending emergency unemployment insurance and increasing economic opportunities through targeted investments in education, infrastructure, affordable housing, domestic manufacturing, small businesses, and scientific research.

Mr. Chair, it is clear that the Republican Leadership is not serious about putting our Nation back on the track to prosperity. It is time for a change. Therefore, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the right thing and make a true investment into our Nation's future by voting for the Congressional Black Caucus's budget alternative.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chair, on January 8, 1964, President Johnson came before the nation to deliver his State of the Union address and declared a war on poverty. It has been 60 years since President Johnson gave us that charge, but we have yet to achieve a country free from the burdens of poverty. As President Johnson said all those years ago, “It will not be a short or easy struggle, no single weapon or strategy will suffice, but we shall not rest until that war is won. The

richest nation on earth can afford to win it. We cannot afford to lose it.”

Well, Mr. Chair, President Johnson was correct. The struggle has been neither short nor easy, but he was also right when he said we would not rest until the war on poverty was won. There is no silver bullet, no single weapon or strategy for confronting something as complex as our nation's struggle with poverty. That is why I rise today in support of the budget put forth by the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). This budget is neither a single weapon nor a single strategy, but rather a multi-faceted dynamic approach to responsible governing that will strengthen our economy and reduce our deficit by approximately \$1.8 trillion over the next ten years.

Mr. Chair, a budget can act as a mirror; a mirror that reflects the priorities, ideals and morality of a nation. When we hold the budget proposed by Chairman RYAN up to the mirror, we see an image that distorts the ideals that provide the foundation for this country. We see an image that prioritizes protecting the wealthy over championing middle class families, small businesses and the poor. We know what we need to do to help those Americans who are struggling. We need to extend emergency unemployment insurance; we need to raise the minimum wage; we need to support the Affordable Care Act; invest in education; invest in job training; and we certainly have to invest in our infrastructure. We need a plan to create jobs. Mr. Chair, the dynamic budget proposed by the CBC addresses all of these issues and more. Under Mr. RYAN's Path to Poverty, these critical issues are not addressed. In fact, they are purposely ignored.

Mr. Chair, our tax code is hurting many Americans. It is a code that rewards and protects the rich at the expense of middle class families and the poor. Taken together, the ideas proposed by the CBC would equal roughly \$4.3 trillion in revenue enhancement over the next decade in ways that are fairer to more Americans. The CBC only directs the appropriate committees in the House and Senate to find \$2.0 trillion in revenue enhancements.

Those of us who champion the CBC budget provide a number of ways to reach that \$2.0 trillion mark. For instance, we could end special tax breaks and close tax loopholes available only to the wealthiest Americans. This alone could get us \$1 trillion over the next ten years. We could also stop the wealthiest among us from using overseas tax havens to avoid paying their fair share. Along these same lines, let us rid our tax code of ridiculous loopholes like deductions for yachts and the loophole for corporate jets. Additionally, we could find \$880 billion over the next decade if we taxed capital gains and dividends as ordinary income. We all have constituents back home who work hard all week. They put in their 40 hours, often times more, to provide for their families. At the end of the week they get a check from which taxes have been withheld at rates for ordinary income. This amount is taxed higher than the gains made in from stocks. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) has said that these rates are “the single greatest driver of income inequality over a recent 15 year period was runaway income from capital gains and dividends.” It does not

seem to me, Mr. Chair, unreasonable to ask that the Wall Street banker sitting on a stock portfolio, to pay the same tax rates as a teacher in Florida or a factory worker in Maine.

Mr. Chair, we have a truly disturbing income inequality situation in this country. Such inequality is unfair to those who work diligently to create growth for this country, but who do not get to reap the benefits there from. This inequality is bad for the social fabric that binds this country together. While corporations and top level executives make record profits and payout larger and larger bonuses, middle class Americans are left further and further behind as they struggle through this jobless recovery.

Additionally, sequestration did not do any favors for the middle class or poor. Sequestration was the brutal swing of a cudgel of despair aimed right at the hopes and dreams of poor and middle class families. Head Start programs were scaled back, summer sessions were cut, instructors were cut, and students were put on waitlists rather than in classrooms. Seniors were placed in danger of facing food insecurities when Meals on Wheels had to cut down on their deliveries. Sequestration led to federal funding being cut for education including science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This was done at the K–12 level and the college level. It will be absolutely impossible for this country to maintain its advantage in an increasingly advanced and complex world economy if we do not invest in STEM education at all levels. These are but a few reasons the CBC Budget responsibly puts an end to Sequestration.

Mr. Chair, our country cries out for a jobs bill that will accelerate economic recovery and helps Americans across this nation. The CBC budget answers these cries by proposing a jobs program totaling \$500 billion. This responsible approach to governing will grow our economy by establishing a National Direct Job Creation Program that puts people to work repairing our schools, community centers, parks and playgrounds. This program will add 2.8 million jobs. This responsible approach to growing our economy also includes a plan to modernize our schools. Many of the schools around this country were built decades ago. These schools are approaching the point where we cannot adequately train our young people for the challenges ahead. In order to meet the demands and challenges of the future, our students need facilities that can handle the cutting edge technologies that will undoubtedly form the basis of any decent job of the future.

Mr. Chair, the CBC's responsible approach to governing calls for an immediate investment in our country's infrastructure. Not only will an immediate investment in our infrastructure lead to hundreds of thousands of jobs dedicated to upgrading this country's crumbling roads, bridges and railways, but by strengthening our infrastructure, we help businesses small and large alike grow by giving them access to the tools they need to ship goods throughout the country.

The CBC's responsible approach to governing also acknowledges the fact that the housing crisis continues to ripple throughout many of our neighborhoods. That is why the

budget calls for significant funding to help communities rebuild and helps families facing foreclosures remain in their homes. Furthermore, the CBC budget, acknowledges the fact that a person may come into this economy with one set of skills, but through no fault of their own, find that they need a new set of skills to be competitive in a rapidly changing economy. The budget makes sure that these hard working Americans are not left behind by giving them access to technical training, career services, graduate and certificate programs and other job training programs.

Mr. Chair, every day, homeless Americans face constant instability and must cope with difficult and often unhealthy lifestyles. For those living without permanent housing, everyday life is extremely difficult. Storing and preparing food is nearly impossible, and much of the homeless population relies on temporary shelters and soup kitchens to survive. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides working poor Americans with badly needed nourishment. Cutting funding for this program will only add to the difficulties so many are facing. The CBC budget recognizes this reality, and uses the program savings that will come from raising the minimum wage to help improve and streamline the benefits and ensure that this critical lifeline remain available for those who need it most.

The budget proposed here today is a budget that protects the poor, while providing security for middle class families. It is a budget that protects the social fabric holding together the greatest experiment in democracy the world has ever known. It is a budget that responsibly rewards innovation, while closing gross inequalities in wealth. It is a budget that helps teachers instill in our young people a thirst for knowledge. It is a budget that invests in this country's roads and bridges to help our small businesses. It is a budget that will bring us further down the road towards ending the War on Poverty, not further down the Road to Ruin that the Republicans want to take us.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 113–405.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) to offer amendment No. 3, the Congressional Progressive Caucus' Better Off Budget substitute.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.

(a) DECLARATION.—Congress declares that this resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2015 and that this resolution sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2014 and for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2015.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Sec. 101. Recommended levels and amounts.
Sec. 102. Major functional categories.

TITLE II—ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING

Sec. 201. Direct spending.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 301. Point of order against advance appropriations.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

SEC. 101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2024:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: \$2,267,180,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015: \$2,831,675,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$3,212,240,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$3,374,939,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$3,506,794,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$3,641,750,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$3,802,349,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$3,981,657,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$4,177,945,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$4,381,636,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$4,601,863,000,000

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: -\$18,146,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015: \$297,834,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$536,201,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$585,516,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$616,487,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$627,065,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$653,712,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$687,006,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$721,598,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$755,118,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$794,410,000,000.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: \$3,247,639,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015: \$3,519,727,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$3,641,609,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$3,702,936,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$3,807,478,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: \$3,993,030,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: \$4,179,140,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: \$4,345,383,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: \$4,582,988,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: \$4,737,205,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: \$4,885,880,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: \$3,208,699,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015: \$3,501,527,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: \$3,620,608,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: \$3,679,942,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: \$3,783,105,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019: \$3,959,198,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020: \$4,128,470,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021: \$4,307,080,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022: \$4,545,882,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023: \$4,687,974,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024: \$4,823,437,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS (ON-BUDGET).—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the amounts of the deficits (on-budget) are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: -\$941,519,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2015: -\$669,852,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016: -\$408,368,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017: -\$305,003,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018: -\$276,311,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019: -\$317,448,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020: -\$326,121,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021: -\$325,423,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022: -\$367,937,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023: -\$306,338,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024: -\$221,574,000,000.

(5) DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT.—Pursuant to section 301(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: \$18,065,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2015: \$18,906,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016: \$19,464,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017: \$19,967,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018: \$20,459,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019: \$20,980,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020: \$21,501,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021: \$22,019,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022: \$22,553,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023: \$23,061,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024: \$23,520,000,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: \$13,106,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2015: \$13,815,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016: \$14,256,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017: \$14,594,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018: \$14,908,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019: \$15,287,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020: \$15,701,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021: \$16,148,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022: \$16,671,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023: \$17,159,000,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2024: \$17,607,000,000,000.

SEC. 102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

The Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2014 through 2024 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):

Fiscal year 2014:
 (A) New budget authority, \$613,587,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$611,778,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$529,658,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$567,234,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$531,585,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$547,345,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$544,671,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$541,996,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$557,935,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$545,358,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$571,220,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$560,986,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$585,516,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$573,804,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$599,838,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$587,870,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$615,493,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$607,783,000,000.
 Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$631,503,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$618,343,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$647,988,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$628,997,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):

Fiscal year 2014:

(A) New budget authority, \$60,107,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$50,493,000,000.

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$60,508,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$54,815,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$66,680,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$60,110,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$65,236,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$62,027,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$63,838,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$61,630,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$64,917,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$61,946,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$66,065,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$62,410,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$66,734,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$62,985,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$68,857,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$64,511,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$70,747,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$66,177,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$72,711,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$67,968,000,000.

(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):

Fiscal year 2014:

(A) New budget authority, \$33,098,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$30,940,000,000.

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$37,383,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$34,702,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$40,476,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$38,056,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$39,888,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$39,209,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$39,336,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$39,286,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$40,035,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$39,606,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$40,772,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$40,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$41,514,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$40,767,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$42,624,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$41,674,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$43,749,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$42,726,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$44,914,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$43,844,000,000.

(4) Energy (270):

Fiscal year 2014:

(A) New budget authority, \$16,109,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$13,037,000,000.

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$22,548,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$18,159,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$26,624,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$21,660,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$22,500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$20,988,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$19,807,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,731,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$19,893,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,438,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$19,994,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,484,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$20,111,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,597,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$20,911,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$20,097,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$21,831,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$20,886,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$23,091,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$21,773,000,000.

(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):

Fiscal year 2014:

(A) New budget authority, \$39,106,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$43,209,000,000.

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$45,088,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$46,190,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$48,317,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$48,928,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$48,577,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$49,147,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$49,247,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$49,695,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$50,492,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$50,342,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$52,108,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$51,635,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$52,553,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$52,274,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$54,222,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$53,583,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$55,858,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$55,217,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$57,664,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$56,347,000,000.

(6) Agriculture (350):

Fiscal year 2014:

(A) New budget authority, \$21,350,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$20,773,000,000.

Fiscal year 2015:

(A) New budget authority, \$19,017,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,270,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$21,950,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$21,496,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$20,389,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,718,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$20,113,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,415,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$20,261,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,583,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$20,529,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$19,981,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$20,899,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$20,364,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$21,166,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$20,648,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$21,544,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$21,025,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$21,932,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$21,418,000,000.

(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):
 Fiscal year 2014:
 (A) New budget authority, -\$78,271,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, -\$90,740,000,000.

Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$19,572,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$5,323,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$23,392,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$7,166,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$19,977,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$4,125,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$19,247,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$2,793,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$18,883,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, -\$2,792,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$21,215,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, -\$1,117,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$20,525,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$3,281,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$21,984,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$3,089,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$22,519,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$2,432,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$23,352,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$2,069,000,000.

(8) Transportation (400):
 Fiscal year 2014:
 (A) New budget authority, \$160,476,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$167,686,000,000.

Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$201,774,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$208,281,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$172,720,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$179,129,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$173,700,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$179,443,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$164,705,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$169,945,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$160,697,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$166,142,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$151,764,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$157,221,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$154,327,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$160,238,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$156,968,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$163,623,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$159,648,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$167,073,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$162,424,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$170,501,000,000.

(9) Community and Regional Development (450):
 Fiscal year 2014:
 (A) New budget authority, \$20,813,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$25,424,000,000.

Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$25,850,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$28,910,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$29,178,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$30,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$28,026,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$29,876,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$27,005,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$28,952,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$27,079,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$28,189,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$27,062,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$27,496,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$27,287,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$26,342,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$27,955,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$25,319,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$28,692,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$25,781,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$29,495,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$26,623,000,000.

(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
 Fiscal year 2014:
 (A) New budget authority, \$261,153,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$258,064,000,000.

Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$230,723,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$230,478,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$160,800,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$159,280,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$135,667,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$132,191,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$131,300,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$131,549,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$127,945,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$127,648,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$129,527,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$129,101,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$130,966,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$130,596,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$133,923,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$132,653,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$136,966,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$135,505,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$140,110,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$138,546,000,000.

(11) Health (550):
 Fiscal year 2014:
 (A) New budget authority, \$424,420,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$419,542,000,000.

Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$513,727,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$504,096,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$579,270,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$578,234,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$632,324,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$630,006,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$653,338,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$654,868,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$688,193,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$688,436,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$734,634,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$724,190,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$765,783,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$764,877,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$807,941,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$806,128,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$850,655,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$848,896,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$897,725,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$896,110,000,000.

(12) Medicare (570):
 Fiscal year 2014:
 (A) New budget authority, \$525,635,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$525,132,000,000.

Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$537,777,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$537,667,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$578,698,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$578,619,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$584,606,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$584,530,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$607,547,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$607,461,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$668,007,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$667,913,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$713,427,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$713,329,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$761,672,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$761,573,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$844,700,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$844,593,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$870,769,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$870,659,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$894,893,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$894,776,000,000.

(13) Income Security (600):
 Fiscal year 2014:
 (A) New budget authority, \$609,097,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$601,095,000,000.

Fiscal year 2015:
 (A) New budget authority, \$679,289,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$667,543,000,000.

Fiscal year 2016:
 (A) New budget authority, \$698,462,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$691,417,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:
 (A) New budget authority, \$650,569,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$645,904,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:
 (A) New budget authority, \$636,789,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$630,050,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:
 (A) New budget authority, \$643,578,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$639,657,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:
 (A) New budget authority, \$660,956,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$656,666,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:
 (A) New budget authority, \$679,518,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$674,485,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:
 (A) New budget authority, \$704,717,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$703,166,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:
 (A) New budget authority, \$721,635,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$714,933,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:
 (A) New budget authority, \$737,608,000,000.
 (B) Outlays, \$725,532,000,000.

(14) Social Security (650):
 Fiscal year 2014:
 (A) New budget authority, \$28,711,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$28,821,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$31,442,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$31,517,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$34,245,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$34,283,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$37,133,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$37,133,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$40,138,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$40,138,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$43,383,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$43,383,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$46,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$46,747,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$50,255,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$50,255,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$53,941,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$53,941,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$57,800,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$57,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$58,441,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$58,441,000,000.
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, \$155,374,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$150,436,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$167,617,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$163,117,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$184,961,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$180,688,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$181,358,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$180,318,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$177,388,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$177,547,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$189,305,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$188,757,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$194,269,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$193,441,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$198,571,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$197,596,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$211,365,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$209,954,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$208,844,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$207,308,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$206,401,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$204,744,000,000.
(16) Administration of Justice (750):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, \$56,658,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$57,538,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$74,842,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$60,500,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$69,293,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$67,982,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$67,795,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$72,488,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$68,094,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$73,113,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$69,843,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$70,709,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$71,773,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$71,377,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$73,923,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$73,343,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$77,002,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$76,168,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$79,450,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$78,532,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$85,522,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$84,553,000,000.
(17) General Government (800):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, \$24,250,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$24,405,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$25,042,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$24,955,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$25,605,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$25,162,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$26,202,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$25,925,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$27,013,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$26,736,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$27,870,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$27,426,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$28,705,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$28,228,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$29,620,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$29,150,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$30,545,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$30,078,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$31,416,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$31,002,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$32,356,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$31,886,000,000.
(18) Net Interest (900):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, \$337,021,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$337,021,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$372,402,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$372,402,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$431,031,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$431,031,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$506,850,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$506,850,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$587,294,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$587,294,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$651,403,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$651,403,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$704,759,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$704,759,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$745,853,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$745,853,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$785,189,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$785,189,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$822,741,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$822,741,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$854,052,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$854,052,000,000.
(19) Allowances (920):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, \$11,300,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$6,400,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, \$4,000,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$4,900,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, \$1,700,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$3,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, \$1,100,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$1,700,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, \$1,300,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$1,500,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, \$400,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, \$1,200,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$1,400,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, \$1,000,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$1,200,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, \$1,700,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$1,900,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, \$2,200,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$2,300,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, \$2,299,000,000.
(B) Outlays, \$2,355,000,000.
(20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, -\$72,355,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$72,355,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, -\$78,532,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$78,532,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, -\$83,378,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$83,378,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, -\$83,632,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$83,632,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, -\$83,956,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$83,956,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, -\$90,374,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$90,374,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, -\$91,882,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$91,882,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, -\$95,566,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$95,566,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, -\$98,215,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$98,215,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, -\$101,362,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$101,362,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, -\$107,098,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -\$107,098,000,000.

TITLE II—ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING

SEC. 201. DIRECT SPENDING.

(a) MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 6.8 percent.

(2) For means-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 11-year period beginning with fiscal year 2014 is 5.8 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for means-tested direct spending:

(A) The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act expanded a number of tax credits targeted at working families to boost relief during hard economic times. The Better Off Budget retains the improvements made to the Earned Income Tax Credit (qualifying children and phase-out range), Child and Dependent Care Credit, and the American Opportunity Tax Credit. These credits fuel demand for American businesses by putting money in the hands of families. The Better Off Budget also adopts the EITC improvements proposed in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request, which would double the maximum credit and increase the income level at which the credit is fully phased out. The proposal would also make the credit available to young adult workers and raise the upper age to 67, which harmonizes it with recent increases in the Social Security full retirement age. With this reform, the Better Off Budget would help reduce poverty for childless households and provide substantial relief to approximately 13.5 million low-income workers.

(B) As a part of its response to the recent financial crisis, Congress wisely enacted tax provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and subsequent job creation legislative packages that provided direct assistance to working individuals. The expiration of both the Making Work Pay tax credit and the temporary cut to the payroll tax have slowed our country's economic recovery and taken money out of the pockets of hard-working Americans. The Better Off Budget implements a new Hard Work Tax Credit to reward Americans for their hard work. This policy would provide a refundable tax credit for 2014 and 2015 for up to \$600 for working individuals earning less than \$95,000 and up to \$1,200 for households earning less than \$190,000. The credit would be continued in 2016 with the maximum amount of \$300 for individuals and \$600 for households. Through the enactment of the Hard Work Tax Credit, the Better Off Budget would immediately increase the disposable income of low and middle income families.

(C) The unemployment rate is still far higher than it was when President George W. Bush signed the emergency benefits program into law. Cutting unemployment benefits has damaged our economic recovery. The Better Off Budget extends Emergency Unemployment Compensation to allows those who have lost a job through no fault of their own to claim up to 99 weeks of unemployment benefits in high-unemployment states for up to two years. According to the Economic Policy Institute, this would boost real GDP growth by 0.4 percentage points and increase employment by 539,000 jobs in 2014.

(D) The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act temporarily increased benefit levels for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The Better Off Budget would reverse recent SNAP cuts adopted in the Agricultural Act of 2014 and return benefits to ARRA levels. These reforms will help combat hunger and boost economic growth.

(b) **NONMEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.**—

(1) For non means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 5.7 percent.

(2) For non means-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 11-year period beginning with fiscal year 2014 is 5.0 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for non means-tested direct spending:

(A) Medicare is a cornerstone of the American health care system for more than 45 million American seniors. It is an exemplary program that provides the most efficient care to a segment of the population that costs more to treat. The Better Off Budget protects beneficiaries and makes the system even more efficient. It amends Part D of Medicare to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate prescription drug prices with pharmaceutical manufacturers, as the Department of Veterans Affairs currently does, which will save Medicare \$157 billion over 10 years and will reduce costs for seniors. The budget adopts policies to prohibit "pay for delay" agreements that reduce competition and modifies periods of exclusivity to increase availability of needed therapies. The budget also accelerates the use of bundling payments as an alternative to fee-for-service payments. It builds on Affordable Care Act efficiencies in administration of information and payments. Using standardized electronic systems of administration information such as claims, billing payments and eligibility creates a more efficient and less fragmented health care system.

(B) The Better Off Budget recognizes that the economic security of veterans, retirees, and the disabled has eroded during the recent economic recession. The Better Off Budget would reverse this trend by expanding benefits for these Americans by adopting the Experimental Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) to calculate cost-of-living adjustments for federal retirement programs other than Social Security. Affected programs include civil service retirement, military retirement, Supplemental Security Income, veteran's pensions and compensations. CPI-E is the most sensible and accurate measure of the real costs that seniors face in retirement. Other measures do not adequately take into account rising expenditures in retirement, such as health care costs, and amount to cutting benefits for those on fixed incomes.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 301. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In the House, except as provided in subsection (b), any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making a general appropriation or continuing appropriation may not provide for advance appropriations.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Advance appropriations may be provided for all programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(c) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term "advance appropriation" means any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making general appropriations or any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015 that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2015.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 544, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, the Congressional Progressive Caucus brings to the House a budget that is a blueprint for economic growth and opportunity for all Americans.

In the course of the last few weeks and certainly the last few days, we

have heard over and over from our colleagues in various hearings and here on the floor about the growth gap in America, and the policies that are being reinforced in the Ryan budget, in my estimation, created that growth gap.

We are here today with a budget that assures that we deal with all the gaps that the American people have, income inequality gap, wage disparity gap, education gap, the minimum wage gap, the gender pay gap between men and women, and the jobs gap that is present in our country at this point.

The best way to get out of poverty is to go to work. Everybody knows that. Our budget, within 3 years, creates 8.8 million jobs.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, the abbreviated remarks by my friend, the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, belie the challenge before us with this budget. The Congressional Progressives, the far left in the House, don't disappoint with the budget that they bring to the floor today.

What is the top line? Taxes, increasing taxes by \$6.6 trillion over current policy; spending, increasing spending by \$3.3 trillion dollars over current policy.

What about that all-important issue of defense in a very dangerous world? A \$7 billion increase—a \$7 billion increase at a time when our Nation is seeing significant and increasing threats.

Does it ever come into balance? Never—never does this budget come into balance.

One would think that, given the challenges that we have from the debt—the \$17 trillion-plus in debt—that this would be an irresponsible budget, and one would be correct in saying so.

Let's look at some of the particulars here. Taxes, relative to the Republican budget, this alternative increases taxes by roughly \$6.6 trillion over 10 years. This caucus budget contains trillions of dollars in new tax increases focused on penalizing those who are creating wealth and creating jobs in this country.

This budget that is being proposed today would actually decrease the number of jobs available. These are tax policies that are motivated out of a notion of "fairness," but a warped notion of fairness, where the Tax Code's primary purpose is to redistribute income and equalize outcome. These policies clearly end up hampering growth and job creation.

What about spending? Mr. Chairman, this budget that is being proposed spends a whopping \$8.4 trillion more than the Republican budget—\$8.4 trillion, as if we had it growing on trees.

It doubles down on the Obama administration's failed economic policies and stimulus program by calling for trillions of dollars of new domestic spending, borrowing more and more money from overseas, compromising our kids' and our grandkids' future.

In the area of health—people look at the budget of the United States. They recognize that the biggest challenges that we have are in the area of health care spending, particularly Medicare and Medicaid, both of those programs going broke. Both of them going broke, bankrupt.

What does that mean? It means that those programs, in a relatively short period of time, won't have the resources to be able to provide the services to seniors and those on Medicaid that have been promised to them, unless something is done.

What does this budget do? It further increases the overreach of the Federal Government in the area of health care, putting the government in charge of health care, as opposed to individuals. It embraces a policy that would lead directly—directly—to completing the government takeover of health care.

However, I do want to mention a bright light in this budget. The Progressive budget actually recognizes that the alternative, utilizing a block grant of Federal funding to the States, is a wise idea. We call it State flexibility, giving States greater flexibility with the use of resources; and I want to commend the Progressive Caucus for recognizing that that is a reasonable method of proceeding.

What about job training? This budget expands the current broken Federal job training system by calling for more spending, despite the GAO's findings that dozens of Federal programs that already exist overlap and are duplicative. In fact, they harm the ability of jobs to be created.

In January of 2011, the Government Accountability Office issued a report that found 47 overlapping Federal job training programs that spent approximately \$18 billion in 2009. Does this budget do anything to decrease that duplication and redundant efforts? No, not a doggone thing.

Then defense, as I mentioned at the beginning, Mr. Chairman, this substitute fails in the Federal Government's first responsibility, providing for the common defense. This substitute guts the defense budget by calling for \$569 billion in cuts to the Pentagon, compared to the Republican budget. These are levels that would reduce military readiness and hollow out our forces.

This is a very dangerous world, Mr. Chairman. You don't have to take my word for it. Listen to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey, who recently testified:

Our current security challenges are more formidable and complex than those we faced

in downturns following war in Korea, Vietnam, and the cold war. There is no foreseeable "peace dividend" on our horizon. The security environment is increasingly competitive and dangerous.

Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that decreasing the ability of our men and women standing in harm's way and defending our liberty and freedom at this time is an absolutely reckless and irresponsible move.

I know that our colleagues in the House of Representatives recognize that it is important to have all sorts of alternatives being proposed.

I commend the Progressive Caucus for proposing this alternative, but any review of this budget recognizes that it spends more than it should, it taxes more than it should, it expands the role of government more than it should, and it doesn't address the real challenges of the day in a way that brings about positive and real solutions.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, at this point, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chair, we hear over and over again from Republicans about how we can't afford to make investments in education and infrastructure and science and medical research, and we can't keep our promises to seniors; but at the same time, over the past 5 years, we have raised less Federal revenue, as a percent of GDP, than in any 5-year period since 1941.

But this country, my colleagues, has never been richer. The Wall Street Journal said last month:

U.S. wealth rises, but not all benefit.

The top 1 percent of earners have received 95 percent of the income gains in this country since 2009, and at least eight Americans earned more than \$5 billion in income last year.

So what is the disconnect? Why are we richer than ever before, but unable to invest in basic priorities?

□ 1630

The answer is that PAUL RYAN and the House Republicans refuse to raise a dime from the millionaires, billionaires, and multinational corporations that dodge their fair share of taxes. It would even pad the pockets of the wealthiest Americans. The Ryan budget says, if you make \$1 million next year, that budget would give you a \$200,000 tax break.

Our budget presents a stark contrast to the austerity proposals peddled by this Republican Congress. In order to add 8.8 million jobs to the economy over the next 3 years and provide Americans an opportunity to get a good education, find a job, live in a safe and secure home, and afford decent food, we raise revenue that is needed. We do so by asking millionaires and

billionaires to pay their fair share—yes, we do—and by closing egregious corporate loopholes, including incentives to ship jobs overseas. We would also cut \$4 trillion from the deficit over the next decade.

Look, we can't build the economy for the many—not just the monied—unless we make significant investments in our future. Those investments can and should be made by raising revenue and growing our economy.

I urge my colleagues to support the Better Off Budget.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased now to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE), a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, the Congressional Progressive Caucus' Better Off Budget is really a bigger government budget. The Progressive Caucus substitute increases total spending relative to the Republican budget by \$8.4 trillion over the next 10 years. American families, and particularly our children and our grandchildren, cannot afford this next year, and absolutely not for the next 10 years. This bigger government budget creates new taxes, more regulation, duplicative Federal programs, and will stifle progress across the board.

People, this is not complicated. We need a budget that will grow our economy. Higher taxes, higher deficits, and bigger regulation will never grow the economy. If we put folks back to work, we solve a lot of problems. We solve unemployment problems, deficit problems, poverty problems, income inequality problems, crime problems, drug problems, and problems across the board.

The number one issue in my district, and I believe the number one issue in this Nation, is jobs. Five years after the Great Recession, the economy continues to struggle, and far too many Americans remain out of work. Mr. Obama's Big Government economy has failed.

We can solve this problem. It is not rocket science. We can build our economy and put hardworking Americans back to work if only we will take a few steps to make America more competitive. Just like counties across the country compete for jobs, just like States lower tax rates and streamline regulations to attract industry and jobs—and you can look at States and see what they are doing and how they are successful—we must adopt an attitude here in Washington that we will compete in the world if we expect to stop sending our jobs overseas and bring American jobs back home.

If we retain the world's highest corporate tax rate, how can we expect to compete in the world? If Washington continues to spend more than we take in, threatening our entire economy, how can we expect to compete in the

world? If we continue to build upon our already oppressive regulatory burden, how can we expect to compete in the world?

This is where I believe my friends across the aisle miss the mark. They seem to believe and preach that somehow making this country competitive benefits only the wealthy. But the truth is that people with high assets and high skills do well in a global environment. They can compete from anywhere.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. But the longer we wait to enter the global competition for jobs, the more we damage the hardworking folks in the middle class. We will not grow our economy or put people back to work by expanding entitlements. We will never solve the problems of poverty and inequality through bigger government.

If America will enter the global competition for jobs, our economy will accelerate and the sky is the limit. This is not a Republican issue. This is not a Democrat issue. This is an American issue. We are so blessed that if we simply decide to compete, no one can stop us.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, it should be noted for my colleague that the Republican budget, according to the Economic Policy Institute, will slow the recovery, costing 1.1 million jobs in fiscal year 2015, rising to costing nearly 3 million jobs the next year. That is not a budget of growth.

I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), the cochair.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, our Republican colleagues have been saying for maybe 100 years that if we don't regulate and have fair, good rules for health and safety and financial markets and in other areas of our economy, and if we don't tax people, the wealthy and corporations, then our economy will take off. They have been saying this for years. They didn't just start saying it with Bush or Reagan. They were saying it back in the thirties.

Thank God the American people did not listen to them, because it was in the thirties that we put up the SEC, we put regulations on banks, and we put other sorts of health, safety, and commonsense regulations in place. Because of that, between 1948 and about 1975, we had an expanding economy. Sometimes tax rates were way higher than they are now.

They are wrong. They don't know economic history, and so they continue to repeat Herbert Hoover-type myths that were dispelled decades ago. Oh, but they came back and they deregulated the economy in the late 1990s, and then in the early 2000s they cut

taxes on the wealthy, and we have had a dismal jobs economy since that time.

The Better Off Budget is here to present a better alternative that involves investment in our Nation's economy to put Americans back to work. The Better Off Budget puts 8.8 million Americans back to work by doing something that everyone—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—agrees that everyone needs: we invest in infrastructure. We put \$820 billion into fixing our roads, our bridges, and our smart grids, into our transit systems and our wastewater treatment systems. We invest in our Nation's infrastructure.

Just like under the great Republican President Dwight Eisenhower, as we invest in infrastructure, we put people to work building it, and we make our economy more productive as we use it. This is exactly what this version of Republicans—my goodness—doesn't understand, that you have got to invest in the economy in order to reap benefits from the economy.

The Better Off Budget puts 8.8 million people back to work. The Ryan budget puts 3 million people out of work. Vote "yes" on the Better Off Budget today.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, may I request the remaining time on each side?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia has 5¼ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Arizona has 9¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California, Ms. BARBARA LEE, the leader in the Progressive Caucus.

Ms. LEE of California. I want to thank our cochair, Congressmen GRIJALVA and ELLISON, for their very hard work on this budget, which is a better-off budget. As former cochair of the Progressive Caucus, I rise in proud support of this budget because each year this budget continues to get better and better.

As a member of the Budget and the Appropriations Committees, I was really, once again, appalled by the devastating cuts that the Ryan Republican budget makes to the safety net.

The number one priority of our budget is fixing the jobs crisis, and that is exactly what the CPC budget would do. The Progressive Caucus budget asks the wealthiest 1 percent—Big Oil and huge corporations—to pay a little more, just a little more, so that we can afford to invest in the American people and create over 8 million jobs over the next 3 years alone. The CPC budget replaces the disastrous sequester by supporting critical spending in education, infrastructure, and rejecting benefit cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

While the Republican budget continues to keep the American Dream

out of reach for all Americans, it would increase spending for the already-bloated Pentagon budget.

Chairman RYAN's report on poverty refuses to acknowledge the fact that Head Start and all of the Great Society initiatives have kept millions out of poverty. They have worked. Raising the minimum wage for single mothers provides a pathway out of poverty. Mr. RYAN's report does not acknowledge the facts. Taxpayers, for example, subsidize corporations to the tune of over \$200 billion just to keep people in the ranks of the working poor.

The CPC budget eliminates the Overseas Contingency Operations slush fund and supports a modern military able to face real, 21st-century threats. Once again, we provide economic growth and jobs in our budget, and we require the Pentagon—the largest single Federal agency with the highest waste, fraud, and abuse—to pass an audit and to pass it now.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield the gentlelady an additional 10 seconds.

Ms. LEE of California. I just want to conclude by saying that we simply can't continue to write a blank check for spending on war if we are really going to have any chance of getting our fiscal house in order. We can't do this to America's struggling families and the working poor. That is what the American people deserve. With our budget, the Better Off Budget, our country will be better off.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA).

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, many of our Democratic colleagues have already spoken about what is wrong with the House Republican budget and how it slashes our investments in education, infrastructure, research and development, job training, and medical research; how it repeals all the benefits of the Affordable Care Act; how it leaves 7 million Americans without health insurance, ends the Medicare guarantee, and institutes massive cuts to our most vulnerable populations; how it pays for new tax cuts for millionaires by taking away tax breaks that help the working poor and the middle class—and that is all true. But I want to talk about the alternative vision for this country that we in the Progressive Caucus have crafted.

The Better Off Budget meets the challenges that our communities face head-on. It expresses our belief that America's future is bright and worth investing in.

One of the pieces I am most proud of is the application of the CPI-E to all

Federal retirement programs. The CPI-E uses the most accurate and sensible measure of the real costs that seniors face for programs like civil service retirement, military retirement, Supplemental Security Income, and the veterans' pensions.

Seniors deserve a cost of living that accounts for the rising costs of retirement, such as health care. I urge my colleagues to support a better deal for our seniors, support a better future for our middle class, and support a vision that will leave us all better off. The Better Off Budget offers all of this.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE), a productive and active member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Chairman, they call it the Better Off Budget, but I am wondering who is really better off?

It is certainly not the small business woman from California who, under this plan, maybe she is earning \$260,000 a year—not a billionaire and millionaire like they claim—and she will see her combined taxes, Federal taxes and State taxes, exceed 51 percent. She is certainly not better off.

How about the people she might have hired if she didn't have this tax increase? Well, they are not better off. Or maybe the people who work for her now who can't get a raise because she now is extended here? They are not better off. It is certainly not the businessowner who might provide a piece of equipment that this small business woman might buy but she no longer can afford. He is no longer better off. I can't see anybody who is better off under this system.

Here I would ask—and I want to talk a little bit about freedom in this last minute. Imagine this same businesswoman getting up on January 1, going to work and working all of January. She gets her paycheck, and it is zero because 100 percent was sent to Washington, D.C. she does it again in February, and it is zero because 100 percent gets sent to Washington, D.C.

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She does it again in March and April and May, 100 percent of all her effort comes here. She doesn't get to keep a penny of it. All of the month of June, it all goes to government. This is not a free person. Mr. Chairman, I ask, is that free or is it indentured servitude?

We have a free country where people should, in fact, be better off, and the way to make them better off is to let them keep what they earn, and that is what the House Republican budget does, and that is why I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on the Progressive budget and vote "yes" on the House Budget Committee's budget.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, it should be noted the Republican budget, the Ryan budget, raises taxes for mid-

dle class families with kids by an average of \$2,000 in order to coddle, I guess, the very wealthy in this country. They are better off; that middle class family is not.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), a member of the Budget Committee and the Progressive Caucus.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, the Better Off Budget will make our country more competitive and will create 8.8 million jobs through investments, repairing our roads and bridges, modernizing our waterways, and educating our young people. It is the only budget that gets America back to full employment, and does it within 3 years.

The Better Off Budget puts an end to a system where CEOs pay a lower tax rate than their secretaries and corporations get unneeded tax breaks. This budget restores full funding to food stamps and strengthens Medicare and Medicaid. It makes a clear choice to support working and middle class families, seniors and those in need, and to reinstate fairness in our economy.

For the fourth year in a row, Republicans choose to hurt the many while lavishing benefits on the wealthy few. They choose to slash 3 million jobs and destroy the safety net. They choose to dismantle Medicare and Medicaid and slash aide to college students. They choose huge tax cuts for billionaires and tax increases for the middle class. The Republican budget makes a clear choice—billionaires before working Americans and seniors.

The Better Off Budget is about building an economy that creates jobs and supports working and middle class families, not just the richest 1 percent. I urge my colleagues to invest in this country and support the Better Off Budget.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. May I inquire as to the time remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Arizona has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, the House has put out a responsible budget under the Budget Committee that balances in 10 years. But this is an opportunity for us to actually see the vision, the ideas of the Democratic Party. If they were in control, what would they give us to try to bring America to a more sustainable path?

What they give us, Mr. Chairman, is \$6.6 trillion in new taxes. If I had \$1 for every time I hear, "If we just had a balanced approach and we could raise taxes on a millionaires and billionaires," if I had \$1 for each one of those comments, I think we would balance the budget.

If that were the case, raise taxes on millionaires and billionaires, you

would think that they would come up with a budget that actually balances. The bottom line, my friends across the aisle, even raising taxes on millionaires and billionaires, their budget never balances. In their ideal budget, the Medicare trust fund still goes bankrupt in 12 years. If you are going to raise taxes, let's fix the problems. This is rife with huge issues.

Listen, I think the real secret here that my friends on the other side of the aisle are not telling the American people is that they do have a way to pay for this, and the way to pay for it is not through millionaires and billionaires. They are going to pay it by taxing hardworking middle class families, raising their taxes in a way to pay for greater government spending. It is a budget that actually looks to government programs, government giveaways, instead of looking to the private sector to actually grow our economy.

Listen, I think you couldn't have a better example of two different views about what direction you take the country: one of big government and big taxes on millionaires and billionaires and middle class Americans, or a responsible budget that reforms the way we spend, makes government responsible, and actually keeps our promises to the American people.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, budgets are about choices. We choose investment. We choose not to cut Medicare benefits to give tax breaks to the very wealthy, millionaires and billionaires in the country. It is a choice.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), a member of the caucus.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, the Better Off Budget would create 8.8 million jobs over its first 3 years by investing in infrastructure, education, training, and research. It would invest \$100 billion in teachers and schools and \$81 billion in science.

A person or a country invests with the hope and expectation that investing some resources now will give us a better future, give us savings, give us a better quality of life so that we will be better off. America's optimistic outlook has made America great and strong.

The Ryan budget is a very pessimistic document. It is based on the premise that we cannot afford to invest in infrastructure and in science and education. We have to cut, we have to shrink, we have to reduce our efforts and hunker down. We can't afford to do things, anything.

The wealthiest Nation on Earth should invest as if we have a future. Quite simply, the Better Off Budget invests as if we will have a tomorrow. It ends the absurd, pessimistic cuts of the Budget Control Act and the pessimistic Ryan budget.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona has 3¼ minutes remaining. The

gentleman from Georgia has 2 minutes remaining and the right to close.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, the Progressive Caucus' Better Off Budget is optimistic. It is about investing in America in job growth by investing in infrastructure, public works, and education. By repealing sequestration cuts, restoring funding for SNAP benefits and unemployment insurance and investing in programs to hire police, firefighters, and health care workers, the Better Off Budget will create 8.8 million good jobs by 2017. It also embodies our American values by implementing comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship and protects our environment by addressing climate change. The Better Off Budget stands for our Nation's commitments by supporting veterans, protecting Medicare and Social Security, and implementing a fair tax system.

I urge my colleagues, be optimistic about America. Make America better off by voting for the Progressive Caucus budget.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), a member of the caucus and the Budget Committee.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, I think the gentleman from northwest Wisconsin is right: let's put the budgets side by side.

The Better Off Budget will create 8.8 million jobs. The Republican PAUL RYAN budget will cut 3 million jobs. That is equivalent to the entire workforce of the State of Wisconsin.

If you have family with kids going to school, the Better Off Budget invests into hiring more teachers, invests in our schools and pre-K, invests in our college students. The PAUL RYAN Republican budget, it cuts \$18 billion in early education, \$89 billion in K–12 education, and \$205 billion in higher education. Oh, and if you get Pell grants, another \$145 billion cut.

Senior citizens, we invest in Medicare and Medicaid and we make sure you can negotiate for your drug prices. Seniors under the Republican budget, you voucherize Medicare and you will lose \$732 billion in Medicaid. And, oh, yeah, we are going to open up the doughnut hole and you will pay more for prescription drugs.

Finally, on taxes, we close corporate loopholes for gas and oil companies. We make sure that companies sending jobs overseas don't get tax breaks. The Republican budget, it cuts taxes on millionaires on average \$200,000 each. And you know how it gets paid for? On the backs of the middle class, \$2,000 per family.

The head of the Budget Committee said it is a win/win budget. It is a win for the top 1 percent. It is a win for the second percentile, and the other 98 percent of us pay the difference.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, this budget is about choice. The Better Off Budget believes in the American people. It believes in investing in the American people and in their future. It is the best road to economic health and full economic opportunity in this country.

Our budget does not look at government or the American people with disdain. We feel that government has a role, quite frankly, to stimulate, to support, and to take care of the American people as we grow our economy. We can't cut our way out of what we are in; we need to grow our way out. The Ryan budget continues the same pattern of austerity that is sinking us deeper into unemployment, lack of jobs, and lack of investment in the American people.

I urge Members to vote "yes" on the Congressional Progressive Better Off Budget. We feel it is a strong budget and that it represents the ideals of the American people. We trust the American people, and we invest in the American people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, we have heard a lot about this budget, a lot of information, and a lot of numbers have been tossed around. My friends on the other side say that their budget will create 8.8 million jobs; where does that come from? It was made up. They say that our budget slashes 3 million jobs; where does that come from? It was made up. They say our budget will increase taxes on the middle class; where does that come from? It was made up.

What is a fact about jobs? A fact about jobs is the President's health care law, the Congressional Budget Office has said, will decrease the equivalent of 2.5 million jobs. That is a fact. That is a fact.

So if my friends, my colleagues in the House here, if you want to increase taxes by \$6.6 trillion, vote for their budget. If you want \$8.4 trillion in more spending over the next decade, vote for their budget. If you want to increase debt by \$8.2 trillion more than the Republican budget, vote for that budget.

We believe there is a better way, that there are real solutions. We recognize this is a dangerous world; therefore, we increase spending on defense and making certain that our men and women who stand in harm's way have the resources they need. We believe that opportunity needs to be expanded and pro-growth tax policies are the things that get the economy rolling again and get jobs being created.

We understand that Medicare and Medicaid are in difficult straits financially, something that our friends on the other side of the aisle bury their heads in the sand about, so we put in place in our budget a program to save and strengthen and secure Medicare and Medicaid, recognizing that patients need to be in charge of health care, not the Federal Government.

We recognize that energy policy needs to be expanded so that we responsibly utilize the blessing and the resources that have been provided so that we can become energy independent as a country and not rely on nations that don't like us.

We also recognize that balancing the budget is imperative if we are going to get our fiscal house in order and get our economy back on track. Our budget is the only budget that is being presented on the floor of this House, compared to the other side of the aisle, that gets to balance. Our budget, compared to the other side of the aisle, not only gets to balance, gets us on a path to paying off our entire debt. It is a positive, optimistic budget. I urge support of the Republican budget and defeat of the Progressive budget.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) Budget because it would replace H. Con. Res. 96, the "Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2015," with a rational approach for budgetary reform and address the needs of real people.

I oppose H. Con. Res. 96, in its current form because it is irresponsible and a reckless approach to fiscal policy that the House majority has championed for years, with disastrous results.

The CPC's "Better Off Budget" would raise enough new revenue to provide \$3.7 trillion for major new investments in education, infrastructure, state and local aid, nutrition, housing and research. It is estimated to create 8.8 million new jobs and to reduce the deficit by \$4 trillion.

The CPC budget asks the wealthy to contribute their fair share of taxes.

Millions of American adults remain under- or unemployed, while millions more youth are desperately seeking their first work experience.

We have millions of people living in our Nation, paying taxes and contributing to the success of this nation, but are denied an opportunity to earn citizenship.

The CPC's budget reflects the reality of everyday working America—but it sees working people as worthy of dignity and recognition for what they do every day to keep this nation strong.

The CPC's Budget is pro-worker, pro-family, pro-women, pro-education, pro-healthcare, and pro-senior which are the values that are missing in the current language of H. Con. Res. 96.

Members of the Progressive Caucus understand that the devastating cuts to federal budgets by House Republicans coupled with Sequestration have significantly hampered our Nation's economic recovery.

The country was under the control of Republicans when the economy crashed in 1929 and then they wholeheartedly embraced austerity measures which pushed the nation into the "Great Depression."

Eighty years later the House Republicans still have not learned the lessons regarding austerity during dire economic times.

The nation continues to struggle after the collapse in 2008 as the results of the Great Recession continue.

In 2013, on December 28, three days after Christmas, 1.3 million people nationwide lost their federal unemployment insurance due to House Republicans refusing to extend unemployment benefits.

Connecting the dots on the economic damage done to the nation by that decision is easy.

Nationally 72,000 unemployment insurance recipients will lose their benefits each week during the first half of 2014.

According to the White House Council of Economic Advisers and the Department of Labor—3.6 million additional people will lose their unemployment insurance benefits by the end of 2014 if nothing is done to restore benefits.

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64,294 unemployed Texas residents lost their unemployment insurance benefits.

Each week an additional 4,112 Texans will lose their unemployment insurance benefits.

Unemployment insurance payments provide partial income replacement to unemployed workers who meet the requirements of state law.

According to the White House Council of Economic Advisers and the Department of Labor, Texas will lose 11,766 jobs if unemployment insurance payments are not reinstated.

To compound this economic reality the nation's families and workers are struggling to make it in a weak private sector economy that is recovering, while federal, state and local government jobs are going unfilled.

Public sector hiring is at its lowest point in 47 years, when the nation's population was over 146 million. In 2013, the U.S. population was over 317 million.

The need for public services is greater than they were in 1947, and the generation of public jobs should keep pace with domestic population growth.

The government shutdown last year was a direct result of the majority not believing that public employees make contributions to the quality of life in the United States or make a significant contribution to the nation's overall economic wellbeing.

The Better Off Budget rectifies this inaccurate view of the role of government at all levels, by ending the ill advised austerity measures enacted by the Budget Control Act, sequestration, and SNAP benefit cuts, and replacing them with solutions to create 8.8 million jobs by 2017.

The CPC budget would enact comprehensive immigration reform and at the same time reduce the federal budget deficit by \$700 billion over the next 20 years.

The CPC budget would also enact a tax code that makes sense for all Americans by introducing tax fairness and implementing a

"Hard Work Tax Credit," expanding EITC, and stronger regulatory measures to reduce the incidence of extreme volatility in financial markets with the introduction of a Financial Speculation Tax.

The CPC's Better Off Budget outlines a viable alternative to H. Con. Res. 96 with a perspective on the future that allows for an improving economy to be factored into how spending and appropriations decisions should be made.

America's economy at this point could be said to be in the early recovery phase of a very bad case of the flu, the Ryan Budget would turn it into the early stages of pneumonia.

The CPC budget makes a clear and unambiguous commitment to our nation's children and their future that H. Con. Res 96 does not.

The CPC budget understands that children are our nation's greatest asset. Children are not small adults, they are growing and their bodies must have certain things that are non-negotiable.

Children need safe, correctly prepared, nutritious food; clean drinking water, adequate shelter, seasonal clothing, safe toys, excellent education, healthcare, and safe environments to grow and learn so that they have a good chance of reaching their full potential.

In addition, children with disabilities must also have competent caregivers who are knowledgeable on how to best help them successfully engage the world during their day to day lives in preparation of them living independently.

Children with chronic conditions like asthma, sickle cell anemia, autism, respiratory disorders, cognitive disorders, brain injuries, physical disabilities, muscular dystrophy or other serious medical conditions should not be robbed of a childhood or their independence as adults.

All children can benefit from efforts that are aimed at keeping them safe from preventable injury, illness, and death.

Parents and families fill an indispensable role in the lives of children, and the CPC budget recognizes that there is a strong public interest in ensuring that children have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

It is in the public interest that children are free of disease, illness, injury, violence, consume sufficient amounts of foods with high nutritional value that support health growth, arrive to the learning environment ready to learn. Parents, teachers, communities and students should be empowered to decide for themselves how best to build strong collaborative relationships to reach these basic goals in support of their children.

The interconnectedness of economies makes the welfare of children in the United States critical to the future of our nation. If we are to remain globally relevant we must understand that our nation's ability to remain first in the areas of innovation, commerce, science, engineering, and global relevance is tied to how well the next generation is physically, mentally and emotionally prepared to lead, support, or engage their futures.

We are at a point where children receive less than 8 percent of the federal budget. Since the peak in 2010, totaling \$35 billion in spending on children there has been a 16 per-

cent drop. Total spending on children has declined for three years in a row according to First Focus, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families.

The CPC Budget plan will protect and strengthen programs that support children and their families as well as address the needs of our recovering economy, reduce the deficit in a responsible way, while continuing to invest in the things that make our country strong like education, health care, innovation, and clean energy.

Mr. Chair, this Republican budget is bad for America but the CPC's budget is the cure.

1. If the Republican budget resolution were to become the basis of federal fiscal policy, 3,435,336 Texas seniors would be forced out of traditional Medicare and into a voucher program. Under the Republican plan to end Medicare as we know it, Texas seniors will receive a voucher instead of guaranteed benefits under traditional Medicare.

2. For the 3,435,336 Texans aged 45–54, the value of their vouchers would be capped at growth levels that are lower than the projected increases in health care costs. Previous analyses showed that this type of plan would cut future spending by \$5,900 per senior, forcing them to spend more out of pocket and diminishing their access to quality care.

3. Additionally, private insurance plans will aggressively pursue the healthiest, least expensive enrollees, thereby allowing Medicare—currently the lifeline for 3,187,332 Texas seniors—to "wither on the vine."

4. If the Republican budget resolution were to be adopted by Congress, 206,304 Texas seniors would pay more for prescription drugs next year.

5. The Republican plan would re-open the "donut hole," forcing seniors to pay the full cost of their prescription drugs if their yearly drug expenses are more than \$2,970 for the year.

6. Seniors reaching the prescription drug "donut hole" would pay an average of \$828 more in prescription drug costs in 2014 and approximately \$13,000 more from now through 2022.

7. Under the Republican budget, the 2,445,462 Texas seniors who utilized free preventive services currently covered by Medicare in 2012 will face increased costs in the form of higher deductibles, co-insurance, and copayments for certain services, including even cancer screenings and annual wellness visits.

8. The Republican budget slashes \$31.71 billion in nursing home care and other health care services for 754,500 Texas seniors and disabled who currently rely on Medicaid for their long-term care needs.

9. The draconian cuts included in the Republican budget would have a devastating impact on the 1,191 certified nursing homes in Texas that serve 91,717 seniors, with more than half relying on Medicaid as their primary payer. As a result, nursing homes would be forced to slash services, turn away seniors, or close their doors.

Mr. Chair, the Better Off Budget enhances programs that close the growing wealth gap, including ensuring equal access to job opportunities, properly funding public education and

enhancing programs that allow American families to get through tough times. Women and communities of color have been disproportionately impacted by recent budget cuts, particularly at the state and local levels.

The CPC budget increases the Education, Training and Social Services budget function by \$243 billion and the Income Security budget function by \$323 billion over 10 years.

Specifically, the Alternative Budgets proposed by the CPC: help create more jobs now; replace the sequester; make key education investments; invest in research and development and clean energy; invest in long-term infrastructure; preserve Medicare as we know it; protect health reform's benefits for seniors; protect Medicaid for seniors in nursing homes; preserve Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP); reduce the deficit through a smart, targeted, and steady approach provides tax relief for working families and ends tax breaks for the wealthy; take a balanced approach to reducing the long-term deficits and debt; and put the budget on a sustainable path.

It is said often, Mr. Chair, but is no less true, that the federal budget is more than a financial document; it is an expression of the nation's most cherished values. As the late and great former senator and Vice-President Hubert Humphrey said:

"The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped."

For that reason that in evaluating the merits of a budget resolution, it is not enough to subject it only to the test of fiscal responsibility. To keep faith with the nation's past, to be fair to the nation's present, and to safeguard the nation's future, the budget must also pass a "moral test."

The Republican budget resolution fails both of these standards. The Democratic alternatives do not. For these compelling reasons, I stand in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 96 and urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this ill-conceived and unwise measure.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 113-405 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. MULVANEY of South Carolina.

Amendment No. 2 by Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. GRIJALVA of Arizona.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. MULVANEY

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 2, noes 413, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 171]

AYES—2

Kaptur

Moran

NOES—413

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Beatty
Becerra
Benish
Bentivoglio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay

Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay

Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Garret
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzer
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt

Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCauley
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer

Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise

Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schradner
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southernland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—16

Bass
Burgess
Carter
Farenthold
Flores
Green, Al
Gutiérrez
Jackson Lee
Lewis
McAllister
Pelosi
Perlmutter

□ 1724

Messrs. BROUN of Georgia and ROKITA changed their votes from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 IN THE NATURE OF A
SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIR. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 116, noes 300, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 172]

AYES—116

Beatty	Hahn	Payne
Becerra	Hastings (FL)	Pingree (ME)
Bishop (GA)	Higgins	Pocan
Blumenauer	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Brady (PA)	Holt	Rangel
Brown (FL)	Honda	Richmond
Butterfield	Horsford	Roybal-Allard
Capuano	Hoyer	Rush
Cárdenas	Huffman	Ryan (OH)
Carson (IN)	Israel	Sánchez, Linda
Cartwright	Jeffries	T.
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Sarbanes
Castro (TX)	Johnson, E. B.	Schakowsky
Chu	Kaptur	Schiff
Ciilline	Kelly (IL)	Scott (VA)
Clark (MA)	Larson (CT)	Scott, David
Clarke (NY)	Lee (CA)	Serrano
Clay	Lofgren	Sewell (AL)
Cleaver	Lowenthal	Sherman
Clyburn	Luján, Ben Ray	Sires
Cohen	(NM)	Slaughter
Connolly	Lynch	Smith (WA)
Conyers	Matsui	Speier
Crowley	McCollum	Takano
Cummings	McDermott	Thompson (MS)
Davis, Danny	McGovern	Tonko
DeLauro	Meeks	Tsongas
Doggett	Meng	Van Hollen
Doyle	Miller, George	Vargas
Edwards	Moore	Veasey
Ellison	Moran	Vela
Engel	Nadler	Velázquez
Eshoo	Napolitano	Wasserman
Farr	Neal	Schultz
Fattah	Negrete McLeod	Waters
Frankel (FL)	Nolan	Waxman
Fudge	O'Rourke	Welch
Grayson	Pallone	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	Pascrell	Yarmuth
Gutiérrez	Pastor (AZ)	

NOES—300

Aderholt	Boustany	Carney
Amash	Brady (TX)	Cassidy
Amodei	Braley (IA)	Chabot
Bachmann	Bridenstine	Chaffetz
Bachus	Brooks (AL)	Coble
Barber	Brooks (IN)	Coffman
Barletta	Broun (GA)	Cole
Barr	Brownley (CA)	Collins (GA)
Barrow (GA)	Buchanan	Collins (NY)
Barton	Bucshon	Conaway
Benishek	Burgess	Cook
Bentivolio	Bustos	Cooper
Bera (CA)	Byrne	Costa
Bilirakis	Calvert	Cotton
Bishop (NY)	Camp	Courtney
Bishop (UT)	Campbell	Cramer
Black	Cantor	Crawford
Blackburn	Capito	Crenshaw
Bonamici	Capps	Cuellar

Culberson	Kelly (PA)	Pompeo
Daines	Kennedy	Posey
Davis (CA)	Kildee	Price (GA)
Davis, Rodney	Kilmer	Quigley
DeFazio	Kind	Rahall
DeGette	King (IA)	Reed
Delaney	King (NY)	Reichert
DelBene	Kingston	Renacci
Denham	Kinzinger (IL)	Ribble
Dent	Kirkpatrick	Rice (SC)
DeSantis	Kline	Rigell
DesJarlais	Kuster	Roby
Deutch	Labrador	Roe (TN)
Diaz-Balart	LaMalfa	Rogers (AL)
Dingell	Lamborn	Rogers (KY)
Duckworth	Lance	Rogers (MI)
Duffy	Langevin	Rohrabacher
Duncan (SC)	Lankford	Rokita
Duncan (TN)	Larsen (WA)	Rooney
Ellmers	Latham	Ros-Lehtinen
Enyart	Latta	Roskam
Esty	Levin	Rothfus
Fincher	Lipinski	Royce
Fitzpatrick	LoBiondo	Ruiz
Fleischmann	Loeb sack	Ruppersberger
Fleming	Long	Ryan (WI)
Forbes	Lowe	Salmon
Fortenberry	Lucas	Sanchez, Loretta
Foster	Luetkemeyer	Sanford
Fox	Lujan Grisham	Scalise
Franks (AZ)	(NM)	Schneider
Frelinghuysen	Lummis	Schock
Gabbard	Maffei	Schrader
Galleo	Maloney,	Schweikert
Garamendi	Carolyn	Scott, Austin
Garcia	Maloney, Sean	Sensenbrenner
Gardner	Marchant	Sessions
Garrett	Marino	Shea-Porter
Gerlach	Massie	Shimkus
Gibbs	Matheson	Shuster
Gibson	McCarthy (CA)	Simpson
Gingrey (GA)	McCarthy (NY)	Sinema
Gohmert	McCauley	Smith (MO)
Goodlatte	McClintock	Smith (NE)
Gosar	McHenry	Smith (NJ)
Govdy	McIntyre	Smith (TX)
Granger	McKeon	Southerland
Graves (GA)	McKinley	Stewart
Graves (MO)	McMorris	Stivers
Green, Gene	Rodgers	Stockman
Griffin (AR)	McNerney	Stutzman
Griffith (VA)	Meadows	Swalwell (CA)
Grimm	Meehan	Terry
Guthrie	Messer	Thompson (CA)
Hall	Mica	Thompson (PA)
Hanabusa	Michaud	Thornberry
Hanna	Miller (FL)	Tierney
Harper	Miller (MI)	Tipton
Harris	Miller, Gary	Titus
Hartzler	Mullin	Turner
Hastings (WA)	Mulvaney	Upton
Heck (NV)	Murphy (FL)	Valadao
Heck (WA)	Murphy (PA)	Visclosky
Hensarling	Neugebauer	Wagner
Herrera Beutler	Noem	Walberg
Himes	Nugent	Walden
Holding	Nunes	Walorski
Hudson	Nunnelee	Walz
Huelskamp	Olson	Weber (TX)
Huizenga (MI)	Owens	Webster (FL)
Hultgren	Palazzo	Wenstrup
Hunter	Paulsen	Westmoreland
Hurt	Pearce	Whitfield
Issa	Perry	Wilson (SC)
Jenkins	Peters (CA)	Wittman
Johnson (OH)	Peters (MI)	Wolf
Johnson, Sam	Peterson	Womack
Jolly	Petri	Woodall
Jones	Pittenger	Yoder
Jordan	Pitts	Yoho
Joyce	Poe (TX)	Young (AK)
Keating	Polis	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—15

Bass	Jackson Lee	Ross
Carter	Lewis	Runyan
Farenthold	McAllister	Schwartz
Flores	Pelosi	Tiberi
Green, Al	Perlmutter	Williams

□ 1731

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 IN THE NATURE OF A
SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIR. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 89, noes 327, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 173]

AYES—89

Beatty	Hahn	Pingree (ME)
Becerra	Hastings (FL)	Pocan
Blumenauer	Higgins	Price (NC)
Brady (PA)	Hinojosa	Rangel
Brown (FL)	Holt	Richmond
Butterfield	Honda	Roybal-Allard
Capuano	Huffman	Rush
Cárdenas	Jeffries	Ryan (OH)
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Sánchez, Linda
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	T.
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Sarbanes
Chu	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Ciilline	Lee (CA)	Scott, David
Clark (MA)	Lowenthal	Serrano
Clarke (NY)	Luján, Ben Ray	Sewell (AL)
Clay	(NM)	Sires
Cleaver	Matsui	Slaughter
Clyburn	McCollum	Speier
Cohen	McDermott	Takano
Conyers	McGovern	Thompson (MS)
Cummings	Meeks	Vargas
Davis, Danny	Meng	Veasey
DeLauro	Miller, George	Velázquez
Doggett	Moore	Wasserman
Doyle	Moran	Schultz
Edwards	Nadler	Waters
Ellison	Napolitano	Waxman
Farr	Negrete McLeod	Welch
Fattah	Pallone	Wilson (FL)
Frankel (FL)	Payne	Yarmuth

NOES—327

Aderholt	Byrne	Davis, Rodney
Amash	Calvert	DeFazio
Amodei	Camp	DeGette
Bachmann	Campbell	Delaney
Bachus	Cantor	DeLauro
Barber	Capito	DelBene
Barletta	Capps	Denham
Barr	Carney	Dent
Barrow (GA)	Cassidy	DeSantis
Barton	Castro (TX)	DesJarlais
Benishek	Chabot	Deutch
Bentivolio	Chaffetz	Diaz-Balart
Bera (CA)	Coble	Dingell
Bilirakis	Coffman	Doggett
Bishop (GA)	Cole	Duckworth
Bishop (NY)	Collins (GA)	Duffy
Bishop (UT)	Collins (NY)	Duncan (SC)
Black	Conaway	Duncan (TN)
Blackburn	Connolly	Ellmers
Bonamici	Cook	Engel
Boustany	Cooper	Enyart
Brady (TX)	Costa	Eshoo
Braley (IA)	Cotton	Esty
Bridenstine	Courtney	Fincher
Brooks (AL)	Cramer	Fitzpatrick
Brooks (IN)	Crawford	Fleischmann
Broun (GA)	Crenshaw	Fleming
Brownley (CA)	Crowley	Forbes
Buchanan	Cuellar	Fortenberry
Bucshon	Culberson	Foster
Burgess	Daines	Fox
Bustos	Davis (CA)	Frankel (FL)

Franks (AZ)	Lipinski	Roe (TN)
Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)
Gabbard	Loeb	Rogers (KY)
Gallo	Lofgren	Rogers (MI)
Garamendi	Long	Rohrabacher
Garcia	Lowe	Rokita
Gardner	Lucas	Rooney
Garrett	Luetkemeyer	Ros-Lehtinen
Gerlach	Lujan Grisham	Roskam
Gibbs	(NM)	Rothfus
Gibson	Lummis	Royce
Gingrey (GA)	Lynch	Ruiz
Gohmert	Maffei	Ruppersberger
Goodlatte	Maloney,	Ryan (WI)
Gosar	Carolyn	Salmon
Gowdy	Maloney, Sean	Sanchez, Loretta
Granger	Marchant	Sanford
Graves (GA)	Marino	Scalise
Graves (MO)	Massie	Schiff
Green, Gene	Matheson	Schneider
Griffin (AR)	McCarthy (CA)	Schock
Griffith (VA)	McCarthy (NY)	Schrader
Grimm	McCaul	Schweikert
Guthrie	McClintock	Scott (VA)
Hall	McHenry	Scott, Austin
Hanabusa	McIntyre	Sensenbrenner
Hanna	McKeon	Sessions
Harper	McKinley	Shea-Porter
Harris	McMorris	Sherman
Hartzer	Rodgers	Shimkus
Hastings (WA)	McNerney	Shuster
Heck (NV)	Meadows	Simpson
Heck (WA)	Meehan	Sinema
Hensarling	Messer	Smith (MO)
Herrera Beutler	Mica	Smith (NE)
Himes	Michaud	Smith (NJ)
Holding	Miller (FL)	Smith (TX)
Horsford	Miller (MI)	Smith (WA)
Hoyer	Miller, Gary	Southerland
Hudson	Mullin	Stewart
Huelskamp	Mulvaney	Stivers
Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (FL)	Stockman
Hultgren	Murphy (PA)	Stutzman
Hunter	Neal	Swalwell (CA)
Hurt	Neugebauer	Terry
Israel	Noem	Thompson (CA)
Issa	Nugent	Thompson (PA)
Jenkins	Nunes	Thornberry
Johnson (OH)	Nunnelee	Tiberi
Johnson, Sam	O'Rourke	Tierney
Jolly	Olson	Tipton
Jones	Owens	Titus
Jordan	Palazzo	Tonko
Joyce	Pascrell	Tsongas
Keating	Pastor (AZ)	Turner
Kelly (PA)	Paulsen	Upton
Kennedy	Pearce	Van Hollen
Kildee	Perry	Vela
Kilmer	Peters (CA)	Visclosky
Kind	Peters (MI)	Wagner
King (IA)	Peterson	Walberg
King (NY)	Petri	Walden
Kingston	Pittenger	Walorski
Kinzinger (IL)	Pitts	Walz
Kirkpatrick	Poe (TX)	Weber (TX)
Kline	Polis	Webster (FL)
Kuster	Pompeo	Westrup
Labrador	Posey	Westmoreland
LaMalfa	Price (GA)	Whitfield
Lamborn	Quigley	Wilson (SC)
Lance	Rahall	Wittman
Langevin	Reed	Wolf
Lankford	Reichert	Womack
Larsen (WA)	Renacci	Woodall
Larson (CT)	Ribble	Yoder
Latham	Rice (SC)	Yoho
Latta	Rigell	Young (AK)
Levin	Roby	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—15

Bass	Jackson Lee	Ross
Carter	Lewis	Runyan
Farenthold	McAllister	Schwartz
Flores	Pelosi	Valadao
Green, Al	Perlmutter	Williams

□ 1743

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT) having assumed the chair, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, had come to no resolution thereon.

EXPATRIATE HEALTH COVERAGE
CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4414) to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 257, nays 159, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 174]

YEAS—257

Aderholt	Connolly	Graves (MO)
Amodei	Cook	Griffin (AR)
Bachmann	Cooper	Griffith (VA)
Bachus	Costa	Grimm
Barber	Cotton	Guthrie
Barletta	Courtney	Hall
Barr	Cramer	Hanabusa
Barrow (GA)	Crawford	Hanna
Barton	Crenshaw	Harper
Benish	Cuellar	Hartzer
Bentivoglio	Culberson	Hastings (WA)
Bera (CA)	Daines	Heck (NV)
Bilirakis	Davis, Rodney	Herrera Beutler
Bishop (NY)	Delaney	Higgins
Bishop (UT)	DeBene	Himes
Black	Denham	Holding
Blackburn	Dent	Hudson
Boustany	DeSantis	Huizenga (MI)
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart	Hultgren
Bridenstine	Duffy	Hunter
Brooks (IN)	Duncan (TN)	Hurt
Broun (GA)	Engel	Issa
Buchanan	Enyart	Jenkins
Bucshon	Esty	Johnson (OH)
Burgess	Fattah	Johnson, Sam
Bustos	Fincher	Jolly
Byrne	Fitzpatrick	Jones
Calvert	Fleischmann	Joyce
Camp	Fleming	Kelly (PA)
Campbell	Forbes	Kilmer
Cantor	Fortenberry	Kind
Capito	Foster	King (IA)
Carney	Fox	King (NY)
Cassidy	Franks (AZ)	Kingston
Chabot	Frelinghuysen	Kinzinger (IL)
Chaffetz	Gabbard	Kirkpatrick
Clay	Gardner	Kline
Coble	Garrett	Kuster
Coffman	Gerlach	LaMalfa
Cohen	Gibbs	Lamborn
Cole	Gibson	Lance
Collins (GA)	Gingrey (GA)	Lankford
Collins (NY)	Goodlatte	Larsen (WA)
Conaway	Granger	Larson (CT)

Latham	Perry	Shimkus
Latta	Peters (CA)	Shuster
Lipinski	Peters (MI)	Simpson
LoBiondo	Peterson	Sinema
Long	Petri	Sires
Lucas	Pittenger	Smith (MO)
Luetkemeyer	Pitts	Smith (NE)
Lummis	Polis	Smith (NJ)
Marchant	Pompeo	Smith (TX)
Marino	Posey	Southerland
Matheson	Price (GA)	Stewart
McCarthy (CA)	Quigley	Stivers
McCarthy (NY)	Rahall	Stockman
McCaul	Reed	Stutzman
McClintock	Reichert	Terry
McHenry	Renacci	Thompson (PA)
McIntyre	Ribble	Thornberry
McKeon	Rice (SC)	Tiberi
McKinley	Richmond	Tipton
McMorris	Rigell	Turner
Rodgers	Roby	Upton
Meadows	Rogers (AL)	Valadao
Meehan	Rogers (KY)	Vargas
Messer	Rogers (MI)	Wagner
Mica	Rohrabacher	Walberg
Miller (FL)	Rooney	Walden
Miller (MI)	Ros-Lehtinen	Walorski
Miller, Gary	Roskam	Weber (TX)
Moran	Rothfus	Webster (FL)
Mullin	Royce	Welch
Murphy (FL)	Ruppersberger	Wenstrup
Murphy (PA)	Ryan (WI)	Westmoreland
Neugebauer	Sanford	Whitfield
Noem	Scalise	Wilson (SC)
Nugent	Schneider	Wittman
Nunes	Schock	Wolf
Nunnelee	Schrader	Womack
Olson	Schweikert	Woodall
Owens	Scott, Austin	Yoder
Palazzo	Sensenbrenner	Yoho
Paulsen	Sessions	Young (AK)
Pearce	Sewell (AL)	Young (IN)

NAYS—159

Amash	Gosar	Meeks
Beatty	Gowdy	Meng
Becerra	Graves (GA)	Michaud
Bishop (GA)	Grayson	Miller, George
Blumenauer	Green, Gene	Moore
Bonamici	Grijalva	Mulvaney
Brady (PA)	Hahn	Nadler
Braley (IA)	Harris	Napolitano
Brooks (AL)	Hastings (FL)	Neal
Brown (FL)	Heck (WA)	Negrete McLeod
Brownley (CA)	Hensarling	Nolan
Butterfield	Hinojosa	O'Rourke
Capps	Holt	Pallone
Capuano	Honda	Pascrell
Cárdenas	Horsford	Pastor (AZ)
Carson (IN)	Hoyer	Payne
Cartwright	Huelskamp	Pingree (ME)
Castor (FL)	Huffman	Pocan
Castro (TX)	Israel	Poe (TX)
Chu	Jeffries	Price (NC)
Ciulline	Johnson (GA)	Rangel
Clark (MA)	Johnson, E. B.	Roe (TN)
Clarke (NY)	Jordan	Rokita
Cleaver	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard
Clyburn	Keating	Ruiz
Conyers	Kelly (IL)	Rush
Crowley	Kennedy	Ryan (OH)
Cummings	Kildee	Salmon
Davis (CA)	Labrador	Sánchez, Linda
Davis, Danny	Langevin	T.
DeFazio	Lee (CA)	Sanchez, Loretta
DeGette	Levin	Sarbanes
DeLauro	Loeb	Schakowsky
DesJarlais	Lofgren	Schiff
Deutch	Lowenthal	Scott (VA)
Dingell	Lowey	Scott, David
Doggett	Lujan Grisham	Serrano
Doyle	(NM)	Shea-Porter
Duckworth	Luján, Ben Ray	Sherman
Duncan (SC)	(NM)	Slaughter
Edwards	Lynch	Smith (WA)
Ellison	Maffei	Speier
Ellmers	Maloney,	Swalwell (CA)
Eshoo	Carolyn	Takano
Farr	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (CA)
Frankel (FL)	Massie	Thompson (MS)
Fudge	Matsui	Tierney
Gallo	McCollum	Titus
Garamendi	McDermott	Tonko
Garcia	McGovern	Tsongas
Gohmert	McNerney	Van Hollen

Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky

Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters

Waxman
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

There was no objection.

LET'S TALK TAX

(Mr. MULLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk tax. Every year, Americans approach April 15 with a dread as they are reminded of just how burdensome our tax structure really is.

But there is a group of Americans that have been focused on taxes long before April 15 arises, and that is our small businesses, the backbone of our economy. While individuals prepare their taxes once a year, business owners have a different story to tell.

By the time July arrives, my companies have prepared taxes four times. With hours spent on tax preparation and regulation compliance, small businesses are missing prime opportunities to focus their energy on business expansion and job creation.

Over the past year, I have heard a recurring message from small businesses across this country: Taxes and over-regulation are killing our businesses.

At what point, Mr. Speaker, will this administration listen to the business owners of America?

The success of small businesses sets the tone for our Nation's economy, and it is my hope that their countless stories will soon be heard.

CELEBRATING THE 114TH AMERICAN SAMOA FLAG DAY

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Governor Lolo Moliga and the people of American Samoa, for next week we will be celebrating 114 years for the commemoration of the raising of the American flag on April 17, 1900.

Madam Speaker, it was at this historic occasion when our Samoan traditional leaders had the foresight to sign the Treaty of Cession with the representatives of the United States. Our bond and relation as part of the "American family" today is stronger than ever.

As we celebrate this year, we must reflect on the sacrifices that were made by our sons and daughters, past and present, who served honorably and valiantly in our Nation's military forces. Our Samoan sons and daughters have been an important part of our military forces, both here and throughout the world.

(English translation of the statement made in Samoan is as follows.)

May the relationship between the United States and the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a continue to prosper. Farewell.

Ila sao ma uli le alo faiva le faigamalo a Tutuila ma Manua ma le Malo Tele o Amerika. Soifua.

TREATY OF CESSION Chief of Tutuila

to
United States Government
April 17, 1900

Translation in the English language:

To all to whom these presents shall come: Greeting.

Whereas the Governments of Germany, Great Britain, and of the United States of America have on divers occasions recognized the sovereignty of the government and people of Samoa and the Samoan group of islands as an independent State; and whereas owing to dissensions, internal disturbances and civil war, the said governments have deemed it necessary to assume the control of the legislation and administration of said state of Samoa; and whereas the said governments have on the sixteenth day of February, by mutual agreement, determined to partition said State; and whereas the islands hereinafter described being part of the said State have by said arrangements amongst the said governments, been severed from the parent State, and the Governments of Great Britain and of Germany have withdrawn all rights hitherto acquired, claimed or possessed by both or either of them by treaty or otherwise, to the said islands in favor of the government of the United States of America;

And whereas for the promotion of the peace and welfare of the people of said islands, for the establishment of a good and sound government, and for the preservation of the rights and property of the inhabitants of said islands, the Chiefs, rulers and people thereof are desirous of granting unto the said government of the United States full powers and authority to enact proper legislation for and to control the said islands, and are further desirous of removing all disabilities that may be existing in connection therewith and to ratify and to confirm the grant of the rule of said islands heretofore granted on the 2nd day of April, 1900.

Now know Ye.-

1. That we, the Chiefs whose names are hereunder subscribed by virtue of our office as the hereditary representatives of the people of said islands, in consideration of the premises hereinbefore recited and for divers good considerations us hereunto moving, have ceded, transferred, and yielded up unto Commander B.F. Tilley of the U.S. "Abarenda," the duly accredited representative of the Government of the United States of America, in the islands hereinafter mentioned or described for and on behalf of the said government. All these the islands of Tutuila and Aunu'u and all other islands, rocks, reefs, foreshores and waters lying between the 13th degree and the 15th degree of south latitude and between the 171st degree and 167th degree of west longitude from the meridian of Greenwich, together with all sovereign rights thereunto belonging and possessed by us, to hold the said ceded territory unto the Government of the United States of America; to erect the same into a separate District to be annexed to the said Government, to be known and designated as the District of "Tutuila".

2. The Government of the United States of America shall respect and protect the individual rights of all people dwelling in Tutuila to their lands and other property in said district; but if the said Government shall require any land or any other thing for

NOT VOTING—15

Bass
Carter
Farenthold
Flores
Green, Al

Gutiérrez
Jackson Lee
Lewis
McAllister
Pelosi

Perlmutter
Ross
Runyan
Schwartz
Williams

□ 1753

Messrs. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and BROOKS of Alabama changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes:

1. Mulvaney Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

2. Moore Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

3. Grijalva Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

4. H.R. 4414—Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourns to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

Mr. DENT, Pennsylvania

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 786

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 786, a bill originally introduced by Representative MARKEY of Massachusetts, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRIDENSTINE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

Government uses, the government may take the same upon payment of a fair consideration for the land, or other thing, to those whom may be deprived of their property on account of the desire of the Government.

3. The Chiefs of the towns will be entitled to retain their individual control of the separate towns, if that control is in accordance with the laws of the United States of America concerning Tutuila, and if not obstructive to the peace of the people and the advancement of civilization of the people, subject also to the supervision and instruction of the said Government. But the enactment of legislation and the general control shall remain firm with the United States of America.

4. An investigation and settlement of all claims to title to lands in the different divisions or districts of Tutuila shall be made by the Government.

5. We, whose names are subscribed below, do hereby declare with truth for ourselves, our heirs and representatives by Samoan Custom, that we will obey and owe allegiance to the Government of the United States of America. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed our seals on this 17th day of April, 1900 A.D.

Fofo and Aitulagi

Tuilele of Leone, Faiivae of Leone, Letuli of Iliili, Fuimaono of Aoloua, Satele of Vailoa, Leoso of Leone, Olo of Leone, Namoa of Aitulagi, Malota of Aitulagi, Tuana'itau of Pava'ia'i, Lualemaga of Aasu, Amituana'i of Itua'u.

Sua and Vafanua

Pele, Mauga, Lelato, Faumuina, Masaniai, Tupuola, Soliai, Mauga.

The foregoing instrument of Cession (pages 1, 2 and 3) was duly signed by Leoso in the presence of, and at the request of, the Chiefs and Representatives of the Division of Fofo and Aitulagi, and by Pele in the presence of, and at the request of, the Chiefs and Representatives of Sua and Vafanua in Tutuila in conformity with Samoan customs as to signatures to documents, in my presence at Pago Pago on the 17th day of April, 1900 A.D. immediately prior to the Raising of the United States Flag at the United States Naval Station, Tutuila.

/s/E.W. Gurr

Barrister of the Supreme Court of Samoa.
Acceptance of Cessions

The Judge Advocate General of the Navy in 1921, referring to the above cessions, said: "These cessions were accepted by the President of the United States, and full information with respect thereto was communicated to Congress and the action of the Chief Executive relative thereto adopted and approved in a number of separate statutory enactments." (File 3931-1429.36, Dec. 23, 1921, LRNA, Supp. 25.

□ 1800

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, during this week, we sadly recognize and commiserate Equal Pay Day, which marks the number of extra days in 2014 the average woman has to work to earn as much as her male counterpart did in 2013, so I rise for the women who are not here today because they

are working hard to take care of themselves and their families.

I am going to keep it simple, Mr. Speaker. Equal pay is about fairness, and as important, it is about survival. Equal pay means safe, secure housing. Equal pay means saving for a child's college education. Equal pay means building a pension that allows for a dignified retirement. Equal pay means that everyone, regardless of their gender, gets a fair shot at living their American Dream.

THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

(Ms. MENG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Week of the Young Child. The National Association for the Education of Young Children started the Week of the Young Child in 1971; and since that time, this week has focused public attention on young children and young parents, two groups that don't have high-priced lobbyists to advocate for them here in Washington.

For this reason, I cofounded the Congressional Kids Safety Caucus, where we seek to raise awareness on preventable child injury. Additionally, assisting in the care and education of our youngest are amongst the highest yielding and most just investments our government can make.

So I call today on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recommit themselves to working toward high-quality early childhood education for all.

MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, with the tragic shooting at Fort Hood this past week, our country has once again been ravaged by the convergence of mental instability and gun rampages.

As President Obama did today, let us honor those lost to this terrible tragedy—Sergeant First Class Danny Ferguson, Sergeant Timothy Owens, and soldier Carlos Lazaney—and continue to pray for the injured as they recover, as well as all those in uniform who serve our Nation.

As this is now the second shooting at Fort Hood in recent years, Americans and we, in Congress, must again ask ourselves: Isn't it time for a national conversation on untreated mental illness?

As a member of the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, we must use this moment to support early diagnosis, as well as pathbreaking neurological research, building on the President's BRAIN Initiative. We must

probe the undiscovered functions of the human mind and human performance.

Advanced research and treatment will benefit both our deserving veterans and all Americans who struggle with the unknown reaches of the unquiet mind.

Again, I lend my support to honor the heroes lost at Fort Hood, and I implore my colleagues to make certain this latest tragedy is, indeed, the last tragedy. Let us measure up to this worthy challenge.

THE RYAN BUDGET

(Ms. BONAMICI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the 2015 Ryan budget, a budget that will hurt middle class Americans while, at the same time, giving breaks to some of the wealthiest people in this country.

Early childhood education is important, but the Ryan budget cuts Head Start. Millions of Americans are still struggling to find work in a changing economy. Instead of investing in programs to prepare the unemployed for new careers, this budget cuts job training.

Nearly 16 million children are food-insecure, and we know that growing up hungry is directly correlated to a child's academic success. This budget guts the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and for millions of young people with dreams of attending college, this budget offers them no hope; instead, it cuts Pell grant aid.

We must do more to invest in this great Nation if we want to continue our economic recovery and create a brighter future, and instead of robust investments in infrastructure and transportation, the Ryan budget takes us backward. Mr. Speaker, we can and we should and we must do better.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE TAYLOR

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with an extremely heavy heart to pay tribute to the life of our beloved Anne Louise Taylor who passed away last week.

Words cannot really express my sadness as we mourn Anne's untimely death. She served as my district director for more than 5 years, but more importantly, she was a trusted and loving friend.

Anne's contributions to the residents of the East Bay were enormous. With true compassion and commitment, she touched the lives of thousands of people. Prior to joining my office, Anne's accomplished public career included working for California Assembly Member and California State Board of

Equalization Member Johan Klehs; was district director for Assembly Member Ellen Corbett; and was head of government relations at California State East Bay during the administration of President Mo Qayoumi.

Not only was she a true public servant and a phenomenal woman, but she was deeply passionate about her community of Alameda, California, where she attended high school and loved the Fourth of July parade and the Alameda Point Antique Faire.

Our deepest condolences from my office, my community, and my staff. Our condolences go out to Anne's two exceptional daughters, Eleanore and Grace Guenon, and to her entire family, whom she loved deeply.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with them during these very difficult days. May her spirit continue to soar and her memory stay very close to our hearts. She touched so many lives. We know that her soul is resting in peace.

HONORING KRISTIN FULFORD

(Mr. BARROW of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kristin Fulford, a member of my 12th District staff for the past 9 years. Kristin has been an invaluable part of our team, handling thousands of casework issues for folks all over my district.

Kristin has made sure that folks received their Social Security and Medicare payments, helped high school students prepare to enter one of our Nation's military institutions, and has done almost everything else in between.

You would be hard-pressed to find anyone in the 12th District who doesn't know someone that Kristin has helped. She has been a team player who, for nearly a decade, has taken pride in helping the folks in our communities.

All of us in Congress know how hard our staffs work, and we know we wouldn't be here if it weren't for people like Kristin, who are our eyes, ears, and helping hands when we can't be home.

I wish Kristin, her husband, Edward, and their daughter, Wren, all the best as she begins her new journey, and I know the folks in my district will miss her as much as I will.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF "THE GRAPES OF WRATH"

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of one of the greatest pieces of American literature, John Steinbeck's "The Grapes

of Wrath." The National Steinbeck Center in his hometown of Salinas, California, is celebrating all year, with events throughout the country.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel was published on April 14, 1939. Set during the Great Depression, the novel captured the brutal honesty, the story of migrant farmworkers fleeing Oklahoma's Dust Bowl in search of new opportunity in California. Steinbeck wanted to shine a light on the social injustices that plagued the working poor.

Sparking controversy, it quickly rose to the top of the bestsellers list. It was banned and burned in many parts of the country.

Inspired by the novel, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt helped pass new labor laws after touring the shocking conditions of the California camps. "The Grapes of Wrath" changed the way we viewed poverty in this country.

This is why it figured prominently in the decision to award Steinbeck the Nobel Prize. Even today, the novel still offers us hope—hope that our best days lie before us. Steinbeck's words resonate just as true today as they did 75 years ago.

THE RYAN BUDGET

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUIZ. Once again, through the Ryan budget, House leadership is seeking to balance the budget on the backs of hard-working American families and seniors, undermining the economic recovery, and ending the Medicare guarantee.

As an emergency medicine physician, I know firsthand that many of the seniors I care for rely on the Medicare they have earned. In fact, in Riverside County, California, alone over 250,000 seniors rely on Medicare.

Our priority should be reducing health care costs in order to make Medicare stronger and more sustainable, but this budget transforms Medicare into a voucher program, shifting the costs of health care to our seniors and ending Medicare as we know it.

We must work together to protect and preserve Medicare, reduce our deficit, and decrease health care costs. The Ryan budget is not the way to do that. This proposal has the wrong priorities for Riverside County, California, and our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to end the partisan political gamesmanship and put American families and our seniors first.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT BASKETBALL

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a great sense of pride on behalf of the entire delegation of the State of Connecticut who are, indeed, honored again to be national champions. Our entire delegation will have an extended period of time in which we can amplify the great accomplishments of the University of Connecticut.

For an unprecedented second time, first and foremost, our women's basketball team went undefeated and was perfect, as they are; and of course, the men's team down in RALPH HALL's great State of Texas, where we have won the national championship three times, again, was able to win the national championship in Kevin Ollie's first year as the coach when the team was eligible for it.

This is remarkable. Fourteen national championships in the game of basketball. We are very proud not only of our coaches and our student athletes, but of all the hard work and effort that goes into this.

Our delegation will be down here at another time to further extoll the virtues of the University of Connecticut and the great State it represents.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CAREER OF KENT HANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise tonight to recognize a great friend and great public servant and a great chancellor at Texas Tech University.

When Chancellor Hance was first appointed to be the third chancellor of Texas Tech University, his motto was "Dream no little dreams." I think this is a perfect motto for the chancellor to use because that really expresses the way he has lived his life.

Kent Hance was born to Raymond and Beral Cole Hance on November 14, 1942, in the great city of Dimmitt, Texas, which is in my congressional district, a town known for grit and determination, which clearly was passed along to Hance.

He enrolled in Texas Tech University in 1961 and joined the fraternity Delta

Tau Delta, where he often mentioned that he became friends with a guy named John Deutschendorf, who later became a guy by the name of John Denver.

Now, I think, sometimes, Kent Hance claims that he helped John Denver with some of his material, but we have not been able to actually verify that.

Hance graduated from Texas Tech in 1965 with a business degree, and despite his better judgment, he entered law school at the University of Texas. While he was at that school, they named him president of the Student Bar Association and, of course, in the true Red Raider spirit.

After graduating with his law degree, he returned to west Texas to practice law and teach business law at Texas Tech. While teaching, undoubtedly, the most momentous meeting in his career was when he had this student by the name of RANDY NEUGEBAUER in his business law class.

Now, what was kind of unique about that class, with Professor Hance and his student RANDY NEUGEBAUER, was that little did either one of us know that both of us would go on to be congressmen for the 19th District of Texas.

In 1974, Kent Hance decided to run for the Texas Senate and won in that west Texas seat. He served in the senate from 1974 through 1978, when he decided to run for Congress for the 19th Congressional District.

□ 1815

Interestingly enough, in that race, he defeated a young man in Midland, Texas, by the name of George W. Bush. Many of us know that he became the future President of the United States.

One of the things that President Bush would occasionally say is that, Mr. Hance and I accomplished something he was not able to accomplish, and that was being elected to Congress, but then he would smile and say, but I guess it worked out, and it worked out indeed.

While serving the House of Representatives from 1979 to 1985, he was known for his conservative voting record and was a member of the Boll Weevil Conservatives. Congressman Hance became one of President Reagan's closest allies when he was working on his 1981 tax package. In 1984, Hance decided to run for the Senate in Texas, a seat that ultimately was won by Phil Gramm.

In 1987, Texas Governor Bill Clements appointed Hance to a vacancy on the Texas Railroad Commission. Upon doing so, he became the first Republican to ever serve on the railroad commission in Texas.

Due to his successes on the commission, he was reelected in 1988, and in 1989, he was elected chairman of the railroad commission. After stepping down in 1990 from his commission, he continued to practice law. In 2006, Kent

Hance was chosen to become the third chancellor of the Texas Tech University System.

When appointed to the position of chancellor to begin implementing the motto, as I mentioned earlier, "Dream no little dreams," and no little dreams did Kent Hance have for Texas Tech University. He said that he was going to raise a billion dollars and began a fundraising campaign to do that, the largest one in the school's history.

Additionally, Hance decided to grow the university to 40,000 students by 2020 to meet the demands of a growing State. Not only has his fundraising campaign exceeded a billion dollar mark, but under his leadership, Chancellor Hance has grown the university system and about doubled it by adding Angelo State and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso.

Texas Tech University, the flagship institution of the Texas Tech system, has also increased in the number of degrees by 46 percent between 2006 and 2012 and added a chapter of the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa to the campus. All together, it is quite easy to see why in 1985, even though Kent Hance had not accomplished all of this, that people recognized early his talents and named him Distinguished Alumni of Texas Tech.

On October 11, 2013, unfortunately, Kent Hance announced that he would be stepping down as chancellor. While Texas Tech and west Texas would be losing one of its best advocates, we are extremely grateful for the services that he offered as he served and will continue to serve as chairman emeritus. Future students of Texas Tech will also benefit from his decisions to continue teaching his seminar classes on leadership.

Before handing over the floor to some of my colleagues who would like to say some things about Chancellor Hance, I wanted to read a quick quote from President George W. Bush. Upon his announcement for retirement, George Bush was quoted saying:

Texas Tech was fortunate to have Kent in a leadership position. He loves the Red Raiders and he leaves behind a better university, and I wish all the best to my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of my dear friend and former colleague Kent Hance, a man who spent his life in public service for the benefit of Texas, our country, and certainly for 8 years at the Texas Tech University System, where he currently serves as chancellor.

I am especially proud to speak for Kent. He was and is a very successful attorney; he was a great member of the Texas Senate; he was a real leader in the United States Congress; and, important to me, he is and was and will always be a super friend.

Kent and I served in the Texas State Senate at different times so our paths did not cross until I was first elected to Congress, where he was already serving as Congressman for the 19th District of Texas.

We are both conservatives, and we worked together with President Reagan to carry out his tax cut in 1981, along with other conservative thrusts.

Tonight, we recognized Kent for his efforts on behalf of Texas education. For the last 8 years, Kent has served his alma mater, Texas Tech University, and he certainly has worked with the school to make tremendous strides in furthering the prestigious school's advances for students.

During his time as chancellor, Texas Tech has far surpassed previous fundraising goals and enrollment records at all four institutions. Kent has also worked to put Texas Tech on track to becoming a tier one research institution. I was also pleased to support the legislation that spawned the law school at Texas Tech.

I come from a family of teachers and value quality education for our Nation's students, as I know Kent does. Education is directly tied to our children's future opportunities as well as American innovation and competitiveness. That is why we look for leaders like Kent Hance who will work tirelessly to ensure that students receive the best education possible, because I agree, as he agrees, that children are 25 percent of our population and 100 percent of our future.

I thank Kent for his friendship and for his service to our great State of Texas and our country. I congratulate him on his success as chancellor for Texas Tech University System. And I wish him all the very best in his future endeavors.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

I now will yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, we are here to honor a Texas legend in his own time, the Honorable Kent Hance of Dimmitt, Texas, some of us Aggies would put an "a" instead of an "i." But Kent was born in west Texas and he, as has already been pointed out, got elected to the Texas Senate at a very young age. Then I got elected to the House of Representatives in 1978, along with such stalwarts as Phil Gramm of College Station. I think Charlie Stenholm was already here. RALPH HALL came a little bit later. Marvin Leath of Waco came a little bit later.

He became what was known as a Boll Weevil Democrat. When Ronald Reagan got elected, President Reagan called a number of the Boll Weevils to the White House and asked if they would support his economic plan, but he only asked one to carry the Reagan tax cut which really began the renaissance of

America, and that young man was Congressman Kent Hance of the 19th Congressional District. He was on the Ways and Means Committee as a Democrat. He carried the Reagan tax cut in the Ways and Means Committee and prevailed. I would assume the chairman then was Dan Rostenkowski. I am not sure, but I think that's right.

Well, in 1984, he decided to go back to Texas. He relinquished his seat and Larry Combest replaced him, and five other young Texans came in as part of the Texas Six Pack: Dick Arme, JOE BARTON, Larry Combest, Beau Boulter, I believe, and Mac Sweeney. He switched parties, became a Republican, and got appointed to the railroad commission. He was the first Republican to be named chairman of the railroad commission.

He did run for Governor a time or two in that time span and did not have the same luck for Governor. He went into the private sector, became a consultant and an attorney and helped me politically on a number of issues, then, as has been pointed out, became chancellor of Texas Tech. And the students hardly know what a chancellor is, most universities not only know Ken Hance, they affectionately call him the "Hancellor" at Texas Tech.

The thing that impresses me the most about Kent is that, when people are in elected office and we are successful, we have lots of friends, and they call us and pat us on the back and offer to do things and help us and support us. When we lose or are not successful, normally the only people that try to raise our spirits are our family and sometimes people that we owe money to.

On one particular occasion, I had had a political setback and I was really down and I was kind of moping around my house in Ennis, Texas. And one morning about, I want to say, 9:30, my cell phone rang and it was Kent Hance, and I will never forget that.

So we're here to honor you for your public service, but I am also here to thank you for your personal friendship. You are a great man. I wish you well, and I hope you stay involved in the public sector, because people of your caliber are in short supply and are always needed.

God bless you and God bless your family.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman.

I think what the gentleman said about Mr. Hance was he dedicated himself to a life of public service and education. I think when you ask people, Kent Hance was always available to be your friend, and I think that is a unique characteristic for someone who led a very busy schedule like that. He'd always take time out to be a good friend to folks.

Mr. Speaker, now I will yield to a gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is nice to have our friend and former Member of the House down here on the floor with us tonight, Kent Hance.

Well, today we honor Texas Tech University Chancellor Kent Hance, who is about to enjoy a well-earned retirement. He has served as chancellor for over 7 years.

Texas Tech is the only campus in Texas that is home to a major university, a law school, and a medical school. The university continues to expand to other parts of Texas outside Lubbock. For example, there is a satellite campus in my home district in the town of Fredericksburg.

Under Kent Hance's tenure, Texas Tech set new student enrollment records and research expenditures have almost tripled. It so happens that I have more Red Raiders in my D.C. office than graduates of any other college, so I know the quality of students who come from Texas Tech.

Fortunately for Tech, Chancellor Hance will not be far away. He will continue to serve as chancellor emeritus of the university and teach a course in political leadership—no surprise there.

This should not come as a great surprise since Kent Hance has loved the university ever since he set foot on its campus as a student in 1961. Chancellor Hance likes to say, "Dream no little dreams." His leadership in turning Texas Tech into one of the top higher learning institutions in America reflects that motto.

Thank you, Chancellor Hance, for all you have done for Texas Tech University and all you have done for the great State of Texas.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, Kent Hance was headed for a life of crime and waywardness before he attended Texas Tech University. Texas Tech would not be where it is today without Kent Hance, but Chancellor Hance wouldn't be who he is today without having attended Texas Tech in 1961.

A storied career as a political servant, one of Kent Hance's political accomplishments, as it has been said, was that he was the only person to defeat President George W. Bush in an election. He won Texas' 19th Congressional District seat with his folksy humor, quick wit, and good old-fashioned hard work. Kent Hance once remarked that had President Bush defeated him in that congressional race, Bush would have wound up as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee instead of Governor and President of the United States.

Everyone has a Kent Hance story. Some of us have even been the victims of his punch line. But his ability to weave experiences, real and imagined, to make a point or disarm an opponent, is legendary.

Kent Hance has been known as many things—an attorney, a professor, a State senator, a railroad commissioner, a Congressman, and friend—but I believe his best role has been as chancellor of Texas Tech University.

We thank you for your service at Texas and our Nation. Your leadership and legacy will shine bright for years to come. And I wish Kent Hance and his family Godspeed in the next chapters of their lives.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

□ 1830

Mr. OLSON. I thank my colleague from Lubbock for hosting this Special Order to celebrate another Texan from Lubbock, our good friend, Kent Hance. Kent and I became friends in 1998. I was working at the time for United States Senator Phil Gramm.

My friends have talked about Kent's achievements. I plan to be like the Wizard of Oz and pull back the curtain and show the real Kent Hance.

The real Kent Hance joined us on November 14, 1942, in Dimmitt, Texas. He is now 71 years young.

Before Kent was born, Dimmitt had grown from J.W. Carter's Hotel, Miss Lou Belsher's School, and Uncle Buck Tate's Lumber and Wagon Yard to the county seat of Castro County with a population of 943. Kent went to Dimmitt High School, graduating in 1961. Dimmitt High School has two mascots—the Bobcats for the boys and the Bobbies for the girls.

Kent and his best buddy, Spider, spent a lot of time at the Carlile Theater trying to find the love of their lives. Spider found his love in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Kent sought optimism from Spider's dad. Movies, charm, and yes, a 1970 Camaro couldn't get the job done. Nothing happened in Dimmitt.

Kent met his true love, Susie, and they both were lawyers. They worked hard and they played hard, and they loved races at the track. After 1 hard week of working hard and playing hard, they popped down to El Paso, Texas, and crossed the river into Juarez to go to races at the track. The cab driver had very poor English and took them to a very special track—monkey jockeys riding greyhounds. Kent learned two things that night: Susie will follow him anywhere in the world; and he needed to learn more Spanish, especially the word "horse" in Spanish.

One more personal story about Kent Hance. We spent 24 hours together on an aircraft carrier underway. To come aboard a carrier, you fly a very different approach—a controlled crash. There are wires across the back of the deck which hook onto the aircraft to catch it. The plane goes to full power before it is hooked. To take off, you have a catapult shot, zero to 140 miles

in 300 feet. I have never heard a human being scream so loudly with terror and joy than Kent Hance on that aircraft.

I will close by talking about Kent's tenure at Texas Tech University, the institute that gave him his education and his love of life in the business world. Because of Kent Hance, Texas Tech has a medical school in El Paso, Texas. Kent chased this down doggedly, getting a big donation, \$50 million from alumni, to make this dream happen. Red Raider Nation is thrilled to have this building on campus, the Kent Hance Chapel. It gives students a place when they are struggling, a place of peace, a place of prayer, and a place to have a wedding after they leave Texas Tech.

As Kent leaves Texas Tech behind, some are already talking about is he the greatest chancellor we have ever had. To paraphrase Bum Phillips: Kent Hance may not be in a class by himself, but whatever class he is in, it don't take long to call the roll.

Kent, my friend, as you move on to your next challenge, you have my best. It is not very good, but it is my best. God bless you.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman for bringing up a point. While Chancellor Hance was out raising all of this money for the university, over a billion dollars, I think it exemplifies who Kent Hance is. He put his money up, too, contributing and building that chapel. Whereas the gentleman mentioned that a lot of weddings have been held, but students also go over there and spend time for prayer, and I think that says a lot about the character of the man we honor today.

It is now my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), my neighbor to the west.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman from Lubbock for yielding.

Many would ask: What does a former Representative from Texas have to do with New Mexico? Well, New Mexico's Second District is bordered on two sides by Texas. In those days growing up 3 miles from Texas, often we New Mexico guys slid across the State line in the middle of the night. We found things to entertain us there, and we would be back home by daylight. So west Texas and eastern New Mexico have a lot in common.

I had an opportunity to meet Mr. Hance when he was in Congress. I was flying as the corporate pilot for the Congressman from the Second District of New Mexico, at that time a gentleman named Mud Runnels, and during that association, I had the opportunity to meet the Congressman from Lubbock. I started watching him from a distance there. Many people are going to recount the good things, the titles and positions that he has had, but I would like to recount as someone watching Kent Hance from a distance as he made his way through Congress

and later became chancellor of Texas Tech, a university that is host to many students from New Mexico. Watching from a distance, I can say that Mr. Hance did the things that all leaders are called to do. He served with honor and distinction, but he made tough choices when they were called for.

A couple of years ago, a high-profile employee of Texas Tech needed the firm hand of discipline on his shoulder, and Kent Hance made the tough calls. Texas Tech has been better off because he was there as a strong person in times when they needed strong leadership.

So again, from the New Mexico side of the border, we would like to say thank you for guiding an institution that has been home to so many New Mexicans. Thank you for your distinguished service, your commitment to principle and honor and duty. We all from New Mexico say God bless you, Godspeed to you, and thanks for your years of service.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman, and I now yield to the gentleman from Dallas, Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. NEUGEBAUER, thank you for inviting the Texas delegation and our friends from New Mexico to come and honor our dear friend, Kent Hance, tonight.

Kent Hance, as you have heard the stories, he is not just a living legend, he is a man who served not just the State of Texas but our great Nation with honor and distinction. Kent Hance, as chancellor of Texas Tech, has done the same thing for thousands of young people who came not only to Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas, for a great education, he helped make their experiences and their education even better.

As RANDY NEUGEBAUER knows as the Member of Congress from the 19th Congressional District of Texas, the high plains of Texas offers a unique opportunity not only for the kind of people who live there, the kinds of circumstances as God rolls thunder and sandstorms and rainstorms across Texas, but it provides the kind of unique experiences that people who live there love it. They love where they are from, and it builds the kind of person who has spirit and opportunity, but who sees themselves not just as a proud Texan but as an American, and Kent Hance truly has lived up to that.

There has been a discussion tonight about Susie, Kent's beloved Susie, this beautiful young woman who, albeit from Dallas, Texas, who was stolen away by the marauding Kent Hance and taken up to Lubbock, Texas; and we still miss Susie as she lives in Lubbock and enjoys her life there with the girls. But I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, that tonight the Texas delegation and so many others are here on the floor to talk about the life and

times of a young man who came to Congress, who served the State of Texas, his Nation, and has now served in providing education that is superior second to none, building not just a medical school that is second to none, but a law school and an undergraduate degree, engineering and other areas that have made Texas Tech not just on the map literally, but has made it better because of his personal commitment to excellence.

So I want to join the Texas delegation and Chairman NEUGEBAUER tonight as we give a big Texas salute and a thank-you to the gentleman from Lubbock, Texas, the gentleman Kent Hance.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman, and I yield to another gentleman from Texas (Mr. STOCKMAN).

Mr. STOCKMAN. I have to tell you, when I first got elected, it was none other than Kent Hance who came down. I was a young guy, and he gave me a lot of advice, but I knew him before he knew me because Ronald Reagan was in trouble, and Kent Hance stepped forward against a lot of his party's wishes and took the bull by the horns and really changed the United States, which is amazing. But one of the things that, Kent, you have always done is you have reached out to me when you didn't have to.

But the most important thing is that you have your birthday on the proper day, November 14, which is also my birthday.

Everybody talked about you raising a billion dollars, but the thing that I liked the most is you ran and beat somebody, and that person you beat was none other than the next President of the United States, George Bush. And yet you reached across after you beat George Bush, you became his number one fan. I am just amazed, and I wish we could do this more often where we reach across the aisle and demonstrate love beyond partisanship. That, to me, is what speaks volumes about you.

And what also touches my heart is that you are Texas. I mean, when you think about your life story, I don't know if you are going to write a book, if you have written a book, you need to write a book. We have mutual friends, and I hear your story is phenomenal.

The one thing I do ask, and you have always been very gracious to me, but you have to teach me how to raise money, because you raised a billion dollars. That is phenomenal. And you did it for good causes.

I think I had a dream once that you are going to give me \$250 million. A mutual friend of ours in Dallas told me that story. You called him up and you said you had a dream, and I thought that was the cleverest thing to do.

Again, I want to express my friendship to you and how much you have helped me throughout the years. You have been very gracious to me. I thank you.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman. Now another great Texan, I yield to Dr. BURGESS from Dallas.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for the recognition, and I am pleased to come to the floor of the House tonight to offer my congratulations to a great Texan, chancellor of Texas Tech University and former Member of Congress and former State senator.

I have had the good fortune to know Mr. Hance since I arrived here, and I know firsthand of his commitment to education. And the reason I know this is there is hardly a semester that goes by that I don't have at least one Tech intern working in my office.

Mr. Hance understands the value of education for young people, and he also understands the value of placing them in situations where they may have an opportunity to do something that they would probably never have an opportunity to do again, working with a Member of Congress' office. Yes, sometimes it is unglamorous, sorting mail or helping organize letters for a reply, but sometimes going to a congressional hearing, sometimes going to a congressional hearing that is of significant importance. Certainly I want to thank Kent for always having the foresight to have your students in the offices here in the capital of the United States because I think it makes a big difference not just to us, not just to Texas Tech, but it makes a big difference to Texas and the Nation.

On a personal note, I want to acknowledge that I was not someone who was in political life all my life. I ran a medical practice for a number of years, and then rather unexpectedly won a race for Congress. Shortly after winning the nomination prior to the fall election, Mr. Hance and I crossed paths, and he has provided me life counsel and guidance from time to time. Of that I am certainly appreciative.

□ 1845

The one thing I will never forget—I don't even remember the trouble that was going on here in Washington, but it was something and it affected a lot of us and it affected a lot of us personally—I woke up one morning and there was a letter to the editor of *The Dallas Morning News* from Ken Hance thanking me for my service. It certainly got my attention that day and it certainly lifted by spirits. Whenever I get down with the things that are going on here in Washington, I think back to that day when Ken Hance reached out a hand and helped lift me up, and hope I have been able to return the favor to others along the way. Mr. Hance, you have certainly showed me the way, and I am grateful, again, for your wise counsel and leadership through the years.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things about this evening, we had some other Members that were planning to be here tonight to honor the chancellor. But, as you know, there was a memorial service in Texas at Fort Hood today, so some of our Members have flown to Texas to participate in that. I have letters from some of those folks, and remarks, that I want to enter for the RECORD.

I have a very special letter here from the Speaker of the House, which I am going to put a part of in the RECORD. I won't read the whole letter. It is a very nice letter. It talks about all the many accomplishments of Chancellor Hance and his service here in Congress.

He closes that letter by saying:

Congratulations to Chancellor Hance as he moves on to a new chapter. I thank him for his leadership, his vision, and his lifetime of public service.

Here is another letter from the Governor of the State of Texas, Rick Perry, and I quote part of that. He says:

It is my pleasure to join your friends and colleagues in recognizing the remarkable job you have done as a leader of the Texas Tech University system.

You have presided over an incredible era for the Texas Tech system, highlighted by profound growth and positive change. With the addition of Angelo State University and the creation of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center—El Paso, the system has literally doubled in size since 2007. Enrollment has also increased dramatically, and students are graduating and joining the workforce at a faster rate, too. Nearly 10,000 degrees were earned in 2012, almost double the number that were awarded a decade ago.

Many students have passed through Texas Tech's institutions during your tenure. These men and women will make incredible contributions to our communities, to our State, and to our Nation; some of them probably already have. You have furthered both individual success and collective achievement—and it is quite a legacy.

Anita and I thank you for your service to the State of Texas and wish you an enjoyable, fulfilling retirement.

Governor Rick Perry

Randy Sanders, who is a former editor at the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* in Lubbock, wrote these remarks:

During the 6 years that I was editor of the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* I would frequently call Hance when I was in the dilemma about an important editorial decision. Many times without taking a breath he would tell me: Well, let me tell you what I would do if I were in your shoes. Every time I would follow his advice and our editorial position would be spot on.

No one knows west Texas and west Texans better than Ken Hance. He knows how to cut to the chase and develop a plan that will serve west Texas and its citizens in the most beneficial possible manner.

One of the regents at Texas Tech, Regent Tim Lancaster, writes:

No matter where you start, how you prioritize, or how inclusive you become in including the vast number of accomplishments of Kent Hance, it has been a great and impactful career. There are few people that

can be included in the same category as Kent Hance. Unfortunately, individuals like Kent do not come along often enough.

What a pleasure it has been for me to get to know and observe the impact of this great man.

One of our Senators, Senator JOHN CORNYN, says this about Ken Hance:

I send my greetings and best wishes on the occasion of your retirement as chancellor after more than 8 years with Texas Tech University.

From your early career in the Texas senate, three terms in the U.S. Congress, chairmanship of the Texas Railroad Commission, and your current role as chancellor, you have dedicated your life and service to the betterment of Texas and its citizens. Your energy and experience have been an important force in ensuring access to quality higher education and expansion of research and innovation in Texas.

Our other Senator, Mr. CRUZ, says:

On behalf of a grateful State, thank you for your service to the great State of Texas and Texas Tech University. As a native of Dimmitt, your west Texas roots, strong moral character, and entrepreneurial spirit have created a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

The mayor of Lubbock writes:

On behalf of the city of Lubbock, let me offer my congratulations on your retirement as chancellor, and thank you for your service to west Texas, Lubbock, and Texas Tech.

Your love and dedication to Texas Tech has brought the university to new heights. From your graduation in 1965 to leading the way in raising over \$1 billion, the time you have spent at Tech has left a lasting impression on the university. You strengthened ties between Texas Tech and the city of Lubbock, and your efforts to increase enrollment have led to new students and families now calling Lubbock home.

You are a true servant of the State, having served as a Texas senator, U.S. Congressman, and chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission. Thank you for the years of service you dedicated to making Lubbock and west Texas a better place to live.

Congressman ROGER WILLIAMS is one of the Members that I mentioned who said he was originally going to be here, wanted to be here, is a good friend of Chancellor Hance, but he went down to be at the memorial service today at Fort Hood. He says:

Today I rise to recognize a good friend of mine, a great friend of Texas, and one of the finest examples of public servant, Texas Tech University System Chancellor Ken Hance.

In his nearly 8 years as head of Texas Tech, Chancellor Hance has become a staple in the community and beloved figure on the campus. Famous for knowing every Texas mascot, a trait that he and I share, students are often greeted by him with a fist bump and a quiz on high school mascots while on their way to class. From Itasca Wampus Cats to the Hamlin Pied Pipers, there is not a student on campus he hasn't won over with his down-to-Earth demeanor and palpable dedication to the students.

His quit wit, famous stories, and steadfast dedication to his alma mater will certainly be missed upon his retirement.

I wish my friend Ken Hance the best of luck in his next endeavor and thank him for his tremendous legacy he is still creating.

From his early days in Texas politics to his service in the U.S. Congress to a successful law firm, Chancellor Hance makes a difference everywhere he goes. He lives by his own motto: Dream no little dreams, and I look forward to seeing what his dreams have in store for him next.

Another Member that went down to the Fort Hood memorial service was Congressman JOHN CARTER. He says:

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the distinguished career of Texas Tech University Chancellor Kent Hance. With his retirement approaching, he will soon close his incredible service to my alma mater and begin the next chapter of his life.

Congressman Carter is a Red Raider.

Chancellor Hance's dedication to public service began in politics with stints in the Texas senate, house, U.S. Congress, and eventually serving as chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission.

Since becoming chancellor in 2006, he has made incredible achievements at Texas Tech and the university continues to thrive because of the impacts he has made.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It's not the end of a career but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I speak for myself, as well as all of the Red Raider family, when I say Chancellor Hance's unconditional love for Texas Tech combined with his exceptional leadership leaves behind a legacy that will never be forgotten. I commend him for his dedication to Texas Tech and wish him the best in the years ahead.

One of the things is that Chancellor Hance is very hands-on and he gets involved with the students at Texas Tech. He greets them one-on-one and, in fact, teaches a leadership class there. So I think it is kind of fitting we asked some of the students that had known the chancellor. These are the people that he is working for and worked tirelessly for.

John Esparza, who is a Texas Tech Board of Regents 1997 graduate, said:

Let it be said that Chancellor Kent Hance has a deep and abiding love for the institution he has devoted the last 8 years of his life to. In reality, Chancellor Hance has given so much more than just those 8 years. Those who know him know his love affair with Texas Tech University began shortly after his parents dropped him off there in 1961. Since that time he has served his family and his constituents with honor, going all the way back to the late 1970s, when he served in this hallowed body.

As he is well known for saying to freshmen during their orientation, and to seniors at their graduation, "I love Texas Tech."

And truly Ken Hance loves Texas Tech.

I wanted to read a few quotes from Stephanie Addison, who interned in our office and works now in the chancellor's office. She says this about Chancellor Hance:

Chancellor Hance is dedicated to excellence in every area of his life. His enthusiasm is very evident in the impact that he has left on Texas Tech University, as well as everyone he meets. His passion for investing in the students and the alumni is second to none. It is hard to imagine Texas Tech without the chancellor. It has been a pleasure serving his office as student assistant, and I will carry this experience with me the rest of our lives.

Pat Campbell said:

You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him. Chancellor Hance definitely goes above and beyond the call of duty as an administrator, and I am proud to call him a friend. When Chancellor Hance says he loves Texas Tech, he truly means it.

Lee Bobbitt, a former Student Government Association president at Texas Tech, writes this:

He had high expectations, not just for himself but all those who worked around him. In his time at Texas Tech, he devoted himself to improving the university, and through his work taught me and many others to be servant leaders, to be good listeners, and, more importantly, how to connect with people through the fine art of storytelling. Ken Hance is one of a kind, and I am lucky to have called him mentor and friend.

Mr. Speaker, I have many other letters here in testimony, which we will be glad to enter into the RECORD.

We have talked about Chancellor Hance as a former Member of Congress, a former State senator, and a former railroad commissioner. In his life of public service, obviously, he dreamed no little dream.

But just for a minute, I would like to talk about the Ken Hance that I know. It is not the one that I call chancellor; it is the Ken Hance that I call friend.

Over the years, Kent and I have had an opportunity to mentor and to talk to each other, and I consider his advice to be a treasure in my life. I can always call him up when there is an issue or something that I want to get his reflection on. He is always quick to take my call.

But it is not just what Ken Hance says. I think what we have heard tonight, it is about how he lived his life. A lot of people out in west Texas, we say some people talk the talk, but some people that you really pay attention to are the people that walk the walk. What I would say about my friend Ken Hance is he dreamed no little dream, and he walked the walk. So it has been my pleasure tonight to recognize a good friend, a great American, a great Texan and a great Red Raider—go Tech.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE KENT HANCE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from Texas have set aside time on the House floor during special orders to honor a former Member and the out-going Chancellor of the Texas Tech University System, the Honorable Kent Hance. I rise with my colleagues to recognize his accomplishments and exceptional leadership.

Kent Hance was elected to the People's House in 1978, then re-elected twice. He served in the 96th, 97th, and 98th Congresses during a time of great change in the direction of America's governance and leadership. As a "Boll Weevil" Democrat, Kent worked across the aisle with a Republican president, Ronald W. Reagan, to enact some of the most sweeping and successful tax reforms in American history.

Bipartisan passage of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 set the stage for an in-

credible two-decade period of economic expansion. According to a 2001 Heritage Foundation report, the tax cuts Kent Hance and others supported led to the creation of more than 35 million jobs, an 80 percent growth in the overall economy, a 78 percent growth in industrial production, and a doubling of federal revenue from 1983 through 1999.

After his time in Congress Kent returned to the law and eventually assumed a leadership role in the world of Texas academics, becoming the third chancellor of the Texas Tech University system in 2006.

Under his direction, the TTU system has grown by leaps and bounds. Enrollment has expanded 45 percent overall, with minority enrollment up 70 percent. From 2006 to 2012, the number of degrees awarded went up 46 percent. The system's endowment has grown by 80 percent and now tops \$1 billion; more than \$700 million has been invested in campus construction.

In 2012, Texas Tech established the Center for the Study of Western Civilization as well as the Free Market Institute. Both of these programs seek to research and advance the core virtues that have set America apart as the world's freest and most productive society—things no other major university systems are doing.

In nine years as chancellor Kent Hance has built the TTU system into a leader in engineering, medicine, health sciences, emerging technologies, and research. By any measure, the TTU system is one of the nation's premier higher learning institutions.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, the man in middle of all this growth and success would be one of the last to promote his own personal contribution. Kent Hance, beyond the accolades and awards, is a decent man who has served the people of West Texas with honor and distinction his whole life—and I am proud to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Chancellor Hance as he moves on to a new chapter. I thank him for his leadership, his vision, and his lifetime of public service.

HONORING CHANCELLOR KENT HANCE

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the distinguished career of Texas Tech University Chancellor Kent Hance. With his retirement approaching, he will soon close his incredible service to my alma mater and begin the next chapter of his life.

Since becoming Chancellor in 2006, he has made incredible achievements at Texas Tech and the university continues to thrive because of the impacts he has made. Quickly after he took leadership, Texas Tech doubled in size with its addition of Angelo State University and the creation of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso. In a matter of eight years, Chancellor Hance's forward-thinking approach helped Texas Tech grow exponentially. With more than 33,000 students enrolled in the fall 2013 class, Texas Tech has increased its enrollment by 16% over the last decade and is on target to meet its goal to enroll 40,000 students by 2020.

"Dream no little dream." Chancellor Hance's famous four words have proven no truer than for himself. Under his leadership, Texas Tech surpassed Hance's goal to raise an astonishing \$1 billion for its capital campaign placing Tech in an elite group of universities. Because of his commitment to higher education, more students have had an opportunity to obtain a college degree and Texas Tech continues to be ranked in the top 20 universities for producing the best graduates.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It's not the end of a career but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I speak for myself, as well as all of the Red Raider family, when I say Chancellor Hance's unconditional love for Texas Tech combined with his exceptional leadership leaves behind a legacy that will never be forgotten. I commend him for his dedication to Texas Tech and wish him the best in the years ahead.

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Austin, TX, April 7, 2014.

Hon. KENT R. HANCE,
Chancellor, Texas Tech University System, Lubbock, TX.

DEAR CHANCELLOR HANCE: It is my pleasure to join your friends and colleagues in recognizing the remarkable job you have done as a leader of the Texas Tech University System.

You have presided over an incredible era for the Texas Tech system, highlighted by profound growth and positive change. With the addition of Angelo State University and the creation of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center—El Paso, the system has literally doubled in size since 2007. Enrollment has also increased dramatically, and students are graduating and joining the workforce at a faster rate, too. Nearly 10,000 degrees were earned in 2012, almost double the number that were awarded a decade ago.

You have embraced the challenges that come with such exceptional growth, and the Texas Tech system is thriving. Under your leadership, the system's Vision & Tradition campaign raised an astonishing \$1 billion in the most successful capital campaign in its history. You have skillfully navigated the line between your core missions of educating students and conducting world-changing research. And you haven't been afraid to embrace fresh ideas. It's no surprise that Angelo State was one of the first universities to answer my call to develop a \$10,000 degree program or that the system has consistently been a leader in focusing on student outcomes and using their feedback to help determine the best ways to teach and structure programs.

Of course, your career has been about more than new facilities or modified degree programs. It has been about helping people better their lives.

It's important to remember what a college degree means on an individual level. A college degree opens a doorway to more success, broader opportunities and bigger dreams for people of all backgrounds. Whether you're from a small town or big city, no matter what your parents might do or what your goals may be, a quality, affordable college education is a valuable step toward being the very best you can be.

Many students have passed through Texas Tech's institutions during your tenure. These men and women will make incredible contributions to our communities, to our state and to our nation; some of them probably already have. You have furthered both individual success and collective achievement—and that is quite a legacy.

Anita and I thank you for your service to the State of Texas and wish you an enjoyable, fulfilling retirement.

Sincerely,

RICK PERRY,
Governor.

HENDRICK HEALTH SYSTEM,
Abilene, TX, April 9, 2014.

KENT HANCE,
Office of Chancellor, Texas Tech University,
Lubbock, TX.

Chancellor Kent Hance has been good for Texas Tech and he has been good for Texas!

If you were to prioritize his accomplishments, would you begin with his fundraising success, the growth in the number of students enrolled at Texas Tech or would you begin with the economic impact through expansion of educational services he has had on the western part of our great state. You could even begin with the individual lives he often talked about that have been changed as a result of a first generation family to attend college. Or would you begin with the lasting impact of the power of leadership training he has provided to a vast number of students through the classes taught on leadership. It would be appropriate to begin with the lessons he continuously taught alumni of the importance of giving back to an institution that provided an outstanding foundation for thousands of Texas Tech alumni that have moved around the world. You could even begin with the hundreds of business students that were impacted early in Kent's career through the business law classes he taught with humor, enthusiasm, and exciting legal concepts to ponder.

No matter where you start, how you prioritize, or how inclusive you become in including the vast number of accomplishments of Kent Hance, it has been a great and impactful career. There are few people that can be included in the same category as Kent Hance. Unfortunately, individuals like Kent do not come along often enough.

What a pleasure it has been for me to get to know and observe the impact of this great man.

TIM LANCASTER,
Hendrick Health System.

April 9, 2014.

KENT HANCE,
Chancellor, Texas Tech University.

DEAR CHANCELLOR HANCE: I send my greetings and best wishes on the occasion of your retirement as Chancellor after more than eight years with Texas Tech University.

From your early career in the Texas Senate, three terms in the U.S. Congress, Chairmanship of the Texas Railroad Commission, and your current role as Chancellor, you have dedicated your life and service to the betterment of Texas and its citizens. Your energy and experience have been an important force in ensuring access to quality higher education and expansion of research and innovation in Texas. Under your leadership, the Texas Tech University System has experienced growth in both size and academic stature. Your legacy will continue to benefit the Texas Tech community and our state for years to come.

I join with your family, friends, and co-workers in commemorating your distinguished career in public service, and applaud your commitment to dreaming big dreams and seeking to make them a reality. Best wishes to you and Susie as you begin a new chapter in your life.

Sincerely,

JOHN CORNYN,
United States Senator.

April 9, 2014.

KENT HANCE,
Chancellor, Texas Tech University.

DEAR CHANCELLOR HANCE: On behalf of a grateful state, thank you for your service to

the Great State of Texas and Texas Tech University. As a native of Dimmitt, your West Texas roots, strong moral character, and entrepreneurial spirit have created a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

In a career that has spanned many years and both public and private service, you have created an impressive record of expanding growth and opportunity. Your contributions have touched the lives of countless Texans, and they have produced plentiful economic benefits to the entire state.

Under your direction, the Texas Tech University System has doubled in size, with the additions of Angelo State University and the Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso. You set out to grow enrollment, increase research, and increase commercial technology opportunities, and you have achieved all these goals with great success.

Thank you for your outstanding leadership. You are an exemplary Texan, and I hope that we will continue to build upon the strong educational foundations you have nurtured.

TED CRUZ,
United States Senator.

April 9, 2014.

DEAR CHANCELLOR HANCE: On behalf of the City of Lubbock, let me offer my congratulations on your retirement as Chancellor, and thank you for your service to West Texas, Lubbock, and Texas Tech.

Your love and dedication to Texas Tech have brought the university to new heights. From your graduation in 1965 to leading the way in raising over \$1 billion, the time you have spent at Tech has left a lasting impression on the university. You strengthened ties between Texas Tech and the City of Lubbock, and your efforts to increase enrollment have led to new students and families now calling Lubbock home.

You are a true servant of the state, having served as a Texas State Senator, U.S. Congressman, and Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission. Thank you for the years of service you dedicated to making Lubbock and West Texas a better place to live and work.

Sincerest congratulations,
GLEN C. ROBERTSON,
Mayor.

TXTA,
TEXAS TRUCKING ASSOCIATION,
Austin, TX, April 9, 2014.

HON. MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION: Let it be said that Chancellor Kent Hance has a deep and abiding love for the institution he has devoted the last eight years of his life to. In reality, Chancellor Hance has given so much more than just those eight years. Those who know him, know that his love affair with Texas Tech University began shortly after his parents dropped him off there in 1961. Since that time he has served his family and his constituents with honor, going all the way back to the late 1970's when he served in this hallowed body.

As he is well known for saying to freshman during their orientation, and to seniors at their graduation, "I love Texas Tech." It also goes without saying that Texas Tech loves Kent Hance. And while his time in service as its Chancellor will soon end, the love shared will be without end. I am proud to have been a part of the Hance Administration.

On behalf of The Rivers and my wife, Leah, we wish him all the success in retirement that he has realized in service Texas Tech.

All very well deserved, all with loyalty and honor.

JOHN D. ESPARZA,
Texas Tech Board of Regents,
Texas Tech Class of 1997.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to direct their remarks to former Members on the House floor.

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be here on behalf of the Progressive Caucus Special Order hour. We are going to be talking about the budget. Everyone is talking about the budget, the Paul Ryan Republican budget, the Democratic budget, the Progressive Caucus budget, and other budgets that we have had before us.

We have our own version of a budget. The Progressive Caucus has the Better Off Budget. It is a budget that invests in the economy, creates 8.8 million jobs, and does a tremendous job of dealing with issues that are at the forefront of what America needs to deal with.

But we have a huge contrast in the budget that we have in this body before us that the Republicans have introduced that we will be voting on this week, tomorrow, in this very body. Tonight we would like to have a little talk about that.

As you look at the Better Off Budget in blue versus the GOP budget, the Better Off Budget creates 8.8 million jobs by investing in infrastructure, investing in our schools, and investing in energy, and a number of programs across the country.

On the contrast, the Republican budget actually costs the economy 3.1 million jobs. That is as many people as the entire workforce of the State of Wisconsin getting fired in a simple budget.

One of the biggest issues about the budget is what we are doing about jobs and the economy. We have been told by the Congressional Budget Office that the number one issue this year, the number one thing that causes our deficit, three-quarters of the deficit in 2014, is caused by economic weakness, in other words, unemployment and underemployment. Our budget directly addresses that, and the GOP budget does just the opposite. It is an austerity budget.

I would like to yield some time to one of my colleagues, a strong member of the Progressive Caucus, an outstanding Member of our California delegation. I would like to yield some time to Mr. ALAN LOWENTHAL.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for his

work on the Congressional Progressive Caucus budget, the CPC budget, and for just being an all-around good guy.

□ 1900

The nondefense discretionary side of the budget has taken a beating in recent years with extreme cuts to its programs. The Ryan budget continues this damage with even deeper cuts to discretionary programs.

Now, what do I mean by discretionary programs? We are talking about education, public safety, clean drinking water, food safety, roads, bridges—our transportation system—air traffic controllers, medical research to find cures for diseases, among others.

The question I ask is: What is discretionary about any of these basic needs? What is discretionary about making sure that children can read or about making sure that drinking water is safe or that bridges don't collapse? There is nothing discretionary about these programs.

I think part of the problem is simply the word "discretionary." We need to stop calling this discretionary, and we need to start calling this beleaguered side of the budget what it is, essential. These are the essential non-defense programs.

My dear friend, the main difference between the Ryan budget proposal and the CPC budget proposal is that Mr. RYAN believes that the government funding of these essential programs is a drain on the economy and a drain on taxpayers.

The CPC, however, recognizes that the investment in these essential programs is fundamental to the vitality of our country. It moves us forward, and as you pointed out, it creates millions of jobs—over 4.6 million jobs in the year 2014, almost 3 million in the year 2015 and close to 1.3 million in the year 2016.

It moves us forward, this investment in essential programs. It drives innovation. It creates jobs. It stimulates the economy. It puts our government and our country on a sustainable path to prosperity.

My friend Mr. RYAN's economic model of austerity contrasts sharply with our model of investment and progress in a fiscally responsible way. We believe that educating our workforce, building our infrastructure, ensuring access to a safe and healthy environment, which includes water and food safeguards, is the ticket to a secure future for our country. That is the difference between the Ryan budget and the CPC budget.

Mr. POCAN. Thank you, Mr. LOWENTHAL, for those wise comments about the word "discretionary." I think, all too often, people don't understand what we mean when we talk about discretionary. Those are hardly discretionary programs.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. That is exactly right. They think that you can cut these because these are nonessential. These are not nonessential. If you tell a child that his education is nonessential or if you tell a family that public health or health research to those families is discretionary or if you tell those scientists who are trying to find cures for some of the worst diseases that they are just discretionary, we will lose the momentum that this country has, and we will no longer be the world leader in democracy and also no longer in innovation and job creation.

No, these are not discretionary programs. These are essential programs that are different than defense programs. To call them discretionary does a great disservice to the great importance and to the centerpiece of our budget that they really occupy and should occupy and that all Americans should understand.

Mr. POCAN. Again, thank you, Mr. LOWENTHAL, for your service, for your hard work on this budget, and for all you do for the people of California.

When we talk about those discretionary funds, it is interesting because, when we had the sequester that made a huge cut to these programs and that affected people in all of our States, the Paul Ryan Republican budget doubles down on these sequester cuts, and it makes even deeper cuts in a number of areas.

I just want to go through a little bit of a chart. Unfortunately, I found out that I can't use a marker on the House floor because that is against the rules, so we are going to use this in a little bit of a different way, to try to have you take a look at this and decide where the difference is and who winds up winning on the side of the GOP Paul Ryan budget and the Congressional Progressive Caucus Better Off Budget. I just want to go through a few examples of programs that would matter.

Let's start with unemployed workers. Let's take a look at the two budgets. When you look at the Better Off Budget, as I showed before, 8.8 million jobs are created by the Better Off Budget. In the Republican budget, according to the Economic Policy Institute, it would cut 3 million jobs by the year 2016.

If you are someone who is unemployed, the Better Off Budget would make sure we extend emergency unemployment benefits. The GOP budget is silent—crickets. There is absolutely nothing to help people who—in a tough economy and who have worked hard all of their lives and who have played by the rules—have lost their benefits.

SNAP, for people who are getting help on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps, by and large, two-thirds of those people are children, seniors, and people with severe disabilities.

If you add the working poor, you are at 92 percent of the people who receive these benefits. The Democrats restore the cuts that happened this year in the farm bill and previous cuts to the program. \$31.50 a week is what someone was making on the SNAP program to help him in getting by with food. We know this program is one of the best programs to help lift people out of poverty, and we restore that funding.

What does the Paul Ryan budget do? You may remember the debate that we had on the farm bill. Originally, the Republicans wanted to cut the SNAP program by about \$20 billion, and they couldn't get enough votes because Republicans wanted to cut it even more, so they finally cut it by \$39 billion.

Now, when we got to the conference committee with the Senate, we were able to get that down to \$8 billion of cuts, but these are cuts to, as I mentioned, children, seniors, people with severe disabilities, and the working poor—two-thirds of whom are seniors, children, and people with severe disabilities.

What does the Paul Ryan budget do? Does it cut the \$20 billion that they couldn't pass originally? No. Does it cut the \$39 billion like the Republicans ultimately passed? Oh, no, as it was not nearly enough.

There is a \$125 billion cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in the Paul Ryan Republican budget.

Let's take a look at that for jobs. It costs 3 million jobs. It does nothing for the long-term unemployment extension, and it cuts assistance to the needy by \$125 billion. I would say that the Progressive Caucus Democratic budget, by far, would win out in that category.

Let's next look at education. We have got pre-K, K-12, and college students. Let's look at each of these areas. The Better Off Budget invests \$100 million into a stimulus for teachers and schools, so that we can help do what we need to in order to be competitive globally.

We need to be investing in our students through our teachers and our schools. We provide funding to rehire teachers who have lost their jobs through the bad economy in the last several years. We invest in early childhood development, which is crucial for someone to get a fair start in life, and we invest in job training. That is what the Congressional Progressive Caucus Better Off Budget includes.

What does the Republican budget include? Let's start with pre-K. In pre-K, there is an \$18 billion cut to early education programs. Right off the bat, are they investing more? There is an \$18 billion cut. Once again, the Progressive Caucus budget leads us.

Next, on K-12, in which we invest in the hiring of teachers and invest in our schools, what does the Republican

budget do? In the Republican budget, if you have a child in K-12 public education in this country, there is an \$89 billion cut.

Again, \$89 billion in cuts or investing in our teachers and schools? Once again, the Congressional Progressive Caucus budget outdoes the Republican budget.

How about college students? This is where you are going to see some really big differences. We invest in the very financial aid programs that people need. We invest in higher education because, in order to be competitive in a global economy, we have to have the most talented, the smartest, the most innovative people we can possibly have in the economy to create the jobs we need to for the future.

What does the Republican budget do? It cuts \$205 billion in higher education services—\$205 billion—and I am not even counting Pell grants. Pell grants, which help some of our neediest students get access to higher education, get a \$145 billion cut. We are talking, overall, just in higher education, almost \$350 billion.

We invest more in those educational opportunities, and the Republican budget cuts over \$350 billion. Overall, in those three areas in education alone, the Republicans cut \$871 billion to education. That is what we do for middle class families and those aspiring to be in the middle class in the budget that this House will very likely pass tomorrow.

Let's look at the next category, seniors. Seniors, you have put your entire lives into this country, and you have worked all of your lives. You expect to have a retirement that you have invested in, and you have put your hours in.

What is the difference in the budgets? The Congressional Progressive Caucus budget does a number of things. One, we protect Social Security and Medicare. We make future investments in those programs. We protect funding in the Medicaid program.

We allow Medicare to negotiate for better prescription drug prices, so that seniors can pay less on drugs that they have to pay a larger percent of their income on, so that they can get by in those years, and we help, overall, in putting America on a path towards offering a single-payer option.

What does the Republican budget do when it comes to seniors? First of all, they end Medicare as we know it. Under the Republican budget, you now have a voucher program. You don't get Medicare. You get a voucher, something you can trade in, hopefully, for something in the future, which will very likely be a cut in the very health care that you have now and that you receive.

They increase the costs for seniors on prescription drugs by reopening the doughnut hole, which is going to cost

seniors \$4.1 billion extra on prescription drugs. Seniors are going to pay more for the prescription drugs they need.

They raise the Medicare eligibility age to 67, and they put seniors who rely on Medicaid at risk because they are making big cuts to the Medicaid program, \$732 billion in cuts to the Medicaid program.

Once again, for seniors, it is cuts, it is paying more for prescription drugs, and it is putting you at risk through the Medicaid and Medicare program. The Democrats and the Progressive Caucus protect all of those programs that the seniors rely on so very much.

Our next group, the vets; they have served our country with distinction. If it weren't for the veterans we have, we wouldn't be able to protect the very liberties and freedoms that we have as a citizenry.

What does the Progressive Caucus budget do? We adopt a cost-of-living adjustment that takes into account realistic retiree expenses, and we fully fund veterans programs in advance.

We are protecting the programs, so that they have the guarantee to the veterans, the guarantee that they have promised to them, as they have put their time in for this country. We protect those very programs to ensure that they will have those programs in the future.

With the Republicans, we hear a lot of lip service about veterans and about protecting veterans, especially around Memorial Day and Veterans' Day, but the proof is in the budget.

What do the Republicans do? By 2016, the Republicans actually cut funding for veterans by \$1.7 billion. Now, we saw what they did back in the budget in December when they cut the pensions for families who are in the military, but now, in their budget in 2016, there is an additional \$1.7 billion cut to veterans.

This is the sort of lip service that you get when a holiday comes up and when we show up. The reality is when we vote on it on this floor.

Once again, for veterans, they lose money under the Republican budget, and in our budget, we protect programs that veterans deserve.

The middle class, what does our budget have for the middle class, and what does the Republican budget have for the middle class?

There are a couple of things around taxes. One of the things that we have been very careful to do is to get rid of some of the tax loopholes that benefit special interests.

There are tax breaks for Big Oil and Big Gas and tax breaks that go to companies that send jobs overseas, which doesn't even make any sense, yet we incentivize those very companies that send those jobs overseas rather than create jobs in America.

□ 1915

We protect middle class taxpayers by going back to the Clinton-era tax rates for households who make more than \$250,000, and we add new brackets at \$1 million. That allows us to bring in revenues from those who can most afford to, but protecting the very middle class that are the backbone of this economy.

By doing that—and protecting health care, seniors, education, investing in infrastructure for the very roads and services that people count on—we are doing everything we can to protect the middle class. This is one area where the distinction could not be more clear.

The Republicans have given a lot of lip service about trying to protect the middle class. Once again, the proof is in their budget. The budget shows their real values.

What does it do? It lowers the top tax rate down to 25 percent. Do you know what percent of taxpayers are in that top bracket? Less than one-half of 1 percent.

So when Chairman RYAN described the budget in the Budget Committee, which I serve on—we spent 10½ hours last Wednesday debating the budget—he said the budget was a win-win.

Well, if he meant it was a win for the top 1 percent and a win for the second percentile, I will agree. The other 98 percent of us pay for those two wins that are out there.

By lowering that rate to 25 percent, that gives the average millionaire a \$200,000 tax break. Millionaires get big, big tax breaks.

How do you pay for that? Well, there is only one way: you are going to have to put the taxes onto the backs of the middle class. It is estimated it would be about \$2,000 per middle class family to pay for those wealthiest few in the Nation.

So when it comes to the middle class, there is no question our budget does more for the middle class, and the Republican budget is a direct attack on the middle class by what we are able to do by making them pay for the very tax breaks that the wealthiest have put out there.

When you look at all this, there is one group that wins at the very bottom. I mentioned millionaires and billionaires. I have to give that edge to the Republican budget. You are going to get a great tax break—a great big check from Uncle Sam—at the courtesy of the middle class taxpayers in this country.

That is the only winner under the Republican budget. Clearly, in every other category, the Progressive Caucus and the Democratic budgets are superior to that budget introduced by the Republicans.

You are going to hear how it balances the budget in 10 years. That is the only talking point the Republicans have. They don't want to talk about the specifics because they lose in every

single category, but the one thing that they claim they have is that they balance the budget in 10 years.

They don't mention it is on the backs of the middle class, but they say they are going to balance the budget in 10 years. Well, I wish their math were only as accurate as their rhetoric because the math simply doesn't add up. Let me tell you why. Let me give you one big glaring example of why the budget doesn't add up.

The Republican budget repeals the benefits of the Affordable Care Act, so it repeals all the positive things like the fact that, when you go to get insurance, if you have a preexisting condition, you now can get access.

You have got preventive care provided, so we can save long-term health costs. You don't have a lifetime cap on your insurance. Your children can stay on your policy until they are 26.

All these benefits were incorporated in the Affordable Care Act, and we just saw the success from the enrollment numbers. Millions of more people have access to health care.

It repeals those benefits, but get this: it keeps the revenues and the savings of the Affordable Care Act in order to make the numbers balance out for that allegedly 10-year balancing of the budget.

It doesn't take much more than a fourth-grader to understand that doesn't work out. You can't repeal a program, but still keep the revenue and the savings from that program, but the Republicans are trying to pass that off. They are trying to sell you a bill of goods.

Do you know how much that bill of goods is, that fuzzy math? Two trillion dollars is the amount that they are using in fuzzy math to try to claim their budget balances in 10 years. It doesn't take a lot to poke the holes in the fact that their budget doesn't balance out.

If their budget doesn't balance out, it doesn't benefit the middle class, and it only benefits the wealthiest, we have a really bad budget that this House will be voting on tomorrow. We are going to do everything we can to make sure that that budget doesn't pass.

I think one really important note that people have to realize from all that we describe that is in that budget is, even if it doesn't become the law of the land—thankfully, we have the Senate and the President still—it is the roadmap that the Republicans have if they were to take control.

If they were to keep the House of Representatives, if they were to take the U.S. Senate, if they were to take the Presidency, this is the fourth year in a row they have laid out this essential roadmap—this roadmap that benefits the top 1 or 2 percent and that every other person—every other American has to pay to subsidize those people.

We lose those important programs in health care and education, for veterans and for the unemployed and those struggling to get by in our society.

There is a very clear distinction between what the Democrats and the Progressive Caucus have put out as our budget that we have put forth to the American people and what the Republicans are actually offering.

They have warmed over austerity. Again, cuts, cuts, cuts will somehow make the economy work, and that is simply impossible to happen.

What I would like to do, at this time, is introduce another Member of the Progressive Caucus who has been a very hard worker on behalf of the middle class, not just in his district in the State of Pennsylvania, but across the country.

I yield to Representative MATT CARTWRIGHT from the great State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Thank you, Mr. POCAN.

Madam Speaker, I rise not only in support of the Congressional Progressive Caucus budget, but in opposition to the abomination that is this Ryan budget.

I am from Scranton, Pennsylvania. I represent the great northeast part of Pennsylvania in the 17th Congressional District.

I wanted to talk this evening a little bit about a couple of guys that came from Scranton. The first one is the Vice President of the United States, JOSEPH BIDEN.

I mention Vice President BIDEN tonight because it was Vice President BIDEN who intoned the phrase—and continues to do so—that there are a lot of people out there that love to talk about their values.

They will tell you all day about their values—their values on this, their values on that. They will wear you out. They will give you a good ear beating about their values; but Vice President BIDEN says: look, don't tell me about your values. Show me your budget, and let me read it, and I will tell you about what your values are.

Because that is what a budget is, it is a statement of your values. It is a statement of your principles and priorities.

When we see something like this Ryan budget that cuts everything, like pre-K education, what does it say? That says you don't care that much about educating young kids, even though you know that, if you start kids off behind all the other kids, they are going to be struggling the rest of their academic careers.

It is going to affect their self-confidence in their academic lives, and they are not going to go far in school. It has ripple effects. A higher percentage of them will get in trouble with the law. How much do we end up paying for all of those things?

If you don't devote money to pre-K, it says you don't care about those things. Those things are not included in your set of values.

I also want to talk about another fellow because, when you go and slash pre-K and K-12 and Pell grants for colleges and you turn your back on seniors and veterans and you favor the haves against the have-nots—and even the middle class—when you do those things, you do that all in the name of austerity and cutting because you are worried about the deficit and you are worried about \$16 trillion—\$17 trillion is higher than anybody has ever counted in the history of mankind; and so therefore, we have to cut, cut, cut.

A lot of that is well-intentioned—it really is—because people are afraid, but you have to look at the current debt of this Nation in the context of what the gross domestic product is.

The truth is our national debt is not the highest it has ever been in connection with and comparison to the gross domestic product. It is not anywhere near the highest it has ever been. That is something pointed out by another fellow from Scranton, former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich.

Robert Reich is all of about 5 feet tall on his tiptoes, but he is a giant when it comes to labor policy and economics. He points out forcefully, time and time again, that if you compare the national debt to the gross domestic product, the highest it ever was in that ratio was after World War II.

It was after we defeated the Nazis, after we defeated the Axis powers, and after we had engineered the New Deal and brought this Nation out of the Great Depression, where upwards of 25 percent of people were unemployed, and we had done all of that.

Robert Reich remembers vividly his father saying to him in the late forties, into the early fifties:

It's this Roosevelt debt we have been left with. You are going to be paying this off the rest of your life, and your children will be paying that Roosevelt debt off the rest of your life and your grandchildren, too.

That is not what happened, though. Robert Reich happily tells the way it played out. The way it played out, what did we do? We believed in ourselves. We believed in the strength and the vision of Americans and we did things like the Marshall Plan, and we rebuilt Europe and Japan and built the interstate highway system in this country.

We sent the GIs to college under the GI Bill. For crying out loud, we sent a man to the Moon. We did all those things because we were bullish on America. We need to continue that approach, which is something that Robert Reich likes to point out.

He says that, by the late sixties, nobody could mention the Roosevelt debt with a straight face. So I am here to say, Madam Speaker and Mr. POCAN,

that we need to do that again. We need to grow our way out of the debt.

It is nowhere near as bad as it was after World War II, but we still have to grow our way out of it by believing in ourselves by being bullish on America.

Mr. POCAN. Thank you, again, Mr. CARTWRIGHT. The work you have done on behalf of the people not just of Scranton—I have heard you mention Scranton many times on the floor—but for all of Pennsylvania and the entire country, thank you for all your efforts. I really appreciate that.

In closing, for this part of the Progressive Caucus Special Order hour, I just want to hit the main point again when it comes to the budget.

We all know that the top three issues facing this country are jobs, jobs, jobs. There is such a difference between what the Democrats and the Progressives have proposed and what the Republicans have proposed.

Again, the Better Off Budget for the Progressive Caucus shows an 8.8 million increase in the number of jobs in this country. We invest in our infrastructure. We invest in our schools. We invest in job training. We create 8.8 million jobs.

The Republican budget, according to the Economic Policy Institute, would cost this country 3.1 million jobs. Those 3.1 million jobs are as many people as we have working in the entire State of Wisconsin. Think about firing every single person in the State of Wisconsin. That is the job loss that would come out of the Republican budget.

So it is an honor tonight to talk on behalf of the Progressive Caucus and our budget and to highlight the many problems that we are going to have tomorrow when this body votes on the Republican budget.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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THE IMPACT OF THE RYAN BUDGET ON AMERICA'S WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana) Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) for 27 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. EDWARDS. I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Madam Speaker, I want to rise this evening to discuss our annual budget. Congress has a number of responsibilities, but a big one is that Congress is tasked annually with developing a budget that lays out our Nation's priorities in spending and lays out a budget that reflects our values.

Democrats have been working to provide a fair shot for everyone to succeed by creating good-paying jobs and an opportunity for working families. Our

country is, in fact, strongest when our economy grows from the middle out, and not from the top down.

Unfortunately the fiscal year 2015 Republican budget introduced by PAUL RYAN takes the opposite approach. It benefits the few at the top by showing tax breaks on millionaires and corporate special interests, while shifting the burden of the Federal budget to middle class families.

Once again, Mr. RYAN and Republicans have been convinced that the best way to help working families is to stop helping working families. Unfortunately, the Ryan budget resolution would actually harm families, most especially, women and children.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, the Ryan budget would cost jobs and slow our recovery, costing 1.1 million jobs in fiscal year 2015, and rising to about 3 million in the following year.

Republicans are raising taxes on middle class families with children by an average of at least \$2,000 a year in order to cut taxes for millionaires.

Now, let's just take a look at that, Madam Speaker. A recent analysis by Citizens for Tax Justice finds that, under the Ryan plan, taxpayers with income exceeding \$1 million in 2015 would receive an average net tax decrease of over \$200,000 in that fiscal year.

Now, let's balance this. Families with children would have to pay an additional \$2,000, and millionaires would get the benefit of a decrease in their taxes of \$200,000. \$2,000 for working families, and \$200,000 for millionaires.

Now, of course, the Ryan budget doesn't touch tax breaks for big oil and gas companies that ship jobs overseas. After all, you have to have priorities, priorities and budgets that are a statement of values.

So it is very clear that the Ryan priorities and the Ryan budget priorities benefit millionaires. It is very clear, unsurprisingly, that the Ryan budget also repeals, yet again, the Affordable Care Act, despite the fact that 9.3 million people now have health care as a result of the Affordable Care Act, that according to a Rand Corporation study.

Now, repealing the Affordable Care Act would allow insurance companies, once again, to treat a woman and being a woman as a preexisting condition, would once again enable insurance companies to charge women more than men.

Insurance companies would also be able to deny women coverage because of preexisting conditions, including a history of domestic violence, breast and cervical cancer, and C-sections.

Under this budget, millions of women and their families would be stripped of the private marketplace health plans and expanded Medicaid coverage that they have obtained under the Affordable Care Act.

In fact, more than 47 million women would again have to pay out-of-pocket costs for lifesaving preventive health services like mammograms and cervical cancer screenings. Up to 4 million women seniors, that is right, 4 million women seniors would fall, once again, into the prescription drug doughnut hole, and they would have to start reaching back into their pockets once again to pay for their prescription drugs because the Ryan budget reopens the doughnut hole.

I want to repeat that for the American people. The Ryan budget reopens the doughnut hole that Democrats closed. As a result, seniors in the doughnut hole will pay an additional \$18,000 over 10 years, on average, for their prescription drugs.

Look, women make up about 55 percent of Medicare enrollees, and they would suffer the most, frankly, when the Medicare guarantee is replaced, under the Ryan budget, with a voucher in 2024.

That is right. The Ryan budget wants to change the Medicare system, take away the Medicare guarantee for the 55 percent of the enrollees who are women, for all enrollees, with premiums for traditional Medicare going up about 50 percent on average. Think what that means for America's women who are seniors.

Indeed, the Republican plan would draw traditional Medicare into a death spiral. It would end it as we know it.

Not just that, but the Ryan budget also slashes Medicaid by \$732 billion over 10 years, or nearly 25 percent in 2024, with the largest impact on women.

I will continue, because the Ryan budget does such devastation to America's women, that it bears repeating. But with that, I will yield some time to my colleague from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my friend, DONNA EDWARDS for organizing tonight's important colloquy and Special Order to talk about the Ryan Republican budget and its unacceptable impact on women.

For the fourth year in a row, Chairman RYAN has proposed an uncompromising budget plan that is out of touch with Nevada's priorities and the country's vision for the future.

Chairman RYAN has used a lot of gimmicks in this budget, but no amount of chicanery can hide what it means for women.

Instead of laying out a plan to strengthen and grow the middle class, Representative RYAN's budget disproportionately harms low-income women and the families they struggle to support. It also undermines the health and economic security of the elderly and the disabled, most of whom are women, as you have just pointed out.

It would repeal the Affordable Care Act and the critical protections and

benefits this landmark legislation offers to women. Millions of women and their families would have to pay out of pocket for lifesaving preventive health services such as mammograms and cervical cancer screenings.

Insurance companies would be allowed, once again, to treat being a woman as a preexisting condition. And over 200,000 women in Nevada alone would lose access to affordable health insurance that is provided by the ACA.

The Ryan budget also threatens a laundry list of vital programs that help southern Nevada women and children, such as SNAP, WIC, Head Start, TANF, and Pell grants, just to name a few.

Currently, over 75,000 Nevada women and children rely on WIC, and 358,000 Nevadans depend on SNAP, 154,000 of whom are children. In addition, nearly 5,000 children in Nevada participate in Head Start, and 33,000 Nevada students benefit from Pell grants.

Under the Ryan budget, women could lose access to these critical programs, programs that help them put food on the table and give their children access to the education they need to succeed.

The Ryan budget also eliminates the Brand USA program, which fosters international tourism, an industry that employs many women in service jobs in Nevada and around the country.

Instead of protecting women and children, Representative RYAN and the Republican Party would rather provide the richest one-tenth of 1 percent, those households making more than \$3.3 million a year, with a \$1.2 million tax cut.

Now, the Federal budget is a blueprint for our Nation's future. It is a statement of our priorities as a Nation, and it should provide a path forward that we can all be proud of.

My constituents in Las Vegas, and our constituents all around the country, deserve better than this rehashed Ryan budget which slashes programs for children, dismantles health care, eliminates the safety net for seniors, and defunds education and needed research and development.

This budget is not a road to prosperity, as Representative RYAN calls it; it is a road to ruin. And as someone said recently, it is like giving the middle finger to the middle class.

Instead, we need a balanced plan that protects women and their families while making investments in our future. Let's work on that kind of budget.

So, again, I want to thank my friends who have come to the floor tonight to point out these problems.

Ms. EDWARDS. I thank the gentlewoman from Nevada for pointing out the many ways in which the Ryan budget impacts the women of Nevada and impacts the women of this country.

The gentlewoman mentioned something that I think, again, bears repeat-

ing. The Ryan budget cuts food stamps by \$137 billion over the next 10 years, which would, in fact, be devastating for millions of America's women, because 62 percent of adult food stamp recipients, in fact, are women.

And at least 200,000 women and children would be dropped from the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, if the 15 percent cut in 2016 non-defense appropriations was applied across the board.

The Ryan budget calls for at least \$500 billion in cuts to income support programs like the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit, unemployment insurance, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and child nutrition programs, including school lunches. That is right: taking food right out of the mouths of our youngest children who need that nutrition in order to learn and be 21st century learners.

Sixty-six percent of individuals who depend on senior meals like Meals on Wheels are women. Those senior meals would be cut by 15 percent in 2016, if the GOP cut in non-defense appropriations was applied proportionately.

Up to 5.6 million women students would find college less affordable due to \$145 billion in cuts to Pell grants under the Ryan budget.

Up to 170,000 children would lose access to Head Start, and up to 3.4 million disadvantaged children at 8,000 schools would lose vital Title I education programs.

I keep going on, and it seems incredibly devastating to America's families and, particularly, to America's women. It is almost as though the Ryan budget were a Mack truck just running right over top of America's women.

Now, Democrats have an agenda and a budget that, in fact, reflects our values of strengthening the middle class, of closing the opportunity gap, of enabling women and their families to succeed. It is a budget that helps women and families address some of the biggest economic challenges facing them.

It calls for raising the Federal minimum wage, for ensuring equal pay for equal work, for expanding family and medical leave, and for making child care more affordable.

In my home State of Maryland, child care costs for an infant can run to \$12,936 a year for child care for one infant. In a lot of cases, that is more than you pay for a 4-year institution, or a community college, just to have your child in child care.

These are devastating for America's families. In fact, America's families are spending 35 percent of their income, of their family's income, in child care. That is more than we are spending on mortgages. It is certainly more than we are saving, Madam Speaker.

As we know, women make on average just 77 cents on a dollar a man makes.

For African American women and Latinas, the gap is even larger. African American women earn just 64 cents, and Latinas earn only 54 cents for every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men.

Two-thirds of the minimum wage earners in this country are women, and family and leave protections fail to cover nearly half of full-time employees.

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The Democrats' budget, in fact, takes a look at these things and says, you know what, people are working hard, and they are trying to take care of themselves and their families; and, in fact, in this country, with so many women who are either principal breadwinners or, certainly, partner breadwinners in their families, the cuts envisioned by the Ryan budget would be devastating for America's women.

We know that child care expenses, for example, that are important to men and women are consuming so much of American families' income, and yet the Ryan budget would take \$2,000 away from working families and enable millionaires to get the benefit of \$200,000. Think about that—your average family, \$2,000; millionaires, \$200,000.

According to the Ryan budget, the budget actually fails to call for bills promoting equal pay for equal work for women. It fails to increase the minimum wage. It fails to provide for paid sick days for workers. The Ryan budget fails to help working families afford the cost of child care.

We do have solutions, as Democrats, to these challenges. I mean, after all, it is really true that, when women succeed, America succeeds. Our agenda ensures that women will have the tools they need to fully participate in the 21st century economy.

Madam Speaker, Republican priorities are making tax cuts for the wealthy permanent, and they are shrinking the size of government, regardless of the damage that it would cause.

As I have detailed, the Ryan budget doubles down on policies that, in fact, hurt working families. I think that it is time, Madam Speaker, for us to pay attention to what is happening to women—to women who are increasingly in the workplace, but are saddled with the burden of incomes that are not keeping pace, needing assistance to help them get by, not because they are not working, not because they are not contributing; and the Ryan budget does more devastation to America's women.

So I would urge my colleagues to, once again, take a look at this and to say, you know, in a country that has so much and that promises so much and where there really should be more opportunity for all, that we don't need a budget that just rips apart the lives of women and children and families, and the Ryan budget does just that.

I look today at the Congressional Progressive Caucus alternative budget. I voted for that because it is good for America. I looked at this Congressional Black Caucus budget. I voted for that because it is good for America.

I will look at the Democratic alternative to the devastating Ryan budget because it is good for America. It is good for America's families. It is good for America's women.

Madam Speaker, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE NEED FOR GENERIC DRUG PRICING IN MEDICARE PART D

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to always come to this floor and especially talk about needs, and I think this Republican majority speaks to the needs of our families, our moms and dads, and the struggles that they go through every day.

One of those areas that I have been concerned about since coming to Congress and finding out about it deals with our independent pharmacies, deals with the contracts, and deals with the pharmacy benefit managers.

These are things that need to be fixed because they are destroying some of the very fabric of our communities, and these community pharmacists are just asking for a chance, and right now, they seem to be on the outside looking in, when it comes to dealing with these.

Tonight, I am pleased to be joined by not only my good friend who I served with not only in Georgia, but up here in Washington as well, Congressman AUSTIN SCOTT, who is a cochair of the Congressional Pharmacy Caucus; and I would love to have him be a part of this tonight.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Well, thank you, Mr. COLLINS. As you know, you and I served together and had a great relationship there in Georgia, where Democrats and Republicans worked together to balance the budget and solve the problems, and I sure wish we could get to that up here.

Tonight, we are here to talk about an issue that affects us all as well, and that is transparency in pharmacy pricing and highlighting the need for our rural pharmacist, our community pharmacist, and the challenges that they face with Medicare Part D programs.

Just recently, I met with a pharmacist from my district, Mr. Daryl Reynolds; and like many other pharmacists from the Eighth District, he runs a small store and has been hurt by the lack of transparency and pricing. Ultimately, that hurts his patients because it makes it hard for him to stay in business.

While the big pharmacy chains want to operate in the metropolitan areas—and that is wonderful—we in the rural parts of the country need our rural and community pharmacists, and pharmacists like Daryl are a vital component of our national health care system, for those of us who live great distances from the metropolitan areas.

They know us by name. They know our drug interactions. They are able to work with us and our physicians. They make sure that we are taken care of and that we are taking the right medications for the problems that we may have.

In order to continue these relationships, we need to make sure that the Medicare Part D plans that they work through to help our seniors have the pricing transparency with pharmacy benefit managers.

In many cases, our community pharmacists—because of the way the pharmacy benefit managers operate—are reimbursed at less than what the drug actually costs the small community pharmacy. These contracts are non-negotiable. They are vague and opaque, and most of the time, it puts a small community independent businessman up against a multibillion dollar company.

These PBMs and their maximum allowable cost prices, they don't update them when the prices go up, and that leaves the pharmacist paying more, again, for the drug than they actually get reimbursed for the drug, and these are the pricing practices that need to be fixed for our community pharmacists.

I am here tonight with my colleague from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to bring light to this issue. CMS recently proposed rules that would take an important step in addressing this need for generic drug pricing transparency.

How can transparency be a bad thing for Medicare Part D? The rule simply requires that Medicare Part D sponsors should agree in, their contracts with CMS, to update the prices in a timely manner to reflect the current market price.

In rural districts like mine, access to a community pharmacist is critical for people to receive the medications they need. It is imperative for the health and wellness of our rural communities.

I want to commend you, Mr. COLLINS, for your legislation. I look forward to working with you to pass that and thank you for being here tonight on behalf of community pharmacists.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I appreciate that, to my good friend from south Georgia.

You know, it is amazing. In those communities that you just spoke of, they need the help—not that they are asking for a handout. They are just asking for fairness, and I think that is what we miss so often today in our debates here on this floor, and they should be on this floor.

We talk about one group against the other, and really, Madam Speaker, this is about fairness. This is a simple issue of fairness and saying we in the government need to be in our proper constitutional role and to look at it in the framework of not tilting the scale one way or another, but saying what are we doing that helps the American people and also looking ahead to—especially in an area such as health care in which we can find common ground; and I believe we will as we go forward here.

So when we are talking about Medicare Part D and some of the proposed changes of CMS to Part D, it is really the need for generic drug reimbursement limits, known as maximum allowable costs, or MACs.

Generic drugs account for nearly 80 percent of prescriptions, but a community pharmacist is kept in the dark as to how pharmacy benefit managers determine MAC rates for these medications.

You see, Congress and CMS must step in to give pharmacists more transparency into this process, so they are empowered to evaluate if specific contracts would help them better serve our neighborhoods and families.

I am a big believer, Madam Speaker, that transparency is important, that one of the reasons in the basic underlying trust today, when you look out among the country and you see the unfortunateness of the low esteem that Congress is held in, I believe it goes back to a matter of trust.

It goes back to a matter of trust, of believing that what goes on here does not have their best interests at heart, and I think this is sort of what we are talking about tonight with our pharmacists.

Pharmacists, no matter where they work, are wonderful individuals who truly, I believe, have the best interest of the folks who come to see them at heart.

The problem is in the system, especially when it deals with pharmacy benefit managers and the inherent falseness and the inherent problems that are faced with the pharmacy benefit managers and our independent pharmacists.

Pharmacists need an appeals process when disputes over MACs arise and timely adjustments of MAC lists by PBMs to reflect rising drug costs and ensure consumers have the information they need regarding copays.

The status quo cannot continue because, right now, an amount a pharmacy is paid in the morning for a particular medication can change to a different rate for the same medication in the same afternoon.

For those who may be watching tonight or who will be watching: Can you believe this? We are not talking the price of OPEC here. This is not an oil commodity. This is a drug cost, and yet they can't get the help that they need just for simple transparency.

The uncertainty is devastating to pharmacies and the patients they serve. This process is further complicated by the fact that PBMs frequently maintain multiple MAC lists for the same health plan, one for the health plan and one for the pharmacy; one behind the mirror, one in front of the mirror; one outside, one inside.

Where is this going to stop? I have come to this floor many times, and it just still boggles the mind for me. How can you do this?

You know, I am concerned that this provides PBMs with the power to obtain significant revenues through deceptive practices without consumers being any the wiser.

My independent community pharmacies and chain pharmacies in northeast Georgia work long hours each and every day to provide care and advice to our families and our seniors, but they are frustrated and tired by the lack of transparency in generic drug pricing.

PBMs have a track record of refusing to divulge the method they use to determine generic prescription drug price reimbursements in the take-it-or-leave-it contracts pharmacists must sign to assist patients.

In addition, PBMs often fail to update MAC prices in a timely fashion. Conveniently, this often occurs when there is a price spike, wouldn't you guess. Oops, we forgot to update it, and by the way, the price went up.

When you consider that generic prescription drugs make up approximately 80 percent of all dispensed drugs, you can understand why pharmacies of all sizes and affiliations are frustrated.

I was pleased when CMS released its proposed rule for Part D on January 7 of this year because it included several positive provisions. Even though I did not support the rule in its entirety, I did support key provisions that would give independent community pharmacists the ability to try to compete in preferred pharmacy networks; provide important generic drug pricing transparency reforms, although they were not as strong as I would have liked to have seen them.

The proposed rule also contained measures documenting problems with mail order delivery delays and the difficulties beneficiaries have when trying to change their prescriptions over an automated telephone hotline.

Unfortunately, on March 10, CMS announced that it would be holding off on finalizing certain provisions in the rule, one of those provisions being the any willing clarification regarding preferred pharmacy networks.

This was a devastating blow to northeast Georgia pharmacies and the families that rely on them and, to be frank, to anyone listening, not just northeast Georgia, Madam Speaker. It is all over the country, and this is something that is disturbing to me and many others.

I continue to remain hopeful that the provisions on generic drug pricing

transparency will be finalized when the rule is published. However, I don't believe simply hoping is enough. In this country, I think we have found out, over the past few years, that hope is not a plan and hope is not something I am going to sit by and watch when we look at this issue.

So this evening, along with my colleague from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK), I introduced H.R. 4437, the Generic Drug Pricing Fairness Act. This legislation will provide much-needed, although reasonable transparency, by doing a few things. Let me list those.

It will provide clarity to plan sponsors and pharmacies regarding how MAC pricing is determined. It will establish an appeals process in which a dispensing provider can contest a listed MAC price. It provides standardization for how products are selected for inclusion on MAC list, and it compels PBM disclosures about the use of multiple MAC lists and whether or not MAC pricing is utilized for mail order products.

More than 80 percent of the prescriptions that community pharmacists dispense that we talked about are generic, and that is good for both beneficiaries and for the solvency of the Part D program.

Pharmacies deserve to know what they will be reimbursed for when providing a service. When market factors cause the price of generics to change, pharmacies should also be informed of that change in a timely and efficient fashion.

Again, I started this conversation with my dear friend from Georgia about fairness, about simple fairness; and when there is a system set up in which a problem exists in which basically the system is picking winners and losers, the system is causing these unhealthy problems for our independent pharmacies, then that is when we need to act.

That is the government's role, is to remove the impediments toward a free market and be able to compete, and those pharmacists need to know that Washington cares.

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When you understand what people are looking for, then you can begin to act as I think we were all elected to do, Madam Speaker, and that is to listen to our communities, that is to listen to our folks and understand that many times these kinds of situations affect the everyday lives of people getting up and just trying to make a living, just trying to get the drugs and the necessities that they need.

What they are not understanding is why their independent pharmacists are struggling to stay afloat, for one, and also struggling every day just to be able to provide basic care to them because they are under a system in which transparency is just not there.

You see, the additional topic that I would like to talk about not only concerns the transparency issues and the MAC pricing; it is what I hear from pharmacists back home, and that is the readiness of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, to finalize the Medicaid drug reimbursement changes in July 2014 immediately upon implementing average manufacturer price-based, Federal upper limits for Medicaid drugs, as required under the act.

CMS expects States to view Medicaid reimbursement as a two-part formula where the movement toward cost-based drug reimbursement should also correspond with changes to dispensing fees based on pharmacy costs. I believe that these dual goals are overly ambitious for July 2014.

A side note here, I think the entire ACA, or ObamaCare, is not only too optimistic but wrong for America, but that is another Special Order for another night.

When we look at this, the thing that I want to look at is that most States must take several time-consuming steps before implementation and corresponding dispensing fee changes.

First, many States require legislative or regulatory changes to implement the new Federal upper limits. For States that require legislative changes, there simply is not enough time to pass the necessary legislation. Moreover, in most States, budgets will be finalized before these Federal upper limits are scheduled to be published.

In November 2013, CMS stated that if States shift their Medicaid reimbursement methodologies, they either should or must conduct cost-of-dispensing fee surveys to determine fair and equitable total Medicaid drug reimbursement rates.

Finally, most States will need to file a State Plan Amendment with CMS prior to implementing the Medicaid reimbursement methodology changes. And again, this just adds extra and additional time to the process.

At the end of the day, it seems clear that most States will be unable to meet CMS' expectations by the July 2014 deadline. Accordingly, I joined with several of my colleagues here in the House to write a letter encouraging CMS to give States a 1-year transition period for implementation. States need to have more time to effectively transition to these new rates. As my colleagues and I wrote in the letter:

This change will likely represent immediate and significant cuts to Federal matching funds to the States for Medicaid drug product reimbursement and/or cuts to pharmacy Medicaid drug reimbursement.

Ultimately, such an instantaneous change could result in an unnecessary strain on State Medicaid budgets and Medicaid drug access problems for low-income Americans. Fair reimbursement for pharmacies is critical to ensuring that Medicaid beneficiaries and others maintain access to prescription drugs and pharmacy services.

Now, I want to take that for just a second, and as my friend from Georgia talked about when we actually had to pass a balanced budget in Georgia—what a unique concept. Most families do it every year. Governments ought to have to do that as well. In the State of Georgia, we just couldn't go out and print more money or borrow more money from foreign governments or anywhere else we are borrowing it from these days. We actually had to do an actual budget. We had to do actual spending plans that actually balanced. And for most States, this is an issue that often goes untalked about because no one wants to talk about the perceived costs and the changes in the costs when State governments, who have to balance their budget—Madam Speaker, I know in many other States they have to do this as well. You have to plan for this. You actually have to put money in the budget to do this. And we are not going to simply have time here, and to do so on States is just inherently, again—here is this word again—it is unfair. Fairness for all.

I am often struck—before I continue here, I look at this, and I talk to many of my independent pharmacists who went to pharmacy school, and they had opportunities to do a lot of things. Many of them went back to smaller communities to open up their local pharmacy, little, small pharmacies or medium-size pharmacies they may have taken over for a family member, or they bought a pharmacy out and they love the small town atmosphere, they love the rural atmosphere. They could have gone anywhere and done a lot of things, but they chose to serve these communities in medium cities and small cities all across the Ninth District and all across the country. And when they do so, I think they were living up to our Founders' belief when it was stated that we come here in this country for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The pursuit of happiness is what we have to look at. Pursuit of happiness actually is not the guaranty of happiness. There are some in this Chamber who believe that the government ought to guaranty happiness. That is not what the Founders asked for. They said the pursuit of happiness. Life and liberty comes from that pursuit of happiness. And we have to provide those independent pharmacies and all who live in this arena fair and equitable transparency in reimbursement and time. It is about the pursuit of happiness that we look for.

But also there is another important issue that I look forward to hearing back from CMS on. At this point, we are waiting patiently to hear from CMS.

I also recently sent a letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius concerning the

Medicare Part D rule proposed in January. As CMS makes their final decision as to the contents in the rule, we reiterated our support for the provisions of the rule that would make prescription drugs more affordable and preserve beneficiary access to Medicare Part D.

Specifically, our letter supported the proposal to: maintain pharmacy access by allowing any willing pharmacy to participate in plan networks and utilize preferred cost sharing; expand access to and eligibility for medication therapy management, leading to improved patient health outcomes and decreased health care spending; ensure prescription drug pricing transparency by providing pricing updates on a regular basis, allowing pharmacies to plan their business operations more efficiently.

As our letter stated:

Patients should be free to select a health plan that best fits their personal health needs and allows them to utilize accessible pharmacies.

At the same time, pharmacists deserve the clarity necessary to plan their business operations more efficiently to help achieve a more effective Part D program for beneficiaries.

It is my hope that CMS will adopt these proposals in their final rule. However, again, I don't live on hope. I do not believe hope is a plan. So if they do not, I believe Congress needs to act, and we will continue to look for solutions there.

I believe that, further, these changes that I have talked about will further strengthen the Medicare Part D program and make it even more successful than it is today. There are cost issues among everything. Medicare Part D is no exception. But we have got to make it in a way in which our local independent pharmacies and the health care system in general is helped by these pharmacists who simply want to help the people who walk in their door.

They want to be able to give them treatment. They want to be able to help in the eligibility and access to the medication therapy management programs. They want to be able to talk to their patients and be able to help them get the best pricing and the best plans for them. And they don't want to be locked out from a system in which pharmacy benefit managers are basically keeping them out.

As I have shared from this floor before, if we don't make changes and we don't start looking to our independent pharmacies all across this country, the sad part is one of the independent pharmacies told me, if we can't get some help, if we can't be allowed to participate in the program, then we are looking forward to a time in which independent pharmacies may disappear from the business landscape and the medical community landscape.

For me, as I look and as I think about those who serve me and my family, I can't think of a place in the

Ninth District of Georgia or Hall County and the places that I serve or really anywhere else, Madam Speaker, in which our communities would be better off without these local men and women who run businesses, who get up every morning because they want to serve and they want to help.

When we look at that, is that not what America is about? Is that not what we were founded on, that pursuit of happiness, that getting up and doing something that fulfills us and that gives us the knowledge that we can go and do something that makes a difference? But, unfortunately, the position of our government in some of these programs right now is telling the independent pharmacist: you are not valued.

I will tell you this. This Member of Congress values them, and I believe there are a lot of other Members of this Congress that value them as well, and we are going to continue to fight hard for the changes that I spoke to tonight. As we look back on what we talked about, I do appreciate my friend from Georgia coming, and I do ask that all of our Members look at H.R. 4437, the Generic Drug Pricing Fairness Act, and I would encourage them to be original cosponsors and be a part of the bill that has just been dropped. We want them to be a part of this because this is a conversation that both sides of the aisle can have when it comes to dealing with our folks back home and all across this country.

Fairness is what it is all about.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CARTER (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for April 7, 8, and today on account of him attending the memorial services for the victims of the April 2 shooting at Fort Hood, Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and April 10 on account of official business in the district.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and April 10.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 10, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5328. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Extension of Pilot Program on Acquisition of Military-Purpose Nondevelopmental Items (DFARS Case 2014-D007) (RIN: 0750-AI28) received March 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5329. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Equal Access to Justice Act Implementation Rule [Docket No.: CFPB-2012-0020] (RIN: 3170-AA27) received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5330. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Dearborn County, IN, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8325] received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5331. A letter from the Program Specialist, LRA, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Amendments: Removal of Rules Transferred to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; OCC Address Change [Docket ID: OCC-2014-0005] (RIN: 1557-AD76) received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5332. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examinations Counsel, transmitting the Council's Annual Report for 2013; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5333. A letter from the Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Waivers of Rights and Claims in Settlement of a Charge or Lawsuit under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; Corrections (RIN: 3046-AA58) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5334. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Premium Rates; Payment of Premiums; Reducing Regulatory Burden (RIN: 1212-AB26) received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5335. A letter from the Attorney, Regulatory Affairs Divisions, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Safety Standard for Carriages and Strollers [Docket No.: CPSC-2013-0019] received March 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5336. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0408; FRL-9909-11-Region 3] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5337. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Thiram; Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0143;

FRL-9909-02] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5338. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Proquinazid; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0164; FRL-9903-11] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5339. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to Test Methods and Testing Regulations; Technical Amendment [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0114; FRL-9908-99-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AQ01) received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5340. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Metaflumizone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0258; FRL-9907-67] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5341. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs); Manufacturing (Import) Exemption for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) [EPA-HQ-RCRA-2013-0396; FRL-9908-98-OSWER] (RIN: 2050-AG79) received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5342. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Imazapic; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0110; FRL-9400-3] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5343. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0413; FRL-9909-10-Region 3] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5344. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0299; FRL-9909-09-Region 3] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5345. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; 10-Year FESOP Amendments [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0117; FRL-9907-50-Region 5] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5346. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Hawaii; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead

National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0681; FRL-9909-07-Region 9] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5347. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Ohio; "Infrastructure" SIP State Board Requirements for the 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2009-0805; FRL-9908-70-Region 5] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5348. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Imazapyr; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0957; FRL-9907-82] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5349. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Final Enforceable Consent Agreement and Testing Consent Order for Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (D4); Export Notification [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2012-0209; FRL-9907-36] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5350. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the National Emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5351. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of the Understandings Reached at the June 2013 Australia Group (AG) Plenary Meeting and the December 2012 AG Interseasonal Decisions [Docket No.: 131211999-3999-01] (RIN: 0694-AG04) received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5352. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Updated Statements of Legal Authority for the Export Administration Regulations [Docket No.: 140227183-4183-01] (RIN: 0694-AG07) received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5353. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on "Overseas Surplus Property" for disposal within fiscal years 2014 through 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5354. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5355. A letter from the Associate Director for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Syrian Sanctions Regulations received April 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5356. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the sixty-seventh Semiannual Report to Congress of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5357. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's 2013 Freedom of Information Act Litigation and Compliance Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5358. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — List of Fisheries for 2014 [Docket No.: 131017871-4175-02] (RIN: 0648-BD72) received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5359. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report detailing activities under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act during Fiscal Year 2013, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1997f; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5360. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a notification that funding under Title V, subsection 503(b)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, has exceeded \$5 million for the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3366-EM in the State of West Virginia; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5361. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0694; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-097-AD; Amendment 39-17775; AD 2014-05-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5362. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Georgetown, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0592; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASW-13] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5363. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Wheeling, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0955; Airspace Docket No. 13-AGL-36] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5364. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Arms, Ammunition and Defense Articles—Removal of Certain Defense Articles Currently on the U.S. Munitions Import List That No Longer Warrant Import Control Under the Arms Export Control Act (2011R-25P) [Docket No.: AFT-25I; AG Order No. 3423-2014] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5365. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Designation of Payor to Perform Acts Required of an Employer [TD 9662] (RIN: 1545-BJ31) re-

ceived March 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1378. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the "James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse"; with amendments (Rept. 113-406). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3786. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska; with an amendment (Rept. 113-407). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3998. A bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation; with an amendment (Rept. 113-408). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 4093. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to raise the prime and subcontract goals, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-409). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 4094. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to develop and implement a plan to improve the quality of data reported on bundled and consolidated contracts, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-410). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BENTIVOLIO:

H.R. 4431. A bill to provide that, if emergency unemployment compensation is extended, prospective benefits shall be subject to gradual reduction; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BLACKBURN, and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H.R. 4432. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to food produced from, containing, or consisting of a bioengineered organism, the labeling of natural foods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. MCKEON):

H.R. 4433. A bill to provide military assistance to Ukraine, to enhance the presence

and capabilities of the United States military in Europe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COOK, Mr. JONES, Mr. STIVERS, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. LATHAM, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. COSTA, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. COLE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. CAMP, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. HOLDING):

H.R. 4434. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to move United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) back to the continental United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MCKEON (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Washington) (both by request):

H.R. 4435. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETRI:

H.R. 4436. A bill to provide the legal framework necessary for the growth of innovative private financing options for students to fund postsecondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 4437. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for pharmacy benefits manager standards under the Medicare prescription drug program to further transparency of payment methodologies to pharmacies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. PAULSEN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. SCHOCK):

H.R. 4438. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 4439. A bill to ensure that minority-owned and women-owned businesses have a

full and fair opportunity to compete in covered rail projects and contracts, and that the Federal Government does not subsidize discrimination in covered rail projects; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H.R. 4440. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 4441. A bill to require pipelines regulated by the Secretary of Transportation to be made of steel that is produced in the United States and originates from iron ore and taconite mined and processed in the United States, for safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 4442. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require all political committees to notify the Federal Election Commission within 48 hours of receiving cumulative contributions of \$1,000 or more from any contributor during a calendar year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4443. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Vermilyea Avenue, in New York, New York, as the "Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. RIBBLE (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 4444. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to require that the Congressional Budget Office prepare long-term scoring estimates for reported bills and joint resolutions that could have significant economic and fiscal effects outside of the normal scoring periods; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

183. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Iowa, relative to House Resolution No. 102 requesting that the Congress enact a new food, farm, and jobs bill; to the Committee on Agriculture.

184. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Wyoming, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 requesting Congress to require the federal Environmental Protection Agency to respect the primacy of Wyoming

in developing guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

185. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Ohio, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 10 memorializing the Congress to seek the withdrawal of the Preventive Services Task Force recommendation against prostate-specific antigen-based screening for prostate cancer for men in all age groups; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

186. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 21 urging the President, Congress, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to take prompt action to reduce the processing time for veterans' disability benefit claims; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

187. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Washington, relative to Senate Joint Memorial 8007 asking the Congress and the President to sign legislation reforming the harbor maintenance tax; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

188. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Wyoming, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 1 requesting the Congress to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Ways and Means.

189. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois, relative to House Resolution No. 524 urging the Congress to pass H.R. 875; jointly to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BENTIVOLIO:

H.R. 4431.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

ARTICLE I, SECTION 9, CLAUSE 7

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 4432.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 4433.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress "to provide for the common Defence", "to raise and support Armies", and "to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces" as enumerated in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 4434.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section, 8 Clause 14

By Mr. McKEON:

H.R. 4435.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress “to provide for the common Defence”, “to raise and support Armies”, “to provide and maintain a Navy” and “to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces” as enumerated in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PETRI:

H.R. 4436.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 4437.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, as applied to healthcare.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 4438.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution: “The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises. . .”

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 4439.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4440.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 4441.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States).

By Mr. O’ROURKE:

H.R. 4442.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

April 9, 2014

Legislation introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. O’Rourke

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4443.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7, The Congress shall have Power * * * To establish Post Offices and post roads.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 4444.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 9, clause 7 of the United States Constitution which provides that, “No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law, and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.”

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. WOMACK and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 12: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 24: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 100: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 139: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 270: Mr. MORAN and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 312: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 352: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 389: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.

H.R. 498: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 543: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 578: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 647: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 794: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. BORDALLO, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 808: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 921: Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 963: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 988: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 1020: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1037: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1072: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 1074: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COBLE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 1078: Mr. ROHRBACHER.

H.R. 1129: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1199: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 1209: Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 1226: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 1286: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1466: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1507: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. REED, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1528: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1563: Mr. WALZ, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1734: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1755: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 1812: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1830: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 1852: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 1877: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1907: Mr. PETERS of California, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 2028: Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 2144: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 2146: Mr. RUSH, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 2305: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 2415: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 2452: Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. VARGAS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 2548: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 2663: Mr. KILMER and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 2672: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2692: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2741: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 2780: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 2805: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 2939: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WOODALL, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 2945: Mr. LOESBACH.

H.R. 3040: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 3112: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3135: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 3371: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 3374: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3377: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 3410: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 3461: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 3471: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3482: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 3505: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 3530: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 3544: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 3580: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 3610: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 3655: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3658: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. DENT, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LANCE, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 3712: Ms. KUSTER and Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 3717: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 3723: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3836: Mr. JONES, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 3852: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 3896: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 3963: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 3991: Mr. O’ROURKE.

H.R. 3992: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. ROHRBACHER.

H.R. 4006: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 4069: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 4079: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 4104: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 4120: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 4143: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 4157: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 4178: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 4188: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4217: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. VELA, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 4225: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 4234: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CHU, and Mr. O’ROURKE.

H.R. 4270: Mr. CAMPBELL.

H.R. 4284: Mr. THORNBERRY and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 4299: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia and Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.

H.R. 4304: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.R. 4305: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PERRY, and Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 4310: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 4317: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 4325: Mrs. CAPPS and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 4336: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4342: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 4347: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 4351: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4357: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GOMMERT, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 4364: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 4382: Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 4414: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 4415: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DINGELL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENYART, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIND, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr.

SCHNEIDER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VELA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H. Con. Res. 27: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H. Con. Res. 86: Mr. WESTMORELAND and Mr. COBLE.

H. Res. 169: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. CHU, Mr. COBLE, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H. Res. 190: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 417: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. HOLT.

H. Res. 418: Mr. LEWIS and Mr. NUGENT.

H. Res. 456: Mr. LONG.

H. Res. 503: Mr. ELLISON.

H. Res. 519: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 525: Mr. FARR, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H. Res. 527: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H. Res. 545: Mr. PETERSON.

H. Res. 549: Mr. CARTER.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

75. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors, New York, relative to Resolution No. 56 urging the Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to veterans who served on the inland waterways, in the territorial waters, and the airspace over the combat zone; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

76. Also, a petition of the National Federation of Republican Women, Virginia, relative to a resolution urging the federal government to expedite the resources necessary to finally secure United States borders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TROY SPRING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Troy Spring. Troy is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Troy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Troy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Troy has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and led his troop as the Patrol Leader. Troy has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Troy led a team in removing and replacing more than 300 feet of fencing at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri. The fenced area houses a Cars Ministry facility, which provides basic car maintenance for single mothers and low-income families.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Troy Spring for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CECIL
MOZEL BAILEY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Cecil Moxel Bailey who recently passed away on February 23 at the age of 91. Cecil was a man of God dedicated to his faith, family, and community. I consider myself fortunate to count Cecil and his family as personal friends and I know he will be greatly missed.

Cecil was born on November 11, 1922, in Grand Saline, Texas. The values of family and hard work were ingrained in Cecil from an early age as he grew up helping his parents, Harvey and Tennie Fisher Bailey, on the family farm. After graduating from Grand Saline High School, he received an offer to play football for Arlington State College. Cecil then decided to serve his country in the United States Army where he was stationed in Germany.

After returning home from war, Cecil and his wife Wanda raised their family together while Cecil worked as a warehouse superintendent

with A&P Grocery in Dallas and served as a Sunday school teacher and deacon at Urban Park Baptist Church.

Following the passing of his wife Wanda, Cecil returned to Grand Saline, where he later married again. He and his wife, Irene, then moved to Canton where they retired. His faith was important to him, and together, Cecil and Irene Bailey helped start Lakeside Baptist Church. Cecil continued to actively serve the Lord as the chairman of the deacons.

Family was always important to Cecil. The Baileys enjoyed many trips together, traveling to Israel, Hawaii, Alaska, New England, and Branson. Cecil also spent time growing large vegetable gardens, canning produce, and sharing what he grew with his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Cecil Bailey. He was a man who fully believed in the values of faith, family, and community. I believe everyone can benefit from his example and the life he lived.

TRIBUTE TO ASHLEY JARED

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Ashley Jared of the Iowa Finance Authority in Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, 40 up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Ashley in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Jared for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ashley on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

RECOGNIZING KENT HANCE FOR HIS DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF TEXAS AND TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend of mine, a great friend of Texas, and one of the finest examples of a public servant: Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance. In his nearly 8 years as head of Texas Tech, Chancellor Hance has become a staple in the community and a beloved figure on campus.

Famous for knowing every Texas mascot, a trait that he and I share, students are often greeted by him with a fist bump and a quiz on high school mascots while on their way to class. From the Itasca Wampus Cats to the Hamlin Pied Pipers, there's not a student on campus he hasn't won over with his down-to-earth demeanor and palpable dedication to the students.

Under Chancellor Hance's leadership, Texas Tech has repeatedly broken its enrollment records for the last 5 years, with more than 33,000 enrolled in the fall of 2013. The university has grown, expanded, and renovated, putting it on track to reach the university's milestone goal of 40,000 students by 2020. With the incredible achievement of not only reaching, but surpassing the \$1 billion goal during the most ambitious fundraising effort ever undertaken by Texas Tech, Chancellor Hance has certainly set the stage for success in Lubbock, TX. His quick wit, famous stories and steadfast dedication to his alma mater will certainly be missed upon his retirement.

I wish my friend Kent Hance the best of luck in his next endeavor and thank him for the tremendous legacy he is still creating. From his early days in Texas politics, to his service in the U.S. Congress, to his successful law firm, Chancellor Hance makes a difference everywhere he goes. He lives by his own motto to "dream no little dreams," and I look forward to seeing what his dreams have in store for him, and for us, next.

A TRIBUTE TO BRENDA LEVIN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brenda Levin of Los Angeles, upon receiving the 2014 Rose Award from the Los Angeles Parks Foundation. The Rose Award

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

is being given to Ms. Levin for her extraordinary contributions to the quality of life in Los Angeles.

Ms. Levin received her education in graphic design at Carnegie Mellon and New York Universities and in architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Born in New York, Ms. Levin moved to Los Angeles in 1976 and worked for architect John Lautner for 2 years. Ms. Levin's first project in Los Angeles with the firm Group Arcon was renovation of the James Oviatt building. She then established her own architecture and urban planning firm, Levin & Associates Architects, in Los Angeles in the year 1980.

In the 1980s, Ms. Levin connected with the urban revitalization pioneers, who successfully revived segments of the city that had been disregarded. Ms. Levin is known for revitalizing Los Angeles's urban, historic, and cultural forum and pioneering in the preservation of significant historical landmarks. Noteworthy examples of her historic preservation and adaptive re-use work on Los Angeles's most valued icons include: the Bradbury Building, Grand Central Market, Wilton Theater, Los Angeles City Hall, and Griffith Observatory.

Ms. Levin's portfolio also incorporates designing new institutional, commercial, and multifamily housing facilities. In addition, she has been involved in the design of cultural buildings such as: the Boone Gallery at the Huntington Library, National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, the Autry National Center and Southwest Museums. More recent projects include Dodger Stadium, Wilshire Boulevard Temple, the Hercules Campus at Playa Vista, and Los Angeles County's Ford Amphitheatre.

Ms. Levin's exceptional work has been recognized with numerous awards. She is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and the AIA/Los Angeles selected her recipient of the 2010 Gold Metal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual. A significant virtue of Ms. Levin's work has been the preservation of historical sites for generations to come.

I hereby ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring Brenda Levin for her exemplary service and commitment to the Los Angeles community.

TRIBUTE TO JASON KIESAU

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jason Kiesau of Merit Resources in Urbandale, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, 40 up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community

involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jason in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Kiesau for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jason on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM AT THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is critical that we continue to improve access for women and minorities to jobs and contract opportunities in the field of transportation.

As the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, I am introducing legislation today establishing a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program at the Federal Railroad Administration so that women and minority owned businesses will be guaranteed participation in any new passenger and high speed rail initiatives.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has been the leader in ensuring minority and women owned participation in transportation projects, advocating for a reasonable 10% set aside for businesses that often struggle to compete on an uneven playing field with larger firms. Currently, each of the other modes of transportation have a successful DBE program, and it is critical that the Federal Railroad Administration develop a program for these same businesses.

The Congressional Black Caucus has made strengthening Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs at the Department of Transportation a top priority, and will continue to push to ensure that these worthy goals are being met.

This legislation will keep the American Dream alive for many women and minority owned companies and I encourage its swift passage and implementation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LUZERNE COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AND PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the men and women of

Luzerne County Emergency Responders and Public Safety Telecommunicators, who on April 12, 2014 will hold a Public Safety Open House to celebrate National County Government Month and National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Emergencies that require police, fire, or emergency medical services can occur at any time. When an emergency occurs, the prompt response of police officers, firefighters, and paramedics is critical to saving lives and protecting homes. The safety and success of our police officers and firefighters depends upon the quality and accuracy of information provided through the Luzerne County 911 communications center.

Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services. They serve as the vital link for our police officers and firefighters by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them with essential situation information, and insuring their safety. Public Safety Telecommunicators of Luzerne County 911 play a substantial role in fighting crime, suppressing fires, and ensuring patients receive necessary and timely treatment. These dispatchers exhibit compassion, understanding, and professionalism in performing this crucial public service.

I am honored to recognize these exceptional men and women for their distinguished service to their fellow citizens. Their diligence and professionalism keeps our community and our loved ones safe, and I thank them for all their work to protect Luzerne County.

HONORING THE GRANDVIEW C-4 SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the extraordinary accomplishments of the Grandview C-4 School District located in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. The contributions this institution has made to the community are beyond measure. And more importantly, to celebrate the positive differences made by the talented, dedicated, and hard-working people who are now, and have been in years past, a part of this school system.

In an April 9, 1914, election, Grandview, High Grove, Maple Ridge, and Mastin school districts were consolidated into the Grandview School District. In the early 1950s, two more school districts, including Martin City, became part of Consolidated School District No. 4 or Grandview C-4 School District.

Through the years, district enrollment has grown from 523 students in 1948, to its current enrollment of more than 4,200 students. In 2013-2014, the district had the highest percentage increase in enrollment of any school on the Missouri side of the Kansas City area. The district has one high school, one middle school, one K-8 school, four elementary schools, an early childhood center, and an alternative school.

In 2013, the Grandview C-4 School District was recognized as one of the top performing

districts in the state, according to final Annual Performance Report (APR) data released by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Grandview C-4 School District earned "Accredited with Distinction" status based on the current fifth cycle Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP 5) scoring guide, with a district-wide score of 93.6 percent.

On April 9th the district will recognize its 100th anniversary. Historic photos spanning the district's 100 year history will be displayed at several public places throughout the Grandview and South Kansas City area. More celebrations are planned throughout the year—all of them richly deserved.

For 100 years, the Grandview C-4 School District has been the fabric of the community. Considering the challenges many of our families face, many parents take pride in the education their children get from the C-4. Many of these same parents, who now send their children to C-4, were themselves students at C-4 in the past, as their parents were as well. They demonstrate this pride not just year after year, but generation after generation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Grandview C-4 School District today. Grandview is a top-tier school district, comparable to the most elite of districts. We have a glorious past and look forward to an exciting future.

HONORING SPENCER DAUGHERTY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Daugherty. Spencer is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Spencer has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Spencer installed landscaping for the Northland Therapeutic Riding Center in Holt, Missouri, which provides equine activities for people with special needs of all ages and abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Spencer Daugherty for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

VISITORS FROM THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF SHISHMAREF, ALASKA COME TO CONGRESS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I recently had two very special visitors come to my office from the Native Village of Shishmaref, Alaska. Mr. Johnson Eningowk and Richard Kuzuguk made the long journey from Alaska to Washington, DC, to educate and inform Members of Congress about the real life challenges to their families and community from climate change, as well as the endless pressure of oil companies seeking offshore oil production.

Living on an island in the Chukchi Sea that is three miles long and one-half mile wide, Mr. Eningowk and Mr. Kuzuguk want to continue to practice their traditional way of life—fishing, hunting, gathering and sustaining a healthy relationship with the natural resources they have traditionally depended upon for generations. They want to share this way of life with their community's children and future generations.

Unfortunately, the effects of climate change are changing their traditional way of life, including raising real concerns about whether their home will survive erosion and a rising sea. Oil companies are pressuring for more leasing opportunities and a greater presence both on land and in the coastal waters of Alaska. Both climate change and oil exploration have the potential to devastate Native Alaskan fishing and hunting grounds.

It takes courage for two men to travel far from home to tell their story and ask for help. I want to thank Mr. Eningowk and Mr. Kuzuguk for coming to Washington and telling Congress their story. Native Alaskans have a voice that must be heard as Congress debates issues that will directly affect their lives, livelihoods, and future generations.

The members of the Native Village of Shishmaref Council passed a resolution last year that I would like to submit. Their call for a moratorium on new oil and gas leases in the Arctic Ocean should be heeded. Congress and the Executive Branch need to consult and dialogue directly with Native Alaskans as these policies are being discussed and decided. The future of their way of life is at stake.

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE ARCTIC OCEAN TO MAINTAIN ITS BIODIVERSITY FOR THE FOOD SECURITY, TRIBAL HEALTH, AND CULTURAL IDENTITY OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, RESOLUTION No. 13-05

Whereas, Alaska's indigenous people are inextricably linked to the land and sea, depending on the natural world for our food security, community well-being, and cultural identity;

Whereas, the Arctic Ocean and surrounding ecosystem have sustained Arctic indigenous peoples for thousands of years;

Whereas, the Arctic Ocean has been recognized through science and traditional knowledge as one of the most biologically important places on Earth;

Whereas, the Arctic Ocean is home to whales, seals, walrus, and other migratory animals that many Alaskan Tribes depend on for their food security;

Whereas, many animals and fish that Tribes across Alaska depend on for their food security migrate to and from the Arctic each year;

Whereas, many Tribes along the Arctic coast continue to share and trade traditional foods from the Arctic Ocean with other indigenous communities;

Whereas, food security is a basic human right recognized by the United Nations and affirmed by the United States in the International Covenant of Civil and Political rights;

Whereas, climate change is causing severe coastal erosion, loss of sea ice, ocean acidification, and changes to the migratory animals we depend on for our food security;

Whereas, the loss of sea ice and other impacts from climate change are having an impact on our ability to hunt and provide for our families;

Whereas, increased shipping and vessel traffic through Arctic waterways, and the threat of offshore drilling and exploration, puts additional impacts on the ocean and coastal communities;

Whereas, the United States government and other Arctic Nations are moving forward with plans to make further develop the Arctic Ocean;

Whereas, Alaska's indigenous Tribes must stand together to support a vision for the Arctic that protects our way of life and puts our people first;

Whereas, Tribes must be at the forefront of planning for the future of the Arctic ecosystem;

Whereas, the traditional knowledge and wisdom of the elders, passed down through generations, is invaluable for understanding the Arctic ecosystem and best management practices; now therefore be it

Resolved, That a comprehensive and scientifically proven mitigation and monitoring plan must be developed to provide oversight to Arctic industrial activities that could impact our food security, way of life, and the health of our peoples, and be it further

Resolved, That the United States should not issue any new oil and gas leases in the Arctic Ocean until comprehensive and scientifically proven plan is in place to determine the impacts, and whether development can be done without jeopardizing the safety of nearby villages, food security, and the migratory animals that Tribes depend on, and be it

Resolved, That the United States must consult with and engage in a process with Tribes to determine appropriate deferral areas and other protective measures for the important cultural, biological, and subsistence use areas of the Arctic Ocean ecosystem to ensure our food security, cultural identity, and protect our way of life.

TRIBUTE TO BRAD MAGG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Brad Magg, owner of Goldie's Ice Cream Shop and Magg Family Catering, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify

a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, 40 up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brad in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Magg for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Brad on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

TRIBUTE TO COACH ANDREW
TRENKEL AND THE MAINE SOUTH
HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION
TEAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Coach Trenkle and the Maine South High School Constitution Team for their achievement in winning the Illinois State Title of the "We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution" competition. This fantastic accomplishment marks the twenty-second time in twenty-three years that Maine South's team has won the title.

The "We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution" program, sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, promotes civic competence and responsibility through course study and mock Congressional hearings. Students study the fundamentals of our Constitutional Democracy and learn applied critical thinking, debate, and teamwork. The "We the People" program encourages civic engagement and promotes a next generation of leaders, a mission that the Maine South team accepted and achieved.

Congratulations to all the members of the 2013–2014 Maine South Constitution team: Coach Andrew Trenkle, Hope Allchin, Peter Barac, Meg Boyce, Molly Butler, Alex Campbell, Ryan Curry, Ryan Dysart, Max Edsey, Lily Elderkin, Brendan Faley, Hannah Ferstel, Jenna Galuska, Danielle Gomez, Nicole Hassman, Jordan Helms, Brain Johnson, Kian Khalili, Frank Lally, Cara Laskowski, Taylor Martell, Emilie McGuire, Katherine Miles, Hayley Miller, Peter Mocarski, James Mroz, Madeline Schulze, Samantha Smart, Lauren Smith, Amanda Sremac, and Amanda Svachula.

On behalf of the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois, I congratulate you on your success, and wish you the best of luck in the national competition.

RECOGNIZING THE GREATER
PHILADELPHIA FALUN DAFA AS-
SOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we recognize the Greater Philadelphia Falun Dafa Association for its contribution to the advancement of the arts in the Philadelphia region, notably its presentation of the Shen Yun Performing Arts program at the Merriam Theater in Philadelphia, April 25th through April 27th. This outstanding dance and music company promotes traditional Chinese culture and heritage in the United States and around the world. Shen Yun has graced many of the world's greatest stages, performing in more than 100 cities on five continents. Its brilliant productions feature classical, ethnic and folk dance, and music showcasing 5,000 years of civilization and the wisdom of Chinese legends. Therefore, we express our appreciation to the Greater Philadelphia Falun Dafa Association for bringing this company of performers to our area. In so doing, a significant contribution is being made to arts and culture in the Philadelphia region.

HONORING DONALD ALLEN
KANDBINDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Donald Allen Kandlbinder. Donald is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Donald has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Donald has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Donald has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and led his troop as the Quartermaster. Donald has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Donald cleaned and stained a wooden pathway and eight wooden benches in the outdoor recess area at Liberty Early Childhood Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Donald also led his troop in building 28 plexiglass iPad easels for the preschool center.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Donald Allen Kandlbinder for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
MS. INERIA ELIZABETH HANLEY
HUDNELL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Ineria Elizabeth Hanley Hudnell of West Palm Beach, Florida. Ms. Hudnell is the much loved and widely respected historian and archivist of West Palm Beach's black community. A retired schoolteacher, Ms. Hudnell has spent more than three decades collecting memorabilia, news stories, and photographs of West Palm Beach's often under-reported black history.

On April 22, Ms. Hudnell will receive the Judge James R. Knott Award, the highest honor presented by the Historical Society of Palm Beach County. This remarkable lady, a nonagenarian, hasn't slowed down, continuing to collect and curate information about the important events, awards and life in general of African Americans in West Palm Beach. I am delighted that she is a resident of my Congressional district, and am proud to recognize her on this day.

TRIBUTE TO JESSE LINEBAUGH

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jesse Linebaugh of Faegre Baker Daniels in Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, 40 up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jesse in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Linebaugh for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jesse on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF LOCAL 58 OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as the members and leadership of Local 58 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) gather to celebrate the centennial of their organization, I congratulate them on their many achievements and accomplishments.

As America approached the Twentieth Century, workers in an increasingly industrialized society saw the need to come together to promote safe working conditions, fair pay and strong professional operating standards—a labor movement that gave rise to the IBEW to protect electrical workers. From the beginning of the IBEW's existence, Detroit has had a strong membership, which resulted in the creation of Local 58 in 1914. Under its first President, Ed Ismond, the members of Local 58 worked diligently to realize increases in pay that better reflected the danger of their profession, increased flexibility in project design to ensure higher safety standards, and the creation of many workplace practices that continue to be the standard today. Among those practices are the eight hour workday, the forty hour work week, established rates of pay and established pay schedules.

At the turn of the century in late 1800s, advancements in manufacturing made it possible to better harness the power of electricity—events which put the members of Local 58 at the center of major events in our nation's history. With the manufacturing boom in Detroit, members of Local 58 put their skills to work in the construction of structures that have become iconic of the economic might of our country: structures like the Ambassador Bridge, Masonic Temple, Penobscot Building and Michigan Central Station. And later, when America entered World War II, 200 members of Local 58 answered the call to serve our nation overseas and many more of its members served our nation in the Arsenal of Democracy, producing equipment that was vital to our success.

In the later decades of the 1900s, Local 58 continued in its mission to push for more effective workplace protections, seeking higher standards for the conditions allowed by contractors. As part of this effort, Local 58, the IBEW and their brothers and sisters in the labor movement became more politically active—directly engaging their legislative officials to discuss the importance of workplace safety.

Throughout its history, Local 58 and the IBEW, like many of their labor movement partners in other industries, have shown a dedication to training and continuing education for their members. Woven into the very fabric of Local 58, its apprenticeship training program can be traced back to 1923. Originally operated in partnership with Detroit Public Schools, the original trade school was located at Sixth and Abbott in Detroit. After moving to several

locations over the next eighty years, Local 58 opened a 50,000 square foot training facility in Warren, with ten classrooms, three hands-on shop areas and many state-of-the-art labs, which supports nearly 240 apprentices. In addition to the apprenticeship programs, the center also supports the ongoing education of Local 58's members—more than 4,700 strong.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor that I am able to rise to recognize the incredible accomplishments of the men and women of Local 58 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. As masters of electricity, from the iconic skyline of Detroit to the current standards enjoyed by the American workforce at large, the members of Local 58 have been deeply involved in shaping the United States in the Twentieth Century. Their achievements over the last 100 years are truly remarkable and I am proud to continue standing in solidarity with them and their brothers and sisters in the labor movement to ensure that the future of our nation continues to be bright for all Americans.

HONORING THE INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE SWIM TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2014 NJCCA SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Indian River State College swim team for winning yet another title for both the men's and women's teams during the 2014 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCCA) Swimming and Diving Championships. These championships were hosted by the IRSC in Fort Pierce from March 5 through March 8.

In a competition against sixteen other college swim teams from across the country, the IRSC Swimming and Diving men's team succeeded in extending their amazing winning streak to 40 consecutive swimming titles, the longest unbroken championship winning streak in any sport at the collegiate level in the country. In an equal display of strength and sportsmanship, the women's team proudly brought home their 36nd title.

These young men and women have demonstrated yet again that anything is possible through hard work, determination and a positive attitude. Their impressive accomplishments and unique sense of resilience inspire every single one of us, their fellow students, and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the achievements of these remarkable individuals serve as an example that sports can have an outstandingly positive impact on our youth as they prepare to face the challenges of today's society. For this very reason, it is my honor to recognize these young athletes here today.

TRIBUTE TO ANDY LASHIER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Andy Lashier of Laser Resources in Urbandale, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, 40 up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Andy in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Lashier for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Andy on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS ACT OF 2014

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today to expand access to a new and innovative private financing option to help students pay for postsecondary education.

The bill, entitled the Investing in Student Success Act, would create a legal framework where individuals or organizations can provide students with money for school in exchange for the student agreeing to make payments linked to their income for a set period of time after graduation. Students would have no loan balance to repay, so some students might end up paying less than the amount given to them and others more. These plans would serve as an alternative to student loans.

This concept is extremely innovative in its approach to financing college. Far too many students struggle to obtain enough financing through traditional sources to pay for college, and many others are saddled with unaffordable payments after graduation. These plans would help all students get the financing they need—including students from disadvantaged backgrounds—but without the anxiety that comes with traditional loans.

These ideas were originally proposed by Milton Friedman and were recently discussed in a report published by the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). One of the recommendations of the report was for Congress to create

a legal framework that would provide investors with clarity regarding tax treatment, consumer disclosures, and other relevant aspects of these contracts. While there are a few small companies operating in this market, the report argues that the lack of legal clarity has prevented the growth of these financing options on a wide scale.

The AEI report also highlights the potential for these financing tools to help address the issue of college costs. It argues that investors will likely offer more generous terms to students for higher quality institutions and programs or for fields that are in high demand in the workforce. Therefore, by helping students navigate to programs that will set them up for success, these tools would likely put pressure on institutions to cut costs and improve quality.

Mr. Speaker, as some form of postsecondary education becomes increasingly essential to success in today's economy, we should ensure that students have an array of beneficial tools to help them finance their studies. I hope that my colleagues will join me in helping to make this new and innovative financing option available to them.

TRIBUTE TO MARLAN BOURNS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marlan Bourns, who passed away on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. Marlan was a pillar of the community in River-side County and he will be deeply missed.

Marlan was born May 28, 1920, not far from Milford, Michigan, to Frank and Bernice Bourns and was raised from humble beginnings. He grew up in the same home his mother was raised in, which stood on 40 acres of farmland. Marlan was enrolled in the local school, Picket School, which only consisted of one room, but provided him with a quality education. While growing up, Marlan took on many jobs on the farm including counting sheep, collecting eggs from the hen coup, and bringing in water from the well. Marlan also developed an interest in the technical fields and started reading the magazine Popular Mechanics at a young age.

This interest quickly manifested itself into a passion and a hobby. Marlan took the technical knowledge he gained through reading and began building things by himself. He built a shooting gallery to practice his BB gun shot, a small working submarine, and eventually two working automobiles that could fit full-sized adults. Marlan also took up an interest in musical performance, and developed a knack for playing the saxophone during his high school years. He also honed his skills playing the clarinet and piano and created both a band and a lucrative business by playing his instruments at weddings. Soon, Marlan would go on to graduate high school with a perfect record and earned a spot at the University of Michigan where he would graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Physics and a lifetime membership with the Phi Beta Kappa Academic

Honor Society. Throughout his time in high school and as an undergraduate, Marlan's interest in technology was manifested during his shop classes and he was known for being able to convert innovative ideas into hardware.

Marlan also met the love of his life, Rosemary, during his time at the University of Michigan, whom he would marry in her parent's living room shortly after she graduated from the same university in 1947. After being selected for a top secret U.S. Navy program at the California Institute of Technology, which was instrumental in the development of the Manhattan Project, Marlan and his new bride made the cross-country trek to California with the help of her parents. The couple purchased an older home in Altadena, California, and started Bourns Laboratories, which recently celebrated its 65th Anniversary, in their single car garage.

Rosemary ran the business side of the operation and Marlan was the innovator, and together, they made an unstoppable team. The Bourns family worked diligently making and testing products with what little resources they had. With the creation of one successful prototype, made out of a Whitman's candy box, they earned a massive contract with Consolidated Vultee in San Diego for many of their projects including linear motion potentiometers, vane transducers, accelerometers and bourdon tube pressure transducers. Though the company would rapidly grow over the coming years, Rosemary and Marlan remained very personally involved in its development and made sure to establish relationships with their employees. They built manufacturing plants for their products all over the world, and found a passion for traveling as they regularly visited them.

Marlan, who holds over 100 patents to his name, was often honored throughout his career for his significant contributions to growth of the electronic components industry. He was honored as the "Fellow of the Bourns College of Engineering" by the college he helped establish at University of California, Riverside. He and Rosemary were also honored as Sensors Magazine's 1996 Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010 and as Cal State University, San Bernardino's recipients of the Spirit of the Entrepreneur Award and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Marlan is survived by his son Gordon; daughters Linda Hill, Anita Macbeth and Denise Moyles; 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren who will fondly remember his sense of humor and compassion for others.

Marlan will always be remembered for his incredible contributions to business, his work ethic, generosity, and love of family. His dedication to his work and community is a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Marlan's family and friends; although Marlan may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,567,074,702,635.03. We've added \$6,940,197,653,721.95 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE REAMES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Wayne Reames of Belin McCormick in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, 40 up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Wayne in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Reames for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Wayne on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING HENRY GORDON PHILIP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Henry Gordon Philip. Hank is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hank has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hank has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hank has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Hank has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hank built three hardwood benches that were placed in the vestibule of the Church of the Annunciation in Kearney, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Henry Gordon Philip for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING CLAUDIA
NEIDHARDT

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Claudia Neidhardt for her 17 years working in my district office and serving the people of the Sixth District of Massachusetts.

Claudia, a longtime resident of Newburyport, began working in my District office just months after I was first elected to Congress in 1997. For nearly two decades she has been the voice constituents have come to trust when they call my office seeking assistance.

Not only has Claudia served as the face of the office, she has assisted hundreds of constituents in applying for admission to military academies, obtaining passports and travel documentation, and navigating the intricacies of any number of government agencies. She has organized dozens of Congressional Art Competitions and stood with young constituents whose artwork has been chosen to hang in the halls of Congress each year.

Claudia's kindness and compassion toward the constituents of the Sixth District as well as her colleagues has truly made her the glue of my district office.

Claudia's commitment to youth is of special note. She has created a positive, welcoming environment for the many young women and men who have worked with us through the years, demonstrating that public service is indeed an honorable profession. When I have the pleasure of running into our former interns, or those who have sought to serve our nation while continuing their education at one of our service academies, they often ask about Claudia and express how much they appreciate her care and personal attention to them.

I wish Claudia all the best as she embarks on a new chapter in her life alongside her husband Fred, their two children, Brian and Meg, and her grandchildren.

CONGRATULATING JOSEPH A.
COGNITORE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Joseph A. Cognitore, Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Fischer-Hewins Post 6249 in Rocky Point, New York. Joe is a humble man of quiet leadership and vision who inspires many to recognize veterans and their invaluable service to our country. On April 9, Joe will be honored as Rocky Point Lions Club "Man of the Year", an accolade that recognizes his military service and his tireless home front efforts in assisting his fellow veterans, as well as his commitment to the needs of the Rocky Point community.

Joe was a U.S. Army Platoon Sergeant who served with honor in Vietnam from 1969 to 1971. His service earned him a Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge for his valor on the battlefield. After his discharge from the Army, Joe worked at the Coca Cola bottling plant in Suffolk County for 38 years, where he eventually became branch manager.

Following a legacy of military service and VFW membership, Joe joined the Farmingdale Post where his father served as Chaplain and his uncle as Commander. However, it was upon joining the Rocky Point Post in 1991 that he truly found his calling. In 1994, Joe became Commander of the Post, the position he currently holds. His leadership has resulted in increased membership, extensive outreach, and assistance to those in need, especially Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. For more than a decade, the Rocky Point VFW Post has raised funds to send weekly care packages to troops overseas.

Joe was also instrumental to the Diamond in the Pines 9/11 memorial project in Coram, raising more than \$40,000. Together with the hard work of the Post and the Town of Brookhaven, the memorial was completed in six months and dedicated on September 4, 2011.

Recently, Joe and other veteran leaders joined forces with Long Island Home Builders Care in their "Building New Homes for Returning Veterans" program, an affordable housing initiative that provides new homes to returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families. Together with municipalities, private companies, volunteers, and many others, this collaborative effort resulted in the building of a new six-home subdivision named Veterans' Way. Just before Christmas Day 2013, a proud community watched six veterans, their wives, and their young children receive the keys to their new homes. In order to support this worthy cause, the Rocky Point VFW Post sponsors an annual Wounded Warrior Golf Outing. The proceeds benefit Long Island Home Builders Care, the Wounded Warrior Project, and honors the death of U.S. Army Sgt. Jonathan Keller, a 1998 Shoreham-Wading River High School graduate who died in 2009 of injuries he received while serving in Afghanistan.

Joe also coordinates the VFW Post's Youth Council events, which connect young people

with veterans to teach the importance of service and good citizenship. He is also an active member of the Rocky Point Senior Center, where he co-founded a program for senior citizen veterans.

On behalf of the First Congressional District, I rise today to recognize a man who has spent his life recognizing others; a respected leader whose commitment to service is unyielding. I am proud to call Joe Cognitore my constituent and prouder to call him my friend.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY RANALLO

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Anthony Ranallo of Merrill Lynch in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, 40 up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Anthony in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Ranallo for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Anthony on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

GIRLS OF STEEL ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Girls of Steel robotics team on winning the Engineering Inspiration Award at the 2014 Pittsburgh Regional F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition.

This is the third year in a row in which they have won this prestigious award, which goes to the team that does the most to increase appreciation for engineering in its community. I think that the remarkable accomplishment of winning this award three years running speaks volumes about the dedication these young women have to engineering as well as their considerable talent.

The Girls of Steel also won the Entrepreneurship Award at both the Buckeye Regional

and the Greater Pittsburgh Regional competitions. This award recognizes a team that developed the best business plan to identify, manage, and accomplish its objectives.

F.I.R.S.T., which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is an organization dedicated to engaging our students in the vital fields of science, technology, math, and engineering (STEM). Hundreds of thousands of students gain practical, team-based engineering experiences through F.I.R.S.T. every year.

As a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I believe competitions like these are incredible tools for helping our young people explore potential careers in STEM. I've witnessed firsthand the incredible economic growth and development that these fields can bring in my home district, and I strongly believe that these fields are crucial to our Nation's future prosperity. For encouraging young people in these pursuits, I want to commend organizations like F.I.R.S.T. for their important work. The F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition allows students to apply creativity and critical thinking in the demanding and competitive field of robotics, all while instilling a strong sense of pride in participants.

Thirty-nine young women from high schools located in and around the Pittsburgh area are members of this year's Girls of Steel, and in recognition of their hard work, intelligence, and teamwork, I would like to mention each of these inspiring ladies by name. They are Isabella Arnone, Sonia Appasamy, Arushi Bandi, Elizabeth Bianchini, Grace Brueggman, Abbey Ceraso, Rachel Cherian, Claudia Contreras, Laurel Donatelli, Samantha Eppinger, Clarisa Espinoza-Delgado, Mackenzie Ferris, Naoka Gunawardena, Heather Harrington, Rosanne Harrison, Sydney Hnat, Shoko Kanemoto, Campbell Konrad, Elizabeth Kysel, Jisue Lee, Sylvia Lee, Sophia Lee, Cheyenne Meyers, Gigi Nieson, Anne Kailin Northam, Maddie Oppelt, Simran Parwani, Korryn Resetar, Rachel Round, Kaitlyn Schaffer, Kriti Shah, Grace Schneider, Katie Shreve, Makalya Shreve, Lynn Urbina, Molly Urbina, Becca Volk, Alayna Yates, and Natalie Young.

I would also like to mention that two of the Girls of Steel, Simran Parwani of Fox Chapel High School and Sylvie Lee from Shady Side Academy, were awarded the prestigious F.I.R.S.T. Dean's List Award. This award highlights and celebrates exemplary student leaders who demonstrate and embody F.I.R.S.T.'s ideals.

Additionally, I want to convey my sincere appreciation to the staff of Carnegie Mellon University's Field Robotics Center, who have mentored the Girls of Steel since 2010. Because of their efforts, more young women can experience real-world technological challenges and learn from some of the Nation's best at solving these problems. These experiences will certainly benefit these young women in the future.

I look forward to hearing about their progress as they advance to the F.I.R.S.T. Championship in St. Louis—the final and largest competition of its kind. This will be their fourth trip in four years and they will be competing against top teams from all over the world. I congratulate the Girls of Steel and wish them all continued success in their academic and professional endeavors.

HONORING EDYTH ANN WORTHY

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate the life and career of Edyth Ann Worthy on the occasion of her 88th birthday. On April 10, 2014, hundreds of friends and former students will gather for an appreciation reception at the Old Country Store in Jackson, Tennessee to celebrate Ms. Worthy's 37 years in education.

Edyth Ann Worthy was born and raised in Lenoir City, Tennessee and graduated with education degrees from both Tennessee Tech and George Peabody University. After two years with Tullahoma High School, Ms. Worthy moved to West Tennessee to become the physical education teacher and head girls' basketball coach at Jackson High School.

During her 35 years with the Jackson-Madison County School System, Ms. Worthy coached basketball, sponsored the cheerleaders and the Tri-Hi-Y club, was the director for the YMCA day camp, and served as the official hostess for the TSSAA Girls State Basketball Tournament held in Jackson during the 1960's and 1970's. For all of her efforts and dedication for youth sports, Ms. Worthy received the Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame Distinguished Service Award in 1995.

Even after her official retirement, Ms. Worthy's love for education continued as she worked part-time at Union University's Music Department. For her unwavering devotion to education, sports, and the children of Jackson-Madison County, Ms. Worthy certainly deserves the appreciation and recognition from her students, friends, and our whole community. On behalf of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Edyth Ann Worthy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARBONDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Carbondale Public Library, which will celebrate its 140th anniversary on May 9, 2014. The library was founded in the winter of 1873 by the Principal of Schools, E. Francis, and incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth in 1875. In 1983, it became part of the Library System managed by Lackawanna County. In 1996, the Carbondale Public Library moved into a new facility next to Carbondale City Hall.

Today, the library is an active learning hub in the community—featuring events and educational workshops—and a fantastic resource for those interested in local history and the genealogy of Carbondale residents. The Alice Ahern Lynady Room is home to a collection of microfilms containing local periodicals from as

early as the 1830s and Carbondale directories dating back to 1900. The library's wide-ranging collection also includes cemetery records, photographic histories, books and documentaries about Carbondale and the surrounding regions, and subscriptions to genealogy software services.

It is an honor to commemorate such a valuable and long-standing institution like the Carbondale Public Library. This invaluable resource brings the Carbondale community together to learn and explore. I hope that it continues this tradition of scholasticism and unity throughout the 21st Century.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE PHAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Anne Pham of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, 40 up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Anne in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Pham for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Anne on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING KALEB BEHEE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kaleb Behee. Kaleb is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kaleb has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kaleb has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kaleb

has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Kaleb built a set of heavy-duty tables for the Blue Springs High School Golden Regiment Marching Band in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kaleb Behee for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW MCKINNEY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Matthew McKinney of Brown Winick in Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, 40 up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Matthew in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. McKinney for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Matthew on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MARIE WOLBACH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman and devoted leader in our community who has inspired numerous girls to strive for success and excel in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics STEM. Marie Wolbach cares deeply about ensuring that girls have the educational tools they need, and through the sheer force of her knowledge, determination, advocacy, participation, and persuasive talents, she created a unique educational opportunity for them.

Marie Wolbach is a retired medical sociologist and recognizes the critical need for girls to learn about science, technology, engineering,

and mathematics. She founded Tech Trek in 1998 with the help of an American Association of University Women (AAUW) Community Action Grant. Tech Trek is a weeklong science, technology, engineering, and mathematics summer camp for underserved rising eighth-grade girls, offering them an opportunity to enter a world that empowers and encourages them to think about themselves as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and computer specialists. Since Tech Trek began on the campus of Stanford University, it has grown to ten camps on eight college campuses in California, and in 2013, it expanded nationally to seven other states where it has already positively impacted the lives of the girls who attended. Because of Marie Wolbach's vision, Tech Trek graduates are breaking barriers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, with surveys demonstrating that 96 percent of their former participants are now in college, and 54 percent are STEM majors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary woman as she is honored with the "Unsung Heroes" Jefferson Award. KPIX 5 nominated her for this prestigious award which she has earned and richly deserves. Marie Wolbach's unparalleled vision for a better future for girls strengthens our nation immeasurably and makes her a national treasure. It is a high privilege to represent Marie Wolbach, and call her my friend.

RECOGNIZING HYUNDAI HOPE ON WHEELS CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIGHTING PEDIATRIC CANCER

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hyundai Hope On Wheels, a leading contributor to pediatric cancer research nationwide, on celebrating its 16th year in the fight against childhood cancer.

Hope On Wheels has one wish—and it is a wish I share: to end childhood cancer.

Among the largest private funders of cancer research in the United States, Hyundai Hope On Wheels is at the forefront with its singular and steadfast mission of eradicating childhood cancer.

Each year, approximately 15,000 parents will hear the words, "Your child has cancer." Even today, based on average statistics, more than 40 children are expected to be diagnosed with cancer and their average age will be just 6 years old. Children diagnosed with cancer come from all across our country and from all walks of life. Pediatric cancer affects all ethnic, gender, and socio-economic groups. This disease does not discriminate in its victims—any child could be a victim.

Even with all the advances in modern medicine, 12 percent of children diagnosed with cancer will not survive.

To be sure, research and treatment has improved the "rate of survival" for children. The overall survival rate for cancer survivors has

improved over the years with an overall survival rate of 10 percent just 40 years ago to nearly 90 percent today. That is a drastic improvement. However, despite major advances, the number of diagnosed cases annually has not declined in nearly two decade years. For many with rare cancers, survival rates remain low. At the end of the day, even with the amazing process we have made, childhood cancer still is responsible for killing more children and teenagers every year more than any other disease.

That is why the work Hyundai Hope On Wheels does is critical. Through the innovative medical research leveraged and supported by Hope On Wheels, America is making strides toward ending pediatric cancer.

Hope On Wheels supports hundreds of research grants including the Hyundai Scholar Grant and the Hyundai Hope Grant. The first grant is a \$75,000 grant for research or programmatic projects available to young nominated investigators. The later grant is a \$250,000 competitive grant open to all researchers pursuing innovative research with the greatest overall potential to impact the lives of children battling cancer.

Just this month, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh received the 2014 Hyundai Scholar's Hope Grant, which is a two-year research award in the amount of \$250,000. This award will allow doctors to continue to work on life-saving cancer therapies and to treat children from the Third District of Pennsylvania and beyond. By the end of 2014, Hyundai Hope On Wheels will have awarded more than \$86 million towards childhood cancer research in pursuit of a cure.

Mr. Speaker, by working to improve the survival rate of our nation's children diagnosed with cancer, I ask that my colleague join with me today in recognizing the good work of Hyundai Hope On Wheels. Committed to the fight against pediatric cancer, Hope On Wheels is providing the next generation of America's children with the hope of a healthy future.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MILLER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize William Miller of Dorsey & Whitney in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, 40 up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like William in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Miller for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating William on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 29

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
To hold hearings to examine driving innovation through Federal investments.
SD-G50

APRIL 30

10 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's 2014 Trade Policy Agenda.
SD-215

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD-G50

11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222

2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the sub-

committee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SD-G50

5 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SD-G50

MAY 21

10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD-G50

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR-222